



January 2025

Welcome to the January 2025 edition of the NSCP newsletter. This year we find ourselves continuing to further build on and develop services we started last year – such as the transforming the front door of children’s services project and the implementation of family hubs across all districts in Nottinghamshire, both of which will make a huge impact on improving the outcomes for children and young people in our County. These projects both support the Governments current ambitions in rolling out Family Help and Multi-Agency Child Protection reforms.

The Government have set out how they intend to do this via their policy statement they published in November 2024 ‘Keeping Children Safe, Helping Families Thrive’.

Further information about this is included in this newsletter. It will mean that we have exciting times ahead of us, with new opportunities and challenges for all those who work in Children’s Safeguarding Services.

Please see list opposite of further content this time – we hope you find it interesting and useful for your roles in safeguarding children.

Rob Griffin.
Chair of NSCP Senior Leadership Group.



Also in this issue

- Transforming the Needs Led Front Door Project
- NSCP Annual report 2023-24
- NSCP New and Revised Safeguarding Arrangements
- NSCP Service Manager Role
- Partnership Shout Out
- Family Hub Network Update
- Youth Justice Plan 2024-25
- ESHAWH Update and Resources
- Safer Internet Day
- National Guidance and Updates
- Training updates
- Training course Evaluations

And more.....

Needs Led Front Door Projects Update –

The project to transform the MASH into a Needs-Led Front Door continues and what a year it has been. Below are just some of the project achievements from 2024:

- The partnership team, 'Diamond', continued to work together, showcasing exceptional teamwork in redesigning the front door.
- The MASH team maintained their enthusiasm, championing and supporting the project's journey.
- The project designed, conducted, and learned from three mini tests, which included;
 - Changing who is at the front door (multi-disciplinary triage team)
 - Optimising who is at the front door and proportionate recording
 - Changing how referrals come into the front door (referrals made by phone).

Taking into consideration the lessons learned from these mini tests, the project was able to conduct a much bigger test known as the 'Big Test'. This test involved scaling up elements from the previous tests and running the test for a longer period.

- As part of testing, we introduced a new front door contact form to streamline the completion of the Mosaic (NCC recording system) MASH enquiry work step.
- A framework was devised to cover the QA process for social workers signing off decisions. This will support to reduce touchpoints and streamline the process. Testing in this area has been ongoing since September, and the initial outcomes are proving to be successful. The project's aim is to have this test process rolled out in the MASH by the end of February 2025.

Using the valuable insights gained from testing at the MASH, the project is now in a position to focus on its priorities during 2025, these will include:

- Establishing a pod that specifically responds to referrals from partners who are unable to contact the MASH via phone (police, ambulance service, fire service & NSPCC).
- Testing an alternatively qualified practitioner role, triaging referrals not requiring an urgent response with support and supervision from social work qualified advanced practitioner.
- Testing will continue for the Early Help Advisors, Multi Agency Conversations and Request for Service Form with the aim to gradually roll out in the future.
- Refine and continue the 'Routes In' test (referrals made by phone).

Aligned with the project's open working approach, the project team continue to share the project's progress through show and tells and week notes. If you would like to be added to the distribution list, please email childrens.frontdoorproject@nottsc.gov.uk



Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership

Partnership News!

NSCP Annual Report 2023-2024

We have now published the partnership's annual report for 2023/24. This reflects on the progress against our joint safeguarding priorities through the 2023/24 reporting period. Find out what safeguarding partnership activities we have been doing and progress we have made, an update on the case reviews we have undertaken, the training opportunities offered, and the development of guidance and procedures. Finally, reflection, next steps and priorities moving forward.

We would like to say a big thank you to you all – we couldn't have done it without you!

NSCP Safeguarding Arrangements

The purpose of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements is to ensure that, at a local level, organisations and agencies are clear about how they will work together to safeguard children and promote their welfare.

