**Description of Duties**

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| **Independent Transitional Chair for Durham Local Safeguarding Children’s Board (LSCB)** |
| **Purpose:**To provide leadership and strategic direction to the LSCB in delivering its statutory objectives of co-ordinating and monitoring the effectiveness of interagency work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people and to ensure that:* The safeguarding key partners have developed and are ready to implement effective Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements, in line with the requirements in Working Together 2018, that is influenced by best practice to provide the optimum model for Durham.
* The voices of children and young people are championed and represented and are influential in the work of the LSCB.
* The LSCB operates strategically and exercises its two key objectives and functions as set out in the Children Act 2004 and Working Together to Safeguarding Children 2015.
* The LSCB functions as an influential board, securing the ongoing commitment, prioritisation and co-operation of senior agency and political leaders across the County to ensure the safety and well-being of children and young people.
* The LSCB and its successor arrangements provide strategic whole system oversight of the impact of multi-agency safeguarding practice on children’s lives.
* The LSCB operates independently of all partner organisations and has the capacity and ability to challenge practice and hold agencies to account as necessary.
* The LSCB has a clear strategic plan and monitors delivery of that plan and its impact on children’s outcomes.
* The LSCB is effective, efficient, outcome focussed, transparent and accountable.
* The LSCB drives multi-agency learning from evidence, research, performance and quality assurance activity and improvement in practice from that learning.
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| **Reporting into:** Local Authority Chief Executive |
| **Contract Term:**The appointment will be for a period of 1 year with an option to extend if required to implement Working Together 2018.The contract will be reviewed six months after commencement. It is anticipated that the Independent Chair will be contracted to provide a minimum of 30 days service. Fee – up to £500 per day (inclusive)Invoices will be paid monthly in arrears.An Enhanced DBS is required.This post is covered by the Government’s Code of Practice on the English Language Fluency Duty for public sector workers. The post holder will be required to communicate verbally with customers and provide advice and/or information in accurate spoken English. |
| **Main Activities:*** To act as the lead officer for Durham LSCB (LSCB), chairing Board meetings and acting as the representative of the LSCB at partnership fora as required.
* To ensure the LSCB and subgroups adhere to their Terms of Reference and deliver their plans.
* Drive the development and implementation of Working Together 2018.
* To ensure that all partners work effectively together to help safeguard all children and young people in Durham.
* To ensure that the LSCB has a clear strategic direction and priorities, a distinct identity, independent voice and a robust process for challenge. To ensure that there are effective performance management and quality assurance mechanisms in place that will support the LSCB to fulfil its statutory requirements.
* To commission and oversee Serious Case Reviews and effectively disseminate learning.
* To represent the LSCB in local, regional and national conferences/events as agreed by the Board.
* To engage with the Department of Education and Ofsted as required.
* To ensure the LSCB’s Business Plan influences and reflect local priorities and national guidance and directives.
* To provide leadership on interagency co-operation in safeguarding work.
* To ensure the LSCB has systems and processes in place to identify and measure its success and impact.
* To be responsible for ensuring the development and publication of the LSCB’s Strategic Plan and annual reports on the Board’s functioning and performance.
* To ensure that systems and processes are in place to ensure all partner agencies fulfil their statutory duties under the Children’s Act 2004 and the Education Act 2002.
* To ensure that the LSCB is able to exercise appropriate influence on the development of Durham’s Children’s Strategic Plan in order to ensure that the plan takes full account of the need to safeguard and promote children’s welfare.
* Report to Durham’s Children’s and Families Partnership and the Cabinet on the work of the LSCB when requested and attend the Overview and Scrutiny Committee when requested.
* To decide in the light of available information, whether complaints that have reached the formal stage of the LSCB complaints procedure are upheld.
* To chair or attend other meetings relevant to the role of Independent Chair of the LSCB.
* To work closely with the sub group chairs and the LSCB Business Manager to support the progress and development of the Board.
* To meet quarterly with the Chief Executive of the Council and the Executive Officer Group.
* To effectively manage communication and media demands as necessary, acting as the “public face” of the Board.
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**Specification**

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| **Title: Independent Chair – Durham Local Safeguarding Children’s Board** |
| **Outlined below is the specification in relation to the skills, knowledge and experience required for this role.** |
| Knowledge of practice and developments in the area of multi-agency safeguarding work and the promotion of children’s welfare. |
| Experience of driving change and improvement. |
| Extensive experience of chairing complex professional meetings at a senior level in an efficient and effective manner. |
| Significant experience of working within the public or voluntary and community sector at a senior level in order to command respect within a multi-agency board of senior representatives. |
| Experience of working within an agency with operational responsibility for safeguarding of children and the promotion of their welfare. |
| The ability and skill to build and maintain effective partnership between member agencies. |
| Good organisational abilities consistent with the smooth operation of the Board. |
| Experience of leading the development of services through innovation. |
| Good communication skills both in terms of oral and written presentation consistent with the requirement to represent the DLSCB in public, including in the media. |
| The ability to mobilise action and deliver required outcomes. |
| The ability to analyse complex policy issues at both national and local levels. |
| Ensures confidentiality at all times for individuals and in cross organisational matters. |
| Evidences a clear commitment to the safeguarding of Children and the promotion of their welfare through effective multi-agency working demonstrated through current or previous activities in either a professional or voluntary capacity. |
| In order to perform the role of Independent Chair evidence will be required of significant appropriate experience in a similar role and appropriate academic or professional qualifications in the field of Social Care/Health Care/Education/Police/Probation. |
| This post is covered by the Government’s Code of Practice on the English Language Fluency Duty for public sector workers. The post holder will be required to communicate verbally with customers and provide advice and/or information in accurate spoken English. |