



**NOTTINGHAM  
CHILDREN'S  
PARTNERSHIP**

PROUD OF NOTTINGHAM'S CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

<b>Title of paper:</b>	Update on CYPP Priority re: Safeguarding, Year Two	
<b>Report to:</b>	Children's Partnership Board	
<b>Date:</b>		
<b>Relevant Director:</b>	Satinder Gautam	<b>Wards affected:</b> All
<b>Contact Officer(s) and contact details:</b>	Dorne Collinson Head of Safeguarding	
<b>Other officers who have provided input:</b>	Ken Beaumont –Head of Families and Communities, South Viv McCrossen-Head of Families and Communities, Central	
<b>Relevant Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) objectives(s):</b>		
<b>Stronger safeguarding</b> – With a key focus on ensuring that there are high standards of safeguarding across all agencies and that the Partnership takes a pro-active approach to the elimination of domestic violence.		X
<b>Healthy living</b> – With a key focus on increasing the proportion of children and young people who have a healthy weight.		
<b>Reducing substance misuse</b> – Partnership work to lessen the impact on children of parental drug and alcohol misuse and to reduce drug and alcohol misuse amongst children and young people.		
<b>Raising attainment</b> – Raising the attainment levels and increasing engagement in employment, education and training.		
<b>Improving attendance</b> – Improving rates of attendance at both Primary and Secondary as a key foundation of improving outcomes.		
<b>Summary of issues (including benefits to customers/service users):</b>		
This report is presented to update the Children's Partnership Board in respect of the level of activity currently underway to deliver the year 2 CYPP priority for safeguarding. Members will be reassured that significant developments have taken place in respect of all five areas of action, with further work identified prior to the year end.		
<b>Recommendations:</b>		
<b>1</b>	Board members to the note the content of this report and the positive improvements that have been made in year.	

## 1. BACKGROUND AND PROPOSALS

1.1 This report provides an update in relation to the Year 2 priority focus upon safeguarding. Actions related to each of the individual areas of activity are identified below.

### 1.2 Actions to increase the impact of the Family Support Strategy in providing alternative pathways to improving outcomes.

- The Family Support Pathway was signed of by the Partnership and launched in November 2011
- A Family Support toolkit has been developed to support the implementation of the pathway
- Social Care Family Support Teams are in the process of moving to Families and Communities
- The Children’s Partnership Board have agreed minimum target groups of children and young people to have a Common Assessment Framework {CAF}.

### 1.3 Assessment of the impact of family support on social care referral rates

- Performance measures demonstrate a reduction in the number of contacts/referrals to Children’s Social Care services when comparing year to date figures up to 30<sup>th</sup> September in 2010 and 2011. However, re-referral rates remain high.

	April-September 2010	April-September 2011	Percentage variation
Contacts	3592	3597	0.13%
Referrals	2790	2378	-14.76%
Open Cases	1898	1640	-13.6%
Initial Assessments	2338	1800	-23%
Core Assessments	660	649	-1.6%

- The number of CAFs that have been initiated has increased, with a total for Q2 at 253 a three fold increase on the figure for the same quarter for last year [84] and an increase of 52 on Q1 bringing the total for the year to date to 454, representing 86% of the whole year outturn for 2010-11
- A more robust screening service has led to a reduction in the number of initial and core assessments being undertaken, achieving a level more in line with statistical neighbours.

### 1.4 Building inter-agency support for the DASH (domestic abuse, stalking, and honour based violence checklist) risk assessment so that domestic violence is dealt with as early as possible, knowledge of risk is shared and a proportionate response can be made

- All agencies are being encouraged to complete DASH RIC to enable them to identify and manage the risk with the person they are working with, including helping the person they are working with understand their own level of risk. This fits with the domestic violence and safeguarding guidelines published by the Safeguarding Children’s Board.
- The Safeguarding Board’s Domestic Violence Practice Guidance outlines the risks associated with domestic abuse and the links to child abuse. High risk survivors are referred

to the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference {MARAC} with any associated children being referred to Children's Services for an Initial Assessment. Medium and standard risk survivor's children will be referred for a CAF.

- All agencies are receiving DASH RIC training and Children Services workforce development is working with the MARAC lead in the Crime and Drugs Partnership to encourage maximum take-up of this training. The Nottinghamshire Domestic Violence Forum {NDVF} has been commissioned to deliver a programme of training to The Families and Communities Team in respect of domestic.
- MARAC forms are widely accessible on the NDVF website for download by colleagues
- A review is taking place of problem solving processes and the proposal is that repeat domestic violence cases (medium and standard) will be managed by multi agency groups in North, Central and South of Nottingham.
- Work is underway with partner agencies to move to a collocated model of response in relation to Domestic Violence. It is anticipated that this model will be a precursor to full implementation of a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub [MASH} and will specifically respond to the areas of concerns raised in relation to domestic violence activity in the last three safeguarding inspections.
- There are some exciting models of early intervention work being delivered within Nottingham City schools by the NDVF. The GREAT {Good Relationships are Equal and Trusting} Project is aimed at primary aged children and The Whole Schools Approach looks at a model of preventing domestic violence through secondary education. Both projects are attracting national recognition.

