



Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Quality Assurance Framework

*Our vision is to **work together** to **support, safeguard** and **listen** to the voices of children, young people and families and to **learn** from each other to **improve outcomes** for families across Warwickshire*

1. Introduction

Warwickshire's Safeguarding Children Partnership (WSCP) Quality Assurance Framework outlines the partnership's approach to evaluating the effectiveness of arrangements to safeguard children in Warwickshire.

The framework promotes a culture of continuous learning and improvement across the safeguarding system. It uses various activities to assure partners that the safeguarding response within the county is effective and contributes to better outcomes for children and young people.

2. Aim and objectives

The aim of the framework is to set out how we will seek to understand the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements and that there is continuous improvement to the outcomes and experience for children and families. We will do this by:

- Being clear about what we want to achieve collaboratively as a partnership and being accountable for this through performance and quality assurance.
- Using our collective resource to ensure multi-agency data and intelligence is used transparently to challenge ourselves and each other to support continuous improvement.
- Adopting an inclusive and supportive culture.
- Empowering children, families and practitioners through a restorative practice approach.
- Embedding a learning approach into safeguarding practice.
- Being open and responsive to external scrutiny, challenge and advice.

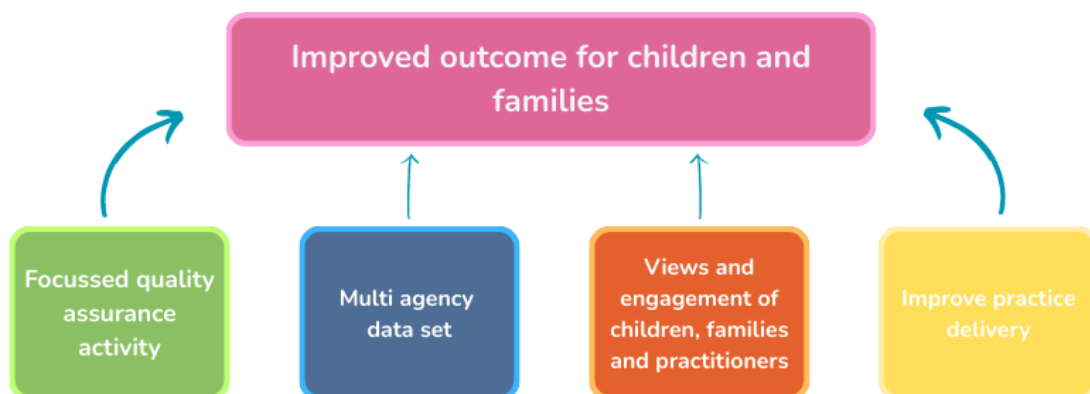
The key objectives of the framework sets out how performance and quality assurance information will assure partners and drive improvements in:

- Safeguarding arrangements and multi-agency working
- Ensuring children and young people receive 'the right service at the right time'
- Positive outcomes for vulnerable children and young people and their families.

3. Responsibilities of the Assurance and Review Group

The Assurance and Review Group will monitor and review performance information to deliver WSCP's Quality Assurance Framework. The group will provide assurance to the delegated safeguarding partners and confidence in the effectiveness of Warwickshire's multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. The group will fulfil this by:

- Identify trends in prevalence or demand for services.
- Identify pressure points within services in relation to safeguarding.
- Identify aspects of practice which require further interrogation.
- Identify and celebrate good practice.
- Inform WSCP business plan and priorities.



Communication with other groups within WSCP

Due to the overlap of themes, it is expected that there will be quality assurance activity undertaken within other groups of WSCP. The multi-agency data set reviewed by the Assurance and Review Group will also be shared with other groups such as the Multi Agency Leadership Group for Families First, Adolescent Safeguarding Group and Practice Priority Group. Any additional quality assurance activity undertaken outside of the Assurance and Review Group will be done so in a co-ordinated manner with regular feedback provided to the Group.

