



Title of paper:	Update on CYPP Priority re: Safeguarding, Year Three	
Report to:	Children's Partnership Board	
Date:	25 th September 2013	
Relevant Director:	Helen Blackman	Wards affected: All
Contact Officer(s) and contact details:	Anne Partington, Acting Head of Safeguarding	
Other officers who have provided input:	Ken Beaumont –Head of Families and Communities, South Viv McCrossen-Head of Families and Communities, Central	
Relevant Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) objectives(s):		
Stronger safeguarding – 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
Healthy living – With a key focus on increasing the proportion of children and young people who have a healthy weight.		
Reducing substance misuse – 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.		
Raising attainment – Raising the attainment levels and increasing engagement in employment, education and training.		
Improving attendance – Improving rates of attendance at both Primary and Secondary as a key foundation of improving outcomes.		
Summary of issues (including benefits to customers/service users):		
This report is presented to update the Children's Partnership Board in respect of the progress and activity underway to deliver the year 3 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 throughout the year.		
Recommendations:		
1	Board members to the note the content of this report and the progress made in year.	
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1. BACKGROUND AND PROPOSALS

1.1 This report provides an update in relation to the Year 3 priority focus on safeguarding. Actions related to each of the individual priority areas of work identified in the Children & Young People's Plan for 2012 / 13 are identified below.

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

1.3 The Common Assessment Framework (CAF) is critical to supporting outcomes with the new Ofsted Inspection Framework of local authority arrangements for the protection of children requiring:

- evidence of the impact and analysis of CAF assessment activity over the last 12 months
- evidence of any QA activity, case audits 6 months prior to inspection

1.4 Current CAF Activity and Outcomes

- The number of CAFs initiated has increased since 2009-10 (527) to 2012-13 (758). There is a clear upward trend in the numbers initiated, but with a spike in 2011-12 (1100) which is linked to a large scale data cleansing exercise.
- There is evidence of year on year improvement of the percentage of CAFs closed due to needs being met, increasing from 38% in 2009-10 to 55% in 2012-13.
- Between 2009-10 and 2012-13 there has also been a decrease in CAFs closed due to referral to Children's Social Care, with 16% in 2012-13 compared with 23% in 2009-10.

1.5 Summary of recommendations agreed at Children's Partnership Board on 26 June 2013 and progress made:

- To undertake Self Assessment Review of Family Support Strategy implementation across the partnership, themed around the CAF and report the conclusions to the Children's Partnership Board. **Review complete but further feedback from schools is to be requested. Report to CPB due 27.11.13.**
- Undertake data cleansing exercise of current CAF activity and Lead Professionals recorded on CAF Central Records. **Commenced September 2013.**
- Re-establish regular CAF performance reporting to the Children's Partnership Board, develop current reporting to show need and impact, including at an agency level. **Ongoing work with Nottingham City Council I.T. department to develop the existing CAF Activity Report to show need and impact.**
- Establish partnership working group to design e-CAF specification and report recommendations to Children's Partnership Board. **Initial meeting to scope ideas with representatives from Children's Partnership agencies and schools booked for 9th October 2013.**
- Ongoing governance and monitoring of the Family Support Strategy and Pathway by NCSCB to be undertaken via the Children's Partnership Board. **Report to NCSCB due 17.10.13)**

1.6 Assessment of the impact of family support on social care referral rates.

	CAFs Initiated	CAF Closed	CAFs Open
Q1 2012/13	215	114	1538
Q2 2012/13	171	86	1623
Q3 2012/13	215	78	1760
Q4 2012/13	225	60	1925
Q1 2013/14	203	103	2025

	Q1 2012/13	Q1 2013/14	Difference
Contacts	1873	2113	13%
Referrals	1229	1072	-13%
Open Cases **	2202	3145	43%
Initial Assessments	893	869	-3%
Core Assessments	280	413	48%

** The calculation of open cases in 2013/14 now includes all cases open to Social Care and Family Community Teams which has increased the amount and the % difference.

