

The role of Lead Safeguarding Partner



Minute Briefing

1 - Lead Safeguarding Partner - legislation

- a. A statutory 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:
- b. (a) the local authority
- c. (b) an integrated care board for an area any part of which falls within the local authority area
- d. (c) 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 - LSP Functions

1. Set the strategic direction, vision, and culture of the local safeguarding arrangements, including agreeing and reviewing shared priorities and the resource required to deliver services effectively.
2. Lead their organisation's individual contribution to the shared priorities, ensuring strong governance, accountability, and reporting mechanisms to hold their delegates to account for the delivery of agency commitments.
3. Review and sign off key partnership documents: published multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, including plans for independent scrutiny, shared annual budget, yearly report, and local threshold document.

4 - Purpose of DSP role

Delivery of multi-agency safeguarding functions and processes should be delegated to enable the LSPs 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.

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.

Where boundaries of the police and ICB extend over multiple local authority areas, LSPs may decide to meet at a more regional level. Frequency should be determined locally.

LSPs should demonstrate how the experiences of children and families shape the delivery of local arrangements.

The LSP holds responsibility for the implementation of recommendations and learning from serious incidents, local child safeguarding practice reviews and national reviews.

6 - Requirements

LSPs should be clearly named in published arrangements.

Each LSP should appoint a delegated safeguarding partner (DSP) for its agency, who should be named in arrangements.

DSPs should be sufficiently senior to be able to speak with authority, take decisions on behalf of the LSP and hold their sectors to account.

The DSPs should have the authority to carry out these functions, while ultimate accountability remains with the LSP.

5 - LSP Functions

4. Provide shared oversight of learning from independent scrutiny, serious incidents, local child safeguarding practice reviews, and national reviews, ensuring recommendations are implemented and have a demonstrable impact on practice (as set out in the yearly report).
5. Ensure multi-agency arrangements have the necessary level of business support, including intelligence and analytical functions, such as an agreed data set providing oversight and a robust understanding of practice.
6. Ensure all relevant agencies, including education settings, are clear on their role and contribution to multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.