



Swindon Safeguarding Partnership

**Multi-agency Safeguarding
Arrangements for Children and Adults
with Care and Support Needs
2025-26**

Contents

1. Introduction
2. Purpose
3. Funding and Resourcing
4. Membership
5. Independent Scrutiny
6. Reporting
7. Dispute Resolution
8. Partnership Structure Chart
9. Partnership Groups

1. Introduction

This document sets out how the Safeguarding Partners in Swindon coordinate their safeguarding services and how they will work together with relevant organisations and agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults with care and support needs, with regard to local need.

Children

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 and its accompanying guidance [Working Together to Safeguarding Children 2023](#) place a shared and equal duty on the statutory safeguarding partners to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area.

Adults

The [Care Act 2014](#) requires that every local authority must set up a Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB), whose main objective is to assure itself that local safeguarding arrangements and partners act to help and protect adults in its area who meet the criteria for safeguarding. The local authority lead for the Safeguarding Adults Board in Swindon is the Director of Adult Services.

Safeguarding Partners

As defined in the [Working Together to Safeguarding Children 2023](#) and the Care Act 2014, the lead representatives of the safeguarding partnerships are:

- The Chief Executive of the local authority – **Sam Mowbray**
- Chief Executives for the Integrated Care Board for an area, any part of which falls within the local authority area – **Sue Harriman**
- Chief Constable of for an area, any part of which falls within the local authority area – **Catherine Roper**

In Swindon, the Lead Safeguarding Partners have delegated their responsibilities for the safeguarding arrangements to:

- Swindon Borough Council – **Clare Deards**, Corporate Director of People
- BaNES, SWINDON and Wiltshire Integrated Care Board – **Gill May**, Chief Nurse Officer
- Wiltshire Police – **Liz Coles**, Assistant Chief Constable, Crime, Justice and Vulnerability

Additional Partnership Executives

- Brunel Academies Trust – Chief Executive Officer, **Jackie Fieldwick**

The Chair of the Safeguarding Partnership for 2025-25 is Gill May, BSW ICB Chief Nurse.

The Lead Safeguarding Partners have equal and joint responsibility for local safeguarding arrangements, which is underpinned by equitable and proportionate funding including through any contributions from relevant agencies. The Delegated Safeguarding Partners have the responsibility and authority for ensuring full participation with the safeguarding arrangements. Although the Lead Safeguarding Partners have delegated their responsibilities to those named above, they remain accountable for any action or decisions taken on behalf of their respective agency. Decisions involving policy, resourcing and commissioning will include full participation by Cabinet Members and the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).

The Lead Safeguarding Partners have drawn up an agreed Memorandum of Understanding that sets out how they will work together to ensure the effectiveness of their arrangements. Both the Memorandum of Understanding and the arrangements set out in this document will be reviewed by the Lead Safeguarding Partners and Delegated Safeguarding Partners for 2025/26.

The area covered by the arrangements is defined by the Swindon Borough Council local authority boundary. Partners to these arrangements may have responsibility for services outside this area due to either their organisational boundaries overlapping other local authority areas or because they have responsibilities for children or adults with care and support needs in another area. Some partners may also need to work to another area's arrangements, for example during a case review commissioned by another area, and where this is the case the Safeguarding Partnership will help facilitate communication with other areas and engagement by partners.

2. Purpose

The Lead Safeguarding Partners in Swindon are committed to a partnership model that focuses on continuous learning and improvement with a clear line of sight on frontline safeguarding practice. The partners will promote a shared commitment to work together to improve outcomes for children and adults with care and support needs.

The Swindon Safeguarding Partnership will support, enable and challenge each other to work together to ensure:

- The Partnership has a clear, shared vision for how to improve outcomes for children and adults locally across all levels of need and all types of harm
- when a child is identified as suffering or likely to suffer significant harm there is a prompt, appropriate and effective response to ensure the protection and support of the child
- when an adults is identified as suffering or likely to suffer significant harm there is a prompt, appropriate and effective response
- organisations and agencies are challenged appropriately, effectively holding one another to account
- the voice of children and families and adults with care and support needs combined with the knowledge of experienced practitioners and insights from data, provides a

greater understanding of the areas of strength and/or improvement within arrangements and practice

- information is sought, analysed, shared, and broken down by protected characteristics to facilitate more accurate and timely decision-making for children, families and adults with care and support needs to understand outcomes for different communities
- effective collection, sharing and analysis of data, enables early identification of new safeguarding risks, issues, emerging threats, and joined-up responses across relevant agencies
- senior leaders promote and embed a learning culture which supports local services to become more reflective and implement changes to practice
- senior leaders have a good knowledge and understanding about the quality of local practice and its impact on children, families and adults with care and support needs

Swindon Safeguarding Partnership believes that effective safeguarding is founded on practitioners developing lasting and trusting relationships with the children and adults they work with as well as each other. The Partnership will look beyond organisational constraints and boundaries to build a culture which improves outcomes for all. The Partnership has agreed a behaviours framework that promotes and delivers accountability, openness, trust, innovation, commitment, respectfulness, curiosity and collaboration.

