

# **SAFEGUARDING STRATEGY 2023-2026.**

## **1. Foreword**

This Safeguarding Strategy sets out a transitional approach to the priorities for safeguarding children and adults at risk of abuse and neglect in Lincolnshire during 2023 – 2026.

The Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board (LICB) is committed to commissioning safe, effective, and responsive services and will work in partnership with all agencies and the community to safeguard children, young people, and adults to protect them from harm.

Within this document, the term safeguarding describes a range of activities that organisations have in place to protect individuals whose circumstances make them particularly vulnerable to abuse, neglect, or harm.

The LICB will work in partnership with the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) and Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB), provider organisations, and statutory and voluntary agencies to ensure the effectiveness of multiagency safeguarding arrangements.

This strategy does not detail the procedure and operational policies required for the management of safeguarding children and adults. These are available through the LSCP and LSAB:

[Lincolnshire SCP Policy and Procedures Manual \(proceduresonline.com\)](https://proceduresonline.com)

[Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board – About the LSAB - Lincolnshire County Council](#)

## **2. Background.**

Safeguarding is firmly embedded in the core duties and statutory responsibilities of all organisations across the health and social care system. There is however a distinction between provider responsibilities to deliver safe, high-quality care, and commissioner responsibilities to assure themselves of the safety and effectiveness of the services they have commissioned.

In 2022, NHS England published the Safeguarding Assurance and Accountability Framework, replacing the two previous versions, which sets out the safeguarding roles and responsibilities of all individuals working in providers of NHS-funded care settings and NHS commissioning organisations: [B0818 Safeguarding-children-young-people-and-adults-at-risk-in-the-NHS-Safeguarding-accountability-and-assuran.pdf \(england.nhs.uk\)](#)

The NHS Outcomes Framework (2021) sets out the overarching high-level outcome domains for quality improvements. In terms of safeguarding, ICB's must ensure that commissioned services meet:

- Domain 4: Ensuring people have a positive experience of care, and
- Domain 5: Treating and caring for people in a safe environment and protecting them from avoidable harm.

ICB's are required to demonstrate assurance to NHS England (NHSE) [About the NHS Outcomes Framework \(NHS OF\) - NHS Digital](#)

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) provides a statutory framework for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. All agencies need to cooperate in local safeguarding arrangements, with NHS organisations having a statutory duty to make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children under Section 11 of the Children Act (2004). The duty to make local arrangements however sits with the three safeguarding partners: ICB, police, and Local Authority. [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

Promoting the Health and Wellbeing of Looked-After-Children' (2015) provides the statutory framework for this cohort of vulnerable children and young people, who often experience worse health outcomes and access to healthcare than their non-looked-after peers. This guidance outlines the duty of NHS commissioners and Local Authorities to provide support and services. [Promoting the health and well-being of looked-after children - update note added to start in August 2022 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

The Care Act (2014) provides the statutory footing for adult safeguarding. It places a duty to provide a shared approach by all agencies with responsibility for adult safeguarding to work together to keep adults at risk safe. The Act has emphasis on promoting the wellbeing of the individual and Making Safeguarding Personal. The legislation operates alongside but does not supersede the Human Rights Act (1998), the Mental Capacity Act (2005) and the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (2009). [Care Act 2014 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

The Domestic Abuse Act (2021) creates a statutory definition of domestic abuse, emphasising that domestic abuse is not just physical violence, but can also be emotional, coercive or controlling, and economic abuse. As part of this definition, children are recognised as victims if they see, hear, or otherwise experience the effects of abuse. The Act sets to provide further protections to the millions of people who experience domestic abuse, as well as strengthen measures to tackle perpetrators. [Domestic Abuse Act 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

The Serious Violence Duty (2022) requires a range of specified authorities, which includes Integrated Care Boards, to work together to share information and target interventions, where possible through existing partnership structures, collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence within their local communities. [Serious Violence Duty - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Although the safeguarding frameworks for adults and children are managed separately nationally, they are co-dependant and must be reviewed in the context of the family, for example, within:

- Domestic abuse issues
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Child exploitation
- Trafficking and County Lines
- Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangement (MAPPA), and
- Prevent

As statutory bodies ICB's and NHS provider organisations need to demonstrate they have appropriate systems in place to discharge their statutory safeguarding arrangements and duties and are required to contribute to all safeguarding processes.

### **3. Our Vision.**

Our vision is for the population of Lincolnshire to have access to health services that safeguard, promote and protect individual human rights, independence, and wellbeing. Working in partnership the LICB will seek to secure assurance that individuals at risk are safeguarded against abuse, neglect, discrimination, poor treatment and are treated with dignity and respect.

