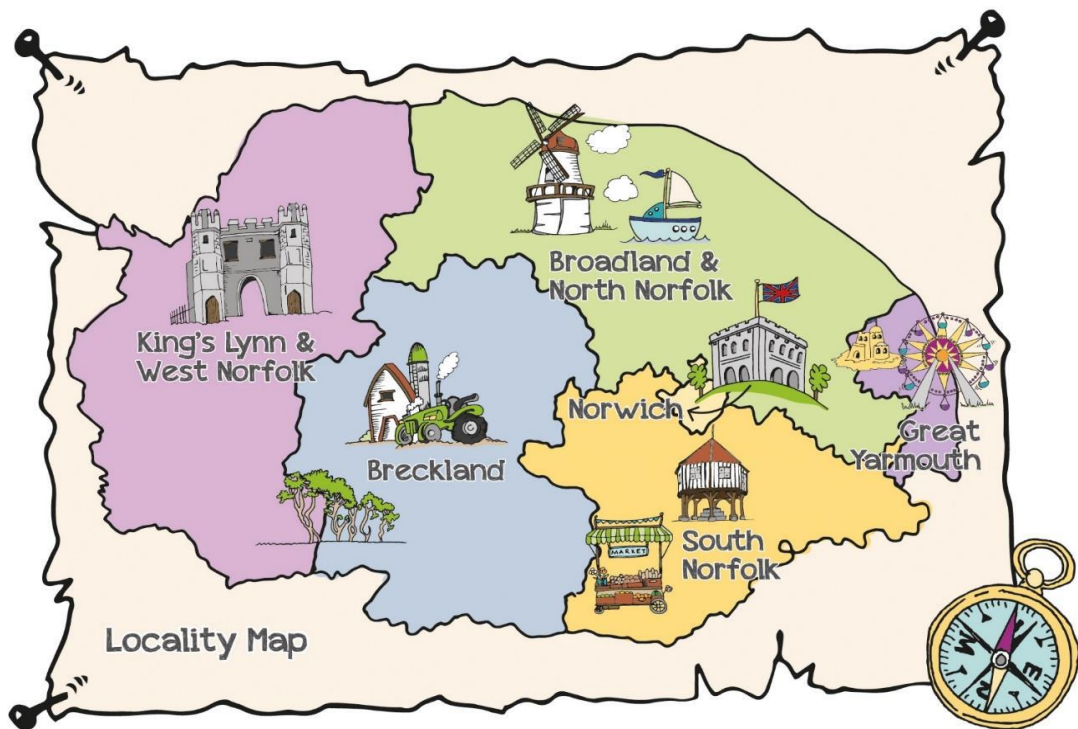




Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership

Local Safeguarding Children Groups (LSCGs)

Welcome Pack for LSCG Members



Safeguarding Norfolk's Children Together

Updated June 2020

Introduction

Norfolk's Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements

The Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP)

The three safeguarding executive partners will meet regularly with lead stakeholders, including education leaders, to ensure that the children's safeguarding agenda is moved on at pace. This will ensure that the partners both build on positive working relationships while also recognising the change in formal responsibility. It will meet a minimum of six times a year.

Leadership Exchange and Learning Events

The NSCP will ensure continued engagement with the wider partnership through Partnership Conferences and Leadership Learning Events. This builds on recent developments in SCR methodology, where leaders from all organisations including NHS Trusts, local District Councils and the Voluntary Sector are actively involved in a learning process. These events will ensure that:

- The whole system approach is consistent across the county
- Partners continue to engage with the child safeguarding agenda in a multi-agency arena
- Opportunities for networking, challenge and professional development at leadership level are built into the plan

NSCP Sub Groups

The Partnership will support standing sub groups¹ responsible for specific parts of the MASA. These will be:

- Sector Specific Advisory Groups
- Local Safeguarding Children Groups
- Norfolk Safeguarding Child Practice Review Group (SPRG)
- Child Death Review Panel
- Workforce Development Group (WDG) – operated as a joint group with the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership
- Task and Finish Groups

Local Safeguarding Children Groups (LSCGs)

The Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership will support six LSCGs which will bring together partner and relevant agencies in each locality. Membership will be locally determined, but will include representatives of the three statutory partners, district/borough councils, and local providers of services to

¹ For further information on the sub-groups please see the [MASA Plan](#)

families and children with an interest and involvement in safeguarding. Links with local groups of Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) from education partners should be considered to enable regular communication. Support and secretarial support is provided by Children's Services on behalf of the partnership, together with the NSCP Business Unit.

LSCGs provide a learning and intelligence hub for safeguarding children in the locality and the effectiveness of this group is dependent on the membership and members' contributions. This group will support each other to deliver against a workplan and will meet as a whole to discuss progress and network once every two months.

LSCGs play an important role in the development of a learning culture for safeguarding children in Norfolk. This will be enhanced with the use of guest speakers on chosen themes across the county followed by multi-agency audits to consolidate the learning within the locality and to provide the opportunity for improving outcomes for vulnerable children. The thematic multi-agency audits will be carried out by the LSCGs with guidance, training and resources provided by the Multi-Agency Audit Group (MAAG).

