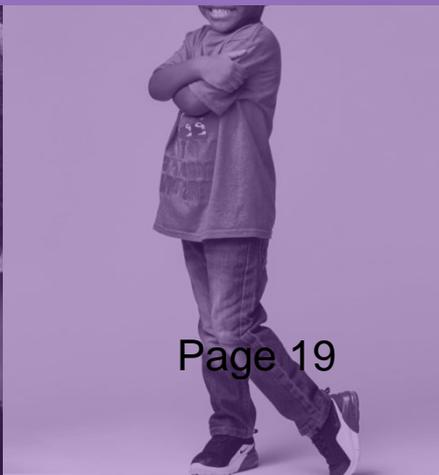




Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership
ANNUAL REPORT

2019-2020



Essential Information

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Date of Publication:	December 2020
Approval Process:	SCSP Executive Partnership Group December 2020

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Introduction from the Independent Chair



This has been a challenging and turbulent year and this Annual Report for 2019/20 only touches briefly on the initial impact of Covid-19, which has demanded even greater partnership co-operation in more recent months. I am extremely grateful for the collaboration and commitment that continues to be shown by all partners towards keeping children and young people safe in Sheffield.

As this Report shows Sheffield has a distinguished record of innovation and the new Safeguarding Arrangements set up in July 2019 continue to provide a robust and inclusive framework for partnership work. The involvement at senior level from all three statutory partners has continued to be strong, and the work of the Partnership's subgroups has sustained effective working arrangements which have responded to operational challenges. There is further work to do to ensure that there are regular links with the SCC Children's Services Improvement Board, with our education community and with the Health and Wellbeing Board, not least to minimise any duplication of oversight and scrutiny.

I have reported the work of the Partnership to elected members of the City Council for their assurance that safeguarding is effective, and we will be continuing to develop regular and senior accountability within the health community and with police.

The work of the Partnership is ably supported by our staff team and I am grateful for all their hard work which is reflected in the contents of this Report.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Ashcroft". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

David Ashcroft
Independent Chair
Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership

An Outline of Sheffield

Population

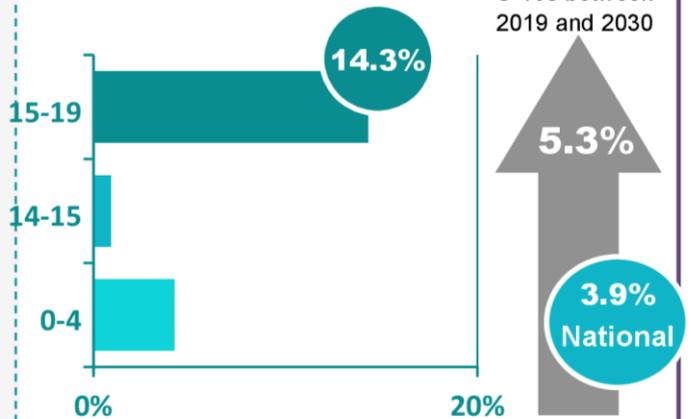


584,853

117,736
Under 18



Population Growth 2019- 2030



Deprivation

Approximately

24%

Children and Young People in Sheffield are in low income families



National Average is 18%

Children in Sheffield entitled to claim



Free School Meals

Primary 25.8%

National 17.7%

Secondary 22.0%

National 15.9%

Diversity

Children and young people with English as an additional language

Primary 23.4%

National 21.3%

Secondary 18.8%

National 17.1%

The largest minority ethnic groups of U18s in Sheffield are Asian

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



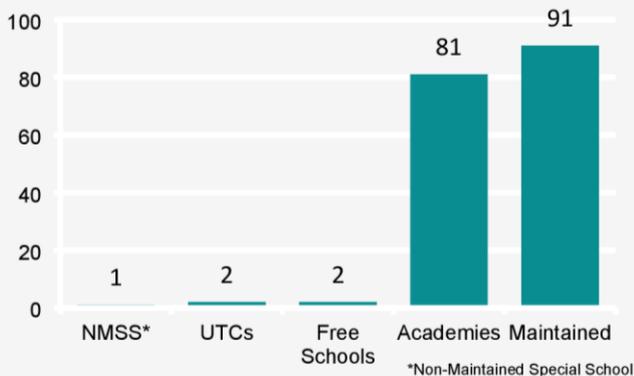
Sheffield 36.7%



England 33.1%

Education

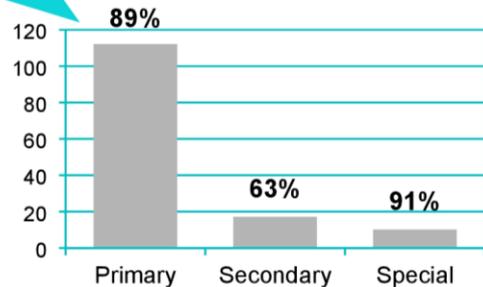
177 Schools in Sheffield



71,895 children and young people attend primary, secondary or special schools within the city

85%

of schools in Sheffield are rated good or outstanding by Ofsted



486 children registered as being home educated (January 2020)

2.7% of pupils in Sheffield have an Education Health Care Plan or Statement (2019)

National Average is 3.1%

Section 1

Children and Young People's Involvement

Children and young people have some of the sharpest minds about and have some incredible ideas.

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

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

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



Our Work with the Children's Involvement Team

The Children's Involvement Team (CIT)

The CIT sits within the Quality Assurance and Involvement Service (QAIS) in the Children & Families Service, Sheffield City Council. The primary focus of the CIT is to seek children's¹ 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 in child protection conferences
- Advocacy support for children cared for by Sheffield local authority
- Advocacy support for disabled children
- Facilitation of the Children in Care Council and from September 2016, the Sheffield Care Leavers Union
- Facilitation of Sheffield's Independent Visitor service, including since 2019 an expansion of the service to include care leavers
- From 2018, to undertake regular research of children's views of the service they receive from Social Care
- From 2019, to take a strategic lead for direct work with children across the service, including leading on the Voice of the Child Challenge



Headlines

During the financial year 2019-2020, the Children's Involvement Team delivered the following:

- 363 children advocated for at their initial child protection conference.
- 186 children advocated for at first review child protection conference.
- 61 looked after children, care leavers and disabled children advocated for.
- 24 children involved in Children in Care Council group activities.
- 12 young people involved in Care Leaver Union voice and influence activities.
- 52 relationships supported between a child in care and an Independent Visitor.
- 60 children spoken to about their experiences of social care.
- 6 young people recruited and supported as part of a scrutiny panel for service developments through the Voice of the Child Challenge.
- 135 Children & Families Service workers attended direct work training.

¹ Throughout this document, the term 'children' refers to all children and young people aged 0 to 17 years, unless otherwise stated.

“It’s been really useful as I didn’t have to attend any meetings which could cause upset. I now know everything about what happened and I feel a lot happier and safe and secure”.

“It has been easier to get my point and views across. I am shy therefore I wouldn’t have spoken much during meetings. [My advocate] was really supportive in getting my views across.”

“Advocacy helps people get their voices heard and makes sure that people know their rights and entitlements. An advocate is really helpful if things aren’t going well or if you don’t agree with the plan being made.

Having an advocate helped me to feel listened to. They took my issue seriously and they had the knowledge and experience to help me and make sure I got what I needed.”

children
IN CARE COUNCIL



Children in Care Council (CiCC)

The CiCC are a group of energetic and enthusiastic 12-18 year olds who meet every fortnight to work on projects to improve the care experiences of children in the care of Sheffield local authority. By the end of March 2020, the group had 15 members who attend group sessions regularly; 5 new members joined the group during the year.

The group’s main areas of focus during the year have been:

The Placement Game

Members of the group continued to deliver training for residential staff and foster carers and to workers from the Children Looked After Service. Two members also shared their training toolkit at the Innovation Zone in Bournemouth, a national forum for promoting best practice.

Bright Spots feedback event

Members of the group attended the event where the findings of the Sheffield Bright Spots survey were presented and discussed. Following this, the group agreed to take forward two key issues for the year: negative body image and low self-esteem of children in care and stigma experienced in schools by children in care. These were taken forward in projects entitled ‘The Best of Us!’ and ‘The Assembly Squad’.

The Best of Us!

Led by one member of CiCC, the group decided to plan and hold a fashion show and invite other Sheffield children in care. This was held at the Town Hall and attended by children, their foster carers, and workers. The evening began with positive activities, including a photo booth, t-shirt design and a 'like and admire' activity. This was followed by a catwalk fashion show. The CiCC had worked with drama and performance artists, including support from the Sheffield Music Hub, to put together their own positive messages and a catwalk show.

The Assembly Squad

Led by another member of CiCC, the group teamed up with the Virtual School to produce an interactive presentation to be used by designated teachers across Sheffield primary and secondary schools. This was to be launched at the Sheffield Virtual School Conference to designated teachers in March but, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, has now been postponed to a later date.

'What Happens Next?' film

The group worked with SCLU to produce a film, 'What Happens Next?' to answer questions for children in care who are approaching independence. The film was launched in December at an event where the young people compered and co-facilitated table discussions.

HubFest

Hub Fest is a bi-annual music festival for Sheffield children with an emphasis on young people being represented and having a voice. The group worked with the Sheffield Music Hub to express themselves and develop individual and group pieces linked to stigma of being in care.

Ofsted

Members of the group met with Ofsted inspectors as part of the inspection process to share their scrapbook of achievements and discuss their work and their influence within the service. The Inspectors spoke highly of CiCC's work within their report.

Star Awards

Members of the group took part in the judging panel to select this year's Star Awards winners. All members attended the event, and many performed at the event as part of the choir.

Interviews

Members of the group have been involved in interviewing several workers for the service, including a Service Manager and an advocate.

Regional residential

Four members of the group, along with members of SCLU, attended a three-day residential with other CiCC and Care Leaver Union members from across the Yorkshire and Humber region. During their time they took part in team building activities and began planning a regional conference with a focus on care leaver entitlements.

Woodland Team Building Day

CiCC joined SCLU at an 'I'm care experienced, get me out of here' themed team building day in a wood.



What did CiCC members say?

“I like CiCC because there is a variety of topic that we get to cover and I get to learn more about the care system and hear other people’s opinions and experiences. It’s super informative and it’s great to join in and be a part of trying to make a change.”

Sheffield Care Leavers’ Union (SCLU)



SCLU meet on a fortnightly basis, with additional sessions to work on particular projects or tasks. There are currently 8 core members of the group, with an expanding database of care leavers who are happy to be contacted and consulted with, rather than attend a regular group in person

During 2019-20, SCLU completed the following key pieces of work:

‘What Happens Next?’ film

SCLU members took part in the planning and making of the film, talking about their experiences of moving into independence. They also worked with CiCC to co-host the launch event and led table discussions with workers.

Reality Cheque

SCLU launched the Reality Cheque challenge during care leavers week. 90 people from Sheffield and across the country signed up to live on a care leaver’s budget for a week. This included a mid-week surprise of a financial bonus or sanction. Feedback was gathered from participants who highlighted the financial difficulties experienced by care leavers and instigated the conversation about how care leavers can be better supported with budgeting skills earlier in life.

Participants were asked to submit budget recipes which are being collated into a recipe book to be distributed to all Sheffield care leavers. This will be funded by a grant received from the JG Graves Trust.

The hashtag *#realitycheque* was used by participants on Twitter and was retweeted nationally.

Cooking videos

Following on from Reality Cheque, SCLU members used kitchens kindly offered by Sheffield Hallam University to film cooking videos to help teach care leavers how to cook simple, budget friendly meals. These have been uploaded to SCLU website.

Housing and Independent Living

SCLU began work on a guide for all young people transitioning to independence which will include information about their rights and personal experiences of leaving care.

