



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 Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSPs) Meeting

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 ICB will chair the bi-monthly DSP 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 Delegated Safeguarding Partners Meeting

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 DSP Meeting will:

- Provide strategic leadership for the development of services for children and young people in North Somerset.
- Develop multi-agency approaches to support children and young people to develop and grow.
- Develop more preventative services to support children, young people and families.
- Agree an annual plan to further develop services for children and young people.
- Monitor and review existing services and identify potential improvements.

The DSPs should have the authority to carry out the functions stated in [Working together to safeguard children 2023](#), while ultimate accountability remains with the Lead Safeguarding Partners as the individuals responsible for the delivery of the statutory duties of the safeguarding partners.

DSPs should meet sufficiently frequently to undertake their joint 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 a 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.
- 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.

The DSPs have oversight of the quality and compliance of the delivery of the agreed shared priorities and have processes in place to provide assurance that multi-agency practice is reviewed and operating well, in line with these arrangements.

The purpose of the DSP meeting is to implement strategic priorities and make recommendations or escalate issues to LSPs where necessary. DSPs will hold each other to account, agree the budget and annual plan; commission independent scrutiny, sign off documentation and reports and manage issues of escalation. They will review/sign off learning recommendations from the Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) Subgroup in relation to Rapid Reviews and local assurance work and the commissioning of CSPRs.

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 Police

In addition:

- Assistant Director for Education Partnerships

To ensure that the views of education and childcare providers are articulated at the highest level of decision-making and are part of the strategic discussions representing the education sector. They will bring insights on the experiences of children locally, and on how arrangements impact on the education and childcare system.

In addition, for advice and support:

- Independent Scrutineer for the Partnership
- Children's Partnership Business Manager
- Children's Partnership Business Support Officer

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 Delegated Safeguarding Partners meetings to provide specialist information.

Quoracy: for the Delegated Safeguarding Partners Meeting to be quorate, the core members or their nominated deputies must be present.

Frequency of Meetings

The Delegated Safeguarding Partners Meeting will meet bi-monthly. Additional extraordinary meetings will be arranged if required.

Reporting arrangements

On an annual basis and by exception as necessary to:

Chief Executive, North Somerset Council

Chief Executive of BNSSG Integrated Care Board

Chief Constable for Avon & Somerset Constabulary

Community Safety Partnership & Health and Wellbeing Board

Children and Young People's Partnership Board

North Somerset Safeguarding Adults' Board

The National Safeguarding Practice Review Panel

Foundations - What Works Centre for Children and Families

Terms of Reference reviewed and adopted February 2025

Review Required February 2026