

Sheffield Children's Safeguarding Partnership

Annual Report 2021/22

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Foreword from the Independent Chair and Scrutineer



Welcome to the annual report of the Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership. I am pleased that you are taking the time to read this report, which outlines continuing progress in the multi-agency work to protect and safeguard children and young people at risk in Sheffield.

This report covers the period from April 2021 through to March 2022, a period that continued to present unprecedented challenges for partners as the global pandemic COVID-19 continued to impact evidenced through increases in hidden harm following lock down, increasing referrals to services in both volume and complexity, workforce shortages, ever increasing pressures on public sector funding and a worsening economic and cost of living crisis in local communities, which impacts most on our most vulnerable children and families.

Current arrangements for safeguarding continued to evolve during 2021/22 and the partnership is the responsibility of the three statutory partners- the local authority, the NHS and the police, and as a result, this is their report rather than mine.

I joined the partnership in April 2022 as Independent Chair and Scrutineer, and reflecting the new arrangements, I write in my capacity as scrutineer. It is intended to support partners by providing an independent perspective on their work to safeguard children and to highlight challenges where appropriate. As I was not the scrutineer during 2021/22, I have drawn upon the ongoing work of regulators such as Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC); reviews undertaken by NHS England and Improvement; in-year assurance and monitoring reports brought to the partnership executive, as well as the Annual Accountability Meetings with partners in May 2022, in which we sought assurance about the robustness of safeguarding practice.

Ofsted undertook a short, focussed visit of the Sheffield Safeguarding Hub in November 2021 and reported that “Contacts are screened appropriately, with consideration given to previous social care involvement and shared multi-agency information. Consent is explored and explicitly recorded. Families are contacted, their views sought, and next steps discussed. Professionals can contact the front door for advice.” Ofsted further reported that “Child-protection decision-making is clear. Urgent multi-agency meetings are convened, and appropriate actions taken to safeguard children.”

Ofsted and the CQC undertook a revisit of services for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in February 2022, to decide whether sufficient progress has been made in addressing the areas of significant weakness detailed in their inspection report of January 2019. Inspectors took time to speak with children and young people, parents and carers and

looked at a range of information about the performance in addressing the seven significant weaknesses identified at the initial inspection, including the improvement plans and self-evaluation. Sufficient progress had been made in addressing six of the significant weaknesses identified and inspectors recognised partners collective commitment to improving outcomes for the people of Sheffield. However, transition is poor at post-16, post-18 and beyond. Parents and carers describe post-16 and post-18 transitions as cliff edges for their children and young people. A post 16 officer has now been recruited and a multi-agency transitions board is being established. Interviews have been held for seven social workers to create a transitions team of children's and adults' social workers to work across the 16- to 25-year-old age range initially.

The Sheffield City Council Delivery plan for 2022/23 recognises that Children's Services are under a significant amount of immediate pressure across all areas of business with rising costs and lack of capacity in the system, resulting in financial stress and a risk of poorer outcomes for individuals. Children's and Adults' care services represent the council's two largest areas of expenditure and the two most significant areas of risk in terms of poor outcomes for vulnerable people. There is also the ongoing risk of market failure in both the adults' and children's care sectors and the challenge and opportunity of significant policy/legislative change. Although Children's Services continues to perform well, it is at increased risk because of the loss of leadership capacity and because of the ongoing financial pressures that it is experiencing.

Several reviews were undertaken in relation to Children and Young Peoples Mental Health Services in 2021/22 and support for 16-17 year-olds in crisis. Whilst these reviews identified areas of good practice they also identified where partners needed to do more to. In addition, CQC wrote to the 3 NHS foundation trusts in Sheffield under their section 64 powers to understand the current pathway provision for young people. During their inspection they found children and young people being cared for extended periods of time in an unsuitable environment, with fragmented care provision from all the NHS trusts and no clear plans of care. In response to CQC, the partners described new and substantial action with further planned actions to improve pathways for young people with mental health needs.

CQC also inspected the child and adolescent mental health (CAMHS) wards at Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust and raised concerns around the safety of care being provided to vulnerable children. CQC have reported that since inspection, the trust has started to make improvements to make sure vulnerable children and young people receive safe care.

CQC identified significant patient safety concerns at the focussed inspection of maternity services in March 2021 at the Jessop Wing, a purpose-built maternity unit where approximately 7,000 babies are born every year. The inspection saw the rating of the service deteriorate to inadequate. A remedial action plan is in place with most actions already completed or due for completion over the summer of 2022.

I am pleased to note that actions plans have been developed to address all the findings from each of the CQC inspections, with robust reporting, governance and oversight in place. However, the SCSP needs to monitor progress with the CQC action plans and develop mechanisms for partners to hold each other to account to ensure that the risks to babies, children and young people have been mitigated and they are protected from harm. This must be a priority for 2022/23 and should build upon, rather than duplicate, the updated NHS Safeguarding Assurance and Accountability Framework.

The partnership continued to monitor performance and emerging trends on a regular basis during 2021/22. The SCSP collects an extensive multi-agency suite of data, categorised into the following datasets:

- Contextual Safeguarding
- Education, Inclusion and SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities)
- Hidden Harm

- Neglect data
- Referrals, Thresholds, and Involvements
- Transitions data

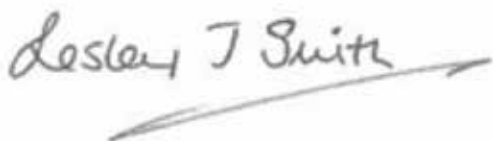
The data sets are used by the partnership's subgroups including the Learning Practice Improvement Group, the Hidden Harm Implementation Group and the Neglect Task and Finish Group, and whilst work is ongoing to understand the data and further refine the data suite there are many examples of how this intelligence is being used to shape a multi-agency approach and intervention. This is covered further within this annual report which provides examples where partners are working at the leading edge of innovation to keep children and young people in Sheffield safe from abuse and harm.

The data for children referred into services in response to identified concerns around contextual safeguarding remains a live issue for all services. A Child Exploitation Vulnerability Tracker was introduced in 2021. Promotion work is active in schools along with partnership work with safer neighbourhood teams. Referrals of vulnerable young people known to be involved in CCE have increased, however, SYP reported to a recent meeting that detection is improving with "interruption" techniques considered to be making progress. Progress in interruption is assisted by stronger joined up working across partners.

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, adult 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 Hidden Harm Strategy (2021 – 2025) has been updated and implementation is underway. Partners have also adopted the NSPCC Graded Care Profile 2 assessment and intervention tool across the city, with an expectation that this will make a positive impact in the response to neglect over time.

The annual report demonstrates that partners have faced significant challenges during the year and there is still much to address. However, there has also been significant innovation, and safeguarding has been maintained as a priority. Notwithstanding all the current challenges, what I have seen since my arrival is real commitment to working together, and the willingness to address the need for change. I have seen some great examples of innovation, with Sheffield at the leading edge locally and contributing nationally to emerging policy on interventions that support families and prevent escalation of need. Many examples are set out in detail in this report together with the impact they have made, and I hope you will take time to read these.

I would offer my thanks to all members of the safeguarding teams for their work and persistence in sustaining effective safeguarding in Sheffield. There are many examples of practitioners going above and beyond expectations to protect some of our most vulnerable children and families and to them I send my thanks



Lesley Smith
Independent Chair and Scrutineer
Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership

Foreword by the Strategic Leads

Sheffield City Council John Macilwraith

This is my final message to you as I prepare to leave the council to take up a new role. I have worked here for three years and have seen several personnel changes and the greatest challenge local government has ever had to face - the Covid19 pandemic.

The highlights

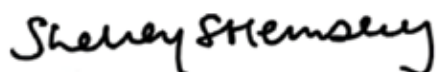
Some of the highlights of my time here include the support we provided to communities through the pandemic, especially our response on securing PPE for the four South Yorkshire authorities (at one stage colleagues in Sheffield City Council were securing, storing and distributing supplies to over 200 venues each week). I am also proud of the work of Children and Adult Services who supported our most vulnerable people through the pandemic and the fact that OFSTED at a focussed visit in November 2021 and a SEND re-visit in February 2022 recognised our collective commitment to improving outcomes for the people of Sheffield. Also, bringing the Youth Service back into the Council in 9 months was a council-wide effort that I am convinced will benefit the young people of Sheffield in the years to come.



John Macilwraith
Executive Director of People Services

South Yorkshire Police

“South Yorkshire Police and Sheffield Policing District are committed to working with partners to identify harm, safeguard and improve the lives of children and young people across the city. We have built strong professional relationships at the operational and strategic level to ensure we are fully engaged with and support the wider partnership priorities. During the 2021 – 2022 reporting period we experienced the lifting of COVID regulations and the return to normality for people across the city and country, our services and response remained steadfast throughout that time. We strive to continuously improve our understanding of neglect, abuse and exploitation to ensure our services are responsive to children and young people’s needs and promote their welfare and safety. To this end, our officers and staff received training to recognise neglect and to understand the lived experience and reflect the voice of the child in their interactions and decision-making. At a strategic level, as Sheffield Policing District Commander, I worked with counterparts in Sheffield City Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group to develop the Sheffield Children’s Safeguarding Partnership by appointing an independent scrutineer, with a view to increasing accountability and strengthening our multi-agency arrangements.”



Shelley Hemsley
Chief Superintendent

Sheffield Clinical Commissioning Group

The duty to Safeguarding Children is one of the most important the CCG holds, as a lead partner in the local safeguarding arrangements, together with the police and the local authority.

Partners working across all sectors, both statutory and non-statutory, will know the continued impact that the Covid pandemic has had in the last year, with an increased demand for services and the rise in some specifically related to safeguarding, for example the increase in reported domestic abuse and a rise in requests for support with mental health and substance misuse in both adults and children. This increase in demand has not subsided during 2021, and as we start 2022, the country also faces a cost-of-living crisis. We can't underestimate the effect this will have on children generally, and specifically on the some of the most vulnerable children in our city, those in lower income households. From this perspective, the Partnership initiative to develop a workforce who are trauma informed is needed more than ever, to effectively support children and families in Sheffield.

The 'Think Family' approach of 2021 has seen the safeguarding team within the CCG undergo a restructure during the last year, including recruitment to roles with a joint adult and child safeguarding focus, to reduce silo working within the team and develop shared responsibility and co-working on cross cutting safeguarding agendas, including MAPPA, MARAC and Channel.

The CCG safeguarding team have continued to support the Safeguarding Children Partnership at all levels including all the sub-groups of the board, five of which the CCG either chair or co-chair and additionally provide administrative support to two of these.

In July 2022 the Sheffield Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), along with Barnsley, Rotherham, and Doncaster CCGs, formed the South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB), following the establishment of ICBs by National Health Service England under their duty in the Health and Care Act 2022.

Although the ICB is county wide, the close multi-agency working developed during the life of the CCG, will continue to be strengthened 'at place' in Sheffield with the ICB continuing to be represented at both executive and sub-group level. Whilst remaining committed to safeguarding children and young people in Sheffield the transformation to a wider ICB footprint will undoubtedly present increased opportunities for sharing both resources and learning for all stakeholders.



Alun Windle
Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children (Sheffield)

Population

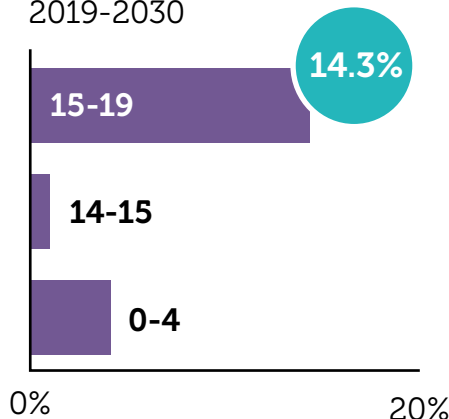


589,207

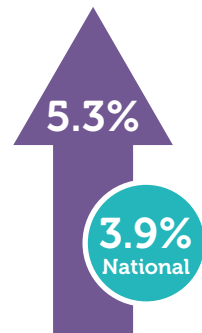
106,114
Children aged
0-15



Population Growth 2019-2030



Population growth U19s
between 2019
and 2030



Deprivation

Approximately



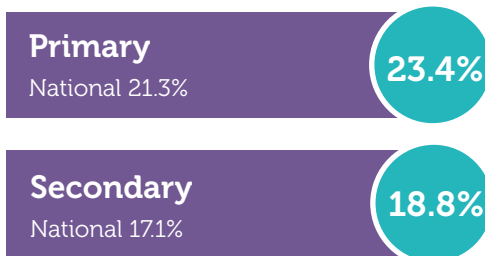
Children and young people in Sheffield are in low income families

25%

National average is 19%

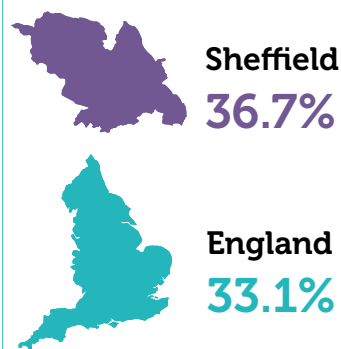
Diversity

Children and young people with English as an additional language



The largest minority ethnic group of U18s in Sheffield are Asian

Children and young people from minority ethnic groups (based on school attendance)



Education

177 schools in Sheffield

190
Nurseries

9
Mainstream independent*

10
Special schools

19
Integrated Resource Unit

133
Mainstream primary*

27
Mainstream secondary*

3
Independent & non-maintained

2
Colleges



73,279

children and young people attend primary, secondary or special schools within the city

528

Children registered as being home educated (March 2022)

2.7%

4,295 pupils in Sheffield have an Education Health Care Plan or Statement (April 2022)*

National average is 3.1%

Lone parent families with dependent children 16,760 which is 25.3% of all families with dependent children. England average 24.5% (Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion) May 2022)

Using the **index of multiple deprivation** (IMD) 2019.

The concept of multiple deprivation upon which the IMD 2019 is based is that separate types of deprivation exist, which are separately recognised and measurable. The IMD 2019 therefore consists of seven types, or domains, of deprivation, each of which contains a number of individual measures, or indicators

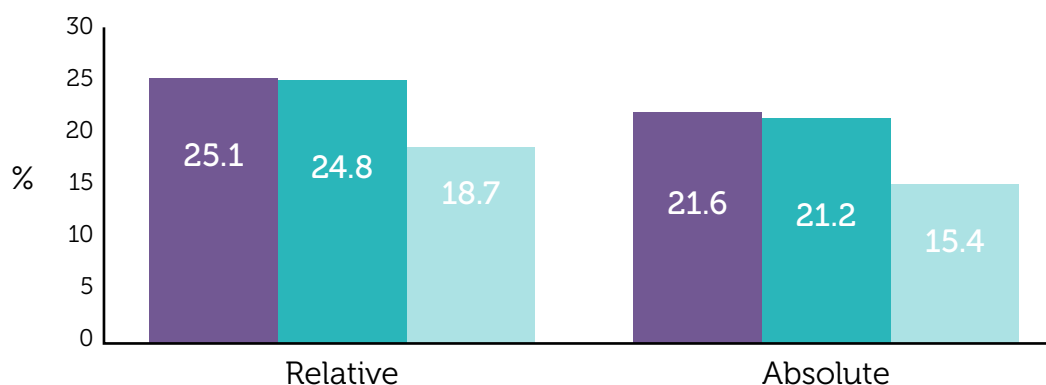
The information boxes below show the number of people in Sheffield living in neighbourhoods ranked among the most deprived 20% of neighbourhoods in England based on IMD 2019 and the seven IMD domains.

