



The Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Arrangements

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Introduction

This document explains how the many agencies who support children and young people in Nottinghamshire should work together to keep them safe from harm; it follows the guidance provided in Working Together 2023. There are three organisations held jointly responsible in law for forming a set of partnership arrangements for keeping children safe. They are:

Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC)

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board (N&N ICB)

Nottinghamshire Police

These three organisations are the Statutory Partners, and they have identified relevant agencies (listed in Appendix 1) which are legally required to cooperate with these local safeguarding arrangements. Together we are the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership.

Nottinghamshire Context

Nottinghamshire has an estimated population of 824,800 people, of which 20% (186,500) are children under the age of 18 ¹. The Local Authority area is the boundary which these safeguarding arrangements cover. There are seven district/borough councils. There is one Integrated Care Board and Police force, both of which also cover Nottingham City.

¹ [Key facts about Nottinghamshire - Nottinghamshire Insight](#)

The child safeguarding arrangements for Nottinghamshire

The safeguarding partners and relevant agencies included in these arrangements will fulfil their statutory duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children from Nottinghamshire who live in or are placed outside of our local authority area.

The vision of the NSCP is that *‘children and young people in Nottinghamshire grow up in a safe and stable environment and are supported to lead healthy, happy and fulfilling lives’*. To pursue this vision, the NSCP commits to:

- Work effectively as a mutual partnership to protect children from harm.
- Ensure services for children and families in Nottinghamshire support parents and carers to provide the best possible outcomes for their children.
- Listen and respond to children and young people and adult victims and survivors of child abuse to guide how services are delivered.
- Build working relationships between partners which support constructive challenge.
- Be transparent and self-critical.
- Learn from local and national safeguarding practice and improve the way children are safeguarded.
- Ensure services for children and families in Nottinghamshire support children and young people to stay healthy and happy.

Lead and Delegated Safeguarding Partners

The three Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSPs) jointly leading the safeguarding arrangements are:

- Adrian Smith: Chief Executive, Nottinghamshire County Council
- Amanda Sullivan: Chief Executive, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB
- Kate Meynell: Chief Constable, Nottinghamshire Police.

Each LSP is responsible for discharging their own statutory and legislative duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. As leaders of their organisations and the statutory safeguarding partners, it is for LSPs to assure themselves that their local arrangements are effective and keep children safe. LSPs are jointly responsible for ensuring the proper involvement of and oversight of all relevant agencies, and should act as a team, as opposed to a voice for their agency alone. LSPs will meet together annually and also have 1:1 assurance discussions with the NSCP Independent Scrutineer annually, or more often if deemed necessary.

Working Together 2023 requires the LSPs to appoint Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSPs). In Nottinghamshire, the DSPs form the partnership’s Strategic Leadership Group (SLG) and they are:

- Colin Pettigrew: Executive Director for Children and Families at NCC

- Rosa Waddingham: Chief Nurse for the N&N ICB
- Rob Griffin: Assistant Chief Constable, Nottinghamshire Police

As DSPs, they will support the business of the NSCP through taking decisions on behalf of the LSPs and holding their sectors to account. As permitted by the statutory guidance the LSPs have delegated their functions whilst remaining accountable for any actions or decisions taken on behalf of their agency. The DSPs have the authority to carry out these functions, while ultimate accountability remains with the LSP as the individual responsible for the delivery of the statutory duties of the safeguarding partners. The DSPs have oversight of the quality and compliance of the delivery of agreed shared priorities. They should have processes in place to provide assurance that multi-agency practice is reviewed and operating well.

The DSPs will circulate the role of partnership chair annually. It is currently held by Assistant Chief Constable Rob Griffin. The partnership chair, with support from the NSCP Partnership Team, will help develop strategic links, support and hold to account all safeguarding partners in fulfilling their safeguarding duties for children; ensure that local arrangements support collaborative and effective partnership working between LSPs, DSPs, independent scrutiny and the NSCP subgroup structure; and offer appropriate challenge to ensure partners are accountable. The partnership chair will chair meetings of the NSCP SLG and act as a conduit and point of contact between DSPs and LSPs.

