



**Multi-Agency Safeguarding
Arrangements for Children and Adults
with Care and Support Needs
2026-27**

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Contents	Page
1. Introduction	3
2. Purpose	5
3. Funding and Resourcing	6
4. Membership	8
5. Independent Scrutiny	9
6. Reporting	10
7. Dispute Resolution	11
8. Case Reviews	11
9. Partnership Groups & Priorities	11
10. Glossary	19

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. Swindon's safeguarding arrangements are published in accordance with the Children and Social Work Act 2017, Working Together 2026 and the Care Act 2014 and will be reviewed annually.

Statutory Responsibilities

Children

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 and its accompanying guidance [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026](#) 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 Corporate Director of People.

The Care Act outlines six key principles for 'Making Safeguarding Personal' which underpins safeguarding adults practice in Swindon.

- **Empowerment:** Supporting and encouraging people to make their own decisions and give informed consent. It is about listening to the person and asking what they want to happen.
- **Prevention:** Taking proactive action to prevent abuse or neglect before it occurs, ensuring people have information to stay safe
- **Proportionality:** Applying the least intrusive, most appropriate response to the risk presented, balancing safety with independence.
- **Protection:** Providing support, advocacy, and representation for those in greatest need, particularly those who lack capacity.
- **Partnership:** Collaborating with individuals, communities, and agencies to deliver local solutions, fostering a shared responsibility for safety.
- **Accountability:** Ensuring transparency and accountability in all safeguarding practices, where professionals are responsible for their actions.

Local Protocols and Procedures

Swindon's local Threshold Guidance [The right help at the right time](#) sets out how we will identify, assess and provide the most appropriate support for children, young people and their families where unmet needs have been identified.

The Swindon Safeguarding Partnership's protocol for assessment and support is hosted on the Southwest Child Protection Procedures (SWCPP) website, this ensures practitioners have access to consistent guidance. The procedures supports a coherent multi-agency response, promotes common understanding of safeguarding expectations, and ensures that all partners working with children and families in Swindon are guided by robust, evidence-based procedures <https://swcpp-swindon.trixonline.co.uk/>.

Swindon's guidance, [Adult safeguarding policy and procedures](#) sets out how we will identify, assess and provide the most appropriate support for adults with care and support needs.

Safeguarding Partners

As defined in the [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026](#) 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 – **Jonathan Higman**
- 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 People
- BaNES, SWINDON, Wiltshire, Dorset and Somerset Cluster, Integrated Care Board – **Shelagh Meldrum**, Chief Nurse Officer
- Wiltshire Police – **Liz Coles**, Assistant Chief Constable, Crime, Justice and Vulnerability
- Swindon Borough Council – **Brenda McInerney**, Director Children's Services

Additional Partnership Executives

- SBC Service Director of Education – **Kashif Nawaz**

The Chair of the Safeguarding Partnership for 2026-27 is Clare Deards.

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 2026-27.

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.

The Safeguarding Partners have an information sharing agreement in place to support timely and appropriate sharing of information, including data, across the Partnership [Information sharing and consent](#).

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 Partnership [Learning and Improvement Framework](#) sets out how we have agreed to do this.

Partnership Ambition

The Safeguarding Partnership will act with intent and purpose to deliver measurable and meaningful improvements in outcomes for children and adults with care and support needs. This means that the partnership will:					
Create a stronger culture of collective responsibility for safeguarding children and adults	Act on learning so that the partnership can continuously improve its support for children and adults at risk	Activate and empower the local community to be safeguarding partners	Increase the involvement of children and adults in the work of the partnership	Develop a confident and knowledgeable workforce and use their expertise to shape out work	Use our data to develop a shared narrative about the safeguarding needs of children and adults in Swindon

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 adult 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 a set of agreed behaviours 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 2026)

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 Safeguarding Partnership strategy.

The Safeguarding Partners have agreed their funding contributions for 2026-27.