Number of people in Sheffield living in the most deprived 20% of the area by Indices of Deprivation (ID) 2019 domain

Index of Multiple Deprivation	Income domain	Employment domain	Education Domain
201,109	196,310	203,019	215,294
34.4% (England average = 20.0%)	33.6% (England average = 20.0%)	34.7% (England average = 19.5%)	36.8% (England average = 19.8%)
Health domain	Barriers to Housing and Services domain	Living Environment domain	Crime domain
213,821	34,267	95,927	206,282
36.8% (England average = 19.6%)	5.9% (England average = 21.4%)	16.4% (England average = 21.0%)	35.3% (England average = 20.4%)

Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (indices of Deprivation 2019)

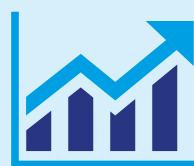
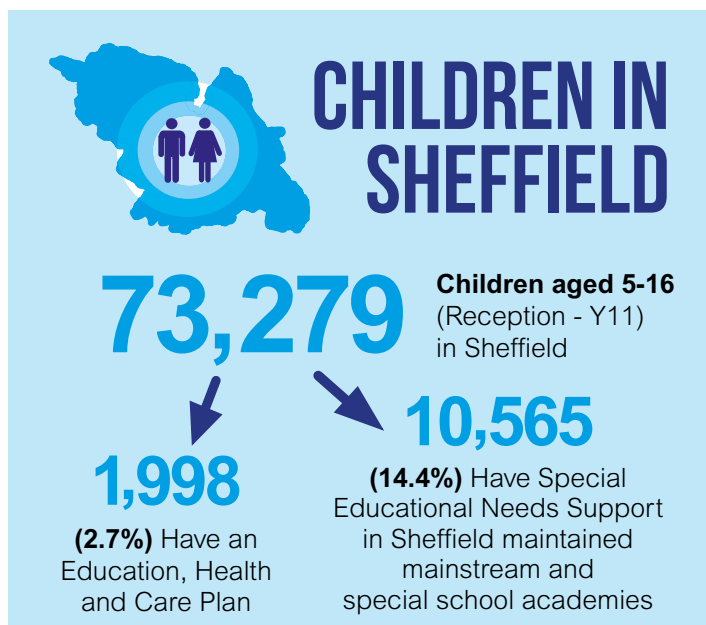
The data below looks at children in low-income families, out of work households and lone parent households. Relative low income is defined as a family in low income Before Housing Costs (BHC) in the reference year. Absolute low income is a family in low income Before Housing Costs (BHC) in the reference year in comparison with incomes in 2010/11. A family must have claimed one or more of Universal Credit, Tax Credits or Housing Benefit at any point in the year to be classed as low income in these statistics. Children are dependent individuals aged under 16; or aged 16 to 19 in full-time non-advanced education.



The information boxes below show the count of people in each of these categories in Sheffield. The bar chart shows the percentage of children in relative and absolute low-income families. Source; Children in low-income families, Department for Work and Pensions (2020)

Children in relative low-income families	Children in absolute low-income families	Employment domain	Education Domain
34,219	29,467	13,812	13,948
25.1% (England average = 18.7%)	21.6% (England average = 15.4%)	40.4% of relative low-income families (England average = 40.2%)	40.8% of relative low-income families (England average = 30.6%)

Source: Children in low-income families, Department for Work and Pensions (2020)



TRENDS

Population increase and placement preference are the biggest drivers for increasing special school places.

Over the past **5 years**, the number of Sheffield children in special school has risen by **25%**. This is in similar to the national average.

Between 2014 and 2018 the population of Sheffield increased by **19,043** (3%).

We are anticipating continued increases in pressure on special school over the next **5 years**, as the population increases.



PRIMARY SUPPORT REASONS

The **5** most common needs of pupils with special educational needs in Sheffield Schools are:

- Speech, language and communication
- Autism spectrum disorder
- Social, emotional and mental health
- Moderate learning disability
- Specific learning disability

EDUCATION, HEALTH AND CARE PLANS

4,295^{*} Education, Health and Care Plans maintained by Sheffield City Council



HOW MANY?

Children attend a **private school** in your borough? **1445**

Children attend an **alternative provision**? **211**

Children attend a **specialist SEN school**? **1434**

Children are registered as **Electively Home Educated (EHE)**? **528**

Children are registered as **Missing Education (CME)**? **542**

Data March 2022

Contains public sector information obtained from Sheffield City Council and licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0

The data in this infographic is drawn from the following sources: School Census 2019; SEN2 Survey; Sheffield City Council Short breaks dataset April 2018 - March 2019; Capita ONE; Sheffield Clinical Commissioning Group; Office of National Statistics mid-year estimates to 2018.

• The figure for the total of children with EHCP plan in April 2022 is taken from SCC Performance and analysis service.

Please note that where figures look different, it is because the sources focus on different age ranges – for example the School Census is for 5-16 year olds whereas the SEN2 Survey is 0-25.

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 and 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 for children aged 5-17 in child protection conferences
- Advocacy support for children cared for by Sheffield local authority and Sheffield care leavers up to age 25
- Advocacy support for disabled children receiving short break support to age 25
- Facilitation of creative voice groups, Little Children in Care Council, Sheffield's Independent Visitor service and the Young People's Reverse Scrutiny Panel and Sheffield Care Leavers union
- Regular research of children's views of the service they receive from Social Care and facilitation of a Young People's Reverse Scrutiny Panel to ensure the voices are acted upon by the Service
- Training and support for workers supporting CYP

Headlines

During the financial year 2021-2022, the Children's Involvement Team delivered the following:

- 348 children advocated for at their initial child protection conference.
- 61 children advocated for at first review child protection conference.
- 58 looked after children, care leavers and disabled children advocated for.
- 48 children aged 7-24 were involved in little Children in Care Council group activities, Children in care council and Sheffield Care Leavers Union Create and change activities.
- 69 relationships supported between a child in care and an Independent Visitor.
- 8 young people involved in the Young People's Reverse Scrutiny Panel.
- 124 Children and Families Service workers attended direct work training.

Little Children in Care Council (Little CiCC)

In April 2021, a new group was established for younger children in care, the Little CiCC is aimed at primary aged children. Sessions were based outside in the city's parks due to Covid restrictions and the group met bi-monthly. Activities enjoyed included:

- Creative writing sessions with Sheffield's Writer in Residence, Nik Perring, funded by the Virtual School. Some pieces were entered into the Coram Voice national writing competition under the theme 'What makes life good' where two Little CiCC members took first and second place.
- Children took part in a number of activity days funded and facilitated by Endeavor, including a bushcraft and survival skills day in Hesley Woods and a walk and picnic at the Longshaw Estate.

- Six members of CiCC and Sheffield Care Leavers Union SCLU have supported the Little CiCC sessions over the year. They have also used these opportunities to gather the voices of younger children looked after to feed into their own work. They have facilitated a consultation on family time and led a craft activity to capture the Little CiCC members' hopes and aspirations for the future.

"I didn't really want to be in the meeting, so it helped to have someone say things for me. It was good to have someone to say what I wanted to say"

"At first I wasn't sure of (the advocate's) role or how they could support me. They listened to me and allowed me to explain things. They understood me and was good to talk to"

"I needed an advocate because not a lot of people listen to me. [My advocate] is nice, I like being with them, they help me a lot"



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. Activities enjoyed by CiCC included:

- Spoken word sessions with Sheffield rap artist, Dom Heslop, to speak out about their care experience. These sessions were funded by the Virtual School as part of their creative curriculum offer.
- CiCC and SCLU attended an outdoor activity day where they took part in a canoeing session.
- Older members of CiCC supported some of the Little CiCC sessions.
- The Assembly Squad's animation was completed and was launched by the Virtual School to all Designated Teachers. An accompanying training resource was also produced to help staff and pupils learn what it is like to be a child in care and give them tips on how improved children in care's experiences in schools.

Sheffield Care Leavers' Union (SCLU)

SCLU membership has increased throughout the year, gaining a number of new members. 23 care leavers have been involved in SCLU activities this year which have included:

- Writing sessions with facilitators from the Hive Young Writers' Project and a Sheffield rap artist to compose pieces based on their care experiences
- Designing a new training package to be delivered to Personal Advisors (PAs) based on the Reality Cheque Challenge to open discussion on how to support care leavers in areas such as finance, accommodation, safety and aspirations. The training will be delivered to PAs on a rolling programme.
- Sheffield Care Leavers Union big news:!! Dream Big – Never Look Back
- SCLU was delighted to have been successful in an **Arts Council Bid** as partners with **The Leadmill and Sheffield Music Hub** for some of our Care Leaver Musicians to work with a composer to put their Rap and Musical pieces to a full orchestra. Seven Members of SCLU were involved in this project: meeting with the composer and Dom Heslop the 1Devotion.
- They went on to perform at The Crucible and The Leadmill in the Spring of 2021. Dom was reviewed by SCLU "on stage being the most awesome MC ever."

"Being part of the build up to Dream Big and the night itself has been totally life changing for me. I feel like I could really take my music somewhere" (Young Person)

"I have never seen anything like this before in Sheffield. It made us stop and look at some of the young people we work with a totally different way" (Sheffield Virtual School)

"These young people have spoken their truth and shown us their talent tonight. We now as a city need to listen. What are we as adults going to go and do differently because of tonight?" (Kate Josephs, CEX Sheffield City Council, addressing the room at Dream Big.)

Fridge Plans

SCLU designed and developed the Fridge Plan. This initially started as an idea for just for Pathways Plans but during the year the idea was developed for all children's plans. Practitioners will complete the normal plans on Liquid Logic but also complete a stand-alone Fridge Plan including information for that specific child, making sure they use plain child-friendly language. There are two versions of the plan, one with just words and tick boxes which show progress, and another which includes a space for pictures and drawing for younger children. Practitioners can either complete the Fridge Plan in the office and then take it out on visits and talk to their young people about what is happening, or they can print a blank copy and complete it with young person.

Between March 2021 and August 2021, the Fridge Plan was piloted within the Leaving Care Service, Early Help and East Fieldwork. In this time over 50 Fridge Plans were completed with young people. The feedback has been positive, and workers said the Fridge Plan has:

- Helped young people see how things are moving
- Helped parents understand the plan, as the Fridge Plan is simple and easy to understand.
- Helped them, as workers to focus and break down complex cases
- Helped to focus visits with young people and parents

In November 2021, the Fridge Plan was rolled out across all service areas in Sheffield, including Children Looked After, Care Leaving Service and Social Care. This means that that all young people open to Early Help and Social Care can benefit from it.

Fridge Plan

My Fridge PLAN

My name: _____
 This was done on: _____
 Date we will do a new one to: _____


What we will do...




My Fridge PLAN

My name: _____
 This was done on: _____
 Date we will do a new one to: _____

Where I live	When	Done?
○ ● ● ●		<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
● ○ ○ ○		<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
● ○ ○ ○		<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>



Section 2

The Sheffield Safeguarding Children Partnership

From July 2019 the Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) became the Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership (SCSP):

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

Our Independent Chair was David Ashcroft until his retirement in November 2021. Lesley Smith was appointed 5 months later in April 2021. 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. 2020-2021 saw continuity of our three senior officers. They advised and supported the Executive Partnership Group to develop, implement and monitor an annual plan based on the priority actions agreed against the core business. This group have been 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. 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 contribute by dint of their knowledge and expertise in their own fields to city wide scrutiny, to practice reviews and development ongoing across the subgroups of the SCSP.

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 2021/22, engagement continued with:

- Sheffield Adults Safeguarding Partnership (SASP)
- Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership
- Health and Wellbeing Board
- Sheffield Drug and Alcohol Strategic Board
- 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 Partnership Manager role was vacated by the resignation of the post holder just as the reporting year ended. At the time of going to print the post is covered by a temporary manager and future arrangements rely on the outcome of the review underway to determine whether the breadth of responsibilities held requires one or more full time equivalent posts.

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. The post holder changed in November 2021 and currently the responsibilities outlined are added to other statutory responsibilities held by the Assistant Director of the Quality Assurance and Involvement service.

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, Serious Case Reviews which were replaced by Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, Learning Lesson Review action plans and external 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.

Transition from pandemic to endemic

Covid 19 has continued to impact on how agencies in Sheffield work. Most front-line services adopted a RAG rating in March 2020 to try to manage expectations for Sheffield children during the pandemic. Demand for services in 2021/2022 fluctuated with all agencies struggling to keep ahead of demand. Schools kept their doors open for vulnerable pupils and pupils of key workers. Schools have worked long and hard to deliver learning into the home with significant variation in engagement. The longer-term impact of the pandemic for children across the city across all ages and all back grounds will be the focus of research for decades to come. Safeguarding has been delivered in the most challenging of situations with heightened concern for vulnerable children out of sight. Children on a Child Protection (CP) plan remained a priority to be visited and this group remained on a CP plan for longer until there was evidence that the CP plan was not needed. From September 2021, upon the re-opening of schools, referrals to SSH rose as expected coinciding with SYP referrals increasing incrementally throughout the reporting year.

As services emerged from lockdowns Sheffield City Council undertook a workforce survey in the Summer of 2021 to agree working arrangements for office-based staff. Remote digital working remains popular. Staff voted to work a hybrid model of working with 60/40 spent between home and office. The Executive Group and other SCSP Sub-groups remained online throughout 2021-2022. As highlighted in the Chair's foreword there are significant levels of concern for some groups of children going forward.

The SCSP maintained its safeguarding priority areas of contextual safeguarding also known as **Harm outside the home, neglect and mental and emotional wellbeing** considering ongoing evidence that these remained our key issues. At the time of going to press SCSP Executive Board plans a development day to look at its strategy ambition and identified priorities which will shape the future business plan. The LPIG Workplan, Workforce Development Strategy and Plan, the Hidden Harm Strategy and Plan and the Developments of Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) and Licencing throughout this period will be pertinent to the development of a new plan.

Workforce Development and Training

The Workforce Development Strategy 2021-25 was agreed by the SCSP Executive and the Learning and Practice Improvement Group. The first priority of the strategy is that all agencies are pro-active and accountable in addressing discrimination and inequity. In 2021/22 all taught courses featured aspects designed to support knowledge and skill building in relation to inclusive and culturally competent practice.

Training contacts totalled 9283 including attendance at FASD conference, workshops, taught courses and completed e-learning programmes. In comparison with last year, it is a similar number but comprises significantly fewer e-learning programmes owing to greater availability of alternatives.

A further 1715 people across the Yorkshire and Humber region attended one of a series of workshops on the topic of Domestic Abuse organised by the Yorkshire and Humber Safeguarding Trainers and hosted in Sheffield.

Throughout 2021/22 there was a substantial and varied programme of workshops including regular staples such as Trauma Informed Practice (run by SCSP Vulnerabilities Manager), Professional Curiosity (delivered by SCSP and Sheffield Adult Safeguarding Partnership), a variety of domestic abuse training from IDAS and the Strengthening Families Team, and Signs of Safety briefings. Other workshops delivered by partner agencies are targeted to meet learning needs as identified in the Workforce Development Strategy, including the introduction of Recognising and Responding to Harmful Sexual Behaviour to support use of the Hackett Continuum which has replaced the Brook Traffic Light Tool as the recommended screening tool in Sheffield.

