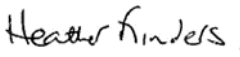




# Waltham Forest Safeguarding Partnership Arrangements

This paper provides an overview of the safeguarding partnership arrangements in Waltham Forest, in line with statutory requirements for safeguarding children and adults.

Signed by the named local safeguarding partners:

<b>Waltham Forest Council</b>	<b>NHS North East London Integrated Care Board</b>	<b>Metropolitan Police North East Basic Command Unit</b>
Chief Executive, delegated to Strategic Director for People	Chief Executive, delegated to Chief Nursing Officer	MPS Commissioner, delegated to NE BCU Borough Commander
Heather Flinders	Diane Jones	Simon Crick
		

## 1. The Local Safeguarding Partners

Three core partners are specified in the Care Act 2014, and these are defined as the Local Safeguarding Partners (LSP) under the Children Act 2004. Within Waltham Forest, the safeguarding partners are:

- (a) **Council** – London Borough of Waltham Forest (LBWF)
- (b) **Health** – NHS North East London Integrated Care Board (NEL ICB)
- (c) **Police** – Metropolitan Police’s North East Basic Command Unit (MPS NE BCU)

## 2. Relevant others

The current partnership arrangements in Waltham Forest reflect the commitment and contribution of a wide partnership base and this is reflected in the naming of relevant agencies, who are central to enable safeguarding arrangements to work effectively in the borough. This is done through collaboration and working together within the board and its working groups to improve outcomes for children and families.

- Barts Health NHS Trust
- CAFCASS
- Department for work and pensions
- HM Prisons & Probation
- Housing
- Lay members
- London Fire Brigade
- North East London Foundation Trust (NELFT)
- Tower Hamlets GP Care Group (providing 0-19 health services)
- Voluntary sector organisations working with Waltham Forest residents
- Waltham Forest GP Federation
- Waltham Forest schools and educational establishments, regardless of size or type including primary, secondary, special and maintained, academy, free or independent.

Relevant other partners form a key part of the partnership arrangements and are active participants whether through membership of the Boards directly or via the range of priority working groups that may be pertinent to their specific areas of practice.

### **3. Independent Scrutiny**

The Waltham Forest Strategic Partnership commissions independent people to provide both chairing and scrutiny functions as set out in statutory guidance. Each independent chair / scrutineer will view and comment on relevant areas of practice within the partnership, providing challenge and holding partners to account, both collectively and individually as required.

Functions that will be undertaken by the independent chairs / scrutineers will include agenda planning and chairing for board meetings, advising on decisions regarding statutory reviews, and assisting where there is a disagreement between agencies. More information can be found in the personal specification for the chair / scrutineer role.

### **4. LSP function in the Strategic Partnership Executive**

In Waltham Forest there is a unique approach to strategic partnerships and since March 2016 a joined-up framework enables our four strategic partnerships (Waltham Forest Safeguarding Children Board (WFSCB), the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB), SafetyNet, and the Health and Wellbeing Board) to work effectively and efficiently. This is supported by the Strategic Partnership Unit (SPU).

This framework includes a Strategic Partnership Executive (SPE) that is chaired by the council's Strategic Director for People, and is attended by the independent chairs / scrutineers, alongside senior leads from Waltham Forest Council, Police, NELFT, Bart's NHS Heath Trust and NWL ICB. The SPE function is a mature and well-established decision-making forum which operates as the local safeguarding partnership, where the three safeguarding partners have equal and joint responsibility for the oversight and governance of the adults' and children's safeguarding arrangements.

### **5. Identifying, responding to and monitoring the needs of children, families and adults in the area**

The biennial review of the Strategic Partnership priority areas comprises a comprehensive needs assessment to identify areas requiring greater partnership focus and collaboration in relation to safeguarding, community safety and health and wellbeing. Priorities are delivered through dedicated working groups. Ongoing data regarding how the effectiveness of the help being provided to children, families and adults is monitored through the boards via oversight of progress against action plans and quarterly performance dashboards.

### **6. Hearing the voices of residents**

The views and opinions of adults, children and families in Waltham Forest are captured through a range of methods which includes but is not limited to insight surveys, standing agenda items at boards, input by residents into some of the working groups and multi-agency audits. The annual report will detail how these voices have been heard and responded to and will also summarise what difference has been made as a result.

### **7. Thresholds documents**

Guidance on thresholds is articulated in two separate documents for adults' and children's services. They clearly set out local understanding and assist professionals within Waltham Forest to identify suitable responses to the needs of those individuals / families they are working with. This provides a guide, recognising that each person / family network is unique, and their needs should be considered on a case-by-case basis, using professional judgement supported by the threshold guidance documents. These documents also set out the local criteria for action in a way that is transparent, accessible and easily understood. The Strategic Partnership will continue to monitor the effectiveness of these documents.

## **8. Business management arrangements for WFSCB**

The Strategic Partnership Unit provides support to the safeguarding partnership alongside the other two boards. This includes support to the independent scrutineer, board members and the range of panels and subgroups delivering against the partnership priorities. The Head of Strategic Partnerships who manages the unit is also the advisor to the One Panel.

## **9. Funding**

The Strategic Partnership Boards are financed by contributions from partners (council, police, ICB, NELFT, Barts Health NHS Trust and HM Prisons and Probation). Partners also contribute time and resource to the boards through chairing meetings, co-facilitating statutory reviews / learning events and any other specific pieces of work as required. Additional funds are requested from partners to finance statutory reviews as they arise.

## **10. Learning and improving practice**

Learning and improving practice are at the centre of the work of the partnership. A cross-cutting group operates across the four boards and oversees the annual multi-agency audit programme of at least three audits a year, development of resources such as bitesize guide videos, practitioner's guidance, multi-agency training and events. Evidence is collated on how practice has improved as a result of all the learning and improving practice through practitioner discussion groups, surveys and audits.

## **11. Annual Report**

An annual report will be completed each year to evidence progress and performance of the Safeguarding Partnership.

## **12. Statutory reviews**

As part of the unique arrangements in Waltham Forest there is a joined-up forum which takes a 'think family' approach to statutory reviews (child safeguarding practice reviews, safeguarding adult reviews and domestic homicide reviews). The monthly One Panel includes membership from children and adults services from police, health (providers and commissioners), children and adults social care, community safety, disability enablement services and education. The Panel commenced in September 2016 and functions efficiently and is well respected by all partners. The panel meets monthly and has a standing membership. This has enabled the group to develop a consistent approach to decision making. The relevant board chair / scrutineer is invited to observe the panel when it is making a recommendation against the statutory criteria.

The One Panel and Child Death Review (CDR) Hub are interconnected and have a two-way communication link. The rapid review function of a child following a serious incident may on occasion take place through the CDR Hub's joint agency response meetings when One Panel occurs outside of the 15 working days detailed in the guidance. The LSP will be advised where appropriate.

Statutory review reports and the relevant board response will be published through the Strategic Partnership Boards' web pages.