



Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership (NCSCP) 2023 – 2024 Annual Report



Foreword

As Chair of the Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership (NCSCP), I am honoured to present the annual report for the year 2023 -2024. This period has been marked by significant change, consolidation, and profound learning for our partnership, reflecting our steadfast commitment to the safety and well-being of children and young people in our community.

Throughout the past year, we have navigated challenges with resilience and dedication, adapting our strategies to meet evolving needs and emerging priorities. Our collective efforts have been instrumental in strengthening collaboration across agencies, fostering a culture of proactive safeguarding, and striving to ensure that every child in Nottingham City receives the protection and support they deserve.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to all partners, stakeholders, and dedicated professionals whose unwavering commitment has made our achievements possible. Your hard work, expertise, and passion have been pivotal in driving positive outcomes for children and families across our city. Together, we have not only faced challenges head-on but have also embraced opportunities for innovation and improvement.

As we reflect on the past year, let us also acknowledge the invaluable lessons learned. Each experience has enriched our understanding and empowered us to refine our approaches, ensuring that our safeguarding practices remain robust, responsive, and reflective of best practice.

Looking ahead, we remain steadfast in our mission to create a safer and nurturing environment for every child in Nottingham City. By continuing to work collaboratively, harnessing the collective strength of our partnership, we can build upon our achievements and strive towards even greater impact.

I invite you to delve into this report, which encapsulates our journey over the past year and highlights the achievements, challenges, and aspirations of the Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership. Together, let us reaffirm our commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our children and young people, ensuring that their voices are heard, their rights are protected, and their futures are filled with hope and opportunity.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication.

Warm regards,

Rob Griffin (Assistant Chief Constable Nottinghamshire Police) - Chair, Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership (NCSCP)

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Introduction from the Lead Safeguarding Partners

As the lead safeguarding partners for the Nottingham City Safeguarding Children's Partnership (NCSCP), we are honoured to present the annual report for 2023-2024, reflecting our collective commitment to the children and families in our community. Over the past year, we have endeavoured to embody our core principles of collaboration, learning, resourcing, inclusion, and mutual challenge.

Collaborate: Together, we have developed a shared vision that unites our respective services toward a common goal: ensuring the safety and well-being of every child in our care. By aligning our efforts, we have strengthened our ability to deliver integrated support that meets the diverse needs of our community.

Learn: Drawing upon evidence from direct practice, we continuously evaluate our methods to discern what best serves children and families. This commitment to learning allows us to adapt and improve, ensuring that our interventions are effective and responsive to evolving challenges.

Resource: We are resolute in our ambition to protect and support children, acknowledging that effective safeguarding requires strategic allocation and sharing of resources. By prioritising joint investment, we maximize our impact and optimise the outcomes for those who rely on our services.

Include: Embracing diversity and fostering a culture of inclusivity are fundamental to our partnership. We celebrate multi-agency and multi-disciplinary collaboration, recognising that diverse perspectives enrich our collective efforts and enhance the quality of our support.

Mutual Challenge: Upholding accountability is paramount in our partnership. We hold ourselves and each other to the highest standards, ensuring that every decision and action is guided by our unwavering commitment to safeguarding children. Our teams, in turn, hold us accountable, driving continuous improvement and maintaining the integrity of our collaborative efforts.

As we reflect on the achievements and challenges of the past year, we reaffirm our dedication to advancing safeguarding practices and achieving positive outcomes for children and families in our rich and vibrant city.

Together, we remain steadfast in our mission to create a community where every child can thrive, safe from harm and supported to reach their full potential.

Signed,

Kate Meynell
Chief Constable
Nottinghamshire
Police

Sajeeda Rose
Chief Executive
Nottingham City
Council

Amanda Sullivan
Chief Executive Nottingham
and Nottinghamshire
Integrated Care Board (ICB)

Introduction

Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership (NCSCP) is established in accordance with the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and the statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018'. The NCSCP provides the safeguarding arrangements required 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, commissions and publishes local child safeguarding practice reviews and provides scrutiny to ensure the effectiveness of the arrangements.

The purpose of safeguarding arrangements is to support and enable local organisations and agencies to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Vision and values

The Partnership set out its vision in the safeguarding arrangements: -

- Children and young people are safe from harm, inside their home, outside their home and on-line.
- Children and young people have access to the right help at the right time.
- There is effective partnership working to improve safeguarding outcomes for children, young people, and their families.

The Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership values will be:

- To promote, monitor, coordinate and evaluate multiagency effectiveness in safeguarding children and young people across the child's journey.
- To strengthen and support a competent and equipped workforce that is committed to learning and developing safeguarding practice with the assurance that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.
- To evidence the impact of NCSCP

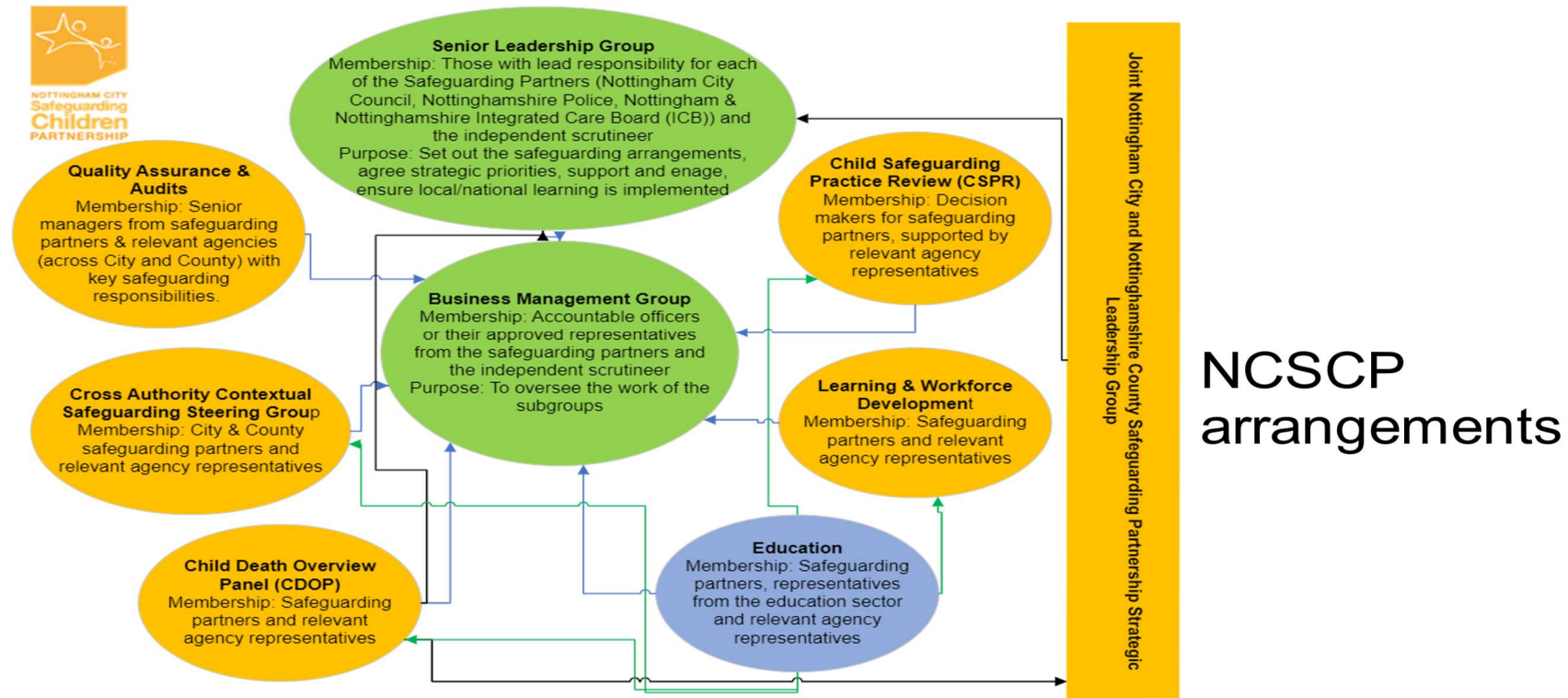
This report sets out what the Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership has achieved over the past year, touching on the following:

- An update on progress in relation to the safeguarding priorities for 2023-26 and the key areas of work to take forward.
- A summary of the decisions made in relation to local case reviews and the learning, and actions taken from those reviews and national reviews.
- The effectiveness of the safeguarding arrangements in practice. Evidence of the impact of the work of the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies, including training, on outcomes for children and families from early help to looked-after children and care leavers.
- Examples of the ways in which the partners have sought and utilised feedback from children and families to inform their work and influence service provision.

