



## Report to the Executive Group

Report reference	
Date of Meeting	<b>16<sup>th</sup> September 2021</b>
Report Title	<b>SCSP Annual Report</b>
Report Author	<b>Emily Star based on input from all partners</b>

### Report already considered by:

SCSP Learning and Practice Improvement Group

---

### Reason report being presented to the Group:

#### For ratification

#### Summary of the key messages in the report that members need to be made aware of:

This is the SCSP Annual Report 2020/21, detailing what has been achieved over the year 2020/21 across local partners in relation to safeguarding children and young people in Sheffield. The report looks at impact, views of CYP and families, how SCSP priorities are supported and what will be achieved next. The report also looks at SCSP activity, including Hidden Harm, Licensing, Workforce Development, Audit and Performance, and Safeguarding Practice Reviews.

The report will be presented to the Children, Young People and Family Support Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee later in the year.

#### Decisions/Recommendations

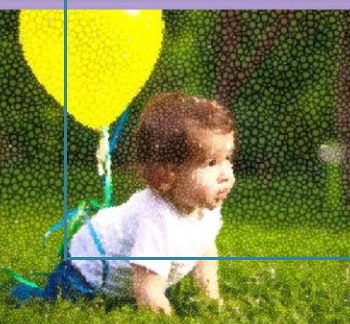
- Approve the report for publication.

\*a final check and alignment of page numbers will be completed once the Introduction is included.





Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
2020-2021





## Essential Information

<b>Author:</b>	David Ashcroft
<b>Date of Publication:</b>	September 2021
<b>Approval Process:</b>	SCSP Executive Partnership Group September 2021

## Contact details

<b>Independent Chair</b>	David Ashcroft <a href="mailto:scsp@sheffield.gov.uk">scsp@sheffield.gov.uk</a>
<b>Professional Advisor to the SCSP</b>	Helen Sweaton <a href="mailto:scsp@sheffield.gov.uk">scsp@sheffield.gov.uk</a>
<b>Assistant Director, Safeguarding &amp; Quality Assurance</b>	Donna Taylor <a href="mailto:scsp@sheffield.gov.uk">scsp@sheffield.gov.uk</a>
<b>SCSP Safeguarding Partnership Manager</b>	Tina Gilbert <a href="mailto:scsp@sheffield.gov.uk">scsp@sheffield.gov.uk</a>
<b>SCSP Research and Performance Officer</b>	Emily Star <a href="mailto:scsp@sheffield.gov.uk">scsp@sheffield.gov.uk</a>
<b>SCSP Training and Development Manager</b>	Katie Hewitt <a href="mailto:safeguardingchildrentraining@sheffield.gov.uk">safeguardingchildrentraining@sheffield.gov.uk</a>
<b>Chair Child Death Overview Panel</b>	Greg Fell <a href="mailto:cdop@sheffield.gov.uk">cdop@sheffield.gov.uk</a>
<b>SCSP Administration</b>	Rob Phizacklea <a href="mailto:scsp@sheffield.gov.uk">scsp@sheffield.gov.uk</a>
<b>SCSP Postal Address</b>	Floor 3 South Howden House Union Street Sheffield S1 2SH
<b>SCSP Phone Number</b>	0114 273 4450

### Availability and accessibility

This document is freely available from Sheffield Safeguarding Children Partnership website:  
[Sheffield Safeguarding Partnership Website \(http://www.safeguardingsheffieldchildren.org/\)](http://www.safeguardingsheffieldchildren.org/)

Protected by Creative Commons Licence

Photos of Sheffield included in this report are courtesy of Sheffield City Council.



# Table of Contents

<b>Introduction from the Independent Chair .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Foreword by the Strategic Leads .....</b>	<b>7</b>
Sheffield City Council .....	7
South Yorkshire Police .....	7
Sheffield Clinical Commissioning Group .....	8
<b>Section 1 - CYP's Involvement .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Our Work with the Children's Involvement Team.....</b>	<b>11</b>
The Children's Involvement Team (CIT).....	11
Children in Care Council (CiCC) and Sheffield Care Leavers' Union (SCLU .....	12
<b>Section 2 - The Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership.....</b>	<b>14</b>
Key Roles and Relationships .....	16
What We Achieved in a Year Dominated by the Covid-19 Pandemic .....	17
Funding Arrangements.....	20
<b>Section 3 - How We Learn from What We Do.....</b>	<b>21</b>
Quality Assurance, Learning & Improvement Framework .....	22
Multi-Agency Data Suite.....	24
Section 11 & Single Agency Challenge Meetings.....	25
Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews .....	26
Multi-Agency Audits.....	28
Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP).....	30
Multi-Agency Safeguarding Training .....	32
Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).....	34
<b>Section 4 - Safeguarding Children in Sheffield .....</b>	<b>35</b>
Sheffield Safeguarding Overview 2020 – 2021 .....	37
Signs of Safety .....	38
Early intervention.....	38
Children in Need of Help and Protection .....	40
Child Protection .....	42
Children Looked After and Adoption.....	44
Private Fostering .....	48
Targeted Services .....	50
Door 43 .....	52

Access and Inclusion.....	53
Sheffield City Council Place Portfolio .....	55
Youth Justice Service .....	57
South Yorkshire Community Rehabilitation Company .....	58
National Probation Service .....	58
Use of Restraint in the Secure Estate Aldine House .....	60
Online Safety.....	61
South Yorkshire Police .....	62
South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue.....	63
Public Health .....	64
Sheffield Children’s NHS Foundation Trust.....	65
Sheffield Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust .....	67
<b>Section 5 - Safeguarding Priority Areas.....</b>	<b>68</b>
Child Exploitation.....	69
Hidden Harm .....	71
Domestic Abuse .....	72
CYP that go Missing.....	75
Safeguarding and Licensing .....	75
<b>Appendix 1 - Executive Partnership Group Members.....</b>	<b>78</b>

## Introduction from the Independent Chair



I am pleased to introduce this year's Annual Report and record continuing progress in the multi-agency work to protect and safeguarding children and young people in Sheffield. We have strengthened the leadership and commitment between agencies in the city – and this is reflected in the continuing priority to safeguarding that is set out in the forewords from our key statutory partners, the City Council, the CCG and South Yorkshire Police. It has been significant that senior officers in all these agencies have made supporting and leading the Partnership a key objective in such a challenging and difficult year. I am grateful for their support to my role as independent chair and scrutineer and for the continuing support and engagement from elected members of the City Council.

Despite the immediate challenges and pressures of the pandemic, it has been positive that partner agencies have also focused on the longer-term challenges for safeguarding. There has been learning from the reviews we have undertaken of serious cases, and training has continued, exploiting the opportunities of virtual attendance, and continuing to reach a large number of agencies and individual practitioners.

Because of the pandemic we changed the ways in which we sought assurance about the robustness of safeguarding practice and I am grateful to the care with which agencies responded to our assurance questions earlier in the year. This demonstrated that there has been innovation as well as challenge, and that safeguarding has been maintained as a priority.

Working Together has never been more important, and I look forward to continuing progress through the coming year. MY thanks to all members of the safeguarding teams for their work and persistence in sustaining effective safeguarding in Sheffield.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Ashcroft". The signature is written in a cursive style.

David Ashcroft  
Independent Chair  
Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership

# Foreword by the Strategic Leads

## Sheffield City Council

Supporting and protecting Sheffield's most vulnerable children and young people is the priority of Sheffield City Council. Working together with our partners is critical to that priority and as such we are fully committed to these new arrangements." Kate Josephs Chief Executive, Sheffield City Council

Throughout the last year Education and Skills have responded to the changing demands of the pandemic, through supporting our partners in a variety of ways. The local authority has provided weekly advice and guidance to all settings to ensure that they had up to date, informed support from the LA and public health about how to manage their schools and education settings within a pandemic context. Within this briefing we highlighted changes that would affect vulnerable children, and how schools and settings needed to fit into this process (for example vulnerable children attending schools in lockdown).

Senior staff from the LA education services, care and the CCG worked together as points of escalation for individual children where there were concerns about their SEND needs not being met, and to find creative ways to respond to these in the pandemic context. Our attendance teams worked with schools during the January 2021 lockdown to ensure that all children with an EHCP in mainstream setting were either attending their school, or if their family wished them to be at home, there was suitable education provision to meet their needs. In both lockdowns that resulted in the closure of schools all services followed a RAG system for children and young people to ensure that those most at risk were identified and available support given.

Where children were digitally disadvantaged the LA worked alongside Learn Sheffield to support children and young people getting access to the technology to access a remote education

Where the pandemic created new areas of potential concern, such as the dramatic increase in EHE, Sheffield was swift to respond and we enhanced our capacity to ensure that safe and well visits and EHE processes could meet the increase in demand. The attendance team have also supported the re-integration of learners back into education and have run workshops for parents and carers who were concerned about their child returning to school. Where children have not returned to school due to familial concerns or risk due to Covid this has been managed by the attendance team, who have worked with individual families, and other agencies to ensure that children can return to learning as soon as they are able.

## South Yorkshire Police

"Protecting Vulnerable People is a priority for South Yorkshire Police and fully reflects our commitment to work with partners across Sheffield to improve outcomes and safeguarding for children in the city. It has been a challenging year due to the restrictions we have all faced as individuals and partners delivering a service to our communities during COVID19. In Sheffield District our officers and staff have continued to respond to calls for service and work with partners to protect children throughout the pandemic. We are continually developing our response to vulnerable children suffering neglect, abuse and exploitation aiming to meet our responsibility to promote the welfare of children, responding to their needs, hearing their voices and understanding

their lived experiences. We remain steadfastly committed to working with our partners to achieve better outcomes for children living in Sheffield.”

## **Sheffield Clinical Commissioning Group**

The year covered by this report, 2020/21 saw the world react to the COVID 19 pandemic. Whilst there has been significant impact across all statutory and voluntary services, the impact on health services has been unprecedented. The additional resources required to deliver this was done as part of a rapid coordinated response with statutory partners and across all sectors of health provision. This challenge brought with it closer working relationships which will provide a strong foundation for continued cooperation as we move into the delivery of integrated health and social care pathways in the future. Responding to the challenge of the pandemic did not detract from safeguarding the most vulnerable people in our communities. The Partnership and sub-groups have continued to meet virtually, to maintain the momentum to deliver on our priorities for the year. Despite the continued pressures on all providers of health services, the CCG and the organisations they commission have continued to be fully engaged in this important work which is a testimony all agencies have to the commitment to safeguarding in Sheffield.

During the past year, in addition to delivering on all aspects of the Partnership Strategy, the CCG has focussed particularly on ensuring that learning from safeguarding reviews is captured and disseminated to all the primary care networks, whilst seeking assurance that all acute health providers are sharing appropriate learning within their organisation.



# An Outline of Sheffield

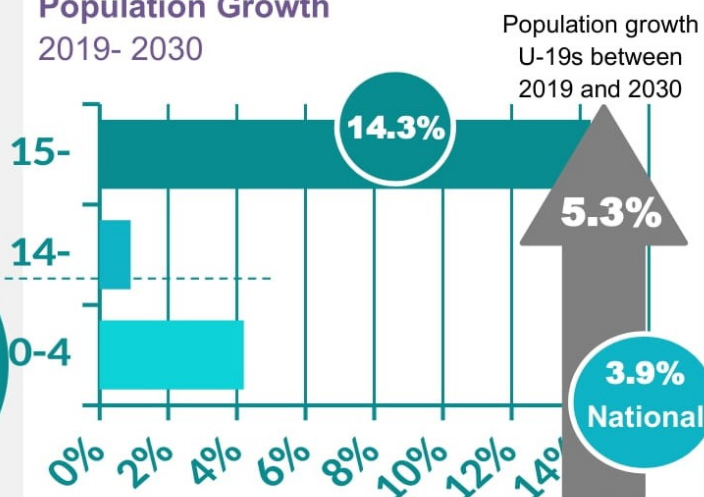
## Population



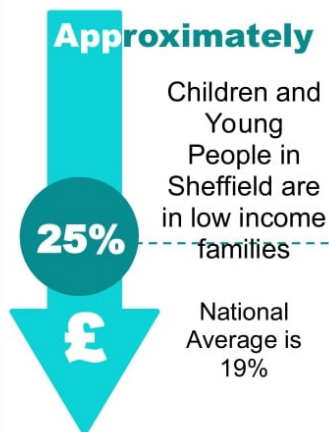
589,214



## Population Growth 2019- 2030



## Deprivation



Children in Sheffield entitled to claim



### Free School Meals



## Diversity

Children and young people with English as an additional language

Children and young people from minority ethnic groups (excluding white other)

Primary 23.1%  
National 21.2%

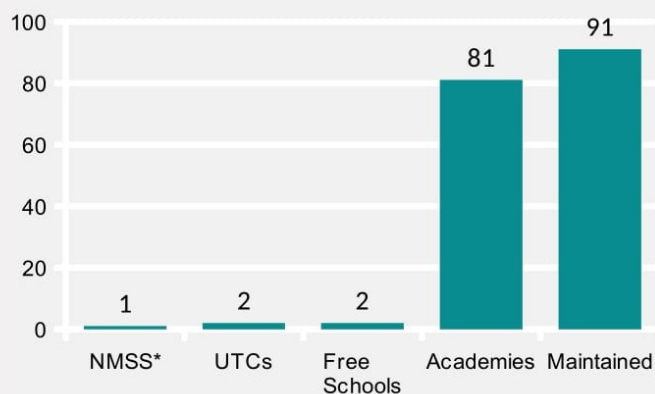
Secondary 19.1%  
National 16.6%



The largest minority ethnic groups of U18s in Sheffield are Asian

## Education

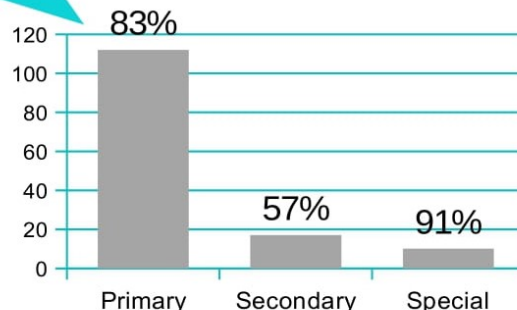
### 177 Schools in Sheffield



\*Non-Maintained Special School

79%

of schools in Sheffield are rated good or outstanding by Ofsted



2.5%

of pupils in Sheffield have an Education Health Care Plan or Statement

National Average is 2.9%

# Section 1

## CYP's Involvement

CYP have some of the sharpest minds about and have some incredible ideas.

CYP can understand issues affecting them that are different from adults and they can give an insight in to what it is like to grow up in this current world.

They also sometimes need help and support to express their thoughts, wishes and ideas and given time to get their views across, particularly when they are experiencing difficult situations in relation to abuse and neglect.

It is therefore important that CYP's views are sought and heard to help develop a shared understanding and to tackle key areas identified to make the city a better place to live.



# Our Work with the Children's Involvement Team

## The Children's Involvement Team (CIT)

The CIT sits within the Quality Assurance and Involvement Service (QAIS) in the Children & Families Service, Sheffield City Council. The primary focus of the CIT is to seek children's views and opinions on what matters to them, to ensure that those views are listened to and considered by decision makers and to feed back to the children.



The Children Involvement Team delivers the following services:

- Advocacy support
- Facilitation of creative voice groups, Sheffield's Independent Visitor service and the Young People's Reverse Scrutiny Panel
- Regular research of children's views
- Training and support for workers supporting CYP

### Headlines

During the financial year 2020-2021, the Children's Involvement Team delivered the following:

- 269 children advocated for at their initial child protection conference.
- 147 children advocated for at first review child protection conference.
- 55 looked after children, care leavers and disabled children advocated for.
- 12 children involved in little Children in Care Council group activities
- 18 children involved in Children in Care Council group activities.
- 10 young people involved in Care Leaver Union voice and influence activities.
- 60 relationships supported between a child in care and an Independent Visitor.
- 11 young people involved in the Young People's Reverse Scrutiny Panel.
- 63 Children & Families Service workers attended direct work training.

"Having an advocate has been supportive and has taken a lot of stress off my shoulders. It's perfect because knowing someone talks for you is the best" (Child aged 15).

"I do believe I needed an advocate because she was able to speak my opinions and feed back to me in a way I understand. It's important because kids like me might be shit scared to talk out" (Child aged 15).

"I cannot advocate for the advocacy service enough! The information that was obtained from one child in a most difficult case has been invaluable... The work has helped towards understanding how I can improve the circumstances for the child, helping parents as well as professionals to understand the emotional and practical impact on the child." (Social Worker).





## Children in Care Council (CiCC) and Sheffield Care Leavers' Union (SCLU)

The CiCC are a group of energetic and enthusiastic 12-18 year olds who usually meet every fortnight to work on projects to improve the care experiences of children in the care of Sheffield local authority. SCLU also usually meet on a fortnightly basis, with additional sessions to work on particular projects or tasks.

During 2020-21, the CiCC and SCLU were unable to meet face to face for much of the year due to the COVID-19 pandemic and government restrictions. Therefore, a more creative approach was required and a service was offered, initially weekly online and then face to face within government and Council restrictions. 32 young people aged 7 to 23 years were involved throughout the year. During the year, a new group was established, Little CiCC, for children looked after aged 7 to 11 years

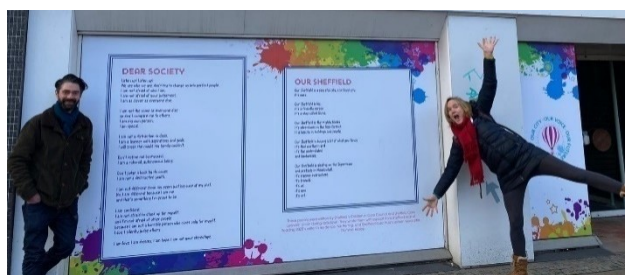
### **Little CiCC**

During December three CiCC members organised a virtual 'Come Bake With Us' event for younger children looked after. 12 children and their foster carers attended to make cookies, do a show and tell and make a wish for 2021.

In the new year the group met for three creative writing zoom sessions with Nik Perring, Sheffield's Writer in Residence. Fourteen children plus foster carers wrote about what makes life good; foster carers were supported outside the group sessions. Two CiCC members led one of the sessions with a focus on who they are and their future dreams. One of the younger children said, "I want to be like them when I grow up". The writing was submitted to the Coram Voices' national writing competition.

### **'The Can in Can't'**

During lockdown, CiCC began some creative writing pieces to enable them to express their feelings. This work culminated in a book, 'The Can in Can't', which was launched in November 2020 at a virtual event attended by 120 professionals, both from Sheffield and country wide, foster carers and children. CiCC members performed some of their poems.





## #changethelabel

Three CiCC members joined children from other Children in Care Councils to attend three meetings facilitated by Coram Voice to design and launch a national campaign to challenge stigma around being in care. Sheffield CiCC members made a card to declare they are more than their care status. Sheffield extended leadership team, foster carers and corporate parents shared their own pledges to challenge stigma of being in care. This was shared nationally by Coram Voice as an example of good practice.



