



St Helens
Safeguarding Children
Partnership

St Helens Safeguarding Children Partnership Board Annual Report

2019-2020



NHS
St Helens
Clinical Commissioning Group



MERSEYSIDE
POLICE



ST HELENS
BOROUGH COUNCIL



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Chairs Introduction

I am pleased to present the first Annual Report for St Helens Safeguarding Children Partnership Board 2019/20. This report sets out the work of the St Helens Safeguarding Children Partnership (SCP) which provides the safeguarding arrangements under which the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies work together to coordinate their safeguarding services, identify and respond to the needs of children in St Helens and provide scrutiny to ensure the effectiveness of the safeguarding arrangements.

In accordance with the new Department for Education Working Together 2018 requirements the new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements for St Helens are now in place and may be found on the Safeguarding Children Partnership website.

In May 2019 the St Helens Local Safeguarding Children Board was replaced by the Safeguarding Children Partnership led by the three key partners: Merseyside Police, St Helens Council and St Helens Clinical Commissioning Group. These key agencies now have equal responsibility to ensure the delivery of services across St Helens to safeguard children and promote their welfare. This is a significant change in responsibilities as the Local Authority is no longer the single lead agency. These changes provide an opportunity for the Partnership to do things differently and more importantly, improve our services for children.

During the period covered in this report, April 2019 to March 2020, the Safeguarding Children Partnership has worked to meet the agreed priorities. Successes are set out on page 25 and include for example roll out of a new model of working, known as Signs of Safety. This model promotes professionals working together positively with children and their families. Resources to implement the multi-agency model were identified and agreed. This year Signs of Safety Coordinator was appointed to promote the embedding of the model across the multi-agency Partnership and to ensure the delivery of the 5-year plan. The post and the training were both funded by the Local Authority.

A SCIE (Safeguarding Children in Education) Officer post has also been introduced and we are already seeing benefits in our work with schools.

The last twelve months, however, have been challenging for agencies and the Partnership itself.

In September 2019 an Ofsted report, whilst recognising some positive aspects of improvement, also found several weaknesses within Children's Social Care and consequently graded St Helens Inadequate with two of the four judgements. This has led to a Children's Improvement Board and Plan.

Merseyside Police were inspected in 2018 and several areas for improvement were suggested. In 2019 there was a follow up inspection which concluded:



The force has taken some important steps to address the recommendations and put in place some good initiatives to help improve the awareness of its officers and staff. Nonetheless, some areas need further work to ensure improvements are achieved or to refine the changes made. Merseyside Police now needs to build on this positive work to achieve consistency.

These external evaluations have been taken very seriously by all those responsible for the delivery of services to safeguard children within the borough.

As a result, it is positive to note that agencies recognised what needed to happen. Within the council both elected members and senior managers recognised what needed to happen quickly to secure improvements. Additional funding has been agreed and new posts including social work posts have been established. Within the Partnership there has been a renewed determination from senior leaders to challenge, overcome identified barriers and ensure that all play a full role in this important work. It is anticipated that this will provide demonstrable improvement in the year to come.

Clear priorities were agreed by the new Partnership for the forthcoming year in recognition of the need to focus on the most serious issues and risks children and young people may experience in St Helens;

Addressing neglect experienced by some children in the borough

Recognising the significant **impact of domestic abuse** in the family on children

Working together – Implementing the “levels of need” across the Partnership so that children receive the right service at the right time and all agencies fulfil their responsibilities to achieve this.

Focusing on children and young people who may be at risk of **child exploitation**. We need to understand the risks to young people in our locality and work together to identify such risk at the earliest opportunity.

Progress will be monitored and evaluated over the coming year and the impact on children and young people will be published in 2021.

S O'Brien

Sarah O'Brien
Chair - St Helens Safeguarding Children Partnership Board



Chapter 1 – The Vision of the Board

The St Helens Safeguarding Children Partnership Board (SHSCP) meet on a bi monthly basis to collectively ensure that the vision and priorities set out below are achieved and that relevant agencies are fulfilling their statutory functions and holding each other to account to ensure Children and Young People are safeguarded in St Helens. Additionally, the SHSCP have subgroups to deliver and monitor local activities and priorities. Work plans are produced for each of the sub-groups aligned to the priorities.

The SHSCP Annual Report provides an overview of the collective work undertaken by the Board and wider Partnership representation over the period of 2019-2020.

Our Vision



St Helens
Safeguarding Children
Partnership

‘Improving the lives of our children and young people by working together’

Our vision is as follows:



St Helens
Safeguarding Children
Partnership

‘All children from St Helens are safe and inspired to achieve their best’



The priorities and principles with which we will deliver the vision:

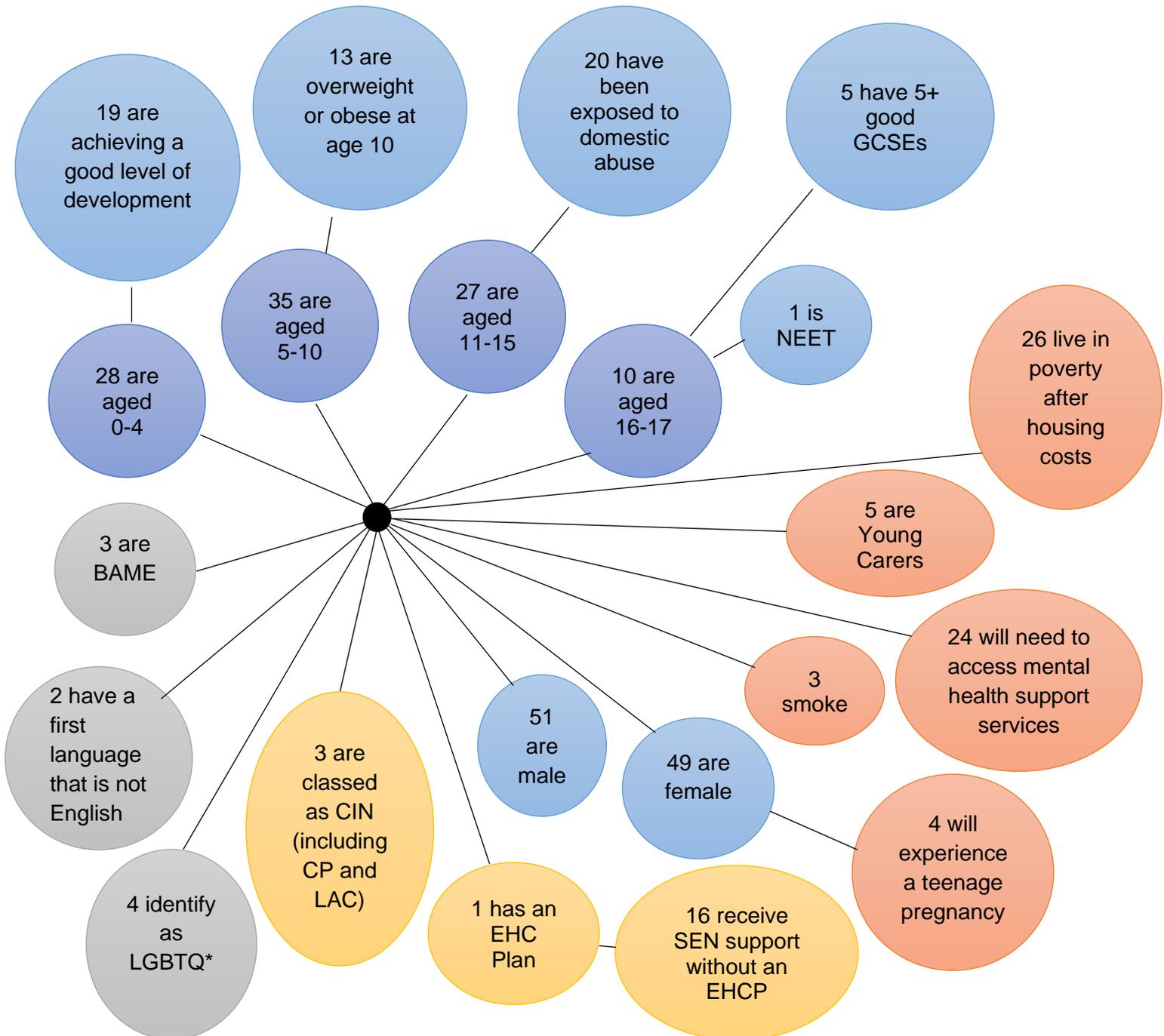
<p>Priority One</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Neglect <p>Priority Two</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Domestic Abuse <p>Priority Three</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thresholds (Descriptors of Need)	<p>The principles we have agreed to adopt include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make children central to everything we do• Hear the voice of the child and understand their experience• Work in partnership to protect children• Trust, respect, challenge and be accountable to each other.• Learn and improve• Communicate and share information within the Partnership and their own agency• Make a difference, demonstrate impact and celebrate success• Ensure stability of Membership
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These priorities have been identified as key priorities for 2020 – 2021 as there is still substantial work to be completed in these areas.



Chapter 2 – St Helens, its Children and Young People

If St Helens were a village of 100 children





180,049 people were estimated to live in St Helens in August 2018; 36 785 or 20.4% were aged under 18. St Helens ranks 28th most deprived of 326 Local Authorities in England, and approximately one in four children in St Helens (26%) are living in poverty after housing costs.

At the end of March 2020 3.44% of the child population of St Helens, 1267 children, were registered as a child in need with Children's Social Care services.

The potential number of children who may be exposed to domestic abuse in the home; whose parents have mental health issues, or drug or alcohol addictions; or are absent for a significant amount of statutory education, is estimated to be between 5% and 13%. A much higher proportion of these issues, however, are prevalent in families supported by local services.

In 2019/20 13150 contacts were made and 2 967 cases were accepted as referrals to Children's Social Care; at the end of the year 221 children were subject to a child protection plan; 505 children were looked after by the Local Authority; and 490 referrals had been made to see whether a child had been subject to sexual or criminal exploitation.

Chapter 3 – Safeguarding Children Partnership Board

Early in the year the Board was largely responsible for ensuring the progression of the MASA (Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements).

As part of this oversight the Board was responsible for defining the scrutiny role and how to involve young people within the MASA. The SCP gain feedback from existing children's groups across the Local Authority. The conduit for this feedback is the Children's Participation Officer.

The Board also monitored the Business Plan to ensure progression of the 3 priorities – Neglect, Domestic Abuse, Thresholds. This was important as these are critical areas where improvement needs to take place across the Partnership. Where progression was slow there was challenge.

There were regular updates from the Pan Merseyside Safeguarding Vulnerable People meeting. This Group had set out at the commencement of the year to have oversight of the Pan Merseyside Groups e.g. Workforce Development / Policies and Procedures.

With the introduction of 'lockdown' as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic the Board agreed to hold 3 weekly meetings to monitor the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements across the Partnership at a crucial time.

The following reports were received:

- Child Exploitation
- Section 175
- Section 11 interim report
- LADO report
- 6 monthly safeguarding reports
- Ofsted Report 2019
- HMIC Report – Safeguarding 2019



- Regular Scrutiny Reports from the Lead Scrutiny Officer

There were presentations on the following;

- Concordat – Children in Custody
- The Good Childhood enquiry
- The revised LADO processes

Board received a presentation of a Serious Case Review, the first local safeguarding child practice review and a Practice learning review. Part of the Key partner responsibilities is that they ensure progress of these reviews

The Partnership developed and the Board approved the following:

- Updated Escalation process
- Multi Agency Safeguarding Standards

The Board introduced the 3 Signs of Safety questions to monitor effectiveness below is a summary from the Board perspective:

What is working well?

- Clear agenda – with key issues discussed
- Honesty Openness and transparency
- Reflection on learning
- Learning from other boroughs
- More challenge
- Focus on young people
- An improved working relationship with the CSP (Community Safety Partnership) therefore an improved response in terms of Domestic Abuse
- Neglect Strategy produced and GCP2 training increased with a view to impacting upon the lives of those children living in a household where there is neglect.
- Care leavers conference
- CE Conference which raised awareness of CE and provided a child's perspective
- Neglect Conference
- Neglect Strategy written and launched
- Domestic Abuse Strategy written
- Descriptors of Need revised, relaunched and being utilised by professionals

What were the SCP Board worried about?