Swindon Borough Council	£157,300.00
Wiltshire Police	£50,800.00
BSW ICB	£92,000.00
Great Western Hospital	£18,100.00
Probation	£2000.00
Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health	£2000.00
Total	£322,200.00

Safeguarding Partner funding is agreed on an annual basis to ensure the contributions meet the financial needs of the arrangements. Where there may be a need identified for additional funding, this will be considered and agreed by the Safeguarding Partners.

The Safeguarding Partners are supported by a Strategic Support Unit, which comprises of a Strategic Manager, Lead for Adults, Lead for Children, Learning and Development Lead, Data Performance Analyst 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 to Safeguard Children 2026 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
- HCRG
- Healthwatch Swindon
- Housing Providers
- Independent Fostering Agencies
- National Health Service England
- NSPCC
- Barnardos
- Nelson Trust
- Change, Grow, Live
- Opticians
- Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust
- Probation
- Pharmacists
- Residential Care Homes & Care Providers (children & adults)
- Swindon Borough Council Services
- Southwest 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 agency's 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 direct work with children and families.

5. Independent Scrutiny

The function of the independent scrutiny role is to:

- Provide safeguarding partners and relevant agencies including education providers and childcare settings with independent, rigorous, and effective support and challenge at both a strategic and operational level.
- Provide assurance to the whole system in judging the effectiveness of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements through a range of scrutiny methods.
- Ensure that statutory duties are being fulfilled, quality assurance mechanisms are in place, and that local child safeguarding practice reviews and national reviews are analysed, with key learning areas identified and effectively implemented across the safeguarding system.
- Ensure that the voice of children and families is considered as part of scrutiny and that this is at the heart of arrangements through direct feedback, informing policy and practice.
- Be regarded as a 'critical friend' and provide opportunities for two-way discussion and reflection between frontline practitioners and leaders. This will encourage and enable strong, clear, strategic leadership.
- Provide independent advice when there are disagreements between agencies and safeguarding partners and facilitate escalation procedures.
- Evaluate and contribute to multi-agency safeguarding published arrangements and the annual report, alongside feeding into the wider accountability systems such as inspections.
- 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 to Safeguard Children 2026)

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 2026-27, 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 set out the frequency of their scrutiny activity. This will form part of the quality assurance work being undertaken across the Partnership.

The Independent Scrutineer will have access to data, reporting and learning from multi-agency audits and case reviews and will meet regularly with the Chief Executive of Swindon Borough Council. The Independent Scrutineer will also attend the Lead Safeguarding Partners meeting and feedback on the impact of the LSP and DSP strategic oversight.

The Independent Scrutineer will take into account the voice and experience of children and adults.

The Independent Scrutineer will report directly to the Partnership Chair and Delegated Safeguarding Partners via the Executive group.

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 Partnership 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 understand each other's differences of views and resolve such differences locally (Working Together 2026).

No dispute should delay immediate safeguarding action for a child or adult.

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.

At all stages of escalation Lead Safeguarding Partners and the Delegated Safeguarding Partners will make use of key stakeholders in Swindon, which might include Police and Crime Commissioners, Mayors, lead members, and/or independent persons, who can be brought to the table to assist them to settle on a solution. Where any issue remains unresolved between the three Lead Safeguarding Partners and their local networks the next stage of escalation is to the Secretary of State.

Swindon Safeguarding Partnership has a [Resolution Policy](#) that should be used where there are 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 Group 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. Case Reviews

The Safeguarding Partnership has a clear process for undertaking Rapid Reviews, Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review [Local child safeguarding practice review guidance](#) and Safeguarding Adult Reviews [Safeguarding Adult Review Guidance](#).

The arrangements for embedding the learning across the Partnership from case reviews is set out in the Partnership's [Learning and Improvement Framework](#).

