



# East Riding Safeguarding Children Partnership

Multi-Agency Local Safeguarding Children Arrangements

June 2019



**EAST RIDING**  
OF YORKSHIRE COUNCIL



**East Riding of Yorkshire**  
Clinical Commissioning Group

## Summary

**There are many agencies in East Riding supporting children and young people, and they all work together as a partnership to ensure they are keeping children safe.**

Some changes have been made to the way these agencies work together, as a result of new government guidance. The main changes are:

1. There are now three organisations in East Riding who are jointly responsible for the partnership arrangements for keeping children safe:
  - East Riding of Yorkshire Council (ERYC)
  - Humberside Police
  - The East Riding Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
2. The East Riding Safeguarding Children Board will change its name to the **East Riding Safeguarding Children Partnership.**
3. The Partnership will adopt a new structure, which includes independent scrutiny to help us with our aim of continually improving what we do.

This plan sets out the detail of how the new Partnership will work, as well as why and how the changes are being made. At the heart of the arrangements is a commitment from all agencies to work together to keep children safe, promote their well-being and to continuously improve and learn how best to do this.

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## Foreword

**Welcome to the new East Riding multi-agency arrangements for safeguarding children and our plan for how we will adopt and implement these new arrangements across our new Safeguarding Children Partnership.**

This document describes how we, as Safeguarding Partners for East Riding, will work together with other agencies as the East Riding Safeguarding Children Partnership. It explains how we will ensure that the changes brought about by primary legislation and set out in statutory government guidance, 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018', will be implemented for East Riding children and their families so that safe child protection practice and effective multi-agency working will continue to be of the highest priority.

At our first meeting as 'Safeguarding Partners' in March 2018, we considered and began planning for the changes that Working Together 2018 would bring once published in June 2018. We agreed that as Chief Officers we would meet as an ongoing group to oversee the transition from a Local Safeguarding Children Board to the new arrangements and that this group would then be part of our revised governance arrangements and operating model. We agreed we would not make changes unless they improved our arrangements, which were working well. This was recognised when the Local Safeguarding Children Board was reviewed by Ofsted, and rated as 'Good' in February 2017.

Through our own considerations and in discussions with colleagues from all of the agencies we have successfully worked with, we have built on those solid foundations, a revised structure for the Partnership which we believe will enable us to effectively implement what the government are looking to us to do, as set out in Working Together 2018.

- We believe the changes we are making will enable us, as the three Safeguarding Partners, to develop our shared and equal duty to ensure these arrangements are successful.
- We believe the arrangements will enable us to use the resources across the partnership most effectively and keep our focus on learning, and improving the way in which we safeguard and promote the welfare of our children and young people.
- We believe the new arrangements will ensure that the voice and experience of children and young people remains at the forefront.

- We believe that scrutiny and challenge of what we do will develop further, as part of a culture of open, reflective and collaborative working relationships at all levels.
- We are committed to keeping under review how our arrangements can be improved. We have built into the plans ways to help us do this, including holding an annual event when all those working across the partnership, at strategic and operational levels, can come together to review, consider and plan for the future.

We have described the new arrangements to meet the requirements of Working Together 2018, which lists what the published arrangements should cover.



Caroline Lacy  
Chief Executive  
East Riding Council

Lee Freeman  
Chief Constable  
Humberside Police

Jane Hawcard  
Chief Officer  
East Riding of Yorkshire Clinical  
Commissioning Group.

