

Bury Safeguarding Children Partnership



Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements

Contents

1.	Introduction	3
2.	Understanding the borough	4
3.	Vision	5
4.	Accountability for multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in Bury	5
5.	Scheme of Delegation	6
6.	Bury's Safeguarding Executive	7
7.	Delivery of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in Bury	8
8.	Bury Safeguarding Children Partnership	9
9.	Partnership Chair	10
10.	Relevant Agencies.....	11
11.	Education	11
12.	Subgroups.....	12
13.	Complex Safeguarding Subgroup.....	12
14.	Learning and Development Subgroup	13
15.	Scrutiny, Performance and Assurance Subgroup	13
16.	Case Review Subgroup.....	14
17.	Commissioning and publishing local child safeguarding practice reviews	14
18.	Sharing, Promoting and Embedding Learning	15
19.	Assessment on the Effectiveness of Services.....	16
20.	Independent Scrutiny.....	16
21.	Continuum of Need.....	18
22.	Voice of Children and Families	20
23.	Yearly Report	20
24.	Professional Challenge and Escalation.....	21
25.	Information Sharing	21
26.	Funding	21
27.	Business Unit	22
	Appendix 1: Governance Arrangements of the Safeguarding Partnership	23
	Appendix 2: Relevant Agencies	24

1. Introduction

Working together is at the heart of Bury's Let's Do It Strategy. When families, local communities, public and voluntary services have positive relationships, we can make Bury a place in which people are helped to make the best of themselves.

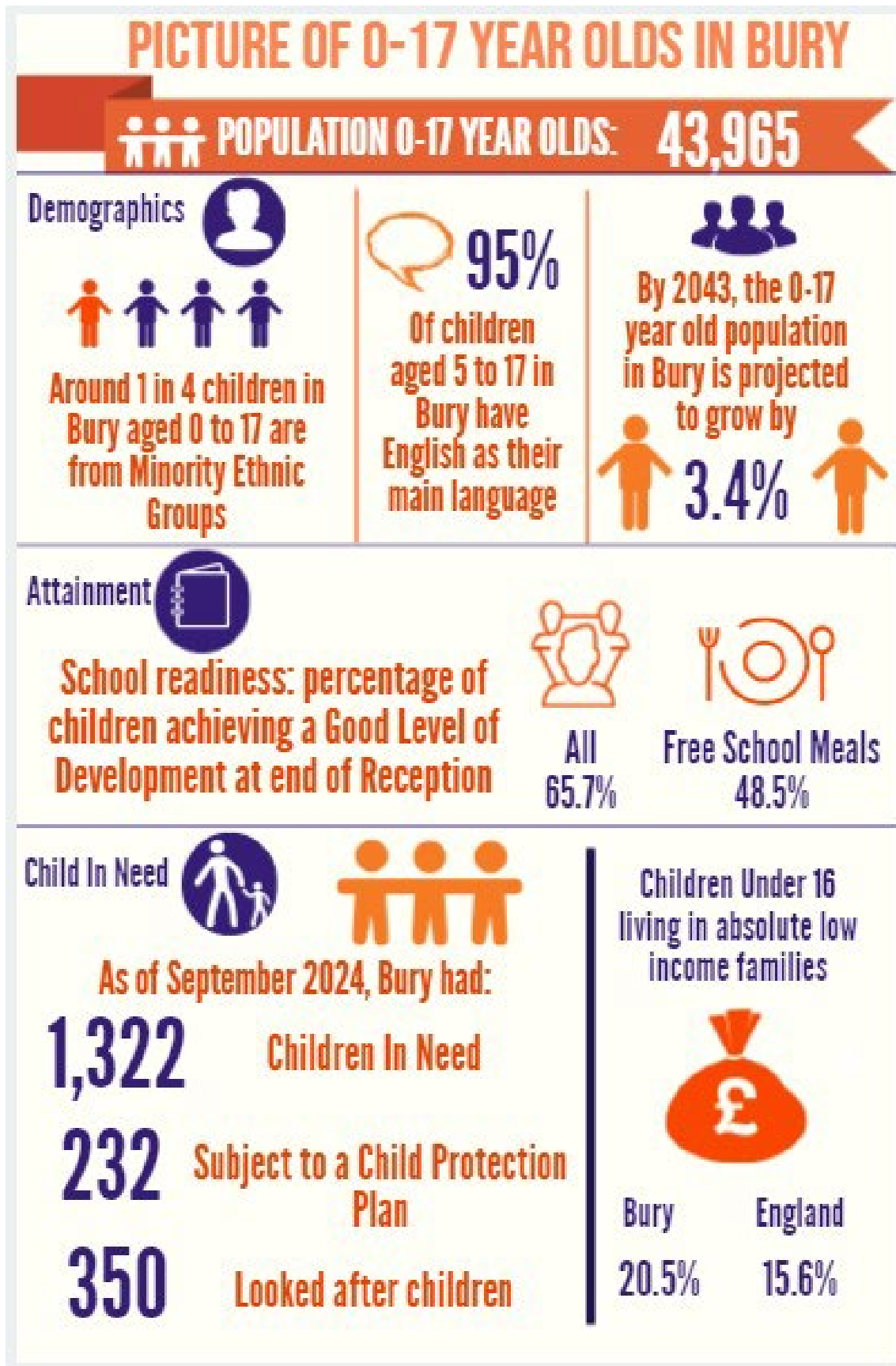
Most children and young people in Bury grow up in a safe and loving home environment, have good health and have the support and opportunities that give them the best start in life. However, not all children in Bury are so fortunate, and for some, the additional challenges that they face in their daily life can have a long-term impact on their opportunities and aspirations.

[Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023](#) statutory guidance places a duty on the Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSPs) to have robust multi-agency safeguarding arrangements to help ensure that information about a child and their family is shared effectively, risk of harm is correctly identified and understood, and that children and families receive targeted services that meet their needs in a co-ordinated way.

Our multi-agency safeguarding arrangements are based on Bury local authority's geographical footprint. This covers one local authority for the area, and a police force and an integrated care board that cover the 10 boroughs of Greater Manchester.

The Bury Safeguarding Children Partnership provides the framework for the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements under which the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies work together to identify and respond to the needs of children, commission and publish Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPRs) and provide scrutiny to ensure the effectiveness of the safeguarding arrangements.

2. Understanding the borough



3. Vision

Nothing is more important than children's wellbeing. Every child deserves to grow up in a safe, stable, and loving home. Children who need help and protection deserve high quality and effective support. This requires individuals, agencies, and organisations to be clear about their own and each other's roles and responsibilities, and how they work together.

“We want all children and young people in Bury to enjoy safe childhoods and to be protected from harm”.

To achieve our vision, we will work together to:

- Ensure children are safeguarded via a strong, co-ordinated multi-agency approach.
- Listen to children and families and use their feedback to improve safeguarding services.
- Provide high quality multi-agency training and evaluate the impact of that training to support a skilled and effective workforce through our Learning and Development Subgroup.
- Seek assurance of our safeguarding arrangements through effective independent scrutiny.
- Monitor and challenge our performance in relation to safeguarding, so that we strive for continual improvement through our Scrutiny, Performance and Assurance Subgroup.
- Keep up to date with emerging policy changes and ensure our work is responsive, and new strategies, policies and procedures are cascaded across the partnership.
- Analyse, review and understand the key factors identified in case reviews and implement learning from good practice through our Case Review Subgroup
- Identify and protect children who are vulnerable and respond to emerging threats through our Complex Safeguarding Subgroup.

