



CSCP Arrangements 2023-24

Contents

Introduction	3
Accountability	3
Bi-Annual Networking	4
Safeguarding Is Everyone’s Responsibility	5
Meeting Frequency	6
Key Activities	7
Business Plan	8
Focus/Actions	8
Access to Learning, Advice, Support	8
Responsibilities & Accountabilities	9
Appendix A: CSCP Member List	11
Glossary	14

Introduction

Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships (LSCPs) evolved from Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) following the **Wood Review** and the 2018 revision of **Working Together To Safeguard Children**. The core objectives of LSCPs are:

- to coordinate local work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- to ensure the effectiveness of the activity of the local organisations to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Croydon uses the term 'CSCP' to describe its safeguarding partnership. This document describes the CSCP membership, its business aims and the framework for delivering on those aims.

Accountability

Working Together 2018 states LSCPs are to have clear leadership arrangements in place.

The Lead Representative from each of the three safeguarding partners is required to play an active role. The Lead Representatives for the safeguarding children partners in Croydon are:

- the Local Authority Chief Executive (Katherine Kerswell)
- the Chief Executive & Place Based Leader for Health (Matthew Kershaw)
- the Chief Officer of Police (Andy Brittain, Borough Commander)

All three safeguarding partners have equal and joint responsibility for local safeguarding arrangements. In situations that require a clear, single point of leadership, all three safeguarding partners should decide who would take the lead on issues that arise.

In Croydon, the Lead Representatives delegate their functions to:

- The Corporate Director for Children, Young People & Education (Debbie Jones)
- The Associate Director for Safeguarding NHS Croydon Place (SWL Integrated Care Service) (Sally Innis)
- The Detective Superintendent (Fiona Martin)

The Lead Representatives remain accountable for any actions or decisions taken on behalf of their agency. They operate as the CSCP Executive (with the Independent Chair and CSCP Business Manager in attendance). When the needs of the business dictate, additional partners will attend the Executive meetings.

The Lead Representatives, or those they delegate authority to, should be able to:

- speak with authority for the safeguarding partner they represent.
- take decisions on behalf of their organisation or agency and commit them on policy, resourcing and practice matters.
- hold their own organisation or agency to account on how effectively they participate and implement the local arrangements.

The CSCP engages the services of an Independent Scrutineer. (Keith Makin) who's role is to be:

- objective
- act as a constructive critical friend
- promote reflection to drive continuous improvement.

The Independent Scrutineer will routinely Chair Rapid Review meetings and any meetings identified in the meetings list below.

Bi-Annual Networking

There will be 2 meetings each business year, attended by the following representatives:

