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Section 1

Introduction

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.

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Introduction from the Independent Chair and Scrutineer

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This report covers the period from April 2022 through to March 2023, a period that continued to present unprecedented challenges for partners against a backdrop of increasing referrals to services in both volume and complexity, workforce shortages, ever increasing pressures on public sector funding and a worsening cost of living crisis, which is impacting most on our most vulnerable children and families.

I joined the Partnership in April 2022 as Independent Chair and Scrutineer. The role of scrutineer is intended to support partners by providing an independent perspective on their work to safeguard children and to highlight challenges where appropriate. You will find my scrutineer's overview at the end of this report.

As Chair, my role is also to set the conditions in the Partnership that enable constructive challenge and mutual accountability to thrive. This approach has enabled the Partnership to embed scrutiny within the annual report. This year's report not only provides updates on activity but also seeks to address the impact and outcomes for children and young people in Sheffield.

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.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley J Smith" with a long horizontal line underneath.

Lesley Smith

Independent Chair and Scrutineer
Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership

Sheffield City Council

The foreword in last year's report was provided by John Macilwraith, Executive Director of People Services. It was his last report before leaving the council in August 2022.

This heralded the development of separate adults' and children's services, and I took up a new acting post as Director of Children's Services (DCS) in the same month. This was more than just a symbolic act and created a new focus for children's work across its constituent parts of social care, education and skills.

Since August, the new Children's Services team has worked hard in establishing new ways of working, inter-service collaboration and a new identity for the service. While I'm proud of all we achieved in the last year, I'm really excited by all that is to come as we continue to make Sheffield Children's Services the best possible service for Sheffield children and young people.

The significant internal changes were matched by a significant number of external changes including new legislative activity in children's social care, schools and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

From July 2022, the new Integrated Care System in health brought new changes for others but,

also, new opportunities for us to renew partnerships and to make better provision for children overall.

Finally, the recent development and launch of new threshold arrangements in children's social care ended what has been an extremely busy and dynamic period. I passed the DCS baton to Meredith Dixon-Teasdale in June 2023, who has been appointed to the post on a permanent basis.

I've now resumed my post as Director of Education and Skills. While I'm proud of all we achieved in the last year, I'm really excited by all that is to come as we continue to make Sheffield Children's Services the best possible service for Sheffield children and young people.



Andrew Jones

Interim Director of Children's Services



South Yorkshire Police

This will be my last contribution to a Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report. I am leaving my role as Sheffield District Commander with responsibility to lead the police response to improving the safety and wellbeing of children in our city.

In this last year, police leaders have been actively involved in strengthening the strategic relationship between police, health, and the local authority, and improving oversight of partnership responses through reviews and workshops. This has also included practitioner events to advance understanding of roles and powers of agencies' first line responders to improve outcomes and joint responses to children.

During 2021 -2022, South Yorkshire Police (SYP) has undergone rigorous inspection by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) which assessed our response to protecting vulnerable people as outstanding.

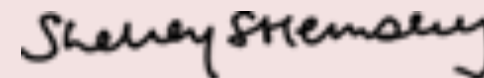
This assessment confirms our focus on services and responses to children, and our emphasis on working with partners to improve safety and wellbeing through investigation, information sharing and appropriate risk assessment. We intend to build on our current approach to consistently improve our services. To visit the report, [please use this link](#).

Throughout this time, we have also demonstrated our commitment to the Partnership's [neglect](#)

[strategy](#), recognising the need to improve and enhance frontline responders' knowledge and skills to identify and act when children may be neglected.

Sheffield officers and staff, including myself, have participated in 'Child Matters' training, which was developed by SYP in partnership with the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) and a range of other partners.

This training has supported staff in Sheffield to respond effectively to incidents where they see and suspect neglect and has improved information sharing and joint activity with partners to protect children. I am certain beyond my tenure in Sheffield that this improved knowledge, partnership working, and mutual professional respect will continue to improve the safety and wellbeing of children in our city.



Shelley Hemsley
Chief Superintendent



Foreword from the Strategic Partners

South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board

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.

An integrated care board (ICB) is a statutory NHS organisation which is responsible for developing a plan for meeting the health needs of the population, managing the NHS budget, and arranging for the provision of health services in a geographical area. The ICB CEO holds statutory accountability for safeguarding and is legally responsible for delivering the multi-agency working requirements set out in **Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018**.

Whilst the ICB in South Yorkshire has a county wide governance framework for safeguarding arrangements, the previous statutory CCG functions were conferred to ICBs which includes the role as the statutory partner for health, alongside our police and

local authority colleagues on the Safeguarding Children Partnership in Sheffield. The close multi-agency working developed during the life of the CCG, has continued to be strengthened 'at place' in Sheffield during the previous year, with the ICB continuing to be represented at both executive and sub-group level. This contribution at every level in the Partnership ensures the ICB continues to exercise a key strategic role alongside our statutory partners in Sheffield, in collectively shaping and driving the shared purpose and ambitions of the Safeguarding Partnership. The ICB is committed to strengthen our local relationships with our safeguarding partners during the next twelve months, so we can make these ambitions a reality for the children and young people in Sheffield.

All children have the right to grow up in an environment that is nurturing, safe and free from harm, and we all have a responsibility both individually and collectively to do what we can to make that a reality. Changes to Section three of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 came into force on 31st January 2022, which specifically states that a child who sees, hears, or experiences the effects of domestic abuse and is

related to the victim or the suspect is also to be regarded as a victim. The safeguarding team within the ICB in Sheffield has worked closely with health providers and partner agencies during the past twelve months to communicate this message across the city. There are plans to continue promoting this key legislative change in 2023 during scheduled training and supervision delivered to both primary care and ICB staff.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alun Windle', written on a light-colored background.

Alun Windle

NHS SY ICB Chief Nurse (Sheffield)
Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children (Sheffield)



Section 2

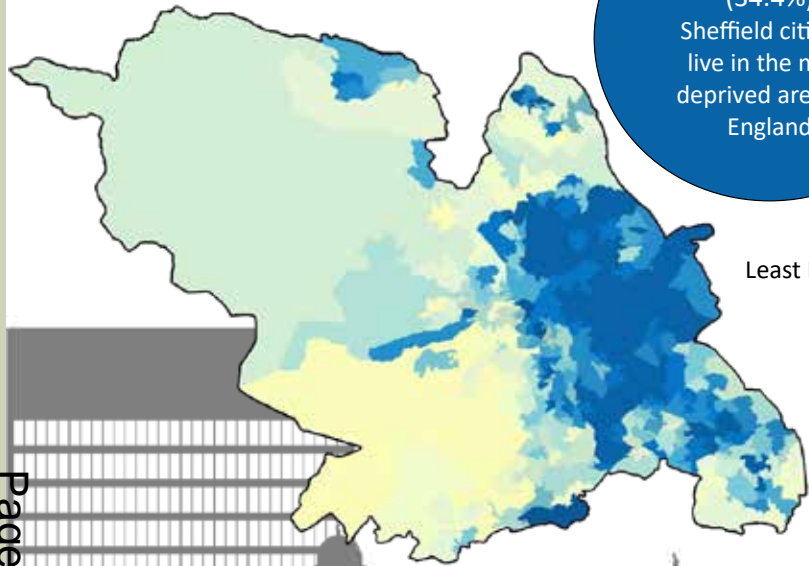
Sheffield at a glance



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SHEFFIELD

at a glance



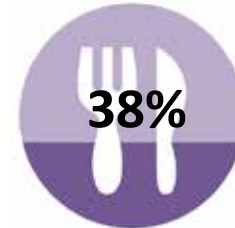
Most Deprived

201,109
(34.4%)
Sheffield citizens
live in the most
deprived areas of
England

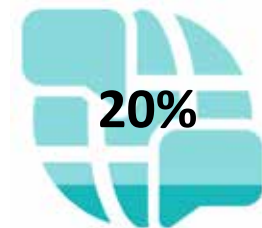
Least Deprived



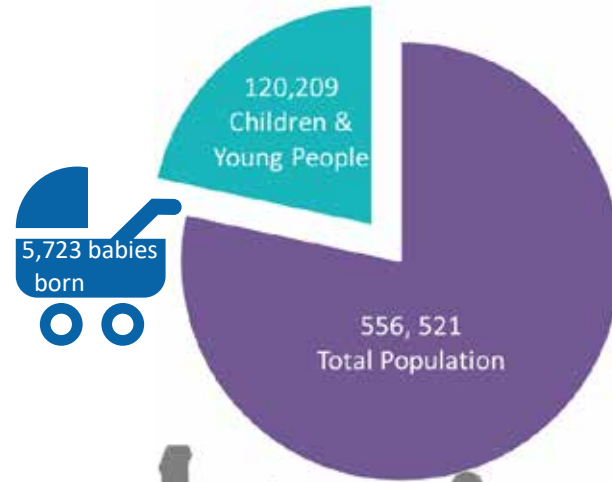
29,665 children
and young people
live in relative low-
income families



27,370 children and
young people are
eligible for free school
meals



14,468 children and
young people speak
English as an additional
language



Around 141
languages are
used in
Sheffield

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140 of **177** schools are rated
Outstanding or Good
by Ofsted

561 children are electively
home educated (EHE)

161 children electively home
educated have
special educational needs (SEN)

4,964 children have
Education, Health and Care
Plans (EHCPs)

147 pupils were expelled from
school



Section 3

Who we are, what we do and how we do it

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 children and young people 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.

Leadership Structure and Management Arrangements

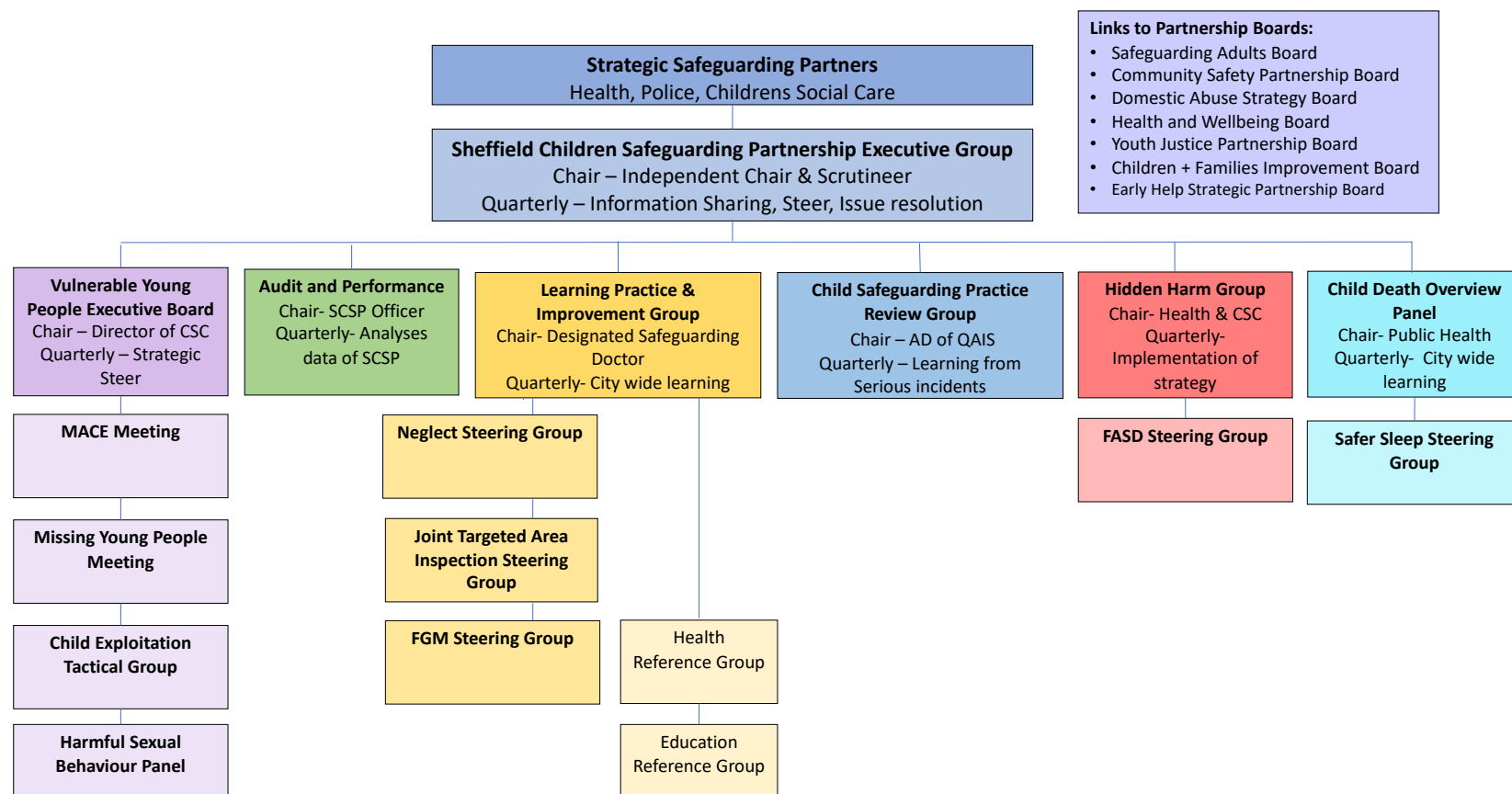
The Partnership operates in line with the requirements of the statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018' and covers the geographical area of Sheffield.

The safeguarding partners and other organisations and agencies included in these arrangements fulfil their statutory duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people from Sheffield who live or are placed outside of our local authority area.

The three local safeguarding partners jointly leading the Partnership are

- **Sheffield City Council:** represented by the Director of Children's Services
- **NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board:** represented by the Chief Nurse
- **South Yorkshire Police:** represented by the Chief Superintendent District Commander

The structure chart below outlines the current Leadership and Governance Arrangements for the Partnership:



Strategic Group

The three strategic safeguarding partners form the Strategic Group and set the strategic priorities, agreeing funding and resources, and driving forward the work of the Partnership, whilst ensuring that the vision and values are upheld. They advise and support the Executive Partnership Group to develop, implement and monitor an annual plan based on the priority actions agreed against the core business.

Executive Partnership Group

The Executive Partnership Group has a wide strategic membership of key stakeholders and relevant agencies, including schools, probation services, the lead member for children's services and health providers. The Executive Partnership Group propels the work of the Partnership, in line with the vision and values. This group develops, delivers, and oversees the agreed annual plan and directs the Partnership's subgroups into implementation of the plan.

Learning and Practice Improvement Group (LPIG)

LPIG identifies multi-agency safeguarding learning needs that require addressing to ensure partner agencies develop their workforces to a high-quality standard and are keeping children safe. The group also has oversight of the SCSP's Learning Cycle to ensure effective join up across the whole system.

Key Developments

How has the Safeguarding Partnership Governance Arrangement been working over the past twelve months?

- This year the Sheffield Safeguarding Children Partnership (SCSP) has said goodbye and thank you to both Executive Partners, Shelley Hemsley District Commander, and Andrew Jones Acting Director of Children's Services. In Spring 2023, we welcomed our new Executive Partners Lindsey Butterfield Chief Superintendent and Meredith Dixon-Teasdale Director of Children's Services.
- There continues to be two separate partnerships for Children and Adults, however both partnerships are committed to working together to keep adults, children, young people, and families safe in Sheffield. We recognise that there are some key issues which require a holistic approach to deliver this and have developed seven joint key priorities, which are overseen by the Joint Executive Board. This year both SCSP and Sheffield Adults Safeguarding Partnership (SASP) have recruited Board/Partnership Managers, who work closely together to ensure greater collaboration and connectivity. This includes bimonthly joint team meetings.
- To ensure coordination with other partnership arrangements, members of the Executive Partnership Group sit across all the partnership boards with a safeguarding remit. These links promote effective communication and engagement and ensure not only that "safeguarding is everybody's business", but also bring about a synergy of work programmes.
- The Partnership's Workforce Development Team continues to plan and deliver a programme of safeguarding training courses for front line practitioners, considering feedback from the learning cycle and LPIG when developing the annual training programme. The multi-agency training offer is being refined to reflect new and innovative practice and interventions, sometimes at a faster rate than the SCSP overarching priorities.

- Workplans of the Partnership subgroups and task and finish groups are now evolving and being updated at a faster pace than the overarching priorities of the SCSP Executive. This presents a challenge in terms of the executive group not becoming a passive receiver of information rather than being a force for improvement through leadership, constructive challenge, and mutual accountability.
- To address the above challenge, a review of the reporting of subgroups and workstreams to the Partnership Executive group has been completed to ensure that the executive members are sighted on and addressing emerging risks, and that robust reporting governance and oversight is in place. Following the review, we have made changes to the reporting mechanisms, which focus on outcomes rather than outputs.