4. Accountability for multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in Bury

The Lead Safeguarding Partners are accountable for the effectiveness and outcomes of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements across Bury. They are also jointly responsible for ensuring proper involvement of and oversight of all relevant agencies.

The Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSPs) in Bury are:

- Lynne Ridsdale, Chief Executive, Bury Council
- Mark Fisher, Chief Executive, NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board (ICB)
- Stephen Watson QPM, Chief Constable, Greater Manchester Police (GMP)

To enable the LSPs to focus on their joint functions and maintain strategic oversight, each LSP has appointed a Delegated Safeguarding Partner (DSP) to deliver the multi-agency safeguarding functions and processes.

The Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSPs) in Bury are:

- Jeanette Richards, Executive Director Children's Services, Bury Council
- Mandy Philbin, Chief Nurse, NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board
- Kirsty Oliver, Chief Superintendent Bury District Commander, Greater Manchester Police

The LSPs and DSPs will meet on a quarterly basis as Bury's Safeguarding Executive, to review collectively the effectiveness of partnership working to safeguard children in Bury, so that the LSPs have sufficient oversight and detail on key topics and issues to maintain their statutory responsibilities. In order to deliver this model, on occasion, LSPs and DSPs may need to delegate within their respective organisations.

The LSPs will meet at least twice a year at the Greater Manchester Safeguarding Alliance to provide collective leadership and deliver mutual assurance of strategic safeguarding partnership arrangements for children and young people in Greater Manchester. High level performance, quality assurance information and key learning themes from Bury reviews will be shared with the Safeguarding Alliance to support their role in exploring and resolving GM strategic and system wide issues. The Safeguarding Alliance will also provide the mechanism for Bury's Safeguarding Executive to be able to flag issues relating to children's safeguarding that would benefit from discussion between safeguarding partners on a city-regional level.

5. Scheme of Delegation

The Scheme of Delegation (Appendix 3) sets out respective responsibilities to ensure decision making is aligned to the governance and accountability arrangements made under Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023. It sets out responsibilities on key areas including:

- Strategic planning
- Rapid reviews and Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPRs)
- Financial management
- Risk management
- Policy development

The Lead Safeguarding Partners are responsible for the overall strategic direction of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

Decisions may be delegated by the Lead Safeguarding Partners to the Delegated Safeguarding Partners or the Bury Safeguarding Children Partnership and its Subgroups, however, such decisions will be aligned to the requirements set out in Working Together 2023.

DSPs may delegate operational decisions within their respective organisations to roles including the Director of Social Care and Early Help in the Local Authority, the Associate Director of Nursing, Quality and Safeguarding and the Designated Nurse in the Integrated Care Board or the Detective Superintendent in the Police, or other roles in their organisations as appropriate.

6. Bury's Safeguarding Executive

The Lead Safeguarding Partners, as members of the Safeguarding Executive are jointly responsible for:

1. Setting the strategic direction, vision, and culture of Bury's safeguarding arrangements, including agreeing and reviewing shared priorities and the resource required to deliver services effectively.
2. Leading their organisation's individual contribution to the shared priorities, ensuring strong governance, accountability, and reporting mechanisms to hold their delegates to account for the delivery of agency commitments.
3. Assuring themselves that their local arrangements are effective and keep children safe.
4. Reviewing and sign off key partnership documents: published multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, including plans for independent scrutiny, shared annual budget, yearly report, and local threshold document.
5. Providing shared oversight of learning from independent scrutiny, serious incidents, Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, and national reviews, ensuring recommendations are implemented and have a demonstrable impact on practice.
6. Identifying relevant agencies and consult with these when developing safeguarding arrangements, so that relevant agencies are aware of the expectations placed on them, and that relevant agencies are reviewed on an annual basis.
7. Ensuring multi-agency arrangements have the necessary level of business support, including intelligence and analytical functions, such as an agreed data set providing oversight and a robust understanding of practice.
8. Ensuring all relevant agencies, including education settings, are clear on their role and contribution to multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.
9. Being assured that relevant agencies have appropriate, robust safeguarding policies and procedures in place, including information sharing arrangements.
10. Demonstrating how the experiences of children and families shape the delivery of local arrangements, and in particular, how those with protected characteristics engage in service design.
11. Ensuring that recommendations and learning from serious incidents, Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and national reviews whether or not they originate within their local area, are implemented, by receiving a regular assurance report from the Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSPs), who will hold responsibility for monitoring implementation of plans and actions.

The voice of education within the safeguarding executive will be represented by the Executive Director Children's Services, who has responsibility for Education and Skills in Bury.

7. Delivery of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in Bury

On a day-to-day basis, Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSPs), working together, assume responsibility for implementing the local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and providing strong leadership of the arrangements to ensure that they are effective in bringing together relevant partner agencies.

The joint functions of the DSPs are:

1. Delivery and monitoring of multi-agency priorities and procedures to protect and safeguard children in the local area, in compliance with published arrangements and thresholds.
2. Close partnership working and engagement with education (at strategic and operational level) and other relevant agencies, allowing better identification of and response to harm.
3. The implementation of effective information sharing arrangements between agencies, including data sharing that facilitates joint analysis between partner agencies.
4. Delivery of high-quality and timely rapid reviews and Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, with the impact of learning from local and national reviews and independent scrutiny clearly evidenced in yearly reports.
5. The provision of appropriate multi-agency safeguarding professional development and training.
6. Seeking of, and responding to, feedback from children and families about their experiences of services and co-designing services to ensure children from different communities and groups can access the help and protection they need.
7. Escalate risks and issues they cannot resolve between them to the LSPs for resolution. This will ensure that accountability is clear, that strategic decisions are achievable and deliverable, and that progress is driven at all levels.
8. Co-ordinate the views of children, and families about the services they receive and feed key learning, issues, and good practice to the LSPs.
9. Support effective engagement with relevant agencies in their local area so that they understand their roles and responsibilities, which includes strengthening the input from education providers at operational and strategic level decision-making.
10. Chair, attend or be reported to on regular multi-agency operational meetings and subgroups, to ensure common threads across the arrangements.

The DSPs will discharge the core partnership functions including:

- Approving Rapid Reviews on cases notified to the National Panel.
- Approving the recommendations and publication as appropriate of local safeguarding practice reviews into such cases.
- Approving proactive and reactive communications in relation to cases subject to review.

In order to deliver this model, DSPs may need to delegate within their respective organisations to roles including the Director of Social Care and Early Help in the Local Authority, the Associate Director Nursing, Quality and Safeguarding and the Designated Nurse in the Integrated Care Board or the Detective Superintendent in the Police.

The governance arrangements of the partnership are detailed in Appendix 1.

8. Bury Safeguarding Children Partnership

The DSPs will discharge their joint functions through collaboration with relevant agencies to improve outcomes for children and families through the Bury Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP) and its Subgroups. This includes relevant agencies as identified in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 (and as set out in Appendix 2).

The BSCP meets monthly and will be chaired by the Executive Director Children's Services (this is rotated amongst DSPs on a 2 yearly basis).

