



# West Midlands MASA Network

## Terms of Reference

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#### 1. Aims

- 1.1 To support the fourteen Local Child Safeguarding Partnerships across the West Midlands region to meet their statutory obligations as defined in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023.
- 1.2 To provide mutual support and promote regional collaboration on safeguarding matters to enhance safeguarding practice, performance, impact and outcomes for children, young people, and families.
- 1.3 As required, offer professional and guidance to Regional Lead Safeguarding Partners Groups and identify matters for their consideration.
- 1.4 To develop an agreed annual Work Programme focusing on shared regional safeguarding priorities for the financial year ahead
- 1.5 To develop and share emerging good practice and resources to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in the West Midlands.
- 1.6 To work collaboratively on cross border/partnership initiatives that support continuous improvement and deliver economies of scale.
- 1.7 To facilitate regional collaboration with the National Panel
- 1.8 To identify and progress issues for regional and national consultation or resolution and engage with relevant bodies/forums as appropriate.

#### 2. Deliverables

Members of the West Midlands MASA Network will:

- 2.1 Share emerging local good practice with members of the West Midlands MASA Network.
- 2.2 Lead and participate in short term Task-Finish Groups focused on specific regional safeguarding priorities set out in the Network's Work Programme.
- 2.3 Act as conduit for consultation and communication with Lead and Delegated Safeguarding Partners, Independent Scrutineers and Partnership Business Managers.
- 2.4 Undertake regional analysis of Rapid Reviews and Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews to cascade systemic learning to enhance safeguarding practice.

- 2.5 Drive regional collaboration to enhance safeguarding arrangements, deliver value for money, maximise resources, whilst avoiding unnecessary duplication and bureaucracy.
- 2.6 Ensure practitioners across the West Midlands have access to up-to-date on-line user-friendly safeguarding guidance, policy and procedures.
- 2.7 Identify opportunities to enhance cross border working and safeguarding practice, systems, and arrangements.
- 2.8 Use the voices and lived experience of children to influence and inform work to safeguard and promote their interests.
- 2.9 Collaboration across the West Midlands through joint projects and standardised processes where appropriate.
- 2.10 Identify emerging issues and areas of concern for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children across the West Midlands Region.

### **3. Relationship with other networks**

- 3.1 The West Midlands MASA network will work closely with West Midlands ADCS Network, West Midlands Regional Adult Safeguarding Leads Group, The Association of Safeguarding Professionals, National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, together with other national and regional safeguarding networks and relevant regulatory bodies.

### **4. Chairing arrangements**

- 4.1 The network and priority workstreams will all be co-chaired by agreed representatives from two different partnerships. Those undertaking the co-chairing roles should be a combination of Independent Scrutineers, Delegated Safeguarding Partners, and Partnership Business Managers.
- 4.2 The co-chairs will be members of the network and would undertake the role on a rotational basis for a two-year period. The changeover of Co-Chairs would be staggered over a six-month period, to provide continuity and support for incoming new chairs.

### **5. Membership**

- 5.1 Membership will be comprised of Independent Scrutineers, Chairpersons of local safeguarding arrangements, and Partnership Business Managers from the fourteen Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements in the West Midlands.
- 5.2 Subject matter experts and nominated representatives from across the fourteen safeguarding partnerships will be co-opted members to support the priority workstreams and Working Groups.

### **6. Structure, Work Groups and Frequency of meetings**

- 6.1 The West Midlands MASA Network will formally meet virtually on a quarterly basis via Microsoft Teams, a schedule of meetings for the year will be published in advance. In the interim period members can utilise the network

to consult and share information with colleagues via Microsoft Team, email using the network's membership contact list.

- 6.2 Co-Chair's will consult with members on future agenda planning and ensure the agenda and relevant papers are distributed a minimum of 5 working days before the meeting, to allow sufficient time for members to prepare.
- 6.3 Notes from the Network will be circulated to members within 10 working days of the meeting, together with a summary of decision and actions.
- 6.4 The Network will hold an annual face to face development session on an agreed safeguarding topic. National subject matter experts will be invited to the development session to provide keynote address and facilitate debate on regional improvement.
- 6.5 The Network will convene time limited task and finish groups as necessary to carry out specific projects and initiatives.
- 6.6 The Network has four established Working Groups details below. **Appendix 1** provides a structure chart setting out the Network and Working Groups, reporting lines, key roles of work groups and relationships with other key regional partnerships.

- Regional Safeguarding Procedures Group
- Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews Group
- Learning and Development Group
- Scrutiny and Audit Group
- Enhancing Anti-Discriminatory Practice Group

## **7. Business Support**

- 7.1 For the period of office Co-Chairs will provide administrative support for the West Midlands MASA Network.

## **8. Review of Terms Reference**

- 8.1 Terms of Reference revised and ratified on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024
- 8.2 Terms of reference to be reviewed every two years.
- 8.3 Next review scheduled for September 2026.