

A photograph of two young children, a girl and a boy, sitting on a stone ledge. The girl is on the left, wearing a colorful patterned dress, and the boy is on the right, wearing a patterned shirt and light-colored pants. They are both smiling. In the background, there is a stone wall and a large, dark metal structure, possibly a cannon barrel. The text "Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership 2021 - 2022" is overlaid at the top in white, and "Annual Report" is overlaid in the bottom left in large white letters.

**Nottingham City Safeguarding  
Children Partnership 2021 - 2022**

**Annual  
Report**

# Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership

Annual Report  
April 2021 to March 2022

Produced by John Matravers with the contributions and full support of the NCSCP Team



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# Foreword

Safeguarding is everybody's business. All partners in our City - commissioners, providers, employers, our workforce, regulators and government - and all agencies - councils, providers, voluntary, community, the NHS and police - have a role to play. As equal partners in the safeguarding arrangements we are committed to working together to fulfil our responsibilities as outlined in statute <sup>1</sup>, working with everyone to safeguard the children in our City.

We will work actively to protect children from abuse and maltreatment, prevent harm to children's health or development, ensure children grow up being provided with safe and effective care and will take action to enable all children and young people to have the best outcomes.<sup>2</sup>

We commit to working together for the children of Nottingham City, to ensure that they are not only protected from harm, but supported to live safe, healthy lives.

We commit to working together, with children, young people and their families and with the groups that represent them, to deliver real change.

We will work together to join up and transform health and care services to support and protect children to ensure better outcomes for them.

We will ensure that when there are significant incidents or failings either locally or nationally, we respond to these quickly and decisively taking any actions necessary to improve or strengthen our safeguarding arrangements.

We will work collectively and collaboratively to communicate and share information to protect children and understand and evaluate our achievements and areas for improvement. But we will be outcomes, rather than information, focussed and measure success by the impact that we have.

We will support our staff to escalate issues and concerns and equip them with the tools and training that they need to deliver.

All of these commitments will be underpinned with robust governance and oversight arrangements which will allow us to be clear on our performance and to have robust assurance that we are delivering the change in outcomes needed.

*Craig Guildford, Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire Police and Chair of the NCSCP*

*Catherine Underwood, Corporate Director of People, Nottingham City Council*

*Rosa Waddingham, Chief Nurse – Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care System and ICB*

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<sup>1</sup>[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/942455/Working\\_together\\_to\\_safeguard\\_children\\_Statutory\\_framework\\_legislation\\_relevant\\_to\\_safeguarding\\_and\\_promoting\\_the\\_welfare\\_of\\_children.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/942455/Working_together_to_safeguard_children_Statutory_framework_legislation_relevant_to_safeguarding_and_promoting_the_welfare_of_children.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection>

## Section 1: Introduction

This edition of the Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership's Annual Report covers the period from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. It highlights our key strands of work, how they have developed since our previous report as well as our plans moving forward.

## Section 2: Governance Arrangements

The NCSCP is established in accordance with the Children and Social Work Act 2017<sup>3</sup> and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018<sup>4</sup>. The NCSCP provides the safeguarding arrangements under which the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies work together to coordinate their safeguarding services, identify and respond to the needs of children in Nottingham City, commission and publish local child safeguarding practice reviews and provide scrutiny to ensure the effectiveness of the arrangements.

The safeguarding arrangements have been developed to build on the strengths of the previous arrangements under the Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Board. Accountability for the effectiveness of safeguarding rests with the safeguarding partners through the Strategic Leadership Group (SLG). The arrangements provide a streamlined and improved framework for the safeguarding partnership to demand ever more positive outcomes for all of our children and young people. We have ensured that our arrangements are able to compliment those in Nottinghamshire County Council so that partners who work across the City and County benefit from consistent naming and structures where appropriate as well as cross authority working wherever possible.

Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership's ambition is for all children and young people in Nottingham to be supported to grow up in a stable home environment that enables them to lead a healthy, happy and fulfilling life.

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<sup>3</sup> [Children and Social Work Act 2017 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)

<sup>4</sup> [Working together to safeguard children - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

## Section 3: Local Context

**Headline Statistics** (source: ONS Mid-Year Population Estimates 2020):

Population: 337,100

Children Aged 0-17: 69,300

The number of births has been slowly declining since 2011.

The 2011 census shows 35% of the population as being from Black, Asian or other minority ethnic groups; an increase from 19% in 2001.

7.8% of households have no members who speak English as a main language. Languages spoken: English (68.7%), Urdu (5.7%), Polish (4.2%), Punjabi (2.6%), Arabic (2.4%), Romanian (1.3%).

Nottingham City's children face a number of challenges, including poverty and deprivation.

Nottingham is ranked the 11<sup>th</sup> most deprived district in England; according to the 2019 Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). In 2015, Nottingham was ranked 8<sup>th</sup>.

34.2% of children in Nottingham City are affected by Income Deprivation.

The unemployment rate remains higher than the regional and national average.

There are high levels of child poverty in Nottingham City with around a third of children and young people living in workless households.

## Section 4: NCSCP Overview

The term ‘**Safeguarding Partners**’ refers specifically to the following agencies, as established in accordance with the Social Work Act 2017 and in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018:

- Integrated Care System and ICB
- Police
- Local Authority

The NCSCP continued to be overseen by the Strategic Leadership Group and Business Management Group, the activities of which are outlined below.

### **The Strategic Leadership Group (SLG):**

The SLG is chaired on a yearly rotation by one of the three safeguarding partners’ representatives. In 2021/2022 the SLG was chaired by the Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire Police, Craig Guildford. The SLG is made up of those with lead responsibility for each of the safeguarding partners. The NCSCP Independent Scrutineer attends SLG meetings but is not a decision making member of the SLG. The SLG has overall responsibility for safeguarding arrangements.

### **The Business Management Group (BMG):**

The BMG was chaired by Sandra Morrell of the ICB on three occasions and by Julie Gardener of NUHT on one occasion in 2021/22. Membership includes senior managers from the safeguarding partnership as well as relevant agencies that have responsibilities for safeguarding performance within their organization. The BMG scrutinizes safeguarding effectiveness and coordinates improvement activity by developing action plans for themed areas of practice. The Local Authority elected member with portfolio holder responsibilities for children’s services, Councillor Cheryl Barnard, is a participant observer of the group.

An ‘extraordinary’ BMG meeting was held in January 2022 specifically to test the NCSCP’s response to the Covid-19 circumstances, to provide partners with an opportunity to offer assurance regarding safeguarding systems in place during this period, to identify areas of concern/risk and to identify further actions required. At these meetings, updates were provided by each agency and full discussions were held.

The NCSCP is also made up of a number of subgroups and steering groups which are covered later in this report.

## Section 5: Headlines in Nottingham City in 2021/22

In the past year, we have done a lot to be proud of as a partnership. Below are some of our highlights.

