



Nottinghamshire
Safeguarding
Children Partnership

NSCP Newsletter

May 2024

Welcome to the May 2024 edition of the NSCP Newsletter. Lots has happened both nationally and locally since our last newsletter. Locally, The Partnership continues to lead on the transforming the front door project and regular weekly updates have been shared widely across the Partnership, alongside Show and Tell sessions, keeping us all up to date with the progress so far. Nationally, we have the revised and updated Working Together to Safeguard Children statutory guidance published in December 2023, alongside some other key statutory guidance which all highlight the importance of multi-agency working. These documents are central to delivering on the strategy set out in stable homes, built on love (2023), which outlines the Government's commitment to support every child to grow up in a safe, stable and loving home. More information is included in the newsletter.

The Partnership is committed to working within these guidelines and will continue to reflect on and strengthen our working practices to protect and safeguard the children, young people and families across Nottinghamshire. As the chair of the Strategic Leadership Group, we acknowledge all the hard work the partnership is undertaking, at a time when resources are stretched and when each organisation is facing their own challenges and priorities. We would therefore like to say a big thank you for your continued support, we couldn't do it without you.

Rob Griffin
Chair of NSCP Senior Leadership Group



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Needs Led Front Door Update

The project to transform the MASH into a Needs-Led Front Door continues. Approaches have been tested to change how referrals are received by the MASH, triaged and assessed, recorded and fed back. There have also now been workshops to look at needs-based language as we move away from threshold based to needs led decision making. Revisions to the existing pathway to provision that reflect this shift in focus and language will shortly be available for consultation, as part of the larger piece of work to create a new pathway that reflects the approach. The safeguarding children partnership team have also begun to work more closely alongside the Early Help system re-design team in recognition of the interdependencies between the two.

The partnership team warmly welcome you to hear more about the work and to tell us your thoughts and ask questions. We run frequent show and tell sessions, where we provide information about the project progress and have Q and A. We also send a weekly update, 'week notes', telling partners what's happened that week in the project. If you'd like to be added to the distribution list please email childrens.frontdoorproject@nottsc.gov.uk.

National Reports & Guidance

In December 2023 the Department for Education published the revised statutory guidance –

- **Working Together to Safeguard Children (Working Together);** Statutory guidance on multi-agency working to help, protect and promote the welfare of children.

It was published alongside new statutory guidance:

- **the Children's Social Care National Framework;** which sets out the principles behind children's social care, its purpose, factors enabling good practice and what it should achieve. This guidance is written for those who work in and with local authority children's social care and multi-agency working is included in the National Framework as the first enabler, and partner agencies should recognise their role in achieving good outcomes for children, young people and families. [Children's social care national framework \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)
- and the **Children's social care: data and digital strategy;** setting out our long-term plan for transforming data across children's social care. [Children's social care data and digital strategy - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)



These three documents outline the way in which agencies should work together and the outcomes they should aim to achieve. Additionally, the Data Strategy sets out the foundations needed to embark on ambitious transformation of data and digital services in children's social care.

[Information sharing advice for safeguarding practitioners - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk) was also published on 19 April 2024 and provides further guidance to strengthen collaborative working between multi-agency practitioners.

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023)

This revision focuses on strengthening multi-agency working across the whole system of help, support and protection for children and their families, keeping a child centred approach whilst bringing a whole family focus and embedding strong effective and consistent multi-agency child protection practice.

The update includes:

- principles for working with parents and carers that centre the importance of building positive, trusting and co-operative relationships to deliver tailored support to families.
- expectations for multi-agency working that apply to all individuals, agencies and organisations working with children and their families, across a range of roles and activities.
- new national multi-agency child protection standards that set out actions, considerations and behaviours for improved child protection practice and better outcomes for children.

Also note:

- the Assessment Framework (often referred to as the assessment triangle) has been updated and now includes 2 new strands under Family & Environmental factors: Family Network and Extra-Familial Contexts (P57).
- all flowcharts regarding referral processes etc have been updated. (P76,78,102,103,104,105)

Who is the guidance for?

It should be read and followed by leaders, managers and frontline practitioners of all organisations and agencies – a list is included in chapter 4. (P110)

Go to: [Working together to safeguard children - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/working-together-to-safeguard-children-2023)

Here you will find the Working Together Statutory Guidance, a summary of the changes, and the Working Together Statutory Framework.