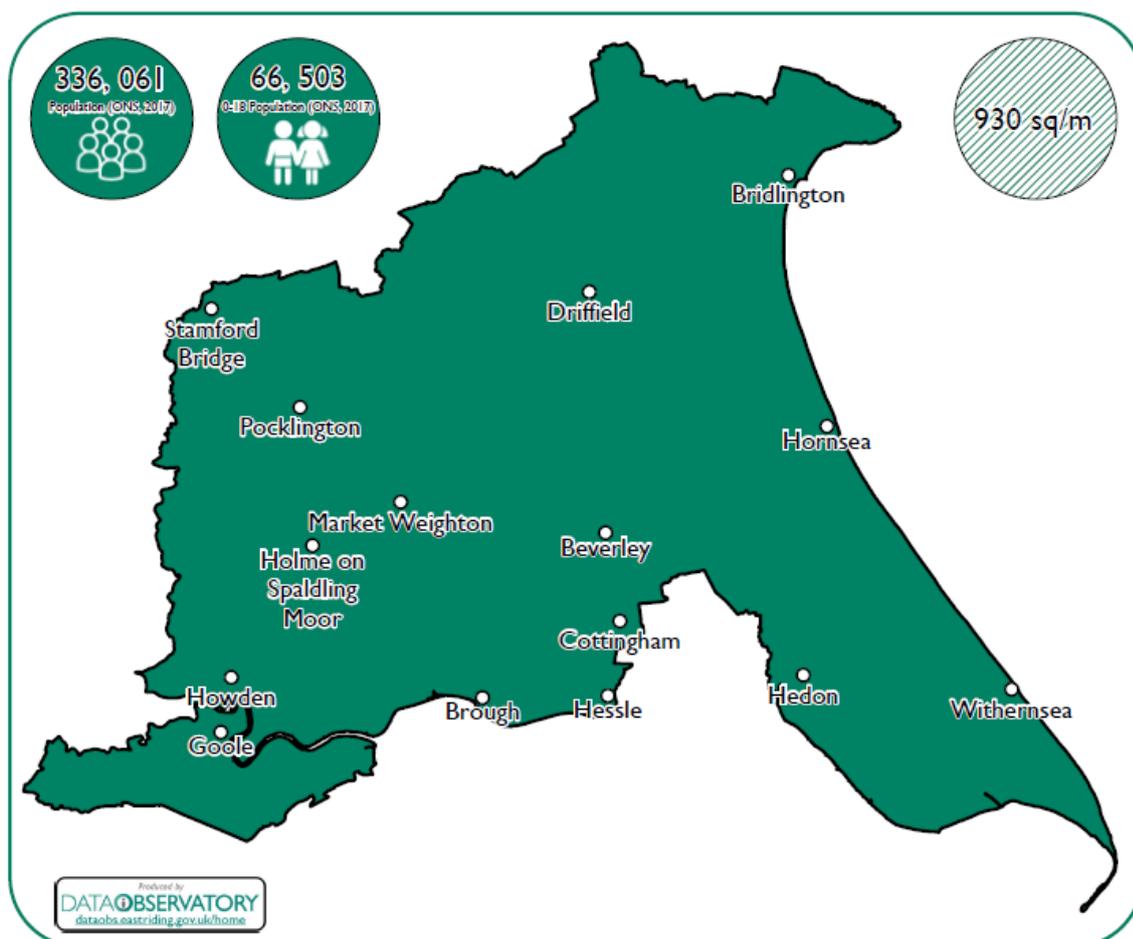
## Who the three local Safeguarding Partners are.

The three Safeguarding Partners are East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Humberside Police and NHS East Riding of Yorkshire Clinical Commissioning Group.

The health commissioning requirements of a small area of East Riding, is covered by The Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group. The Safeguarding Partners have agreed that the link with the Vale of York CCG will be maintained through East Riding CCG, who will ensure effective two way communication on all health related matters. There may be occasions, such as when involvement in a Child Safeguarding Practice Review is required, when The Vale of York CCG will need to be directly involved.

The Vale of York CCG are in agreement with these arrangements.

## Geographical Boundaries



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The East Riding of Yorkshire sits on the east coast of England on the north bank of the Humber estuary. It is one of the largest rural authorities in the Country. The coastline stretches for 53 miles from Bempton to Spurn Point.

