

Memorandum of Understanding

Purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding

Safeguarding children, promoting their welfare and protecting them from significant harm is dependent on the effective collaboration between agencies. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Working Together 2023 emphasise the importance of joint working and set out the requirement for local areas to establish a 'Safeguarding Partnership'. The three named statutory safeguarding partners; the Local Authority, the Integrated Care Board and the Police Force have a shared and equal duty to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in their local area.

The statutory safeguarding partners are to agree on ways to co-ordinate their safeguarding services and act as a strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging others. They must set out how they will work together and with any relevant agencies, organisations whose involvement the safeguarding partners consider may be required to safeguard and promote the welfare of children with regard to local need.

This Memorandum of Understanding is intended to articulate a commitment on the part of the signatories (the statutory safeguarding partners and named relevant agencies of Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership) to ensure effective interagency working arrangements in safeguarding children to improve outcomes for children and their families and to ensuring the effective translation of policy, legislation and guidance into day-to-day practice.

Principles Underpinning the Memorandum

All signatories agree that the following key principles will guide any activities they may undertake pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding

- Safeguarding children and promoting children's welfare is a shared responsibility.
- There is a mutual recognition and respect for the contributions of all partners, both statutory safeguarding partners and named relevant agencies, to the safeguarding agenda.
- Awareness and appreciation of the role and responsibilities of others is essential for effective collaboration between organisations and between practitioners.

Aims of the Memorandum of Understanding

The overarching aims of this Memorandum of Understanding are to ensure that children and young people in Knowsley are safeguarded from harm, that their welfare is promoted and their outcomes improved. The Vision of the Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership (KSCP) is:

> **"We will work together effectively to safeguard and protect children in Knowsley to enable them to grow up safe, be healthy, feel listened to and be given the right opportunities to achieve their potential"**

Robust collaborative working is fundamental to achieving these aims and in entering into this Memorandum of Understanding the signatories acknowledge their commitment to:

- Ensuring their agency is committed and engaged in the children's safeguarding agenda
- Embracing, at both strategic and operational levels, that safeguarding children is dependent on effective interagency working
- Fostering and embracing a culture of learning and improvement
- Ensuring that all frontline professionals have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities in relation to safeguarding children
- Boosting the skills and performance of all staff working in children's services
- Ensuring the dissemination of information from and to the Partnership

Governance

Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership's statutory safeguarding partners have equal and joint responsibility for the local safeguarding arrangements and are accountable for the work of the partnership.

Working Together 2023 emphasises the importance of an integrated approach to service provision to achieve the best possible outcomes for children and families. Fragmented provision of services creates inefficiencies and risks disengagement by children and their families from services. A key role of KSCP is to monitor the effectiveness of the partnership's co-ordinated safeguarding services to ensure children and families receive targeted services that meet their needs in a co-ordinated way.

Whilst the partnership has a role in co-ordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of work undertaken by local individuals and organisations to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, it is not accountable for their operational work. Each partner, both statutory safeguarding partners and named relevant agencies, retains their own existing lines of accountability for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children by their services. KSCP does not have a power to direct other organisations but has the power to require a person or body to comply with a request for information where the information is essential to carrying out statutory safeguarding functions and the power to recommend change for improvement in light of identified learning.

Each signatory has a responsibility to ensure their own organisation is informed of the work of KSCP and particularly to highlight through their organisation's governance arrangements, any risks associated with that organisation not meeting its statutory responsibility in relation to safeguarding children.

KSCP are required to produce and publish an annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area. This will report on the effectiveness of arrangements in Knowsley to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, providing a comprehensive analysis of the safeguarding context, recognising achievements made and providing a realistic assessment of the challenges to be overcome and setting out the financial contribution.

Membership

KSCP membership includes the statutory safeguarding partners defined under the Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act, 2017). For Knowsley these are:

- Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council Interim Executive Director- Children's Services
- NHS Cheshire & Merseyside Integrated Care Board Knowsley Place Director of Quality & Safety
- Merseyside Police Superintendent Knowsley Local Policing
- Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council Head of Education

It also includes the relevant agencies named by the statutory safeguarding partners. These are:

- Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council Safeguarding and Quality Assurance (Childrens)
- Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council Community Safety
- Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council Safeguarding and Quality Assurance (Adults)
- Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council Public Health
- Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council Assistant Executive Director- Early Help & Children Social Care
- Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council Youth Justice Service
- Knowsley Special Sector Headteacher Group
- Knowsley Primary School Headteacher Group
- Knowsley Secondary Headteacher Group
- Knowsley Community College Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council Cabinet Member for Children's Services
- Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council Strategic Housing
- Merseyside Police Detective Chief Inspector Protection Vulnerable Persons Unit
- NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB Knowsley Place Designated Nurse for Safeguarding
- Merseyside Youth Association - Knowsley Services
- Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service
- Lay Member
- LIVV Housing
- National Probation Service- Knowsley Local Delivery Unit
- Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust
- Wirral Community Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust
- One Knowsley
- Designated Doctor
- Alder Hey Children’s Hospital Trust
- Mersey & West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals Trust

KSCP Executive will be composed of Delegated Safeguarding Partners.