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023) and Training Expectations

The Working Together to Safeguard Children statutory guidance clearly highlights the importance of multi-agency working and training and states:

The duty to make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area rests with the three safeguarding partners. 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. This includes that: senior leaders promote and embed a learning culture which supports local services to become more reflective and implement changes to practice.

In chapter 3: Providing help, support and protection (P45) it states, Local organisations and agencies should have in place effective ways to identify emerging problems and potential unmet needs of individual children and families and that: multi-agency and multi-disciplinary training will be important in supporting this collective understanding of the demographics and needs of the local community, the local practice framework, and the services available to support children. It also states local safeguarding partners need to ensure all practitioners are supported to be able to achieve the national multi-agency practice standards (P80) which includes creating learning cultures in which practitioners stay up to date as new evidence of best practice emerges.

Additionally, it highlights that all practitioners working with children and families, including those in universal services and those providing services to adults with children, need to understand their role in identifying emerging problems. They need appropriate training so that they:

- know when to share information with other practitioners and what action to take to support early identification and assessment
- are able to identify and recognise all forms of abuse, neglect, and exploitation
- have an understanding of domestic and sexual abuse, including controlling and coercive behaviour as well as parental conflict that is frequent, intense, and unresolved
- are aware of new and emerging threats, including online harm, grooming, sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, radicalisation, and the role of technology and social media in presenting harm
- are aware that a child and their family may be experiencing multiple needs at the same time

First audits done under new city/county safeguarding children partnerships arrangements



Four audits a year will focus on agreed priorities and themes plus emerging issues, identifying the quality of single agency and partnership working, areas of good practice, areas of learning, and recommendations for improvement. Agreed and monitored action plans will be put in place. Additional contextual data will be included in each audit and children's and parents/carers views will be actively sought and included in the audit process.

Neglect - audit looked at the impact of the work done to improve safeguarding responses to neglect. Good practice identified in terms of good identification of need for most of the children. Schools made prompt referrals and offered good practical and counselling support. Communication between organisations was a strength. However, the audit found that the neglect toolkit (launched 2021) was not being used routinely, and some delays were found in responding to children's situations which could have avoided if the toolkit had been used to focus work. There were also concerns that the mechanisms enabling GPs to contribute to child protection processes were not running smoothly.

Mental Health – health led audit, looked at partnership responses to children and young people experiencing a mental health crisis. Initial findings at the audit day were of good practice generally in terms of identification of needs, appropriate community interventions, and some good examples of multi-agency working. The response from individual organisations as well as partnership working was generally good. Some learning was identified, and this is in the process of being collated prior to findings and an action plan being agreed. Work is ongoing to gain the views of children for this audit.

Child sexual and criminal exploitation – police led audit looking at children and young people who were at high risk of exploitation. Children and their parents/carers were approached for their views of the help they received and plans for the audit were discussed with a parent’s group prior to the agreement of the audit arrangements. Initial findings at the audit day were examples of proactive work, some good multi-agency working and good communication between agencies. The language used by professionals was largely strength based and trauma informed. Some learning was also identified, and this will be framed into an action plan once agreed.

S11 self-assessment – Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 requires a range of organisations to ensure their functions are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. In city and county organisations listed in the relevant section of Working Together are contacted and asked to complete a self-assessment of their strengths and areas for improvement, every two years. This will continue under the new arrangements. Self-assessments have been received and themes in terms of strengths and areas for development are in the process of being collated.

Rapid Reviews

There is a statutory requirement on safeguarding partners to conduct a ‘Rapid Review’ when serious child safeguarding cases are identified. The reviews should be completed within 15 working days and a report provided to the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (NCSPP). The NSCP remains committed to gathering as much learning as possible during the rapid review process and to only progressing to a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LSCPR) where necessary.

In Nottinghamshire we have completed 2 Rapid Reviews recently:

23Y4 – 6-week-old baby who was seriously and repeatedly harmed by a parent. The ambulance service were called and queried the parents account of an accidental injury. Evidence of sustained attacks on the baby was found in the home.

Key learning:

- Good multi-agency working, and professional curiosity safeguarded the baby from likely future harm.