- At one-point progress with the roll out of Signs of Safety was a matter for concern – However a coordinator was appointed to oversee this
- The effectiveness of the MASA subgroups and task and finish groups
- The SCP Board agenda was challenged as being too LA focussed
- ILAC Inspection
- The Child Exploitation taking place within the borough
- Workforce data in terms of unfilled posts – sickness and absence
- The amount of work to be done against the backdrop challenge to improve children and young people's lives.
- Progress with Domestic Abuse and Neglect parts of the Business Plan



- Covid 19, the lockdown and the impact on children's lives
- Domestic Violence in homes during lockdown

What did the Board think needed to happen?

- All 3 partners to work together
- Subgroup reports to be presented to Board
- SOS and CE to be a standing item on the Board agenda
- Ideas to be put forward to involve young people
- All Key partners to be fully conversant with their obligations and to demonstrate clear leadership
- The SCU to be encouraged to challenge more

What impact did the work of the Board have on children and families?

The neglect strategy and Descriptors of Need (thresholds) document clearly guide professionals to the levels of need and actions to be taken.

Feedback from a recent audit assures that the majority of partners value and use the Descriptors of Need Document when making referrals and in meetings.

The challenge put forward around the Domestic Abuse strategy ensured progression

The Board was able to demonstrate links to the Children in custody meeting and could through audit gain an understanding of any issues presented by overnight detention.

The Ofsted letter and inspection both stated that no child was found to be at risk, this does not mean the Board is complacent as it fully understands its part in the improvement journey for children and young people in St Helens

Review of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA)

A full review of MASA was scheduled for June 2020 – however the key partners made the decision not to conduct a major review until membership of the Partnership was stable (currently at least one key partner- the DCS is an interim post)

Whilst being in a time of Pandemic (Covid 19) and waiting for a permanent postholder for the post of DCS the Partnership agreed to add an addendum to the current MASA. This state:

Safeguarding Children Partnership - Interim Arrangements

At this time of pandemic, the Safeguarding Children Partnership (SCP) has agreed to introduce interim arrangements as outlined below:

- 3 weekly meetings to gain assurance that the arrangements for safeguarding children and young people within the borough of St Helens are sufficient.
- Data made available to provide assurance to the 3 Key Partners that the arrangements to safeguard children and young people at this time are effective. (Data from Health, Police and Children's Social Care)

The SCP Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements state that a review will take place after a twelve-month implementation period. It is suggested that at this point in time an addendum is added to the arrangements to state that for an interim period the following be put in place:



The Executive Director/Chief Accountable Officer remain as Chair to ensure continuity of Board business and to provide an understanding of historical context.
Interim DCS to join the SCP as the third Key Partner representing the Local Authority.

The Partnership can provide assurance that a full review will take place once permanent arrangements are confirmed for the DCS position and when the SCP has progressed appropriate Reset and Recovery Plans.

The Subgroups of the Safeguarding Children Partnership Board

Audit Review and Learning Group (ARL)

The reporting year 2019/2020 saw the formation a newly formed subgroup of the new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements known locally as the ARL. As this was a new group the priorities for the first year were to:

- Establish what work the ARL would undertake on behalf of the Partnership and ensure that there would be a term of reference to underpin this.
- Align the work of the ARL with the Safeguarding Children Partnership (SCP) priority themes.
- To ensure that the membership of the ARL would represent the wider remit of agencies who would contribute to the Partnership work.
- Develop a work plan that would ensure a clear mapping of the work that was to be undertaken and completed.
- Agree what the group wanted to emphasise within the work of the ARL and all agreed that this would be to focus on recognising any impact that audit, reviews and any learning from such has made to improve the outcomes for children and families.

The group has achieved all its year 1 priorities.

In order to measure impact, the ARL has started to revisit past findings and actions from Serious Case Reviews and audit to assess whether there has been any long-term impact.

Children at Risk of Exploitation Group

This Group agreed an Action Plan which put raising awareness at the forefront of the agenda. It was recognised that there had been quite a significant staff turnover within the borough and that perhaps it was timely to remind people about the CE protocol – as a launch of a refreshed protocol was due.

A successful Awareness Raising event took place at Mansion House, a range of agencies participated, and young people and adults provided a view as to what it is like to be caught up within a cycle of exploitation.

The Group received regular reports from MACE (Multi Agency Child Exploitation meetings)

The Group also received a Harmful Sexual Behaviours report and an audit on Criminal Exploitation.

This Group had several changes of Chair which has had an impact on how it functioned but is now chaired by one of the Key Partners in an endeavour to provide stability.



The Rapid Review Group

The priorities of this sub-group were:

To ensure that Rapid Reviews take place following the notification of a Serious Incident.
To follow up any Actions from the meeting of the Rapid Review Group

Rapid Reviews were held, of these cases;

:

- 1 was a Serious Case Review (WTSC2015)
- 1 case was conducted as a Critical Incident Review (WTSC 2015)
- 2 met the threshold for a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (WTSC 2018)
- 3 Cases were addressed through local Action Plans

The National Panel agreed with the decisions of the Rapid Review Group – but queried that 1 case ought to be considered under the criteria for WTSC 2015 rather than 2018 because of the date of the Serious Incident. This case was reconsidered and went forward as a Serious Case Review (see above)

Impact was noted in the following areas:

- Staff have received training on ACEs and Resistant Teens but as this was a recent training there is at this time little evidence of impact from this
- There has been work completed on record keeping with an emphasis on the importance of chronologies
- School exclusions were explored, and a piece of work conducted to underline statutory duties with Governors and Head Teachers
- A Dedicated piece of work was completed on Schools use of register codes to inform the Learning Partnership, Improvement Board, PASH, ASH
- Transition between primary and Secondary Schools was reviewed
- After recognition that a SCIE officer was required to progress some of the key work with school an appointment was made funded through the Local Authority, this has resulted in some key changes in systems, and the area of policy and procedure. The post has also improved School / Safeguarding liaison
- The Child Exploitation Process was reviewed and transferred to the Complex Safeguarding Team where there was a better fit
- 7-minute briefings have been produced on Neglect and CE



Priority Task and Finish Groups

Neglect Group

The priorities of this sub-group were:

- To produce, launch and disseminate a refreshed Neglect Strategy
- To provide Neglect Training for the multi-agency workforce including refreshed GCP2
- Develop a comprehensive Implementation Plan
- Monitor Performance

A Neglect Strategy was produced and launched, and an implementation plan approved

A Neglect Conference took place with NSPCC as Keynote speakers.

The new training programme for Neglect was introduced plus a series of Neglect workshops commenced to complement the training.

Performance indicators were agreed, and these will be monitored in the coming year.

This work was achieved but further work is required to ensure it is fully embedded in 2020 – 2021.

Domestic Abuse Group

This group had the following priorities:

- Produce, launch disseminate a Domestic Abuse Strategy
- Work with schools to develop a consistent approach to Operation Encompass and to embed a PHSE module linked to Healthy Relationships
- Children's Social Care to explore and develop new model of Family Support
- Ensure that support is available for pre-school age children and that Early Years services are recognising and responding to this issue.
- Ensure that the voice of children who have experienced Domestic Abuse influences future policy and service directions
- Ensure that agencies are providing help to families at the earliest opportunities – to prevent escalation and provide support via agreed pathways
- Improve and increase the training offer to professionals on this issue and develop collaborative training approaches across services to ensure that the workforce is responsive. Include in this learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews and Local Learning Reviews.

A Domestic Abuse Strategy has now been finalised and the strands of work sitting underneath this are at different stages of development. This will remain a priority for the coming year, 2020 - 2021.



Thresholds Group

This group had oversight of the refreshed Descriptors of Need at the production stage, and when launched across the Partnership.

The group identified the following actions:

- To disseminate the DoN through training
- E-Learning module to be developed and rolled out
- Agreed that “consent” and “service requests” would be covered at the next Early Help Workshop scheduled in November 2019 to help improve the quality of referrals.
- Agreed to review dissemination and implementation

All these actions were completed. Audit has provided the following feedback – Partners welcome the DoN and use them to assess levels of need however there are still incorrect levels of referral through the Front Door and issues with ‘step up’ and ‘step down’ this would suggest that there is still working to be done in this area.

This priority will remain on the SCP agenda for 2020 – 2021

Forum to the Board

The Forum

The Forum are tasked with providing the leadership and frameworks for collaborative working, scrutiny and challenge, and organisational learning.

What worked well in 2019 – 2020?

- All partners felt that they were contributing to tangible goals
- Partners began to explore and understand each other’s roles
- The group felt it had the ability to recognise gaps
- The informality of the meetings was valued
- Positive stories featured i.e. sharing good practice
- The quick response to rapid reviews was positive
- The fact that it was a safe place to challenge each other
- The group encouraged dissemination of key messages to frontline staff
- All agreed that the PAUSE programme demonstrated positive outcomes to those families who had had children taken into the care system

What were the Forum worried about?

- The amount of work to be done - the group has a wide safeguarding agenda to deliver
- Child Exploitation
- Wider ownership of actions that needed to take place
- The need to use inspirational role models for our children in St Helens
- St Helens culture
- Level of integration ‘coalition of the willing’.
- The Ofsted Inspection for CSC
- Lack of finance for bigger events / conferences and training
- Ensuring that actions are pulled through and the loop is closed on actions



What does the Forum need to do?

- Disseminate MASA arrangements and Neglect strategy and disseminate
- Proactively Action Plan the groups work – with SMART Actions
- Demonstrate stability of membership
- Complete a piece of work on why some young people do not engage
- Thematic analysis of the priority areas with frontline staff
- Work to the contract of expectations for group members

Health Forum

This group exists to ensure that the Health economy communicates with and receives information from the Safeguarding Adults Board and the Safeguarding Children Partnership Board.

This group had a number of achievements

- Good relationships forged.
- Making Safeguarding personal audit – very positive.
- LeDeR processes.
- Health Forum addressing issues and collective approach.
- Implementation of a (JTAI) Joint Targeted Inspection Area task and finish group feeding into Health Forum.
- St Helens first SAR (Safeguarding Adult Review) underway and process implemented.

One area that health partners felt could be improved was around the duplication of work

Education Forum

- **Escalation** – following the review of Family NT and the subsequent learning that followed, the School Effectiveness Team and Safeguarding Unit were keen to develop understanding around the Escalation Procedure. There had traditionally been a lot of misunderstanding about the policy and data suggested that the procure was rarely used. Therefore, training was devised and delivered across a variety of formats. This included a series of multi-agency briefings; delivery at the DSL network, the Learning Partnership Board and bespoke delivery to St Cuthbert's. It was also delivered as a dedicated session at the Early Help Workshop.
- **Safeguarding arrangements for LAC** – a session was delivered at the Designated Teachers Forum about specific safeguarding arrangements for looked after pupils.
- **CSE, exclusions and part-time timetables** – following the news story over the summer, we wanted to respond to the growing issues of child criminal exploitation in the Merseyside region. Previously, this had perhaps been seen more as a police or social care issue and we wanted to engage school professionals with their roles and responsibilities. This include development of targeted training which was delivered at the DSL network meeting; Governors Forum; Learning Partnership Board and also as a dedicated session with Alternative Education. Governors have also requested a dedicated session which has unfortunately been postponed due to the Covid pandemic. In addition to this, we wanted school staff to understand the associated risks with



exclusions and reduced timetables, and children being drawn into criminal exploitation. A piece of work was completed where exclusions with cross referenced with safeguarding flags in order to identify patterns. New initiatives such as Team Around the School and revisions around Fair Access Panel, aim to provide schools with additional support in order to avoid exclusion and safeguard pupils.

