



Welcome & thank you

December 2020

The last year has placed new challenges and demands on us all both professionally and personally. Multi-agency working is complex and even more so when we are having to adapt and respond to unique and changing circumstances such as these. Enormous credit must go to all those working to safeguard children, from across the Partnership, who have met these difficulties head on and with a determination to make a difference. We have strengthened our Partnership work despite the pressures and in doing so helped to protect the most vulnerable and that is something that we can all be proud of.

On behalf of the Strategic Leadership Group for the Partnership I'd like to thank you for the commitment you have shown to safeguarding during this time.

Colin Pettigrew

SLG Chair, Corporate Director, Children & Families



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Safeguarding Priorities for 2020-23

Details of the achievements of the Partnership over the past year can be found in the recently published NSCP Annual Report 2019/20 - a summary version is also available:

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nscp/about-the-partnership>

Moving forward our priorities have been agreed as: -

- ❖ **Preventing neglect** – developing a new strategy to define and guide our approach
- ❖ **COVID-19** – understanding and responding to the impact it has had on children & families, learning from new ways of working
- ❖ **Improving our initial response to safeguarding concerns** – making strategy discussions more effective
- ❖ **Contextual Safeguarding** – integrating work to protect children from risks outside the home
- ❖ **Information sharing** – building on and strengthening existing systems
- ❖ **Developing how the Partnership engages, listens and responds** to the views of children and families
- ❖ **Providing inclusive and accessible services** to safeguard and promote the welfare of children



research
in practice

The
Children's
Society



Following a successful joint bid made with colleagues in the Violence Reduction Unit and Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership, the NSCP is looking forward to working with the Tackling Child Exploitation (TCE) Programme to develop our response to child exploitation and extra-familial harm. The TCE Programme is funded by the DfE and delivered through Bespoke Support Projects by the University of Bedford, Research in Practice and the Children's Society – we'll provide more detail on the NSCP website as this work develops.

Safeguarding Unborn Babies

A new chapter in the Interagency Safeguarding Procedures has been developed to support practitioners working with pregnant women when there are safeguarding concerns in relation to the unborn baby and specifically managing risks following birth.

The chapter provides clarity in relation to

- ❖ the professional and legal requirements;
- ❖ the legal framework; and
- ❖ issues relating to consent and separating the baby from its mother.

Most assessments undertaken for pregnant women will result in the provision of support and services for the family with the baby going home upon discharge from hospital after birth. However, the chapter also provides specific information in relation to the removal and accommodation of babies where the risks are considered too great for them to be discharged home.

The guidance also provides links to supporting templates which should be completed as part of the birth protection planning process.

https://nottinghamshirescb.proceduresonline.com/p_sg_unborn.html

Early Help – New Online Referral Form

You can now make an early help referral through an online referral form to: -

- ❖ Request access for a case manager to complete a proportionate assessment for the whole family,
- ❖ Access the new Graduated Family and Parenting Offer, when a whole family assessment is not required, or
- ❖ Request education enforcement provision.

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/early-years-and-childcare/childcare-providers/early-help-assessment-form>

Important: The Early Help Assessment Form (EHAF), which previously included a referral section, remains in use as an assessment and planning tool for **universal services** working with families with **emerging needs**.

Revised Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018

The Government carried out a small update to [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018](#) on the 9th December 2020 with factual changes in relation to **information sharing**, **homelessness duty** and references to **domestic abuse**. Our own procedures will be amended in due course to take account of these changes to the statutory guidance.

In the definition of safeguarding, impairment of children's health has been changed to **children's mental and physical health**.

In the section on Early Help, **has a parent/carer in custody** has been added to the list of children in need of potential help and they have added a new paragraph **In schools, it is important that staff are aware that mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation. Only appropriately trained professionals should attempt to make a diagnosis of a mental health problem, however school staff are well placed to observe children day-to-day and identify those whose behaviour suggests that they may be experiencing a mental health problem or be at risk of developing one. Where children have suffered abuse and neglect, or other potentially traumatic adverse childhood experiences, this can have a lasting impact throughout childhood, adolescence and into adulthood. It is key that school staff are aware of how these children's experiences can impact on their mental health, behaviour and education.**

They have added further details on lawful processing under GDPR and the steps practitioners should be aware of as well as expanding the description of agencies response within Early Help arrangements especially effective assessment of the need for early help.

A **new section on the Homelessness Duty** and the duty to refer has been added.