4. Responsibilities of partner agencies

Partner agencies should contribute and respond to quality assurance activity in a timely manner. Partners are required to:

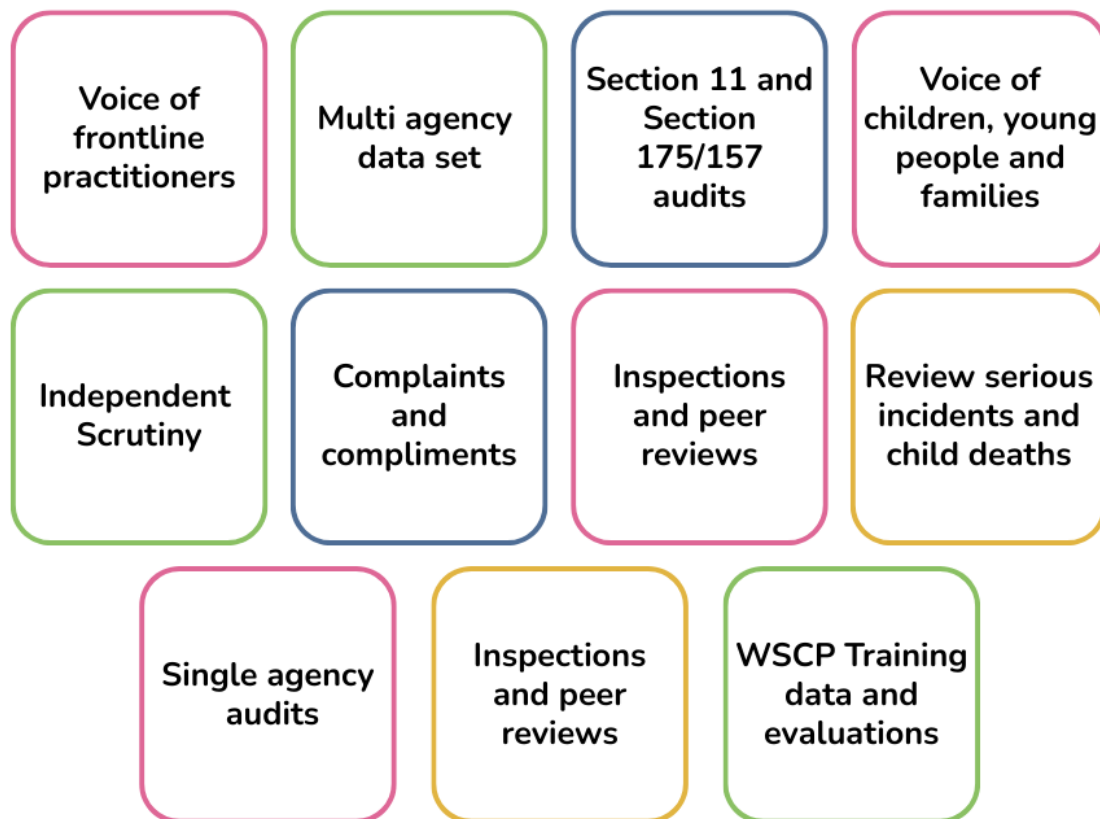
1. Provide analysis of their organisation's safeguarding performance data.
2. Share the outcomes of single-agency quality assurance activities such as audits.
3. Provide analysis from any feedback from children and families' lived experience.
4. Share the analysis of what practitioners are saying in relation to their views of what is working well as part of specific areas of work and what support they feel would help in developing their practice.
5. Share the findings from external inspections and reviews.
6. Provide assurance that they are carrying out statutory responsibilities through self-assessment audits such as Section 11 and Section 175/157 on a regular basis.
7. Allowing their workforce to participate and contribute to performance and quality assurance activities such as multi-agency audits, assurance visits, surveys and discussions.
8. Identifying subject matter experts and operational managers as required to come together and undertake thematic reviews and/or deep dives to identify learning.

5. What methods we will use to quality assure

In order to continuously improve safeguarding practice and services, data and intelligence will be shared so that safeguarding arrangements at an individual single-agency and multi-agency level through prevention to protection, can be scrutinised for their effectiveness to promote the welfare of children and effectively safeguard them.

As well as utilising the evidence in performance and quality assurance arrangements that already exist in partner organisations, the framework will seek to use a wide range of tools and methods to help monitor progress which will build up an overall picture of safeguarding.

