



Published Arrangements

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Foreword

Blackpool partners are proud to publish our children's safeguarding partnership arrangements for Blackpool, known as the Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements or MASA. The changes made to these arrangements are a statutory requirement of the Children Act 2004¹ and are informed by Working Together to Safeguarding Children 2023².

Protecting Blackpool children from abuse, neglect and exploitation requires multi-agency join up and cooperation at all levels across the town. Local organisations and agencies that work with children and families play a significant and often statutory role when it comes to safeguarding children.

Many of these organisations and agencies have a duty to ensure their functions are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The way in which these organisations and agencies work together is known as multi-agency safeguarding arrangements or MASAs.

Robust arrangements help to 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. Strong, collaborative leadership and timely decision-making are crucial to the effectiveness of multi-agency working and to identify and address system issues. The three statutory safeguarding partners are responsible and accountable for this in their local areas.

Statutory Safeguarding Partners

A statutory safeguarding partner in relation to a local authority area in England is defined under the Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act, 2017) as:

- (a) The local authority
- (b) An integrated care board for an area any part of which falls within the local authority area
- (c) The chief officer of police for an area any part of which falls within the local authority area

These three partners have a joint and equal duty to make arrangements to:

- work together as a team to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area
- include and develop the role of wider local organisations and agencies

Every local authority, ICB and constabulary in England must be covered by a multiagency safeguarding arrangement. The purpose of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements is to ensure that, at a local level, organisations and agencies are clear about how they will work together to safeguard children and promote their welfare.

This means:

- there is a clear, shared vision for how to improve outcomes for children locally 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

¹ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/31/section/16G>


² https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/669e7501ab418ab055592a7b/Working_together_to_safeguard_children_2023.pdf

- 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 and families, and to understand outcomes for different communities of children
- 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 and families

As Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSP's) for Blackpool Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements, we will work together with the broader safeguarding community of Blackpool, to share our understanding of what works, learn from national and local experience, and reflect on our practice.

We will critically evaluate our own and shared agency performance, inviting review and challenge from our independent scrutineer, and endeavour to deliver the best possible multi-agency safeguarding arrangements to the children of Blackpool.

The updated structures described in these revised arrangements will be implemented during 2025 and reviewed annually.



Neil Jack
Chief Executive
Blackpool Council



Sacha Hatchett
Chief Constable
Lancashire Constabulary



pp Kevin Lavery
Chief Executive
Lancashire & South Cumbria ICB

Blackpool multi agency safeguarding arrangements

During autumn 2022 Safeguarding Partners commenced a review of the previous Pan Lancashire Children’s and Adults Safeguarding Governance arrangements, with the aim of improving the governance and front-line practice of local arrangements. As a result, the Pan Lancashire Children’s Safeguarding Assurance Partnership (CSAP) Executive Board agreed to implement a place-based model, which will have a greater focus on accountability and decision making at a local level to meet the needs of the local communities. In September 2023 Blackpool Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) was formed. In October 2024, following publication of the 2023 - 2024 Yearly Report, MASA undertook a 12 month review of the MASA arrangements, and subsequently an updated governance and meeting structure (Figure 1) was agreed at MASA on 12th December 2024.