## Placement Game training

Over the year, monthly Placement Game training sessions have been delivered to foster carers and social workers by CiCC members. The training is now mandatory for all foster carers and will be delivered once a month during 2021-22. The training is always well received and feedback overwhelmingly positive: *“It was thought provoking, hard hitting and professionally delivered. I promise to make sure I have high aspirations for children that live with me” (Foster carer).*

## The Best of Us!



Following the success of the Best of Us fashion show, to support children with self-esteem, in 2019-20, CiCC and SCLU received a grant from The JG Graves Charitable Trust to produce and print a calendar showing their positive messages from the fashion show. A calendar was sent to every Sheffield child in care and care leavers. *“It’s brilliant. I’ve got it on my wall and it’s got really nice, positive words for you to think about every month” (Care Leaver).*

**coram voice**  
promoting resilience

**Rees Centre**

**Feeling happy with how you look**

Sheffield Fashion show to promote positive body image  
September, 2020

Bright Spots findings show that being unhappy with your appearance is associated with low well-being. Children in Sheffield organised a positive body image fashion show to encourage children to love themselves just the way they are.

This is a practice example from the Bright Spots programme [www.coramvoice.org.uk/brightspots](http://www.coramvoice.org.uk/brightspots)

**Spotlight on practice**

**Why?**  
Children and staff from across Sheffield social care discussed the Bright Spots survey findings and voted on the top issues to prioritise. One of areas chosen to focus on was young people's poor body image and low self-esteem.

**What?**  
A working group of young people was formed to develop and progress ideas related to promoting positive body image. After some discussion children decided they wanted to host a fashion show to inspire younger children in care.

The group made links with local community organisations and engaged their help with music, staging and lighting for the event. They also worked with a dance and drama coach to improve their confidence and movement. Children chose their own backing track & positive message to say.

Invites for the event were designed and the event was described as all about 'loving ourselves and yourself as you are'. Children started the evening by a celebration. Making sure those who came along had fun was a top priority. Over 100 people came along. On the night there was the chance for people to have their hair or make-up done, to use fancy dress in the photo booth and enjoy food together.

People then enjoyed watching the fashion show together. Eighteen children and young people took to the runway. Everyone wore a customised emblem with positive message slogans. The evening ended with a disco.

**What difference is it making?**

The fashion show event was well attended with positive feedback. In order to keep the findings from Bright Spots high on the agenda a new advisory structure - led by young people - has been put in place in Sheffield. Each of the priority groups from the Corporate parenting board have been challenged to develop action plans to respond to the Bright Spots findings (including improving positive body image). Young people will evaluate & review the action planning program.

The Fashion show was highlighted as an example of good practice by Coram Voice and included in their Bright Spots Practice Bank.

### **National Association of Independent Reviewing Officers (NAIRO) conference**

One CiCC member, Rhia, spoke at the virtual NAIRO conference in March to share the Placement Game and 'The Can in Can't' book. The work was described by NAIRO as "*nationally groundbreaking and inspiring*". NAIRO wrote a thank you letter to the CiCC member and included feedback from other participants:

"I am writing on behalf of NAIRO to say a very big thank you for the presentation of your video and work The Placement Game at our National Conference on 18/03/21. Everyone was very impressed with your work and the importance of the messages that need to be heard!"

"Rhia you are brilliant, and you are making such a difference in people's lives!! Your presentation has been fantastic and how you have explained everything. Continue to shine brightly like the star that you are!! Thanks so much!"

"Goose bumps. Listen, listen, listen. So powerful the voice of the child/young person!!!"

### **SCLU Lockdown activity**

In the knowledge that during lockdown, care leavers could become increasingly isolated, SCLU met every fortnight to offer social, fun sessions. Activities included online quizzes and bingo. The SCLU website was also updated regularly with information, advice and activities. SCLU linked with the Leaving Care Service to make cooking kits with recipe cards and YouTube videos. 120 care leavers engaged and the resources were used nationally by other local authorities for their care leavers. The cooking kits and website were highlighted as best practice by the National Care Leavers' Benchmarking Forum and CIT staff presented at a regional event to share the work.



## Section 2

### **The Sheffield Safeguarding Children Partnership**

From July 2019 the Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) became the Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership (SCSP): see page 14 for more information.

The SCSP is the key statutory mechanism that brings together representatives of each of the main agencies and professionals responsible for promoting the welfare and safety of CYP in Sheffield. It is a multi-agency forum for agreeing how the different services should cooperate to safeguard children and for making sure arrangements work effectively to promote better outcomes for children.

The SCSP provides the strategic and operational direction of safeguarding and continuous monitoring of performance in Sheffield. The Partnership produces the Annual Business Plan and the Annual Report. This annual report provides a transparent assessment on the effectiveness of safeguarding and the promotion of child welfare in Sheffield.

### **Our Vision**

Every child and young person in Sheffield should be able to grow up free from the fear of abuse or neglect.

We are committed to improving the safety of all CYP in Sheffield. If children are not safe, they cannot be healthy, happy, achieve or reach their full potential. We recognise and promote the concept that keeping children safe is everybody's responsibility.

# The Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership

## Key Roles and Relationships

### *The Independent Chair*

During 2020/21 our Independent Chair was David Ashcroft. David was supported in his role by a Senior Professional Advisor and a dedicated team of Partnership Officers. The Chair is tasked with ensuring the Partnership fulfils its statutory objectives and functions. Key to this is the facilitation of a working culture of transparency, challenge, and improvement across all partners with regards to their safeguarding arrangements.

### *Lead Partner agencies*

Senior Officers from SCC, SYP and Sheffield CCG form the Strategic Group with the objective of setting the strategic priorities, agreeing funding and resources and driving forward the work of the Partnership, whilst ensuring that the vision and values are upheld. They advise and support the Executive Partnership Group to develop, implement and monitor an annual plan based on the priority actions agreed against the core business. This group are responsible and accountable for ensuring effective scrutiny arrangements are in place across the Partnership.

### *Partner agencies*

All partner agencies in the city are committed to ensuring the effective operation of the SCSP. This is supported by a Constitution that defines the fundamental principles through, which the SCSP is governed. Members of the Executive Partnership Group hold a strategic role within their organisation and can speak with authority, commit to matters of policy, and hold their organisation to account.

### *Safeguarding leads/designated professionals*

The safeguarding leads and designated professionals in the city provide a valuable source of professional advice and support for practitioners across their agencies and have continued to demonstrate their value during this year.

### *Relationship with other Boards and Partnerships*

There is an expectation that Local Safeguarding Partnerships are highly influential in strategic arrangements that directly influence and improve performance in the care and protection of children and that this is achieved through strong arrangements with key strategic bodies across the partnership.

During 2020/21, engagement continued with:

- Sheffield Adults Safeguarding Partnership (SASP)
- Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership
- Health and Wellbeing Board
- Sheffield Drug and Alcohol/Domestic Abuse Coordination Team
- Youth Justice Partnership Board
- Sheffield Community Safety Partnership



The connection between the Children's and Adults' Safeguarding Partnerships is strengthened by having the same Independent Chair and the same Safeguarding Partnership Manager.

The Professional Adviser to the SCSP also maintains a key partnership role by membership of the Vulnerable Young Peoples Executive Board, The Youth Justice Partnership, the SSH Partnership Board, the South Yorkshire Teaching Partnership Strategic Board, the Children's Health and Wellbeing Board and the Hidden Harm Implementation Group. A lead member of the Community Safety Partnership and the Director of Public Health are members of the Executive Board. All of this enables clear communication and a good flow of information.

### ***Lay Members***

The SCSP encourages independent oversight and this is enhanced by the inclusion of a Lay Member on the Executive Board. The Lay Member provides a valuable contribution by being an active participant providing challenge and an objective viewpoint.

### ***Partnership Performance***

The Partnership monitors progress against its objectives and ensures self-challenge against its responsibilities through a variety of methods:

- The Business Plan, which indicates that all tasks were completed or proceeding on time
- Quarterly monitoring of progress against section 11 compliance, SCR/CSPR/Learning Lesson Review action plans and inspection reports
- The quarterly data suite, which provides information on partner compliance with safeguarding requirements, the continued re-balancing of the children's safeguarding system and assurance on the quality of multi-agency interventions with CYP
- Oversight of work plans and action plans for the partnership sub-groups to ensure progress is being made.

## **What We Achieved in a Year Dominated by the Covid-19 Pandemic**

As reflected across this report, the Covid pandemic has had a major impact on how agencies in Sheffield work. They quickly adapted services so that they could continue to provide care and support to protect the wellbeing and safety of children and young people in Sheffield with a focus on those who were most vulnerable. The Executive Group and other SCSP Sub-groups quickly moved online during the first national lockdown with more frequent virtual meetings happening jointly with the Adults Safeguarding Partnership. Public Health and school leads were able to provide up to date, detailed information which was clear and factual and members of the Partnership supported one another with issues as they occurred. Throughout the year a condensed set of critical indicators were used to track emerging issues and levels of demand with a focus on domestic abuse and referrals and pressures in Children's Social Care. At the end of the year there is still work to do on understanding the long term impact on mental health and emotional wellbeing of children and young people as well as reviewing how systems are adapted to cope with increasing demands.

There are positive changes that will be retained including the use of virtual platforms for those where it is preferred and also for some of our meetings and aspects of our workforce development offer which have seen high levels of attendance and good feedback. The SCSP also recognised the impact of working in such a difficult and intensive environment where staff were often isolated. The SCSP maintained its safeguarding priority areas of contextual safeguarding, neglect and mental health and emotional wellbeing in light of ongoing evidence that these remained our key issues. Work continued in these areas with the delivery of associated action plans but these priorities will be reviewed and emerging safeguarding issues considered in a planned Development Session in July 2021.

Despite the pandemic much has been achieved including providing Workforce Development and training which has worked well online. Safeguarding workshops on subjects identified in reviews and audits have received positive feedback. Topics have included the new Contextual Safeguarding Service – the Amber Project, Cybercrime, Scams, and Fraud, Safeguarding and Online Safety, Professional Curiosity, Father's Mental Health, Domestic Abuse: Coercive Control, the Mental Capacity Act and Young People and Suicide Prevention Training. Level 1 Trauma Informed practice training is being delivered four times a month to a multi-agency audience. The aim is to get the whole Sheffield workforce attending at least level 1 training, a Level 2 training is also being developed.

To support the development of a Whole Family Working Model, mental health and substance misuse services delivered lunchtime sessions to children's and adult social care workers. Topics presented included Adult Autism, Perinatal Mental Health, Borderline Personality Disorder, Drug Awareness, Alcohol Awareness, Supporting Behavioural Change, IAPT, Dual Diagnosis, Brain Injuries, Crisis Resolution Hub, CAMHS and attachment and relationships in Early Years. The sessions were well evaluated with approximately 60 participants attending each session. Support from services delivering the sessions means that this is now a rolling programme.

Planning is underway for a Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder conference in September 2021 with High Profile speakers, targeting the relevant workforce in Sheffield, but dual-streamed to a national audience.

The Training offer to the Licenced Trade has been maintained with virtual training for taxi drivers (The Role of the Taxi Driver in safeguarding <https://youtu.be/Lqg-Qc-t4H8>) and licenced premises and a safeguarding awareness session developed for virtual delivery to support transport drivers and passenger assistants commissioned by SCC Transport Service about their safeguarding responsibilities.

Audits have continued with a relaunch of the Multi-agency Audit Group in September 2020 which now has a rotating chair across the 3 lead partners and a multitude of agencies and services attend. Learning from these meetings is recorded in an emerging themes tracker and an action plan is maintained. An annual MAAG Learning Brief will be produced and published summarising the key learning points and resulting developments. In addition Joint Case Reviews involving adult mental health and substance misuse services with children's services are completed, the repeated issue of the need for services to be more creative and flexible in order to engage vulnerable families is an issue being discussed by the Executive Group.

A Joint Children's and Adults Hidden Harm Strategy and Implementation Plan was revised and endorsed by SCSP in March 2021. The Strategy and its priorities has expanded in remit to include parental mental health, domestic abuse, and harmful gambling in addition to substance misuse. The SCSP continues to support the National Association of Licencing and Enforcement Officers and the University of Bedfordshire in developing good contextual practice at a national level. The Safeguarding Licensing Manager supported NALEO in the production of national guidance to establish quality assurance standards in taxi driver training (in support of the Department for Transport mandatory guidance) and the safeguarding guidance was launched in April. We have also liaised with the 10 pilot sites involved in the Contextual Safeguarding Research Programme providing training sessions to support the sites to improve partnership work. A contribution has also been made to a task and finish group that is consulting with business operators and statutory services, to assist the Home Office in developing practical guidance for businesses.

As part of our work locally a **Child Exploitation awareness training** video for the hotel trade has been made for use across South Yorkshire [Say Something if you See Something – Operation Make Safe](#). Induction training for staff who are becoming ambassadors for the Amber Project (Child Exploitation Service) on a Contextual Approach to Safeguarding has also been developed. <https://youtu.be/ttAK2RnBciQ>

A multi-agency **Neglect** Task and Finish Group has met throughout the year to progress work to develop and agree a new Neglect Strategy. Work was carried out on a bespoke tool to support workers to screen and assess neglect consistently and effectively which was trialled by a range of agencies in one area of the city. While this proved the need and support for a tool, more work was needed on what that should be and this will be the focus of our work in early 2021/22 as the Strategy is agreed and signed off.

While we had to scale back plans for Safeguarding Awareness Week in 2020/21 to a virtual offer, we delivered a week of virtual events on the subject of Exploitation that practitioners across the city engaged in and fed back on the difference it would make to their practise. This was well supported by all agencies and backed up by a social media campaign on issues covered.



# Funding Arrangements

## Sheffield Safeguarding Children Partnership

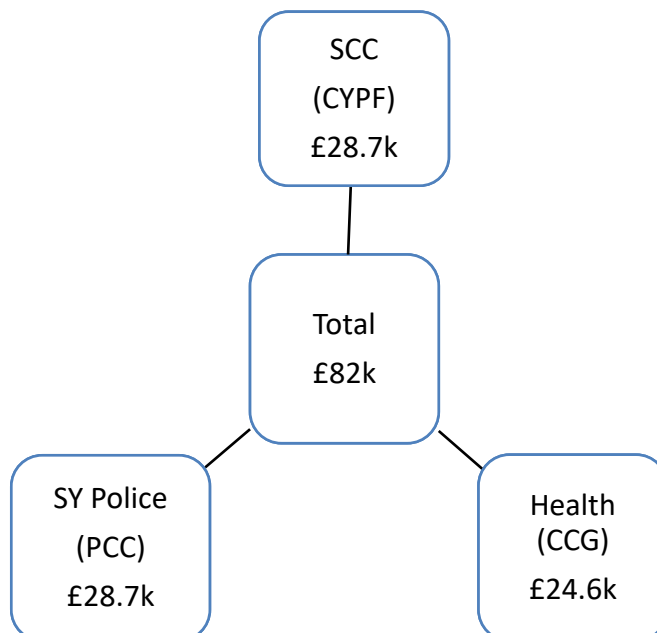
Partners of the SCSP have continued to demonstrate their commitment to safeguarding by providing the resources required to ensure effective arrangements. The work is well supported by a Partnership Manager and a Business Unit. Current funding arrangements for the business unit are provided by key partners as follows:

Income 2020/21	
Contributions:	
Sheffield City Council	£202.5 K
Health: CCG	£91.2 K
SY Police: PCC	£51.4 K
National Probation Service	£2.7 K
SCC funding for CDOP*	£68 K
<b>Total</b>	<b>£415.8 K</b>

*Sheffield CCG fund a post that is responsible for managing the CDOP process.*

## SCSP Funding of the Sheffield Exploitation Service

The SCSP provides additional partnership funding to the Sexual Exploitation Service to cover the costs of the Manager and Business Support. Consistent with the rest of the SCSP budget, a standstill position has been in place since 2014/15.





# Section 3

## How We Learn from What We Do



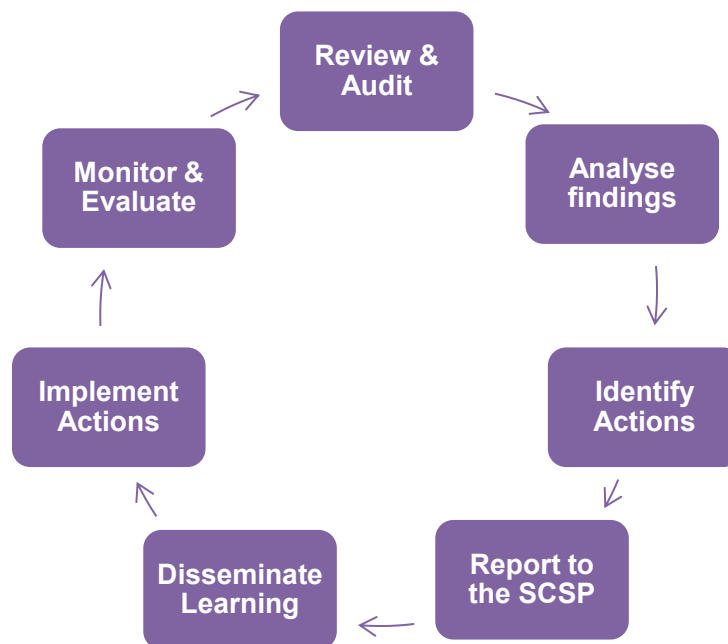
\*Includes: Child Safeguarding Practise Reviews, Learning Lessons Reviews and Child Death Overview Panel.

The SCSP undertakes a variety of activities to monitor the effectiveness and quality of safeguarding arrangements within Sheffield.

# How We Learn from What We Do

## Quality Assurance, Learning & Improvement Framework

Sheffield's Quality Assurance, Learning and Improvement Framework outlines how we learn through practice, assurance activity, performance management and case reviews. The Partnership is committed to recognising, reflecting, and learning from good practice and seeks to continually assess effectiveness, understand impact, inform professionals of the learning, and drive forward improvements.



### *The SCSP Audit Programme*

#### Multi-Agency Audit Group (MAAG)

- Every 2 months between November and July
- Alternately chaired by the LA, SYP, CCG
- 1 case discussed chosen at random

#### Thematic Case Reviews

- Conducted each quarter following certain theme
- Methodology changes depending on the audit
- Themes come from CSPR, training, Learning and Practice Improvement Group (LPIG), the Executive Partnership Group

#### Themed Audit Day

- Held annually
- Joint audit between SASP and SCSP
- 3-5 cases reviewed, relating to a specific theme
- Themes relate to the SCSP and SASP Joint Workplan

## ***Learning from Audits into Practice***



Information going into the multi-agency audits is gathered at a practice level and information coming out of multi-agency audits should then inform professional practice – across all partner agencies in Sheffield.

### **Report and Learning Brief**

A full report is shared with service managers and a learning brief is published on the SCSP website and distributed to representatives in services. Meaning there is a top down and bottom up implementation of learning.