Our arrangements have just been reviewed and updated to ensure they are compliant with the government guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023. To view the full document, go to: [New NSCP Safeguarding Arrangements](#)

NSCP Service Manager

Congratulations to Haley Thompson who is now covering the post of NSCP Service Manager, on secondment for a year. Haley has been working for the Partnership since November 2022 as the Partnership Development Manager, so is clear on the Partnerships business plan/commitments and has a very good understanding of the role of the Partnership. Haley is a trusted and established member of the NSCP team and is really excited to support the partners through 2025.

Sam Harris will continue to support the NSCP as Interim Head of Service for NSCP, alongside her seconded role as Development Manager for the MASH.





Partnership Shout Out

We've taken a leaf from the book (newsletter) of our City colleagues, in a long overdue move to recognise the colleagues who are so committed to moving safeguarding in Notts forward as part of the NSCP. This issue, we'd like to do a shout out to Dr Becky Sands.

Becky is a consultant paediatrician at King's Mill Hospital, and she combines this role in practice with her role as Designated Doctor for the Integrated Care Board. Becky chairs the NSCP Learning and Workforce Development Group and the Procedures sub-group for both the City and County. She was a key founding member of both groups and, working closely with Trish and the other L and WD members, has driven the development of the NSCP training offer to one of the most extensive in the Country. Becky's years of experience in strategic partnership work make her a key voice and she uses this voice to advocate for frontline practitioners and children in all decision-making spaces. Her eye for detail also means that the procedures in Nottinghamshire are managed effectively (with our colleague from Tri-X recently commenting that our sub-group is one of the most effective he has seen) and, whilst Becky herself would acknowledge this is not the most thrilling aspect of partnership work, these give all of us somewhere to look and something to follow when things are complex and clarity is needed.

A huge thanks from the NSCP team to Becky.

The Inter-Agency Safeguarding Children Procedures

The Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City Interagency Safeguarding Children Procedures and Guidance are available online and can be accessed via desktop, mobile or tablet.

- Did you know they are updated twice a year?

In January and July.

- Did you know that you can register for updates?

If you do this, you will receive a notification when the manual is updated.

[Register For Updates](#)

Nottinghamshire Family Hubs Networks

Nottinghamshire Family Hub Networks aim to join up local services for children and families, providing a 'front door' so that families can get the help that they need.

In March 2024 Nottinghamshire County Council Cabinet agreed to roll out Family Hub Networks across Nottinghamshire. We are working together with partners such as the NHS, schools, and local charities to provide joined up services and give families the right support at the right time, making it easier to get information and advice. Each Family Hub Network will include at least one main physical building and other access points across Nottinghamshire. Some of these might be in schools or libraries, as well as online from our [Virtual Family Hub on Notts Help Yourself](#). Family Hub Networks aim to offer a range of help and support from pregnancy and throughout childhood into early adulthood, including with preparing for a baby, child development, parenting support, health and wellbeing, relationships and communication, finances and employment.

We have rebranded our [Children's Centres](#) as they transform into Family Hubs. We will be working together with other teams to offer support to families with older children. All of our team members will stay the same, but you will see more people working with us as we build our partnerships. Support available for families from pregnancy to 5 years won't change.

We've celebrated Family Hub Network Launches in Retford, Newark, Sutton in Ashfield, Netherfield, Mansfield South / East, Hucknall and Kirkby in Ashfield, with children and families, partner services and local councillors. Look out for future events between now and March 2025!

[Find your nearest children's centre service/family hub team | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)

If you would like to get in touch with us please email fh.enquiries@nottscc.gov.uk or call our Customer Service team on [0300 500 80 80](tel:03005008080).



The Youth Justice Plan for 2024/25

Nottinghamshire Youth Justice Service works with children across the county:

- to prevent them becoming involved in offending or criminal exploitation
- to divert them from further, potentially stigmatising, progression into the justice system
- and through provision of case management services for those being dealt with through the courts.