3. Funding and Resourcing

The Lead Safeguarding Partners should agree on the level of funding needed to deliver the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. This includes consideration of business and analytical support, independent scrutiny, infrastructure, and core functions including local children safeguarding practice reviews, multi-agency training and learning events. It is the responsibility of the LSP to ensure that adequate funding is allocated and spent in line with agreed priorities.

Funding contributions from the statutory safeguarding partners should be equitable and agreed by the Lead Safeguarding Partners. Funding for the arrangements should be reviewed on an ongoing basis to ensure that they can meet the financial needs of the arrangements.

The funding should be transparent to children and families in the area, and the individual contributions of safeguarding partners and relevant agencies should be clearly set out in reporting. (Working Together 2023)

Section 14 of the Care Act 2014 states that Members of a SAB are expected to consider what assistance they can provide in supporting the Board in its work. This might be through payment to the local authority or to a joint fund established by the local authority to provide, for example, secretariat functions for the Board. Members might also support the work of the SAB by providing administrative help, premises for meetings or holding training sessions. It is in all core partners' interests to have an effective SAB that is resourced adequately to carry out its functions.

The funding arrangements for the Swindon Safeguarding Partnership and contributions will be set out in a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Lead Safeguarding Partners and the Delegated Safeguarding Partners for the arrangements as set out above. The Safeguarding Partners will provide through financial or in-kind contributions the resources required to deliver on their ambition for effective multi-agency safeguarding arrangements as set out in this document and the Partnership's annual business plan.

The Safeguarding Partners have agreed their funding contributions for 2025/26.

Swindon Borough Council	£128,000.00
Wiltshire Police	£49,800.00
BSW ICB	£82,000.00
Great Western Hospital	£17,700.00
Probation	£2000.00
Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health	£2000.00
Total	£281,500.00

The Safeguarding Partners are supported by a Strategic Support Unit, which comprises of a Strategic Manager for Safeguarding, Lead for Adults, Lead for Children, Learning and Development Lead and Administrative Support staff. The team will be employed and line managed by Swindon Borough Council on behalf of the Safeguarding Partners.

4. Swindon Safeguarding Partnership – Membership

In line with both Working Together 2023 and the Care Act 2014, Swindon Safeguarding Partnership will include as members all organisations, agencies and individuals that will enable it to be effective in safeguarding children and adults.

The Swindon Safeguarding Partnership will comprise of the named statutory safeguarding partners and those agencies and organisations listed below, each of whom has been chosen because they have varying degrees of contact with children and/or adults with care and support needs and those who care for them:

- The Armed Forces
- Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust
- British Transport Police
- Care Quality Commission (CQC)
- Charitable and Voluntary Organisations; including faith groups
- Childminders
- Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service
- Banes Swindon Wiltshire Integrated Care Board (BSW ICB)
- Dentists
- Dorset & Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service
- Education Providers including Early Years and childcare settings
- General Practitioners and other relevant Primary Care Professionals
- Great Western Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- Healthwatch Swindon
- Housing Providers

- Independent Fostering Agencies
- National Health Service England
- NSPCC
- Opticians
- Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust
- Probation - The National Probation Service and the Community Rehabilitation Company
- Pharmacists
- Residential Care Homes & Care Providers (children & adults)
- Swindon Borough Council Services
- South West Ambulance Service Foundation Trust
- Swindon Advocacy Movement
- UK Visa, Immigration, Enforcement and Border Force
- Wiltshire Police
- Wiltshire & Swindon Coroner's Office
- Youth Justice Service
- Where appropriate, other services commissioned by any of the above

Representatives should be able to promote the effectiveness of the partnership through their responsibility and accountability for the services their agencies deliver to children & adults with care and support needs and through their ability to influence the effectiveness of their agencies contribution to multi-agency safeguarding.

The voice of children and adults with care and support needs is central to the work of the Partnership and their involvement in the development of services and multi-agency responses to their needs will be developed through the Partnership Participation Network, Adult Scrutineer Group and . The Safeguarding Partnership Strategic Executive will review the membership of the Partnership annually.