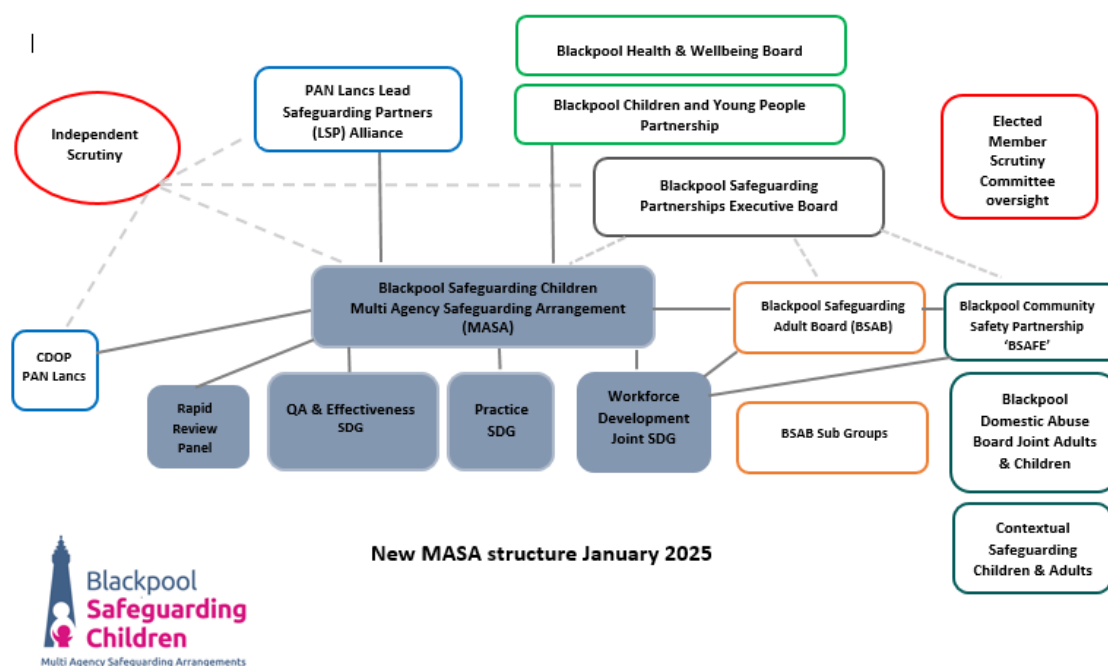


Figure 1

In these updated arrangements, safeguarding partners will work together to identify the needs of children and families through these new MASA arrangements. Partners will use qualitative and quantitative data to identify key priorities ensuring that resources are targeted effectively to areas of need. The **Effectiveness** strategic delivery group will play a central role in measuring impact of the interventions and programmes of work, monitoring outcomes to ensure the rigour of Blackpool’s safeguarding strategies and business plan. The **Workforce Development** strategic delivery group will cascade learning from the data, local and national; safeguarding reviews and multi-agency audits ensuring continuous improvement in practice. The **Practice** strategic delivery group will take on the role of implementing and monitoring updates to practice. Robust communication between the three strategic delivery groups and MASA will ensure that safeguarding practice is focussed on the needs of Blackpool’s children and families.

Leadership of Blackpool MASA

Strong, joined-up leadership and clear accountability is critical to effective multiagency safeguarding, bringing together the various organisations and agencies in Blackpool. It is therefore important that the head of each statutory safeguarding partner agency plays an active role in these arrangements.

In Blackpool our Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSP's) are:

Neil Jack - Chief Executive, Blackpool Council
Sacha Hatchett - Chief Constable, Lancashire Constabulary
Kevin Lavery - Chief Executive, Lancashire & South Cumbria ICB

Joint functions of Lead Safeguarding Partners

1. 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.
2. Lead 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. 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.
4. Provide 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 (as set out in the yearly report).
5. 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.
6. Ensure all relevant agencies, including education settings, are clear on their role and contribution to multi-agency safeguarding arrangements

Each LSP has an appointed delegated safeguarding partner (DSP) for its agency who is named in our arrangements.

In Blackpool our Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSP's) are:

- Victoria Gent - Director of Children's Services, Blackpool Council
- Mike Gladwin - Divisional Commander, Lancashire Constabulary
- Sarah O'Brien - Chief Nursing Officer, Lancashire & South Cumbria ICB

Joint functions of Delegated Safeguarding Partners

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.

Each DSP will attend MASA and undertake the chair role for a period of 12 months. The MASA Chairing arrangements agreed for the following three years are as follows

