

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements

Rochdale Borough
Safeguarding
Children Partnership



ROCHDALE BOROUGH
SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP

DECEMBER 2024

RBSCP

Review date: December 2025



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Preface

In the arrangements laid out in this document we outline our statutory duty for joint and equal responsibility for the multi-agency safeguarding of Rochdale's Children:

- keeping children and young people safe in Rochdale
- working with our partners to continuously improve our effectiveness in achieving this
- placing learning and improvement at the centre of our shared work
- keeping a focus on understanding the impact of our work on the outcomes for local children and young people

As safeguarding partners, we recognise the importance of understanding how our new arrangements relate to the work of other local partnerships and the wider governance framework. This is set out within the document, together with our arrangements for independent scrutiny of our work, signed by the LSPs chief executives and chief constable.

Understanding the borough.

Reference: JNSA 2023

£36,816
Median
Household
Income



£183,660
Average
house price



67.2%
Employment
Rate



6% Out of
work benefit
claimants



10
Green Flag
Status
Parks



Population

20.5% - Aged 15 and below
63% - Aged 16-64
16.5% - Aged 65+

Sources:
Office of National
Statistics, Census
2021, Public Health
England



Rochdale Borough

Understanding the borough

■ Sept 2023

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Summary

In summary Rochdale borough is an ethnically diverse town which in areas is experiencing economic growth and high level investment against a backdrop of deprivation and poverty.

The wards across the borough vary characteristically from affluent rural areas on the edges of the borough to highly deprived ethnically diverse centres.

Statistics

Rochdale Borough - Census 2021		2011	2021	% Diff
Population	All Persons	211,699	223,773	5.7%
	Males	103,642	109,718	5.9%
	Females	108,057	114,055	5.6%
	Young People (0-19)	56,252	59,299	5.4%
	Older People (65+)	30,816	36,867	19.6%
Households	Households	87,552	90,223	3.1%
	One person	24,183	27,641	14.3%
	One family	53,685	57,288	6.7%
	Other households	5,684	5,294	-6.9%
Ethnicity	White	172,874	165,485	-4.3%
	Mixed	3,569	5,284	48.1%
	Asian or Asian British	31,630	41,406	30.9%
	Black or Black British	2,770	7,927	186.2%
	Other	856	3,669	328.6%
Country of Birth	Born in UK	188,084	189,122	0.6%
	Born elsewhere	23,615	34,651	46.7%
Religion	Christian	128,186	104,841	-18.2%
	Muslim	29,426	42,121	43.1%
	Other	1,762	2,095	18.9%
	No religion OR religion not stated	52,325	74,715	42.8%
Housing Tenure	Owns outright/mortgage	54,149	54,377	0.4%
	Socially or privately rented	31,803	35,318	11.1%
Economic Activity	Economically Active	101,424	101,069	-0.4%
	Economically Inactive	65,492	73,878	12.8%
	Unemployed (inc. students)	10,259	6,610	-35.6%
Census 2021	Response Rate	93%	97%	4.3%

Introduction

Welcome to the Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Children Partnership multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

The Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Children Partnership (RBSCP) has been developed to support the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023. The RBSCP provides the framework for the safeguarding arrangements under which the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies work together to identify and respond to the needs of children, commission and publish local child safeguarding practice reviews and provide scrutiny to ensure the effectiveness of the arrangements.

The new safeguarding arrangements have been designed to build on the strengths of the previous arrangements under the Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Children Partnership. Our learning and improvement framework, which fostered a culture of continuous learning and improvement across the partnership, has been retained with some minor improvements. A robust local child safeguarding practice review process, effective multi-agency audits and analysis of performance data and a comprehensive multi-agency training programme continue to be a core part of the arrangements. Our governance structure has been streamlined to enable a clear line of sight to front line practice for senior leaders and facilitate an ability to understand the effectiveness of arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of vulnerable children.

The involvement of relevant partners has been fundamental to the effective safeguarding of children in Rochdale borough and our new structure enables continued meaningful engagement through membership of groups and a multi-agency meeting forum. The commitment of our partners is highly valued and the success of the new arrangements relies on the continuation of these positive relationships.





Lead safeguarding partners

In Rochdale, the lead safeguarding partners are:

- The Chief Executive of Rochdale Borough Council
- The Chief Executive of the Greater Manchester NHS Integrated Care Board
- The Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police.

The lead safeguarding partners will meet three times a year via the Greater Manchester Safeguarding Alliance. The lead Safeguarding partners will agree on ways to co-ordinate their safeguarding services across the Greater Manchester footprint.

The Safeguarding Alliance will act as a strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging others and will oversee the implementation of local, regional and national learning.

In Rochdale the above lead representatives delegate their functions, but they remain accountable for any actions or decisions taken on behalf of the Rochdale Safeguarding Children Partnership. The lead safeguarding partner for each agency has identified and nominated a senior officer to have responsibility and authority for ensuring full participation with these arrangements. More detail on the Scheme of Delegation is included at Appendix A.

In Rochdale the delegated officers from each statutory agency act as designated safeguarding partners (DSPs), and they are:

- Director of Children’s Services (Rochdale Borough Council)
- District Commander (Greater Manchester Police)
- Chief Nurse (Greater Manchester NHS Integrated Care Board)

The delegated officers are empowered to:

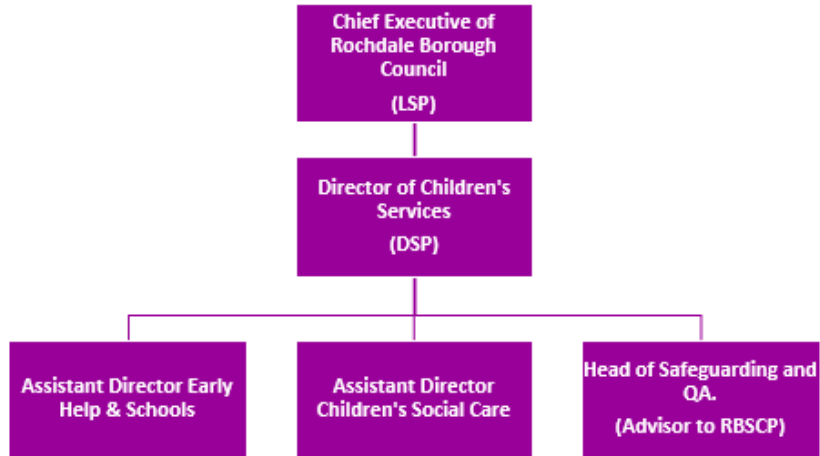
- speak with authority for the safeguarding partner they represent
- take decisions on behalf of their organisation or agency and commit them on policy, resourcing and practice matters
- hold their own organisation or agency to account on how effectively they participate and implement the local arrangements

The Designated Safeguarding Partners, working together, assume primary responsibility for implementing the local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and providing strong leadership of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements to ensure they are effective in bringing together relevant partner agencies.

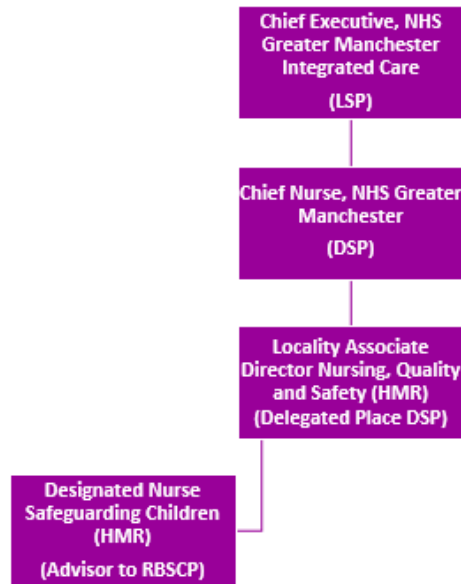
All three lead safeguarding partners (LSPs) have equal and joint responsibility for local safeguarding arrangements. The LSPs have agreed a new model of oversight, single- and multi-agency governance, accountability and service delivery, supported by independent scrutiny.

The following organisation charts highlight the distribution of safeguarding responsibility within each statutory partner.

Rochdale Borough Council. Children's Social Care:



GM NHS ICB:



GMP:



Vision and Values

Our vision in Rochdale Borough is:

Children and young people in the Rochdale Borough will be safe and will feel safe within their homes, schools and communities.

We know that fundamental to achieving our vision is a framework which facilitates engagement with all partners, a transparent and reflective approach to safeguarding, services which are informed by the views and experiences of children and practitioners, continuous learning from practice and focussed training and knowing our strengths and areas that require development.

To achieve our vision the RBSCP will:

- Enable work across the partnership to improve safeguarding practice
- Monitor, and where necessary challenge, the performance of agencies in relation to safeguarding through our Safeguarding Performance & Quality Assurance Subgroup
- Develop and disseminate up to date and effective policies, guidance and procedures, and challenge partner agencies on the implementation through our Safeguarding Performance & Quality Assurance Subgroup
- Implement learning from good practice and also from when there is learning to enable us to influence the delivery and commissioning of services in the district through our Child Safeguarding Practice Review Group

- Analyse, review and understand the key factors identified in cases where children have been harmed or die, and the changes that can be made to services to address these factors through the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Group
- Provide high quality multi-agency training to the children’s workforce, and evaluate the impact of that training to support a skilled and effective workforce through our Learning and Development Group
- Ensure our education partners are informed of multi-agency safeguarding developments, learning and contribute to the co-design of local strategy and effective safeguarding models via the Early Help, Education & Safeguarding Group.
- Identify and protect children who are vulnerable and respond to emerging threats through our Complex Safeguarding Group.