- Development and Launch of Neglect Strategy and Neglect Toolkit<sup>5</sup>.
- Commissioning of informational videos on neglect.
- Development of the Cross-Partnership Contextual Safeguarding Steering Group.
- The delivery of Every Colleague Matters training and awareness raising event to 300 colleagues across Nottingham.

In 2021/22 we said we wanted to focus in on the following work, specifically.

1. Protecting Vulnerable Children and Young People with the objective of minimising the risks of harm to children and young people.
2. Learning and Improving to ensure that children and young people influence the strategic planning on issues that affect them, that we learn from scrutiny of multiagency practice, and that practitioners have the skills and knowledge to be effective in their practice.
3. Leadership to ensure that NCSCP continuously improves on its effectiveness, has clear lines of communication, works strategically with partners, and has effective governance arrangements in place, which support a robust planned approach to its work.

This Annual report highlights our activity and impact in these and other priority areas in this last year.

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<sup>5</sup> [neglect\\_toolkit.pdf \(proceduresonline.com\)](https://proceduresonline.com/neglect_toolkit.pdf)

## Section 6: NCSCP Priorities

The NCSCP identified the following seven priorities in its business plan for 2021-2024<sup>6</sup>. Sections 7-12 of this report are structured around each of the priorities, providing detail regarding how we have worked to these priorities in this year.

**Priority One: Tackling and reducing Child Exploitation.** To further strengthen the partnership response for children and young people experiencing contextual risk factors, including child sexual exploitation, child criminal exploitation, County Lines, gangs, honour based violence, female genital mutilation and children who do not have access to education.

**Priority Two: To implement the Harmful Sexual Behaviour Action Plan, identified by the NSPCC with purpose of further strengthening our response to Harmful Sexual Behaviour.**

**Priority Three: To ensure the voice and lived experience of children is integral to the development and delivery of services to children and families across Nottingham City.** The NCSCP engages with children, young people and families to inform its work and uses partner agencies existing consultation mechanisms to assist them with this.

**Priority Four: Recognise and respond to the diverse population of Nottingham City's children, targeting work where necessary.** This includes all children and young people with protected characteristics, for example, those from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds, children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and young people from the LGBTQIA+ community.

**Priority Five: To deliver the Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership Neglect Strategy.** Child neglect has a lifelong impact on a person's wellbeing, and it is vitally important that as a Partnership we do all we can to prevent it. Both the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnerships recognise that tackling neglect must continue to be a priority if we want to improve our children's life chances and prevent poor outcomes later in life.

**Priority Six: To understand the impact of Covid-19, paying particular attention to Domestic Abuse / Domestic violence and children and young people's mental wellbeing, but also learning from the positive impacts of changes in working practices.**

**Priority Seven: Providing leadership and ensuring core duties are met in line with Working Together 2018 and other relevant legislation.**

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<sup>6</sup> [ncscp-business-plan-2021-24-updated-april-2021.pdf \(nottinghamcity.gov.uk\)](#)



## Section 7: Priority One, Tackling Child Exploitation

Nottingham City, like all local authorities, has been challenged by a rise in levels of child exploitation in 2021/2022. Child exploitation and contextual safeguarding are complex areas of safeguarding relating to risks from outside the home which may overlap.

Working Together to Safeguard Children specifically identifies the following risks under the term **contextual safeguarding** and acknowledges that children may be vulnerable to multiple threats:

- Exploitation by criminal gangs and organised crime groups such as county lines
- Trafficking
- Online abuse
- Sexual exploitation
- Extremism leading to radicalisation

In 2020/2021, to help develop our approach to protecting children from those risks, the NCSCP submitted a joint bid with the NSCP and the Violence Reduction Unit to the Tackling Child Exploitation Programme<sup>7</sup>. In 2021/2022 the NCSCP and its Cross Partnership Contextual Safeguarding Steering Group has continued to put learning from the programme into practice. The group considers all elements of the national definition. The overarching aims of the group are as follows:

- To provide a strategic focussed, coordinated and integrated response to contextual safeguarding across Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire.
- To provide overarching governance of the various work streams and formulate a response to local and national learning.
- To provide assurance to the statutory partners through oversight of the multi-agency response.

In 2020/2021, the group developed the roadmap towards the integration of the response to child exploitation and extra-familial harm. The group was also given responsibility for taking forward the learning from the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel Report 'It's hard to escape'. In 2021/22, the group continued to develop the roadmap and began to oversee the implementation of it.

Items progressed at the Cross Partnership Contextual Safeguarding Steering Group included the PAN Exploitation Protocol, CSE, CCE, Radicalisation, Missing Children and Harmful Sexual Behaviour. In 2022/2023, this group will produce an 'Exploitation Mission Strategy' document for use by all partners and an updated Exploitation Toolkit.

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<sup>7</sup> [TCE-Project-Learning-Report-Nottingham- FINAL.pdf \(researchinpractice.org.uk\)](#)

## Section 8: Priority Two, Harmful Sexual Behaviour

We now have robust arrangements in place to identify and address harmful sexual behaviour. Among a range of improvements, we have established a multi-agency forum which meets on a monthly basis. This group ensure that children and young people whose sexual behaviour is developmentally inappropriate, abusive or violent are responded to in a way that meets their needs, considers any risks posed towards them, and the risks they themselves pose to others.

We have developed an Action Plan based on the HSB audit findings we undertook with the NSPCC and the amalgamated feedback from the partnership event held on the 17th July 2021. The action plan sets out a response under five domains, as follows:

- Response
- Prevention
- Assessment
- Intervention
- Workforce Development

Key areas for priority work included:

- Increasing awareness of HSB across all levels of the workforce, with a particular focus on early years, education settings, and foster carers. To include identification of HSB, knowledge of thresholds and services.
- Consistency in response and greater alignment between Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. The stakeholder group identified that this work need to focus on publicity and communication of the similarities.
- Access to training for the wider workforce, including e-learning, face to face training and inclusion in all DSL training packages.
- Developing a programme of activity support greater understanding of consent with young people.
- Developing resources, including culturally appropriate resources that create a common language, and reinforcement of the use of the Brook identification tool. This should include resources for parents as well as professionals and young people.
- Explore, agree and implement interventions for lower risk cases to compliment the work already in place for higher risk cases.
- Providing a method of specialist support / supervision to the wider workforce who are working with cases of HSB.

The BMG and SLG boards monitor the development and impact of the action plan.

## Section 9: Priority Three, Voice of The Child

It is important that children and young people are consulted on the services they use, and have an opportunity to help shape future delivery through having their views listened to. Where appropriate and proportionate, they should also have the opportunity to be involved in creating better services and organisations. Sharing views, expressing opinions and articulating ideas for change are qualities that make children and young people safer, healthier, happier and better skilled for life. These essential developmental benefits are accessed in part through active participation, in the context of the wider society and the young person's place in it.

