

# North Somerset Safeguarding Boards



## NSSCB SUB-GROUP Terms of Reference

### EARLY HELP SUB-GROUP

#### 1. AIM

The aim of the Sub-group is to drive forward the strategic priorities of the Board.

#### Statutory Objectives and functions of LSCBs

**Section 14 of the Children Act 2004** sets out the objectives of LSCBs, which are:

- a) to coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding promoting the welfare of children in the area; and
- b) to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.

#### 2. PURPOSE

The Early Help Sub group will support the implementation of Early Help in North Somerset holding the following principles that all interventions must be:

- Child Centred
- Rooted in child development
- Focused on outcomes for children
- Holistic in approach
- Ensuring equity of opportunity
- Involving of children and families
- Building on strengths as well as weaknesses
- Multi/inter agency in approach
- A continuing process not an event
- Enable the provision and ongoing review of services
- Informed by evidence
- Based on the principles of Think Family

### **3. KEY PRIORITIES**

- Neglect
- Sexual Exploitation
- Missing/Missing from Education
- Domestic Abuse
- Early Intervention
- Bullying

### **4. ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY**

- The group is accountable to the LSCB. The group will report to the LSCB Executive Group.
- All members will be responsible for linking to their senior management teams within their agencies and will take on projects/tasks as appropriate to their role on behalf of the group.**

### **5. STRUCTURE**

The Early Help Sub-Group will have two co-chairs who will share the responsibilities of the group.

In accordance with Working Together 2015 “all LSCB member organisations have an obligation to provide LSCBs with reliable resources which enable the LSCB to be strong and effective.” This obligation includes financial and other resources such as administrative support.

### **6. MEMBERSHIP, QUORACY, AUTHORITY**

- 6.1 The co-chairs of the sub-group will be Board members and will automatically attend both the Board and the Executive in that capacity.
- 6.2 Professional advisers may be co-opted as necessary.
- 6.3 To be quorate all meetings of the sub-group must have at least five members from at least three agencies.
- 6.4 The Early Help sub-group is authorised by the NSSCB to undertake the activities described in these Terms of Reference.

### **7. FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS**

A minimum of every quarter with additional meetings to be held as necessary.

### **8. REPORTING AND GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

Governance and challenge will be provided by the NSSCB to support the work of delivering the actions. All sub-group members are responsible for ensuring proactive support and delivery of the Business Plan (*appendix 1*). The Board will hold all members to account.

**8.1 Principle accountabilities for members of the Early Help sub-group**

- there is an expectation to attend the Early Help sub-group quarterly or send a nominated deputy
- to familiarise themselves with the group's terms of reference
- to undertake a commitment to support the group's work plan by carrying out actions in-between meetings, on occasions working with other group partners in short time working groups.

8.2 The co-chairs of the Early Help sub-group will be appointed by the NSSCB for a term of three years.

**9. REVIEW OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Terms of reference will be reviewed annually.

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[Appendix 1: NSSCB Annual Report and Business Plan](#)