### **Single Agency Action Plans**

Recommendations are transcribed into single agency actions, which impact on process and practice.

### **Multi-Agency Training**

Key learning points are incorporated in the SCSP Workforce Development Strategy and vice versa.

### **Emerging Themes Tracker**

Emerging themes from the different audit work, including SCSP audits, CSPR's, Joint Case Reviews are monitored through an Emerging Themes Tracker. This supports key issues being identified for further work, training, monitoring.

### **Oversight and Scrutiny**

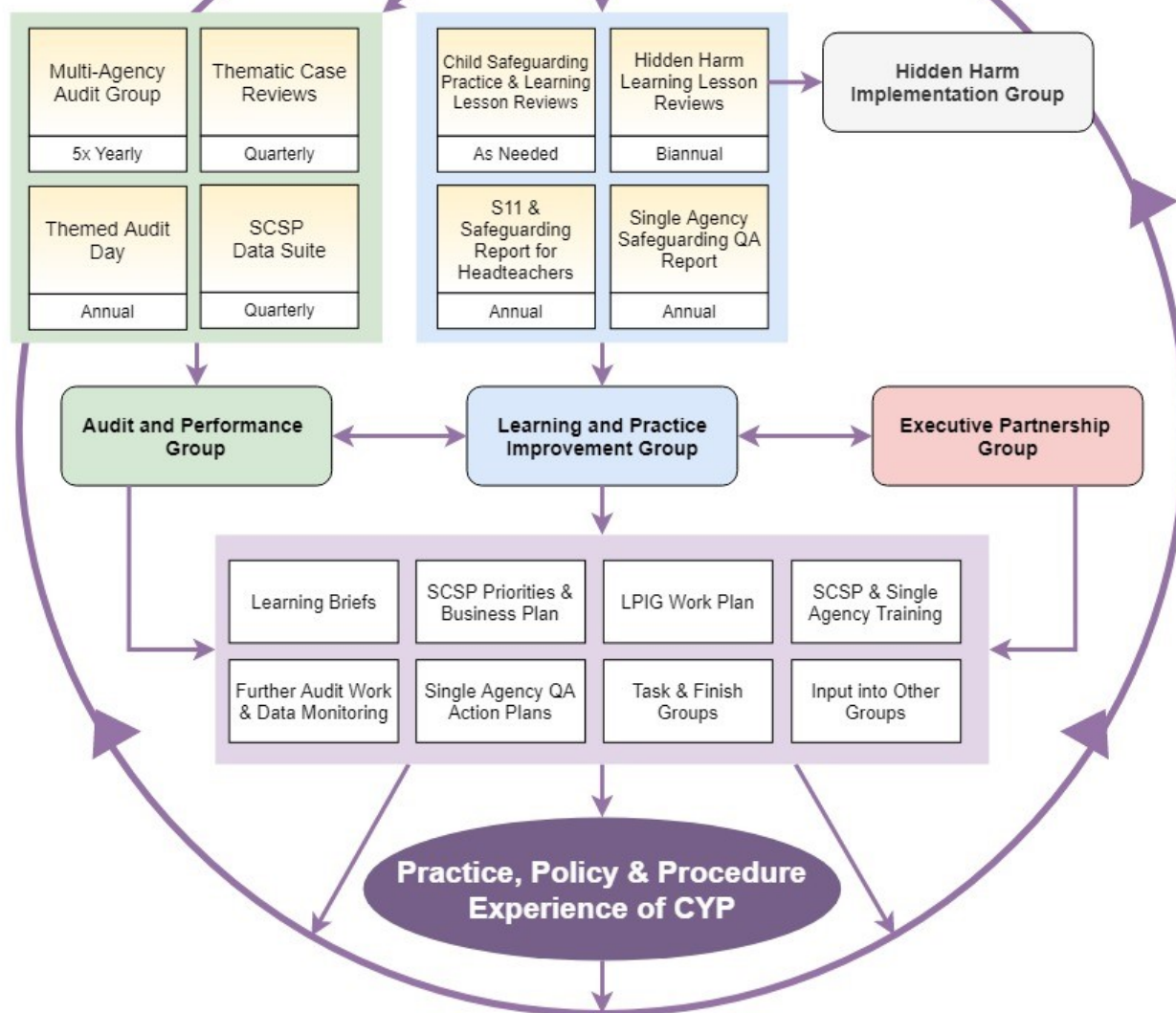
The Audit and Performance Group, which is represented by a range of key partners, oversee this work and support the SCSP in cascading the learning from audits and data through their organisations.

Having been reviewed by the Audit and Performance Group, reports are distributed to LPIG who support the SCSP in:

- Providing scrutiny and challenge
- Deciding further Key Lines of Enquiry
- Agreeing actions and assigning task and finish groups if appropriate
- Ensuring circulation pathways for learning and actions

Full reports are sent to LPIG and the Executive Partnership Group ensuring effective strategic and operational oversight of the audit programme and data suite. There is a cyclical relationship between the above mentioned groups and Audit Programme and Multi-Agency Data Suite (see below).

# SCSP Learning Cycle



## Multi-Agency Data Suite

The Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership (SCSP) must ensure there is a robust, effective and comprehensive system for using data and intelligence to assess the effectiveness of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of CYP (CYP) (Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018). This duty is greater than the monitoring of key performance indicators: it embraces all activities that are designed to support the effective delivery of services. Robust performance management is at the heart of continuously improving the delivery of high-quality services.

The Data Suite has developed the Partnership's understanding of safeguarding performance across the city and provided evidence of the impact of the Boards work. The Data Suite underwent a full scale review during 2020/21, to ensure it remains concise, insightful, reliable and accurate in providing a picture of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of CYP in Sheffield. To achieve this, partners were asked to review the performance indicators they submitted each quarter using a set of key questions. The work had to be placed on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but once the work resumed in late 2020 the SCSP Research and Performance Officer met with each agency to discuss and agree key indicators. As a result of this review, a new multi-agency dashboard has been created for the quarterly reporting of data in the following five priority areas:



- Neglect
- Child Exploitation
- Thresholds, Referrals and Involvements
- Transitions
- Hidden Harm (Substance misuse, alcohol misuse, domestic abuse and mental health)

Data will continue to be collected and reviewed on a quarterly basis and findings presented to the Learning Practice and Improvement Group and Executive Board for scrutiny.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic the SCSP developed a monthly data set to support the Executive Partnership Group in monitoring the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements during the pandemic. Key points included:

- Less children were removed from Child Protection Plans (CPPs) due to there being less visibility of children and families, this resulted in the number of children having a CPP reaching 805 in June 2020.
- Similarly, there was an increase in the number of Child in Need Plans, which reached 1957 in July 2020, but has since reduced significantly.
- Referrals and contacts the Safeguarding Hub received increased from anonymous and individual sources, between March and September 2020, but reduced from schools as a result of school premises being closed to the majority of pupils. When schools reopened the numbers of referrals and contacts were comparable to the previous year, suggesting there was not a sudden influx of safeguarding concerns.
- Nationally, the prevalence of domestic abuse increased during the pandemic, but initially this was not seen in the number of Domestic Abuse contacts and referrals coming through. However, it is thought that as the restrictions have eased this is now being seen locally in Sheffield.

## Section 11 & Single Agency Challenge Meetings

Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places duties on a range of organisations and individuals to ensure that when they go about their day to day business they do so in a way that takes account of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. This also applies when these agencies contract services out to others. The SCSP has a responsibility to ensure that partner agencies are meeting all the requirements of Section 11. This outlines the systems and processes that need to be in place to ensure effective safeguarding services.

Across the Safeguarding Partnerships, it was agreed that the 2020/21 Joint Safeguarding Quality Assurance Audit (Section 11) and Quality Assurance and Accountability Sessions would be cancelled and would resume as per the normal timetable in 2021/22. This was in recognition of the capacity issues faced by services due to the pandemic and so as not to impose undue additional work and pressure. However, it remains vital that Safeguarding Partnerships are assured that safeguarding arrangements are working robustly both within agencies and on a multi-agency basis and that we are addressing priority concerns.

Therefore, as an interim measure, each agency was asked to provide a considered view on the following areas:

- Safeguarding arrangements

- Pressures arising
- Changes in safeguarding concerns
- Examples of innovative working
- Challenges for multi-agency working

This was an opportunity for partners to reflect and consult across their organisations and to highlight current practice and issues, and so inform future Executive discussions and future QA and Accountability process. In summary it was found that partner responses appeared to affirm the national picture, with a number of issues noted across several partners:

- Increased domestic abuse
- Deterioration of mental health
- Increase in drug / alcohol use
- Increases in adult self-neglect
- Rent arrears have increased for council housing tenants.
- Potential increase in child neglect
- Also noted regarding students from Sheffield College was an increase in disclosures of attempted suicide and homelessness (in these cases, students were given targeted support).

All services were confident that their governance, quality assurance and training mechanisms remained effective in actively safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults. There have been many examples of innovative and flexible ways of working to maintain service provision and support for children, young people, vulnerable adults and families. However, there have also been many added pressures and challenges around this. The main concerns related to the visibility of children, young people and vulnerable adults and their ability to freely communicate, as well as the ongoing implications on mental health for both service users and the workforce.

## Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

Working Together 2018 identifies that where there is a “serious child safeguarding case” then partners must make arrangements to identify, commission and oversee arrangements for a rapid review process. This may lead to a Child Safeguarding Practise Review being commissioned. The aim is to improve practice by learning from what has happened across agencies and by involving staff and families in the process.

There were no rapid review referrals in 2020/21 that met the criteria and no Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews carried out. The Family G Serious Case Review commissioned while the Partnership operated as a Local Safeguarding Board was published in August 2020 and reviewed the death of 2 teenagers at the hands of their parents.

Family G – the review found no evidence that any of the practitioners and agencies involved with the family could have predicted the actions taken by their parents. This author also noted significant evidence of effective and caring practice of the children by all agencies involved with the family. 11 recommendations were made and below is some of the work carried out on embedding these across partner agencies,

- A review of the Harmful Sexual Behaviour Panel and pathway has been carried out and key staff trained in carrying out Aims Assessments however there is further work needed

to ensure the wider workforce are confident in understanding and responding to Harmful Sexual Behaviour.

- Significant progress has been made in raising awareness of childhood trauma and the impact it can have on parenting via Trauma Informed Briefings which are being delivered as part of a drive to make Sheffield a Trauma Informed City. In 2020/21 XXXX people attended level 1 briefings with follow on training being planned at level's 2 and 3 as appropriate for the different roles being carried out. A tool is being developed that can be used by individuals or teams to increase awareness and knowledge.
- The Transforming Neurodevelopmental Services being carried out by the Sheffield Accountable Care Partnership will include the need to consider how a more coordinated offer can be made to those receiving services via CAHMS and Ryegate Children's Development Centre.
- As part of the review of the Partnerships data suite the timeliness of services has been included where it was not already allowing visibility of where delays are happening and discussion by the Executive group of the impact and risk involved.
- The need to proactively consider father figures in any contact with a family is embedded within all the multiagency training and a number of safeguarding workshops have taken place. A day of short sessions on issues around this subject is being planned for later in the year and assurance will be sought from all partners that there is consideration within their training and processes as part of the next Section 11. It is a part of all quality assurance audits carried out.
- A number of sessions have been delivered on the subject of professional curiosity / optimism and more are planned with a tool also being developed that will allow individuals or teams to spend some time considering how this applies in their situation.



In February 2020 Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership (SCSP) published the Archie Serious Case Review, since then work to address the 19 recommendations many of which related to the cities response to Contextual Safeguarding (harm suffered outside the home) Since the death of Archie in a knife fight with another teenager in May 2018 the way services operate to protect young people in these situations has changed considerably with a Sexual Exploitation Service called the Amber Project bringing together multi-agency specialist partners into one service. Awareness training was carried out virtually via the SCSP to ensure as wide an audience

as possible understand the issues and are aware of the referral pathway. Through the multi-agency Vulnerable Young People's Executive Board, the SCSP is assured of the ongoing commitment to maintain and build on the multi-agency response to addressing all child exploitation and reducing youth violence in Sheffield. A Contextual Safeguarding Strategy was launched which incorporated national best practise and research. Sheffield is working with colleagues regionally to develop a child protection conference process that works to address the risk of harm from outside the home.

A number of recommendations related to how schools operate. In response to this work has been carried out with schools where children arriving from outside the UK now receive support from the Children Missing Education team including an assessment of need where additional need is identified and tools provided to schools to carry out a baseline assessment for new children. Guidance has been provided to all agencies on where reports of children not in school need to be directed.

Elective Home Education (EHE) was a factor in this review and contact with all these families has been made to confirm that the decision to home educate is an informed one and that the child is receiving a balanced education. Where a parent requests support and/ or the local authority has concerns about the education provided there will be an assessment by a trained professional to ensure suitable learning is taking place.

The Local Authority has reminded all schools of their legal obligations to place a child on their school roll on the day they are notified and have developed a clear escalation process for children not on school roll.

Work has also been undertaken to improve arrangements when children and young people go missing including revised arrangements that ensure risks are identified as early as possible and multi-agency safety planning for high risk missing young people.

## **Multi-Agency Audits**

### ***Multi-Agency Audit Group (MAAG)***

#### ***Main Achievements***

The MAAG sits within the Learning and Practice Improvement Framework of the SCSP. Its purpose is to support the Partnership's statutory function in monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of single agency and multi-agency safeguarding processes. The group evaluates local practice when delivering services to children and families, determining the quality of practice, level of agency involvement, partnership working and related outcomes. The audit is focused on the child's journey and highlights areas of good practice, areas for development and those that require improvement. It has a clear focus on impact and outcomes and promotes a culture of continuous learning and improvement. The audit group meets bi-monthly between November and July and is made up of safeguarding leads and service managers in key partner organisations. A case is selected randomly and each agency self-audits the case using the audit tool. The group's activity and findings feed into the SCSP Audit and Performance Group and are reported to the Executive Partnership Group through the Learning and Practice Improvement Group.

In September 2020, we re-launched the group with updated paperwork, and panel membership and processes, for example the Audit and Performance Officer:

- Produces a case chronology and summary which is circulated to all panel members
- Meets with the chair before the meeting to discuss the case and draw out any key queries
- Monitors and manages an action plan
- Relates key learning back to other areas of the SCSP

This year, we have also introduced alternating chairing responsibilities between the local authority, South Yorkshire Police and Sheffield Clinical Commissioning Group to strengthen the strategic leadership of these three organisations within the SCSP.

These changes have been well received and there continues to be good attendance from agencies who engage in an open and honest dialogue to facilitate positive actions for both case progression and strategic learning.

There were three MAAG meetings in 2020/21, which highlighted evidence of good practice, including:

- Evidence of good communication between agencies on cases
- Referrals were often made in a timely and appropriate manner
- Evidence of universal services e.g. schools pastoral care providing excellent levels of support
- Hidden Harm Factors were well recognised by practitioners

Areas of development included:

- The use of professional curiosity to establish a deeper understanding of the family circumstances and experiences, this was particularly seen around father figures, domestic abuse and neglect.
- Inclusivity of father figures in practice
- Local response to Harmful Sexual Behaviour and associated pathways
- Embedding Trauma Informed Practice across the local area

### ***Impact of Achievements***

Following the MAAGs there have been numerous actions taken to secure case progression and better outcomes for the CYP in the cases reviewed, these have included:

- Single agency reviews of decision making and recording processes
- Full social care re-assessment
- Extended core group organised
- Comprehensive multi-agency discussion used to inform planning

Additionally, all learning has been shared with the SCSP Workforce Development Manager with relevant training and safeguarding workshops developed receiving good feedback and commitments to change practise. An Emerging Themes Tracker is maintained to inform future Quality Assurance work.

### ***What We Will Do Next***



- Learning will continue to be used and embedded across partnership agencies, further audit work and training.

### ***Thematic Case Review – Closed Child Protection Cases and New Births or Pregnancies***

Following a letter sent to the Sheffield Children's by Vicky Ford MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families, the SCSP were requested to complete an audit of the current circumstances of children who have been taken off Child Protection Plans since 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020, but where there has been a new birth or pregnancy. Planning for this audit was undertaken towards the end of 2020/21.

A list of families that had been taken off CPPs since March 2020 were identified and cross referenced with midwifery. As a result, 33 children in 17 families were identified as meeting the criteria. Audit tools were developed to ensure the most relevant questions were being asked of each agency/service. Key areas included: reasons for involvement, risk/protective factors, potential impact of the birth/pregnancy, integrated pregnancy pathway, missed opportunities. The audit tools were circulated to all SCSP partners in March 2021, with the full audit and a multi-agency review meeting taking place in June 2021.

## **Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)**

Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships must make arrangements to review all deaths of children up to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, normally resident in the local area; and if they consider it appropriate the deaths in that area of non-resident children (Working Together 2018). This stage of the review is known as Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP). There is a responsibility for the collection and analysis of information about each death, developing a better understanding of how and why children die with the intention of improving the health and safety of children, and preventing future child deaths. All staff in all agencies have a responsibility to support and engage bereaved parents and carers after their child's death.

### ***Main Achievements***

This year Sheffield CDOP met on 6 occasions with 1 panel cancelled at the beginning of the pandemic, reviewing 35 deaths. South Yorkshire CDOP panel met on 3 occasions with one cancelled at the beginning of the pandemic. Due to COVID-19 and restrictions in place we moved to a predominantly virtual way of working; with some intermittent technical issues but overall a positive experience with good attendance achieved by all agencies.

There were 24 deaths recorded during this period significantly less when compared to 38 in the previous year. Once again, most of the deaths occurred in those under 1 year (58% 0-27 days, 13% 28-364 days) this is comparable to the national figures. Chromosomal, genetic and congenital abnormalities and Perinatal/neonatal events account for the highest categories of death in those reviewed 2020/21(63%). It is hard to provide a rationale for the decrease in number of deaths, some suggestions relating to COVID-19 restrictions, e.g. less face-to-face contact may account for a drop in infectious diseases. We are awaiting the national figures to see if there is a similar drop.

60% of deaths were reviewed within 12 months; 49% between 6-12 months and 11% in less than 6 months, this is less than last year (80%), however the impact of COVID-19 and moving to a virtual platform must be considered. Of those reviewed after 12 months, many had been delayed due to external issues such as inquests or other reviews being undertaken. The median number of days

between death and CDOP meeting is 333 nationally – the figure for Sheffield is 254. Modifiable factors (actions which could reduce the risk of future child deaths) were assessed to be present in 34% of cases, which is the same percentage as England overall.