The safeguarding arrangements in Nottingham are fully detailed in our document published in line with national requirements, and available on the NCSCP website: [NCSCP Safeguarding Partnership](#) . The arrangements were last updated in May 2024 with an updated version reflecting the changes introduced in Working together 2023 to be published in December 2024.

They include details of the partners to the arrangements and explain how the functions of the Partnership are carried out through several different groups and led by the Lead Safeguarding Partners and the Delegated Safeguarding Partners (Strategic Leadership Group (SLG)).

Governance Arrangements



The safeguarding arrangements have been developed to create an effective structure to deliver the partnership’s priorities and business. Accountability for the effectiveness of safeguarding rests with the safeguarding partners through the Strategic Leadership Group (SLG) and moving to the Lead safeguarding partners. This will be reflected in the updated partnership working arrangements to be published in December 2024 and will be highlighted in the 2024 – 2025 partnership annual report. The arrangements provide a framework for the safeguarding partnership to achieve positive outcomes for all of our children and young people. We continue to ensure that our arrangements are able to compliment those in Nottinghamshire County Council so that children benefit from cross-authority working and partners who work across the City and County benefit from consistent approaches where appropriate.

Snapshot (1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024)



Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership (NCSCP)

Snapshot 2023 – 2024



35.9%

35.9% of Primary School children are eligible for free school meals



36.8%

36.8% of Secondary School children are eligible for free school meals



5467

5,467 Early Help contacts were made



673

673 Children are in our care



201

201 Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) were held



23,018

23,018 contacts were made to the MASH and 4,362 referrals were made to the 'Front Door'.



3238

3238 single assessments were undertaken



416

416 Child Protection Plans

The 2021 census identified 66,000 children under the age of eighteen live in the City of Nottingham, this is 20.3% of the total population. Of those children aged under 18, 34.2% are affected by income deprivation. Nottingham City's children face a number of challenges including income deprivation and poverty. 42.7% of Nottingham's population are from Black or Other Minority Ethnic groups, an increase since 2011 when the percentage was 34.6%. 59.1% of school age pupils are classed as BME, this was 57.2% in 2022.

- 416 children were the subject of a child protection plan. This is a 30% decrease from 593 on 31st March 2023.
- There were 201 Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) held which is a 53.5% decrease from 433 held as of 31st March 2023.
- There were 5,467 Early Help contacts made, which is a decrease of 22.5% from 7,055 made as of 31st March 2023.
- There were 23,018 contacts to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) compared to 16,122 (from July 2022 – 31st March 2023).
- 673 children were in our care compared to 721 in 2022 – 23. Decrease of 48 or 6.7%.
- Despite the high numbers of contacts to the MASH, assessments completed to time were 84.6% (within 45 days) compared to 76.6% for 2022/23.
- Proportion of repeat referrals within 12 months rose from 24.9% in 22/23 to 32.6% in 23/24.
- Child Protection (CP) visits by social work teams were 86.4% as of March 2024.
- ICPC's (Initial Child Protection Conferences where a child is made subject to a Child Protection Plan (CPP)) held within fifteen working days was 73.2% - down from 81.1% in 22/23.
- As of March 2024, 81% of children cared for by Nottingham City were placed within twenty miles of their home address.
- 461 referrals into the LADO service compared to 431 in 2022 – 2023.
- 189 permanent school exclusions across primary and secondary aged pupils. Up from 137 in 2022 – 2023.

Headlines in Nottingham City in 2023/24

In the past year, we have focused on activities which reflect local partnership priorities, alongside national priorities. Below are some of our highlights.

- Started a quarterly publication of the partnership Newsletter.
- Set up our social media pages on YouTube and X
- Launched our refreshed Threshold of Need guidance.
- Launched a revised Neglect guidance and toolkit.
- Launched Neglect animation videos.
- Launched our Early Help website alongside an Early Help Strategy
- Established a dedicated Education Subgroup
- Launched Professional Curiosity animation linked to Domestic Homicide Reviews

Challenges

All three partners have faced significant challenges during this period. We continue to see high rates of permanent exclusion in schools, high numbers of juvenile first-time entrants into the criminal justice system, high numbers of children being electively home educated to name a few.

The Local Authority has been managing their financial situation challenges and the issuance of a s.114 notice, the government bringing in Commissioners to manage the council affairs and the Children's Services Department dealing with Ofsted monitoring visits following an 'Inadequate' rating from July 2022.

Health and the ICB have been dealing with the Donna Ockendon review into Maternity Services at Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, and CQC inspections of Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.

Nottinghamshire Police and the findings from their inspection by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Service (HMICFRS) which is yet to submit its full findings but has identified two accelerated causes of concern.

All three partners are also under significant financial pressures in line with many other areas but remain committed to ensuring there is adequate support and resources to support our children's safeguarding commitments.

The City faced significant challenges with the awful stabbing incidents that affected us all and we have worked hard to put measures in place to support our residents and vulnerable children.

We accept a lot more work needs to be done around the recurring theme of 'Neglect' and the use of the 'Neglect Toolkit' across the partnership and are committed to giving this area the focus it deserves.

The NCSCP remains committed to its vision and goal of keeping our vulnerable children and young people safe across the City of Nottingham.

Partnership Priorities and Progress

Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership (NCSCP) Business Plan 2023-26

The Business Plan sets out the key strategic priorities for the partnership and was informed by national learning including the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel – Annual Report 2021, Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel’s themed reviews, local learning from Rapid Reviews and audits, the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse and, most importantly the views of Children and Young People in the City.

Key to agreeing our priorities was asking some fundamental questions of ourselves which were:

- Can we assure ourselves of being able to deliver on the above?
- Can we fundamentally say we have delivered on our previous priorities and if so, can this be evidenced?
- Can we streamline our priorities and make them SMART and if so, how can this be evidenced?
- Have we considered equity in our practice and being able to evidence and present the voice of the child/young person?
- Are we equipped to meet the needs of our diverse and multi-cultural communities by being culturally aware and ensuring equitable access and support is available to all?

The result is a more focused set of priorities that can respond to emerging issues but also help address our current needs and help future proof our practice. We have also set up a form for the partnership where suggestions, amendments and comments on the priorities and associated actions can be feedback into the partnership and this is monitored by the business office.

We listened to what children and young people, their parents and carers and our staff were telling us to focus on.

We agreed we would look at keeping children and young people safe from harm outside home – Focus on Exploitation

Keep them safe from harm at home – So we focused on ‘Domestic Abuse.’

Improve on how we work together – So we focused on ‘Making the system Work.’

Work for and with our diverse community – So we focused on ‘Cultural competency and confidence.’

Priority one: Exploitation

Aim: To improve the effectiveness of multi-agency practice in response to the exploitation of vulnerable children and young people, including child sexual exploitation, child criminal exploitation, County Lines, Children affected by gangs and youth violence, modern slavery and trafficking, honour-based violence, radicalisation, and female genital mutilation.

This priority allowed the partnership to focus on risks and harm outside the home often referred to as extra familial harm. We chose this priority as we recognised the evidence of risk for children in Nottingham, to make sure we had a strong and shared understanding of our local risks and that they were being addressed effectively and to further strengthen the partnership response for children and young people experiencing extra-familial harm.

It also allowed the partnership to build on learning from the 2022 – 2023 priority of Tackling Child Exploitation.