Key questions we will continue to ask ourselves, now, and over the next 12 months:

- How well sighted are we as SCSP Executive on our priorities?
- Are they still the right priorities? Are they based on knowing what life is like for children and young people in Sheffield?
- What difference are we making? What are the outcomes for children, young people and their families?
- How well do we do what we do? What is the quality of our safeguarding practice?
- Are the voices of children, young people and families shaping our priorities and all that we do as a partnership?
- As partners, are we open to reflection, learning and improvement, to provide assurance to the SCSP Executive regarding impact?
- What do we do next? What actions will be taken to ensure informed and improved practice?



Independent Scrutiny

It is recognised that the role of independent scrutiny is to provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

The Partnership has a range of ways which our work is scrutinised and evaluated, including:

- Feedback from Children and Young People through:
 - Children’s Involvement Team
 - Advocacy for Child Protection
 - Children in Care Council
 - Sheffield Care Leavers Union
 - Youth Parliament
 - Multi-agency audit and focus group activity
 - Considering data from partner agencies to understand the impact of changes to the system locally
 - Our Independent Scrutineer.

Our Independent Chair and Scrutineer, Lesley Smith, was appointed in April 2022 and sits across both the children and adult partnerships. Lesley acts as a constructive critical friend and is a key driver to promoting reflection for continuous improvement across the Partnership.

In the independent chair and scrutineer’s six-month review report, Lesley stated...

“*Since my arrival I have observed a 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 children and families and prevent escalation of need.*”

In Lesley’s capacity as independent scrutineer, she has scrutinised the Partnership’s “live” priorities, through a review of: business and work plans for SCSP and its sub groups; responses to the ongoing work of regulators such as Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC); reviews undertaken by National Health Service (NHS) England and Improvement; in-year assurance and monitoring reports brought to the Partnership Executive, national policy and local learning; development papers and proposals we have considered and agreed; Annual Accountability Meetings with partners in May 2022, in which we sought assurance about the robustness of safeguarding practice and partner contributions to the Annual Report.

From the observations, Lesley made the following recommendations within her six-month review report:

Recommendation 1: 2022/23 Priorities and Business Plan - There is a need to refine the SCSP in-year priorities for 2022/23, as a framework for good governance, scrutiny, leadership, and performance reporting.

Recommendation 2: Maturing our Partnership Governance - SCSP should use the consolidation of 2022/23 priorities as a framework to develop scrutiny, mutual accountability, and constructive challenge in the SCSP Executive, asking ourselves the key scrutiny questions about how well we understand the lived experiences of children and families and what impact we are having to improve these.

Recommendation 3: Performance, Quality assurance and Improvement Framework - SCSP should develop its performance reporting, monitoring, and assurance to the SCSP Executive, building the golden thread between the SCSP Executive, its subgroups and its frontline practitioners and its partners.

Recommendation 4: SCSP Ambition, Strategy and Priorities for 2023/26 - The SCSP Executive should take time to review its ambition, strategy, and priorities for the next three years.

Achievements

- In November 2022, a review was completed on the reporting of the SCSP subgroups and workstreams to the Executive Partnership Group, to ensure better connectivity and reporting mechanisms. Changes to the business process and templates have ensured that the executive is better sighted on the delivery arm of the Partnership, allowing for robust reporting, and addressing emerging themes and risks.
- A workshop was held in February 2023, facilitated by two members of the National Facilitator Safeguarding Children Reform. The workshop brought together both the strategic and operational key members of the Partnership, to “Reset, Refresh and Revitalise” the work of the Partnership and strengthen the relationships and leadership of the local arrangements.

Funding Arrangements

36. Working in partnership means organisations and agencies should collaborate on how they will fund their arrangements. The three safeguarding partners and relevant agencies for the local authority area should make payments towards expenditure incurred in conjunction with local multi-agency arrangements for safeguarding and promoting welfare of children.

37. The safeguarding partners should agree the level of funding secured from each partner, which should be equitable and proportionate, and any contributions from each relevant agency, to support the local arrangements. The funding should be transparent to children and families in the area, and sufficient to cover all elements of the arrangements, including the cost of local child safeguarding practice reviews.

*Working Together to Safeguard Children (DfE 2018)
(Chapter 3)*

Agency Contributions 2022- 2023

Agency	Contribution
Sheffield City Council	£ 300,800.00
Health: ICB	£ 115,800.00
South Yorkshire Police: PCC	£ 80,109.00
Total	£ 496,709.00



Section 4

Highlights and work
of the Partnership



Learning from Reviews

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The SCSP undertakes regular reviews of cases, to provide useful insights into the way organisations are working together to safeguard and protect the welfare of children.

To support the SCSP's statutory function in responding to and managing serious child safeguarding incidents, the following work has been undertaken:

- Review and update of SCSP's rapid review process and supporting templates, which has led to improved quality of analysis and decision making in the process.
- Launch of the new Child Safeguarding Review subgroup which is responsible for the implementation and review of action plans and learning following either a Rapid Review or Child Safeguarding Practice Review, including learning from relevant local Domestic Homicide Reviews.
- Development of learning briefings for each rapid review to raise awareness across the Partnership.

Developments for 2023/24

The SCSP is committed to developing a continuous learning and improvement cycle as part of the wider training and workforce development programme. To achieve this, a new Workforce Development subgroup is to be established, focusing on bringing together the learning from case reviews, audits, data and feedback from professionals and children, young people, and families.

To improve the quality of analysis and decision making in the rapid review process, further work is planned to deliver learning workshops for agency leads who are involved with rapid review work.

To develop a better understanding of how different types of dissemination of learning from reviews informs practice, multi-agency consultation workshops are to be held.



Rapid Reviews

The Partnership has completed three rapid reviews during the reporting year April 2022 to March 2023. One rapid review has resulted in a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review being recommended.

The reviews identified some key areas for consideration, learning and action for the local safeguarding system as set out below:

- Raising Professional Curiosity and challenge.
- Recognition of indicators of Neglect.
- Embedding Trauma Informed Practice.
- Effectively work with vulnerable young people in relation to knife crime.
- Impact of domestic abuse within families.

The following is an outline of some of the work that has been undertaken or being further strengthened as an outcome of learning from the rapid reviews:

- Learning from reviews has informed updates to multi-agency training. As part of the **workforce development strategy**, there are now two multi-agency workshops running each year looking at professional curiosity.
- The re-establishment of the multi-agency Neglect steering group has supported the **Sheffield Neglect Strategy**. The steering group is currently reviewing the implementation of the **Graded Care Profile 2** (GCP2) and developing systems to measure the effectiveness of the GCP2.
- A multi-agency learning event is planned for October 2023, looking at one of the rapid review's key learning themes, with a particular focus on the impact of knife crime.
- Monthly level 1 Trauma Informed Practice training continues to be delivered, which is ensuring we have a trauma-aware workforce.

- 'Becoming a Resilient, Compassionate and Trauma Informed City' event was held on 15th March 2023. Michael West from Kings Fund was the keynote speaker and discussed the benefits of compassionate leadership and structures.
- For 2023-2024, the proposal is that the Learning Practice and Improvement Group will focus on domestic abuse, considering the learning from rapid reviews and from the recent paper by the Child Safeguarding Review Panel and changes to the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
- Domestic Abuse is being considered as a key priority for the Safeguarding Partnership for 2023 -2025.



Domestic Homicide Reviews:

Sheffield DACT has completed one domestic homicide review during the reporting year April 2022 to March 2023. To read the report in full click [here](#).

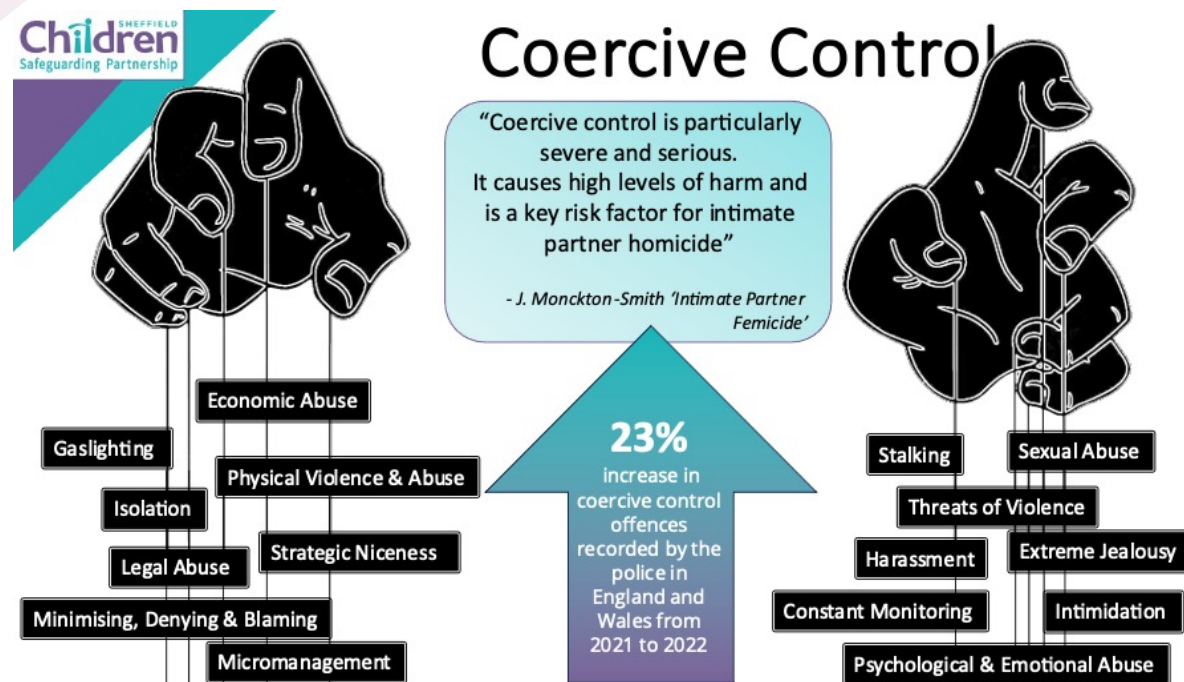
This review identified some key areas for consideration, learning and action as set out below:

- Agencies failed to identify and address the risk of suicide as a possible outcome of the domestic abuse.
- Coercive and controlling behaviour was not recognised.
- A trauma informed approach was required to better understand the context of their life histories and experience. This may have changed practitioner's attitudes towards them, built trust and engagement in support.
- The police missed opportunities to fully understand risk and refer to Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC). The police did not use previous incidents to inform the risk assessment process. Holding perpetrators to account disrupts abusive relationships. The perpetrator was not breached for failing to comply with his probation order or bail.
- Safeguarding children's referrals were not completed following all domestic abuse incidents.
- Professionals did not use a trauma-informed approach or professional curiosity. Therefore, they did not always understand the risk to the victim and why she distrusted children's agencies.
- Recording spellings of names correctly is essential to help find individuals on systems when safeguarding checks are undertaken.

In future, the following are to be considered:

- Use a trauma-informed approach with complex cases of domestic abuse.
- Professionals DASH risk assess all victims, consider their children and refer to social care.
- Check the correct spellings of names.
- Consider if it is self-defence and/or violent resistance when women apparently perpetrate domestic abuse.
- Report and act on breaches of orders such as Domestic Violence Protection Orders.

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Joint Case Reviews

Joint Case Reviews sit within the SCSP's Hidden Harm framework. SCSP, in partnership with Sheffield Health and Social Care (SHSC), undertake reviews with the overall aim of ensuring that the adult mental health services are engaged in safeguarding children.

Families where parental mental ill health is a feature are reviewed with leaders from different service areas, including adult mental health and substance misuse.

The review identifies what worked well and what could be improved in terms of supporting the whole family and any learning that can influence future practice.

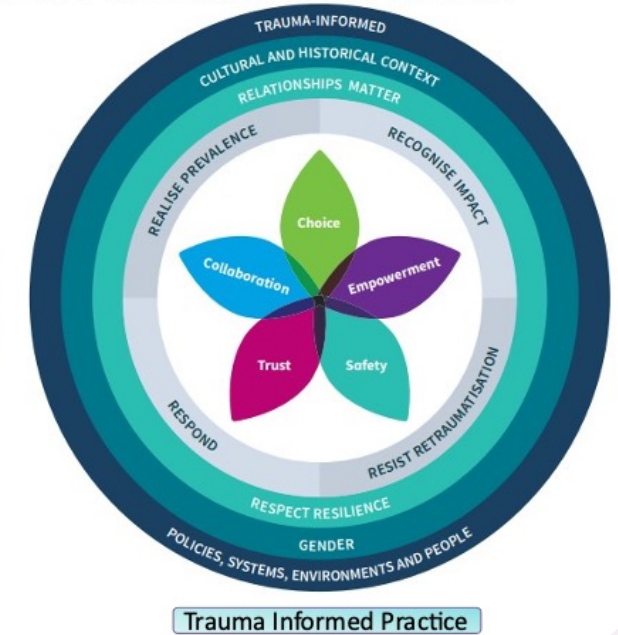
The review focuses on the family's journey (children and parents) and collaborative working between adult and children's services.

The Partnership has completed one Joint Case Review during the reporting year April 2022 to March 2023. To read the learning brief in full, click [here](#).

This review identified some key areas for consideration, learning and action as set out below:

- Consideration should be given to both the current presenting problem and past trauma, including historical contact with services.
- A greater understanding of both the families the child spent time in.

Intergenerational Trauma



- Identifying and understanding the impact of parental mental ill health on the emotional health and wellbeing of children.
- Recognising the current impact previous domestic abuse has on the family's lived experience.
- Need to see the whole picture rather than assessing individual events.
- Hearing the voice of the child.
- Assess together and plan together.

Disseminating Learning from Joint Case Reviews

In June 2022, a multi-agency review meeting was held to revisit previous Joint Case Reviews (JCR) to establish whether the lessons learnt had changed practice and whether there were better ways to disseminate information.

The major improvement identified was improved communication between adult mental health and children's services, including attendance at meetings. There was also greater recognition by services of intergenerational trauma and the impact this has on family life.

In some of the JCRs we could see better discussion and joint working which had led to a greater shared understanding of how parental behaviours impacted on children.

In November 2022, the eighth Parental Mental Health workshop was held in person with ninety participants from children and adults' services.

Presentations on Professional Curiosity, Think Family and Intergenerational Trauma were delivered, and multi-agency round table discussions followed considering what stops professional curiosity and what people's experiences were and challenges of identifying and working with intergenerational trauma.

The final round table discussion looked at what the barriers were in applying the learning from the JCRs. Participants were also asked to consider their current ways of working and asked to identify what they would like to keep; what they would like to improve; what they would like to develop and what they would like to stop.



Multi Agency Audits

The Multi-Agency Audit Group (MAAG) sits within the learning and practice improvement group framework. Its purpose is to support the SCSP's statutory function in monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of single agency and multi-agency safeguarding processes.

Cases considered for a MAAG meeting should offer the following:

- Cases which provide significant learning for partner agencies; the aim will be that cases will provide different themes and learning.
- Cases which are receiving or should be receiving a service from several partners. There may be cases where a child is not receiving a service from an agency where it appears that they potentially should be, and this will also be considered.
- Cases which do not meet the criteria for a Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) but there is still some learning to be had from the case.

The Partnership has completed four multi-agency audits during the reporting year April 2022 to March 2023, with excellent engagement from partners in statutory and voluntary services.

The audits identified some key areas for consideration, learning and action as set out below:

- The challenges of working with peer on peer violence with young people as both the victim and the perpetrator.
- How professionals can best re-engage young people in education and learning to reduce the risk of harm outside the home. It is critical that agencies work together.
- Importance of the whole family working model, when identifying safety plans.
- The importance of identifying neglect and responding effectively- with agreed actions to use the graded care profile 2 tool.
- Disguised compliance was recognised as difficult to overcome, making it more important that frontline workers offer a cohesive approach.
- Learning identified how critical it is to review the family history and give it due weight, to avoid an event-based approach to assessment.

- Where services have not worked collaboratively, we have unpicked and agreed a way forward. This has been a recurring theme across the four audits.

Although the SCSP does not consult with children and young people directly, our audit is designed to ask practitioners how they have listened to each child and young person in the family. Each meeting is supported by a case summary report and an analytical chronology which highlights the impact on each child at particular ages of intervention.



Disseminating Learning from Multi Agency Audits

The purpose of the audit is to highlight areas of strengths and good practice for both single agencies and in partnership working, areas requiring improvement, areas of identified learning and emerging themes to enable a culture of continuous learning and improvement.

Following each audit cycle, we produce a learning brief which is disseminated throughout each organisation and held on the SCSP website. To read the learning briefs in full, click

[Learning Brief MAAG Family A](#)
[Learning Brief MAAG Family D](#)

Following a review of the MAAG process in January 2023, we decided to reduce the number of MAAG's from five per year to three. A separate evaluation/learning session will be held every January to scrutinise the learning from the previous year's audits, allowing members to report on progress of any significant changes to practice, processes, thresholds, multi-agency working and identify any continued workforce development.

Section 11 Audits

The SCSP and SASP jointly revised and delivered a self-assessment to thirteen statutory services across Sheffield as part of their Section 11 responsibilities.