Change of terminology from Contextual Safeguarding to **Assessment of risk outside the home** and also adds **teenage relationship abuse** as a factor

Local Protocol for assessment should also consider the **needs of children in mental health inpatient settings**.

In the section People in Positions of Trust, they have added **behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children**. This was added earlier this year to Keeping Children Safe in Education to capture concerns around transferable risk; for example, where a person who works with children is involved in a domestic abuse incident at home and this may have implications for their suitability to work with children.

They have made changes to the term domestic abuse in a number of places in the document to include **controlling and coercive behaviour**, with an emphasis on practitioners being able to recognise it especially in the context of children who are being exploited.

Under the referral process **Where a child or young person is admitted to a mental health facility, practitioners should consider whether a referral to local authority children's social care is necessary** has been added.

Child Protection Enquiries – working together better

An effective child protection enquiry begins with a strategy discussion which, according to **Working Together 2018**, should involve (as a minimum): -

- a social worker,
- health practitioners and
- a police representative,

Other relevant practitioners should also be invited to take part dependent on the nature of the individual case.

NSCP is working to improve the way we conduct strategy discussions in Nottinghamshire, specifically in relation to timeliness, recording and the participation of health colleagues. A starting point in this work has been to engage with front line practitioners in a series of workshops to help understand the challenges faced. Another important step forward has been to develop an accurate suite of data from which improvements can be gauged.

From 10th August this year health colleagues working in the MASH are routinely involved in strategy discussions involving new referrals. This means that as well as relevant health information being shared with other agencies as part of established MASH processes, a representative from health is contributing their professional expertise to the strategy discussion. Feedback from those practitioners directly involved has been very positive.

Our efforts to date have resulted in health involvement in strategy discussions increasing from less than **10%** pre-August to over **50%** now. Current work is focused on how we expand health involvement to allow for effective and timely participation in strategy discussions on cases which are already open to Children's Social Care.

Alongside this Police colleagues have worked to “skill up” their front-line staff, who work outside of the specialist child protection teams, to understand their role when required to participate in strategy discussions. This has involved providing training and concise guidance documents to assist front line Officers who by the very nature of their job are required to respond to a wide range of situations.

Our work in relation to strategy discussions is very much a “work in progress” but thanks to all those involved in the working group and more importantly to the front-line practitioners who once again are embracing change and new ways of working.

Find out more about effective strategy discussions through our on-line procedures: -

https://nottinghamshirescb.proceduresonline.com/p_ch_protection_enq.html#strategy_discuss

Safeguarding Children

Indicators of
possible abuse
or neglect

For more information:
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nscsp
www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/nscsp

New Green Card Now Available

The 'Green Card' will be familiar to many as the handy guide to indicators of abuse and neglect. We've now completely updated the content to make it more relevant to all professionals. The Green Card now includes a brief explanation of contextual safeguarding and a new section called 'Taking Action' which provides guidance on what to do if you have concerns about a child.

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nscsp/resources/for-professionals-and-volunteers> or contact the NSCP office.

Raise awareness of Private Fostering in your organisation

It is important that we all take responsibility for safeguarding children who are not living with a parent or close relative. Such children may be living in a private fostering arrangement and if so, children's services need to check the arrangement is suitable and make regular visits. Make sure you know what a private fostering arrangement is and what to do – print off one of our new posters.

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nscsp/resources/for-professionals-and-volunteers>

and look up our guidance about children living away from home

https://nottinghamshirescb.proceduresonline.com/p_ch_living_away.html



If your child
lives with
someone else...

...or someone
else's child
lives with you...

**... you need
to let us know!**

If a child is living with someone who is not their parent, legal guardian or immediate family member for 28 days or more, then it is possible they are being privately fostered.

Local councils have a legal duty to ensure children are safe and well.

Talk to us today using the details below

Private fostering:
**A Young
Person's
Guide**



New Managing Allegations against professionals and volunteers Service (MAS)

From 16 November 2020 a new Managing Allegations Service based within NCC Children's Services, but responding to concerns across all agencies/organisations in Nottinghamshire, became operational.

The service brings together the existing LADO functions with new Social Work posts and a Team Manager.

The service will respond to both contemporaneous and non-recent allegations/concerns, providing a centralised, discrete service to respond to all allegations and concerns in respect of an individual who has or is working or in a volunteering role with children.