1.7 The number of CAFs initiated in Quarter 1 2013 / 14 has decreased slightly. The overall number of contacts to Social Care has increased compared to the same period last year but the number of referrals has decreased. There is a substantial increase in the number of core assessments undertaken, suggesting that the children referred were in need of more in-depth assessment and interventions to increase their safety.

1.8 The overview of performance in relation to safeguarding measures at the end of year 2012 / 13 is as follows:

- In the year 2012/13, 44% more Child Protection Plans were commenced than in the previous year, with 436 Child Protection Plans being in place on 31.03.13. This is a significant increase on the year end figure for 2012 (297) which reflects a national increase in children subject to child protection plans.
- On 31.03.13, there were 561 children in the care of the Local Authority which is a slight increase from 539 in 2012.
- By the end of March 2013 96.2% of children and young people had participated with their care plan, either by attending the conference / review meetings and speaking for themselves; attending the meeting and participating via an advocate; or sharing their information with a third party prior to the meeting.
- 91.0% of initial assessments were carried out within 10 working days of referral
- 94.0% Core assessments for children's social care carried out within 35 working days of their commencement
- 99.4% of child protection cases were reviewed within required timescales
- 94.6% of children in care cases were reviewed within required timescales'

1.9 Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013 was published in April 2013. The NCSCB has been working with Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board to implement the LSCB requirements, including the review and update of the Safeguarding Children procedures.

1.10 The local authority is required to work with partners to develop a local protocol for assessment and this is underway as part of the development of a new Local Operating Model. This includes further development and use of the CAF as the early intervention tool; introduction of a Single Point of Access for social care and family support services; and

ensuring interventions are consistent, integrated and evaluated in terms of outcomes for children.

- 1.11 A new performance framework is also under development to ensure Family Community Teams and Social Care are compliant with national reporting expectations. This includes a new performance framework for early help and a joint outcomes framework to show impact of services.
- 1.12 The Signs Of Safety approach has been adopted within Nottingham City Council Social Care and Family Community Teams to support a child centred approach to assessment which includes focus on risk identification and management. It has also been agreed at the Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Board that partner agencies will adopt the same approach thereby strengthening multi agency assessment work.
- 1.13 Phase One Children's Social Care and Targeted Family Support Teams (June 2012 to June 2013). A pilot was delivered in June 2012. Following this phase one roll out took place between November 2012 and July 2013 and a total of 254 colleagues received training. **Signs of Safety** was delivered to practitioner teams who had already undertaken the two day skills based "Strength based Communication Styles" training as these skills underpin the SOS approach.
- 1.14 Phase Two – Social Care, Family Community Teams, Children in Care and Residential Services; Pilot delivery for schools. The Strategic Core Development Standard has been consulted upon and updated and we are in the process of rolling out this comprehensive programme of development, of which Strength based Communication Styles and Signs of Safety is a part, across the Local Authority workforce.
- 1.15 Phase Three – Internal workforce: ongoing support/ action learning, safety planning, using SOS tools with children; Delivery /engagement of wider Children's partnership to embed the approach. It has been identified during phase one delivery that teams may benefit from ongoing support to embed Signs of Safety and the underpinning strength based communication skills. To this end Talent and Skills will be working with Team Managers to establish what level of support they would like and how this can be most effectively delivered, for example peer support, action learning sets, coaching, case reflection. The lead consultant is working closely with the Integrated Workforce Lead and with the Children's Partnership Workforce Strategy Group to identify how best we can support the wider partnership in embedding this approach.
- 1.16 **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.**
- 1.17 The Domestic Abuse Referral Team (DART) was set up in June 2012, originally as a short term solution to the multi agency management of domestic abuse cases as precursor to the development of the local Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). The development of the MASH has been delayed whilst Children and Families develop a new operating model and contact point so the DART is still operating.
- 1.18 The DART is a multi agency initiative with Nottinghamshire Police working alongside City Care Partnership and Nottingham City Council Family Community Teams. Referrals to DART are made using the DASH / RIC Form and decision making on the level of intervention required is based on multi agency information about the family. This leads to a more appropriate level of intervention undertaken in a timely way.