Several virtual meetings were held in May 2022, which offered an opportunity for senior leaders to meet with Lesley Smith, Independent Chair and Scrutineer and the three strategic safeguarding partners: Shelley Helmsley South Yorkshire Police (SYP), Alun Windle Chief Nurse, South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB), and John Macilwraith Executive Director of People Services.

Each partner had an hour to discuss issues of concern and challenge in their respective agency. Prior to the meeting, the panel members were briefed on agencies' Section 11 self-assessment reports and provided data on partnership engagement in city-wide meetings of the Executive, partner engagement in SASP/SCSP led training and data on participation in Child Protection case conferences.

Following this, all services have signed up to action plans to ensure an enduring impact beyond the assurance meetings. SCSP has welcomed feedback on the content of the self-assessments and on the framework used to ensure continuous improvement.

Developments for 2023/24

The Partnership will seek assurance through next year's Section 11 audit, that all agencies continue to listen and respond to the lived experiences and views of children and families and ensure that service development considers these views.



Multi Agency Training

Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership has delivered sixty courses and seventy five multi-agency workshops to 4,538 staff members and volunteers in the children and adult workforce during 2022-23.

The rationale for all courses and workshops delivered is contained within the [Workforce Development Strategy 2022-2025](#).

Details of course and workshop attendance can be found [here](#).

4817 e-learning courses were accessed and completed through the SCSP website, bringing the total number of training places completed to 9355, not including attendance at conferences.

This is an increase from last year and comprises a greater number of taught courses and workshops than in previous years.

All participants at workshops, conferences and taught courses 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 took 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 training meets the needs of the participants, that the key messages have been understood and that the training has inspired an intention to improve individual and/or service practice. Adjustments are made if required. The overall picture is that attendees place value on the training offer and overwhelmingly identify changes they will make to practice because of their new learning.

Currently, for the Graded Care Profile 2 training, as a condition of receiving their licence, further evaluation and reflection takes place after a practitioner has used the tool in practice. This both encourages use of the tool and highlights the strengths and any difficulties of applying the training.

Several workshops delivered on behalf of SCSP are directly informed by children's experiences, these include Online Safeguarding and Understanding Young Carer's Needs.

This year we heard about the realities of knife crime from Alison Cope, a mother whose son was murdered via knife crime, and who campaigns for better understanding from professionals. We learned from her that to really understand the experiences of young people, not to ask children whether they are carrying a knife, but to ask whether their friends are.



Safeguarding Awareness Week 21-25 November 2022

During Safeguarding Awareness Week 2022, SCSP and SASP worked together to create a full programme of learning activities.

From bookings taken by SCSP alone, approximately 1,500 places were booked and there was a high level of attendance and excellent feedback for the variety of trainers that took part.

More than 700 people attended the conference 'Ey Up Dad!: Working with the men in children's lives'. This online conference was produced by South and North Yorkshire members of the Yorkshire and Humber Multi-Agency Safeguarding Trainers (YHMAST), and had national speakers, including Mark Gurrey, the 2021 reviewer and author of "The Myth of Invisible Men" from the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, along with practical examples of how services can better engage dads.

As part of Safeguarding Awareness week, the Online Safety lead delivered a seminar for professionals in the children's workforce. This was exceptionally well attended and reflected a need for training and reflective practice on Online Safety for all those who work with young people and vulnerable adults.



Developments for 2023/24

- In 2023-2024, we intend to keep delivering a programme of high-quality workshops, events, and courses according to the SCSP Business Plan and Workforce Development Strategy 2022-2025 and remain alert to developments, emerging themes and knowledge regarding safeguarding.
- We hope to reach out to more of the paid and voluntary workforce by the introduction of a direct-booking system which will ease the experience of accessing training.
- We will look to extend our understanding of the impact of training by asking more trainees about the impact of training once they have had the opportunity to implement it.
- We will be delivering a full programme of training and activities during Safeguarding Awareness Week, 20th -24th November 2023.
- We will advance plans to work with Sheffield College to develop better consultation with young people to capture their voice to inform training.

Workforce Development

Learning and Practice Improvement Group (LPIG)

LPIG ensures that the SCSP **Workforce Development Strategy 2022-2025** is implemented effectively across all partner agencies, so the children's workforce receives an appropriate level of guidance and support in safeguarding children.

LPIG also oversees the Partnership's learning cycle and seeks assurance from agencies that recommendations are acted on and policies and procedures are followed.

In accordance with our Workforce Development Strategy 2022-2025, the SCSP Executive Board endorsed the plan for three priority areas for workforce development to be considered during 2022/23.

This was done using a process of agencies submitting self-assessments and creating action plans for improvement and providing feedback on their submissions at each LPIG.

For 2022/23, this process has been completed on the following topics:

Diversity: In accordance with the Equality Act 2010, supporting the initial findings of the Race Equality Commission in Sheffield, and in recognition of discrimination as a source of significant harm, SCSP agreed to view all activity through the lens of promoting equity in services and for children and families.

Neglect: This topic was agreed to support the implementation of the Sheffield Neglect Strategy and to underpin the implementation of the NSPCC Graded Care Profile 2.

Engaging with the men in children's lives:

Self-assessment in this area followed the publication of **"The Myth of Invisible Men" – Safeguarding Children under 1 for non-accidental injury caused by male carers**, (Child Safeguarding Review Panel 2021) and the work was further supported by the regional conference detailed above.

The self-assessment work generated activity in services and agencies developed their own action plans, including highlighting areas of good practice, which were shared via learning briefs on **diversity** and **neglect**.

In December 2022, the SCSP Executive Group agreed for the 2023/24 learning from practice priorities to focus on:

Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB): In response to the **Family G Serious Case Review**, Social Care have led on the redevelopment of the city-wide response to identifying, assessing, and providing interventions to children and young people presenting with harmful sexual behaviour.

Since Hackett Continuum Model for screening harmful sexual behaviour replaced the Brooke Traffic Light Tool in Sheffield, a guidance tool to support its use has been developed. In response to this, the SCSP in partnership with Youth Justice Service, developed the multi-agency workshop 'Recognising and Responding to Harmful Sexual Behaviour'.

The self-assessments will focus on the effectiveness of the new HSB pathway and the implementation of the SCSP multi-agency training offer.

Children as victims of domestic abuse:

Considering the recent paper by the Child Safeguarding Review Panel **Multi-agency safeguarding and domestic abuse (publishing.service.gov.uk)** and the changes in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, which sets out that children are victims of domestic abuse in their own right, it is timely for agencies across the city to self-assess their understanding and response to domestic abuse.

The Audit and Performance Group

The Partnership uses data intelligence and audits to ensure the help being provided to children in Sheffield is effective.

To achieve this, the Audit and Performance Subgroup is responsible for receiving, analysing, and challenging relevant single agency audit reports and performance reviews, identifying any significant issues that need to be monitored and/or raised to the Learning and Practice Improvement Group and the Executive Partnership Group.

Hidden Harm Group

The Hidden Harm Group is responsible for overseeing Sheffield's **Hidden Harm Strategy 2021 – 2025** which commits city-wide services, both adults and children, to work collaboratively in households where there is drug and alcohol misuse, poor mental health, harmful gambling, and/or domestic abuse to ensure that the voice of the child or vulnerable adult is heard, and their circumstances safeguarded.

The main objectives of the strategy are identified in the **Hidden Harm Implementation Plan**, with the overall aim of embedding a whole household approach and improving joint working focusing on shared assessments, shared understanding and joint planning.

Achievements in 2022/23

Adult and Children Services have increased their understanding of the impact on children where there is Hidden Harm within their households. Evidence from both adult and children services case records shows greater communication and discussion and a greater shared understanding.

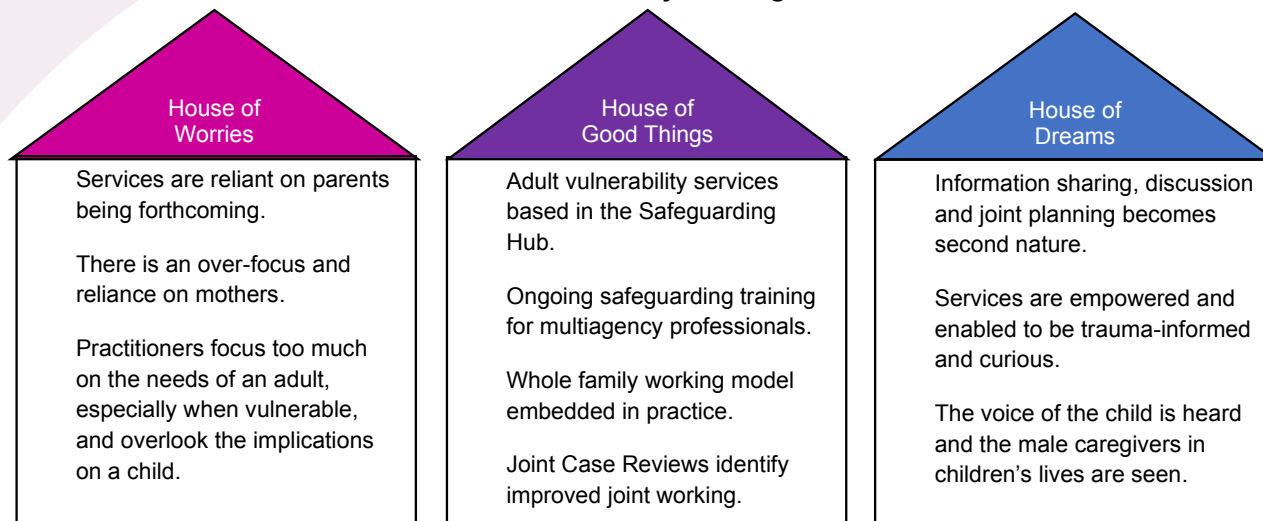
Developments for 2023/24

We will hold a Parental Mental Health Workshop for adult and children's services to consider the connections between the findings from the **multi-agency case reviews:**

- **Being Trauma Informed** – consideration is given to the impact on family life of intergenerational trauma.

- **Being Inclusive** – people with neurodevelopmental diversity are included and enabled to participate by better use of language and systems.
- **Being Family Focused** - the whole experience of the child is looked at instead of treating each incident as a single event. The voices of children and male caregivers are heard by all services.
- **Being Comprehensive** – there is communication, discussion and shared planning between adult and children services to help develop Family Safety Plans.

Whole Family Working



Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Steering Group

FASD is a neurological condition that is entirely preventable and affects people throughout their life. FASD impacts on maternity, children, young people, and adult services, both individuals and families.

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, exploitation, homelessness and difficulties with social relationships, education, and employment.

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Achievements in 2022/23

The NICE Quality Standards for FASD were published in March 2022 and the FASD work programme has continued to ensure that Sheffield meets these national guidelines:

- **Prevention** - Reducing alcohol exposed pregnancies by raising public awareness.

Awareness raising posters are spread across the city in pubs and clubs, libraries, markets, workplaces, GP surgeries, sexual health clinics, refuges, family hubs, and substance misuse services. The key message is being promoted that 'No amount of alcohol at any stage of pregnancy is safe for the developing foetus'.

- **Identification** - Increasing practitioner's understanding and confidence in identifying FASD and offering appropriate timely support.

2000+ practitioners from across Sheffield services have attended multi-agency training about FASD: How it is caused, how it can be identified, and the impact it has on children, young people, and their families.

- **Assessment and Support-** Multi-Agency Assessment will help the individual and family access the appropriate support.

The FASD work programme has continued to build on the pre-and post-diagnosis support that is needed and can be provided in the city. A peer support group was established. Practitioners have access to FASD resources to use with families.

Sheffield is being recognised nationally as an area of expertise and development in FASD and now all regions in South Yorkshire have adopted the above strategic priorities that Sheffield's FASD work programme developed.

Impact

Preventative awareness raising, both public and professional, will reduce the number of alcohol-exposed pregnancies and the likelihood of children born with FASD.

The training offered to professionals has been well received, and services have already started to change their approach to supporting children and young people with possible or diagnosed FASD. Appropriate intervention and support for people with FASD hinges on correct diagnosis, and the ongoing FASD work programme has improved access to diagnostics citywide.

Developments for 2023/24

Working in partnership across South Yorkshire, we will run a digital media campaign to raise awareness of the harm that can be caused by drinking alcohol when pregnant.

The FASD work programme will continue to raise the profile of FASD and will support Sheffield Children's Hospital in including FASD as part of their Neuro-Disability pathway.



Education Safeguarding Advisors and Education Safeguarding Subgroup

In Sheffield we have Safeguarding Children Advisors for education. These roles exist to support education settings to ensure the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children in our city.

The safeguarding advisors are an advice and support resource for all education settings, with a named advisor linked to them. The advisory team also offer safeguarding training. See here for more information regarding the offer. Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership - Sheffield education settings (safeguardingsheffieldchildren.org)

The new Education Safeguarding Subgroup was established in November 2022, as the Partnership recognised that early year's providers, schools and colleges form part of the wider safeguarding system. The purpose of the subgroup is to maintain strong relationships and engagement opportunities within the Education Sector across Sheffield.

It also ensures a central point for disseminating learning from safeguarding reviews. The subgroup also provides an opportunity for early year's providers, schools, and colleges to share educational strategies with both the Partnership's Learning and Practice Improvement Group (LPIG) and the SCSP Executive Group.

An education workshop was held in March 2023, which brought designated safeguarding leads together to look at the issue of "transitions" and to develop a transitions passport across the city.

Licensing and Contextual Safeguarding

The Partnership's licensing officers support the licensing authority and licensed operators to meet the core objectives of the legislation and to ensure that an effective and meaningful response is made in terms of safeguarding children at licensed premises.

Achievements in 2022/23

- Investigated complaints about locations where children may be at risk, escalating to action plans for improvement and licence reviews.
- Shared information and contributed to disruption at problem locations via the Child Exploitation Tactical Group.
- We continued to promote contextual safeguarding practice and have presented this at the Local Government Association's Essential Leadership Seminars.
- Delivered safeguarding awareness training to stewards at Sheffield Wednesday Football Club.
- Responded to 181 licence and 9 gambling applications.
- Supported the development of the Gambling Strategy to prevent harmful gambling.
- Offered advice about safeguarding practice at major events children attend and in the wider business community.
- Worked with Safe Places to produce a training resource film, about working with vulnerable

- passengers. The film will be used as part of the taxi driver training.
- Continued to promote Safe to Play campaign and have extended the resource to secondary schools, colleges, and young carers groups. Over the coming months, we will revisit sports centres, football clubs and leisure centres to evaluate the impact of the initiative.
- Supported the FASD awareness campaign, by providing licensed operators in the city centre with posters for display in their premises, to encourage consumers to make informed decisions about drinking when pregnant, and briefing operators about FASD and the related risks of drinking in pregnancy.
- In response to risk associated with gender inequality and violence against those who identify as women and girls, we have collaborated with the Sheffield Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Forum to produce new guidance for public event managers.

- Written material to raise awareness of VAWG with taxi drivers, which will form part of the new extended training session we plan to deliver in partnership with Sheffield College.
- In our training, we use the locally produced **My Pockets - be THAT mate** video to raise awareness of preventing violence against women and girls.

Impact

The work of Sheffield's licensing officers has attained a reputation for innovative work, and they have received local, regional, and national awards for their proactive approach. We routinely share our good practice, materials and strategic approaches with other organisations and local authorities.

We use feedback from training sessions and from safeguarding meetings with regulatory services to evaluate impact and prioritise need; we revisit problem locations to assess improvement in safeguarding compliance. The impact of this is that business operators, education,

social care and regulatory staff are increasingly able to recognise and respond to risk in the business community, making the city safer for children and young people.

Developments for 2023/24

- Move towards a quality assurance role in training and monitoring compliance in the business community.
- Continue to work with South Yorkshire Police to raise awareness of child exploitation and the hotel/temporary accommodation trade. We recently joined the National Systems Change meeting with the Children's Society, which has a national focus on how the hotel trade is used by local authorities.
- Continue working with the Child Exploitation Tactical Group, Sheffield City Council Tax Licensing and other organisations, to explore how existing systems can be improved to safeguard children looked after who are travelling by taxi and/or using hotels.

Vulnerable Young People Executive Board

The Vulnerable Young People's Executive Board (VYPEB) oversees the delivery of the contextual safeguarding strategy and action plan to monitor the multi-agency response to this cohort of young people. This is co-chaired by the Director for Children and Families and South Yorkshire Police.

Achievements in 2022/23

- The process for reviewing high, medium and low risk cases in Multi Agency Criminal Exploitation (MACE) meetings has been reviewed. This has made the processes for MACE more manageable with more time being given to high-risk cases.
- The Child Exploitation Tactical Group (CETG) has done training with Licensing, Hotels and Taxi Services on identifying and combatting child exploitation.
- Sheffield's Missing Policy has been reviewed.