Amongst the longer courses offered there is a renewed version of the 1 day Working Together to Safeguarding Children which ran throughout this period, delivered by members of the SCSP training pool. The refreshed Conference and Core Group training started in January 2022 delivered by a member of SCSP training pool and a Child Protection Conference co-ordinator and both received positive reviews.

All current courses and workshops offered by SCSP can be found here <https://www.safeguardingsheffieldchildren.org/scsp/training/scsp-multi-agency-safeguarding-children-training-1>

Since Sept 2021 all participants at workshops, conferences and taught courses have been asked to provide feedback with four key measures.

1. The extent to which the training event has increased their understanding of the topic (5- point scale from 'not at all' to 'greatly increased')

2. Whether they would recommend the training to colleagues (yes/no)
3. The key message(s) they take from the training (free text)
4. What difference the training will make to their practice (free text)

The feedback is reviewed after every workshop and training session to ensure that the training is meeting the needs of the participants, that the key messages have been understood and that the training has inspired intention to improve individual and/or service practice and adjustments are made if required. The overall picture is that attendees place value in the training offer and larger-scale analysis will be undertaken so that the impact captured from feedback can be published on the SCSP website. In the future we plan to follow up with training participants at a later point to find out the extent to which practice change has been delivered.

Voice of the child, young person, and family

Various workshops offered by partner agencies include and promote young people's voices. This was especially in evidence in the workshops delivered by the Carers' Centre and Sheffield Young Carers that was co-delivered by a young carer.

The FASD conference and the Yorkshire and Humber workshops were strong in delivering the voice of people with lived experience of the topics being presented.

Covid-19 Pandemic

Multi-agency training remained fully online for the year April 2021-April 2022. This is an efficient use of resources and maximises the number of people who can attend, particularly for the shorter workshops where the avoidance of travel time and cost make them significantly more accessible.

Feedback particularly on longer courses often includes those who express a preference for returning to face-to-face training and there may be others who do not access the training at all owing to this preference. For this reason, a limited number of full day courses at a venue will be offered from 2023, attendance at which will be kept under review.

What is planned for the year ahead?

The rollout of the NSPCC Graded Care Profile 2 training started in May 2022 with the aim of training all frontline practitioners and their managers to effectively recognise, assess and intervene with families where there are concerns about the level of care that the child/ren receive. This is the principal tool for achieving the aims of Sheffield's Neglect Strategy and represents a major commitment for SCSP and partner agencies.

In addition, we will.

- Continue to deliver a variety of training and work with partner agencies to meet the aims set out in the Workforce Development Strategy.
- Support a conference in July 2022 about Recognising and Responding to Criminal Exploitation in Sheffield.
- Work with Safeguarding Partners in South Yorkshire to deliver a November 2022 conference on the theme of 'The Myth of Invisible Men'.
- Work with Sheffield College to develop better consultation with young people.
- Publish the analysis of training feedback on the SCSP website.

Hidden Harm

In households where a parent, carer or other family member has mental ill health, misuses drugs and or alcohol, there is domestic abuse, parental conflict or harmful gambling, adult and children services must work collaboratively to ensure that the voice of the child/vulnerable adult is heard, and their circumstances safeguarded. The main objectives of the Hidden Harm Strategy for 2021 - 2022 were to develop our work and understanding of FASD, embed being Trauma Informed into everyday practice and through training, briefings, joint case reviews, and supervision continue to promote shared discussion and understanding leading to joint planning between adult and children services to safeguard children and support parents.

Audits have continued which are reviewed **Multi-agency Audit Group**. We now have a rotating chair across the 3 lead partners and a multitude of agencies and services attend. Professional reflection and learning are key themes cited in feedback. Action for the family and action for partners are shared widely and tracked by The Audit and Performance Officer ongoing. An annual MAAG Learning Brief is 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 have revisited earlier reviews to check on progress and manage drift and delay where evident.

FASD (Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder) is a neurological condition that affects people throughout their life. Evidence suggests that without the correct diagnosis and support an individual with FASD is more likely to have a range of issues including poor mental health, substance misuse problems, involvement with criminal justice, homelessness and difficulties with social relationships, education, and employment.



In September 2021, Sheffield Children's Safeguarding Partnership hosted a national FASD conference which introduced us to organisations that work throughout the country and are fundamental both to improving recognition and support for children and adults with FASD and promoting the message that when it comes to drinking alcohol for those who are pregnant or planning to become pregnant there is no safe time and no safe amount. Sheffield has adopted the award winning Drymester campaign from Greater Manchester, with posters, leaflets and pop-up banners being displayed across Sheffield from Jessops maternity hospital to the backs of loo doors in pubs and clubs and everywhere in between to raise public awareness and help to prevent alcohol-exposed pregnancies. **FASD is 100% preventable. No alcohol No risk. Spread the word**

What We Will Do Next

- Build on the work already undertaken in Sheffield in relation to FASD. Joining up thinking and working to operationalise the recommendations from NICE Quality Standards for FASD.
- Hold a Parental Mental Health Workshop for adult and children services to consider the connections between the findings from the 9 multi-agency case reviews: Being Trauma Informed - consideration given to the impact on family life of intergenerational trauma; Being Inclusive - ensuring that people with neurodevelopmental diversity are included and enabled to participate by better use of language and systems; Whole Family Approach – ensuring the voice of the children and invisible fathers are heard by all services; Communication / discussion and shared planning between adult and children services to help develop Family Safety Plans.

Safeguarding and Licensing

Our core work with the business community has fully resumed, post-pandemic and we have provided advice and safeguarding guidance to licensed operators and event organisers, via the Council's Safety Advisory Group multi-disciplinary meetings. The reopening of leisure, entertainment and sports venues has increased the number of safeguarding complaints and concerns about practice standards, and we challenge the business community, as it restarts, to prioritise safeguarding.

We have improved and developed our practice by:

- Producing practical and accessible forms of training (short videos/bespoke content)
- Expanding communication with the wider community in response to a serious case review
- Raising awareness about criminal exploitation
- Contributed to the development of transition arrangements, including safeguarding adults in the business community
- Supporting colleagues in regulatory services to develop their safeguarding practice

This year we have again received requests from regional and national authorities to share our training materials, skills, and learning. We have maintained partnership work at a national level, working with the National Working Group to deliver the 'Safe to Play' campaign and to develop the 'Say Something If You See Something' campaign; we continue to share our learning and practice via the National Association of Licensing Enforcement Officers and the UK Advisory and Implementation Panel for Contextual Safeguarding. We also continue to work with regional and national organisations to develop a local strategy, to address the impact of harmful gambling.

To measure the impact of our work, we are monitoring changes in safeguarding practice made by the business community using multi agency action plans which set out clear targets for improved practice and timescales. We use the information gathered via training evaluations to inform practice and we consult with partners and colleagues and listen to their feedback. For example, one colleague working in regulatory services said that while visiting a licensed premises, he was mindful of the disruption and impact that the enforcement visit could have on the children living at the premises and that he adapted his approach because of this awareness. Another enforcement colleague commented in evaluations that they will be "... more aware of what safeguarding is in practice and how to report it."

What We Will Do Next

- Identify ways to measure the impact of the advice, guidance and training we deliver to licensed traders
- Contribute to the development of a harmful gambling strategy
- Develop communication pathways with the business and wider community

Safeguarding Awareness Week in November 2021 was a hybrid series of events delivered by SCSP with support from 20 partners across Sheffield. Our determination to have a presence at the Moor open market was challenged by all weathers but some sunshine was welcome. At the time of publication our plans for November 2022 Safeguarding Awareness week are well underway. Further details will be available on the SCSP website.

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 2021/22	
Contributors	
Sheffield City Council*	£294,800
Health: Sheffield CCG	£115,800
SY Police: PPC	£80,109
National Probation Service	£2,774
Total	£493,483

Section 3

How We Learn from What We Do

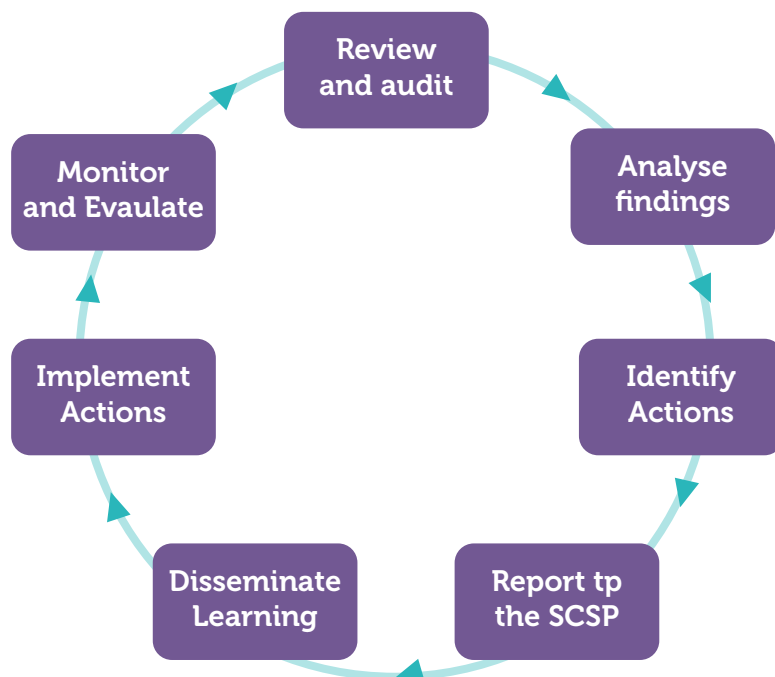


The SCSP undertakes a variety of activities to monitor the effectiveness and quality of safeguarding arrangements within Sheffield.

How We Learn from What We Do

Quality Assurance, Learning and 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 October and July
- Alternately chaired by the LA, SYP, South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board.
- 1 family discussed chosen at random

Thematic Case Reviews

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

Learning from Audits into Practice



Report and Learning Brief

A full report is shared with participants and a learning brief is published on the SCSP website

Single Agency Action Plans

Recommendations are transcribed into single agency actions, which steer improvements in process and practice.

Multi-Agency Training

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

Emerging Themes Tracker

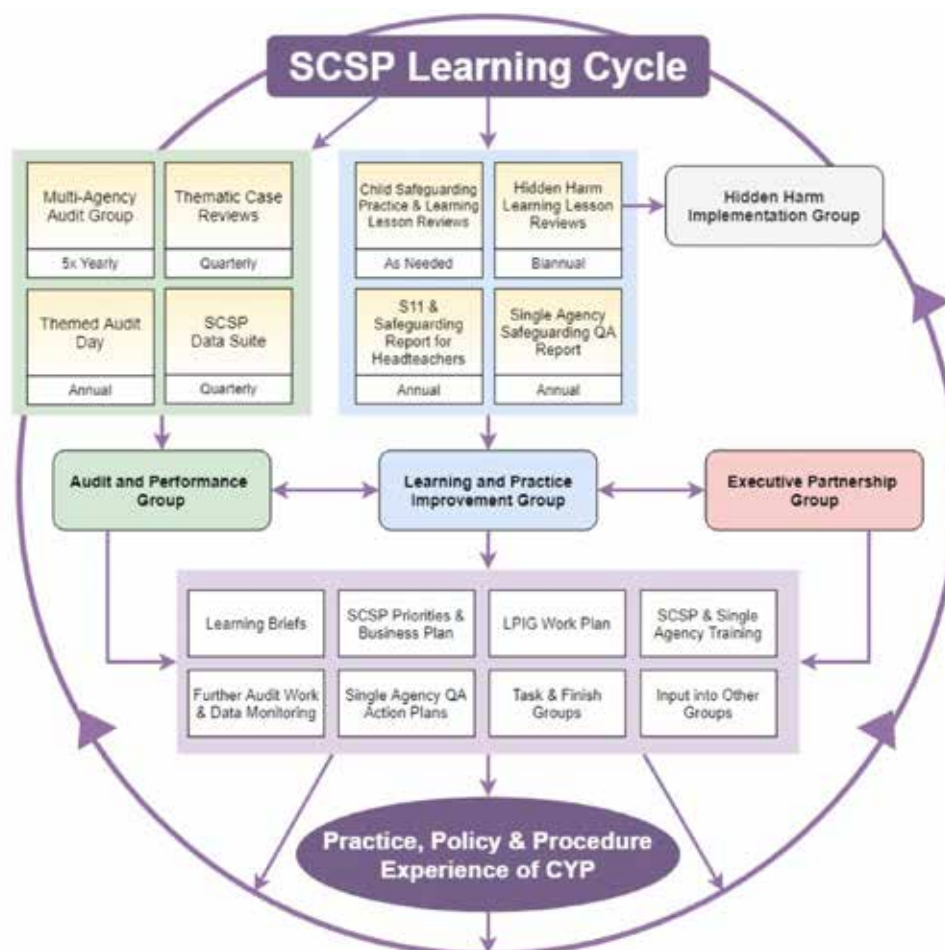
Emerging themes from the different audit work supports key issues being identified for further work, training, monitoring.

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



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.

- 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.

Key points overall

During 2021-2022 there were between 782 and 701 children with a CP plan. This reduction to 701 at the year-end is skewed by a new approach to threshold discussed later in this report. It remains a significant worry that throughout the year one in four of children on a CP plan has been on a CPP plan before.

- The number of Child in Need Plans, which peaked during the pandemic has levelled off during the reporting year with between 4223 and 4547.
- Referrals to the Safeguarding Hub from education providers increased every quarter when schools were fully open. In the final quarter of the reporting year there were 424 referrals.
- Referrals to the Safeguarding Hub from the Police fluctuated with a high of 618 in one quarter followed by 451 in the final quarter. The impact of officers having access to bespoke training on neglect is interpreted as one of several factors explaining the rise in referrals.

Section 11 and 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.

In September 2021 statutory partners were asked to undertake a self-assessment online and to provide evidence of work in hand. Information submitted was channelled into a series of meetings chaired by the new Independent Chair Lesley Smith and the three Executive partners. Each partner nominated senior leaders to attend with Service Manager level or above leaders engaging from 12 agencies. Unfortunately, the resignation of the Independent Chair and the lack of any Chair for 5 months stalled progress until the accountability meetings went ahead in May 2022. Following the Accountability meetings each partner was re-contacted by the Chair to launch a series of action plans which are monitored by the Audit and Performance Officers.

Headlines from the Accountability Meetings

The challenge of meeting increased demand for service whilst managing staff sickness linked to Covid throughout the year

The challenge of recruitment and retention of experienced and qualified staff to NHS, SCC, SYP and Probation posts

The challenge of recruitment to shift work on lower grade posts following the Covid pandemic across all services reliant on shift workers.

Themes from the Accountability Meetings

Thresholds

CSC is steering work on a review of thresholds for access to service from the Sheffield Safeguarding Hub (SSH). CSC welcomes every referrer being clearer on the remit of SSH.

Donna Taylor Assistant Director at Quality Assurance and Involvement Services is leading on a multi-agency workstream to review the “Threshold of need framework” which involves all statutory partners and is due to report later in 2022.

The Importance of Recognising Themes, Including Themes Arising from Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs), Serious Incidents and Child Deaths

At any one-time SASP and SCSP is involved with in Sheffield’s response to the above. At the time of the accountability meetings (May 2022) SCSP had action plans for 4 children and 1 young person who have died , and action plans dating from 2018 – present .

