

North West Multi Agency Safeguarding Partnership

Memorandum of Understanding
April 2025

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Purpose of the NW Safeguarding Partnership MoU

The North West (NW) comprises of 24 local authorities and has the third biggest population (7.6 million) in England. 11 NW Local authorities are in the top 25 most deprived nationally (out of 153), 5 of which are in the top ten. This level of deprivation drives high need and demand. This is a significant challenge set against a testing fiscal environment, impacting on multi agency practice, capacity in the system and outcomes for children and families. The North West has identified the need to better drive improvement through a multi-agency sector led approach.

To understand how best to enable improvements, a review of the experiences of multi-agency safeguarding partners and children and families was conducted, considering strengths, areas for improvement, and opportunities for collaboration. Input was gathered through 184 one-on-one meetings with 80% of NW Delegated and Lead Safeguarding Partners, as well as strategic partners in Education, Probation, Housing, The Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS), and the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector (VCSE).

A NW Strategic Safeguarding Partnership Conference took place in November 2024, seeing over 200 partners connect and collaborate on how to move the opportunities identified by the region into motion, co designing the MoU and the North West Multi Agency Safeguarding Learning and Support Hub.

The purpose of the MoU is to establish the NW Multi Agency Safeguarding Partnership vision, principles and approach to identifying local, sub regional and regional safeguarding effectiveness and fulfilling the duties set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023).

The long-term vision is for a self-improving partnership led system, co-produced by local leaders, focused on promoting whole systems thinking to enable every child in the North West to be safe, happy and thriving.

The impact of the NW approach will be considered nationally, giving opportunity for the NW to raise its profile amongst government departments.

Education is a Strategic Partner within Multi Agency Safeguarding Partnership Arrangements

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023) clearly states that Children's Services, the Police and the Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) are statutory partners within Multi Agency Safeguarding Partnership Arrangements (MASAs).

The North West fully acknowledge the influence and support of education as one of the most significant protective factors in a child's life, with children spending a significant proportion of their time in early years and education settings.

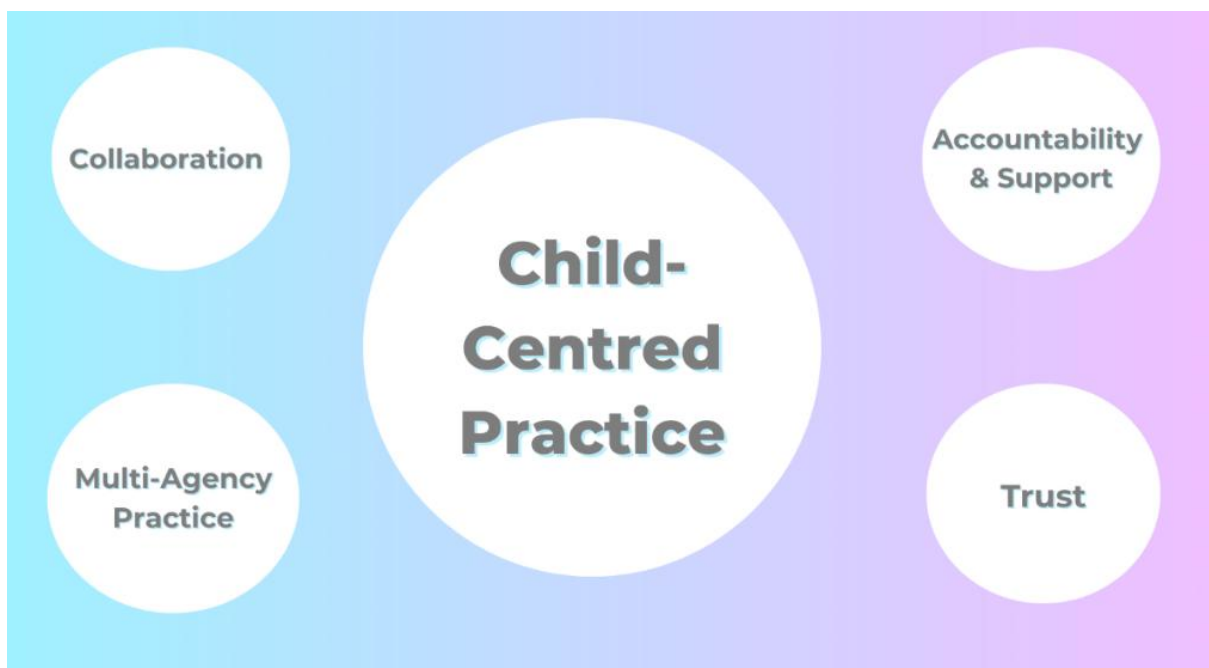
The North West Safeguarding Partnership pledges to fully integrate **education as a strategic and equal partner** within our safeguarding arrangements. We acknowledge the crucial expertise, unique safeguarding insights, regular contact, and strong relationships that educational settings maintain with children and families.