Sheffield Leaving Care Service (LCS)

SCLU members attended a training day run by the service for Performance and Analysis Team (PAS). They engaged in discussions about engagement of care leavers by workers and helped identify best practice. The group also worked with the Leaving Care Service manager to review the Sheffield Care Leaver Offer

European Care Leavers' Network

SCLU members attended focus groups to consider worker engagement with and issues faced daily by care leavers. Along with professionals from Croatia, Romania, Italy, England, and Ireland, the SCLU facilitator attended an event to present the findings and SCLU members attended a young person's event in Croatia to highlight best practice internationally.

National Care Experienced Conference

Four SCLU members attended this conference in Liverpool. They attended and contributed to workshops about mental health, parenthood, and stigma. The information gathered will be used in a summary report and presented to Government. SCLU also showcased their artwork at the event.

Financial Entitlements document

SCLU were consulted by the Leaving Care service about the design of the Financial Entitlements document which was shared on the SCLU website and copies sent to all Sheffield care leavers.

Mental Health Services

SCLU worked with Chilypep to share feedback and ideas on access to mental health services for care leavers. Commissioned by the CCG, this feedback will be used to redesign mental health services in Sheffield.

Ofsted inspection

Two SCLU members, together with CiCC, met with Ofsted inspectors to discuss their work and their influence within the service. They received very positive feedback in the inspection report.

Interviews

SCLU members were involved in interviews including for service managers across the three area fieldwork teams.

Woodland Team Building Day

CiCC joined SCLU at an 'I'm care experienced, get me out of here' themed team building day in a wood.

Leaving Care Service summer BBQ

SCLU attended the event and one member ran the football activity for other care leavers.

University of Sheffield research

Two SCLU members took part in a focus group facilitated by Sheffield University to improve their communication with care leavers.

Christmas party

SCLU attended the panto this year! Many had never been before and thoroughly enjoyed themselves (oh yes they did!).

What did SCLU members say?

“It’s my favourite time to come together and express ourselves. I love being part of the group”

“It’s my favourite time of the day just to spend time with all of the other guys and knowing that it is the best thing that has ever happened to me to be a part of this amazing group.”

Section 2

The Sheffield Safeguarding Children Partnership

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

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

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

Our Vision

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

We are committed to improving the safety of all 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.

The Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership

Key roles and relationship

The Independent Chair

During 2019/20 our Independent Chair was David Ashcroft. David was supported in his role by a Senior Professional Advisor and a dedicated team of Board Officers. The Chair is tasked with ensuring the Partnership fulfils its statutory objectives and functions. Key to this is the facilitation of a working culture of transparency, challenge, and improvement across all partners with regards to their safeguarding arrangements.

Partner agencies

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

Safeguarding leads/designated professionals

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

Relationship with other Boards and Partnerships

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

During 2019/20, engagement continued with:

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

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

The Professional Adviser to the SCSP also maintains a key partnership role by membership of the Vulnerable Young Peoples Executive Board, The Youth Justice Partnership, the SSH Partnership Board, the South Yorkshire Teaching Partnership Strategic Board, and the Hidden Harm Implementation Group. A lead member of the Community Safety Partnership and the Director of

Public Health are members of the Executive Board. All of this enables clear communication and a good flow of information.

Lay Members

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

Partnership Performance

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

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



New Safeguarding Arrangements

Following on from the recommendations of the Wood Review 2017, the change in legislation to the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and the subsequent revised government guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) were replaced in 2019/20 with new local multi-agency safeguarding partnership arrangements.

Therefore, in July 2019 the Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board changed to become the Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership (SCSP).

Three organisations in Sheffield are now jointly responsible for the partnership arrangements for keeping children safe, these are:

- Sheffield City Council: represented by the Chief Executive
- Sheffield Clinical Commissioning Group: represented by the Chief Nurse
- South Yorkshire Police: represented by the District Commander

In addition to the three main statutory safeguarding partners, several other relevant agencies also work as part of the Partnership, as detailed on page 66.

The changes have given us the opportunity to review and change some of our ways of working, building on strengths within the good partnership relationships that already exist but focusing on how we can make a real and sustained difference to multi-agency frontline practice to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families. We aim to achieve these improvements by developing, disseminating, and embedding good practice based on what we know works well and is evidenced based.

At the heart of the arrangements is a commitment from all agencies in Sheffield to work together to keep children safe and to continuously improve and learn how to best do this. Safeguarding partners in Sheffield will continue to work together to identify and respond to the needs of children and young people through the new Partnership. The Partnership is led jointly by South Yorkshire Police, Sheffield City Council, and the Sheffield Clinical Commissioning Group.

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, as defined by the local authority boundaries. The geographical footprint corresponds with that of the Sheffield CCG footprint and the Sheffield District of South Yorkshire Police. 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.

What We Achieved

In 2019/20 we became a Partnership and well-established relationships were cemented in our "New Arrangements". Work was undertaken to review the structures and membership with partners recommitting to working together effectively and challenging one another.



A positive culture and mutually supportive relationships have ensured the Partners have been able to work together as the city dealt with the impacts of Covid 19. Agencies continue to contribute to the work of the partnership both at a senior and practitioner level with strong political support from elected members. More work is required to enhance and embed existing arrangements with the lead partners taking an increasing role in leading the direction of our priorities.

Our Quality Assurance exercise and Challenge sessions were successfully held with the Adult Safeguarding Partnership in late 2019 picking up cross cutting issues that apply equally in adults' and children's services. Closer working with colleagues in adults' services has also been seen in joint workshops, training courses and masterclasses helping professionals understand one another's roles.

The well-established multi-agency workforce development programme delivered over 13,000 contacts across a range of topics with good feedback from practitioners. A Workforce Development Questionnaire confirmed the value of this programme and the confidence it gives professional's as well as identifying areas for further work

A programme of events for public and professionals was held for Safeguarding Awareness Week in July 2019 with the strapline "Safe in Sheffield". A wide range of agencies took the opportunity to spend time talking to people, highlighting services and issues relevant to adults' and children's safeguarding. In September Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness month was promoted.

Our work with the licenced trade continues to be recognised as good practise with the Licencing Manager delivering workshops regionally and nationally. Training staff in these businesses in children's safeguarding issues makes Sheffield a safer place. Supporting the work of the Contextual Safeguarding UK Advisory Panel means we continue to share the learning from Sheffield to promote the role of the business community in safeguarding approaches nationally.

Work has progressed over the year to address harmful gambling and the impact it can have on children and families. Seminars were well received and with Public Health colleagues resources for employers produced.

The extension this year of the work carried out by the Vulnerabilities Manager to include drug and alcohol misuse and / or mental ill health within the remit of Hidden Harm has helped practitioners across adults' and children's services extend their knowledge and better respond to families. Requests for support and advice from different professionals demonstrate the increased consideration these issues are being given and help professionals respond to families in the most appropriate way.

This year two themed audits were completed focusing on priorities within the Business Plan (mental health and child criminal or sexual exploitation) with actions being progressed by agencies. Following a Multiagency Audit of Contacts and Referrals to the Safeguarding Hub, work to improve the quality of information and to monitor and improve professional's attendance at, and report submissions to Child Protection Conferences has taken place.

Funding Arrangements

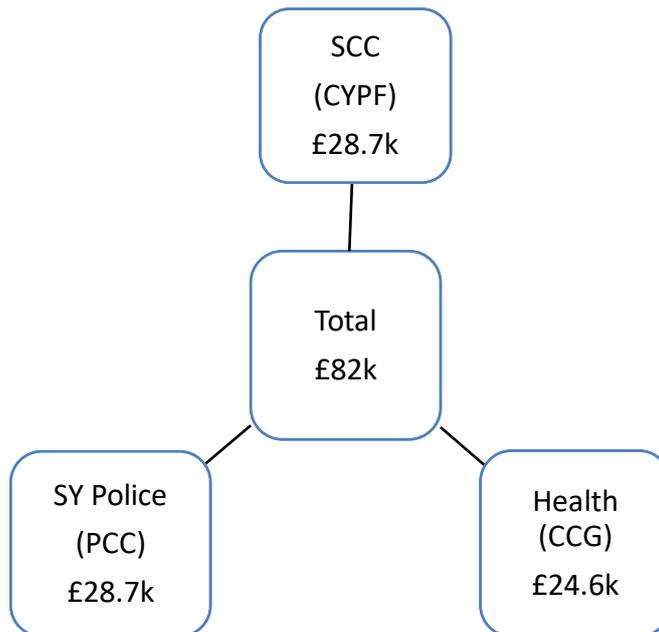
Sheffield Safeguarding Children Partnership

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

Income 2019/20	£
Carried Forward	14.4 k
Contributions:	
Sheffield City Council	91.2 k
Health: CCG	91.2 k
SY Police: PCC	36.6 k
National Probation Service	2.7 k
Total	236.1

SCSP Funding of the Sheffield Exploitation Service

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



Section 3

How We Learn from What We Do



*Includes: Serious Case Reviews, Learning Lessons Reviews and Child Death Overview Panel.

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

How We Learn from What We Do

Ofsted Inspection of Sheffield's Children's Services

In 2019, Sheffield City Council was awarded an overall 'good' rating by Ofsted following a three-week inspection of its children's services. The council were commended for putting children at the centre of practice, with children and young people across the city benefiting from child focused staff and services. Inspectors reported that the views of children and young people are valued at all levels, and the local authority has created an environment in which good social work is nurtured and celebrated.

The following was noted in the Ofsted Report about partnership working:

Experiences and Progress of Children Who Need Help and Protection

Strong partnership working and the support of a range of specialist services help to improve children's lives.

Domestic Abuse

Children identified as being at high risk from exposure to domestic violence are discussed at daily multi-agency domestic abuse meetings with partner agencies

Mental Health

Children's physical and emotional health needs are well met. Children benefit from a strong specialist support network where this is necessary. Having a child and adolescent mental health service (CAMHS) worker in the children in care service and a psychologist in the fostering team means that advice and support for emotional needs are quickly available to support social workers and carers respond to children's needs.

Exploitation

Targeted support staff and partner agency colleagues work hard and effectively to develop strong relationships with these young people and address all their needs to reduce risk.

Care Leavers

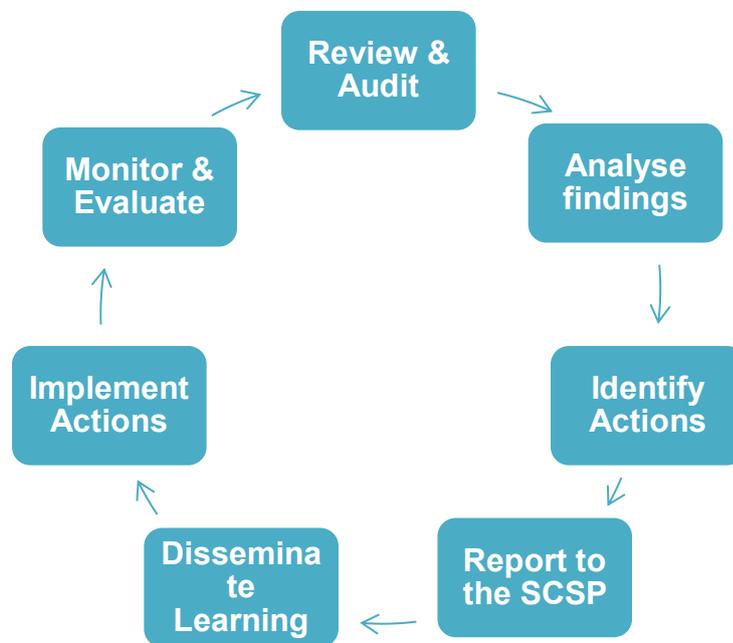
A speech and language therapist has been deployed by the service to help care leavers find their voice and increase their confidence in communicating during interviews, in part leading to an increase in care leavers securing employment opportunities.

Impact of Leaders

Relationships with partner agencies are highly effective. There is shared ownership and a commitment to improving the lives of children and their families in Sheffield.