### **4. Safeguarding Priorities**

LICB safeguarding team working within the Integrated Care System (ICS), have adopted a 'Think Family' approach to safeguarding and as such, acknowledge that many of the priorities have a wider focus than just children or adults. Therefore, the priorities outlined below, have not been categorised and represent the intention to work collaboratively across both children and adult's workstreams:

- Review safeguarding arrangements of commissions services are meeting their statutory safeguarding responsibilities.
- Young people (and their carers where appropriate) are supported to transition from children's into adult services.
- LICB staff, including the executive team, will be trained to embed safeguarding within the commissioning and assurance process and are able to recognise and report safeguarding concerns.
- To support and facilitate safeguarding practice for Primary Care.
- Be responsive to the national and local safeguarding agenda, identifying key work in relation to Child Exploitation, Domestic Abuse, Serious Violence Duty, Prevent Duty, Mental Capacity Act, Transitional Safeguarding, and Looked After Children, and learning from serious incidents and multi-agency reviews (e.g. Child Death Overview Panel, Children Safeguarding Practice Review's, Safeguarding Adult Reviews and Domestic Homicide Reviews, this is not an inclusive list) which will include the dissemination of learning, monitoring, and evaluation of outcomes.
- Contribute to the work of the LSCP, LSAB, Safer Lincolnshire Partnership (SLP), and the Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Partnership (LDAP), and their safeguarding strategic business plans and priorities and provide support to the boards to meet their statutory duties.
- Support the implementation of an information sharing agreement between designated professionals, health, and wider partners to prevent and protect children, young people, and adults from harm of abuse.

### **5. Delivering the Strategy**

- We will ensure that safeguarding is integrated into all aspects of commissioning health services.

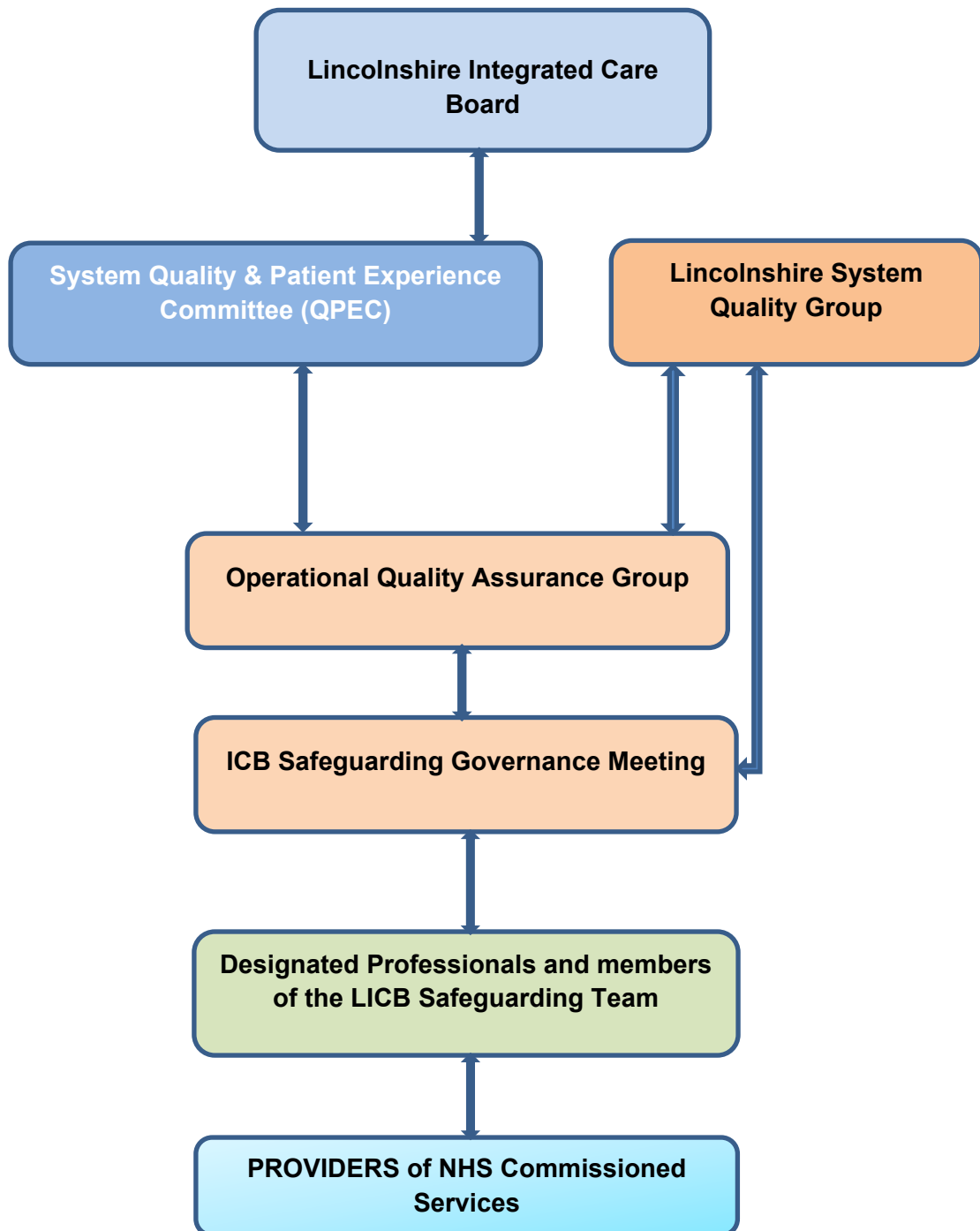
- The priorities will be delivered through the implementation of the LICB safeguarding team objectives and allocated to individual team members, also through the continued joint working with partners in children and adult safeguarding.
- Feedback and assurance will be submitted by our providers through the LICB quality monitoring processes.
- Additional actions will be added over time to the LICB safeguarding team objectives to include new national and local priorities as they emerge.
- We will continue to work closely with neighbouring ICB's to maintain cross cover safeguarding arrangements and continuity in contracting standards with local healthcare providers.

