



Role Profile – Independent Scrutineer – Surrey Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP)

Directorate: Children's, Families and Lifelong Learning

Grade: Paid on a consultancy basis. The daily rate will be competitive.

Date: March 2025

Role Purpose

The independent Scrutineer will be required to provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children and young people in Surrey. They should consider how effectively the arrangements are working for children and families as well as practitioners and how well the safeguarding partners are providing strong leadership. The post holder will provide independent scrutiny to support continuous practice improvement for children and families.

Accountabilities:

- Provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in Surrey, including arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases.
- Consider how effectively the safeguarding arrangements are working for children, young people and their families as well as for practitioners; and how well the safeguarding partners are providing strong and effective leadership
- Critique and also as appropriate contribute to an annual report which will be published on the Surrey Safeguarding Children Partnership website.
- Provide independent scrutiny to the Safeguarding Partnership ensuring that it fulfils its statutory responsibilities as set out in the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and other related guidance including Working Together 2023 to work collaboratively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in the county.
- 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 have a view and advise regarding the robustness and effectiveness of local multi-agency arrangements in the county to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to report areas of weakness and highlight areas of strength to the Safeguarding Partners.

- To provide a view on how effectively organisations hold each other to account to take corrective action and to improve services where issues of poor performance and practice are identified.
- To present scrutiny reports to the Surrey Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive Group as required.
- Listen to the experiences of children and 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
- Agree an annual scrutiny plan with safeguarding partners setting out areas of activity to support the ongoing development of the partnership,.
- Scrutinise the findings and outcomes of any safeguarding reviews

Specific Role Accountabilities

The scrutiny role will consider the following:

- Whether there are appropriate and effective systems and processes in place in all partner agencies to fulfil their statutory duties and ensure that children are protected and that appropriate safeguarding strategies are developed and embedded
- The effectiveness of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements
- Whether the structures for the operation of the safeguarding partnership are purposeful, efficient and effective.
- Whether evidence, performance information and evaluation is used to develop an integrated data set that supports a unified approach across the complex landscape of safeguarding.
- Whether the arrangements enable space for reflection and learning from practice.
- Whether the partnership is able to evidence that they are having a positive impact on multi-agency working and front-line practice.
- What has gone well and what is the evidence to support this?
- Whether there are concerns or issues that need addressing

The scrutineer will:

- Present his/her assessment as part of the Surrey SSCP Annual Report showing evidence of impact of the work of the Partnership
- Agree with the safeguarding partners how scrutiny will be supported and any areas where a particular focus is required. This will form the basis of an annual scrutiny plan.

SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE

- Highly knowledgeable and experienced at a strategic level in children's safeguarding and partnership work
- Experience of working at a strategic level within a multi-disciplinary context.
- Experience of developing and implementing improvement plans and approaches regarding children's safeguarding
- Experience of preparing, undertaking and responding to the findings of external agency inspections
- Ability to analyse, review and critically evaluate qualitative and quantitative data and information
- Demonstrable commitment to understanding children and young people's experiences and views and acting on them
- A proven track record of having influenced and negotiated successfully at a strategic level across agencies, disciplines, and sectors.
- Excellent presentation skills and the ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of different agencies and professionals at different levels
- Sound understanding of the current relevant legislation relating to children's safeguarding
- Experience of performance management and accountability frameworks
- Commitment to Equal Opportunities principles and policies and anti-oppressive practice
- Previous scrutineer or other relevant and comparable experience is required

It is estimated that the role will require **approximately 70 days per year**. This arrangement will be reviewed after six months and then annually.

Dimensions

- **Non-Financial**

(Include services this post is responsible for, number of direct reports and approximate total staff headcount in job holder's area. Please include an organisation chart if available.)

- The Independent Scrutineer will be accountable to the three statutory safeguarding partners.

Other requirements

- It is estimated that the role will require approximately 70 days per year. This arrangement will be reviewed after six months and then annually.
- Daily rate to be approximately £700 per day.