Legislation and Context

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 defines the three safeguarding partners in relation to a local authority area. They are defined under the Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017) as:

- The Local Authority (Rochdale Borough Council)
- The GM NHS Integrated Commissioning Board (NHS GM ICB)
- Greater Manchester Police (GMP – Rochdale district)

To fulfil this role, the three safeguarding partners must set out how they will work together and with any relevant agencies. Relevant agencies are those organisations and agencies whose involvement the safeguarding partners consider may be required to safeguard and promote the welfare of children with regard to local need.

The purpose of these local arrangements is to support and enable local organisations and agencies to work together in a system where:

- Safeguarding is **everyone's** business.
- Children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted
- Partner organisations and agencies collaborate, share and co-own the vision for how to achieve improved outcomes for vulnerable children
- Organisations and agencies challenge appropriately and hold one another to account effectively
- There is early identification and analysis of new safeguarding issues and emerging threats
- Learning is promoted and embedded in a way that local services for children and families can become more reflective and implement changes to practice
- Information is shared effectively to facilitate more accurate and timely decision making for children and families
- Local data from all agencies is developed to strategically identify and respond to the underlying conditions and factors that lead to the need for help and protection

In order to work together effectively, safeguarding partners with other local organisations and agencies should develop processes that:

- Facilitate and drive action beyond usual institutional and agency constraints and boundaries
- Ensure the effective protection of children is founded on practitioners developing lasting and trusting relationships with children and their families

To be effective, these arrangements should link to other strategic partnership work happening locally to support children and families. This will include other public boards

including Children & Young People Partnership (CYPP), LCO Boards, Rochdale Borough Adult Safeguarding Boards (RBSAB), Channel Panels, Improvement Boards, the Rochdale Safer Communities Partnership, the Local Family Justice Board and Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements.

Leadership

Safeguarding Partnership Executive

The Safeguarding Partnership Executive oversees the Rochdale Safeguarding Children Partnership. Membership consists of the three key partners, named as Designated Safeguarding Partners, and relevant agencies that have been identified as Education and Inclusion.

The three designated safeguarding partners are:

- GMP: Rochdale District Commander. Chief Superintendent Rochdale Police
- Rochdale Council: The Corporate Director of Children and Young People Services
- NHS ICB : Locality Associate Director for Nursing, Safeguarding & Quality

One DSP within the partnership is appointed partnership chair for multi-agency arrangements. A deputy chair is also appointed. This role can be rotated between the DSPs if deemed appropriate by the LSPs.

The partnership chair should facilitate partner discussions, provide greater continuity, and act as a single point of contact for the partnership and executive. The role of partnership chair should not replace existing formal complaints procedures and does not provide independent scrutiny.

The designated safeguarding partners for the three lead safeguarding partners meet bimonthly as an Executive group. The Executive will include representation from the Head of Schools and Early Years in recognition of the important role education and early years services have in ensuring effective multiagency safeguarding arrangements in Rochdale.

The Executive will also include the Assistant Director of Children's Social Care, who will also represent Youth Justice and Children's residential homes; Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children (HMR), Detective Superintendent and Head of Safeguarding and Quality as professional advisors.

The DSPs must focus on driving improvement in practice and delivering the agreed priorities and ensuring practice of police, health and children service professionals is as effective as it can be to help and protect children. Like the LSPs, DSPs must act as a team and not a spokesperson for their agency alone.

In Rochdale it is a priority for senior leaders to have a direct line of sight of practice to respond quickly to the needs of children in Rochdale. The effectiveness of the partnership in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people is reviewed through receiving direct reports from the Learning and Development Group, Child Safeguarding Practice Review Group, Education & Early Help Group, Complex Safeguarding Group, and the Safeguarding Performance & Quality Assurance Subgroup.

The Safeguarding Partnership Executive develops, manages and aligns the Strategic Safeguarding Priorities to other Boards. Strategic direction is informed through reporting from the group chairs via the RBSCP Business Manager and attendance at meetings where a specific report is required. The Safeguarding Partnership Executive agrees the Yearly Report.

Relevant Safeguarding partners, specifically RBSCP subgroup chairs and affiliated safeguarding group chairs, can escalate safeguarding concerns to the Safeguarding Partnership Executive for discussion as an agenda item.

Relevant Safeguarding partners can also request to attend a Safeguarding Partnership Executive meeting to discuss a specific issue.

In all above cases, the Safeguarding Partnership Executive require RBSCP subgroup chairs and affiliated safeguarding groups named within this MASA document to provide quarterly reports via utilisation of the standard reporting proforma found at appendix 4.

The Safeguarding Partnership Executive may also co-opt partners to report on safeguarding matters.

The Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Children Partnership

The Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Children Partnership will work with all relevant agencies, and will ensure they are fully involved in all executive actions.

The RBSCP forum will include the wider partnership with responsibility for services support to children and families in the local area. This includes all relevant partners as identified in Working Together 2023.

The RBSCP reviews outcomes of Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, facilitates challenge around safeguarding practice, considers solutions and disseminates learning across the partnership and community. The RBSCP is chaired by the Executive member: DSP Chair, who is chairing the Safeguarding Executive and will meet 3 times a year. One of these meetings will be a joint meeting with the Adults Board in the form of a borough wide Safeguarding conference.

All the relevant safeguarding partner agencies of the RBSCP forum are represented on RBSCP subgroups and task and finish groups. These groups assist and inform the Safeguarding Partnership Executive in carrying out essential safeguarding work.

Relevant agencies are those organisations and agencies whose involvement the safeguarding partners consider is required to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children as defined by Working Together 2023 (please refer to appendix 3).



Transparency and Scrutiny

Working Together 2023 states that the role of independent scrutiny is to provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area, including arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases. Independent scrutiny is part of a wider system that includes the independent inspectorates' single assessment of the individual safeguarding partners and the Joint Targeted Area Inspections. Scrutiny needs to be objective, constructive and reflective to drive continuous improvement.

Independent Scrutiny of the RBSCP will be provided by an Independent Scrutineer and through Peer Review. Scrutiny of the Safeguarding Partnership Executive is realised through an assessment of the effectiveness of the arrangements in safeguarding children.

Independent Scrutineer

An Independent Scrutineer is appointed by the Safeguarding Partnership Executive and act as a critical friend encouraging reflection on practice and an openness to improving services.

The Independent Scrutineer:

- Reviews the work of the Safeguarding Performance & Quality Assurance Subgroup on a quarterly basis including an analysis of the data set and a review of the progress of multi-agency case file audits (MACFA) action plans
- Reviews the S11 and S157/175 reports and action plans
- Reviews the progress and impact of Local Safeguarding Child Practice Review action plans
- Provides a report to the Safeguarding Partnership Executive quarterly detailing progress and highlighting areas which require focus for improvement and attends as requested
- Provides a report to the Chief Executive of the Local Authority, the Chief of Police and the Chief Officer of the LCO and meets with them as requested

A twelve-month review of the new safeguarding partnership arrangements will be completed by the Independent Scrutineer in September 2025.

A Responsive Partnership

Children and Young People Shaping the Future of our Services

The RBSCP is committed to improving services and outcomes for children and young people through consultation. Assurance of safeguarding arrangements and practice is achieved through challenge and partnership events with children and young people and community consultation events.



Safeguarding is everyone's business

Children and young people will:

- Contribute to the Yearly Report
- Participate in the S11 challenge events
- Provide feedback on services through involvement in multi-agency audits
- Be involved in shaping the approach of the RBSCP through engagement in specific pieces of work

Learning from our Practitioners

The RBSCP will engage with practitioners through practitioner forums. Thematic issues for discussion are identified by the Safeguarding Partnership. Feedback from practitioners will be reported directly to the Safeguarding Partnership Executive.

Members of the Safeguarding Partnership Executive will undertake visits of services, view frontline practice and speak to practitioners as part of our quality assurance arrangements. Services requiring visits are agreed by the Safeguarding Partnership Executive and this will be linked to Multi-Agency auditing arrangements to develop a full understanding of the quality of service. These could be services where it has been identified that improvements in practice are required or where there is a current thematic focus. Feedback from visits will be collated with other quality assurance activity and fed back to the Safeguarding Partnership Executive as part of the Safeguarding Performance & Quality Assurance Subgroup

Learning from Good Practice and Reviews

Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews are completed by the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Group as required by Working Together 2023. Following a referral of a significant incident to a child, a Serious Incident Notification meeting takes place to consider the criteria for SIN and whether to proceed to a notification being made. If a SIN is agreed, this is the responsibility of Children's Services to make the notification to the National Panel.

All 3 Executive, Statutory Safeguarding Partners must be represented at the SIN discussion. If a SIN notification is made the LCSPR Panel will meet to undertake a rapid review of the circumstances surrounding the death or serious injury to the child or young person and makes recommendations to the designated safeguarding partners whether or not a case meets the criteria for a LCSPR.

Where a LSCPR is required the panel will manage the process to completion. When a LSCPR has been completed, the panel develops and implements action plans and links into the Learning and Development Group to disseminate learning.

Reviews will be completed and published within six months unless there are extenuating circumstances such as an ongoing criminal investigation, inquest or future prosecution. Any delay to the completion or publication of a review will be approved by the Safeguarding Partnership Executive and the reasons notified to the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel.

