



Kent Safeguarding Children
multi-agency partnership

KSCMP Rapid Review Group Terms of Reference

July 2026

1. The Rapid Review

The Safeguarding Partners are required to promptly undertake a Rapid Review of any case which meets the threshold for notification in-line with the timescales stipulated and quality standards set out in Working Together 2026¹, alongside guidance provided by the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel². The aim of the Rapid Review process is to enable the Safeguarding Partners to:

- Assess and analyse the facts about the case, as far as they can be readily established at the time.
- Discuss whether there is any immediate action needed to ensure children's safety and share any relevant learning appropriately.
- Consider the potential for identifying improvements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- Decide what next steps should be taken, including whether or not to undertake a Child Safeguarding Practice Review.

2. Purpose

To provide the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel with timely information regarding the Safeguarding Partnership's decision in relation to the undertaking of practice reviews and/or any other appropriate method of disseminating case learning i.e., for those cases where all appropriate learning has been identified at Rapid Review stage, negating the need to commission a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review.

The Rapid Review process supports the Safeguarding Partnership in establishing the initial scope for Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews where it is decided one is required and the criteria as set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026 are met, and to give direction regarding appropriate methodology and scope.

3. Objectives

To involve Partners and relevant agencies in a collective endeavour to positively reflect and learn from what has happened in the serious child safeguarding cases reviewed, to improve practice with a focus on learning and impact, without focusing unnecessarily on culpability.

The premise on which the Group operates will be that of challenge and transparency with the goal of identifying learning opportunities designed to promote continuous improvement through dissemination of learning and action.

Based on the findings, the Rapid Review Group will determine whether a more detailed local or national review is required, supporting the Safeguarding Partnership's drive to hold itself accountable for the delivery of impactful reviews that can help to improve frontline practice.

¹ [Working together to safeguard children 2026](#)

² [Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel: guidance for safeguarding partners](#)

The Rapid Review Group will consider how the child/ren's lived experiences, family voice and relevant practitioner insight will be reflected in any subsequent review, learning activity or dissemination of findings.

4. Responsibilities

- a) To review serious incidents in a culture that is open, fair and equitable.
- b) Members must come to the Rapid Review meeting having read all the documentation circulated to them by the KSCMP Business Team in respect of the case.
- c) Members are to come to the meeting prepared with a current update on the case from the perspective of their organisation.
- d) To focus on systemic learning identified by the review process so that required changes in safeguarding practice can be embedded (working alongside the Safeguarding Partnership's Learning and Development programme).
- e) To be mindful of relevant themes and learning from related review processes, such as national review learning and thematic studies; Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews; and Safeguarding Adult Reviews, to provide context and to inform holistic adaptations to policy, practice and training.
- f) To reflect on learning and themes from previous Kent Rapid Reviews and Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews when considering commissioning new reviews, with a focus on identifying and understanding the implications of 'new learning.'
- g) To consider a flexible and proportionate approach for Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews that are to be commissioned.
- h) To take responsibility for completion and sign-off of the Rapid Review Action Plan agreed upon within the Rapid Review meeting.
- i) To consider Panel guidance and steer from the Executive at the point of notification in relation to informing the family a review has been undertaken and how any learning and recommendations should be shared.

5. Accountability

- a) To complete a Rapid Review (including producing the associated report) within the 15 working day timeframe as per Working Together 2026 and Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel guidance.
- b) Using the criteria and guidance in Working Together 2026, recommend to the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel whether a case meets the criteria for:
 - i) a national review
 - ii) a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review
 - iii) no further action
- c) Recommend the style and methodology for any practice review to be undertaken.

6. Membership

The Group will be made up of a quorum of three decision makers representing the statutory Safeguarding Partnership agencies – namely NHS Kent and Medway (Integrated Care Board), Kent Police and Kent County Council.

The decision makers will be supported by a Domestic Abuse Specialist in cases where domestic abuse is known or suspected to be a feature, as per Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel guidance. They may also be joined by a representative from Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust in cases

involving children under the age of 5 years, and the LADO Education Safeguarding Advisory Service (LESAS) Service Manager (or deputy) where cases involve children who have been registered with education providers and/or services.

These individuals may be joined in the meeting by up to three additional representatives if it is felt necessary, to act as expert advisors or to provide insight into the experiences/actions of the agencies involved in a particular case.³ Additional representatives attending in this capacity will not have decision making powers; rather they will act as advisors to the three statutory partner representatives, with their input utilised to aid decision making.

Members will demonstrate objectivity, transparency and openness in their discussions. The meeting may be joined by the Independent Scrutineer for oversight of cases considered to be 'unusual,' of significant complexity, or for example, of national significance and/or media interest.

Members will declare if the family are/have been known to them in a professional role, or if they have had direct line management responsibility for a professional working with the family at any time.

The core membership of the Rapid Review Group is detailed below:

- Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership Systems Improvement Manager and/or Practice Review Manager (Chair) alongside administrative support
- Director or Assistant Director, Integrated Children's Services
- Detective Superintendent or Detective Chief Inspector, Protecting Vulnerable People Command, Kent Police
- Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children, NHS Kent and Medway (Integrated Care Board)

7. Rapid Review Process

- There is no set schedule for meetings of the Rapid Review Group. The Group is convened in response to the notification of a serious child safeguarding incident to the National Panel.
- When a notification is made, the 15-day Rapid Review timeframe commences on the National Panel's receipt of the Serious Incident Notification.
- The Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-agency Partnership Business Team will request a summary of involvement with the child/ren and family from the Safeguarding Partners and appropriate Relevant Agencies.
- The agency summaries will be collated and shared with Rapid Review Group members prior to the Rapid Review meeting.
- The Rapid Review Group will meet virtually, where the case will be discussed, and a decision made regarding the appropriate outcome (as outlined in section 5b above).
- The Rapid Review Group will consider equality, equity, diversity, and inclusion (EEDI), disproportionality, intersectionality and potential bias factors relevant to the child/ren and family's

³ These individuals will be decided upon by the Chair, supported by the KSCMP Business Team, as Rapid Review summaries are collated. Additional individuals may be the author of a summary report if it is felt they are needed to provide additional, key information to elucidate the Rapid Review discussion, or they may be present to provide insight into the operating practices/challenges of different agency areas e.g., Kent County Council Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, or where health insight is required, relevant NHS commissioned provider services including, primary care, maternity, acute, community, mental health, Sexual Assault Referral Centre or other specialist health services.

experience of accessing and receiving services, and within the review process itself, ensuring that learning supports anti-discriminatory safeguarding practice.

- A report with the Group's decision and rationale will be compiled and forwarded to the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel by the KSCMP Business Team.
- The National Panel will provide feedback on the submissions within 10 working days of the meeting where the case is discussed. This information will be cascaded by the KSCMP Business Team to the Rapid Review Group and organisations who submitted reports to the review when it becomes available.

8. Support from the KSCMP Business Team

- Receive the Serious Incident Notification and deadline for Rapid Review report submission from the CSPRP.
- Commence the gathering and collation of agency information.
- Send out the collated reports, a genogram and a chronology to Rapid Review Group members.
- Convene, chair and administer the Rapid Review Group meeting.
- Produce a report setting out the Rapid Review Group's decision and forward to the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel.
- Be the ongoing point of liaison with the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel.
- Coordinate the undertaking of any subsequent Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.

9. Review

These Terms of Reference were revised in July 2026. They will be reviewed again in June 2027.