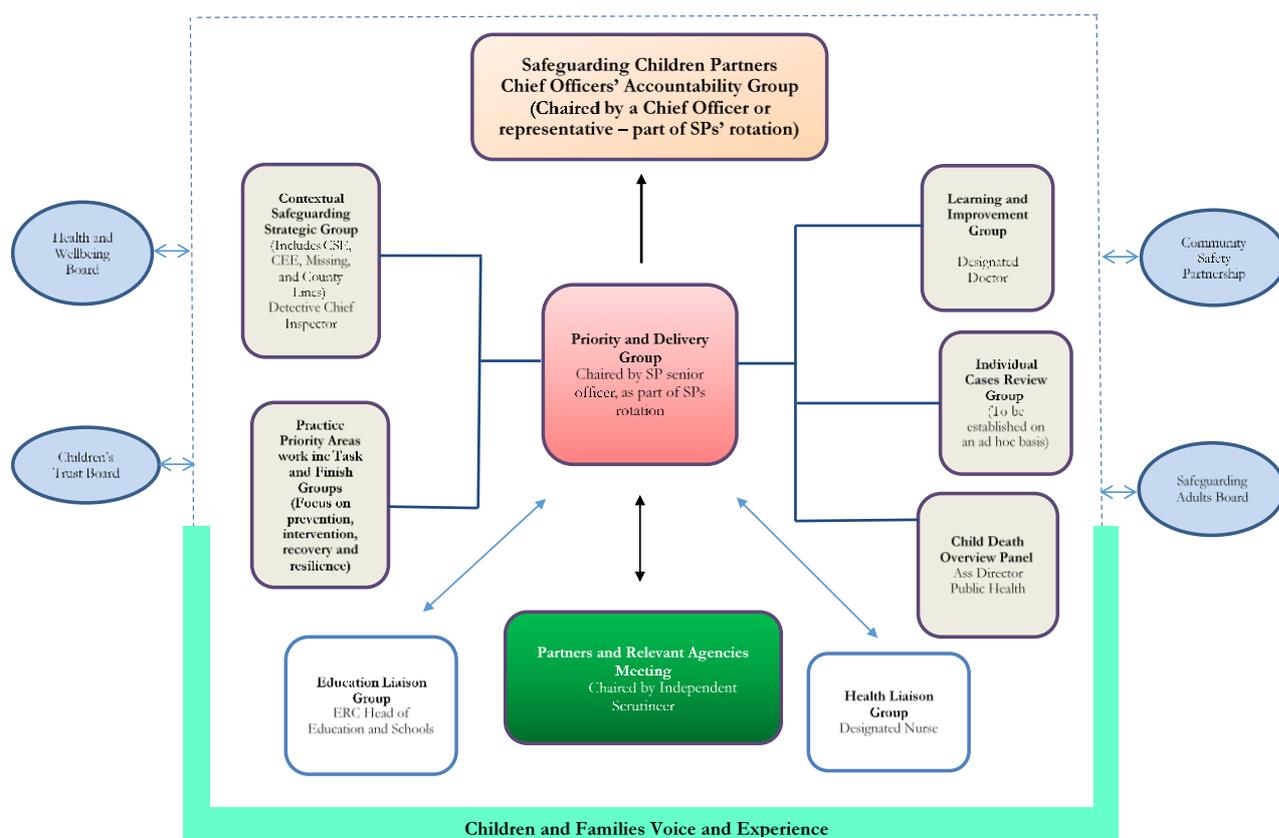
Approximately 93% is classed as rural by area and 44% by population. This means that many people live in small, scattered and geographically isolated communities. There are a number of communities in the East Riding where pockets of child poverty are significant and exceed the national average. Six wards have areas of high deprivation, these are: Bridlington South, Bridlington Central and Old Town, Goole South, Goole North, South East Holderness and Minster & Woodmansey (Beverley). Bridlington contains one area ranked 505th in the deprivation index in England out of a total of 32,482, meaning it is in the top 2% of the most deprived areas in England (2013).

There are 18 outreach children's centres, 123 primary school, 18 secondary schools and 3 schools for children with special needs.

Children and young people from minority ethnic groups account for 6.4% of school age children living in the area. The proportion of children and young people whose first language is known or believed to be other than English is 4.3% in primary schools compared with the national average of 21.2% and 2.8% in secondary schools compared with the national average of 16.8%. East Riding has a relatively low Black and Ethnic Minority (BME) population of 16,387 which is approximately 3.8% of the population.