Our work is aligned with [Child First](#) principles which steer partnerships to deliver effective services while also treating children as children, considering their rights, capacities, needs and interests. Youth Justice Services are required to publish an annual plan which outlines their priorities for the year ahead. In Nottinghamshire, our plan is agreed with input from all our strategic partners, including Police, Health, Probation and senior managers from Local Authority Education and Children's Social Care.

The current plan, which builds on the progress of the previous year while also responding to emerging priorities, includes five key aims as follows:

- for education to be an increasingly protective factor for children,
- to improve the health outcomes for children that are working with the youth justice service,
- for the partnership to identify and meet the needs of children in the community, reducing their vulnerability and risk,
- to ensure that children who are subject to bail and remand processes receive a high quality of service, and
- to develop and implement a diversity strategy and framework to support staff in assessing and delivering interventions that reflect children's diverse needs.

The plan's priorities reflect the broad challenges facing the partnership as we try to support children to make positive change in their lives. This includes working to educate others on what we know to be effective in keeping children out of crime as well as looking again at systems and processes which do not always support the needs of this diverse group of children, who frequently reach the Youth Justice Service with significant and sustained levels of unseen and unmet need.

Children referred to the service will often present with intersecting health, educational and social needs. The service, in close collaboration with the family and partners, will create and work to a plan designed to help them step into a more positive future. Collectively, partners are keen to work towards a position where all children have equal opportunity to succeed, which has led to the fifth priority above: to develop and implement a diversity strategy and framework. Understanding disposals according to children's protected characteristics will be at the heart of this piece of work, the focus of which will be to bring about a more equitable system.

For more information about the work of the service or to request a referral form for our preventative 'My Future' programme of delivery, please get in touch via:

youthjusticeservicenotts@nottsc.gov.uk



Resources and support

The Education, Safeguarding, Health & Wellbeing Hub Team

The Education, Safeguarding, Health & Wellbeing Hub (ESHAWH), has been established to support schools with work around prevention of harm, health promotion, and de-escalation strategies. The team was previously referred to as the Tackling Emerging Threats to Children (TETC) Team and now incorporates Understanding Behaviour, previously referred to as the Coping with Risky Behaviours (CRB) Service. The team is comprised of a team manager and 7 co-ordinators who each have specific areas of responsibility, relating to healthy bodies, healthy minds, and healthy environments. Each co-ordinator has developed specialist areas of knowledge and is linked to a geographical locality. This is to enable the development of positive working relationships with school practitioners and all the relevant partners in the locality. It also helps to ensure that they have a sound understanding of the communities the schools serve and the current presenting threats.

The team does not work directly with children and co-ordinators do not carry out casework or observations on children. Although many enquiries focus on concerns about individuals, we were established to help schools to develop whole school approaches to the health, wellbeing, and safeguarding agendas. The team leads on the implementation of the statutory RSHE curriculum and runs a network for RSHE Leads.

Advice, information, and guidance is provided through a variety of digital platforms including the [NCC Schools Portal](#) and [The East Midlands Education Support Service](#).

This [video](#) shares information about the ESHAWH - it provides details about the team structure and explains the roles and remits of Hub colleagues. The video shares information about the Hub's digital offer and the range of support and advice that they can offer schools and partner organisations. This video also contains a helpful 'how-to guide' on locating and navigating the [ESHAW Hub Directory](#).

[NCC ESHAW Hub Directory \(padlet.com\)](#)

An A-Z directory of support services, safeguarding information tools and prevention guidance, including RSHE resource recommendations from the ESHAW Hub at Nottinghamshire County Council **for all professionals working with children, young people, and their families.**



[Safer Internet Day](#) is the UK's biggest celebration of online safety. Each year covers an online issue or theme that speaks to the things young people are seeing and experiencing online.

Safer Internet Day 2025 will take place on the 11th of February 2025, with celebrations and learning based around the theme:

'Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online'

Created in consultation with young people across the UK, this year Safer Internet Day will be focusing on the issue of scams online and for young people, how to protect themselves and others, as well as what support is available to them. There will also be a focus on raising awareness of issues such as online financial sextortion and considering the future of scams, answering questions such as:

- How is changing technology like generative AI going to impact the approach of scammers?
- What role can the government and internet industry take to tackle this threat?
- And what changes would young people like to see to help protect themselves moving forward?