Relevant Agencies

Relevant agencies are required to work as part of the local safeguarding arrangements. A list of relevant agencies in Nottinghamshire can be found at Appendix 1. Relevant agencies and the statutory safeguarding partners are required to work together to:

- Fully engage with the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership functions as set out within this document
- Provide information which enables and assists the safeguarding partners to perform their functions to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their area, including as related to local and national child safeguarding practice reviews
- Ensure that their organisation works in accordance with the interagency safeguarding procedures approved by the partnership
- Have appropriate robust safeguarding policies and procedures in place specifically relevant to their organisation
- Provide evidence of the above to the Safeguarding Assurance and Improvement Group

As recommended by Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023, all schools (including independent schools, academies and free schools), colleges and other educational providers are designated as relevant agencies. In addition to this, the Service Director for Education and Skills from NCC is a co-opted member of the SLG in order to provide a voice from the education sector at that level of decision making. The Service Director is informed by twice yearly Safeguarding Summits with leaders from Multi-Academy Trusts along with all of their

work with the maintained schools in Nottinghamshire. Arrangements for education embedding within the rest of the partnership are detailed below.

Schools, Educational Establishments and Early Years Settings

All schools (including independent schools, academies and free schools) colleges and other educational establishments are designated as relevant agencies within the safeguarding arrangements. Engagement with schools and embedding the education perspective in all aspects of the partnership's decision making is achieved through:

- Bi-annual Safeguarding Summit attended by senior leaders from Multi-Academy Trusts in Nottinghamshire and the Service Director for Education and Inclusion on behalf of maintained schools, designed to facilitate two way strategic communication and decision making between SLG and the wider education sector.
- Co-option of the Service Director for Education and Inclusion into the SLG on behalf of the Safeguarding Summit, with the intention in 2025 for this to extend to a leader from the non-maintained sector.
- Two way communication at the Designated Safeguarding Lead Focus Groups, facilitated by the Safeguarding Children in Education Officer and the Partnership Service Manager on a termly basis.
- Attendance by seven of the Designated Safeguarding Leads at the Partnership Forum events for two way communication three times each year.

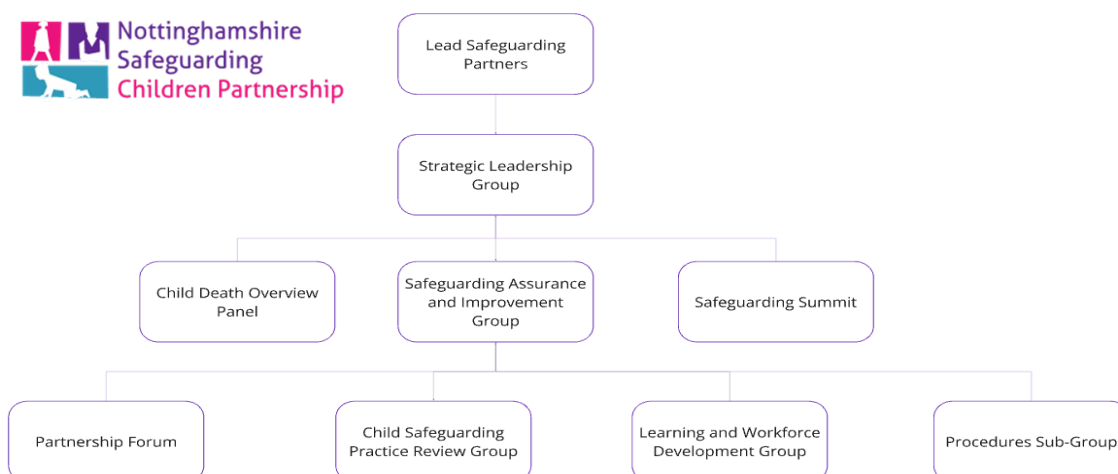
Early years settings will be engaged in the arrangements through partner representatives responsible for commissioning those services and at the Partnership Forum.