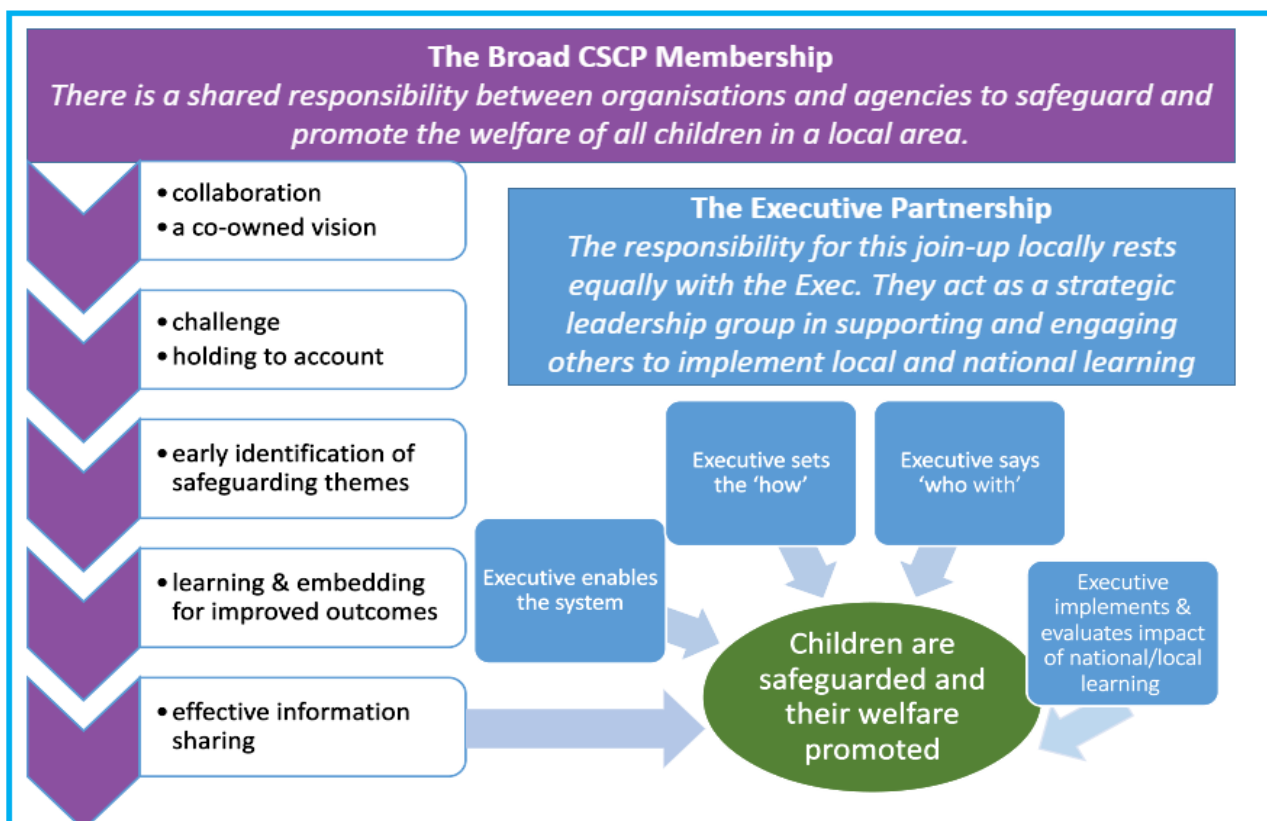
- The CSCP Executive Officers (including Education and the Independent Scrutineer)
- The CSAB Accountable Officers (Including the Chair of the CSAB)
- The Safer Croydon Partnership Accountable Officers (including the Chair of the SCP)

Crosscutting themes are reviewed alongside partnership training initiatives and current traction on business plans, to identify and agree appropriate action to join-up. The relevant business managers will arrange for the agenda to be approved no later than 2 weeks before the meeting is held.

Consideration will be given for the mayor and/or lead member for children to attend to observe.

Each Executive/Accountable Officer will present a summary overview of the meeting to their senior leadership team to ensure appropriate knowledge and oversight from the highest level of governance.

Working Together 2018 (Chapter 3) requires *a shared responsibility between organisations and agencies to safeguard children and promote the welfare of all children in a local area*. The responsibility for this join-up locally rests with the 3 Safeguarding Partners who have *a shared and equal duty to make arrangements to work together for this purpose*.



This document is the published arrangements for the Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership (CSCP). It relates to activity in the London Borough of Croydon (LBC) or for children who are Looked After by Croydon, placed in another area. This document can be found on the [CSCP website](#) along with contact details.

Funding for this work is via member contributions, agreed annually in advance by the CSCP Executive and published in the CSCP Annual Report.

Safeguarding Is Everyone's Responsibility

The Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership's Executive have responsibility to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The framework they provide for this purpose is described below:



In accordance with the statutory guidance set out in [Working Together 2018](#), The CSCP Executive requires that all partners/agencies¹ working with children in the London Borough of Croydon, have appropriate safeguarding in place which is quality assured to ensure its effectiveness in delivering best outcomes for children.

WT 2018 defines safeguarding as:

- *protecting children from maltreatment*
- *preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development*
- *ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care*
- *taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes*

The CSCP Executive ensures the following is available to partnership agencies:

- ✓ a framework of meetings
- ✓ a business plan
- ✓ activities and access to learning
- ✓ advice, guidance and support to enable partners to work independently and collectively to safeguard children and young people.

The CSCP Executive has a duty to examine and scrutinise those safeguarding arrangements to ensure they are robust and that organisations are held to account.

¹ See Appendix A for a list of partners/agencies

CSCP members/agencies agree to contribute to and engage fully and effectively in the work of the CSCP and/or the subgroups as detailed in Responsibilities & Accountabilities section (page 9).

Meeting Frequency

Meeting frequency may vary to suit the needs of the business plan. Agenda setting is 2 weeks in advance, with the Chair and the CSCP Business Support Team.

The Business Support Team will produce minutes within 5 working days to the chair of the meeting, who will amend/approve within a further 5 working days.

