

Havering Safeguarding Children Partnership

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Document Control

Document details	
Document name	Havering Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive Terms of Reference
Document version number	0.3
Document status	Approved
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Lead Officer	
Approved by	Havering Safeguarding Children Partnership
Scheduled review date	May 2025

Approval history

Version	Approving body	Date
V0.3	Havering Safeguarding Children's Partnership	12 May 2022



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Introduction

The Children Act 2004 requires each local authority to establish a Safeguarding Children Board.

[Chapter 3 of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018](#) sets out the new requirements for multi-agency safeguarding arrangements

In September 2019 the Havering Safeguarding Children Partnership became part of a wider Barking & Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge (BHR) Safeguarding Partnership between the three neighbouring Local Authorities, the Metropolitan Police East Area Basic Command Unit (BCU) and the BHR Clinical Commissioning Groups.

In November 2021 it was agreed by the BHR Safeguarding Children Partnership that the tri borough arrangements would cease, and each area would establish their own individual Safeguarding Children Partnership. As a result, the Havering Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP) was established on 1st April 2022.

2. Purpose

The purpose of the Havering Safeguarding Children Partnership is to support and enable local organisations and agencies to work together in a system where:

- 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;
- 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 accurately and timely decision making for children and families;¹
- children and families are enabled to input into identifying safeguarding priorities, monitoring outcomes and influencing service development.

To promote effective strategies multi-agency working, the Havering Safeguarding Children Partnership will develop processes that:

- facilitate and drive action beyond usual institutional and agency constraints and boundaries;
- ensure the effective protection of children is founded on practitioners developing lasting and trusting relationships with children and their families.²

¹ *Working Together to Safeguarding Children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children* (July 2018), p. 73.

² *Working Together*, p. 73.



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- 1.4 To enable effective strategic multi-agency working, the Havering Safeguarding Children Partnership will also:
- develop its activity in alignment with regional and national safeguarding work, thereby both learning from and contributing to national best practice;
 - agree an annual budget and provide financial oversight of the delivery of the work programme.

3 Membership

The Havering Safeguarding Children Partnership will have in place a two-tier meeting structure.

- 1) The Havering Safeguarding Children Partnership **Executive** Group

(Will identify and oversee the strategic direction of the HSCP)

- 2) The Havering Safeguarding Children Partnership **Partners** Group

(Will operationalise and action the business plan formulated to achieve the strategic direction)

The Havering Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive Group

The **Executive** group membership will be made up of the three statutory safeguarding partners. In Havering they are:

- Havering Council Children's Services;
- North East London (NEL) Clinical Commissioning Groups;
- Metropolitan Police East Area BCU.³

All three statutory 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 and they will sign off together all key decisions and documents.

The Havering Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive Group will meet monthly.

Redacted minutes will be published on the Partnership website after Statutory Partner sign-off.

Meetings will only be quorate when each of the statutory safeguarding partner agencies are represented.

³ *Working Together*, p. 72.



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The Havering Safeguarding Children Partnership Partners Group

The Havering Safeguarding Children Partners Group membership will include senior representation from the following agencies:

- Metropolitan Police East Area BCU;
- NEL Clinical Commissioning Groups;
- BHR University Hospitals NHS Trust;
- North East London NHS Foundation Trust;
- Havering Council Children's Services;
- Havering Council Housing Service;
- Havering Community Safety Partnership;
- Department of Work and Pensions;
- Probation Service;
- Early Years, Schools & Colleges- state and independent;
- Voluntary Sector.

It will also include the following representatives:

- Chair of Children's Quality and Effectiveness Working Group;
- Chair of Case Review Working Group;
- Chair of Adolescent Safeguarding Strategy Board;
- Chair of Early Help Partnership Board;
- Chair of groups focusing on School and Learners;
- Director of Public Health;
- Havering Assistant Director of Children's Social Care;
- Havering Assistant Director of Education;
- Havering Principal Social Worker;
- Havering Partnerships and Learning Manager.