The Child Death Overview panel chaired by Greg Fell (Director of Public Health) has oversight of cases referenced in this report . In addition, one domestic homicide review was published in February 2022.

Utilising Feedback, Service User Engagement and Hearing the Voice

There were various ways in which partners gathered feedback. A primary medium was through groups which brought individuals together and provided opportunity for people receiving a service to give their view, for example, Youth Forum at Sheffield Children’s Hospital (SCH), Service User Led Group at Sheffield Health and Social Care (SHSC) and the Youth Council at Targeted Youth Services. Other methods included the recruitment of a Human Rights Officer in SHSC to help recognise how SHSC can support people to speak to their own rights, look at thematic issues and at how SHSC can co-produce what some of the solutions may be.

Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

Working Together 2018 identifies that where there is a “serious child safeguarding case” then partners must decide to identify, commission and oversee arrangements for a rapid review process. This may lead to a Child Safeguarding Practice 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.

3 Rapid Reviews were completed in 2021/22, the National Panel agreed that 2 did not meet the criteria for a Child Safeguarding Practise Review. The 3rd was carried out jointly with East Riding and the National Panel suggested it did not meet the criteria, a local review was carried out by East Riding with a focus on practice prior to the young person’s move to Sheffield. Sheffield Services were involved in a further Rapid Review carried out by East Riding Safeguarding Children’s Partnership which also did not meet the criteria for a Child Safeguarding Practice

Review.

2 NHS England serious incident reviews into the children harmed will pick up learning for the agency involved.

Work has continued the 11 recommendations made on the Family G Serious Case Review (2020) as well as on outstanding actions from previous reviews. Below is some of the work carried out on embedding these across partner agencies.

The Hackett Continuum Model tool used for recognising Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) has been made available on the SCSP website and new guidance has been written. Training on HSB to support the use of the tool has started. There is more work to be done to ensure children receive appropriate and timely support and the results of a review into how services need to change needs to progress. There is now some urgency to resolving outstanding actions particularly in how the wider workforce respond to (HSB)

- Planning is on track to deliver an annual conference in November 2022 that focuses on the Myth of invisible men following issues within a number of cases reviewed as well as the publication of the Child Safeguarding Review Panel, The Myth of Invisible Men 2021.
- Training on Professional Curiosity is now delivered every term and a short video produced to increase the number of practitioners able to reflect on and improve their practise.
- The Section 11 audit in 2021/22 was used to gain assurance from all partners on a range of issues where the Partnership were required to assure themselves of changes in process and practice. Any gaps are being followed up with individual agencies.
- The work to raise awareness of childhood trauma and ongoing impact on parenting has continued with popular monthly briefings. Planning for encouraging trauma informed leadership and trauma informed organisations is underway as part of a Compassionate City Strategy.
- Training in Contextual Safeguarding continues to be delivered and is now incorporated into training being delivered to the business community including taxi drivers and Hotel Operators. This ensures the responsibility for keeping people safe is shared with the wider workforce in Sheffield.

Following the death of Archie by stabbing in May 2018 Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership (SCSP) published the Archie Serious Case Review, in February 2020. Work has progressed to implement all but one of 19 recommendations. Sheffield has strengthened how we respond to harm outside the home with the Sexual Exploitation Service called the Amber Service 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 approved by Cabinet in 2020 with a steering group overseeing its progress. Sheffield is almost ready to deliver on the outstanding recommendation; namely a new 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, if known to the 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 families known to the EHE was made to check that the decision to home educate was an informed one and that the child is receiving a balanced education. **Page 122** and Inclusion service offers an update later

in this report on the current service.

Children Missing from Education are a separate group who are also a cause of concern. Overall Sheffield in line with other areas is trying to get a clearer picture of those children out of sight and sound and unknown to any provider. The Office of the Children's Commissioner has published a report (June 2022) which includes Sheffield which emphasises the cost to children if lacking access to learning in or out of school. SCSP supported the research with data and evidence of our local work in hand to support re-engagement in school and in learning.

Multi-Agency Audits

Multi-Agency Audit Group (MAAG)

Main Achievements

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 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.

There were five MAAG meetings in 2021-2022 which highlighted evidence of good practice, including:

- Evidence of universal services e.g., schools pastoral care providing excellent levels of support
- Hidden Harm Factors getting more focus from practitioners.
- Evidence of communication with Dads living in and out of the home improving overall.
- Evidence of third sector organisations making a significant impact for the child whilst statutory partners often unaware of their involvement.

Areas for development included:

- Thoroughness in checking if other services are actually seeing the child and family rather than closing the case based on unchecked information.
- Taking the time to develop trust and addressing barriers to engagement.
- Realistic timescales for making changes in balance with a sharp eye on the child's timeframe.
- Consider the impact of delay in making a service available to a child.
- Avoidant parents need a coherent joined up response from agencies who in turn need to be in frequent contact.
- Undertaking a chronology at the outset to become routine. Important to learn from the history rather than remain uninformed.

Impact of Achievements

Following the MAAGs children's cases have been seen in a new light with renewed momentum to address identified gaps in service delivery across services.

What We Will Do Next

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

Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships must decide to review all deaths of children up to their 18th 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 5 occasions, reviewing 29 deaths. A further panel meeting was planned but was cancelled due to a lack of cases available for discussion. With operational demands of COVID and restrictions in place we have remained working virtually with good attendance achieved by all agencies.

There were 49 deaths recorded during this period which is significantly higher than the previous year (24) but broadly in keeping with the average of 44 in the years 2008-2019.

Once again, most of the deaths occurred in those under 1 year (43% 0-27 days, 27% 28-364 days) which is slightly higher than national figures.

Chromosomal, genetic and congenital abnormalities and Perinatal/neonatal events remain the most common categories of death in those reviewed 2021/22 (63%).

79% of deaths reviewed during 2021/22 were within 12 months of death, 48% between 6-12 months and 31% in less than 6 months. This is an improvement on last year (60%). It should also be noted that of those reviewed over 12 months many had been delayed due to external issues such as inquests or other reviews being undertaken. Despite the CDOP Chair (Director of Public Health) being unavailable for the review period and Vice Chair retiring, we successfully managed to continue with meetings at the required frequency with the Safeguarding Partnership funding an Independent Chair on an interim basis and the Designated Doctor Child Deaths stepping up to Chair on occasion.

The median number of days between death and CDOP meeting is 335 nationally – the figure for Sheffield is 226.

The reviews consider modifiable factors, which are defined as actions that could be taken through national or local interventions, which could reduce the risk of future child deaths. Modifiable factors were assessed to be present in 17% of cases which is below the average for England (37%) and lower than previous years. This may be explained due to a delay with Inquests and other review processes, meaning fewer reviews of more complex cases (where modifiable factors are more prevalent) took place during this period.

The safer sleep steering group re-convened in April 2022 following a pause in meetings due to the pandemic. Bespoke multi-disciplinary safer sleep training is being delivered by the Lullaby Trust to staff working with families across all sectors to uptake knowledge and skills in offering safer sleep advice.

What impact have these achievements had on the outcomes for children and young people in Sheffield?

CDOP has supported actions taken in 2021/22 to help reduce risk factors and improve how services respond following a child death.

There is now a satisfactory level of data completeness (with the exception of recording of Ethnicity) at notification and reporting stages. It is acknowledged that some providers still struggle with eCDOP and ongoing support and training is required.

We will continue to explore how those families where there are complex care needs can be better supported through co-ordination of care needs with the role of a lead clinician and work with Trusts to develop their understanding of the role of a Key Worker after a child dies.

Alongside other areas in South Yorkshire we are looking to improve the experience and support for bereaved families at the time of death.

Audit of implementation of Child Death Processes within Sheffield Children's Hospital was completed and will feedback during 22-23.

Agreement has been made between the Coroner/SYP/YAS and hospital trusts for life extinct 16–17-year-olds to be taken to SCH mortuary rather than medico-legal centre.

Voice of the Child, Young Person and Family

Working in collaboration with the Designated Doctor Child Deaths there is continued action being taken with Trusts to develop their understanding of the role of a Key Worker after a child dies.

What We Will Do Next

For the upcoming year 2022/23 the hosting arrangements for SYCDOP will be facilitated by Barnsley CDOP in line with the agreed rotation of a local authority area hosting the quarterly meetings and facilitating the shared learning reviews throughout an annual reporting year.

Sheffield will continue with their local Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) processes and the supporting pathways to review deaths of children who have died that are normally resident in their own areas. These reviews will contribute collectively to identifying the key themes for shared learning reviews across South Yorkshire.

A key role in Child Death Review process is the CDOP Manager and this post has been vacant since August 2021. This has had an impact on information gathering for Panel, contributed to delays progressing actions and our ability to participate in thematic reviews in the region and hold an annual development day. Some actions we hoped to achieve last year, in particular a focus on the impact of social deprivation, will be pursued during 2022/23.

A key focus for Sheffield throughout 2022/23 will be:

- To progress the implementation of Multi-agency Safer Sleep Guidance / practice.
- Continued roll-out of ICON across out local area.
- To participate in further thematic reviews with our regional partners.
- Completion of a local Contagion Plan.
- CDOP will consider how we support and influence future strategies to reduce the harm of social deprivation

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 organisations; consults with the police and children's social

care and other relevant agencies; monitors and chairs the progress of allegation cases to ensure they are managed using a timely, consistent, thorough, and fair process. Manages allegations against staff and volunteers that is a shared, multi-agency responsibility.

Main Achievements

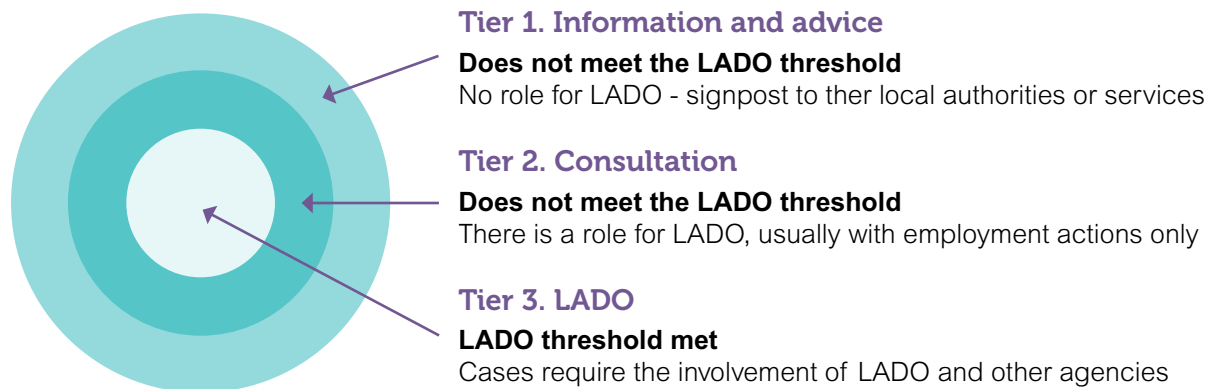
The LADO role has extended to 2 full time LADOs and rota support from 4 LADO deputies to provide a professional and accountable service. The LADO case management model is embedded into practice with a case recording system which provides reportable data for quality assurance. In May 2022 we launched the new referral process via the Sheffield safeguarding hub (SSH) to ensure priority is given to screening in any children at risk. The LADO service have provided briefings and training to SSH, Residential services, fieldwork managers and HR. We have trained Champions for the service areas in Sheffield City Council Children's services.

We are developing specific training for schools, Madrassahs and a package to be included in the SCSP training delivery

We have developed an auditing framework to report on Quality of work.

Since the pandemic access to virtual meeting platforms such as Microsoft Teams has enabled a more flexible service which we intend to continue using.

LADO case management model



Our work with the Islamic community

We have valued the work led by a faith leader in particular Muslim communities of Sheffield to engage mosques, madrassahs and faith-based places of learning for children. Approximately 5000 children attend some form of faith education in settings which do not require registration with Ofsted and where recruitment does not automatically require enhanced DBS checks. Working collaboratively to deliver safeguarding training has been ongoing throughout the year. Where safeguarding concerns need reporting to the LADO we have benefitted from our established links which aim to make the LADO referral process accessible.

Impact of Achievements

Our revised recording system will allow us to quantify the work we do and analyse the information for patterns and gaps. We already know we have an average of 45 requests per month into the service and we are improving on timeliness to respond and conclude LADO case work. We are building information on who refers to the service so we know where gaps are in the children's workforce, and we can then explore with the employer for greater understanding of safeguarding in those sectors. The retention of referrals which raise low level concerns allows for robust safeguarding practice if subsequent referrals are received.

Voice of the Child, Young Person and Family

The voice of the child is key to understanding the impact of harm and it is the LADO's role to promote the inclusion of the voice of the child. The LADO does not accept an 'assumed view of what the child says has happened or how they might feel.' To ensure that the voice of the child is not lost within the allegation meeting process the LADO will look to include a person who can represent the child in the initial LADO meeting. The new forms ensure that the child has been spoken to by the professional most appropriate in the circumstance and their views are gained and recorded. This recording is supported by Signs of Safety.

What We Will Do Next

We are keen to reach out beyond Sheffield city council and build confidence across Sheffield children's workforce in understanding the LADO role and duty of employer to report safeguarding concerns. Building these relationships and support networks are our next steps towards promoting a "safe children" workforce in Sheffield.

Supporting SCSP Priorities

Contextual safeguarding is pivotal to the work that the LADO does in understanding and responding to the child or young person's experience of significant harm beyond their families. The LADO service provides employers with advice and guidance to consider inappropriate behaviour by those who work with children and support the understanding of when inappropriate behaviour presents a risk to children.

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 2021-2022

- 1536 Referrals to SSH eligible for Social Work assessment
- 3802 Referrals reached threshold for a strategy meeting
- 710 Children became subject to a Child Protection Plan (CPP) over the year down from 867 previous year.
- 44 Children were subject to a CPP at the end of the year for the second time
- 672 Children were Looked After by the Local Authority at the end of the year
- 37 Children came off a CP plan because they became looked after by SCC.
- 2103 Children subject of a Child in need plan at the end of 2021-2022
- 348 Children were advocated for at their Initial Child Protection Conference
- 61 Children were advocated for at their follow up Review Child Protection Conference
- 166 SYP attended 166 missing strategy meetings to share information and support a joined-up response to find the child.
- 184 Children/young people have been safeguarded through joint proactive work between South Yorkshire Police and the Amber Service and other partners.
- 600 Young people were supported from NEET to EET by Targeted Youth Advisors.
- 836 Young people referred to Community Youth Teams for support, a 50 % increase from last year. The school referrals for 'exclusions – violent/aggressive behaviour' remains the highest category.
- 751 Young people were referred to Door 43 which was an increase from the previous year of 110%
- 86 Children and 80 adults were supported in the refuges by Haven in recognition of the ongoing impact of domestic abuse after fleeing on emotional health
- 41 Children looked after in adoptive families secured an adoption order although some had waited a long time due to court backlogs linked to Covid.
- 31 Children in Sheffield were known to be privately fostered. Of this number 8 children returned home.
- 86 Children in Sheffield were looked after by "connected persons", known to them rather than placed with foster carers.
- 41 Children ceased to be "looked after" as they became subject of Special Guardianship orders
- 55 Children ceased to be "looked after" as they became subject of Child arrangement orders. Taking these two groups of children together they represented 31% of the total population of children looked after.
- 140 Of total of children looked after have remained with same foster carer for 2 years or more
- 54 Young people who were CLA remained living with foster carers post 18, 10 more than the year before.