- **Advice from Safeguarding Children in Education Coordinator and Partnership Coordinators** – following dedicated visits that were completed to schools in September, schools articulated that receiving advice from social care colleagues has been of tremendous benefit. The roles of the SCIE and Partnership co-ordinators has been extended to offer advice and support on any safeguarding concerns schools may have. This is beneficial for a variety of reasons; firstly, it establishes the reflective practice that is a key element of school supervision. It also alleviates pressure on social care colleagues by redirecting calls to other key professionals. Finally, it has had a significant impact on referrals to social care. The MASH are stating that school referrals have a high conversion rate which means that they are demonstrating a strong understanding of thresholds. The team themselves stated that they feel this is because schools are able to get that advice prior to referring.
- **School reviews** – the School Effectiveness Team has revised the structure of its school reviews; this now consists of a team from a variety of disciplines, including safeguarding, early years, SEND, Educational Psychology and maths and literacy consultants. This creates reviews that are in-depth, and as well as being able to give an accurate picture of a school's current position, the breadth of the team means that subsequent support can also be offered. Safeguarding reviews can be carried out swiftly following any incidents or complaints; all visits will follow with any recommendations and relevant support that may be needed. What is now developing is a culture where school's a proactively asking for this support and strong relationships are subsequently being formed amongst professionals.
- **Team Around the School** – this pilot was created to support schools with complex or drifting cases by offering a range of multi-agency support. This pilot has been well received, partly due to the strong multi-agency representation. The meeting follows the Signs of Safety format and a practice lead will support in mapping out the case; again, this further embeds a supervision culture within schools. This again may have had a direct impact on referrals, by offering multi-agency support at an early period, rather than cases escalating.
- **New Heads training** – safeguarding training was delivered to new heads on the first session of their induction. This set out the requirements in terms of safeguarding culture, policy and procedures. It also detailed information and Ofsted requirements and expectations and how to improve practice within your school. Again, this led to direct requests for schools to have safeguarding reviews carried out, in order to assess their current position and determine whether any further support was needed.
- **Supervision** – supervision is something that has always been lacking in schools; it is a national issue and is about changing a culture and embedding practice that did not previously exist. However, as we see more schools being required to take on more safeguarding responsibility, it is imperative that staff are supported accordingly, both intensive case mapping as well as emotional wellbeing. Therefore, school supervision model was created, and subsequent training delivered alongside it. This is a suggestive model designed to work within the context of a school and the current demands that



around staff. It is not a clinical model but is bespoke to the needs of those in education. It is a graduated approach that allows staff to get the right level of support at the right time. It utilises external support, such as Local Authority, which again support schools by removing an element of pressure and workload for senior leaders. This training has been delivered at the Learning Partnership Board, the DSL network meeting as well as a bespoke session requested by St Cuthbert's. As the Safeguarding Children in Education Coordinator is now a practise lead for Signs of Safety, they are able to support schools with reflective practise around difficult cases. Schools have been requesting this willingly and have valued the opportunity to work through cases that would otherwise be subject to drift and delay.

- **Neglect Workshops** – following the launch of the new neglect strategy, a task and finish group was devised in order to start embedding learning new practice into wider safeguarding culture. Part of this was a series of neglect workshops that consisted of training and the opportunity for professionals to map out a case. There were three areas of focus for each workshop; these included Neglect and Early Years, Neglect and Children with Disabilities and Neglect and Adolescence. The workshops were delivered to multiple agencies in order to start improving practice across the borough. Following the training, delegates were asked to present a case which was currently open for neglect that they feel is not progressing. Again, this was completed in a signs of safety format and was given to the participant to take away. The training also reiterated the significance of the Graded Care Profile 2, as well as emphasising the significance of neglect within the local area. Four workshops were held; one was cancelled due to poor attendance and one had to be cancelled due to the Covid pandemic. Following discussions after the workshops, it was agreed then it may be beneficial to continue such sessions throughout the year. This will give professionals ample opportunity to present and discuss cases and challenge their response to neglect. Since this time, the neglect strategy has been separated into a strategic and operational group. Such workshops will be further discussed in the operational meetings.

What was achieved?

Training implemented and well attended- Heads, Designated Safeguarding Leads and Governors.

Schools supported in putting in place supervision policies and arrangements

Register of those not in receipt of fulltime education (therefore vulnerable to exploitation) established providing greater oversight and challenge. Reduction in the number of children on part time timetables

Increase in Early Help activity and those taking the role of lead professional in schools receiving support through Team Around the School

Support welcomed by schools and improved judgements for those schools inspected in relation to behaviour and attitudes and personal development.

What was not delivered and why? / Are there any issues about which the SCP should be aware of?

- CSE training was requested specifically for governors however this could not take place due to the pandemic. This will continue when things are back to normal.



What is the evidence of the impact of this work?

Reductions in number of children placed on part time timetables- increased attendance at school reduces risk of exploitation

Increased number of EHATS initiated through schools who have been supported through reviews, Team Around the School.

Schools supported through School Effectiveness Reviews achieved good judgements for behaviour and attitudes and personal development

How will the impact of this work be measured or evaluated?

- Audits of EHATS by school- collated and areas of strength and areas for improvement shared
- Schools following the escalation process appropriately- number of escalations monitored and outcomes considered
- Attendance of identified vulnerable children in school and reduced NEET figure
- Attendance at training event

Voluntary and Community Sector Forum

The priorities identified by this group were:

- To consult on a new Strategy for the VCFSE Sector
- To revise the governance structure for the sector
- To progress place-based Volunteering

What did the group achieve?

- The new governance arrangements have been implemented. They consist of a strategic reference group and a VCFSE Forum
- A place-based Volunteering portal has been implemented using a solution provided by Team Kinetic.
- The infrastructure organisation, Halton and St Helens VCA have implemented the provider portal, which allows referrals to be made to the sector from Contact Cares and back to Contact Cares from the sector.
- Consultation was started on the new Strategy.
- The Voluntary Sector Strategy was not delivered due to all resources being redirected to the COVID-19 community response.

Evidence of the impact of this forum

- There is positive evidence of linking the work of the sector to the Safeguarding Children Partnership – for example the sector was consulted around the Domestic Abuse Strategy, received a presentation around the descriptions of need, and was able to link their work around food poverty, including holiday hunger, more closely with Children's Services.



Pan Merseyside Developments 2019 - 2020

The Board agreed to work with the other Merseyside Boards in the areas of: Policy and Procedure; Datasets; Section 11 Audits; Workforce Development and Serious Case Reviews.

This work was partially successful in the areas such as Child Death Overview Panel and Section 11, however it proved difficult to get the other pan Mersey groups established and meeting on a regular basis.

This approach will need to be re-evaluated when updating the MASA (Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements)



Chapter 4 - Financial Report

The table below illustrates the income by partner agency for 2019-2020

Agency	Contribution
Local Authority (Peoples Services - CYP)	107,048
Local Authority (Peoples Services - Public Health)	10,716
CCG	56,019
STHKT	5,711
NWBH	5,125
Bridgewater	3,137
Police	21,000
National Probation service	897
Community Rehabilitation Service	1,210
CAFCASS	550
Total	211,938

The majority of this income was utilised for staff, with a small proportion contributing to Training and CDOP



Chapter 5 – Performance Data 2019-2020

Performance and audit data have been mapped together, since the messages from audit and performance are closely aligned and will provide a full picture of the situation in St Helens as it concerns the four Safeguarding Children Partnership Board priorities in 2019/20.

Lessons Learned from Audit and Performance: Child Criminal Exploitation

What is working well?

- Good practice was identified among agencies in supporting a key worker to complete interventions and prevent a young person from being overloaded with services
- 58% of audits identified positive outcomes for young people
- Stable placements and developed long-term professional relationships have been identified as key factors that improve outcomes for young people

What are we worried about?

- Drift and delay related to changes in social worker negatively impacts timely provision of support and step-down processes
- CE2 meetings were not always held regularly and quality is variable
- A gap was identified in the transition to adult services
- Cross-border and local information sharing were identified to be of concern
- IROs and Safer Communities are not always invited to CE2 meetings

What have we done in response?

- The CARE group has been tasked with moving this work further on
- A spotlight event on exploitation provided practitioners the opportunity to understand the role of Adverse Childhood Experiences in increasing a young person's vulnerability to exploitation

81 children have been open to Catch 22 for CCE or CSE services in 2019/20

Online exploitation is the most common reason for referral for under-13s

Inappropriate peer relationships are the most common referral reason for 13-17 year olds

876 Return Home Interviews were offered to St Helens children living within 30 miles of St Helens in 2019/20

599 had been completed to the end of February 2020

The most common reason for these not being completed is that the young person declines

CLA are more likely to decline RHIs than children living at home, with up to 63% of CLA declining based on quarterly figures from Catch 22



Lessons Learned from Audit and Performance: Domestic Abuse

What is working well?

- St Helens Refuge and their work with children and young people was identified as a significant strength
- Work with children and families was identified as reflective and child-centred, with professionals being responsive to drift at points of case transfer and knowing their children, families and desired outcomes very well
- There was evidence of successful preventative work with positive impacts on children and families, and challenge at strategy meetings ensured that support was targeted at the right level.

806 children living in St Helens were the subject of Operation Encompass referrals in 2019/20

What are we worried about?

- Gaps were identified in pre-court support for perpetrators aimed at reducing the likelihood of repeat incidents, and support for children under 7 and over 14
- Development of the role of MARAC in joined-up support provision and a point of contact as per the previous Domestic Violence Coordinator role is required
- Holistic rather than incident-focused intervention was not fully embedded, and the focus of engagement was often on parents rather than children
- Cross-border working was not always fully effective
- Gaps were identified in understanding where the victim or perpetrator is under 18

1322 domestic abuse incidents involved children during this time: where an Operation Encompass referral does not take place, this may be because the child is not yet school aged or the school details are not provided

What have we done in response?

- Findings were incorporated into the Local Authority's review of the Domestic Abuse Strategy
- The impact of this is that the findings and feedback of multi-agency frontline practitioners and the audit pool has a direct impact on service development and therefore on the lives of children and families in St Helens

In October 2019, developments in Police systems allowed Merseyside Police to track the number of referrals made to CSC following domestic abuse incidents. From 14th October 2019 to the end of March 2020, 249 such referrals were made



Lessons Learned from Audit and Performance: Neglect

What is working well?

- Practitioners were confident and able to demonstrate empathy and positive outcome-focused working with children and families
- The revised step-down process to Early Help has shown some indications that engagement at step-down is improving
- Positive evidence of the use of the Graded Care Profile was found
- Work with expectant mothers was also correlated with improved outcomes for unborns.

There have been 214 Child Protection Plans under the category of Neglect in 2019/20

What are we worried about?

- Clarity on the desired outcome was not always present, which led to practitioners not being fully aware of the plan
- Fluctuating parental mental health was a particular barrier to engagement
- Drift was a theme across the audits, with a consequence of this being, with families where entrenched neglect was a feature, that intergenerational neglect is more likely to continue
- Domestic abuse was often a feature in Neglect cases, and MARAC was not always effective
- C&F assessments were not always of good quality
- There is no universal health flag for missed appointments, leading to difficulties for health professionals in recognising a pattern

53.5% of children who are assessed as in need of services above universal level have Neglect as their primary recorded need, which is close to the national average but has increased in 2019/20

What have we done in response?

- A review of MARAC is under way to ensure that MARAC activity feeds into planning
- Resources have been circulated to professionals to increase awareness of the impact of neglect and the need to code a child's missed health appointment as Was Not Brought
- A Neglect Task and Finish group has been created to further this work

In St Helens, 38.2% of children aged 5 have decayed, missing or filled teeth. This figure had reduced from 40% to 30% in 2017 but has again increased

37.4% of 10 year olds are obese (22%) or overweight (15.4%)

The impact of health neglect in childhood can have lifelong implications for children



Lessons Learned from Audit and Performance: Thresholds

What is working well?

- Early Help referrals are increasing in St Helens, which provides the opportunity for effective interventions to decrease the likelihood that children will become open to statutory services in future
- Agencies were able to demonstrate a common understanding of issues facing a family as well as a clear plan of what needed to happen for a child's EHAT to close with the intervention having been successful
- Evidence was provided of IROs driving effective and timely intervention
- Challenge was evidenced between agencies within minutes with positive impact on the child

What are we worried about?