The following are examples of how the VYPEB are delivering against the priorities in the Contextual Safeguarding Strategy:

- 1. Young people engage with our interventions** – There are currently 75 children open to the Amber Service who are at risk of exploitation. As social workers in the Amber Service have smaller caseloads, they can visit young people more intensely, even daily. There are several intervention workers, with whom the young people work well. The service also works with 26 schools delivering preventative work, looking for signs of exploitation. The Missing Service is in contact with three local authority care homes working closely together to enhance the quality of responses from residents following their return.
- 2. Impact of interventions** - To evidence impact, Amber Service completes an improved Safety Scale when it closes cases or steps them down. Since 03.02.2022, out of 217 open cases, 144 have been successfully closed, evidencing the intervention's success.
- 3. Young people remain cared for in the family and/or community** – Of 75 children open to the Amber Service, 43 are CIN, 11 CLA, and 22 CP. 14% are looked after, and the rest are within a home environment.
- 4. Young people provided feedback that informs our service delivery and development** – The Amber Service has had positive feedback. However most feedback is verbal, so we are developing a process for obtaining written feedback.
- 5. Young people have a robust safety plan coordinated by a Strategy Meeting (if needed) if they go missing or run away** – A strategy meeting is arranged when a child is missing for 72 hours or if there have been three missing episodes within 28 days. These are never missed and there is a running count of when these are needed. Within the strategy meeting there is a clear plan to support robust safety planning.

Developments for 2023/24

- In 2023/24, the VYPEB will focus on 'deep dives' into themes identified by partners. These include,
 - First-time entrants into the criminal justice system.
 - Serious Youth Violence, including peer-on-peer violence and knife crime.
 - Diversity, including mixed-race teenage boys and the Roma community.
 - Sexual exploitation, sexual abuse, and harmful sexual behaviour.
- A Directions Panel is scheduled to start in October 2023, looking at support for young people at risk of exploitation as they transition to adulthood.

Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

The child death overview panel reviews individual cases of all child deaths of children and young people normally resident in the area.

Between 1st April 2022 and 31st March 2023 there were forty-four deaths of Sheffield children. This figure is in keeping with the annual average of 43.5 per year since the child death processes began in 2008/09.

Sheffield CDOP met on five occasions, reviewing the deaths of thirty four children. Panel have continued to meet virtually with good attendance achieved by all member agencies. Most deaths (65%) occurred in those under one year (34% aged 0-27 days, 31% aged 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 in 2022/23 (50%).

While there are no strict timescales for review, we aim to discuss cases at CDOP at the earliest opportunity to ensure learning is identified and implemented as soon as possible. 68% of reviews undertaken during 2022/23 were held within twelve months of a death. The median number of days between death and CDOP review was 335 nationally; in Sheffield this was 280.

CDOP considers whether any modifiable factors were present for each case. These 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 32% of cases, which is slightly below the average for England (37%). CDOP continues to feed data into the National Child Mortality Database (NCMD), which was introduced in 2019 to systematically capture information following a child's death; this has enabled learning at a national level and informed changes in policy and practice.

Quarterly meetings have also been held with our regional partners in South Yorkshire CDOP to share learning.

Achievements in 2022/23

- Implementation of multi-agency Safer Sleep guidance and practice - Membership of the safer sleep steering group has been expanded to include representation from South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue, social care and primary care. The group has met every two months and an action plan with priorities for all agencies has been created which is subject to regular review. Safer sleep training has been delivered by the Lullaby Trust to practitioners citywide; this included a separate training session for safer sleep champions.
- Continued roll-out of ICON across the local area - Sheffield has continued to work with regional colleagues in relation to **ICON**, Safer sleep and Drymester, and regional guidelines for these areas are being considered.
- Participation in thematic reviews with our regional partners - We did not participate in a regional thematic review in 2022/23 due to ongoing staffing capacity. However, a task and finish group was initiated at the end of 2022/23 and a resource has now been identified to contribute to future reviews, and a thematic review is in progress as of Quarter 1 of 2023/24.



Infant crying is normal



Comforting methods can help



It's OK to walk away



Never, ever shake a baby

- Completion of a local suicide contagion plan - A local contagion plan was finalised during 2022/23 and unfortunately there were circumstances where this was put in to action, though it is positive to note the plan operated well. In addition, guidance has been produced for schools about responding to traumatic events, which has also been positively received.
- To consider how we support and influence strategies to reduce the harm of social deprivation - There have been amendments to the national data collection and CDOP now routinely considers the impact of social deprivation during reviews. There will be further consideration with regard to this area during 2023/24.

The following learning points were noted from cases reviewed:

- CDOP noted the importance of addressing safer sleep in inpatient settings - Safer Sleep champions have been identified for all acute wards at Sheffield Children's Hospital and a mandatory training plan is being considered. Further work will be undertaken with the neonatal unit to establish a baseline of Safer Sleep knowledge and training plans based on the outcome proposed.
- The recognition that access to language interpretation has a direct impact on quality of care -This was raised with the Safeguarding Partnership and Health and Wellbeing Board to consider any further action that may need to be undertaken.

Developments for 2023/24

- For the upcoming year 2023/24, the hosting arrangements for South Yorkshire CDOP will be facilitated by Doncaster 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 to contribute to these meetings and work with regional partners.
- Sheffield will continue with their local 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.
- The continued absence of a CDOP Manager in post has impacted on CDOP in delays with collecting information, progressing actions, undertaking planned development work with Panel and reduced capacity to engage with regional thematic reviews. To address the current gap in service provision, recruitment of a CDOP Manager is in progress.
- Following the death of a child, bereaved families should be supported by a Hospital Trust and provided with a key worker who can act as a point of contact. There is continued action being undertaken across Hospital Trusts to fully embed the Key Worker role.
- The development and delivery of a tiered Safer Sleep training offer for practitioners in Sheffield as part of the Early Years training offer.
- The development of support materials for families and professionals following infant bereavement, which will describe help available, including key roles and responsibilities and processes for delivering support.

Children and Young People's Involvement

The Children's Involvement Team (CIT) sits within the Quality Assurance and Involvement Service (QAIS) in the Children and Families Service of Sheffield City Council.

The primary focus of 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
- Issue based advocacy support for children cared for by Sheffield local authority and Sheffield care leavers up to age 25
- Issue based advocacy support for disabled children receiving short break support to age 25
- Facilitation of creative Voice groups, including Little Children in Care Council, Children in Care Council and the Sheffield Care Leavers Union
- Facilitation of Sheffield's Independent Visitor (IV) service, including children looked after, care leavers and a pilot of IVs for adopted children and those in connected care
- 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 their voices are acted upon by their Service
- Training and support for workers supporting children and young people to ensure their voices are heard and listened to.

During the year, the Children's Involvement Team delivered the following:

- 192 children aged 5 – 17 years received independent advocacy support at Initial Child Protection Conferences
- 43 children aged 5 – 17 years received independent advocacy support at First Review Child Protection Conferences
- 41 children looked after, care leavers and disabled children received issue-based advocacy support
- 3 create and change groups met regularly to listen to the voices of children and young people aged 7 to 25 years
- 10 young people were involved in 12 'experts by experience' interview panels
- 10 young people were involved in Young People's Reverse Scrutiny Panels to review service managers' action plans
- 6 training sessions were delivered

to 91 workers across Sheffield Children and Families worksites

- 12 workers showcased 6 areas of good practice and innovative direct work at 2 Whole Service Events to 239 attendees
- 87 children were matched with an Independent Visitor
- 15 audit interviews were completed for Social Care and Multi Agency Support Team (MAST).



Advocacy – child protection

The Children’s Involvement Team provides independent advocacy for children and young people aged 5 to 17 years in child protection processes. Advocates use a wide range of child-friendly tools and techniques to engage with children and seek their voice, wishes and feelings.

An advocate will present a written report of the child’s words in the conference, support a child to participate in the conference if they wish to attend, ensure the child’s wishes and feelings are reflected in the plan, feedback to the child following the conference and evaluate the service the child has received.

Advocacy support is offered to every child within the commissioned age bracket on an opt-out basis for the child, following permission being granted by a parent or carer.

During 2022-23, 192 children received independent advocacy support at Initial Child Protection Conferences. 43 children aged 5 – 17 years received independent advocacy support at First Review Child Protection Conferences.

“An advocate is important to make sure my point of view is getting out there and my opinion is listened to. [My advocate] is understanding, polite and easy to share things with, they made me feel relaxed. I wish I’d met [my advocate] before all this happened so I could voice my opinions earlier!”

“I needed an advocate because it helped me speak in the meeting and gather my thoughts. They helped me write down my thoughts and speak in the meeting.”

Feedback from children

“It’s important to have an advocate to be our voice. It’s good because when they come it’s fun and it makes me really happy. I wish I could see [my advocate] again to help me before the next meeting.”

“It’s important that my say on the matter is advocated for to help the situation. It helped with the questions and meetings and [my advocate] has been very straightforward and clear about the information. They spoke to me with understanding and on a helpful level.”

“I think I need an advocate because sometimes I feel like people don’t listen to me because I’m a kid. I think it’s good having [advocate] as my advocate because they do their job right and write down things that I say.”

Issue based advocacy – children looked after, care leavers and disabled children accessing Sheffield’s short break homes

An issue-based advocacy approach means that an advocate will be allocated to work with a child who has a specific issue that they feel is not being listened to or isn't progressing in the way they would like. The advocate always works under the instruction of the child they are advocating for. The service also provides advocacy using a non-instructed approach for children who are unable to instruct or direct their advocate.

During 2022-23, 45 children looked after, care leavers and children with disabilities who access short break homes received issue-based advocacy support; this included 28 new referrals and 17 cases carried over from the previous year. Of the 45 advocacy cases:

- **12 (27%)** children had a disability
- **13 (29%)** live in a children's home
- **11 (24%)** were care leavers aged between 18 and 25 years
- **10 (22%)** living out of city.

The most commonly received referrals included support for young people regarding placements, education, finances and support at review meetings. The average age for young people needing support was fifteen years, as the change from being a child looked after to a care leaver approaches.





Feedback from children

“I needed an advocate because I wouldn't have been able to do it and get what I wanted myself. We can't talk to the social services bosses but [an advocate] can. [My advocate] has helped me so so so much. I would score them 10/10.”

“I don't need an advocate anymore because I don't have any more problems! [My advocate] solved them all. I score them 10/10. [My advocate] has helped me so much. They have been battling for me and have worked so hard. It would be better if I could still have an advocate even though I have no problems. I wish they had...done nothing different. They did it so good!”

Voice and Influence Structures

The Children's Involvement Team provides a range of formal and informal structures for children and young people to have their say and influence services. These include:

- Create and Change Groups:
 - Little Children in Care Council (Little CiCC): ages 7 – 11
 - Children in Care Council (CiCC): ages 12 – 17
 - Sheffield Care Leavers Union (SCLU): ages 18 – 24
- Young People's Reverse Scrutiny Panel
- Young People's Interview Panel

Create and Change groups

This year the groups returned to face-to-face meetings following the relaxing of the Covid restrictions. Key pieces of work included:

- **CiCC and SCLU jointly took over the Corporate Parenting Board** and delivered a session about the lived experiences of care experienced children and young people.
- **CiCC and SCLU launched a poetry book** called 'Find Your Spark, Leave Your Mark' which was launched at the city's Off The Shelf festival partnership with Hive South Yorkshire.
- **All members of the three groups spent sessions making a patchwork quilt** to share messages about their care experience. The tapestry was launched at Off The Shelf book launch in October and displayed in the Millennium Galleries.
- **SCLU and CiCC took part in a photography project** with Site Gallery. The theme was 'Hidden Sheffield' and linked to the young people's experiences of being in care. Posters will be printed of their work and, along with their words, will be printed and displayed across the city centre.
- **The groups have met for summer sessions in parks** across the city to discuss what issues are important to them and potential projects they may like to take on following the summer break.
- **SCLU made two podcasts:** one was about mental health and one about their experiences of working on the studio orchestra project.
- **SCLU members performed their own pieces of spoken word and rap** at The Crucible Theatre. They worked in advance with composer and rapper George Morton and, accompanied by Sheffield Youth Orchestra, performed to a public audience. The project won national recognition and was short-listed for a Children and Young People Now award.
- **Members of SCLU presented at a city-wide health conference online.** They shared their 'Top Tips for GPs' from care leavers and launched a national discussion on Twitter under the hashtag #bigGPconvo. This project was showcased by Coram Voice as a good practice example for their national online 'practice bank'.
GP awareness - Coram Voice



Young People's Reverse Scrutiny Panel

Service Managers in Children and Families Service are challenged via Bright Spots bi-annual survey, to identify three areas of work to improve via strategic plans.

The service managers are invited quarterly to present their plans and progress to the Young People's Reverse Scrutiny Panel, who give feedback, advise on ways forward and engage in co-production going forwards.

[Young people's scrutiny panel - Coram Voice](#)

Experts by experience interview panels

Young people took part in 'experts by experience' panels throughout the year. They were part of interview processes for social workers, personal advisors and senior managers across the Council.

The young people have developed a process that means they can give a view on the candidate from their own perspective. The areas they focus on include relationship building, communication skills and knowledge.

The young people's views are given equal weight in the final outcome as other panels within the process. The panel chair notifies the young people's panel of the successful candidate and gives them feedback on how their views influenced the decision.

During the year, young people sat on the following recruitment panels:

- Social Worker recruitment
- Residential Service Manager
- Strategic Director of Children's Services
- Director for Children and Families
- Personal advisors in the Leaving Care Service.

Voice and Influence Workers

At the start of the year, we began the process of developing five paid roles for care experienced young people within the Children's Involvement Team. The aim was to provide care experienced young people an opportunity to develop skills some of them learnt during their involvement in the groups, including training, interviewing, advocating on behalf of their peers, and adding to this with the acquisition of work-based skills. Five care experienced young people were successfully recruited to the roles in October 2022. The workers are commissioned by services and organisations in Sheffield to promote the voices of care experienced young people.

This initiative was highlighted by Coram Voice as best practice:

[Voice & Influence worker - Coram Voice](#)

Feedback

“ Since joining I didn't really know the extent on how impactful, joyful, and transformative it would be for me. My passion, my skills are continuing to develop and grow rapidly just because of how meaningful and important this job is. Not only to the lives we change but to me as well. ”



Section 5

Partner progress
with joint
priorities





Children's Social Care (CSC)

Sheffield Safeguarding Hub (SSH) continues to act as the first point of contact for children and young people in Sheffield where safeguarding concerns are identified, and children and young people are not achieving their full potential.

Achievements in 2022/23

Over the past twelve months, the Early Help Hub and the Safeguarding Hub have continued to develop stronger pathways to ensure children, young people and their families receive the right support at the right time with no inbuilt delay into the pathway. This includes a refresh of the step-up process from early help to children's social care and continuation of the Integrated Front Door pilot which allows for referrals sent to the SSH, which are appropriate for Level 4 support or below, to receive a timely social care screening response within the early help hub.

Following the recommendations from OFSTED, the SSH has strengthened its response to children and young people experiencing harm through domestic abuse through the introduction of perpetrator mapping within screening records and holding a daily Multi-Agency Domestic Abuse (MADA) meeting, which includes representatives from CSC, South Yorkshire Police, Independent Domestic Abuse Services (IDAS) and MAST focusing on immediate safety planning following high-risk domestic abuse incidents prior to Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC). Most practitioners within the SSH have also completed the full four-day Safe and Together training.

Developments for 2023/24

- Rolling out the Integrated Front Door (IFD) which will allow early help and social care specialists to provide a holistic view at the front door of the child/family.
- Children and Families Services will create one pathway to support and publicise one number for all worries relating to children, regardless of risk and complexity. This will simplify the process for the public and professionals and potentially reduce unnecessary social work interventions as we shift the focus to ask if the child's needs can be met by Early Help services. This is in line with the recommendations of the Stable Homes Built on Love agenda from the Department for Education.
- For concerns relating to the safeguarding of children and young people in Sheffield, the IFD will operate a conversation model that allows for richer conversations to identify the lived experience and impact for the child and young person. The introduction of one early help assessment across the Early Help Partnership will be used to refer for support within one centralised children's portal for early help services within the IFD.
- The IFD will also introduce streamlined pathways into other services within Sheffield and the development of the web offer through the Sheffield Directory will put information at the families' fingertips.
- From July 2023, a worker from the Probation Service has been co-located within the SSH to ensure their services' contribution to the MADA process.



MAST (Multi-Agency Support Team) is no longer a single service

- The range of support services that used to be delivered under the name 'MAST' all still exist and are available as part of the Sheffield Early Help Offer.
- Early Help is a system of support that all agencies who work with children, young people and families are part of.
- The right service for children, young people and families will depend on their strengths and needs.
- The whole-family intervention support service that used to be part of the Multi-Agency Support Teams offer has been re-named as the Family Intervention Service.
- The name "Family Intervention Service" has been formally adopted from July 2023.