- 2025 - Vicky Gent
- 2026 - Mike Gladwin
- 2027 - Sarah O Brien

Blackpool Partnership Business Unit Team

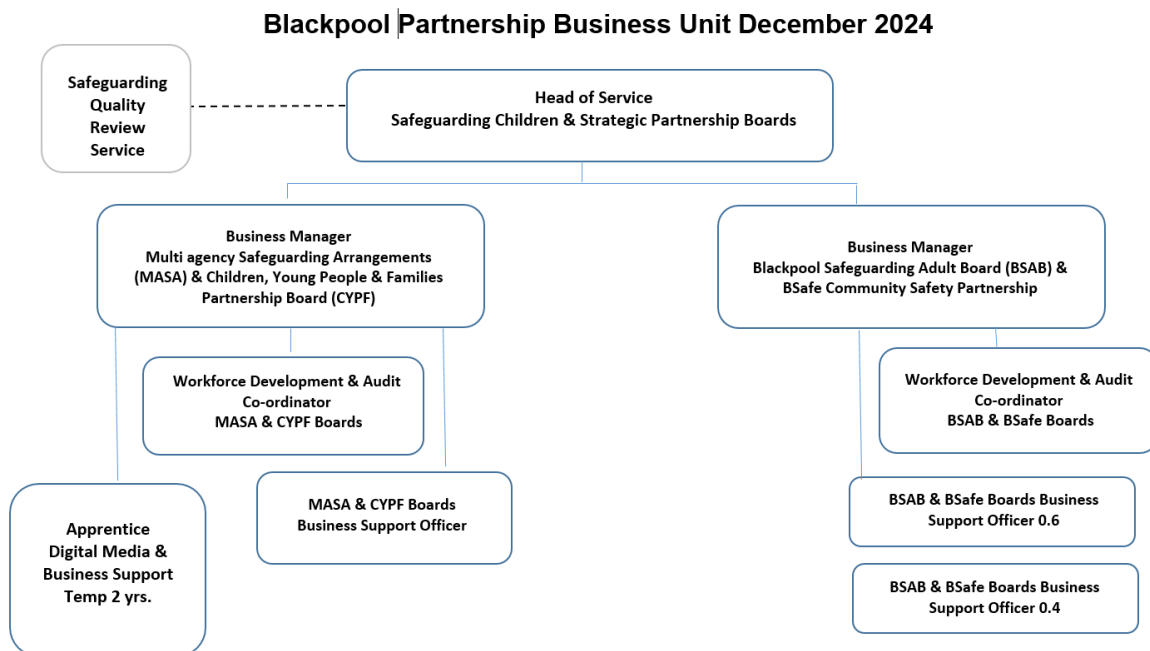


Figure 2

As illustrated above, the Blackpool Partnership Business Unit staffing consists of a Head of Service for Safeguarding Quality and Review and Strategic Partnerships, one children and one adults Business Managers, two Workforce Development & Audit Co-ordinators, two FTE Business Support officers and a Digital Media apprentice. The teams support MASA and the Children and Young People and Family Partnership Board and the Safeguarding Adult Board and BSafe Community Safety Partnership Board. The Workforce Development & Audit Co-ordinators work together to support the work of the Workforce Development Strategy Delivery Group, which reports to the three partnership boards and lead a multi-agency training pool of front line practitioners and managers, who deliver training to the partnership workforce.

Arrangements for independent scrutiny of the effectiveness of the arrangements

Blackpool MASA has appointed an Independent Scrutineer. The Blackpool Chief Executive Officer meets with the Independent Scrutineer bi-monthly on a 1:1 basis. The role purpose and key responsibilities are as below, these are clearly set out within the Independent Scrutineer contract which is signed by the three LSPs.

Role purpose

To provide independent, objective scrutiny of the effectiveness of local multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in Blackpool, including arrangements regarding Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs), assure the partnership implements MASA priorities, a Quality Assurance Framework and analyse the impact of the partnership practice on children, young people and their families lived experience and outcomes.

Key responsibilities

- To provide objective scrutiny, constructive challenge, appreciative inquiry and provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements with a focus on practice.
- Be an independent and objective voice that listens to and represents the views of all safeguarding partners, children and families.
- Consider how effectively safeguarding partners are providing strong leadership and fulfilling their responsibilities with integrity.
- Scrutinise the implementation and impact of the MASAs Quality Assurance & Workforce Development Framework.
- Undertake an annual review of the safeguarding partnership arrangements and provide an evidence based Scrutineer Report to MASA, Elected Members Scrutiny, Chief Officers and Blackpool's Health and Wellbeing Board on progress, highlighting areas which require focus for improvement which will contribute to the MASA Annual Report.
- Assessment of activity and desktop review of papers to hold partner organisations accountable for the effective and timely implementation of recommendations identified from scrutiny activities and safeguarding practice reviews.
- Provide assurance that effective safeguarding performance management, audit and quality assurance mechanisms are in place within single agencies to enable MASA to fulfil its statutory obligations and measure its impact.
- Support safeguarding partners to identify priorities and content for the Business Plan.
- Work with Blackpool's Joint Partnership Business Unit, to interpret performance data, multi-agency quality audit findings, and qualitative feedback from children, young people and their families, as well as Blackpool's front line practitioner workforce, which demonstrates the impact of the MASA governance arrangements on children, young people and families' outcomes.
- Scrutinise significant child safeguarding issues, ensuring Local Children Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPRs) are undertaken in accordance with statutory guidance; review the decision making and rationale of Rapid Response Review Meetings and act as liaison between MASA and the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel when required.

