



# Multi-agency Safeguarding Arrangements

**Plymouth Safeguarding Children Partnership**

[pscp@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:pscp@plymouth.gov.uk)

[www.plymouthscp.gov.uk](http://www.plymouthscp.gov.uk)



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	3
Structure and Governance	5
The Business Unit and Funding	7
Learning Reviews	8
Quality Assurance	9
Workforce Development	10
Voice of Children, Young People and Families	11
Education & Early Years	12
Youth Custody & Residential Homes	13
Relevant Agencies	14
More Information	16

*Our vision: The right support is available and accessible, at the earliest opportunity, to ensure children and young people in Plymouth are safe and feel safe in their families and communities.*

# INTRODUCTION

This document sets out the updated multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in Plymouth, known locally as the Plymouth Safeguarding Children Partnership (PSCP).

As a result of the Wood Report (March 2016), the Children Act (2004) was amended to remove the statutory requirement of local authorities to have local safeguarding children boards and placed responsibility for safeguarding equally with local authorities, police and clinical commissioning groups. Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) placed a duty upon these three agencies to work together to define the local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

The PSCP is responsible for delivering the statutory duties to safeguard children as outlined in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018). The partnership arrangements first came into place in 2019, as a joint arrangement with Torbay. In 2020, we disaggregated from Torbay and become a partnership focused solely on Plymouth. Since then, we have learnt locally what works and what doesn't, as well as looking to best practice both regionally and nationally. This has led the arrangements to evolve to those set out within this document.

Since then the clinical commissioning group (CCG) has become an integrated care board (ICB) and taken on the responsibilities that previously sat with the CCG.

These arrangements are still relatively new and will continue to evolve as we work together to ensure we have the most effective safeguarding arrangements we can and that children and families in Plymouth receive the right support, at the right time to meet their needs.

**Sharon Muldoon**

Director of Children's Services  
Plymouth City Council



Chair of the Plymouth Children and Young People's Strategic  
Systems Leadership Board

**Matt Longman**

BCU Commander  
Devon & Cornwall Police



Member of the Plymouth Children and Young People's Strategic  
Systems Leadership Board

