

Job Description

Job Title	Independent Scrutineer
Grade	-
Reporting To	Wirral Children Safeguarding Partnership Executive
JD Ref	-

Purpose

Wirral Safeguarding Children Partnership is an integrated multi-agency partnership providing strategic leadership, direction, and governance for the delivery of statutory and local requirements for safeguarding children in Wirral. The Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSPs) are committed to driving continuous improvement through scrutiny and challenge and to support the critical work of the partnership the Lead Safeguarding Partners are seeking to appoint an Independent Scrutineer with the passion, vision, and commitment to strengthen, scrutinise and develop the work of the partnership. The role of Independent Scrutineer will provide independent, rigorous, and effective support and challenge at both a strategic and operational level.

This will contribute to ensuring that children, young people receive the right quality service at the right time and are at the heart of arrangements, providing direct feedback that will inform policy and practice.

The Independent Scrutineer is accountable to the Lead Safeguarding Partners and will work with representatives of partner agencies, which includes Education and Voluntary Sector organisations. The appointee will be supported by the WSCP Business Manager and staff within the WSCP business unit.

This appointment is for a three-year fixed term.

Main Duties And Responsibilities

Behavioural:

- Enjoy, achieve, create impact, and thrive in the role and organisation.
- Live our values in the role and organisation.

Role Specific duties & responsibilities:

- To manage and deliver the plan for independent scrutiny as agreed by the Lead Safeguarding Partners.
- To provide scrutiny to influence and strengthen the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements within Wirral, to support continuous improvement for children and families.

- To manage the development of mechanisms to enable children and young people, their families and carers to provide feedback on the effectiveness of the partnership safeguarding arrangements, and their own experiences as service users.
- To attend meetings with Lead Safeguarding Partners, Delegated Safeguarding Partners and individual partner agency scrutiny forums as required.
- Be responsible for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children at all times.
- To ensure that the quality assurance activity completed on both a multiagency and single agency footprint is effective and that the learning and outcomes have a positive impact on the services delivered to children, young people and families.
- To ensure that rapid review processes are effective and that recommendations and decision making in relation to the commissioning of local child safeguarding practice reviews are reasonable and proportionate.
- To hold partner organisations to account for effective implementation of recommendations identified from multi-agency safeguarding learning reviews and serious child safeguarding practice reviews.
- To contribute to the resolution of disputes between professionals and agencies as required.
- To scrutinise and contribute as required to the WSCP yearly report.
- To contribute to WSCP conferences and political member training as necessary

Compliance:

- Adhere to and comply with all relevant corporate policies and procedures including Health & Safety, General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), Corporate Governance and Code of Conduct.

Other:

- Maintain personal and professional development to meet the changing demands of the job, and participate in appropriate training/development activities as required.
- Maintain effective relationships with colleagues and external partners and other stakeholders at all times.
- The employer reserves the right to alter the content of this job description after consultation to reflect changes to the job or services provided, without altering the general character or level of responsibility.
- This post is politically restricted under the terms of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

Role Specific Knowledge, Experience And Skills

Qualifications

- Applicants should have a relevant academic and/or professional qualification or demonstration of equivalent senior level experience in a safeguarding context.

Knowledge & Skills

- Good negotiating skills, with an ability of high-level influencing skills with a wide variety of leaders and managers from within and outside the council such as chief executives and directors.



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- Ability to build effective working relationships and networks with managers and officers from partner agencies and other stakeholders.
- Excellent listening skills.
- The ability to understand and analyse complex information relevant to the area.
- Ability to professionally challenge senior members of organisations.
- The ability to meet and talk with children, young people and their families constructively and at the appropriate level.
- Good communication skills with the ability to present issues and information clearly and concisely to a wide range of professional, voluntary and other staff in those agencies involved in working with children, young people and their families.
- The ability to work under pressure and tight deadlines.
- A self-starter with the ability to manage own time and workload, prioritising conflicting demands.
- Ability to provide effective leadership.
- Competent IT user.

Experience

- Substantial experience of working in a child or young person focussed service area at a senior level.
- Material evidence of working in a multi-agency environment working to safeguard children.
- Significant experience of management in a relevant setting.
- Track record of effective continuous improvement in service delivery.
- Knowledge of strategic planning, preferably across partnerships.
- Experience of working across organisational and managerial boundaries to achieve improved outcomes for children and young people.
- Excellent knowledge and understanding of relevant legislative and regulatory framework, and Government initiatives relating to Children's Services, including have knowledge of the principles of the Children Act 1989, The Children Act 2004, Children and Social Work Act 2017 and of Working Together.
- Comprehensive understanding of child abuse and child protection issues.
- A thorough knowledge of the management structures and processes in Children's Services, Local Government and the Health Service.
- Knowledge and experience of quality assurance methods.
- Understanding of and ability to use information and communication technology and information management systems.
- Understanding of and ability to use performance frameworks



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Additional Information

Ability to travel across the Borough and work from various locations.

Work hybrid, with a flexible working approach to accommodate service needs.

On occasion, able to work outside traditional hours, of a weekend and evening as required, adopting a flexible working approach in response to business requirements.

Health & Safety Considerations:

- Lone working
- Working with children

Approved By: Kerry Bull

Date Of Approval: 14.08.2025



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