The BSCP is responsible for delivering the following outcomes and working relationships:

- Ensuring that there is a prompt, appropriate and effective response to ensure the protection and support of the child when a child is identified as suffering or likely to suffer significant harm.
- Effectively holding one another to account and challenging appropriately.
- Ensuring that the voice of children and families combined with the knowledge of experienced practitioners and insights from data, provides a greater understanding of the areas of strength and/or improvement within arrangements and practice.
- Facilitating more accurate and timely decision-making for children and families and understanding outcomes for different communities of children by seeking information which is analysed, shared, and broken down by protected characteristics.
- Effective collection, sharing and analysis of data, to support early identification of new safeguarding risks, issues, emerging threats, and joined-up responses across relevant agencies
- Promoting and embedding a learning culture which supports local services to become more reflective and implement changes to practice.
- Having good knowledge and understanding about the quality of local practice and its impact on children and families.
- Oversight of the quality and compliance of the delivery of agreed shared priorities.
- Ensure processes are in place to provide assurance that multi-agency practice is reviewed and operating well. Where this is not evident, BSCP members should have the capacity and resource from their own agencies to engage, respond and improve operational systems and practice.
- Endorse the yearly report and recommend its publication to the LSPs.
- Oversee and be responsible for the analysis, intelligence, and timely collection of data to support functions, such as:

- getting an accurate local picture of how effectively services are being delivered through regular communication across relevant agencies
 - advising the statutory safeguarding partners of the key challenges and emerging priorities
 - coordinating the joint multi-agency strategic plan, ensuring that statutory safeguarding partners and their delegates feed into and own the plan in the local area
 - overseeing the quality of practice and local outcomes for children and families
- Review and promote consistent understanding and application of referral and intervention thresholds across agencies so that the right children receive the right support at the right time.
 - Co-ordinate the views of children, and families about the services they receive and capture key learning, issues, and good practice.
 - Use learning from local practice and serious incident notifications to prompt reflection and analysis of where improvements need to be secured and action taken.
 - Strengthen system conditions for effective multi-agency child protection work.
 - Ensure that relevant agencies are provided with information about how to escalate concerns and how any disputes will be resolved. This should include details of the independent scrutiny and whistleblowing procedures.

Where a key decision needs to be made that will impact arrangements and/or services, this will involve the LSP.

9. Partnership Chair

To support delivery of these functions, the LSPs will appoint one of the DSPs as the partnership chair for the multi-agency arrangements.

The Partnership Chair for 2024/2026 is the Executive Director Children's Services, Bury Council.

The functions of the Partnership Chair include:

- To develop strategic links, support and hold to account all LSPs in fulfilling their safeguarding duties for children.
- Ensure that local arrangements are designed to work collaboratively and effectively by encouraging and supporting the development of partnership working between the LSPs, DSPs, independent scrutiny role, the BSCP and its subgroups.
- Chair the meetings of the BSCP, including any additional meetings convened as a response to specific and exceptional circumstances, with the help of the business manager and independent scrutiny role.
- Offer appropriate challenge to ensure that the partners are accountable, and that the local arrangements operate effectively.

- Conduit between DSPs and LSPs.
- Acting as a single point of contact for the partnership, but not out with existing formal complaints procedures or escalation procedures

10. Relevant Agencies

Strong, effective multi-agency safeguarding arrangements should be responsive to local circumstances and engage the right people in a collaborative way. Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 defines relevant agencies as “those organisations and agencies whose involvement the safeguarding partners consider are required to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children”. The relevant agencies identified in Bury are detailed in Appendix 2.

All relevant agencies will be invited to participate in the learning events.

Relevant agencies will be either members of Bury Safeguarding Children Partnership, Subgroups, relevant Task and Finish groups, or they will be engaged in the safeguarding arrangements through existing networks and forums so that they receive key safeguarding information and have the opportunity to feedback on the arrangements.

There are interdependencies between our safeguarding partnership arrangements and other strategic partnership work happening in Bury to support children and families. We therefore ensure representation or reporting from the safeguarding partnership to:

- Children’s Improvement Board
- Children and Young People Strategic Partnership
- Community Safety Partnership
- Bury Safeguarding Adults Board
- Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Strategic Governance Board
- Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)
- Health and Wellbeing Board
- Child Death Overview Panel
- Domestic abuse partnership board
- Corporate Parenting Board

11. Education and Early Years

We recognise the importance of all schools (including independent schools, academies, and free schools), colleges, early years and childcare settings, and other educational providers (including alternative provision) being included in the safeguarding arrangements.

At a strategic level, the Local Authority Executive Director Children’s Services will represent the voice of education and early years in the Safeguarding Executive. Our Safeguarding Children Partnership will include the roles of the Local Authority Director of Education and Skills, Bury’s Virtual Headteacher, the Community Education and Safeguarding Manager and Early Years Service Manager.

At an operational level, education and early years will be represented in all subgroups, and the representative will be accountable for disseminating information across their networks.

We will also seek the voice of education and early years by collaborating with existing groups and networks that are already well-established in Bury. For example, this includes:

- Schools' Designated Safeguarding Leads Forum.
- Bury Association of Primary Headteachers.
- Bury Association of Secondary Headteachers.
- Early Years virtual network.
- Early Tears 'keep in touch' arrangements.

A Strategic Education Board is to be established in 2025, and the safeguarding partnership will be represented at that Board.

In light of the increased pace of academisation in Bury, we will ensure our safeguarding arrangements are reflective of this and will keep this under review.

12. Subgroups

The work of the Partnership will be driven by the BSCP Subgroups. The representatives from 'relevant agencies' as identified by Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 are included to ensure representation from wider partners.

The overall purpose of all subgroups is to:

- Drive forward and deliver the priorities of the partnership.
- Provide reports and information that will inform the partnership's strategic plans.
- Report on progress to the Partnership and Executive.
- Keep the Partnership and Executive apprised of emerging threats, patterns, good practice and gaps in safeguarding delivery.
- Consider recommendations arising from local and national child safeguarding practice reviews and implement any required actions.

13. Complex Safeguarding Subgroup

The Complex Safeguarding Subgroup provides oversight and strategic direction for the delivery of a co-ordinated multi-agency response to contextual safeguarding issues across Bury.

The subgroup is responsible for assuring the BSCP that services are delivered in a co-ordinated, informed and consistent way; with improved outcomes for children, families and communities being at the centre of our approach.

The role of the sub group is to deliver against the 7 key objectives of the Complex Safeguarding Delivery Plan:

1. Ensure effective governance and assurance arrangements
2. Increase understanding of Complex Safeguarding
3. Joint training and development opportunities, practice tools, guidance and resources
4. Our interventions will support and protect children and young people
5. Greater success in detection, disruption, and prosecution
6. Work alongside and within our communities to tackle exploitation

7. Ensure effective response to Missing Persons at risk of exploitation

14. Learning and Development Subgroup

The Learning and Development Subgroup ensures that multi-agency safeguarding training is provided in response to national and local reviews and best practice.

The main responsibilities of the subgroup are to:

- Ensure the workforce of Bury is effective in responding to safeguarding children and young people at risk of or experiencing abuse and neglect (at a level consistent with their role) via the provision of high quality multi agency training.
- Develop and implement a yearly multi-agency safeguarding calendar which includes core training courses, subject specific training events and seminars and access to e-learning.
- To quality assure multi-agency safeguarding learning and development opportunities to ensure they are high quality, effective and can demonstrate impact.
- Horizon scan areas of best practice and share learning.

