

Local Multi-Agency Arrangements for Safeguarding Children

Statutory accountabilities under the [Children and Social Work Act 2017](#) and [Working Together 2018](#)

*The term 'Safeguarding Partners' refers to those identified within the [Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements for BHR, June 2019](#) – i.e. local Authority, MPS East Area BCU and the BHR CCG.

No	Statutory Accountability	Source	Responsibilities to be discharged by the Safeguarding Partners at BHR Level	Responsibilities to be discharged by the Safeguarding Partners at Local Authority Level
Local arrangements for safeguarding and promoting welfare of children				
1	The safeguarding partners for a local authority area in England must make arrangements for – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the safeguarding partners, and any relevant agencies that they consider appropriate to work together in exercising their functions, so far as the functions are exercised for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area.	CSW Act 17, 16E(1)	BHR Safeguarding Partnership work together at a strategic level and monitor the work delivered at a local level by Safeguarding Partners working within Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships (LSCPs) in Barking & Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge.	Arrangements in place with the Safeguarding Partners working within the Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships (LSCPs) in Barking and Dagenham; Havering; and Redbridge with learning shared back to the BHR Safeguarding Partnership.
2	The arrangements must include arrangements for the safeguarding partners to work together to identify and respond to the needs of children in the area.	CSW Act 17, 16E(2)	As above.	As above.
3	[...] the three safeguarding partners must set out how they will work together and with any relevant agencies. Relevant agencies are those organisations and agencies whose involvement the safeguarding partners consider may be required to safeguard and promote the welfare of children with regard to local need. The purpose of these local arrangements is to support and enable local organisations and agencies to work together in a system where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted partner organisations and agencies collaborate, share and co-own the vision for how to achieve improved outcomes for vulnerable children 	WT 18, chapter 3, points 7-8	As above.	As above.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> organisations and agencies challenge appropriately and hold one another to account effectively there is early identification and analysis of new safeguarding issues and emerging threats learning is promoted and embedded in a way that local services for children and families can become more reflective and implement changes to practice information is shared effectively to facilitate more accurate and timely decision making for children and families 			
4	<p>The lead representatives for safeguarding partners are: the local authority chief executive, the accountable officer of a clinical commissioning group, and a chief officer of police.</p> <p>All three safeguarding partners have equal and joint responsibility for local safeguarding arrangements. In situations that require a clear, single point of leadership, all three safeguarding partners should decide who would take the lead on issues that arise.</p> <p>Should the lead representatives delegate their functions they remain accountable for any actions or decisions taken on behalf of their agency. If delegated, it is the responsibility of the lead representative to identify and nominate a senior officer in their agency to have responsibility and authority for ensuring full participation with these arrangements.</p>	WT 18, chapter 3, points 11-13	Commitment and participation from all three Safeguarding Partners.	Commitment and participation from all three Safeguarding Partners within the LSCPs.
Geographical area				
5	The safeguarding partners for two or more local authority areas in England may agree that their areas are to be treated as a single area for the purposes of sections 16E to 16I [...].	CSW Act 17, 16J(1)	BHR Safeguarding Partnership consists of three Local Authorities – Barking & Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge, together with the BHR CCG and MPS East Area BCU.	LSCPs exist at an individual Local Authority level. Safeguarding Partners take a lead and responsibility at this level.
6	The geographical footprint for the new arrangements is based on local authority areas. [...] Local arrangements can cover two or more local authorities. When more than one local authority joins together, the local authorities can agree to delegate their safeguarding partner duties to a single authority. Each local authority must continue to fulfil its statutory and legislative duties to safeguarding and promote the welfare of children. The same applies for clinical commissioning groups and chief officers of police (in respect of their safeguarding partner duties only).	WT 18, chapter 3, point 15	BHR Safeguarding Partnership consists of three Local Authorities – Barking & Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge, together with the BHR CCG and MPS East Area BCU.	Statutory and legislative duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children continue to be fulfilled by the Safeguarding Partners working within the LSCPs.