## The arrangements for the East Riding Safeguarding Partners to work together to identify and respond to the needs of children in the area.

This detailed structure chart summarises the groups and the relationship between them, through which the work undertaken by the East Riding Safeguarding Children Partnership will be accomplished.



Everything within the dotted blue lined box makes up the Partnership and each component will play a distinctive part in ensuring that the whole operates effectively to meet the Partnership's purpose and remit. This will be reflected in the Terms of Reference for each of the groups or strands of activity.

### The Chief Officers' Accountability Group

This is a new group which was not part of the structure of the ERSCB. Its addition reflects the most significant change to Working Together 2018, that the three

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‘Safeguarding Partners’ become equally and jointly responsible for the effectiveness of the Partnership arrangements. This change does not affect the individual agency’s responsibilities in individual cases, which remains unaltered.

The Chief Officers’ Accountability Group (COAG) will meet quarterly in the first year. Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 sets out the role and responsibilities of the Safeguarding Children Partners and these are incorporated into the Terms of Reference for the Group. The group will hold the Partnership to account, agree resource allocation and ensure that any major issues are managed effectively.

### **The Priority & Delivery Group**

The Priority and Delivery Group will be the ‘engine room’ of the Partnership. The primary purpose of the group is to ensure that the right things are being done, involving the right people in a timely way, so that the Partnership fulfils its statutory responsibilities. The membership of the group will be key personnel from the Safeguarding Partners and the Chairs of sub group and those leading other practice development.

In order to fulfil this responsibility the Group will co-ordinate activity that gives the Partnership a clear line of sight on the effectiveness of practice and ensure that this is used to continually improve. It will be the coordinating hub responsible for the delivery of the Partnership’s Business Priorities Plan. It will ensure the sub groups, task and finish groups and practice improvement work streams have and report on their own business plans, delivering on key aspects of the Partnership’s work programme. The implications of ongoing quality assurance and analysis of performance information will take place in this group. It will report to the Chief Officers’ Accountability Group, receive direction from that group and refine business priorities accordingly. It will ensure that the Partners and Relevant Agencies Group has relevant information which will enable that group to contribute to the strategic direction of the Partnership, promote effective partnership working, challenge and hold each other to account and promote good practice.

### **The Partners & Relevant Agencies Group**

Legislation now includes provision for the Safeguarding Partners to identify local ‘Relevant Agencies’ and places a duty on Relevant Agencies to act in accordance with local arrangements.

This meeting will be the key forum in which the Safeguarding Partners will engage with the Relevant Agencies, drawing upon their knowledge and experience of both

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operational and strategic issues in the East Riding to ensure that priorities are correctly identified and objectives achieved. It will be an important opportunity for senior leaders from those agencies who commission safeguarding services, who provide services and who are stakeholders in other ways, to meet together and make an active contribution to the effectiveness of the Partnership. The group will meet four times per year and the meeting will be chaired by the Independent Scrutineer. The September meeting will be a Partnership wide development workshop when members of this group will come together with the Chief Officers' Accountability Group (COAG), the Priority and Delivery Group and sub group members.

Membership will reflect the list of Relevant Agencies identified in Working Together 2018 and others who have an important contribution to make.

### **Sub-Groups, Task & Finish Groups & Practice Development Work**

Rather than have a large number of on-going sub groups the Partnership will look for work to be completed in ways that best suit the task. The Partnership is committed to involving practitioners in this work to a much greater extent than it has in the past.

Some significant areas of practice will require an on-going sub group. **The Contextual Safeguarding Strategic Group** brings together the ongoing work on Child Sexual Exploitation, Child Economic Exploitation, County Lines and Missing activity, which is undertaken by operational groups. Similarly, Learning and Improvement activity requires an on-going group.