Quality Assurance, Learning & Improvement Framework

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



Multi-Agency Data Suite

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

The Data Suite has developed the Partnership's understanding of safeguarding performance across the city and provided evidence of the impact of the Boards work. The multiagency data suite continues to focus on 5 priority areas:

- Neglect
- Sexual Exploitation
- Thresholds
- Transitions
- Substance and Alcohol Misuse (Hidden Harm)

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

Data Suite Review

A full-scale review of the SCSP data suite commenced in 2019/20, to ensure it continues to be concise, insightful, reliable, and accurate in providing a picture of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of CYP in Sheffield. The aim was to develop a core and thematic data suite that reflected both SCSP and local priorities, including information on:

- Referrals
- Involvements
- Outcomes
- Voice of the CYP

- Mental Health
- Child Exploitation
- Neglect
- Hidden Harm
- Transitions
- Special Educational Needs and/or Disability

To achieve this, partners were asked to review the performance indicators they submitted each quarter using a set of key questions. At which point, the SCSP Research and Performance Officer was due to meet each agency to discuss and agree key indicators. However, this work has currently been postponed, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and is expected to resume later in 2020. In response to the Covid-19 pandemic the SCSP developed a monthly data set to support the Executive Partnership Group in monitoring the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements during the pandemic.



Workforce Development Questionnaire

The Children's Workforce Development Questionnaire helps the SCSP to identify specific areas that professionals feel they need further support, training, and development opportunities. This enables the SCSP to deliver and monitor targeted activities in Sheffield to increase knowledge and improve practice. The 2019 questionnaire consisted of questions related to seven key areas: Induction and Workplace Knowledge, Support, Referrals, Multi-Agency Working, Understanding the role of the SCSP, Confidence relating to Specific Issues, and the Sheffield Alcohol Screening Tool.

In total there were 429 respondents, with the majority working in Education (154), Local Authority (96), Health (79) and the Voluntary/Community Sector (58). The respondents predominantly worked with 0-16 year olds and with primary school children. The main findings included:

- 98% of respondents knew who to go to in their organisation with safeguarding concerns and 93% of respondents were *Extremely /Quite Clear* on their professional responsibilities for safeguarding children and young people
- 74% of respondents indicated they were using the Signs of Safety approach

- 66% of respondents were *Extremely /Quite Clear* in completing a MACF and 51% of respondents either *Frequently* or *Sometimes* used the SCSP Threshold of Need Guidance.
- 56% of 358 respondents had attended SCSP training in the last 12 months: of these 75% have changed their practice because of the training (52% of the total 359 respondents).
- 32% of respondents were */Extremely/Quite Confident in knowing how to apply the Mental Capacity Act* and 54% knew where to get advice on overriding the decision of a 16 or 17 year old with capacity to safeguard them

Areas identified where practitioners did not feel as confident;

- Expressing Suicidal Thoughts or Feelings
- Self-Harm
- Child Sexual Abuse (recognising the issue and talking to families)
- Sexually Harmful Behaviour
- Abuse in Teenage Relationships
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Child Criminal Exploitation (Inc. Gang Involvement)
- Online Safety (Inc. Cyberbullying and Gambling)

The following relevant seminars have been planned, with a move to virtual seminars due to Covid 19 restrictions.

- Online Safety and cybercrime
- Self-Harm
- Bereavement and Loss
- Contextual Safeguarding
- Work with Fathers/Father Figures
- Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Standards (DoLS)
- Coercive Control

The SCSP Workforce Development Manager is reviewing the SCSP multi-agency training offer to ensure there is a plan of support for the areas identified where practitioners did not feel as confident.

Licensing and Safeguarding

Despite a lack of local and national data regarding the prevalence, impact and treatment of harmful gambling, the following information sources were used in 2019/20 to inform our practice:

- a. Survey by the Gambling Commission looking at prevalence of underage gambling in pubs; this led to the SCSP coordinating a test purchase operation in Sheffield to benchmark activity and to initiate a training programme for people working in the gambling/pub trades to raise operator awareness of problem gambling.
- b. Our Voice Matters CYP survey to build data regarding local gambling and gaming activity and to inform our training for the trades and enforcement plans.

In terms of underage sales of age restricted products (alcohol/knives), we used the data from enforcement agencies (police, trading standards) to investigate complaints and target training and licensing action, such as licence representations and reviews.

Hidden Harm

Monthly parental mental health meetings were established to provide consistent data about the number children involved with children and Families services with parents accessing the adult mental health services. Adult mental health workers now routinely ask service users whether they are parents and record details of children. A system has been established that reports accurate information for Child Protection conferences.

The SHSC Section 11 report identified poor take up of workers from mental health services accessing multi-agency safeguarding children training. Level 3 safeguarding children training has now become mandatory for adult mental health clinicians, which has supported improved communication between adult and children services.

Section 11 & Single Agency Challenge Meetings

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

In 2019/20 partner agencies updated their Section 11 self-assessments and for the first time these self-assessments and the subsequent challenge meetings focused on both adults' and children's safeguarding to support a coordinated approach and identify any cross-cutting themes.

Each Board partner agency had a separate meeting with the Independent Chair, Professional Adviser (SCSP), the Safeguarding Partnership Manager (SASP and SCSP) and the Head of Service Quality and Safeguarding (SASP). The objective of the meetings was to seek assurance from partners that they had effective and coordinated safeguarding arrangements in place. This involved scrutiny and discussion of each agency's section 11 return and any ongoing actions, alongside other relevant areas highlighted through SCSP evaluation and audit work, SCR/LLR action plans and inspection reports.

The main findings from the challenge meetings were:

- The majority of children's and adults' services are already undertaking numerous internal audits and there were examples of agencies having a strong QA and feedback loop in place. However, some agencies identified areas where audits were needed going forward. These audits have been included the single agency quality assurance action plans and their progress monitored.
- The majority of adults' and children's services identified the MCA as an area for development and in response the SCSP have included training on the Mental Capacity Act in our multi-agency training offer.
- All adults' and children's services reported good levels of internal safeguarding training, including mandatory, induction and specialist training packages. Many agencies indicated that accessing daytime multi-agency training can be problematic, especially for front line

and specialist staff. As such the Workforce Development Manager is reviewing the delivery methods of training, including a virtual offer, to ensure training is accessible to all staff.

- Some agencies highlighted that Contextual Safeguarding is a relatively new approach, which needs supporting through workforce development and raising awareness. In 2019 the Sheffield Contextual Safeguarding Strategy was published and multi-agency training on contextual safeguarding and exploitation has been launched.
- Safeguarding supervision was highlighted as a real area of strength across both children's and adults' services. Many services reported that staff receive monthly supervisions with safeguarding is a standing agenda item. Where this was not possible due to the service delivery model, actions are taken to ensure staff receive sufficient support around safeguarding issues.

Actions were developed for agencies from these meetings and put into single agency quality assurance action plans arising, which continue to be monitored during the year through regular review and scrutiny at the Executive Board.



Serious Case Reviews and Lessons Learned Reviews

Until July 2019 the SSCB was required to carry out a Serious Case Review (SCR) when certain criteria were met. Since the launch of the SCSP, the requirement is to undertake a Rapid Review, which may lead to a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review. Where there are concerns relating to multi-agency safeguarding practice, but the criteria is not met, a 'Lessons Learned' review may be undertaken to ensure partners learn from what happened. The aim of each is to improve practice by learning from what has happened across agencies and by involving staff and families in the process.

In June 2019 utilising aspects of the new guidance we completed a Rapid Review following the tragic murder of two children in May 2019. This concluded that the criteria for a SCR had been met. The Serious Case Review concluded and was published in August 2020. The review was completed to the planned timescale and the author found no evidence that any of the practitioners and agencies involved with the family could have predicted the actions taken by their parents. The review found significant evidence of effective and caring practice by all agencies involved with the family.

The review did raise questions about how well professionals are able to recognise and respond to harmful sexual behaviour. understood the impact of childhood trauma on both parents and how it

affected the mother's thinking. Other recommendations relate to, a lack of professional curiosity around the paternity of the children, understood the impact of childhood trauma on both parents, eligibility for services, delays in services being provided and some issues around information sharing.

The report includes recommendations and actions for the partnership as a whole and for individual agencies, which are in the process of being implemented and monitored by the Partnership. Agencies are required to share and implement the learning within their organisation with the help of a published [Learning Brief](#).

The findings will be considered by the Learning & Practice Improvement Group, training up-dated to reflect any relevant findings and the learning from this review will inform the work plan for the Partnership in 2020/2021.

Progress has continued to implement the recommendations following the two SCR's carried out in 2018/19. The learning from both the Child K and Archie SCR's has been incorporated into the Partnership training including that for educational settings and the findings from the Archie SCR formed part of this years Annual Conference. We have seen progress in several areas including children who are registered as being home educated now receiving a visit from a MAST worker and offered a visit from the Electively Home Educated team who can support with curriculums. A process that ensures children are placed on school roles is in place and a more robust response where this is not happening is underway. In March, Sheffield's Contextual Safeguarding Strategy which articulates the ongoing commitment to build on the multi-agency response to addressing child criminal exploitation and reducing youth violence in the city was approved by the Councils cabinet and includes a referral pathway and screening tool for those exploited by gangs. The Vulnerable Young People's Executive Board oversees delivery of the accompanying plan. The Amber Project has brought together multi-agency workers as part of the Sheffield Child Exploitation Service working to address both child sexual and criminal exploitation. There is regular monitoring of attendance at Child Protection Conferences and provision of reports to the SCSP Executive Board and increased attendance at Child Protection Conferences has continued.

Three joint multi-agency case reviews, involving adult and children services, were undertaken by the Hidden Harm Implementation group to identify areas of good practice and areas for development with a clear focus on collaborative working and what works for families. It was found that that within each family there were: high levels of parental conflict; parents who had adverse childhood experiences (ACE's) that impacted on their parenting and family life, resulting in their children also being exposed to ACE's; significant involvement with large numbers of child and adult services. However, it was also evident that there were limited amounts of information sharing between adult and children services and a lack of discussion and shared understanding. To share the learning from the joint case reviews Parental Mental Health multiagency workshops were organised and a Joint Working Protocol between adult and children services was written and disseminated.

Multi-Agency Audit Group

The aim of the multi-agency audit group is to monitor and evaluate local practice in delivering services to children and families, determining the quality of practice, level of agency involvement, partnership working and related outcomes. The audit is focused on the child's journey and

highlights areas of good practice, areas for development and those that require improvement. It has a clear focus on impact and outcomes and promotes a culture of continuous learning and improvement.

The audit group continues to meet bi-monthly and is made up of safeguarding leads in key partner organisations. A case is selected randomly and each agency self-audits the case using the audit tool. This year we have introduced a Signs of Safety framework for the audit process. There continues to be good attendance from agencies who engage in an open and honest dialogue.

The audit process has also highlighted evidence of good practice, including:

- Evidence of good communication between agencies on cases that enabled a consistent message to families and reduced the risk of disguised compliance
- Evidence of universal services e.g. schools pastoral care providing excellent levels of support
- Domestic Abuse was well recognised by practitioners
- No evidence of a lack of resources in the city
- Evidence of a better understanding of thresholds
- Evidence of effective challenge on cases

Impact

- The SSCB conference this year focussed contextual safeguarding and learning from the MAAG process fed into that event
- The alcohol screening tool was embedded within the Children's Social Care assessment processes
- The learning from audit fed into the Workforce Development programme
- The use of the Signs of Safety tool has further embedded the framework with all partner agencies

What We Will Do Next

- We will review and refresh to ensure better coordination with both single and multi-agency audit processes across the city



Themed Audit Day – Children’s and Young People’s Mental Health June 2019

Background: What happened and why?

In June 2019, the SCSP conducted a Themed Audit Day (TAD) to review the work undertaken with five children and young people (CYP) that were receiving a service from early intervention or social care and who have been identified as having a mental health need. This need is aligned with SCSP and local area priorities. A multi-agency review team considered information from a range of professionals across different services and conducted a focus group for each case to identify what is working well and what needs to be in place to achieve the best possible outcomes for each child.