5. Independent Scrutiny

The function of the independent scrutiny role is to provide safeguarding partners and relevant agencies with independent, rigorous, and effective support and challenge at both a strategic and operational level.

Independent scrutiny should drive continuous improvement and provide assurance that arrangements are working effectively for children, families, and practitioners. It should also consider learning from local child safeguarding practice reviews, national reviews and thematic reports.

The decision on how best to implement a robust system of independent scrutiny is to be made locally, and LSPs should be assured that the system in place leads to objective and rigorous analysis of local arrangements. (Working Together 2023)

Swindon Safeguarding Partnership recognises the benefits of rigorous and independent scrutiny of its safeguarding arrangements. The Partnership believes that the effectiveness of those arrangements can best be measured through the analysis and challenge of performance information, the impact of quality assurance activity on outcomes for children

and adults with care and support needs and its arrangements for and response to Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Safeguarding Adult Reviews.

For 2025-26, the Delegated Safeguarding Partners have contracted an Independent scrutineer to work with the Partnership. A scrutiny work programme will be agreed by Delegated Safeguarding Partners and will form part of the quality assurance work being undertaken across the Partnership.

6. Reporting

The Swindon Safeguarding Partnership will produce an independently scrutinised yearly report which sets out what the Partnership has done and how effective its multi-agency safeguarding arrangements have been in practice. It will include actions relating to safeguarding and what the safeguarding partners and others have done as a result. In addition, the report will include:

- Evidence of the impact of the work of the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies, including training, on outcomes for children and adults with care and support needs
- An analysis of any areas where there has been little or no evidence of progress on agreed priorities
- A record of decisions and actions taken by the partners in the report's period (or planned to be taken) to implement the recommendations of any local and national safeguarding reviews, including any resulting improvements
- Ways in which the partners have sought and utilised feedback from service users to inform their work and influence service provision.

The report will be published on the Safeguarding Partnership's website and distributed across the range of agencies that make up the Partnership. In line with legislation, a copy of the report will also be sent to the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and the What Works Centre for Children's Social Care. The Partnership will also share the report with equivalent bodies for Health and the Police, including the Health and Wellbeing board.

7. Dispute Resolution

Safeguarding partners and relevant agencies must act in accordance with the arrangements for their area and will be expected to work together to resolve any disputes locally. (Working Together 2023)

Swindon Safeguarding Partnership will expect and support organisations and agencies to hold one another to account and to challenge appropriately when concerns or disputes relating to the effectiveness of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements arise.

Swindon Safeguarding Partnership has a multi-agency process for the resolution of professional disagreements relating to safeguarding adults and for children. Partners are also encouraged to use whistleblowing procedures where appropriate.

The Partnership will also maintain a risk register to document organisational and strategic issues that might impact the Partnership's ability to meet its statutory obligations. The risk register will be reviewed by the Partnership's Executive on a bi-monthly basis and a summary of the risks and mitigating actions as well as the impact of challenge will be included in the annual report.

8. Safeguarding Partnership Groups

Swindon Lead Safeguarding Partners

Meeting **3 times** per year the Lead Safeguarding Partner Group has the following membership

- Chief Executive of Swindon Borough Council
- Chief Executive Officer for BSW Integrated Care Board
- Chief Constable of Wiltshire Police

The role of the group is to have strategic oversight and to be assured that local arrangements in Swindon are effective in protecting children and adults with care and support needs.

Swindon Safeguarding Executive

Meeting **8 times** per year the Executive group comprises of:

- Chief Nurse Officer, Swindon Integrated Care Board (ICB)
- Assistant Chief Constable, Wiltshire Police
- The Director People, Swindon Borough Council (SBC)
- Education Executive representative

The core role of the group is to:

- Ensure all elements of the Partnership are working effectively;
- To receive and respond to recommendations from Independent Scrutiny and any other sources of scrutiny and challenge.
- To set the budget and agree expenditure to agree the Partnership's Business Plan and its Yearly Report;
- To make decisions as to the commissioning of Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPR) and Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARS).
- To ensure there is a response to new and emerging safeguarding issues;
- To understand the performance and impact of safeguarding services; and,
- Ensure the views and experiences of children and adults with care and support needs inform the work of the Partnership

Multi-Agency Joint Children and Adults Partnership Group

Meeting **three times** per year, this joint group comprises of the following agencies:

Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership
BSW ICB
Department of Work & Pensions
Wiltshire Police
Swindon Borough Council – Housing
Swindon Borough Council – Children’s Services
Swindon Borough Council – Adult Social Care
NSPCC
Oxford Health – CAMHS
Probation
Education
Public Health
Swindon Carers Centre
Health Watch Swindon
Voluntary Action Swindon
DWFRS
Great Western Hospital
Trading Standards
SBC Cabinet Members (Childrens & Adults portfolio holders)
SWAST
Prospect Hospice
Care Providers

Other agencies may be invited to participate with this group as and when appropriate to support the priorities set by the Safeguarding Partnership.