Meeting	Focus	Frequency	Chair
Executive	Assess and scrutinise the effectiveness of the arrangements Direct action as required, to ensure children in Croydon have their safeguarding needs met.	Monthly	Debbie Jones (Current, rotating)
Quality Improvement Group (QIG)	Multi-Agency audit and performance management to evidence the effectiveness of the arrangements including Section 11	Monthly	Keith Makin
Safeguarding Practice Review Group (SPRG)	Overview of all Rapid Review and SPR Activity. Arrangements for commissioning and publishing LCSPRs	Mar/May/Jul Sep/Nov/Jan	Keith Makin
Learning & Improvement Group (LIG)	Evidence the uptake and effectiveness of the training offer Promote the learning from local and national reviews	Mar/May/Jul Sep/Nov/Jan	Shade Alu
Network Meeting	CSCP Executive Officers plus the CSAB and CSP Accountable Officers to examine cross cutting themes and align training/priorities	Apr/Sep	Rotating (CSCP/CSAB /SCP)
Priority Groups	Time limited, to respond to a specific need or theme where concentrated multi-agency action is required	As per TORs	TBA

Each meeting has its own Terms of Reference and Action Plan which are reviewed annually in December. The key activities are detailed on page 6 and are subject to presenting needs of the business plan or emerging risk.

Other aligned groups include:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDOP – Child Death Overview Panel • SCP – Safer Croydon Partnership • CSAB – Croydon Safeguarding Adults Board • ASHG - Asylum Seeker/Hotels Safeguarding • DASV – Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EHPB – Early Help Partnership Board • MASH Ops Group - MASH Operational Group • SEND Board – Special Educational Need of Disability Board • HWBB - Health & Wellbeing Board • CPB – Corporate Parenting Board
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Key Activities

Date	Key Activity	Location
Jan	Review of progress and effectiveness of the previous year Business Plan	Exec
	Draft Business Plan for following year	Exec
	Sec11 Returns/Annual Report Evidence template requested (due Apr)	QIG
Feb	Business Plan developed, including accountable leads/timescales	QIG
	Themed Learning Event – Information Sharing	LIG
	Dataset	QIG
Mar	Final Business Plan agreed	Exec
Apr	Network Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCP/CSAB/CSCP to review crosscutting themes • Review previous business plan/themes for Annual Report 	Network
	Sec11/Annual Report templates due	QIG
	Themed Learning Event – Cross-cutting themes SAR/DHR/SPR	LIG
May	SPRG Update	Exec
	Dataset	QIG
Jun	Update on progress of the Business Plan/QA Impact	Exec
	Annual Report	QIG
Jul	Themed Learning Event – Extra-Familial Harm	LIG
Aug	Annual Report	QIG/Exec
	Dataset	QIG
Sep	Update on the progress of the Business Plan/QA Impact	Exec
Oct	Network Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCP/CSAB/CSCP review crosscutting themes • Focus on traction on the Business Plan/Risks 	Network
	Themed Learning Event – Suicide & Self Harm	LIG
	Annual Report to CYPE Performance Board/CMT/MAB	CMT/MAB
Nov	Annual Report to Cabinet with CSAB & SCP Reports	Cabinet
	Community Event to launch Annual Report (with CSAB)	Community
	Scrutiny (Annual Report)	Scrutiny
	SPRG Update	Exec
	Dataset	QIG
Dec	Update on the progress of the Business Plan/QA Impact	Exec
	Revision of TORs and Actions Plans	ALL

Business Plan

The Annual Business Plan cycle runs from April-March and consists of projects, each influenced by statutory duties, previous themes, priorities of the CSCP Executives and the national picture.

Projects will be allocated to subgroups, including but not limited to, existing multi-agency forums such as QIG, LIG, SPRG, SEND, CAP, Early Help Partnership Board, MASH Operational Group, DASV and where necessary and agreed by the Partnerships Executive, a separate, time limited CSCP Priority Group.

Each project will have clear outcome-focussed objectives with specified timescales, associated activities, an accountable lead officer, milestones, and outcome measures. Crucially, each project will have a voice of the child (VOC) element to evidence the attention and impact of their experiences.

Progress of projects will be formally quality assured for effectiveness, traction and timeliness. Impact will be evaluated. Findings will be reported in a regular progress report to Exec and summarised in the Annual Report.

