



# Medway Safeguarding Children Partnership

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements  
December 2024



**Kent  
Police**

*Medway*  
COUNCIL  
*Serving You*



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## Section One - Introduction

This document sets out how the Safeguarding Partners in Medway coordinate their safeguarding services and how they will work together with relevant organisations and agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 and its accompanying guidance Working Together to Safeguarding Children 2023 place a shared and equal duty on the statutory safeguarding partners to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area.

The MSCP priorities will be reviewed in 2025 and these arrangements will be updated and published, in line Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 guidance as appropriate.

### Safeguarding Partners

As defined in Working Together to Safeguarding Children 2023 the Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSPs) are represented as follows:

<b>Medway Council</b>	Richard Hicks	Chief Executive
<b>Kent and Medway Integrated Care Board (ICB)</b>	Paul Bentley	Chief Executive
<b>Kent Police</b>	Tim Smith	Chief Constable

The MSCP LSPs are known as the Accountable Officer group and meet twice-yearly and chair the group on a rotational basis. The 2024-2025 chair is Paul Bentley, Chief Executive, Kent and Medway ICB.

In Medway the Accountable Officers have delegated their responsibilities for the safeguarding arrangements to the Executive Group, known in Working Together to Safeguarding Children 2023 as Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSPs) as follows:

<b>Medway Council</b>	Lee-Anne Farach	Director of People – Children and Adults Services
<b>NHS Kent &amp; Medway ICB</b>	Paul Lumsdon	Chief Nurse
<b>Kent Police</b>	Simon Wilson	Assistant Chief Constable

The three DSPs chair the Executive group on an annual rotational basis and Simon Wilson, Assistant Chief Constable, Kent Police is the chair for September 2024-September 2025.

The Accountable Officers have equal and joint responsibility for local safeguarding arrangements, which is underpinned by equitable and proportionate funding including through any contributions from relevant agencies. The Executive group have the responsibility and authority for ensuring full participation with the safeguarding arrangements. Although the Accountable Officers have delegated their responsibilities to those named above, they remain accountable for any action or decisions taken on behalf of their respective agency.

The area covered by the arrangements is defined by the Medway Council local authority boundary. Partners to these arrangements may have responsibility for services outside this area due to either their organisational boundaries overlapping other local authority areas or because they have responsibilities for adults with care and support needs in another area. Some partners may also need to work to another area's arrangements, for example during a case review commissioned by another area, and where this is the case, the Safeguarding Partnership will help facilitate communication with other areas and engagement by partners.

## Relevant Agencies

As set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 the MSCP have identified the organisations and agencies that can work in a collaborative way to provide targeted support to children and families as appropriate.

<b>Probation</b>
Probation Service
<b>Health</b>
Kent and Medway Partnership Trust (KMPT)
NHS England
Medway NHS Foundation Trust
North East London NHS Foundation Trust (NELFT)
Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust (KCHT)
Medway Community Healthcare (MCH)
Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust (CWLFT)
Open Road
Turning Point
<b>Education</b>
Medway Primary Schools
Medway Secondary Schools
Mid Kent College
Medway Independent Schools
Early Years Providers
Medway Pupil Referral Units
<b>Secure Estate</b>

Oasis Restore
Youth Custody Service
<b>Voluntary Sector</b>
Medway Voluntary Action (MVA)
Forward Trust
<b>Other Agencies</b>
Cafcass
Medway Youth Offending Team (YOT)
Medway Council Public Health
Kent Fire and Rescue Service
British Transport Police
Housing Providers
Children's Homes
Sports Groups/ Associations
Faith Groups

Representatives should be able to promote the effectiveness of the partnership through their responsibility and accountability for the services their agencies deliver to children and through their ability to influence the effectiveness of their agency's contribution to multi-agency safeguarding.

The Executive group will review the relevant agencies of the Partnership annually.

## Section Two - Purpose

The Accountable Officers in Medway are committed to a partnership model that focuses on continuous learning and improvement with a clear 'line of sight' on frontline safeguarding practice. Safeguarding partners will promote a shared commitment to work together to improve outcomes for children.