This commitment entails:

- **Education's strategic partnership** will be embedded in all safeguarding decisions, at both strategic and operational levels, through high-level representation that accurately reflects the perspectives and contributions of the entire education sector.
- **Education will be recognised as an equal and valued strategic partner** in all multi-agency collaborations, ensuring that the views of all educational settings are consistently heard and equally respected.

The North West Multi Agency Safeguarding Partnership Vision

To collaborate better to improve child centred, multi-agency practice;
nurturing a culture of trust, accountability,
and support for our children.



The key opportunities identified by the region:

- **To share** and embed multi-agency practice that is improving outcomes for children and families.
- **To enable** the system to demonstrate the impact and effectiveness of multi-agency practice and to effectively build on strengths and respond to learning.
- **To collaborate better together** by facilitating spaces for collaboration at a sub-regional and regional level.

NW Multi Agency Safeguarding Partnership Principles

We will:

Be Child and Family Led

Every action we take will be grounded in the views, experiences, and needs of babies, children, young people and families, ensuring they are at the heart of all safeguarding efforts

Be Transparent and Open to Challenge

Transparency and a willingness to be challenged will drive our work, allowing accountability and mutual support and trust to flourish. We will leave defensiveness at the front door and be honest about our strengths and areas to improve, so we can improve better together.

Share practice and expertise to allow effective collaboration

We will prioritise understanding and communicating the effectiveness of our multi-agency practices at a local, sub-regional, and regional level, informing meaningful and impactful collaboration and decision-making and enabling high quality safeguarding practice.

Respect Individuality and promote Equitability

We commit to respecting and treating each individual justly, with attention to their unique circumstances, barriers, and needs.

Offer Mutual Support and Professional Development

We will provide support generously to colleagues facing challenges, helping to build professional connections and growth today, for a stronger tomorrow. We will embrace opportunities to learn together.

The role of the North West Multi Agency Safeguarding Learning and Support Hub



The Multi Agency Safeguarding Learning and Support Hub has been co designed with partners, children and families. The hub will bring capacity to facilitate the vision, principles and aims of the NW Safeguarding Partnership.

Engagement with the hub aims to enable Delegated and Lead Safeguarding Partners to be assured that local safeguarding arrangements are effective, keeping children safe and assist in evidencing this within inspections. It will not be any additional burden for partners but aims to save time through regional collaboration and prevention of duplication.

MASAs will continue to identify and respond to local need, empowering communities to influence and shape outcomes. The hub will offer:

Local

1. Bespoke support to increase the effectiveness of practice - review and response to local learning. Interpreting national learning for local practice.
2. Support to embed the voice and experience of children, families and education partners within MASAs, supporting and enabling a culture that routinely seeks out and reflects the voices of babies, children, young people and families.

Sub Regional

1. The completion of sub regional safeguarding effectiveness reports, identifying strengths, areas to improve and opportunities to collaborate.
2. Independent scrutineer/scrutiny support at a sub-regional level, enabling the effective execution of the role of delegated and lead safeguarding partners

Regional

1. The completion of a regional safeguarding effectiveness report, to identify regional themes, challenges and strengths and areas to develop collaborative approaches.
2. Co-ordination of training and practice guidance and tools, building on strengths in the system and achieving best value delivery.
3. Develop peer review approaches to support improvement, inspection readiness and to prepare for multi-agency government reforms.
4. Leading priorities to develop practice approaches and innovative thinking to tackling common challenges. Shaping multi agency professional curiosity and creativity in the system.

A North West Independent scrutineer will collaborate with local independent scrutineers to assist in sub regional and regional benchmarking across partnerships. The coordination of a NW scrutineer role will offer value for money and scrutiny within the NW priorities and response to learning.

2025-2026 NW Priorities

1. Collaboration on the development of a North West threshold of need document, aimed at improving the consistency of multi-agency identification and practice response to family support (Care Reforms) and the safeguarding of children.
2. Support to implement the Government Care Reforms
3. Implementing the Child Sexual Abuse Response pathway and NW practice leaders' network.
4. Increasing the effectiveness of how MASAS understand and respond to Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EEDI) and understand belonging for children.
5. Exploration of technology to enhance multi agency information sharing

Additional priorities can be considered and would require sub regional funding.