Methods of quality assurance:

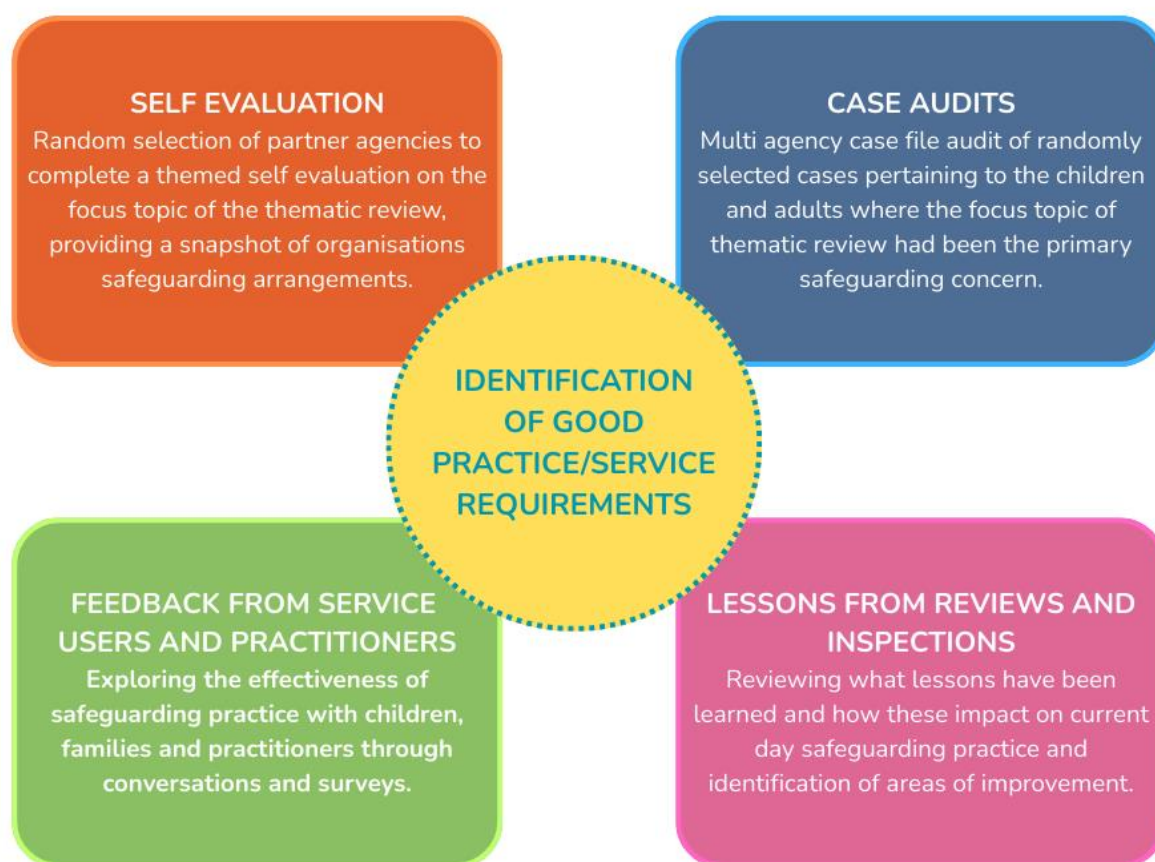


The different elements, which when viewed together, should provide a picture of the effectiveness of safeguarding system and practice within Warwickshire as well as the outcomes for the children and families who have been in receipt of services.

6. How we will undertake quality assurance activity

Prior to each quality assurance activity, a scope and approach document will be completed by a small group consisting of members of the Assurance and Review Group to provide a clear and understandable brief of the action required.

Each quality assurance activity will draw information from a range of sources:



At the end of each activity a clear set of actions and outcomes will developed to ensure recommendations and learning is embedded into partnership agencies.

6. How we will include the voices of children and young people in our quality assurance activity

At the beginning of each assurance activity, there will be a section of the Scope and Approach document where members of the small working group will agree the most appropriate method of engaging with children, young people and families. This will be a standing item for each assurance activity undertaken by the partnership.

7. How we will know quality assurance activity has been effective

There is no 'one size fits all' method for evaluating assurance effectiveness, as the approach will vary based on the agreed methodology at the outset. Impact measures will be defined during planning stages of assurance activity and documented in the scope and approach document.

8. Independent Scrutiny

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023) requires that:

‘Safeguarding partners must ensure that there are arrangements for effective independent scrutiny in place for their local area.’ (para 89 p36).

The role of independent scrutiny is to drive continuous improvement and provide assurance that local multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children are working effectively for children, families, and practitioners. It should also consider learning from local child safeguarding practice reviews, national reviews and thematic reports (Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023).

A plan of independent scrutiny has been agreed in conjunction with the DSPs. However, the assurance and review group can identify relevant practice areas to be agreed for independent scrutiny by the DSPs. Please refer to the [independent scrutiny plan](#).

Date agreed by the WSCP Assurance & Review Group:	01/07/2025
Date for Review:	01/07/2026