



Avon and Somerset Police
SERVE.PROTECT.RESPECT.



North Somerset Council



Healthier Together
Improving health and care in Bristol,
North Somerset and South Gloucestershire

NHS
Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire
Integrated Care Board



North Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership Operational Safeguarding Group

Terms of Reference

Chair

Chairing arrangements rotate on a 12-monthly basis amongst the three statutory partners: Avon and Somerset Police, the local authority - North Somerset Council and the Integrated Care Board (ICB) for Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG). For 2025, the local authority will chair the bi-monthly Operational Safeguarding Group meetings.

Our Vision

The vision for the North Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSSCP) is that children and young people who reside in North Somerset grow up in a safe environment, free from abuse and neglect. Children, young people, and their families will receive the right level of support & intervention, at the right time, by skilled professionals to ensure that children have the best start to life so that they thrive and develop confidence to reach their full potential.

Our Values

Transparency & Respect – we will foster a culture of openness, respect and transparency. NSSCP partners are required to work openly together, to learn from collective and individual experience, and to seek and receive assurance on the overall effectiveness of work to safeguard and protect children in North Somerset.

Integrity & Honesty – we will be honest and open with each other on areas of challenge, transformation and system change to inform decisions on future initiatives and collaborative working.

Challenge and Innovate - we will respectfully and constructively challenge each other to drive continuous improvement and deliver the best outcomes for North Somerset's children.

Collaboration and Partnership – The three safeguarding partners and all relevant agencies will work proactively, effectively and collaboratively together. We will value differences to help drive improvements for children and young people.

Care and Listening to the voice and lived experience of the child - Everything we do will benefit children and young people in North Somerset. We will ensure that our work is child centred, and we continually seek to care for, engage, and involve our children and young people and their families.

Purpose of the Operational Safeguarding Group

The purpose of the NSSCP is to support the statutory safeguarding partners and relevant agencies to fulfil their responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and families who require care and support, and to ensure the effectiveness of safeguarding practice in North Somerset.

The NSSCP is the key statutory mechanism for overseeing safeguarding arrangements and driving change. It brings statutory safeguarding partners and relevant agencies together at both a strategic and operational level to deliver a focused, coordinated response, innovate system change, deliver efficiencies, and support effective multi-agency practice.

The Operational Safeguarding Group will:

- Provide strategic leadership for the development of services for children and young people in North Somerset.
- To ensure the Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSPs) Meeting and workstreams are working closely together with shared priorities.
- To monitor the work of the NSSCP, including the business plan and to identify gaps in oversight.
- To monitor and review existing services and identify potential improvements.
- Subgroup Chairs/Vice Chairs/Safeguarding Leads will brief DSPs of current workstreams, priorities and challenges.
- Subgroup Chairs/Vice Chairs/Safeguarding Leads will provide exception reporting as required.
- DSPs will provide support and direction to Subgroup Chairs/Vice Chairs/Safeguarding Leads.

This group provides a 2-way system of safeguarding: firstly, for partner agencies to shape the agenda bringing reports and updates from their service across North Somerset so that all agencies are sighted on latest trends and developments. This enables partners to raise issues of concern for work to be done and/or for assurance to be provided. In addition, colleagues will oversee the delivery of the Partnership improvement plans, giving assurance that any actions from all reviews and

inspections are monitored closely; they are added to the overarching action plan held at this Operational Safeguarding Group. Secondly, members of this group are expected to be the mechanism for sharing all and any information, updates, issues and successes with their agency so that the work of the Partnership is known and understood.

Members of the Operational Safeguarding Group, should make recommendations or escalate issues to DSPs where necessary. The Independent Scrutineer is invited to raise issues, provide challenge and support, and suggest escalations to DSPs/LSPs.

Membership

Core Membership will be the three statutory partners who are the decision makers:

- Deputy Chief Nurse, BNSSG ICB
- Director of Children's Services, Local Authority
- Chief Superintendent, Avon and Somerset Constabulary

In addition:

- Assistant Director for Education Partnerships
- Assistant Director for Family Support and Safeguarding
- Independent Scrutineer for the Partnership
- Children's Partnership Business Manager
- Children's Partnership Business Support Officer
- Subgroup Chairs and Vice Chairs
- Headteachers from the Primary, Secondary and Special Schools' Groups
- Partner Agency Safeguarding Leads
- Voluntary and Community Sector Representative
- Elected member for Children, North Somerset Council as an observer

Core members are required to provide a substitute to represent them if they are unable to attend for any reason.

Others may be asked to attend the Operational Safeguarding Group meetings to provide specialist information.

Quoracy: for the Operational Safeguarding Group to be quorate, there will need to be at least one representative from health, police and the local authority present.

Frequency of Meetings

The Operational Safeguarding Group will meet bi-monthly. Additional extraordinary meetings will be arranged if required.

Reporting arrangements

On an annual basis and by exception as necessary to:

Delegated Safeguarding Partners

Lead Safeguarding Partners

Terms of Reference reviewed and adopted February 2025

Review Required February 2026