In 2023/2024 the NCSCP and its Cross Partnership Tackling Child Exploitation Steering Group (formerly the Contextual Safeguarding Steering Group) continued to put learning from the Tackling Child Exploitation (TCE) Support programme into practice. This group is about to launch and implement a cross-partnership exploitation strategy and reaffirm our commitment to tackling exploitation in all its forms. The group is focusing on the 4 Ps of **Prevent; Protect; Pursue; and Provision**, based on the Serious and Organised Crime Strategy 2023 which will underpin our strategic approach and practice with the **Multi-agency Practice Principles for responding to child exploitation and extra-familial harm** (researchinpractice.org.uk).

We have increased practitioner knowledge and awareness of all forms of exploitation through training, engagement, and development of resources which we have published and disseminated across the partnership. These include new pathways, risk assessments and toolkits which are also available on the partnership website and have been refreshed following feedback from practitioners and frontline staff and for the benefit of young people and their families. We have undertaken a joint audit on 'exploitation' to aid our understanding and approach to tackling all forms of exploitation. We have seen an improvement in practice and support including in the use of appropriate language and terminology. Our supporting families programme have also made an impact with families around child exploitation which is one of their thematic areas of focus. The Supporting Families Accredited Practitioner team is a multi-agency team of people working closely together, sharing information, for the best outcomes for families. The team include Accredited Practitioners from Police, Health, Schools, Housing, Education Welfare, CAMHS and Supporting Families Employment Advisors from the DWP.

We have worked collaboratively with organisations such as Crimestoppers through their Fearless programme for young people in promoting their services and educational resources. Practitioner and parent awareness around trauma, risk taking behaviour and adolescence and the teenage brain has also been well received across the partnership,

We worked with young people and families in understanding what good early help looked like and we used that to inform and design our new early help strategy and website funded by Family Hubs.

Some initial feedback indicates improved knowledge of safeguarding among practitioners and in the community and a shared understanding of channels for reporting concerns into partner agencies. An understanding of the Serious Violence Duty and intervention available within Nottingham City.

In 2023 – 2024 our efforts have led to more awareness of support for children and families impacted by all forms of exploitation through better understanding of the various facets of exploitation and available support including from national and local organisations, charity groups, local authority departments etc. The partnership has also encouraged the importance of timely and early intervention and support and a holistic approach with the child and family at the centre.

We are aware of the need to embed transitional safeguarding across children's services and throughout the NCSCP. There is an identified need to improve understanding and the identification of transitions in our work. This has led to developing a Transitional Safeguarding Service Improvement Plan which we will monitor delivery of and impact. Our

Interagency Safeguarding Procedures webpage has a chapter on Transitional Safeguarding which has been updated.

Areas for further focus.

We have seen some good practice in this area, especially around information sharing and feedback has highlighted the following areas to improve on:

- Better understanding of prevalence using hot spot mapping
- Adopting a more holistic view of the child
- Improving understanding and use of the Risk Assessment Toolkit
- More inter-agency working with education providers.
- Address some inconsistencies in practice around information sharing across agencies.
- Improve joint working between children and adult services to support transitional safeguarding arrangements.
- Further embed and promote the training offer around Exploitation, NCSCP currently run sessions on Safeguarding Children from Child Criminal Exploitation.

Priority Two: Making The System Work

Aim: To improve partnership response and working practices, and ensuring the child and family are our central focus.

This priority allowed the partnership to focus on improving how we work together in keeping our children, young people, and families safe. We chose this priority as we recognised the importance of working as a system and improving our relationships and interconnectivity. The evidence for this comes from our learning from practice and case reviews in addressing some of recurring issues and themes and further strengthen our practice.

It also allowed the partnership to further the work and build on the learning from the 2022 – 2023 priority of Neglect.

During 2023/2024 there was a cross-authority initiative undertaken to address the issues surrounding neglect. These issues had been highlighted as learning and development points within both Nottingham and Nottinghamshire partnerships. Steering groups were established to refresh the neglect toolkit to make it more agency friendly and terminology and language was refreshed within the document allowing it to become more user friendly and less judgemental for families, making the toolkit itself to be more in line with a strength-based approach when used with children and families. Planning we are now looking to gain a measure of impact in terms of the refresh with partnership subgroups taking steps to quality assure and measure the effectiveness of the toolkit in practice.

Through joint authority multi-agency working we have conducted four audits within 2023/2024:

- Strategy discussion audit
- Repeat child protection plans under category of neglect.
- Mental Health audit
- Exploitation audit

Within three of the four audits consideration was given to the child's voice with audit information gathering forms amended to effectively capture the lived experience of the child

and family whilst accessing services. As part of the audit process a questionnaire was developed in the form of a link which was distributed to the children so that they could give feedback. This will be a continuing feature of all future audits undertaken as well as looking at other means of engaging children and their families effectively.

Learning development for the undertaken audits has highlighted to further strengthen a strategy regarding neglect, whilst findings have help develop new training opportunities and the importance of information between agencies as well as reinforcing the need for cohesive working within the team around the child working practice.

Further linking recommendations from rapid reviews undertaken by the Nottingham city NCSCP business office has meant we can identify areas of improvement and interlink them with audit topics allowing for a deep dive into key themes such as neglect, professional curiosity, individual child needs, medical neglect, and child exploitation. As a partnership we have developed robust trackers within subgroups that quality assure rapid reviews and audit findings to give evidence of progress and improvement and to inform next steps in terms of measuring impact and emerging themes.

As part of addressing key themes around making the system work a large piece of work has been undertaken around reviewing Key performance indicators and how they address the NCSCP partnership business plan and also address key single agency reporting. This has allowed the partnership to focus on relevant areas of working practice that affect Nottingham city ensuring that key areas of concerns are monitored, and quality assured for improvement whilst also allowing area of good practice to be highlighted as part of the city's improvement journey. We are planning to roll out the new key performance indicators mid-2024 and will report these in more detail within the next annual report covering 2024/2025.

Throughout the partnership we have continued to promote innovation and ways widening the understanding of key safeguarding issues such as safe sleep. The safe sleep tool kit has been refreshed and new guidance has been added to assist practitioners around changes in language regarding the message of safe sleep. The success of the steering group has also meant that other local authorities have contacted the group and requested to adopt the strategy within their own local authorities. With webinar sessions now planned giving bite size virtual briefings on how to further embed safe sleep in to working practice for all practitioners. It is hoped that the message will spread further and become part of the frontline practitioner's daily practice.

We launched our refreshed Threshold of Need document with an accompanying animation video and a new Early Help Strategy and Early Help website during this year. This was through a multi-agency learning event attended by a cross section of the partnership and from education, early years, and childcare settings. Feedback from the event indicates the event was well received and practitioner learning before the event averaging 6.5 out of 10 and rising to 8.5 post event. Practitioner feedback also showed a likeness for the format of the event utilising case studies and multiagency approaches. Nottingham City MASH alongside NCSCP have facilitated training around consent. This has been a multi-agency approach and has been delivered by partner agencies such as health and the local authority. There has been good attendance within these training events, with the aim of leading to a wider understanding of the need for consent and linking this to the threshold of need. Separate training on consent has also been offered to the Education sector by the MASH.

Within the year 2023/2024 we have developed and delivered key training within the area of making the system work these have been:

- Introduction to Signs of Safety

- Introduction to Safeguarding Children
- Working Together to Safeguard Children
- How to Complete a Strong Multi-Agency Referral Form

These training offers have supported the launch of the threshold of need and allowed practitioners to gain further understanding of the local authority's approach to safeguarding children within Nottingham City. The courses are developed with the aim to promote confidence in the workforce and also show the effectiveness of multi-agency working such as establishing a team around the child. Whilst also maintain the key focus of children and their families getting the right support at the right time.

Areas for further focus.

We have seen some good level of commitment across the partnership in this area and evidence of sharing of identified learning. Evidence and feedback received has highlighted the following areas to improve on:

- The recurring theme of Neglect and the use of the Neglect Toolkit across the partnership
- Structure and format of the joint audits.
- More support in embedding the Threshold of Need in supporting the journey of the child and family.
- Information sharing and protocol issues identified in local learning/Rapid Reviews

Priority Three: Enhancing Cultural Competency and confidence

Aim: Improving partnership focus on the work we do in the context of equity, inclusion, and diversity

This priority allowed the partnership to focus on improving how we work for and with our diverse community in keeping our children, young people, and families safe. We chose this priority as we recognised the importance of ensuring our practice was equitable, inclusive, and appreciative of our diverse City. The evidence for this comes from our learning from the 2021 census information, National Panel guidance, practice, and case reviews in supporting us to strengthen our practice.