9. Safeguarding Partnership Groups & Priorities

Joint Swindon and Wiltshire Lead Safeguarding Partner Group

The role of the group is to for the Lead Safeguarding Partners to have strategic oversight and assure themselves that local arrangements are effective in protecting children and adults with

care and support needs. In addition, they are jointly responsible for ensuring the proper involvement of and oversight of all relevant agencies.

The Lead Safeguarding Partner Group has the following membership

- Chief Executive of Swindon Borough Council
- Chief Executive of Wiltshire Council
- Chief Executive Officer for BSW Integrated Care Board
- Chief Constable of Wiltshire Police
- Chair of Swindon Safeguarding Partnership
- Chair of Wiltshire Supporting Vulnerable People Partnership

The role of the group is to:

- Set the strategic direction, vision, and culture of the local safeguarding arrangements, including agreeing and reviewing shared priorities and the resource required to deliver services effectively.
- Lead their organisation's individual contribution to the shared priorities, ensuring strong governance, accountability, and reporting mechanisms to hold their delegates to account for the delivery of agency commitments.
- Review and sign off key partnership documents: published multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, including plans for independent scrutiny, shared annual budget, yearly report, and local threshold document.
- Provide shared oversight of learning from independent scrutiny, serious incidents, local child safeguarding practice reviews, and national reviews, ensuring recommendations are implemented and have a demonstrable impact on practice (as set out in the yearly report).
- Ensure multi-agency arrangements have the necessary level of business support, including intelligence and analytical functions, such as an agreed data set providing oversight and a robust understanding of practice.
- Ensure all relevant agencies, including education settings, are clear on their role and contribution to multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.
- Have oversight of a risk register to hold Partnership risks that cannot be held at Designated Safeguarding Lead level and require escalation to resolve.

Swindon Safeguarding Executive Group

The Executive Group comprises of the Delegated Safeguarding Partners and additional executives.

- Chief Nurse Officer, Swindon Integrated Care Board (ICB)
- Assistant Chief Constable, Wiltshire Police
- Corporate Director People, Swindon Borough Council (SBC)
- The Director of Children's Services (SBC)
- SBC Service Director for Education

The role of the group is to:

- Be assured that all elements of the Safeguarding 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 Strategic 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
- Ensure the views and experiences of children and adults with are and support needs inform the work of the Partnership

Delivery Group

The Delivery Group will monitor and review the progress of the Partnership Strategic Business Plan and will monitor and review the progress of the Partnership's priority and enabler groups. The Delivery Group will provide challenge and scrutiny of this work. The group comprises of the chairs of the Partnership priority and enabler groups and partners from the three statutory agencies.

The role of the group is to:

- Receive bi-monthly reports from the Safeguarding Partnership priority and enabler group chairs.
- Review, challenge and hold accountable the priority and enabler group chairs and members of these groups. To escalate to the Executive Group any significant issues that cannot be resolved at Delivery Group.
- Allow the priority and enabler 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 Strategic Business plan and priority and enabler group work plans.
- Identify any risks and mitigating factors.
- Respond to requests made by the Executive Group and take forward work on behalf of them.
- To drive performance and change and to facilitate the delivery of the strategic objectives.

The Chair of the Delivery Group will be independent and will not hold the role of chair for any priority or enabler group. The Chair will attend the Executive Group bi-monthly, providing a written report that outlines progress, risks, barriers, and examples of good practice. This reporting mechanism ensures transparency and creates a clear opportunity for the Executive Group to hold the Delivery Group Chair to account for driving forward the Safeguarding Partnership's strategic objectives.

Learning and Development Group

The 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 is also responsible for gaining assurance on how agencies use and embed learning to improve practice.

The role of the group is to:

- 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 Executive Group 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 priority and enabler 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 and audits are being disseminated and embedded in frontline practice.

When needed, training will 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

The Practice Review Group members leads on the Partnerships responsibilities for conducting Rapid Reviews, Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Safeguarding Adult Reviews in line with Working Together 2026 and the Care Act 2014.