The MSCP will support, enable and challenge each other to work together to ensure:

- The Partnership has a clear, shared vision for how to improve outcomes for children across all levels of need and all types of harm
- When a child is identified as suffering or likely to suffer significant harm there is a prompt, appropriate and effective response to ensure the protection and support of the child
- Organisations and agencies are challenged appropriately, effectively holding one another to account
- 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

- Information is sought, analysed, shared, and broken down by protected characteristics to facilitate more accurate and timely decision-making for children, families and adults with care and support needs to understand outcomes for different communities
- Effective collection, sharing and analysis of data, enables early identification of new safeguarding risks, issues, emerging threats, and joined-up responses across relevant agencies
- Senior leaders promote and embed a learning culture which supports local services to become more reflective and implement changes to practice
- Senior leaders have a good knowledge and understanding about the quality of local practice and its impact on children, families and adults with care and support needs

## Section Three – Partnership Groups

<b>Accountable Officers Meeting</b>							
<b>Frequency:</b>	Twice a year						
<b>Membership:</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Chief Executive</td><td>Medway Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Chief Executive</td><td>Kent and Medway ICB</td></tr> <tr> <td>Chief Constable</td><td>Kent Police</td></tr> </table>	Chief Executive	Medway Council	Chief Executive	Kent and Medway ICB	Chief Constable	Kent Police
Chief Executive	Medway Council						
Chief Executive	Kent and Medway ICB						
Chief Constable	Kent Police						
<b>Core Function</b>	Strategic oversight and to be assured that local arrangements in Medway are effective in protecting children.						

<b>Executive Group</b>	
<b>Frequency:</b>	6 times per year
<b>Core Function:</b>	<p>Ensure that MSCP fulfil the statutory functions as laid out in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023</p> <p>Be an effective motivator for setting and maintaining standards for the work of MSCP.</p> <p>Act as a filter mechanism identifying those items requiring strategic intervention at Executive level and operational issues that can be dealt with more efficiently and effectively through the sub-group structure or establishing a task and finish time limited group.</p> <p>Drive forward safeguarding business through a tasking system that maximises the specialist skills and experience of the board members, sub-groups and other relevant professional groups</p> <p>Strive to continuously improve performance against the priorities defined within the MSCP Business Plan.</p>

	<p>Set the budget and agree expenditure to agree the Partnership's Business Plan and its Yearly Report.</p> <p>Receive and capture emerging good practice from National and Regional safeguarding guidance that can inform and influence the development of local safeguarding arrangements.</p>																				
<b>Membership:</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Director of People – Children and Adults</td><td>Medway Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Chief Nurse</td><td>Kent and Medway ICB</td></tr> <tr> <td>Assistant Chief Constable</td><td>Kent Police</td></tr> <tr> <td>Assistant Director Children's Services</td><td>Medway Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Director of Safeguarding</td><td>Kent and Medway ICB</td></tr> <tr> <td>D/CH/SUPT</td><td>Kent Police</td></tr> <tr> <td>Head of School</td><td>Medway Secondary Heads Association</td></tr> <tr> <td>Headteacher</td><td>Medway Educational Leaders Association</td></tr> <tr> <td>Executive Director for Students</td><td>Post 16 Education</td></tr> <tr> <td>Director</td><td>Medway Council Public Health</td></tr> </table>	Director of People – Children and Adults	Medway Council	Chief Nurse	Kent and Medway ICB	Assistant Chief Constable	Kent Police	Assistant Director Children's Services	Medway Council	Director of Safeguarding	Kent and Medway ICB	D/CH/SUPT	Kent Police	Head of School	Medway Secondary Heads Association	Headteacher	Medway Educational Leaders Association	Executive Director for Students	Post 16 Education	Director	Medway Council Public Health
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Director	Medway Council Public Health																				

<b>Learning Lessons</b>													
<b>Frequency:</b>	6 times per year												
<b>Core Function:</b>	<p>Ensure there is a culture of continuous learning and improvement across the organisations that work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.</p> <p>Implement and monitor the effectiveness of the Quality Assurance framework, working with the PMQA sub-group and reporting back to the Executive group.</p> <p>Ensure lessons are learnt and improvement sustained through the creation and regular monitoring and follow up of action plans so that the findings from local and national reviews make a real impact on improving outcomes for children.</p> <p>Responsibility for implementing and overseeing action plans for each themed multi-agency audit presented to the group and supporting dissemination of the learning.</p>												
<b>Membership:</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Chair</td><td>NELFT</td></tr> <tr> <td>Vice Chair</td><td>Kent Police</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Practice Development Lead</td><td>Medway Safeguarding Children Partnership</td></tr> <tr> <td>Designated Nurse for Child Protection</td><td>Kent &amp; Medway ICB</td></tr> <tr> <td>Designated Doctor</td><td>Kent &amp; Medway ICB</td></tr> </table>	Chair	NELFT	Vice Chair	Kent Police			Practice Development Lead	Medway Safeguarding Children Partnership	Designated Nurse for Child Protection	Kent & Medway ICB	Designated Doctor	Kent & Medway ICB
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Designated Doctor	Kent & Medway ICB												