The NCSCP's aim is to encourage participation at multiple levels;

- at individual level, for example as with a child in care making their wishes and feelings known to the services that work with them, and taking part in planning for their own care and support.
- in social environments, for example in a youth group, where young people can be encouraged to share their opinions and ideas for change, and empowered to create new activities and projects led by the young people themselves.
- in more formal group settings and meetings with organisations, for example through co-creative activities which bring children and young people into the heart of the development of services and strategies, policies and plans.

In summary, when we listen to the views of children and young people and involve them in decision-making, we learn more about what we have to do to support them to achieve good outcomes in life. We can design and deliver services that more closely meet their needs, and we can more openly share power and responsibility with them. This helps children and young people develop the skills and experience they need for their adult lives. Participation is at the heart of a successful childhood, and a successful adulthood too.

### Activity in 2021/2022:

- In this year, 94.75% of child in care reviews had the subject child participate in them. We now focus on the quality of participation and the impact on improving children's lives. To continue to place the child at the heart of the review so that they truly participate and coproduce with services so that they are at the heart of their lives in the care of Nottingham City Council. This requires an emphasis on true participation throughout the child's time in care.
- Thanks to our focus on championing the voice of the child in recent years, we were able to produce a Rapid Review report which was specifically praised for its reflection on the child's daily life experience. Authors of the report worked hard to ensure the child's own perspective on their life were central to our analysis of how our services interacted with them. More information on this can be found later in this report.
- Our 2022 Every Colleague Matters event included a session called Beyond Words – Creative Ways of Capturing the Voice of Verbal and Non-Verbal Children and Young People. This session explored the importance of a practitioner's ability to build trusting and respectful relationships with children and young people, critically reflecting on what the child is trying to communicate through their behaviours. It provided a variety of approaches and tools to support this process.

### Analysis:

From our work with children and young people and parents and carers we have understood that whilst being involved in decision-making makes good sense it can also become challenging for a variety of different reasons. Barriers may include:

- Children and young people and parents/carers not wanting to get involved.
- Lack of staff, resources, motivation or time within your organisation or project to involve children and young people and parents/carers
- Communication barriers such as language and cultural differences

- Lack of skills to listen, and work with children and young people and parents/carers
- Working flexibly with children and young people and parents/carers. Issues include: access, time, venues.
- Lack of confidence in knowing how to involve children and young people and parents/ carers meaningfully
- Over enthusiasm by workers who believe they know what is needed and how it should be delivered due to their experience.

Therefore, we will deliver training and awareness raising events with colleagues from across the partnership to understand these challenges, to learn from them and to continue to place children at the heart in all that we do. During this year we have started to highlight the need for the voice of the child to inform our work. However, we have more to do to ensure the voice of the child is central to all of the work of the partnership and indeed we go further than hearing the voice of the child and ensure it informs our actions in safeguarding.

## Section 10: Priority Four, Equality and Diversity

In 2021/2022 the NCSCP restated its intention to prioritise Equality and Diversity and to do so in a meaningful, measurable way. While the theme of equality and diversity runs throughout all of our activity, we have taken the decision to prioritise specific proactive work.

We had planned to undertake a multi-agency audit of children of ethnic minority backgrounds within our service in 2021/22. Unfortunately, this had to be moved to Quarter One of the 2022/2023 year due to a scheduling conflict with the 'The experience of black and mixed heritage boys in the youth justice system' thematic inspection of Nottingham City Youth Justice Services by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation. The outcome of this inspection was fed back to safeguarding committees and boards by the service manager for Youth Justice, Simon Newling-Ward, who is also a member of multiple NCSCP subgroups.

In our only Rapid Review of 2021/2022, we included a section dedicated to the subject child's identity for the first time. Unfortunately, we found that the child's ethnicity was identified but was not a focus of any ongoing work with them, in terms of what it meant to him or what impact this might have had. Learning from this Rapid Review has been shared across the partnership and through multi-agency participative events such as Every Colleague Matters and the planned audit shall show us the impact of this work.

In a meeting of the CSPR Subgroup, it was decided that the NCSCP should never again miss the opportunity to consider all children's diverse characteristics, for example their ethnicity and gender identity as part of any Rapid Review report. Therefore, as of 2022/2023, the NCSCP Rapid Review information gathering template will be updated to ask contributors to analyse the child's identity, and how this may have impacted their experience of our services, specifically. If this information is omitted, we will follow this up with the relevant organisation to ensure professionals are adequately aware of the importance of equality and diversity in our scrutiny of safeguarding practice and in working with service users more generally.

### **Analysis:**

We were disappointed not to be able to complete our planned audit of children from ethnic minority backgrounds in 2021/2022. However, we believed this was necessary to allow our colleagues in Youth Justice to focus on their own audit of similar cases within their service. We also felt it would be beneficial to have the outcome of the inspection before we began our own analysis.

We will complete the multi-agency audit regarding children from ethnic minority backgrounds in early 2022/2023. This will further drive our work towards achieving equality and understanding diversity throughout our partnership.

Any Rapid Review undertaken in 2022/2023 will include analysis of the subject's identity. We are optimistic that in 2022/2023, the impact of work already undertaken will show that our children's identities have been taken into account in all aspects of our work with them and that this has resulted in improved outcomes for those children.

In 2022/2023 the partnership will continue our work to better understand and improve the lived experiences of transgender children and children with gender dysphoria.

## Section 11: Priority Five, Neglect

In 2021/2022, the NCSCP in partnership with Nottinghamshire County Safeguarding Partnership, produced a [Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Child Neglect Strategy for 2021-2024](#) which was developed and launched at a Joint Partnership Forum led by members of the SLG. The strategy identified three key objectives:

- Recognise: ensuring that neglect and the impact of neglect on children is understood and identified.
- Respond: ensuring that good quality, multi-agency support and intervention is available and makes a difference for children experiencing neglect.
- Reflect/Review: ensuring that we work together with children, families, and communities to continue to monitor the impact of our work and continue to develop our partnership response.

Partners have developed action plans to take this work forward within their organisations. The Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County Neglect Strategy Implementation Group met in November 2021 and February 2022. This group continued to have oversight of the development of the Neglect Toolkit and embedding the Neglect Strategy. Activities included delivering workshops on neglect and trauma informed practice. Work with the Safer Sleeping Group also continued in 2021/2022, leading to new-born hospital discharge planning meetings which now including a section on safer sleeping.

Events around neglect were held for both sports clubs and faith groups in October 2021 as well as repeated promotion and discussion with our Education and Early Years Designated Safeguarding Leads network events.

It was agreed in 2021/2022 that we look to produce two informational videos on neglect, one for professionals and the other for the general public. Planning for these videos is underway and will be completed in Autumn 2022. We are optimistic that these videos will have a strong impact as our Rethinking 'Did Not Attend'/Was Not Brought video had and continues to have.