In some circumstances the Safeguarding Partnership Executive may consider it inappropriate to publish a review report in which case arrangements will be made to publish information about the improvements that should be made following the review. The Safeguarding Partnership Executive will set out for the National Panel and the justification for any decision not to publish the report.

Publication of Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews or information about the improvements that should be made will be via the partnership website. The NSPCC also maintains a national case review repository where case reviews remain available electronically for five years.

A Well Informed Multi-Agency Workforce

Learning & Development Subgroup

Learning and development across the multiagency partnership is facilitated by the **Learning and Development Group**. This group is responsible for devising and delivering the Training strategy across the partnership and co-ordinates the multi-agency child safeguarding conferences.

The group links into the **Safeguarding Performance & Quality Assurance Subgroup** and **Child Safeguarding Practice Review Group** through the RBSCP Business Manager. Terms of reference for the group includes the dissemination of learning from audits and LSCPR's through training, conferences, social media, the website and reading materials.

The group will provide multi-agency training guided by training needs analysis and learning from reviews and audit. The partnership is committed to providing a comprehensive multiagency training programme which includes the following elements:

Core safeguarding training courses, these provide a foundation for good multiagency safeguarding practice with the opportunity to attend refresher events to keep knowledge up to date. These courses are offered regularly throughout the year to enable all partners to access as and when required. This will include a train the trainer offer

Subject specific training events, and seminars, these provide an opportunity to explore safeguarding children issues in greater depth. These courses vary from year to year, depending on the safeguarding themes identified both nationally and locally. The Training Programme is flexible and adaptable to ensure that the needs of the partnership workforce are met and additional courses will be arranged according to demand.

E learning - a suite of safeguarding children courses, which are suitable for practitioners needing an introduction to a subject or wishing to refresh their knowledge around a subject. A broad range of courses are offered including the four key

safeguarding issues: neglect, sexual abuse, physical abuse and emotional abuse, with additional modules covering specific safeguarding issues.

Development of innovative learning materials, which are suitable for practitioners who need a quick reference point to a subject or wishing to refresh their knowledge around a safeguarding subject. These may be 7 minute briefings, workbooks, videos, spider grams or infographics.

Evaluating the impact of learning

In order to ensure that local and national learning impacts positively on practice and that changes are embedded, sustainable over time and have the desired effect, monitoring will be undertaken through the following processes:

- Learning and Development multi-agency training quality and effectiveness analysis and reporting.
- The application of multi-agency agreed training quality standards.
- Activity involving practitioners, children, young people and their families.
- Training is considered within RBSCP Safeguarding Performance & Quality Assurance Subgroup case file audit activity.



Understanding our Strengths and Areas for Development

Safeguarding Performance & Quality Assurance Subgroup

Analysis of the effectiveness of the RBSCP in safeguarding children is provided by the Safeguarding Performance & Quality Assurance Subgroup through data analysis and multi-agency audit. This group oversees multi-agency audits and reviews single agency audits. The group links directly with the Learning and Development Group to disseminate learning.

An agreed multi-agency 'beyond green' strategy and work plan are intended to ensure that the impact of work across all teams and services is evaluated routinely.

JTAI Report 2024

The group works closely with children's social care Quality Assurance and Safeguarding Lead, the EHASH Strategic Board, the Early Help Strategic Board, the Safeguarding Liaison Group alongside data and quality officers in partner services. The group develops and leads an audit cycle which is responsive to areas of concern and includes a programme of re-audit/ dip sampling to evidence effective safeguarding practice.

Data sharing agreements are seen on appendix 6 and the QA Framework at appendix 7 provides the strategic principles of RBSCP quality assurance.

The audit cycle will reflect the priorities for safeguarding children in Rochdale and will be informed by:

- Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews
- Performance indicators
- The need to further explore issues that have caused of concern, including those highlighted through previous audits

- Feedback from learning and development, management forums or policy implementation inclusive of seeking the view of children, young people and their families to support qualitative analysis.
- The outcomes from audit work will be presented to the **Learning and Development Group** for consideration of any further action required.
- Joint Targeted Area Review (JTAI) themes inclusive of the multi-agency response to assessment of initial need & risk.
- Statutory audit requirements such as Section 11 and Section 157/175

Early Help and Safeguarding (EHASH) Operational Group

The EHASH Operational Group is a working group of the Safeguarding Performance & Quality Assurance Subgroup. EHASH Operational Group will oversee the delivery and development of EHASH to ensure children and families receive the right services at the right time. This will be achieved via consultation with all multi-agency stakeholders.

The EHASH Operational Group will be the providers of challenge when appropriate. This will be achieved via regular audits and data analysis This group will also seek the views of children and families to ensure EHASH provides the care and support required for effective outcomes.

The EHASH Operational Group will share data, information & intelligence with wider RBSCP via activity reporting to the Safeguarding Performance & Quality Assurance subgroup.

Interagency Safeguarding Children Procedures

The Safeguarding Performance & Quality Assurance Subgroup is responsible for agreeing and updating interagency safeguarding procedures. The interagency safeguarding children procedures apply across Rochdale and across Greater Manchester through Greater Manchester Procedures online. They provide a clear framework under which organisations will work together to safeguard children. The procedures are regularly updated to take account of local and national learning and any changes in legislation or statutory guidance.

Identifying our Vulnerable Children and Emerging Threats

Complex Safeguarding Group

Working Together 2023 defines contextual safeguarding as threats to the welfare of children through vulnerability to abuse or exploitation from outside their families.

‘These extra-familial threats might arise at school and other educational establishments, from within peer groups, or more widely from within the wider community and/or online. These threats can take a variety of different forms and children can be vulnerable to multiple threats, including: exploitation by criminal gangs and organised crime groups such as county lines; trafficking, online abuse; sexual exploitation and the influences of extremism leading to radicalisation. Extremist groups make use of the internet to radicalise and recruit and to promote extremist materials. Any potential harmful effects to individuals identified as vulnerable to extremist ideologies or being drawn into terrorism should also be considered’

Under the new Safeguarding Partnership Arrangements, outlined in Working Together 2023, the three Key Partners have a duty to support and enable local organisations and agencies to work together in a system where children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted.

The Complex Safeguarding Group has been established to develop, monitor and challenge the work of the Safeguarding Partnership across Rochdale in respect of Contextual Safeguarding. Examples include Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and other groups of vulnerable children Missing (Home, Education & Care); Modern Slavery (including trafficked children, domestic servitude, and labour exploitation), Radicalisation (both in terms of general religious, political or ideological extremism and those at risk of being drawn into terrorist activity as described by the PREVENT agenda), Harmful Sexual Behaviour and any other vulnerable groups. The Complex subgroup reports directly to the Safeguarding Partnership Executive.

Working Together with Education Partners

Early Help, Education and Safeguarding Group

RBSCP recognises the high level contribution that local Early Years, Primary, Secondary and Further Education bring to the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. Education partners are key members of the Partnership and must assure RBSCP that all early years & education key stage establishments work towards Keeping Children Safe in Education alongside meeting statutory guidance defined in Working Together to Safeguard Children. All local education providers are named in Annex 3.

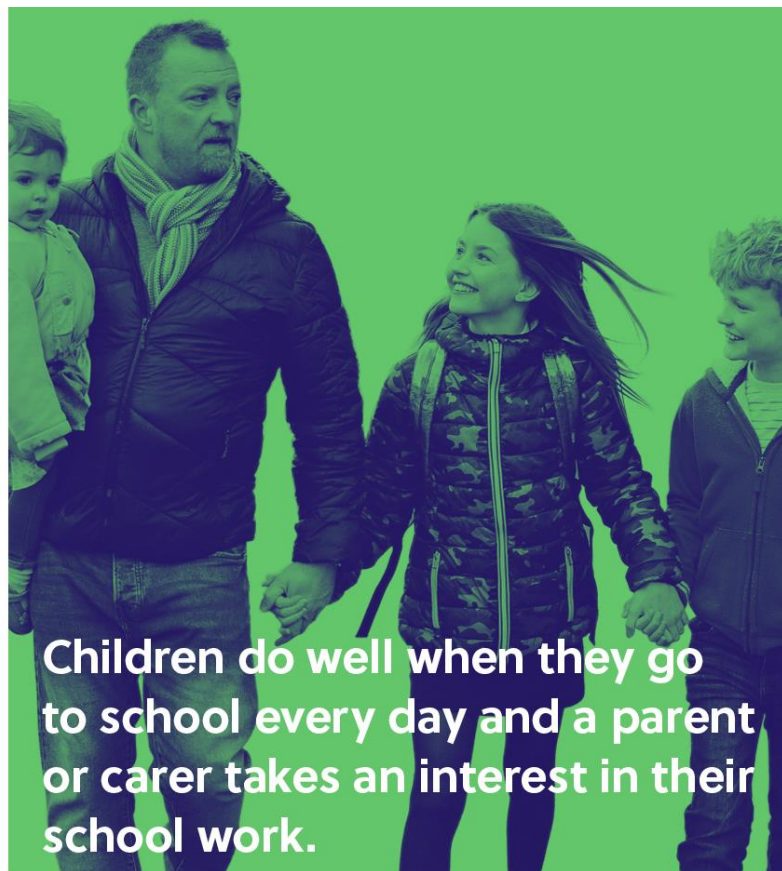
The Early Help, Education and Safeguarding Group's purpose is cross agency/service working focused on communicating safeguarding and early help messages/information between schools, CSC and the Safeguarding Children Partnership (RBSCP) members.