Family Intervention Service (FIS)

The Family Intervention Service (FIS) offers whole family support where there are multiple issues needing a co-ordinated multi-agency action plan. FIS undertakes direct work with children, young people and families using the Signs of Wellbeing framework, to listen to and act on their wishes and feelings.

This helps everyone in the support network to be clear about the strengths and positive progress, the worries and complicating factors and the agreed next steps to make further improvements. A multi-agency plan is created based on addressing the needs of the whole family, with regular Team Around the Family meetings held to discuss progress and agree actions.

More information on the Family Intervention Service can be found on the link below.
Family Intervention Service | Sheffield (sheffielddirectory.org.uk)



Achievements in 2022/23

“Gavin is doing great work helping me with M when she was previously being bullied in school, and Gavin is making sure support is in place for I as he too is being bullied in school...Gavin is doing everything excellently.”

The Strategic Early Help Review, which is to be published Autumn 2023, has evidenced the positive impact Early Help Services have on reducing the need for, and duration of input of, statutory child protection services.

Where FIS has supported families, there is evidencable decreased demand and duration of statutory service involvement.

These are direct quotes from the family feedback survey that is part of our quality assurance process

“A referral was made from school due to the kids misbehaving at school, we were needing help with managing with their behaviour and helping getting moved house and schools...Nosheen is supportive. Trying to get all the support she can for us-Pleased with the support she is giving us as a family. 10/10 - Trying her best to support us as a family can't do anymore.”

“Rachel has done a lot for us, she has made some cut outs and charts for our shopping trips to help with the tantrums. She has referred me to a parenting group to help me be more confident. Rachel has spoken to both children and shared advice with them. She has done lots really. She is always there, always listens on calls and emails. Everything Rachel is doing is perfect.”

“Tina... sends me updated plans after every meeting. 10/10 she has done everything and it's working.”

Developments for 2023/24

- **Priority 1:** Providing the right help at the right time for families.
- **Priority 2:** Launch and development of the “Family Intervention Service” name and logo as part of a citywide Early Help system of support.
- **Priority 3:** Skilled and supported workforce.
- **Priority 4:** Families receive high quality support from the Family Intervention Service to meet their needs.



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Sheffield Futures **Door 43** service for 11 to 18 year olds has continued to embed its offer of counselling to children and young people affected by domestic abuse who are in safe accommodation – this includes those who are living in the family home where safety measures have been provided to reduce the risk of harassment from the perpetrator.

45 children and young people have had counselling during the year, and Eye Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing (EMDR) is offered – which has enabled counsellors to directly support clients with past trauma.



Level Up is a new service that was commissioned during the year by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. The Level Up programme aims to engage with young people presenting abusive and challenging behaviours within their homes, with family members or within intimate relationships. The programme offers bespoke, one-to-one sessions and can also provide group sessions, depending on what is deemed more appropriate and effective. Level Up explores what it means to display appropriate behaviour within relationships and highlights how conflict, aggression and anger can deeply impact the lives of others.

Escape the Trap training was provided again to thirty 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.



A new contract to provide safe accommodation for people affected by Domestic Abuse was commissioned during the year and the new provider is **IDAS** in partnership with our long-term refuge provider **Sheffield Women's Aid**. Support is offered in two high quality women's refuges with 37 family units and 27 units of dispersed safe accommodation (Safe Zones) for families and individuals (including male victims). There were 34 children living in the refuges at the end of the year and 19 children living in Safe Zones properties. IDAS also supports families living in dispersed Sheffield City Council safe accommodation and in properties where Sanctuary Scheme measures have been installed – amounting to approximately 550 families per year. Support is offered to children in safe accommodation to help them understand and recover from the impact of domestic abuse: 100% of refuge residents who had children said that they understood more about the impact of abuse on their child/children when they left the service.

The multi-agency Under 16s and Domestic Abuse Task and Finish Group launched the **Young People's Domestic Abuse DASH** Risk Assessment during the year with **training offered by IDAS** on use of the tool and understanding the specific risks facing young people experiencing domestic abuse

in their intimate relationships. The group also developed resources for parents, carers and professionals on Child and Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse (CAPVA), which are now available [here](#). Later in the year, the group became the Children as Victims of Domestic Abuse in order to consider the law change brought in by the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and its implications for services working to safeguard children and young people in Sheffield. This new

understanding has been written into the updated **Threshold of Needs** document for the city.



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The SafeLives Systems Review found that

'Children are now recognised in law as victims in their own right. Sheffield need to ensure that the needs of the child are assessed, understood, met and appropriate support and services are in place for the whole family and linked in with other relevant strategies.

We can see that there are some specialist services available for children, and their families, and recognise the work within Sheffield with children and their families.

We know from the professionals survey that children's wellbeing was one of the top areas of identified need when working with victims. Within survivor feedback there was a feeling of a missed opportunity to work with their children. Survivors also identified the need for specialist DA therapeutic support for children. Support for them as parents to be able to discuss DA with their children was also identified by survivors as a need. Also, consideration of mental health support and support for children with additional needs. Professionals at the workshop identified the need for further specialist provision linked into specialist services which is sustainably funded; an integrated worker within Children's Services, provision for children who are not working with Children's Services, and education within schools. Education for young people regarding healthy relationships and the impact of DA was also a theme in professional discussions. Professionals also identified the need for this to be a whole family approach.

Children and Young People interventions should be embedded in the local multi-agency response to safeguard children and young people from the impact of domestic abuse and, therefore, should be managed by a multi-disciplinary team, which works with each member of the family.'

These comments need consideration at a strategic level to ensure that the response to domestic abuse is right in the city, especially given the law change recognising children as victims in their own right.

Impact

Survivors still tell us that they don't disclose due to the fear of children being removed.

Safe and Together is having an impact on workers and services' ability to build trust with victims/survivors so that we can partner with them to protect their children from the impact of domestic abuse. Mothers in refuges and other safe accommodation are being supported to better understand the impact of domestic abuse on their children.

The majority of children and young people supported by Haven report at case closure that they have improved emotional wellbeing, feel safer, have better relationships with family and friends, and have better school attendance.

Views of parents

“Your worker is worth her weight in gold, her compassion and empathy shines through her ability to support children. Her hard work has given my daughter her confidence back.”

“They now feel happy and safe.”

“Fantastic, my daughters really benefitted and enjoyed the sessions. We really appreciate all the help and support we received.”

“Outstanding support provided for both me and my child. RP was quick to build a trustworthy rapport with my child, making her feel safe, secure, and supported. Through the course of the support my child has grown in confidence and happiness, all thanks to her work with your worker. Really good and informative.”

“Couldn't wish for a better person I had working with my son. Absolutely fantastic. RJ went above and beyond to help us. She was really helpful.”

“The support has built my child's sense of safety and self-confidence. It gave us a lot of coping strategies and helped my child understand it was OK to be angry sometimes.”

“My girls have changed so much and developed a strong bond.”

Developments for 2023/24

The **Multi-agency Safeguarding and Domestic Abuse** report from the Department for Education (DFE) Child Safeguarding Practice Review team is being shared at an operational and strategic level as it gives a guide to what we need to do next in Sheffield.

- Safe and Together Overview days and training to continue.
- Ashiana has secured funding to develop therapeutic support for children from minoritised backgrounds in the city who have experienced domestic abuse and this service will be promoted once it is up and running.
- Ongoing work will be to consider the implications of recognising children as victims in their own right and what this means for Sheffield services.
- Considering the **Domestic Abuse Commissioners new report on Family Court processes** and the impact of these on children affected by domestic abuse.
- Hold a conference for schools on Violence Against Women and Girls and how to respond.
- 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.

A link to the latest DACT newsletter is provided [here](#).



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.

Over the past year, the home has supported seven young people through both welfare and youth justice routes. Four young people were supported under Section 25 (CA1989) for their own safety and protection and three young people were admitted due to their involvement in youth justice. During this time, three young people have transitioned on from the home. The support offered to the children and young people during their stay at Aldine is very focused and encourages them to explore a variety of circumstances which relate to safeguarding.

In line with Working Together, safeguarding partners received a comprehensive report on the use of restraint at Aldine House for 2021/22 and at the time of writing are awaiting the report for 2022/23.

Developments for 2023/24

The home is now starting to embed the Framework for Integrated Care (Secure Stairs) which involves training staff to provide more developmentally attuned, psychologically informed care which is centred on co-produced assessment of the young person's needs. This will enable staff to develop a trauma informed 'lens' to understand each young person's needs and how their experiences are likely to impact on their behaviour and development.

We believe that by working with young people in this way, we can help and support them to learn new strategies to cope with some of the trauma they have experienced.

The home works closely with the Secure Accommodation Network (SAN) to share good practice and utilise the learning within other secure homes. In addition to this, we are undertaking a piece of work to look at the transition process and how to strengthen the experience of our young people who leave the home and transition back into the community.

Although the home set out to complete the extension to the building, this has been delayed and is not due to be finalised until later in the year. We are currently working with neighbouring authorities to consider whether we can utilise some of the new beds as Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) beds, to provide young people with a safe and nurturing place to stay if bail conditions are not an option.

South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board

Health partners continue to deliver high-quality services and strive to ensure that staff are trained to identify and respond to safeguarding concerns in a timely manner to protect children and young people at risk of significant harm through abuse or neglect.



Sheffield Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (STH)

PROUD TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE
SHEFFIELD TEACHING HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST



Achievements in 2022/23

- The STH safeguarding team has been responsive to staff in providing advice, support, and supervision. This promotes an increase in safeguarding awareness and timely referrals sent to Children's Social Care. The Named Professional for Safeguarding Children has been key in raising awareness regarding the Trust-wide Was Not Brought/ Did Not Attend policy.
- The STH safeguarding team attend the weekly Emergency Department (ED) Breakfast Club to offer support and advice to staff on safeguarding matters, which has also contributed to an increase in children's safeguarding concerns raised by ED.
- The STH safeguarding team have raised awareness about domestic abuse and trauma by working with IDAS and the ED Navigator Service, resulting in more timely reporting to the police for young people who have attended ED with injuries due to knife crime or gun shots.
- Safeguarding supervision is provided to various staff groups e.g. Emergency Department staff, Charles Clifford Dental Hospital,

Children's Nursery staff, Midwifery Vulnerabilities Team, and Sexual Health, enabling staff to enhance their knowledge and confidence about complex safeguarding concerns and to become more professionally curious and to 'Think Family.'

- A series of seven-minute briefings have been published on child safeguarding themes - Professional Curiosity, Trafficking and Modern Slavery, CDOP and Advocacy Services.
- Sharing of information, case studies, training opportunities and compliance data at the quarterly Safeguarding Assurance Group meeting.
- A number of referrals have been made to the LADO where an adult in a position of trust has been identified as being a risk to a child or young person. This includes adults in roles internal and external to the Trust. The STH safeguarding team has been part of the LADO discussions and decision making about the adult's suitability to remain in practice.

Developments for 2023/24

- Increase in mandatory children's safeguarding training compliance for levels 2 and 3.
- Promote a trauma-informed workforce via training and supervision.
- Promote the revised threshold of needs guidance and uptake of Graded Care Profile 2 training for effective assessment and response to neglect
- Continue to prepare for Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) and embed any resulting recommendations and actions.
- Promote the Young Person's Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour Based Violence (DASH) /STHFT Domestic abuse survey targeted at The Hand Centre to evaluate knowledge and skills in identifying and responding to Domestic abuse.
- Review and update internal safeguarding policies to reflect local and national safeguarding children policy and practice guidance.
- Recruit to the vacant Named Midwife post and review the roles within the Midwifery Vulnerabilities Team.



Sheffield Childrens Foundation Trust (SCFT)



Within SCFT we have

- Introduced the young person's DASH to consolidate our response to domestic abuse
- Continued to undertake significant work to strengthen the identification and response to domestic abuse and coercive control.
- Continued to promote trauma informed practice.

Acute site achievements

- Recruited a crisis worker, Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) manager and named doctors to the team.
- Continued to expand the reach of safeguarding support at the acute site, so that it is integral in all areas that support awareness raising of safeguarding issues.
- Updated information leaflets about safeguarding, Safeguarding Support Unit

(SSU) and SARC have been incorporated into Trust-wide developments that ensure ease of access to literature.

- Strengthened the approach to bruising in non-mobile infants.

CAMHS achievements

- Increased its support to the service as a result of a business case which enabled recruitment of more specialist nurse support.
- Developing its offer with a focus on Earlier Intervention, Waiting Well, continuing to improve transition processes, reduce waiting times and improve access.
- Developed work in relation to the co-production of care plans for children with mental health problems.
- Introduced Parenting and Infant Relationship Service (PAIRS) which will offer support before the age of three years, which is part of the Integrated City Wide Infant Mental Health Pathway.
- Introduced a service user group in conjunction with **Chilypep** to inform service development and is looking to develop stronger collaborative links with this group.


Community achievements

- The team have received confirmation that there is now increased resource to develop the health offer in the safeguarding hub.
- Liaison and communication between the 0-19 service and Sheffield GP practices was reviewed, including the organisation of vulnerable families' meetings held in GP Practices which 0-19 colleagues contribute to.
- Introduction of 0-19 Associate Vulnerability Practitioners, working jointly with the Specialist Vulnerability Practitioners to provide safeguarding support and supervision to 0-19 non-registered colleagues.
- The Learning Disability specialist nurse is ensuring CYP with additional needs, as well as vulnerabilities, can access appropriate support and they are now supporting work about FASD.



Looked After and Adoptive Children's Health Team (LAACH) achievements

- **LAACH is benefiting from successful recruitment** and is moving ahead with service developments alongside those across the city e.g. name change to Children Looked After (CLA) following consultation with children and young people, and local authority colleagues.
- **Successfully appointed a Designated Doctor** for Children Looked After who is due to start in post September 2023.
- **Nursing team is now fully staffed** after successful recruitment to long-term vacancies, with an additional 0.2 FTE increase to the nursing establishment of the CLA team.
- Working alongside colleagues in local authority, **a new consent form for health assessment was implemented** in May 2023 to improve timeliness for assessments
- **Completed work with the 0-19 service and Education, Learning and Organisational Development (ELOD)** to identify the staff roles that require the Health Needs assessment training for children that are looked after. This has been added to staff's electronic staff record competencies, enabling compliance percentage to be captured.
- **Immunisations are now being offered** as part of Initial Health Assessments clinic appointments.
- **Development of Immunisation status report** to be shared monthly with the local authority to ensure more contemporaneous recording.
- **Medical presentations that are perplexing or raise concern** about possible fabrication or inducement of illness are challenging to manage for all staff involved, taking time and expertise to resolve. The Trust follows the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) guidance on initially taking a rehabilitative approach, focusing on steps to improve the health and education of a child or



young person, even when the causes of ill health may be difficult to establish. Safeguarding supervision promotes professional curiosity and supports staff to explore any safeguarding concerns and need for child protection.

- **LAACH (CLA) has established a process for collecting feedback** from health assessments from child/young person, carer, and social care. Feedback has been positive; examples of some comments include:
 - "All amazing, fine, cool"
 - "Everything was good, the little one was examined with care very well"
 - "Talked me through everything she was doing and made sure I understood"

With external partners we have

- Contributed to the city wide **PREVENT** agenda, in particular supporting Channel meeting, where Children/Young Person under the care of the Trust are being discussed.
- The impact of domestic abuse on children and young people as a feature of those being accepted into CAMHS has been highlighted as part of the Hidden Harm agenda. Work is ongoing in this arena and with DACT to highlight these issues and consider what additional approaches can be developed to improve outcomes for children and young people.
- Demonstrated initiatives that support the Partnership's Learning Practice Improvement Group's workforce strategy in relation to equality, diversion and inclusion developments, health inequalities, and cultural competence within our workforce.

Developments for 2023/24

- Look to explore how the care navigators working in different health providers can work more collaboratively.

- Recruit to community safeguarding posts to support the additional resource for the SSH health contribution.
- The Acute Safeguarding Team are currently recruiting to the Joint Agency Response (JAR) nurse post which supports a coordinated multi-agency response if a child dies.
- Further work is underway at the acute site to consider how colleagues can be supported by SCFT in the management of perplexing cases.
- CAMHS service will continue to seek to inform the provision of support for children and young people who have been exposed to domestic abuse.
- It is anticipated the offer of psychological support in the SARC unit will be increased following a successful business case.
- Continue to embed safeguarding supervision across all areas of the Trust.
- Maintain the level 3 safeguarding training offer and to promote continued uptake.





South Yorkshire Police

Child abuse and child sexual exploitation (CSE) both feature in the Force Control Strategy and remain a priority due to the high levels of mental and physical harm to victims. Children are amongst the most vulnerable victims that the police and partners will engage with.

PSL 2021/22: Police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy – An inspection of South Yorkshire Police ([justiceinspectorates.gov.uk](https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk))

It is recognised that continued professional development is crucial to not only train new officers, but also maintain the accreditation and knowledge of others. Recent campaigns in relation to the exploitation of children include a County Lines intensification week, the Look Closer campaign, and the delivery of Child Matters training.