**The Learning and Improvement Group** will co-ordinate two key areas of the Partnerships work; it will implement a programme of activity aimed at giving the Partnership a line of sight on practice through a range of multi-agency quality assurance activities; ongoing audit work and obtaining feedback from children and their families on the service they have received, from information about individual agency activity. This will make a significant contribution to how the Priority and Delivery Group formulates an understanding of effectiveness and it will also provide recommendations and suggestions for how practice can be improved.

The group will also oversee the Partnership's Multi-Agency Training Offer. This will be through the core training programme but increasingly through other methods of delivery such as locality workshops, lunchtime meetings, themed events and regular electronic briefings. It will also be through drawing down learning from national sources and using this to contribute to the development of relationship based practice and the increasing use of evidence based tools and frameworks. Membership will be drawn from those best placed in agencies to contribute to the work of the group.

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Other Practice Priority Areas, such as development of training and use of evidence based tools in the area of work known as ‘Hidden Harm’ is being undertaken in a multi-agency task and finish group.

A third approach is linked to ensuring that the work of the Partnership is undertaken in conjunction with the work of other Boards and Partnerships for which an area of practice will also be a priority. Ensuring that there is a strategic approach to tackling domestic abuse is a good example of this approach. The Partnership now has an on-going project, coordinating practice development with the East Riding Safeguarding Adults Board and the Community Safety Partnership (CSP). The ERSCP priorities for domestic abuse work are undertaken in a multi-agency sub group of the CSP which takes the lead on domestic abuse. Similarly the ERSCP Contextual Safeguarding Group leads for the other Partnerships in respect of Child Exploitation and Missing Children.

Accountability for the work of sub and task groups is kept through Chairs’ membership of the Priority and Delivery Group. Other groups established as part of the new Partnership provide the focus for areas that are key aspects of the Safeguarding Partner’s responsibilities.

## **Independent Scrutiny of the Effectiveness of the Arrangements.**

An Independent Scrutineer has been appointed to undertake this key role. Our approach to independent scrutiny will be one that includes consideration of both embedding a **culture** of scrutiny as well as ensuring effective **processes** for scrutiny. Scrutiny will focus on learning as its outcome and will be positive in its approach.

The Partnership will aim to build a culture where everyone involved in safeguarding children from the front line up to the Chief Officers welcomes scrutiny and actively participates in it; trusting and learning from each other. This method encourages everyone to reflect on their own work and collaborate with others in joint approaches.

The Independent Scrutineer will have input into the Chief Officer’s Accountability Group, the Priority and Delivery Group and will chair the Partners and Relevant Agencies Group.

Other activity will involve direct contact with services, practitioners and reviewing work undertaken by others.

We will develop a system of rolling scrutiny that uses multiple forms, with oversight from the Independent Scrutineer. This approach brings benefits as it ensures scrutiny is embedded throughout the work of the ERSCP and that someone independent of the statutory partners will require assurance of whether all agencies are fulfilling their responsibilities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Working Together 2018 broadens the notion of independent scrutiny from this being represented solely by having an Independent Chair. It is proposed that we build on the effectiveness of our Independent Chair by developing a broader scrutiny function for an individual.

Through a range of activities many undertaken and reported on by others and some with direct involvement, the Independent Scrutineer will, amongst other things:

- Provide assurance on the effectiveness of multi-agency and single agency safeguarding services;
- Ensure a culture of constructive challenge and support exists across the partnership;
- Assess the extent to which the 3 Safeguarding Partners are successfully fulfilling their responsibilities, including engaging with and utilising the strengths of the Relevant Agencies;
- Ensure the voice of children and young people influences policy and practice;
- Ensure a continuing emphasis on learning and improvement across the Partnership, from quality assurance activity, learning lessons reviews, and external sources;
- Contributing to and reviewing the Partners' Annual Report on the effectiveness of safeguarding children and multi-agency co-ordination in East Riding.

## **The Relevant Agencies Safeguarding Partners will work with.**

The success of local partnership working will be dependent on how effectively the Relevant Agencies are engaged in the work of the Partnership. The nature of this collaboration at senior management level will be mirrored at a practice level, which makes its success of vital importance.