- Changes in social worker have negatively impacted some children in terms of drift, delay and the child's engagement
- Not all children's plans were found to be comprehensive and SMART: this can lead to children being held at the wrong level as the indicators of positive or negative change are not readily apparent where the child's plan does not provide clear oversight of what needs to happen for the Plan to end
- Information sharing where agencies have not attended meetings was identified by practitioners as a concern leading to professionals not being fully aware of developments with the child themselves or within the child's plan

What have we done in response?

- The St Helens Safeguarding Partnership Board received a formal notification that the provision of findings and outcomes for this audit were negatively impacted by Covid-19
- The Audit, Review and Learning subgroup has been made aware of the Scrutiny Lead's concerns.
- This audit will be repeated in 2020/21 to ensure that findings are comprehensive

Only preliminary findings were available for this audit because of the impact of Covid-19: these findings and data are provisional and need to be tested further

Of the 23 North West Local Authorities reporting rates per 10,000 of CLA, St Helens current rate of 135 is the fourth highest against end of year 2019 figures for neighbours

Child Protection Plan rates per 10,000 (60) are also higher than statistical neighbours



Workforce Data

The following data is provided as a means of oversight into the current workforce situation in St Helens across the three key partners of Social Care, Police and Health.

Agency	Commissioned Staff	Vacancy Rate	Number of Staff	Turnover Rate
NWBH	90.71	10.35%	80.37	TBC
CSC	157 (social care qualified)	25%	110.8	7.1% (social care qualified)
Merseyside Police	535	11.4%	474	3.16% as at 02.12.19

Chapter 6 – The Work of Our Key Partners 2019-2020

Merseyside Police

Domestic Abuse

- We work with partner agencies to provide a systematic approach to domestic abuse, as part of the multi-agency response we support and participate in the MARAC process
- We work in collaboration with partner agencies to ensure victims of DA have safety plans and target hardening where applicable.
- We work in collaboration with the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs, ensuring that all safeguarding concerns have been addressed and that the Voice of the Child is considered
- We have a dedicated DA investigation team, within the department who have experience dealing with DA they can focus and provide a bespoke service to victims and families.
- We have targeted perpetrators of DA.
- Evidence led prosecutions- we have worked alongside CPS to progress appropriate cases where the victim is unwilling to support the investigation this has resulted in a significant increase in ELP.
- Civil orders Domestic Violence Protection Notice/Orders have been used to their full potential and once issued Policed accordingly



- Merseyside Police ran a 3-month initiative which focused on improving the reporting of Domestic abuse, increase knowledge to front line staff with evidence led prosecutions, increased awareness to staff on civil orders and powers and policies around Domestic Abuse.
- Technology has been utilised to protect victims and further investment in TecSOS devices. We have now automated operation encompass and the system has been streamlined. Voice of the child has been embedded into various platforms to ensure this is captured during every interaction with the police and embedded in daily business making sharing with partners more effective.

Child Exploitation

- We aim to identify risk of exploitation at an early stage; our first responders are trained to spot relevant push / pull factors, to listen to the voice of the child, and to share this information by completing the appropriate risk assessment tool which will then be brought to the attention of the MASH and CE Teams.
- We provide dedicated staff to both the MASH and CE teams
- We provide appropriate management and governance oversight of any children identified as exploited, and we do this by providing a dedicated CE Detective Sergeant and dedicated CE Detective Inspector
- We take proactive action and implement disruptive tactics against those who are sexually or criminally abusing and exploiting children and young people. Operation Medusa is a multi-agency problem solving approach with various initiatives targeting county lines and exploitation.
- Merseyside Police Force Intelligence Bureau analyse and develop intelligence to provide an understanding of child exploitation taking place across Merseyside.
- Our investigators are all appropriately trained, and those dealing with children will be experts in Achieving Best Evidence and will also have Specialist Child Abuse Investigation Development Programme training.
- We actively promote joint ABE interviews alongside our Social Care colleagues.
- Merseyside Police ensure a strict governance regarding victim care and management oversight which have been embedded into the culture in the previous 12 months having a significant impact on the quality of our investigations.
- Our dedicated police team are in positions to build better relationships with the at-risk children they serve.
- We provide a 24-hour non-emergency contact number and a 24-hour emergency number. We are also actively involved with crime stoppers and we have our own Tellus system.
- We will work alongside CPS to progress appropriate cases where the victim is unable or unwilling to support the investigation.



Local Authority

Following a focused visit by Ofsted in July 2018 which identified areas for priority action the service was subject to an Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) by Ofsted from the 23 September to 4 October 2019. Overall Ofsted judged services to children and young people in St. Helens to be Inadequate. Ofsted recognised that there had been progress in some areas with no child requiring help and protection being found to be left at risk of immediate harm during the inspection. However, children and families were found not to yet be receiving consistently good service and in particular achieving permanence for children was an area of weakness. Ofsted acknowledge the service knew itself well apart from the extent to which weaknesses in permanence planning were understood.

Ofsted acknowledged the volume of work coming into the service had continued to increase and was placing pressures on an already pressured service. This continues to be a challenge and whilst there has been work ongoing within the partnership to consider and address this to date it has had a limited impact on the volume of work entering statutory service.

Following the inspection an improvement plan was developed and agreed and this has subsequently been refreshed and is now more specific and focussed on outcomes for children. The Children's Improvement Board that had been established to oversee delivery of the improvement plan following the July 2018 focussed visit was refocused following the ILACS inspection aimed at bringing greater accountability, support and challenge and to ensure there is an evidence based focus on outcomes for children in relation to delivery of the improvement plan. The Children's Improvement Board is attended by all key partners, a Department for Education lead and is overseen by an independent Chair.

Early 2020, the Council decided to appoint a dedicated Director of Children's Services, who could be focussed on overseeing and driving development and improvement across children's services. We have put in place more rigorous quality assurance arrangements, re-focused on areas of performance linked to our improvement plan and those that will have the greatest impact on outcomes for children and families, put in place regular structured staff engagement session and increased our communications and a supported response to the challenges we face as a consequence of the pandemic.

The council have continued to invest significant extra resources to support the improvement programme and the teams are working hard to improve practice and the culture within the department and whilst there remain challenges and a level of variability in practice improvement and change is being evidenced across children's services

St Helens Clinical Commissioning Group

The St Helens Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) as one of the three key partners of St Helens Safeguarding Children Partnership (SCP) has played a central role within the newly formed local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements within the borough. As a key partner, leadership for the health economy is represented by the Chief Nurse. The Health Forum is chaired by the Chief Nurse and Audit, Review and Learning group is chaired by the Designated



Nurse. Board and subgroup representation are present from the CCG's Children's Designated Nurses and Named GP Safeguarding Children.

The CCG embrace the SCP priorities and have continued to work with commissioned health providers and partner agencies to progress with the SCP priorities for 2019-2020. Utilising the Domestic Abuse strategy, the neglect strategy and the Descriptions of Need resource the health forum subgroup has cited work around the priorities and planned for this within their work streams.

The CCG are represented at a strategic level on the neglect and domestic abuse SCP groups and have contributed to the development of the strategies. From a strategic level the Designated Nurses request that the priorities transpire at all levels of the workforce within health agencies featuring on health agenda's where senior managers and board level managers are present including the CCG Governing Body.

As a key partner within the new arrangements, the CCG have provided funding to increase the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Nurse resource which will also contribute to the work of the contextual safeguarding arrangements within the MASH. In response to ensuring the health needs of Looked After Children are met, further funding has been provided to implement the Looked After Children Health team as a CCG commissioned service. The CCG have supported the implementation of the Signs of safety model by commissioning and recruiting to the role of Signs of Safety Co-ordinator to work with the Partnership as a whole.

Chapter 7 – Learning and Improvement

Learning from Practice, Audits and Reviews – what difference has this made?

The Audit programme for 2019-2020 consisted of statutory audit – Section 11 and Section 175 – and the priorities identified by the Key Partners. These priorities were Neglect, Domestic Abuse and Descriptors of Need (Thresholds), plus Criminal Exploitation. These were areas that had been identified as needing improvement through reviews, previous audit and regulators reports

The Audit, Review and Learning group worked in 2019/20 to agree appropriate means of disseminating findings from audit back into the Partnership and wider to children and families. As a result, when an audit report is accepted, key findings sheets have been created in order to bring these messages to a wider audience. A children and young people's findings sheet has also been developed to share this information directly with children and young people and to inform them how SHSCP intends to progress.

Messages from audit have also informed SHSCP's Task and Finish groups as well as training events such as SHSCP's CE Awareness Conference. Audit findings have been disseminated via the Audit, Review and Learning subgroup as well as the SHSCP newsletter, and in the case of the Exploitation audit the report was shared with the CARE group so this group could target and agree the strategic response. The Audit, Review and Learning group will maintain an oversight of these actions to ensure the loop is closed.

All these themes will be re-audited in 2020-2021 to assess impact.



Case Reviews

These were overseen by the Audit Review and Learning Group.

For the year 2019 – 2020 four cases were referred to the Audit Review and Learning Group

Ben

One Case Review reported from the previous year and had an independent reviewer.

Initially this case appeared to have obesity in young children as its main theme but as the review progressed it became clear that it was really about neglect, drift and delay.

Other themes from this case were:

- Linking processes relating to fabricated and induced illness with more general concerns about children's safety and wellbeing;
- The impact of allocation within CSC to the Children with Disabilities team;
- The importance of re-evaluating strategy when no change is being achieved;
- Challenging the 'culture of placement with parents'
- Improving safeguarding of children living with parents when care proceedings have ended

NT Family

One case was recommended for a Practice Learning Review; the main findings from this case were as follows:

- Partners struggle to work with long term neglect cases
- Drift and Delay versus episodic improvement
- Lack of escalation
- Differing thresholds
- Parental Engagement
- Poor information sharing

Two further Practice Learning Review cases are currently part of desktop reviews because of the Covid 19 pandemic.

One case will pilot a new approach to reviews with the review being held with professionals present on receipt of the scoping information –hopefully streamlining the process.

Serious Case Reviews and Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

In 2019 2020 one Serious Case Review concluded and one Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review – to date these have not been published as the publication process was disrupted by the pandemic.

The intention is to publish these reviews at a later date.

Key Learning from reviews is as follows:

Child B (SCR)

- Partners need to more readily identify escalating risk



- Drift and delay within the CSE process can have impact on a child's life
- At times we can focus too much on the CE process and not enough on the outcomes for the child.
- Neglect and its impact
- The need to have effective Early Intervention in terms of CSE / CE
- A need to improve information sharing
- Partners still do not always recognize the Voice of the Child

Child C (LCSPR)

Parental drug misuse and prescribed opiates

Practitioners being alert to children's attendance at hospital with clinically unexplained symptoms

The reviewer identified room for improvement in terms of Safeguarding practice in the following areas:

- Assessments
- Engaging with fathers
- Voice of the child
- Challenge
- Absences from school

Current Good practice recognised in reviews

Child B

- A pharmacist made a referral when worried about Child Bs mental health and the possibility she may take her own life
- CAMHs intervened when they found out Child B was being bullied and brokered a meeting with Child B, her mother and School.
- CAMHs were proactive and contacted mother with regards to Child Bs lack of engagement with the service – when there was a cyclical pattern to referrals to the service.
- A local hotel had recognized that a child was at threat of CSE and contacted the police

What Impact has the SCP had upon children and families?

Impact of the SCP upon children and families is difficult to measure at this moment in time as the SCP is still on the early journey in terms of delivering the key priorities.

The SCP recognizes that more work needs to be completed with children and families so that their voice is fully heard and acted upon. There is also a need to develop a mechanism whereby we are able to demonstrate effectiveness using examples of SCP decision making having an impact on our children and families.

One area where we are able to demonstrate impact is via the CARE Group.

In Quarter 4 our CARE group received Case Studies from Catch 22 (our commissioned service for CE/CSE and children missing from home and care). One was an example of a 14 year old who had been at risk of CE .Following receipt of multi-agency service this young person is now:



- Accessing School and has applied to a 6th Form
- Understands what makes 'good' and 'bad' friendships
- Knows how to keep herself safe
- Is no longer open to services
- The young person was complimentary of the support she had received.

