

Partnership Agreement

Governing the relationship between the Milton Keynes Safeguarding Children Board (MKSCB) and the Safer MK Partnership

Safer MK

SaferMK is the statutory Community Safety Partnership for Milton Keynes created under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Purpose and Function

Safer MK is a key multi-agency partnership which works with agencies and the community in Milton Keynes to promote safer and stronger communities and crime reduction.

It is the strategic body through which partners work to address those issues which affect residents across the whole of Milton Keynes.

Key Functions

-  Take a Milton Keynes wide approach to tackling common issues around crime and community safety and responding to shared challenges through appropriate action
-  Agree local community safety priorities supported by an annual Strategic Assessment
-  Provide the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) with a single point of contact and engagement in relation to Milton Keynes issues
-  Represent the Community Safety Partnership within Milton Keynes in discussions with Partner Agencies
-  Oversee/advise and ensure effective deployment of partnership community safety funds, where they exist;
-  Oversee the effectiveness of substance misuse commissioning from a crime and disorder perspective, the reduction of Anti Social Behaviour and reducing reoffending;
-  Provide a dissemination platform for legislative changes and guidance which has area implications;
-  Provide strategic direction and decision making for the operational sub groups across the Community Safety Partnership and ensure a joined up approach with other key partnerships to reduce crime and community safety issues.

Terms of Reference

More detail and purpose of the Safer MK Partnership can be found in the Terms of Reference - [Safer MK Website](#)

Governance and accountability

The Safer MK Community Safety Partnership Board is a statutory body and is the area's response to the Crime & Disorder Act 1998, which states that: *"for each county areas there shall be a county strategy group whose function shall be to prepare a community safety agreement for the county area on behalf of the responsible authorities in that county area."*

Milton Keynes Safeguarding Children Board

Purpose and Function

MKSCB is a multi-agency independent statutory partnership Board which agrees how services and professional in Milton Keynes should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and ensures the effectiveness of the arrangements made by individual agencies and the wider partnership to safeguard and promote the welfare of children through high support and high challenge.

Key Functions

MKSCB is a statutory body created under the Children Act 2004. Section 14 of the Children Act 2004 sets out the objectives of LSCBs, which are:

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

Regulation 5 of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006 sets out that the functions of the LSCB, are as follows:

- *Develop policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in Milton Keynes, including policies and procedures in relation to:*

The action to be taken where there are concerns about a child's safety or welfare, including thresholds for intervention

Training of people who work with children or in services affecting the safety and welfare of children

Recruitment and supervision of people who work with children

Investigations of allegations concerning people who work with children

Safety and welfare of children who are privately fostered

Cooperation with neighbouring children's services authorities and their Board partners

- *Communicate to people and organisations in Milton Keynes the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, raising their awareness of how this can best be done and encouraging them to do so.*
- *Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of what is done by the authority and their Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advising them on ways to improve*
- *Participate in the planning of services for children in Milton Keynes*
- *Undertake reviews of serious cases and child deaths and advise the authority and their Board partners on lessons to be learned.*
- *Publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in Milton Keynes*
- *Provide challenge to ensure that there is a comprehensive, effective and adequately resourced early intervention strategy for the provision of services to children and young people in Milton Keynes*

Terms of Reference

Detailed in MKSCB Constitution [MKSCB Website](#)

Governance and accountability

Milton Keynes Safeguarding Children Board is a statutory body and in line with [Working Together 2015](#) it remains independent in order to provide effective challenge to partner agencies. MKSCB will not be subordinate to, nor subsumed within, other local structures.

It is the responsibility of the Chief Executive of MK Council to appoint or remove the LSCB chair with the agreement of a panel including MKSCB partners and lay members. The Chief Executive, drawing on other MKSCB partners and, where appropriate, the Lead Member will hold the Chair to account for the effective working of MKSCB (localised from WT 2015)

MKSCB has a role in co-ordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of the work of local partners to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The Board will hold organisations, individually and in partnership, to account for their performance in this respect. However, the Board is not accountable for their operational work and each Board partner retains their organisational lines of accountability for safeguarding.

Whilst the work of MKSCB focuses on children and young people, some areas of work may overlap with the work of SaferMK. In areas of work that do overlap both MKSCB and SaferMK will work closely together to ensure that work is not duplicated by agreeing which organisation is to lead on the issue and ensuring that either:

- A representative from SaferMK sits on the relevant MKSCB sub-group and provides feedback to Safer MK or
- A representative from MKSCB sits on the relevant SaferMK group and provides feedback to MKSCB

Key principles:

- We will offer mutual scrutiny challenge and support
- We will share good practice and resources
- We will work together on themes of common interest
- We will talk to each other about areas of risk
- We will 'think working together'

To ensure that the priorities of both organisations are aligned and work is not duplicated:

- SaferMK will be represented on MKSCB
- MKSCB will invite the representative of SaferMK to attend development days when priorities and future work plans are developed
- SaferMK will invite a representative of MKSCB to attend meetings when priorities and future strategies are developed and
- The MKSCB Business Manager and Head of Community Safety will meet regularly for a progress report on common areas of work



Jane Held
Independent Chair
Milton Keynes Safeguarding Children Board

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Chair of SaferMK
Community Safety Partnership