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Relevant agencies				
7	The safeguarding partners must set out in their published arrangements which organisation and agencies they will be working with to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, and this will be expected to change over time if the local arrangements are to work effectively for children and families [...].	WT 18, chapter 3, point 18	The BHR Safeguarding Partnership fulfils this responsibility through the Safeguarding Partners working at a local level.	Safeguarding Partners have through LSCPs in each area established broader engagement across agencies.
8	[...] It is expected that local safeguarding partners will name schools, colleges and other educational providers as relevant agencies and will reach their own conclusions on how best locally to achieve the active engagement of individual institutions in a meaningful way.	WT 18, chapter 3, point 26	The BHR Safeguarding Partnership delivers this through Safeguarding Partners working locally.	Safeguarding Partners through LSCPs engage with education services and schools, who are represented in the Partnerships.
Further provision about arrangements				
9	The safeguarding partners must publish the arrangements [for a local authority area in England].	CSW Act 17, 16G(2)	BHR Safeguarding Partnership arrangements published in June 2019.	LSCP arrangements, which are led by the Safeguarding Partners, were included within the BHR arrangements.
10	The arrangements must include arrangements for scrutiny by an independent person of the effectiveness of the arrangements.	CSW Act 17, 16G(3)	BHR Safeguarding Partnership will engage with scrutineers commissioned by the LSCPs.	Safeguarding Partners to work within LSCPs to provide independent scrutiny arrangements.
11	At least once in every 12 month period, the safeguarding partners must prepare and publish a report on – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies for the local authority area have done as a result of the arrangements, and • how effective the arrangements have been in practice. 	CSW Act 17, 16G(7)	BHR Safeguarding Partnership to publish an annual report, including input and independent scrutiny of the LSCPs and also the Statutory Partnership.	An annual report from LSCPs will be delivered within 12 months of the commencement of the new arrangements, with input from independent scrutiny.
Publication of arrangements				
	Once agreed, local safeguarding arrangements must be published and must include:			
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • arrangements for the safeguarding partners to work together to identify and respond to the needs of children in the area 	WT 18, chapter 3, point 38	This was covered in the BHR published arrangements.	Each LSCP has their own individual plans developed and overseen by the Safeguarding Partners.
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • arrangements for commissioning and publishing local child safeguarding practice reviews 	WT 18, chapter 3, point 38	The BHR Safeguarding Partnership delegates the commissioning, and publication of Child	Safeguarding Partners, through LSCPs have existing arrangements in place for the commissioning and publication

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			Safeguarding Practice Reviews to Safeguarding Partners at a local level but will retain overall responsibility for quality assurance and shared learning.	of Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and will share learning with the BHR Safeguarding Partnership.
14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> arrangements for independent scrutiny of the effectiveness of the arrangements 	WT 18, chapter 3, point 38	No formal arrangement at a BHR level for independent scrutiny. No arrangements for formal independent of the statutory partnership confirmed.	Safeguarding Partners, through LSCPs, have in place or are developing Independent Scrutiny arrangements.
	They should also include:			
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> who the three local safeguarding partners are, especially if the arrangements cover more than one local authority area 	WT 18, chapter 3, point 39	The BHR Safeguarding Partnership published arrangements in June 2019.	This was included in the published arrangements.
16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> geographical boundaries (especially if the arrangements operate cross more than one local authority area) 	WT 18, chapter 3, point 39	As above.	As above.
17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the relevant agencies the safeguarding partners will work with; why these organisations and agencies have been chosen; and how they will collaborate and work together to improve outcomes for children and families 	WT 18, chapter 3, point 39	The BHR Safeguarding Partnership deliver this through the Safeguarding Partners working at a local level.	Safeguarding Partners within LSCPs engage with a wide range of agencies with responsibilities for children, young people and families.
18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> how all early years settings, schools (including independent schools, academies and free schools) and other educational establishments will be included in the safeguarding arrangements 	WT 18, chapter 3, point 39	As above.	Safeguarding Partners within LSCPs engage with educational settings.
19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> how any youth custody and residential homes for children will be included in the safeguarding arrangements 	WT 18, chapter 3, point 39	The BHR Safeguarding Partnership deliver this responsibility through Safeguarding Partners working locally.	Where these settings exist, Safeguarding Partners working within LSCPs will engage with them.
20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> how the safeguarding partners will use data and intelligence to assess the effectiveness of the help being provided to children and families, including early help 	WT 18, chapter 3, point 39	The BHR Safeguarding Partnership deliver this responsibility through Safeguarding Partners working locally in terms of regular data collection and monitoring with ad hoc	Safeguarding Partners within LSCPs receive regular data reports to monitor key service delivery.