The intention is that next year we will be able to provide more insight on impact using case studies mapped against the child's journey with Signs of Safety.

Learning across the Partnership – what are we doing well?

- There is an improved sign up and willingness to advance the safeguarding framework for children and families in St Helens
- The introduction of the Lead Scrutiny Officer led to a series of visits being made to partner organisations – this allowed for triangulation of findings from Case Review, Audit and other areas and led to challenge taking place.
- Frontline visits by Forum Members also facilitated the scrutiny process and provided access to a view from the practitioner level – this to allowed for challenge.
- There has been an investment by the Local Authority in a Signs of Safety Coordinator to effectively manage the 5-year implementation Plan for Signs of Safety across the Partnership this has seen a significant progress in the multi-agency approach to embedding the Signs of Safety model.
- Further training on GCP2 took place to ensure wider use of the tool as a part of the plan to tackle neglect within St Helens
- Last year it was noted as an omission that we did not have a SCIE (Safeguarding Children in Education) officer in post. A SCIE officer has now been appointed and the progress is apparent and has improved the links with schools
- A Neglect strategy has been launched
- A Neglect training programme has been put in place with the aim of improving professional's ability to identify and effectively measure levels of neglect.
- Partners value and are increasingly utilizing the Descriptors of Need, when making referrals or 'stepping cases up or down' on the continuum.
- The Voice of the Child is brought to the SCP through existing Children's Groups within the Local Authority, feedback is provided via the Participation officer – the coming year the SCP wants to broaden the group feedback to include wider partnership participation groups.

Learning - Where do we need to improve?

- We need to do further work on the Descriptors of need in terms of application – we still have cases coming in for assessment that are not at levels 3 and 4.
- The Partnership needs to improve their QA systems for oversight of referrals – initially a piece of work is planned with schools.
- The SOS model needs to be fully embedded and sustainable.
- Staff need to understand Neglect and to apply GCP2 at the appropriate time and on a Partnership basis.
- All partners need to understand the impact of drift and delay on outcomes for the child
- Further work needs to take place to help partners who suspect FII or who are dealing with those cases on the margins of FII
- There is too much delay in producing and completing Action Plans following Case Reviews



- We need to get to a point where professionals are more innovative in practice and consider outcomes above process.
- We need to promote good parental engagement especially with fathers
- Information Sharing and communication across agencies must improve
- We need to review the process and effectiveness of MACE in terms of good outcomes for the child the light of Child B
- Professional curiosity
- Professionals do not challenge and escalate when required – again this leads to drift and delay and poor outcomes for children

Learning – What do we need to do next?

- Further work needs to take place across the Partnership in terms of Descriptors of Need
- Management Oversight and QA systems for referral – further work to be completed with schools and partners
- Signs of Safety to be introduced throughout the Partnership with a review at 6 months and the end of Year 1
- Messages from reviews to be widely disseminated in terms of Neglect, Bullying, School attendance Child Exploitation, OTC Opiates, Communication, Information Sharing, Parental involvement – particularly Fathers – Seen and Unseen males
- A group to be introduced to the SCP Structure to have oversight of Case Review Action Plans – to report to the SCP Board.
- We need to get to a point where we think more innovatively when finding solutions
- A timely review of MACE and Complex Safeguarding needs to take place to ensure learning is embedded from Child B
- Further work needs to take place to embed the Neglect Strategy – a Strategic and Operational Group have been set up to effect this change.
- The Domestic Abuse Strategy needs to be implemented and provisions put in place for children who witness Domestic Abuse.

Chapter 8 - Training 2019 – 2020

A full breakdown of data for each course delivered can be found in the appendices at the end of the report.

SCP First Training Report – June 2019 - March 2020

- Additional Signs of Safety communication methods were introduced to regularly update the Partnership on progress –
- A newsletter was developed and sustained throughout the year to ensure consistent messages across the Partnership were received in the early stages of the training for implementation. <https://sthelenssafeguarding.org.uk/scp/scp/about-us/signs-of-safety>
- Additional bespoke training was commissioned in order to offer detailed support to the Partnership to implement the Signs of Safety model:
 - IRO/Conference Chairs 1-day training



- Bespoke training for Practice Leads
- Bespoke workshops for Social Care departments were held to support team service implementation.
- Genogram training was developed to support the changes in practice and ICS use.
- Effective collaboration and partnership working with Public Health and the Healthy Living Team within the Council began and continues - The ASK Suicide Prevention training was reviewed against a new Pan Mersey training offer 'Serious' and it was agreed that the local offer was more appropriate at a local level for St Helens under the leadership of Director Public Health.
- New training on neglect was developed and delivered called 'Understanding Childhood Neglect' in partnership with CSC, CGL & NWBH.
- A Neglect Conference and supporting workshops were held for the Partnership.
- The mandatory 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (WTSC) course was reviewed and made into a 1-day course to fall in line with other neighbouring boroughs and as a result we have seen an increase in professional's knowledge, skills and confidence 'distance travelled' scales.
- A new course entitled 'Attending Child Protection Conferences' was developed to replace the mock conference section that was removed from the WTSC course. It was felt that more detail and attention was needed in the conference training considering the move to a Signs of Safety model and the existing changes that the Conference Chairs were making within the review process. This training will be reviewed in September 2020.
 - 'Operation Encompass' training was relaunched on the training calendar and was agreed to be delivered by Merseyside Police.
 - 'Harmful Sexual Behaviour' briefings were initiated and held as part of our commitment as an Early Adopter Local Authority. The briefings introduced the Partnership to the Brook traffic light assessment tool and to local pathways.
 - Case Review Briefings were delivered in order to raise awareness of the key findings from the reviews for Child Charlie, Child B. Attendance at these events have always been low and so the method to which we disseminate key findings from Safeguarding Practice Reviews (SPR) will become a focus this year.
 - A new safeguarding SCP online booking system was commissioned
 - The SCP has continued to develop the safeguarding website ensuring that it functions as the main hub for all multi-agency safeguarding guidance. The number of hits on the website demonstrates the multi-agency usage. **The total number of hits accessing the website now stands at: 95,058 (April – April).**
 - A SCP Twitter account was created and launched in January 2020, to increase our public profile.



How effective have arrangements been?

Though the Safeguarding Children Partnership have been in operation for a year there is recognition that there are still several areas for improvement.

The Partnership used the Bedfordshire Scrutiny Tool to assess the effectiveness of the Partnership, this was completed by the 3 Key Partners and the wider Partnership to conduct a 360-degree evaluation feedback from this concurs with the findings of the Lead Scrutiny Officer.

Main areas highlighted were:

- Transitions to adulthood
- Further work is required on Voice of the Child
- There is a need for the Partnership to engage with the wider community
- Dissemination LCSPRs needs to improve

Chapter 9 - Looking forward to 2020-2021

The Safeguarding Children Partnership will be asked to carry these actions forward.

- The priorities agreed for 2020–2021 are Neglect, Thresholds (Descriptors of Need), Domestic Abuse
- Look at different methods to disseminate the findings from Case Reviews
- Review and measure the impact of any action taken as a result of Case review findings
- The Safeguarding Children Partnership to audit thresholds to ensure that partners are all working at the same level and that there are appropriate Quality Assurance systems in place
- A further push through training on the areas of Escalation, Professional Curiosity, Communication, Information Sharing and Parental involvement as each of these themes is recurrent in case reviews. Also, further training on awareness of Private Fostering.
- We also need to do work with partners around understanding the needs of parents taking opiates or over the counter drugs
- SOS to move towards being fully embedded
- SOS – 2-day training to be owned by the Practice Leads
- Consider where and how the child's voice can be introduced within the work of the SCP, so that feedback can be more effective
- SCP to provide Case Studies demonstrating impact of multi agency working with children and families.



- There is still a requirement for a piece of work to be completed to ensure smooth adult transitions.



The End



Appendix 1 -The Work of our Relevant Partners 2019 -20

Youth Justice

Thresholds – All existing and new staff have attended a YJS Safeguarding refresher workshop that was delivered ‘in house’ by YJS Operational Managers over the past 12 months. This covered the new Descriptions of Need document and St Helens thresholds. In addition, all YJS staff have access (and have been signposted) to the St Helens Safeguarding website where they can access further reading. Some, but not all staff have attended the Descriptions of Need briefings and for new staff this has been added to the YJS Training Plan 20/21. Training needs are reviewed with all staff via the Council’s appraisal system.

Neglect – YJS staff continually develop knowledge of childhood neglect via day to day engagement with children and their families and when assessing needs/risk using the AssetPlus assessment framework. YJS continue to assess neglect as a possible adverse outcome and work with Children’s Social Care when this is prevalent. YJS staff have received extensive training in relation to trauma and adverse childhood experiences and this approach forms the basis of how we work as a service. A number of YJS staff attended the Neglect in Adolescence Briefing in February 20.

Domestic Abuse – The YJS continue to receive invites to MARAC meetings and attend such meetings when a case is known to our service. The YJS Interventions Development Officer, has worked to successfully develop up to date online resources in this area to ensure that staff have access to appropriate interventions. In June 2019, one YJS representative attended MERTI/MARAC training and this will continue to be considered for staff development as part of the ongoing YJS Training Plan.

Child Exploitation – The YJS continue to develop and enhance staffing knowledge of CE, both in the YJS and across the partnership. Much of this work is undertaken by one of the Case Managers who is the dedicated YJS CE Champion. On 6th March one of the YJS Operational Managers facilitated a workshop jointly with Merseyside Police on the subject of CE which had a focus on how the YJS work with CE and updates in relation to the National Referral Mechanism and referral pathways. The YJS offer interventions in relation to CE (using a catalogue of hard copy and online resources) at both a statutory and preventative level and are engaged in the daily CE Dial-Ins that are facilitated by Children’s Social Care. Where applicable, the YJS will attend CE Strategy Meetings

Youth Justice, Young Persons Drug & Alcohol Service & PREVENT

YPDAAT are represented at a number of safeguarding Partnership meetings including Audit, Review and Learning (ARL) and the Children at Risk of Exploitation (CARE) Groups whereby the key themes identified below are explored within these forums. The team have contributed to all 4 multi agency audits that have been undertaken over the last year either by completing audits as a practitioner involved in cases or as a facilitator of multi-agency discussions. The team manager has also been involved in the working group that reviewed and re-wrote the Descriptions of Need document and this has been disseminated to the team. The team will consult this document regularly to formulate decisions about cases and the need to refer to social care if concerns are escalating.



Learning from the audits has also been circulated to the team and is discussed in team meetings etc.

YPDAAT are aware of CE and over the past year has started to also be a part of the multi-agency meetings each day to discuss new referrals in relation to CE, chaired by the Complex Safeguarding Team.

They are also aware of the Neglect Strategy and more aware of when neglect is a feature of young people's lives and how to address this.

- Thresholds
- Neglect
- Domestic Abuse
- Child Exploitation

National Probation Service

As a member of the St Helens Safeguarding Children's partnership, over the last year the National Probation Service has worked collaboratively with our partners.

This has included us participating in the Section 11 Partnership Audit, working closely with MASH and Early Help to improve information sharing and now have dedicated staff working closely with the relevant teams. Our staff are also represented on several local boards including Troubled Families, CARE (Children at Risk of Exploitation), MACE, MARAC etc. The National Probation Service is also represented on the Youth Justice Board leading on Transitions.

Our staff have undertaken Safeguarding Children and Domestic Abuse Training as part of their mandatory training and more locally have attended a range of training opportunities arranged locally in St Helens, this has included training in Adverse Childhood Experiences, which was positively received.

We have seen an improved level of communication with partner agencies and greater information sharing, dissemination of the 7minute briefings provided by SHSCP thereby ensuring greater consistency in our work with partner agencies.

Whilst our agency does not directly work with children, we have ensured the "voice of the child" is reflected in our policies including our MAPPA processes and we are represented at child protection/ core panels in cases involving offenders under our supervision

We are keen to work with our partner agencies to address issues relating to Domestic Abuse and the impact this has on children and families. The NPS is keen to work with partners to look at ways of addressing this issue including exploring the possibility of developing a family-based approach to working with survivors of Domestic Abuse and looking at interventions for perpetrators to reduce the risk they pose.