The Partnership Early Help, Education and Safeguarding Subgroup will:

- Provide a link between RBSCP members & schools
- Provide a platform for all collaborative to share key messages
- Provide a platform for Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) to be understood by all safeguarding partners.
- Provide RBSCP members and the Safeguarding Children Partnership with the opportunity to hear the safeguarding experience of schools and how that impacts upon children.
- Enable collaboratives to ask questions and raise issues regarding safeguarding process, policy and procedure
- Enable RBSCP members the opportunity to signpost schools to support, to offer schools advice and to acknowledge any concerns being raised by schools
- Consider safeguarding requirements of elective home educated children

It will do this by:

- Maintaining a clear focus on safeguarding issues pertinent to schools and early years which is reflective of current legislation and the local s175/157 audit findings
- Advising colleagues in schools of emerging safeguarding messages and ensuring these are shared at collaborative level
- Maintaining open communication with LA Safeguarding Officers, and other Multi agency Partners.
- Keeping abreast of local and national safeguarding developments inclusive of Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews
- Fostering collaboration between partners
- Removing obstacles to the group's successful delivery, adoption and use
- Monitoring and managing the factors outside the group's control that are critical to its success.



If you or someone you know is in need of support as a parent or carer, it's okay to ask for help.

Call Rochdale's Early Help and Safeguarding Hub on **0300 303 0440** or visit **ourrochdale.org** for information on support available for children and families today.

Partnership, Regional and National Links

The RBSCP will liaise with other partnerships, such as the RBSAB, RSCP, Children and Young People Partnership, Health Collaborative and LCO Board to counter duplication and share information. The RBSCP will be represented at these boards by one of the three key partners as a minimum. The usual representation will be GM Police at the Community Safety Partnership, the Local Authority and LCO at the LCO Board.

Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Children's Partnership (RBSCP) is well established. Shared priorities are communicated clearly in strategic plans and in annual reports. Local and regional governance arrangements are augmented by a culture of professional accountability and respectful challenge. Robust links with other strategic partnerships and boards are a strength, and priorities and plans are well aligned.

JTAI Report 2024

The RBSCP is committed maintaining our existing regional and national links, and will continue to work with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority. The RBSB Business Manager will also lead on and attend any national initiatives where relevant.

Child Death Overview Panel

The lead safeguarding partners are required to respond to notifications from the Child Death Review partners that a child has died, and abuse or neglect is known or suspected, in order to determine whether the case meets the criteria for a child safeguarding practice review (as referenced in Child Death Review Statutory and Operational Guidance (England) 2018 page 27). The Child Death Review partners are the local authority and the local Integrated Care Board.

The lead safeguarding partners are required to respond to notifications from the Coroner that a child has died and that the Coroner has decided to investigate the death or commission a post mortem (as referenced in Working Together 2023 page 149). In these circumstances, where abuse or neglect is known or suspected, the safeguarding partners will need to determine whether the case meets the criteria for a child safeguarding practice review.

The lead safeguarding partners are required to respond to any safeguarding issues that are identified by the child death review process, including the Bury, Rochdale and Oldham Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) which reviews the deaths of all children in Rochdale.

Arrangements

Funding

All activities undertaken on behalf of the RBSCP should be funded equitably and proportionately by the three statutory safeguarding partners in line with Working Together 2023. The Executive DSP will have delegated authority from LSP's to agree funding formulas.

Yearly Report

The Safeguarding Partnership Executive will produce a yearly report on safeguarding arrangements in Rochdale. The report will be available on the RBSCP website. The priority and focus of the new arrangements will be determined by the Safeguarding Partnership Executive through learning from the yearly report process and through RBSCP performance management and quality assurance.

The yearly report will be a public document and will include:

- Evidence of the impact of work of the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies on outcomes for children and families
- An analysis of any areas where there has been little or no evidence of progress on agreed priorities
- A record of actions taken by the safeguarding partners in the report's period (or planned to be taken) to implement the recommendations of any child safeguarding practice reviews
- Ways in which partners have sought and utilised feedback from children, young people and families to inform their work and influence service provision.

The yearly report will be endorsed by the RBSCP. Following endorsement, the report will be distributed through relevant routes across the three safeguarding partners. The report will be received by Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) committee which will also have the opportunity to request an interim report. It will also be distributed across relevant partnership arrangements and to the Police and Crime Commissioner. The report will be delivered to National Panel as per Working Together 2023 guidance by September of each reporting year.

The yearly report will be subject to independent scrutiny by the Independent Scrutiny Officer(s) prior to final publication.

Multi-agency Response to Need Document

The RBSCP will publish a Multi-agency Response to Need document, which sets out the local criteria for action in a way that is transparent, accessible and easily understood. This will be overseen by the Safeguarding Partnership Executive and include the process for the early help assessment and the type and level of early help services to be provided, the criteria, including the level of need, for when a case should be referred to local authority children's social care for assessment and for statutory services under the relevant sections of The Children Act and as defined in Working Together 2023

The role of the RBSCP Business Unit

The RBSCP employs a team of support staff as agreed by the Safeguarding Partnership Executive, who are hosted by the Council. The RBSCP staff ensure that the Safeguarding Partnership Executive is provided with data and intelligence in order to be fully appraised of the effectiveness of help, including early help, being provided to children and their families.

Responsibilities include:

- Facilitate effective Child Safeguarding Practice Review process.
- Dissemination of local and national learning including from serious child safeguarding incidents via appropriate subgroup activity.
- Analysis and reporting of multi-agency key performance indicators including statistics, performance measures and emerging safeguarding trends with the support of data teams from across the partnership.
- Ensure multi-agency safeguarding statutory audits (Section 11 and Section 157/175) case file audits (MACFA) feature as part of Partnership activity.
- Facilitate the development of Practitioner and partnership challenge events.
- Design, commission and evaluate multi-agency training.
- Provide support to the Executive to ensure the compilation of the Yearly Report.
- Facilitate the meetings and support the work of the Executive Group, Partnership and the subgroups.

- Provide specialist support and guidance to chairs of subgroups and ‘task and finish’ groups which enable progress to areas of focus to help ensure that outputs are delivered in a timely way.
- Support the arrangements which bring strategic leads from the relevant safeguarding partners together to drive forward these arrangements;
- Promote best multi-agency practice to improve outcomes for children and families.
- Provide support to the work of the independent scrutineer and ensure that findings from scrutiny activity are fed into the safeguarding effectiveness subgroup.
- Support the Partnership on the development of multi-agency policies, procedures and practice guidance;
- Co-ordinate communications (including website management) in connection with the local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.



Safeguarding is everyone's business

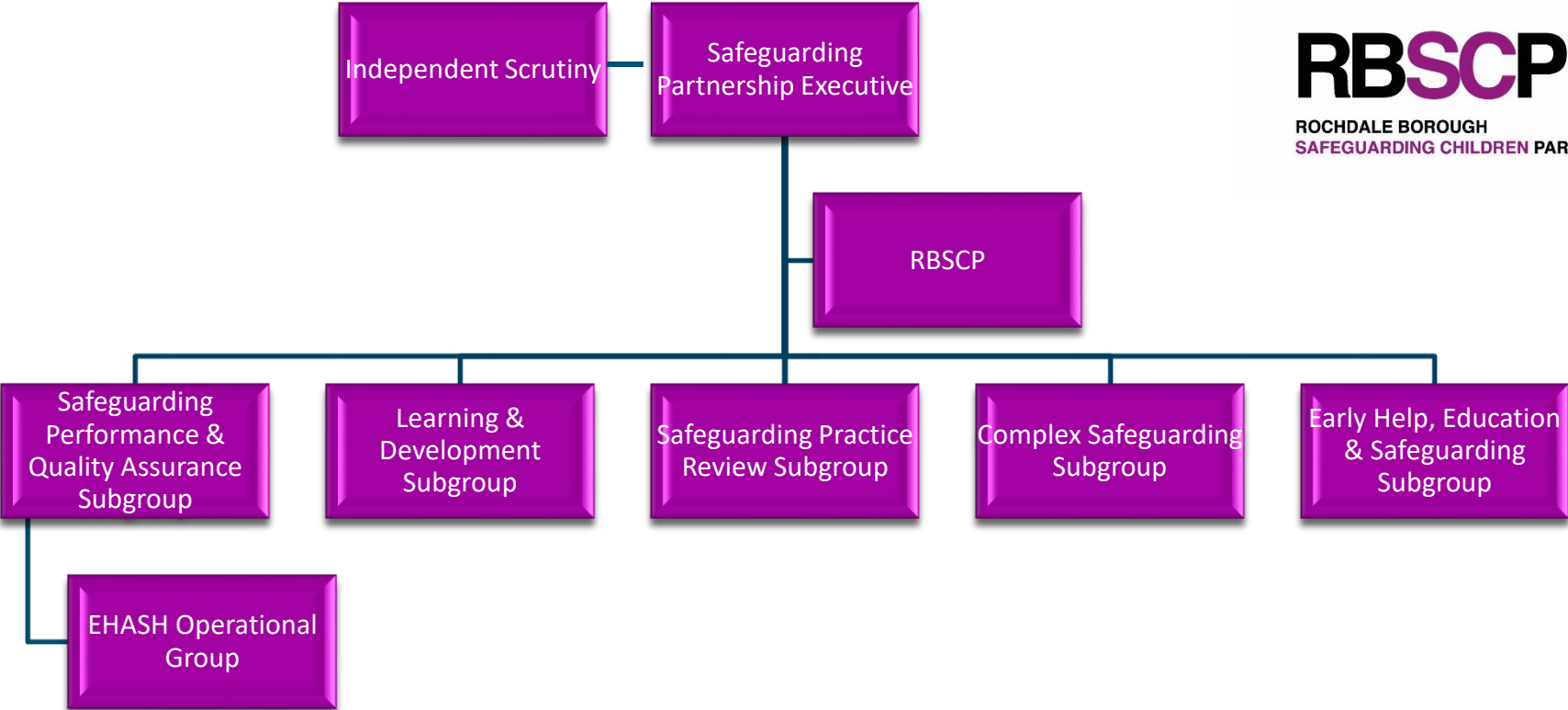
Disputes and Escalation

For professional disputes involving child protection procedures the Safeguarding Partnership Escalation procedures (Appendix 5) must be followed. As a last resort the three designated safeguarding partners act as an arbitrator/mediator in the case of protracted or intractable disagreements.