The role of the group is to:

- Have a clear understanding of the Partnerships responsibilities in relation to safeguarding children and adults
- Oversee all national and local developments in relation to safeguarding children and adults so that these are fully understood and shared within individual organisations
- Share relevant information and data about safeguarding issues and concerns from individual organisations
- Provide constructive challenge and hold Partners to account around the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements across the Partnership.

Delivery Group

Meeting **six times** per year, this group comprises of the chairs of the Partnership sub-groups

The role of the group is to:

- Review, challenge and hold accountable the sub-group chair and members of the sub-groups and escalate to the Executive any significant issues
- Allow the sub-groups to share information on current issues and areas of work/practice and highlight any overlaps or gaps
- Monitor the delivery of the Safeguarding Partnership business plan and sub-group work plans
- Identify any risks and mitigating factors
- Receive reports from the Safeguarding Partnership sub-groups
- The Chair of the group will provide a written report to the accountable boards
- Respond to requests made by the Executive and take forward work on behalf of the Executive

Learning and Development Group

Meeting **four times** per year, Learning and Development Group is responsible the delivery of an effective multi-agency learning and development programme that has a demonstrable impact on outcomes for children and adults with care and support needs. The group will:

- Develop a multi-agency training offer that meets the needs of those working to safeguard and protect children and adults with care and support needs
- Oversee the commissioning of training providers and with the Strategic Support Unit, review the quality and effectiveness of the training provided;
- Provide the Safeguarding Executive with assurance as to the effectiveness of the multi-agency training offer and its impact on frontline practice; and,
- Ensure that safeguarding training delivered within partner agencies is compatible with national and local requirements.
- Link with the Partnership sub-groups to scope any learning and development identified from recommendations from case reviews and multi-agency case audits.
- Gain assurance using the 'Closing the Learning Loop' process. Review how resources developed from learning from case reviews are being disseminated and embedded in frontline practice.

The majority of training is to be commissioned through external providers and the Strategic Support Unit will manage the procurement, commissioning and contract management processes. In addition to this core provision, some of the multi-agency training will be provided by partner agencies and this too will be managed by the Strategic Support Unit.

The Strategic Support Unit will provide quarterly reports to the Learning and Development Group to include quantitative and qualitative information as to the effectiveness of the training

offer. The Strategic Support Unit will lead on the evaluation and quality assurance of the training offer. This will involve engagement with participants and their managers to evaluate the impact of training on frontline practice and a programme of course observations carried out by members of the Partnership to quality assure the training providers.

Practice Review Group

Meeting at least **eight times** per year, this group comprises of senior officers from the following agencies:

BSW ICB

Probation

Swindon Borough Council, Adult Social Care

Swindon Borough Council, Children's Social Care

Swindon Borough Council, Education - Safeguarding Lead

Swindon Borough Council, Children's Community Health

Wiltshire Police

Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership

Oxford Health CAMHS

Great Western Hospital

NSPCC

Swindon Borough Council Housing

South West Ambulance Service Trust

Other partners may also attend Practice Review Group when required.

The role of the group is to:

- Receive referrals on cases that may meet the criteria for a statutory review such as a Rapid Review, Child Safeguarding Practice Review and Safeguarding Adults Review.
- Receive and consider referrals for cases that provide additional learning where those cases do not meet the criteria for a statutory review. The group will discuss the referrals and use statutory criteria to make recommendations to the Safeguarding Executive and any relevant statutory bodies such as the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel. Where safeguarding practice reviews are commissioned, the Practice Review Group will oversee the review process.
- Ensure that reviews are commissioned in such a way as to ensure that the reports can be published in full. The reports will be published on the Safeguarding Partnership website and will remain publicly available for at least one year.
- Share any identified learning need with the Learning and Development group who will consider how best to disseminate the learning identified through case reviews and will advise the Safeguarding Executive on how the learning should be embedded and tested through the work plans of sub-groups.
- Review any published national reviews and policy and ensure that learning from these is shared across the Partnership.

- Adhere to statutory guidance as set out in Chapter 5 of Working Together 2023 and Section 44 of the Care Act 2014.

