

The role of Delegated Safeguarding Partner



Minute Briefing

1 - Lead Safeguarding Partner – legislation

A statutory LSP [Lead safeguarding partner] in relation to a local authority area in England is defined under the Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act, 2017) as:

- the local authority
- an integrated care board for an area any part of which falls within the local authority area
- the chief officer of police for an area any part of which falls within the local authority area [Chief Constable]

2 - Why it Matters

Nothing is more important than children's welfare. Every child deserves to grow up in a safe, stable, and loving home.

This requires individuals, agencies, and organisations to be clear about their own and each other's roles and responsibilities, and how they work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in their area. This includes harm that occurs inside or outside the home, including online.

3 - Purpose of DSP role

Delivery of multi-agency safeguarding functions and processes should be delegated to enable the LSPs [Lead Safeguarding Partner] to focus on their joint functions and maintain strategic oversight.

The 'Delegated safeguarding partner' or ('DSP') should be sufficiently senior and able to:

- Speak with authority, take decisions on behalf of the LSP and hold their sector to account.
- Hold their own organisation or agency to account on how effectively they participate and implement local MASA arrangements.
- Have oversight of the quality and compliance of the delivery of agreed shared priorities.

4 - DSP Functions

- Delivery and monitoring of multi-agency priorities and procedures to protect and safeguard children in the local area, in compliance with published arrangements and thresholds.
- Close partnership working and engagement with education (at strategic and operational level) and other relevant agencies, allowing better identification of and response to harm.
- The implementation of effective information sharing arrangements between agencies, including data sharing that facilitates joint analysis between partner agencies.

7- What to do?

DSPs and LSPs should have regular interaction and communication to ensure that the LSP has sufficient oversight and detail on key topics.

- Agree which DSP is the partnership chair and ensure that, with the support of, the business management and independent scrutiny function responsibility for analysis, intelligence, and a data strategy, that informs the priorities of the safeguarding partnership and assesses the effectiveness of MASA arrangements.
- Coordinate the joint multi-agency strategic plan and oversee the quality of practice and local outcomes for children and families.

6 - Requirements

DSPs should be clearly named in published arrangements.

DSPs should meet sufficiently frequently to undertake their joint and shared responsibilities and perform as a multi-agency leadership team.

To support delivery of these functions, LSPs should appoint one of the DSPs as the partnership chair for the multi-agency arrangements. Which should be agreed by all DSPs and LSPs. This should be kept under review and rotated.

Scrutineers should consider the impact that the LSP and DSP make through their strategic oversight, if they are providing strong leadership, and the functioning of local arrangements.

5 - DSP Functions

- Delivery of high-quality and timely rapid reviews and local child safeguarding practice reviews, with the impact of learning from local and national reviews and independent scrutiny clearly evidenced in yearly reports.
- The provision of appropriate multi-agency safeguarding professional development and training.
- Seeking of, and responding to, feedback from children and families about their experiences of services and co-designing services to ensure children from different communities and groups can access the help and protection they need.