	Named Midwife for Safeguarding	Medway NHS Foundation Trust
	Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children	Medway Community Healthcare
	Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children	North East London NHS Foundation Trust
	Named Lead for Safeguarding Children	Medway NHS Foundation trust
	Specialist Safeguarding Advisor	Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust
	Child Health Programme Manager & Safeguarding Lead, Public Health	Medway Council
	Practice Development Service Manager	Medway Council
	LADO and Education Safeguarding Manager	Medway Council
	Head of First Response and Early Help	Medway Council
	Service Manager, Children's Services	Medway Council
	Principle Social Worker	Medway Council
	Head of Children's Services Commissioning	Medway Council
	Programme Lead for Children & Families, Health Services	Medway Council
	Safeguarding Coordinator for Child & Adult Protection	Kent Police

Multi-Agency Case File Audit		
Frequency:	4 times per year	
Core Function:	Lead and undertake the partnerships multi-agency case file audit activity as set out in the Quality Assurance Framework.	
	Collate and report findings from multi-agency audit activity to the Learning Lessons subgroup including the strengths and areas for improvement for multi-agency practice, reoccurring practice themes and issues to escalation to the Executive.	
Membership:		
	Chair - Designated Nurse, Safeguarding Children	NHS Kent and Medway (ICB)
	Deputy Chair	TBC
	Auditor, Quality Assurance and Safeguarding team.	Medway Council
	Team Manager, Attendance Advisory Service for Schools and Academies (AASSA)	Medway Council
	Early Help Practice Manager	Medway Council
	Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) or Child Protection Chair	Medway Council
	Education Safeguarding Officer	Medway Council



	Safeguarding Advisor Children and Adults	Medway Community Healthcare
	Safeguarding Children Liaison Nurse	Medway NHS Foundation Trust
	Safeguarding Children Advisor	KMPT
	Specialist Safeguarding Children Advisor (Kent and Medway)	NELFT
	Safeguarding Coordinator, Vulnerable Investigation Teams	Kent Police
	Senior Probation Officer	National Probation Service
	Adult Safeguarding	Medway Council
	Designated safeguarding leads / School representative	Medway Schools
	Named GP / Practice representatives	Medway GPs
	Practice Manager, Youth Offending Team	Medway Council

Performance Management and Quality Assurance		
Frequency:	6 times per year	
Core Function:	Review and scrutinise the safeguarding children performance across all MSCP member agencies.	
	Monitor and evaluate the quality and effectiveness of safeguarding children activities undertaken by the agency's and to advise on ways to improve.	
	Implement and monitor the effectiveness of the Quality Assurance framework, working with the Learning Lessons sub-group and reporting back to the Executive group	
	Regular review and scrutinise of the MSCP multi-agency dataset reporting to the executive group on progress against key priorities, issues/barriers to progress and proposals for improvement.	
Membership:	Chair - Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance	Medway Council
	Deputy Chair	TBC
	Designed Nurse for Child Protection	Kent and Medway ICB
	Protecting Vulnerable People D/Superintendent	Kent Police
	Service Manager Single Point of Access and Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub	Medway Council
	Senior Practitioner	Cafcass
	Head of Safeguarding	MCH
	Head of Safeguarding	Medway NHS Foundation Trust
	Head of Safeguarding	KMPT

	Senior Operational Support Manager	National Probation Service
	Youth Offending Team Manager	Medway Council
	Named Nurse for Safeguarding Kent and Medway	NELFT
	Family Solutions Service Manager	Medway Council
	Local Authority Designated Officer and Education Safeguarding Service Manager	Medway Council
	Performance Analyst	Medway Council