It also allowed the partnership to further the work and build on the learning from the 2022 – 2023 priority of Equality and Diversity. The NCSCP continues to promote the need for better understanding of Nottingham's diverse population and how we as NCSCP address those needs respectfully and appropriately. The NCSCP continues to gain assurance through practice and audits about how to best address those needs and how to move within an ever-changing social environment to deliver services to children and their families effectively.

The 2021 Census shows 42.7% of the population as being from BME groups, an increase from 35% in 2011. Twenty-five percent of the population were born outside of the UK, with the largest numbers from Pakistan, Poland, India, Nigeria, and Romania. 13.7% are comprised of single parent households, higher than the 11.1% nationally, and 31st highest of all Local Authority areas.

Our s.175 audit with schools has provided a wealth of commentary on how schools collect and use student voice in their practice. The partnership has also included the 'voice of the child' as part of its joint audit process.

We continued to see good practice of where the child's voice has been sought through agencies working directly with children and families. 8,000 children and young people took part in engagement, conversations and surveys involved in Nottingham City's efforts to gain UNICEF Child Friendly City status, work which is still ongoing. NCSCP practice sessions were delivered by professionals with the child's focus considered and feedback is continually sought from children through schools and other partners about the support received and resources to help shape and improve them.

Areas for further focus.

The impact of work already undertaken continues to show that whilst there is some strong practice, we need to improve on engaging with our diverse communities and strengthening our links with young people and families that receive our services.

Evidence and feedback received has highlighted the following areas to improve on:

- Continue to improve our understanding of the experience of children and young people.
- Simplify and develop available information focused on children and young people.
- Look to having a diverse workforce representative of our communities.
- Develop partnership understanding of cultural competence and evidence this in our practice.

Within our training offer of 'The Prevent Duty' and Radicalisation we are now looking forward to developing our scope in terms of cultural competency and diversity. We will be launching our new Safeguarding Children Today briefing session in September 2024 and this will run three times a year. This will help ensure learning identified from local and national reviews is effectively communicated. This event will be used to:

- Increase understanding of the national and local context for the safeguarding agenda
- Increase knowledge of relevant new legislation, inter agency practice guidance & revisions to the child protection procedures.
- Identify sources of information, advice, and training with regard to safeguarding children
- Refresh and up-date knowledge on safeguarding issues and themes currently affecting practice in Nottingham City.
- To share learning identified from Rapid Reviews and Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPR) We are currently working with partners from health, education, Nottinghamshire police and children's services and Nottinghamshire County Council in the development of new training sessions on Strategy Discussions and Emotional Dysregulation

Priority Four: Domestic Abuse

Aim: To be assured of a coordinated and coherent inter-agency response to children impacted by domestic abuse and violence in families.

This priority allowed the partnership to focus on improving our coordinated response to domestic abuse impacting children and families and how we work together in keeping our children, young people, and families safe.

We chose this priority as we recognised the continued impact of domestic abuse on children and young people's mental wellbeing and the importance of ensuring our practice sufficiently able to support them. The evidence for this comes from our learning from our MARAC data, National Panel guidance, practice, and case reviews.

It also allowed the partnership to further the work and build on the learning from the 2022 – 2023 priority of Domestic Abuse and Covid-19.

Information below outlines the forms of domestic abuse and how they interlink within children's and adult's services and the assurance we give ourselves as a partnership around addressing this priority.

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

- Adults (focussing on Domestic Violence and Abuse [DVA] safeguarding and health, including DHR's) and severe and multiple disadvantaged.
- Children and young people (Domestic and sexual violence and abuse [DSVA])
- Housing and homelessness (DVA) including the Statutory Duty for Safer Accom
- Criminal Justice (DVA & SVA groups)
- Voluntary and community sector (violence against women and girls and DSVA)
- Sexual Violence and Abuse.
- Prevention including universal prevention and Early Intervention and interventions with perpetrators.
- Violence against Women and Girls (including stalking & harassment, modern slavery, sexual exploitation, misogyny as a hate crime, FGM, HBV, FM) is also delivered across the Community Safety Partnership

Within these streams (where relevant), work takes into regard the responsibilities for safeguarding children. There are crossovers into the Children's safeguarding arena and links are established to communicate and coordinate work effectively via established core groups i.e. DSVA strategy group which meets at a minimum quarterly and reports to Nottingham Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Board. Each work stream is led by a strategic group and includes operational groups which report up (such as ALIG, MARAC, Response to Complexity,

Integrated Offender Management, Sanctuary Scheme, Perpetrator Programme, Stalking and Harassment and Campaigns)

Domestic Abuse reporting

Domestic abuse and the level of risk experienced by the survivor and any children in the household is identified by the Domestic Abuse Stalking and Harassment Risk Identification Checklist (DASH RIC), which is submitted to the Domestic Abuse Referral team (DART). The DART records all information where there are children in the household by either creating an assessment info initial assessment for that child / family or informing the social worker of the referral for any open cases.

Work conducted by Equation focusing on children effected by Domestic Abuse

Equation's Training Team are responding to children affected by domestic abuse in early years settings and guidance is nearly ready and will be embedded within the Early Years setting. Multi-agency training sessions which are being well received and are well underway for the year. Equation's Training Team are responsible in delivering the Teen DASH training. Equation have reported from April 2021 – March 2022 no Teen DASH training courses were delivered and from April 2022 – March 2023, 2 Teen DASH training courses were delivered totalling fifty-six delegates.

Domestic Homicide Reviews

Children's services 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.

Learning and Themes relevant to Children's Safeguarding within the most recent DHR's:

- To raise public awareness re coercive control and support re Adults and Children.
- Agency awareness re 'Jane Monkton Smith' on eight stages of Homicide/ professional curiosity
- Mental health
- Access to training/Professional Curiosity
- Multi agency Information sharing and record keeping.
- People who are vulnerable / have complex or multiple needs – Improving Agency Engagement with Service User Framework
- Think Family Approach

Children and DSVAs Working Group

The Children's DSVAs Working Group, Chaired by Children's Services, supported by a vice chair from Education, is a multi-agency working group, with action plan which reports to the DSVAs Strategy Group. Services for children which are commissioned by the CSP and funded by the broader partnership (NCC including Public Health, OPCC, CCG and VRP) form part of the activity coordinated by the Children's DSVAs Group.

Juno Women's Aid deliver the following services:

- Stronger Families is a therapeutic programme for children and their mums who have survived DVA.

- Young Voices one to one support to children and young people affected by DVA.
- Young Voices (knife crime) delivers one to one support to children and young people affected by DVA involving a knife.
- Teen advocacy service for young women affected by DVA in their own relationships and Escape the Trap programme for this group of young women.

Equation delivers the following prevention and awareness programmes with children and young people services:

- GREAT healthy relationship programmes in primary schools (meeting the RSE curriculum)
- Equate healthy relationship programme in secondary schools.
- Bespoke healthy relationship programmes in Alternative Provision and colleges
- Development of a programme for nurseries and preschool
- Training and toolkits to support colleagues working with children and young people on DVA and healthy relationships.
- Respect not Fear website for young people.
- Campaigns for children and young people

Additionally, Equation develops resources and information for survivors and professionals including briefings, training and seminars on issues affecting children and young people and those working with them. The Equation communications team also ensure messaging to and about children and young people are delivered through social media and amplified through the Communications and Campaigns working group.

A review of the MARAC was undertaken during this period in reliance that the system had become increasingly stretched with feedback from partners on the proposed new process and operating model being overwhelmingly positive, with all those who responded to the consultation supportive of the proposed changes. The NCSCP were in agreement with the review findings.

With the need to upskill and equip practitioners in regard to responding to themes raised within Domestic abuse. As part of the NCSCP training offer we have developed and delivered a training programmes which included the following:

- Working with Children Impacted by Domestic Violence and Abuse
- Domestic Violence and Coercive Control

The training is developed to promote Greater knowledge about domestic abuse and coercive control results in enhanced professional skills and positive outcomes for children.