- In conjunction with the three statutory safeguarding partners, ensure key issues and national developments are fully considered and effectively implemented.
- Meet with wider leadership as required.
- Lead on dispute resolution between partners.
- The Independent Scrutineer will attend a quarterly Blackpool Safeguarding Executive Board, more detail about the Executive is set out in how the MASA is linked to wider governance arrangements section of this document.

Arrangements for commissioning and publishing Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

Subsequent to the National Panel agreeing with a Blackpool Rapid Review recommendation to undertake Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LSCPR), an advert for the LCSPR Independent Reviewer is circulated via MASA to appropriate forums. The three statutory partners - Local Authority, ICB and Police consider the expressions of interest and agree which Independent Reviewer has significant experience relative to the initial learning of the request for review. Blackpool Council commission the Independent Reviewer on behalf of the Partnership. Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review Reports are published on the Safeguarding Partnership website. Overview reports will be published for a period of 12 months, briefings will stay on the website for ongoing facilitation of learning. Further learning resources such as 7 minute briefings will support the learning further. Learning impact process will support the workforce to monitor and measure impact of learning from CSPR within their organisations. The new Blackpool MASA website was launched in December 2024.

Face to face and virtual learning opportunities will be available through the partnership s workforce development offer, an annual partnership conference will be held, including a learning from review workshop. A learning from reviews briefing will be provided to Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSPs) and Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSP's) on an annual basis. All new board members, LSP's and DSP's will be provided with this briefing as a part their induction.

How MASA links to wider safeguarding governance arrangement

Figure 1 sets out how the updated Blackpool MASA structure is linked to the wider Adult Safeguarding Board and Community Safety Partnership governance. The MASA is also linked to Blackpool's Children Young People and Families Strategic Partnership Board governance arrangements, which will oversee the implementation of the partnership delivering on a new 5 year Children Young People and Families Strategic Partnership Plan 2024-29, which was co-produced with children, families, carers, partnership workforce and strategic leaders during 2023.

In addition to these arrangements, a Blackpool Safeguarding Executive Board has commenced to meet on a quarterly basis. The Executive Board will oversee the arrangements for safeguarding Blackpool's children, vulnerable adults and communities and will involve:

- Councillors with Cabinet Member responsibilities for Children Social Care, Adult Social Care , Community Safety, Street Scene and Neighbourhoods
- Blackpool Council Chief Executive Officer
- MASA Independent Scrutineer
- Blackpool Safeguarding Adult Board (BSAB)Independent Chair
- Lancashire & South Cumbria ICB Chief Nursing Officer
- Assistant Chief Constable

- Director of Children Services Blackpool Council
- Director of Adult Social Care & Health Blackpool Council
- Blackpool's Community Safety Partnership (BSafe) Chair - Director of Community and Environmental Services Blackpool Council.

The Pan-Lancashire Alliance Board will host the regular meetings of the Lead Safeguarding Partners, involving the three Chief Executives from Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire, the Chief Executive of the Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS ICB, and the Chief Constable of Lancashire Constabulary, who will meet twice a year to provide scrutiny and assurance of the three local partnership arrangements.

Geographical Boundaries

The MASA operates across Blackpool local authority area.

The map below shows the geographical boundaries and Blackpool wards.



Figure 3 MASA geographical boundaries and Blackpool wards

Membership of Blackpool MASA

- Local Authority Children's Services
- Lancashire Constabulary
- Integrated Care Board
- Acute & Community Health Provider
- Public Health
- Education representatives
- Youth Justice Services
- Probation
- Adult Mental Health Service
- Adult Substance Misuse Service
- Housing representatives
- Voluntary, Community and Faith sector representatives

Education providers involvement in the safeguarding arrangements

Education and childcare settings will be included in the safeguarding arrangements via communication with regular Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) forum meetings, attending workforce development events undertaken by the Business Unit and partners, and by working closely with a Designated Safeguarding and Early Years Officers. MASA information will also be communicated via the Blackpool Education Improvement Board (BEIB), the SEND Partnership Board and the Youth Justice Board. Representation at these boards includes Headteachers of secondary and primary schools as well as Chief Executive Officers of Blackpool's Academy schools.

