

**Independent Scrutineer of**

**Bury Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP)**

**Role Profile**

**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 Bury, including arrangements regarding Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs), assure the partnership implements the 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 audits and learning.
* Undertake an annual review of the safeguarding partnership arrangements and provide an evidence based scrutineer report to BSCP, elected members scrutiny, chief officers and Bury’s Health and Wellbeing Board on progress, highlighting areas which require focus for improvement which will contribute to the BSCP 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 BSCP to fulfil its statutory obligations and measure its impact.
* Support safeguarding partners to identify priorities and content for the business plan.
* Work with Bury’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 Bury’s front line practitioner workforce, which demonstrates the impact of the BSCP governance arrangements on children, young people and families’ outcomes.
* Scrutinise significant child safeguarding issues, ensuring Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs) are undertaken in accordance with statutory guidance; review the decision making and rationale of Rapid Review Screening Meetings and act as liaison between BSCP 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 alongside the statutory safeguarding partners.

## Independent scrutineer role specification

### Qualifications

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| **Ref** | **Details** |
| 1 | Degree level education (or equivalent) |
| 2 | A recognised professional qualification in a relevant discipline, including; social care, health, police or education or significant experience at a strategic management level including evidence of CPD / regular professional updates |

### Knowledge and experience

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| **Ref** | **Details** |
| 3 | Substantial experience of working at a senior strategic level within an agency which has operational responsibility in the safeguarding children context |
| 4 | Extensive knowledge of the safeguarding agenda, including legislation, guidance, policy and partnership regulatory Inspection Frameworks, with a comprehensive understanding of Working Together 2023, current national government guidance / legislation developments and what this means for local partnerships, statutory agencies and voluntary organisations |
| 5 | Knowledge of operations of key safeguarding partners and networks |
| 6 | Demonstrate the highest degree of legal literacy applicable to safeguarding children and having the ability to connect relevant legal statute with the professional priorities and objectives of multiple partners |
| 7 | Experience of working with and within multi-disciplinary strategic partnerships |
| 8 | Significant experience of chairing complex professional meetings at a senior and strategic level |
| 9 | Extensive experience of developing innovative approaches to assurance, inspection and quality improvement, workforce development and communications in a safeguarding context |
| 10 | Experience of presenting and writing high quality reports for a range of audiences |
| 11 | Experience of undertaking safeguarding related assurance, inspection or scrutiny  |

### Skills and abilities

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| **Ref** | **Description** |
| 12 | A strong moral and ethical character demonstrating integrity, openness and trustworthiness |
| 13 | Ability and enthusiasm for engaging with children, young people and families to ensure their voice and lived experience is at the heart of our safeguarding arrangements |
| 14 | Excellent communication and presentation skills to speak with authority on safeguarding issues and engage a wide range of stakeholders and decision makers |
| 15 | Demonstrable leadership, influencing skills and professional credibility to enable colleagues, peers and wider partners to contribute to developing a robust and responsive safeguarding environment |
| 16 | Ability to empower multi-agency activity for change and improvement |
| 17 | Able to digest and analyse complex information and communicate these effectively to a range of audiences |
| 18 | The confidence, authority and objectivity to positively influence, challenge practices, hold agencies accountable, manage conflict and professional disagreements |