The [official resources](#) are now available to download for free. Created by the UK Safer Internet Centre's online safety experts, these resources enable you to embed online safety learning into your lessons or discussions to celebrate Safer Internet Day, no matter what age young people you work with.

- There are free resources for use with [3-7](#), [7-11](#), [11-14](#) and [14-18 year olds](#), with each resource pack containing presentation slides, activities and also an assembly for the whole school.
- There are also separate quizzes for the different age groups:
 - [3-7s](#)
 - [7-11s](#)
 - [11-14s](#)
 - [14-18s](#)
- Other official resources include '[tips for parents and carers](#)' – with extra information for parents and carers of children aged 3-7, '[tips for 7-11s](#)', '[tips for 11-14s](#)' and '[tips for 14-18s](#)'.

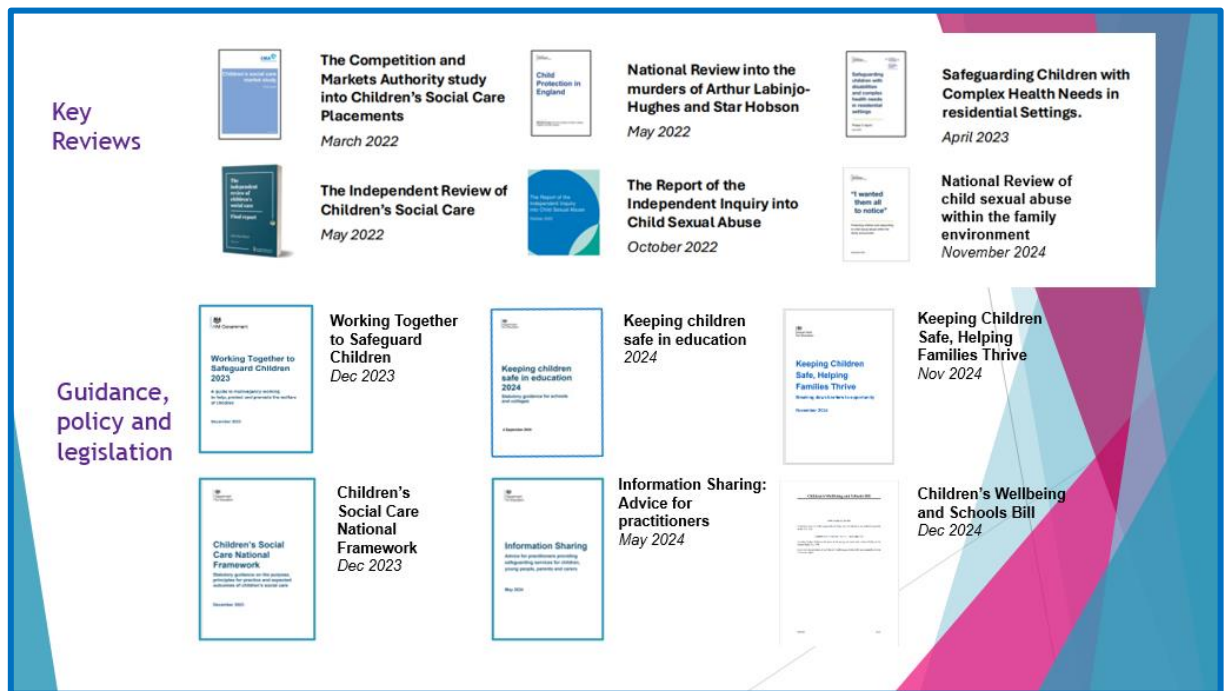


Additional resources will soon be available from BBC Teach (who have created resources for children of all ages and will host a Live Lesson on the day), Roblox (who have partnered with Childnet to create a resource), Twinkl (who will promote the official resources and have created additional free resources for KS1 and KS2), 2Simple (who are creating freely available complementary resources on their platform Purple Mash) and Votes for Schools (who will publish a vote about online scams). Resources will be linked on the [ESHAWH's Online Safety Padlet](#) as they become available and are published by partner organisations. You can find lots of resources and information about previous Safer Internet Days available on the [UK Safer Internet Centre's website](#).