The voice of schools and school children will be shared by operational school staff such as assistant DSL's, pastoral workers and Deputy Headteachers, providing feedback to our strategic education reps who will attend MASA and each strategic delivery group. This will be organised on a rota basis to ensure all schools have an opportunity to contribute. Additionally, education and childcare professionals will cascade the information through their representative groups (Headteachers Meetings, SENDCo Meetings, and DSL Meetings etc.). These practitioners will also be present at Rapid Review Panels and Local Safeguarding Child Practice Review Panels as required and are also represented on the Pan Lancashire Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP).

All schools in Blackpool partake in a calendared audit programme coordinated by Blackpool Schools Safeguarding Officer – each school is audited every three years. In addition, annual Section 175 Audits are completed by all education settings, supported by MASA Business Unit. Good practice and opportunities for improvement are shared widely via the DSL network and the MASA online newsletter and website.

Youth Custody and Residential Homes

In Blackpool, the children's commissioning team are responsible for the procurement of a range of services which includes residential, fostering, semi-independent, and SEND educational provision. We are part of a number of frameworks with North West Commissioning and with Lancashire and due diligence on providers is undertaken as part of these frameworks. The Home Finding Team are part of the Commissioning Team and they support social care and SEND to search and identify homes and education for the young people we are responsible for. The quality monitoring team work closely with social care teams to ensure that if there are any concerns with any providers that these are understood

and addressed. Work is currently on-going to develop a children's resource panel that will work in partnership with social care, education, SEND, Health and Commissioning. There are no Youth Custody settings within the Blackpool's geographical boundary.

Information sharing

The previous Pan Lancashire CSAP Information Sharing Protocol (ISA) is currently being revised and a new Pan Lancashire and Blackpool MASA Information Sharing Protocol will be implemented.

Use of data and Intelligence

Blackpool's Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA) data and partnership agency data informs a Performance Data Dashboard and is reported to the Blackpool Children Safeguarding Partnership MASA and will inform the Annual Report. A Data Board is in place and reports to Blackpool's Children, Young People & Families Partnership Board, which is chaired by the Council Leader. Multi-agency audits will analyse the quality & impact of practice on children and family outcomes. The partnership are actively involved in the North West Regional Improvement Pilot Programme (RiPP). One of the RiPP work streams is the development of an effective multi-agency data dashboard. Blackpool representatives are supporting these dashboard development workshops.

Multi Agency training and audit

The MASA have developed a Quality Assurance and Learning Framework (QALIF), which sets out how multi agency quality audits will be undertaken, feedback from children, their families and carers is sought and how a range of workforce development activities will be undertaken and offered to the multi-agency workforce and the community /voluntary sector. The Workforce Development Strategic Delivery Group is chaired by the Principle Social Worker from Blackpool Childrens Services. A Workforce Development Offer has been co-produced by the partnership and sets out the training offered on behalf of the MASA, Safeguarding Adult Board and BSafe Community Safety Partnership Board.

Children and parents with lived experience are also involved in delivering partnership training, for example the Child Protection Chair Team Manager delivers Child Protection Conference and Core Group Training to frontline practitioners, alongside parents who have experienced their children being supported via Child Protection Plans. Threshold 'Levels of Need' training is also currently being co-facilitated with parents. The parents are paid a sessional rate of pay for this involvement, via Blackpool Council's Co-Production Team. Specific training will also externally commissioned when an additional knowledge or skill set is required to inform developments on frontline practice.

Training will be made available online via the MASA website via a log in portal. Data reports of individual partnership agencies accessing online learning resources can be provided to their strategic lead and inform a quarterly Workforce Development Data Report and the MASA Annual Report, which will be reported to Scrutiny Committee and published on the MASA website.

Multi Agency Quality Audits will be led by the MASA's Workforce Development and Audit Co-ordinator. Where possible we will seek the feedback from children, young people and their families as part of the quality audit process. Audits will be undertaken by members of the Strategic Delivery Groups. A cohort of children and families will be selected, according the audit focus. Agencies will be brought together at an audit learning reflection meeting, where partners will reflect on their individual

and multi-agency learning through the 'Blackpool Families Rock' restorative practice and relationship based culture lens.

Funding arrangements

Blackpool Council, Lancashire & South Cumbria ICB and Lancashire Constabulary have sustained previous funding contributions levels, as set out in the chart below, to support the work of the MASA, Safeguarding Adult Board and Community Partnership Board.

