

A simple guide to our local Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements

Introducing the Berkshire West Safeguarding Children Partnership Reading, West Berkshire & Wokingham



Reading | West Berkshire | Wokingham

Why have you been given this leaflet?

Because you are part of the Berkshire West Safeguarding Partnership, you need to understand what and the partnership is and how you are involved.

What you need to know in a nutshell

- There is no longer a Local Safeguarding Children Board. Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 guidance disestablished LSCB's, replacing them with a requirement for a flexible equitable safeguarding partnership. The Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB) across the west of Berkshire (Reading, West Berkshire and Wokingham) merged to become the Berkshire West Safeguarding Children Partnership (BWSCP).
- We no longer have an Independent LSCB Chair. The partnership is overseen and directed by the Statutory Safeguarding Partners (3 Local Authority Director Children's Services, Head of Protecting Vulnerable People at Thames Valley Police & Nurse Director at Berkshire West Clinical Commissioning Group) and they are supported by Independent Scrutineers to provide challenge and scrutiny.
- **Most importantly, you are all part of BWSCP.** All services working with children and families are part of the partnership and each partner has an important role to play

What's Different?

The published safeguarding arrangements set out the vision and role for the partnership and can be found here: <https://www.berkshirwestsafeguardingchildrenpartnership.org.uk/scp/about-the-scp/about-the-bwscp>. The Safeguarding Partnership is the final decision-making body, overseeing the multi-agency plan to protect children and safeguard their welfare in Berkshire West. Key differences to the old LSCB are:

- There is a new role of Independent Scrutineer as we no longer have an Independent Chair
- **There is no 'Board'**. The Statutory Safeguarding Partners meet as a small group 3 times per year but have contact in between the meetings to ensure any significant Berkshire West issues can be discussed and resolved. Multi-agency partnership discussions for your locality will now take place at the Independent Scrutiny and Impact Group (ISIG) – see below for more details.
- There will be 2/3 Children's Leaders Forums per year, these are the wider partnership meetings to share learning and good practice and the experience of children and practitioners across the partnership.
- There is an Education Safeguarding Engagement Group in each area to ensure school leaders have a chance to directly feed into safeguarding discussions. The new sub group structure responsibilities is below.

Who is the BWSCP?

You are! Every person in the workforce has an equal role to play in making it a success and helping to keep our children effectively safeguarded. You may attend BWSCP sub group meetings, in which case you have an added responsibility to fully engage with these meetings to enable them to be productive. Even if you are not a regular attendee at a sub group your input into the partnership and the work you do is vital.

What is the ISIG?

In each locality we have established an Independent Scrutiny and Impact Group (ISIG). These groups originated from the previous Quality and Performance Groups but do have a different remit. The purpose of the ISIGs is to scrutinise the impact of services against our priorities and provide high support and challenge. We will achieve this by:

- Thematically scrutinising data and understanding needs to identify areas of shared risk in our systems
- Understand the barriers and challenges to service delivery, identify and scrutinise what is working well and the impact this has on our children and the impact this has on our children

- Understand the effectiveness and impact of the sub groups in fulfilling the aims and priorities of the partnership
- Commissioning and undertaking multi-agency audits
- Undertaking engagement with children, young people, families and carers
- Undertaking engagement with practitioners and hearing what you have to say
- Learning from Case Reviews, Partnership Reviews and key themed reports.

The ISIG will include challenge and support from the Independent Scrutineer.

What is an Independent Scrutineer?

The national expectation is that having an independent person or person(s) to review and challenge what difference local services are making to outcomes for children and young people, what we're doing well together and what we need to improve together is important. Effective Independent Scrutiny relies upon:

- Analysis of performance information.
- Multi-professional audit or reflective learning discussions.
- Understanding the lived experience of local children and young people.
- Understanding the frontline experience, strengths and challenges of frontline staff and volunteers.

In Berkshire West, our Independent Scrutineers are Kevin Ball and Lucy Titheridge.

Get involved and find out more:

We have a new partnership website and we are transitioning information from the old LSCB sites onto this one: <https://www.berkshirerwestsafeguardingchildrenpartnership.org.uk/scp> . We also have social media accounts:



<https://twitter.com/BWSCP1>



<https://www.facebook.com/BWSafeguardingChildrenPartnership/>

The BWSCP is supported by a Business Unit who help to organise and facilitate BWSCP meetings and provide support to progress specific work topics or case reviews. Their contact details are:

- Esther Blake, Strategic Partnership Manager – esther.blake@brighterfuturesforchildren.org
- Sherrie Newell, Operational Partnership Manager – sherrie.newell@wokingham.gov.uk
- Donna Gray, Senior Partnership Coordinator – donna.gray@brighterfuturesforchildren.org

BWSCP Structure Chart