The Rapid Review report produced in March 2022 featured analysis of neglect in the subject child's life. More detail of actions taken following this review will be available in the 2022/2023 Annual Report as this work began outside of the scope of this report.

## Section 12: Priority Six, Domestic Abuse and Covid-19

Domestic and Sexual violence and abuse is covered in Nottingham City by six main work streams:

- Adults (focussing on DVA safeguarding and health, including DHR's)
- Children and young people (DSVA)
- Housing and homelessness (DVA)
- Criminal Justice (DSVA)
- Voluntary and community sector (violence against women and girls and DSVA)
- Sexual Violence and Abuse

There are cross-overs into the Childrens safeguarding arena and links are established to communicate and coordinate work.

### Honour Based Violence and Abuse and Forced Marriage

Work to maintain established pathways is ongoing. We continue to raise awareness within new and existing communities through multiagency working.

Information about Honour Based Violence and Abuse and Forced Marriage and the local pathways are available on Ask Lion, Equation's website and included in the DVA Toolkit and promoted with the NCSCP website.

### Domestic Homicide Reviews

The NCSCP are engaged in the process for Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) and contribute to local panel reviews as well as any cross area reviews where they have been in contact with a subject of interest in the review.

The DHR Assurance and Learning Implementation Group (DHR ALIG) monitor and progress the actions developed from DHRs and disseminate learning briefings to agencies city wide.

Learning and themes relevant to Children's Safeguarding are:

- Safe contact with parents for children
- Mutual allegations and primary perpetrator identification
- Mental health
- Mapping incidents rather than looking at them in isolation
- Access to training
- Legally record and alert other agencies about potential risks from alleged perpetrators of domestic abuse under Safeguarding
- Information sharing and record keeping
- People who are vulnerable/have complex or multiple needs – failure to engage service users
- Think Family Approach
- Mapping family network – domestic violence and abuse

Learning and themes identified from DHRs are shared with the Board Managers for the Children and Adults Safeguarding Boards, and vice versa to identify common themes and shared learning.

#### Adolescent Parental Violence and Abuse

Local guidance, tools and pathways for adolescent to parental violence and abuse has been completed, signed off and has been rolled out across the city and county. Since Covid-19 and the required restrictions there has been an increase in reports for this type of abuse and violence. These tools are designed to accompany a Multi-Agency Referral Form referral into the MASH where work can then be undertaken with Children and Adult Services.

#### DASH RIC for Young People in Their Own Intimate Relationship

The Young Person's DASH RIC (for survivors aged 13-17) for identifying levels of risk within their own intimate relationships has been reviewed and updated with amendments to bring it in line with the adult DASH RIC. Although questions cannot be amended, information has been added to questions to draw out context and understanding. A front page has also been added to ensure information not covered in the DASH RIC is also covered; such as people in the household, which family members are supportive, safe contact detail and times.

#### Our Response to Covid-19

The NCSCPs response to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has been and continues to be proactive and child focused. At the first Extraordinary BMG meeting in May 2020, the below themes arose as key areas requiring further monitoring and scrutiny throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. We continued to prioritise these areas in our response to Covid-19 in 2021/22.

- The effects of family breakdown as well as Domestic Abuse.
- The rise in hate crime.
- Vulnerable pre-school and out of school children.

Ahead of the third Extraordinary BMG meeting in January 2022, partner agencies produced Impact Assessments which the Independent Scrutineer summarised in a report for the SLG. A Covid-19 Recovery Risk Log was also produced and presented to the BMG and SLG.

Impact Assessments were completed by partner organisations to understand the implications of Covid-19, these focussed on:

- The impact of Covid-19 on children and families.
- Organisations' ability to maintain normal service.
- Any changes being implemented and details of how they are being communicated to children and families.
- Any negative impacts which may increase safeguarding risks and steps taken to mitigate them.
- Any positive impact of new working arrangements and how they are going to be taken forward.

Furthermore, in December 2021, following the Childrens Commissioner's report on Invisible Children<sup>8</sup>, our Independent Scrutineer sought views from a number of front line practitioners regarding their experiences of working with families and other agencies during the pandemic.

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<sup>8</sup> [Too many at-risk children are still invisible to social care | Children's Commissioner for England \(childrenscommissioner.gov.uk\)](https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/reports-and-publications/2021/12/20/invisible-children/)



Practitioners referenced the following: Schools were ‘fantastic’ and ‘amazing’ during lockdown, and a number of specific examples, who created a safe space for children to be seen by Children’s Services and facilitated use of school equipment, were mentioned. Practitioners felt some children benefitted from work that was done virtually, they appeared to be able to talk more openly, for example at Looked After Reviews. There was reference to technology assisting some children with disabilities e.g. children with autism who could take more control of a conversation by turning their camera off if they were struggling.

Childrens Integrated Service workers referenced positive relationships with Health Visitors and Midwives with one midwife being described as ‘super’.

The Short Breaks partnership between Nottingham City, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire CCs saw an improvement in communication between members and better attendance at meetings. There was a pooling of resources and welfare calls to over 200 families. The pressures of lockdown led to this group being more supportive of each other. There was also a better attendance at their training events. Practitioners spoke positively about the use of technology and that virtual meetings led to improved attendance at strategy meetings, Initial Child Protection Conferencess and Review Conferences. Not having to travel to meetings saved time, money and was also felt to be better for the environment. The use of technology by Health (Text Health and WhatsApp) was said to have improved communication with families and also with agencies via email.

As we know, black and minority ethnic workers were particularly impacted by Covid-19 which led to increased anxiety and fear. Black professionals from Health and Children’s Services said they felt well supported by their managers. A Health Visitor referenced the setting up of a support group as ‘a very good meeting’ which will continue.

#### **Analysis:**

The Independent Scrutineer for the NCSCP undertook work on practitioners’ experience of working during the Covid-19 pandemic, they discovered that our services faced challenges around miscommunication and a lack of clear information about multi-agency colleagues’ working practices. We therefore ensured that each agencies working practices were shared across the NCSCP and mobile contact details for practitioners were shared.

The Independent Scrutineer also found that, although overwhelmingly positive for agencies, there is evidence that technology does not always work for families, for example when they were unable to join Microsoft Teams meetings due to poor internet connections. Concern was also expressed about the confidentiality of meetings as it was not possible to say who else was in a room with parents and whether they or their children were under any duress. The issue of digital poverty requires understanding and protocols for safe online meetings have been established where in person meetings are not possible or do not best meet the needs of the child.

