



Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership

Independent Scrutineer

ROLE PROFILE

Pay: £600 per day

Appointment: Up to 20 days a year

Accountability: Accountable to the DSCP DSP's

INTRODUCTION/CONTEXT

The Children Act 2004 and as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017 requires the three safeguarding partners to have a shared and equal duty to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area. Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 has set out the arrangements for an independent scrutiny function, which should provide the critical challenge and appraisal of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. The role of the Scrutineer will be independent of the Dorset Local Safeguarding Children Partnership.

Securing the best possible safeguarding outcomes for children is a priority for all partner organisations in Dorset. New legislation offers an opportunity to further develop existing excellent multi-agency partnerships and arrangements. We are committed to making Dorset the safest place to live, where all children are protected from abuse, neglect and exploitation and that high quality and effective support and intervention is provided as soon as a need is identified.

The national context and cost-of-living crisis has created additional pressures on our resources, but as a Council Dorset continues to prioritise our most vulnerable residents and deliver the high standard of care and support that is required to improve children's wellbeing and life chances.

Commitment to Diversity: The council has a strong commitment to achieving equality of opportunity in its services to the community and in the employment of people. It

expects all employees to understand, comply with and promote its policies in their own work, undertake any appropriate training to help them to challenge prejudice or discrimination.

Our Vision

We want Dorset to be the best place to be a child, where communities thrive, and families are supported to be the best they can be.”

We want all our children and young people to:

- have the best start in life
- be safe from harm and have the help they need when they need it
- have healthy and active lives
- be prepared for adult life
- feel they can have their say, are listened to and are able to make a difference
- enjoy growing up in Dorset
- have a settled and happy education that enables them to achieve their full potential

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE ROLE

The role of independent scrutiny is to provide assurance, through monitoring and challenge, in judging the effectiveness and quality of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area. This is undertaken through objective scrutiny, acting as a constructive critical friend, promoting reflection to drive improvements, and reporting how well the safeguarding partners are providing strong leadership to fulfil their safeguarding children role.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE INDEPENDENT SCRUTINEER

- Develop strategic links, support, and hold to account all LSPs in fulfilling their safeguarding duties for children.
- Ensure that local arrangements are designed to work collaboratively and effectively by encouraging and supporting the development of partnership working between the LSPs, DSPs, independent scrutiny role and DSCP subgroups.
- Offer appropriate challenge to ensure that the partners are accountable, and that the local arrangements operate effectively.
- Consider the overall effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements
- Consider how well the safeguarding partners are providing strong leadership
- Provide independent scrutiny of the annual report of the safeguarding partners
- Offer mediation to the three statutory safeguarding partners and any other

local agencies in dealing with any key areas of disagreement to achieve resolution

- Offer independent review of any escalated concern raised by relevant agencies or on behalf of children and families when requested by the Delegated Safeguarding Partners.
- Support a culture and environment conducive to robust scrutiny and constructive challenge.
- Ensure that the voice of the child is at the heart of all aspects of the work of the DSCP
- Scrutiny of the programme of multiagency audits, which both allows the work of all relevant agencies to be subjected to detailed analysis and reflection and focus on identified areas of development.
- Annual scrutiny of the priorities set by the DSPs and LSPs to ensure the relevance of priorities in meeting local needs
- Annual scrutiny of the effectiveness of arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases
- At least annual review of the clarity of the information that the DSP receives to inform Lead Safeguarding Partners of the effectiveness of safeguarding
- Make formal recommendations to the DSCP Board
- To maintain focus on the impact of partnership work on outcomes for children and young people

ABOUT YOU

We are looking for an innovative and creative thinker, who is skilled in multi-agency facilitation, keeping the needs and perspective of our local children and young people at the heart of everything we do.

We are working on embedding a partnership learning culture and fostering mature systems leadership, where all partners take active responsibility for support and challenge of each other.

This will include making better use of audits which demonstrate impact upon outcomes, intelligent data analysis, embedding a practice learning culture with our multi-professional frontline staff and volunteers. Crucially it involves routinely talking directly to our children and young people about their lived experiences, understanding their observations about what we do well and what we need to change as a system.

We are looking for someone who can demonstrate our shared values and work with us, offering high challenge and high support, working with our partnership leaders to have mature systems conversations to improve outcomes for children.

If you have extensive multi-professional safeguarding operational experience and a successful record of work promoting outcomes for children and/or vulnerable adults, we want to hear from you.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Qualifications and Experience

- Hold a recognised professional qualification in a discipline including social care, health, or Police or equivalent experience at a strategic manager level
- Significant experience at a senior, strategic level within a statutory, voluntary or independent organisation in the context of safeguarding children and child protection services. (essential)

Vision and Leadership

- Demonstrate effective leadership at a senior level within a children's safeguarding multi-disciplinary context.
- Experience of having influenced and negotiated successfully at a senior level across agencies, disciplines, and sectors.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the world from a child's perspective in discharging responsibility and ensure that perspective influences service development and evaluation.
- Demonstrable track record of providing inspirational leadership and achieving excellence in the coordination of safeguarding services, contributing to objective setting at an executive level and able to inspire a culture where change, improvement and learning are welcomed and supported across the partnership.
- Commitment to equality and diversity, identifying strategies to deliver equitable and fair services for users and employees, challenging discriminatory practices and actively managing and promoting diversity.

Skills & Knowledge

- Knowledge and understanding on the role of the Independent Scrutineer
- Thorough knowledge and understanding of relevant legislation, research, inspection regimes and statutory guidance relating to the safeguarding of children

- Sound knowledge of the Children Act 1989 and 2004 and other government guidance relevant to this post such as Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 and London Safeguarding Procedures 2023.
- Knowledge of recent developments in health and social care, of legislation and research underpinning child protection work.
- Substantial experience, knowledge and understanding of statutory and voluntary organisations and how they work.
- Demonstrable record of applying quality assurance frameworks to ensure effective scrutiny and understand the impact and effectiveness of safeguarding practice across partner agencies.
- Proven ability to chair meetings effectively, demonstrate positive leadership and effective challenge.
- Skills in negotiations to assist in resolving conflict between agencies.
- Excellent communication, negotiation, consultation and influencing skills tailored to meet the needs of a wide range of audiences and stakeholders.
- Ability to build and maintain supportive and empathetic relationships, securing people's support and commitment to a course of action or different way of thinking by presenting ideas convincingly and persuasively, and to lead major negotiations
- Proven ability to involve children, young people and their families in planning and decision making at all levels – including contributing to strategic plans and developments.
- Ability to ensure high standards of confidentiality both in terms of individual cases and in terms of sensitive cross organisational matters.

Work Conditions

- Ability to undertake any necessary travel in connection with the duties of the post.
- Flexible in terms of time commitment to ensure that periods of increased activity are led consistently.
- Be available to attend other meetings as appropriate and requested by the statutory partners
- Not be related to an elected member (or equivalent of any of the partners), nor to an officer who is employed by a partner agency in a role that is relevant to its safeguarding functions.

More Information about Dorset Council



Dorset Council Plan 2024-2029



Our vision: Working together to create a fairer, more prosperous and more sustainable Dorset for current and future generations

Our priorities

-  Provide high-quality and affordable housing
-  Grow our economy
-  Communities for all
-  Respond to the climate and nature crisis

Underpinned by our principles of **partnership** and **prevention**

Our values

-  Respect
-  Openness
-  Together
-  Curiosity
-  Accountability

Inclusion the heartbeat of our organisation

 dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/dorset-council-plan

Working together | ambitious for Dorset