Disputes amongst the Safeguarding Partnership Executive which cannot be resolved in any other way will be referred to the Chief Officer/ Chief Executive of the three key partners and Independent Scrutineer for resolution.



Appendix 1. Rochdale Safeguarding Children Partnership



Affiliated Safeguarding Groups	
Early Help Strategic Board	Children and Young People Partnership
Rochdale Safer Communities Partnership	Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Adult Board

Appendix 2. Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Children Partnership Summary.

Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Children Partnership. RBSCP

The Safeguarding Partnership Executive

The three Designated Safeguarding Partners and relevant partners meet bimonthly and are known as the RBSCP Safeguarding Partnership Executive. The Safeguarding Partnership Executive develops, manages and aligns the Strategic Safeguarding Priorities to other Boards. Strategic direction is informed through reporting from the group chairs via the RBSCP Business Manager. Agrees the yearly report. Implements agreed safeguarding priorities.

Membership includes, RBSCP Advisors and Children Social Care Assistant Directors and Education representatives. The meeting is chaired by one of the three nominated Designated Safeguarding Partners on an annual rotational basis. Independent scrutiny of the arrangements is provided by the Independent Scrutineer and Peer Review.

The Safeguarding Partnership Executive is supported through the RBSCP and four supporting subgroups

Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Partnership

The Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Children Partnership forum (RBSCP) includes the wider partnership with responsibility for services support to children and families in the local area. The RBSCP membership also includes the voluntary sector, practitioners, parents/carers and young people.

The RBSCP reviews outcomes of Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, facilitates challenge around safeguarding practice, considers solutions and disseminates learning across the partnership and community.

Learning & Development Group	Child Safeguarding Practice Group	Complex Safeguarding Group
The group is responsible for ensuring that high quality, up to date, effective	The Child Safeguarding Practice Group considers serious incidents involving	The Complex Safeguarding group oversees the multi-agency responses in relation to contextual safeguarding. This

<p>and child focused multi-agency training is provided alongside single agency safeguarding training</p>	<p>children and makes recommendations to the Safeguarding Partnership Executive whether criteria are met for undertaking a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review. It liaises with the National Panel, facilitates rapid reviews and is responsible for the process for all forms of learning reviews and oversees the completion.</p>	<p>includes children who may be vulnerable and those at risk of exploitation within the district from CSE, CCE, gangs, human trafficking, being missing from home, care or school and harmful sexual behaviour</p>
<p>Safeguarding Performance & Quality Assurance Subgroup</p>		
<p>The group is responsible for organising of statutory and multi-agency audits, and review of partner agencies single agency audits and through analysing performance data in accordance with the agreed multi-agency data set within the partnership’s quality assurance Framework. The group also oversees multi-agency policy.</p>		
<p>EHASH Operational Group</p>		
<p>A working group of Safeguarding Performance & Quality Assurance which focuses on the effectiveness and development of EHASH service.</p>		
<p>Early Help, Education & Safeguarding Subgroup</p>		
<p>This group is responsible for ensuring education partners are informed and involved with strategic development of safeguarding and assuring RBSCP that all key stages are actively working towards guidance contained within Keeping Children Safe in Education and Working Together to Safeguard Children.</p>		

Appendix 3. RBSCP Relevant Agencies.

Listed within appendix are organisations and agencies who RBSCP consider it is a requirement to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children as defined by *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023*. Specifically Chapter 4: Organisational responsibilities.

Rochdale Borough Council	
Children’s Services including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children’s Social Care • Early Help & Schools • Youth Justice Service 	Adult Social Care Strategic Housing & Homelessness Neighbourhood Services including Public Health

GM NHS Integrated Care Board
Who will strategically represent: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Care Alliance • Pennine Care Foundation • North West Ambulance Service • General Practitioners

Greater Manchester Police
Who are strategically represented by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rochdale District • British Transport Police

Key Partners	
The National Probation Service Rochdale Borough Housing	Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Healthwatch Rochdale

The following agencies are key partners within Early Years to Further Education establishments.

Early Years	
Howard Street Nursery	Sunny Brow Nursery School

Primary	
Alice Ingham Catholic Primary School Alkrington Primary School All Souls CE Primary School All-Saints-Rochdale Primary School Ashfield Valley Primary School Belfield Primary School Boarshaw Community Primary School Bamford Academy Bowlee Park Community School Brimrod Community Primary School	Newhey Community Primary School Newlands School Norden Community Primary School Our Lady’s St Pauls Parkfield Primary School Sacred Heart Primary School Sandbrook Primary School Shawclough Primary School Smithy Bridge Foundation Primary School Spotland Primary School

Broadfield Primary School	Springside School
Brownhill Learning Community	St Andrews CE
Caldershaw Primary School	St Edward Church Of England Primary School
Castleton Primary School	St Gabriel's CE Primary School
Crossgates Primary School	St Gabriels RC Primary school
Deeplich Primary Academy (Focus Trust)	St James Wardle
Elmwood Primary School	St John Fisher Primary school
Greenbank Primary School	St Johns RC
Hamer Community Primary School	St Joseph's RC Primary School
Harwood Park Primary School	St Johns Thornham
Healey Primary School	St Luke's CE School
Heapbridge Primary School	St Margarets CE School
Heybrook Primary School	St Marys CE School
Hollin Primary School	St Marys RC Primary School
Holy Family RC Primary School	St Marys RC School Littleborough
Holytrinity CE Primary School	St Michaels COE Middleton Primary School
Hopwood Primary School	St Michaels Bamford
Kentmere Academy	St Patricks RC
Little Heaton Primary School	St Peters CE Primary School
Littleborough Community Primary School	St Thomas CE
Lowerplace Primary School	St Thomas More RC
Marlandhill Community Primary School	St Vincent's RC
Meanwood Primary School	Stansfield Hall
Middleton Parish CE Primary School	Thornham St James Primary School
Milnrow Parish CE Primary School	Whittaker Moss
Moorhouse Academy	Woodland School

Secondary

Cardinal Langley RC High School	Newhouse Academy
Edgar Wood Academy	Oulder Hill Academy
Falinge Park High School	Redwood School
Hollingworth Academy	St Anne's Academy
Holy Family RC & CE College	St Cuthbert's RC High School
Kingsway Park High School	St Peters RC High School
Matthew Moss High School	Wardle Academy
Middleton Technology School	Watergrove Trust

Further Education

Rochdale Sixth Form	Hopwood Hall College
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The following agencies are key partners within voluntary, charity, social enterprise, faith based organisations and private sectors.

VCSE Providers commissioned by RBC

Barnardos	PossAbilities
Gaddum	R&D Mind
Homestart	Rochdale Parent Carers (PVC)
Together Trust	Skylight Circus Arts
Action Together	The Proud Trust

My Motivation Matters	VIBE (SWCT)
Early Break	Rochdale Connections Trust
Kooth	Jolly Josh
Healthwatch	Derian House
M6 Theatre Co	Charlie Waller Trust
Beyond Psychology (was Nurture Psychology)	Spoons

VCSE Providers in Rochdale Borough (Action Together)		
Ability Net Volunteers	Healthy Young Minds Rochdale	Real Change
AI- Abbas Institute	Hebron Breakfast Club	Recovery Republic
All Aboard Education	Heywood Educational Trust	Red Cross
All4Youth	Heywood Food Bank	Re-engage (Nationwide)
Angies Angels	Heywood Relief in Need Trust	Telephone line
Army of Kindness	Fund	Restoring Hope
Aspire2Inspire CIC	High Level Northern Trust	Riverine in Diaspora
Aunti Irene's Pantry	HMR Circle	Rochdale Advocacy Together
Awakening Minds	HMR Circle and Volunteer	Hub
Back of the Moss	Driver Service	Rochdale AFC Community
Barnardos BOLOH - The Black,	HMR Circle Digital Support	Trust - Dale vs Hunger Food
Asian and Minority Ethnic	HMR Circle Dinner Drivers	Pantry
family Covid-19 Helpline	Home Start - Rochdale Autism	Rochdale AFC Football Club
Bowlee Community	and ADHD Support Service	Rochdale Ancient Parish
Organisation	Home-Start	Educational Trust
Brass Knuckles	Household Fund	Rochdale and District Mind
British Gas Energy Trust	Household Hardship Fund	Rochdale and Oldham
Burnside Centre	Humans MCR	Maternity Voices Partnership
Business in the Community	Jesus Touch Ministries	Rochdale Borough Council -
Buttle UK Grant	Kooth	Prevention Team
Carers Hub	KYP	Rochdale Borough Housing
Carers Hub - Young carers	KYP - Life in the UK, Citizenship	Rochdale Childrens Service
Caring and Sharing Rochdale	& ESOL	Rochdale Connections Trust
Caring and Sharing Rochdale	KYP - Little Gems Nursery	Rochdale Dawah Centre
Charity Shop	KYP Academy	Rochdale Soup Kitchen
Cartwheel Arts	KYP Job Club	Rochdale Training
CC House of Praise	KYP Pantry	Rochdale Trussell Trust Food
Chatty Cafe	Lamet Habayeb Association	Bank
Ciata Foundation	Lighthouse Money Advice	Rochdale United Charities
Citizens Advice	Service	Rochdale Women's Welfare
Community Eating Disorder	Littleborough Coronavirus	Association
Service	Support Group Borough	Samaritans
Crescent Radio	Living Well	Sanctuary Trust
Deaf Rhinos	Living Well - Community	Sandon House
Debt Buffer	Champions	Skylight Circus
Deepish Community Centre	Living Well Chatters	Spotland Community Centre
Demense Community Group	Liz Atkinson, Freelance Bid	St Bernard's Support
Digital Community Champions	Writer	Step Change Debt Service
Digital Tech Library	Middleton Central Foodbank	Street Watch - Milnrow and
Directions for Men	Middleton Central Trussell	Newhey Resident Watch
Disability Forum / RADDAG	Trust Food bank	Syke Community base