Impact evaluation and Governance

The activity and impact of initiatives will be reviewed quarterly by the Regional Improvement Pilot Plan (RIPP) Board, comprising Multi-Agency partners. Oversight of evaluation and impact assessment will be conducted by the Department for Education (DfE).

Financial Contributions

The NW Multi Agency Safeguarding Learning and Support hub is fully funded via a Department of Education grant, as part of the Regional Improvement Pilot Programme and wider Care Reforms.

North West Delegated and Lead Safeguarding Partners

We commit to the NW Safeguarding Partnerships vision, principles, and collaborative approach. Strong, joined-up leadership and clear accountability is critical to effective multiagency safeguarding, bringing together the various organisations and agencies. As leaders of organisations and the statutory safeguarding partners, it is for Delegate and ultimately the Lead Safeguarding Partner and to assure themselves that their local arrangements are effective and keep children safe. **This MOU is a clear statement of our intent to fulfil this role fully.**



Cheshire



Mark Roberts, QPM

Chief Constable, Cheshire Constabulary

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Christine Douglas MBE

**Cheshire and Merseyside
Executive Director of Nursing &
Care and Lead Safeguarding Partner**

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Steven Broomhead, MBE

Chief Executive, Warrington Council

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Delyth Curtis

**Chief Executive
Cheshire West and Chester Council**

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Rob Polkinghorne
Chief Executive, Cheshire East Council

Rob Polkinghorne



Stephen Young
Chief Executive, Halton Council

S. Young

Cumbria



Rob Carden

Chief Constable, Cumbria Police

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Sam Allen

Chief Executive,

NHS North East and North Cumbria ICB

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Sam Proffitt

Chief Executive,

NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB

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Sam Plum
Chief Executive,
Westmorland and Furness Council

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Andrew Seeking
Chief Executive, Cumberland Council

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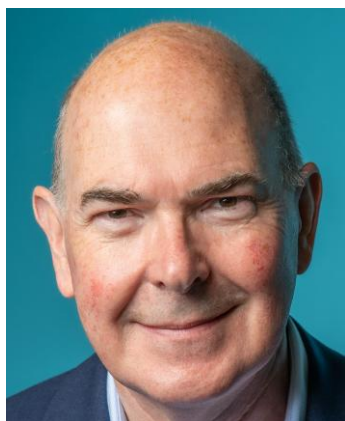


Greater Manchester

Sir Stephen Watson, QPM

Chief Constable, Greater Manchester Police

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Mark Fisher, CBE

Chief Executive,

NHS Greater Manchester ICB

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Alison Mckenzie-Folan, OBE

Chief Executive, Wigan Council

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James Binks

Chief Executive, Rochdale Council

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Melissa Caslake
Interim Chief Executive, Salford City Council

Melissa Caslake



Harry Catherall, MBE
Chief Executive, Tameside Council

Harry Catherall



Sue Johnson,
Chief Executive, Bolton

S. Johnson



Michael Cullen
Chief Executive, Stockport Council

Michael Cullen



Shelley Kipling
Chief Executive, Oldham Council

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Lynne Ridsdale
Chief Executive, Bury Council

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Sara Todd
Chief Executive, Trafford Council

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Tom Stannard
**Chief Executive,
Manchester City Council**

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Pan Lancashire



Sacha Hatchett

Chief Constable, Lancashire Police

S. Hatchett



Sam Proffitt

**Chief Executive, NHS Lancashire and
South Cumbria ICB**

S. Proffitt



Denise Park,

Chief Executive, Blackburn with Darwen Council

Denise Park.



Neil Jack

Chief Executive, Blackpool Council

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Mark Wynn,

Chief Executive, Lancashire County Council

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Merseyside



Serena Kennedy
Chief Constable, Merseyside Police KPM

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Christine Douglas MBE
**Cheshire and Merseyside
Executive Director of Nursing &
Care and Lead Safeguarding Partner**

A handwritten signature of Christine M Douglas in black ink.



James Duncan
Chief Executive, Knowsley Council

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Andrew Lewis
Chief Executive, Liverpool City Council

A handwritten signature of Andrew Lewis in black ink.



Mark Palethorpe
Chief Executive, St Helens Council

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Phil Porter
Chief Executive, Sefton Council

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Paul Satoor,
Chief Executive, Wirral Council

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