The Partners and Relevant Agencies Group will provide an active forum for Senior Managers but there is a commitment to involve staff from all levels of activity in the work of the Partnership, to ensure the wealth of knowledge and experience is fully utilised.

## Schools, Colleges, Early Years & Specialist Settings

East Riding Safeguarding Children Board has a strong reputation for providing schools with on-going safeguarding support and advice through the provision of a dedicated Schools Safeguarding Advisor based in the Business Unit. Through regular training for Designated Safeguarding Leads and on-going updates to all schools through an Education Reference Group, confidence in this service was maintained.

In the revised structure, we have built upon what was in place to look to achieve a far greater reach to staff groups and to develop further the challenge role required, as well as support. We have revised the ongoing group to become an **Education Liaison Group**, now chaired by the Local Authority's Head of Education and Schools Service. The membership of the group has been expanded to include the whole sector and it will have more significance as a forum for promoting the important role that the education sector plays in safeguarding and promoting children's wellbeing.

## Health Providers

The Health economy in East Riding is complex, and this makes it vital that there is effective ongoing communication and that providers are effectively represented within the Partnership.

Services are provided in the main by Humber Teaching NHS Foundation Trust, Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, City Health Care Partnership CIC, York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, and Hull University Teaching Hospital NHS Trust. All are represented by senior managers on the Partners and Relevant Agencies Group and more encouragement is being given to practitioner involved in sub and task group work.

## Other Relevant Agencies which are members of the Partners & Relevant Agencies Group

- Humberside Probation
- The Community Rehabilitation Company
- Humberside Fire and Rescue
- CAFCASS
- NHS England (represented by the ERCCG)
- East Riding Safeguarding Adults Board
- East Riding Public Health
- Voluntary Sector Organisations
- Community Representatives
- Youth Justice Service
- Plans are being developed to establish links with the Faith sector.
- Yorkshire Ambulance Service

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## Participating Observer

- The Council's Lead Member for Children's Services

### **Inclusion of youth custody & residential homes for children in the safeguarding arrangements.**

There is no Youth Custody Provision in East Riding but the East Riding Youth Justice Service is highly regarded and works in close proximity to the Board when the need arises.

There are a small number of privately run residential homes for children with East Riding. Some of these provide specialist placements and contribute to the high number of children looked after who are placed within East Riding by other Authorities and who, at times, present a disproportionate demand on local services.

Several staff linked to the Partnership support these situations. The Local Authority's Designated Officer provides advice on safe recruitment and the Schools' Safeguarding Advisor extends the role to these specialist units when needed. The Child Exploitation Advisor is also active in cases linked to these homes.

### **How the Safeguarding Partners will use data & intelligence to assess the effectiveness of the help being provided to children & families, including Early Help.**

The Partnership has built on the arrangements previously in place and has plans to extend these activities further. There is a comprehensive performance data set which is considered by the Priority and Delivery Group and used to triangulate with analysis of audit activity undertaken on an ongoing basis.

Analysis on feedback from children and families subject to services will also be fed into the Priority and Delivery Group.

Each priority practice area has access to a data set which focuses on the key area and the Partnership is looking for groups to make better use of this as part of a systematic overview of need.

The Partners and Relevant Agencies Group regularly reviews a Challenge Log and ensures that any area of concern is placed on the Log so that the appropriate focus is given.

Audit work is undertaken on a multi-agency basis each month with a focus that can arise from different sources. Thematic audits are also undertaken, which involves the wider Partnership membership. Increasingly these are undertaken with direct involvement from practitioners involved in the case, either with the auditor sitting down with them and discussing the case or bringing practitioners together to reflect on the inter agency work being undertaken. Children and their families are also being asked for their views to give as rounded a picture as possible. Increasingly audits are focussing on the quality of the work undertaken and the outcomes for children.

The establishment of the Partnership has brought a focus on the extent to which we are 'completing the cycle' with our quality assurance work so that we can where possible, evidence the contribution it has made to improving practice. We know this is challenging but we believe it is essential if we are to fulfil our purpose.