Key Issues Identified: What did we learn?

- In all cases there was generally a focus on the CYP, but their voice and that of their parents was often lacking in referrals.
- Most records were up-to-date and accurate and the family history was usually considered during casework, however information on other significant adults was frequently found to be missing.
- Mental health was frequently considered during agencies’ assessments, decision-making and care planning. However information regarding the CYP’s mental health was not consistently shared, resulting in the CYP repeatedly retelling their story.
- The interplay between the CYP’s mental health and their parent’s mental health needs greater consideration during casework. Better joined up working between adult mental health service’s and children’s mental health services is crucial in enabling a whole family approach in providing support.
- There was evidence of difficulties in transitioning from children’s mental health services to adult’s mental health services and this was found to have impacted on the mental health treatment provided. These findings directly relate to Young Person N’s Learning Lessons Review where transition of care from CAMH’s to Adult Mental Health services was a focus.

Outcomes: What needs to happen next?

Agencies need to ensure there is a greater emphasis on discussing proposed referrals with CYP and families.

Professionals should record information on all significant adults in the lives of CYP, including fathers, step-parents and other adults living or non-resident partners in the home.

Information about a CYP’s mental health should be shared with key agencies so that the CYP does not have to continually retell their story. Such procedures should include responding to information and where appropriate following up with individual agencies.

Improved joint working and effective communication between adult’s and children’s mental health services is needed to provide a holistic whole family. This recommendation was also identified in the recent Family Z Learning lessons Review.

Mental health services must ensure a robust protocol for transition of young people prior to and around the age of 16 is embedded across Sheffield. The protocol should start early and include a detailed transitions plan.

(Adapted from Young Persons N’s Learning Lessons Review)

Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

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

The new statutory and operational requirements commenced in 2019 with a move to the National Child Mortality Database, a revision of the South Yorkshire Child Death arrangements with a focus on broader learning across the region.

Sheffield, Rotherham, Barnsley, and Doncaster formally agreed and published their partner and agency arrangements for child death reviews. The formal agreement highlighted a key focus to identify shared learning that may help to prevent future child deaths across South Yorkshire.

In South Yorkshire there are on average between 80 and 100 child deaths per year; the four areas working together provide a larger cohort of data, to enable improved identification of themes, trends, and shared learning.

Facts and Figures

This year Sheffield CDOP met on 6 occasions and reviewed 39 deaths. 80% of these were reviewed within 12 months; 49% between 6-12 months and 31% in less than 6 months, which is an improvement from last year (77%).

The median number of days between death and CDOP meeting is 274 nationally – the figure for Sheffield is 218. Once again, most of the deaths occurred in those under 1 year (32% 0-27 days, 18% 28-364 days) this is comparable to the national figures.

The reviews consider modifiable factors, which are defined as actions that could be taken through national or local interventions, which could reduce the risk of future child deaths. Modifiable factors were assessed to be present in 36% of cases which compares to 30% in cases for England overall. South Yorkshire CDOP panel met on 4 occasions, working together to implement the National Child Mortality Database, and following discussion it was identified that the modifiable factors of Safe Sleeping and Suicides would be appropriate themes to undertake for shared thematic learning reviews.

CDOP has supported actions taken in 2019/20 to help reduce risk factors and improve how services respond following a child death. Preventing risks associated with child death bring the additional benefit of reducing the (much greater) risk of disability, and the long-term consequences that this can have for both families and services.

The Safer Sleep shared learning review was undertaken in December 2019 with key actions including a South Yorkshire wide approach to campaigns with a regional steering group established; this has led to a more co-ordinated and consistent approach across the region in relation to the promotion of safer sleeping practices.

The Suicide shared learning review was undertaken in March 2020 and the information of the young people who had sadly died as a result of suicide across South Yorkshire between 2017 and 2019 was collated and shared prior to the review. As a result there was an agreement for each area to consider what suicide response and contagion plan is in place for their area, to consider training needs for staff and how this is deployed, schools approach to suicides and to review the services available across the region for mental health support, particularly low level mental health support.

The National Child Mortality Database is used to systematically capture information following a child death; this will enable local learning but will also identify learning at a national level and inform changes in policy and practice. We will continue to review and embed changes to local processes and multi-agency working following the changes in legislation and guidance, working in collaboration with others to develop processes, which better support bereaved families.

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

All areas are looking to improve the experience and support for bereaved families at the time of death.



What We Will Do Next

For the upcoming year 2020/2021 the hosting arrangements for SYCDOP will be facilitated by Sheffield CDOP and chaired by the Director of Public Health 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.

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

A key focus of SYCDOP throughout 2020/2021 will be:

- To improve the experience following the death of a child of the bereaved families, particularly siblings, and all professionals.

- To ensure that information from the local child death review process is systematically captured through eCDOP through to the National Child Mortality Database; to identify local learning that will inform learning at the national level to inform changes in policies and practice.

Further thematic reviews will resume as part of the recovery from COVID-19 although in 2020/21 there will still be a focus on improving data collection.

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Training

The SCSP Workforce Development Team develops and delivers a wide range of multi-agency safeguarding training and learning events, available to any practitioner working with children and families in Sheffield.

A wide range of multi-agency safeguarding training and learning events were made available to the Children's Workforce in 2019/20. Training contacts totalled 13,354, which included attendance at conferences, seminars, masterclasses, taught courses, and e-learning programmes. Training is informed by partners, SCRs and Joint Case Reviews, local audits, local and national processes, and procedures and is always responsive to emerging safeguarding issues. Key events included:

- Annual Conference: *Online threats and impact on mental health and wider wellbeing of children and young people*, which evaluated and led to further seminars on aspects of online safety offered to all practitioners in Sheffield.
- Yorkshire and Humber Regional Masterclass on Pornography, Sex, Pressures and Social Networks and dissemination of tools for use by the Children's workforce
- Manager Masterclasses – to support staff on Domestic Abuse in the LGBT+ community, FGM Strategy, Forced Marriage and so-called 'Honour' based violence
- Involvement in the review of the new Mental Health Training offer alongside CAMHS
- Safeguarding week organisation of seminars on 'exploitation'
- Transitions Course developed – working with vulnerable 16-25 year olds
- Collaborative working – lunchtime seminars with relevant safeguarding topics across safeguarding adults and children
- Regular *Team Talks* are a now well-established way of getting messages across to the Children's Workforce by way of a short briefing designed for use in team meetings

Through various methods of evaluation, staff report that they feel more confident, more knowledgeable, and more able to respond to safeguarding issues on which they've been trained. They highlight the value of training with staff from different services working with children in Sheffield.

Voice of the Child

The voice of the child and their lived experience is an integral part of all multi-agency safeguarding training, and any new design of training ensures this element is a vital thread throughout.

What We Will Do Next

- Respond to training needs emerging from our Learning and Practice Framework.
- Review training in line with the revised Neglect Strategy and accompanying tools for the city
- Converting courses, seminars, and masterclasses for an online platform

- Further Manager Masterclasses on emerging safeguarding topics
- Responding to the identified learning in the Family G and Archie SCRs including Harmful Sexual Behaviour, ACES, Contextual Safeguarding and Working with Fathers/Father figures
- Explore new ways of training, e.g. recording training sessions for website, encouraging teams to train online together, collaborative resources in the region, e.g. DVD clips.
- Offering further e-learning opportunities around LGBT+ Awareness, working with teenagers and MCA and Liberty Protection Safeguards.

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

Safeguarding Partnerships have responsibility for ensuring that there are effective procedures in place for investigating allegations against people who work with children using the principles outlined in Working Together to Safeguard Children. The annual update from the LADO ensures that relevant parties are fully sighted of all such allegations and can monitor the support, advice and guidance provided to ensure appropriate cases are resolved as quickly as possible and the process is a robust safeguarding measure.

This year has seen a decrease in recorded activity for the LADO. The referral pathway has been established and all matters are referred using the correct channels. All referrals lead to a discussion between the LADO and the employer to determine whether the allegation is within scope or not.

The LADO has moved to be co-located in the Sheffield Safeguarding Hub to ensure all risks are assessed and analysed and there is greater connectivity between the LADO, Children’s Social Care and the police. Relevant partner agencies attend the LADO meetings and share relevant information in a timely manner.

There continues to be positive links with the regional LADO network with regular meetings and liaison and support for problematic cases.

Number of allegations

2019-20	Q.1 Apr-Jun	Q.2 Jul-Sep	Q.3 Oct-Dec	Q.4 Jan-Mar	Total referrals
Preliminary number of allegations received	51	39	36	34	160

Source of allegations

In terms of activity in the period between 1st April 2019 and 31st March 2020, there were 160 referrals recorded as being within the scope of the LADO guidance. The majority of were made against persons working in Education with 77 recorded allegations which is slightly below 50% which is in line with previous years and other Local authorities where Education allegations account for between 40 to 60 % of all recorded allegations. A Further 8% of allegations were from Early Years sector providers.

Allegations by type of concern

Of the allegations within scope 64% refer to allegations of physical harm, 15% are regarding sexual abuse, 17% refer to inappropriate behaviour towards a child and 4% of the allegations are regarding emotional harm. This follows the trend of physical harm making up the vast majority of allegations seen in previous years and again is in line with other Local Authorities.

Outcomes

Outcome	Percentage
Substantiated	16%
Unfounded	8%
False	16%
Unsubstantiated	49%
Not met threshold after further investigation	8%
Awaiting outcome	3%

What We Will Do Next

The Challenge for 2020/ 21 will be ensuring that the changes to Keeping Children Safe in Education and Early Years Foundation Stage guidance which adds the criteria of “Behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children” into the scope of allegations covered by the LADO. This guidance came in from 1st September 2020 and is likely to increase matters dealt with by the LADO.

The Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership Community Consultant retired unexpectedly during the summer due to health reasons and recruitment will take place to ensure that engagement with out of school supplementary settings remains good.

We moved the LADO function into the scope of work undertaken from the Sheffield Safeguarding Hub, We now have robust cover for the LADO when on leave. He will be retiring at the end of the current financial year and succession planning has begun.

Section 4

Safeguarding Children in Sheffield

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

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

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

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



Safeguarding Children in Sheffield

Sheffield Safeguarding Overview 2019 – 2020

7085	Referrals to children's social care
3729	Children were identified as Children in Need at the end of the year
939	Children became subject to a Child Protection Plan (CPP) over the year
724	Children were subject to a CPP at the end of the year
163	Children became subject to a CPP for a second or subsequent time
626	Children were Looked After by the Local Authority at the end of the year
7829	Requests for a service from the Multi-Agency Support Teams (MAST)
2348	Families received MAST support, from the above referrals
723	Referrals to the Children's Involvement Team were received
363	Children were advocated for at their Initial Child Protection Conference
186	Children were advocated for at their first Review Child Protection Conference
867	Professionals have received accredited training on Contextual Safeguarding
139	Child Sexual Exploitation referrals were made to the Amber Project.
100	Child Criminal Exploitation referrals were made to the Amber Project.
764	Referrals were made to the Community Youth Teams (CYT)
85%	Of CYT referrals were allocated a case worker for an assessment
804	Young People were supported by CYT
119	LADO referrals
649	Young people were supported by Door 43
157	Young people were referred into the Youth Justice Service
80%	Of children looked after left care via adoption, special guardianship, child arrangement orders or to return to their families.
71%	Of children looked after have been in the same placement for 2 years or more
1,176	People received bespoke Safeguarding and Licensing training
1,605	Requests for advice on the impact of familial substance & alcohol misuse on children

Signs of Safety



This multi-agency approach is now three years in to the five-year Signs of Safety implementation plan. The focus has previously been on the implementation; however, in 2019 we moved our focus to embedding the model across the service looking closely at the quality of Signs of Safety practice and recording. Our emphasis is to deliver a consistent approach with clear structure so that our families and children will have a clear understanding of our involvement and the concerns whilst empowering families and children to take ownership of their plans.

