

Safeguarding Children Scrutiny Oversight Panel Terms of Reference

Purpose

To provide strategic insight, collective oversight and coordination of scrutiny activity relating to safeguarding children in the City of London and Hackney.

Remit / Early Priorities

- To support the independent scrutiny of local safeguarding arrangements in the City of London and Hackney.
- To map mechanisms for scrutiny across safeguarding children partnership.
- To map existing actions plans across partners – including from external reviews such as Ofsted and CQC.
- Establish current scrutiny focus across partners.
- Identify common themes for improvement and eradicate duplication.
- Establish strategic focus for the following six months of scrutiny activity.

Core Membership

- Independent Safeguarding Children Commissioner, CHSCP.
- Senior Professional Advisor, CHSCP.
- Chair, Hackney Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission, Hackney Council.
- Chair, Safeguarding Children Sub Committee, City of London Corporation.
- Director of People (City of London Corporation) + QA Lead
- Director of Children's Social Care (Hackney) + QA Lead
- NEL CCG Assistant Director Safeguarding
- Police Quality Lead
- Business and Performance Manager, CHSCP.

Membership may be extended as and when required.

Chair(s)

Independent Safeguarding Children Commissioner, CHSCP.

Admin Support

CHSCP Partnership Coordinator (chscp@hackney.gov.uk)

Frequency

The Scrutiny Panel will meet twice a year.

Extraordinary meetings may be requested by the Chair if a decision is required prior to the next scheduled meeting.

Roles

Independent Safeguarding Children Commissioner, CHSCP:

- Agree agendas and chairs the Scrutiny Oversight Panel.

- To support, through participation and contributions, the development of a coordinated approach to safeguarding children scrutiny across the City of London and Hackney.
- To drive clarity and establish strategic focus relating to scrutiny of safeguarding children in the City of London and Hackney.
- To establish an approach that facilitates constructive engagement with a focus on mentoring and continuous improvement

All Scrutiny Panel members

The individual authority and responsibilities of participants is not diminished by participation in this group.

- To be individually accountable for their area of responsibility and delivery.
- To share scrutiny reports, audits, action plans falling under their scrutiny role.
- To mobilise resources as required in response.
- To ensure someone with delegated authority can attend the Scrutiny Oversight Panel in the event of absence.
- Ensure dissemination of information to their organisations.
- Ensure Scrutiny Oversight Panel decisions are swiftly actioned.
- Participate and contribute to scrutiny activity as required.

Agenda

Agendas to include (but not exclusive to):

- Review of previous Scrutiny Oversight Panel minutes and actions.
- Performance Data Analysis / Strategic Threat Assessment
- Improvement plans, action plans, audit reports, serious incidents, reviews.
- Current issues/risks for focus.
- Next steps/key actions.

Meeting documentation will be circulated via email by the CHSCP Partnership Coordinator one week prior to meetings.