15. Scrutiny, Performance and Assurance Subgroup

Analysis of the effectiveness of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements is provided by the Scrutiny, Performance and Assurance Subgroup through data analysis and multi-agency audit. It provides a qualitative and quantitative overview of the partnership's function evidencing the efficacy of the safeguarding arrangements.

The main responsibilities of the subgroup are to:

- Consider and evaluate the performance of the partnership in safeguarding children and young people.
- Undertake the Section 11 Audit and report compliance in relation to key safeguarding themes
- Analyse the Section 175/157 audit of education.
- Consider the performance of the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies in safeguarding children and young people.
- Develop an annual programme of multi-agency audit programme/quality assurance activities.
- Undertake audits/quality assurance to assess the effectiveness of performance and provide assurance.
- Report quantitative key performance data to the partnership to measure the partnerships progress with statistical evidence.
- Provide qualitative reports and commentary to explain the "what" and "why".
- Own the scrutiny process for the partnership.

16. Case Review Subgroup

Rapid Reviews and Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPRs) are commissioned and overseen by the Case Review Subgroup, who manage the process through to completion.

The main responsibilities of the subgroup are to:

- Carry out screening meetings when referrals are received to consider whether notifiable incidents meet the criteria in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023.
- Design, develop, disseminate and test local safeguarding review pathways and protocols.
- Carry out Rapid Reviews and LCSPRs, including report authoring.
- Commission authors for LCSPRs when required, including agreeing terms of reference of the review, considering the final overview report and making a recommendation to the BSCP, including publication of the report.
- Develop and implement action plans and link to the Learning and Development Subgroup to disseminate learning.
- Monitor progress against safeguarding review/learning review action plans.

17. Neglect Subgroup

Neglect is a partnership priority and it's work is currently led through a Task and Finish Group reporting into the Learning and Development Subgroup. It is proposed that a Neglect Subgroup will be formed in 2025, with Terms of Reference being agreed by the Safeguarding Children Partnership.

18. Commissioning and publishing local child safeguarding practice reviews

Following a referral of a significant incident related to a child, a screening panel meeting takes place to consider the criteria for whether a Serious Incident Notification (SIN) is met and whether to proceed to a notification being made and a Rapid Review taking place. The DSPs representatives must be present at the screening panel and are members of the Case Review Subgroup. The DSP representatives have delegated authority to consider whether the criterion for a SIN is met. In exceptional circumstances where agreement cannot be reached, the Independent Scrutineer will liaise with the DSPs to make a determination and escalate to the LSPs where required.

If a SIN is agreed, it is the responsibility of the Local Authority Children's Services to make the notification to the National Panel.

The Business Unit will be responsible for informing the Lead Safeguarding Partners of the decision from the screening panel, for their oversight.

If a SIN notification is made, the DSP representatives, as members of the Case Review Subgroup, will meet to undertake a Rapid Review of the circumstances surrounding the

death or serious injury to the child or young person and makes recommendations to the Delegated Safeguarding Partners, who will agree whether or not a case meets the criteria for a LCSPR. The Rapid Review is led and authored by a member of the Case Review Subgroup, and in practice, this is generally one of the three DSP representatives.

LCSPRs will be completed and published within six months unless there are extenuating circumstances such as an ongoing criminal investigation, inquest or future prosecution. Responsibility for the approval and publication of LCSPRs is with the Bury Safeguarding Partnership. Any delay to the completion or publication of a review will be approved by the DSPs and the reasons notified to the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel. LSPs will have oversight as appropriate.

LSPs will have regular oversight of learning from LCSPRs, through updates from the Learning and Development Subgroup. The Case Review Subgroup will provide assurance to the LSPs that recommendations are implemented, and the Scrutiny, Performance and Assurance Subgroup will report to LSPs on the impact to practice.

Publication of LCSPRs or information about the improvements that should be made will be via the partnership website. Published reports will also be shared with the NSPCC who maintains a national case review repository where case reviews remain available electronically for five years.

In some circumstances the Safeguarding Partnership may consider it inappropriate to publish a review report in which case arrangements will be made to publish information about the improvements that should be made following the review. The Safeguarding Partnership will set out for the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel the justification for any decision not to publish the report.

19. Sharing, Promoting and Embedding Learning

The safeguarding partners and relevant agencies are committed to ensuring that the learning from any type of practice review is shared across agencies, partnerships and systems. By sharing the learning, the changes required to practice and services can be promoted and changes can be embedded. The work across all the subgroups of the Safeguarding Children Partnership will be linked to ensure there is sharing, promotion and embedding.

Through the Learning and Development Subgroup the Partnership will:

- Continue to provide a programme of multi-agency training focussing on key safeguarding issues and/or emerging themes identified nationally and locally.
- Assessment of impact of training including feedback 'on the day', and a measure of how learning has been implemented after 3-6 months.
- Maintain an up-to-date website that will contain all relevant information and training opportunities.
- Publish 7 minute briefings to support professional practice in all services.
- Maintain a multi-agency training pool of professionals with particular expertise and knowledge drawn from across the partnership. Co-ordination of the training provision sits within the Business Unit.

20. Assessment on the Effectiveness of Services

Analysis of the effectiveness of the safeguarding arrangements is provided by the Scrutiny, Performance and Assurance Subgroup through data analysis and multi-agency audit. This group oversees multi-agency audits and reviews single agency audits. The group links directly with the Learning and Development Group to disseminate learning.

The Scrutiny, Performance and Assurance Subgroup oversees the multi-agency data set which is dynamic and is able to be adapted to respond to themes and trends from local reviews. A core dataset is produced on a quarterly basis and scrutinised by the subgroup, and trends are used to influence future audit activity and practice improvement. The subgroup provides exception reports on performance to the Safeguarding Partnership and Safeguarding Executive for their oversight and scrutiny.

The Independent Chair as scrutineer (and where relevant, inspectorate bodies) will also advise the Safeguarding Children Partnership on priority areas to assess and where to focus improvement initiatives, as required.

Direct intelligence the Safeguarding Children Partnership considers includes:

- Quality assurance and performance monitoring information from safeguarding partners and relevant agencies that will include qualitative and quantitative information on performance, practice and outcomes. This will be used to assess how organisations are internally compliant with their statutory safeguarding responsibilities and with local arrangements and also to assess how they are contributing effectively to multi-agency systems.
- Self-assessments on the effectiveness of organisation's safeguarding arrangements in line with statutory requirements (Section 11 & Section 175/157 audits)
- Auditing of cases by safeguarding issues and multi-agency processes.
- Learning Circles involving frontline practitioners and their managers about their experiences of working in the local systems and what they think requires improvement.
- Voice and experience of children and families involved in local safeguarding arrangements.

21. Independent Scrutiny

Bury has appointed an Independent Scrutineer to drive continuous improvement and provide assurance that arrangements are working effectively for children, families, and practitioners.

The Independent Scrutineer has a role to:

- Provide assurance to the partnership in judging the effectiveness of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements through a range of scrutiny methods.
- Ensures that statutory duties are being fulfilled, quality assurance mechanisms are in place, and that Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and national reviews are analysed, with key learning areas identified and effectively implemented across the safeguarding system.

