
TERMS OF REFERENCE

Attendees: As outlined in Section 4

Frequency: Bi-Monthly

Time: (TBC) 1 hour duration

Location: Microsoft Teams

Effective from: September 2022 – March 2023 (Structure and progress to be reviewed at 18-month juncture)

1. Background

As laid out in *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018*, an effective early help approach relies upon local organisations and agencies- across sectors- working together to identify children and families in need of help and taking appropriate and timely action.

The Lambeth Early Help Partnership brings together practitioners across education, early years providers, health, the voluntary community sector, youth justice and Children's Social Care. The Partnership have co-produced an ambitious 5-year Partnership Early Help Strategy around the principle that '*Early Help is Everyone's Business*'.

The strategy outlines 4 key strategic priorities to transform Lambeth's early help approach.

The strategy was adopted by the Lambeth Safeguarding Children's Executive in March 2022.

2. Purpose

The Subgroup should be used to provide data, analysis and direction relating to the delivery of targeted early help work across the borough as well as the primary forum to track the implementation and impact of the Lambeth Partnership Early Help Strategy.

The group will be responsible for ensuring partners are working effectively together, that opportunities are being maximised and for implementing the Lambeth Partnership Early Help Strategy (22-27).

3. Key accountabilities

- Track the progress of the Early Help Strategy and its impact, including the impact of transformation on the wider social care system- including children in need

- Ensure that the LSCP Executive are kept informed of progress, opportunities, and challenges with the implementation of the Partnership Early Help Strategy
- Interrogate and analyse performance data from partner agencies, providing challenge, scrutiny, and advice to the operational teams, to improve service performance across Early Help
- Hold the partnership accountable for the completion of the Early Help System's Guide on an annual basis to help integrate and transform local public services to embed whole family working and re-balance the system.
- Hold the partnership accountable for the ongoing development of the Supporting Families Outcome plan which is the strategy for identifying and measuring progress for families.
- Ensure that opportunities under the governments Supporting Families Programme are being realised including holding the partnership accountable to deliver the required milestones for increasing data maturity.

4. Membership

The sub-group will bring together members of the Lambeth Early Help Partnership, membership may also be formed from the previous Lambeth Early Help Strategic Group.

Representation should include -

- Education, including SEND providers
- Early Years providers
- Health
- Police
- Youth Offending and Community Safety
- Lambeth Early Help Service
- Lambeth Children's Social Care
- Voluntary Community Sector
- Youth and play sector

(Additional officers may attend as required by the agenda).

5. The role of the chair/s

The Chair/s of the subgroup will be appointed by the LSCP Executive. The Chair/s will be responsible for chairing the meetings of the subgroup, including approving the agenda and meeting minutes. The Chair/s will work with the Business Manager to sustain the engagement and momentum of the Subgroup, monitoring progress and actions in between meetings.

6. Reporting requirements

Lambeth Early Help Service will be responsible for co-ordinating updates to the subgroup on behalf of the Early Help strategy and 4 strategic priorities. It should also clearly map

out the priorities over the coming month and any issues requiring attention or direction from the Executive.

7. Escalation

Working Together 2018 states that safeguarding partners are expected to work together to resolve disputes locally. In the event of any disagreement, the Executive will be notified and the Designated Officers from the three statutory partners will meet to agree a resolution. The Chair and Independent Scrutineer will contribute to these discussions.

8. Independent scrutiny

As established in *Working Together 2018*, the role of independent scrutiny is to provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area, including arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases. As such, the Independent Scrutineer may attend Subgroup meetings and work with relevant partners and/or the Chair/s of the Subgroup as necessary.

9. Annual Reporting

As set out in *Working Together 2018*, the LSCP will publish a report at least once in every 12-month period. The report will set out LSCP actions, including on child safeguarding practice reviews, and how effective partnership arrangements have been in practice. The Subgroup, through the Chair/s will provide information to feed into this report as requested.