24Y1- 12-year-old girl who died by suicide while in an in-patient facility out of area. She spent some time in a paediatric ward prior to moving to CAHMS facility. There was information to suggest information about self-harm and suicide was being shared via peers. The review found it had not been clear who the young person was referring to when mentioning family members which impacted on a full understanding of their views and experiences.

Key learning:

- NSCP agencies to consider how they can work with parents and carers to work in a more responsive way to map concerns related to social media and bullying exposure, to reduce risks to young people.
- Remind professionals to ensure they clarify the language that a child uses to describe family members.

Update of safer sleep risk assessment toolkit

Sadly, in Nottinghamshire (city and county) 5-6 babies a year die in an unsafe sleep environment. We know that greater awareness of safer sleep leads to a decrease in the numbers of babies dying. We are encouraging everyone working with families to familiarise themselves with up-to-date safer sleep advice. This will support practitioners with the confidence to have informed conversations with parents, caregivers, and families.



The Safer Sleep Risk Assessment toolkit has recently been updated and can be found here: [Safer Sleeping Risk Assessment Tool](#). The toolkit will help you identify and support vulnerable families where there is a greater risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). It has been updated in line with guidance from the [Lullaby Trust](#), the nationally trusted site for safer sleep advice and information.

Key messages around safer sleep remain the same. However, the importance of understanding parents' particular circumstances and having a non-judgemental conversation with them, including around co-sleeping, has been emphasised. Parents and caregivers need to understand the risk factors of hazardous co-sleeping and how, if they choose to co-sleep, to do it more safely. Resources and a checklist for parents is included in the tool.

This tool is for anyone working with parents-to-be and families with young babies. This may include health and social care professionals, domestic abuse services, alcohol and drugs support services, mental health services, Children's Centre Service and Family Hub practitioners, housing support officers, fire and rescue practitioners, nursery practitioners, childminders, police and charitable organisations such as Home-Start.

We encourage you to familiarise yourself with the tool and share it widely within your organisation. Please help us to embed safer sleep advice and information as 'everyone's business'.

Safeguarding Children Information Management Team

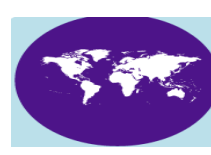
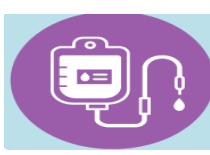
The Safeguarding Children Information Management Team (SCIMT) responds to enquiries from professionals in terms of whether a family is or has been known to children's social care. We provide a telephone service for court staff who need an immediate response. All other enquires should be emailed through to safeguardcimt@nottsc.gov.uk. We are dealing with a high number of enquires at present so there may be delays responding to your email. However please be assured that we deal with requests in date order, and we thank you for your patience.

Do you work with parents or carers who are vulnerable? Have used drugs or injected drugs?

If so, did you know they could be at risk of a virus called Hepatitis C and might benefit from a test? Hepatitis C is a virus found in the blood that can be treated with a simple course of tablets. If its left untreated it can lead to irreversible liver damage.

How the virus is transmitted

The most common routes of transmission is through sharing drug taking equipment for example needles and syringes with someone who already has the virus but it can also be transmitted from mum to baby during child birth and can be transmitted through sharing razors or toothbrushes, tattoos and piercings done in countries or premises where infection control may be poor, having medical or dental treatment done in high prevalence countries (Including, for example; South Asia, Egypt, Portugal including Madeira, Russia, Poland and former Soviet republic states including Moldova, Latvia and Romania) and also from blood transfusion if received prior to 1991.



How to get tested

The virus is detected in a blood test. In adults a blood test can be arranged via your GP, sexual health services, drug services or a test can be ordered to take a home via this website:

[Home – Hep C \(hepctest.nhs.uk\)](https://hepctest.nhs.uk)

If you think a child would benefit from testing, the GP can refer the child to the children's department at their local hospital for a blood test.



What if the test is positive?

If a person tests positive for the Hepatitis C virus, curative tablet treatment is available. The treatment is available to both adults and children as young as 4. If a test comes back positive for an adult, the person will need to be referred to the team based at Queens Medical Centre in Nottingham who will arrange treatment, and this can be delivered to the persons address. If a child tests positive the referral route is the same as for an adult but the process for treatment is a little different as they would need to be seen by the Paediatrician at Queen's Medical Centre but treatment would be arranged via a Multidisciplinary team based at the children's hospital in Birmingham. Home delivery of medication is still possible via this route. The medication is available in granules to be dissolved if a younger child is unable to swallow tablets.