Discretionary Crisis Fund Discretionary Housing Payment DWP Early Break EDF Energy Fund Electricity North West Equal Education Chances ESOL Advice Service Europa Failinge Park High School - Parents Pantry Family Action Food Club - Derby Street Childrens Centre Family Action Food Club - Newbold Childrens Food Club Family Action Grants Family Central (linked to New life church) Friends of Hopwood Park Friends of RBH Homeless Get up and Grow Good news community church Harehill House / Moorend Development Trust - EMAILED Harmful Sexual Behaviour Support Service	Middleton Educational Trust Middleton Relief in Need Trust Migrant Destitution Fund GM Morrisons Delivery Service for the Elderly and Vulnerable Multicultural Resource Centre Nestac NHS HART service Nigeria Community Association Norman Barnes Fund Northwest By Numbers One Stop Shop Pennine Family Action Petrus Places of Welcome Proud Trust Proud Trust Helpline Public Living Room Queen Elizabeth Foundation Trust Qwell RBH / Rochdale Councils Work and Skills Hub RBH Paint Shop RBH Pantries RBH Pass it on team	Tackling Minds The Biscuit Fund The Bond Board The Bridge Centre, Smithy Bridge Methodist Church The His Food Team, His Church Charity The Lighthouse Food Pantry The Lighthouse Project The Roc and Rolls Community Café and Food Club The Vicars Relief Fund The young people's mental health support team - Thrive in Education Thinking Ahead Touchstones TV Translation Linx Transport for Sick Children Turning Point Umoja Foundation United Utilities Trust Fund Victim Support Vintage Worx Community Development Trust Volunteering Matters Wonderfully made woman Young Minds Your Trust Youth Hub
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Appendix 4a. RBSCP Subgroup Chair report template.



RBSCP Subgroup quarterly report.

Subgroup Chairs within the RBSCP structure are responsible for reporting to the Executive Group with regards to activity and the effectiveness of subgroup actions. This must be provided on a minimum quarterly basis. Quarterly report information will be utilised to inform the RBSCP Yearly report.

The RBSCP Executive Group may share completed reports with RBSCP Independent Scrutiny.

Subgroup Chairs should utilise subgroup membership and the RBSB Business Unit when completing quarterly report.

Subgroup name:	
Reporting quarter:	
Number of meetings in quarter:	

Subgroup Chair:	<i>(name / single agency / role)</i>
Subgroup Deputy:	<i>(name / single agency / role)</i>

Subgroup members		
Agency	Role	Name

Attendance of statutory membership including Education representation within year to date (%)							
CSC		GMP		ICB		Education	

Subgroup activity within quarter	
Strategic Objectives: <i>What activities have occurred to meet defined safeguarding objectives?</i>	<i>Summary of activity and outcomes. Embed reports.</i>
	<i>Summarise what is working well / challenges within subgroup activity.</i>
Safeguarding Reviews (CSPR): <i>Have any activities occurred that support the</i>	<i>Summary of activity and outcomes. Embed reports.</i>

<p><i>implementation of CSPR recommendations?</i></p>	
<p>Statutory Activity: <i>Has any statutory activity, such as Section 11 assessment, occurred within quarter?</i></p>	<p><i>Summary of activity and outcomes. Embed reports.</i></p> <p><i>Summarise what is working well / challenges within subgroup activity.</i></p>
<p>Single agency Activity: <i>Have any member agencies provided single agency information which supports RBSCP safeguarding activity? E.g.: Single agency safeguarding training, communications and engagement actions or QA activity?</i></p>	<p><i>Summary of activity and outcomes. Embed reports.</i></p> <p><i>Summarise what is working well / challenges within subgroup activity.</i></p>

<p>Subgroup specific data information.</p>
<p><i>Add relevant subgroup data, commentary or embed reports</i></p>

<p>Summary of Risk Register review</p>
<p><i>Add commentary.</i></p> <p>Status of current risks:</p> <p>New risks identified:</p> <p>Mitigations from subgroup:</p> <p>Items for Executive consideration: <i>These must be risks that cannot be resolved or mitigated within subgroup</i></p>

Subgroup chair commentary

Add commentary regarding effectiveness of subgroup activity. Add information to raise at Executive meeting and ensure evidence to support is including within this document.

Subgroup Chair signature:

Date:

Executive Group Feedback

Add commentary regarding Executive Group discussions, guidance or advice on specific items raised from quarterly report.

Appendix 4b. Affiliated Safeguarding group Chair report template.



RBSCP Affiliated Safeguarding Group quarterly report.

Chairs within the RBSCP affiliated safeguarding groups are responsible for reporting to the RBSCP Executive Group with regards to activity and the effectiveness of safeguarding actions. The Executive request a report is provided on a quarterly basis. Quarterly report information will be utilised to inform the RBSCP Yearly report.

The RBSCP Executive Group may share completed reports with RBSCP Independent Scrutiny.

Affiliated safeguarding group:	
Reporting quarter:	
Number of meetings in quarter:	

Subgroup Chair:		<i>(name / single agency / role)</i>					
Subgroup Deputy:		<i>(name / single agency / role)</i>					
Subgroup members							
	Agency		Role			Name	
Attendance of statutory safeguarding membership including Education representation within year to date (%)							
CSC		GMP		ICB		Education	

Affiliated Safeguarding Group activity within quarter	
Strategic Activity: <i>Please describe the activities undertaken to meet your affiliated safeguarding groups priorities / objectives?</i>	<i>Summary of activity and outcomes. Embed reports.</i> <i>Summarise what is working well / challenges within subgroup activity.</i>
Safeguarding Reviews (CSPR): <i>Have any activities occurred that support the</i>	<i>Summary of activity and outcomes. Embed reports.</i>

<p><i>implementation of CSPR recommendations?</i></p>	<p><i>Summarise what is working well / challenges within subgroup activity.</i></p>
<p>Single agency Activity: <i>Have any member agencies provided single agency information which supports your safeguarding group's activity and/or priorities?</i> <i>E.g.: Single agency safeguarding training, communications and engagement actions or QA activity?</i></p>	<p><i>Summary of activity and outcomes. Embed reports.</i></p> <p><i>Summarise what is working well / challenges within subgroup activity.</i></p>

Data information.

Please describe how your safeguarding group utilises data to inform activity. Where possible please share data and/or performance reports. When possible please describe how data collected evidences success or informs challenges.

Chair commentary

Add commentary regarding effectiveness of affiliated safeguarding group activity. Add information you wish to raise at Executive or Partnership meetings and ensure evidence to support is including within this document.

Subgroup Chair signature:

Date:

Executive Group Feedback

Add commentary regarding Executive Group discussions, guidance or advice on specific items raised from quarterly report.

Appendix 5. Escalation Policy.

Effective challenge and resolving professional differences

Effective partnership working is vital in order to ensure that outcomes for children and families are central to all assessment, planning and intervention. This includes the need to consider differing views and experiences which evidence the value of exchanging ideas and developing critical thinking in regards to how best to achieve improved outcomes. There will be times when disagreements occurred and require informal and possible lead to formal escalation. There needs to be a clear process in place to achieve and evidence this.