## **How the arrangements will include the voice of children & families.**

The voice and experience of children and young people will be central to the work of the Partnership. We want to make sure that we have our focus in the right place by seeking their views about our priorities however, we also want to ensure that their experience of services and how we can improve is heard, not just as one off pieces of work, but as an essential part of every intervention.

The Partnership will make use of the many existing arrangements in place across East Riding and establish more effective processes for drawing information from these together. We will use our existing links with organisation, such as East Riding College, the Children in Care Council and Health Watch. We will also draw upon the unique position of East Riding's Participation and Rights Team to assist us with becoming champions for the voice of the child in East Riding.

## **The Business Unit & how the arrangements will be funded.**

The arrangements to support the Partnership in its work continue to be undertaken by a Business Unit which is funded by the Partners and hosted by East Riding Council.

The Chief Officers' Accountability Group is responsible for agreeing the budget arrangements. Funding is secured for 2019/20 and the Safeguarding Partner will review this annually. As the Partnership becomes established the requirement to establish equitable and proportionate funding arrangements will be reviewed.

## **The process for undertaking local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, setting out the arrangements for embedding learning across organisations and agencies.**

Under the new arrangements the requirement in certain circumstances to undertake a Serious Case Review, or some other type of learning review has been replaced by the guidance on the circumstances in which a local Child Safeguarding Practice Review should be considered. Alongside these changes there is now a broader, statutory role for the national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel. The relationship between local and national reviews is a more closely defined one than under the previous arrangements.

In order to respond to the requirement to consider a significant incident and whether a 'rapid review' is required, which may result in a variety of outcomes including a full Child Safeguarding Practice Review, the standing Serious Cases Review Panel is being replaced by the ability to establish an 'Individual Case Review Panel' to undertake this work. The advantage of this is that the membership can be agreed to reflect the needs of the specific case. This will be one way in which learning can be fed back into the Partnership in an efficient and timely way. There will be learning arising from everything that we do and the Priority and Delivery Group will remain focussed on ensuring that learning is at the centre of all we do. This will include learning from good practice and learning from activities in other areas.

## **How the threshold document setting out the local criteria for action, aligns with the arrangements.**

The Partnership has on its website, a Threshold document which reflects the requirements of Working Together 2018 and describes the thresholds for different levels of need.

The Partnership is currently contributing to a review of the 'Front Door' arrangements, through which contacts are received by the Local Authority regarding specific children about whom the referrer has some sort of concern. These come from a range of sources and require consideration to be given to what if any, service is required and from which source, to be of most help in a particular situation.

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When this work is completed the threshold document will be reviewed to reflect any changes to how need is assessed so that the right response is provided by the right agency, based on the child's level of need.

## **Child Death Overview Panel Arrangements**

The Child Death Overview Panel will continue to operate as one of the Partnership sub groups and will continue to be managed by the Partnership's Case Review and Administration Manager. However, at a national level the ownership of government policy for child deaths and related issues will be transferred from the Department for Education to the Department of Health. Locally 'Child Death Review Partners', are defined as the Local Authority and any Clinical Commissioning Group for the local area. They are responsible for arrangements to review all deaths of children normally resident in the local area and if they consider it appropriate, for those not normally resident in the area.

In order to meet the requirement for a meaningful number of cases to form part of an annual analysis, East Riding has reached agreement with Hull, North and North East Lincolnshire, York and North Yorkshire Child Death Review partners to come together to produce an annual analysis which meets the need for a minimum of 60 cases. Learning from these processes will further contribute to our work to improve the health and welfare of all children in East Riding.

## **Dispute Resolution & Escalation Process**

The Partnership has an escalation procedure and encourages agencies to use it in situations when differences of view about a course of action cannot be resolved. This is seen as part of a healthy culture of challenge.

## **Annual Report**

The Safeguarding Partners will produce an Annual Report, which the Independent Scrutineer will have input into. This will be used as part of the Annual Development Event and will be taken into account when evaluating the effectiveness of the Partnership and in planning for the future.

**Implementation of these arrangements will continue following publication, but we will also keep under review how effectively they are working and will develop them further based on our experience.**