Early Help Services

The Ofsted inspection in November 2021 involved in a focussed visit to the Sheffield Safeguarding Hub. With reference to Early Help Services the inspection report stated children are receiving appropriate and effective interventions from the Early Help service. Workers are absolutely committed to the ethos of offering 'the right support at the right time' and demonstrate how their interventions are making a positive difference. Some children have to wait for a short period for a service.

During 2021-2022 Sheffield continued to review its internal Early Help Services, with the following vision and ambition:

Vision for the Early Help Review (intentionally shared with the Inclusion Strategy)

Sheffield will be an inclusive city where we work together to ensure that all children receive the right support at the right time so that they live a happy and fulfilled life.

Ambition

To have a clear pathway into one integrated early help offer that has been co-produced with all stakeholders including children, young people, families, staff, practitioners, and partners

We made significant progress as outlined below:

Workforce

- Developed Early Help Knowledge and Skills Framework that defines the level of knowledge and skills required to provide good quality early help support across the range of grades within the Early Help workforce
- Facilitated an Achieving Change process to align most practitioner Early Help roles with delivering on the Early Help Outcomes Framework and working to the appropriate level of the Early Help Knowledge and Skills Framework
- Developed Early Help Practice Guidance document covering most Early Help practitioner roles.

Interventions

- Developed an Early Help Outcomes Framework with input from the Early Help workforce, parents, partners, children and schools.
- Created an Early Help Interventions Menu to pull together in one document the breadth of the SCC Early Help Offer to support the Integrated Front Door workers to recommend the right service at the right time for children and families needing Early Help Support.
- Reviewed commissioned Early Help services and contract renewals to ensure that delivery against the Early Help Outcomes Framework is included.

Impact: How do you know you are having an impact?

We are developing an Early Help Impact dashboard based on the Early Help Outcomes Framework.

Our government returns for the Building Successful Families Programme met 100% of the target for the reporting year ending 31.3.22.

Voice of the Child, Young Person and Family

Young people have experienced positive changes since having a MAST worker.

They identified a range of ways that their worker has helped them, including:

- Helping with anger
- Help with mood
- Improving family relationships
- Sorting exam arrangements

What We Will Do Next

In Feb 2020, the Lead Member for Children and Families agreed a Review of Early Help. The next phase of the Early Help Review (2022-2023) aims to focus on how Sheffield City Council Early Help services connect and work with other agencies to create a robust multi-agency Early Help offer for children, young people, and families. It will also look to deliver any outstanding activity from Phase 1 that needed more time for successful completion.

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 returned in November 2021 with a focus on the service to children from the Sheffield Safeguarding Hub (SSH). In the letter from Ofsted (December 2021) it noted “A highly detailed improvement plan, coordinated through a multi-agency improvement board, was shared with inspectors and accurately identifies the strengths and weaknesses of the services. In the main, inspectors’ findings were positive, in that they observed that decision-making and follow-up action are timely and of an appropriate quality, although these are not consistently well recorded”.

What needs to improve in this area of social work practice?

- The pace of implementation of the improvement plan, relevant to the findings of this visit.
- The quality of recording, particularly in respect of concerns when consent has not been given by parents and in relation to the work done with families.
- Sharing of information with other agencies following domestic abuse management meetings.
- Ensuring that the voice of the child is sought, and their views considered in plans.

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

Throughout this focused Ofsted visit, inspectors recognised the service described to them by senior managers prior to being on site. This demonstrates a good understanding by managers of the services, which have been under increased pressure during the pandemic, and a realistic understanding of what needs to be done. Services are evidently stretched due to the increased demand and the impact of COVID-19 on Sheffield communities and the multi-agency workforce. Management oversight is evident and, in the main, is resulting in appropriate and timely services that meet the needs of families.

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 virtual meetings 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 a model for an integrated front door, to reduce duplication in the screening of early help and CAMHS referrals
- Review if strategy meetings are overused and if they are the best route to identify next steps?
- Review the Threshold of Need guidance with partners as it may no longer be fit for purpose
- Review if CP registration is a suitable response to some young people experiencing harm outside the home also known as contextual safeguarding
- Facilitate a peer review of the service available from SSH from Kirklees local authority and address their findings
- Prepare with partners for upcoming Joint Area Targeted inspection
- Improve how we reach children in our direct work and ensure we record thoroughly
- Ensure we do not just offer numerical scores in critical meetings (Strategy meetings, Initial Child Protection conferences, core groups etc) but that we articulate our chosen score for each child using analysis and ensure this is recorded.

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 fifteen working days of the strategy meeting that started the Section 47: determining whether threshold of significant harm was met.

Main Achievements

During 2021/22:

- Between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022, the Child Protection Service convened and chaired 515 Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs), relating to 1001 children, and 1016 Review Child Protection Conferences (RCPCs).
- There were 1014 meetings in the year for 1340 different children.
- 842 Child Protection Plans have been started and 907 Child Protection Plans were ended.
- Of these 907, the largest majority - 708 in total - were ended as the child was no longer considered to be at risk of significant harm (other reasons for plans ending included the child became Looked After or moved/transferred to another Local Authority), which evidences the positive impact of Child Protection Planning in reducing risk and safeguarding vulnerable children within Sheffield.

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** Signs of Safety (SoS) model implemented in conferences to draw out risks and strengths and safety scaling taking place with all attendees. Those children who are scored between 0-2 – and therefore deemed to be at the highest risk – are closely monitored and tracked and liaison takes place between Child Protection Coordinator (CPC) Service Manager and fieldwork Service Manager immediately following conference to discuss safety planning and agree next steps, including discussions at area case management meetings and escalation to legal gateway to consider Public Law Outline or care proceedings.
- **Formal triangulated review of children who have been subject to Child Protection Plan for extended periods** – at 12-, 18- and 24-months point – with clear action planning from this; additional process being introduced to commence. CPC and CP Service Manager review of children coming up to 2nd RCPC (at 9 month point of CP Planning) to provide analysis of the effectiveness of the current plan and drive next steps. These systems facilitate a triangulated approach across CPC and fieldwork services and ensures Child Protection Coordinators are providing oversight and challenge outside of the Conference arena to support the development and implementation of plans in the best interests of children.
- It is noted that the number of children subject to CPP for longer than 12 months has reduced, which indicates positive impact.
- Duty consultation system appears to have supported a further reduction in number of ICPCs . However, we need to review the impact of recent approaches.

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 to attend conferences, and all feedback is welcome.

Families told us they want us to keep review case conferences virtual so we have listened, and we will sustain this offer.

We realise some families struggle with virtual access so we will offer a hybrid conference and we will sustain this dual offer.

Our colleagues in the Children involvement team reached 348 children to advocate for them at their first child protection conference and their direct advocacy is well reviewed and invaluable.

In addition, families are asked to participate in randomised case audits where feedback is requested in relation to the reason for social care involvement and their understanding of the current plans. Families also refer to their experiences of conferences and CPC within this feedback. These are provided to the auditor and recorded within the audit on case files.

What We Will Do Next

Harm outside the Home:

Introduce and embed Harm Outside the Home Conference pathway, acknowledging this cohort of young people do not fit the usual child protection process as parents are often protective factors

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

Offer consistency of Oversight: Improve staff consistency so each child has oversight from the same CP Chair.

Challenge: Improve the quality of reports being submitted by other agencies to conferences including recommendations and scaling

Children Looked After and Adoption

Main Achievements

1. We sustained but did not improve placement stability for looked after children. 12% of children looked after were moved 3 or more times in the previous 12 months.
2. In 2021/22 there were 41 children who were adopted from care, up from 33 in 2020/21. The increase is in part due to a backlog of applications in the Courts from the previous year due to the impact of COVID. A challenge has been that it has been taking longer from children entering care to them being placed in their permanent adoptive families.
3. It should be noted that while the number of adoption orders grew, the number of children placed for adoption in the year continued to fall. We placed 26 children for adoption during the year 2021/22, compared to 37 the year before. As an agency, we need to better understand the reason for this fall in the number of children with adoption plans.
3. Our goal has been to place Sheffield children with adoptive families who live within the South Yorkshire region, so they can be better supported. Another benefit is that we know more about those approved adopters in SY approved by the Regional Adoption Agency (RAA) so this should lead to better informed matches.
4. Developments:
 - RAA appointed a clinical psychologist to support adoptive families across the RAA. As we now belong to the RAA a positive for adoptive families is that we can spend more on adoption support packages.
 - We have set up a second Connected Persons team in response to demand.
 - We have established our second Mockingbird Family Model of Fostering constellation which has just been launched with a celebration event.
 - We appointed a part time speech and language therapist for our in-house Fostering Service to join our Fostering service psychologist.
 - In August 21, the Fostering Service hosted our first 'Fostering Fiesta'
 - A Foster Carer Celebration Event in November 21 gave a chance for our Foster Carers to enjoy and celebrate their achievements over the last two years. The event comprised a dinner and dance and was very well attended

Impact of Achievements

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 sometimes.
- 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 utilised findings from the recent 'Bright Spots' Survey and introduced our Fostering Five based on what children say that they want more of from their foster carers.

- Feedback to us has come from a regional survey of adopters. In response we are allocating resource to strengthen support packages for our adoptive families.
- Feedback from our adopted teenagers has confirmed and clarified their support needs are ongoing.

Areas for improvement

The target set for the service in 21/22 was to approve 40 new mainstream foster carers. The Service fell short of this target with 26 mainstream fostering households being approved, which is a drop from the previous year where we approved 32 families.

In 21/22, 27 fostering households were 'lost' to the Service through resignation, deregistration, or retirement or changes in family circumstances. Carers may decide fostering is no longer for them, or that their family circumstances have changed, so there is a need to continually recruit significantly just to maintain capacity. Whilst it is clearly important that we maintain a focus on our recruitment activity, it is equally important that we consider the retention of our mainstream fostering population.

We are undertaking a refresh of our recruitment and Marketing Campaign, and a redesign of our images and messages to reach out to a wider audience, to reflect the diversity of children in care, and carers required to meet their holistic needs.

- To better understand our fostering community, we have developed a foster carers satisfaction survey and use the findings to inform our fostering development and action plan.

What We Will Do Next

- 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 to develop a comprehensive and consistent adoption support service across South Yorkshire.
- We will look to develop further Mockingbird constellations within our Fostering Service
- Adopted young people tell us there needs to be better understanding by both professionals and the wider public of the complexities of adoption and how these impact upon their day to day lives.
- The key message is for more integrated multi agency adoption support, across health, education, and children's services.

Priorities of Mental Health, Neglect and Contextual Safeguarding

Providing permanent stable families for children with difficult starts in life, gives opportunities to provide better outcomes for those children. The appointment of a clinical psychologist will form the nucleus of a planned multi-disciplinary team to improve adoption support across the region.

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".

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.

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 836 referrals in 2021-22 for support, a 50% increase compared to last year. The school referrals for 'exclusions – violent/aggressive behaviour' remains the highest followed by anti-social behaviour 'ASB in the community' are all primary reasons for referrals, and includes gang association, on-line safety, and sexual exploitation.

Targeted Youth Advisors supported over 600 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

The service has delivered on average 35 youth work sessions per week in key neighbourhoods and communities, delivery has been open access youth clubs and detached youth work, engaging young residents through informal education, sport, art, and personal development.

Young People and youth workers plan quarterly, and decisions are made on local, regional, and national issues/trends. i.e., Knife Crime and Cat Calling, supporting young people to develop stronger relationships and respecting and valuing difference.

An integral part of the delivery has been our offer to provide a wide range of holiday activities.

Post Covid we have been able to reopen our SEN provision. A key aspect of our work has been the ability to deploy youth workers in communities which are experiencing high levels of anti-social behaviour.

Sheffield Youth Cabinet continued this year with elections to recruit a new cabinet. The team continued to support SYP Youth Independent Advisory group and have undertaken various tasks including test purchasing for knives, alcohol, and fireworks, being part of speed awareness operations as well as reviewing SYP's social media - providing feedback on how they could

effectively engage more young residents. Members were also part of the recruitment process for the Sheffield Safeguarding Board Independent Chair.

Amber Service: Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

As part of the multi-agency Amber Service, specific support is provided for children and young residents identified as being involved in, or at risk of CSE. Working closely with NHS, social care, and SYP colleagues, 39 young residents have been supported using a strengths-based approach.

All cases have had input from the CSE Specialist Nurse. Health assessments are undertaken and specific interventions around sexual health are delivered jointly with the workers in the team. Young residents who needed more specialist input were supported to attend the Sexual Abuse Referral Centre (SARC).

An overall drop in CSE referrals has presented a challenge this year however training has continued to be delivered to Social Care field work teams, junior doctors, and residential care homes to raise awareness.

Missing Return Home Interviewers have evolved in their practice during Covid to ensure contact and offers of an interview in a way that enables the young person to take part. The focus remains on seeing the young person face to face. Alongside interviews taking place in school settings, the offer can take place by phone, on-line or out in the community.

If the young person does not want to engage with the process, parents, carers, teachers, and other professionals are spoken with to build as complete a picture as possible to understand the missing episode and safeguard them.

Referrals are made to a wide range of agencies where a need is identified. Follow up appointments are also made to ensure that those identified as being particularly vulnerable are spoken to more than once and have every opportunity to speak with a return interviewer.

562 young residents had 2001 missing episodes in 2021 – 2022.

Impact of Achievements Amber Service/Missing Return Home Interviews

1. We have identified any emerging themes and issues/barriers with the operational process and procedures – i.e., missing notifications, timeliness of strategy meetings when triggers have been reached, multi-agency attendance at meetings, trigger plans, Return Home Interviews (RHI's) etc.
2. Reviewed the collated information from all RHI's to identify the emerging trends, themes, and outcomes so that this can be used to inform practice across the partnership.
3. Have a focus on young people with repeat missing episodes or where there are significant concerns around a specific missing episode, using their cases as learning opportunities. The aims will be 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

Amber Service (CSE / Missing RHI)

Provide a safe space where young people can speak and give their perspective of what is happening to them without having assumptions made or being judged.

Opportunities for the voice of the young person is captured within the Return Interview Forms, with a section specifically for them to speak about the missing episode.

Youth Work Delivery and Youth Involvement

Through quarterly action plans, this determines what activities and issues/trends young people want to participate in or learn about.

Feedback: What has been particularly good about the service you have received?

- Had the opportunity to try another service.
- The communication between myself, my child and our worker has been amazing.
- Given him confidence to open up and talk more. He seems happier to talk more.
- Really helped my son settle down.
- It's helped me by someone else outside of family to talk to him about his bad behaviour and feelings.
- They have helped him with his needs.

What was the best thing about the advice?

- One year of esol reading to improve his English before continuing his college education.
- Worker spoke to my father about opportunities to help me out. However, I never spoke to her myself. I've been going to skills training.

How has the community Youth Team helped you?

- I guess it made me wiser.
- Helped with anger management. Helped with behaviour and consequences and controlling my anger with different techniques.
- The Community Youth Team changed my attitude in learning and my attitude outside of school and at home.
- Had chats with me, told me to behave, told me to make good choices.
- She helped me with school and home and how to calm myself down and how to stay out of trouble.