Furthermore, there is a genuine concern amongst agencies about the long term impact of lockdown on children, particularly those young children who have missed out on socialisation or have lived in neglectful home circumstances with no respite due to schools having closed. Referrals to Childrens Services dipped during lockdown but they are returning to pre Covid-19 levels with a noted increase in peer on peer abuse, cases of neglect being more severe and many children and young people experiencing mental health issues, The NCSCP will monitor referral numbers and what this may mean for our services and the commissioning of them in 2022/2023 and going forward

## Section 13: Priority Seven, Leadership and Fulfilling our Core Duties

Quality assurance remains our key driver across all the partnership, using frameworks that will measure the impact of our subgroup activities and challenge those working in the safeguarding arena. We also continued to ensure that our policies and procedures are embedded in the work we carry out, that toolkits, guidance and procedures draw on the knowledge of subject experts locally and nationally to inform them, and that we can demonstrate the impact of learning that has taken place.

The Partnership has an Independent Scrutineer who provides vision, scrutiny, challenge and support. The Strategic Leadership Group (SLG) is responsible for ensuring that all organisations contribute effectively to the work of the NCSCP. The SLG provides accountability for the work undertaken by the NCSCP by way of reports to relevant strategic committees and boards. Effective communication between the Business Manager, Independent Scrutineer and Chair of the NCSCP ensures that there is a clear link between the subgroups and executive group, enabling risks, themes and opportunities to be highlighted at an executive level, and challenge, direction and opportunities to be shared into subgroups. This is supported by meetings for subgroup Chairs to provide clarity about the role of each subgroup in the priority areas and to raise any process or participation issues.

In 2020/21, the issues affecting children the most and, therefore, our priority areas remained:

- Domestic abuse
- Child exploitation
- Neglect and a commitment to a high level improvement plan.

The NCSCP is currently supported by subgroups that carry out the day to day work in order to help deliver the objectives and Strategic Plan for the NCSCP. Next year the new Education and Learning Subgroup will be established to maintain the joint working between the Partnership and colleagues in the education sector. This creates an opportunity to share learning and risk information, seek assurance relating to education specific themes, and to improve our 'reach' into a broader section of this workforce which will build on the success of the Designated Safeguarding leads termly meetings for example further education, alternative provision, and the independent and faith sector.

In addition, we have continued to work in accordance with the vision and aims of the Joint Protocol for cross-partnership working on themes such as domestic abuse, youth violence and child exploitation. Our Vision is to work together to enable children and young people in Nottingham to live a life free from fear, harm and abuse. We will make safeguarding personal and the responsibility of everyone. We will enable children and young people to have choices and control over how they want to live. We will ensure there is effective communication with youth communities in Nottingham and we commit to learning from our experiences and improving how we work for the benefit of our children.

## Section 14: NCSCP Subgroups

### Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) Subgroup

In the year 2021/2022, this group was chaired by the Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire Police. The core membership of the group is made up of senior personnel from the safeguarding partners who act as decision makers for their organisations. Representatives from relevant agencies are invited to contribute to the group depending on the nature of the cases involved. The CSPR Subgroup has continued to meet on a regular basis throughout the year, with stable membership and good engagement from all statutory partners and local providers. Activity of the subgroup has focused on the Safeguarding Partners statutory responsibilities to conduct Rapid Reviews as set out in Working Together 2018. The group has embedded the review processes developed in the previous year, monitored actions arising from reviews, challenged partners where appropriate and disseminated learning. Ensuring that learning from all local, regional and National reviews is central to the aims of the group so that we can be assured that we have learnt and the impact on children and young people of this learning is evidenced.

#### **Rapid Reviews:**

In 2021/2022 the CSPR Subgroup completed one Rapid Review. The Rapid Review was completed within statutory timescales. Furthermore, all of the NCSCPs recommendations were accepted by the National Panel. The National Panel complimented the NCSCP on the quality of the Rapid Review and specifically commented on our:

‘good analysis, especially in respect of the reflections on what the child’s daily life was like.’

The National Panel agreed with our recommendation not to initiate a local child safeguarding practice review (LCS) and decided not to pursue a national review.

As part of our analysis, we were assured that professional interactions amongst the partnership were effective and that recordings are of a good standard. Below is a list of all recommendations made to, and accepted by, the National Panel in 2021/2022.

- The Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership will produce a learning briefing with regard to this case and the matters it raises with a focus on working with neglect and the importance of identity in all the work that the safeguarding children partnership do.
- Anonymised learning events will be held for the partnership.
- The multi-agency Quality Assurance Subgroup shall commission an audit of cases where children have been subject to two or more Child Protection Plans for neglect.
- The case will be taken to the Joint Nottinghamshire Health Group to cascade outcomes and also ensure that all learning is communicated across the integrated health system.

Due to the timing of this reports publication, all actions taken as well as the impact of those actions will be detailed in the NCSCP’s 2022/2023 Annual Report.

## **Quality Assurance and Multi Agency Audit Sub-Group**

The aim of the Quality Assurance and Multi Agency audit group is to provide assurance to the NCSCP in respect of the quality of safeguarding intervention for children and young people and the performance of agencies in carrying out their safeguarding function. The group meets eight times per year, with four of those meetings being dedicated to audit activity. Agencies represented include Children's Integrated Services, Nottinghamshire Police, NHS Clinical Commissioning Group, other representatives from Health providers and Education leads. The meetings are chaired by the NSPCC which brings independence to the quality assurance process. The chair reports directly to the BMG.

In 2021/2022, two multi-agency audits were completed. No audits were undertaken in quarter two or quarter four due to lack of capacity in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Audit activity included;

- Children Exposed to Domestic Violence (specifically where children are subject to a second Child Protection plan and where domestic violence is the concern in both, as recommended by our Independent Scrutineer).
- Pre-Birth Assessments (incorporating the learning from the National CSPR Panel's annual report re 'Hidden Men').

The findings from all audits have been shared with partner organisations through their QA Subgroup representative and through the BMG. From the two completed audits in 2021/22 we learnt that the following is working well in the NCSCP;

- Good practice and interagency working were identified when contact between social worker and health visitor was established. This allowed information sharing between both agencies which was positive. There is also documented evidence of the Specialist Public Health Practitioner liaising with relevant professionals and subsequent plans of action to address the health need of the child. This further supports the importance of sharing information in timely manner to build an effective team around the child.
- Police evidenced information sharing, safe and well checks undertaken when reported, children also seen. Management oversight in relation to MARAC meetings and police attendance was noted.
- Examples of positive co-working and information sharing were highlighted within one case in particular, in which the pre-birth plan and social care assessment was sent through to hospital promptly. Evidence also indicated communication post birth between health and social care was good.
- Audits highlighted positive and consistent engagement by the professional network in the CP process, reviews and core groups within timescales, with good multi-agency attendance and engagement with plans. This included Women's Aid, Housing Support, and Adult Services, DLNR, CRC and perinatal services.
- Within three cases, the role of the Child Protection Co-Ordinator was strongly evidenced, with recorded communications and consultations between the social worker and the CP Co-Ordinator in one case. In another case the team manager and CP Co-Ordinator and in a third case the CP Co-Ordinator with a young person.
- There is good evidence of direct work with children / young people across services (CIS, NHCFT and CityCare). Some work was described as creative and engaging, supporting children to give a clear account of their experiences.
- CityCare identified robust recording across the cases they were involved in.
- NHCFT report good use of safeguarding templates and recording within the 0-19 service.
- Nottinghamshire Police identified prompt and appropriate referrals to children's social care through the submission of PPNs, following incidents attended.
- There were good examples of domestic abuse interventions being carried out by social workers with survivors.