National Guidance and Updates

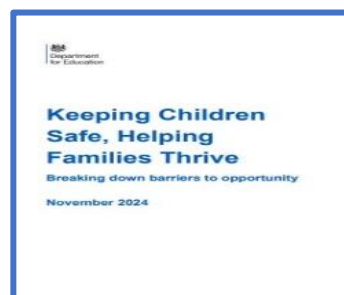
The government has now published the policy paper (see below) and corresponding draft legislative changes outlining their expectations for the reform of children's social care across England. [Children's social care: reform statement - GOV.UK](#)

Both of these documents build on from the Independent Review of Children's Social Care from 2022 and echo and endorse the guidance and advice published in Working Together 2023 and the Children's Social Care National Framework:



Keeping Children Safe, Helping Families Thrive Breaking down barriers to opportunity. HM Government. November 2024.

[Keeping children safe, helping families thrive - GOV.UK](#)



The above document outlines the government's strategic vision for overhauling children's social care. It sets out a framework for collaboration between national and local authorities, prioritising a child-centred, whole-system approach.

Among the significant changes introduced are strengthened multi-agency child protection partnerships, heightened regulation of profit-driven care providers and enhanced cooperation between schools, families, and other safeguarding entities. These reforms also aim to shape policies and practices that safeguard children and support families more effectively.

Four Key Principles for Reform

Keeping Children Safe, Helping Families Thrive

Sets out four key principles for reform which will feed into the new Children's Wellbeing Bill due to be introduced shortly, including:

1. Wherever possible children should remain with their families and be safely prevented from entering care in the first place

Further roll out reforms to family help and child protection, working in step with partners. There is lots of learning to draw from, e.g. Supporting Families, Families First for Children Pathfinder programme, Strengthening families, protecting children (SFPC) programme, youth offending teams and other multiagency approaches

2. Support children to live with kinship or foster carers rather than residential care via the use of family-based decision making, rolling out kinship reforms and recruiting more foster carers.

3. Fix the broken care market via a range of measures to improve competition, regulation and commissioning as well as shining a light on the levels of profit being made.

4. A focus on key enablers including better data and information sharing, spreading evidence-based programmes and the workforce.

The government has launched a transformation programme called the 'Families First Partnership Programme' and have asked all areas in England to begin the process of transformation from April 2025.

In Nottinghamshire, much of the work we are already doing aligns well with the reform principles and so this is an exciting opportunity to build on the good practice already recognised by Ofsted here.

The details of the programme only became available in brief from over Christmas with more details to follow.

Therefore, please look out for further communication as the partnership's leadership team develop initial steps forward.

“I wanted them all to notice”: protecting children and responding to child sexual abuse within the family environment. The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel. November 2024.



This report was commissioned by the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (the Panel) to explore the challenges in identifying, assessing, and responding to child sexual abuse within the family environment.

Between 2018 and 2023, the Panel received over 130 rapid reviews and related serious case reviews (SCRs) and local child safeguarding practice reviews (LCSPRs) featuring child sexual abuse in the family environment (also known as intrafamilial child sexual abuse).

The Panel commissioned the Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse (the CSA centre) to undertake the work for the report.

The findings of this national review clearly illustrate the scale of the challenge facing practitioners, and indeed wider society, in identifying, responding to and preventing child sexual abuse in the family environment. They highlight a systemic failure across all agencies to recognise and respond when children are at risk of, or are already, being sexually abused by someone in their family environment.

It sets out recommendations and findings for national government and local safeguarding partners to protect children at risk.