Moving forward Equation have agreed to continue to support NCSCP by agreeing to deliver a further six sessions on Domestic Violence and Abuse. Allowing the partnership to ensure that the training need is being met and delivered by the right specialist agency ensuring that the delivery of the sessions are meaningful, current and will benefit the practitioners that attend them. With the ultimate goal of safeguarding our children in Nottingham City.

Areas for further focus.

The impact of work already undertaken continues to show that whilst there is strong practice in areas such as the use and familiarity of the DASH Risk Assessment, we can further provide partnership focus on the following areas:

- Support and promote the MARAC review findings.
- Develop and promote guidance for agencies.
- Support delivery of DA resources and training

Update on Pledges from 2022 - 2023

We said we would	We Did
<p>Promote the work of the Partnership ensuring we are clear how our work can support partners.</p>	<p>The Partnership Business office has developed a quarterly newsletter which is disseminated throughout the partnership with the key aim of informing agencies of the work that the partnership does whilst also promoting key themes which are relevant within each individual partner agency service. We hope by doing this, this will inform areas of practice which may not have been considered within different service areas. This is with the ultimate aim of keeping Nottingham City Children at the focus.</p> <p>The L&WD subgroup are working on the creation of podcasts, 2min briefings, short videos, and online learning packages to support the dissemination and sharing of learning and best practice.</p> <p>The Partnership Business office has incorporated the use of social media such as: X (Formerly Twitter) and YouTube to spread Partnership updates around key issues that affect Nottingham City's Children and Families.</p> <p>As well as Nottingham City's own learning events, we are exploring with the County an annual cross partnership learning event and will update once this in our next annual report.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>The NCSCP are linking learning from rapid reviews via the Childrens safeguarding practice review (CSPR) alongside the Learning and Workforce development group which is feeding into the Quality and Assurance subgroup. The recommendations from the rapid review, where applicable will feed into the L&W and Education Groups to</p>

	<p>identify training, improvement, and development needs. Learning from reviews is shared also at Designated Safeguarding Leads network events.</p> <p>The work around reviewing our Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) will also help the partnership to identify where there is a need to measure performance and impact. By speaking to individual agencies, we can gain an insight into which areas of improvement are required. This is with the goal of improving outcomes for Nottingham City's Children and Families.</p>
Re-focus scrutiny on the issue of safe and supportive transitions from children to adult services	<p>NCSCP and Adults board are working collaboratively around transitional safeguarding arrangements. By doing this, we ensure that our children get the continued support from childhood into adulthood. Therefore, not allowing a break in service for our most vulnerable children as they make the transition out of Childrens services into adult services.</p>
Have a data set and performance report which sets out activity, themes, and multiagency risks.	<p>We are readdressing our KPI's to give us a greater understanding of areas of need and to improve on learning regarding measuring outcomes and impact. We are now also looking at performance data with a more focused view within our extraordinary Quality and Assurance meetings. These meetings focus solely on the collection of data and the relevance of those measures within today's multi-agency service settings. By doing this, we aim to have more of a fluid approach to how we respond and react to identified themes and needs.</p>
Have a quality assurance framework that demonstrates how we will effectively scrutinise key safeguarding areas using agreed methods, and how that will inform improvement.	<p>We have developed a draft Performance Management & Quality Assurance Framework which will enable agencies to develop a shared understanding of the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements and services across the City.</p>
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.	<p>The Learning & Workforce Development Subgroup has given this much focus. They have developed a training programme which is based on a training needs analysis carried out at the beginning of the year and some of the OFSTED recommendations (including that MARFs don't consistently provide enough information to demonstrate the needs of the CYP and therefore put them at risk of not having the right services provided and that consent is not sought consistently prior to referrals)</p>

	<p>Training programme for this year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Introduction to safeguarding</i> • <i>Working together to safeguard children</i> • <i>Sudden unexpected death in infancy</i> • <i>Introduction to Child criminal exploitation</i> • <i>How to make a good safeguarding referral</i> • <i>Safeguarding children and young people from child sexual exploitation</i> • Introduction to signs of safety • Cybercrime • We are scared: an introduction to trauma. • Domestic violence and coercive control • Prevent duty and radicalisation. • Modern slavery and understanding neglect. <p>Recent suggestions to be considered going forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Female Genital Mutilation • Perplexing presentations and Factitious Induced Illness • Creating care plans for CYP with complex needs • Child protection conferences and children looked after reviews • Podcast on consent and information sharing <p>The LWDG are exploring different options for how we disseminate the learning regarding RRs and CSPRs. Considering other creative ideas, such as podcasts etc. as well as the learning briefings.</p> <p>Next steps involve thinking about e-learning and how we can increase this offer. Approval via a business case for investing in a LMS has been received from SLG.</p>
<p>Drive the neglect work and strategy and ensure that learning and key practice skills, including tools and integrated working are embedded.</p>	<p>Within the cross-authority neglect steering group we have reassessed the neglect tool kit with guidance from the neglect strategy. The aim of this was to make the tool kit more accessible to practitioners as well as families – and to make the tool more multi-agency friendly. Within recent audits there has been a theme that the tool kit has not been used consistently. The refreshed toolkit will allow for all practitioners that are working with families to input around the identified needs</p>

	<p>and highlight strengths within the family unit. The work of the group focused on a strength-based approach, changing language within the original toolkit, and making the toolkit itself something that could be used with families where they would not feel prejudice or judgment.</p> <p>Nottingham City and Nottingham County are conducting further work to embed the toolkit into everyday practice across the partnership. This is an ongoing piece of work and will be reported on in the CSPR Subgroup and the BMG/SLG, respectively.</p>
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Learning from Case Reviews

It is a statutory requirement for safeguarding partners to undertake a 'Rapid Review' when serious child safeguarding cases are identified. The review should be completed within fifteen working days and a report provided to the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel. The NCSCP remains committed to using learning from rapid reviews to improving practice and to progressing to a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR) only where necessary.

The NCSCP has completed two rapid reviews during this reporting period. Both have involved contributions from across the partnership, and the NCSCP has also contributed to a rapid review held by Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership involving children with links to Nottingham. Both rapid reviews were for neglect and for children aged 3 and 10. The National Panel agreed with the outcomes of the two rapid reviews that progression to LCSPR was not appropriate, but for one review related to serious harm from medical neglect the National Panel sought confirmation as to whether the ICB had undertaken a serious untoward investigation which has been done and as a single agency review and shared with the National Panel and the NCSCP.

Both Rapid Reviews made a total of 20 SMART recommendations with clear action plans, timelines and respective leads which are all monitored via an action tracker by the partnership. A record of key decisions including some from Rapid Reviews is included at Appendix 1.

Rapid Review Reference: CSPRP- 002554

[National review into the murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson](#) highlighted similar concerns as identified in this case around information sharing, robust critical thinking and understanding the daily life of children.

Partnership Learning Points

- Review working arrangements when working with large families to ensure that the needs and lived experience of each individual child are captured and inform practice.
- Professionals working with children need to understand key developmental milestones to inform assessments.
- Health organisations and the wider partnership need to explore their current processes regarding the NCSCP Was Not Brought/non-engagement guidance to understand the blocks in implementing this consistently as a matter of priority.
- Maternity services across the health systems should review if their organisation's guidance or policy for late bookings of maternity care alerts them to consider a safeguarding response.
- Revision of the Faltering Growth Policy and linking to key areas of neglect work and child development to include partner agencies.
- Explore what the barriers are to agencies using the neglect toolkit and make relevant amendments to the cross-authority toolkit and associated training, ensuring it covers working with large families.

- Promotion of the revised [Nottingham city threshold of needs](#) will highlight times when early intervention services should be considered in order to prevent escalation of needs.

Rapid Review Reference: CSPRP- 002744

[National review into the murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson](#) highlighted similar concerns around information sharing, robust critical thinking and understanding the daily life of children. The [Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel: annual report 2022 to 2023](#) highlights case studies and key messages with relevance to parental capacity, children with medical conditions and professional curiosity with relevance to this case.