### ***Impact of Achievements***

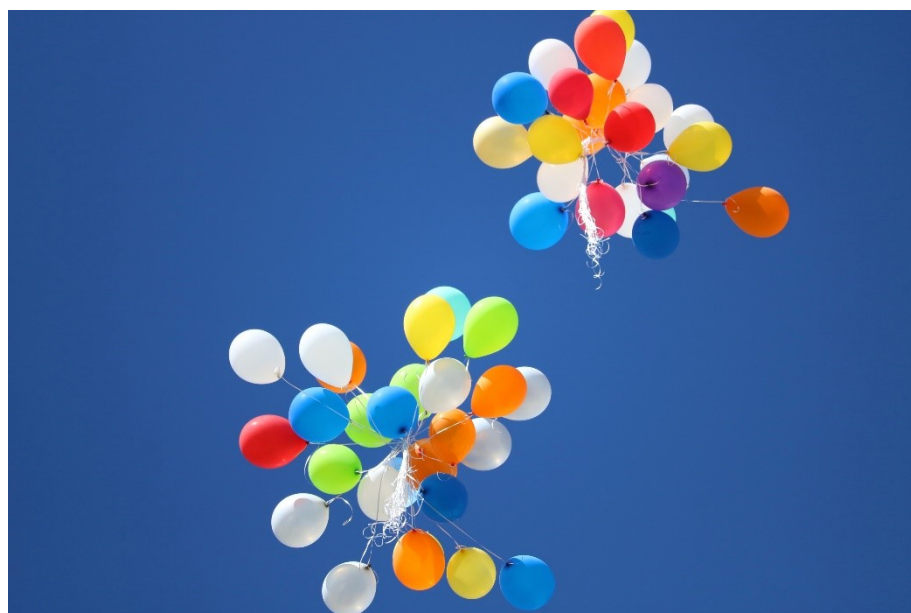
We continue to feed into The National Child Mortality Database, which systematically captures information following a child death. This enables local learning and is increasingly identifying learning at a national level and informs policy and practice. This has been particularly important during the pandemic with real-time surveillance being introduced to highlight any issues.

CDOP has supported actions to help reduce risk factors and improve services' response to a child death. We have continued to strive towards a joint and consistent approach across all South Yorkshire areas with a collaborative approach for *Safer Sleep Awareness Week* and the launch of *ICON Babies Cry You Can Cope*, which tackle some of the risks highlighted in the Safer Sleep themed review.

We will continue to explore how families with complex care needs can be better supported through co-ordination of care and work with Trusts to develop their understanding of the role of a Key Worker after a child dies. All areas are looking to improve the experience and support for bereaved families at the time of death.

### ***Voice of the Child, Young Person and Family***

We continue to encourage family feedback at every stage so this can be shared and used to influence system learning and outcomes. We routinely send out information to families experiencing the loss of a child and monitor any responses; actively encourage and listen to feedback; using it to change processes, and we endeavour to respond to families' queries.



### ***What We Will Do Next***

In 2021/2022 the hosting arrangements for SYCDOP will be facilitated by Barnsley CDOP in line with the agreed rotation of a local authority area hosting and facilitating. Sheffield will continue with local CDOP processes and support reviewing pathways for deaths of children who are normally resident in their own areas. These reviews will contribute collectively in identifying the key themes for shared learning reviews across South Yorkshire.

A key focus for Sheffield throughout 2021/2022 will be:

- To contribute to the development of Multi-agency South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Joint Safer Sleep Guidance / practice.
- Continued roll-out of ICON across our local area.
- To participate in further thematic reviews with our Regional Partners
- Completion of a local Contagion Plan
- Bereavement support

### ***Support for SCSP Priorities***

We are continually working with other services on mental health support, including low level mental health support and for families bereaved by suicide. A major focus for CDOP is in continue influencing the overarching issues within mental health and Crisis care, particularly the prevention of death by suicide for those in transition between children and adult services.

The recent NCMD Thematic report on Child Mortality and Social Deprivation will also be a key focus for the forthcoming year with a clear association between child deaths and social deprivation CDOP will need to consider how we support and influence future strategies to reduce the inequalities.

## **Multi-Agency Safeguarding Training**

The SCSP Workforce Development Manager is responsible for developing and delivering a wide range of multi-agency safeguarding training and learning events, available to practitioners working with children and families in Sheffield.

### ***Main Achievements***

Due to COVID-19, there have been significant operational changes, with safeguarding courses, workshops, and the 2021 conference all delivered using a virtual platform. This allowed us to increase capacity for the number of short workshops and attendance at them. Post-pandemic, we will strive for a blended delivery approach, with longer course being delivered in-person, when safe and feasible to do so, to support networking opportunities.

Training contacts totalled 9297, including attendance at conference, workshops, taught courses and e-learning programmes. Key events included:

- Safeguarding Awareness Week seminars on subject of exploitation; all were well attended.
- Safeguarding Workshops delivered in conjunction with Adult Safeguarding Partnership and covering; Professional Curiosity, The Mental Capacity Act and Young People, Cyber-crime, scams and fraud, Fathers' mental health, Safeguarding and online safety, and Domestic Abuse: coercive control,
- In partnership with the Vulnerabilities Manager promoted and supported Trauma Informed Practice workshops.
- A series of eight briefings for partners on Signs of Safety were delivered between January and March 2021.
- The first Working Together to Safeguard Children course was delivered virtually
- Planning for the Annual Conference: *Safeguarding by Celebrating Diversity and Promoting Inclusion*.

The training was informed by partners, SCRs, Joint Case Reviews, local audits, local and national processes and is responsive to emerging safeguarding issues. There is an expectation that attendees at training events will complete a feedback form that includes a question about what impact the training has on their practice. In 2021/22 this feedback will develop to incorporate follow up contact to remind practitioners of the intentions they set and to evaluate the impact of the training on practice in the medium term.

### ***Voice of the Child***

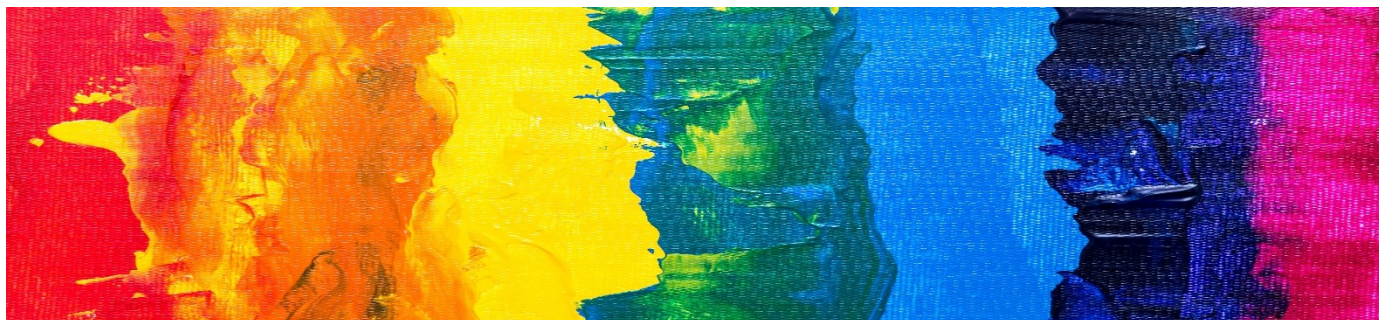
Contact was made with the organisers of Our Voice Matters, a large-scale questionnaire completed by children in Sheffield schools and data from the last questionnaire will inform the next workforce development strategy, with bullying being an issue that was most frequently raised as a concern. In addition, at the request of SCSP the next Our Voice Matters will include specific questions to gain children's perspective on the sources of harm and what helps to protect against these. In the meantime, in addition to information already gained, the voice of the child will continue to be gathered through liaison with services working directly with young people including Youth Cabinet, and the Brightspots survey and children in care and their parents.

### ***What We Will Do Next***

- Following consultation, publish the SCSP Workforce Development Strategy for 2021-24.
- Review courses and training materials to incorporate inclusive and trauma informed practice
- Continue to offer a full programme of workshops and courses in line with the strategy, including professional curiosity and father-inclusive practice.
- Work with SCSP Vulnerabilities Manager to deliver a National Conference on Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder.
- Evaluation of the 2021 Annual Conference: *Safeguarding by Celebrating Diversity and Promoting Inclusion*.
- Evaluate impact of workshops, courses, and other events on practice.
- Explore new ways of training to reflect the altered working circumstances brought about by Covid-19, such as podcasts, video clips and team learning.

### ***Priorities of Mental Health, Neglect and Contextual Safeguarding***

- Continue to offer workshops and courses on emotional health and contextual safeguarding, including the online context.
- Support roll-out of multi-agency training on Neglect in line with the Neglect Strategy.





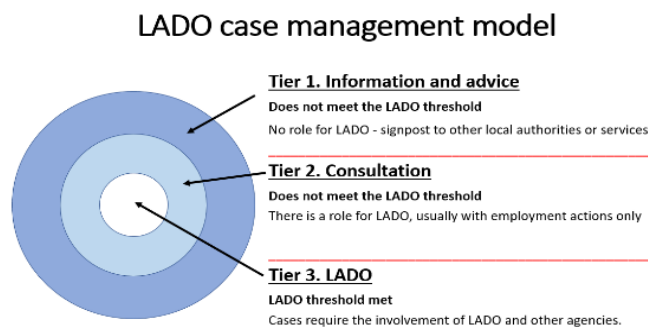
# Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

Safeguarding Partnerships have responsibility for ensuring that there are effective procedures in place for investigating allegations against people who work with children using the principles outlined in *Working Together to Safeguard Children*. The LADO role provides advice and guidance to employers and voluntary organizations; liaises with the police and children’s social care and other relevant agencies; monitors and chairs the progress of allegation cases to ensure they are handled using a timely, consistent, thorough and fair process. Manages allegations against staff and volunteers that is a shared, multi-agency responsibility.

## Main Achievements

The role of LADO is managed by the Quality Assurance and Involvement Service to increase clarity, accountability and avoid duplication. The LADO is physically located in the Sheffield Safeguarding Hub. Five deputies of the LADO have been identified who will have specialist knowledge and shared ownership of responsibilities after further training. The team will be supported by a designated senior business support officer.

The new LADO case management model is currently under development and to be discussed at the SCSP Executive Partnership Group. Under the new model LADO cases will be screened in the system under 3 tiers, using a clear point of entry and referral pathway.



A set of new forms have been developed and re-designed on our information system Liquid Logic to fit the purpose of LADO recording. The Allegation workspace on Liquid Logic has also been reviewed to ensure the recording of LADO case flow. LADO KPIs have been considered during the process to make certain case recording is reportable. An Audit of all the LADO cases is nearing completion and will conclude with recommendations. The workspace introduced in 2020 sits outside the child’s case recording and ensures confidentiality whilst also providing real time data.

Working Together 2020 now includes the criteria of: “Behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children”. This allows for LADOs to oversee concerns regarding conduct and behaviour outside of their employment and not exclusively related to a specific child in what is referred to as "transferable risk". This is now included in the threshold document, which will be included in the Tri-X procedures.

## Impact of Achievements

We are now able to cross-reference a named individual for all future notifications, which allows us to link historic and current concerns and identify any possible patterns of inappropriate behaviour. It also allows the ability to view cumulative information and may present the individual as a greater risk than a one-off incident of harm. Examples of reflection and learning in allegation meetings are beginning to be evidenced, which help to safeguard many CYP. For example, recommendations



for residential homes to discuss the impact of isolation due to COVID-19 on Young People and how that has blurred relationships between children and professionals.

### ***Voice of the Child, Young Person and Family***

It is important that the voice of the child is not lost within the allegation meeting process. The new forms ensure in the recording that the child has been spoken to by the professional most appropriate in the circumstance and their views are gained. The LADO doesn't accept an 'assumed view of what the child says has happened or how they might feel'. This recording is supported by Signs of Safety. Feedback from professionals of the views of CYP and families is also recorded in LADO Allegation meeting minutes

### ***What We Will Do Next***

- Refine the recording of workspace and the forms to capture the views of CYP and families
- LADO data reported to the Director's Performance Clinic for scrutiny
- A quality assurance schedule and tools linked to the learning and improvement framework that will include the National LADO Network minimum standards and auditing mechanisms and processes.
- Training materials to be reviewed
- More collaborative work with key partners
- Auditing all migrated historical and current cases

It is important to note the complexity of dealing with non-regulated settings who provide services directly to children or are commissioned to do so. These are independent organisations, e.g. sole-traders, family run business and those self-employed, are not accountable to a regulatory or professional body (e.g. Ofsted, DfE). As such, there are limitations in the LADO authority to address safeguarding concerns and to ensure robust recording and multiagency response.

### ***Supporting the SCSP Priorities***

Contextual safeguarding is pivotal to the work that the LADO does in understanding and responding to CYP's experience of significant harm beyond their families. Inappropriate behaviour by those who work with children and should be considered within the context of physical, sexual, emotional abuse or neglect and thus the LADO will use all appropriate tools in their duty of care to safeguard Children and Young People.



## Section 4

### Safeguarding Children in Sheffield

There is a wealth of activity that occurs within the Sheffield area across the Safeguarding Partnership and within communities, which relates to early intervention, prevention, identification, and action in relation to safeguarding children.

The partnership work includes ensuring that there are robust and proportionate responses to child protection concerns that are raised within the city. The Sheffield Safeguarding Hub has developed over the years and continues to make strong progress in relation to screening, recognising, and responding to child protection.

There are a number of wide-reaching projects working across the city, which focus on individuals and communities, which aim to provide greater awareness, advice and guidance in relation to abuse and neglect.

In this section you will gain an overview of some of the key services and support, which directly support children and families.



# Safeguarding Children in Sheffield

## Sheffield Safeguarding Overview 2020 – 2021

5230	Referrals to children's social care
23,973	Contacts to children's social care
4211	Children were identified as Children in Need at the end of the year
867	Children became subject to a Child Protection Plan (CPP) over the year
776	Children were subject to a CPP at the end of the year (an increase of 57 from 2019/20)
191	Children became subject to a CPP for a second or subsequent time
674	Children were Looked After by the Local Authority at the end of the year
6803	Requests for a service from the Multi-Agency Support Teams (MAST)
4342	Families received MAST support, from the above requests for service
416	Children were advocated for at Child Protection Conferences
269	Children were advocated for at their Initial Child Protection Conference
147	Children were advocated for at their first Review Child Protection Conference
23	Child Sexual Exploitation referrals were made to the Amber Project.
80	Child Criminal Exploitation/County Lines referrals were made to the Amber Project.
555	Referrals were made to the Community Youth Teams (CYT) (inc. prevention, NEET, RONI)
325	Of CYT prevention referrals (351 in total) were allocated a case worker for an assessment
248	Young People were supported by CYT following an assessment (325 in total)
709	Young people were supported by Door 43
207	Young people were referred into the Youth Justice Service
170	Of children looked after left care via adoption, special guardianship, child arrangement orders or to return to their families.
140	Of children looked after have been in the same placement for 2 years or more
1,792	Requests for advice on the impact on children of familial drug and alcohol misuse or parental mental health

# Signs of Safety



## ***Main Achievements***

***Despite the impact of the pandemic Sheffield has continued the trajectory to embed Signs of Safety as our practice framework.***

All Signs of Safety (SofS) training was moved from face to face to online, enabling the delivery of:

- 3 x 2 Day SofS training and approximately 12 x ½ day bespoke SofS workshops,
- Several SofS workshops for foster carers
- Twice monthly online SofS Partner Briefing Workshops via SCSP for all partner agencies.
- An Introduction to SofS Workshops for student social workers and all social care staff

A SofS Neglect Tool was developed and piloted as part of Sheffield Neglect Strategy and reviewed. We have also been involved in a celebrating good practice conference.

## ***Impact of Achievements***

We have continued to offer SofS training throughout the pandemic by moving all training online to continue embedding it within practice and 'our workforce is skilled and supported to do the work that they need to'. This ensures CYP receive a consistent approach from staff who are skilled within the SofS model and that CYP are safe with an appropriate safety plan.

## ***Voice of the Child, Young Person and Family***

Children and Young People have said that they don't always know what their 'plan' is. We have worked across the service to produce a 'Fridge Plan' that is child friendly/centred and is currently being piloted within fieldwork, children leaving care and MAST.

## ***What We Will Do Next***

- Train the trainer will be re-launched once face to face training has returned
- Whole System Learning Case aligned to the Signs of Safety Liquid Logic solution
- Offer monthly SofS re-fresher workshops
- Offer a SofS drop-in clinic for all staff to access to support their learning and development

## ***Support for the SCSP Priorities***

We will continue to develop and offer bespoke training for staff in each service to equip staff so that social care intervention is timely, and children are safe and their voice is clearly heard and acted upon.

## **Early intervention**

Early help services provide support for families with additional needs, with a focus on intervention at the earliest opportunity. Early Help services are provided within local areas (locality model). The Early Help Framework sets out how agencies work together to identify, assess, and support families to meet their needs. Communities alongside universal services including schools and

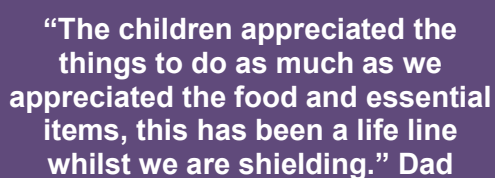


health services provide lots of support. A family can receive help from several agencies working together.

### ***Main Achievements***

Sheffield City Council continued to work to protect vulnerable children, young people and young adults who have complex needs or might be, or are, at risk of harm. The impact of Covid 19, and the requirements associated with the government guidance for social distancing and self-isolation, necessitated some services to be delivered differently.

A week prior to the national lockdown, Early Help services prepared to work differently. Risk stratification was completed with partners to ensure the impact of the pandemic (including the closure of schools) for all children receiving early help was understood. The vulnerability of children and families were given a RAG rating, and families with the highest need were offered school places with regular telephone contact and doorstep visits to those not attending. Some families moved to virtual contact and meetings held virtually.



“The children appreciated the things to do as much as we appreciated the food and essential items, this has been a life line whilst we are shielding.” Dad

In partnership with Community Response Teams the service has supported access to free school meals, food parcels, emergency of medical equipment and other essential items. The service developed packs of resources to share with families and use with groups of children in schools, including fun and educational activities, emotional wellbeing and mental health support and links to websites and resources to support families educating and entertaining their children while at home. Group sessions, including parenting courses, and emotional wellbeing groups were developed and delivered virtually.

### ***Update on previous actions***

To ensure that our workforce is skilled and supported to deliver high quality evidence-based support to Children and Young People and families using the right protocols and referral routes, we have continued to develop and strengthen our:

- Comprehensive Early Help training offer, which has been delivered online, covering Early Help Assessment, Signs of Safety, Team Around the Family Meetings, Direct Work Tools, Contextual Safeguarding and Emotional Health & Wellbeing issues.
- Workforce Development and Audit & Performance Management processes and we are finalising practice guidance to underpin this.
- Links with SEND services, the Safeguarding Hub, the Amber Project and CAMHS.

### ***Voice of the Child, Young Person and Family***

- The Children & Families Feedback questionnaire launched in 2019/20 has continued to offer all families the opportunity to give feedback on the service that they have received from MAST at case closure, during the pandemic the return rate has dropped significantly.
- The Early Help Screening Team, launched in April 2020, speaks to both the referrer and the family to inform and shape their screening decision and recommended support.