The four key findings are:

1. Not hearing children’s voices and understanding their needs.
2. Understanding parents’ and carers’ needs and contexts, vulnerabilities and needs.
3. Challenges in identifying signs, understanding risk and raising concerns.
4. Issues in responding to concerns of intrafamilial child sexual abuse.

To read the report and to see the ten key recommendations at a national level go to the report p16:

[National review into child sexual abuse within the family environment - GOV.UK](#)

A summary briefing has also been produced by the NSPCC which you might find useful:

[Summary of the National review into child sexual abuse within the family environment: CASPAR briefing | NSPCC Learning](#)

Child Sexual Abuse – Useful Resources for Professionals



The Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse is a multi-disciplinary team, who works closely with key partners and focuses on supporting professionals to improve identification and response to child sexual abuse through evidence informed resources, training and guidance. For more information and to sign up for their newsletter visit their website at: [About us | CSA Centre](#)

Two resources you may find particularly useful are:

Signs and Indicators Template [Signs and indicators of child sexual abuse | CSA Centre](#)

All professionals need the knowledge, skills and confidence to recognise when children might be showing them that something is wrong and understand the potential indicators of sexually abusive behaviour in those who may be abusing them. This template is designed to help professionals to gather the signs and indicators of sexual abuse and build a picture of their concerns.

Communicating with children guide [Communicating with children | CSA Centre](#)

It is vital that anyone who works with children knows how to recognise what is happening and understands how to help the child to have that conversation. This guide is to give professionals the knowledge and confidence to speak to children about sexual abuse.

Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel: Annual Report 2023 to 2024.

The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel is calling on the government to ensure that children at risk of being harmed, both inside and outside their families, are at the heart of its strategies to break down barriers to opportunity. This comes as the Panel's latest annual report reveals that 485 children were affected by serious child safeguarding incidents between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024. This is when a child dies or is seriously harmed, and abuse or neglect is known or suspected.

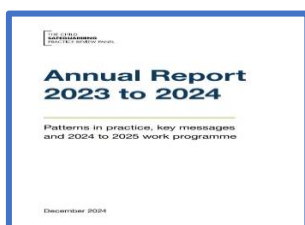
The recently announced reforms in the government's paper 'Keeping children safe, helping families thrive' are an important step in the right direction, with plans to implement the Panel's recommendation for multi-agency child protection teams in every local authority. As the proposal for local multi-agency child protection teams shows, safeguarding children involves many different agencies from across policing, healthcare, education and others. Therefore, it is imperative that the mission-led approach now being promoted across government is carefully connected so different departments work together at a national level.

The Annual Report 2023 to 2024 highlighted 3 specific themes, which reinforce the importance of join-up between government departments:

1. Safeguarding children with mental health needs
2. Safeguarding pre-school children with parents with mental health needs
3. Extrafamilial harm

To access the full report go to:

[Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel: annual report 2023 to 2024 - GOV.UK](#)





New Learning Management System (LMS)

From the beginning of August, we changed our Learning Management System i.e. Learning Pool – which is the system you use to book onto all NSCP courses and where you also access all of our e learning courses. Our new LMS provider is called Kallidus.

Unfortunately, due to some technical issues, the new system still hasn't gone live to external partners, but it has gone live to Nottinghamshire County Council staff, who are now using it successfully. It is anticipated that it will be live across the Partnership to use by the end of January.

We are sorry for the delay and any inconvenience this has caused you and your organisation and thank you for your patience.

Training Events

Don't forget in the meantime you can still book onto our courses. If you would like to book onto any of our existing courses listed on our website, you can e mail Sarah Bale: sarah.bale@nottsc.gov.uk who will add your name onto the course register and then send you MS Teams link/or venue details prior to the event.

Training events: [Training events](#)

Some of our courses are fully booked up, but we would advise you to regularly check with Sarah as nearer the dates some delegates will cancel their place due to capacity issues. We currently do have places on:

- Safeguarding Children Today seminar (March)
- Reducing Parental Conflict Courses

E Learning

As the system is still not live, we unfortunately do not have any E Learning modules to offer you, but as soon as we go live, we will be adding some courses onto the system immediately. We will not be able to offer all the same courses that we offered previously but will gradually be developing new courses around the key safeguarding children's topics.