Partnership Learning Points

- MASH health and Primary Care (GP's) should have an information sharing agreement in place so that information can be shared by GPs.
- Agency checks lacked analysis by both the providers and the receivers. The LA request for information sharing form will be reviewed and modified to ensure that analysis is provided.
- There was a lack of recognition that the condition was not being managed appropriately, including medications not being given and a lack of curiosity surrounding the impact on the child, including their education.
- The neglect toolkit will be reviewed to ensure that it prompts consideration of the relevant factors regarding medical neglect and the partnership will consider a training event on medical neglect. The partnership will seek to strengthen links and develop the working relationship between education (schools) and Primary Care (GP's) to improve understanding of sharing information around health concerns.
- There was an inadequate response to Was Not Brought/Non-Engagement and this will be explored further by the partnership.
- Carer accounts were accepted without challenge or further exploration (more weight given to accounts by non-resident parents)

Our first Rapid Review reinforces the need to look at the individual children within the home. We must as professionals account for the voice and lived experiences of the children we work with, and we must demonstrate tenacity and professional curiosity when faced with challenges. Furthermore, the work must remain 'child focused' and inclusive practice should always be at the forefront of the services that we as partner agencies deliver to our children and families.

Our second Rapid Review highlighted, the lack of professional curiosity and barriers to information sharing meant that the system failed to recognise medical neglect and to capture the voice of the child.

In light of the above and consideration of emerging best practice, we have reinforced the use of strength-based approach which looks at the family network and support pathways working with families to identify specific needs that the family themselves identify. We have also shared learning about safeguarding practices raised in these cases to support safer working

alongside families. Partnership work with schools and the education sector has also been undertaken to ensure support and knowledge is in place which will lead to improved engagement with parents/carers and the sector is equipped and skilled around referrals, monitoring of attendance and non-engagement and help address any gaps in information sharing. We also highlight that the Local Authority Analysis and Insight team provide a monthly safety net report, this report looks at the number of contacts over a period of time and other risks factors to highlight children for audit. This report is reviewed every month by the service manager for the MASH.

Training, Guidance and Procedures

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
- Working Together to Safeguard Children
- How to Complete a Strong Multi-Agency Referral Form
- Sudden Unexpected Deaths in Infants
- Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation
- Working with Children Impacted by Domestic Violence and Abuse
- The Prevent Duty and Radicalisation
- Domestic Violence and Coercive Control
- Introduction to Child Criminal Exploitation – Gangs and County Lines
- Modern Slavery
- Cyber Crime
- An introduction to Trauma

The most popular training sessions are Introduction to Safeguarding, How to Complete a Strong MARF, Child Sexual Exploitation, Sudden Unexpected Death in Infants and Working Together to Safeguard Children.

Courses are well attended and the vast majority of course evaluations are positive, with most partners still favouring the virtual style of training particularly with seminar style events. Most of the NCSCP training is still taking place online.

We will be launching our new Safeguarding Children Today briefing sessions from September 2024 and this will run three times a year. This will help ensure learning identified from local and national reviews is effectively communicated across the partnership alongside the learning briefings that are circulated.

This event will be used to: • Increase understanding of the national and local context for the safeguarding agenda • Increase knowledge of relevant new legislation, inter agency practice guidance & revisions to the child protection procedures • Identify sources of information, advice and training with regard to safeguarding children • Refresh and up-date knowledge on safeguarding issues and themes currently affecting practice in Nottingham City. • To

share learning identified from Rapid Reviews and Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPR)

We are currently working with partners from health, education, Nottinghamshire police and children's services and Nottinghamshire County Council in the development of new training sessions on Strategy Discussions and Emotional Dysregulation. A working party has also been put together to create a training resource on Medical Neglect. We continue to deliver training alongside our partners, Nottinghamshire Police has delivered three well received sessions on Child Criminal Exploitation, Modern Slavery, Cyber Crime, and we have very recently secured four new Child Criminal Exploitation sessions which will be jointly delivered by Nottinghamshire Police and Nottingham City Council's Children's Services. Nottingham CityCare Partnership will continue to deliver their Child Sexual Exploitation training and City MASH have delivered eight 'How to Complete a Strong Multi-Agency Referral Form' sessions.

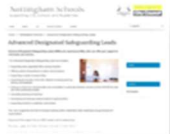
These well attended sessions included content on the new Threshold of Needs document, Consent, and the Electronic Multi-agency Referral Form (eMARF). Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust have delivered three Safer Sleep sessions and have committed to delivering a further three sessions over the next year. Furthermore, we have very recently launched our new safer sleep webinars. This bite sized 'lunch and learn' webinar was delivered by the Lead Nurse for Child Death Review and Bereavement and her team. The sessions were well attended and very well received.

Equation support NCSCP by delivering sessions on Domestic Violence and Abuse. They are a Nottingham-based specialist charity that works with the whole community to reduce the impact of domestic abuse, sexual violence and gender inequality. We successfully delivered six full days 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' sessions. This session describes the statutory responsibilities for agencies to work together with a view to improving the outcomes for children and keeping them safe. This training details the procedures following a referral to Social Care.

Members of the Learning & Workforce Development Subgroup (LWDG) attend the Policies and Procedures sub-group meetings. Work from the Policies and Procedures sub-group interlinks in with development within the LWDG subgroup. This can be around training needs alongside government policies and procedures as well as localised needs. A recently developed 'Training Request Form' is now available for professionals across the partnership. It provides an opportunity to make and assess requests for safeguarding training in the context of other training opportunities within the Training Programme for the year. Additionally, partner agencies can provide feedback if they believe this training opportunity is necessary for the partnership.

We facilitated the delivery of sessions on 'trauma' during this period and are looking to continue this for 24 – 25. We are also looking to hold more face-to-face events over 2024 – 2025. We are committed to transitioning to a soon to be created learning management system (LMS) for all the NCSCP's safeguarding training. The adoption of a LMS will elevate our safeguarding training offer, offering a tailored platform that combines efficiency and compliance.

Safeguarding Partnership Engagement With Schools



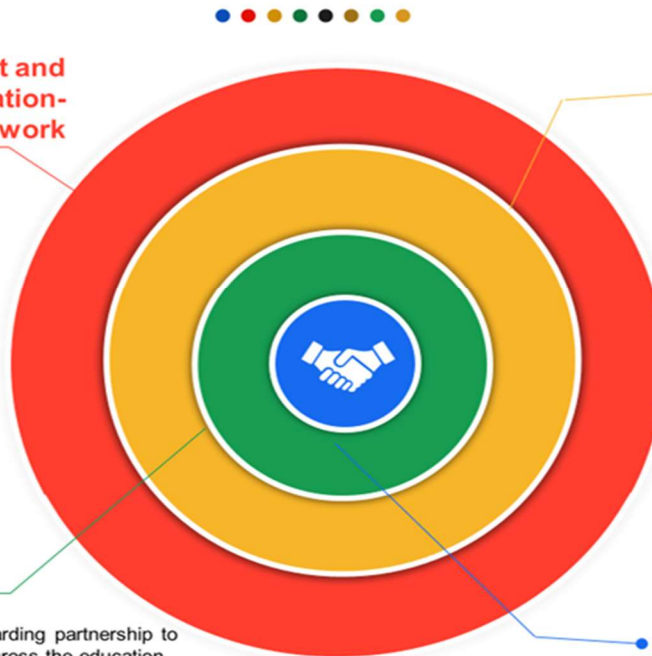
Cycle of engagement, support and communication- Designated Safeguarding Lead Network

- Termly network for all schools of all type inc independent and AP
- Tailored agenda to meet national/local need and statutory guidance, policy updates
- Two-way interaction and connectivity between partnership including statutory partners, LA departments and schools
- Supports internal cascade within schools on local risks and needs
- Safeguarding briefing emails communicated to schools via Education Division- dedicated DSL webpages for news and updates

Education Subgroup

*This group has responsibility for working on behalf of the safeguarding partnership to promote effective safeguarding practice and keep children safe across the education sector as a whole

- Co-ordinate what is being done across the education sector as priority in promoting the welfare of children
- Ensuring effectiveness and the quality assurance of local safeguarding arrangements in education settings
- Ensuring education voice and views are heard at SLG and BMG and strategic decision making
- To promote education engagement within the safeguarding partnership



Advanced Designated Safeguarding Leads (ADSL) and Associate Advanced Designated Safeguarding Leads (AADSL)

*A cross phase, Maintained and Multi-Academy Trust representation group of operational safeguarding Designated Safeguarding Leads

ADSL

- ADSL's remit is to provide an extended arm of front-line engagement with partnership activity through the Education Subgroup
- ADSL's provide operational capacity to the Education Subgroup in the form of a Task and Finish subgroup where agreed actions from the Education Subgroup will be tasked to the ADSL team and feedback to the strategic subgroup

AADSL

- Associate ADSL's purpose is to deliver the Safeguarding in Education core training offer currently provided to all front facing staff across the education sector.