What We Will Do Next

- Remain involved with the Transitions agenda, exploring how to support young people post 18.
- Move all case recording onto Liquid Logic so social workers can readily see interventions being completed by our service.
- Each Local Authority residential home to have an allocated Return Interviewer to contact if needed and maximise engagement opportunities, minimise risk, strengthen the safety plans and ultimately reduce missing episodes.
- Increase number of sessions for young people across the city, develop our digital offer. Develop an annual training plan for youth workers.

Supporting the SCSP Priorities

- Continue to have strong and seamless links with the Amber Service, referring where appropriate.
- Continue to work closely with partner agencies i.e., Door 43, The Corner, Reconnect to ensure referrals are made and fast tracked where necessary.
- Recruitment of a Trainer to develop and deliver sessions for professionals and young people around contextual safeguarding – including exploitation, missing young people, the impact of peers and culture on relationships

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 2021-22, Door 43 received a total of 751 referrals; a 110% increase on 2020-21 despite being closed to new referrals in Q2. Enhancing the breadth of support, our Counselling service expanded to offer provision related to domestic abuse, bereavement, and loss, while our Social Prescribing service extended to 8 of the 15 Primary Care Networks in Sheffield, improving our reach.

In addition to face-to-face support, continued delivery of virtual and digital support, including video and phone calls, and text messaging has further contributed to our outreach. Across all platforms, we have sustained our delivery of structured one-to-one support, Wellbeing Café's, and Wellbeing Wednesday provision within GP's, schools, and local community facilities, offering a step-up/step-down, person centred service to advocate the most appropriate support.

Voice of the Child, Young Person and Family

After each intervention, we ask young people to complete a feedback form so we can learn.

The online Door 43 Service Feedback Survey went live at the beginning of Q4 which allowed us to review our interventions and practices from the perspective of young people, evidencing the following results:

- Overall services rated 4.77 out of 5
- 100% would recommend Door 43 to a friend who needed help
- 100% felt listened to
- 83.3% felt it was easy to talk with workers
- 100% felt their views and worries were taken seriously
- 100% felt workers knew how to help them
- 100% felt workers had been respectful of their identity
- 100% felt safe during the sessions
- 66.7% felt able to access the service at a convenient time

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.
- Increase attendance to our open access group work provisions to encourage more opportunities to develop positive relationships and support networks with peers along with prospects to enhance social skills and self-esteem.
- Continue and develop alliances with existing and new partners to ensure the most appropriate wellbeing support is offered to children and young people.

- Extend our group work offer across more schools, introducing local voluntary and community sector services within our delivery.

Access and Inclusion

Sheffield City Council's Access and Inclusion service focuses on reducing barriers to education with the aim to reduce exclusion in all forms. The service focuses on attendance, educational engagement, exclusions, school admissions, children missing education (CME), elective home education (EHE), Alternative Provision, and the delivery of the virtual School for looked after children.

Main Achievements

- We have implemented an attendance campaign 'Every School Day Matters' and are striving for all children to be back in school, full time as soon as possible, unless they are educated other than at school. This has raised awareness about the challenges of school attendance in the city both pre- and post-Covid.
- We have created a data set to identify children who are 'excluded in all forms' including those on reduced timetables, persistently absent, educated off schools' site, receiving suspensions or permanent exclusion or absent due to illness. We are supporting schools to ensure these children receive short term interventions and support from a key worker: Keyworkers have advocated, supported, and worked with over a 1000 CYP and families.
- We have developed educational screening working with the Sheffield Safeguarding Hub meaning that where critical decisions are made about children then there is greater understanding of their education and care needs.
- We have developed our partnership working with health providers to ensure children with health needs can access and engage with their education. We have commissioned additional capacity for pupils unable to attend school due to their health needs.
- Our Children Missing Education Team (CME) continue to work to identify children who are not in education and to secure school placements quickly, thereby ensuring that children have access to safeguarding in schools. The timeliness of allocation of places has improved in the past 12 months.
- The Admissions Team ensures that applications are processed quickly, and places secured at schools for children who are missing education. We secure school places for all new to City Looked After Children and have supported families from Hong Kong, Afghanistan, and Ukraine to secure school places during the last year. This has often meant brokering places at schools that are "full" especially in the South West.
- Our Elective Home Education team (EHE) are working with families to ensure suitable education is provided, or the child is supported to return to school. A higher percentage of families are now evidenced as providing a suitable education.
- We advocate for children and families that are faced with (permanent) exclusion from school to ensure that their exclusion was appropriate or alternative options found. 22 potential exclusions have been avoided or rescinded due to effective working.
- The Sheffield Alternative Provision (AP) framework ensures that checks on suitability are made on providers of AP who are not regulated schools, giving schools confidence that they are appropriate to address the needs of CYP at risk of exclusion
- The virtual school continues to advocate for all children and young people. Personal Education Plan compliance is high. A Children Looked After "education solutions panel" has been put in place to ensure that barriers to learning are removed.

Impact of Achievements

- Customer feedback collated at the point of closure tell us families knew their key worker, felt listened to and their views are understood when plans are being formulated.
- A high proportion of families improved the educational outcomes for their child/ren.
- Key workers offering Transitional Pathway Support use a child first approach using Signs of Safety.
- EHE children are seen, and their voice heard during home visits.
- Families tell us they appreciate conversations with previous schools when returning to school post EHE.
- Feedback from families following a successful transition is captured through case studies and shared to improve future service delivery.
- Families tell us they appreciate a home visit to explain next steps and process when their child has been permanently excluded from school.
- In CME appointments, we take account of child and family voice especially for children arriving in the City in KS4 who may need a more bespoke offer.
- Where CYP are accessing alternative provision, their attendance and re-engagement with learning has increased.
- Data sets have been developed through this year and will provide new benchmarks post-Covid for areas such as attendance, exclusion and suspensions. In 2022/23 these will be used to measure impact.

Voice of the Child, Young Person and Family

- Inclusion and Attendance specialists use Signs of Safety methods and Trauma Informed Approaches to capture the child's voice and ensure this is central to all work and plans.
- Meeting with the child before and after" team around the family" (TAF) meetings ensures the child's voice is captured, heard, shared in the meeting to formulate the plan, and that the young person knows the plan and who will do what element.
- Where a child is unable to share their voice (due to age, ability, aptitude, or any SEND needs) their voice is captured through their play, interactions, body language and from the professionals and parents who see them every day.
- Young people who are EHE have their voice captured during home visits.
- CYP voice is gathered through the Alternative Provision referral process to ensure that provision is meeting their needs. It is also collated whilst they access provision. A recent consultation has captured the view of CYP and their families on the future design of Alternative Provision.

What We Will Do Next

- In line with the recommendations from the new DFE 'working together to improve attendance' guidance, increase capacity to ensure each locality A-G receives a dedicated linked attendance officer to look at early prevention of persistent absence.
- Work together across early help to ensure children who are severely absent and persistently absent receive the support required to re-engage with their education.
- Use all parental responsibility measures available to us when children continue to be persistently absent from school.
- Work with schools and partners to ensure children receive the full-time education they are entitled to through greater challenge to ongoing reduced timetables.
- Work with schools to analyse, interpret, and use the data available to us to identify cohorts of children who require more support to engage with their education.

Work to reduce exclusion in all its forms particularly the number of fixed term exclusions and permanent exclusions

The service has also set KPIs which are more directly within the control of the service. As such we will:

- Work to reduce the number of children registered as Pupils not on a School Roll.
- Work to reduce the number of children without a school place within 15 school days of application.
- Continue to work collaboratively with the Inclusion Centre to provide a quick route back into mainstream education for permanently excluded pupils.
- Work to reduce the number of children who access only unregistered alternative provision.
- Revise our practice with parents who home educate to provide more support. We will ensure children not receiving an appropriate education through EHE are given a named school to return to, and if necessary, will apply for school attendance orders to ensure the child receives their right to education.
- We will develop the Sheffield inclusion model to include piloting a 'team around the school' approach which focuses on joined up practice around safeguarding and family support, SEND, mental health and access to learning.
- Lifelong Learning Skills and Communities.
- Lifelong Learning Skills and Communities is a local authority education provider which oversees provision that is delivered at Sheaf Training, Red Tape Central, Construction Design Centre, and by the FACES team. Sheaf Training offers provision to 180 learners with Education, Health, and Care plans, aged 16-25. Red Tape Central, Construction Design Centre and FACES offer provision from 16 and into adulthood, with around 3000 students on roll. The FACES team make use of several venues across the city (as well as elements of remote learning), while Sheaf Training, Red Tape and CDC deliver learning from respective sites.
- Students access provision directly through one of these services and both long- and short-term courses are offered. For example, courses at Sheaf Training are delivered over a full academic year, while adult learners under the FACES team may enrol on a shorter course to access something such as work skills. Positive outcomes vary based on individual and provision, however our aim is for students to progress towards further learning, employment, volunteering, or social care (if appropriate).

What We Achieved in 2021/22

Throughout the last year our service has expanded to accommodate a larger cohort of complex learners with additional high needs, learners who may have otherwise become NEET or accessed less appropriate provision. This additional influx widens our scope to monitor vulnerable young people and leverage our centred position to notify and enlist the support of multiple agencies with existing or required involvement. Furthermore, a significant move to building relationships with colleagues across these agencies (such as Social Care, CYT, Youth Justice, CAMHs, CLDT) has supported a streamlining in the referral process and likewise more meaningful communication. This has notably reduced waiting time for services and helped to ensure that the correct service and support is presented.

In considering the impact of Covid on our learners, our service has made great strides in, not only providing a stable route back to normality, but making a concerted effort to exceed our pre-Covid provision to supplement deficiencies that have likely formed following multiple lockdowns. More opportunity for more social interactions between peers and staff, peer led focus groups (such as students councils and tutorial workshops), work experiences and visits to employers across the city and additional support to participate in extracurricular activities have

a significantly positive impact on the overall wellbeing of our young people. As important, is the increase in visibility and crucially; more opportunity to monitor for concerns and act quickly when required.

Feedback from young people

By in large, our young people express that they can engage in a happy, safe environment. This is highlighted broadly during our EHCP annual review process where students can take in the wider scope of their accomplishments throughout the year. Many of our learner's request that various professional communicate through our service as an intermediary or arrange meetings and visits through our service because they feel that they have strong advocacy and are within a safe and stable setting.

However, we have not been immune to criticism. For example, some learners have expressed a lack of knowledge around 'who is the right person to speak to' about given concerns. Others have expressed specific concerns which signposted us to wider concerns. This has been crucial in the development of our service, and we have been able to act on feedback to improve .

What We Will Do Next in 2022/23

One key area we will be focusing on through 2022/23 is the implementation of a robust, individualised, and relevant safeguarding plan for learners with additional vulnerabilities or concerns. Along with this, a strategy of continuous review and refresh, directly involving the young person, key staff, as well as families and other agencies where appropriate.

Our intent is to reduce the number of students that require safeguarding interventions at a crisis point, with more early intervention, key staff who are better informed to monitor and report, and a student cohort who are more able to keep themselves safe.

Sheffield City Futures and Operational Services

We manage 39,000 homes in the city, maintain and run all of the city's parks; assist businesses, support the development of the arts, culture and heritage of the city. We help vulnerable people to stay in their homes; support the reduction of climate change; provide 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 and Neighbourhoods Service

- Continued to attend/contribute to Child Protection Conferences
- Provision of housing related information to the SSH
- Ongoing learning and development for staff regarding safeguarding
- Sixteen of our parks have received Green Flag awards this summer, an international mark of quality for well managed parks and green spaces all over the world. It can be all too easy to take for granted the fantastic parks and woodlands we have to enjoy across our city

Transport Services

We have continued to deliver a fully operational service and we have ensured the safeguarding code of conduct has been promoted.

Impact of Achievements

Housing and Neighbourhoods Service - We have resumed in person tenancy inspections which has improved our ability to safeguard, ensuring onward referrals as necessary.

Shisha Premises Inspections - The LGA is calling for councils to be given the freedom to adopt local licensing schemes that could cover shisha bars if there are concerns about how they are operating. This would enable us to monitor shisha bars and cafes for harmful activity and seize equipment or revoke licences for repeat offenders breaching licensing conditions.

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

The SEND Home to school transport survey for 2021 received 185 responses. 75% of respondents rated the service as excellent, 18% rated it as good and 0.54% rated it as poor.

What We Will Do Next

Transport Services – Respond to concerns Post 16 Travel Payments are taking too long, try to offer more notice when changes happen, try to offer Makaton training for transport staff.

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

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

Many of the young people involved with the YJS are among the most vulnerable children and are at greatest risk of social exclusion.

Our multi-agency approach ensures that we play a significant role in contributing to addressing the safeguarding needs of these young people.

An example of this is that the well-established and embedded multi-agency Out of Court Disposal process continues to be an effective mechanism and ensures that all individual circumstances and lived experiences relating to all children and young people are assessed to determine what is in the best interest of the child.

The support, interventions and services we provide are based on identifying, maintaining or improving desistance factors such as lifestyle, education/employment, accommodation, perception of self and others, attitudes to offending, thinking and behaviour or motivation to change, positive family and social relationships and concentrating on what will need to happen or be provided to stop a child offending rather than what made them offend in the first place.

Impact of Achievements

Putting children first and partnership working are at the heart of our delivery of efficient and effective and timely services to reduce re-offending, ensure public protection and the safeguarding of children.

The range of outcomes available allows for required interventions to be delivered where appropriate and supports opportunities for diverting vulnerable groups from the criminal justice system.

The outcome is that young people get their needs appropriately assessed, and either diverted away from the criminal justice system or be referred to the appropriate service – including Community Youth Teams for crime prevention and Youth Justice Service and all its partners for formal disposals.

The YJS partnership and the wider criminal justice system has been able to deliver most 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

There has been a range of feedback from the children, young people and families with regard to;

- Their experience of being involved with the YJS
- The environment in which the service is delivered.
- Their preferred communication methods.
- The range of interventions offered.
- The involvement of other agencies.
- Personal feedback about individual staff.

All comments and feedback are positively received and responded to and where reasonably practicable adjustments are made to improve the overall experience for children, young people and families.

All feedback about individual staff is shared and positive feedback is celebrated.

Positive feedback relating to our children and young people from other agencies such as court is shared and celebrated with them and their families.

What We Will Do Next

One of our overarching priorities is regarding transitions.

A virtual “cliff edge” develops for many young people particular for those who receive additional support from various children’s services including our own and at this time it is important that the level of support provided is maintained.

Our transition processes will be underpinned by the following principles:

- Individual needs and safeguarding requirements will be recognised and addressed.
- Children and young people are allocated to adult services at the earliest point .
- Every young person will have a transition plan.
- Planning will be tailored to meet individual needs.
- Robust information sharing.
- Collaborative working between all partners and services.
- Active involvement of young people and their families.

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 can 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

This specialist therapeutic support for the service will continue to ensure support and supervision of children, young people and their families is reflective of the trauma they have experienced, and that staff undertaking direct work have opportunity to access peer and individual supervision regarding complex cases from an appropriately trained and experienced clinician.

The YJS and its partners will continue to deliver or commission a range of assessments, services and interventions informed by research and best practice.

Through a shared understanding of risks, shared workforce development, shared pathways, and shared responsibility we will continue to use our collective powers and tools to protect our vulnerable young people.

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

It is an achievement that all facets of the Service have been delivered throughout the pandemic continuously and in the last 12 months there has been an increase in face-to-face delivery following staff returning to the office as part of service recovery following COVID-19.