- Good challenge was evidenced by the FNP worker where there was evidence of dishonesty by the parent, set within a trusting and professional relationship.

The completed audits also provided insight into areas of partnership practice which require further work and action plans are in place to measure improvement in these areas.

- There were delays in decision making, within the duty service, leading to delays in children being seen. Management oversight of these situations could have been improved to avoid such delays.
- The Children Exposed to Domestic Violence audit specifically highlighted the challenges of working with persistent domestic abuse, where children are exposed over a long period of time, and the impacts are cumulative.
- The Pre-birth Assessment audit highlighted areas for improvement in the consistent sharing of information between partner organisations.

An audit programme for 2022/23 has been agreed. Audits are scheduled to include;

- Children Subject to More Than One Child Protection Plan for Neglect.
- Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)
- Mental Health Early Help for Younger Children.
- An activity/exercise in relation to disproportionality and children of ethnic minority backgrounds in Nottingham City.

The QA subgroup continued to produce its quarterly Performance Report. In our 2020/21 report we said that we had improved the quality of our performance commentary. We have been successful in achieving this again in 2021/2022 and we wish to continue to improve our commentary and analysis further in 2022/23. In our previous Annual Report, we stated our intention to transition our performance reporting template from Microsoft Word to Microsoft Excel. This has made the process of reporting, and subsequent discussion, clearer and more intuitive. We are continuing to monitor how our partner agencies complete their performance reporting work and plan to improve our processes further in 2022/23. Quarterly performance data is regularly made available to the BMG who provide further scrutiny. The QA Subgroup will continue to monitor the performance framework, present scrutiny and challenge where appropriate. This work will be supported by the Independent Scrutineer who has been invited to consider the work of the QA Subgroup and will attend subgroup meetings as part of this work.

## Section 15: Education and Early Years DSL Networks

All schools (including independent schools, academies and free schools) and other educational establishments are designated as relevant agencies within the safeguarding arrangements.

The NCSCP engages with schools through representatives from the Advanced Designated Safeguarding Leads (ADSL) Group and termly Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Network meetings.

The Schools DSL Network met in May and October 2021 and February 2022. The network events provide the opportunity for our Schools in Education Coordinator as well as invited guests to communicate safeguarding issues, and share good practice, both locally and nationally. All Schools DSL Network events in 2021/22 were held virtually via Microsoft Teams. While the decision to hold these events virtually was primarily due to government guidance, we found that the flexibility of online meetings suited the nature of the DSL Network. We experienced increased attendance at all Schools DSL Network meetings in 2021/22. The May, October and February networks were attended by 152, 152 and 200 professionals respectively. Early years settings engage in safeguarding arrangements through the Early Years Designated Safeguarding Leads Network which meets three times per year. These events are also very well attended, in 2021/2022 an average of 82.33% of settings attended Early Years Network events.

In 2021/22 our Schools and Early Years DSL Network events included items on a variety of safeguarding topics, including:

- Prevent (how it works and the local threat, presented by Nottinghamshire Police).
- The Family Support Pathway (FSP).
- The Neglect Strategy and neglect in Nottingham City context.
- Domestic Abuse (toolkit and presentation from Equation).
- Reducing Parental Conflict (RPC).
- Way2Work.
- Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment/Peer on Peer Abuse.
- Operation Encompass.
- The NCSCP Training Program.
- The Educational Psychologist Project.
- The Violence Reduction Unit's (VRU) early intervention survey.
- The Safer Schools app.
- Consent.
- Community Protection.
- Strategy Discussions.
- The Child Safeguarding Practice Review panel

In 2021/22 we said we wanted to further develop our relationship with DSLs by collating a central register of Nottingham City DSL's contact details and by collecting more meaningful data to help us understand which education settings are consistently engaging with the NCSCP. We have successfully collated this central register and, in 2021, began collecting detailed data about attendance at DSL networks as part of our quarterly performance report. For example, we know that, on average in 2021/22, each DSL network was attended by 100.5 primary school staff, representing 51 different school settings. This means we are continually assured that key safeguarding messages are being disseminated to schools in Nottingham City.

## Section 16: NCSCP Learning and Improvement

Our Safeguarding Training Officer took up post on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021. Therefore, as of this date, we have been able to deliver a detailed programme of training for all professionals in the NCSCP.

The Cross Authority Learning & Workforce Development (Procedures) Group is responsible for multi-agency safeguarding children training and the provision of the inter-agency safeguarding children procedures. The group is currently chaired by the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Service Manager for Partnerships. Membership of the group includes representatives from all safeguarding partners and relevant agencies. It reviews all current procedures and addresses the need for any updated guidance or procedures that has been identified.

Over the past 12 months we have developed and delivered a training programme which included the following:

- Introduction to Signs of Safety
- Introduction to Safeguarding Children
- How to complete a strong Multi-Agency Referral Form
- Sudden Unexpected Deaths in Infants
- Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation
- Introduction to eSafety
- Understanding Neglect
- Volatile Substance Abuse
- Working with Children Impacted by Domestic Violence and Abuse
- The Prevent Duty and Radicalisation

The majority of our training is still taking place online however we are gradually reintroducing face to face training sessions. In addition, we have:

- Developed and delivered a training programme for faith groups and sports groups across Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire. This work was completed in collaboration with Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership.
- Rolled out a Safer Schools Safeguarding app to all Nottingham City schools. Safer Schools is a multi-award-winning safeguarding ecosystem, created to educate, empower and protect entire school communities, in a digital World.
- Created links with Advanced Designated Safeguarding Leads (ADSLs) and the Nottingham School Trust regarding the joint and shared delivery of safeguarding training.
- Streamlined administrative systems ensuring greater productivity and effectiveness.
- Supported the delivery of the annual Every Colleague Matters conference.
- Written and developed a new and refreshed Working Together training programme.

Our development plans for 2022-23 include:

- Work alongside colleagues to set up a new Learning and Workforce Development Group.