Quality Assurance Group

Meeting **four times** per year, this group comprises of the relevant partners from the following agencies:

Swindon Borough Council, Adult Social Care
 Swindon Borough Council, Children's Social Care
 Swindon Borough Council, Early Intervention, Youth and Communities
 Swindon Borough Council, Education
 Swindon Borough Council Community Health
 Wiltshire Police
 Great Western Hospital
 BSW ICB
 Probation
 Change, Grow, Live substance disorder service
 Domestic Abuse Support Services

The role of the group is to:

- Oversee the multi-agency Partnership Quality Assurance Framework with a focus on understanding the experience of children and adults with care and support needs in Swindon and the impact of services and practice on outcomes for children and adults.
- Contribute to the independent scrutiny of the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements
- Assist in the monitoring and interpretation of performance data and management information that is required by the Partnership to help senior leaders have an accurate and systematically updated understanding of the effectiveness of multi-agency practice and interventions, and use this to drive improvement.
- Assist the Partnership in identifying themes that may need to be addressed that arise from the performance data or from exception reports, including early identification and analysis of new safeguarding issues and emerging threats.
- Initiate, undertake or commission both multi-agency and single agency audits and reviews of safeguarding activities on a regular basis on behalf of the Partnership to understand practice strengths and areas for improvement.
- Report findings from audit activity, by this group and other member agencies to the Partnership on a regular basis and make recommendations for change to support improved practice and promote a learning culture. This may include recommendations for the Learning and Development Group to scope additional training, spotlight events, or other media to disseminate good practice and learning.

Participation Network

This group will meet **4 times** per year. The purpose of the group is to network with all professionals in Swindon who are involved in the engagement and participation of children, young people, vulnerable families and adults with care and support needs. This will provide assurance that we understand what already exists within Swindon. The group will facilitate the sharing of information to help build a picture of what children, young people, vulnerable families and adults with care and support needs in Swindon are telling us.

The group will consult with children, young people, vulnerable families and adults with care and support needs through already existing consultation groups/voice groups and surveys, share good practice and create new opportunities while ensuring that the voice of children and adults with care and support needs are heard and able to influence service design and delivery. The work of the group will link to the current Partnership priorities.

Partnership Practitioners Forum

The Partnership Practitioners Forum will be held **4 times** per year and each forum for 2025-26 will have a focus on one of the Partnership Priorities.

The forum is to open to all practitioners and volunteers working with children, young people, families and adults with care and support needs in Swindon. The purpose of the forum is to be able to meet and talk regularly to frontline practitioners to gain their views and understand their experiences of working in Swindon.

Partnership Sub-Groups

These groups will focus on the Partnership's priorities and identified emerging risks. They will consist of representatives from organisations that play a key role in delivering the identified improvements in services for children and families and adults with care and support needs and will meet as frequently as required. Where appropriate they will be time limited with clear terms of reference and a focused work programme. For as long as the group is needed the sub-group Chair will attend Delivery Group meeting to report on progress of the work programme.

Safeguarding Partnership Priorities for 2025-26

Neglect - Children

Child Sexual Abuse - Children

Self-Neglect - Adults

All Age Exploitation- Adults & Children

Lead Safeguarding Partners

SBC Local Authority, Chief Executive, **Samantha Mowbray**
Wiltshire Police, Chief Constable **Catherine Roper**
BSW ICB Chief Executive Officer, **Sue Harriman**

Delegated Safeguarding Partners Executive Group

BSW ICB Chief Nurse, **Gill May – Partnership Chair**
SBC Local Authority Director of Childrens Services, **Lisa Arthey**
SBC Local Authority Corporate Director Integrated Adult Social Care (DASS),
Clare Deards
Wiltshire Police, Assistant Chief Constable, **Liz Coles**
Education Representative, **Jackie Fieldwick**, CEO Brunel Academies Trust

Independent Scrutineer

Kevin Gibbs

Safeguarding Partnership Priorities 2025/26

All Age Exploitation
Children & Adults

Neglect
Children

Self-Neglect
Adults

Child Sexual Abuse
Children

Delivery Group

Safeguarding Partnership Priority Groups 2025/26

Strategic All Age Exploitation Group
Children & Adults

Neglect Sub-Group - Children

Self-Neglect Sub-Group – Adults

Children's MASH Strategic Group

**Early Intervention, Youth and
Communities Group**

Child Sexual Abuse Group

**Safeguarding Partnership
Practitioners Forum**

Safeguarding Partnership Enabler Groups 2025/26

Practice Review Group

Quality Assurance Group

Learning & Development Group

Participation Network

Joint Multi-Agency Children and Adults Partnership Group