How can I refer to the team at QMC?

Referrals for people who test positive for the virus can be sent by email to [:nuhnt.nottinghamhepatology@nhs.net](mailto:nuhnt.nottinghamhepatology@nhs.net) OR If you'd like to speak to a nurse specialist regarding testing or treatment our team can be contacted on **01159249924 extension 86019**. If you get our voicemail please leave a message with your name and contact number and one of the nurses will call you back.



Reducing Parental Conflict

Often known as Relationships Really Matters programme supports families and services to identify and recognise how harmful communication between parents whether together or separated can impact on both parents and the children. We know that all families have disagreements and argue whether the parents are separating/ separated or remain in their relationship, and these can be caused by many things such as money, housing, parenting styles and household tasks and responsibilities, and that stressful situations families are experiencing can often lead to a decline in the

quality of their communication.

But when these arguments become more **Intense, Frequent** and are **Unresolved** we know that this has both physical and emotional, and long and short-term impacts on children.

What is Conflict? The word Conflict can often summon up different things for different people but the Cambridge definition of conflict is an 'active disagreement between people with opposing opinions or principles' we know that having these conversations can sometimes feel awkward, difficult and personal, but we also know that 70% of parents have identified that if they were asked about their relationships that they would be willing to talk to us about it.

FREE online RPC awareness and resource training : to raise the awareness of parental conflict and its negative impact on children and families, to empower practitioners on how to identify and explore what parental conflict is and its impact on the families we support , and to recognise and have knowledge and access to the resources and support including the oneplusone resource available for parents and carers to promote them improving communication and resolving disagreements more positively. This course is aimed at any practitioners, managers and professionals supporting parents/carers in Nottinghamshire. Dates are:

- **Thursday 6th June 2024 – 9.30 – 12.00**
- **Wednesday 4th September 9.30 – 12.00**
- **Tuesday 5th November 9.30 – 12.00**

Feedback from recent course:

Some really helpful resources to save and use in the future - I love the focus on "arguing better" which seems really powerful and positive rather than just trying to tell people not to argue anymore!!

Really useful and informative, relaxed training session.

An introductory Reducing Parental conflict E learning training module that can be completed prior to the above training is also available aimed at all workers who have contact with families.

To book onto both courses go to our login page:

<https://nottsccl.learningpool.com/login/index.php>

Further training aimed at frontline workers who offer interventions/ complete assessments / triage is also available for more information please contact the Reducing Parental Conflict Team ReduceParentalConflict@nottsccl.gov.uk Further information on Reducing Parental conflict can be found - www.nottshelpyourself.org.uk/relationshipsmatter



TRAINING



NSCP Training Event discussed at the House of Lords!

In May 2023 the Partnership were approached by Dr Rowland Seymour - a professor of advanced Mathematics who did some research on forced marriage. The study estimated the risk of forced marriage in each ward of Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City. Dr Seymour wanted to present his findings to practitioners across Nottinghamshire, so we decided to develop some training to raise awareness around the subject, present the findings of the research and give information on the changes in the laws regarding forced marriage.

We offered two events one in November 2023 and one February 2024 called Safeguarding against Force Marriage in Nottinghamshire. A total of 110 practitioners attending the events. Some of the feedback included:

- I learned what differences between forced and arranged marriage are. I now know what could be the signs of forced marriage being arranged and how to safeguard the person in risk of forced marriage.
- The course made me aware of specialist agencies that I had not known about who I can contact for advice and guidance if required.
- There were so many aspects of the course that made me think as well as discussions in our breakout group.

We have recorded the second event for those of you who were unable to attend the training events. We are currently editing this and once this is completed, we will share a link to it across the Partnership.

In April 2024 Dr Seymour was invited to the House of Lords as there is a committee of Lords holding a review of modern slavery and forced marriage laws. He was there to provide evidence about data. The committee asked about best practice for using the data and he shared how he was able to present his findings and data at our Partnership training events and at the same time help raise awareness of forced marriage and the law, with evaluations evidencing people were more confident in knowing what to do if they came across forced marriage and that the law helped them do this.