To achieve this, to date we have delivered:

- 2 day Introductory to Signs of Safety training to 1052 participants,
- 5-day advance training course to 225 Champions

We have also delivered formal training to our partner agencies, which has been facilitated by our Practice Leads, of which 1027 have attended. Participants include safeguarding leads from primary, secondary, and further education, midwifery, health visiting, specialist nursing, housing, police, legal team, mental health, and substance misuse services.

The trajectory for training throughout 2020 has been impacted upon by the Covid-19 pandemic. Training was postponed and reviewed to determine how we deliver Signs of Safety training going forward to ensure we keep our staff safe and adhere to the current government guidelines. As a result, we transitioned Signs of Safety training to the online platform - Zoom. Through creative thinking and some adjustments to the training material, we have been able to continue to meet the learning and development needs of the workforce with regards to Signs of Safety.

We've also been working closely with North Tyneside Council since September 2019 through the DfE's Partners in Practice (PiP) Programme with regards to practice model implementation and case management system alignment to support this. North Tyneside Council support has for example included site visits, workshops and observations of practice and discussions with senior leaders and have gone on to produce an Opportunity Assessment.

What We Will Do Next

We will continue to expand our online training offering, including

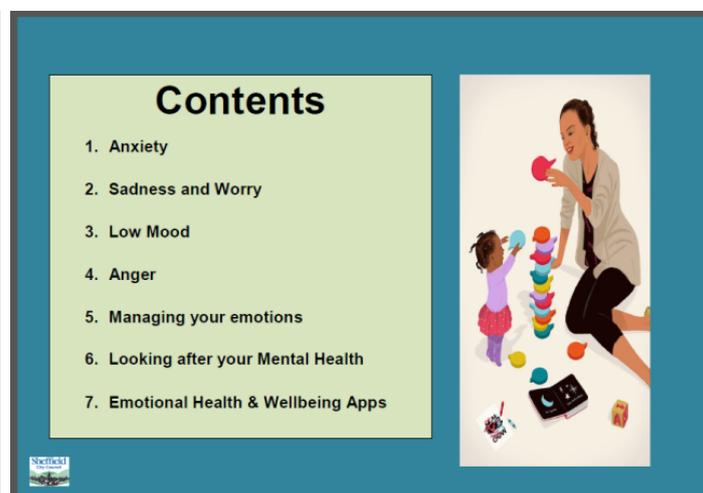
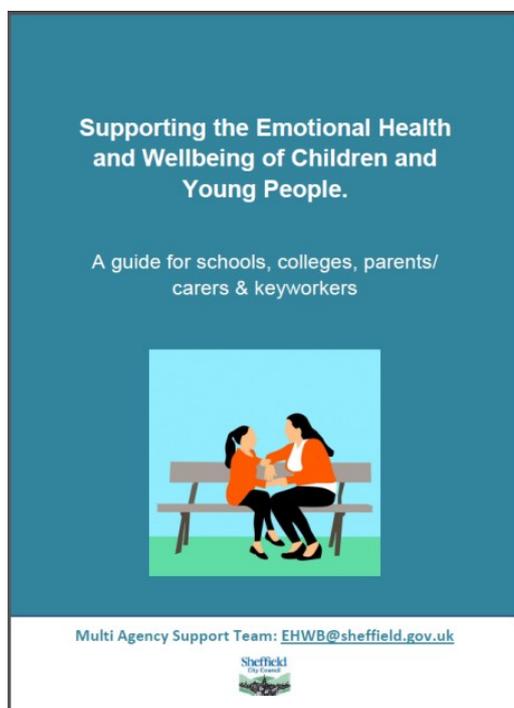
- A 2 day Introductory to Signs of Safety training
- Bespoke online ½ day workshops that cover the core principles of Signs of Safety and includes bespoke online workshops within the following service area's – Amber Project, Care Leavers, Fostering Teams and Foster Carers, Children with Disabilities, Safeguarding (Child Protection Chairs and Independent Reviewing Officers) and MAST.

We will continue to work with North Tyneside to reflect on the Opportunity Assessment and what step's are required to further develop Signs of Safety within our practice. Once the assessment is finalised it will improve our approach beyond the current agreed PiP programme support and enable Sheffield *"to further embed Signs of Safety in practice through case management system alignment, and to embed the approach to achieving this within the authority."*

Early intervention

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

- In 2019/20 MAST developed an Emotional Health & Wellbeing Team that supports young people and their families struggling with self-harm, eating disorders, anxiety, low mood, and a range of other wellbeing issues. The team also developed a range of resources for schools and other agencies to use during the Covid-19 lockdown, to support families to consider the impact on the emotional health & wellbeing of children at this time.
- MAST has trained their whole workforce in understanding contextual safeguarding issues, supported the development of the “Amber Project” briefing sessions and strengthened links with the range of agencies involved with preventing or disrupting the exploitation of children.
- MAST managers have been trained in Balancing Risk in Decision Making, Critical Supervision Skills, Solution Focused approach to Change Management, and Articulating Risk and are all now trained as Signs of Safety Champions.
- MAST Intervention and Prevention Workers have all had Signs of Safety training and attend monthly group learning or group supervision to enhance their skill and understanding of this practice framework that engages a safe network to improve child safety.



In the year 2019/20, MAST received 7829 contacts, of which 538 were step-down cases from Children’s Social Care and 2819 were transfers from contacts made to the Safeguarding Hub. Of these, MAST started working with 2348 families.

The Ofsted Inspection of Sheffield Children's Services published in August 2019 was judged overall "Good" and stated;

Children and families in Sheffield benefit from effective and accessible early help. Strong partnership working and the support of a range of specialist services help to improve children's lives. Most families receive a timely and proportionate response to prevent small difficulties escalating.

Voice of the Child

- The Children & Families Feedback questionnaire was launched in 2019/20, to offer all families the opportunity to give feedback on the service that they have received from MAST at case closure.
- The Children's Involvement Team have conducted in-person interviews with a sample of young people of audited cases, to gain their views on what they thought of our support and what difference MAST involvement made to their family.
- The Early Help Screening Team was launched in April 2020 and now as standard speaks to both the referrer and the family to inform and shape their screening decision and recommended support to be provided.
- For 2020/21, MAST are implementing a new audit framework that incorporates both parent and child feedback as part of the audit process.



What We Will Do Next

- We will develop an increasingly comprehensive Early Help training offer delivered both in-person and online, covering Early Help Assessment, Signs of Safety, Team Around the Family Meetings, Direct Work Tools, Contextual Safeguarding and Emotional Health & Wellbeing issues to support universal service providers to feel more confident and able to provide support to children and families with emerging needs.
- We will further improve our offer to families provided through school settings by ensuring that every school has a nominated link worker that works collaboratively with school pastoral leads to offer advice sessions for families, both in private appointments and in group advice sessions.
- Our Workforce Development, Audit and Performance Management processes will ensure that our workforce is skilled and supported to deliver high quality evidence-based support to children & families.

- We will strengthen our links with SEND services, the Safeguarding Hub, the Amber Project, Operation Fortify and CAMHS so that working protocols and referral routes help us to get the right support for families, with additional input available from specialists as needed.

Children in Need of Help and Protection

In July 2019 OFSTED undertook a standard inspection under the ILACS framework resulting in a 'good' judgement. The feedback from inspectors was positive and provided a supportive reflection on the progress made during the previous twelve months. Ofsted confirmed that the senior leaders had successfully used their self-evaluation, peer review process and feedback from Ofsted's earlier focused visits to improve services for vulnerable children. They said that most children received good services which met their needs," and that "children were at the centre of practice and they benefited from child-focused staff and services."

Sheffield Safeguarding Hub

The Sheffield Safeguarding Hub (SSH) has been in place since April 2017. The SSH provides a single point of access in the city for concerns about vulnerable children, young people and young adults who have complex needs or might be, or are, at risk of harm. It is a team of co-located safeguarding partners, with access to information and case recording systems, which work together to screen the concerns and make judgements, within twenty four hours, of the appropriate pathway or outcome for the concerns presented.

The Front Door Workforce Practice Development project aims to address the high re-referral rate, improve efficiency and increase professional confidence in the Sheffield Safeguarding Hub whilst continuing to ensure that children are safe and that they and their families get good outcomes in their lives.

The Front Door Workforce Practice Development project has re-trained the social workers, managers and administrative support workers in call-taking and recording using conversational analysis to improve the quality of information sharing and decision making, to ensure the right action is taken at the right time. The social workers will now aim to have a conversation with a referrer prior to reading electronic information (where the concerns do not relate to immediate risk of significant harm and it is safe to do so).

A new Early Help Screening Pathway has a Single Point of Access for requesting early help support which is co-located with the Sheffield Safeguarding Hub. Professionals who want to refer a family into Early Help should:

- Refer to the thresholds of need guidance to understand the level of support they are requesting.
- Call the Early Help Social Workers (based within the SSH) for advice and guidance.
- Send their Early Help referral document to the new Early Help Central Email address.

A New Advice/ Guidance pathway will record when a professional receives advice and/ or guidance from a social worker in the hub where the referrer has informed the person with parental responsibility, they are contacting the SSH to seek support. Where a professional contacts the SSH to seek support without having informed the person with parental responsibility, and the

concerns do not relate to the safeguarding and welfare of a child, the information cannot legally be recorded by the SSH.

The LADO has moved to be co-located in the Sheffield Safeguarding Hub to ensure all risks are assessed and analysed and there is greater connectivity between the LADO, Children's Social Care, and the police.

What we will do next:

- Engagement and communication of Early Help Pathway- Email address/ telephone number
- Engagement and communication of Advice/ Guidance pathway
- Development and consultation of proposals in relation to the use of the MACF in line with professional feedback
- Development of a model to reduce duplication in the screening of early help and CAMHS referrals

Sheffield Social Care Assessments and Section 47 (S47)

There were 6865 Sheffield Social Care Assessments (SSCA) completed in the year, demonstrating that despite the effect of the covid-19 pandemic at the end of the financial year, demand has remained consistent since last year when there were 6889. The number of Section 47 investigations which have been completed within Sheffield has also remained consistent.

SSCA completed – rates per 10,000:

Area	2018/19	2019/20*
Sheffield	586	583
Statistical neighbours	664	
Yorkshire & Humber	636	
Core Cities	694	

S47s initiated– rates per 10,000:

Area	2018/19	2019/20*
Sheffield	178	199
Statistical neighbours	211	
Yorkshire & Humber	190	
Core Cities	227	

**Please note that national data is released a year in arrears, and so all local 2019/20 data is compared with national data from 2018/19.*

What We Will Do Next

- Support the workforce to confidently work with families using the Signs of Safety Framework

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

Child Protection

An Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC) is organised when there are concerns that a child is at risk of significant harm due to neglect, emotional, physical, or sexual abuse. The conference brings together family members and professionals. If the conference decides that there is a continuing risk of significant harm to the child, then they will become subject to a Child Protection Plan. This plan sets out what professionals and family members must do to keep the child safe and well. Once a child has a Child Protection Plan, this is reviewed within 3 months of the plan being made and then at no more than 6 monthly intervals.

Please note that national data is released a year in arrears, and so all local 2019/20 data is compared with national data from 2018/19.

ICPC's should take place within 15 working days of the strategy meeting that started the Section 47 Enquiry to determine whether the concern regarding risk of harm is corroborated. 78% of all ICPCs were held within the 15-day timescale, which is comparable with Yorkshire and Humber 79% and England 79%. 92% of all ICPCs were held within 20 days. In Sheffield 98% of all Review Child Protection Conferences took place within timescales which is favourable compared to Core Cities (92%) and England (92%)

939 children became subject to a Child Protection Plan over the year. The number of children on a CP Plan at the end of the year has increased from 565 to 722. The rate of children subject to CP Plan has increased on the same trajectory as the increase seen during 2018/19, to finish at 61 children per 10,000. This is above all comparators' 2018/19 figures:

Area	2018/19	2019/20*
Sheffield	48	61
Statistical neighbours	45	
Yorkshire & Humber	50	
Core Cities	56	

This rise in CP is due to an ongoing trend of more CP Plans starting than are ending (since roughly the middle of 2018/19 year).