Principles in practice:

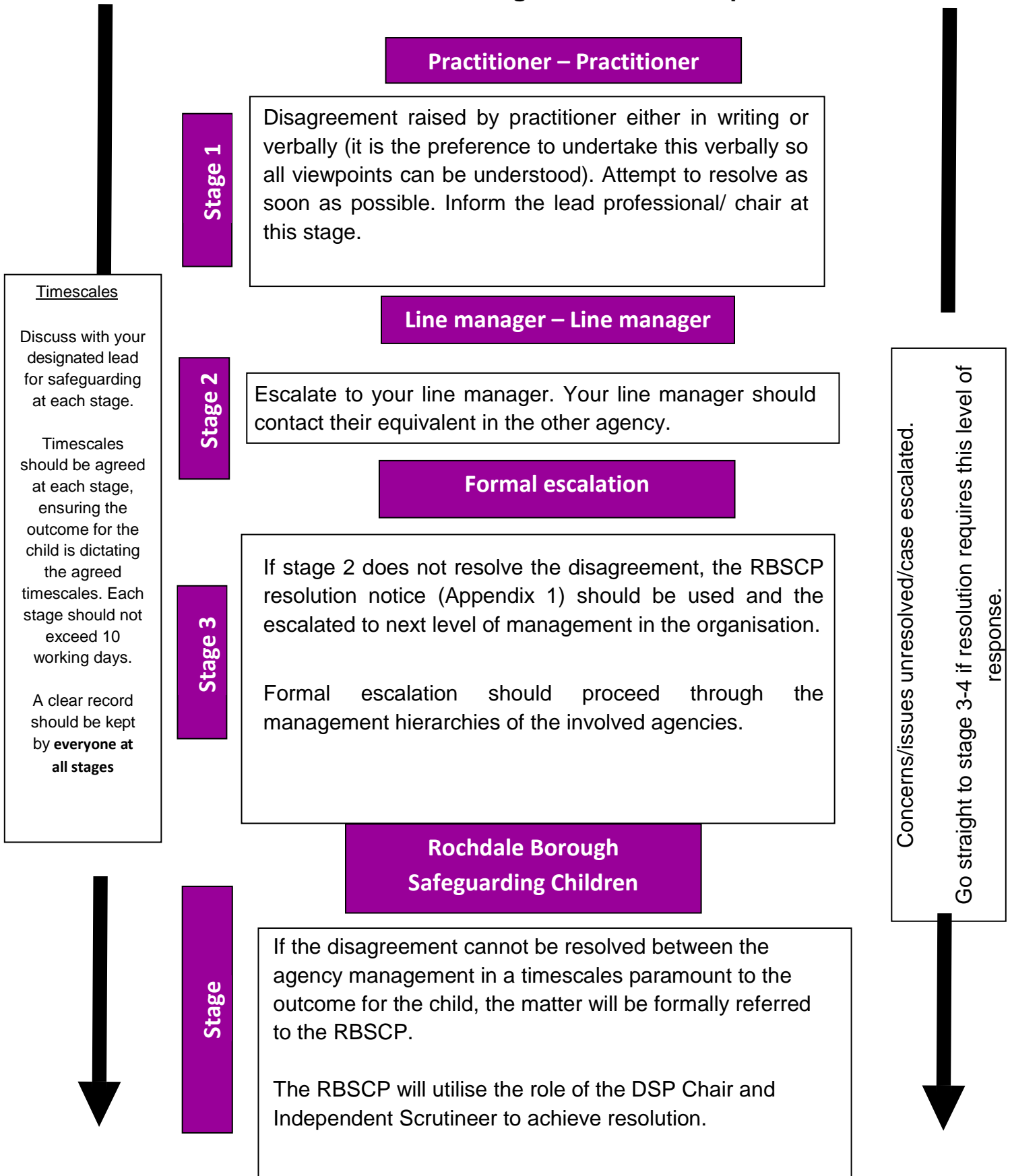
- Challenge is positive and should always be focused on the desired outcome for the child and family.
- The safety and wellbeing of the child is always paramount.
- It is the responsibility of each individual professional and agency to progress challenge if they are not in agreement with the outcome of any aspect of assessment, planning or intervention (any level of need and support)
- Challenge should be restorative and relationship based. Language should therefore be respectful and where possible discussions with the relevant practitioners should take place first.
- Challenge and escalation should be resolved in a timely manner.
- Challenge must be evidenced based and recorded on the child's file, including details or how the resolution improved outcomes for the child and/or family.

Ensure your safeguarding lead is consulted with throughout the escalation process. Please attempt to resolve any disagreements informally, before initiating the formal process.

This be used in line with the Greater Manchester Safeguarding Procedures Manual on:

- [Resolving Professional Disagreements/Escalation Policy](#)

Effective challenge and escalation procedure



Single Point of Contact (SPOC) List Rochdale

Service	Contact details
Rochdale Borough Council's children's social care	<p>Escalations should be directed to the relevant team in Children's Social Care</p> <p>Head of Service Ehash, Duty & Assessment & Complex Safeguarding Tracy.Chatterton@Rochdale.Gov.UK</p> <p>Head of Service Family Support & Protection Chris.James@Rochdale.Gov.UK and Michelle.Rhodes@Rochdale.Gov.UK</p> <p>Head of Service cared 4 children and youth justice service rachel.meyrick@rochdale.gov.uk</p> <p>Head of Service (Cared For Children Resource) Tracey.Johnson@Rochdale.Gov.UK</p>
Safeguarding children unit	<p>Bev.Paris@Rochdale.Gov.UK 01706 925 086</p>
Early help and safeguarding hub (EHASH)	<p>ehash@rochdale.gov.uk 01706 925 879</p>
Pennine Care Foundation Trust	<p>pcn-tr.safeguarding@nhs.net 0161 716 3785</p> <p>Escalations should be directed to the named nurse for safeguarding children and cared for children</p>
Rochdale Care Organisation	<p>srh-tr.hmrchildprotection@nhs.net 0161 716 5979</p> <p>Escalations should be directed to the relevant named safeguarding professional</p>
Greater Manchester Police	<p>Rochdale.publicprotection@gmp.pnn.police.uk</p> <p>All escalations to GMP must include a telephone call to ensure the correct officer is being contacted</p>
NHS GM IC HMR	<p>gmicb-hmr.safeguarding@nhs.net 01706 664180</p>

	Escalations should be directed to the designated nurse for safeguarding children
Education establishments	<p>Stage 1 escalations: school designated safeguarding lead Stage 2 escalations: school head teacher (if different to DSL)</p> <p>Contact to be made with the school to clarify designated safeguarding lead arrangements</p> <p>Any other escalations: early.help@rochdale.gov.uk Please direct to Education Safeguarding Officer</p>
Rochdale Borough Council adult care	adult.care@rochdale.gov.uk 0300 303 8886
Rochdale Boroughwide Housing	asb.reports@rbh.org.uk Escalations should be directed to RBH Safeguarding Team.
Early Break	hedwards@earlybreak.co.uk Main office number: 0161 723 3880
National Probation Service	NWNPS.rochdale@justice.gov.uk 01706 894 800

Please contact RBSB.admin@rochdale.gov.uk for any updates that are required to the SPOC list.

With thanks to Salford Safeguarding Children Partnership for allowing Rochdale to adapt this document

APPENDIX 1

Professional Challenge / Outcome Resolution Notice

THIS DOCUMENT MUST BE SENT/STORED SECURELY

Date of Notification	
Name of Child/Young Person	
D.O.B	
NHS Number/ P Number	
Outcome Resolution Notice Completed by:	
Name	
Role	
Agency/Team	
Contact Details	
Notification has been sent to:	1. 2.
Summary of disagreement	
Evidence of the informal challenge that has taken place at stages 1-2 and the outcome of this challenge	
Desired outcome for the child and / or family. Please include details of what it is you are requesting happens as a result of this challenge	

Stage	Date Outcome Resolved	Supporting Evidence Embed written confirmation between parties about the agreed outcome
Stage 3		
Stage 4		



Data Sharing Agreement (DSA)

Between

**Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Children
Partnership**

And

Safeguarding Partners

- **Rochdale Borough Council - RBC (Local Authority)**
- **NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board**
- **Greater Manchester Police (GMP)**

Commencement, Termination and Review – This agreement will be reviewed every 36 months unless an earlier review is necessary.

The start date for this agreement is at the point of agreement.

Memorandum of Understanding

The parties to this Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) are signatories to this Memorandum of Understanding. The Parties acknowledge that they are [Joint Data Controllers](#) (as defined in the GDPR). The Memorandum of Understanding sets out the principles of Information Governance that all organisations who provide, access and use information have agreed to. It provides a framework for safeguarding the processing of data and information as defined by the Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

General Principles

1. All signatories to the agreement agree to process personal information in accordance with their organisation's information governance policies and procedures, or as directed by the standards applicable to the information being processed.
2. Organisations are expected to identify and use appropriate information assurance frameworks and will commit to complying with relevant standards within that regime and sharing the evidence attainment and any associated action plans on request to the other parties to the agreement.
3. Each organisation shall have appointed a responsible / accountable officer who will ensure the protection of personal information, for example a Caldicott Guardian, Data Protection Officer or Senior Manager responsible for data protection.
4. Each organisation will take appropriate organisational and technical measures towards compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018, Caldicott Principles (where applicable), Information Security Standards, Freedom of Information Act 2000 (where applicable) and national guidance and rules around the processing of personal, confidential information and other relevant legislation.
5. Each organisation is committed to risk assessing and documenting their processing activities and identifying any actions required to mitigate identified risk.
6. Each organisation is committed to ensuring that staff are appropriately trained and comply with organisational policies in relation to Information Governance, including Data Protection, Confidentiality, Caldicott Principles (where applicable), Data Security, Records Management and Freedom of Information (where applicable).
7. Organisations will promptly notify other partner organisations of any Information Governance Breach, vulnerability or threat that could affect the security of the data being shared – within 24 hours of becoming aware of it.
8. Organisations will agree to allow partner or lead organisations to carry out audits or visits to confirm compliance with the agreed assurance requirements.
9. Each organisation commits to ensure that data is shared in a safe and secure manner meeting the agreed purpose of the sharing and protecting the rights and freedoms of individuals.
10. Any requests for information under the Freedom of information Act 2000 or Data Protection Act 2018 should be directed to the original organisations senior responsible officer.

11. Organisations may not create or establish on-ward sharing for additional purposes without having a lawful basis to do so and the agreement of the original data controller.