Clayfields House Secure Children's Unit

Clayfields Secure Children's Unit is represented in the partnership by the Service Director, Care, Help and Protection (Nottinghamshire County Council) and the Centre Service Manager. The Centre Service Manager is a member of the NSCP Safeguarding Forum and attends the Safeguarding Assurance and Improvement Group (SAIG) once a year.

NSCP structure

The DSPs form the Strategic Leadership Group (SLG), into which all of the partnership's sub-groups report.



Sub-Groups

Safeguarding Assurance and Improvement Group (SAIG)

The SAIG is the 'virtual management team' for the safeguarding arrangements. Its function is to co-ordinate, oversee and evaluate safeguarding activities and initiatives, and improvement work. The SAIG members will hold themselves and others to account for fulfilling their safeguarding responsibilities effectively and will have a tenacious focus on improving safeguarding outcomes for Nottinghamshire's children and young people. The SAIG will have oversight of the partnership's strategic priorities (as detailed in the triennial business plan, found here: [nscp-business-plan-2023-2027.pdf](#)), and the contributions towards these made by the NSCP subgroups and forums. The SAIG may also request reports from outside agencies/groups to gain assurance and oversight of progress made in their specific safeguarding areas. The SAIG oversees the NSCP's partnership audit programme and the data set which is designed to provide a source of evidence for progress against the triennial business plan.

SAIG is chaired by a member of the partnership nominated by the SLG. Its membership is from senior managers of the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies. This includes from the healthcare provider organisations alongside the ICB, from public health and from probation.

Child Safeguarding Practice Review Group (CSPRG)

The CSPRG serves to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases² which raise issues of importance in relation to Nottinghamshire and commission and oversee the review of those cases where this is either required or considered appropriate to facilitate enhanced learning and secure better outcomes for children. The CSPRG also facilitates local learning reviews where appropriate and is responsible for tracking the progress of review actions and reporting to SAIG on progress. The CSPRG is chaired by a senior police officer working with senior managers from the statutory partner agencies.

Safeguarding Summit

This is a newly established meeting in 2025/26 to provide a partnership space in which education leaders are able to provide strategic feedback to the SLG by the Service Director for Education and Inclusion acting as a conduit.

Learning and Workforce Develop Group (L&WD)

The L&WD work in accordance with the NSCP learning and improvement model to disseminate learning from practice across the partnership and promote a learning culture across Nottinghamshire. L&WD develop an annual multi-agency training programme to support all practitioners to safeguard children and young people in Nottinghamshire. The L&WD complete an annual training needs analysis to inform the training programme, alongside the areas identified from reviews. L&WD is chaired by a designated doctor from the ICB.

Procedures Sub-Group

The Procedures Sub-Group meets four times per year on a cross partnership basis with Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership to review the multi-agency safeguarding

² As defined in Working Together 2023

procedures. The group oversees the work of expert task and finish groups where a new procedure is needed or receives updates to existing procedures from multi-disciplinary groups where they have been developed in operational contexts.

[Child Death Overview Panel \(CDOP\)](#)

The CDOP is a cross partnership meeting which meets the statutory requirements for the review of the death of all children in Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City. Details of these processes can be found here: [Child Death Review Procedures](#). CDOP is co-chaired by public health consultants from Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council and reports into a twice yearly Joint SLG of the City and County.

[Partnership Forum](#)

All relevant agencies and safeguarding partners are members of the Partnership Forum. Attendees are expected to have a good understanding of safeguarding and are likely to have either organisational or operational responsibilities for safeguarding children. The partnership meetings will be led by the safeguarding partners and take the form of workshop style events aimed at providing interactive learning opportunities, building relationships, and problem-solving. The Forum will meet three times a year with one meeting being jointly held with Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership to focus on cross-cutting issues. Seven operational leaders from the education community act as representative members at the Forum.

Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

The responsibility for how the system learns lessons from serious child safeguarding incidents lies at a national level with the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, and at a local level with the safeguarding partners via the CSPRG and L&WD. The process for how the NSCP undertakes reviews can be found in the safeguarding procedures ([Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews](#)). This follows statutory guidance regarding the notification of serious incident notifications and subsequent decisions about whether to undertake a Local Child Safeguarding Practice review. The CSPRG also facilitates local learning reviews, where the criteria of a serious incident notification are not met but the safeguarding partners determine that a learning review would have valuable recognition of strengths or areas of improvement for safeguarding children in Nottinghamshire.

Practice Improvement

The SAIG is responsible for considering any learning identified/recommendations made through the Learning and Improvement Model (e.g. case reviews, audit, performance information etc – this can be found here: [Learning and Improvement Model](#)). The group will identify actions for improving practice and incorporate them into work-streams to ensure there is a realistic programme of practice improvement and that it is readily apparent which areas of safeguarding practice are the focus for improvement. Work-streams identified will include appropriate methods of evaluating the impact on improving practice and these may include reference to existing performance measures, the creation of new measures under the Performance Management Framework, the commissioning of audit work under the NSCP audit programme or the requirement for assurance to be provided from the organisations responsible.

The L&WD are responsible for ensuring that learning from case reviews and other sources is disseminated effectively through the partnership and that training courses are updated accordingly. Where necessary additional courses will be commissioned to address any unmet multi-agency training needs.

Inter-Agency Training

The L&WD Group is responsible for the Learning & Workforce Development Strategy which sets out the partnership approach to learning and development³. This includes identifying training needs, setting the Safeguarding Children Competency Framework/Training levels, the multi-agency training pathway, the dissemination of learning, coordination and delivery of the training programme and monitoring the quality and evaluating the effectiveness of training.

The partnership will provide multi-agency training guided by training needs analysis and learning from reviews and audit. The partnership is committed to providing a comprehensive multi-agency training programme which includes the following elements:

- **Core safeguarding training courses** – these provide a foundation for good multi-agency safeguarding practice with the opportunity to attend refresher events to keep

³ The strategy is available on the partnership website

knowledge up to date. These courses are offered regularly throughout the year to enable all partners to access as and when required.

- **Subject specific training events and seminars** – these provide an opportunity to explore safeguarding children issues in greater depth. These courses vary from year to year, depending on the safeguarding themes identified both nationally and locally. The Training Programme is flexible and adaptable to ensure that the needs of the partnership workforce are met and additional courses will be arranged according to demand.
- **E learning** - a suite of safeguarding children courses, which are suitable for practitioners needing an introduction to a subject or wishing to refresh their knowledge around a subject. A broad range of courses are offered including the four key safeguarding issues: neglect, sexual abuse, physical abuse and emotional abuse, with additional modules covering specific safeguarding issues.

NSCP e learning and training events are available free of charge to all safeguarding partners/relevant agencies, and organisations who contribute financially to the partnership. Other organisations may access NSCP training, however charges may apply. Details of the training programme can be found here: [Training events](#)

Pathway to Provision

The NSCP Pathway to Provision provides details about how professionals can access the right support at the right time for children, from early help and support to protection and care. It can be found here: [Pathway to provision | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)

Independent Scrutiny arrangements

An Independent Scrutineer (IS) was appointed by the safeguarding partners in January 2020 to act as a critical friend encouraging reflection on practice and an openness to improving services. The IS is retained for a total of 36 days per year, and appointed on a three-year term (subject to completion of a satisfactory first year) with the option to extend to a second (final) three-year term at the discretion of SLG.