Schools and Education Safeguarding Coordinator

- Advice and support to schools
- Leadership of ADSL and DSL networks
- Quality assurance of safeguarding in education
- Evaluate, Review, Design and Implementation of training programme

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 as described in the above. We continue to see good level of engagement, attendance and involvement at the Schools Designated Safeguarding Leads and the Early Years/PVI Designated Safeguarding Leads Network events across the year. The network events provide the opportunity for the NCSCP as well as invited guest speakers to communicate safeguarding issues, and share good practice, both locally and nationally with the sector.

We established our Education Subgroup during this year. This group has representation from across the education and early years sector as well as from the partnership. They have developed and agreed their terms of reference and the Education Subgroup meets on a quarterly basis with provision for additional meetings or task and finish groups, as necessary. The chair and vice chairs of the Education Subgroups are members of the Business Management Group (BMG) and any other relevant subgroup. The Chair of the Education Subgroup reports on the work of the subgroup to the Senior Leadership Group (SLG) via an update report provided by the Chair of the BMG at every SLG meeting or as and when required and they can also attend SLG meetings should the need arise.

The group set's its own work programme, ensuring it is aligned with the NCSCP Business Plan priorities and key performance indicators as well as addressing emerging safeguarding issues affecting the sector. The NCSCP Business Plan priorities also align well with the requirements including proposed changes to Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE 24).

The NCSCP has highlighted the high rates of permanent school exclusions in the City with this group and has invited the Next Gen Service of the Children's Society to be part of the subgroup based on their expertise in this field as well as their recent research into [Behaviour Management and School Exclusions](#) where they engaged with children and young people across the City around this topic and for the subgroup to look to engage with the sector on this.

Data has shown that although Secondary aged exclusions are clearly the main driver in terms of volume, recording a significant year-on-year increase in the last academic year, Primary aged exclusions have seen a notable increase over the last three years. Permanent exclusions by exclusion reason for 2023/24 compared to 2022/23 shows a large increase in:

Persistently Disruptive +46%

Physical Assault Adult +45%

Physical Assault Pupil +23%

The highest year groups for permanent exclusion are Years 9 and 10, with increases also in years 3, 5 and 7. Increasingly, children with SEN are being excluded – including those with EHCPs which is a concern. White British Boys are most likely to be permanently excluded from school. The NCSCP is keen to work with the Education sector and the DfE in addressing this.

Ninety-six percent of settings completed the NCSCP Section 175 safeguarding audit giving us insight into their practice. This includes our colleges, independent schools, specialist schools, alternative provisions as well as our primary and secondary settings. The Safeguarding in

Schools and Education Coordinator also undertook ten face-to-face audits. This deep dive safeguarding audit was conducted in three secondary settings, four primary settings, one special school setting, one alternative provision and one independent school. All settings fed back that they greatly appreciated the opportunity and gained a wealth of learning alongside the completion of the online audit as part of their annual safeguarding review within their setting. Each of the settings post visit summary was identified as 'standard met' or higher meaning that there was strong assurance that all the settings audited have a strong culture of vigilance in terms of the safeguarding processes and policies in place for all children.

All the above has seen us strengthening relationships with the sector and provided further opportunity to network across the sector both for school to school and peer to peer impact but also between the NCSCP and schools. The Schools and Education Safeguarding Coordinator continues to review content and objectives of each network across the academic year to ensure we are meeting the sector's needs.

Reflections Analysis of partnership

The NCSCP has worked hard to ensure our working arrangements remain effective. This year saw the recruitment of a new Partnership Business Manager to help drive the work of the partnership business office with immediate benefits since being in post. We have been able to review our current arrangements in advance of WT23 coming out and all our groups reviewed their terms of reference and memberships during this period which has led to some changes including rotation of the chairing of our Business Management Group. In advance of WT23, we have also now established an education subgroup to drive our safeguarding work in the education sector. We are confident we have addressed the requirements of WT23 as a partnership.

We worked with Deborah McMillan (National Safeguarding Partner facilitator (LA Lead)) in undertaking a self-assessment using a maturity matrix of the partnership. Over two sessions, her support allowed us as a partnership to take stock using the local descriptors, we identified focused on our local circumstances. We were reassured by this exercise and working on addressing some of the blockers identified as part of this work but on the whole remain positive on where we find ourselves.

Neglect remains a recurring issue within the partnership, and from our involvement in the National Panel thematic review looking into Neglect, would seem to also be a national problem. This is an area we will be focusing on in collaboration with our county colleagues to better address this theme. We have looked at the 'voice of the child' in our practice and note we are committed to this but want to transfer this commitment into our practice with more evidence and impact. Our Independent Scrutineer is supporting us with this work. We have had two Rapid Reviews that have not only touched on neglect and the voice of the child, but also professional curiosity, working with large family compositions, 'was not brought' and 'did not engage' episodes, holding challenging conversations and managing information when working with children split between two households to name a few. We are confident our action plans are in place and implemented to improve on our practice and performance. We remain concerned at the high numbers of excluded children in our schools and will work hard to address this and improve on information sharing with schools and the wider partnership.

We have worked hard and reviewed our partnership key performance indicators to make sure they are aligned to our partnership business plan priorities but also responsive to

emerging themes and issues and this will be rolled out in 24-25 to help address our performance. We will explore a partnership data analyst role to better support our use of data and further drive our improvement and performance.

Partnership Finance

2023 – 2024 Contributions

ICB	£189,712	45.3%
Local Authority	£189,712	45.3%
Police	£38,000	9.1%
Probation	£1,500	0.3%
Total	£418,924	

Other Income – DFE (Children’s Safeguarding) £ 47,300

Grand Total - £ 466,224

Nottingham City Children and Adult Board 2023/24	Annual Cost (with on costs) 2023/24
Childrens Independent Scrutineer	19,800 3 days per month
Adults Independent Chair	19,800 3 days per month
Children Board Manager	60,562
Adult Board Manager	60,562
1.5 x Business Support	39,993
Childrens Board Officer	49,601
0.5 Training Officer	21,201
L.A.D.O	60,562

2 x SCIMT officer	55,836
0.5 Exploitation Co-ordinator	24,800
Running costs (Training, Seminars, SCR's, SAR's, Learning the Lessons, travel, comms etc.)	£6,207.
Total	412,717

DfE Grant fund -

The total DfE Grant amount of £47,300 was exclusively used for the purposes set out by the DfE. This was used for retrospective costs related to strengthening multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and was used to cover some costs of recruiting a Business Manager for the Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership.

Paid for as follows	(£)
Contribution from the Department for Education	47,300.00
Contribution from (list other contributors)	0
Matching funding from own partners' resources	0
Other funding (NCSCP partnership funding)	10,336.22
TOTAL	57,636.22
Under spend on Grant (if applicable)	

In light of Working Together 23, the Safeguarding Partners through the Strategic Leadership Group have committed to reviewing partnership funding on an annual basis. They have also committed to investing in a learning management system and to explore a partnership analyst for

The structure and allocation of funds has been the same for many years, since 2006 and the formation of Safeguarding Children Boards. The weight of resources leans more on the Children's safeguarding as against adult's safeguarding due to the wider statutory functions of the children's partnership compared to the SAB.

Independent Scrutiny

As this is my first Independent Scrutineer report for the Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership (NCSCP) annual report, it is only right that I begin by acknowledging the significant challenges faced by the children and families of Nottingham and the partner organisations whose role it is to support them.