**Darryn Allcorn**

Chief Nurse  
NHS Devon Integrated Care Board

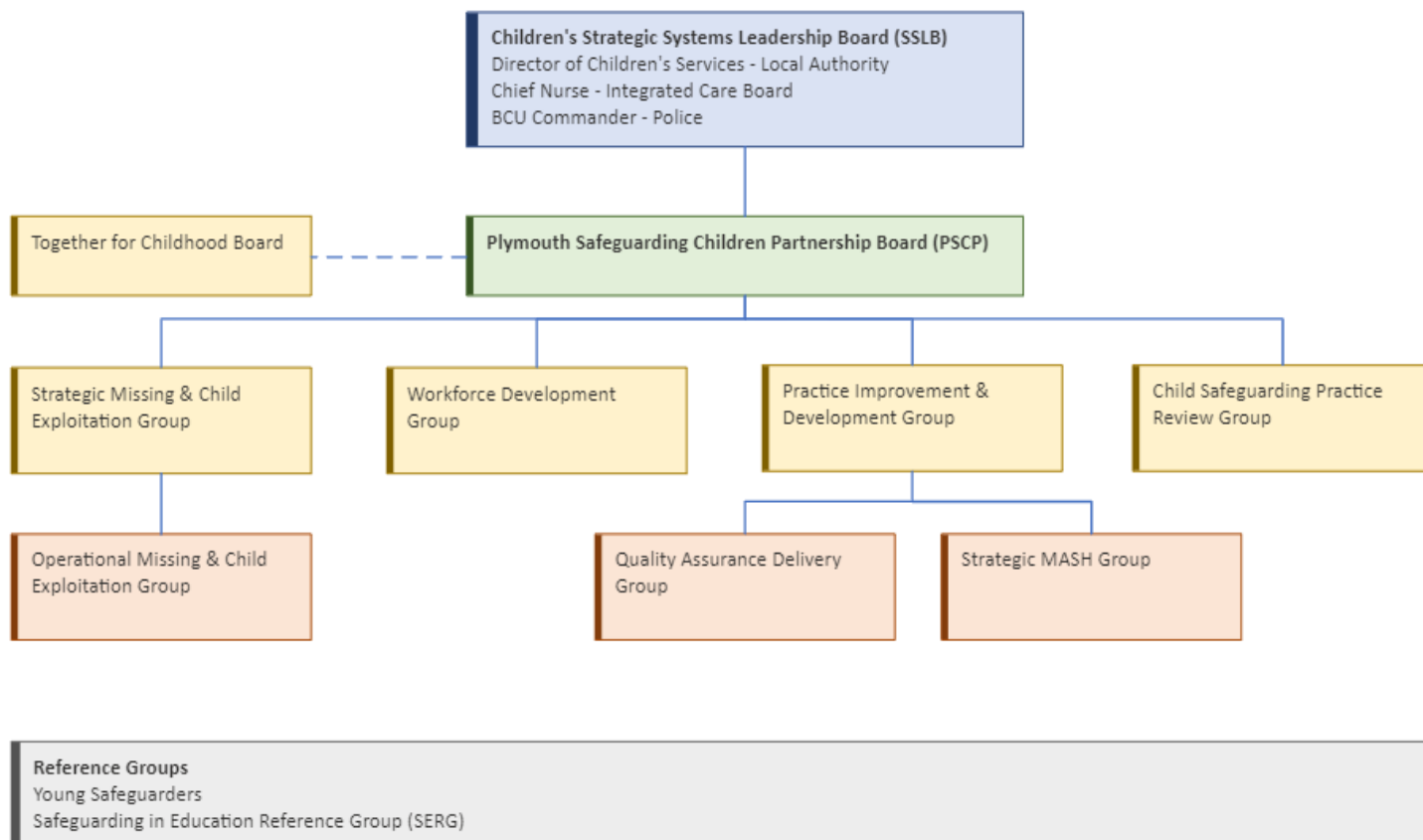


Member of the Plymouth Children and Young People's Strategic  
Systems Leadership Board



# STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

The updated structure of the PSCP:



The governance arrangements changed in March 2022 with the implementation of A Bright Future. The newly formed Strategic Systems Leadership Board has taken on overall accountability for the work of the PSCP, with the PSCP Board taking a greater role in providing oversight, support and challenge to the Safeguarding Children Partnership as a whole.

As of September 2022, there will be a new Practice Improvement and Development Group that will focus on oversight of the revised data scorecard, governance of the MASH and providing direction and scrutiny to the Quality Assurance Delivery Group. The Quality Assurance Delivery Group will undertake much of the quality assurance activity, including multi-agency case audits.



Within the governance arrangements for A Bright Future, the PSCP is identified as 'Safe':



In June 2022, we appointed a new Independent Scrutineer - John Clements. John's role is to scrutinise what we do and what difference we make to children and families in Plymouth.



# THE BUSINESS UNIT AND FUNDING

The work of the Plymouth Safeguarding Children Partnership is supported by a small team known as the Business Unit. This team supports the Partners to come together and meet regularly as well as supporting partners to undertake learning reviews and quality assurance activity. The Business Unit also manages the multi-agency training programme.

The costs of the Business Unit and the activity it supports, is funded by a range of partners. The current year partner contributions and expenditure is set out in the published annual report.

# LEARNING REVIEWS

As outlined within Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018), there is a duty on the safeguarding partners to learn from serious incidents by undertaking Rapid Reviews and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs).

In the spirit of ensuring prompt learning and resulting actions; we will endeavor to undertake learning events within the timeframe of any Rapid Reviews. This enables us to respond quickly to any changes that might be needed in order to keep children safe in Plymouth.

Where a Child Safeguarding Practice Review is required, the Plymouth Safeguarding Children Partnership will seek, in the first instance, to identify an appropriate agency to lead that review. Where this is not possible, we will look to commission an external reviewer.

Following any Rapid Review or Child Safeguarding Practice Review, there will be an action plan, owned by the Practice Improvement and Development Group, in order to address all identified areas for development. The Workforce Development Group will take responsibility for sharing learning from reviews, in a timely way that meets the varying learning needs of the workforce.

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) states that all agencies must provide any information requested which enables and assists the safeguarding partners to perform their functions to safeguarding and promote the welfare of children in Plymouth, including in relation to learning reviews.



# QUALITY ASSURANCE

The Plymouth Safeguarding Children Partnership will use a variety of methods to assure the safeguarding partners that agencies in Plymouth are successfully working together to keep children safe, within the spirit of our agreed approach to supporting children and families - Building Support.

In order to achieve that assurance, there will be an ongoing programme of quality assurance activity, throughout the year, including:

- Multi-agency audits
- Reports from agencies about their single agency audits
- Review of a multi-agency data-set
- Reports from agencies about specific identified issues or concerns

We will publish a Quality Assurance Framework that sets out, in more detail, the various methods of quality assurance that will be used across the partnership.

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) states that all agencies must provide any information requested which enables and assists the safeguarding partners to perform their functions to safeguarding and promote the welfare of children in Plymouth, including in relation to quality assurance activity.

