

Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge Safeguarding Partnership

Terms of Reference (ToR)

Introduction

The Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge (BHR) Safeguarding Partnership delivers the multi-agency safeguarding responsibilities of:

- LB Barking and Dagenham
- LB Havering
- LB Redbridge
- Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge CCGs
- Metropolitan Police Service East Area Borough Command Unit (EA - BCU)

Vision

The Vision of the Partnership was established in the [BHR Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements 2019-20](#) plan published in June 2019:

- Firstly, above all else the work encapsulated in this plan has to **reduce the harm and risk** faced by children and young people in our communities. In order to do this, we will ensure that their needs and their voices are centre stage in all we do.
- Secondly, as safeguarding partners we know we are reliant on the skills and expertise of our collective workforce so we are making a commitment to **invest in that workforce** and specifically to build a culture that values reflection, analysis and learning.
- Thirdly, we will not be driven by organisational needs or limited by agency boundaries – where it is **better for children we will work locally and where it is better to work across the wider footprint then we will do so**. The defining factor will be what will be the most effective in keeping children safe.

Scope

The Partnership will have regard to the multi-agency arrangements for safeguarding children and young people. It is expected that partners will represent the wider system of services and arrangements that safeguard children and young people within their organisation and local area.

Decision Making

Decision making will be through consensus. Partnership members will make decision in accordance with their delegated authority. The Partnership will not replace or substitute the decision making arrangements of individual member authorities. Where decisions are

required to be made by individual member authorities, Partnership members will coordinate and expedite such decisions to avoid delay.

Membership

The Partnership membership will consist of:

- Director of People and Resilience - LB Barking and Dagenham
- Director of Children's Services – LB Havering
- Corporate Director of People – LB Redbridge
- Nurse Director – Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge CCGs
- Head of Safeguarding – MPS East Area Borough Command Unit

In the event of being unable to attend meeting, members will ensure that they have nominated substitutes with sufficient authority to contribute to discussion and decision making. Meetings will still be expected to be held where despite best efforts a statutory partner is unable to secure representation. The decision to progress will rest with the meeting chair should multiple absences cause consideration of the effectiveness of a meeting.

Wider attendance at Partnership meetings will be at the invitation of the Partnership membership.

Meetings

Meetings will take place every two months and partner agencies will host meetings on a rotational basis. The meeting will be chaired by the organisation hosting the meeting, which will be arranged on a rotational basis. Each meeting will have an agenda, agreed in advance with the chair, which includes standing items and additional items agreed via a forward plan. Meetings will have notes recorded, and progress monitored by an action log.

The agenda and notes of meetings will be shared with local Partnerships for publication on local partnership websites.

Support Arrangements

The Partnership will be supported by the local Business Managers who will support its efficient functioning, providing a full secretariat service and ensure that communication with Partnership members and local safeguarding arrangements is clear and timely.

Links with Local Arrangements and Independent Scrutiny

Each Borough is retaining a form of local partnership. The BHR partnership will consider feedback from local partnerships as a standing item on each of its agenda.

Each Borough has arrangements in place for Independent Scrutiny. Independent Scrutineers will be encouraged to coordinate their work and will be asked to provide a collective report to the BHR partnership annually.