- Ensure that the voice of children and families is considered as part of scrutiny and that this is at the heart of arrangements through direct feedback, informing policy and practice.
- Be regarded as a 'critical friend' and provide opportunities for two-way discussion and reflection between frontline practitioners and leaders, to encourage and enable strong, clear, strategic leadership.
- Provide independent advice when there are disagreements between agencies and safeguarding partners and facilitate escalation procedures.
- Evaluate and contribute to multi-agency safeguarding published arrangements and the annual report, alongside feeding into the wider accountability systems such as inspections.

The role of the Independent Scrutineer complements the wider system of scrutiny arrangements in Bury which includes statutory inspection arrangements and those provided by the elected members the local authority, as part of their corporate safeguarding accountability role.

The Safeguarding Executive recognises that scrutiny in Bury is wider than any one person's role and is at the heart of all the partnership's audit review and learning activity. A layered approach to scrutiny has therefore been adopted by the Partnership to allow a multi-faceted lens onto the arrangements to provide the assurance and scrutiny to meet the needs of the Partnership.

The utilisation of internal professional expertise from the locality is considered essential to fully understand the local arrangements. This will be achieved via the assurance and scrutiny function of the Safeguarding Executive, the role of the Scrutiny, Performance and Assurance Subgroup acting as a local expert panel and the role of Independent Chair providing a first line of scrutiny.

The importance of external scrutiny, looking into the arrangements is recognised, and the intention is to work with other Partnerships, within Greater Manchester, to undertake mutual peer review. Opportunities will be sought to undertake specific deep dives into areas of the partnership work, for example to review the progress against the priorities and the plans.

Additionally, experts in their field, outside of the locality may be commissioned to undertake specific pieces of scrutiny.

The model below shows a layered and interdependent model of Bury's scrutiny and assurance arrangements.



22. Continuum of Need

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023) describes how providing early help is more effective in promoting the welfare of children than reacting later. Even with the most effective forms of prevention, early intervention, and early help there will always be a need to provide specialist services to the most vulnerable and those in need of protection or alternative care. The level of need may be increased by a multiplicity of factors, including the family's history, context, disability and the effectiveness of previous interventions, and professional judgement must be applied.

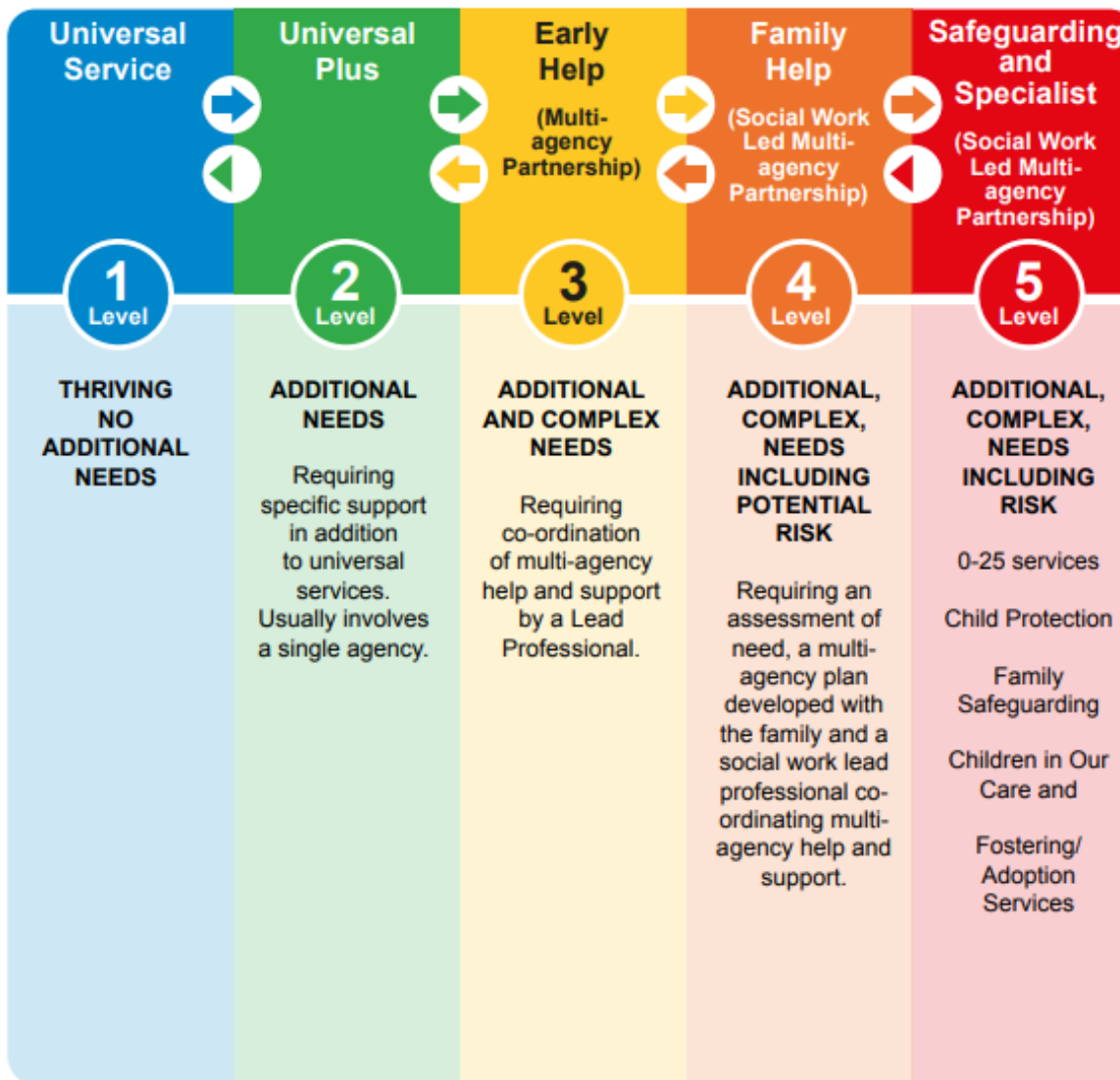
Bury's Continuum of Need Guidance describes at what point support to children and families should be provided by delivery of:

- Level 1 represents children with no identified additional needs. Their needs are met through universal services (such as health visiting or general practitioner).
- Level 2 represents children with additional needs that can be met by targeted support by a single agency or practitioner (such as speech language therapy).
- Level 3 (Team Around the Family, TAF) represents children with additional needs that can be met by targeted support by a multi-agency support package.
- Level 4 (Child in Need, CIN) represents children with significant needs that persist and have not been met by targeted support.

- Level 5 (Safeguarding/Looked after Children) represents children with complex and enduring needs at the highest level of vulnerability that will be met by multi-agency support from specialist services led by Social Care.

Children will move between these levels of vulnerability according to their individual circumstances and so it is essential that changes in need are identified, and service response is flexible. The model is intended to ensure children and families are not excluded from help in an arbitrary manner. The aim is the early identification of children who require additional help and the provision of services to prevent children moving towards higher levels of need and to reduce the level of need wherever possible. The boundaries between the levels are not hard and fast and children may present with needs at different levels. Inter-disciplinary discussion and coordination will ensure appropriate services are arranged.

Children may enter any level at any age or stage of development and may move between levels as their circumstances and needs change.



Bury's Continuum of Need model is available on the Partnership's [website](#)

23. Voice of Children and Families

The Safeguarding Children Partnership will ensure the voice of the child and service users is at the heart of all aspects of scrutiny and assurance by talking with and receiving direct feedback from children, young people and families to test the interconnectedness between performance, practice and the voice of the child, young person and family.

