



Avon and Somerset Police
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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

Quality Assurance and Learning: Driving Continuous Improvement Subgroup

Terms of Reference

1. Aim

The aim of the Quality Assurance and Learning: Driving Continuous Improvement Subgroup is to support the priorities of the North Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSSCP) through an excellent learning and development offer rooted in a robust quality assurance framework.

2. Purpose of the Quality Assurance and Learning & Development Subgroup

The Quality Assurance and Learning & Development Subgroup will:

- Provide a high-quality programme of learning and development opportunities which is regularly reviewed to meet the needs of partners and the wider community.
- Ensure that quality assurance activity drives continual improvement across the Partnership by directly informing learning & development programmes
- Oversee the learning cycle - assess needs, design, deliver, evaluate.
- Promote a learning culture and opportunities from national and local developments, case reviews, audits, internal and external challenge and scrutiny and ensure that partner agencies are kept informed.
- Quality assure NSSCP multi-agency training and professional development activities and evaluate the impact of this training.
- Maintain oversight of partners' learning and development programme of work through Section 11 audit.
- Through a multi-agency performance monitoring data set, provide the NSSCP with a summary relating to safeguarding performance, enabling the Partnership to know how well we are safeguarding children in North Somerset and to understand areas of prevalence, emerging trends and identified risks.
- Interrogate and interpret data to identify patterns or the need for further analysis.

- Deliver the quality assurance objectives as set out in the Performance Framework, including multi-agency audits.

3. Accountability and Responsibility

- The Quality Assurance and Learning Subgroup is accountable to the 3 named safeguarding partners via the NSSCP Delegated Safeguarding Partners' group.
- The group will report to the NSSCP Operational Safeguarding Group as required.
- The subgroup links with other subgroups of the partnership.
- All members will be responsible for linking to their senior management teams within their agencies and will take on projects/tasks as appropriate to their role on behalf of the group.
- The subgroup seeks assurance that all and any actions arising from quality assurance work are monitored and delivered.

4. Structure

The Quality Assurance and Learning Subgroup will have a chair representing health and a vice chair representing the local authority who will share the responsibilities of the group. Other members will be able to deputise in their absence.

In accordance with [Working together to safeguard children 2023](#)

“Strong, effective multi-agency safeguarding arrangements should be responsive to local circumstances and engage the right people in a collaborative way. This approach requires flexibility from all relevant agencies, to enable joint identification and response to existing and emerging needs, and to agree priorities to improve outcomes for children.”

5. Membership, Quoracy, Authority

- The Quality Assurance and Learning Subgroup membership comprises senior leaders and representatives appointed by the multi-agency partnership, ensuring representation from all relevant agencies involved in safeguarding. Members include statutory partners: Children's Social Care, Avon and Somerset Police; Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) Integrated Care Board (ICB) and safeguarding leads from other partner agencies.
- Attendees must possess delegated authority for operational decision-making and be empowered to contribute effectively. Suitable representatives should be nominated in case of absence.

Quoracy: for the Quality Assurance and Learning Subgroup to be quorate, there will need to be at least one representative from health, police and the local authority present. In extraordinary circumstances where it is not quorate, and key decisions

need to be made, the chair will contact the statutory agency representative who is not present.

The subgroup will be made up from the following representatives:

Job title	Organisation	Representing
Head of Service Quality Assurance and Safeguarding	North Somerset LA	Local Authority
Head of Safeguarding BNSSG ICB	BNSSG ICB	ICB
Principal Business Intelligence Lead	North Somerset LA	Local Authority
Designated Nurse	BNSSG ICB	ICB
Regional Manager	Lighthouse Safeguarding Unit	Police
Head of Inclusion	Education	Local Authority
Safeguarding Lead for Children in CAMHS Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	CAMHS	AWP
Training Officer	Training Unit	Police
Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children	Sirona	Sirona Care and Health
Deputy Director of Safeguarding	NBT/UHBW	NBT/UHBW
Business Manager	NSSCP	Partnership
Business Support Officer	NSSCP	Partnership
Safeguarding in Education Lead	North Somerset Council	Local Authority
Multi-agency Safeguarding Trainer	NSSCP	Local Authority

- The chair and vice chair of the subgroup will be members of the NSSCP Operational Safeguarding Group and will attend its meetings in that capacity.
- Professional advisers (such as the independent scrutineer) may be co-opted as necessary.
- The subgroup is authorised by the Delegated Safeguarding Partners of the NSSCP to undertake the activities described in these Terms of Reference.

6. Frequency of Meetings

A minimum of every 8 weeks with additional meetings to be held as necessary. This is open to future review.

7. Reporting and Governance Arrangements

- Governance and challenge will be provided by the Delegated Safeguarding Partners of the NSSCP to support the work of delivering the actions.
- All subgroup members are responsible for ensuring proactive support and delivery of the Business Plan.
- The Chair will provide a report to the Operational Safeguarding Group as required.
- There is an expectation that all representatives attend the subgroup bi-monthly or send a nominated deputy.
- All representatives will familiarise themselves with the group's terms of reference.
- All representatives will commit to supporting the group's work plan by carrying out actions in between meetings.
- Representatives will work with partners to complete tasks as agreed by the subgroup.
- The Chair of the Quality Assurance and Learning Subgroup will be appointed by the NSSCP Delegated Safeguarding Partners for a term of one year.

8. Review of the Terms of Reference

Terms of reference will be reviewed annually.

Document title:	Date of revision:	Review date:
Quality Assurance and Learning & Development Subgroup TOR	April 2025	April 2026