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			additional requests based on priority themes.	
21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> how inter-agency training will be commissioned, delivered and monitored for impact and how they will undertake any multiagency and interagency audits 	WT 18, chapter 3, point 39	Multiagency and interagency audits are included in the published BHR arrangements. Inter-agency training is commissioned by Safeguarding Partners at a local level.	LSCPs commission and deliver Multi-Agency Training Programmes and provide quality assurance of the Programmes.
22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> how the arrangements will be funded 	WT 18, chapter 3, point 39	No funding is provided to the BHR Safeguarding Partnership.	LSCPS are funded by a range of agencies, including the statutory Safeguarding Partners.
23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the process for undertaking local child safeguarding practice reviews, setting out the arrangements for embedding learning across organisations and agencies 	WT 18, chapter 3, point 39	The BHR Safeguarding Partnership directs the Safeguarding Partners commission and publication of Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, as appropriate, but will retain overall responsibility for quality assurance and shared learning.	The Safeguarding Partners working within LSCPs have existing arrangements in place for the commissioning and publication of Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and will share learning with the BHR Safeguarding Partnership.
24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> how the arrangements will include the voice of children and families 	WT 18, chapter 3, point 39	The BHR Safeguarding Partnership directs Safeguarding Partners to ensure locally the inclusion of the voice of children and families	Safeguarding Partners working within LSCPs have in place arrangements for communicating, consulting and working in partnership with service users to ensure the voice of children and their families inform multi-agency safeguarding practice.
25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> how the threshold document setting out the local criteria for action aligns with the arrangements. 	WT 18, chapter 3, point 39	The BHR Safeguarding Partnership directs the Safeguarding Partners to maintain local thresholds through the LSCPs.	The Safeguarding Partners working within LSCPs maintain thresholds at a local level.
Responsibilities for child safeguarding practice reviews				
26	The safeguarding partners for a local authority area in England must make arrangements [...] –	CSW Act 17, 16F(1)	The BHR Safeguarding Partnership directs the	Safeguarding Partners existing working within LSCPs have existing

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to identify serious child safeguarding cases which raise issues of importance in relation to the area, and for those cases to be reviewed under the supervision of the safeguarding partners, where they consider it appropriate. 		Safeguarding Partners with the task of commissioning, and publication of Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews locally but will retain overall responsibility for quality assurance and shared learning.	arrangements in place for the commissioning and publication of Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and will share learning with the BHR Safeguarding Partnership.
27	<p>Where a case is reviewed under the supervision of the safeguarding partners, they must –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensure that the reviewer provides a report on the outcome of the review; ensure – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> that the reviewer makes satisfactory progress, and that the report is of satisfactory quality; provide the report to the Secretary of State and the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel. <p>The safeguarding partners must publish the report, unless they consider it inappropriate to do so.</p> <p>If the safeguarding partners consider it inappropriate to publish the report, they must publish any information relating to the improvements that should be made following the review that they consider it appropriate to publish.</p>	CSW Act 17, 16F(3-5)	As above.	As above.
28	The responsibility for how the system learns the lessons from serious child safeguarding incidents lies at a national level with the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (the Panel) and at a local level with the safeguarding partners.	WT 18, chapter 4, point 5	BHR Safeguarding Partnership will receive learning from the LSCPs from any Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews undertaken.	Safeguarding Partners working within LSCPs will provide reports on learning from commissioned Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.
29	Locally, safeguarding partners must make arrangements to identify and review serious safeguarding cases which, in their view, raise issues of importance in relation to their area. They must commission and oversee the review of those cases, where they consider it appropriate for a review to be undertaken.	WT 18, chapter 4, point 7	The BHR Safeguarding Partnership directs the Safeguarding Partners to commission, and publication of Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews at a local level, as appropriate, but will retain overall responsibility for quality assurance and shared learning.	Safeguarding Partners through LSCPs have existing arrangements in place for the commissioning and publication of Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and will share learning with the BHR Safeguarding Partnership.
30	<i>16C(1) of the Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017) states:</i>	WT 18, chapter 4, points 12-14	As above.	As above.