Involving children and families is important to safeguarding across the area both in contributing to and delivering the Safeguarding Children Partnership's purpose and in helping to scrutinise and review the partnership arrangements themselves.

Engaging in various ways is key to understanding whether the work the Partnership is doing is having an impact and making a difference to their daily lived experience.

The Partnership will make use of the many existing arrangements in place to involve children and families in its work and hear their voices. This includes:

- Corporate Parenting Board
- Youth Cabinet
- Youth Service
- Healthwatch
- Children in Care Council
- Care Leavers Forum
- Virtual School
- Members of the Bury Voluntary, Community and Faith Alliance

24. Yearly Report

The Safeguarding Executive will produce a yearly report on safeguarding arrangements in Bury. It will be available on the partnership website and will include:

- Evidence of the impact of work of the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies on outcomes for children and families.
- An analysis of any areas where there has been little or no evidence of progress on agreed priorities.
- A record of actions taken by the safeguarding partners in the report's period (or planned to be taken) to implement the recommendations of any child safeguarding practice reviews.
- Ways in which partners have sought and utilised feedback from children, young people and families to inform their work and influence service provision.

The report will be received by the Health and Wellbeing Board. It will also be distributed across the partnership, and to the Safeguarding Alliance and the Police and Crime Commissioner. The report will be shared with the National Panel, in line with the requirements of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 guidance by September of each reporting year.

The yearly report will be subject to independent scrutiny by the Independent Scrutineer prior to final publication.

25. Professional Challenge and Escalation

Safeguarding partners will work together to resolve any professional challenges and disputes locally.

For professional disputes involving child protection procedures the [Resolving Professional Difference / Escalation Procedure](#) must be followed.

Whilst every effort will be made to work across the partnership in a strengths-based way, there may be occasions where necessary agreement cannot be reached at the Bury Safeguarding Children Partnership, these matters should be escalated to the Safeguarding Executive for final resolution.

In order to reach a resolution at partnership meetings, the Independent Chair, as scrutineer, will review and make recommendations to the Safeguarding Executive.

26. Information Sharing

Information sharing is essential for effective safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. The principle of the Bury Safeguarding Children Partnership is to share information where it will help and support children, young people and their families. We recognise that sharing information with other organisations and practitioners should not be a barrier to good practice, and we work within the existing Greater Manchester Safeguarding Policy guidelines.

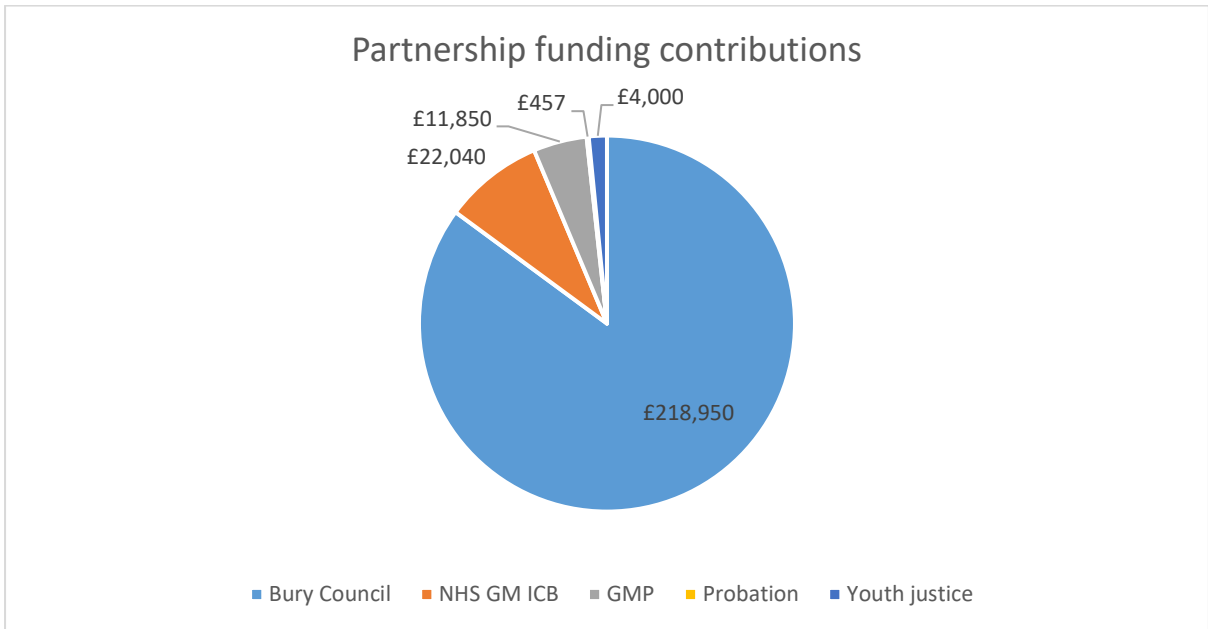
A data sharing protocol and agreement is in place, to ensure there is effective information sharing arrangements between agencies, including data sharing that facilitates joint analysis between partner agencies.

27. Funding

The funding to support the work of the partnership will be agreed on an annual basis by the Lead Safeguarding Partners. The budget should enable the partnership to effectively undertake all its core and statutory functions and to employ staff to take forward its day-to-day business.

Each of the statutory partners, and some relevant agencies contribute to the Bury Safeguarding Children Partnership budget.

