

Independent Chair & Scrutineer Brent Safeguarding Children Partnership Role Profile

Role:	Independent Chair & Scrutineer – Brent Safeguarding Children Partnership	Daily rate:	Paid on a consultancy basis Competitive To be negotiated It is estimated that the role will require approximately 38 days per year. This arrangement will be reviewed after six months and then annually.
Department:	Strategy and Partnerships		
Role reports to:	The Independent Chair is accountable to the three statutory safeguarding partners for the effectiveness of his/her work as the Chair/Scrutineer.		
Direct Reports:	None		

PURPOSE OF ROLE:

- Working with the Statutory Partners to provide the leadership direction and guidance to Brent Safeguarding Children Partnership to ensure children and young people in Brent are effectively safeguarded.
- To develop strategic links to and support, influence and hold to account all agencies in fulfilling their safeguarding duties for children.
- Offer appropriate challenge to ensure that the partners provide strong leadership, are accountable and that the partnership operates effectively.
- Provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children and young people in Brent.
- Provide independent scrutiny to support continuous practice improvement for children and families.

KEY TASKS AND ACCOUNTABILITIES:

Key tasks and accountabilities are intended to be a guide to the range and level of work expected of the post holder. This is not an exhaustive list as due to the nature of the role other outside pressures and urgent issues may require the intervention of the Independent Chair & Scrutineer. The post holder will thus be expected to carry out such other reasonable duties which may be required from time to time.

- Work closely with the Strategic Partnerships Team and lead officer to promote the Partnership's ability to fulfil statutory objectives of monitoring, challenging and scrutinising the effectiveness of interagency safeguarding work.
- Oversee the development and implementation of an overall strategy and business plans and to ensure that these reflect learning from any local learning reviews, multi-agency audits and other areas of work.
- Ensure that performance management is integrated into the role and function of the Partnership to deliver improved outcomes for children, young people, and their families and the wider community.
- Ensure the Partnership works collaboratively and effectively by encouraging and supporting the development of partnership working between the Executive, wider partnership Forum and its sub-groups.
- Chair the meetings of the Brent Safeguarding Children Forum and Case Review Group, including any additional meetings convened as a response to specific and exceptional circumstances.
- Oversee, prepare for and chair meetings of local learning reviews including rapid reviews. This role will also be responsible for monitoring the progression case reviews (including implementation of

recommendations and learning) to ensure they meet required statutory timescales.

- Develop and maintain close working relationships and effective communications with the statutory partners, senior managers and safeguarding leads within partner agencies, and other Boards and Partnerships such as the Safeguarding Adults Board, Safer Brent Partnership, Health and Wellbeing Board and the Integrated Care Partnership.
- Through the Partnership, ensure that partner organisations are held to account for the effective deployment of resources in relation to safeguarding children in Brent.
- Continually review, with the Statutory Partners, the Partnership structure and membership to ensure they are efficient, effective and representative.
- Ensure participation and feedback from service users (children) and their families and carers, are included in the work undertaken by the Partnership.
- Develop the links and relationships with other scrutiny functions such as select committees as appropriate.
- Lead collaboratively, give advice, support, encouragement and constructive challenges and hold main partner agencies to account.
- To provide effective and objective scrutiny and challenge and act as constructive critical friend as well as promoting reflection to drive continuous improvement to both the partnership and safeguarding practice.
- Provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in Brent, including arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases.
- Respond to correspondence sent personally to the Chair and the Partnership generally, referring matters to the relevant agencies for action.
- Provide independent arbitration as necessary when conflicts of interest arise within the Partnership, in line with agreed escalation procedures.
- Contribute to seminars/conferences and member training and represent the Partnership at public events, meetings, etc. as appropriate.
- Consider how effectively the safeguarding arrangements are working for children, young people and their families as well as for practitioners; and how well the safeguarding partners are providing strong and effective leadership.
- Contribute to the preparation of the safeguarding partnership annual report.
- Provide independent scrutiny to the Safeguarding Partnership ensuring that it fulfils its statutory responsibilities as set out in the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and other related guidance to work collaboratively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in the county.
- Comply with any other duties as may be jointly agreed from time to time as necessary and appropriate to the role.

ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS & EXPERIENCE:

- Senior management/leadership experience in safeguarding children and young people in either social care, education, health, police, probation, voluntary or academic sectors and understanding of Governance arrangements in relation to Safeguarding Partnerships
- Substantial experience of working at a strategic level within a multi-disciplinary context.
- Highly knowledgeable and experienced at a strategic level in children's safeguarding and partnership work.
- Extensive experience of chairing meetings at a senior strategic level.
- Significant experience in the field of safeguarding children including experience at managerial level.
- Experience of successful partnership working in statutory and voluntary sector
- Experience of engaging with service users, i.e., families, children and young people
- Proven track record of a robust and effective approach to performance management that has resulted in the delivery of improved outcomes.
- Sound understanding and knowledge of current legislation, guidance, research and good practice in safeguarding.
- Commitment to ensuring equality standards across all agencies involved in child protection.
- Demonstrated evidence of preparing, undertaking and responding to the findings of external agency inspections
- Ability to analyse, review and critically evaluate qualitative and quantitative data and information.
- Confidence and ability to challenge as required.
- Ability to lead and positively influence partners from diverse professional backgrounds.
- High level of negotiation skills at a senior strategic level and capacity to reflect on discussions and amend communication strategies accordingly.
- Ability to work across a range of disciplines and services.
- High level of interpersonal and communication skills.
- Ability and determination to hold agencies to account for shortfalls in agreed standards of child protection practice.
- Strong time management and ability to forward plan with capacity for flexibility.
- Recent experience of conducting/leading and/or authoring Serious Case Reviews/Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.