

Working Together 2018 – New Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements

Peer Challenge – Possible Process

1. **Participants:** To be determined – up to 15 x LA areas

2. **Core components**

- i. Areas of focus identified
- ii. Self-assessment
- iii. Area of need scrutinised by peers
- iv. Feedback/challenge from peers
- v. Action and improvement

3. **The components in more depth:**

i. **Area of focus identified.**

This will be all components of the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements as described in Working Together 2018

A template has been developed which describes these areas of focus in more detail

ii. **Self-assessment**

The self-assessment template should be completed so that it is representative of a partnership perspective on the areas of focus. For each sub section there should be a narrative which describes strengths (and evidence to underpin this); areas for development and a RAG rating.

Keep narrative brief and to the point. Be honest with yourself.

This should be completed by -----2018 and forwarded to the receiving partner

iii. **Areas of focus scrutinised by peers**

The self-assessment schedule will be received by ----- and should be scrutinised in partnership (the same partnership mix that completed the self-assessment). The final column of the schedule has space for commentary. The receiving partnership does not need to comment on all of the sub headings, but it is reasonable to assume that there commentary at least for those areas RAG rated as RED and possibly some of those rated as AMBER.

This is a peer challenge, so commentary should be questioning. Examples might be... *'This seems like a strength from your narrative, but you have not identified it as such – Why?' ...'The evidence you have provided suggests this is not yet a strength, although it might be heading in that direction – do you agree?' ...' The narrative suggests challenges in engaging partners – but we can't see a plan to address this' ....'You have suggested this area as strength but have made no mention of .... which seems to us to be critical to driving this aspect of activity forward'...'We agree that the evidence suggests this is a real area of strength – but how will you embed these arrangements?'*

This should be completed by the end of -----(4 weeks after receipt of self-assessment). The completed analysis should be returned to the authors, which then gives them chance to reflect on the areas of challenge in advance of the Challenge event (see below)

iv. **Feedback from peers**

Feedback will include the written analysis of the self-assessment (see above) and be enhanced with a mediated challenge session.

Partners should make some time to reflect on the analysis of their self-assessment. The analysis should prompt local reflection, which will inform conversations at the Challenge event, but might also prompt deeper conversations and action at local level to inform improvement.

The Challenge event will involve each participant (with partner representation as described in earlier sections) presenting an overview of their self-assessment and their responses to the initial challenge (as at step iii). Responses to a challenge might reasonably include: the provision of further evidence to confirm an area of strength; an acknowledgement of more work required; an update on action taken since receiving feedback from peers.

There will then be a conversation led by the challenging partner, exploring responses in more depth and validating and reaching consensus on key strengths and areas for development. (Probably no more than 4 or 5 of each). The activity will be independently chaired to ensure focus and consistency. The Chair will summarise the agreed key areas for development which will be recorded (by the Chair) and sent to the receiving area subsequent to the challenge event. This activity will take place -----(within 2 months of the completion of partner analysis of each self-assessment)

### **Action and Improvement**

As described above, the challenge event will culminate with an agreement about areas for development, which will be recorded and sent to the receiving area, where responsibility will sit for the development of an action plan