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	<p><i>Where a local authority in England knows or suspects that a child has been abused or neglected, the local authority must notify the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel if –</i></p> <p><i>a) the child dies or is seriously harmed in the local authority’s area, or</i></p> <p><i>b) while normally resident in the local authority’s area, the child dies or is seriously harmed outside England.</i></p> <p>The local authority must notify any event that meets the above criteria to the Panel. They should do so within five working days of becoming aware that the incident has occurred. The local authority should also report the event to the safeguarding partners in their area (and in other areas if appropriate) within five working days.</p> <p>The local authority must also notify the Secretary of State and Ofsted where a looked after child has died, whether or not abuse or neglect is known or suspected.</p> <p>The duty to notify events to the Panel rests with the local authority. Others who have functions relating to children should inform the safeguarding partners of any incident which they think should be considered for a child safeguarding practice review [...].</p>			
31	<p>Safeguarding partners must make arrangements to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify serious child safeguarding cases which raise issues of importance in relation to the area and • commission and oversee the review of those cases, where they consider it appropriate for a review to be undertaken. 	WT 18, chapter 4, point 15	As above.	As above.
32	<p>The safeguarding partners should promptly undertake a rapid review of the case, in line with any guidance published by the Panel. The aim of this rapid review is to enable the safeguarding partners to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gather the facts about the case, as far as they can be readily established at the time • discuss whether there is any immediate action needed to ensure children’s safety and share any learning appropriately • consider the potential for identifying improvements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children • decide what steps they should take next, including whether or not to undertake a child safeguarding practice review. 	WT 18, chapter 4, point 20	The BHR Safeguarding Partnership direct Safeguarding Partners locally to decision making and undertaking of Rapid Reviews but will maintain responsibility for quality assurance and receipt of lessons learnt, maintaining a tracker.	Safeguarding Partners working within LSCPs are responsible for instigating Rapid Reviews and progressing actions etc. reporting learning to the BHR Safeguarding Partnership.
33	The safeguarding partners are responsible for commissioning and supervising reviewers for local reviews.	WT 18, chapter 4, point 30	As above.	As above.

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34	The safeguarding partners must supervise the review to ensure that the reviewer is making satisfactory progress and that the review is of satisfactory quality [...].	WT 18, chapter 4, point 35	As above.	As above. Issues relating to progress or quality will be escalated as necessary to the BHR Safeguarding Partnership.
35	Safeguarding partners must ensure that the final report includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a summary of any recommended improvements to be made by persons in the area to safeguard and promote the welfare of children • an analysis of any systemic or underlying reasons why actions were taken or not in respect of matters covered by the report. 	WT 18, chapter 4, point 36	The BHR Safeguarding Partnership receives all reports from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs) and will support role out of learning.	The Safeguarding Partners working within LSCPs take responsibility for decision making around instigating Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs), in conjunction with the CSPR Panel, with reports presented to the BHR Safeguarding Partnership.
36	[...] The safeguarding partners should highlight findings from reviews with relevant parties locally and should regularly audit progress on the implementation of recommended improvements. Improvement should be sustained through regular monitoring and follow up of actions so the findings from these reviews make a real impact on improving outcomes for children.	WT 18, chapter 4, point 43	The BHR Safeguarding Partnership directs Safeguarding Partners to take responsibility at a local level for monitoring Action Plans from Reviews to the LSCPs.	Safeguarding Partners working within LSCPs will maintain and monitor Action Plans arising from Reviews but will escalate any issues relating to progress to the BHR Safeguarding Partnership.

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