The most common reason for a plan being made was emotional abuse (46%), whereas in the Yorkshire and Humber region (including Sheffield) the most common reason for a plan being made

was for neglect (43%) followed by emotional abuse (35%). Nationally the most common reason was neglect (48%) followed by emotional abuse (35%). In Yorkshire and Humber region (including Sheffield) the most common reason is emotional abuse, the difference between neglect and emotional abuse is much narrower than that found nationally and in major urban areas, for example Bradford, Leeds, Calderdale and Kirklees report higher figures for Emotional Abuse compared with Neglect

Of those subject to a Child Protection Plan at the end of the year:

- 11% were under 1 year old
- 23% between 1 – 4 years
- 28% between 5 – 9 years
- 24% were 10 – 15 years
- 13% were above 15 years

The ethnicity of those subject to a Child Protection Plan were:

- 64% - White
- 11% - Dual/Multiple heritage
- 11% - Asian/Asian British
- 5% - Black/Black British
- 7% - Other ethnicity
- 2% - Not stated

Plans ending

782 Child Protection Plans ended during 2019/20, of these 25 (3%) had been subject to a Child Protection Plan for over 2 years. Nationally 3% of plans ending in the year had been in place for 2 years or more.

Subsequent plans

18% of children became subject to a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time, which is comparable with 2018/19 and is lower than Yorkshire and Humber, Statistical Neighbours, and Core Cities in 2018/19.

Child Protection Conferences

Attendance of key professionals at Child Protection Conferences is central to effective decision making, planning and management of cases where children and young people at risk of significant harm. The monitoring of attendance and report submission is used as a key performance indicator for agencies at the Annual Quality Assurance & Challenge meetings. Additionally, a bi-annual data report is produced for the Executive Partnership Group to monitor professional attendance at and number of reports submitted to child protection conferences. Partners are required to give their assurances to the chair of the Executive Partnership Group that they can use internal processes to monitor, improve and maintain their levels of attendance and report submission at child protection conferences.

Advocacy at Child Protection Conferences

The Children's Involvement Team provide independent advocacy for children aged 5 to 17 years at the Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC). Where it is considered beneficial for the child, they will be offered advocacy support for the 1st Review Child Protection Conference. Once parental consent has been obtained, the advocate meets with the child before the conference on

their own, preferably away from the family home, to hear what they want the advocate to say during the conference on their behalf. The advocate will then attend the conference, in the majority of cases without the child though the advocate can support the child to self-advocate in conference if the child requests this, to represent the child's views and feelings, ask questions on their behalf and ensure that the child's views are incorporated into the Plan, where appropriate. Following the conference, the advocate will meet with the child to feed back to them about the meeting, talk to them about the outcome of the conference and explain the Plan to them.

Children Looked After and Adoption

In 2019/20 we achieved the following:

- The foster carer training offer was revised by our trainer and in-house psychologist to enhance the therapeutic approach to foster care.
- Foster carers and fostering social workers all attended training on child sexual exploitation and the prevention of radicalisation.
- More residential staff were trained in Therapeutic Crisis Intervention
- In October 2019 we opened our second 'Aspire' edge of care service, which is a multi-agency, multi-function service for adolescents.
- We developed our first Mockingbird Fostering 'Constellation', which was launched May 2020.

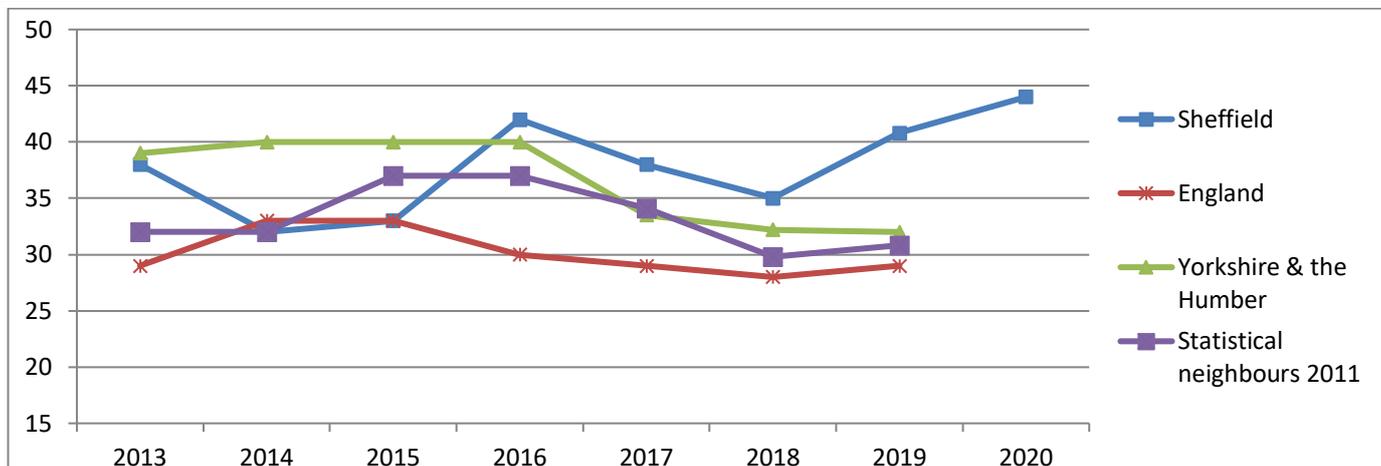
The Ofsted ILACS Inspection in July 2019 rated children's services as 'good' overall and awarded a 'good' rating in the 'experience and progress of looked after children and care leavers' category.

Our Children Looked After (CLA) population was 626 children at the end of 2018/19 and was the same at the end of 2019/20. This is a low CLA population at 53 per 10,000, significantly lower than the national average and our statistical neighbours.

Our Aspire Hubs have succeeded in supporting adolescents on the edge of care to stay with their families and have provided stable in-care provision for some of our most complex children. (Aspire Hub 1 has an 84% success rate supporting adolescents on the edge of care to stay at home and Hub 2 has an 86% success rate)

We have been very successful in securing permanence for CLA. Of the children who left care in 2019/20, 44% left care via Adoption, Special Guardianship, or Child Arrangement Orders. A further 36% left care to return to their families. For those who remain in care, long term stability is good, with 71% having been in the same placement for 2 years or more. On all three of these measures our performance was stronger than all comparator groups. 42 children were adopted from care – this is two more than in 2018/19.

Graph showing percentage of children who left care via Adoption, Special Guardianship or Child Arrangement Orders in Sheffield in 2019/20 alongside comparator groups.



Service User Feedback

The Children in Care Council and Sheffield Care Leavers Union have been working with services to deliver improvements to services highlighted by CLA and care leavers in the Bright Spots Wellbeing Survey. They had Challenge Sessions with lead managers; delivering Corporate Parenting Priority Actions to identify their priorities and monitor progress.

Quarterly meetings started between senior management and Sheffield's Adopter Voice group of adoptive parents to hear their views about how to improve services. Much of the feedback was about the need to develop a more comprehensive multi-agency support offer.

We held quarterly Foster Carer Forums open to all foster carers throughout the year.

Parents have been consulted via survey questions on the quality and impact of outreach edge of care support. The feedback has been very positive about how important the support has been to families.

What We Will Do Next

- We will be continuing with all the above in 2020/21 and will be undertaking the Bright Spots Wellbeing Survey again in November 2020.
- Open a third Aspire Hub; having an additional psychologist in the service will enhance our mental health support to adolescents in residential care and on the edge of care. The whole approach will contribute to the contextualised safeguarding strategy and action plan with its multi-agency approach to young people.
- Establish at least one more Mockingbird Fostering Constellation – this will support placement stability and children's mental health/emotional wellbeing'
- An in-house speech and language therapist starts in Fostering Service in September 2020 – this will support children's development of communication skills that may be the result of neglect
- Establish and be part of the South Yorkshire Regional Adoption Agency – with the aim of securing timely adoption for more of Sheffield's children who need it.

Private Fostering

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

In 2019/20, the Private Fostering Service, set up a process whereby if a notification is received the Connected Person's Team are notified alongside the area fieldwork team. Initially assessment work is undertaken jointly to determine the suitability of the Private Fostering arrangement. Our private fostering arrangements received positive feedback from Ofsted in July 2019, who reported that "private fostering arrangements and practice are a strength".

Overall, for the year 19/20 there were 20 private fostering arrangements in place. Of these 20 cases, 9 remain open. The 11 cases that have closed have been for a variety of reasons; 5 children returned to birth parents and 4 turned 16 years of age.

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

Over the last year we have increased the number of Private Fostering arrangements being regulated and have improved the understanding of these arrangements around the Council from improved communications and collaborative working:

- We have been working closely with our Communication Service to enhance our awareness raising campaign across the city. Posters and information leaflets have been re-developed and have been directly targeted schools, health services and council buildings.
- There is a rolling social media campaign and a dedicated campaign page on the Sheffield City Council (SCC) website www.sheffield.gov.uk/privatefostering which holds information on 'What is Private Fostering' and 'How to Make a Referral'.
- We rolled out 9 training workshops, 5 workshops within the SCC Children, Young People and Family Service and 4 within the education sector.
- We have produced a short film which is featured on our website and within our Communication to promote a better understanding of Private Fostering and is aimed at professionals and communities.

What We Will Do Next

- The Connected Person's team will continue its efforts in alerting the public and voluntary sectors as to their responsibilities in relation to Private Fostering notifications.
- Private Fostering posters and leaflets will continue to be circulated and ongoing advertising via social media.
- There will be a continuation of information giving and presentations to official bodies including Faith groups.
- Sheffield Connected Person's Team has good links with other local authorities and are working towards hosting a South Yorkshire wide Private Fostering forum with neighbouring local authorities to share best practice in Private Fostering.
- Private Fostering used to have a dedicated and national 'Private Fostering' promotion week, which was rolled out by, unfortunately funding for this has been stopped and this is no longer an event in the Coram BAAF calendar.
- Due to a lack of funding the Coram BAAF National 'Private Fostering' promotion week has stopped, but in Sheffield we are planning to host our own 'Private Fostering week' where we will have a publicity push and information events regarding Private Fostering across Sheffield.
- The Connected Person's Team plans to implement Private Fostering Champions: designated practitioners throughout the MAST teams and fieldwork teams could assist in the awareness raising and knowledge of Private Fostering in their local areas.

Community Youth Teams



Community Youth Teams (CYT) are a multi-agency specialist provision. CYTs provide a targeted, early help service for vulnerable young people to support 10 - 18 year olds into positive destinations and reduce the likely-hood of them entering the criminal justice system.

Referrals

CYT received 764 referrals for one-to-one support in 2019/20 and over 85% of those were allocated to a case worker to complete an assessment and individual support plan focusing on the needs identified. In addition, CYT supported over 40 young people through group work referrals received mainly from schools.

Primary reasons for referrals include Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), violent/aggressive behaviour, sexual exploitation, online safety, gang association and theft. With the highest numbers of referrals received for 'ASB in community - Peer Group involved in ASB/Criminal Behaviour' and 'School exclusions - violent/aggressive behaviour' making up over 48% of the total. The main referrers are schools, MAST, Social Care, Police, and the Sexual Exploitation Service with over 83% of the total referrals received.

The Out of Court Disposal (OOC) model is now firmly embedded within CYT and Youth Justice Service (YJS) and continues to impact on the reduction of First Time Entrants into the Criminal Justice System, 2019/20 achieved another all-time low of 110, a reduction on last year of 14%, this is now the lowest achieved to date. The total per 100,000 youth population of 10-17 year olds equates to 222 and equates to just 0.22% of the 10-17 youth population in Sheffield.

Training

All the CYT workers have received Trauma Informed training and attended Amber Project briefings. All newly appointed staff have also received Signs of Safety training, Advanced CSE and Contextual Safeguarding training.