### **1.3 Minimising bullying behaviour by: working with parents, schools and young people to improve the emotional resilience of young people, support victims and re-educate perpetrators share best practice on what works.**

- An anti-bullying partnership document has been developed by the local authority.
- The Community Educational Psychology service have developed training for colleagues on building resilience in children and young people and using restorative approaches
- The Department for Education is undertaking surveys of bullying in schools which will inform future practice.
- The Department of Education have embedded anti-bullying work within the Behaviour and Attendance Strategy for schools.
- City schools have a strong emphasis on peer support and peer buddying.
- The local authority through the Community Educational Psychology service has subscribed to the Anti-bullying Alliance.
- Up to date information from the anti-bullying alliance is shared through Scene and the corporate websites.

## **1.4 Supporting the Crime and Drugs Partnership particularly through work with families, to challenge and eliminate gang culture in local neighbourhoods. (NB: this work is now being led by Community Protection rather than the CDP)**

- The NCSCB has developed Practice Guidance for Safeguarding Children and Young People affected by Gang Activity
- The Family Support Pathway launched in November 2011 identifies, as a trigger for additional or extensive support, the involvement of children and young people in gang activities or at risk of being affected by them through family, neighbourhood or peer associations.
- The City Council has developed a strategy for gangs, guns and knives, "Vanguard Plus". This strategy fully embraces safeguarding issues, and has established with the Police and Probation Trust a multi-agency Vanguard Plus team to work intensively with young people and young adults actively involved with gangs. Colleagues have been seconded to work as part of this team from the YOT.

## **2. RISKS**

### **2.1 Family Support Strategy**

- Increased clarity is required in relation to the governance and monitoring of the Family Support Strategy Action Plan.
- A robust performance management framework is required to ensure that early intervention can be monitored in terms of everyone delivering on their core offers including extended schools provision, Children's Centres core offer, Family Nurse Partnership, Incredible Years Parenting programmes, Youth Offending early intervention assessments and Education Welfare Services.
- Safe management of complex casework during the transition of family support work to Family and Community Teams from Children's Social Care to ensure re-referral rates do not increase further.
- The number of CAFs being completed is still low with a high proportion of cases being referred without a completed multi-agency assessment.
- The demand for social care intervention remains high with a high proportion of cases being referred back into the system.

### **2.2 Domestic Violence**

- There continues to be a vulnerability of funding arrangements for voluntary sector domestic violence services
- There is an inconsistent application of risk assessments and lack of clarity in relation to matching need with risk
- The volume of domestic violence within Nottingham City creates capacity challenges for all partners with referrals to Children's Social Care exceeding 200 per week.

## **2.4 Gang Culture**

- Maintaining the inter-agency commitment to a co-located model of delivery in the current economic climate.

## **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications as this report is presented as an update only.

## **4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no legal implications as this report is presented as an update only.

## **5. CLIENT GROUP**

There is the potential for all children, young people or carers to be impacted upon by the contents of this report.

## **6. IMPACT ON EQUALITIES ISSUES**

This report is presented as an update only - all of the individual pieces of work have considered equality issues.

## **7. OUTCOMES AND PRIORITIES AFFECTED**

Safeguarding, Year Two Priorities

## **8. CONTACT DETAILS**

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Update on CYPP Year Two Priority:

## SAFEGUARDING

Satinder Gautam  
Director of Safeguarding



## **Year 2 priority: Safeguarding with a focus on:**

- Actions to increase the impact of the Family Support Strategy in providing alternative pathways to improving outcomes
- Assessment of the impact of family support on social care referral rates
- Building inter-agency support for the DASH (domestic abuse, stalking, and honour based violence checklist) risk assessment so that domestic violence is dealt with as early as possible, knowledge of risk is shared and a proportionate response can be made

## **Year 2 priority: Safeguarding with a focus on:**

- Minimising bullying behaviour by:
  - a) working with parents, schools and young people to improve the emotional resilience of young people,
  - b) support victims and re-educate perpetrators
  - c) share best practice on what works.
  
- Supporting the Crime and Drugs Partnership, particularly through work with families, to challenge and eliminate gang culture in local neighbourhoods.





# Impact of the Family Support Strategy

- Family Support Pathway launched Nov 2011
- Family Support Toolkit to be launched in Dec 2011
- Performance framework is being developed
- Social Care Family Support Teams are currently being transitioned into the Family and Community Teams
- Practitioner Development programme is being delivered within Families and Communities Teams



# The impact of Family Support on Social Care Referrals

- Year to date performance demonstrates a reduction in the number of contacts and referrals being made to Social Care
- There has been a corresponding increase in the number of CAFs being completed
- A more robust screening service has led to a decrease in the number of initial and core assessments being undertaken

# Domestic Violence

- The NCSCB Practice Guidance has been updated to include DASH RIC
- A full programme of training is being delivered in respect of DASH RIC
- Work is being undertaken to develop a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub {MASH} to respond to DV referrals
- Some exciting early intervention projects are being delivered within schools in respect of DV

# Anti-Bullying

- Partnership document completed by the local authority
- A programme of training has been developed by the Educational Psychology Service
- The local authority has subscribed to the Anti-bullying Alliance
- Surveys being completed within schools
- String emphasis upon peer support and peer buddying within city schools



# Gang Culture

- Inter-agency Practice Guidance has been developed
- Identified within the Family Support Strategy as a trigger for additional or extensive support
- 'Vanguard Plus'-City Council Strategy for Gangs, Guns and Knives