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.

The Sheffield Probation Delivery Unit (PDU) has since moved practitioners to one site in the city centre and has realigned teams with attendance at multi agency meetings, particularly child protection conferences, a priority. Senior and middle managers are visible and engaging with local strategic meetings and are driving quality and performance internally, particularly with a commitment to safeguarding training and development.

Impact of Achievements

The Probation Service 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. As part of said assessments and referrals, the voice of the child is considered, particularly when contributing to more formal scenarios such as child protection conferences. The increased use of door-step visits and subsequent visibility/contact with partners and children in the households of our people on probation has meant that probation practitioners have been better able to assess child welfare.

Similarly, the robust management of people on probation 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, and associated partnership agencies, to assist them to understand the type and level of harm that their behaviour can cause to a child with a view to assist them to improve their behaviour to the point where they can positively contribute to a child's life and development where possible and/or appropriate.

What We Will Do Next

Whilst continuing to work to the Prioritising Probation Framework (PPF) and continuing to 'recover' from COVID-19, the Probation Service will also continue to progress with reunification and the transition to the new unified Target Operating Model (TOM) over the next 12 months. Safeguarding children shall remain a priority area of work throughout, particularly in regard to risk assessments and intervention delivery. Furthermore, operational staff will engage with continued professional development and learning that is inclusive of safeguarding children and promoting child welfare and development.

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. The home provides care and accommodation for up to five children placed by the Youth Custody Service and five children accommodated under Section 25 of the Children Act 1989 placed by local authorities. Admission of any child under Section 25 of the Children Act 1989 who is under 13 years of age requires the approval of the Secretary of State. Education is provided on site in dedicated facilities. The commissioning of health services in this home is the statutory responsibility of NHS England under the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

Main Achievements

Aldine provided for 6 placements on welfare grounds in the year ended 31/03/22 and for 3 youth custody placements. Within this total one young person was initially a welfare placement and after his court appearance was returned to Aldine for detention as an offender . It is usual for children living out of Sheffield anywhere in the UK to be placed at Aldine and vice versa. Aldine has capacity when fully staffed for 10 children and is expanding to offer 12 beds in the coming year.

Unfortunately, the registered manager has left his post which is vacant at the present time and his manager has also left in the timeframe of this report. This follows a lengthy period of stability in the management team at Aldine for 7 years.

It should be noted that Aldine received an Ofsted inspection over 3 days in February 2022. Ofsted stated as follows.

- Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, considering
- Children's education and learning **outstanding**
- Children's health **outstanding**
- How well children and young people are helped and protected **good**
- The effectiveness of leaders and managers **outstanding**

The secure children's home provides highly effective services that consistently exceed the standards of good. The actions of the children's home contribute to significantly improved outcomes and positive experiences for children and young people who need help, protection and care.

What we will do in 2022-23

- Expand our training courses for staff, building on their specialisms, including Flower 125
- Making psychological formulation increasingly young person-led
- Extending our Leaving Project for young people leaving the home to ensure they have good endings to their placement
- Finish building our extension, which will allow us to accommodate up to twelve young people

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.

As of April 2022, SCSP now commissions Online Safety support from Learn Sheffield. This commission covers training, policy and curriculum advice for schools and alternative providers in addition to Online Safety consultancy for the wider children's workforce through multi agency seminars, web-based advice and individual support for the Safeguarding Education Advisors team.

Learn Sheffield

Learn Sheffield is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee, of which 80% is owned by Sheffield schools and colleges and 20% by Sheffield City Council.

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.

A major development over 2021-22 has been the publication of the Sheffield Primary and Secondary Relationships Sex and Health Education curriculum and training for schools on its implementation. A driver in the lack of parental opposition to this curriculum in Sheffield compared to other major cities has been the clear link to Online Safety and working with parents to understand that young people will access “Google” to ask any questions around relationships that are not directly addressed by parents or teachers and that such searches will yield content that is far more explicit than anything covered in schools.

A development for this year will be to link the content of the curriculum with good practice advice and signposting of support from professionals within the wider children’s workforce and appendices to support SEND, Early Years and Post 16 children.

Ofcom have produced Children’s Media Lives: Life in Lockdown and it is likely that their findings will be replicated in Sheffield. Their 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.

Young people’s voice in Sheffield reflects that our students continue to operate in line with national trends as documented in the Ofcom Children and Parents: Media Use and Attitudes Report 2022. Key headlines are the lowering of the average age of first use of social media, particularly Tik Tok, to lower key stage 2 (7-9 years) the persistence in the increased amount of time spent online seen during the pandemic, and the amount of hate and inappropriate material seen by children and young people.

Anecdotally schools have reported some aspects of behaviour around gaming which can be viewed as veering towards addiction rather than heavy use during this time. The Internet Watch foundation report large increases in the prevalence of young children being groomed to provide illegal content of themselves or more worryingly content also involving their siblings. Whilst we have had concerns about this around some primary age children, those children have been safeguarded by the intervention of their peers involving adult help either at home or at school. Promoting “What a good friend would do” is a cornerstone of our Online Safety education. Secondary schools report some concerns about sites such as Only Fans and interest amongst young people about selling their images to fund their lifestyle.

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 continue to focus on child neglect and SYP have provided training for all staff within SYP which has seen a significant increase in the number of vulnerable children forms submitted by our frontline staff identifying concerns of neglect and risk to children. We have worked with our partners and ensured the correct support and investigations have followed continuing our work towards the protection of children. The increase demonstrates the effectiveness of the Neglect training for SYP staff enabling early identification of neglect issues and warning signs using the SHARED tool.

SYP continues to improve its response to child exploitation, and we continue to embed better working practices within the district in conjunction with our partners. SYP and the Amber project hold a daily intelligence meeting to review the risk and action information and intelligence relating to exploited children, which was introduced in February 2022. The Child Exploitation Tasking Group has recommenced along with the Vulnerable Young Persons panel co-chaired with Children's services. These governance structures are allowing the clear exchange of information and joint working to protect our most vulnerable children.

Multi Agency Criminal Exploitation meetings are monitored and well attended by all agencies. SYP continue to support the partnership producing data sets to monitor the risk of child exploitation within the district. SYP analysts produce infographics on a quarterly basis from the datasets available through the MACE tracker.

How do you know you are having an impact?

Since the introduction of the MACE within Sheffield in January 2021 over 500 children have been referred and discussed at the multi-agency meetings. The increase demonstrates we are improving our ability to recognise the risk of exploitation and have confidence in the referral process and risk management through the MACE multi agency meetings.

SYP has a Protecting Vulnerable People (PVP) Governance team in place, the team complete regular data for Sheffield Districts. One area where we have seen increased scrutiny is under the Quality Assurance Thematic Testing Analysis (QATT). This introduced a framework of quality assurance for our criminal investigations sat within Sheffield PVP teams. The emphasis is on investigation quality including victim focus and suspect management. The testing has identified common themes for improvement in victim service and under the Vulnerability Assessment Framework. Further training has been implemented on common themes with a view to improving our standards and impact of investigations for children who are victims of crime.

Voice of the Child, Young Person and Family

Through the neglect and child matters training plus internal audits, emphasis is placed on voice of the child with a view to improved engagement with the child to understand lived experience and record the observations whilst managing risk.

What We Will Do Next

SYP are currently working on the next training package focussing on Child Exploitation. This is a Force priority and SYP continues to increase the spot the signs knowledge through the organisation. SYP media team are developing a media campaign for child protection which highlights the signs to recognise in all areas of child exploitation.

Operation Makesafe will be a focus in the next year, working with partners and the public in recognising and reporting children who may be at risk of exploitation both criminal and sexual.

Sheffield Police are working with our partners to review the amount of data and referrals sent to partners. This will be a progressive area of work throughout the next 12 months and will ensure we focus on current processes with a view for improvement in the volume and quality of data sent to our partners.

Public Health

Public Health has attracted positive coverage across our local news platforms in response to recently published data which shows we have almost the lowest rate of smoking in pregnancy in Yorkshire. This success is having a very positive impact on our rates of infant mortality.

Infant mortality (IM) is technical speak for babies who die before their first birthday, something that is unspeakably tragic. Ten years ago, we were above the national average in terms of infant mortality rate. We set out to change this with a wilful and deliberate strategy. This was implemented. A very wide range of partner organisations were involved. As a result, the IM rate has been significantly cut, and the inequality gap has narrowed. The importance of that cannot be understated. We are now refreshing the strategy. Poverty is a crucial concern, in addition to keeping doing all the things we already do as a city

Main Achievements

Public Health (PH) has continued to commission (through the PH grant) a range of services that provide safeguarding support. These include the 0-19 Healthy Child Programme, substance misuse and sexual health services and early intervention and prevention support focused on emotional wellbeing, and mental health, young carers and vulnerable groups.

The doula volunteer programme has continued offering support to vulnerable women having babies, and in person support during the birth if they had no birth partner.

Advice and support were available 7 days a week for schools, colleges, nurseries and residential CandYP's social care, to best manage transmission of Covid in their settings. This included providing technical Public Health outbreak management, carefully considering risk and impact on safeguarding.

There has been continued support for the development of trauma informed practice. This work has been led strategically by Public Health to ensure that services are moving in the same direction and are putting trauma informed practice in place.

Public Health has had responsibility for managing other non-COVID health protection outbreaks and increasing uptake of children and young people's vaccination/immunisations with a particular focus on reaching those most at risk or most vulnerable in areas of low vaccination uptake.

The team facilitated joint work by the NHS and LA to improve the management of immunisations data for looked after children to increase uptake. A review of the early years' immunisations pathway is taking place to identify and improve uptake for families known to early year's services receiving extra support above universal care.

The Director of the Public Health normally chairs the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP), and the Public Health team provides support in taking forward actions to reduce risk factors and improve how services respond to a child death. The pandemic limited Public Health's capacity to attend meetings on a regular basis in 2021/22. However, the team is now able to resume its contribution to the Panel's work.

The infant mortality strategy provides focussed action to address the risk factors associated with child death before the age of one year, many of which are strongly linked with deprivation and low income. This work includes a focus on health during pregnancy, good infant health and safety combined with action to address deprivation. Latest data indicates that infant mortality rates have now reduced below the national average and inequalities in infant mortality rates between the most and least deprived families also fell.

How do you know you are having an impact?

The Public Health Outcomes Framework provides a robust opportunity to monitor and analyse outcome indicators across a range of themes.

There is rigorous and regular monitoring of commissioned services and performance monitoring of all contracts funded via the Public Health grant.

During the pandemic there has been a particular requirement to measure serious incidents related to Covid, Covid outbreaks in children and young people’s residential settings and review how transmission and risk was managed.

Over 4000 staff across a range of settings have been trained in trauma informed practice, 150 schools have at least 1 member of staff trained in in trauma informed practice. Safeguarding Section 11 self-assessments also now require trauma reflection by key agencies (CYPF, Police, SHSC, STH).

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

Voice of the Child, Young Person and Family

Reassurance that was provided to interpret national data, guidance and information to help settings to continue to remain open during Covid outbreaks to maintain safeguarding and access for vulnerable children, young people and families.

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

“Recommend 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 designing and commissioning children and young people’s services funded via the Public Health grant with a focus on improving access to early intervention and prevention support (e.g., 0-19 Healthy Child Programme Service).

Further develop trauma informed practice in Sheffield by all services becoming trauma informed and identifying a lead, auditing current practice and identifying action plans.

We will refresh our infant mortality strategy to develop wider understanding of the risk factors and the relationship with poverty and deprivation, and the roles which individuals, teams, organisations and communities can all play in reducing the risks.

Sheffield Children’s NHS Foundation Trust

Main achievements

- We now have “**Violence reduction youth navigators**” based in the Emergency Department . The aim is to support children and young people who attend Sheffield Children’s Hospital with any violence or suspected violence related injury or threat, to live a happy, safe and fulfilling life. We are better at referring on to Sheffield Safeguarding Hub SSH as necessary.
- **An increase in vulnerability and complexity** have been noted by all services; within safeguarding supervision, in the SSH and in Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC). Safeguarding support and supervision have been extended to skill mix colleagues within the 0-19 service e.g., B5 Practitioners. The safeguarding supervisors meet regularly for

ongoing promotion of best practice and for peer support due to the challenging and stressful nature of safeguarding work.

- **Covid impact and challenges** – All teams have continued to respond to the impact and challenges, to ensure that colleagues remain vigilant and professionally curious to safeguarding concerns. More children and young people are now seen face to face and ways of practising safely continues.
- **Recruitment of Named Doctor for Looked After and Adopted Children Health** - The recruitment of a LAACH Named Doctor has been successful, the postholder will be starting in Sept. 2022.
- **Safeguarding Reviews** - Family G Sheffield SCR action plans have been completed with regard to the 0-19 service, Speech and Language Therapy (SandLT) and Acute services.
- Supporting city wide working to enhance the recognition and response to **Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)**. This is city wide work that aligns with the refreshed neuro developmental pathway.

How do you know you are having an impact?

- A standardised approach to young people presenting to ED following assaults has been developed through the peer review to ensure that there is a clear process and pathway to escalate to the hub for young people who have been assaulted. Our peer review has resulted in an improved service to this group of children who are better safeguarded.
- A specialist nurse located in the Amber Service works with colleagues from South Yorkshire police, social care, Community youth teams(CYT), Specialist intervention practitioners, Missing's return practitioners. The nurse focusses on packages of support for children and advises and supports health professionals
- Our Paediatric liaison service is based within the 0-19 service. Through learning from practice the Paediatric Liaison service identified the need to update the Emergency Department Handbook in respect of the management of dog bites especially in respect of safeguarding concerns linked to children presenting with mammalian bites.
- Another nurse from the Paediatric Liaison service is based in drug and alcohol service. This has contributed to the parental mental health work ongoing.
- Regarding the Jessop Neonatal unit: admission and discharge summaries were not reaching community-based nurses quickly enough. Our review led to a new system which ensures the relevant Health Visitor receives information in a timely manner.

Feedback from Children and Families

SCFT has processes in place to seek feedback from Service Users, such feedback is taken seriously and acted on. The feedback obtained from children, young people and their families attending the Safeguarding Support Unit at SCH was highly positive about their experiences, at a very difficult and challenging time. In brief, the feedback provided highlighted the following:

- Caring, compassionate and efficient staff
- Friendly environment
- Staff were responsive and helpful
- An explanation was always provided

There is a rolling audit programme within the SSU/SARC covering hand hygiene, environmental audit and patient feedback.

What We Will Do Next

Training

- Revision of training delivered in the trust to cover the change from 6 hours 3 yearly to 8 hours
- To explore how to capture training activities for staff members needing to demonstrate Level 3+ competences in conjunction with LandOD
- Promote a 'trauma informed' workforce via training and supervision
- Promote uptake of the Graded Care Profile 2 Training for effective assessment and response to Neglect
- Promote completion of survey to evaluate knowledge and skills regarding identification and response to domestic abuse; analyse survey data and plan report writing

Trust specific

- Continue to pursue the business case for the Community safeguarding service and their role in the SSH; now reflected on the risk register.
- Work with the relevant Trust services and CPC Convening team to improve health contribution (includes CPC report submission 2 days before CPC) and the recording of these activities by the Convening team.
- Prepare for CQC inspection and continue to embed previous actions.