What did children, young people and parents/carers say about CYT?

CYT received over 90% positive feedback from young people who received individual support and over 90% positive feedback from their parent/carers.

“Thank you for your support without you we wouldn’t have got outcome I wish we could have someone like you years ago. Thank you so much”

Parent Feedback

“I really liked the way his understanding and I liked the way he talked to me”

Young Person feedback

What We Will Do Next

- CYT will continue to work closely with the YJS and partner agencies in preventing young people entering the criminal justice system.
- Continue to focus on supporting vulnerable young people into education, employment, and training.
- Continue to learn new ways of working and review the delivery model to find innovative ways to deliver the service following amendments that had to be made due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Public Health

The priorities of the multiagency suicide prevention group this year have been Real Time Surveillance across the region with South Yorkshire Police and the Coroner’s Office, alongside local grass roots suicide prevention initiatives funded by a government grant.

The focus for young people was on self-harm prevention through a wellbeing space pilot project in a local school and college. The evaluation evidenced a positive impact on young people’s confidence, reducing isolation and building relationships to reduce the need for self-harm.

The CCG have sustained the funding for Kooth online counselling for children age 11-18 and care leavers up to the age of 25, and other children’s emotional wellbeing services have been developing an online offer during the Covid-19 crisis. Counselling support has been embedded in Door 43, SAYiT and Sheffield Young Carers

What We Will Do Next

- Review the funding priorities for 2020-21 and ensure that early intervention and prevention stays high on the agenda.
- Work collaboratively with health, children’s services, and the voluntary sector to ensure access to support for all children and specialist support for the most vulnerable.



DOOR43

Door 43

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

Door 43 offers several pathways of support under one service with step up / step down approaches between them:

Pathway	Type of Support
Open access	Weekly Wellbeing Cafes and Drop-in Clinics Out of hours telephone helpline – information, advice, and signposting Webinars and online digital support
Social prescribing	Personalised social prescriptions and wellbeing interventions; finding and increasing motivation to engage in activities that support wellbeing
1-1 Interventions	6-8 structured one to one interventions with a health and wellbeing practitioner
Group work	Resilience building, psychoeducational, and therapeutic group work

In the last year (2019-2020), approximately 649 young people signed up to use the service, of which the majority of young people self-referred, 445 registered at our drop-in service, 204 were referred in. Of the referrals, 15 came from parents/carer, 47 were self-referrals and 142 were professional referrals from a wide range of agencies across the city. The Wellbeing Café continues to be popular; with 47 wellbeing café's delivered at Star House, with an average of 34 young people attending every week, and this number continues to grow. Due to the growth in numbers, the session has been split into two, with one session focused on over 18s, and the other under 18s. The popularity of the service is evidence that the service is meeting a large need in Sheffield.

Hub and spoke model development

In 2019/20 the hub and spoke model was developed, delivering a total of 51 wellbeing café sessions across 4 schools in Sheffield, community venues and GP surgeries.

Expansion of Social Prescribing

We have expanded our social prescribing offer to include 3 new Social Prescribing Link workers, based in GP surgeries and taking referrals directly from GP's and health practitioners. We have Social Prescribers based in Porter Valley, West 5, and University Health Service Primary Care Networks, bridging the gap between primary and secondary care services to meet young people's emotional wellbeing needs. The Link workers are able to provide a blend of one to one engagement and motivation support, while linking young people into social 'prescriptions' on a broad range of activities, groups, events and services that support wellbeing and empower young people to build resilience and care positively for their own mental health.

Youth Justice Service



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

The YJS remains an effective partnership in Sheffield which co-ordinates the provision of youth justice services across the city and through our coordinated partnership approach we ensure that services delivered are targeted to avoid duplication whilst maximising effectiveness.

The service has maintained its status as a major contributing partner to the South and West Yorkshire Resettlement Consortium and all resettlement practice and processes are constructive, effective, and robust in both their design and implementation. This work is in line with Priority 2 of the SCSP Business Plan.

We have successfully developed and delivered a unique programme to young people in custody that had a focus on “identity change” from that of a pro-criminal identity involved in CCE/Knife Crime and gangs to a pro-social non-criminal identity.

Performance in relation to prevention, intervention, and diversion to reduce the number of children entering the Criminal Justice System, the number of children who go on to re-offend and the number of children entering custody remains strong.

Through effective collaborative working with children’s services the number of Care Experienced Children and Young People known to the YJS has continued to fall and it is at its lowest ever level.

All the above performance has been ratified through the recent Youth Justice Inspection conducted by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate for Probation where the service was adjudged to be overall “Good” with many “Outstanding” elements of practice identified.

In March 2020 all youth justice services were required to complete and submit a self-audit of the National Standards for Children in the Youth Justice System to the Youth Justice Board. The outcome from this assessment, which has been ratified by the Youth Justice Service Management Board, is;

Standard 1 – Out of Court - Outstanding

Standard 2 – At Court - Good

Standard 3 – In the Community - Outstanding

Standard 4 – In Secure Settings - Outstanding

Standard 5 – On Transition and Resettlement – Outstanding

The YJS is a dynamic, progressive, and responsive service that responds to what the children and their families tell us at every stage of their involvement with us. We recognise diversity and adopt a flexible, needs-based approach and remove barriers by providing personalised interventions to each child, create opportunities to enhance social inclusion and promote individual change, support access to general health and mental health services and promote and support participation in new and varied experiences and activities to broaden children’s scope for social and community integration.

Voice of the Child

The service is currently developing a new consultation for children and their families to ascertain the impact of the Covid 19 Pandemic. Like all services we have had to adapt how and what we deliver and we would like to know how this has affected the children and families we work with and if anything we have developed and delivered they would like to see carry on or developed further. The intention is to review all the feedback and review and adapt our practice going forward in line with the responses.

What We Will Do Next

Although as described above we consider ourselves to be a dynamic, progressive, and responsive service that recognises and supports diversity and strives to meet individual needs. However, at this moment in time we consider that this is not enough.

In response to recent events and as the children's service mostly aligned to the criminal justice system we feel that as a service who has already recognised and is trying to improve all the factors contributing to the over representation of BAME children in our service it is not enough to say our service is fair and equitable, not a racist service and there is no bias within our practice conscious or otherwise. Rather we need to be making bold statements, identifying direct actions, reviewing and changing policies, accessing training and development opportunities and adapting our practice and interventions to be a service that is recognised as anti-racist and one that challenges racism and oppression in a very transparent and overt way and it our intention to fully include all the staff and children within our service and the wider YJS partnership to progress this important work.

We will be developing a new set of value statements to reflect this change which will underpin the work we do.

Use of Restraint in the Secure Estate

The Secure Estate continues to invest heavily in Managing Actual and Potential Aggression (MAPA) as the model of behaviour management and physical restraint. There are now six Certified Instructors (CIs) on site, enabling the estate to commission bespoke instructor renewal training onsite on an annual basis and to further tailor the training and development to the young people, the staff team and the environment.

Children's Social care links 2 Social workers who completed their one-day refresher MAPA training in February 2020. Although they do not need to use this training as part of their role, it is extremely beneficial for them to complete the training, so that when reviewing incidents they have a good understanding of the terminology used in reports, holds and positions involved in restraints.

In the last six months, there has been an increase in the overall confidence in the staff using their MAPA training to problem-solve challenging situations effectively as they happen. The seriousness of some incidents has meant that they have had to use techniques that have previously been used infrequently. Staff confidence in using MAPA is crucial in keeping young people safe.

Voice of the Child

Young people are spoken to individually in debrief, which takes place after every restraint. It is important for young people to understand that different options are available to them when they are calm: that they do not need to behave in an aggressive way to retain staff support. Young people are offered the option of staff staying in their room with them during an incident, to help them to deescalate with support.

Young people are always given the opportunity to speak to the independent Voice Advocate and a manager not involved in the incident after every restraint.

What We Will Do Next

In the next year the secure estate will explore expanding their Speech and Language Therapy assessment and intervention offer. Young people receive individual interventions around Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), but due to CCE being a risk factor for the majority of the young people, they will look at broadening interventions in this area, including group work activities. This will include building resilience and enabling young people to spot and resist CCE in the community.

They will link in with Sheffield CCE team to see how this can best be facilitated and whether a joint piece of work can be completed.

They remain committed to successfully working with some of the most complex and challenging young people in the country and always considering them as young people first.

Online Safety

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



SCC eLearning Service based at Learn Sheffield is commissioned as the preferred Online Safety consultancy for SCSP. The commission covers the development of policy and the delivery of central training for schools and a programme of activity including an annual lunchtime seminar and an “expert knowledge base” for the children’s workforce. All activity evaluates well, and schools report positive feedback from Ofsted.

Online safety training and education in Sheffield is led by the needs of our young people. The team spends time in both primary and secondary schools talking directly with children and young people about their online lives. They also work closely with the “Our Voice Matter” survey team to plan and analyse responses to the online safety section of the school survey. Online Safety is further grounded in children’s experience by the inclusion of a teacher in the team who is seconded on a part time basis from a Sheffield school.

Additional consultancy for schools and children’s services is provided on a traded service model. Delivery through schools was greatly enhanced this year by a commission from Learn Sheffield which has resulted in school staff around the city being trained in Online Safety in large numbers and the Sheffield Primary Online Safety Curriculum 2019 being made available to all primary schools. The curriculum has been unanimously well received by schools.

The Online Safety team has this year been commissioned by SCC, through Learn Sheffield, to write the Sheffield Relationships, Sex and Health (R.S.H.E.) Curricula for both primary and secondary schools. The breadth of young people’s online experience is reflected across the entirety of the content of these schemes and will allow for online opportunity and risk to be

integrated with those experienced in the real world. The team has led a programme of community consultation around the new RSHE curriculum and the approach has received widespread support from parents and community leaders.

In previous years Online Safety training to children's services was augmented by moneys raised via successful grant applications notably in conjunction with Prevent. However, identifying funding to train the wider children's workforce, particularly in the light of changing practices due to the COVID-19 pandemic, will be a key challenge over the next year.

The development of specific resources for children and young people with SEND and ensuring a consistency of the messages delivered to young people about online risk from all agencies involved in this area of work e.g. South Yorkshire Police and the NHS, remain key areas of focus in 2020/21.

Section 5

Safeguarding Priority Areas

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

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

Safeguarding Priority Areas

Child Exploitation



Our practice, language and understanding of Contextual Safeguarding has continued to grow over the last 12 months, the CSE and CCE teams have been integrated into the Amber Project to ensure that a co-ordinated multi-agency approach is in place for all child exploitation concerns. As a partnership, our approach is one of contextualised safeguarding together with a trauma informed approach.

The recently developed Contextual Safeguarding Strategy document provides both the thinking behind the strategy as well as the plans for how the strategy will be implemented. This strategy has been developed in partnership and builds on our existing relationships with key partners from Sheffield City Council, South Yorkshire Police, NHS Sheffield CCG, schools, Health, the private, voluntary sector, communities, parents, carers, children and young people. Alongside the SCSP's existing procedures and multi-agency thresholds guidance this strategy will enhance the City's approach to safeguarding.

A new child exploitation screening tool has been designed and developed to be used by all professionals with concerns about children and young people. The tool ensures that professionals consider risk and protective factors to help them decide whether a child or young person may be at risk of child exploitation. The screening tool and referral pathway are included in the Amber Project training package which was launched in January 2020; **226** professionals attended the Amber Project briefing.

The effective identification, referral and support for vulnerable young people who have been victims of exploitation, or those identified at risk, is achieved by a robust training strategy aimed at all professionals across Sheffield. **867** professionals (including midwives, junior doctors, and social workers) have received CPD accredited training on Contextual Safeguarding, Exploitation and Trauma Informed Practice. Specific training was given to school Safeguarding Leads in relation to the Missing Young Persons Service.