Neglect is a serious criminal offence which can have a detrimental impact on a child’s life and children exposed to neglect can be at risk of

being exposed to other forms of abuse and exploitation. As of March 2023, 88 face-to-face training sessions have been delivered for Child Matters (an online tool licensed by the NSPCC specifically created for South Yorkshire Police, to train officers on different aspects of neglect), with approximately 5,350 attendees from across the police and partner agencies in attendance.

With improvements in the understanding of child abuse through the training offer, the force has seen an increase in child neglect offences and the number of child protection referrals through to Children’s Social Care.

The Child Matters training and the use of the SHARED tool (a risk assessment tool developed with the NSPCC to identify neglect), continues to embed and should assist in continuing to improve the identification of vulnerability and neglect amongst our front line.

The force is also planning to deliver trauma-informed training, including bespoke training for Protecting Vulnerable People (PVP) staff. The force now has 46 Specialist Child Abuse Investigators: Development Programme (SCAIDP) trained officers, with 29 officers currently working towards accreditation.

Sheffield district Local Referral Unit (LRU) is positioned within the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub and relevant information sharing agreements are in place. Police actively attend and contribute to Initial Child Protection

Conferences (ICPC), and all Section 47 Strategy Meetings have police representation.

Collectively, partners continue to conduct multi-agency audits and deep dives in addition to multi-agency reviews of serious cases following the statutory guidance. This enables the force to learn lessons from these cases and continue to develop best practice.

The careful scrutiny the force gives to child sexual exploitation and child abuse investigations continues. There is a monthly CSE tactical meeting attended by all four district County Executive (CE) detective inspectors, a force analyst and the CSE lead from Protecting Vulnerable People Governance (PVP). This meeting allows for the assessment of Child Abduction Warning Notices (CAWNS) and missing children with CSE as keywords to identify growing risk or potential avenues for improvement in addition to problem areas and repeat victims.

CAWNS continue to be an effective tool the force can use to disrupt the activity regarding missing children who may have links to CSE, Child Criminal Exploitation, County Lines, and other abuse. They are seen to be a positive tool which seeks to sever the link between the perpetrator and the child. Volumes of CAWNS submitted improved greatly from 2019 onwards and have remained relatively stable with 87 being issued in 2022.



Going missing is treated as an indicator that an individual may be at risk of harm. South Yorkshire Police continue to use the Philomena Protocol. This scheme asks carers to identify children and young people who are at risk of going missing and to record vital information about them that can be used to help find them quickly and safely in the event of a missing episode.

This information drives local safeguarding processes in regard to child exploitation. The protocol is designed so that the carer, or whoever has responsibility for the young person concerned, has all the key information required to ensure that a missing person investigation can be initiated in a swift and efficient way.

In order to further enhance service delivery, vulnerable child (VC) referral forms have been reviewed within PVP governance and the form has been amended in line with partners to ensure adequate and useful information is being shared to allow all parties to make reasonable and rational assessments. The new form will incorporate sections relating to stop search and children who come into custody. Previous reviews found there were, on occasions, multiple referrals for the same child stemming from

the same incident. The new form will prevent this and ensure that partners are getting all the information at once, rather than duplicate forms which then need to be put together to establish the full picture. It also means submissions will only focus on the specific concern at the time, rather than officers having to answer questions and social care needing to review questions which are not relevant.

The victim's voice is considered in every investigation with a victim contract being agreed from the outset. Victims' personal statements are also used in investigations relating to children's safeguarding. This allows the victim to have their voice. The Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) office holds victims, survivors, and families' panels; the findings of which are used to support delivery in Sheffield.

The feedback received often centres on follow-up on investigation. The victims and survivors are satisfied with the response and action taken in investigations and safeguarding activity, but often feel that they are not regularly updated as to the status of the investigation. Work is ongoing to improve this through the QATT; quality assurance process, dip sampling and audit regime.

Developments for 2023/24

- **Supporting victim confidence in reporting** – we will continue to improve investigation quality and work to increase victim uptake of specialist support.
- **Working with partners to make appropriate joint decisions** – we will continue to work to improve the quality of referrals and outcomes for children. This also links to work to support children who are missing from home/local authority care. The force is keen to develop data sharing and informed analytical capability across the Partnership, to continually improve the response to all forms of child abuse.
- **Continue to use Vulnerable Child referral forms.**

Ensuring the force capacity and capability is in place to effectively deal with child abuse investigations – this work is supported by the force PVP review. However, a workforce plan is in place in Sheffield to increase the capacity of officers trained in serious, complex child abuse investigation. The main objectives of the plan are the identification of officers interested in becoming investigators, supporting them towards the trainee investigator programme and then deploying them to the PVP arena. This will continue through into 2024.

- **The force will continue to deliver awareness campaigns** (such as the Child Exploitation Campaign in March 2023) to increase knowledge and awareness for professionals and the wider public, encouraging all to report concerns, to identify and safeguard children at risk, and to enable the force to pursue offenders.

For further extended partner updates, please [see appendix 1](#).



Section 6

The Data

The data period covered is from April 2022 to March 2023.

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Number	Description
37,000	Contacts & Advice given by children's social care
24,501	Contacts to children's social care (excluding Advice given)
5,256	Referrals to children's social care
5,910	Single Social Care Assessments started
3,295	Strategy meetings held over the year
2,351	S.47 investigations held over the year
741	S.47 which recommended an Initial Child Protection Case Conference
1,790	Children identified as Children in Need
730	Initial Child Protection conference held
695	Child Protection Plans started
772	Child Protection Plans ended
165	Children subject to a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time
198	Children were advocated for at their Initial Child Protection Conference
47	Children were advocated for at Review Child Protection Conferences
998	Children were Looked After by the Local Authority
63	Children Looked After were unaccompanied asylum-seeking children
9,596	Requests for a service from the Multi-Agency Support Teams
5,615	Families received MAST support, from the above requests for service
359	Children with disabilities were open to the Children with Disability team
147	Amber Service Allocations (Exploitation service)
1,042	Children reported to South Yorkshire Police as missing
658	Children who went missing/missing episodes*
135	Children open to Youth Justice Service (YJS)
1,084	Referrals made to Door 43 (44% increase on 2021-22)

* Some children were missing on more than one occasion. The top five missing young people accounted for 205 missing episodes.



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Section 7

Our plan and priorities and what we have done

Our Priorities for 2022-2023

The SCSP is committed to keeping up to date with both local and national new and emerging trends in safeguarding whilst at the same time maintaining progress in key safeguarding priority areas.

This has led to innovative and creative developments and projects in the city.

The priorities for 2022-2023 were selected from reviewing and analysing the following:

- Case reviews
- Audits
- Local Authority data
- Feedback from professionals
- Local and National learning
- Emerging needs/themes
- Feedback from training
- Feedback from self-evaluation from partners
- Inspection findings

For the past twelve months, the SCSP has had oversight of the following three safeguarding priority areas:

1

Priority 1. Neglect: Improve outcomes for children and young people in Sheffield at risk of neglect through implementation of the Sheffield Neglect Strategy and roll out of NSPCC Graded Care Profile 2.

2

Priority 2. Contextual Safeguarding: We will develop robust responses to improve the outcomes for children and young people most at risk of criminal and/or sexual exploitation, being exploited by gangs, becoming involved in County Lines and knife crime and support young people most at risk of disengaging with education.

3

Priority 3. Mental Health and Emotional Well Being: We will hold ourselves to account for our multi-agency work to improve the provision of services to support good mental health and emotional wellbeing in young people and children in Sheffield, with a particular focus on young people in transition.

4

In addition to the above three safeguarding priorities, the Partnership has had the following practice priority:

Priority 4. Maturing our Partnership Governance: We will mature our partnership and mutual accountability for the effectiveness of our multi-agency safeguarding arrangements to protect and to respond to all forms of child abuse, neglect, and exploitation. We will build closer working arrangements across children and adults safeguarding and with other key partnerships.

Priority 1 – Neglect

The Sheffield Neglect Strategy 2021-2024 was relaunched in 2022 to coincide with the rollout of multi-agency training of the NSPCC Graded Care Profile 2 assessment and intervention tool.

You can see the launch video here. [Launch of the Neglect Strategy 22](#)

The Neglect Strategy aims to ensure that the early recognition of neglect and improved responses by all agencies reduces the number of children who need statutory intervention and, when this is required, the life chances of children are promptly improved, and the risk of harm reduced.

The strategy has four objectives to meet the overarching objective of reducing neglect:

- 1. To improve the awareness and understanding of neglect**, both within and between agencies working in Sheffield. This includes a common understanding of neglect and the thresholds for access to agencies.
- 2. Staff in all partner agencies will be required to undertake relevant training** to ensure that there is common understanding of neglect, thresholds and assessment tools and consistency in approach.
- 3. Improve the recognition, assessment and intervention for children and young people** living in neglectful situations to prevent the need for statutory involvement; to include promotion of the early help assessment process, information sharing and agreed thresholds of intervention.
- 4. To ensure the effectiveness of service provision;** this will include consultation with young people and their families and multi-agency and single agency audits which seek to evidence the views of children and young people, their carers and the workforce about the services being offered and their effectiveness.

In line with the Neglect Strategy, we have implemented the Graded Care Profile 2 from the NSPCC as the principal tool for assessing and intervening to prevent children living with neglect in Sheffield. Based on observations and good quality evidence, GCP2 supports practitioners in measuring specific aspects of care over a short window of time, to give a breakdown and overview of the current level of care.

By reviewing “what it’s like” for the child, not “why it’s happening”, it helps professionals to be clear about what the basic needs of a child are, and to what degree they are being met. This allows practitioners to recognise the carer’s strengths, highlight areas for intervention, and to make reasoned and evidence-based judgements in relation to neglect.





What we have done

- **The multi-agency Neglect Steering Group has been reestablished** to oversee the implementation of the Neglect Strategy. An action plan has been developed alongside the strategy, which sets out how the strategy will be implemented, how progress is captured, and impact measured. The action plan is regularly reviewed and refreshed by the steering group to ensure it continues to be relevant and progress is being made across the city.
- **The New Threshold of Need Guidance has been developed** in line with the Neglect Strategy to help practitioners develop a shared understanding of neglect and the factors that might impact on the welfare of children and families and help to ensure consistency of response.
- **A new workshop was introduced in relation to recognising and responding to Dental Neglect**, to expand upon the harm associated with poor oral health. The aim is to support attendees in recognising when intervention is required and provide guidance on how to support better oral health in families across Sheffield.

- **In November 2022, partner agencies were asked to self-assess on the theme of neglect** to identify to what extent the Sheffield Neglect Strategy is impacting to prevent children living in neglectful situations. Self-assessments were received from nine agencies. The responses from agencies addressed overall service awareness of neglect, access to and engagement in training, pro-active recognition of neglect and effective assessment and intervention, and the existence of processes and systems that ensure the effectiveness of provision. At the time of self-assessment, the Graded Care Profile 2 was in the early stages of implementation. Many services reported on their plans to ensure that staff attended GCP2 training and that the tool was incorporated into their procedures.

All respondents were active in raising awareness about neglect or had plans about how they would do this. Some agencies raised strengths and concerns about sharing information in relation to neglect. Most agencies were aware of and had plans for some staff to access GCP2 training or briefings.

Some agencies asked for a broader neglect awareness training course. Good practice was reported in terms of agencies adopting a whole-household-approach to home visits.

- **Training for the Graded Care Profile 2 started in Sheffield in May 2022**, when twenty professionals from across a range of agencies in Sheffield were trained as trainers. During this period, 664 practitioners and first-line managers have been trained and gained their licences to use the Graded Care Profile tool. Immediate feedback is taken after the training with 98% of practitioners stating they felt 'fairly confident' or 'very confident' to use the tool in practice.
- **Follow up impact evaluation has been sought from practitioners** in the form of a reflection tool, to demonstrate that the tool has transferred from the training room into practice. Feedback alone is not sufficient to fully measure impact. However, the reflection tool does provide anecdotal evidence of practitioners overcoming some initial difficulties and identifying strengths of using the tool with families.

“I was able to work with mum to identify the positive and also what was need to be improved and what support was needed.”

“I found the scoring confusing as it is backwards compared to the main model we use which is signs of safety. I also find some of the wording very subjective e.g., 'exceptionally clean' - what does this look like? Could be varied.”

“I found it difficult grading as mum did make changes however there were still concerns. I did not want this tool to make mum feel worried and have self-doubt.”

“At times I had to remind myself I was focussing on the 1 child in the household and not include the sibling in my answers, a separate form would have been done for the brother. This would have differentiated between the 2 siblings as their needs and situation were different in the household.”

“We were able to discuss with the parent what their views were on a particular situation and have a constructive discussion around why professional views may differ. It helped discuss strengths with the parent and things they were doing well in addition to concerns.”

“It does help define worries and which specific areas of neglect need to be addressed. This could make it clearer in Child Protection plans and when working with families in what needs to change.”

- **Separate briefing sessions have been developed for partner agencies and strategic managers**, who need to know about GCP2 but won't be using the tool directly.
- **Development of the GCP2 Newsletter is underway**, which is being designed to share hints and tips with practitioners in getting the most out of GCP2 tool and to support best practice in improving the quality of care for children in Sheffield.
- **Children's Social Care has supported the embedding of the GCP2 tool** through checking for the use and completion of the GCP2 tool at the point of referral on any cases being referred in relation to neglect. For any step-up requests from Early Help Services, quality assurance is also taking place to ensure that all step-up requests in respect of Neglect have had a GCP2 tool completed.



What's next?

- **The launch of the [New Threshold of Need Guidance](#)** in September 2023 will further promote the recognition and awareness of neglect. This will include developing a guide to recognising and responding to neglect.
- **With the support of partner agencies, the SCSP will continue to deliver courses and workshops** for the NSPCC Graded Care Profile 2. We will also develop a course to support the understanding of neglect for a wider audience.
- **A new performance dashboard will be developed** to track performance indicators in relation to neglect. The current KPI's need to be refined so they correlate more closely to the agreed interventions. Due to the multifaceted and culminative nature of neglect, specific data on neglect is challenging to quantify. Therefore, the strategy requires SMART measures to drive improvement activity.
- **The Neglect Steering Group and Data Subgroup will monitor outcomes and impact** via the following sources:
 - Data suite
 - Performance framework
 - Audit and evaluation programme
 - Training outcomes
- **In addition to gaining practitioner feedback on the use of GCP2 in practice**, we intend to inform practice by gaining feedback from children and families who have had it used with them.
- **Auditing activity is to be completed** to assess the implementation and use of the GCP2 and assess the impact on those children and families who have experienced the GCP2.

- **The Neglect Steering Group will continue to oversee the implementation of the [Sheffield Neglect Strategy 2021-24](#)**, and will prepare for a formal review and the development of the succeeding strategy, informed by the most recent analysis of serious case reviews, [Learning for the future: final analysis of serious case reviews, 2017 to 2019, report 2022](#).

The Tool

- The Tool
- Scorecards
- Handbook
- Guidance and Theory
- Parent leaflet



2

Priority 2 – Contextual Safeguarding

Contextual Safeguarding is an approach to understanding and responding to young people’s experiences of significant harm beyond their families. It recognises that the different relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse.

Violence, exploitation, and vulnerability to exploitation are taken seriously in Sheffield and we have developed a robust response to tackling exploitation affecting young people. In line with Sheffield’s **Contextual Safeguarding Strategy**, the SCSP is responsible for bringing key agencies and organisations together to ensure that we are working effectively as a partnership to protect and support young people in Sheffield from contextual safeguarding risks.

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The Amber Service is Sheffield’s multi-agency response to child exploitation. The service has undergone rapid transformation in the past year with a focus on early intervention and prevention through robust multi-agency planning, disruption, and support packages for this highly vulnerable, complex cohort of young people.

Sheffield is part of ‘Project Innovate’ one of only six research sites. We were selected because, as part of our Contextual Safeguarding Strategy Delivery Plan, we are developing an innovative response to transitional safeguarding to address contextual safeguarding risks. The project commenced in 2019 and will run throughout 2023, when there will be recommendations and resources for policy and practice on conclusion.

This project has already resulted in improved policies and ways of working, including the creation of a ‘Directions Panel’ created with the endorsement from Sheffield’s Joint Children’s and Adults Safeguarding Partnership Executive Group. Its primary focus is supporting adolescents and young adults who are at risk of extra familial harm (including both sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation and/or leaving care) as they transition from Children’s Services to Adult’s Services.

The purpose of the panel is to strengthen and support safeguarding arrangements for transitioning 17–25-year-olds. Cases will be heard from young people aged 17+. The panel is being piloted for six months to assess its effectiveness. Cases will be heard from the Multi Agency Child Exploitation Panel (MACE) and Care Leavers At Risk (CLAR).