Secure Estate and Safeguarding Assurance		
Frequency:	4 times per year	
Core Function:	Have oversight and assurance of the safeguarding arrangements within the secure estate including restraint and use of force.	
	Scrutinise agreed performance data reported to the subgroup to from the secure estate and other agencies working in the establishment.	
	Undertake an Annual Review of Safeguarding and Restraint in the Secure Estate	
	Disseminate learning, both as good practice and areas for improvement from local and national reviews.	
	Share information with MSCP relevant agencies to develop understanding of secure estates for young people	
	In partnership with the Learning Lessons Subgroup, scrutinise the impact of Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and other learning reviews relevant to the secure estate through monitoring relevant action plans.	
Membership:	Chair – Independent Scrutineer	MSCP
	Principle Director	Oasis Restore
	Chief Operating Officer	Oasis Restore
	Head of Safeguarding	Oasis Restore
	Relationship Manager	Youth Custody Service
	Children & Young People's Lead, Health & Justice	NHS England
	Lead Nurse for Children and Young People	CWLFT
	Local Healthcare Safeguarding Lead	CWLFT
	Head of Safeguarding	Medway Foundation Trust
	Associate Director for Looked After Children (LAC) and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities	Kent and Medway ICB
	Detective Inspector	Kent Police

	Reducing Harm & Child Centred Policing Manager	Kent Police
	Local Authority Designated Officer & Education Safeguarding Service Manager	Medway Council
	Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance	Medway Council
	Youth Offending Service Manager	Medway Council

<b>Early Help Board</b>																					
<b>Frequency:</b>	6 times per year																				
<b>Core Function</b>	<p>Ensure that children, young people and their families receive timely, well-co-ordinated and high-quality early help services.</p> <p>Actively promote a partnership approach, which is focused on families receiving the right support at the right time and in the right place, to improve outcomes for children, young people, families and the wider community.</p>																				
<b>Membership</b>	<table> <tr> <td>Chair – Assistant Director Children's Services</td><td>Medway Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Deputy Chair - Reducing Harm &amp; Child Centred Policing Manager</td><td>Kent Police</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Associate Director Adult and Children Safeguarding</td><td>Kent and Medway ICB</td></tr> <tr> <td>Head of First Response and Early Help</td><td>Medway Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Strategic Head of Public Health Programmes,</td><td>Medway Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Head of Children and Adult Safeguarding</td><td>Kent and Medway ICB</td></tr> <tr> <td>MELA Chair</td><td>Medway Primary Heads</td></tr> <tr> <td>MSHA Chair</td><td>Medway Secondary Heads</td></tr> <tr> <td>Business Manager</td><td>MSCP</td></tr> </table>	Chair – Assistant Director Children's Services	Medway Council	Deputy Chair - Reducing Harm & Child Centred Policing Manager	Kent Police			Associate Director Adult and Children Safeguarding	Kent and Medway ICB	Head of First Response and Early Help	Medway Council	Strategic Head of Public Health Programmes,	Medway Council	Head of Children and Adult Safeguarding	Kent and Medway ICB	MELA Chair	Medway Primary Heads	MSHA Chair	Medway Secondary Heads	Business Manager	MSCP
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<b>Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Strategic Board</b>	
<b>Frequency:</b>	4 times per year
<b>Core Function:</b>	<p>Oversee the development of the MASH, providing leadership, support and, where appropriate, resources to ensure the MASH is successful.</p> <p>Ensure that the MASH delivers the agreed objectives collectively and the desired outcomes for vulnerable children and their families.</p> <p>Ensure that information sharing policies and information governance arrangements for the MASH are agreed by all partners and are fully compliant with appropriate laws and guidance.</p> <p>Review and update MASH manual yearly.</p>

