



Job description	
Job title	Independent Scrutineer
Grade	
Directorate	Children's Services
Section/team	Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership
Accountable to	The three Statutory Partners: Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Merseyside Police and NHS Cheshire & Merseyside Integrated Care Board
Responsible for	Not Applicable
Date reviewed	March 2025

Purpose of the Job

Providing scrutiny, challenge, and assurance from partners on the effectiveness of the children's safeguarding arrangements, including arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding case reviews.

Duties and Responsibilities

This is not a comprehensive list of all the tasks, which may be required of the post holder. It is illustrative of the general nature and level of responsibility of the work to be undertaken.

- Provide independent scrutiny to the Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership ensuring that it fulfils its statutory responsibilities set out in the Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 and other related guidance to work collaboratively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Knowsley
- To provide effective and objective scrutiny and challenge and act as constructive critical friend as well as promoting reflection to drive continuous improvement to both the partnership and safeguarding practice
- To consider how well the safeguarding partners are providing strong and effective leadership and agree with the safeguarding partners how this will be reported
- To provide assurance to the Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership that organisations have strategies in place for addressing priorities, gaps and risks and how effective they are
- To seek assurance regarding the robustness and effectiveness of local multi-agency arrangements in Knowsley to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to report areas of weakness and highlight areas of

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- strength to the safeguarding partners
- To scrutinise on how organisations hold each other to account to take corrective action and to improve services where issues of poor performance and practice are identified
 - To report to the Executive Board as required
 - To assist and provide independent advice when there are any conflicts of interest between the key statutory leads
 - Listen to the experiences of children & young people and their families to ascertain how effectively local arrangements are working for them
 - Provide opportunities for an independent perspective of frontline practice through direct conversations with practitioners and how effectively the arrangements are working for them
 - Report to the safeguarding partners any recommendations from their scrutiny and/or assurance activities
 - Provide independent oversight and scrutiny on serious child safeguarding cases, ensuring that reviews are undertaken rigorously in line with statutory guidance and acting as liaison between the Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel
 - To challenge decisions on behalf of the partnership on the commissioning of reviews and publication arrangements
 - To scrutinise the findings and outcomes of any safeguarding reviews and hold agencies to account for the effective implementation of recommendations identified
 - Facilitate the effective operation of multi-agency safeguarding partnership meetings including chairing of meetings and following up progress on decisions and recommendations identified
 - Contribute to the content of the partnership's annual reports on the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements for children & young people, their performance, and the effectiveness of local services
 - To engage in inspection related activity across the partnership.



Health and Safety

- To ensure suitable and sufficient risk assessments are carried out taking into account employee's capabilities.

Data Protection and Information Security

- Implement and act in accordance with the Information Security Acceptable Use policy and Data Protection Policy,
- Protect the council's information assets from unauthorised access, disclosure, modification, destruction or interference,
- Report actual or potential security incidents.

Knowsley Better Together – Staff Qualities

The following qualities have been adopted by the Council and apply to all employees. You are expected to embrace and display these qualities.

- **Integrity.** You are required to be open and honest, maintain high standards of personal behaviour and display strong moral principles.
- **Accountability.** You must take personal responsibility for your actions and decisions and understand the consequences of your behaviour.
- **Communication.** You must listen and talk to others, taking account of other people's points of view. You should share information and strive to work together.
- **Respect.** You must treat people with care and dignity, observing the rights of other people, and helping and supporting others where you can.