We also recognise the increasing concern regarding child criminal exploitation and the likelihood of some of the perpetrators and vulnerable young adults being known to the NPS. We have liaised with partners via the MAPPA process to identify and effectively manage an individual who was involved in a county line with links to St Helens.



The work we have done over the last year has raised awareness amongst staff with regards to their responsibilities in safeguarding children, which we believe have led to early identification of potential children at risk and where necessary enforcement action taken to minimise such risk by removing the perpetrator from the home environment including recall to custody where appropriate.

As a partner of the new Partnership, I am keen that we continue to play a role in safeguarding the welfare of the children in St Helens and contribute to protection of the public in St Helens.

Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse is a core area of business for the National Probation Service. NPS supervises high risk and/or MAPPA-eligible offenders who have been convicted of domestic abuse offences, as well as offenders convicted of other offences who have a history of, or current evidence of, perpetrating domestic abuse. We also supervise offenders who may themselves be, or have been, victims of domestic abuse.

Objectives and priorities for responding to domestic abuse are governed regionally by the Senior Leadership Team, and the North West Domestic Abuse Leads Group, which meets quarterly. There has recently been a greater alignment of the DA Leads Group and the regional Safeguarding Children Leads Group (both groups are represented for St Helens by Steph Richmond, Risk & Partnership Lead), including the decision to make the last hour of the former and the first hour of the latter overlap. This is to ensure consistency of decision-making in respect of operational matters that are applicable to both strands of work, in recognition that safeguarding children is a core part of responding to domestic abuse. The DA and Safeguarding Leads groups are responsible for ensuring an effective and co-ordinated response to domestic abuse and child safeguarding across the North West NPS division, whilst maintaining scope to meet local Safeguarding Children Partnership priorities and develop approaches that are responsive to local need.

NPS Offender Managers are required to undertake mandatory Domestic Abuse and Child Safeguarding Training. In addition to this, the Effective Probation Practice Division and Performance and Quality Team produce practice guidance to support Offender Managers, including toolkits, 7-minute briefings, and learning from Serious Further Offences/SCRs/DHRs. In addition to circulation and discussion at team meetings, staff can access these via Equip, which is a database of practice guidance for practitioners.

All high risk, MAPPA eligible and Child Protection cases are subject to Management Oversight, which is a formal process where cases are reviewed between the manager and practitioner on a six-monthly basis, to ensure that risks are being appropriately managed. In domestic abuse cases, this includes assurances that safeguards are in place to protect victim-survivors and children.

NPS continue to purchase accredited interventions from Merseyside CRC, including Building Better Relationships and HELP which specifically address domestic abuse in intimate relationships. Additionally, NPS purchase non-accredited interventions from CRC to address other risk factors linked to domestic abuse, including accommodation support, substance misuse interventions, mentoring support etc. Partnership agency intervention to address domestic abuse associated risk factors is also utilised and forms part of the offender's sentence plan: this includes interventions such as attendance at CGL, engagement with Criminal Justice Mental Health Liaison Team etc.



NPS practitioners actively contribute to Child in Need, Child Protection and Early Help plans, and will contribute to the package of interventions/safeguarding measures by facilitating offending-behaviour work, purchasing programmes and imposing licence conditions to protect children from the effects of domestic abuse, such as non-contact with partner/child(ren) without approval, the requirement for an offender to notify of developing relationships and exclusion zones.

During the past year, NPS have been part of the Signs of Safety Implementation group. All practitioners have been briefed on the new model and are actively contributing to SoS plans in those cases where the model has been adopted to date.

The National Probation Service joined the St Helens MASH partnership December 2019. The MASH SPOC completes checks and shares information in relation to new referrals; more recently the completion of safeguarding checks has been shared monthly with CRC colleagues. With regards to domestic abuse specifically, this allows for early identification of referrals resulting from DA incidents/concerns in relation to offenders supervised by NPS, and the MASH SPOC will share any information NPS hold in relation to the offender's known history of DA and current risk factors. The MASH SPOC is also the representative for MARAC resulting in the work being better aligned. Additionally, Sarah Platt (operational manager) attends both the MASH Board and operational MASH group.

NPS are committed to supporting multiagency approaches to managing the risks associated with domestic abuse. Locally, NPS is represented at St Helens MARAC. St Helens NPS practitioners are aware of local domestic abuse pathways and utilise these appropriately. NPS also have robust processes in place for information-sharing with partnership organisations, including Police (which includes a process for requesting domestic abuse callout logs), MASH, Safer Communities and Children's Social Care. NPS are represented by the Risk and Partnership Lead at the MARAC steering group, and at Head of Cluster level at the Safeguarding Board.

Child Exploitation

Regionally, North West NPS has divisional leads forums for serious organised crime and child safeguarding (including CE). These are led by a senior manager of Assistant Chief Officer grade, and feed into the National NPS forums respectively.

NPS may work with perpetrators of CE or who have contact with children at risk of CE, including parents/carers or older siblings. All National Probation Service offenders are assessed as to the level of risk they present to children as part of their OASys assessment. Staff consult with partner agencies as part of the assessment process, including police and MASH/CSC. If a child/family is receiving support from Early Help or is subject to Child Protection/Child in Need Plan, this will be integrated into their risk management plan and sentence plan. Offender Managers actively contribute to CP and CIN processes. They will mandate licence conditions and/or interventions to support these processes and to manage risk to children as necessary and appropriate. Staff are aware of local support services available to parents and will encourage offenders to access these as appropriate. Service users who have been identified as perpetrators of CE have a "CE Perpetrator" registration added to their Delius case record. Staff have access to a CSE toolkit and guidance on working with perpetrators of CSE. Additionally, they are encouraged to exercise professional curiosity when home visiting and capture the voice of the child where it is possible to do so.



NPS work closely with Merseyside Police and other partners to ensure that information pertaining to exploitation of children linked to offenders is shared and acted upon in a timely manner. If an offender is identified as being linked to an Organised Crime Group, practitioners will request intelligence and will consider whether their activity/affiliations present risks to any known children. The NPS MASH PSO acts as a link between MASH and NPS in terms of sharing information and ongoing discussions between NPS, CRC and MASH are underway regarding both NPS and CRC accessing CSC systems.

The St Helens Operational manager attends the MACE meeting and contributes to local mapping exercises to assist police and safeguarding partners to identify and manage risks relating to the CE cohort. Attendance at this meeting has directly resulted in Service Users being recalled back to custody and management at MAPPA.

The St Helens Operational manager attends the CARE group and the NPS was a key partner involved in the recent CE launch (March 2020) providing a live example of an NPS SU's experience of CE and the impact. The feedback from 'John's' story was positive.

NPS staff have access to Equip, which is a practitioner database of practice guidance. Within Equip, there are specific sections on both safeguarding and child exploitation. Examples of relevant material staff can access includes NPS safeguarding policy and good practice guidance, CSE toolkit, Working Together to Safeguard Children document and learning from Serious Further Offences/SCRs. Staff are expected to use Equip regularly as part of their day-to-day practice and their usage is monitored by managers to ensure they do so. Additionally, resources shared from the local Safeguarding Children Board are disseminated to NPS practitioners i.e. 7-minute briefing 'St Helens Pathway for CCE'

Neglect

While the National Probation Service is primarily responsible for working with adult offenders it does carefully consider provision and services that may also involve children. The Probation Service understands its contribution to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, part of which, is the:

o delivery of services to adult offenders, who may be parents or carers, that addresses the factors that influenced their reasons to offend, for example, poor thinking skills, poor moral reasoning, drug/alcohol dependency (relating to the two domains in the Assessment Framework of parenting capacity and family and environmental factors); factors which often contribute to *the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development.*

In recognising neglect, NPS practitioners undertake mandatory child safeguarding training every 3 years, alongside regular information sharing/ briefings from both internal and external partners. Practitioners are encouraged to use the NPS Child Neglect Tool developed by the Quality and Effective Practice Team and where an adult offender is assessed as posing a serious harm to children the risk management plan and supervision plan will contain a specific objective to outline the strategy and intervention planned to manage and reduce the risk of harm, and such cases will receive regular management oversight.



St Helens NPS practitioners are familiar with 'Signs of Safety' and we have embedded this format in our own management oversight procedures. More recently Nikki Carter, SoS implementation manager, has approached the NPS operational manager with regards to delivering further training – this has of course been delayed due to COVID19 and will be pursued once some 'normality' has been achieved.

The Early Help Team have attended St Helens team meetings and liaised with practitioners directly. Subsequently, St Helens NPS have a SPOC PSO linked to the Early Help team who attends any L2 panel meetings involving any NPS SU's – NPS have also acted as a conduit for CRC in this area.

Additionally, the Risk and Partnership lead attends the 'families first' operational meetings and the referral form is part of the St Helens NPS induction process. It should be acknowledged that the response rate has been low, primarily in part, due to our SU's often not being primary carers and/ or not having contact with the children identified as fitting the criteria.

St Helens NPS practitioners work very closely with partners across St Helens including CGL, CJLT, ETE providers, Police, CRC to address factors identified as influencing neglect across St Helens: Domestic abuse, Alcohol misuse, Substance misuse, Adult mental health and Poverty

Thresholds

NPS practitioners have easy access to St Helens CYPS thresholds of need and are actively encouraged to refer to this when making a referral into services. Further work is planned with Nikki Carter, SoS implementation manager to fully embed Signs of Safety when completing a referral into CSC; NPS practitioners are familiar with using SoS when contributing to CP/ CIN/ Early Help conferences.

To support NPS understanding of thresholds and the continuum of need closer working relationships with St Helens MASH team have been developed over the last 8 months, alongside CRC colleagues. The MASH team have presented a briefing to NPS and CRC practitioners and feedback from the MASH team is that referrals into CSC by the NPS have been appropriate, which does indicate an understanding. Improved working relationships with the MASH team has allowed for improved communications and the seeking out of advice and guidance prior to completing referrals.

It is acknowledged that NPS referrals will be pitched at Level 3 or Level 4 on the continuum largely due to NPS working with adult males whose behaviour/ lifestyle crosses the threshold of serious harm within our own assessments. NPS practitioners have very little contact with children however home visits are undertaken and briefings and aide memoirs have been prepared to ensure that child safeguarding and/ or domestic abuse is explored (please note that specific guidance was issued during COVID19 arrangements in response to the increased use of 'doorstep' home visits) at each contact; however it should be noted that our capacity to answer some of the more specific factors related to basic needs/ health/ education are somewhat limited; this said liaison would occur with any other agencies involved with that SU e.g. health visitors/ Police.

NPS have recently been involved in St Helens SCB audit in respect of thresholding and whilst some initial concerns were raised with regards to the number of referrals into CSC by NPS and CRC, these were allayed once it became apparent that NPS are in the unique position



whereby we must complete a service request form for information (not just a referral). It is hoped that future access to CSC systems will address this.

CGL

CGL have develop, implemented and are now delivering the Building Bridges project, funded by department of health and social care innovation fund aimed at children whose parents use alcohol. This has meant expanded provision across the borough including a tiered structure of treatment aimed at both early intervention and complex cases. A group work program including specialist groups focused on parenting, neglect, parental conflict and brief interventions as well as a flagship whole family program called MPACT (Moving Parents and Children Together) which has delivered multiple outcomes including gaining the voice of the child. CGL have also delivered training across the parenship including drug and alcohol training and the impact on children. As part of the project CGL are now also integrated into the MASH team and participate in screening referrals and had started to deliver specialised training to schools within St Helens in relation to the impact of substance use on children.

CGL have also been a part of the implementation of both signs of safety and graded care profile 2 and have worked with the safeguarding board to deliver training around neglect as part of the neglect strategy.

Thresholds

As part of the recent audit in relation to thresholds CGL has reviewed our practise in relation to contacts being made to Children's services and formalised the process of contacts and making a referral to Children's social care which includes scrutiny pre and post contact and further integration of the descriptions of need.