	<p>Report progress and maintain links with relevant boards, as well as ensuring effective communication with other stakeholders.</p> <p>Support a 'whole system' approach to improving safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of children through improved multi-agency co-ordination, better use of intelligence and more effective early intervention.</p> <p>Ensure that decisions about the MASH are made in a timely manner.</p> <p>Provide support, challenge and direction to the MASH Operational Group.</p>																																
<b>Membership:</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Chair – Assistant Director Children's Services</td><td>Medway Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>DCI</td><td>Kent Police</td></tr> <tr> <td>Head of First Response and Targeted Services</td><td>Medway Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Head of Locality Services, Adult Social Care</td><td>Medway Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Head of Quality Assurance and Safeguarding</td><td>Medway Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Head of Strategic Housing</td><td>Medway Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Head of Service, Education</td><td>Medway Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Associate Director</td><td>Kent and Medway ICB</td></tr> <tr> <td>Head of Safeguarding</td><td>MCH</td></tr> <tr> <td>Head of Safeguarding</td><td>Medway NHS Foundation Trust</td></tr> <tr> <td>Head of Safeguarding</td><td>KMPT</td></tr> <tr> <td>Named Nurse</td><td>NELFT</td></tr> <tr> <td>Deputy Head East Kent Probation Delivery Unit</td><td>National Probation Service</td></tr> <tr> <td>Operations Manager</td><td>Medway Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Performance and Intelligence Representative</td><td>Medway Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Business Manager</td><td>MSCP</td></tr> </table>	Chair – Assistant Director Children's Services	Medway Council	DCI	Kent Police	Head of First Response and Targeted Services	Medway Council	Head of Locality Services, Adult Social Care	Medway Council	Head of Quality Assurance and Safeguarding	Medway Council	Head of Strategic Housing	Medway Council	Head of Service, Education	Medway Council	Associate Director	Kent and Medway ICB	Head of Safeguarding	MCH	Head of Safeguarding	Medway NHS Foundation Trust	Head of Safeguarding	KMPT	Named Nurse	NELFT	Deputy Head East Kent Probation Delivery Unit	National Probation Service	Operations Manager	Medway Council	Performance and Intelligence Representative	Medway Council	Business Manager	MSCP
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<b>Joint Exploitation Group (Kent and Medway)</b>	
<b>Frequency:</b>	4 times per year
<b>Core Function</b>	<p>To gain a clearer understanding of current trends and threats, in order to protect and safeguard the welfare of children and adults at risk.</p> <p>To work towards an integrated strategy to identify, address and reduce incidents of exploitation, modern slavery, radicalization and extremism, and to enhance online safeguarding.</p> <p>To support and identify training needs for professionals around the priority areas identified.</p> <p>To share best practice across agencies to improve outcomes.</p>

	<p>To arrange relevant multi-agency task and finish groups to undertake specific workstreams and review/develop strategies, policies and procedures where relevant.</p> <p>Group members to cascade information within their agency and ensure the business of the group is embedded.</p>
<b>Membership:</b>	<p>Statutory Partners' (Police, Health and Local Authority – Kent and Medway, children and adults) leads for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sexual Exploitation</li> <li>○ Gangs/County lines</li> <li>○ Human Trafficking/Modern Slavery</li> <li>○ Online Safeguarding</li> <li>○ Radicalisation/Extremism</li> </ul> <p>Designated Nurses, (Children, Looked after Children, Adults)  District Council Safeguarding Leads' representative  Probation Providers  Education representation (Kent and Medway)  Kent Fire and Rescue Service  Health Providers – Kent and Medway  KCC and Medway Community Safety Teams  Public Health, Kent and Medway  Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board  Kent and Medway Violence Reduction Unit  Voluntary and Community Sector – Portchlight, Salus</p>

<b>Policy and Procedures Group (Kent and Medway)</b>	
<b>Frequency:</b>	4 times per year
<b>Core Function</b>	Responsibility for coordinating the development of local policies, procedures, protocols and guidance for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children on behalf of the KSCMP and MSCP.
<b>Membership:</b>	<p>Chair – Kent Police</p> <p>Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs)  East Kent Hospital University NHS Foundation Trust (EKHUFT)  KCC Adult Social Care and Health – Disabled Children Services  KCC Children, Young People and Education  KCC Libraries, Registration and Archives  Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust (KCHFT)  Kent Fire and Rescue Service  Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership  Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Companies  Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust (MTW)  Medway Council Social Care  Medway NHS Foundation Trust  Medway Safeguarding Children Partnership  National Probation Service  North East London NHS Foundation Trust (NELFT)  The Education People</p>

<b>Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) (Kent and Medway)</b>	
<b>Frequency:</b>	6 times per year
<b>Core Function</b>	Review all child deaths up to the age of 18 years, normally resident in Kent and Medway, irrespective of the place of their death (excluding those babies

	<p>who are stillborn and planned terminations of pregnancy carried out within the law).</p> <p>The Kent and Medway CDOP operates in accordance with the statutory guidance: Child Death Review Statutory and Operational Guidance (England) 2018</p>
<b>Membership:</b>	<p>Chair – Director of Public Health, Kent County Council and Medway Council</p> <p>Public Health, Medway Council Public Health, Kent County Council Designated Doctor for child deaths (and a hospital clinician if the Designated Doctor is a community doctor or vice versa) • Social services Police Safeguarding (Designated Doctor or Nurse) Lead Nurse for Child Deaths Primary care (GP or health visitor) Nursing and/or midwifery Lay representation Coroner's office Health &amp; Wellbeing Board Ambulance Services</p>