To view the Modern Slavery Act 2021 Committee, go to: [Parliamentlive.tv - Modern Slavery Act 2015 Committee](#) (Dr Seymour's input regarding the Nottinghamshire's project and our training is mentioned at approx. 16:45).

This is really positive feedback and the Partnership was proud to be involved in this piece of work across Nottinghamshire.



Managing Allegations Workshop – still places left!

Level 4 Course

Date: Wednesday 22nd May 2024

9.30-12.30 am.

All allegations of abuse of children by those adults who work with children must be taken seriously. This workshop is aimed at staff whose designated role includes the responsibility for managing any allegations against staff or volunteers. They would be the person within the organisation who would make the referral to the LADO and would attend the managing allegations meetings. This is a 3-hour workshop, offered via MS Teams and aims to give all participants the opportunity to work through some group exercises/scenarios and to ask any questions you may have about this sensitive area of work.

Please note IT is a pre-requisite of this course that all participants have completed the NSCP e Learning - *Managing allegations and concerns in relation to adults working with children* before attending the workshop so that you have a basic understanding of this process.

For more information or to book a place go to: [Notts CC LMS: Log in to the site \(learningpool.com\)](https://learningpool.com)

Free Multi-Agency Mental Health Training Events

Nottinghamshire County Council, Nottingham City Council and NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB have commissioned Harmless to deliver a range of Mental Health, Self-Harm awareness and Suicide prevention courses. These are half day training sessions which take place online via Zoom or MS Teams.

To check scheduled events go to: [The Academy at Harmless \(Let's Talk Training\) Events - 70 Upcoming Activities and Tickets | Eventbrite](#) It is the courses in green which are for Nottinghamshire practitioners.

Free Multi-Agency Domestic Violence (DV awareness, Challenging DV and other courses)

Equation offers expert multi-agency training for anyone who wants to develop skills in responding to domestic abuse in their working life, including frontline professionals, community workers and volunteers. They offer an annual multi-agency training program with a variety of courses being free of charge to all practitioners who support children & families either in the City or County of Nottinghamshire. To book a place go to: [Training | Equation](#)

Supporting a child with a disclosure

Responding to a disclosure

There is no single approach that is 100% appropriate for every disclosure. These guidelines are offered as a quick reminder of some general points of good practice and obvious pitfalls, but every incident must be managed with the child's needs and safety remaining the paramount concern.

Can I tell you something....?

If you suspect that a child is being abused, it is important that you refer to the interagency [Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City Child Protection procedures](#).

You should record what you have been told, using the words of the child.

You should tell the child that you will need to pass on what they have told you if they or other children have been or may be hurt.

Do:

- Listen and accept
- Find the time and an appropriate place
- Try not to interrupt
- Reassure that they have done the right thing by telling you
- Explain what you're going to do next - that you will need to tell some other people, but only those whose job it is to protect children
- Make accurate notes using the child's own words as soon as possible. Remember to keep your original notes and be as factual as possible
- Respect the fact that they may only feel able to tell you some of the story
- Inform your manager or the safeguarding lead. In their absence contact children social care or the police
- Do Contact CSC to alert them to the disclosure, if urgent call the police via 999 / 101
- Do Inform your line manager / Safeguarding lead

Don't:

- Promise confidentiality/secretcy
- Investigate the disclosure
- Ask questions that infer blame like – did you try to stop them? Did you call out for help?
- Make promises (i.e. promises about what is going to happen next)
- Use leading questions. Instead use tell me, explain to me describe to me.
- Ask the child to repeat the disclosure over and over.

For more information go to: [What to do if a child reveals abuse | NSPCC](#)

Meet the NSCP Team:



Sam Harris is the substantive service manager for the NSCP. Sam is seconded until October 2024 to support the safeguarding partners to develop the Needs Led Front Door, the new pathway to provision and to complete the review of Nottinghamshire's safeguarding arrangements.



Hilary Poyner is the seconded NSCP service manager. 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.



Haley Thompson is the Development Manager for the safeguarding partnership. Her main responsibilities are around statutory review, including writing the rapid reviews following serious safeguarding incidents and supporting independent Local Child Safeguarding Practice reviews. Haley also has a role in facilitating the Child Death Overview Panel.



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.

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