The role of the group is to:

- Review local and national reviews where recommendations/findings have been made and consider whether there are practice and system implications that need addressing.

- Ensure that actions from case reviews are progressed.
- Seek assurance relating to local concerns where relevant.
- 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 Executive Group on how the learning should be embedded and tested through the work plans of priority and enabler groups.
- Ensure that they are sharing draft policies and procedures with relevant colleagues in their organisation to ensure those relevant partners are included in the development of policies and guidance.
- Ratify relevant policies/documents/procedures and guidance relating to practice that are not being managed via the Partnership priority groups.

Quality Assurance Group

The Quality Assurance Group will contribute to the scrutiny of the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults with care and support needs.

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 shared 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 with the triangulation of data from multiple data sources.
- 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 via the 'Closing the Learning' loop process.

Education Practice Group

The Education Practice Group looks to strengthen and support educational providers across Swindon to ensure safeguarding is effective, compliant with legislation and guidance, and grounded in best practice. It provides a strategic discussion and solution-focused forum to identify and respond to strategic and practice issues within educational settings and raise these with the Partnership via the Delivery Group or other relevant partnerships/groups as appropriate. The Education Practice Group combines educational views and contributions to enable effective representation at the Partnership.

The role of the group is to:

- Provide structured education input into Swindon's multi-agency safeguarding processes.
- To support implementation of multi-agency reforms, such as improving information sharing protocols and aligning practice with new Family Help models and MACPT arrangements.
- Support strengthening of Early Help through Education.
- To identify and discuss issues and risks raised by educational providers and where required, to highlight these to the Delivery Group and make recommendations.
- To support educational providers with awareness of and compliance with national legislation, policies, guidance, best practice and findings from national case reviews related to safeguarding including highlighting changes.
- To support early intervention and prevention.
- To liaise with educational providers to provide awareness and understanding of any key local developments in relation to safeguarding including guidance, findings from inspection, audits and case reviews.
- To feedback to the partnership on the implication of decisions and policy changes relating to safeguarding from educational perspective.
- To provide an opportunity for educational providers to identify and share best safeguarding practice and consider themes from Ofsted / Independent Schools Inspectorate reports / inspections.
- To contribute to safeguarding arrangements, decisions, policy and procedures aligning safeguarding activity with the Partnership priorities.
- To contribute to the section 175 audit content and review subsequent report initiating any learning.
- To identify colleagues to work with other agencies and partners to solve multi-agency issues pertinent to education.
- To enable representatives from educational settings to link with the work of the partnership and identify colleagues to support sub-groups within the partnership.
- Ensuring safeguarding across education settings is inclusive, strengths-based, and responsive to family needs.
- Ensure the voice of children and families is central to safeguarding practice.

Children's MASH Strategic Group

The purpose of the MASH Strategic Group is to be assured of and to hold the MASH Operational Group to account. This will include oversight of performance, delivery and improvements against agreed MASH objectives and MASH elements of the Children's Service improvement plan.

The group will review and improve processes both within the MASH and between the MASH and external agencies/services to ensure that multi-agency working is co-ordinated and is improving outcomes for children.

The group will ensure that MASH performance, audits and processes become embedded into existing Safeguarding Partnership functions, clearly evidencing outcomes.

Participation Network

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, delivery and strategic decision making. The work of the group will link to the current Partnership priorities.

Safeguarding Partnership Priority Groups for 2026-27

The Safeguarding Partnership's priorities for 2026–27 are based on local evidence, learning from case reviews, national safeguarding guidance, and the need to respond to emerging risks. These priorities reflect areas where strengthened multi-agency coordination will have the greatest impact on outcomes for children and adults with care and support needs.

Each priority area will have an established group that 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 bi-monthly to progress a structured work programme and monitor the impact of this for children and adults.

The current priorities for the Partnership are:

Neglect - Children

Neglect remains one of the most prevalent safeguarding concerns both locally and nationally. Local audit activity has highlighted the need for earlier identification of cumulative harm, consistent thresholds, and improved multi-agency responses to support sustained change for families.