## Section Four - Funding & Resources

### Working Together to Safeguarding Children 2023

*The LSP should agree on the level of funding needed to deliver the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. This includes consideration of business and analytical support, independent scrutiny, infrastructure, and core functions including local children safeguarding practice reviews, multi-agency training and learning events.*

*It is the responsibility of the LSP to ensure that adequate funding is allocated and spent in line with agreed priorities. Funding contributions from the statutory safeguarding partners should be equitable and agreed by the LSP. Funding for the arrangements should be reviewed on an ongoing basis to ensure that they can meet the financial needs of the arrangements.*

*The funding should be transparent to children and families in the area, and the individual contributions of safeguarding partners and relevant agencies should be clearly set out in reporting.*

### **MSCP Partner Contributions 2024-2025**

Medway Council	69.5%	(146,799)
NHS Kent and Medway ICB	3.2%	(6,764)
Medway NHS Foundation Trust	3.2%	(6,764)
Kent & Medway NHS & Social Care Partnership	3.2%	(6,764)
NELFT	3.2%	(6,764)
Medway Community Healthcare	3.2%	(6,764)
Kent Police and Crime Commissioner	7.3%	(15,434)
National Probation Service	2.5%	(5,235)
HMYOI Cookham Wood	3.3%	(6,996)
Kent Fire & Rescue	1.3%	(2,833)
Other Income (Training)		(1,000)
<b>Total partner contributions at current levels and other income</b>		<b>(212,117)</b>
<b>SHORTFALL/ FUNDING FROM MSCP RESERVE</b>		<b>£29,600</b>

The funding is used to directly support the work of the partnership including the business unit, independent scrutiny, conducting learning reviews and training programme.

Partners also give resources 'in kind' to support the functioning of the partnership including chairing and participating in sub-groups, task and finish groups, conducting reviews, audits and analysing and submitting data.

Partners plan to review the budget and contributions in 2025-2026.

## Section Five - Reporting

The Safeguarding Partners will publish a yearly report which will set out what has been achieved through the partnership, how effective arrangements have been in practice and what action has been taken because of child safeguarding practice reviews. The report will also include:

- Evidence of the impact of the work of the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies, including training, on outcomes for children and families from early help to looked-after children and care leavers
- An analysis of any areas where there has been little or no evidence of progress on agreed priorities
- A record of decisions and actions taken by the partners in the report's period (or planned to be taken) to implement the recommendations of any local and national child safeguarding practice reviews, including any resulting improvements
- Ways in which the partners have sought and utilised feedback from children and families to inform their work and influence service provision
- A section by the Independent Scrutineer

The report will be published on the Medway Safeguarding Children Partnership website ([www.medwayscp.org.uk](http://www.medwayscp.org.uk)) and a copy sent to the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and the What Works Centre for Children's Social Care.

In line with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 the yearly report will also include a review of restraint and safeguarding within the Secure Estates in Medway. The Independent Scrutineer will oversee the completion of the annual review. A copy of the report will also be sent to the Youth Justice Board.

## Section Six - Independent Scrutiny

### [Working Together to Safeguarding Children 2023](#)

*The function of the independent scrutiny role is to provide safeguarding partners and relevant agencies with independent, rigorous, and effective support and challenge at both a strategic and operational level. Independent scrutiny should drive continuous improvement and provide assurance that arrangements are working effectively for children, families, and practitioners. It should also consider learning from local child safeguarding practice reviews, national reviews and thematic reports. The decision on how best to implement a robust system of*



*independent scrutiny is to be made locally, and LSPs should be assured that the system in place leads to objective and rigorous analysis of local arrangements.*

The Safeguarding Partners engage two independent scrutineers whose focus is as follows:

#### Independent Scrutiny for Multi-Agency Arrangements

The Independent Scrutineer will provide a scrutiny role around:

- Learning from and action plans for Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews
- How the partnership uses data; and
- Outcome of audits – both multi agency and single agency

The Independent Scrutineer will review the MSCP annual report and will comment on this in a section of the report.