- The roll out and delivery of regular full day Working Together training sessions. These will take place across the year.
- To further develop the training programme for the NCSCP being mindful of changes in legislation, and emerging themes in safeguarding.
- Resources to be developed to enable the NCSCP to effectively share learning from local, regional and national reviews.
- To work alongside Children and Families Services to help develop a new MARF training programme which will take into account the changes from a paper based to electronic reporting system. The training will also have a greater emphasis on consent.
- Work alongside other team members in ensuring there is improved training in the identification of Harmful Sexual Behaviour, Child Criminal Exploitation and Gender Variance.
- Work alongside the new Prevent Education Officer to ensure Prevent training is offered to all sectors. This training aims to improve understanding of the Prevent Duty and enable practitioners to spot the signs of radicalisation, offer support and make appropriate referrals. It will build on the online Home Office Prevent training by giving local insight and opportunities for discussion.
- Develop a pool of local trainers who are able to deliver high quality safeguarding training to the Partnership.

### Every Colleague Matters 2022

This year's Every Colleague Matters event took place at the end of March 2022 via MS Teams.

#### Transitional Safeguarding

With an introduction from Ailsa Barr, Director of Children's Integrated Services and Dez Holmes from Research in Practice.

#### Cultural Competency

Looking at: national research, what cultural competency means, its application in social work in Nottingham, increasing/achieving cultural competency as well as cultural differences in child protection.

'Effect of and Understanding Child Sexual Abuse and Harmful Sexualised Behaviour'

With Christy Clare of IMARA and Michael Woods of CAMHS.

#### Journey of a Young Person Through the Youth Justice System

Aiming at highlighting the journey through appropriate services and interventions, that can support a child to move away from criminality.

Beyond Words – Creative Ways of Capturing the Voice of Verbal and Non-Verbal Children and Young People

Exploring the importance of a practitioner's ability to build trusting and respectful relationships with children and young people, critically reflecting

on what the child is trying to communicate through their behaviours. This session explored a variety of approaches and tools to support this process.

#### Introduction to Adult Safeguarding

An opportunity for practitioners to develop their understanding of Adult Safeguarding.

#### Improvement from Domestic Homicide Learning

Exploring key learning outcomes from local DHRs including information sharing, record keeping and professional curiosity/critical thinking.

#### Action for Young Carers

This session provided practitioners with an opportunity to further understand the Carers Federation and Action for Young Carers.

#### Practitioner Wellbeing

To recognise the importance of wellbeing and its impact and to provide practitioners with a selection of tools and resources to support their own positive mental health and well-being.

#### Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy

Discussing research findings as well as how practitioners can work with families to deliver key messages around safer sleep.



## Section 17: Challenges

### NUH Maternity Services

In July 2021 it was reported that an investigation into Nottingham's maternity services found that babies died or were left with serious injuries. Shortly afterwards it was announced a significant review would be undertaken. In September 2021, NUH wrote to the NCSCP and others regarding the Independent Review of NUH Maternity Services jointly commissioned by the ICB and the Midlands Regional team of NHS England/Improvement. The letter stated:

'We understand and appreciate that this will be ongoing difficult time for families affected by their experiences of NUH Maternity Services, and are committed to ensuring that we provide regular and routine updates to those interested in the review.'

The review began in November 2021 and is expected to conclude in November 2022. This will be covered in our 2022/2023 Annual Report.

In March 2022 the Care Quality Commission (CQC) again rated Nottingham University Hospital's Maternity Services as 'Inadequate'. The chair of the NUH Trust board surmised at the end of the 2021/2022 year:

Anthony May, the new Chief Executive of Nottingham University Hospitals (NUH) Trust has stated that "Importantly, we are not waiting for the Review to conclude and our staff have been working hard to make the necessary improvements now. This includes recruiting more midwives and doctors, investing in new equipment, implementing a maternity advice line so people have a single point of contact before and after birth and improving the training for midwives and doctors in the monitoring of pregnant people and babies. There is, of course, more to do and we must now ensure that these improvements continue at pace."

The NCSCP will continue to monitor and require detailed updates from NUH maternity services with regard to this independent review

### Nottingham City Council

Nottingham City Council has been progressing its improvement journey throughout the year, following the non-statutory review undertaken in 2019. It has set out its plans for recovery and improvement in the Recovery and Improvement plan and latterly the Together for Nottingham plan, including financial planning, company's governance, officer/member working and culture. The council's corporate improvement is overseen by the Improvement and Assurance Board, chaired by Sir Tony Redmond, who reports to the Secretary of State.

Children's Integrated Services have continued their own improvement journey within the context, following the issues raised by the Ofsted Focused Visits of February 2020, with a focus on developing practice and management oversight to improve impact for children and sustainability of the workforce. The service has worked with Essex County Council as a partner in practice. The Focused Visit of July 2021 recognised some improvement, but highlighted the need for pace of change to improve. The Safeguarding Partnership has a focus on the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub and the improvement of first contact and partnership responses."

### Further Challenges at Time of Producing this Report

The Strategic Leadership Group of the NCSCP feel it is important to acknowledge the challenges we currently face; despite the fact they arose outside of the scope of this report. In June 2022 the Secretary of State wrote to the Chief Executive of Nottingham City Council regarding their ‘minded to’ decision to intervene and appoint Commissioners. In September 2022, the Government decided not to appoint Commissioners but instead strengthened the powers of the Improvement and Assurance Board (IAB)<sup>9</sup>.

Furthermore, an Ofsted inspection of Nottingham City Council’s Children’s Services was carried out in July 2022. The inspection found that more work is needed to ensure children and young people get the right care and support at the right time, while also acknowledging strengths. The full report, published in September 2022, judged the council’s Children’s Services as ‘inadequate’<sup>10</sup>. The NCSCP will seek assurance that the improvements required in Childrens Services are reported upon and measured to show positive impact for children in Nottingham City.

Further details on the IAB and the Ofsted inspection of Children’s Services, and our resulting actions, will be included in the 2022/2023 Annual Report.

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<sup>9</sup> [Statutory Intervention: Nottingham City Council - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/statutory-intervention-nottingham-city-council)

<sup>10</sup> [LA NAME - standard-short inspection report - INSPECTION DATE \(nottinghamcity.gov.uk\)](#)

## Section 18: Independent Scrutiny

The Independent Scrutineer is appointed by the safeguarding partners to act as a critical friend, encouraging reflection on practice and a determination to improving services. They provide an objective assessment of the effectiveness of the safeguarding arrangements including how they are working for children and families as well as practitioners.

The Independent Scrutineer acts as an advisor to the safeguarding partners regarding any responses by the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel to the conclusion reached in Rapid Reviews. The Independent Scrutineer undertakes annual audits of Rapid Reviews to provide assurance to the Strategic Leadership Group about the effectiveness of that process. The Independent Scrutineer assists in resolving operational disputes through the escalation process. The Independent Scrutineer supports stronger public engagement in local child safety issues and contributes to an improved understanding of the partnership's child protection work in the wider community and provides independent challenge to organizations on the effectiveness of their services in relation to safeguarding.