Despite the standing membership, partner agencies will be asked to contribute proportionately and in a focused way; this is a conscious departure from the need to have every agency around the table and the focus will instead be on ensuring that contributions are made where they are most relevant. Reports will be submitted by each HSCP subgroup and working group.

The Havering Safeguarding Children Partnership will meet quarterly. Redacted minutes will be published on the Partnership website after Statutory Partner sign-off.

Meetings will only be quorate when at least the statutory safeguarding partner agencies are represented:

- Havering Council Children's Services;
- NEL Clinical Commissioning Groups;
- Metropolitan Police East Area BCU.



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Chairing

Both the Havering Safeguarding Children's Partnership groups will be chaired an Independent Chair and scrutineer, and a vice-chair will be elected from among the other statutory safeguarding partner agencies. Having the same Independent Chair for the HSCP and SAB (Safeguarding Adults' Board) will provide a greater opportunity for working together and shared priorities.

4. Governance and Scrutiny

The Havering Safeguarding Children Partnership will report to the following bodies within London Borough of Havering's governance structure:

- Child Safety Performance Board;
- Health and Wellbeing Board;
- Council Scrutiny Committees and
- Corporate Parenting Panel.

The Havering Safeguarding Children Partnership will also report to relevant bodies within the CCG / ICS governance structure; details will be confirmed.

The Havering Safeguarding Children Partnership will commission an external person to perform the role of Independent Scrutineer, which should:

- provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in the local area; including arrangements to identify serious safeguarding cases and complete rapid reviews and child safeguarding practice reviews;
- be objective, act as a constructive critical friend and promote reflection to drive continuous improvement;
- consider how effectively the arrangements are working for children and families and how children and young people are enabled to engage meaningfully with, and have a voice within, local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements;
- consider how effectively the arrangements are working practitioners across the multi-agency safeguarding partnership and how well the statutory safeguarding partners are providing strong leadership; and
- agree with the statutory safeguarding partners how this scrutiny will be reported.⁴

5. Escalation and Challenge

The Havering Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive will itself be a forum for oversight and challenge, and the existing Escalation Policy has been updated to reflect the new arrangements.

⁴ *Working Together*, p. 77.



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6. Thematic Working Groups

The Havering Safeguarding Children Partnership will be in close reciprocal dialogue with the following thematic Working Groups:

- Children's Quality and Effectiveness Working Group;
- Case Review Working Group;
- The terms of reference for the Case Review Working Group will be revised to reflect the updated guidance set out in Chapter 4 of *Working Together*;⁵
- Adolescent Safeguarding Strategy Board;
- Early Help Partnership Board;
- Groups focusing on School and Learners.

As when required, the Havering Safeguarding Children's Partnership Executive may establish Task and Finish Groups specifically to explore and progress particular matters of interest on behalf of the Partnership.

7. Reporting

In order to bring transparency for children, families and all practitioners, the Havering Safeguarding Children Partnership will publish a report at least once in every 12-month period setting out activity undertaken by the partnership, including on child safeguarding practice reviews, and how effective the new safeguarding partnership arrangements have been in practice.⁶

The report will also include:

- evidence of the impact of the work of the Havering Safeguarding Children Partnership, including training, on outcomes for children and families from Early Help to Children in Care and Care Experienced Young People;
- an analysis of any areas where there has been little or no evidence of progress on agreed priorities;
- a record of decisions and actions taken by the partners in the report's period (or planned to be taken) to implement the recommendations of any local and national safeguarding practice reviews, including any resulting improvements;
- ways in which the Havering Safeguarding Children Partnership have sought and utilised feedback from children and families to inform their work and influence service provision.⁷

The report will also include a section by the Independent Scrutineer.

⁵ *Working Together*, pp. 81-92

⁶ *Working Together*, p. 79.

⁷ *Working Together*, pp. 79-80.



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A copy of all published reports should be sent to the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and the What Works Centre for Children's Social Care within seven days of being published.