- For 2020/21, MAST have implemented a new audit framework that incorporates both parent and child feedback as part of the audit process.



### ***What We Will Do Next***

In Feb 2020 the Lead Member for Children and Families agreed a Review of Early Help. The Early Help review aims to:

- Develop one integrated and coordinated offer of early help services delivered in localities that is strengths-based and whole family focused.
- Streamline pathways into the offer based on data and referral information
- Increase case holding capacity whilst maintaining specialist function
- Develop locality working

## **Children in Need of Help and Protection**

Sheffield received a Standard Ofsted inspection in July 2019 and was found to be good across all areas apart from Help and Protection which was judged to be requires improvement. Ofsted found that we know our strengths and areas for improvement. Since then we have addressed the recommendations from the inspection.

### ***The Impact of COVID-19 on Children in Need of Help and Protection***

Our Senior Leadership Team has responded to the COVID-19 pandemic with an approach that has supported staff and communities, whilst also protecting our most vulnerable children through:

- Multi-agency planning and risk assessment and the production of revised practice guidance for an interim period
- The provision and coordination of PPE and ICT
- The development of local guidance for vulnerable children attending school
- Ensuring mitigation has been in place for reductions to universal service provision e.g. health, housing, CAMHS
- The development of alternative offers of short breaks, parenting support, group work etc.
- Virtual delivery of decision-making panels
- Governance, performance, and quality assurance activity has continued.

### ***Sheffield Safeguarding Hub***

The Sheffield Safeguarding Hub (SSH) has been in place since April 2017. The SSH provides a single point of access in the city for concerns about vulnerable children, young people and young

adults who have complex needs or might be, or are, at risk of harm. It is a team of co-located safeguarding partners, with access to information and case recording systems, which work together to screen the concerns and make judgements, within twenty four hours, of the appropriate pathway or outcome for the concerns presented.

### **Main Achievements**

- The numbers of contacts and referrals received initially reduced when partners reduced their contact with children and families. Since schools re-opened and services resumed contacts, referrals and requests for advice have significantly increased.
- The percentage of referrals progressing to assessment has remained consistent resulting in increased demand on children’s social care.
- Access to Skype has helped to ensure that the right professionals have been able to contribute to Strategy Meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Many schools signed up to deliver a modified Operation Encompass and the MARAC and MADA meetings have operated virtually during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Early Help Pathway and Advice/Guidance pathway has been embedded

### **What We Will do Next**

- Develop and consult on proposals in relation to the use of the MACF in line with professional feedback
- Develop a model for an integrated front door, to reduce duplication in the screening of early help and CAMHS referrals

### **Sheffield Social Care Assessments and Section 47 (S47)**

SSCA completed – rates per 10,000:

<b>Area</b>	<b>2019/20*</b>	<b>2020/21</b>
Sheffield	583	474
Statistical neighbours	653	
England	554	

S47s initiated– rates per 10,000:

<b>Area</b>	<b>2019/20*</b>	<b>2020/21</b>
Sheffield	199	186
Statistical neighbours	230	
England	167	

*\*Please note that national data is released a year in arrears, and so all local 2020/21 data is compared with national data from 2019/20.*

### **What We Will Do Next**

- Continue to support the workforce to confidently work with families using the Signs of Safety Framework
- Continue to engage partners to ensure that all agencies are involved in the Child Protection process to secure the best outcomes for children.

- Continue to develop the Edge of Care Service to ensure that families are receiving the right support at the right time.
- Develop a multi-agency protocol for children at risk of exploitation including implementing shared risk assessments, action plans and review processes.
- Embed screening tools for child exploitation in all relevant agencies.
- Implement multi-agency performance and quality assurance for work with children at risk of exploitation.

## Child Protection

Initial child protection conferences (ICPC) and review child protection conferences (RCPC) are arranged when a child (under 18 years old) has suffered or is likely to be at risk of suffering from significant harm. Social care will complete an assessment which concludes that a Child Protection Plan (CPP) might be necessary. Child Protection (CP) Co-Ordinator's will chair both ICPC and RCPC: Ideally the same CP coordinator will remain allocated to a child for the duration of the plan. An ICPC should take place within 15 working days of the strategy meeting that started the Section 47: determining whether threshold of significant harm was met.

### ***Main Achievements***

In January 2021 three service managers were appointed across the Quality and Assurance and Involvement Service (QAIS) to manage the Independent Reviewing service and the CP Service in the QAIS.

During 2020/21:

- 944 ICPC were held and 92% of those took place in time; an increase of 14% from 2019/20
- The number of ICPCs held per month ranged between 33 – 47 and between 56 - 95 children were made subject to plans at these ICPCs.
- 867 CPCs were started, 810 ended; an increase of 57 children since 2019/20
- A total of 2025 RCPCs took place and 98% of those were in timescale.

Category CPP at Year End	No. at Year End	% in Category
Emotional Abuse	390	50%
Neglect	255	33%
Physical Abuse	96	12%
Sexual Abuse	34	4%
Multiple: Physical Abuse, Emotional Abuse	1	0%

**776**

Age Group	No. at Year End	% in Category
under 1	85	11%
1 to 4	181	23%
5 to 9	211	27%
10 to 15	238	31%
15+	61	8%



Families were not as visible to professionals during the COVID-19 pandemic, therefore CPPs were not ended as routinely at reviews until available support was in place and the highest numbers of children being subject to a plan was in June 2020 (805 children).

Both ICPC and RCPC are being held within a timely way which means that multi-agency safety plans for children are considered without delay. Data evidence's that although numbers have increased by end of March 2021 by 57 compared to the year before a number of these children are subject to plans due to concerns around Harm outside the home (extra familial harm).

**Harm outside the home** cases need to be managed differently and the current format of a CPC needs amending for children experiencing harm outside the home. Meetings are now taking place with our internal and regional peers to develop an appropriate model for these cases.

**0-2 Scaling Tracker** has been implemented for cases at CPCs where most professionals scored between 0-2 on the safety scale. The Senior Field Work Manager (SFM) and Service Manager (SM) are notified to review the safety plan, discuss at case management and if appropriate present to legal gateway for escalation. This is to ensure there is no drift and delay, and there is oversight at management level.

**The Safe and together model** is being rolled out across service areas. It focuses on the perpetrator being accountable for their behaviour, whilst working with the perpetrator and survivor should they wish to continue with their relationship. This model moves away from victim blaming or expectations that relationships must end.

**Improvement on consistency of challenge:** training has taken place across area teams and with CPC and Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) to look at why challenges are required, whether due to drift and delay, decision making or practice there is an impact on the child.

### *Voice of the Child, Young Person and Family*

Feedback is used to make any necessary changes and look at workforce development. Advocates support young people that attend conferences and all feedback is gathered in relation to the CPCs.

"The chair seemed nice. I felt I could have said stuff if I wanted to. 'It was long though.'"

"[The meeting] wasn't as bad as I thought it would be actually. 'I felt that [the chair] gave me time to say everything I wanted to say. I didn't really get what was going to happen next, until you told me afterwards.'"

### *What We Will Do Next*

**Harm outside the Home:** A new model of conferences for these cases will be developed by September 2021, including a community assessment model that supports risk management and case progression.

**0-2 scaling tracker:** The review of the tracker will look at outcomes and timescales.

**Safe and together:** CPC are attending the 4 day training and will become the service leads to support their peers: if funding is agreed for further sessions all CPC will attend the 4 day training.

**Challenge:** CPC and IRO will be delivering a presentation to each area worksite meeting to further inform service about purpose of challenge and around expectation and escalation.

### ***Support for the SCSP Priorities***

The service liaises closely with the SCSP and information is shared for CPCs if substance misuse, domestic abuse and mental health services (i.e. Hidden Harm Services) are involved with families. This increases knowledge and ensures the right professionals are involved in the CPCs and future safety plans. Involvement in the Hidden Harm Implementation plan and Hidden Harm Strategy Board ensures positive joint working with all professionals across adult and children services.

Training is provided to all staff monthly with a key theme per month and staff are expected to be up to date with their CPD. All learning is fed into workforce development and a monthly newsletter *Quality Matters* is produced and circulated. In CP we lead on the following themes: children with disabilities, harm outside the home, mental health, signs of safety, Honour Based Violence, Female Genital Mutilation, and we are looking to develop on lead on obesity and the safe and together model.



## **Children Looked After and Adoption**

### ***Main Achievements***

1. We improved placement stability for looked after children. Regarding short term placements stability, the percentage of children who had 3 placements in a year decreased from 13% in 2019/20 to 11.6% in 2020/21. With regards to long term stability, the percentage of children in

care for 2.5 years whose existing placement was at least 2 years in duration increased from 71% in 2019/20 to 73.5% in 2020/21.

2. We secured permanence outside of care via a permanence order (Adoption, Special Guardianship, or Child Arrangement Orders) for 42% of looked after children who left care in 2020/21. This is higher than the national average of 29% and the Yorkshire and Humber average of 35%.
3. We maintained a high proportion of looked after children placed locally. Just 11% were placed out of city and more than 20 miles away at the end of March 2021 compared to 16% nationally and 18% among statistical neighbours
4. The percentage of children who went missing from care reduced from 11% in 2019/20 to 9.4% in 2020/21. This is lower than the national average of 11% and statistical neighbour average of 10%. The percentage of children in care going missing more than once reduced from 7.2% to 6.5%.
5. In our Bright Spots survey of looked after children, 89% of them said they always felt safe in their placement – higher than in other local authorities and among the general population.
6. In 2020/21 33 children were adopted from care, down from 42 in 2019/20. This represented 12% of children leaving care via adoption, a drop from 15% the previous year but in line with the national average of 12%.
7. On average, children who were adopted in the year moved from becoming looked after to placed for adoption in 363 days. This is shorter than the Government target of 426 days and better than the national average of 375 days.
8. Our Project Apollo initiative to support 100 of the most hard to reach care leavers into education, employment and training succeeded in increasing the percentage of care leavers it worked with who were EET from 18% to 49%.
9. Developments:
  - We established a Regional Adoption Agency which went live in January 2021
  - We have recently established our second Mockingbird Family Model of Fostering constellation and the first one is well embedded now
  - We appointed a speech and language therapist for our in-house Fostering Service to join our fostering service psychologist
  - Our Aspire Hubs have continued to work with multi-agency partners to deliver edge of care and in care services to some of our most complex adolescents
  - We have supported and facilitated our looked after children and care leavers to participate and engage to the extent that they have received two national awards for their work this past year as well as having a book of poems published.
  - We celebrated the achievements of our looked after children and care leavers with a virtual Star Awards event

### ***Impact of Achievements***

The above achievements mean that more children have stability of where and who they live with, more are moved to permanence outside of care in a more timely manner, children are placed locally near their families and communities, and children are safer as a result of not going missing. The development of the Regional Adoption Agency and the Mockingbird Family Model in fostering will mean we are better placed to meet the needs of children needing foster care or adoption.

## ***Voice of the Child, Young Person and Family***

- Looked after children contribute to their statutory looked after children reviews and annual reviews of their foster carers.
- Managers leading on our Corporate Parenting Strategy have been reporting to the 'reverse scrutiny panels' (the young people scrutinise the work of managers in the service in addressing issues they have raised) made up of Children in Care Council young people and care leavers in the Care Leavers Union. They have an action plan managers and staff are working to and reporting progress back to the young people
- We have undertaken our second Bright Spots Wellbeing Survey of Looked After Children in partnership with Coram Voice as well as separate Bright Spots survey of our care leavers.

The Bright Spots Wellbeing Survey of Looked After Children findings are as follows:

Things that are working well include:

- 89% of children and young people said they always felt safe in their placement
- 100% of 4 to 7 years olds had a really good friend, trusted their social worker and liked school
- A high proportion of our children lived with pets
- A greater proportion of our children in care than in the general population have access to the outdoors and nature
- 93% of 8 to 11 years olds and 95% of 11- to 18-year-olds said that adults they lived with showed an interest in their education, a higher proportion than with peers in the general population
- 86% of our children in care felt they got the chance to help the teacher at school compared to 78% compared to children in care elsewhere
- The majority of our children, 82% said that their lives were improving – getting a lot or a bit better

Our survey results showed that a very high proportion of our children in care reported very high wellbeing across all the wellbeing domains, as follows:

- **Life satisfaction** – 43% reported very high life satisfaction compared to 34% for children in care elsewhere and 36% in the general population
- **Happiness yesterday** – 44% reported very high levels of happiness yesterday compared to 37% for children in care elsewhere and 33% in the general population
- **Things I do in life are worthwhile** – 45% reported very high wellbeing on this measure compared to 37% for children in care elsewhere and 35% in the general population
- **Positivity about the future** – 41% reported very high levels of positivity about the future compared to 36% for children in care elsewhere and 26% in the general population

Areas for improvement

- Although younger children felt involved in decisions, older young people felt less included in social work decisions than children in care elsewhere
- Lots of young people wanted more contact with family members
- About a fifth of our young people were unhappy with their appearance
- Fewer of our 11 to 18 years olds said they liked school compared to their peers

- 73% of older young people felt they had a full explanation of why they were in care, fewer than their peers elsewhere
- 82% of older young people reported they had a very good friend, but this was fewer than their peers in care elsewhere

And while we had a high proportion of children in our care reporting very high wellbeing on all the wellbeing domains as detailed above, to a lesser extent, we also had a high proportion who reported low wellbeing on those domains. This is something we will be exploring and addressing further, how we manage to support so many children and young people to secure very high wellbeing while for others they have low wellbeing.

### ***What We Will Do Next***

- We are reviewing and revising our Corporate Parenting Strategy and will be addressing the areas for improvement from the Bright Spots Survey and seeking to maintain our performance as set out in section 1 above within the strategy.
- We will be seeking to increase both our in-house fostering provision and in-house residential provision.
- We will be looking to develop more strategic commissioning of placements, to manage the market better.
- We will be looking to embed the Regional Adoption Agency and in particular to develop a comprehensive and consistent adoption support service across South Yorkshire.
- We will look to develop further Mockingbird constellations within our Fostering Service
- We will focus improvement action on supporting our care leavers to access and sustain engagement in education, employment and training (EET)

### ***Priorities of Mental Health, Neglect and Contextual Safeguarding***

We will be addressing the key areas identified in the Bright Spots survey that contribute to positive emotional wellbeing. For example, ensuring children and young people have good relationships, helping them understand why they are in care (improving our life-story work with children), supporting them to develop positive self-identify and positive body image. Our psychologists in the Fostering Service and the Aspire Service will continue to support our staff to deliver a therapeutic parenting.

We will ensure all foster carers and residential staff have had relevant training in contextual safeguarding. Staff will work closely in partnership with the Amber contextual safeguarding team and our police colleagues.





## Private Fostering

Parents can choose to have their children cared for away from home by someone who is not a close relative. This is known as private fostering (PF). Under the Children Act 2004, private fostering is defined as a child under 16 years (or 18 years if they have disabilities) who is looked after for at least 28 consecutive days by someone other than a close relative. The Local Authority must be notified of these arrangements and are responsible for ensuring that these arrangements meet the National Minimum Standards for Private Fostering and regulatory requirements. There is a legal requirement for the Local Authority to satisfy themselves that a privately fostered child is being safeguarded and their welfare is promoted. All private foster carers and the children are seen every 6 weeks in the first year and every 12 weeks thereafter. Support and advice are given during visits and carers are aware they can contact the Connected Persons' team for any support or advice in-between these times.

### ***Main Achievements***

When a notification is received the Connected Person's Team are notified alongside the area fieldwork team. Initially assessment work is undertaken jointly to determine the suitability of the Private Fostering arrangement. Our private fostering arrangements received positive feedback from Ofsted in July 2019, who reported that "private fostering arrangements and practice are a strength".

Overall, through the year 20/21 there have been 13 children placed in 13 Private Fostering arrangements. At the end of the reporting year 20/21 9 Private Fostering arrangements remained open. Since April 2021, we have received another 4 private fostering referrals. All of which are in assessment.

Of the 4 children whose Private Fostering arrangement ended in 20/21

- 1 child turned 16 years of age
- 1 child returned home
- 2 Chinese children who were being educated in a residential school in Sheffield required care in a Private Fostering family when their school closed because of the pandemic. The children could not return home to China and were placed with a host family. Once the school reopened, the children returned there, and the private arrangement ceased.

We are directly notified when a Private Fostering arrangement has been identified through the front door and can work closely with children's social workers in ensuring the suitability of the private fostering arrangement and to ensure that the child's welfare is maintained. During the assessment, children are visited, and given information about what Private Fostering is and where a child is old enough, they will sign the agreement document. Parents are also consulted as part of the assessment and sign the agreement, and if English isn't the first language interpreters are used

The numbers of Private Fostering arrangements in Sheffield in 20/21 were slightly lower than in the previous year. This may be as a result of closures in schools meaning that children who previously may have travelled to Sheffield to be educated remaining at home. In this year, we have not been able to undertake awareness raising about Private Fostering within schools and Health Centres as successfully as in previous years as a result of the pandemic and lock down and access by the public to these Services. As noted above, there has been 13 children placed in Private Fostering Arrangements through the 20/21 compared with 20 in 19/20.

We have continued to monitor our Private Fostering arrangements and continued to build on the awareness and understanding of Private Fostering around the Council through improved communications and collaborative working.

#### **As a response to Corona Virus pandemic:**

- All our awareness raising promotions have been facilitated remotely. There is a rolling social media campaign and a dedicated campaign page on the Sheffield City Council (SCC) website [www.sheffield.gov.uk/privatefostering](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/privatefostering) which holds information on 'What is Private Fostering' and 'How to Make a Referral'. This was extended through 20/21
- Where assessments of Private Fostering arrangements have been undertaken in the year, home visits have been arranged subject to robust risk assessments.
- Supervisory visits have been undertaken through a combination of home visits and remotely. All face-to-face contact has been subject to robust risk assessment
- During the pandemic we have been, and continue to attend virtual meetings hosted by Coram BAAF where we share discussions with other local authorities around private

We are directly notified when a Private Fostering arrangement has been identified through the front door and can work closely with children's social workers in ensuring the suitability of the private fostering arrangement and to ensure that the child's welfare is maintained.

We ensure that all Private Fostering arrangements are being assessed and regulated whilst the arrangement remains in place.

We have refreshed our Comms to promote the understanding of what Private Fostering is, and how to alert the Local Authority of such arrangements.

#### ***Voice of the Child, Young Person and Family***

During the assessment, children are visited, and given information about what Private Fostering is and where a child is old enough they will sign the agreement document. Parents are also consulted as part of the assessment and sign the agreement, and if English isn't the first language interpreters are used.