Neglect

CGL has worked alongside the safeguarding board and as part of a multi-agency team developing and delivering training across the borough, on behalf of the safeguarding unit, in relation to the impact of neglect. This training has been open to and attended by a range of professionals from across St Helens. CGL has also been part of the implementation of the graded care profile. We have two trained graded care profile 2 facilitators who have been a part of delivering multi agency training. CGL has also delivered graded profile 2 awareness raising training to all CGL staff in St Helens. Furthermore, CGL has participated in multi-agency audits on behalf of the safeguarding board including the neglect audit.

Domestic Abuse

CGL have developed and are currently delivering a weekly domestic abuse support group for female victims/survivors of domestic abuse. CGL have participated in developing the domestic abuse strategy within St Helens. CGL are also a member of the domestic abuse subgroup – who will oversee the implementation of the strategy across the borough.



CGL have delivered a specific campaign for service users in relation to domestic abuse.

CGL have also completed internal audits on cases with a theme of domestic abuse.

Child Exploitation

CGL have been a part of the CARE group within St Helens and have provided staff with families on their caseload with an indicator checklist in relation to CSE/CCE. Those with a family caseload have also completed awareness raising training in relation to CSE/CCE.

Merseyside Community Rehabilitation Service

Merseyside Community Rehabilitation Company (MCRC) is an Interserve led provider of probation services and we acknowledge our role in safeguarding children against potential risks they may be exposed to through parental / other adults behaviour including abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Whilst our agency does not directly work with children, we have ensured the “voice of the child” is reflected in our work, we are represented at child safeguarding panels in cases involving Offenders under our supervision and encourage home visiting when children are present in order to ensure a ‘whole family approach’ within our work and assessments.

We are committed to work with our partner agencies to address issues relating to Domestic Abuse and the impact this has on Children and families. We are dedicated to ongoing delivery of high-quality rehabilitative interventions, including Building Better Relationships and HELP, to improve community safety through robust public protection and safeguarding practices.

MCRC has prioritised Children’s Safeguarding and established a Risk and Safeguarding Practice Development Group which brings together Senior Managers, Middle Managers and lead practitioners to drive excellence in safeguarding practice.

MCRC is committed to working collaboratively with our partners to ensure a coordinated approach to supporting children and families. In this regard we have decided to ensure CRC presence at key local meetings and have assigned designated SPOCs for MASH, MARAC and Domestic Abuse Subgroup meetings.

NWBH

North West Boroughs NHS Foundation Trust has embraced the newly introduced multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and demonstrated consistent commitment to the work of the St Helens Safeguarding Children Partnership between April 2019 and March 2020.

In Spring 2019 2 members of the Trust Safeguarding Children Team were awarded Nursing Team of the Year at St Helens NHS CCG International Nurses Day Awards. This was in recognition of the excellent work completed by NSPCC and the St Helens borough to improve the knowledge, confidence and response of local services to children that present with Sexually Harmful Behaviour.



Throughout the year the Trust strives to promote a Think Family culture and improve multi-agency communication through engaging with partner agencies across St Helens to deliver bespoke training in addition to the existing Partnership training offer.

The Trust has continued to 'host' the MASH Health representative role on behalf of the wider health economy. Over the reporting year we have worked with partners to further develop the MASH model and have successfully, with our Commissioner support, achieved approval to uplift the health resource into the MASH to support partnership working over the forthcoming years ahead.

As a Mental Health & Learning Disability provider it is important to the Trust that the partner agencies working with our children & families receive clinically valid and localised training from the statutory MH/LD Services within St Helens. The Parental Mental Health & Parenting Capacity course supports the local workforce to understand the common features of parental mental illness and explores how these can impact parenting capacity and give rise to safeguarding children concerns.

Our 0-19's and Mental Health/Learning Disability services (Safeguarding and Operational) have endeavoured to and actively contributed to a number of local Rapid Reviews and Practitioner Learning Reviews that have been undertaken by the Safeguarding Children Partnership.

The 0-19 Safeguarding Team has participated in the delivery of multi-agency training specifically Graded Care Profile 2 and Harmful Sexual Behaviours. Furthermore, the Team has pragmatically supported the initial roll out and implementation of the Signs of Safety Model.

There has been a consistent contribution by safeguarding in the completion of the Thematic Multi- Agency Audits relating to neglect, domestic abuse, child exploitation and thresholds.

To support the partnership in the introduction of a Neglect Strategy the Trust contributed to the launch event, delivering to a multi-agency audience a presentation to highlight the impacts of Neglect during pregnancy and infancy. To compliment the strategy further, the Trust created and delivered 2 additional presentations to raise awareness of the impact of Adolescent Neglect at the St Helens Neglect Conferences in December 2019. The Trust was also approached to co-create a multi-agency training package to be delivered across the partnership workforce each month between September 2019 - February 2020. Understanding Neglect was created and delivered by NWBH in collaboration with CGL and Early Help Services.

The Trust continued to identify innovative approaches to promote effective multi-agency working and enable good practice, seen in the swift availability of technology kit and access to virtual spaces as COVID-19 restrictions impacted as of March 2020.

St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust provides a full range of acute and intermediate healthcare services across our sites at St Helens, Whiston and Newton hospitals, including inpatient, outpatient, intermediate care, maternity and emergency services, the



Mersey Regional Burns and Plastic Surgery Unit, primary care and sexual health services and, from December 2019, the St Helens Urgent Treatment Centre. The Trust has over 7000 staff in its employment.

This year the Safeguarding Children and Safeguarding Adults teams have co located to promote the “think family” agenda. Training is a significant undertaking for the safeguarding teams, ensuring staff are equipped with the knowledge and skills to recognise safeguarding and take appropriate action.

The Safeguarding team is actively engaged in work with three adjoining partnership boards to promote the safeguarding children agenda.

Thresholds – the thresholds documents have been circulated to all staff and are referenced in training and supervision. An audit of referrals was carried out which highlighted no issues in relation to staff applying thresholds. This is a challenge for the Trust given that the three neighbouring local authorities have different documents.

Neglect – STHK played an active part in the creation of the neglect strategy and the associated subgroups. The strategy has been shared with staff in a bid to support recognition and management of neglect. Members of the Safeguarding team have delivered GCP2 (Graded Care Profile 2) training, those staff identified as requiring specific training have attended the course. Neglect is included in all levels of trust safeguarding training.

Domestic Abuse – STHK continues to be a consistent contributor to the local MARAC, submitting the majority of referrals from health providers. Domestic abuse is included in all levels of safeguarding training. Additional training has been delivered to key areas such as the Emergency Department, Sexual health and Maternity. It is clear when monitoring the referrals that the risk to children is considered, resulting in information being consistently shared with community partners such as the 0 to 19 service and referrals into children social care when applicable.

Child Exploitation – STHK provides representation and plays a key part in the local MACE (Multi Agency Child Exploitation) process. Any children discussed at MACE have a flag placed on their Trust medical records to ensure staff are aware of the potential risk and vulnerability. Following an audit looking at Children attending ED prior to them being heard at MACE, additional work has been done to assist staff in recognising early indicator of exploitation with the small window of opportunity provided in an Emergency Department (ED) attendance. This has included additional training for staff and a review of the ED documentation. A short CE (Child Exploitation) screening tool will now be available for staff to use to gather more information when concerns are raised e.g. children attending with drug and alcohol issues, missing episodes etc.

Key achievements 2019/20

- Significant assurance in safeguarding children training compliance
- CCG joint partnership award for the work undertaken by the Safeguarding Children Specialist Nurse in harmful sexual behaviours and NSPCC podcast development
- Positive Section 11 scrutiny visit
- Implementation of Signs of Safety processes



- Multi agency and Trust audits completed
- Development of Safeguarding Newsletter for Trust staff
- Contribution to the revised partnership board arrangements
- Review of Trust Safeguarding Assurance group's for children and adults to a single group incorporating both agendas to promote "think family"
- Overall significant assurance feedback from quarterly safeguarding children KPI submission
- Specific training delivery in key areas such as CE in the Emergency Department

Schools & Colleges

Schools

Safeguarding improvements in schools have permeated through a variety of means. Those schools categorised as Band B by the Local Authority (not graded 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted), reviews are carried out as part of the School Effectiveness Team. As well as looking at academic attainment and pastoral factors such as attendance and behaviour, safeguarding systems are assessed to ensure they are robust and effective. Recommendations are made, and support offered when appropriate.

Schools also request safeguarding reviews themselves, usually when they are expecting Ofsted or just want to 'health-check' their child protection systems and wider safeguarding structures in school. Visits and reviews have also been carried out when the Local Authority receives any complaints or is notified of serious events.

Schools have been able to access support with their Safeguarding and Child Protection Policies to ensure they are compliant and effective. During the Covid outbreak, schools were also supported in reviewing their policies as well as adding addendums in response to the crisis.

A variety of training has been delivered to governors, headteachers, safeguarding and pastoral leads. We have developed the DSL network meeting which provides a forum for professional development, updates, briefings and reflection. Schools will contact the unit for advice and guidance which avoids inappropriate or unnecessary referrals coming through to the MASH.

Team Around the School and Signs of Safety case mapping exercises have also supported schools helping them find solutions to work cases that are drifting and that require multi-agency support

St Helens College

St Helens College is one of the largest further and higher education providers in the Northwest, catering for students of all ages.

The Safeguarding & Wellbeing Team have supported 1157 students, with over a third of these cases presenting with mental health issues. The team have also supported students with issues at home, where there has been concern for safety, housing issues and many more reasons. The team either support on a regular basis until the issue is resolved or make referrals to the appropriate agencies. The team also work very closely with Children's Social Care and where appropriate Adult Social Care.



The College has also provided training for over 2,000 students on the Prevent Agenda which involved a performance for students demonstrating how young people can be radicalised, and this was further developed during pastoral tutorials and included students being shown the government video – ‘Run, Hide, Tell’.

The College also worked with Alan Walsh from Real Men Don’t Carry Knives and the Daniel Fox Foundation to deliver educational presentations on what it is liked to be involved in knife crime and the impact that it can have on many people. This programme was delivered to over 2,000 students and staff.

Students had the opportunity in November 2019 to attend the Student Health & Wellbeing event.

Staff at the College undertake mandatory Safeguarding training every two years. This is supplemented with other training such as the Prevent Agenda and other subjects such as Knife Crime & Mental Health this equips staff with knowledge that can be utilised to support students daily.

Carmel College

Following the Ofsted inspection in May 2018, safeguarding at Carmel was judged as Outstanding. Carmel College was described by Ofsted as having a “safeguarding culture”. There were no weaknesses or areas for development in terms of Safeguarding. The team continues to strive for outstanding practice. All staff are fully committed to safeguarding with full compliance in all training and testing of safeguarding knowledge. All students are given regular safeguarding information in terms of college processes and where to go for support. A proactive approach is taken, for example, students attend safeguarding 'lessons' as part of the college's pastoral programme. The college regularly works with external agencies, on issues such as Prevent and County Lines. Programmes such as Knife Savers deliver sessions to students. The college has a dedicated Mental Health and Wellbeing group, consisting of 18 staff, alongside this, a group of students have received training from Lilly Spendlove and are on hand to support their peers with their Mental health and Wellbeing. Looked After Children and Young carers have excellent attendance and each year achieve excellent outcomes. Similarly, students who have had safeguarding concerns go on to achieve excellent outcomes.

Catch 22

Catch 22 Child Exploitation (CE) and Missing from Home Service

Catch22’s St. Helens Child Exploitation and Missing from home service responds to and fully supports young people who are currently involved in Child Sexual Exploitation, Child Criminal Exploitation, Missing from home, gangs and trafficking, through both one to one and group work.

Missing from Home Service

Catch22 works alongside young people, their families and other agencies to help prevent future missing incidents, we consider what has caused them to run away in the first place and what else we can do to support the young person and family.



Support is provided for young people who have run away who are at risk of:

- becoming involved in crime to survive, from stealing to criminal gang involvement
- drug and alcohol misuse
- exploitation
- mental and sexual health issues
- Exclusion from school and failure to meet educational milestones.

After each missing episode, a face-to-face interview with the young person is offered and the caseworker endeavours to see that young person within 72hrs of them being seen safe and well by Police.