Responsibilities of the Independent Scrutineer

- Acting as a critical friend the IS will encourage and support the partnership with improvement and development(s) likely to advance outcomes for children in general and with regard to early intervention, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and child protection especially. Holding the partnership to account, if necessary, with regard to governance
- Attending SLG (regularly), SAIG (as appropriate) and other groups (as time or issues permit and require) to ensure the partnership is fulfilling its functions effectively and with integrity. Holding the partnership to account if necessary
- Providing an ongoing objective assessment of the effectiveness of the safeguarding arrangements including how they are working for children and families as well as practitioners
- Following statutory guidance with regard to Lead and Delegated Safeguarding Partners, the IS will meet with LSPs (at least) annually to offer an independent evaluation of the engagement of Health, Police and Local Authority
- Working closely with the Manager of the NSCP Safeguarding Business Unit
- Where needed liaising with elected members, with respect of safeguarding in general and issues pertaining to safeguarding reviews specifically
- Liaising as necessary and appropriate with the Independent Chair (Nottinghamshire Adult Safeguarding Board) and IS (Nottingham City Children's Partnership)
- As directed by SLG to represent the partnership in respect of safeguarding with regard to media interest and questioning
- Providing an annual assessment of the safeguarding partners' leadership of the arrangements for inclusion in the partnership's yearly report
- Acting as an advisor to the safeguarding partners regarding any responses by the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel to the conclusion reached in Rapid Reviews
- Undertaking an annual audit of Rapid Reviews to provide assurance to the Strategic Leadership Group about the effectiveness of that process
- Assisting in resolving operational disputes through the escalation procedures
- Actively looking at opportunities to build networks and peer support

The voices of children and their families

The NSCP was able to fund specific work to ensure the voices of children and their families were specifically sought and embedded in the creation of the 2023 – 2027 business plan. It is the intention of the NSCP that this continues, but is built on to include the views of children, young people and their families in scrutinising the effectiveness of the arrangements and contributing towards the learning and development programme. The NSCP annual report will detail how the partnership develops this each year.

Resolution of Disagreements

All member organisations of the NSCP should have in place appropriate, robust safeguarding policies and procedures that should be compatible and aligned to the NSCP interagency procedures. These 'single agency' procedures should include the escalation process within that organisation and clear whistleblowing procedures which reflect the principles in Sir Robert Francis' *Freedom to Speak Up* review. The SAIG will seek confirmation that member organisations comply with this requirement.

The NSCP procedures detail the process for escalation should single agency procedures prove ineffective in resolving professional disagreements. The conflict resolution policy can be found here ([Conflict Resolution Policy](#)) and the partnership team can be contacted to provide details of relevant professionals in the partner agencies or for the support of the IS if required.

Information Sharing

There is a cross partnership Information Sharing Agreement in place between all statutory and relevant agencies in the Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnerships. The NSCP procedure (found here: [Information Sharing](#)) details the Information Commissioner's seven golden rules for processing and sharing information and all statutory and relevant agencies are expected to adhere to this procedure and the ICO rules.

Funding and Partnership Support

An annual budget to support the NSCP's safeguarding arrangements is managed by the Partnership Team hosted by Nottinghamshire County Council. Funding arrangements are determined annually by the SLG, with advice from the IS, to ensure sufficiency and equitability. Details can be found in the NSCP's annual reports from 2024/25 onwards. The following agencies contribute to the NSCP budget:

- Nottinghamshire County Council
- Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB
- Nottinghamshire Police
- Nottinghamshire Probation

Appendix 1 – Relevant Agencies

Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Relevant Agencies
Health
Doncaster & Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Nottingham University Hospital NHS Trust
Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust
Criminal Justice
National Probation Service (Nottinghamshire)
CAFCASS
District and Borough Councils
Ashfield District Council
Bassetlaw District Council
Broxtowe District Council
Gedling Borough Council
Mansfield District Council
Newark & Sherwood District Council
Rushcliffe Borough Council
Education
All schools (including independent schools, academies and free schools), colleges and other educational providers in the NSCP area
Clayfields Secure Children's Unit
Others
Home-Start Nottingham
Children's Homes, Adoption/Fostering agencies
Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service
Active Notts (County Sports Partnership)
Nottinghamshire Women's Aid Ltd
Faith Groups