



Department
for Education

Chair of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel

Information pack



Introduction

Thank you for your interest in becoming the Chair of the independent Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel.

No child should ever suffer harm, abuse, or neglect; reducing this is the Panel's primary focus. If tragedy does strike and a child dies, or is seriously harmed, then there is no role more important than one which can review the practice of all agencies involved in the life of the child and their family to identify learning and areas of improvement.

The Panel was formed in June 2018 and is well regarded by safeguarding partnerships and child protection agencies. The Panel have the power to commission national reviews of serious child safeguarding cases which they believe are particularly complex or have issues of national importance. These national reviews help to identify improvements needed to assist safeguarding partnerships and child protection agencies to better safeguard and promote the welfare of children. More details on the Panel's ongoing and published reviews can be found [here](#).

The Panel is responsible for supervising reviews they commission, ensuring they are of a satisfactory quality, that timely progress is made, and that improvements that safeguarding partners or others should make can be easily identified. To do this, the Panel has its own statutory powers, independent of Government and makes its own decisions.

Further information on the Panel can be found on the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel's [website](#).

My Department is focused on equality of opportunity and I particularly welcome applications from women, people with disabilities, LGBT candidates, and those from black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds.

If you share my conviction and have the skills and experience to make sound judgements on complex situations affecting the lives of children, I urge you to apply for this role.

Rt HON BRIDGET PHILLIPSON - SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION



Chair of the Panel

The Panel currently consists of a chair and eight other members from across those professions involved in child safeguarding, including the Chief Social Worker for Children and Families.

Role Description

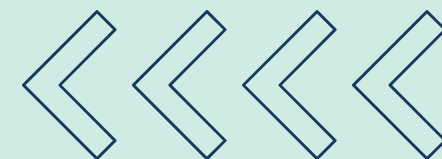
The Chair is responsible for leading and managing the Panel. They must set the strategic vision for the Panel and ensure the Panel's work is effective in improving the safeguarding of children. It is also vital they influence policy and practice change effectively to maximise the Panel's impact on child safeguarding.

Key Responsibilities

- To provide strategic leadership for the Panel, leading the development and implementation of a strategic vision for the Panel, ensuring a focus on its impact.
- To be ultimately responsible and accountable for the Panel's work and conduct of its functions. This includes taking urgent decisions on behalf of the whole Panel when required.
- To lead continuous improvement reviews of Panel work and membership to ensure its ongoing effectiveness. This includes leading long-term planning for Panel membership.
- To ensure the Panel demonstrates the highest standards of integrity at all times, including ensuring the identification and management of any conflicts of interest which might arise.
- Chairing Panel meetings effectively so that objectives are met, ensuring that all members views are taken into account. This includes creating a culture of openness, debate and collaboration that maximises use of all members skills and experience.
- To represent the Panel to the public, media, and children's social care and safeguarding sector.
- To build and maintain positive relationships with Multi-Agency Safeguarding Partners at both national and local level.



Who we're looking for



Successful applicants will demonstrate the ability to: provide strong strategic leadership; chair high level meetings; effectively manage team dynamics; and maintain the confidence of others, including child safeguarding professionals, Ministers, and the public.

The right candidate will also demonstrate two other key skills: a strong understanding of multi-agency child safeguarding arrangements policy and frontline delivery; and ability to influence policy and practice change effectively.

We welcome applicants from a diverse range of backgrounds and experience.

Applicants will be assessed against the following criteria. In your application you should demonstrate clearly how you meet each of the following requirements of the post.

Essential Criteria

- The ability to provide strong strategic leadership for to the Panel and guide the work of the independent secretariat, demonstrated by a significant record of achievement in senior leadership roles in a complex organisation.
- The ability to chair high level meetings, manage team dynamics and motivate team members effectively so that objectives are met and clear decisions made.
- The ability to think strategically and exercise sound independent judgement on complex and sensitive issues.
- The ability to analyse and interpret detailed information from a range of agencies into serious cases involving children and families.
- Being a skilled communicator and influencer, who can use those skills to handle high-profile, sensitive issues and gain and keep the respect and confidence of others, including the child safeguarding sector, Ministers, and the public, to influence policy and practice change.
- A strong understanding of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.



Equality and Diversity

The Department for Education is focused on equality of opportunity and is committed to ensuring that public appointments better represent the views of the communities which they serve. The Department has a strong culture of inclusion and diversity and it wants to encourage applications from people with a diverse range of backgrounds, underrepresented groups, those based outside London and the South East and applicants who have achieved success through non-traditional educational routes.



We want to ensure any appointee to the Department's arm's length bodies is committed to promoting diversity, in its broadest possible sense. This will include embedding a commitment to the principles of levelling up and championing opportunity for all across the organisation, helping to ensure that the organisation is one which a genuinely diverse range of views can be expressed, without fear or favour.

CHAMPIONING SOCIAL MOBILITY

The Department champions social mobility in all of its policies and is committed to opening up opportunities for people from all backgrounds, all socio-economic classes and all regions of the UK. We are committed to embedding this principle into our recruitment and public appointments and expect all our leaders, including in arm's length bodies, to take action to attract and retain staff from all backgrounds, while also supporting them to progress within their careers.

DISABILITY CONFIDENT

We are a member of the Government's Disability Confident scheme and have achieved Disability Confident Leader status, signifying our role as champions of the scheme. We use the Disability Confident symbol, along with other like-minded employers, to show our commitment to good practice in employing people with a disability.

All applicants will be asked to complete anonymised diversity monitoring information only in order to ensure departments are recruiting from the widest possible pool. The information you provide will not be shared with the selection panel.



The closing date for applications is 15 November 2024

How to apply in order to apply you will need to create an account or sign in.

Once you are logged into your account, click on 'apply for this role' and follow the on-screen instructions.



How to apply

To apply, all candidates are required to provide:

- a Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- a supporting statement
- equality information
- information relating to any outside interests or reputational issues

We will ask you to check and confirm your personal details to ensure your application is accurate.

You will also have the opportunity to make a reasonable adjustment request or apply under the disability confident scheme before you submit your application.

The Advisory Assessment Panel reserves the right to only consider applications that contain all of the elements listed above, and that arrive before the published deadline for applications.

The selection process following interviews will include care experienced individuals. Further details on the format and nature of this element of the process will be provided in due course.

Terms of appointment

Location

Remote working with some travel to London and other locations as work requires.

Time requirement

10-12 days per month

Term

4 years

Remuneration

£500 per day for a maximum of 144 days per year. This rate excludes VAT.

Expenses

In the performance of your duties, you will be reimbursed all reasonably and properly incurred travel and subsistence expenses in accordance with the Department's travel and subsistence policy provided that, if and when required, you provide evidence of the expenditure. All remuneration is taxable and liable.

Pension

The post is not pensionable.

Other

The successful applicant will be required to obtain a basic level Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. The cost of this can be claimed back from the Department for Education.

Members are expected to demonstrate high standards of corporate and personal conduct and are required to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) for board members and demonstrate a sound understanding of and commitment to the [The Seven Principles of Public Life](#).

HOW TO COMPLAIN

Please contact Emily Greatorex in the first instance if you would like to make a complaint regarding your application, by emailing Mailbox.NationalReviewPanel@education.gov.uk. They will acknowledge your complaint upon receipt and respond within 15 working days.

If you are not content with our response please contact the Commissioner for Public Appointments at publicappointments@csc.gov.uk.

Further information on complaints can be found on the Commissioner for Public Appointment's website publicappointmentscommissioner.independent.gov.uk.