Child Sexual Abuse – Children

Child sexual abuse continues to be significantly under-reported. National learning and local intelligence indicate that professional confidence, early identification, and effective multi-agency practice need further strengthening, particularly in relation to intra-familial abuse, online harm, and harmful sexual behaviour.

Self-Neglect – Adults

Self-neglect is a recurring theme in Safeguarding Adult Reviews and presents complex risks linked to mental health, trauma, substance misuse, and social isolation. Local reviews highlight the need for greater consistency in risk management, information sharing, and multi-agency coordination to support adults at risk.

All Age Exploitation – Children and Adults

Patterns of exploitation are evolving across age groups, including criminal, sexual, financial, and digital exploitation. Local intelligence indicates a need for a unified, all-age response to address county lines, coercion, trafficking, and other forms of exploitation that impact both children and adults.

Each group chair is accountable for driving forward all agreed actions for their group and for promptly escalating any barriers or risks to the Delivery Group to ensure timely resolution.

Alongside the priority areas, the work of the Safeguarding Partnership is underpinned by several cross-cutting themes that strengthen the quality, consistency, and impact of safeguarding practice across all agencies.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

The Partnership is committed to promoting equity and ensuring that safeguarding practice is inclusive, culturally competent, and responsive to the diverse needs of Swindon's communities. This includes seeking, analysing, and acting on data broken down by protected characteristics and ensuring that practice recognises and addresses structural inequalities and bias.

Trauma-Informed Practice

The Partnership recognises the impact of trauma on children, adults and families and is committed to promoting trauma-informed approaches across all agencies. This includes understanding the root causes of behaviour, responding with compassion and consistency, and supporting services to create safe, trusting, and empowering environments.

Workforce Development

A skilled, confident, and supported workforce is essential to effective safeguarding. The Partnership will continue to develop and deliver high-quality multi-agency learning opportunities, strengthen professional curiosity, and build a culture of continuous improvement. Workforce development activity will focus on embedding learning from reviews, audits, and national guidance into everyday practice.

10. Glossary

Adult With Care and Support Needs

An adult who has needs for care and support, is experiencing or at risk of abuse or neglect, and is unable to protect themselves because of those needs.

Care Act 2014

Legislation that sets out how local authorities and partner agencies must safeguard adults with care and support needs.

Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR)

A statutory review undertaken when a child has died or been seriously harmed and abuse or neglect are suspected, to identify learning for system improvement.

Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSPs)

Senior leaders who act on behalf of the Lead Safeguarding Partners to oversee implementation of safeguarding arrangements.

Executive Group

The group of Delegated Safeguarding Partners and additional executives responsible for decision-making, oversight of performance, commissioning reviews, and agreeing strategic plans.

Independent Scrutineer

An external professional who provides objective scrutiny, challenge, and assurance on the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSPs)

The statutory leaders from the local authority, Integrated Care Board and Police, who hold equal and joint accountability for local safeguarding arrangements.

Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP)

A person-centred approach to adult safeguarding that emphasises choice, empowerment, and outcomes defined by the individual.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

The agreement between safeguarding partners outlining shared responsibilities, funding commitments, and governance arrangements.

Partnership Priority Groups

Time-limited groups focusing on delivering improvements in priority safeguarding areas, such as Neglect, Child Sexual Abuse, Self-Neglect, and Exploitation.

Rapid Review

An initial, time-limited review to determine whether a CSPR is required following a serious child safeguarding incident.

Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR)

A statutory review conducted when an adult with care and support needs dies or experiences serious harm, and there are concerns about how agencies worked together.

Safeguarding Partners

Statutory agencies with shared responsibility for local safeguarding arrangements: the local authority, Integrated Care Board, and Police.

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026

Statutory guidance that sets out how organisations should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.



Swindon Safeguarding Partnership

Governance Structure 2026-27

