



## BDSCP'S MULTI-AGENCY SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS

### BRIEF SUMMARY

Welcome, to Barking & Dagenham's Safeguarding Children Partnership's summary of our revised Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) for children and families.

Local Safeguarding Partners (LSPs) acknowledge we all have equal and joint responsibility for the safeguarding arrangements across all key agencies working in Barking and Dagenham. We are committed to undertake development work during 2025/26 to ensure our revised arrangements are robust and sustainable. This summary along with our full arrangements can be found [here](#).

### Our Vision and Principles

Our vision and principles are in line with Barking and Dagenham's Best Chance Strategy aiming to ensure as a partnership we address and achieve the ambitious goals and priorities set the strategy sets out to set high standards and clear accountability.

Our partnership vision and principles align with Barking and Dagenham's Best Chance

### Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSPs)

Our lead safeguarding partners are:

***Fiona Taylor***

***Chief Executive of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Council (LBBD)***

***Zina Etheridge***

***Chief Executive Officer, NHS, North East London Integrated Care Board***

*LSP authority has been delegated to*

***Diane Jones***

***Chief Nursing Officer, NHS, North-East London Integrated Care Board***

***Matt Twist***

***Assistant Chief Commissioner of Metropolitan Police Service (MPS)***

*Some LSP authority had been delegated to*

***Glen Pavelin, Area Commander, Metropolitan Police Service***

The LSPs will set the strategic steer, vision and culture for the arrangements whilst ensuring they fulfil their statutory responsibilities laid out in *Working Together 2023*.



## Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSP's)

In BDSCP our three Delegated Safeguarding Partners as named by the LSP's are:

**Elaine Allegretti**

**Strategic Director – Children and Adults, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham**

Who may delegate to:

**April Bald**

**Operational Director Childrens Care & Support, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham**

and

**Jane Hargreaves**

**Director of Education Commissioning, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham**

**Diane Jones**

**Chief Nursing Officer, NHS North-East London Integrated Care Board**

Who has delegated some responsibilities to:

**Rob Nicholls**

**Director of Nursing & Safeguarding, NHS North-East London Integrated Care Board**

and

**Korkor Ceasar**

**Deputy Director of Safeguarding, NHS North-East London Integrated Care Board**

**Stuart Bell**

**Chief Superintendent, East Area Basic Command Unit, Metropolitan Police Service**

Who will be supported by:

Charmaine Laurencin

**Detective Superintendent, Public Protection, East Area Basic Command Unit, Metropolitan Police Service**

The DSP's hold delegated responsibilities as agreed by the LSP's to ensure that BDSCP delivers on its statutory functions set out in *Working Together 2023*.

## Scrutiny and Governance

### Partnership Chair

The chairing of the Executive Group will be chaired by one of the DSP's on an annual cycle. For 2025/26 this will be the DSP for the Metropolitan Police Service (MSP).

