



# Safeguarding Partnership Board

## Terms of Reference - Joint SCR Sub Group

### 1. Introduction

The **Joint Serious Case Reviews (SCR)** sub-group has been established by the Safeguarding Partnership Board (SPB) with the responsibility for undertaking SCRs in respect of children and adults and for advising individuals and organisations on lessons to be learned; the SCR SG also has the responsibility of monitoring the implementation of SCR recommendations.

### 2. Purpose of the Sub Group

The role of the Joint SCR sub-group is to:

**2.1** Consider cases which have been referred to the Independent Chair for review on the basis of significant concerns as to the way in which the Board partners or other relevant persons have worked together to safeguard an individual, adult or child.

**2.2** Make a recommendation to the Independent Chair against the specific criteria below.

For adults:

The SPB will arrange for there to be a review of a case involving an adult in Jersey with needs for care and support (whether or not services have been meeting any of those needs) if -

(a) *there is reasonable cause for concern about how the SPB, members of it or other persons with relevant functions worked together to safeguard the adult, **and***

(b) *(b) condition 1 or 2 is met.*

- *Condition 1 is met if - (a) the adult has died, **and** (b) the SPB knows or suspects that the death resulted from abuse or neglect (whether or not it knew about or suspected the abuse or neglect before the adult died).*
- *Condition 2 is met if - (a) the adult is still alive, **and** (b) the SPB knows or suspects that the adult has experienced serious abuse or neglect.*

For children:

The SPB will arrange for there to be a review of a case involving a child or young person in Jersey if -

(a) *abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected; and either*

(b) *condition 1 or 2 is met.*

- *Condition 1 is met if - the child has died<sup>1</sup>;*
- *Condition 2 is met if - the child has been seriously harmed and there is cause for concern as to the way in which the authority, their Board partners or other relevant persons have worked together to safeguard the child.*

**2.3** Approve Independent Chair and Overview Authors as recommended by the Independent Safeguarding Chair.

**2.4** Receive and approve the final version of SCR Overview reports from the Independent Overview author, for ratification by the Board.

**2.5** Monitor the implementation of SCR recommendations and receive agency updates against individual agency action plans.

**2.6** Ensure the effective dissemination of learning

### **3. Value Base**

The SCR sub group members will ensure that policies and procedures reflect a consistent value base in regard to the principles of:

- **Anti discriminatory and anti oppressive practice**

Demonstrated through mutual respect and sensitivity to the diversity of children and adults circumstance and backgrounds in respect to age, gender, physical or mental ability, culture, religion, language, sexual orientation or socio-economic status

- **Confidentiality, data protection and information sharing**

The PP will work within the agreed SAGB Information Sharing Protocol.

- ***'Fears about sharing information cannot be allowed to stand in the way of the need to promote the welfare and protect the safety of children'***  
**(Working together 2013)**

Safeguarding is **everyone's responsibility**: for services to be effective each professional and organisation should play their full part [Working Together 2013];

- **Empowerment** – presumption of person led decisions and informed consent
- **Protection** - support and representation for those in greatest need

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<sup>1</sup> Working Together 2013

- **Prevention** - it is better to take action before harm occurs
- **Proportionality** – proportionate and least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented
- **Partnership** - local solutions through services working with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse
- **Accountability** - accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding.

#### **4. Membership**

4.1 The Joint SCR sub-group will be chaired by the Safeguarding Board Independent Chair.

4.2 The Joint SCR sub-group will include members from agencies/ services including:

- **Health and Community Services**
- **States of Jersey Police**
- **Family Nursing and Home Care**
- **Probation**
- **Prison**
- **Children, Young People, Education and Skills**

4.3 The Joint SCR sub-group may co-opt, as appropriate, additional members on a temporary basis in order to access specialist skills and knowledge which will assist the work of the group.

4.4 Member responsibility

- Receive and undertake an initial assessment of all cases referred to the SCR SG and consider if the case meets the criteria for an SCR or other review
- Make recommendations in line with the above to the independent chair of the SPB
- Make recommendations on the scope of the specific review, including the time period for reviewing the activity in the case, the timescales for the review, which agencies will be asked to provide IMRs. (These decisions may be delegated to the SCR Panel and the independent chair of the SCR Panel has delegated authority to confirm these.)

- Ensure their agency adequately supports the work of the **SCR SG** through the timely production of reports, to the required standard
- Work to support the effective identification and dissemination of learning, including challenge to support learning
- Contribute to the quality assurance of case review and SCR processes, including action plans.
- Monitor the effectiveness of procedures for the management and delivery of SCRs on behalf of the SPB, including the effectiveness of the dissemination of learning and delivery of action plans
- Ensure the effective use of the SPB Information Sharing Protocol in facilitating information exchange required by any SCR process while maintaining compliance with Data Protection and Human Rights legislation
- To approve the draft of the Overview Report including the recommendations and agree the draft action plan to be referred to the SPB

## **5. Decision Making and Accountability**

5.1 To be quorate, attendance must include as a minimum:

- the Chair or Vice Chair
- and at least four other members or their substitutes from four different services/agencies

5.2 The Sub Group will make recommendations, however the responsibility for the decision to conduct SCRs rests with the SPB Independent Chair.

## **6. Administration**

The Sub Group Chair will ensure, with the support of the SPB Officer, that:

- the Sub Group meets at least quarterly on dates to be agreed in advance or at such other intervals as may be agreed by members; additional meetings may be convened if required.
- the agenda is circulated prior to the meetings and meeting notes are taken, circulated to members with copies being retained and stored by the chair
- meeting notes are agreed as a permanent record at the following meeting