#### ***What We Will Do Next***

#### **As a response to Corona Virus pandemic:**

- All our awareness raising promotions have been facilitated remotely. There is a rolling social media campaign and a dedicated campaign page on the Sheffield City Council (SCC) website [www.sheffield.gov.uk/privatefostering](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/privatefostering) which holds information on 'What is Private Fostering' and 'How to Make a Referral'. This was extended through 20/21
- Where assessments of Private Fostering arrangements have been undertaken in the year, home visits have been arranged subject to robust risk assessments.
- Supervisory visits have been undertaken through a combination of home visits and remotely. All face-to-face contact has been subject to robust risk assessment

- During the pandemic we have been, and continue to attend virtual meetings hosted by Coram BAAF where we share discussions with other local authorities around private

**As we move out of the pandemic and into recovery, we aim to:**

- Refresh our promotion tools such as leaflets and posters and ensure a visible presence across Sheffield by targeting, schools, health services, the voluntary sector and council buildings providing knowledge of responsibilities in relation to Private Fostering notifications.
- Maintain the online rolling social media campaign and refresh the dedicated campaign page on the Sheffield City Council (SCC) website, which holds information on 'What is Private Fostering' and 'How to Make a Referral', [www.sheffield.gov.uk/privatefostering](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/privatefostering)
- Revise the training workshops and host these across SCC Children and Young People and Family Services through 21/22. With a particular focus on MAST teams and fieldwork teams, and recruit Private Fostering Champions in these areas of practice.
- Resume the links with Faith Communities and schedule information giving sessions and presentations to official bodies through 21/22.
- Resume networking and collaboration with other local authorities in developing a South Yorkshire wide Private Fostering forum to share best practice in Private Fostering.
- Host a 'Private Fostering' promotion week

## Targeted Services

Targeted Services are a specialist set of services for vulnerable young people that offer targeted, early help to support young people achieve positive long term outcomes. This includes Community Youth Teams, Youth Work and Child Exploitation Teams.

### ***Main Achievements***

#### Community Youth Teams (CYT)

CYT received 555 referrals for one-to-one support in 2020/21. Of those 105 referrals related to school exclusions. Primary reasons for referrals include Anti-Social Behaviour, gang association, on-line safety and sexual exploitation. The highest number of referrals have been for violent/aggressive behaviour, predominantly peer on peer but also familial. CYT continued to deliver bespoke online group work, due to the current COVID-19 lockdown restrictions.

Targeted Youth Advisors have supported over 400 young people from NEET to EET, with tailored one to one support around accessing Employment, Education or Training. Advisors have also worked closely with schools in providing support for young people in Year 11 transition to Year 12 positively.

#### Youth Work Delivery

Over the reporting period the service has delivered on average 30 youth work sessions per week in key neighbourhoods and communities, due to COVID-19 restrictions much of the delivery has been detached youth work, engaging young people and offering continued support around mental Health, staying safe and their educational needs. The face-to-face offer for SEND young people had to be replaced with an online platform. A primary delivery aspect has been the ASB rapid

response deployment of youth workers. Internal & external services can refer for support in communities which are experiencing high levels of Anti-social behaviour

### Amber Project (CSE)

Continued to provide face to face support for those identified as being at risk of/being sexually exploited. This included visits to secure units and out of area placements to ensure young people had consistency in relation to their case worker and interventions. We worked closely with social workers of the highest risk young people and facilitated/liased with professionals, providing bespoke support and guidance.

A Vulnerable Young Adult Worker was recruited to caseload 18 – 25 year old's at risk of sexual exploitation. This role is being followed by the National Working Group and regular meetings are held in relation to capturing and sharing best practice from other areas.

We delivered training on the Amber Project/Contextual Safeguarding for Sheffield professionals and more specific training on exploitation to staff in Residential Care Homes.

### ***Impact of Achievements***

- Reduction of First Time Entrants into criminal justice system
- Supported most vulnerable young people into Education, Employment & Training post-16
- Empowering young people to make informed choices
- Knowledge and understanding around risk minimisation
- Knowledge and understanding around contextual safeguarding (exploitation/on-line safety)
- Contributing to community safety

### ***Voice of the Child, Young Person and Family***

All feedback is analysed and reviewed, to improve our service offer to young people. All delivery is young person centred: assessments are carried out with young people and they have ownership of any intervention plans developed. The service also manages the Sheffield Youth Council and jointly supports South Yorkshire Police (SYP) - Young People Information Advisory Group, which supports positive change and develop links between young people and SYP.

I was able to be honest about how I am feeling and even though there were days I was in a bad mood and hung up on my worker I felt bad afterwards and apologised. Talking about my feelings and choosing my friends carefully and about boys and not being forced into doing stuff. Trying not to argue with my Nan all the time.

Helping me learn to trust people and the importance of opening up about my feelings.

I am very thankful for the support which has been put in place and it has been an enjoyable experience.

Can't thank CYT enough for all support. Doesn't think family would be together right now as they were in a very difficult situation.

### ***What We Will Do Next***

- Develop a new Youth Strategy for the city, co-produced with young people and create a Youth Board so that Sheffield's young people can oversee the delivery, outcomes and ambitions of their Strategy
- Embed Hidden Harm Strategy
- Young people as community advisors
- Peer on Peer violence training for workforce
- Locality based support for rural communities
- Continued development of Contextual Safeguarding awareness raising and training for professionals

### ***Supporting the SCSP Priorities***

As a service we are aligned and work within inter service & multi-agency strategies, a key focus is to look at embedding a young person's DASH, increase our youth work offer to more neighbourhoods and communities. Explore opportunities for increasing Primary Mental Health support.

**DOOR43**

## **Door 43**

Door 43 is an emotional health and wellbeing support service for 13-25 year olds and operates as a YIACS (Youth Information Advice and Counselling Support service). Door 43 offers drop-in sessions and self, parental and professional requests for support to a multi-disciplinary team that blends emotional wellbeing support with a youth work approach.

### ***Main Achievements***

Sheffield Futures Door 43 Service offers a one stop shop of emotional wellbeing support for young people and young adults when they need it, and prevent problems becoming worse or reaching crisis.

In 2020-21, Door 43 saw 709 unique clients, and although we experienced a dip in Q1 attributable to the lockdown and moving services online, there has been an 81% increase in referrals from 2019/20. Overall, we received a total of 326 referrals across the social prescribing team and 93 for counselling. We have continued to offer 1:1 sessions virtually and face to face when safe to do so, including: Wellbeing Wednesday drop-in and group work through Wellbeing Cafés. We have worked increasingly in partnership with GP's, schools and other services to provide seamless support for young people.

We have targeted our group work and curriculum work on the specific wellbeing needs which were most commonly listed on young people's referrals forms, including low mood, anxiety, low self-esteem, depression and anger & frustration.

### ***Voice of the Child, Young Person and Family***

After each intervention, we ask young people to complete a feedback form so we can learn from their experience and identify any development needs.



“What I like about the support you give is that you go into detail about a certain issue and don’t just give vague advice. You’re always open to listen to any type of issue, it doesn’t have to specifically revolve around anxiety or mental health and you can always be very open. I feel confident talking to you and others at Door 43 because you always keep my issues confidential and it always feels professional.” (Young Person)

“The support has been really helpful, I find it difficult to speak with new people but I feel like my confidence has improved which means a lot to me.” (Young Person)

Parent “L has on several occasions mentioned how he has found your sessions helpful. We are grateful for the support you have offered him.”

### ***What We Will Do Next***

- Continue to roll out curriculum group work programme
- Commence an under-18’s Wellbeing Café, in addition to our Wellbeing Cafés for 18-25 age group.
- Continue to develop partnership work to offer emotional wellbeing support as early intervention and prevention
- Taking good practice from last year to offer virtual sessions and face to face sessions for those who prefer it.

### ***Priorities of Mental Health, Neglect and Contextual Safeguarding***

All of our work supports improving provision of services to support good Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing in Young People and Children in Sheffield, by bringing together early intervention provision through wellbeing support, group work, counselling and social prescribing across one service.

## **Access and Inclusion**

Sheffield City Council’s Access and Inclusion team work to ensure all children and young people attend their education setting, this includes educational engagement, exclusions, children missing education (CME), elective home education (EHE), and Special Education Needs and/or Disability (SEND).

### ***Main Achievements***

During the national lockdowns due to COVID-19, the CME Team worked flexibly and creatively, they:

- Identified children not on a school roll and gave them a RAG rating: all children rated Red and Amber received safety calls at least every 15 days to enquire about family wellbeing and access to food and other services.
- Continued to set up remote appointments with all families arriving new to the City.
- Offered increased support to vulnerable young people who could, but were not accessing a school place

- Worked with schools to develop virtual tours of school sites and videos to accompany leaflets outlining good practice for transitions.
- Offered enhanced support for the increasing numbers of pupils moving to EHE

Additionally:

- The Management Oversight Group was created with health and care to ensure pupils with an EHCP returned to school.
- Attendance and Inclusion Officers are now part of the Safeguarding Hub screening process to ensure education is considered for all referrals.

### ***Impact of Achievements***

- CME undertook the safeguarding role for all children not on a school roll ensuring they were not forgotten or missed and were able to signpost to other agencies when appropriate
- Ensured children continued learning when they commence EHE
- Keyworkers have advocated, supported and worked with over a 1000 CYP and families
- 300 CYP have successfully transitioned into their next phase of education
- The impact of educational neglect is considered in all social care referrals into the Hub
- Attendance and education are considered at panel meetings for Aspire, Step Down, Mace, MASH, Edge of Care, Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
- Over 75 young people with an EHCP have been supported to re-engage in their learning at special schools

### ***Voice of the Child, Young Person and Family***

- Key workers offering Transitional Pathway Support use a child first approach using Signs of Safety.
- Children EHE are seen, and their voice heard during home visits.
- Feedback from families following a successful transition are captured through case studies
- Families welcomed contact and were grateful for signposting to other services especially to food vouchers during early lockdown in March/April 2020.
- Inclusion and Attendance Team Customer Feedback was launched to offer families the opportunity to give us feedback on the service they have received, they told us:
  - They know who their keyworker is.
  - They feel listened to and their views are understood when plans are being formulated.
  - They understand the keyworker's role and have seen positive changes from the support
- Families who have chosen to Electively Home Educate their child/ren due to COVID-19 anxiety tell us they have benefited from support around their curriculum plans and returning to school roll when appropriate.

### ***What We Will Do Next***

- We will launch a city-wide drive to improve the attendance of our children and young people in early years, schools and post-16 settings.
- Reduce the amount of time children spend without a school roll and challenge/advocate more robustly for those where there is unacceptable delay.
- Further workforce development to provide greater face-to-face advocacy for CYP and the removal of barriers to educational engagement.
- Reintroduce the attendance legal process to ensure our children's education is protected

- Work with schools to reduce exclusion through tackling the causes and delivering rapid improvements to inclusion.
- Consistently escalate cases where non-inclusive practice is identified.
- Focus more clearly on Outcomes and Impact
- Relaunch and expand our offer to schools of Restorative Practice Training within a culture of Trauma Informed Practice.
- We will further strengthen multi-agency links with key partners

### ***Priorities of Mental Health, Neglect and Contextual Safeguarding***

- Ensure all children not on a school roll are identified & monitored, and don't go "missing".
- Ensure all statutory checks are undertaken before a child can be removed from a school roll and that a destination school has been identified wherever possible.
- Ensure all staff have accessed Amber Project Training Sessions for working effectively with young people who may be at risk of exploitation.
- Continue with the commission of 7 places at Becton for Children and Young People with significant mental health and other complex needs
- Ensure all staff have been trained in Trauma Informed approaches and use this in their practice with children.
- Embed the GP Protocol and links with consultants through the children's hospital and CAMHS to ensure 2-way support for pupils with irregular attendance due to health needs.
- Ensure the wellbeing of pupils Electively Home Educated is considered alongside curriculum plans
- Ensure all staff have received training on the Thresholds of Needs to support them to identify potential safeguarding risks.



## **Sheffield City Council Place Portfolio**

Place portfolio is a landlord for 39,000 homes in the city; maintains and runs all of the city's parks; assists businesses; supports the development of the arts, culture and heritage of the city; helps vulnerable people to stay in their homes; supports the reduction of climate change; provides things for people to do in the city that are fun or help them stay active and healthy and maintains the fabric and function of many of the city's buildings.

### ***Main Achievements***

#### **Housing & Neighbourhoods Service**

- Continued to attend/contribute to Child Protection Conferences
- Provision of housing related information to the MASH
- Ongoing learning and development for staff regarding safeguarding

Shisha Premises Inspections - During the COVID-19 pandemic we issued two Part 2A Orders and worked with SYP to enter two shisha premises and seized all equipment and paraphernalia. There were concerns that young people were being seen at these premises. We also carried out observational visits to all known shisha premises during the national lockdown periods.

Transport Services - A fully operational service has been maintained during the pandemic with high standards of safeguarding and increased awareness of the safeguarding code of conduct has been promoted.

### ***Impact of Achievements***

Housing & Neighbourhoods Service - CYP are better protected and the right support is provided for families.

Shisha Premises Inspections - Contextual safeguarding work has stopped two premises from trading and they are being prosecuted for offences under The Health Act and breaches of COVID-19 restrictions. A SYP press release and photographs of each seizure is hoped to act as a deterrent for other premises and reduce the potential for them to be in illegally run premises.

Transport Services - Children with SEND have been able to attend their educational environment during the pandemic through safe transport that meets their needs.

### ***Voice of the Child, Young Person and Family***

Transport Services work with stakeholders, including families, to ensure that they feel confident in the transport service. There have been numerous changes to the service due to the COVID-19 pandemic and feedback from families has been used developing changes to the service.

### ***What We Will Do Next***

Transport Services - Continue to improve methods of communication, including the use of a Twitter account.

Shisha Premises Inspections - Continue to monitor the Shisha premises and react to all complaints. This includes complaints received via the safeguarding board, members of the public or other inter agency partners.

Housing & Neighbourhood Services - Encourage all staff to refresh their safeguarding knowledge, including about Trauma Informed Practice and Contextual safeguarding.

### ***Support for SCSP Priorities***

Transport Services - Restart the Safeguarding / exploitation training for SCC staff and investigate different methods of delivery. Explore relevant safeguarding training with the National Association of Licensing and enforcement officers for taxi contractors.

Shisha Premises Inspections – Continue to work in partnership with the SCSP and maintain links to address any complaints regarding Shisha premises.

Housing & Neighbourhoods Services - Officers will have received appropriate training in mental health, neglect and contextual safeguarding to provide them with the skills to recognise issues and make appropriate referrals for support during their visits.

## Youth Justice Service



The Youth Justice Service (YJS) continues to work in partnership to reduce the number of young people entering or re-entering the criminal justice system in the city.

### ***Main Achievements***

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic there have been numerous unprecedented challenges to the service. The YJS provided a rapid response and adopted many changes to ensure that essential work continues, including:

- Maintaining appropriate and proportionate contact
- Supporting and safeguarding children
- Undertaking assessments and providing interventions

This has been achieved by the provision of technology to our most vulnerable CYP and through creativity, innovative and collaborative practice and service delivery, including the provision of alternative home-based projects and activities. The staff and children in the YJS partnership have demonstrated a great deal of commitment, resilience and flexibility throughout the whole pandemic.

### ***Impact of Achievements***

The YJS partnership and the wider criminal justice system has been able to deliver the majority of services which has reduced the impact of the pandemic and has ensured that the health, safety and wellbeing of the children and their families within Sheffield YJS has not been compromised.

### ***Voice of the Child, Young Person and Family***

The YJS collaborates with CYP and families to shape our practice and service delivery, this includes an ongoing and dynamic process of identifying the needs of the CYP and capturing their views through the natural process of case management and the relationship between the case manager and the child. This keeps the child at the centre of everything YJS does and facilitates open communication so the child can discuss their views, wishes and feelings as well as any health, wellbeing and safeguarding issues.

Two new consultation questionnaires for children open to the service pre-COVID-19 and those who have become known to the service post COVID-19 have been launched, with children reporting varying responses to the new ways of working, most said they:

- Found it easy to talk to their case managers through remote means.
- Found it easy to talk with someone new though remote means.
- Found technology easy to use.



- They would like to keep remote appointments.
- They had somewhere private to talk.

We will use responses to develop an action plan for service change and future ways of working after the pandemic.

### ***What We Will Do Next***

Evidence suggests that the most profound impact of the pandemic will relate to CYP’s mental health with increased reporting of “trauma like symptoms” related to the pandemic in addition to the complex needs that some of our children already have. In response to the increasing risk and complexity of cases and to strengthen our trauma informed approach the YJS has commissioned extra specialist therapeutic support. This will ensure support and supervision of CYP and their families is reflective of the trauma they have experienced, and that staff undertaking direct work have the opportunity to access peer and individual supervision regarding complex cases from an appropriately trained and experienced clinician.

The YJS has been in a continual process of adaptation and change and we will continue to be creative, innovative, flexible and responsive in the support we provide.

### ***Support for the SCSP Priorities***

The YJS are conscious of the significant impact of the pandemic on staff, CYP and families and anticipate a greater demand from some of our key partnership services. Our health and wellbeing offer will be increased to reduce the number of children becoming involved in criminal exploitation and serious youth violence

## **South Yorkshire Community Rehabilitation Company**

### ***Main Achievements***

COVID-19 has directly affected SYCRC’s ability to conduct in-person work, which has posed additional challenges for the service in identifying potential safeguarding concerns/issues. Nevertheless, we have implemented alternative approaches including doorstep visits, video calls and the use of Microsoft Teams. This has been beneficial in communicating with service users and enabled us to undertake some group work. A blended approach has also proved positive for many service users, who have found it better using a combination of face to face, telephone contact and video calls.

### ***What We Will Do Next***

SYCRC will transition to be unified with the National Probation Service , which will bring a new set of challenges. That said, safeguarding will remain central to all probation operations and a key element of risk assessments. A key benefit of this transition is delivery of one unified organisation delivering probation services rather than two.

## **National Probation Service**

The National Probation Service (NPS) works with offenders who are serving their sentence but are not in prison. This could be because they are serving a community sentence or have been released from prison on licence or parole. People on probation have regular meetings with an Offender

Manager and may have to do unpaid work, complete an education or training course, and/or get treatment for addictions, like drugs or alcohol.

### ***Main Achievements***

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and throughout this time the NPS has operated to an Exceptional Delivery Model (EDM), which has acted as a multi-faceted business continuity plan to provide the delivery of probation services in a safe manner whilst meeting the requirements of our agency and our statutory requirements in respect of safeguarding. In Sheffield, we have been operating to EDMs for services to courts, the delivery of sentence management, the delivery of services to victims and the provision of interventions to people on probation convicted of sexual offences. It is an achievement that all facets of the Service have been delivered throughout the pandemic continuously.

During the pandemic the operation of Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) has continued to ensure public protection and safeguarding has been a deliverable priority, particularly regarding individuals assessed as posing the highest risk of serious harm to the public, including children. Similarly, probation practitioner presence at Child Protection Conferences has also remained an operational priority to contribute to children's safety.

A particular benefit of the EDM has been the significant increase of home/doorstep visits as opposed to our traditional office based contact. This has allowed probation practitioners to have greater contact/ sight of the home environment/ circumstances of our Service Users and their families, including children.

