

INDEPENDENT SCRUTINY

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Working Together (WT) to Safeguard Children 2018 set out the new arrangements for Safeguarding Children Partnerships. As a part of that, a requirement was to set up a system of conducive and robust Independent Scrutiny and constructive challenge for the effectiveness of those new arrangements described in WT 2018.

The Partnership agreed that the role of the Independent Scrutineer as part of the wider system of independent scrutiny has three main primary objectives.

1. The main purpose of this role is to act as the ‘Safeguarding Champion’ – providing challenge and support for our children, families, stakeholders and residents, working in partnership with others whose roles and activities contribute to the whole-system of independent scrutiny.
2. Supported by Safeguarding Partners and colleagues, to collaboratively lead activities, reflective of the voices of our children, young people and stakeholders as well as engaging with local children and families, providers, commissioners and community, voluntary and faith sectors.
3. To do this, the Independent Scrutineer will work in partnership with stakeholders to:
 - . Provide assurance to the safeguarding leaders of Barking and Dagenham on how effective our safeguarding arrangements are.
 - . They will also identify where these arrangements fall short of our aspirations, to provide constructive challenge and help us to identify how we can make lasting improvements.

The Independent Scrutineer was appointed in May 2021 and will undertake the following

1. Provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of services to protect children:
 - Report to Strategic Partners and Health and Wellbeing Board
 - Support the Annual Report/Plan
 - Review performance reports/serious and critical incidents reports from any partner agency
 - Overview of co-ordination and effective partnership working in safeguarding activity
2. Provide challenge to Safeguarding Partners on priorities and ensure the voices of our children, young people and stakeholders are at the heart of all we do. Ensure we are engaging with local children and families, providers, commissioners and community, voluntary and faith sectors, working with our Young People’s Safety summit to take forward.
3. Support a culture and environment conducive to robust scrutiny and constructive challenge: - Contribute to Listen, Learn, Challenge activity as part of Partnership programme.
Engage in and support the “Safeguarding Champion’s” initiatives and project work and work with our Practice Development and Learning and Performance and Quality Assurance Business Group to take forward.



Sammy Odoi
Independent Scrutineer,
Barking and Dagenham
Safeguarding Children
Partnership

‘I was delighted to be appointed to the role of Independent Scrutineer in May 2021, and I hope to use my skills and experience to strengthen confidence in the strategic multi-agency arrangements across children and vulnerable adult safeguarding agendas.

I believe that really listening to the voice of the child is paramount if we are to deepen our understanding of the lived experience in order to improve outcomes for children and young people.

Since my appointment I have enjoyed getting out to schools, youth and community groups and forums and listening to children and young people and their families to understand their experiences of life in the borough. In the coming year I look forward to working closely with all partners and stakeholders to ensure that the actions we take are making a real difference in the lives of individuals and the communities we serve. ’