The austerity we have experienced nationally is felt most keenly by those who are most disadvantaged and vulnerable and has impacted on the lives of children and families in disadvantaged communities across the City.

The rates of non-school attendance and permanent exclusion from schools in Nottingham City continue to be amongst the highest nationally, meaning that many children in the City are not getting the start in life that they are entitled to and deserve. First time entrants to the Youth Justice system are also amongst the highest in the Country

Partner agencies are also facing their own significant challenges, the police, health, and the City Council have all been appropriately subject to external inspections that have highlighted areas for improvement and practice issues. The three partners in the City have understandably faced severe public scrutiny following incidents that have gained media attention, including the tragedy of the “Nottingham murders.”

In March this year, HMICFRS the Police inspectorate body identified concerns that the Police force does not have adequate processes, planning or governance arrangements in place to monitor performance or identify where improvements are required. And concluded that the force needs to improve how it manages and carries out effective investigations to make sure that victims get the support they need’.

Health services face ongoing challenge and review, particularly in the areas of Mental Health and Maternity services. There are also financial challenges face by health colleagues.

In July 2022 Ofsted judged Childrens services in Nottingham City to be inadequate. In November 2023, the City Council issued a report under Section 114(3) of the local Government act as the Council was unable to deliver a balanced budget, subsequently central government-imposed commissioners on the City Council to oversee its running.

It is within this challenging set of circumstances that our partnership operates. I have been impressed by the way senior leaders own and accept the challenges they face and by their willingness to be open and transparent with each other. Within the partnership there is a culture of challenge and support, as well as an acknowledgement and clear commitment that there is much more to do, as individual partners and collectively, as a partnership.

As a consequence of the dedication and hard work of colleagues across the partnership there is some evidence that services in Health, in Childrens Social Care and in the Police are improving. At a senior level across all partners, there is a clear culture of accepting criticism, learning from the past and building on what is already working, together with an acknowledgement that there is much more to do.

I have met directly with front line colleagues, across the partnership over the past 12 months and have been impressed by their professionalism, their commitment and their passion to provide services to vulnerable children and families in Nottingham City.

At a senior level across the partnership, there is a clear recognition that there is much more work to do, and that there will be further significant challenges ahead.

In order to ensure that the partnership has the best platform on which to build, it is important that it has the right infrastructure and capacity to drive forward improvement. Key areas that need to be addressed include a permanent and stable administrative support and capacity to analyse partnership data within the partnership office.

It is my hope and belief, that over the next twelve months, we will build collectively, as a partnership. You will have read in the annual report that there is evidence of recovery and steps being taken in the right direction.

However, many challenges remain, non-school attendance, high exclusion rates and high numbers of first-time entrants to the Youth Justice System are significant and require urgent and ongoing attention. The two rapid reviews undertaken over the last 12 months show that much more work is required across the whole partnership to better understand and identify neglect and the impact of the recently introduced neglect strategy and toolkit.

I look forward to working with the Lead Safeguarding Partners and welcome the work already done by the partnership in aligning its structures with these changes which can only be beneficial and impactful in the lives of the children and young people across the City of Nottingham.

Steve Edwards

Independent Scrutineer

Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership (NCSCP)

August 2024

Looking Forward to 24/25

In 2024/2025 we will continue to implement our Business Plan and work to our key priorities as a partnership. We will continue to develop our learning and improvement framework and learn from local and national reviews.

We will refresh our webpages and develop further resources and digital content for the general public and for practitioners.

We will develop videos and resources that amplify the voice of the child.

We will launch our e-training system via a new learning management system (LMS)

Our vision remains the same and we will monitor and update our Business Plan and key performance indicators (KPI's) 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 recurring issue of neglect to ensure that learning and key practice skills, including tools and integrated working are embedded
- Continue to update and review our partnership risk register
- Implement and embed our new set of key performance indicators
- 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.

The chairing of the NCSCP will be undertaken by Rob Griffin, ACC Nottinghamshire Police in 2024/2025. The progression of the NCSCP Business Plan (2024-2026) will continue to provide the focus for the partnership to achieve the above priorities. Much of the work undertaken in 2023/24 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 the daily lives for all of our children.

Appendix 1 – Record of Key Decisions 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024(including some from Rapid Review actions)

	Date	Decision By	Decision	Status
1	16/6/23	Strategic Leadership Group (SLG)	Approval for membership of the Association of Safeguarding Partners (TASP)	Completed
2	16/6/2023	Strategic Leadership Group (SLG)	Approval of NCSCP Business Plan 2023 - 2026	Completed
3	15/9/2023	Strategic Leadership Group (SLG)	Sign off and approval of Early Help Strategy	Completed
4	15/9/2023	Strategic Leadership Group (SLG)	Approval to establish Education Subgroup within partnership structure to enhance voice and input from the education sector.	Completed
5	18/9/2023	Child Safeguarding Practice Review Subgroup	Action Plan in response to Rapid Review Ref: 23Z01	Ongoing
a			The NCSCP produce a learning briefing with a focus on working with large family units and the importance of the child's voice and identity in all their working systems.	Completed
b			Audit to be scheduled around working with large families, as part of the cross-authority audit schedule.	Scheduled
c			Develop a tool around age related expected development for all practitioners to use who work with children, to inform assessments and direct work.	Completed
d			Scoping exercise for the partnership around policies of non-engagement, such as 'was not brought' what is in place around this.	Completed
6	29/2/2024	Child Safeguarding Practice Review Subgroup	Action Plan in response to Rapid Review Ref: 23Z02	Ongoing
a			MASH health should make it a priority to secure an information sharing agreement with primary care in relation to agency checks and safeguarding concerns.	Ongoing
b			Whilst the process of an information sharing agreement is sought, the LA should seek to put interim arrangements in place to make it a practice standard	Ongoing

		that information is sought from the GP when concerns are raised regarding health.	
c		The medical neglect section of the partnership neglect toolkit is reviewed to ensure that it prompts a thorough and robust consideration of relevant factors	Ongoing
d		Review and strengthen links and working relationships between education and primary care to improve understanding of information sharing around health concerns and how this can be facilitated.	Ongoing
e		National Panel Response - ICB to undertake a Serious Incident investigation and the learning from that process be shared and implemented across the safeguarding partnership.	Completed

Glossary of Terms

ASHA	Assessment of Sexual Harm Arrangements	IS	Independent Scrutineer
BEMH	Behavioural and Emotional Mental Health	IMD	Indices of Multiple Deprivation
BMG	Business Management Group	IWDT	Integrated Workforce Development Team
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services	LMS	Learning Management System
CCE	Child Criminal Exploitation	MACE	Multi-Agency Child Exploitation Group
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group	MAPPA	Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements
CDOP	Child Death Overview Panel	MASH	Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
CDP	Crime and Drugs Partnership	NCSCP	Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership
CIS	Childrens Integrated Services	NHFT	Nottinghamshire Healthcare Foundation Trust
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation	NHS	National Health Service
CSPR	Child Safeguarding Practice Review	NSCP	Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership
CQC	Care Quality Commission	NSPCC	National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
CRC	Community Rehabilitation Companies	NUH(T)	Nottingham University Hospitals (Trust)
DA	Domestic Abuse	ONS	Office for National Statistics
DASH	Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour-based Violence	PCC	Police and Crime Commissioner
DfE	Department for Education	QA	Quality Assurance
DHR	Domestic Homicide Review	RCPC	Review Child Protection Conference
DSL	Designated Safeguarding Lead	SLG	Strategic Leadership Group
DWP	Department for Work and Pensions	SUDI	Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy
DVA	Domestic Violence and Abuse	TCE	Tackling Child Exploitation
EMARF	Electronic Multiagency Referral Form	UNICEF	The United Nations Children's Fund
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation	VRP	Violence Reduction Partnership
FM	Forced Marriage		
HSB	Harmful Sexual Behaviour		
HBV	Honour Based Violence		
IAB	Improvement and Assurance Board		
ICB	Integrated Care Board		
ICPC	Initial Child Protection Conference		