### ***Impact of Achievements***

The NPS does not work directly with children, however our focus on child welfare remains a high priority and the assessment of the risks posed by adults towards children is continuously assessed and referrals made when appropriate. The increased use of door-step visits and subsequent visibility / contact with partners and children in the households of our Service Users has meant that probation practitioners have been better able to assess child welfare; including categories of harm captured under the hidden harm agenda.

Similarly, the robust management of Service Users assessed as posing a risk to children means that we have the ability to remove direct threats to children's safety from home environments, reducing the risk of harm to those children. We subsequently continue to work with those individuals to assist them to understand the type and level of harm that their behaviour can cause to a child with a view to assisting them to improve their behaviour to the point where they can positively contribute to a child's life and development.

### ***Voice of the Child, Young Person and Family***

Indirect contact levels with children have increased during the last year through our EDM – and we continuously engage with those Service Users who are parents to ensure that the risks posed are appropriately managed and needs are met.

### ***What We Will Do Next***

Whilst continuing to implement the EDM, the NPS and CRCs are currently preparing to transition to a Unified Model of the probation service in June 2021. Safeguarding children shall remain a priority area of work throughout, however transition to a Target Operating Model will likely result in

a significant training need for operational staff including around safeguarding children and promoting child welfare development. A specific local need is to increase awareness and use of the Early Help offer and pathways within the city to intervene at the earliest opportunity.

### ***Support for SCSP Priorities***

Operational staff are deployed to work with partnership agencies specifically around the issues of contextual safeguarding – including working with the Amber Project/ Criminal Exploitation Teams. The Unified Model should equip ‘probation services’ with the ability to be more involved/ responsive to local needs and priorities, so over the next year(s) it is hoped that the NPS can play a more significant role in framing and delivering the Sheffield City response to these priority areas.



## **Use of Restraint in the Secure Estate Aldine House**

Aldine House is a secure children’s home in Sheffield that provides a high quality, safe and therapeutic environment to support the individual needs of the vulnerable CYP in its care. The overarching aim is to encourage residents to develop a range of personal skills that will enable them to manage safely and responsibly when they leave.

### ***Main Achievements***

Aldine House has continued to invest in the model of having Certified Instructors (CIs) at different levels of management, enabling effective oversight of the use of physical intervention. CIs are able to ensure that the principle of restraint reduction is foremost in the minds of staff as immediate feedback is often possible following incidents, and always within 24 hours. Our incident feedback checklist requires us to look for evidence of staff using restraint reduction, which ensures that it remains firmly among our priorities.

COVID-19 has presented significant challenges to the home, not least with respect to how we ensure that our staff are supported to retain the level of skill required to manage physical interventions safely. As a management team, we planned early for the effects of the pandemic, maintaining a safe working environment. The resultant risk from transmitting infection among the staff team was, therefore, far lower than the risk presented by not completing refresher training for staff or the complete course for new staff.

Staff faced some extremely difficult behaviour in 2020 as we supported young people with a range of needs, including extremely high levels of self-harm and aggression to others. This period placed great demands on the whole staff team as they were required to manage very high levels of risk over a period of several months. It is important, however, that staff maintain the ability to support young people who present this level of risk, so that we are able to continue to offer a vital service to local authorities.

April 2021 saw two significant developments:

- We are required to submit our application for affiliation with BILD Association of Certified Training in order to demonstrate our commitment to deliver training in accordance with the Restraint Reduction Network Training Standards (2019).
- CPI changed the name of its behaviour management and physical intervention model from the Management of Actual and Potential Aggression (MAPA) to CPI Safety Intervention.

### ***What We Will Do Next***

The building work continues at Aldine House with an expansion from 10 to 12 beds scheduled for completion by the end of 2021. We also aim to expand the number of CIs by two during this period.

## **Online Safety**

Online Safety now covers a wide range of safeguarding themes including, sexual exploitation, radicalisation, bullying, addiction, health misinformation e.g. pro-suicide, criminal exploitation, and cybercrime. Central to young people becoming confident and safe users of the internet is their development of digital literacy skills and knowledge of the range of data that is shared about them online by themselves and others and the implications for their future.

### ***Main Achievements***

The SCC eLearning Service (eLS) delivers Online Safety training and consultancy. The pandemic has seen an increase in the use of technology for most of the population and accordingly a subsequent increase in the need for digital inclusion for those residents of our City who have no access. It is unlikely that technology use will decrease and a challenge will be to ensure that those working to support our most vulnerable people and families have the necessary skills and understanding to do that safely and securely and that our digital divide does not increase.

In September 2020 the government introduced the new [Relationships, Sex and Health Education Curriculum](#) (RSHE). Building on the success of the publication of the Sheffield Online Safety Curriculum, distributed via Learn Sheffield to all schools, the eLS is leading on the production of Sheffield's RSHE Curriculum through a commission between Learn Sheffield and Sheffield City Council (SCC). The new curriculum ([Teaching Online Safety in Schools](#)) states that Online Safety should form an integral part of relationships education, which was the strategy adopted with the Sheffield Online Safety Curriculum.

Schools are required to consult with parents around the new curriculum and despite some well-publicised concerns around the perceived content of the curriculum, the curriculum has been overwhelmingly positively received by most parents. Objections from a small minority of parents relate to content about LGBT+ relationships and gender fluidity for young children. These have been allayed by framing the content of the lessons in the context of the information CYP can freely access online.

A cornerstone of the Online Safety strategy in Sheffield has been consulting with CYP about their online lives. This is done via face-to-face small group focus groups. These consultations show that the use of apps and games and the associated risks and opportunities to young people in Sheffield are in line with national trends as published in Ofcom's [Children and Parents: Media Use and Attitude Reports](#). COVID-19 restrictions have prevented the consultation this year, although plans are in hand to rectify this gap.

Ofcom have produced [Children's Media Lives: Life in Lockdown](#) and it is likely that their findings will be replicated in Sheffield. The report highlights a lack of daily structure resulting in a large increase in time spent online, an increased consumption of online content (e.g. Netflix) and a more simultaneous and blended use of gaming and apps e.g. chatting on one app whilst gaming on another. TikTok use has largely increased and there are concerns around extreme body conscious exercise. Young people also report a disengagement with the news, whilst gathering news indirectly from unreliable sources. They also report problems with disturbed sleep patterns. We will look to validate these themes in Sheffield.

### ***What We Will Do Next***

Challenges for 2021/22 include securing funding for:

- A Sheffield RSHE and Online Safety Curriculum for students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and other vulnerabilities as we currently have no provision for our most at risk learners. Please see [Vulnerable Children in a Digital World](#).
- Online Safety to ensure consistent messages about safety and security online can be delivered to our most vulnerable residents so they can enjoy online spaces safely.

## **South Yorkshire Police**

Through delivering the Police and Crime Plan, SYP work to keep people safe by fighting crime, tackling anti-social behaviour and protecting vulnerable people, including children.

### ***Main Achievements***

Sheffield District of SYP have prioritised the improvement in response to child neglect, which has become a key priority for the wider force. This is reflected in leadership messages, training and decision making about operational priorities. In Sheffield, a bespoke training package for officers and staff has been developed to help them recognise neglect and take appropriate action with partners. This has been delivered to both specialist child protection staff and frontline uniform response officers.

Sheffield district have implemented a nationally recognised risk assessment and safety planning tool for children at risk of exploitation. This is referred to as MACE meetings. Any child with identified risk factors can be referred in through several routes. A multi-agency partnership meeting then applies a formal risk assessment tool and draws up appropriate safety plans to protect that young person. The measures put in place are based on professional evidence of what works in terms of effective strategies.

Sheffield district work closely with a range of partners programme including Sheffield City Council, including the Amber Project through Operation Fortify and the Vulnerable Young Persons meetings as well as the voluntary sector.



## ***Voice of the Child, Young Person and Family***

SYP are developing pathways to ensure the voice of the child is consistently heard.

### ***What We Will Do Next***

South Yorkshire Police is working with the College of Policing to develop a training package for staff force-wide, with an emphasis on child protection, including neglect and how to ensure that the voice of the child is heard. This will ensure staff make decisions in the best interests of a child and consider their outcomes beyond a criminal justice system. In Sheffield, we are exploring the potential for a joint investigation team that initially will respond to cases of child neglect. This will be implemented as a pilot with a view to broader joint team working.

The Sheffield Fortify partnership in conjunction with the South West Neighbourhood Policing team is embarking on a project with the heads of local schools in Nether Edge and Sharrow to tackle the problem of county lines and Child Criminal Exploitation. The objectives are to:

- Prevent children from being exploited and becoming the next generation of Organised Crime Group (OCG) criminals
- Protect children from County Lines and OCG exploitation by raising awareness within schools of the key signs and indicators to look out for.
- Build effective partnership working, information sharing and knowledge with schools.

### ***Support for SCSP Priorities***

Both Neglect and Contextual Safeguarding are key priorities for the force and are embedded in force-wide and district governance structures and processes. Sheffield continues to invest in and increase resources in teams that deal with knife crime, sexual and criminal exploitation and county lines and child abuse including neglect.

## **South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue**

SYFR make people, including children, safer by working to prevent emergencies and responding to emergencies effectively and safely. Their personnel frequently work with Children Young People and families, in their homes, schools and communities with a focus on Prevention and Protection.

### ***Main Achievements***

Prevention and Protection initiatives that focus on the education of communities, particularly the most vulnerable are of significant priority. The production of resources and delivery styles have been adapted during the COVID-19 pandemic through continuous evaluation and listening to feedback from CYP directly through school education sessions.

Several case studies demonstrate how SYFR have had access into the child's home, witnessed concerns and then reported, where no other agency has been involved. Services have then become involved to support children and their families. SYFR have maintained our emergency response service during the pandemic and have been the eyes and ears in the communities we serve.

Several joint initiatives have enabled young people to gain qualifications (e.g. BTEC, First Aid) and participate in local community projects. Currently SYFR and SYP deliver the Princes Trust

Programme as well as Fire Cadets, in which they experience ladder drills and hose running and can achieve a BTEC qualification once they have successfully completed the programme. SYFR have been able to offer Fire Cadet online group sessions during the Pandemic as well as 1:1 telephone support.

### ***Voice of the Child, Young Person and Family***

Holistic working with CYP and their families is fundamental to SYFR, through listening, being respectful and taking in to account their life experiences, SYFR are able to support families to achieve positive outcomes.

Listening to CYP and families on their views as part of home safety checks, education sessions or evaluation forms is important to improve/adapt the session plans, delivery of resources and length of programme. CYP enjoy the creative fire education work we complete to inform key safety messages.

### ***What We Will Do Next***

SYFR will continue to deliver our youth engagement work and joint initiatives: Princes Trust, Fire Cadets, Crucial Crew, Fire education work in schools and local community youth engagement activities.

### ***Support for SCSP Priorities***

We are committed to work in partnership with agencies to support CYP by:

- Signposting for support at the earliest opportunity.
- Promoting resilience building amongst CYP.
- Encouraging CYP to have aspirations for their future and to fulfil their potential.

SYFR regularly attend multi-agency training, which support better multi-agency working through having a better understanding of their roles and responsibilities for safeguarding and protecting CYP.

## **Public Health**

### ***Main Achievements***

- During COVID-19, the Doula Volunteer Programme continued offering telephone support to vulnerable women having babies and in-person support during the birth if they had no birth partner
- The My Mind My Life personalised support for children in care was recommissioned following positive outcomes for 54 children
- Advice and support available 7 days a week for schools, colleges and nurseries managing transmission of COVID-19 in education settings
- Online counselling support was available through Kooth and digital access to support for young carers, substance misuse advice and emotional wellbeing support were available for all young people in the city

### ***Impact of Achievements***

These achievements positively impacted the safeguarding of CYP in Sheffield, particularly their emotional health and wellbeing.

### ***Voice of the Child, Young Person and Family***

Views of CYP are gathered through consultation and involvement in commissioning from Chilypep trained young commissioners, and the Voluntary and Community Sector Partnership Network. They said:

“I was in a right mess until I spoke to the Corner”  
(Substance Misuse Service)

“Recommend MMML [Personal Health Budgets) to others and it should be available as an alternative to CAMHS. I know lots of young people that would benefit” (16 year old)

### ***What We Will Do Next***

Contribute to children’s mental health commissioning in partnership with Sheffield CCG with a focus on improving access to early intervention and prevention support.

## **Sheffield Children’s NHS Foundation Trust**

### ***Main Achievements***

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted on the safeguarding agenda. The Trust has adopted alternative ways of working to discharge its statutory responsibilities to safeguard the welfare of CYP & adults. This was partly achieved through partnership working with local partners. Virtual appointments have been implemented but face to face contact is provided where vulnerability/ risk is identified. Some safeguarding achievements in the last year include:

- Safeguarding support/supervision & training maintained via virtual platforms
- Virtual contribution to partnership working at a strategic, operational and practice level.
- Learning lessons from safeguarding audits and reviews
- Reinforced to all staff the importance of asking & documenting the details of adults who accompany children to appointments
- ‘Safeguarding’ is a standard agenda item for meetings

### ***Impact of Achievements***

- Staff recognise & respond to safeguarding concerns
- Reflective & restorative safeguarding supervision enabling better assessments & analysis of vulnerability/risk.
- Virtual contribution to safeguarding meetings enabling an understanding of the child/ young person’s circumstances & their daily lived experience
- Cascading & embedding learning from reviews/ audits leading to a better experience / outcome for children and young people
- Details & role of adults accompanying children to appointments recorded providing a better assessment of vulnerability/risk

### ***Voice of the Child, Young Person and Family***

The child/young person's voice and influence in service delivery is achieved via the patient feedback forum. Parents/Carers & young people are actively involved in their assessments & care planning. The voice of the child/young person & parents/carers is reflected in health records & reports for safeguarding meetings, child protection conferences & legal statements.

The Trust captures the experiences/views of service users to identify potential safeguarding issues & inform service improvement. The Trust has a Care Experience Board & Lead, a Patient Advice & Liaison Service & engages with the Youth Forum; Chilypep; NHSE Friends & Family test. Families who have engaged with services have reported compassionate, gentle staff with excellent communication skills at a very stressful time. Environmental issues such as signage and facilities have been considered and changes made where appropriate.

### ***What We Will Do Next***

- Implementation of a COVID-19 recovery plan whilst contact is re-established with vulnerable children & families
- Continue to work with local partners to ensure that vulnerable families are identified and provided early help/ support
- Continue to develop safeguarding supervision
- Focus on workforce development to continually learn & improve, to achieve better outcomes for children /young people

### ***Support for SCSP Priorities***

To develop robust responses, incorporating the following subjects in safeguarding training:

- Vulnerable Young People & Contextual Safeguarding - CSE/CCE/Gangs/Knife Crime
- Harmful Sexual Behaviour
- Think Family & Engaging fathers
- Trauma informed care
- Implementation of the refreshed Neglect Strategy & Neglect assessment tool to assess neglect & maintain an effective response

Improving provision of services to support good Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing in Children & Young People

- Development of education mental health support teams in schools - proposal to move from 3 to 5 teams
- Extension of the crisis team to include community intensive treatment (CIT) in Sheffield
- Investment in Eating Disorders and development of an all age pathway
- Training in conjunction with the Voluntary sector; Door 43 & Chilypep for Child Wellbeing Practitioners



# Sheffield Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

## ***Main Achievements***

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on Sheffield Teaching Hospital's service provision priorities. Despite this, the Sheffield Teaching Hospital's Safeguarding Team has remained operational and has continued to support patients, families and staff, where safeguarding concerns have been identified. The Team has also been able to expand its capacity following the successful recruitment to two new posts. Referrals have continued to be responded to in a timely manner, staff supervision sessions and safeguarding children mandatory training compliance maintained. The Safeguarding Team have throughout, met the Trust's obligations to the SCSP and contributed to citywide safeguarding meetings, practice reviews and the weekly citywide MARAC meetings.

The Safeguarding Team has continued to deliver on the safeguarding children's agenda and work within a multi-agency context to ensure that we have contributed to keeping children and families safe. Where necessary there has been timely liaison with the Sheffield Safeguarding Hub and other professionals and agencies to discuss and agree actions and safety plans for CYP with known vulnerabilities or complex contextual circumstances.

## ***Voice of the Child, Young Person and Family***

Young people between 16-17yrs accessing Trust services either face to face or virtually have been given the option to be seen alone in order to have their voice heard and be involved in the decision making regarding their care.

## ***What We Will Do Next***

- Continue to contribute to SCSP and city-wide safeguarding forums and work streams
- Undertake an audit of the effectiveness of Safeguarding Supervision at STH.
- Update and deliver a programme of safeguarding training incorporating new and emerging safeguarding themes and lessons learned from reviews. This will include recognition of the impact of COVID-19 on children and families.
- Review and update internal safeguarding and related policies to reflect changes to local and national safeguarding children policy and practice guidance.

## ***Supporting SCSP Priorities***

- Mental Health, Neglect and Contextual Safeguarding are included within the Trust Safeguarding Children training and are integral to discussion with staff during supervision.
- The STH Safeguarding Children Policy will be updated to include awareness of and how to respond to safeguarding concerns relating to these priorities.
- The Safeguarding team will support the SCSP by participating in future work streams, task and finish groups etc. as required.



# Section 5

## Safeguarding Priority Areas

The SCSP, its partners and officers are committed to keeping up to date with new and emerging trends in safeguarding whilst at the same time maintaining progress over key safeguarding priority areas. This has led to innovative and creative developments and projects in the city and input into the national safeguarding agenda. In the last year the SCSP has had oversight of the following key priority areas:

- Child Exploitation
- Children who live in households with Drug and Alcohol Misuse
- Domestic Abuse
- CYP that Go Missing
- Safeguarding and Licensing

# Safeguarding Priority Areas

## Child Exploitation



### *Main Achievements*

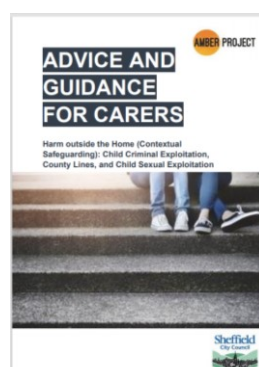
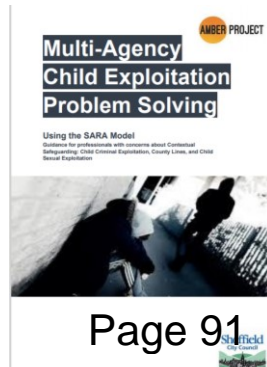
We have continued to develop our training offer with key partners to ensure the effective identification and support for CYP who are at risk of exploitation. We updated our training offer within the Learning and Development Brochure for 2021/22 and have responded to COVID-19 by developing virtual training. Almost 1000 professionals have accessed training or briefing sessions offered by the Amber Project including specific training to schools, residential workers, GPs and Adult Psychiatry. Examples of training courses include:

- Introduction to Contextual Safeguarding and Amber Project Briefings
- The Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) pathway
- Safeguarding masterclasses on implications of COVID-19 on CYP facing exploitation
- Exploitation and Trauma Informed Practice

The Amber Project Ambassadors Programme has been further developed and training dates circulated. This scheme trains professionals in how to spot the indicators of grooming, speak to young people about exploitation, deal with disclosures, and what support is available. Amber Project Ambassadors wear the Amber Project badge as a visual indication that they are willing and able to talk about child exploitation concerns. This will positively impact on our ability to identify risk earlier across much wider contexts within Sheffield and it will provide the opportunity to engage the CYP when the concern presents itself increasing the possibility of effective prevention or reduction of exploitation and anti-social, criminal and violent behaviour.

