

Independent Scrutineer

Background

New safeguarding children arrangements for Nottinghamshire have been introduced under the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership. We are now looking to appoint an 'Independent Scrutineer' who will play a vital role in ensuring that multi-agency work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children is effective and responds to the needs of children and young people in Nottinghamshire.

The Children and Social Work Act (2017) and statutory guidance¹, require the 'safeguarding partners' (local authority, police and clinical commissioning groups) to include within their safeguarding arrangements provisions for independent scrutiny. How best to implement a robust system of independent scrutiny is a decision to be made locally so there is the opportunity for innovation and creativity.

The Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership safeguarding arrangements were published in December 2018 and can be found on the Partnership website:

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nscp/about-the-partnership>

The role of independent scrutiny (Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018)

- 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
- The independent scrutineer should consider how effectively the arrangements are working for children and families as well as for practitioners,
- The independent scrutineer should consider how well the safeguarding partners are providing strong leadership and agree with the safeguarding partners how this will be reported.
- Safeguarding partners should also agree arrangements for independent scrutiny of the report they must publish at least once a year.
- The safeguarding partners ensure that the scrutiny is objective, acts as a constructive critical friend and promotes reflection to drive continuous improvement.

Independent scrutiny will be part of a wider system which includes the independent inspectorates' single assessment of the individual safeguarding partners and the Joint Targeted Area Inspections

The job description and person specification accompanying this briefing incorporates the above responsibilities and provides further details on the expectations placed on the Independent Scrutineer in the context of the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership.

The Independent Scrutineer will attend the Strategic Leadership Group and act as a critical friend providing an assessment of the effectiveness of the safeguarding arrangements, highlighting areas for improvement and contributing to the Partnership yearly report. They will provide assurance around key elements of the Partnership learning and improvement work; taking an active role in ensuring case reviews are carried out effectively, contributing to the multi-agency audit programme and scrutinising the effectiveness of the training provided through the Partnership. The Independent

¹ Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)

Scrutineer will take part in visits to frontline settings to strengthen communication between the partnership and frontline practitioners and contribute to effectiveness judgements by providing the opportunity to directly discuss with children and families the services they are receiving.

The Independent Scrutineer may also be asked to contribute towards the public response by the partnership to issues of public concern, such as following a child safeguarding practice review.

They will also meet with the Nottinghamshire County Council Chief Executive, Chief Officer of Police, Accountable Officers from the Clinical Commissioning Groups and elected members as part of their role.

Time commitment and rate:

Up to 36 days per year at a rate of £550 per day.