The Independent Scrutineer will attend the Executive Group.

At all times the Independent Scrutineer will give particular attention to ensuring that the voice of the child is at the heart of all aspects of scrutiny.

#### Independent Scrutiny of Secure Estate

The Independent Scrutineer provides scrutiny role in relation to safeguarding arrangements within the secure school in Medway, including:

- Chairing the quarterly Secure Estate Quality Assurance meetings,
- Maintaining regular contact with key individuals involved in safeguarding (e.g., Local Authority Designated Officer, Head of Safeguarding in the establishments, other parties)
- Undertaking periodic visits to Oasis Restore Secure School.

The Independent Scrutineer will oversee the completion of the annual 'Review of Safeguarding and Restraint' in the establishment and will report the outcome of this to the MSCP Executive.

## Section Seven - Learning and Improvement

The MSCP is a learning organisation where 'learning is a habit not a goal' and supports the development of Medway professionals.

The MSCP have a [Quality Assurance Framework](#), with the PMQA and Learning Lessons sub-group having responsibility for its implementation. The framework focuses on scrutiny and challenge to partners and on the impact for children and families. The assurance activity includes:

- A multi-agency dataset to monitor performance.
- Multi agency and single agency case file audits.
- Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.
- Section 11 Audits.
- Independent Scrutineer Evaluation

**Multi Agency Audits** - The MSCP undertake themed multi agency audits through the case file audit group. The Executive group agree a schedule of themed audits to monitor performance, and to identify good practice and multi-agency learning. The learning lessons subgroup have responsible for monitoring the action plans that come from the audits and driving change.

**The use of data and intelligence** – The Safeguarding Partners and relevant agencies will provide data on a quarterly basis which will be scrutinised by and be subject to regular review by the Performance Improvement and Quality Assurance subgroup. The dataset will include national and local comparator figures alongside an analysis of the data.

**Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews** – On being informed of a notifiable incident, the MSCP will undertake a Rapid Review in line with published guidance in Working Together 2023, to make decisions and to inform the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel about the decision to undertake a local child safeguarding practice review or not. The Rapid Review will be undertaken by a panel nominated by the safeguarding partners. The Independent Scrutineer will be consulted as part of the decision-making process.

Where a decision is made to undertake a local child safeguarding practice review, an independent reviewer will be appointed. Reviews will be published on the MSCP website. Exceptions to publication will be discussed and agreed with the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel.

The Learning Lessons subgroup will be responsible for the effective dissemination of learning from local and national child safeguarding practice reviews and for monitoring the implementation of recommendations from reviews to ensure lessons are learnt, improvements are sustained, and they impact on improving outcomes for children. The MSCP will facilitate learning sessions to ensure the learning from national and local child safeguarding practice reviews as well as multi agency audits is readily accessible to practitioners.

**Local Practice Alerts and Referrals for Review** – To promote learning culture the MSCP believes it is important that professionals and organisations protecting children review the quality of their services and learn from their own practice and that of others.

Good practice should be shared so that there is a growing understanding of what works well. When things go wrong there needs to be a thorough and unbiased analysis of what happened and why, so important lessons can be learnt and services improved to reduce the risk of future harm to children.

To ensure that children are safeguarded properly by agencies working effectively together, the MSCP supports a “Partnership practice alerts” and “Referrals for case review” process. These processes support the MSCP in celebrating good practice, challenging practice outside of expected standards and procedures and to learn from experiences.

## Section Eight – Multi-Agency Training Arrangements

### [Working Together to Safeguarding Children 2023](#)

*Joint functions of delegated safeguarding partners include the provision of appropriate multi-agency safeguarding professional development and training.*

The Safeguarding Partners are committed to ensuring a consistent approach to multi-agency safeguarding training to ensure the workforce has the knowledge, understanding and skill to safeguard Medway children. As part of this commitment the MSCP provide an annual multi-agency safeguarding children training programme structured around the following three areas:

- Safeguarding practice
- MSCP priorities
- Themes from local child safeguarding practices reviews and multi-agency audits.