We have successfully introduced The Child Exploitation Vulnerability Tracker, which scores CYP and vulnerable adults who are being exploited and creates a single vulnerable cohort database. This is used to inform safeguarding responses and better understand the strategic picture of child exploitation within Sheffield and how to better support CYP. The easily accessible information includes key decisions and outcomes and it provides a summary of risk for effective management.

We have successfully developed and introduced a **Multi-Agency Child Exploitation pathway (MACE)** The purpose of the MACE meeting is to provide multi-agency management oversight of the risk management for individual children and groups of children identified as being vulnerable to child exploitation. The meeting provides the framework to allow regular information sharing and action planning to tackle child exploitation across Sheffield. The role of MACE is to enhance plans utilising the victim, location, offender approach.



We have developed several tools to help practitioners to tackle the issue of Child Exploitation, which include:

- A Practitioners Guide to Contextual safeguarding
- A Multi-Agency Information Submission form
- A Practitioner Guide Multi-Agency Child Exploitation Problem Solving
- Advice and Guidance for Carers: Harm outside the Home

### ***Impact of Achievements***

Violence, exploitation, and vulnerability to exploitation are taken seriously in Sheffield and we have developed a robust response to tackling exploitation affecting young people. As a result, CYP who are at the greatest risk receive effective and timely support so they and others are safe, and they can get their lives back on track. By empowering CYP to make informed choices, they have an increased knowledge and understanding around risk minimization exploitation/on-line safety. Professionals and communities also have a greater understanding of Child Exploitation

In 2020/21, 45 CYP have been safeguarded through joint proactive work between South Yorkshire Police Fortify and the Amber Project. These include children of organised crime group (OCG) members, children who have been exploited by OCG's or children whose entire family are at risk from harm from an OCG.

Through persistence, consistency and building meaningful relationships there has been improved engagement with children and families. Strategies have been developed to ensure we respond empathetically to expressions of anger, rejection and other emotions, including regular and punctual contact and maintaining a consistent attitude.

### ***Voice of the Child, Young Person and Family***

There is a strong commitment to hear the feedback of CYP and for their views to influence service delivery and practice. Learning through engagement with CYP and families has shaped our intervention techniques and all delivery work is CYP centred: assessments are carried out with CYP and they have ownership of any intervention plans developed including co-production of care plans. The emphasis of our work is a move away from a top-down 'expert' culture towards one that seeks the views and involvement of individuals and communities, through a process of co-production. This has included gaining the views of CYP on service developments and youth proofing documentation; recognising that CYP also hold solutions to the challenges they face.

Feedback from young people:

“At this placement I feel safe, and it's the only place I have felt I am able to actually talk to the staff. I do feel cared for and wanted here.” “I know I am really lucky to have (social worker) they really care about me and look after me, I never want them to leave me”.

“Well I spoke to [another YP] and he said he worked with you for a long time and you basically turned his life round for him and I should trust you”.

“we hate all social workers and think they are here to trick us, but we can see you try to help us and do things with us”

## Feedback from Training:

“More confident ..... Able to use appropriate resources to broaden discussion with clients. Greater understanding of thresholds and referral protocols.”

“Made me consider things from a different perspective and not just mine! Not just in safeguarding.”

### ***What We Will Do Next***

- Continue to embed the Child Exploitation Vulnerability Tracker and MACE meetings
- Engage young people in the identification, commissioning, and testing of services
- Improving community visibility and undertake awareness raising campaigns.
- Further use and development of Information Technology software to map risk, networks and connections
- Continued development of Amber Ambassador programme and other professional training
- More targeted support for parents and carers
- Sheffield has been selected as one of 6 research sites for the “Innovate Project” researching youth, risk and complexity. We are developing an innovative response to Transitional Safeguarding to address contextual safeguarding risks.

## **Hidden Harm**

### ***Main Achievements***

In households where a parent/carer or other family member has mental ill health, misuses drugs/alcohol, there is domestic abuse, parental conflict or harmful gambling (i.e. Hidden Harm), adult services and children services must work collaboratively to ensure that the voice of the child/vulnerable adult is heard and their circumstances safeguarded. To ensure this happens across the city, the Sheffield Hidden Harm Strategy (2021 – 2025) and Implementation Plan has been updated and developed to focus on these vulnerabilities.

Multi-agency case reviews have been undertaken to improve the communication and discussion between adult and children services when they are working with families where there is Hidden Harm within the household. They identified areas of good practice and areas for development with a clear focus of what works for families. Briefings have been shared widely across all services and Parental Mental Health Workshops have been held to both increase practitioner’s knowledge and provide opportunities for workers from adult and children services to share expertise and knowledge.

### ***Impact of Achievements***

Through training, briefings, and supervision, workers from both children and adult services in Sheffield have increased their understanding regarding the impact on children where there is Hidden Harm within their households. The increased awareness is demonstrated through requests by workers from all services for advice regarding either substance misuse, mental health, or safeguarding children. During 2020-2021 there have been 1,792 requests for advice from both adult and children services, in most cases children were living in the household. Many of the

families had had no previous contact with children’s social care or MAST illustrating that substance misuse and mental health support is being offered to parents at an early stage, which evidence shows leads to better outcomes for children and their families.

**What We Will Do Next**

- Hold a Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) conference, building on the work already undertaken in Sheffield, to raise awareness of the dangers of drinking alcohol during pregnancy and to ensure that CYP and adults who have FASD are identified and provided with appropriate support.
- To continue to deliver Trauma Informed Practice Training (Level 1) to all services, with specific events held for the workers associated with each Primary Care Network.
- Update and disseminate the Joint Working Protocol between Children, Young People and Family Services (CYPF) and Sheffield Health and Social Care Trust (SHSC).

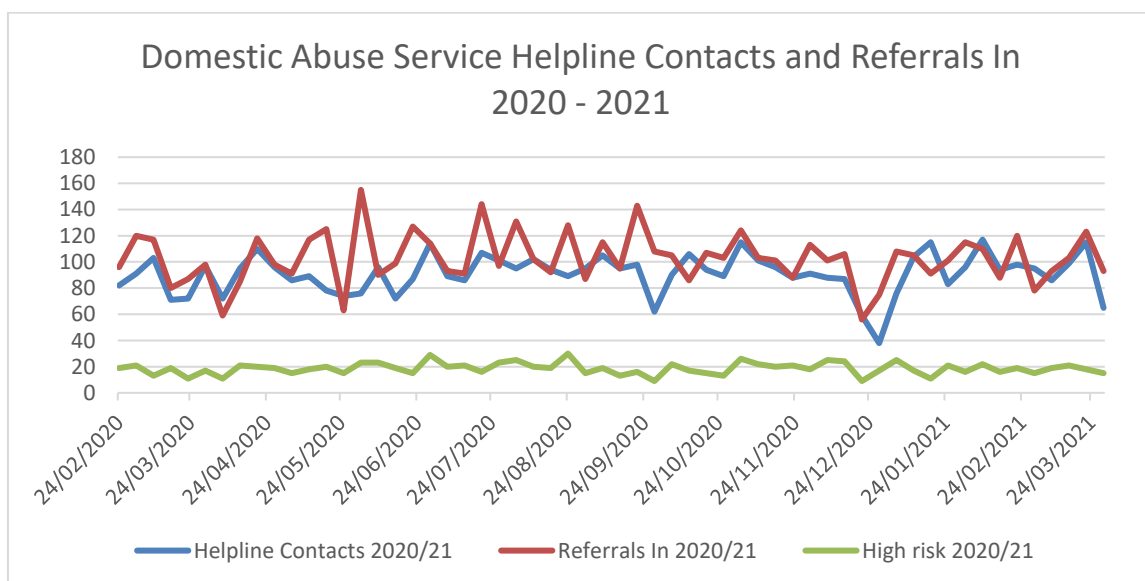
**Domestic Abuse**

**SHEFFIELD DOMESTIC ABUSE  
CO-ORDINATION TEAM**



**Main Achievements**

Domestic Abuse has been in focus nationally and locally over the past year. The COVID-19 pandemic has raised concerns about the impact of domestic abuse when families were in lockdown, having less contact with agencies and not being able to access universal services. In Sheffield we found that in the 12 months up to the end of March 2021 domestic abuse referrals to [IDAS](#) had risen by only 0.2% however helpline calls had increased by 21%, and High Risk referrals by 16%. Referrals and calls dropped during the first lockdown, which meant that some survivors felt unable to seek help during this time but referrals rose again as restrictions eased. The big impact has been the rise in high risk cases indicating that individual experiences of domestic abuse became more severe during lockdowns when it was harder to seek help or get respite.





	08/04/19 - 05/04/20	06/04/20 - 04/04/21	% increase
Helpline Contacts	3913	4748	21%
Referrals In	5352	5363	0.2%
High risk	840	978	16%

With IDAS and our other partners, we promoted innovative ways for people experiencing Domestic Abuse to reach out for support ranging from promoting the silent 999 solution, Crimestoppers and extending webchat facilities as a way of making contact easier. South Yorkshire Police introduced an online reporting form for domestic abuse and we promoted the national [Ask for ANI](#) scheme where people can use a pharmacy to access helplines and make a call to the police or to find a refuge.



In recognition that the pandemic was going to have a detrimental impact on those families already experiencing domestic abuse it was decided to begin to introduce the [Safe and Together](#) model as a pilot. This is a new way of working, which complements Signs of Safety, empathises ‘partnering with survivors’ to safeguard children living with domestic abuse. It focuses on holding perpetrators of abuse to account by recognising that being abusive to your partner in your family is a poor parenting choice. The model enables conversations with perpetrators that focus on the impact on the children of their behaviour. It helps us think about the impact on children of living with coercive control and the impact of domestic abuse on activities, household income, social life, education, family connections and overall emotional and physical wellbeing. 56 staff were trained during the year and key staff are now trained to deliver Safe and Together so that roll out can continue.

[Haven](#), the CYP’s specialist support service for CYP affected by domestic abuse, received additional funding to respond to a rise in referrals when schools reopened in the autumn.

A new safe accommodation offer started during the year – Safe Zones provides a fully furnished house or flat for families needing to escape domestic abuse for whom refuge is not suitable e.g. male victims including gay, bisexual and trans people, and women with complex needs.



Despite lockdown there have been 2 x *Caring Dads* programmes engaging with 12 Dads in a group and 13 on a one to one basis and 2 x *You and Me Mum* programmes engaging 14 Mums. The Strengthening Families Domestic Abuse team has delivered 98 consultations to social workers throughout the year where cases are complex and at the edge of care.

### ***Impact of Achievements***

Haven have worked with 78 families during the year with the majority reporting improvements in their safety and wellbeing. And the majority at service exit agreed that they knew a little or a lot more about respectful relationships, how to stay safe, where to get help and that using the service had a positive impact on their education.

### ***Voice of the Child, Young Person and Family***

Providers – Haven, IDAS etc. are commissioned to seek views from users and use these to inform service development.

Haven use POWeR forms as part of their domestic abuse case management system to capture the voice of the child and are working with national Women’s Aid to improve this system and make it more child friendly. DACT operates a service user reference group that has been exploring issues with the family courts this year and as result, mothers in the group did a presentation on their experiences of family court processes and post-separation abuse at the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Provider Consultation Group in February. Survivor stories, gathered in the autumn about these issues can be found [here](#).

### ***What We Will Do Next***

The Domestic Abuse Act will be implemented during the year. Local Authorities now have a statutory duty to provide specialist support for survivors and their children in safe accommodation and government funding is attached to this new duty, therefore we will be able to expand provision for children who have lived with domestic abuse and commission new services as a result during 2021/22.

We are continuing to roll out Safe and Together training and learning including a new DASH assessment form with additional prompts about the impact on children. A new voluntary perpetrator programme will be commissioned and available for users in the autumn.

### ***Support for the SCSP Priorities***

The new government funding will allow us to develop a specific mental health and domestic abuse post and a substance misuse and domestic abuse post working with domestic abuse providers and their clients, and to develop prevention initiatives for young people.

## Children and Young People that go Missing

Sheffield Sexual Exploitation Service (SSES) and Missing Young People Team (MYPT) is co-located with the Amber Project and prioritise the protection and safeguarding of young people and works effectively and collaboratively together with many agencies to reduce risk and vulnerability. This team provides a dedicated resource for the recording and reporting of missing episodes, supporting investigations and risk assessment, and coordinating Independent Return Interviews.

### ***Main Achievements***

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Return Home Interviewers continued to offer all CYP who had a missing episode a chance to speak about it, by telephone or in person: 74% of young people were interviewed within 72 hours. The implementation of a Missing Operational Performance meeting ensured that key stakeholders (social care, police, residential children's services) could input into improving our response to missing young people in Sheffield by:

- Identifying emerging themes and issues/barriers with the operational process and procedures – i.e. missing notifications, timeliness of strategy meetings, multi-agency attendance at meetings, trigger plans, Return Home Interviews (RHI's) etc.
- Reviewing the collated information from all RHI's to identify the emerging trends, themes and outcomes inform practice across the partnership
- Focusing on CYP with repeat missing episodes or where there are significant concerns around a specific missing episode, using their cases as learning opportunities.

The aim is to identify themes, escalate any concerns, look at how we can maximise engagement opportunities, minimise risk, strengthen the safety plans and ultimately reduce missing episodes.

### ***Voice of the Child, Young Person and Family***

Opportunities for the voice of the CYP is captured within the Return Interview Forms, however an internal audit, prior to lockdown had identified a need to capture the voice of the young person in relation to the delivery of the service itself. This had to be designed sensitively to avoid overwhelming the young person and a form has now been designed to support the utilisation of feedback to inform, improve and direct the Missing Young Persons Service.

### ***What We Will Do Next***

- A monthly missing newsletter publication that captures and reflects a dashboard of what we have achieved and important messages to share across all agencies.
- Increased focus on first time missing CYP, with additional support and visits.
- Additional training for identified professionals who can undertake Return Interviews, to increase capacity and capability for early identification and intervention.

### ***Support for the SCSP Priorities***

- Continue to have strong and seamless links and pathways with the Amber Project.
- Continue to work closely with other agencies (Door 43, The Corner, Safe@Last)

## Safeguarding and Licensing

In response to the pandemic, our work has adapted to meet the safeguarding needs of regulated businesses, some of which have changed the way they operate. Whilst the majority of premises were temporarily closed, some changed in style and required further safeguarding advice: for example, there was an increase in businesses offering alcohol sales 'off site' and there were more

businesses operating in outdoor settings. We have supported the planning of these operations by contributing to Safety Advisory Group meetings and through licensing consultation procedures and we have worked in partnership with other agencies to tackle safeguarding issues in business community settings, with the outcome of using the mechanisms of the licence review, investigation of complaints and disruption strategies, to manage safeguarding risk.

We have improved practice in response to feedback from our partners and customers for sustainable and relevant training to business operators, by

- Reformatting our resources to be accessible online
- Developing a test purchase response to knife crime, as an outcome of the learning from a local serious case review and in support of local strategy
- We also took this opportunity to revise content, so that our training is more inclusive of adults at risk, as part of safeguarding risk management plans

The purpose of this is to broaden the safeguarding focus across the sector, so that it supports the Transitions agenda and is inclusive of vulnerable adults and people with diverse needs. For example, training has been delivered to raise awareness of adults with 'invisible needs' such as mental health or autism to sport venues and taxi drivers and a series of Masterclasses were delivered to raise awareness of problem gambling as a hidden harm.

We have continued to support a range of local and national services and organisations with the development of a contextual approach to safeguarding, including closer partnership and integration with services in Place Portfolio and supporting the National Association of Licensing Enforcement Officers (NALEO) and the University of Bedfordshire's UK Advisory & Implementation Panel. This included consulting with the Home Office about draft guidance for business operators and regulators and producing national safeguarding guidance for regulators with NALEO.

During 2019/20 we have integrated practical information about mental health into the training we deliver to the taxi trade and we continue to raise awareness about neglect in our training. Our work with the business sector continues to set a national standard in terms of promoting a contextual approach to safeguarding and this manifests through our representation on the UK Advisory & Implementation Panel for Contextual Safeguarding and the support we provide to the National Association of Licensing Enforcement Officers. In terms of impact, the outcome of our ongoing development and delivery of training, the joint investigation of safeguarding complaints and our contribution to licence reviews has resulted in raising operational standards in safeguarding the regulated business community whereby operators are increasingly enabled to recognise and respond to safeguarding risk and provide a safer environment for children who may live, work, perform, or socialise in a regulated environment.

### ***What We Will Do Next***

- Contribute to the development and delivery of the local contextual safeguarding strategy and national contextual safeguarding work
- Respond to emerging themes or gaps in safeguarding practice related to the business community
- Develop our work to support the transitions and adult safeguarding agenda

# Appendix 1

## Partnership Agencies



# Appendix 1: Executive Partnership Group Members

Independent Chair	SCSP
Assistant Director / Professional Advisor to the SCSP	Children, Young People and Families, Sheffield City Council
Safeguarding Partnership Manager	SCSP
Executive Director: Chief Operating Officer/Chief Nurse	Sheffield Health & Social Care NHS FT
Chief Nurse	NHS Sheffield CCG
Detective Superintendent	South Yorkshire Police
Designated Doctor	NHS Sheffield CCG
Director of Children, Young People and Families	Sheffield City Council
Chief Nurse	Sheffield Teaching Hospitals
Cabinet Member for CYP	Sheffield City Council
Deputy Director	Community Rehabilitation Company
Director of Public Health	Sheffield City Council
Executive Director: People Services	Sheffield City Council
Chief Executive	Sheffield City Council
Lead for Community Safety Partnership	Sheffield City Council
Head of Barnsley & Sheffield LDU	NPS South Yorkshire (Sheffield & Barnsley)
Head of Service, Housing and Neighbourhoods	Sheffield City Council
Director of Nursing and Clinical Operations	Sheffield Children's Hospital
Group Manager for Community Safety	South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue
Director of Education and Skills	Sheffield City Council
Chief Executive	Learn Sheffield
Deputy Chief Executive	Sheffield College
Assistant Director - Legal Services	Sheffield City Council
Designated Nurse	NHS Sheffield CCG

For an up to date list of Board representatives and agencies, please see the induction pack listed on:  
[SCSP Website Annual Reports, Business Plans and Induction Pack](#)