



INDEPENDENT SCRUTINEER JOB DESCRIPTION

ORGANISATION	DARLINGTON SAFEGUARDING PARTNERSHIP (DSP)
CONTRACT TYPE	Fixed term – three years
REMUNERATION	£500 per day (the daily rate covers all expenses)
TIME COMMITMENT	30 days per financial year - any further days are at the agreement of Lead Safeguarding Partners
ADVERT START DATE	22 nd April 2025
ADVERT CLOSING DATE	15 th May 2025
EMPLOYMENT LOCATION	Hybrid working options are available Office base in Darlington (if required)
THE ROLE	<p>Darlington Safeguarding Partnership is an integrated multi-agency partnership providing strategic leadership, direction, and governance for the delivery of statutory and local requirements for safeguarding children and adults in Darlington.</p> <p>The Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSPs) are committed to driving continuous improvement through scrutiny and challenge and to support the critical work of the partnership the Lead Safeguarding Partners are seeking to appoint an Independent Scrutineer with the passion, vision, and commitment to strengthen, scrutinise and develop the work of the partnership.</p> <p>The role of Independent Scrutineer will work across Adult and Children’s safeguarding partnership arrangements to provide independent, rigorous, and effective support and challenge at both a strategic and operational level.</p> <p>This will contribute to ensuring that children, young people and adults with care and support needs receive the right quality service at the right time and are at the heart of arrangements, providing direct feedback that will inform policy and practice.</p> <p>The Independent Scrutineer is accountable to the Lead Safeguarding Partners and will work with representatives of partner agencies, which includes Education and Voluntary Sector organisations. The appointee will be supported by the DSP Business Manager and staff within the business unit.</p> <p>This appointment is for a three-year tenure and is covered by IR35 arrangements.</p>
THE CANDIDATE	The successful candidate will provide scrutiny to the DSP to ensure it fulfils its statutory responsibilities set out in Working

	<p>Together to Safeguard Children 2023 Statutory Guidance and S43 requirements outlined in the Care Act 2014.</p> <p>They will be able to demonstrate knowledge, skills, and expertise in either a safeguarding children and/or adult context and be familiar with safeguarding practice and consequently able to add value to the work of local agencies as a constructive critical friend.</p> <p>They will promote reflection in order to drive continuous improvement, ensuring accountability for safeguarding practice across the partnership.</p> <p>With proven experience of scrutiny, ideally across adults' and/or children's services, the successful candidate will be able to provide assurance to the whole system in judging the robustness and effectiveness of the multiagency safeguarding arrangements through a range of scrutiny methods and provide advice when there are disagreements between agencies.</p> <p>The appointee should have excellent communication, negotiation and influencing skills and be able to demonstrate a record of strong independent leadership within a partnership setting, as well as rigorous challenge at strategic and operational levels.</p> <p>Candidates should have extensive knowledge and understanding of the relevant frameworks and legislation that guide safeguarding services in England, including recent legislative changes. They should demonstrate a passion to improve safeguarding outcomes across all ages.</p>
<p>ROLE REQUIREMENTS</p>	<p>Applicants should have a relevant academic and/or professional qualification or demonstration of equivalent senior level experience in a safeguarding context.</p> <p>The role requires an outstanding individual with proven experience of inspection or scrutinising activities and providing recommendations for improvement.</p> <p>The successful candidate will evidence ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate their understanding and experience of safeguarding practice and systems. • Demonstrate experience in building and maintaining productive partnerships. • Work collaboratively with a wide range of partners to develop and improve local safeguarding arrangements. • Analyse complex information and provide robust scrutiny and challenge.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide a strategic and transformational outlook and leadership skills, with the capability to advise the Lead Safeguarding Partners.• Demonstrate excellent negotiation and influencing skills.• Where required, contribute to, and facilitate Safeguarding Practice Reviews or Risk Enablement Forums.• Present reports to the Partnership's Lead Safeguarding Partner Strategic Group as required. <p>The successful candidate will require an Enhanced DBS.</p>
HOW TO APPLY	<p>For an informal discussion about the role please contact Amanda Hugill, Partnership Business Manager</p> <p>Telephone: 01325 406450 or mobile 07870 600637</p> <p>If you would like to apply, please submit a CV with a supporting statement detailing your relevant knowledge, skills, and experience, demonstrating your suitability against the role requirements and forward to Amanda Hugill by email.</p> <p>Email: amanda.hugill@darlington.gov.uk</p> <p>Please include details of two referees (professional and personal) and indicate whether they may be approached before the selection date.</p> <p>Closing date for applications will be: 15 May 2025</p>