Partner annual contribution towards MASA & BSAB	Blackpool
Blackpool Council	185,190
Health	92,852
Police	57,510
Total	335,552

Financial reserves from the previous Pan Lancashire CSAP arrangements have been returned to Blackpool. These have been profiled against the Partnership Business Unit budget and will ensure the work of the partnerships can be sustained over the next 4 years.

Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

At the start of an LSCPR a Panel is established which is chaired by a senior member of staff from one of the partnership agencies that has had no involvement with the family. An Independent Reviewer is commissioned to undertake a systems approach review, this involves undertaking a practitioner meeting with frontline practitioners who have been involved with supporting the family to ensure the voice of the workforce is heard. We publish the full overview report, learning briefs and 7 minute briefings, make reference to the learning in our online monthly newsletters and hold Learning from Review Workforce Development events. Meetings are held on a quarterly basis with Lancashire & Blackburn with Darwen to share learning across the Pan Lancashire area.

Including the voice of the children and families

Blackpool is fully committed to co-production. We will seek feedback from children and families through quality audit assurance processes, within our Local Safeguarding Practice Reviews, and co-production methodology of developing Partnership Strategies and the Levels of Need Thresholds document. As previously referenced, wherever possible we seek to co-deliver training to our workforce with lived experience parents.

The MASA Independent Scrutineer is co-producing a plan with parents of how they involve people with lived experience in scrutinising the effectiveness of partnership practice safeguarding children, supporting families to keep children living safely within their care when at all possible and experience improved future outcomes.

Process for escalating concerns

The safeguarding partnership has a process in place for resolving professional disagreements. This is easily accessible to colleagues from all agencies who work with children and families and is discussed in training delivered to frontline practitioners and managers. All three strategic partner organisations have Whistleblowing Policies in place and information on this is included in induction training for all

new staff. MASA have recently agreed a Pan Lancashire process for when escalation is required through MASA, the Executive Board and the Secretary of State.

Working Well with Children and Families threshold document

The Pan Lancashire Working Well with Children and Families Levels of Need document is in the process of being revised, to reflect the new three local place based governance arrangements and the revised Statutory Guidance as set out within Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023.

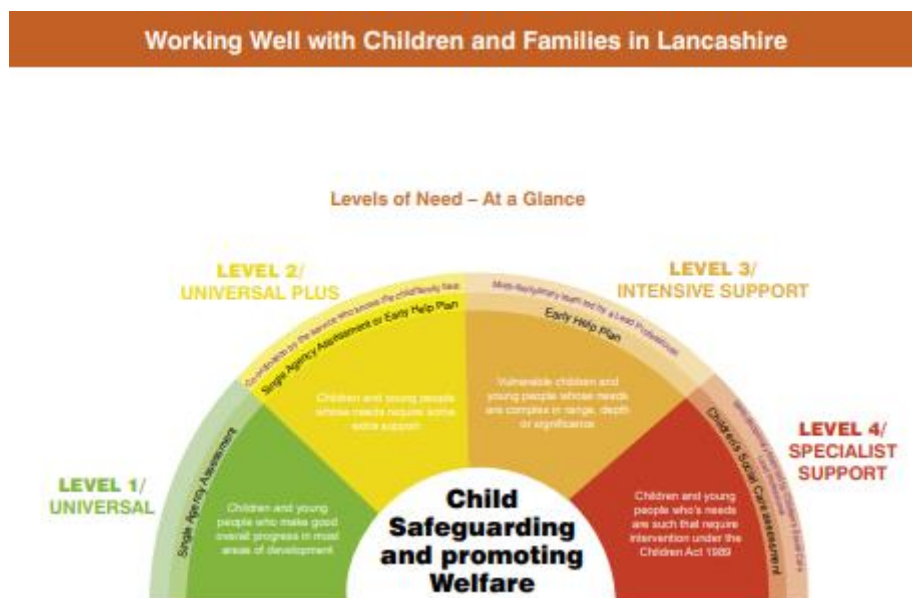


Figure 4 Working Well with Children and Families Levels of Need document

Contact details

Contact can be made via the Partnership Business Unit masa@blackpool.gov.uk

These arrangements are published on the Blackpool Safeguarding Partnership website <https://blackpoolsafeguardingpartnerships.org.uk/>