



One minute guide

Leeds Safeguarding Children Board

To be updated soon to reflect new LSCP arrangements - No. 34, July 2018

What is the Leeds Safeguarding Children Board?

The Leeds Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) is a statutory body, as required under the Children Act 2004, which consists of senior representatives of all the key agencies in Leeds who are jointly responsible for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. These agencies include the relevant NHS trusts, West Yorkshire Police, National Probation Service, Community Rehabilitation Company, the Child and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) ([guide](#)), the Leeds Adult Safeguarding Board, and representatives from the third sector, schools and higher education settings. The LSCB works closely with other statutory boards including the Children's Trust Board ([guide](#)), [Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board](#) and the [Leeds Health and Wellbeing Board](#).

The LSCB's statutory objectives are to:

- Co-ordinate local work undertaken by all agencies and individuals to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people; and
- Ensure the effectiveness of that work

Children and young people, their welfare, protection and the promotion of their best interests are at the heart of everything the LSCB does. Their vision is for Leeds to be a child friendly city in which children and young people are safe from harm in their families, their communities and their neighbourhoods.

What are the functions of the LSCB?

The functions of the [LSCB](#) are to:

- Develop policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people in Leeds;
- Communicate to partner agencies the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, raising their awareness of how this can best be done;
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of what is done by partner agencies, individually and collectively, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people, and advise them on ways to improve;
- Participate in the planning of services for children and young people in Leeds; and
- Undertake Serious Case Reviews ([guide](#)) and advise partners on lessons to be learned.

How does the Board do its work?

The full Board currently meets bi-monthly, and an Executive Group meets on the alternate months in order to complete the significant workload of the Board.

The work of the Board is led and co-ordinated by the LSCB Business Unit. The Board publishes an Annual Report on the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements in the city on its website.

What are the LSCB sub-groups responsible for?

The work of the full Board is supported by a number of sub-groups, reference groups and task groups, with work programmes focused on specific areas of responsibility for the LSCB. Each of these groups has senior representation from LSCB partner agencies, and regularly reports their work to the full Board. There are six sub-groups; [Learning and Development](#); [Performance Management](#); [Policy and Procedures](#); the Secure Settings Sub-group, [Child Sexual Exploitation \(CSE\) \(guide\)](#) and the [Child Death Overview Panel](#). There is also the [Student LSCB](#).

In addition, the LSCB has a task group on [communications](#), as well as reference groups looking at safeguarding in relation to the [third sector](#), and [education](#).

What are Serious Case Reviews and how are they conducted?

The LSCB is responsible for initiating a Serious Case Review (SCR) [\(guide\)](#) where abuse or neglect is known or suspected and either: a child has died; or a child is seriously harmed; and there are concerns about how organisations or professionals worked together to safeguard the child. The purpose of the review is to establish whether there are any lessons to be learnt from the case, and from the way in which local professionals and organisations worked together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. From these lessons, the LSCB can identify what agencies need to do to improve inter-agency safeguarding.

The LSCB has a [Serious Case Review sub-committee](#) which: considers potential cases for review; makes recommendations to the LSCB Chair as to whether criteria are met for undertaking an SCR; makes decisions about the process for reviews; and oversees each one. SCRs must be conducted in line with the '[Working Together to Safeguard Children](#)' guidance [\(guide\)](#) and completed reviews published on the [LSCB](#) website.

What training is available through the LSCB?

The LSCB provides a series of multi-agency safeguarding learning and development opportunities, free of charge to all staff and volunteers in the city. There are two core safeguarding courses, as well as specialist courses on subjects such as working with hard to engage families, recognising and responding to neglect, and safer recruitment.

The LSCB have developed a useful [flowchart](#) to help practitioners understand which level of training would be appropriate; training applications should be discussed with line managers, and there is information available about how to apply for the courses on the LSCB [website](#).

Key contacts and for more information

Dr Mark A Peel is the independent Chair of the LSCP, and he can be contacted at mark.peel@leeds.gov.uk or tel: 0113 3786018.

If you want to know more about the work of the LSCP you can contact them on lscp.info@leeds.gov.uk, or see their website: www.leedsscp.org.uk