



Role Title:	Independent Scrutineer, Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership
Remuneration:	Competitive daily rate, subject of negotiation. Up to 40 days per year
Reporting to:	Chief Executive Officer, Birmingham Childrens Trust on behalf of the four Lead Safeguarding Partners

1. **Key purpose of the post**

- 1.1 To provide safeguarding partners and relevant agencies with independent, rigorous, and effective support and challenge at both a strategic and operational level.
- 1.2 To provide assurance to the whole system in judging the effectiveness of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements through a range of scrutiny methods.
- 1.3 To ensure that statutory duties are being fulfilled, quality assurance mechanisms are in place, and that local child safeguarding practice reviews and national reviews are analysed, with key learning areas identified and effectively implemented across the safeguarding system.
- 1.4 To ensure that the voice of children and families is considered as part of scrutiny and that this is at the heart of arrangements through direct feedback, informing policy and practice.
- 1.5 To be regarded as a 'critical friend' and provide opportunities for two-way discussion and reflection between frontline practitioners and leaders. This will encourage and enable strong, clear, strategic leadership.
- 1.6 To provide independent advice when there are disagreements between agencies and safeguarding partners through the partnership escalation procedures.
- 1.7 To evaluate and contribute to multi-agency safeguarding published arrangements and the annual report, alongside feeding into the wider accountability systems such as inspections.
- 1.8 To use feedback and information from Safeguarding Partners and Relevant Agencies, children, young people and families to consider the impact of Lead and Delegated Safeguarding Partners in delivering strong leadership to drive continuous improvement in safeguarding.

2. **Anticipated outcomes of the post**

- 2.1 The BSCP operates effectively and exercises its functions as set out in the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Working Together (December 2023).
- 2.2 The BSCP is focused on working collaboratively to deliver on the safeguarding priorities set out in its Business Improvement Plan.
- 2.3 A robust performance-monitoring framework and culture across the partnership that ensures all agencies performance can be monitored, evaluated and that identified improvements are embedded.

3. Key Duties and accountabilities of the post

- 3.1 Attend and contribute to key strategic partnership forums, including Biannual Strategic Leaders Assembly, Lead Safeguarding Partners and BSCP Executive Board.
- 3.2 Undertake 'deep dives' into selected and specific areas of multi-agency practice, supported by the QIO Sub-Group which will include triangulated evidence from performance data, multi-agency audits, practice observations, focus groups and interviews with practitioners and managers and engagement with children, young people and families/carers.
- 3.3 To ensure the BSCP benefits from a distinct, independent, and objective voice representing the views of all partners, children, and families.
- 3.4 To report and escalate key themes that emerge to the relevant Lead and Delegated Safeguarding Partners.
- 3.5 To report to, observe and attend BSCP meetings, as necessary and agreed with Lead and Delegated Safeguarding Partners.
- 3.6 To attend of the Quality Impact and Outcomes Sub-Group to provide independent oversight, analysis, and challenge of the BSCP Independent Scrutiny Framework and quality assurance activities.
- 3.7 To provide independent oversight and scrutiny of Serious Incident Notifications, Rapid Reviews and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews to evaluate quality of decision making, timeliness and adherence to national guidance issues by Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel.
- 3.8 To seek assurance that effective safeguarding performance management, audit and quality assurance mechanisms are in place within partner organisations to enable the BSCP to fulfil its statutory objectives and identify and measure its success, impact and outcomes.
- 3.9 To ensure that equality, diversity and inclusion is identified and addressed, including disproportionality in service provision and outcomes for children, young people and families.
- 3.10 To support the development of child-focused innovation and service improvement in system delivery.
- 3.11 To maintain focus on the impact of service arrangements on outcomes for children and young people and ensure that children/young people's voice and experience informs system learning.
- 3.12 To Co-host with a Delegated Safeguarding Partner a quarterly Practitioner Forum to engage with frontline practitioners to gain direct feedback of their experience, strengths, and challenges.
- 3.13 To seek assurance that workforce development embeds the findings and outcomes of multi-agency safeguarding audit activity and learning from Rapid Reviews and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.

4. **Lines of accountability and reporting**

- 4.1 Direct reporting to the four Lead Safeguarding Partners and Delegated Safeguarding Partners.
- 4.2 Produce and present Annual Accountability Report to the Lead and Delegated Safeguarding Partners.
- 4.3 Produce an Independent Scrutiny Programme for endorsement by Lead and Delegated Safeguarding Partners and provide regular update on progress throughout the year.

5. **Support Given**

- 5.1 The Independent Scrutineer will work in close collaboration with the Co-Chairs of the Quality Impact and Outcome Sub-Group, Partnership Business Manager and Performance and Quality Assurance Programme Manager.
- 5.2 The BSCP Business Support Team will provide administrative support for the Independent Scrutineer.

6. **Special Conditions**

- The role is subject to a three-year tenure, subject thereafter to an annual review for a maximum of a further two years. (Maximum of 5 years)
- This vacancy is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act.
- Regular working outside normal office hours may be required.

Birmingham Children Children's Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment.

Observance of the Birmingham Children's Trust **Equal Opportunities Policy** will be required.