The learning gained from membership of an LSCG will be of benefit to local organisations to ensure that they are fully informed of safeguarding development, activity and networking in their locality and across Norfolk. Tasks will be shared across the group so that individual members should expect to commit a minimum time, equivalent to one hour per month, in addition to the commitment of attending LSCG meetings. Members must ensure and confirm with their line manager that they are representing their organisation and will commit sufficient time for the work of this group to be effective. For practitioners whose role includes safeguarding responsibilities this commitment should be viewed as enhancing their role, knowledge and experience and as such benefits them individually, as well as their organisation. The effectiveness of safeguarding in localities is dependent upon the way in which agencies work together; LSCGs can create the culture of learning from each other and tackling the evolving challenges of safeguarding our vulnerable children together in partnership. Attendance at the LSCG will benefit organisations in several ways including:

- establishing local working relationships and pooling resources
- share examples of good practice and innovative working
- appreciation of the local safeguarding picture through use of partnership performance data and information
- regular presentations from expert speakers
- learning from Serious Case Reviews
- actively steering and contributing to the local safeguarding network
- training opportunities

A full membership list for each LSCG is included on the relevant pages of the NSCP website; contact details of LSCG chairs can be found on the LSCG pages of the website.

LSCG Terms of Reference (ToR)

Purpose

- To support the NSCP in fulfilling its statutory duties by ensuring effective coordination and cooperation at the local level
- To promote consistency of high quality, effective safeguarding practice across partner agencies
- To provide a local level forum where agencies can meet collectively to increase learning across the safeguarding network and improve inter-agency work to achieve positive outcomes for children
- To create a multi-agency learning culture in the locality
- To inform safeguarding priorities through the collation of local intelligence as well as cross-agency discussions

Accountability

As a subgroup, the LSCG is accountable to the NSCP. LSCGs will develop workplans to measure progress and report on achievement of goals at the LSCG chairs meetings. The LSCG members will also be individually accountable to the organisation, sector or advisory groups they represent.

Functions

- To make links with other multi-agency groups in the locality and other NSCP sub-groups
- To bring together statutory and voluntary sector partners in the local area
- To provide opportunities for establishing local working relationships and pooling resources
- To provide opportunities for multi-agency review of safeguarding practice (including audit activity)
- To share examples of good practice and innovative working
- To discuss the local safeguarding picture through use of partnership performance data and information
- To resolve issues and act jointly to address local safeguarding needs
- To disseminate learning from Serious Case Reviews
- To identify local training needs and arrange local learning activities
- To hold theme-based events and host guest speakers
- To develop and deliver on a living workplan to support safeguarding practice in the locality.

Membership and chairing arrangements

The LSCG is a local level collaborative group and welcomes members from all organisations working with children and young people.

These groups are relevant to any professional in the locality with a safeguarding focus to their role, including the following:

- Adult Social Care
- Armed forces/ Border Security
- Children's Services
 - Social Care
 - Early Help
 - Independent Services
- District Councils
- Education
- Faith Groups
- Health
 - Ambulance
 - Community Health
 - Acute health
 - Mental Health
- Housing Associations
- Norfolk Youth Offending Team (NYOT)
- Police
- Probation/ Norfolk Suffolk Community Rehabilitation Company (NSCRC)
- Voluntary Sector (and representatives from the Voluntary Sector Forum)
- Others (as appropriate)

The LSCG members will agree two co-chairs who may be representatives of any agency. There is no set term and when a chair steps down any member of the group may put themselves forward for the position.

Responsibility of LSCG chairs

Chairs will be responsible for developing and updating the LSCG workplan. Workplans will be responsive to the priorities of the NSCP and maintain a focus on work required within their locality. At least one of the chairs from each LSCG will attend the LSCG chairs meeting. Chairs will be expected to attend a minimum of two LSCG chairs meetings per annum.

Responsibility of LSCG Members

Members are asked to commit to a regular attendance at meetings and to commit to activity outwith the meeting to progress the work of the LSCG. This will include:

- disseminating information from the LSCG to their represented organisation(s)
- collating intelligence and examples of good practice to the LSCG when appropriate
- contributing to, and supporting, the multi-agency auditing process in their locality
- contribute to the development and delivery of the locality workplan
- creating opportunities for establishing and further developing local working relationships to achieve positive outcomes for children, families and communities
- provide updates for the LSCG webpages when appropriate

Frequency of Meetings

The LSCGs will meet every two months and hold other events during the course of the year where appropriate.

Administration of the meetings

An agenda will be produced for each meeting and made available in advance.

Minutes will be taken and will be available on the LSCG webpage along with other relevant documents and presentations.

LSCG members will be responsible for providing written organisational updates for the meetings when necessary

Reporting to the NSCP

The LSCGs will report to the LSCG chairs meeting which is held at least quarterly and chaired by the Business manager of the NSCP. Relevant issues discussed in that group will be raised at NSCP level where appropriate.

Review of Terms of Reference

These terms of reference will be reviewed on a regular basis by the LSCG chairs' group.