Improved Outcomes for Children

Within the Ofsted Inspection of Sheffield children's social care services July 2019 inspectors found

“Where children are identified as being at high risk of exploitation, effective specialist teams provide dedicated support. Targeted support staff and partner agency colleagues work hard and effectively to develop strong relationships with these young people and address all their needs to reduce risk. Risks are mostly well understood, and protective action is taken and support is provided.”

The contextual safeguarding strategy clarifies that no one agency can respond effectively to the harm children and young people experienced outside of the family home. The Sheffield model identifies the parallel complexities such as gang involvement, substance misuse, missing episodes

and exploitation and uses these to inform our interventions and is underpinned by clear partnership principles for effective multi-agency working.

Amber Project social workers, caseworkers and intervention workers use evidenced based practice to ensure young people are supported by individual, multi-agency care plans that include specialist health provision provided by a dedicated nurse. This approach ensures young people and their families feel listened to, understood, respected, and not judged and have a better understanding of child exploitation including CSE and CCE.

Safety plans and disruption tactics are devised to protect the most vulnerable young people in Sheffield.

Multi-agency meetings have been reviewed including: the Operation Fortify bronze meeting (for tackling serious and organised crime in Sheffield); the Vulnerable Young Persons Tactical/Operational Meeting and the Vulnerable Young Persons Multi-Agency Meeting. These meetings enable information and intelligence sharing, risk analysis, the connectivity of push and pull factors and the complexity of risks to be discussed about the young people at risk of/involved in CSE, CCE and those frequently missing.

The independent evaluation on the APART (A practitioner assessment of resilience and risk tool) found it supported 'demonstrable outcomes and positive improvements' for young people across all measured areas and 'is an effective tool that can provide evidence of change over time for young people receiving support'. This tool is now embedded within the work of the CSE caseworkers and the Missing Service.

So far there have been:

- 139 CSE referrals made to the Service.
- 100 CCE referrals made to the service
- 110 screening tools reviewed



As the service has evolved to encompass all forms of child exploitation, young people were consulted about the service name and their ideas for the development and reach across Sheffield. The Amber Project name was chosen along with the outline of an 'Ambassador Programme' which would enable a variety of professionals to receive bespoke training and be readily identifiable to young people who may need to confide in an adult about exploitation. This training package is currently being written and will be rolled out across the next 12 months.

We always encourage young people who have worked with the Amber Project to share their experiences and views of the service including ideas of how it can be improved. They have done this through a variety of ways including video interviews, audio recordings, case studies and written material. These views are incorporated into service developments and our training.

What We Will Do Next

We will work alongside our partners to develop and shape services which are responsive to working with complex vulnerabilities. We will ensure:

- Professionals and communities have a greater understanding of Child Exploitation
- The development and implementation of the Amber Project Ambassadors programme.
- As Sheffield's model and processes continue to develop, we will have access to better information sharing and data collection, enabling analysis of themes, trends, and challenges that will support targeted disruption.
- Increase our understanding of how to better support young people and deliver the service in a variety of settings, including the development of community based diversionary activities.
- Professionals have knowledge about where to refer and how to access accredited support and training.
- The training pathway is widely known about and training accessed frequently.
- Work with the Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership to update the Child Protection Protocols to take account of Child Criminal Exploitation, human trafficking, and modern slavery

Hidden Harm

In households where a parent, carer or other family member has mental ill health, misuses drugs and/or alcohol, and there is domestic abuse, adult services and children services must work collaboratively to ensure that the voice of the child/vulnerable adult is heard and their circumstances safeguarded. To ensure this happens, this year Hidden Harm widened its remit to include families where there is drug and alcohol misuse and / or mental ill health.

Through training, briefings, and supervision, workers from both children and adult services in Sheffield have increased their understanding regarding the impact on children where drug and alcohol misuse or parental mental health is present within their households. The increased awareness is demonstrated through requests by workers from all services for checks and advice regarding either substance misuse, mental health, or safeguarding children. During 2019-2020 there have been 1,605 requests for advice. Out of the 1,605 clients discussed 1,303 had children living with them. Many of the families had had no previous contact with children's social care

illustrating that substance misuse and mental health support is being offered to parents at an early stage, which evidence shows leads to better outcomes for children and their families.



Parental Mental Health Multi-Agency Workshop

What We Will Do Next

- Update the Sheffield Hidden Harm Strategy and action plan to include mental health and domestic abuse.
- Organise a Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) conference to build on the FASD campaign and Hidden Harm masterclasses held in 2019 with the purpose of raising awareness of the dangers of drinking alcohol during pregnancy and ensuring that children, young people and adults who have FASD are identified and provided with appropriate support.
- Develop a multi-agency safeguarding children training programme (level 3) to support adult workers in developing good working relationships with their counterparts in children services to support joint working: shared information, shared assessment, shared thinking and understanding, shared formulation. This will also enable a greater mutual understanding of roles and thresholds and how and when to contact each other. Adult services to keep sight of the child and children services to keep sight of the adult.

Domestic Abuse



We have continued to implement the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy actions to develop whole family working and to embed perpetrator interventions during the year. As a result, agencies are thinking more about holding perpetrators to account and recognising the strengths and resilience of victims / survivors. This will enable agencies to partner more effectively with the non-abusing parent to keep children safe. It is planned that new ways of working will be introduced in 2020 /21.

The impact on children and young people of growing up with domestic abuse and the lifelong trauma this may result in is a key message in our strategy. Haven <https://www.havenorg.uk/> are the commissioned provider offering support to children and young people to help them to recover from abuse through the Strengthening Families Domestic Abuse Project. They have supported 121 children and young people via one to one support during the year and 29 through group support. They also bring the voice of children into our thinking and planning.

Strengthening Families Domestic Abuse Team has continued to work with families where children are on the edge of care because of domestic abuse – 49 cases in the last 12 months.

Our strategy recognises we must increase our work with fathers and abusers of all genders. Over the past twelve months 33 fathers who have used abuse against their children's mothers have been supported through Caring Dads, this includes 11 fathers who are currently being offered bespoke support during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Inspire to Change voluntary perpetrator programme delivered 212 group session, 36 individual sessions, 52 women specific sessions and 4 youth specific sessions during the year. 26 people completed the full programme.



The overarching message of the strategy is that Domestic and Sexual Abuse is everyone's business. Operation Encompass was launched in November and has been embraced by most schools in Sheffield enabling improved information sharing with schools to help keep children safe.

Since April 2019 we have had a new provider in place for community based support for people aged 16 years and over experiencing domestic abuse [IDAS Website](#). IDAS are continuing to base a worker in the Safeguarding Hub – these staff participate in MADA meetings (Multi Agency Domestic Abuse meetings) that consider new high risk cases; attend strategy meetings where domestic abuse is a feature; share information to social workers regarding cases known to the service and offer informal support where needed.



During the year the service has:

- supported 3934 callers to the helpline

- received 4128 referrals
- supported 967 high risk cases at MARAC
- supported 89 people in structured group support and 130 in informal support groups
- Provided training to 1205 professionals including Junior Doctors at the Children’s Hospital, Safeguarding hub staff, Child protection Chairs, dentists, and Housing Solutions staff.

As part of our strategic commitment to ensuring support for women and girls Sheffield Women’s Aid’s refuges have continued to offer 37 units for victims and their children. During the year there were 40 families in the refuge who between them had 73 children, and 58 single women.

A new online chat service was launched for professionals as a response to the challenges posed by COVID-19.



Children and Young People that go Missing

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

The Missing Service is based within a multi-agency setting located with the Sheffield Sexual Exploitation Service and the Child Criminal Exploitation Service (now the Amber Project). The service interviews young people (aged 17 and under) on their return home from a missing episode and aims to identify any additional support a young person might need and share information with other appropriate agencies.

The Service aims to complete all Return Home Interviews within 72 hours – which is also its biggest challenge, especially when a young person returns within a weekend or bank holiday period, as there are no staff available to conduct the interviews. Consistent effort is made to ensure interviews are completed in a timely and appropriate manner, however if the 72-hour deadline is not possible we continue to make efforts to contact the young person. It gives a more realistic overview of what we are achieving and means that we have a real chance of seeing every young person, unless they refuse, within 2 weeks.

National data is limited, so it is difficult to compare performance with other local authorities, but we liaise closely with the NWG Exploitation Response Unit and recently underwent an internal audit to measure and scrutinise performance.

The service has recently started to implement quarterly case audits which will, going forward, inform service delivery plans and feedback to partners. Once more regular audits are established, key themes and issues that are found can be used to inform workforce development and delivery.

It became clear that other services were unclear of the role of the Missing Service, and the experience of a young person who has returned from being missing. Evidence from case notes (showing multiple attempts to contact services through various routes) shows that other services can be slow to respond to contact from Return Interviewers, potentially not understanding the time restrictions they are under to get an interview, and that the team are often confused with being the Police or the Missing from Education team. As a result, a training package was written and delivered at the mandatory Advanced Refresher Safeguarding Training for all Designated Safeguarding Leads in education in Sheffield.

We will always follow up with a young person if they need additional information or assistance accessing support.

Workers have the ability to engage with young people in a way that makes them feel comfortable and encourages them to share information about their missing experience. The young person's voice is captured in each interview, with their words being taken verbatim in reporting. The content is shared with social care and police where necessary. Parents and carers are also spoken to in order to obtain additional information around the missing episode. There is also an excellent knowledge of local organisations that can provide further support to the young person.

Capturing feedback from young people and families can at times be difficult due to the 'one off' nature of the service. We are currently exploring ways to modify the way in which young people accessing the service can have the opportunity to feedback on their experiences so the service can use it for development. However, within case notes it is clear that young people have opportunity to have a voice in any referrals or suggested ongoing work, and that staff use young people's experiences in the interviews to reflect and develop professionally.



What We Will Do Next

As we move forward, we intend to focus on first time missing episodes, always referring onwards where possible and maintaining contact if necessary, in an attempt to prevent further missing incidents. We will work closely with the Assertive Outreach Team, highlighting young people who we believe are likely to go missing and provide a co-ordinated response to positively engage them

in other activities. We have started to have more regular contact with Local Authority Care Homes and will informally visit these in the coming months to establish a closer relationship with children who are looked after.

Safeguarding and Licensing

We continue to promote safeguarding across the local and national business communities by delivering advice and training to business operators and sharing good practice; this year 1,176 people attended the training from the taxi, hospitality and general licensed trades and we have delivered workshops at regional and national events, keeping Sheffield at the forefront of innovative practice. A priority has been to raise awareness that the impact of harmful gambling can have on children and families by delivering seminars which had good engagement from colleagues in the health, education, and social care sector. We have been working with Public Health regionally and locally and have produced tools and guidance for employers to encourage screening and reporting of gambling related safeguarding concerns.

A key focus has been on developing information sharing and tactical plans for addressing safeguarding concerns at locations and we make a positive contribution to the multi-agency work that is delivered by the Vulnerable Young People Multi Agency Meetings.

As part of our commitment to the Contextual Safeguarding UK Advisory and Implementation Panel, we are working with the National Association of Licensing Enforcement Officers to promote the role of the business community in the contextual safeguarding approach nationally, having delivered workshops in the Knowsley and Swindon pilot areas which are currently being scaled up by the University of Bedfordshire.

Licensed premises continue to implement good safeguarding standards in the city, making places safer environments for children and young people. In 2019 the city again received a national quality assurance award in the Best Bar None scheme, recognising Sheffield as a safer city. The training and support we provided to licensed operators contribute to this scheme.



Julie Hague, Licensing Manager
Speaking at the NALEO AGM in Liverpool, October 2019

What We Will Do Next

- Contribute to the delivery of the local contextual safeguarding strategy and continue to advise nationally, supporting other areas via the University of Bedfordshire's UK Advisory & Implementation Panel for Contextual Safeguarding.

- Develop the relationship between safeguarding children and adults in a licensed setting, including the promotion of equalities for people with invisible needs.
- Revise and update our training materials in response to new challenges and in consultation with the trades.



Appendix 1

Partnership Agencies

Appendix 1: Executive Partnership Group Members

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

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

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