### Independent Scrutineer

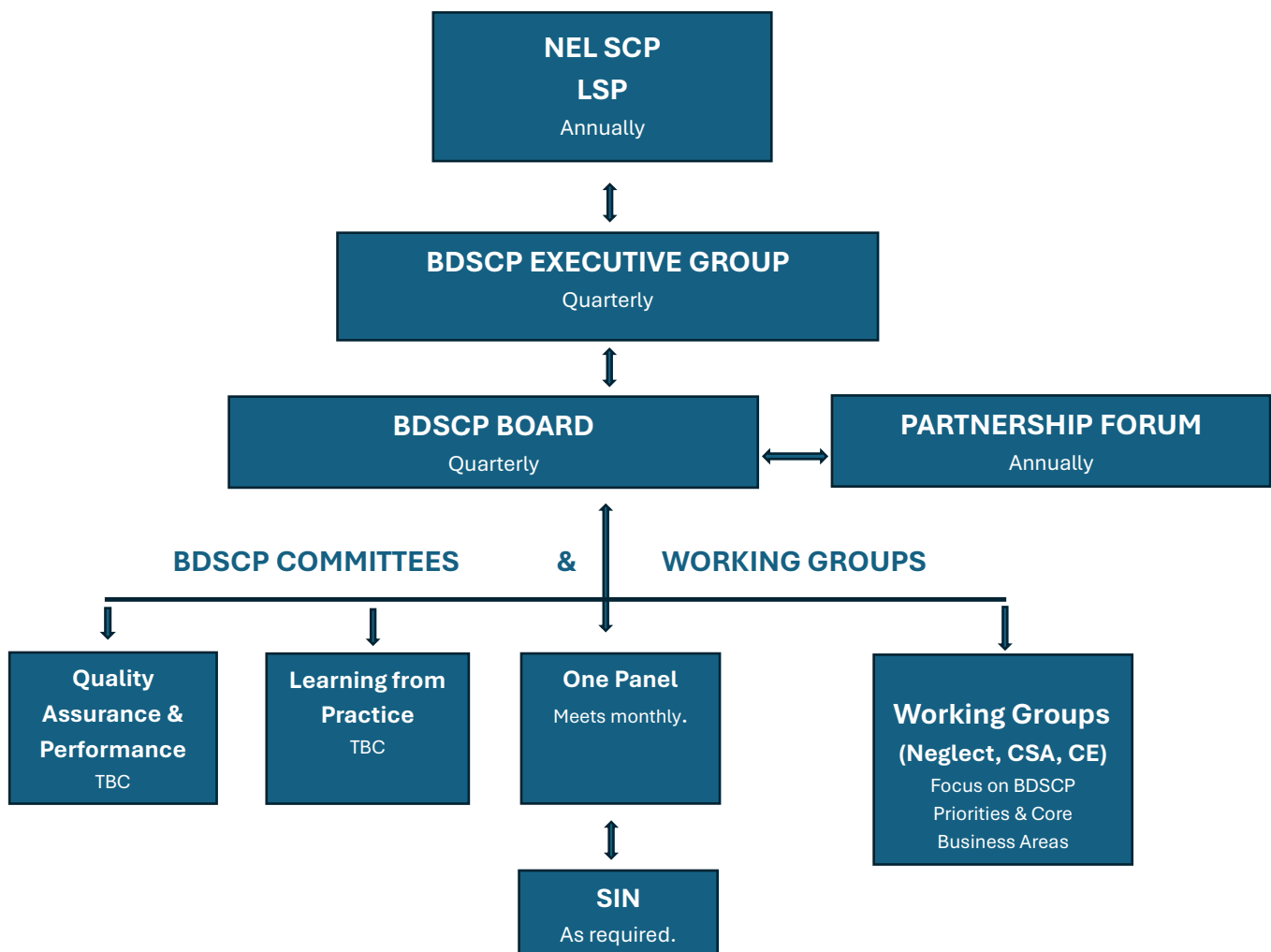
An Independent Scrutineer will be appointed to act as a critical friend and offer independent scrutiny and challenge to the partnership in line with Working Together requirements.

### Governance

There will be annual reporting to relevant boards alongside the BDSCP annual report to offer a critical oversight into the impact of the partnership's work and to inform the way forward for the forthcoming year.

### BDSCP's Structure

The structure detailed below will help us deliver our new arrangements:



The new structure will be embedded by relevant actions included in our Strategic Delivery Plan which will be monitored by the Executive Group.

### North-East London SCP LSP Meetings



Our LSPs will be part of the North-East London's ICB LSP annual meeting which will take place across the sub-region to give strategic direction to local safeguarding children's partnerships in the area and which identify opportunities for regional or sub-regional collaboration.

### **BDSCP Executive Group**

Executive Group will meet quarterly focusing on implementing the strategic steer given by LSPs, retain strategic oversight of our MASA and their effectiveness, and hold BDSCP Board to account whilst addressing key challenges and escalations identified by the Board and Committees.

### **BDSCP Board Meetings**

BDSCP Board will be chaired by the agreed DSP representative. For 2025/26 this will be chaired by the Metropolitan Police Service DSP representative. The Board will have a wider membership of statutory and key partners.

### **Annual Partnership Forum**

BDSCP's Partnership Forum consists of Executive Group and Board members, the Independent Scrutineer, committee chairs, and representatives of all relevant agencies.

The Partnership Forum will meet in February / March annually to ensure wider partnership awareness of BDSCP developments as well as competing an annual stocktake of progress of the BDSCP Strategic Delivery Plan, emerging learning, themes and issues to inform the planning for the forthcoming year.

### **BDSCP Committees**

The BDSCP will have three committees to drive forward the core business of the partnership which are:

- One Panel
- Learning from Practice
- Quality Assurance & Performance

The committees' terms of reference, chairing, membership, and frequency will be agreed annually. The Board will hold committees to account for delivery of agreed actions within the Strategic Delivery Plan. Committees will require statutory partners present to be quorate.