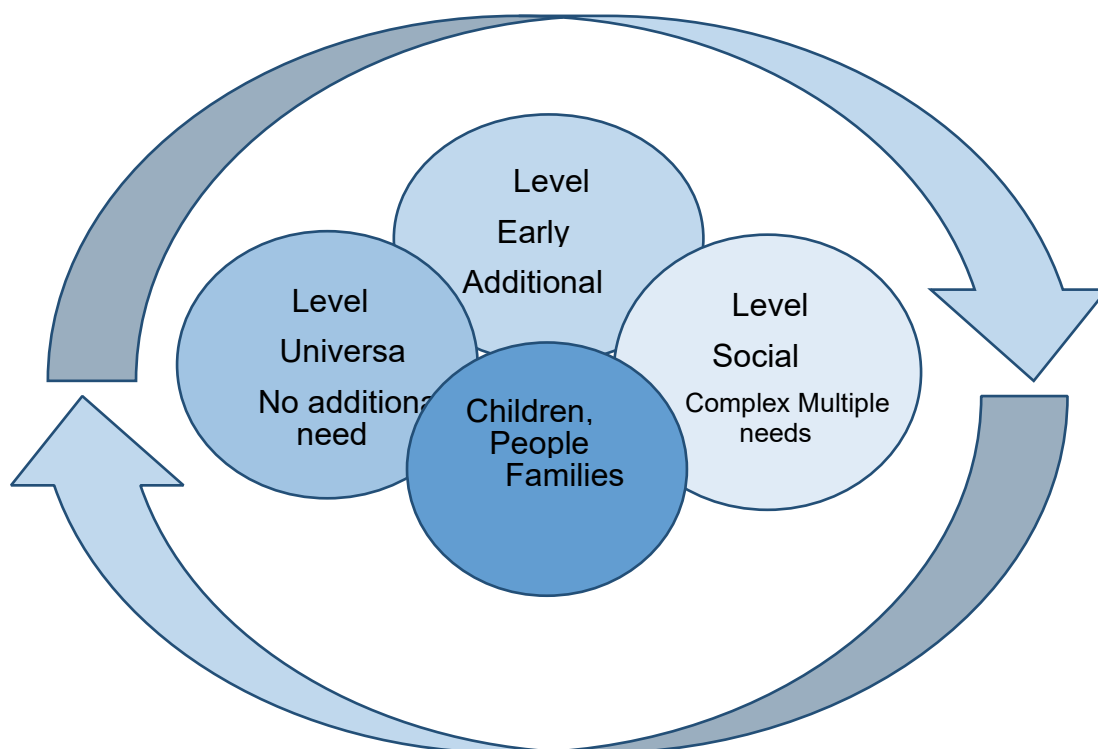
The programme includes e-Learning, virtual and in person training delivery. The MSCP also works with relevant agencies to promote training provision in more specialist areas such as Prevent.

## Section Nine – Thresholds

Children's needs vary at different times and in different circumstances and Intervention needs to be based on a clear and consistent understanding of need. This requires all practitioners, across the partnership including those providing services to adults with children, to understand their role in identifying emerging problems and to share information with other practitioners to support early identification and assessment. In Medway we constructed a continuum of need to identify the right support at the right time. The diagram below summarises this. We recognise that at different times families' needs may change and so they may move between levels. The continuum of need is therefore not a linear approach but a cycle, illustrating how needs and support can change.

### Continuum of Need

The level of support can change in line with the level of need.



The Medway Threshold Guidance 'A multi-agency guide to assess levels of need and identifying the most appropriate support in Medway' and introductory threshold video can be accessed [here](#).

## Section Ten – Challenge and Escalation

### [Working Together to Safeguarding Children 2023](#)

*Safeguarding partners and relevant agencies must act in accordance with the arrangements for their area and will be expected to work together to resolve any disputes locally.*

Generally, there is a good working relationship between agencies, but occasionally situations arise when workers within one agency feel that the actions, inaction, or decisions of another agency do not adequately safeguard a child. Disagreements may arise around:

- Levels of need/ thresholds
- Roles and responsibilities
- Progressing plans
- Communication

Effective working together depends on an open approach and honest relationships between agencies. All professionals have a duty to act assertively and proactively to ensure that a child's welfare is the paramount consideration in all professional activity. Therefore, all professionals must challenge the practice of other professionals where they are concerned that this practice is placing children at risk of harm.

The MSCP has a [Challenge and Escalation Policy](#) to provide professionals with clear routes to escalate concerns so that agencies can agree a way forward. The policy will set out clear routes to escalate professional concerns where there are professional disputes or where the actions, inactions or decisions of another agency may be getting in the way of keeping a child safe.