Focus/Actions

Focus or actions will be driven by the needs of Business Plan; however, the national and local picture may influence and require additional focus or actions to be undertaken such as Rapid Reviews or specific learning events. Focus may also be driven by the findings of QA activity such as audits and deep dive activities to test effectiveness or understand impact.

The CSCP produces and scrutinises a multi-agency dataset which supports the partnership understanding of the cohorts, challenges and safeguarding risks to children as well as enables challenge and holding agencies to account for their safeguarding arrangements. This is a standing item, quarterly at each QIG meeting with exceptions being raised to CSCP Executive.

Access to Learning, Advice, Support

The CSCP has a website and a regular newsletter, both of which promote the free training available to any professional working in Croydon. Many courses can also be accessed by the general public living in Croydon who might want to increase their safeguarding awareness.

The CSCP website hosts a number of tools, guidance and links to specialist areas. This includes the CSCP Thresholds Document, Joint Working Guidance and the London Multi-Agency Safeguarding Data Sharing Agreement.

The CSCP Business Support Team co-ordinate a themed learning event in April/June/October & February. These are co-delivered with multi-agency partners and are an opportunity to learn and reflect. The sessions will enable skills and knowledge development drawing upon relevant research, information and data and the experiences of participants.

When appropriate additional learning events are also held to promote the learning from Rapid Reviews, Safeguarding Practice Reviews or National Learning.

Responsibilities & Accountabilities

CSCP Membership is a core responsibility of the role of the person nominated by their agency. It is not an additional responsibility; agencies must ensure the person nominated has capacity to engage as follows:

- Partner agencies must contribute to and engage fully and effectively in the work of the CSCP and/or the subgroups, including chairing subgroups or other meetings as nominated by the CSCP and committing to agreed deadlines.
- Partner agencies must ensure strategic safeguarding issues are promptly brought to the attention of the CSCP
- Partner agencies should support the work of the CSCP outside of CSCP meetings and ensure they report to the CSCP how they promote the wider health and welfare of children and young people and improve safeguarding outcomes
- Partner agencies should ensure that CSCP representation covers both strategic and professional expertise and responsibilities (this may be through one or more person)
- Partner agencies agree to ensure commitment of time to CSCP business within and outside meetings.
- Where interdependencies with other groups or workstreams exist, members will cross communicate and update other groups/workstreams and the CSCP as appropriate.
- Partner agencies accept and agree to provide financial or other resources if agreed by the CSCP to support the work of CSCP in line with Working Together 2018. The funding arrangements will be set out in the annual report.
- Partner agencies agree to ensure that there is liaison and feedback between the agency representative and front-line staff of the agency in respect of the work of the CSCP
- Partner agencies to provide data for the CSCP quarterly dataset in a timely manner. (End of the month following the Quarter ie: Jul/Oct/Jan/Apr)
- Partner agencies are accountable for ensuring their agency has completed its Section 11 safeguarding audit on an annual basis and engage with the CSCP QA process which is the mechanism for evidencing compliance & quality. Concerns or mitigation to be reported to the CSCP where there may be additional scrutiny.
- Partner agencies to release resources to enable the CSCP to undertake its programme of audits.
- Partner agencies to commit to ensuring their staff access relevant in-house and multi-agency safeguarding training and provide data on the impact of training.
- Partner agencies to contribute to the publication of the CSCP Annual Report
- Partner agencies appreciate and adhere to the strict confidentiality of the content of meetings and only share relevant and agreed information outside of the meeting when expressly requested to do so.
- Where a Partner Agency's representative cannot attend the CSCP meeting, then an appropriate nominated representative from the agency should attend on their behalf.
- If an agency is not represented at two consecutive CSCP meetings, a letter will be written to the Chief Executive of the organisation by the CSCP Independent Scrutineer to ensure any capacity issues are understood and resolved.

In addition, where a CSCP representative is acting on behalf of a group or professional forum (eg: voluntary sector, schools) the identified representative should:

- Be nominated by their sector (wherever possible)

- Publicise their name and contact details to their network and offer to raise issues to the CSCP on behalf of practitioners, groups and forums, and
- Ensure effective communication across their sector in order that the wider view of that network informs the CSCP.