For any further queries about the above you can also telephone Sarah Bale on: 0115 9774439.



TRAINING



New Course has been a success and welcomed across the Partnership.



Last year we introduced the above new course.

MAPPED stands for Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements. They are the set of arrangements through which the Police, Health, Probation and Prison Services work together with other duty to cooperate agencies across Nottinghamshire to manage the risks posed by those convicted of violent, sexual and terrorism offences who are living in the community, to protect the public.

MAPPED are not a statutory body in themselves but are a mechanism through which agencies can better discharge their statutory responsibilities and protect the public in a co-ordinated manner. Agencies always retain their full statutory responsibilities and obligations.

The course is offered via MS Teams and is aimed at all professionals who are are/will be involved in attendance at MAPPED meetings and referrals into the MAPPED Unit. It is delivered by Emma Spencer (MAPPED Coordinator Nottinghamshire) and Nicola Faulkner (DS Nottinghamshire Police).

Aims of course:

- Increase awareness of multi-agency public protection panels
- How to identify a MAPPED eligible case
- How to refer to the MAPPED unit
- How does MAPPED work and who is involved?
- How to prepare for a MAPPED meeting

Some feedback from delegates Include:

- *Really good session and overview. I have a much better understanding now.*
- *I understand the difference between levels and categories now thank you*
- *Very informative training*
- *This has given me a better insight now when making birth plans with families. Really useful.*

To enquire about further dates and places please email: sarah.bale@nottsc.gov.uk

Meet the NSCP Team:



Haley Thompson is the Interim Service Manager for the Safeguarding Partnership. She facilitates the NSCP's strategic meetings, manages the NSCP procedures and audit framework and supports the partners in their drive towards delivering the business plan priorities for children.



Trish Jordan is the NSCP Training Coordinator. Her main role is to organise and facilitate the Annual Multi-Agency Training Programme on behalf of the Partnership. The learning from local case reviews, national reviews and guidance and feedback from partner organisations informs this.



Sarah Bale is the Training Administrator for the NSCP. She supports Trish with the setting up and promotion of all new training events and supports partners to access both the face-to-face events and the e learning, including giving any other advice required. She also minutes the Learning and Workforce Development Group.



Sarah Beet is a Business Support Administrator. She administers the multiagency Child Death Review process for Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City and provides administrative support to the NSCP in the area of case reviews and other developmental work.



Lucy Argyle is the Business Support Administrator for the NSCP. She supports Sam Harris by arranging and minute taking for the partnership's operational and strategic meetings and provides administrative support for the Creative Solutions Panel.



Rachel Smith is the Business Support Officer for the Safeguarding Partnership. She line manages the Business Support Administrators within the Partnership and has oversight of the administrative tasks.



Aimee Bird is a Business Support Administrator for the Safeguarding Children Information Management Team (SCIMT). She is currently reviewing the administrative processes of SCIMT. Aimee also provides cover for Sarah Beet.



Jenny Ford is a Business Support Administrator for the Safeguarding Children Information Management Team (SCIMT). She provides administrative support by responding to enquiries from partner agencies of whether a person is or has been known to children's social care.



Anita Catton is a Business Support Administrator for the Safeguarding Children Information Management Team (SCIMT). She provides administrative support by responding to enquiries from partner agencies of whether a person is or has been known to children's social care.



Karen Ford is a Business Support Administrator for the Safeguarding Children Information Management Team (SCIMT). She provides administrative support by responding to enquiries from partner agencies of whether a person is or has been known to children's social care.



Julie Worsnop is a Business Support Administrator for the Safeguarding Children Information Management Team (SCIMT). She provides administrative support by responding to enquiries from partner agencies of whether a person is or has been known to children's social care.

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