What we have done

- In conjunction with our **Adult Safeguarding Partnership**, we have continued to promote **Contextual Safeguarding** in our multi-agency training offer (safeguardingsheffieldchildren.org)
- In July 2022, over 300 practitioners improved their understanding of **Contextual Safeguarding** by attending the conference ‘**Recognising and Responding to Criminal Exploitation**’ and the videos and resources from this conference can be viewed [here](#). Those who watch the videos and complete the reflection form will get a certificate and allows the SCSP to evidence learning about Criminal Exploitation for those who missed the conference.
- To improve practitioners’ understanding of the **realities of knife crime**, the SCSP commissioned a workshop featuring Alison Cope, who lost her son to knife crime and now campaigns nationally to help educate young people on the realities and consequences of youth violence. [Alison Cope Anti-Violence Campaigner](#).
- As part of the review of Sheffield’s response to **Harmful Sexual Behaviour that was a recommendation of the Family G Serious Case Review**, we have continued to promote awareness of the Hackett Continuum Model for recognising and responding to Harmful Sexual Behaviour. The SCSP website contains clear guidance for the use of the tool, alongside practitioners being able to access a two-hour workshop on recognising and responding to Harmful Sexual Behaviour. Feedback from the training has shown high practitioner confidence in using the tool in their work.





- **The SCSP Licensing Officers continue to work with business operators and the wider community** in raising awareness in relation to Contextual Safeguarding. The licencing officers have developed and delivered training reaching 538 people within the following organisations:
 - Licensed trades
 - Taxi drivers/passenger assistants
 - Boxing gyms and sports venues
 - Staff working in education and social care setting
 - Officers working in regulatory services
- **To raise awareness of child exploitation in the business community**, the SCSP Licensing Officers have delivered joint training with South Yorkshire Police to twenty Sheffield hoteliers as part of Operation Makesafe (The campaign is designed to help business owners and their employees identify potential victims of child exploitation and, where necessary, alert police officers to intervene prior to any young person coming to harm). **Operation Makesafe: Raising community awareness of child exploitation**
- **The SCSP continues to commission Online Safety**, which 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.
- **A Contextual Safeguarding workshop was held to review and refresh the Contextual Safeguarding Delivery Plan.** Partners came together to review the governance and operating space of the Vulnerable Young People’s Executive Board and to identify the cohort of children and young people at risk of contextual safeguarding in Sheffield. The workshop offered assurance that we are providing the right response to the right children and young people.
- **Review and update of the Philomena Protocol**, with South Yorkshire Police and the South Yorkshire LAs.

What's next?

- **Within the contextual safeguarding priority, the Partnership is committed to reviewing the training offer** across the workforce to ensure that the voice of the child/young person and their family is heard, and that contextual safeguarding is understood and supported by the workforce.
- **Conduct a themed audit on contextual safeguarding and exploitation** to assess the effectiveness of the implementation of the Contextual Safeguarding Strategy and evaluate the success of the Amber Service in addressing contextual safeguarding in Sheffield.
- **Ensure the contextual safeguarding strategy, services and pathways are publicised** and included in all training. SCSP website to be streamlined to support clear access to information and messages.
- **The Online Safety Consultants and the Education Safeguarding Advisors have strengthened their relationship** over the year and are preparing to co-deliver training for Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) and other school staff over the coming year. This will facilitate a more coherent and streamlined approach to the training. It also makes clear to schools that Online Safeguarding is very much the responsibility of the DSL and is not a separate entity.
- **Sheffield to host a Violence and Exploitation reduction conference** for all South Yorkshire authorities with South Yorkshire Police.
- **Refresh of the Vulnerable Young People's Executive Board** taking a thematic approach.



3

Priority 3 – Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing

There is national recognition of the impact of the Covid pandemic on the emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people with a marked increase in referrals for support and access to services.

SCSP continues to work with partner agencies to increase understanding of how parental vulnerabilities can impact on the lives of children and young people. The SCSP Learning Practice Improvement Group's implantation plan focuses on all services being trauma informed and aware of the impact that adverse experiences and past trauma may have on the individual, parenting, and family life.

The Hidden Harm Strategy also commits Sheffield's services to improving outcomes for whole households where drug and alcohol misuse, harmful gambling, domestic abuse and/or mental ill health are a feature. Strong partnership working across Sheffield has helped establish some effective multi-agency care pathways with these families.

To support families, all services need to not only share information but also discuss cases to help develop a shared understanding of the needs of the family. At the core of the Hidden Harm Strategy is the aim to move further still and promote joint assessments, joint planning and shared formulation across children and adult services.

The SCSP has worked in partnership with Sheffield Futures, promoting their Door 43 service, which is Sheffield's one-stop shop for emotional wellbeing support for young people and young adults aged 13 - 25. Door 43 aims to promote good mental health and emotional wellbeing by providing early intervention support, including structured and drop-in wellbeing provision, group support, counselling, and social prescribing across one service.

Door 43 levels of support are mapped out to match the Sheffield Safeguarding Partnership's Threshold of Need:

What we have done

SSCB Threshold of Need Level	Provision at Door 43	Support Available
Level 2 – Universal Plus	Wellbeing Café	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signposting to other services and groups • Open forum to discuss emotional wellbeing • Activities to build resilience for low level mental health issues, peer support
Level 3 – Partnership Plus	Informal 1:1 Support (Drop in's Wednesdays) Social Prescribing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1:1 sessions around emotional wellbeing • Bridging and signposting to additional/alternative services • Careers information and guidance • Referral to a Social Prescribing Link worker
Level 4 – Targeted (occasionally accepted)	Structured Intervention Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact made following referral within 5 working days • Support into counselling services / CAMHS • Bereavement & loss • Domestic Abuse
There is no support available for young people experiencing or needing the following:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency crisis support/in need of acute or emergency medical attention • Specialist mental health support (e.g. severe ED, Psychosis) • Medical prescriptions • Clinical assessment/treatment for sexual health (e.g. if young person is symptomatic) 	

- **Through training, briefings, and safeguarding 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.
- **Established and embedded whole family working model.** In Sheffield, the Whole Family Safeguarding Model has been developed as an outreach model where workers from domestic abuse, substance misuse and mental health services are co-located with Children's Social Care teams. The key principle that underpins the model is collaborative working, which include information sharing, but more importantly, seeking to develop shared thinking and understanding, shared analysis and shared formulation of risk that leads to a more coordinated multi-agency approach.
- **SCSP has highlighted and promoted training** offered by the Community Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) to equip attendees with the right skills and knowledge to respond to the challenges they face in relation to children's mental health. [Link to our signposting page.](#)
- **We have continued to undertake Joint Case Reviews, twice a year**, to ensure good multi-agency working when there are emotional health and wellbeing issues within the household. Following each Joint Case Review, learning briefs are developed and disseminated widely across the city.
- **Parental mental health workshops** take place twice a year for adult and children's services, including CAMHS and Sheffield Health and Social Care, focusing on the learning and common themes from the Joint Case Reviews.
- **We facilitated the first of two Domestic Abuse workshops delivered by Haven** (A registered charity, working with children and young people aged 0-25 years old in Sheffield who are, or have been, affected by domestic abuse). These are ongoing as part of the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Co-ordination Team (DACT) commission.

What's next?

- **A themed LPIG meeting** in September 2023 will focus on emotional health in children and young people. As well as guest speakers, presentations, and referral and signposting information, partner agencies have been asked to consider the topic of children's emotional health and wellbeing, in relation to the strengths and challenges within their own services and organisations.
- **In Autumn 2023, DACT have commissioned further Domestic Abuse training from Haven.** The aim is to upskill the workforce in supporting children who are survivors of domestic abuse.

Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)

In May 2020, the SCSP Executive Board agreed to provide strategic oversight to the Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) agenda. FASD is a lifelong neurological condition caused by prenatal alcohol exposure.

Evidence suggests that, without the correct diagnosis and support, an individual 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.

Identification and thorough psychological assessment can identify strengths and areas of difficulty, and with knowledge of that profile, the person can thrive, and services can respond appropriately.

A FASD conference was held in September 2021 attended by 280 representatives of key stakeholders in Sheffield. The workforce's increased understanding of FASD has led to better prevention, identification, and support. FASD training is part of key partners' induction programmes and core training, with 2,500 practitioners trained across the city.

An all age FASD steering group has been established, with the following strategic priorities:

- **Prevention** - Reducing alcohol exposed pregnancies through raising public awareness.
- **Increasing professional knowledge and awareness** - To increase practitioner's understanding and confidence in identifying FASD and offering appropriate timely support.
- **Diagnosis and Support** - Diagnosis will help the individual and family get the support that they need.



4

Priority 4 - Maturing our Partnership Governance

Whilst as a group of leaders in our respective agencies and organisations we all have responsibilities in terms of keeping children and young people safe from abuse and harm, the role of SCSP as a partnership is to add value to the local safeguarding landscape by:

- Acting as a strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging others
- Implementing local and national learning, including from serious safeguarding incidents
- Facilitating and driving action beyond usual institutional and agency constraints and boundaries
- Ensuring the effective protection of children is founded on practitioners developing lasting and trusting relationships with children and families.

(Working Together 2018).



SCSP Executive Partnership's governance includes independent scrutiny and challenge with a focus on learning. The independent Chair and Scrutineer produces a report each quarter bringing to SCSP Executive's attention, key reviews and policy developments, both nationally and locally, which are important for the Partnership to consider in seeking assurance that we are doing everything possible to improve outcomes for children and young people in Sheffield.



What we have done

- **In October 2022, the SCSP Executive Board agreed to be a compassionate city** with fairness, equity, and inclusive practice at the heart of all leadership, practice, and developments, and to monitor actions to achieve this. We have developed a work plan underpinning this and it is an eighth joint priority with the Adults Safeguarding Partnership.
- **In March 2023, SCSP supported the ‘Becoming a Resilient, Compassionate and Trauma Informed City’ event**, which discussed the impact of organisational trauma and how to reduce its impact on staff, and to build an effective resilience framework.
- **In June 2022, SCSP Executive Board agreed that the Partnership would oversee, evaluate outcomes, and disseminate learning from the work of the SAFE Taskforce** (The targeted support, delivered as part of a £30 million government investment, is part of a rollout of ten ‘SAFE’ Taskforces across the UK. Sheffield has been identified as one of these target areas, investing in new schools’ interventions to work with the city’s most vulnerable young people).
- **In September 2022, SCSP Executive Board discussed the importance of engagement in education in our safeguarding meetings, particularly as exclusion from education remains a theme in local and national Safeguarding Child Practice Reviews**, and some of the issues that were discussed at the height of the pandemic in relation to elective home education and the potential safeguarding risks within that. It was agreed that a new Education safeguarding group should be developed.
- **In December 2022, SCSP Executive Board signed off Sheffield’s education offer and expectations document**, which provides education settings with clarity about how local requirements enhance the national ones for education settings as set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022 and Working Together 2018.

Sheffield Children
Safeguarding Partnership -
Sheffield education settings
(safeguardingsheffieldchildren.org)

- **It was recognised that gambling harm is growing very quickly and lots of children are being involved.** 55,000 under 18s are addicted to gambling nationally. In 2022, the Joint Safeguarding Partnership Executive Group agreed to endorse the development of a Gambling Strategy building upon existing positive work in the city.

- **Throughout 2022/23, the SCSP Executive Board have signed off several strategies that in turn inform our ambition and priorities,** including:

- The Sheffield Neglect Strategy relaunch, and rollout of the NSPCC Graded Care Profile 2 assessment and intervention tool across our partnership.

Page 24
The Workforce Development Strategy and Plan
The Hidden Harm Strategy and Plan

- **The SCSP, its partners and officers are committed to keeping up to date with new and emerging trends in safeguarding.** This has led to the development of the new Child Safeguarding Practice Review subgroup, where both local and national learning is discussed and shared across the Partnership.

- **In February 2023, a development workshop was held with partners and key stakeholders** to review the partnership’s ambition, strategy, and priorities for the next three years. The workshop was facilitated by two national facilitators, and it was recognised that the workshop was the first step on a journey to reset, refresh and revitalise the work of the Partnership.





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What's Next?

- **Key themes that emerged from the SCSP development workshop:**
 - The need for more detailed focus and better understanding of the basis on which our priorities have been agreed.
 - Recognising that changes in leadership are always inevitable and that we should build a business plan that withstands change and is resilient, clarifying roles and responsibilities across the partnership arrangements, ranging from the work of the business office, executive leaders, priorities, and the work of our subgroups.
 - Continuing to build a system that links children, young people, and adults work together to ensure smooth transition for vulnerable groups.
 - Data analysis and understanding of the capability, capacity and demands of single organisations, recognising that understanding each other will stand us in good stead.
 - Taking time to share with each other the nuance and different statutory frameworks of each other's agencies and current operating context, as well as some of the governance and infra structure.
- **Further development workshops are to be held in Autumn/Winter 2023 focusing on the overarching strategic priorities for 2023 to 2025.**

Section 8

The Next Year

Future Strategic Priorities

As a partnership, we should agree clear priorities, based on what we know about the lives of children and young people in Sheffield, and what works to improve them.

Our priorities should be co-owned, transcend organisational boundaries and we should feel comfortable holding each other to account against them.



1

Priority 1 Neglect

Improve outcomes for children and young people in Sheffield at risk of neglect through implementation of the Partnership's Neglect Strategy and roll out of NSPCC GCP2.

We will do this by:

- **Continuing to oversee the implementation of the Sheffield Neglect Strategy 2021-24** and we will prepare for a formal review and the development of the succeeding strategy.
- **Seeking feedback from children and families** who have experienced the Graded Care Profile 2 tool, to help inform and influence future practice.

2

Priority 2 Contextual Safeguarding

We will develop robust responses to improve the outcomes for children and young people most at risk of criminal and/or sexual exploitation, being exploited by gangs, becoming involved in County Lines and knife crime, and support young people most at risk of disengaging with education.

We will do this by:

- **Continuing to support the development and learning concerning contextual safeguarding** working closer with our education partners to improve inclusion and school attendance.
- **Particularly focusing on raising awareness** in relation to online safety for children and young people and safeguarding risks associated with online abuse and harm.

In 2023-25, the SCSP will no longer be focusing on children and young people's emotional wellbeing, as we believe that this should be cross cutting across all areas and a key consideration running through all city-wide interventions.

Maturing the Partnership governance will no longer be a practice priority, as we continue to be assured that there are the correct governance and scrutiny structures in place to allow us to continue to grow and mature as a partnership.

Support and challenge should be part of how we ensure impacts are clear, understood, co-owned, and contribute to progressively improving children and young people's lives.

For 2023-2025, SCSP will continue to develop and build on the following two key priorities:

3

Priority 3 Children as victims of Domestic Abuse

Reflecting on the priorities outlined in the [new Domestic Abuse Plan](#) (September 2022), child safeguarding partners should recognise their central role in the local response to domestic abuse.

We will do this by:

- **Connecting closely with partners and key stakeholders** to ensure priorities and work plans align, including commissioning and budget priorities, with clear accountability mechanisms.
- **Delivering training** for those professionals most likely to encounter domestic abuse to better identify it and refer victims and survivors to appropriate support.

4

Priority 4 Capturing the voice of Children and Young People

Children and young people should have a strong voice in informing the work of the SCSP, particularly in scrutiny activity.

We will do this by:

- **Ensuring children, young people and families are consulted** and their views are included in the following elements of our work:
 - When conducting audits
 - When developing new policies and procedures
 - When planning workforce development
 - When conducting scrutiny exercises and peer reviews
 - When setting annual priorities
- **Setting up a children’s voice steering group** to look at how we can best engage all children and young people across the city to help us make informed decisions about our work and help us to understand if we are effective.

In 2023-25, the SCSP will have two new priorities:

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Introduction from the new executive partners:

Sheffield City Council

As a statutory partner with delegated responsibility to strategically lead Safeguarding for children in Sheffield, I am pleased to be part of the team shaping our work and celebrating our successes. I am the Strategic Director of Children's Services for Sheffield and keen to raise the profile of children and young people in our city ensuring their voice is heard and that we are mindfully ensuring that they are at the centre of our thinking and decision-making.

I always work in partnership bringing place and system leadership to my work. We can only succeed by working together, sharing our priorities, and acknowledging what we need to do better. A key area is acknowledging the Race Equality Commission and the findings made in 2022 and reflecting on how we bring this into our safeguarding work.

Acknowledging that children from Roma or dual heritage backgrounds are more likely to be excluded from school than their peers and less likely to have an Education, Health and Care Plan. How as a Safeguarding Partnership do we shape our work to address these issues and bring about structural and systemic change to

improve outcomes for all our children and young people in our great city. I know this is achievable together and with all our partners, including our fourth key partner, our education system.

I know we are building on strong foundations and acknowledge the work of my predecessors; John Macilwraith, Carly Speechley and Andrew Jones. I look forward to further success over the coming year and acknowledge our work over the last year celebrated in this annual report.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Meredith Dixon-Teasdale".

Meredith Dixon-Teasdale

Director of Children's Services (DCS)



South Yorkshire Police

I am delighted to be joining the Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership as the newly appointed District Commander for the city and I would like to take this opportunity to thank my predecessor, Chief Superintendent Shelley Hemsley, for her tremendous efforts towards safeguarding of children in the city.