Our Independent Scrutineer will regularly review our quality assurance activity and provide scrutiny of the findings. The Independent Scrutineer sits on the PSCP Board and the Strategic Systems Leadership Board, allowing him to offer direct feedback and challenge about the effectiveness of the arrangements. Any scrutiny provided and the response from partners will be recorded within the relevant meeting notes.

# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Plymouth Safeguarding Children Partnership will employ a Learning & Development Lead to oversee and support the workforce development offer in place. This will include a multi-agency training programme as well as a range of other learning opportunities, including workshops, learning briefings and other innovative ways of sharing and embedding learning across the workforce.

There will be close links between the Workforce Development Group and all other groups, in order to ensure prompt and helpful workforce development responses to emerging issues and learning identified in our other work streams.

# VOICE OF CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

We will continue to support and encourage our Young Safeguarders - a group of young people that work with us to ensure the voice of children and young people are heard.

The Young Safeguarders have produced 'The Ten Wishes' which sets out what they need from our workforce to help them feel safe and valued.

More information about the Young Safeguarders can be found here:

[www.plymouthscb.co.uk/young-safeguarders-2](http://www.plymouthscb.co.uk/young-safeguarders-2).

Over the coming year we will be looking at how we engage the voice and participation of families in our work, as we know this is crucial to ensuring we continue to learn and develop in order to achieve better outcomes for children and their families in Plymouth.

## EDUCATION & EARLY YEARS

Although education is not noted as a 'statutory partner' in Working Together (2018); the Plymouth Safeguarding Children Board feel that education and early years colleagues have a particularly crucial role in safeguarding arrangements. For most children, education and early years colleagues will be the people they spend the most time with, outside of the family network.

The Plymouth Safeguarding Children Partnership have a Safeguarding in Education Reference Group (SERG) that invites representation from all elements of education and early years in Plymouth. This is a forum for the two-way sharing of information and discussion about emerging issues. From this group, an education or early years representative then sits on all other partnership groups to provide a link with the Safeguarding in Education Reference Group and to ensure that education and early years perspective is woven into all that we do.

# YOUTH CUSTODY & RESIDENTIAL HOMES

There is currently no youth custody or residential home provision within Plymouth; however, where children are taken into youth custody or secure accommodation elsewhere they will be subject to oversight by the Youth Justice Service, within Plymouth City Council. The Youth Justice Service is represented by Plymouth City Council across all groups and will be included in relevant quality assurance and scrutiny activity.

# RELEVANT AGENCIES

As well as the three Statutory Safeguarding Partners, we have designated a number of partner organisations as relevant agencies. Although ultimate accountability rests with the three Statutory Partners, the legislation is clear that all agencies share a responsibility for safeguarding children and for working together to achieve that.

The relevant agencies will work with the statutory partners in accordance with these published safeguarding arrangements. Wherever possible, changes to the arrangements will involve consultation with relevant agencies. The relevant agencies in Plymouth include, but are not limited to:

- All early years settings
- All children's centres
- All primary, secondary, special, further and independent education settings
- Private training providers
- Language schools
- NHS England
- University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust
- Livewell Southwest
- South West Ambulance NHS Trust
- Adopt South West
- Registered fostering agencies
- CAFCASS
- Probation
- Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
- British Transport Police
- Port and local border police force
- Action for Children
- NSPCC
- Barnardo's
- Children's Society





- Young Devon
- First Light
- Community and social housing providers
- Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service
- Ministry of Defence
- Plymouth Argyle Football Club
- Plymouth Albion Rugby Club
- Plymouth Octopus Plus

# MORE INFORMATION

## Annual Report

We publish an annual report that contains up to date information on the work of the PSCP, our funding arrangements for that year and our priorities for the year ahead. This can be found on our website: [www.plymouthscb.co.uk/annual-report](http://www.plymouthscb.co.uk/annual-report).

## Priorities

The current priorities and 'plan on a page' can be found here: [www.plymouthscb.co.uk/priorities-and-plans](http://www.plymouthscb.co.uk/priorities-and-plans).

## Case Resolution

The current case resolution protocol can be found here: [www.plymouthscb.co.uk/case-resolution/](http://www.plymouthscb.co.uk/case-resolution/)

## Thresholds

Our response to the requirement for a threshold document can be found here: [www.plymouthscb.co.uk/building-support/](http://www.plymouthscb.co.uk/building-support/)

## PSCP Website

More information about what we do and the difference we are currently making, can be found on our website: [www.plymouthscb.co.uk](http://www.plymouthscb.co.uk).