**One Panel** is an established joint panel with CSP<sup>1</sup> and BDSAB<sup>2</sup> that meets monthly to coordinate statutory review processes for CSPR, SAR and DHRs alongside other learning

---

<sup>1</sup> Community Safety Partnership

<sup>2</sup> Barking & Dagenham Safeguarding Adult Board



reviews. Chairing rotates across statutory partners for both children and adults. For 2025/26 this will be chaired by the Metropolitan Police Service. SIN (Significant Incident Notifications), and rapid review processes, for BDSCP, sit outside of this committee in order to meet statutory requirements and timescales.

By April 2025, the BDSCP will have reviewed its arrangements for rapid reviews and commissioning CSPRs to ensure that they are timelier, and that the embedding of learning across the workforce is prompt. We also have clear processes for significant incidents / deaths relating to young people aged under 25 years, including care leavers, to ensure that any learning is focused across both the children and adult partnerships.

**Learning from Practice Committee** is responsible for our multi-agency strategy aiming to complement individual agencies' learning and development activities. The committee's goal is to ensure that the partnership workforce is knowledgeable, confident, and competent in safeguarding practices with children, young people, and their families. This joint committee, with BDSAB, will focus on providing a consistent approach to learning and addressing cross-cutting themes such as transitional safeguarding and whole family working.

**Quality Assurance & Performance Committee** will be newly established in early 2015/16 as we are aware of the need for a robust quality assurance framework, and multi-agency data set, that alongside learning from reviews and messages from children, and families, will enable us to develop our '**Safeguarding Story**' for multi-agency work within Barking and Dagenham. In early 2025/26 BDSCP will establish this committee to lead on the data and intelligence function as outlined in "*Working Together 2023*". This will be underpinned by high quality performance information and quality assurance activity from across the partnership to help us understand Barking and Dagenham's '**Safeguarding Story.**'

**Working Groups** will be agreed annually and led by partners to drive forward work on agreed priorities for BDSCP. The working groups during 2024/25 were:

- Neglect
- Child Exploitation
- Child Sexual Abuse

The annual Partnership Forum will help identify partnership priorities annually our Strategic Delivery Plan encompassing agreed actions and priorities for the working groups.

## The Business Unit

The LSP's will agree the BDSCP resource to ensure the effective delivery of the BDSCP plan and fulfilment of statutory responsibilities including the business support function for the Executive



Group, the Board, and Partnership Forum and as well as the coordination of reviews alongside embedding of learning and its impact on practice and outcomes for children and families. The business unit will also ensure that the BDSCP provides up to date information on our web pages and regular newsletters to partners, relevant agencies as well as children and families.

### Priorities and Strategic Delivery Plan

BDSCP's Strategic Delivery Plan will detail our annual programme of work, including actions to develop MASA and BDSCP priorities including actions for our committees and working groups.

Our strategic priorities will be agreed at the annual Partnership Forum.

### Relevant Agencies and Education

**Relevant Agencies** - BDSCP will ensure all relevant agencies, whose involvement is required to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children, are linked into our business via the committees, working groups and annual Partnership Forum activities.

**Education** (including education, early years and child care providers) is a named "accountable partner" with a named senior leader on the Executive Group, BDSCP Board, and Partnership Forum. This will ensure BDSCP is kept apprised of key developments from within the sector so that implications for partnership working receive a prompt, coordinated response.

During 2025/26, BDSCP will collaborate with relevant colleagues to ensure effective engagement with the **community, sport, voluntary and faith sector**, by including them in the Partnership Forum and other relevant BDSCP activities.

### Engagement of the workforce, children and families

The voices of children and families are essential for BDSCP to understand the effectiveness of our safeguarding arrangements. We will strive to ensure their perspectives inform all our work by building on existing partnerships, identifying their key messages regarding safeguarding, and collaborating on opportunities for improvement.

By September 2025, we will have enhanced the engagement of children and families in its work and will establish clear arrangements for their involvement in planning and identifying priorities annually, co-creating and co-producing work

During 2025/26 we will ensure the BDSCP's engagement strategy included the partnership workforce that will include a revised learning and development offer, their membership of committees and working groups and consideration of a practitioner forum

## Other Key Business

Other key business for BDSCP during 2025/26 will include:

- Confirmation of our annual **budget** requirements and partnership contributions
- Revision of our partnership **information sharing agreement** to ensure it is aligned with the Safeguarding Adult Board's, and Community Safety Partnerships expectations.
- Update of our **Thresholds / Continuum of Need**
- Ensure the **Professional Differences / Escalation** process is updated and promoted across the partnership
- **Partnership Complaints**