### May/June 2021 – 'Invisible Children'

At a meeting of the Business Management Group in 2020/2021, partners considered a briefing by the Children's Commissioner 'Too many at-risk children are still invisible to social care.'<sup>11</sup> Subsequently, in 2021/22, our Independent Scrutineer asked all partnership organizations to set out the actions undertaken to identify potentially hidden children. We received a 100% response to the request for information. Our Independent Scrutineer concluded her report with the following:

We have been provided with positive examples of how safeguarding partners have worked together to identify children who may have fallen below the radar and become invisible to agencies over the last year; the work between Children's Integrated Services and the Education Division is particularly noteworthy. There are also some good examples of individual agency efforts such as Base 51 advertising the presence of youth workers in local parks, and the NHCFT Healthy Families Team promoting support available to children and young people on BBC Radio Nottingham Drive Time. Also CityCare offering support from children's public health nursing service to vulnerable families housed in temporary accommodation.

### November 2021 – 'Invisible Men'

Our Independent Scrutineer presented her understanding of the National Panel's 'National review into babies seriously harmed or killed by their father or male carer'<sup>12</sup> published in September 2021. While this was not a review of our own practice, the partnership was urged to give due consideration to any custom or practice which was developed over the course of the pandemic which may have, inadvertently, excluded men from our work with children. This learning will form part of our training plan

### December 2021 - Working During Covid-19

As detailed in Section 12 of this report, our Independent Scrutineer was integral to our work evaluating our response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

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<sup>11</sup> [Too many at-risk children are still invisible to social care | Children's Commissioner for England \(childrenscommissioner.gov.uk\)](https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/news/too-many-at-risk-children-are-still-invisible-to-social-care/)

<sup>12</sup> [New review investigates babies harmed by fathers and stepfathers - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-review-investigates-babies-harmed-by-fathers-and-stepfathers)

## **Contribution from Liz Tinsley, Interim Independent Scrutineer in 2021/2022**

During the period covered by this report, I was the Interim Independent Scrutineer for the Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership. This gave me the opportunity to meet with practitioners and managers across the lead agencies as well as attending many partnership meetings. I was never in any doubt about the commitment shown by partners to improving the lives of children across the City and this report provides many positive examples of how agencies have worked together in often challenging circumstances.

In 2021 the coronavirus pandemic continued to have a significant impact on everyone and this was an area of particular interest for me. As referenced in this report, I had the opportunity to meet with front line workers and managers who were working extremely hard to adapt to the demands of the pandemic whilst also having to manage worries for their own families. The impact of Covid-19 was unprecedented and subsequently there has been a commitment by the Partnership to recognise the positive work undertaken by all agencies as well as those areas for learning and development. I would like to express my thanks to the professionals I met during this period and for their willingness to speak openly about their experiences.

The Annual report details some of the challenges facing the Partnership over the coming year. As well as significant financial constraints careful attention will need to be given to the findings of the review of NUH maternity services and any lessons to be learned by the Partnership, as well as the on- going scrutiny of Children's Social Care with a particular focus on the 'front door' of Children & Families Direct.

In addition, I would advise that the Partnership gives consideration to the following areas

- How the **impact** of its work is measured i.e. is there a clear link between the work of the Partnership (its Business Plan) and improved **outcomes** for Nottingham's children and young people.
- The engagement of children, young people and families so that their feedback informs the Partnership's priorities
- How the Partnership represents the rich diversity that is Nottingham City

## Section 19: Looking Forward to 2022/2023

In 2022/2023 we will continue to implement our Business plan<sup>13</sup> and work to our key priorities as a partnership. We will continue to develop our learning and improvement framework and learn from any Rapid Reviews.

We will publish two information videos on neglect, one for the general public and another for practitioners.

Despite the considerable environmental challenges, the Partnership, driven by the business unit, remains committed to its role as critical friend and champion of best practice. Our vision remains the same but we will update our Business plan to ensure that we:

- Promote the work of the Partnership ensuring we are clear how our work can support partners.
- Demonstrate how we are sharing learning from reviews and work more closely with the Quality Assurance Subgroup to measure changes to practice as a result.
- Re-focus scrutiny on the issue of safe and supportive transitions from adults to children's services
- Have a data set (performance paper) which sets out activity, themes and multi-agency risks, which is completed by all relevant partners
- Have a quality assurance framework that demonstrates how we will effectively scrutinize key safeguarding areas using what methods and how that will inform improvement.
- Develop the pace and impact of the Learning and Development Subgroup so that we can disseminate learning quickly using a range of methods to reach those who need it.
- Drive the neglect work and strategy and ensure that learning and key practice skills, including tools and integrated working are embedded.

The chairing of the NCSCP will be undertaken by Rosa Waddingham, Chief Nurse, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care System and ICB, in 2022/2023. The progression of the NCSCP Business Plan (2020-2023<sup>14</sup>) continues to provide the focus for the partnership to achieve the above priorities. Much of the work undertaken in 2021/22 will continue in the year ahead with an emphasis on scrutiny and improved outcomes in the lived experience for our children, young people and their families. The safeguarding of children and young people is an ever changing environment with new and emerging challenges. The continued work of the NCSCP is critical in driving improved performance and outcomes in their daily lives for all of our children.

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<sup>13</sup> [ncscp-business-plan-2021-24-updated-april-2021.pdf \(nottinghamcity.gov.uk\)](#)

<sup>14</sup> [ncscp-business-plan-2021-24-updated-april-2021.pdf \(nottinghamcity.gov.uk\)](#)

# Glossary of Terms

		DLNR CRC	Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland
			Community Rehabilitation Companies
ASHA	Assessment of Sexual Harm Arrangements	DV	Domestic Violence
BEMH	Behavioural and Emotional Mental Health	ECM	Every Colleague Matters
BMG	Business Management Group	FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services	HSB	Harmful Sexual Behaviour
CCE	Child Criminal Exploitation	IAB	Improvement and Assurance Board
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group	ICB	Integrated Care Board
CDOP	Child Death Overview Panel	ICPC	Initial Child Protection Conference
CDP	Crime and Drugs Partnership	IS	Independent Scrutineer
CIS	Childrens Integrated Services	IMD	Indices of Multiple Deprivation
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation	MASH	Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
CSPR	Child Safeguarding Practice Review	MACE	Multi-Agency Child Exploitation Group
CQC	Care Quality Commission	MAPPA	Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements
DA	Domestic Abuse	NCSCP	Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership
DASH	Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour-based Violence	NHFT	Nottinghamshire Healthcare Foundation Trust
DCI	Detective Chief Inspective	NHS	National Health Service

NSCP	Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership
NSPCC	National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
NUH(T)	Nottingham University Hospitals (Trust)
ONS	Office for National Statistics
PCC	Police and Crime Commissioner
QA	Quality Assurance
RCPC	Review Child Protection Conference
SLG	Strategic Leadership Group
SUDI	Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy
VRU	Violence Reduction Unit