Parties Named in this Agreement

The Parties listed below recognise their responsibilities for ensuring this agreement complies with all legislation and other requirements relevant to the personal data being shared, including the specific governance measures set out in this DSA. Any successor body of an organisation listed will be automatically added as a party to the agreement.

Organisation	Responsible Senior Officer	Data Protection Officer or equivalent
Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Children	Myra Ball – RBSCP Independent Scrutineer	DPO@rochdale.gov.uk
Rochdale Borough Council	Sharon Hubber – Director of Children’s Services	DPO@rochdale.gov.uk
NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care (HMR)	Alison Kelly - Associate Director of Nursing, Quality, Safety and Safeguarding for GM ICP and Chief Nurse for GM IC (HMR)	gmicb-hmr.safeguarding@nhs.net
Greater Manchester Police - Rochdale District	Daniel Inglis – Chief Superintendent	dataprotection@gmp.police.uk

The Designated Safeguarding Partners named above provide assurance that:

- The details captured in this Data Sharing Agreement accurately describe the data sharing practices and the controls in place to govern them.
- Their organisation and its staff will make every effort to ensure that the controls are monitored and maintained and data sharing will only happen as described herein.
- Should their organisation wish to deviate from the practices and controls described here, they will review the data to ensure the changes are captured.

This information is held by the RBSCP and specifically for the purposes detailed in this agreement.

Purpose and Justification for Sharing

Purpose

The Parties agree to use shared information only for the specific purpose set out in this document and to support the effective administration, audit, monitoring, regulatory inspection of services and reporting requirements including:

- Child Death Review Partner arrangements
- Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel

The Parties accept that shared information shall not be regarded as general intelligence for the further use by recipient organisations unless that further purpose is defined in this agreement.

This Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) supports the sharing of personal data to comply with statutory guidance [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#). This is a framework for the three local designated safeguarding partners (the local authority, clinical commissioning group(s) and the chief officer of police for a police area(s) to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children including identifying and responding to their needs:

- protecting children from maltreatment
- preventing impairment of children's health or development
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes
- understanding the collective needs of children locally when commissioning services
- assisting with the management of risk that an individual may pose to a specific child or children.

To fulfil this role, the three safeguarding partners must set out how they will work together with any relevant agencies whose involvement the safeguarding partners consider may be required to safeguard and promote the welfare of children with regard to local need.

This includes a requirement to ensure that information is shared effectively to facilitate more accurate and timely decision making for children and families. Separate arrangements will be put in place to facilitate this case by case sharing with relevant agencies.

Benefits

The benefits derived from this information sharing agreement are identified as:

Safeguarding partners may require any person or organisation or agency to provide them with specified information which enables and assists the function to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their area.

Enable the RBSCP to perform its functions including assessing the effectiveness of the arrangements.

Improving the speed and efficiency of information sharing to improve outcomes for children and young people in line with national and organisational information sharing procedures.

Restrictions on Further Use and Disclosure

It is recognised that unless the law specifically requires or permits this, shared information will not be used for different purposes or further disclosed. Even where the law permits further disclosure, in line with good practice, the originating data controller will be consulted first and depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for the data subject to be informed of the disclosure.

The Information Being Shared

The types of information being shared under this agreement are identified as:

- Personal Data
- Special Category Data
- Criminal Offence Data

Categories of data subjects

- Children
- Customers or prospective customers
- Friends and Family Members
- Employees
- Patients
- Students
- Subscribers
- Vulnerable adults e.g. identification of a specific characteristic
- Offenders

Categories of data

- Basic personal identifiers, e.g. name, address, contact details
- Age/DOB
- Criminal convictions, offences
- Data revealing racial or ethnic origin
- Economic and financial data, e.g. credit card numbers, bank details
- Attainment or Educational Data
- Gender reassignment data
- Genetic or biometric data
- Health or Medical Records including disabilities
- Identifiers e.g. Account Number/ID, NI Number, Passport Number, Driving Licence Number
- Official documents, e.g. driving licences
- Photographs
- Political opinions
- Religious or philosophical beliefs
- Sex life data
- Sexual orientation data
- Trade union membership

A wide range of information has the potential to be processed due to nature of the processing.

Information Security & Confidentiality

The RBSCP functions with support from the Council with specific reference to the administration and management of data and systems upon which it relies. Information relating to cases and reviews is held centrally on Council systems which are secured and have limited access.

The Council holds information from all partners and organisations who have provided information under the direction of the RBSCP.

This DSA recognises that information sharing decisions should be recorded by the disclosing agency/organisation.

Where an agency/organisation has decided not to share information that has been requested, that agency/organisation will provide a record of the reasons for the decision not to share the information, including the consideration of the safety and well-being of the affected individual.

Data Protection Impact Assessment

Lawful Basis for Processing Information

Statutory duty / power to share

The legislation and/or regulations providing a mandatory duty or discretionary express or implied power for each of the partners to the agreement to share personal data for the purpose in this agreement include, but are not limited to:

- Children Act 1989
 - Children Act 2004
 - Working Together to Safeguard Children (Statutory Guidance)
- and any subsequent updates or amendments to legislation or guidance.

GDPR Legitimising Conditions

The Article 6 conditions relied on for this agreement are:

(c) Legal obligation: the processing is necessary for you to comply with the law (not including contractual obligations).

(d) Vital interests: the processing is necessary to protect someone's life.

(e) Public task: the processing is necessary for you to perform a task in the public interest or for your official functions, and the task or function has a clear basis in law.

The Article 9 conditions relied on for this agreement are:

(b) necessary for the purposes of carrying out the **obligations and rights** of the controller or data subject in the field of employment, social security and social protection law

(c) necessary to protect the **vital interests** of the data subject or of another person where the data subject is physically or legally incapable of giving consent

(g) necessary for reasons of **substantial public interest** which is proportionate to the aim pursued

(h) necessary for the purposes of preventive or occupational **medicine**, for the assessment of the **working capacity** of the employee, **medical diagnosis**, the **provision of health or social care** or treatment or the **management of health or social care systems and services**

Data Protection Act 2018

- Schedules 1 - 4
- Law Enforcement Processing – Part 3 and schedule 8.

Informing Individuals

The privacy notice / amendments relevant to this data sharing arrangement are:

Data should only be handled in a way that the data subject would reasonably expect and not used in a way that would have an adverse effect on them. A Privacy Notice has been published on the RBSCP website.

Adequacy, relevance, necessity

The following checks have been made regarding the adequacy, relevance and necessity for the collection or sharing of data:

The GDPR protects the fundamental rights and freedoms of natural persons and in particular their right to the protection of personal data. The processing must represent a reasonable and proportionate way of achieving the purpose.

Information will be processed (predominantly) on a case by case basis with a decision taken by the providing organisation relating to the information to be shared. This is supported by guidance including Working Together to Safeguard Children and best interests' considerations. Organisations should share as much information as is required to address the safeguarding issue.

Provisions for the accuracy of the data

The following provisions have been made to ensure information will be kept up to date and checked for accuracy and completeness by all organisations.

The data has already been collected by the safeguarding partners or other relevant agencies as part of their functions. This will include historic data.

On a case by case basis, where required, additional due diligence documentation will be requested by the RBSCP where there is a need to obtain further assurance or clarification on the accuracy of the data.

Adequate initial information will be provided to the providing organisation to ensure that an accurate 'match' can be made.

Retention and disposal requirements

The following arrangements have been made to manage retention and disposal of data by all organisations

Information is only retained while there is a need to keep it, and destroyed in line with retention schedules, guidelines and Data Protection Legislation.

Individual rights

Subject Access and other Data Protection requests will be dealt with as follows:

In line with information in the Memorandum of Understanding using procedures and ICO guidance.

Any upheld complaints relating to information shared will be notified to any recipients of the data e.g. a request for rectification or erasure of data.

Technical and organisational measures

Organisational and technical security controls to support the processing of this data are in place across all organisations including:

- Technical security controls and PSN accreditation
- Secure transmission of data e.g. secure email
- Signed confidentiality agreements for meeting attendees – under need to know principles
- Case specific agreements for relevant agencies
- Access controls in place to protect information provided on secure network drives
- System log-ins
- Training and guidance for staff processing information
- Retention and destruction procedures
- Individual rights procedures
- Security breach procedures

Dispute Resolution

Each agency/organisation undertakes to pursue a positive approach towards resolving any dispute which maintains a strong working relationships. Each agency/organisation will use all reasonable endeavours to identify a mutually acceptable solution.

In the event of a dispute in relation to the agreement, the RBSCP Chair will investigate and determine any steps that need to be taken to resolve the dispute or concern.

Approvals - This ISA shall be effective from the start date of the sharing and shall continue until such time as the sharing ends and is terminated by either party or is replaced by a new one.

Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Children Board (Name and Position)	Date	Email
Myra Ball - Independent Scrutineer	Dec 2024	Myra.ball@Rochdale.Gov.UK

Rochdale Borough Council (Name and Position)	Date	Email
Sharon Hubber– Director of Children’s Services	Dec 2024	sharon.hubber@Rochdale.Gov.UK

NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care (HMR) (Name and Position)	Date	Email
Alison Kelly – Associate Director of Nursing, Quality and Safety for GM HMR	Dec 2024	Alison.kelly3@nhs.net

Greater Manchester Police (Name and Position)	Date	Email
Daniel Inglis – Chief Superintendent	Dec 2024	Daniel.Inglis@gmp.police.uk

Appendix 7. RBSCP Quality Assurance Framework



RBSCP QA
Framework 2023.pdf