

Alliance Reference Group - Terms of Reference



Safeguarding Surrey's
children together

Vision

'The new safeguarding arrangements will make a difference to the lives of children and young people in Surrey. They will ensure that agencies work better together, learn from local and national practice and continuously improve services to enable children and young people to be safe and feel safe in their families and communities.'

Purpose

The Alliance Reference Group is created to provide an informal space to discuss and provide feedback on the Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health service model in an open and constructive way. The group brings together colleagues from the Surrey system and the newly formed provider Alliance. The purpose of the group is threefold:

- To share understanding about iThrive, the new contract and the alliance with some key groups
- Provide a forum for colleagues from the Alliance to test thinking on operational design of new/revised services and get feedback during the early months of mobilisation
- If helpful, provide an ongoing, relatively informal forum to discuss progress, priorities and key issues

Key Functions

This is a practical multi-agency group focusing on what is working well and what needs to change so as to ensure ongoing improvement and development of the new service to promote the emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people. Subject to agreement, this group will support the Alliance by offering advice and insight, by helping to ensure that there is a smooth transition and that challenges to the EWMH service are identified, discussed and resolved. This group will also give a steer toward the experience needed in the Reference Group covering logistics and outcomes.

Membership

The group will be facilitated by the Clinical Chair of the Surrey Heartlands CCG. Core membership will include representatives from:

- three statutory partners
- three school phases, independent schools, further education
- the third sector
- the district/boroughs
- the Alliance
- the SSCP Partnership Development Manager/ Partnership Development and Engagement Officer
- Commissioning partners

Code of conduct

The SSCP Code of Conduct as set out in Appendix 1 applies to this group.

Accountabilities and Reporting

The facilitator of the group will report to SSCP Independent Chair and the Executive Group on a regular basis. The Independent Chair will report progress to the Surrey Mental Health Partnership Board and the Surrey Health and Wellbeing Board when appropriate.

Frequency of Meetings

The Alliance Reference Group will meet on a bi-monthly basis until March 2022. Meeting dates will be agreed in advance.

Administration

The Partnership Team will produce a brief record of key issues raised at each meeting. The overall administration of the group is expected to be light touch.

Appendix 1: Surrey Safeguarding Children Partnership Code of Conduct



Our vision

'The new safeguarding arrangements will make a difference to the lives of children and young people in Surrey. They will ensure that agencies work better together, learn from local and national practice and continuously improve services to enable children to be safe and feel safe in their families and communities.'

CODE OF CONDUCT

Our behaviours

- **Attend all relevant** meetings of any Partnership group, sub-group, or workstream, sending informed named deputies in their absence.
- **Read in advance** all relevant papers.
- **Consult in advance** wherever possible to obtain agency/constituency mandate or position on agenda items and issues.
- **Embrace a commitment** to be informed and led by the voices of children and young people.
- **Contribute to debate**, discussion and decision-making.
- **Represent their agency or constituency** with confidence and authority.
- **Commit**, in the case of an agency member, or commit to champion, in the case of a representative of a constituency, to any agreed policy or practice decision.
- **Take personal and professional accountability** for the decisions of the Partnership and their implications – although it is recognised that members of the Partnership who represent a number of agencies or constituencies cannot be held accountable for the actions of autonomous organisations.
- **Actively promote and champion** safeguarding work within their own agency or constituency.
- **Hold their own agency to account** for the quality of safeguarding work, or make clear expectations that may be made on constituencies represented.
- **Raise safeguarding issues** from their agency's or constituency's perspective which require, or would benefit from, inter-agency and Partnership consideration.
- **Provide reports**, verbally and written, including on performance as are required by the Executive or Partnership Group.
- **Act on concerns** arising from performance, audit and quality assurance findings within their own agency or constituency.
- **Act as a single point of contact** for discussing issues and resolving problems on behalf of their agency or constituency.
- **At all times comply** with confidentiality requirements as are applied to matters considered by the Partnership.

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