This year Catch22 have received a total of 879 missing incidents, of these 873 incidents were offered a return home interviews were offered to young people. 369 (58%) of return interviews were completed within 72hrs and a total of 639 (73%) of return interviews were completed in total.

Child Exploitation Service

- 1:1 Short and long-term support for young people affected by CE is provided, ensuring that they are fully supported to recover and reduce any further risk.
- 76 Young people engaged in a bespoke programme of 1:1 direct work.
- CE group work to groups of young people (preventative and targeted) in settings such as; Youth Clubs, Primary and High Schools (mainstream and alternative education) and outreach sessions.
- 168 young people engaged in preventative and awareness raising group work, and Catch22
- Catch 22 have delivered training to professionals such as; Police, Social Workers, Health professionals, Teachers, Foster Carers and Youth Offending teams providing professionals with the support to raise their awareness of CE. 390 professionals have been trained in CE awareness
- Catch22 offer a consultation service to professionals and parents to assist them with referrals; pathways and reporting concerns and resources for young people and families.
- 101 Consultations have taken place during the year.

TORUS St Helens Safe2Speak Domestic Abuse Service

The St Helens Safe2Speak team offer specialist domestic abuse support services to victims of domestic abuse and their children both in the community and within a refuge setting. The service and its staff operate in a way which safeguards and promote the welfare of children living within the borough and those who are accommodated within refuge accommodation in St Helens. Torus as an organisation follows local safeguarding children processes and procedures. Other specific safeguarding functions include;



The team Deliver MERIT and MARAC Training on behalf of St Helens Council. The team provide free training to all professionals working within the borough of St Helens who may work with a potential victim of domestic abuse and/or their children.

- The team also delivers specific training in relation to children titled 'Domestic Abuse: The Impact on the Child'. The aim of the course is to raise professional's awareness of the impact domestic abuse has on children living within the borough of St Helens, covering topics such as the definitions of domestic abuse, domestic abuse legislation, the impact on children, local children's experiences of DA (in their own words) and reinforces professionals' duties when dealing with a disclosure of abuse.
- Torus Safe2Speak Refuge Service continues to support the secondment of a member of children's social care within the refuge – the 'Children's worker' provides refuge with a much needed link between CYPS and other agencies as well as working on a 1:1 basis with children; exploring their experiences of domestic abuse, gaining their views and wishes thus ensuring that the child's voice is heard within multi agency meetings and processes. The worker maintains EHATs for every child in refuge where they do not meet the threshold for social work intervention.
- The service continues to support multi-agency safeguarding processes such as MARAC, Strategy Meetings, Child Protection Meetings, Core Groups and Family Action Meetings
- A Torus Housing Coordinator is now based within the MASH and Contact Cares, to ensure any housing related issues are included when referrals are screened. Housing has a key role to play to ensure adults and children are safe and continues to work in partnership to provide a coordinated approach.



Appendix 2: Training Annual Report Section 2019 – 2020

This training report incorporates the last 2 months of the LSCB and the remaining months as the SCP. The events/actions listed happened within the timescale identified.

A full breakdown of data for each course delivered can be found in the training appendix at the end of the report.

LSCB Final Training Report – April 2019 -May 2019

- The Multi-agency Training calendar for 2019-2020 was agreed upon and published on the safeguarding website for all key partners to view. The training programme was developed to enhance training delivery under the new structure.
- Partner agencies continued to deliver quality training programmes through the year whilst retaining support from the L&D Officer with regards to training oversight, QA of all provision delivered under the Board/Partnership and support to review, update and develop each training package when required.
- Signs of Safety was a model of practice that had been brought in and training had started to be rolled out across the multi-agency partnership – St. Helens is unique in this format of roll out, being the only LA to be simultaneously train and improve practice across the 'whole' partnership.

SCP First Training Report – June 2019 - March 2020

- Additional Signs of Safety communication methods were introduced to regularly update the partnership on progress –
 1. A newsletter was developed and sustained throughout the year to ensure consistent messages across the partnership were received in the early stages of the training for implementation. <https://sthelenssafeguarding.org.uk/scp/scp/about-us/signs-of-safety>
- Additional bespoke training was commissioned in order to offer detailed support to the partnership to implement the Signs of Safety model:
 1. IRO/Conference Chairs 1-day training
 2. Bespoke training for Practice Leads
 3. Bespoke workshops for Social Care departments were held to support team service implementation.
 4. Genogram training was developed to support the changes in practice and ICS use.
- Effective collaboration and partnership working with Public Health and the Healthy Living Team within the Council began and continues - The ASK Suicide Prevention training was reviewed against a new Pan Mersey training offer 'Serious' and it was agreed that the local offer was more appropriate at a local level for St Helens under the leadership of Sue Forster.



- New training on neglect was developed and delivered called 'Understanding Childhood Neglect' in partnership with CSC, CGL & NWBH.
- A Neglect Conference & supporting workshops were held for the partnership.
- The mandatory 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (WTSC) course was reviewed and made into a 1-day course to fall in line with other neighbouring boroughs and as a result we have seen an increase in professional's knowledge, skills and confidence 'distance travelled' scales.
- A new course entitled 'Attending Child Protection Conferences' was developed to replace the mock conference section that was removed from the WTSC course. It was felt that more detail and attention was needed in the conference training considering the move to a SoS model and the existing changes that the Conference Chairs were making within the review process. This training will be reviewed in September 2020.
- 'Operation Encompass' training was relaunched on the training calendar and was agreed to be delivered by Merseyside Police.
- 'Harmful Sexual Behaviour' briefings were initiated and held as part of our commitment as an Early Adopter Local Authority. The briefings introduced the partnership to the Brook traffic light assessment tool and to local pathways.
- Case Review Briefings were delivered in order to raise awareness of the key findings from the reviews for Child Charlie, Child B. Attendance at these events have always been low and so the method to which we disseminate key findings from Safeguarding Practice Reviews (SPR) will become a focus this year.
- The first Safeguarding Children Practice Review was successfully carried out by the Safeguarding Partnership Coordinators/Officers under the new SCPR criteria for 'Family NT'.
- The new SCP logo was created, approved and launched.
- A new safeguarding SCP online booking system was commissioned and continues to develop with use - St. Helens SCP has been part of the key contributors of feedback to Taylorfitch (commissioned website company) in order to influence the development of the system for ourselves and another local SCP's.
- A charging model was introduced for all SCP training where there were DNA's or cancellations within 5 days of delivery commencing.
- The LSCB/SCP have continually developed the safeguarding website ensuring that it functions as the main hub for all multi-agency safeguarding guidance, documents and policies and procedures. The number of hits on the website demonstrates the multi-agency usage. **The total number of hits accessing the website now stands at: 95,058 (April – April).** The previous website was unable to capture this data.
- A SCP Twitter account was created and launched in January 2020, to increase our public profile and engage with wider services and partners across St. Helens and the Pan Mersey region.
- Tri.x online manual was updated and aligned with the Local Authority's manual in the following area during this time:



Tri.x SCP Updates during 2019

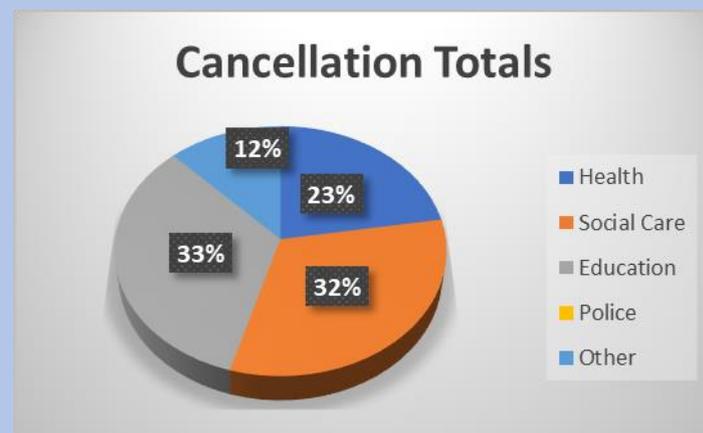
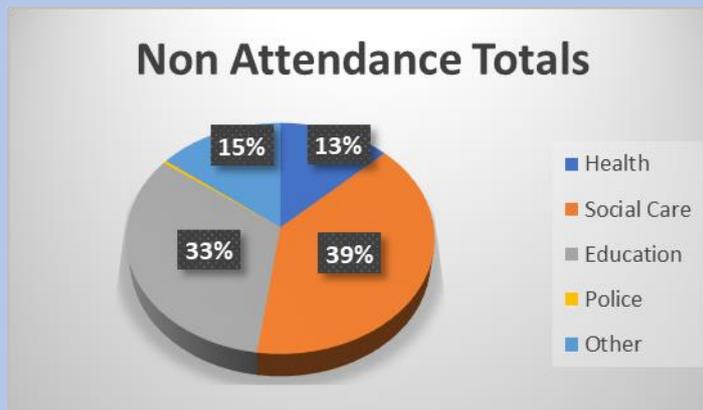
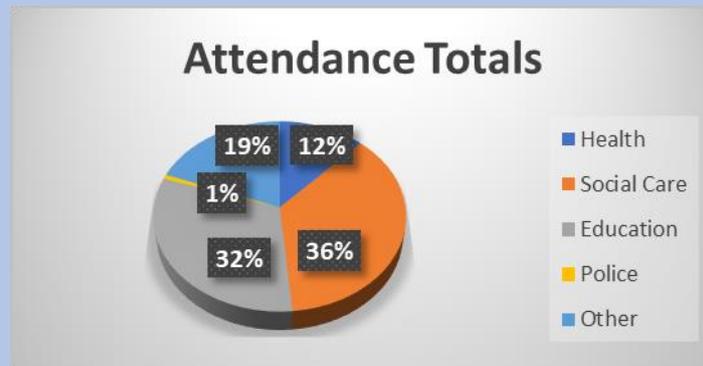
- ✓ St Helens Policy, Procedures and Practice Guidance for Children and Young People (aged under 18) who display Harmful Sexual Behaviour.
 - ✓ Guidance for Safe Recruitment, Selection and Retention for Staff and Volunteers.
 - ✓ Harmful Sexual Behaviour
 - ✓ Female Genital Mutilation
 - ✓ E-Safety: Children Exposed to Abuse through the Digital Media
 - ✓ Child Sexual Abuse in the Family Environment
 - ✓ Information Sharing
 - ✓ Allegations Against Staff or Volunteers
 - ✓ Responding to Abuse and Neglect
 - ✓ Children's Consultation and Participation (St Helens Children's Services Procedures Manual)
 - ✓ Private Fostering (St Helens Children's Services Procedures Manual)
 - ✓ Multi-Agency Partnership Responsibilities for Child Protection Conferences
 - ✓ Social Care Practice Standards for St. Helens (2018)
 - ✓ Local Contacts
 - ✓ Agency Roles and Responsibilities
 - ✓ Domestic Violence and Abuse
 - ✓ Merseyside Children Missing from Home or Care Strategy
 - ✓ St. Helens Descriptions of Need Document (2019-2022)
- St. Helens Local Safeguarding Children Board's Multi-Agency Neglect Strategy (2019-2024)

Summary SCP Training Data

Total No. of Courses	25 courses
Total No. of Individual Sessions Delivered	99 Sessions
Total No. of Professionals Trained	1,430 professionals
Average Distance Travelled across the SCP training offer	Knowledge 29% increase Skills 25% increase Confidence 26% increase



Ratio of professionals accessing training within the Partnership



Schools Training by the SCIE Coordinator

The training delivered by the SCIE Coordinator was done so at the request of schools under the schools' improvement agenda therefore, data was not captured in the same way that the SCP courses were. We have identified that these courses also need to be monitored and



tracked and therefore they will come under the SCP training provision from this year. However, we felt it was right to include the courses that have been covered this year.

Schools Training	
Total No. of Courses	6 courses
Total No. of Courses Delivered	19 courses
Total No. of Professionals Trained	Attendance was captured by schools rather than individuals for these events
Average Distance Travelled	Evaluation forms were not used for these events

END OF REPORT