

BOLTON SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS

Partnership Briefing; Bolton Framework for Action and Integrated Front Door Peer Review



Background

Bolton Safeguarding Children Partnership has commissioned an independent Peer Review of our local thresholds document, The Framework for Action (FFA) and the Integrated Front Door (IFD). This will provide the safeguarding partners with an independent evaluation of the impact and effectiveness of these important safeguarding arrangements.

The Peer Review is being led by colleagues from Derby and will take place on **20 and 21 September 2022**. It is important to remember that a peer review is not an inspection. Rather, it is providing a critical friend in assessing compliance, recognising strengths and identifying areas for improvement.

Peer Review Scope and Key Lines of Enquiry

The scope has been developed by members of the partnership's IFD and Thresholds task and finish group. The scope intends to provide the necessary evidence to demonstrate the following in relation to strategic leadership and front-line practice: -

Strategic Leadership

- Strategic 'buy-in' and resource from the multi-agency safeguarding system to the vision and purpose of the arrangements
- Strong leadership and governance from senior officers who have a strong 'line of sight' on the operations and impact of IFD and the thresholds document
- Sufficient and relevant resources are available to the IFD from the range of key partners to meet demand; processes are in place to strategically discuss and review changes to IFD resources or operations to evaluate impact and unintended consequences

Front Line Practice

- Thresholds are robust - the threshold document is 'fit for purpose', thresholds are promoted within organisations, understood and applied consistently across the safeguarding system
- Prior to IFD referral there is evidence that early help has been provided to meet the needs of children and their families, appropriate referrals are made to IFD and demonstrate a good understanding of local thresholds
- Review the impact of the early help access point on reducing escalation to social care
- Children's outcomes are improved as a result of the IFD safeguarding arrangements
- Police / criminal investigations are progressed swiftly, and any delay is challenged
- Review the impact of the Consultation Line and how this is resourced.

Methodology

A range of methods will be used by the peer review team to carry out the peer review and may include the following: -

- Read and evaluate a range of key partnership documents i.e. meeting minutes, performance information, business plans etc.
- Observe meetings and shadow practitioners/strategic leads
- Facilitate partnership focus groups and conduct interviews with practitioners, managers and leaders

All partners are asked to prioritise any information requests for the peer review team, as well attending or nominating attendees for any focus groups etc.

A report will be provided by the peer review team summarising their findings.

Your Support

Please share this briefing with leaders and practitioners in your service or organisation. It is important that everyone is aware of the review and even more so the findings that emerge.

If you are invited to attend a focus group or a 1-1 meeting with members of the Peer Review team, please prioritise this. Your perspectives and experiences of what's working well and what can be strengthened are integral to the impact the review can make to local safeguarding arrangements.

The Policy and Performance Team within the Local Authority are co-ordinating the logistics for the Review and if you are contacted by them, please respond as quickly as possible.

A further briefing will be shared as more detail is confirmed about the Peer Review.

If you have any queries or questions about the Peer Review, please mark it 'IFD/Thresholds Peer Review' and send to: -

policyandperformance@bolton.gov.uk