

Kingston and Richmond Safeguarding Children Partnership

KRSCP Strategic Leadership Group Terms of Reference

The **SLG (Strategic Leadership Group)** meets quarterly to provide leadership for the Safeguarding Children's Partnership and to ensure the Partnership is delivering on its strategic aims and that children and young people in Kingston and Richmond are effectively protected from abuse, neglect and exploitation. The role of the SLG is an Executive for the Partnership and they are responsible for ensuring that local arrangements are effective in engaging all relevant agencies in local safeguarding.

The members of the SLG in Kingston and Richmond are as follows:

Chair - Ian Thomas

Statutory Safeguarding Partners:

Fergus Keegan Director of Quality, Kingston and Richmond CCG

James Thomas Interim Director of Children's Services, Richmond

Owain Richards, Det Super Met Police, South West London BCU (Borough Command Unit)

Pauline Maddison, Interim Director of Children's Services, Kingston

Advisory SLG Members

Sian Thomas, Designated Nurse, Richmond CCG,

Designated Doctor, Suzanne Luck, Kingston CCG

Alison Twynam, Director of Children's Services, AfC,

Sophie McGeoch, Headteacher, Meadlands, Richmond for Primary Schools

Sophie Cavanagh, Headteacher Kingston Academy, Kingston for Secondary Schools.

The SLG will meet with senior strategic and elected leaders from Councils, CCG and Police once a year to review the annual priority setting for the local safeguarding arrangements.

The SLG will receive quarterly reports from Partnership Subgroup Chairs and they and other Officers will be invited to attend the SLG in order to contribute to discussions and the Forward Plan. This will include representatives from the voluntary sector and local children and young people. The Independent Scrutineer will also be invited to report on their assurance activities.

The statutory role of the Partners is to:

- Exercise their shared and equal duty to make local arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children; (Working Together 2018.)
- Ensure that all relevant local agencies take a coordinated approach to ensure children are effectively safeguarded; (Section 11 Children Act 2004)
- Link with other local partnership work, such as the Safeguarding Adults' Boards, Health & Wellbeing Boards or Community Safety Partnerships, to maximise our resources and learning;
- Determine, when necessary, the resolution to a disagreement between any relevant agencies working in Kingston and Richmond;
- Lead local agencies in sharing a vision to improve outcomes for vulnerable children, holding each other to account, driving action beyond usual institutional and agency constraints and boundaries; and creating lasting and trusting relationships between workers and families;
- Financial planning and resourcing of the local Partnership team;
- Implement local and national learning from serious child safeguarding incidents;
- Decide on the need for local learning reviews in line with statutory guidance;
- To hold accountability meetings with their respective leaders, so that they are fully briefed upon the effectiveness of the safeguarding arrangements and are able to hold the leads to account;
- Identify and analyse new safeguarding issues and emerging threats;
- Ensure that the voice of local children is heard on all issues pertaining to the Partnership;
- Publish on the KRSCP website at least each year an Annual Report and local safeguarding assessment to include information about training, early help, safeguarding, children looked after and care leavers, actions taken to implement identified learning, details of Independent Scrutiny together with an analysis of why there is little or no progress on any key local priorities, and any updates to the local arrangements. (Working Together 2018)

Any Partner functions which are delegated will be to Officers who have the required level of responsibility to speak on behalf of the agency, take decisions, advise on policy, resources and practice, and hold their own agency to account.

The **KRSCP Chair** will have the minimum of a year's tenure and there will be an annual review by Partners to determine the Chair for the following year. From December 2019 the Chair is Ian Thomas, Chief Executive, Kingston Council. The role of Chair involves:

- Chairing the Quarterly SLG;
- Leading the Partnership
- Ensuring the delivery of the bi-annual business plan

The KRSCP Annual Report will be shared with relevant Council and CCG Committees / Boards, the Health and Wellbeing Boards and Community Safety Partnerships in addition to the What Works Centre, and Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel.

Independent Scrutiny

Working Together 2018 outlines that the Safeguarding Partners should agree objective and reflective Independent Scrutiny, which includes the appointment of an Independent Scrutineer. This Scrutiny will be part of a wider system of independent inspectorates' single agency inspection, as well as Joint Agency Inspection, peer review and democratic local scrutiny.

The role of Independent Scrutiny is required to cover the following:

- Consider the overall effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements;
- Consider how well the safeguarding partners are providing strong leadership;
- Provide independent scrutiny of the annual report of the Safeguarding Partners;

Independent Scrutiny for the KRSCP will be provided through a combination of:

- Independent Scrutineer;
- Democratic Scrutiny functions of each Council
- Peer reviews commissioned by the Statutory Partners;
- Learning from inspections;
- Learning from scrutiny by young people.

The Independent Scrutineer also has a role to deliver the following:

- To offer mediation to the three statutory Partners and any other local agencies in dealing with any key areas of disagreement;
- To offer independent review of any escalated concern raised by relevant agencies or on behalf of children and families when requested by the Partners;
- Make formal recommendations to the SLG;
- Support a culture and environment conducive to robust scrutiny and constructive challenge.

The Independent Scrutineer is a 30 day appointment in Kingston and Richmond per year. The Independent Scrutineer October 2019-21 is Chris Robson.

Please contact the Partners via lscb-support@kingrichlscb.org.uk

Further information on the Partnership Arrangements:

kingstonandrichmondslscb.org.uk/media/upload/fck/file/KRSCP%20Arrangements%20Document%20June%2027%202019.pdf