

**National child safeguarding facilitator role (local authority focus)**

# Background

Following the introduction of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, a duty was placed on Police, Health and Local Authorities as the three statutory safeguarding partners to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in local areas.

The Department for Education, Home Office and Department of Health & Social Care all employ an agency facilitator to support the implementation of these new arrangements. The facilitators are funded to provide challenge and support to local areas, and to input into national level policymaking on behalf of their agency and via their relevant department.

With these arrangements now up and running our next phase is improving how they are functioning, and we have outlined how we intend to this through Stable Homes, Built on Love (SHBL). Strong multi-agency leadership will be imperative if we are to have effective multiagency practice in place and protect children from significant harm. The role of the Local Authority Facilitator remains a vital part of the support package offered to local areas.

Working closely with the health, police and education facilitators, virtually or face-to-face, the LA facilitator will be expected to facilitate discussions with the safeguarding partners on how effectively their arrangements are working and to support local areas across regions to embed the reforms set out in Stable Homes, Built on Love: implementation strategy and consultation. Facilitators can provide bespoke support on topics such as strategic leadership, independent scrutiny, schools and relevant agencies and funding. We are looking to recruit to this position until 31 March 2025 in the first instance.

# Experience

The DfE is looking for an individual who understands and has experience of working in local government and in particular multi-agency safeguarding for children and local safeguarding partnerships. The individual will be expected to work closely with national facilitators for health, police and education in supporting and challenging local areas.

This post will be key in supporting the delivery of reforms focused on strengthening multiagency arrangements. This will include feeding into our new child protection governance structures, providing support to local areas that we have already committed to facilitator input, and supporting Government to deliver the critical path as part of those reforms such as the update to Working Together guidance, the Families First for Children pathfinder programme, and helping us to shape the national offer of support to local areas.

# Job Description

The Local Authority facilitator will play a key role in supporting the Department in delivering our critical path of reform for multi-agency safeguarding partners through engagement at both a local and national level.

The individual will work as part of a core team with their health, police and now education facilitator counterparts whose priorities will be set by the cross-government governance structures. Scope of role:

* To support the local government response to the safeguarding partners reform work and the development of existing national policy to improve safeguarding outcomes for children and young people.
* To identify and assess emerging issues and threats within local multi-agency safeguarding partnerships and develop plans to address in partnership with other national facilitators.
* To provide practical advice to government on how to post safeguarding partners to effectively implement the reforms set out in Stable Homes Built on Love.
* To liaise with all local safeguarding partnerships in England and engage relevant safeguarding leads in local government to promote effective arrangements, to map and share best practice.
* To provide appropriate peer review and challenge to support development of robust local arrangements.
* To collaborate with the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel to support practice sharing amongst safeguarding partners.
* To represent local government views at relevant national meetings, forums and conferences including with other national stakeholders.

Requirements:

Post holder must be able to demonstrate:

* Relevant safeguarding experience within a multi-disciplinary or multi-agency team at a senior level.
* Evidence of effective partnership working with other agencies including children’s social care services, health services, police, voluntary agencies, and education.
* Knowledge and understanding of children’s social care practice, guidance, legislation, and issues relevant to children.
* Knowledge and understanding of the recent reforms brought in by the Children and Social Work Act 2017, including experience of working in or with local safeguarding arrangements.
* Experience in performance improvement, quality assurance and/or accountability.
* Experience of developing and sustaining strong professional work relationships
* Experience of local government systems and functions.
* Strong communication skills and be able to resolve disputes and complex interagency problems.
* be willing to travel when necessary.

# Work pattern

* We are expecting the post holder to commit to up to 20 days per month for this work in 2023-24 and 12 days per month in 2024-25, which should be undertaken based on business requirements. However, we can negotiate specific needs on application.

# Additional information

* The facilitator will work remotely from their own home/office base using their own internet connectivity but will be provided with a DfE laptop for information and data security reasons.