



Department
for Education

Adrian Loades

National Safeguarding Partner Multi Agency Facilitator (LA Lead)

September 2025

What is a National Safeguarding Partner Multi Agency Facilitator (LA Lead)?

Role Summary:

- **The National Safeguarding Partner Multi-Agency Facilitator is a specialist role designed to strengthen how local agencies work together to keep children safe. Working across England, the facilitators provide expert leadership and tailored support to local safeguarding partnerships—helping them implement national reforms, improve collaboration between services, and embed best practices.**
- **They act as a vital link between local practice and national policy, ensuring that reforms are grounded in real-world experience. Ultimately, the facilitators aim to build a more effective, self-improving safeguarding system that protects children and supports families**

Objectives include:

- **Provide expert system leadership to drive the implementation of child protection and safeguarding reforms across Children's Social Care (CSC). This includes supporting local areas to interpret and apply national guidance, facilitating cross-agency collaboration, and embedding reform principles into local practice.**
- **Maintain regular engagement with DfE, Home Office, and DHSC facilitators to ensure joined-up national support for safeguarding partners.**
- **Deliver both single-agency and joint facilitation sessions to local safeguarding partnerships, promoting cross-agency collaboration.**
- **Use findings from Joint Targeted Area Inspections (JTAs) and other inspection reports to provide targeted support to local areas.**
- **Identify, document, and share best practices in safeguarding and partnership working across local areas.**
- **Support local safeguarding partnerships to navigate and adapt to ongoing Local Government and Integrated Care Board (ICB) reforms and restructuring.**

Arrangements

- Three facilitators:
 - Adrian Loades – London, South East and South West
 - Colin Pettigrew (former DCS Nottinghamshire) - East Midlands, West Midlands, East
 - Saleem Tariq (former DCS Leeds) - North East, North West, Yorks and Humber
- All three facilitators available to work across the country
- Contracted for 10 days a month

Some observations after three months

- Areas are (mostly) Working Together 23 compliant
- Greater variability in the extent to which the Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) are central to strategic and operational safeguarding arrangements
- Organisational structures are as uncertain as they have ever been, exacerbating coterminosity challenges
- FFP is an opportunity to redesign multi agency operational safeguarding arrangements
- FFP is a single set of reforms, there are risks if MACPTs/Family Help/FGDM are treated as separate initiatives
- Local join up of national policy is going to be required

The Offer

- Facilitation and support (and challenge) for further developing local Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements
- Support for implementing multi agency safeguarding reforms
- Provision of a view/second opinion
- Link to DfE and Police/NHS facilitators
- Provision of a view/second opinion
- The contract is flexible as is the offer (within reason)
- Contact details: adrian.loades@education.gov.uk