I'm looking forward to taking forward the fantastic work already undertaken through the partnership relationships that are already in place.

As statutory partners, it is our responsibility to improve the safety and wellbeing of children in our city and I pledge my absolute commitment to place that responsibility at the heart of everything I do.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Lindsey Butterfield'.

Lindsey Butterfield

Chief Superintendent

Sheffield District Commander



Section 9

Overview from the Independent Scrutineer

Thank you for 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.

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This report covers the period from April 2022 through to March 2023, a period that continued to present unprecedented challenges for partners against a backdrop of increasing referrals to services in both volume and complexity, workforce shortages, ever increasing pressures on public sector funding and a worsening cost of living crisis in local communities, which is impacting most on our most vulnerable children and families.

Current arrangements for safeguarding continued to evolve during 2022/23 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.

However, there are many agencies in Sheffield supporting children and young people. Their commitment to work together to keep children safe and to continuously improve is at the heart of our Safeguarding Partnership arrangements.

The SCSP Executive Partnership Group has wide strategic membership of key stakeholders and relevant agencies, including education, probation services, the Lead Member for the Education, Children and Families Policy Committee, and the voluntary sector, all committed to continuous learning and improvement, leading to enhanced practice, improved outcomes, and experiences.

Our governance includes independent scrutiny and challenge, with a focus on learning.

Whilst as a group of leaders in our respective agencies and organisations we all have responsibilities in terms of keeping children and young people safe from abuse and harm, the role of SCSP as a partnership is to add value to the local safeguarding landscape by:

- **acting as a strategic leadership group** in supporting and engaging others,
- **implementing local and national learning** including from serious safeguarding incidents,
- **facilitating and driving action** beyond usual institutional and agency constraints and boundaries and
- **ensuring the effective protection of children** is founded on practitioners developing lasting and trusting relationships with children and families.

I joined the Partnership in April 2022 as Independent Chair and Scrutineer. The role of scrutineer is to support partners by providing an independent perspective on their work to safeguard children and to highlight challenges where appropriate.

One of my duties is to be satisfied that the agencies who make up the Safeguarding Partnership are working effectively together to ensure that they are doing what they can to keep children in Sheffield safe, with the resources that they have available.

Developing Our Approach to Scrutiny

Six months into the role, I shared my initial observations and reflections on the Partnership through a scrutineer's six-month review.

As part of the review, I scrutinised SCSP's priorities, through a review of business and work plans for SCSP and its subgroups, responses to the ongoing work of regulators and national bodies, in-year assurance and monitoring reports brought to the Partnership Executive, national policy and local learning, development papers and proposals considered and agreed at the Partnership, self-assessment audits and annual assurance meetings with partners.

In response, the Partnership agreed priorities for 2022/23, based on what it knew about the lives of children and young people in Sheffield, and what works to improve them. The priorities which are set out in section seven of this report, are co-owned and transcend organisational boundaries.

The 2022/23 priorities are the basis for how SCSP developed its in year approach to scrutiny and mutual accountability, asking ourselves the key scrutiny questions about how well we understand the lived experiences of children and families and what impact we are having to improve these. I also took the opportunity to introduce a quarterly scrutineer's report to SCSP which takes account of the findings from all local and national reviews, considering how identified improvements should

be implemented locally.

To do this I draw upon the ongoing work of regulators such as Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission (CQC), His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services, as well as reports from the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, the Children's Commissioner for England and reviews undertaken by NHS England and Improvement.

In November 2022, a review was completed on the reporting of the subgroups and workstreams to the Executive Partnership Group, to ensure better connectivity and reporting mechanisms and to strengthen our approach to scrutiny. Changes to the business process and templates have ensured that the executive is better sighted on the delivery arm of the Partnership, allowing for robust reporting, and addressing emerging themes and risks. This has led to the formation of a new Child Safeguarding Practice Review Subgroup and an Education Reference Group.

As Chair, my role is also to set the conditions in SCSP that enable constructive challenge and mutual accountability to thrive. This approach has enabled the Partnership to embed scrutiny within the annual report. This year's report not only provides updates on activity but also seeks to address the impact and outcomes for children and young people in Sheffield.





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Sources of External Assurance

SCSP received assurance from several external sources.

Ofsted undertook a focused visit to Sheffield children's services in September 2022. His Majesty's Inspectors looked at the local authority's arrangements for planning and achieving permanence. Inspectors were primarily on site and met with practitioners, managers, and leaders. They reviewed a range of evidence, including child records, performance data and quality assurance information, life-story work, and later life letters.

Headline findings were that plans for permanence are identified at the earliest opportunity for most children. There are effective arrangements in place for quality assuring and tracking plans to minimise drift and delay. Where drift is identified, there is evidence of effective challenge from independent reviewing officers (IROs) and senior managers.

A range of permanence options are considered for children in Sheffield. Sensitive work is completed with children to gain their views and help them to understand and prepare for their permanent home.

Some children with a disability who will require support into adulthood do not always receive a smooth transition into adult services. This results in delay in progressing plans for them, particularly in relation to accommodation. When this does occur, there is evidence of challenge from the IRO and advocacy service to address this and represent children's views.

Ofsted also highlighted that there is a strong corporate and political support for children's services and a commitment to 'doing the right thing' for children in the city. The senior leadership team and lead member provide a clear vision, and good social work can flourish. Social workers feel well supported by managers. They value the learning and career development opportunities available to them in Sheffield, which very importantly, enhances the support they can provide to children.



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HM Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services, conduct police effectiveness, efficiency, and legitimacy (PEEL) inspections, which assess the performance of all police forces in England and Wales. HM Inspectors inspection of South Yorkshire Police found the force's focus on vulnerable people to be strong in every area inspected and its work to safeguard children highly effective. Further detail is included in the main body of the report.

HM Inspectorate of Probation is the independent inspector of youth offending and probation services in England and Wales and reports on the effectiveness of probation and youth offending service work with adults and children. The inspectorate reported on their inspection of Sheffield Probation Delivery Unit (PDU) in March

2023. The inspectors noted that Sheffield had high vacancy rates across probation practitioner and administrative grades.

The impact of that was being shouldered by frontline staff, almost all of whom were dealing with unmanageable caseloads. To make matters worse, sickness levels were well above the Civil Service average and there had been a steady flow of staff leaving the PDU for careers elsewhere.

Those problems underpinned its findings in relation to casework. Work to keep the public safe was the weakest area of practice across all standards. There were a worrying number of cases where essential information had not been gathered from the police or social

services, which weakened attempts to keep people (women and children in particular) safe from abusive behaviour. In response, the PDU now has a quality improvement plan in place and there is on-going recruitment of staff at all grades.

The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel's national review into safeguarding children with disabilities and complex health needs was published on 26 October 2022 and revealed serious failures at three residential special schools registered as children's homes. The independent review looked at the experiences of 108 children and young adults living at Fullerton House, Wilsic Hall and Wheatley House, all located in Doncaster, South Yorkshire and operated by the Hesley Group.



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The report showed a culture of abuse and harm, including evidence of physical abuse and violence, neglect, emotional abuse, and sexual harm. Given the severity of the allegations and evidence uncovered, the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel issued an urgent action to all local authorities to ensure all children with complex needs and disabilities currently living in similar children's homes are safe and well.

In Sheffield we identified eight young people that met the criteria of the review and related to seven establishments. The full response from Sheffield was shared with SCSP partners on 29th November 2022. Proposals are also being developed for a new quality assurance model covering all children in care and SCSP will seek further assurance in relation to this work.

The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel also published its review of the most common themes that emerged in relation to multi-agency safeguarding for children who are victims of domestic abuse and included examples of practice and recommendations. The report was received by the Partnership in December 2022. For 2023-2024, the Learning Practice and Improvement Group will focus on domestic abuse, considering the learning from rapid reviews and from the recent report and changes to the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. Domestic Abuse is also being considered as a key priority for the Safeguarding Partnership for 2023 -2025.

Safeguarding children under one from non-accidental injury caused by male carers was also a theme that the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel reported on and in Sheffield partners undertook self-assessment work and agencies developed their own action plans.

The Care Quality Commission's 'State of Care' report for 2021-2022 was published on 21st October 2022. CQC highlighted its concerns about specific service areas, in particular maternity services and those that care for people with a learning disability and autism – areas where inspections continue to find issues with culture, leadership, and a lack of genuine engagement with people who use services. The report also highlighted concerns about increasing demand for children's mental health services.

CQC's [progress report](#) on the 'Out of sight' recommendations, published in March 2022, highlighted some positive developments. This includes nearly £1 billion of additional funding for children and young people's community, crisis, and school services. In addition, the Children's Commissioner has stated that children's mental health is one of her top priorities. In July 2022, she published '[A Head Start: Early support for children's mental health](#)', which sets out six ambitions for early mental health support for children.

CQC carried out an inspection of child and adolescent mental health wards (CAMHS) and specialist community mental health services for children and young people at Sheffield Children's NHS Trust in July

2022. This was partly due to receiving concerns about the quality of care being provided in the CAMHS inpatient wards.

Following this inspection, the ratings for the CAMHS inpatient wards remain the same. Good overall and for being effective, caring, responsive to people's needs and well-led. Safe remains rated as requires improvement.

The specialist community mental health services for children and young people remain rated as requires improvement overall, and for being safe and responsive. The ratings for being effective, caring, and well-led improved from requires improvement to good. In the specialist community mental health services for children and young people, waiting times and caseloads for practitioners remained high. Also, appointments that were cancelled by the service weren't always re-arranged in a timely way which could put people at risk. I am pleased to report that CQC noted that the trust has started to take action to make the necessary improvements and it will return to check on progress.

SCSP partners agreed to seek future assurance regarding safe care and plans to minimise the risk for children and young people waiting for care.

In September 2022, SCSP received an update on the progress being made on the 16–17-year-old CAMHS pathway following the CQC section 64 request in December 2021 and the Mental Health Act system review.

Sheffield has established new integrated partnerships arrangements across health and social care for transformation of services and quality oversight. These will provide an important source of assurance for the Partnership that Sheffield is able to harness and scale up the potential for innovation and investment to improve outcomes for our most vulnerable children and young people and improve their life chances.

Understanding Performance and Trends

The Partnership continued to monitor performance and emerging trends on a regular basis during 2022/23. 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

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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. It is recognised that there is still much work to do to understand the data and further refine the data suite and this is still work in progress.

However, there are many examples of how 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.



Working Together to Safeguard Children

In the last year, three reviews have been published which together call for fundamental reform to children's social care. The Independent Review of Children's Social care set out how we can put love and the overriding importance of relationships back at the centre of what children's social care does.

The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel's review into the tragic deaths of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson reminded us of the absolute priority we must all give to protecting children and keeping them safe and the Competition and Markets Authority review highlighted that we are not doing a good enough job of ensuring the right homes are in the right places for children who come into care.

On the back of these three important reviews, the DfE have identified a once in a generation opportunity to reset children's social care as set out in its vision for reform of children's social care; Stable Homes, Built on Love. In addition, its ambition to strengthen effective multi-agency help, support, safeguarding and child protection across the system is reflected in its on-going consultation on changes to statutory guidance: Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023.

There are clearly important changes afoot which will shape our multi-agency approach to safeguarding children and child protection in Sheffield and responding to these will be at the forefront of the Partnership's work over the next year.

In Conclusion

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. Whilst I have not listed these in detail, many examples are included in the annual report, together with the impact they have made.

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley J Smith" with a long horizontal line underneath.

Lesley Smith

Independent Chair and Scrutineer

Section 10

Relevant Agencies

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Executive Partnership Group Members

For an up-to-date list of Board representatives and agencies, please see SCSP Executive Group Induction Pack

Representative	Organisation
Independent Chair and Scrutineer	SCSP
Assistant Director / Professional Advisor to the SCSP	Sheffield City Council
Safeguarding Partnership Manager	SCSP
Director of Nursing & Professions	Sheffield Health and Social Care
Chief Nurse	NHS Foundation Trust
Chief Nurse	South Yorkshire ICB, Sheffield Place
Detective Superintendent	South Yorkshire Police
Designated Doctor	South Yorkshire ICB, Sheffield Place
Director of Children, Young People and Families	Sheffield City Council
Chief Nurse	Sheffield Teaching Hospitals
Chair - Education, Children and Families Committee	Sheffield City Council
Director of Public Health	Sheffield City Council
Executive Director: Children's Services	Sheffield City Council
Lead for Community Safety Partnership	Sheffield City Council
Head of Barnsley & Sheffield LDU	National Probation Service
Head of Service - Housing	Sheffield City Council
Head of Communities	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
Chief Executive	Sheffield Young Carers
Deputy Chief Executive	Sheffield College
Service Manager - Legal Services	Sheffield City Council
Designated Nurse	South Yorkshire ICB, Sheffield Place
Strategic Commissioning Manager	Sheffield DACT
Lay Member	



Abbreviation	Meaning
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
DA	Domestic Abuse
DACT	Domestic Abuse Coordination Team
DASH	Domestic Abuse Stalking and Honour based violence
DCS	Director of Children's Services
DFE	Department for Education
DSL	Designated Safeguarding Leads
ED	Emergency Department
EET	Education, Employment or Training
EHCP	Education Health and Care Plan
EHE	Elective Home Education
ELOD	Education, Learning and Organisational Development
EMDR	Eye Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing
ERG	Education Reference Group
FASD	Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
FIS	Family Intervention Service
GCP2	Graded Care Profile 2
GP	General practitioner
HMICFRS	His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Service
HSB	Harmful Sexual Behaviour

Abbreviation	Meaning
ICB	Integrated Care Board
ICON	Infant crying is normal • Comforting methods can help It's OK to walk away • Never ever shake a baby
ICPC	Initial Child Protection Conference
IDAS	Independent Domestic Abuse Service
IDVAS	Independent Domestic Violence Advisors
IFD	Integrated Front Door
IRO	Independent Reviewing Officer
IV	Independent Visitor
JAR	Joint Agency Response
JCR	Joint Case Reviews
JTAI	Joint Targeted Area Inspection
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LA	Local Authority
LAAACH	Looked After and Adoptive Children's Health team
LAC	Local Area Committees
LADO	Local Authority Designated Officer
LGC	Local Government Chronicle
LGBTQ+	Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Trans, Queer/questioning and more
Little CiCC	Little Children in Care Council
LPIG	Learning and Practice Improvement Group
LRU	Local Referral Unit
MAAG	Multi Agency Audit Group
MACE	Multi Agency Criminal Exploitation
MACF	Multi Agency Child and Family

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Abbreviation	Meaning
MADA	Multi Agency Domestic Abuse
MAPPA	Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements
MARAC	Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference
MAST	Multi Agency Support Team
MHST	Mental Health Support Teams
MOJ	Ministry Of Justice
NCMD	National Child Mortality Database
NFCC	National Fire Chiefs Council
NHS	National Health Service
NICE	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
NSPCC	National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
OFSTED	Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills
PA	Personal Advisor
PACE	Police And Criminal Evidence
PAIRS	Parenting And Infant Relationship Service
PCC	Police and Crime Commissioner
PDU	Probation Delivery Unit
PEEL	Police Effectiveness Efficiency and Legitimacy
PPF	Prioritising Probation Framework
PSHE	Personal Social Health and Economic Education
PVP	Protecting Vulnerable People
QAIS	Quality Assurance and Involvement Service
RCPC	Review Child Protection Conference
RCPCH	Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health
SAFE	Support Attend Fulfil Exceed

Abbreviation	Meaning
SAN	Secure Accommodation Network
SASP	Sheffield Adult Safeguarding Partnership
SARC	Sexual Assault Referral Centre
SCAIDP	Specialist Child Abuse Investigators: Development Programme
SCC	Sheffield City Council
SCFT	Sheffield Children's Foundation Trust
SCLU	Sheffield Care Leavers Union
SCR	Serious Case Review (Now known as Child's Safeguarding Practice Review)
SCSP	Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership
SEN	Special Educational Needs
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
HSC	Sheffield Health and Social Care
SH	Sheffield Safeguarding Hub
SSU	Safeguarding Support Unit
TH	Sheffield Teaching Hospital
STHFT	Sheffield Teaching Hospital Foundation Trust
SYFR	South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue
SYP	South Yorkshire Police
TOM	Target Operating Model
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
VC	Vulnerable Child
VCF	Voluntary, Community and Faith sector
VRU	Violence Reduction Unit
VYPEB	Vulnerable Young People's Executive Board
YHMAST	Yorkshire and Humberside Multi Agency Safeguarding Trainers
YJS	Youth Justice Service

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Section 12



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Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership would like to thank the children, young people and families in Sheffield, our partners and frontline practitioners, who have engaged with our training, events, consultations and in the preparation of our annual report for 2022-2023.

Thank you

Section 13

Contact us

If you want to be in touch with us:



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Website – <https://www.safeguardingsheffieldchildren.org>

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