Members representing individual organisations must have sufficient delegated authority to:

- effectively represent their organisation
- to make decisions on their organisation's behalf.
- have sufficient delegated authority to disseminate and implement decisions & learning from the partnership

The Independent Scrutineer will:

- Undertake rigorous assessment of the effectiveness of partnership working to ensure compliance with all statutory obligations. This will include an independent view of the robustness and effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements ensuring the voice of children and families is fully embedded and informs policy and practice
- Will oversee all review activity to ensure effective dissemination of learning
- Assess the effectiveness of performance management, audit and quality assurance mechanisms across all partner organisations

Responsibilities of all Signatories

To achieve the aims, **all** partners, both safeguarding partners and relevant agencies are committed to ensuring within their member agencies/organisations that:

- Key messages and learning from KSCP are disseminated in-house.
- Key messages, any area for concern or suggested lines of enquiry are shared to KSCP.
- Staff participate in learning events, focus groups, audit or any other learning activity when required
- Staff participate in training and development, including development days
- Staff work in an open and transparent way and are accepting of independent scrutiny and review to inform future practice.
- Staff challenge appropriately and hold one another to account effectively.

In addition to the above, all safeguarding partners are committed to:

- Taking any areas for concern raised by relevant agencies into consideration when determining lines of enquiry to be investigated.
- Informing relevant agencies, whose involvement is required in planned active learning, of the key lines of enquiry to be investigated.
- Sharing key messages and learning with all relevant agencies and make recommendations for change and improvement work to be completed.

- Organise and provide needs-led multi-agency training, development days and forums to ensure learning is addressed.

Duration and review

This Memorandum of Understanding will be effective on the date it is signed by the named members and, subject to any other agreement made between the Signatories, will continue in effect subject to any review required.

Review of this document will be overseen by the Independent Scrutineer to ensure sufficient scrutiny and challenge. It will include analysis and evaluation of the effectiveness of the new arrangements. The review will consider the appropriateness of membership to subgroups, the effectiveness of structures and processes including communication and engagement, the appropriate identification of themes and learning, leading change for improvement and the impact of the above upon front line practice, most importantly on the children and young people of Knowsley.

The terms 'signatory' & 'signatories' refer to a statutory safeguarding partner or a relevant agency, not a named representative. As such statutory safeguarding partners or a relevant agencies remain signatories, irrespective of a change of named representative.

A change in the named representative of a statutory safeguarding partner or a relevant agency will be reflected upon periodic review.

References

Children Act (2004) and Children and Social Work Act (2017), London: The Stationery Office

Department of Children, Schools and Families (2023) Working Together to Safeguard Children, London: The Stationery Office

Named representatives of partner agency signatories

Name	Organisation	Role
Mark Mirfin	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council	Executive Director- Children's Services
Helen Meredith	NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB	Associate Director of Quality & Safety
Karl Baldwin	Merseyside Police	Superintendent Knowsley Local Policing
Chris Price	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council	Head of Education
Laura Knights	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council	Head of Service- Safeguarding and Quality Assurance (Children's)
Ian Willman	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council	Head of Community Safety
Paul Dalby	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council	Head of Service- Safeguarding and Quality Assurance (Adults)
Sarah McNulty	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council	Director of Public Health
Jo Parry	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council	Assistant Executive Director- Early Help & Children Social Care
Catherine Johnson	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council	Service Manager- Youth Justice Service
Michelle Slater	Knowsley Special Sector Headteacher Group	Headteacher
Jennifer Webster	Knowsley Primary School Headteacher Group	Headteacher
Vicky Gowan	Knowsley Secondary Headteacher Group	Headteacher
Claire Sergison	Knowsley Secondary Headteacher Group	Deputy Headteacher
Jeanine Williams Julie Heap	Knowsley Community College	Designated Safeguarding Leads
Cllr David Lonergan	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council	Cabinet Member for Children's Services
Alan Broadbent	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council	Group Manager- Strategic Housing
Graeme Osborne	Merseyside Police	Detective Chief Inspector Protection Vulnerable Persons Unit
Debbie Spruce	NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB Knowsley Place	Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children

Dale Blackburn	Merseyside Youth Association	Head of Knowsley Services
Kevin Johnson	Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service	Safeguarding Lead
Lisa Leary	N/A	Lay Member
Sarah Smith	LIVV Housing	Business Manager
Racheal Jones	One Knowsley	Chief Executive Officer
Joanne Willis	National Probation Service	Head of Knowsley Local Delivery Unit
Sarah Shaw	MerseyCare NHS Foundation Trust	Assistant Director of Safeguarding
Judith Blease	Wirral Community Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust	Head of Safeguarding
Dr Harsha Hanumanthaiah	Alder Hey Children's Hospital Trust	Designated Doctor for Safeguarding Children
Nichola Osborne	Alder Hey Children's Hospital Trust	Associate Director for Safeguarding and Statutory Services
Anne Monteith	Mersey & West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals Trust	Assistant Director Nursing Safeguarding

Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership
30.09.2025