CSCP partner responsibilities in relation to an LSCP's statutory objectives and functions can be found here: [Chapter 3, Working Together 2018](#)

Appendix A: CSCP Member List

Title/Role	Interdependencies to other groups	Specific Engagement Tasks
CSCP Independent Scrutineer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Councilors /Mayor ● Corporate Directors 	Chair of QIG/SPRG/Rapid Reviews Attend Exec – To provide Independent Scrutiny of the Safeguarding Arrangements and updates on independent scrutiny in other areas of CSCP work
CSCP Executive – LBC Corporate Director Children, Young People and Education (Croydon Council)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Children’s Performance/Corporate Directors ● Corporate Parenting Board ● Councilors/Mayor 	Statutory Partner - LA Exec Member & Chair
CSCP Executive - Health Associate Director for Safeguarding (CHIST) SWL ICB (Croydon)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CSAB ● HWB Board ● SW London ICB ● DASV 	Statutory Partner - Health Exec Member DASV Chair
CSCP Executive – Police Det Superintendent Met Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CSAB ● other LSCPs on BCU 	Statutory Partner - Police Exec Member
CSCP Executive - Education Director of Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DSL ● Education Forums ● SEND Forums ● Early Help Partnership Board 	Exec Member - Education
Children’s Social Care HOS Access Support & Intervention QA & Safeguarding Youth Justice Board Learning & Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MASH Operational Group ● QA & Safeguarding 	QIG/SPRG

Housing - LBC Interim Director of Tenancy Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Asylum Seeker ● Hotels Safeguarding Group 	QIG SPRG
Safer Croydon Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● VRN ● DASV/ FJC ● Modern Slavery ● MAPPA ● MARAC ● ASHG 	Network Meeting QIG
Commissioning – LBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Commissioned Services 	QIG
Safeguarding Adults Board Business Manager Independent Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CSAB ● SEND Board 	Monthly catch up with CSCP Business Manager Network Meeting LIG/QIG/SPRG as appropriate
NHS Croydon (ICS) Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children Designated Doctor for Safeguarding Children & Child Death Reviews Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children Named Midwife for Safeguarding Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maternity ● Health Visitors ● VAWG ● MASH Ops ● CDOP ● CSAB ● SEND 	QIG/ SPRG/LIG
South London & Maudsley (SLAM) NHS Foundation Trust Trust Wide Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children and DA Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CAMHS ● DASV ● VAWG ● SEND ● MASH OPs 	QIG/SPRG
CAMHS Lead Child Protection Practitioner/Clinical Specialist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SLaM ● SEND 	QIG

Met. Police Service – Croydon Borough DCI – South Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CAP ● GANGS ● Modern Slavery ● FJC / DASV ● MARAC ● MAPPA 	QIG/SPRG
UK Visas and Immigration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ASHG 	
Croydon Schools & Colleges		
Independent Schools & Colleges		
National Probation Service Head of Probation Delivery Unit (Croydon)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MARAC ● MAPPA 	QIG/SPRG as required
CAFCASS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NPS ● Corporate Parenting Board 	
London Ambulance Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CSAB 	SPRG when required
London Fire Brigade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CSAB 	SPRG when required
Substance Misuse Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Commissioners ● MASH Ops 	
Community BME Forum Croydon Voluntary Action Croydon Refugee Centre Asian Resource Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Faith Groups ● My Ends / CVA ● SCP ● VRN ● ASHG 	
Residential Homes for Children		
Lead Member for Children & Young People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mayor ● Cabinet ● DCS 	

Glossary

Abbreviation	Definition
ASHG	Asylum Seekers / Hotels Safeguarding Group
BCU	Borough Command Unit
CAFCASS	Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental health Services
CAP	Complex Adolescents Panel
CDOP	Child Death Overview Panel
CSAB	Croydon Safeguarding Adults Board
CSCP	Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership
DASV	Domestic Abuse and Serious Violence
DCS	Director of Children's Services
EHPB	Early Help Partnership Board
FJC	Family Justice Centre
HWB	Health and Wellbeing Board
ICB	Integrated Care Board
LA	Local Authority
LBC	London Borough of Croydon
LCSPR	Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review
LIG	Learning Improvement Group
LSCP	Local Safeguarding Children Partnership
MAPPA	Multi-agency Public Protection Arrangements
MARAC	Multi-agency risk assessment conference
MASH	Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub
QA	Quality Assurance
QIG	Quality Improvement Group
SCP	Safer Croydon Partnership
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
SLaM	South London and Maudsley (NHS Foundation Trust)
SPR	Safeguarding Practice Review
SPRG	Safeguarding Practice Review Group
SWL	Southwest London
TOR	Terms of Reference
VRN	Violence Reduction Network