1.19 The following data relates to the period 25.06.12 – 13.09.13:

DASH / RIC Assessment	Number of Referrals
High	514
Medium	1777
Standard	2436
TOTAL	4730

- 1.20 There are 658 incidents where a victim has 2 reported repeat incidents of domestic abuse; 243 where there are 3 reported repeat incidents and 130 where there are 4. Two perpetrators have been connected to 15 reported repeat incidents.
- 1.21 The total number of domestic abuse incidents reported to DART are 5264 where the victim was female and 839 where the victim was male.
- 1.22 A number of reviews have been undertaken that feature domestic abuse and the learning from these, including the action plans arising from them, is being collated and considered within the multi agency Domestic and Sexual Violence Strategy Group.
- 1.23 A multi agency DART survey is currently underway to gather agency views on the service provided by DART. This will form part of a full review of the effectiveness of DART, the impact on outcomes and the allocation of future resources. Analysis of ward data in relation to the incidence of domestic abuse in the city has been regularly shared with agencies through the Domestic and Sexual Violence Strategy Group to influence policy and resources.
- 1.24 A strategic commissioning review of Domestic Abuse services in Nottingham City is underway and making recommendations for future work / commissioning. The Safe From Harm Project has identified domestic abuse as a causal factor for a range of underlying issues that impact on Nottingham City Council Services (e.g. homelessness, early help / child protection services, substance use, mental health and adult services). The recommendation to the Health & Wellbeing Board is to maintain current investment and embed a proactive and confident culture within our staff and services.
- 1.25 **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.**
- 1.26 Schools are responsible for their own anti- bullying approaches and are linked to the Anti-Bullying Alliance
- 1.27 The Community Education Psychology Service is delivering training to schools on Restorative Approaches.
- 1.28 Developments are underway with Nottingham Trent University about them supporting us in undertaking some research with pupils about their views on bullying in schools and what they think are the main issues. This will take into account the rise in incidences using cyber bullying.
- 1.29 An Educational Psychologist is working with Bulwell Academy using problem solving through drama to overcome social issues including bullying and the Community Educational Psychology Service continue to work with schools on Persistent Absentee cases where bullying is often cited as an example of why pupils are not attending.

1.30 **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 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.
- Ending Gang and Youth Violence "Hub" meetings are fully established in South and Central localities and will be linked to new Young People's Panels that are being established in Areas 1, 3, 4, 6 and 8 to ensure early identification and co-ordinated multi-agency support within the Family Support Pathway to children and young people whose behaviour is causing concern within their communities.
- The City Council has developed a strategy for gangs, guns and knives, "Ending Gang and Youth Violence". 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.
- Targeted Youth Support posts are being established with funding from the Youth Justice Board, the City Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner to increase capacity in Targeted Family Support Teams for early intervention with children and young people who are at risk of becoming involved in anti-social behaviour and crime, and this will contribute to reducing the risk of them later becoming involved in gang culture.

2 RISKS

2.1 Family Support Strategy

- Clarity on the governance and performance management of the Family Support Strategy between the CPB and the LSCB is required.
- A robust strategy to performance manage, quality assure and measure the impact of early help is required.
- 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 demand for social care intervention remains high with no sustainable evidence of a decrease in demand on social care services as a result of early intervention.
- The high demand for specialist services will potentially impact on the quality of interventions as the workforce respond to increasing numbers of families. This risk is being mitigated by investment in earlier help to reduce demand.

2.2 Domestic Violence

- There continues to be a vulnerability of funding arrangements for voluntary sector domestic violence services, although the Council has made a significant investment in expanding and strengthening the DART.
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- 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. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

3. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

4. CLIENT GROUP

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

5. IMPACT ON EQUALITIES ISSUES

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

6. OUTCOMES AND PRIORITIES AFFECTED

Safeguarding, Year Three Priorities

7. CONTACT DETAILS

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