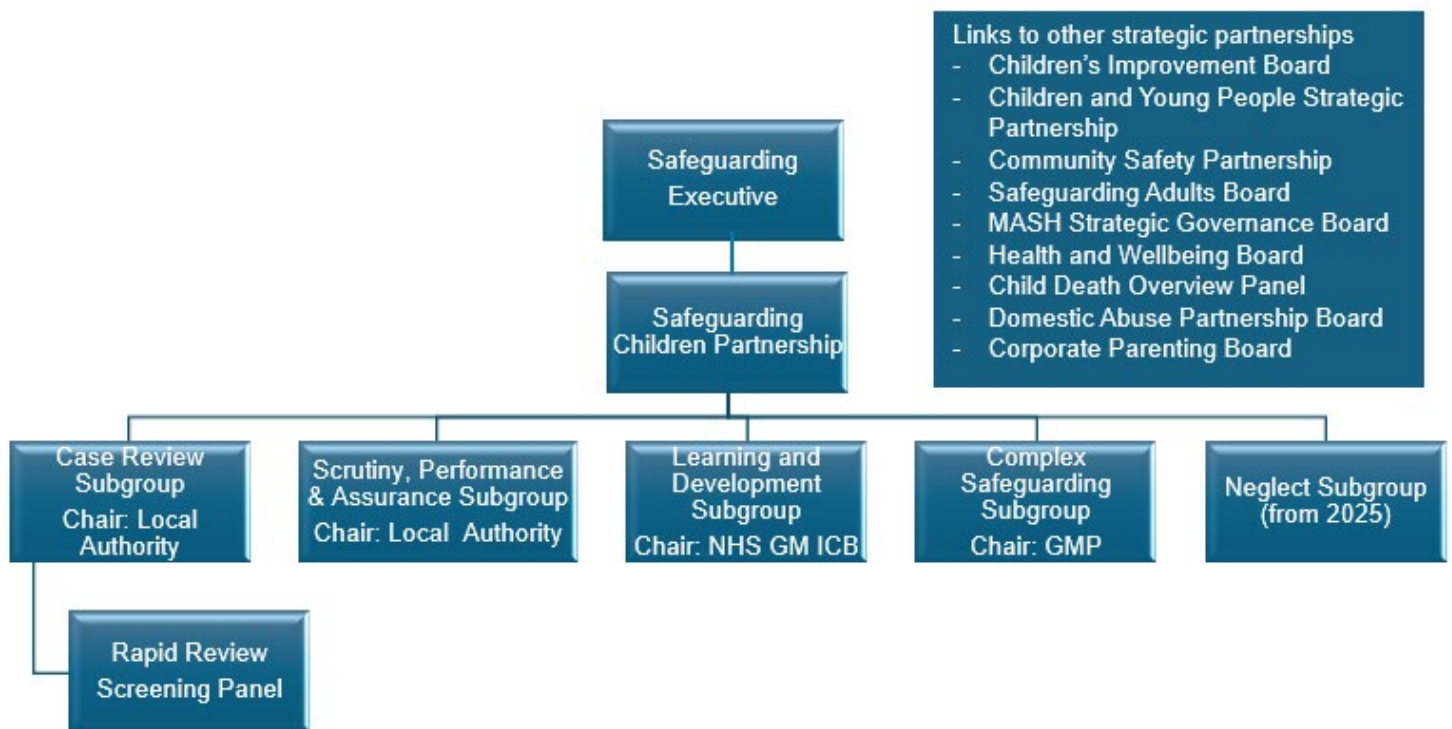
Safeguarding partners and Relevant Agencies offer their time and expertise to the activities of the Partnership. These activities include participating in meetings, multi-agency audits, child safeguarding reviews, analysing and submitting data, delivering training and ensuring the roll out of key learning and messages.



28. Business Unit

The BSCP Business Unit has a key role in co-ordinating and driving forward the safeguarding arrangements and supporting the Partnership in discharging its duties in relation to Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023. Although hosted by the Local Authority, it will have independence from all safeguarding partners, and it will ensure that the Safeguarding Partnership is supported with both the administration and the implementation of the partnership vision for safeguarding, the partnership’s strategic plan and its multi-agency learning and development programme.

Appendix 1: Governance Arrangements of the Safeguarding Partnership



Appendix 2: Relevant Agencies

Listed within appendix 2 are organisations and agencies who the Lead Safeguarding Partners consider it is a requirement to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children as defined by *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023*. Specifically, Chapter 4: Organisational responsibilities.

Bury Council	
Who are represented by:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Social Care • Early Help • Youth Justice Service • Early Years • Leisure Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Social Care • Housing • Homelessness and Rough Sleepers • Public Protection which includes licensing and trading standards • Public Health • Education

Health
Who are represented by:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board • Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust • Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust • Greater Manchester Mental Health Foundation Trust • North West Ambulance Service • Designated Doctor, Northern Care Alliance • Named GP, NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board • Achieve Recovery Services

Greater Manchester Police
Who are represented by:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bury District

Key Partners	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Probation Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service • Healthwatch Bury

The following agencies are key partners within Early Years to Further Education establishments.

Early Years
All early years providers in Bury registered through the Early Years Register are part of our safeguarding arrangements. Due to the frequency of changes in providers the Local Authority Early Years team maintain this list.

Primary

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Saints Church of England Primary School, Stand • Bury and Whitefield Jewish Primary School • Butterstile Primary School • Cams Lane Primary School • Chantlers Primary School • Chapelfield Primary School • Chesham Primary Academy • Christ Church Ainsworth Church of England Primary School • Christ Church CofE Primary School • East Ward Community Primary School • Elton Community Primary School • Emmanuel Holcombe Church of England Primary School • Fairfield Community Primary School • Gorsefield Primary School • Greenhill Primary School • Guardian Angels Roman Catholic Primary School, Bury • Hazlehurst Primary Academy • Heaton Park Primary School • Higher Lane Primary School • Holcombe Brook Primary School • Hollins Grundy Primary School • Holly Mount Roman Catholic Primary School, Bury • Holy Trinity Primary School • Lowercroft Primary School • Mersey Drive Community Primary School • Our Lady of Grace RC Primary School • Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Primary School, Bury • Park View Primary School • Peel Brow School • Radcliffe Hall Church of England Methodist Primary School • Radcliffe Primary School • Ribble Drive Community Primary School • Sedgley Park Community Primary School • Springside Primary School • St Andrew's Church of England Primary School, Radcliffe | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Andrew's Church of England Primary School, Ramsbottom • St Bernadette's Roman Catholic Primary School, a Voluntary Academy • St Hilda's Church of England Primary School • St John with St Mark CofE Primary School • St John's Church of England Primary School, Radcliffe • St Joseph and St Bede RC Primary School, a Voluntary Academy • St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School Ramsbottom, a Voluntary Academy • St Luke's CofE Primary School • St Margaret's Church of England Primary School • St Marie's Roman Catholic Primary School, Bury • St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School, a Voluntary Academy • St Mary's Church of England Aided Primary School, Prestwich • St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Hawkshaw • St Michael's Roman Catholic Primary School, a Voluntary Academy • St Paul's Church of England Primary School • St Peter's Church of England Primary School • St Stephen's Church of England Primary School • St Thomas Church of England Primary School • Summerseat Methodist Primary School • Sunny Bank Primary School • Tottington Primary School • Unsworth Primary School • Wesley Methodist Primary School • Whitefield Community Primary School • Woodbank Primary School • Yesoiday Hatorah Boys Academy • Yesoiday Hatorah Girls Academy |
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Secondary

- | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bury Church of England High School | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Monica's RC High School, a Voluntary Academy |
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hazel Wood High School • Manchester Mesivta School • Parrenthorn High School • Philips High School • St Gabriel's RC High School, a Voluntary Academy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Star Radcliffe Academy • The Derby High School • The Elton High School • The Heys School • Tottington High School • Unsworth Academy • Woodhey High School
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Higher Education and Further Education	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bury College 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holy Cross College

Independent / Non-Maintained / Community / Other Special Schools	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birtenshaw • Inscape House • Seashell Trust • Brookhaven School • Elms Bank High School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Millwood Primary School • Edstart • Cambian Chesham House School • Cloughside College

Independent Schools / Other Schools	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bury Grammar School • Darul Uloom Al Arabiya Al Islamiya • Bury Secondary PRU Spring Lane School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Millwood Primary Special School • Prestwich Preparatory School • The Mill School • Cambian Chesham House School • Cygnet

Alternative Provision	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve Training • Monarch Education • Randstad • Hindles • Dragon • Heyhead Farm • Outside Education • Vision for Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MYFP • Targetted Provision • The Enterprise Centre • CVS Specialist • Flourish Tuition • Foundation 92 • NTAS

The following agencies are key partners within voluntary, charity, social enterprise, faith-based organisations and private sectors.

Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise Sector	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bury Voluntary, Community and Faith Alliance • Safenet • Talk Listen Change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create Arts • 1Message

The following are sports sector partners in Bury, as published in the [Bury Directory](#))

Sports Clubs

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADAB • Avalon Roller Skating Club • Bikeability • BJJ In Bury • Brandlesholme Warriors JFC • Bullets Juniors Cycling Skills Sessions - Bury Clarion • Bury Amateur Association Football Club • Bury and Elton Welfare • Bury Athletic Club • Bury Broncos RLFC • Bury Chess Club Bury Facebook • Bury Cricket Club • Bury Croquet • Bury Cycle Speedway Juniors • Bury Defence Academy • Bury Golf Club • Bury Gymnastics Club • Bury Hockey Club • Bury MMA • Bury Rifle Club • Bury Rounders • Bury RUFC • Bury School Games Organisers • Bury Sport for All Centre • Bury Squash Club • Radcliffe Angling • East Lancs Paper Mill Cricket Club • Elton Vale FC • Elton Vale Sports Club • GFC Muay Thai Gym • Greenmount Cricket Club • Greenmount Golf Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hawkshaw Tennis Club • Holcombe Brook Tennis • Elite Community Hub C.I.C. • Bury FC • Ken Shu Dojo Shukokai Shito-Ryu karate club - KSD • Krav Maga • Lancashire Spinners • Mundo MMA Gym • North Bury Junior Football League • Phoenix Muay Thai • Prestwich & Whitefield Juniors FC • Prestwich Cricket, Tennis & Bowling Club • Prestwich Junior Athletic Club • Radcliffe Athletics Juniors • Radcliffe Borough Juniors FC • Radcliffe Girls and Boys Club • Radcliffe Swimming Club • Ramsbottom Angling Association • Ramsbottom ASC • Ramsbottom Running Club • Ramsbottom Table Tennis Academy • Red Tiger Karate Club • Aldercliffe Riding School • Sedgley Park Tigers RUFC • St Mary's Badminton Club • Stand Cricket Club • Street Shakers. Sports, Fitness and Dance • Sutemi Shukokai Karate Ryu • Radcliffe CC • Ramsbottom United JFC • Teen Lifters and Tiny • Tottington St Johns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cricket Club • Tottington United Football Club • Unsworth Cricket Club • Walmer Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club • Warth Fold & Redvales Community Sports Club • Woodbank Cricket Club • Elton Cricket Club • Ramsbottom Cricket Club • Walshaw Sports Club Cricket • BBDFL • Bury Girls & Ladies FC • Diddikicks • Prestwich Marauders FC • Unsworth Junior Football Club • SEEDFIELD SPORTS JFC • Birtle Riding Centre • Manchester Maccabi • Premier Swim • Margaret Haes Riding Centre • Brooksbottom CC
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Appendix 3: Scheme of Delegation

1. Scope

This Scheme of Delegation sets out respective responsibilities to ensure decision making is aligned to the governance and accountability arrangements made under Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023.

The Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSPs) are responsible for the overall strategic direction of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

Strategic decisions may be delegated to the Bury Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP) with decisions made by the Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSPs) .

2. Scheme of Delegation: Responsibilities

This Scheme of Delegation sets out the respective responsibilities of LSPs and DSPs for key areas of responsibility:

- Strategic planning.
- Financial management.
- Risk management.
- Implementation of learning and improvement.

Strategic Planning		
LSP functions – WT23	DSP functions – WT23	Procedure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set the strategic direction, vision, and culture of the local safeguarding arrangements, including agreeing and reviewing shared priorities and the resource required to deliver services effectively. • Lead their organisation’s individual contribution to the shared priorities, ensuring strong governance, accountability, and reporting mechanisms to hold their delegates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery and monitoring of multi-agency priorities and procedures to protect and safeguard children in the local area, in compliance with published arrangements and thresholds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business plan and priorities agreed annually with recommendations from BSCP to the Executive • Business plan delivery updates presented each quarter to BSCP and Executive

<p>to account for the delivery of agency commitments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and sign off key partnership documents: published multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, including plans for independent scrutiny, shared annual budget, yearly report, and local threshold document. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual review of business plan provided by the Independent Scrutineer to BSCP and Executive • MASA reviewed annually by BSCP with recommendations to Executive • Yearly report to be developed by BSCP for approval by Executive • Changes to the Continuum of Need approved by the Executive, in consultation with BSCP.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide shared oversight of learning from independent scrutiny, serious incidents, Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPRs), and national reviews, ensuring recommendations are implemented and have a demonstrable impact on practice (as set out in the yearly report). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of high-quality and timely rapid reviews and LCSPRs, with the impact local and national reviews and independent scrutiny clearly evidenced in yearly reports. • Monitor implementation of actions in plans. • Seeking of, and responding to, feedback from children and families about their experiences of services and co-designing services to ensure children from different communities and groups can access the help and protection they need. • Oversee and be responsible for the analysis, intelligence, and timely collection of data to support functions, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - getting an accurate local picture of how effectively 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid reviews signed off by DSPs • LCSPRs approved by BSCP • DSPs to approve proactive and reactive communications in relation to cases subject to review. • Provide regular assurance report from Case Review Subgroup to BSCP and Safeguarding Executive in relation to rapid reviews and local child safeguarding practice reviews. • Provide regular assurance on learning from case reviews and LCSPRs and impact of training.

	<p>services are being delivered through regular communication across relevant agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - advising the statutory safeguarding partners of the key challenges and emerging priorities - coordinating the joint multi-agency strategic plan, ensuring that statutory safeguarding partners and their delegates feed into and own the plan in the local area - overseeing the quality of practice and local outcomes for children and families 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all relevant agencies, including education settings, are clear on their role and contribution to multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close partnership working and engagement with education (at strategic and operational level) and other relevant agencies, allowing better identification of and response to harm. • Review and promote consistent understanding and application of referral and intervention thresholds across agencies so that the right children receive the right support at the right time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BSCP members to attend Schools' Designated Safeguarding Leads Forum • Multi agency L&D training programme • Section 11 audit • Section 157/175 audit in education • DSP is partnership chair

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure multi-agency arrangements have the necessary level of business support, including intelligence and analytical functions, such as an agreed data set providing oversight and a robust understanding of practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide capacity from each agency to support the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements e.g. rapid review authors, audit work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual review of funding contributions considered by the Executive
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Financial Management		
LSP functions – WT23	DSP functions – WT23	Procedure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve annual budget of the safeguarding partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delegated responsibility for the day-to-day running of the partnership to the Head of Bury Safeguarding Partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly budget reports presented to BSCP and Executive • Up to £15k – decision to be taken by Head of Safeguarding Partnership • Over £15k decision to be taken by the three DSPs- with escalation to LSPs if required

Risk Management		
LSP functions – WT23	DSP functions – WT23	Procedure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversight of risk register • Review identified risks and ensure yearly report comments on the key risks faced by the BSCP and the effectiveness of the controls in place. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain risk register and process to review and identify key risks that the partnership faces and implement controls to mitigate these 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report bi-annually on the risk register to the Executive

Implementation of Learning and Improvement		
LSP functions – WT23	DSP functions – WT23	Procedure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of the information sharing agreement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The implementation of effective information sharing arrangements between agencies, including data sharing that facilitates joint analysis and learning between partner agencies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Escalation issue in place as required.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure professional development and training is led by local insight 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provision of appropriate multi-agency safeguarding professional development and training. • Use learning from national reviews, local practice and serious incident notifications to prompt reflection and analysis of where improvements need to be secured and action taken 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L&D programme in place • Impact of training reported to BSCP and the Executive