Partnership Work

- Following submission of S11 audit last year, annual accountability and QA meeting with SCSP this year, implement subsequent action plan.
- Implement safeguarding reviews' action plans and embed these in practice.
- Prepare for Joint Targeted Area Inspection, the current theme is CCE (Child Criminal Exploitation).
- Contribute to the work of the Hidden Harm agenda
- Work with the Safeguarding Hub to improve receipt of feedback following referrals.
- Contribute to review of the Sheffield Thresholds of Need Guidance.
- Complete work identified in the workplan of the different SCSP sub-groups.

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.

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 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.

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 Priority Areas

Child Exploitation

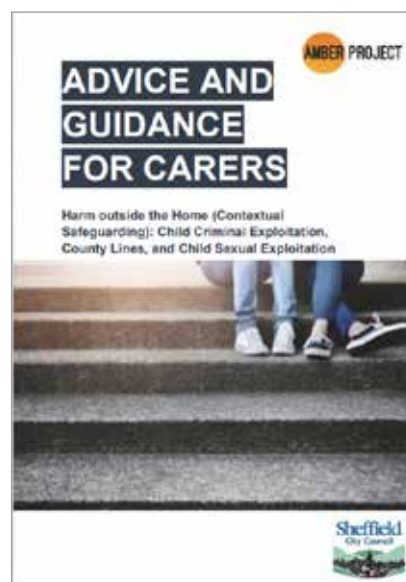
Main Achievements

We have embedded the **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 MACE meeting uses 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. A Senior Fieldwork Manager chairs the weekly meeting. We have 74 young people who are on our tracker currently.

MACE meetings are monitored and well attended by all agencies; SYP continue to support the partnership producing data sets to monitor the risk of child exploitation within the District. SYP analysts produce infographics on a quarterly basis from the datasets available through the MACE tracker.

SYP continues to improve its response to child exploitation and continues to embed better working practices within the District in conjunction with partners. SYP and the Amber project hold a daily intelligence meeting to review the risk and action information and intelligence relating to exploited children, which was introduced in February 2022.

Capacity in the Amber service has increased to respond to demand with 10 Social Workers and 6 intervention workers managed by two Senior Fieldwork Managers. We are recruiting an additional 2 SWs currently. Our staffing allows us to offer an intensive response with joint work from a SW and intervention worker on high-risk cases. Regarding the 74 children and young people discussed at the MACE meetings we know 55/74 are/have experienced CCE and we know 19 have suffered CSE. We know that CSE and CCE go hand in hand and we respond with this awareness in mind.



- We have delivered workshops and training within and beyond Social Care to medical students, residential staff and the MAST service. In all we have reached well over 5,812 staff virtually and in person. We have reached 22 schools, community groups, youth clubs, foster carer's, including our colleagues in Social Care.

Impact of Achievements

Contextual Safeguarding is extremely important part of safeguarding children ensuring we are working with children who are being exploited and vulnerable to exploitation is our main aim in Amber service in Sheffield. As a result, children and young people 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. Ensuring we are working with children at the earliest opportunity is key, ensuring services are working in partnership to enable joint working to support, divert and disrupt exploitation which we know is everyone's responsibility.

- Between 01/04/21 to 27/06/22, 184 children and young people have been safeguarded through joint proactive work between South Yorkshire Police and the Amber Service and other partners.
- These include children of organised crime group (OCG) members, children who have been exploited by OCG's. we also work with children who have been exploited either sexually or criminally and it has been clear that more often than not the two are interlinked. We also work with children who have been involved in Peer-on-Peer violence, gang violence.
- Improved engagement with children and families – persistent and consistent approach to the work we do having children jointly allocated SW's and Intervention workers.
- Given one of our teams has a smaller caseload they can work intensively with children, meaning we can work on relationships with children which will in turn enable us to have a better working relationships. Being consistent and working intensively with children helps with the interventions that we have developed.
- Extra-familial risks to children and young people are identified, understood, and responded to at the earliest opportunity, meaning we work with children in schools, can give advice and support and pick referrals up earlier or work with small groups in schools.
- Our approach is relationship based social work with the intensive work that enables children to have all services involved that they would require to understand risks and work with children around diversions and ensure we disrupt the perpetrators with support from Police.

Whilst working jointly with services we can support children who are NEET to be supported to access Education, Employment and Training post 16.

Voice of the Child, Young Person and Family

We have a commitment to children and families in our services that we listen to their views and wishes, to deliver a service that meets their needs and ensure we are able to work with children who are at risk and are able to sustain any changes that they have made, and they are able to lead successful lives, free from exploitation. Through the community work we do we have also been talking to communities to continue to speak to children and families about contextual safeguarding what it means and what the signs are. This may lead to us getting referrals in sooner from hard-to-reach communities or working with communities on a much more proactive level.

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 parent:

"SW had really listened to her and to A and had been really kind to her which had made the experience of working with her a nice one."

"Owt I ask her to do she does. She keeps me updated. I think she's alright, she's alright."

- They have helped and encouraged me lots
- Anything I needed; they always came straight away. I am happy and appreciative of the help.

It is helping. She keeps in contact with B all the time. She updates B. She went to see B on Monday. She supports him in lots of ways. B gets on with her and jokes with her.

What we will do next

- Training package for Social Care will be a rolling programme
- A new model of conferences for Harm outside the Home cases will be implemented, including a community assessment model that supports risk management and case progression.
- Need to ensure that we have the option on our data base to record where a child is impacted by both CSE and CCE as currently we can only choose one and this impairs our data accuracy.
- 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. Transitions in particular for this cohort of young people is crucial and ensuring that we are able to link in with adult's services when required as the risk does not diminish when they turn 18.
- Continued community visibility and undertake awareness raising campaigns.

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. The main objectives of the Hidden Harm Strategy for 2021 – 2022 was to develop our work and understanding of FASD, embed being Trauma Informed into everyday practice and through training, briefings, joint case reviews, and supervision continue to promote shared discussion and understanding leading to joint planning between adult and children services to safeguard children and support parents.

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.

What We Will Do Next

- Build on the work already undertaken in Sheffield in relation to FASD. Joining up thinking and working to operationalise the recommendations from NICE Quality Standards for FASD.
- Hold a Parental Mental Health Workshop for Adult and Children services to consider the connections between the findings from the 9 multi-agency case reviews: Being Trauma Informed – consideration given to the impact on family life of intergenerational trauma; Being Inclusive – ensuring that people with neurodevelopmental diversity are included and enabled to participate by better use of language and systems; Whole Family Approach – ensuring the voice of the children and invisible fathers are heard by all services; Communication / discussion and shared planning between Adult and Children services to help develop Family Safety Plans.

Domestic Abuse

Main Achievements

The Domestic Abuse Act came into law in April 2021. Under Part 4 of the Act, the Local Authority has a new statutory duty to provide support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in Safe Accommodation – safe accommodation means: refuges, dispersed safe accommodation or where Sanctuary Scheme measures have been installed. This meant that the Council was provided with 'new burden's funding to enable us to meet our obligations under the new duty and as a result we were able to commission some new services for families affected by domestic abuse.

Haven, the specialist children's support service was awarded more funds to provide one to one and group support to children in safe accommodation. Support was provided to 143 children and young people during the year. During the year Haven launched some films aimed at families who may want to use their services and also aimed at professionals who are supporting children affected by domestic abuse.

According to the Crime Survey of England and Wales 36.7% of women needing to access safe accommodation are put off doing this because they have children in their care. Therefore, we awarded Sheffield Women's Aid extra Domestic Abuse Act funds to support children and young people and their parents living in our women's refuges. In 2021/22 80 adults and 86 children were supported in the refuges. 63% of refuge users had dependent children and 65 were pregnant.

We have continued to roll out the Safe and Together model in Sheffield. 144 professionals have been trained between April 2021 – end of March 2022. 201 in total so far since January 2021. Good practice tools promoting 'domestic abuse informed language' – that moves accountability for the abuse from the victim to the perpetrator, have been developed and shared. The changing use of language is noticeable at meetings such as Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) and this will help build trust between survivors and statutory services and make it easier for services and families to work together to safeguard children.

Escape the Trap training was provided to 30 practitioners from Youth services, Social Care and voluntary sector services. This means professionals are better equipped to work with young people at risk of becoming a victim or causing harm in their intimate relationships.

The Sheffield Needs Assessment and Strategy for people affected by domestic abuse in need of safe accommodation found that approximately 28,334 children were affected by domestic abuse last year.

The Domestic Abuse Act recognises that children don't simply witness domestic abuse when their parent or carer is being abused by a partner or family member, they experience the abuse as victims in their own right. In Sheffield we have been having conversations over the last 12 months about what that means in practice following the change in the law. We are waiting for the government to finalise the statutory guidance in relation to the Domestic Abuse Act in order for us to consider the impact on Sheffield procedures.

However, we hope that the new services and increased support available thanks to Domestic Abuse Act funding will have a greater and greater impact on the lives of children and young people affected by domestic abuse in the city.

DACT team members have also delivered training / presentations during the year on post-separation abuse, the impact of which was also recognised in the Domestic Abuse Act, overturning the assumption that once a survivor and their children have left a domestic abuse situation that means the risk is automatically reduced and the abuse is over. The evidence from our service user group and research is that instead abuse can continue for many years – often through the family courts.

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.

Voice of the Child, Young Person and Family

Providers such as Haven, Independent Domestic Abuse Service etc. are commissioned to seek views from users and use these to inform service development.

What We Will Do Next

Support the roll out of a new programme called Level Up provided by Cranstoun, for children and young people aged 10 upwards who are causing harm in their family or intimate relationships.

Launch a new toolkit on Child Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse.

Continue the roll out of the Safe and Together programme in Social Care and raise awareness of the programme with partner agencies.

Support for the SCSP Priorities

Children living with domestic abuse are often also living with neglect or a parent / carer with a mental health issue. We will continue to commission counselling services for people affected by domestic abuse including children and young people. We will continue to work with the

partnership to support better recognition of domestic abuse when the presenting issue appears to be neglect.

Training will be provided during the year to the Amber Service in relation to identifying and supporting children and young people impacted by domestic abuse.

Children and Young People that go Missing

Sheffield Sexual Exploitation Service (SSES) and Missing Young People Team (MYPT) is co-located with the Amber Service 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

South Yorkshire Police have two dedicated missing from home staff members who sit within the Local Referral Unit (LRU) with responsibility for all missing people. LRU triage referrals in and out of the organisation making key decisions around safeguarding children within the Sheffield Safeguarding Hub (SSH). Missing referrals from front line police staff enter the SSH through this process. SYP missing officers attend missing strategy meetings if they have met the criteria with a view to safeguarding through partnership work. This ensures a consistent approach from the police perspective and develops relationships within partners.

Officers have attended 166 missing strategy meetings in the last 12 months. Sheffield has recognised that there are gaps for a problem-solving approach to repeat missing people and we are currently setting up a missing team with the view to reducing demand through problem solving with partners. The long-term objective will include the missing children. Officers will work with the problem-solving team to reduce demand, improve safety, and reduce risk. Officers from SYP have started the team providing management of current missing people ensuring there is a robust locate plan and accurate risk assessment, this includes children. Once located our officers ensure there is a return interview to identify risk, crimes, safety and gather any intelligence regarding the missing episode.

How do you know you are having an impact?

SYP has introduced a new system for how we capture data on missing people since November 2021. The system will enable more accurate data which supports us to analyse and understand repeat missing episodes for Sheffield.

Voice of the Child, Young Person and Family

The voice of the CYP is captured within the Return Interview Form, which is managed by a bespoke team sitting within the Amber Service. However, an internal audit, within SYP, prior to lockdown had identified a need to capture the voice of the young person in relation to the delivery of the service itself. We approached how to get feedback on service delivery carefully to avoid overwhelming the young person and a form has now been re-designed to improve and direct the SYP response.

What We Will Do Next

A gap for SYP is the regular auditing of the missing reports and action taken throughout the missing episode and correct identification of risk. To address this, SYP have employed auditors that sit at a Force level to identify and robustly check the quality of our data concerning repeat missing / exploited children and reports and ensure SYP are capturing information, recording crimes identified and are compliant with crime data accuracy policy for onward investigation.

Appendix 1and2

Partnership Agencies

Glossary

Appendix 1: Executive Partnership Group Members

Independent Chair and Scrutineer	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 and Social Care NHS FT
Chief Nurse	NHS Sheffield
Detective Superintendent	South Yorkshire Police
Designated Doctor	NHS Sheffield
Director of Children, Young People and Families	Sheffield City Council
Chief Nurse	Sheffield Teaching Hospitals
Cabinet Member for CYP	Sheffield City Council
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 and Sheffield LDU	NPS South Yorkshire (Sheffield and Barnsley)
Service Manager, City Futures and Operational Services	Sheffield City Council
Director of Nursing and Clinical Operations	Sheffield Children's Hospital
Group Manager for Community Safety	South Yorkshire Fire and 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

Appendix 2: SCSP Annual Report Glossary

AP	Alternative Provision
ASB	Anti-social behaviour
BHC	Before Housing costs
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
CCE	Child criminal exploitation
CDOP	Child death overview panel
CiCC	Children in Care Council
CIN	Child in need
CIT	Children's Involvement team
CLA	Children looked after
CLDT	Children with learning disabilities team
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
CME	Children Missing from Education
CP	Child Protection Plan
CPC	Child protection coordinator
CQC	Care Quality Commission
CSC	Children's Social Care
CSE	Child sexual exploitation
CSPR	Child's Safeguarding Practice Review (Formerly Serious case reviews)
CYP	Children and Young People
CYT	Community youth teams
DACT	Sheffield Drug and Alcohol/Domestic Abuse Coordination Team
EET	Children/young people - In Education training or employment
EHCP	Education Health and care plan
EHE	Elective Home Education
FASD	Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder
GCP	Graded Care Profile
HSB	Harmful Sexual Behaviour
ICB	Integrated Care Board
ICON	A programme to support parents with babies crying. I-infant crying is normal, C-comforting methods can help, O-Its okay to walk away, N-never ever shake a baby.
ICPC	Initial child protection conference
IMD	Index of Multiple Deprivation

KPIs	Key Performance Indicators
LADO	Local Authority Designated Officer
LGA	Local Government Authority
Little CiCC	Little Children in Care Council
LPIG	Learning from Practice Improvement Group
LRU	Local Referral Unit
MACE	Multi Agency Criminal exploitation pathway
MADA	Multi Agency Domestic Abuse
MAPPA	Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements
MARAC	Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences
MAST	Multi Agency Support Team
MYPT	Missing Young People Team
NEET	Children and young people - Not in Education training or employment
OCG	Organised crime gang
PA's	Personal Advisers
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PVP	Protecting Vulnerable People
RAA	Regional Adoption Agency
RCPC	Review child protection conference
RSHE	Relationships Sex and Health Education
SASP	Sheffield Adults Safeguarding Partnership
SARC	Sexual Abuse Referral Centre
SCC	Sheffield City Council
SCH	Sheffield Children's Hospital
SCLU	Sheffield Care Leavers Union
SCSP	Sheffield Children's Safeguarding Partnership
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
SHSC	Sheffield Health and Social Care
SoS	Signs of Safety
SSES	Sheffield Sexual Exploitation Service
SSH	Sheffield Safeguarding Hub
SYP	South Yorkshire Police
VYPB	Vulnerable Young Peoples Executive Board
YAS	Yorkshire Ambulance Service