## **6. Monitoring and Governance of the Strategy**

The strategy will be reviewed every three years and in accordance with the following as required:

- Legislative changes
- Good practice guidance
- Case law
- Significant incidents reported
- New vulnerabilities identified
- Changes to organisational infrastructure
- Changes in practice

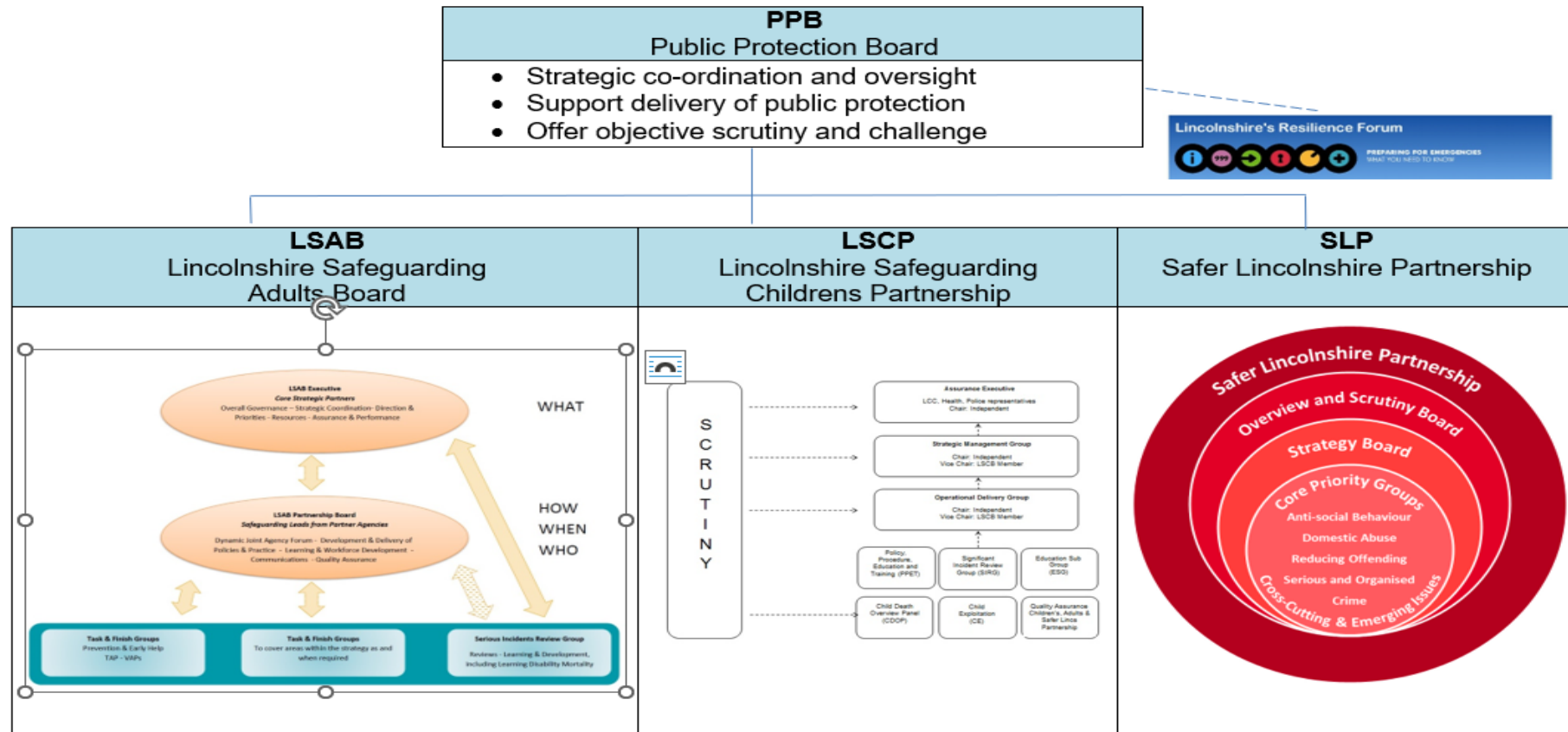
ICB Governance Structure



**Governance structure of the Boards**



**Public Protection – Outline/Headline Structure**



**LICB Safeguarding Team Structure**