Concerns should be discussed with the LADO Allegations Officer where it is felt that a person may have:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child;
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child;
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children.
- Behaved or may behave in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children (*NB this additional criterion was added to align with revisions to Keeping Children Safe in Education and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 – revised December 2020*)

Referral routes to the LADO allegation officers remain the same and can be made via the MASH or directly by ringing 0115 804 1272

Please note that the LADO Allegations officer will be happy to discuss your concerns if you are unsure whether they warrant a formal referral.

For more information on the role of the LADO or the Allegations against professionals or volunteers process see:

https://nottinghamshirescb.proceduresonline.com/p_alleg_against_staff.html?zoom_highlight=allegations

Virtual Training Events

With the restrictions on use of venues and the need to follow guidance to keep people safe new virtual training events have been developed to take the place of our safeguarding seminars and workshop training events. Initially we prioritized our core training and started to offer virtual training events from July of this year. Since then, having learned from our experience, we expanded the range of courses to cover all our planned training topics and added in new ones in response to the emerging risks during the pandemic.

Virtual Courses are designed using a mix of inputs with quizzes, videos and opportunities to interact with other course participants and ask questions. Breaks are included and more in-depth subjects are covered in several modules. Feedback has been very positive, with delegates commenting on how interactive the virtual events were.

Keep your eye on the NSCP website training pages to see when new training events are available

So far, thanks to the support of partners, we have delivered **32** virtual training events since July 2020, mostly via Microsoft Teams, with **1674** people taking part – courses have included: -

- Working Together to Safeguard Children
- Safeguarding Children Today seminar
- Learning from Case Reviews – A Child Criminal Exploitation Case Study
- Volatile Substance Abuse
- Children & Young Peoples Mental Health: Life during Lockdown
- Working with Children and Young People impacted by Self-harm and Suicide
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Child Criminal Exploitation
- Neglect
- Harmful Sexual Behaviour
- Safeguarding Children Growing up in a Connected World
- Reducing Parental Conflict
- Joint Agency Response to Child Deaths

E – Learning take up hits new record!

In addition to our virtual events there has been a huge increase in the take up of our E Learning courses with **12,775** courses being completed since 23/3/20, as many practitioners found themselves working from home and used the time to catch up or refresh their safeguarding children knowledge. Don't forget we have 22 courses now available, including a new bespoke course – 'Child Criminal Exploitation & County Lines' and further modules due to be released in the New Year on 'Children Missing from Home and Care' and 'What Makes a Good Quality MASH Referral'.

Reminders

- You still need to book on virtual events the same as you did before, go to our usual course log in page at: <https://nottsccllearningpool.com/login/index.php> - E learning modules are accessed the same way
- You will be sent a link to join virtual events twice – initially a week before the event and then the day before as a reminder
- Please cancel your place via the course log in page if you are unable to attend – this allows someone else to attend

For any queries regarding training, including organisations registration keys and course charges visit our web page at <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nscp/training> or contact Sarah Bale (Training Administrator): email: sarah.bale@nottsccl.gov.uk telephone: 01159 774439

Child Safeguarding Practice Review

The Partnership has recently published its first Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review under the new arrangements for conducting case reviews introduced in Working Together 2018. [CSPR RN19](#) reviewed the death of a 15-year-old who died of an undiagnosed eating disorder.

[Learning Bulletin - Child R - June 2020](#) provides a summary of the case and the learning from it. If you are concerned about a child who may have an eating disorder you need to seek advice

- GPs can help with initial diagnosis and referral.
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Eating Disorder Team Call - 01158 542299
- [Beat](#) (charity for eating disorders) Call – Youthline – 0808 801 0711
- Freed-Beeches (Charity for eating disorders) Call - 01909 479922

Rapid Reviews

NSCP has completed 6 Rapid Reviews in 2020. The purpose of these reviews is to quickly gather information about a 'serious child safeguarding case' and find out if there is any learning for organisations which can be acted on. Rapid Reviews are completed within 15 working days and subject of scrutiny by the National CSPR Panel. In some cases, a more in-depth Child Safeguarding Practice Review CSPR may be needed and there are currently two CSPRs being undertaken by the Partnership.

The learning from Rapid Reviews is taken forward through the NSCP Training Programme, with a regular summary provided at the Safeguarding Today Seminars. Where needed, actions are identified to improve safeguarding practice. Two recent local Rapid Reviews sadly related to Sudden Infant Deaths in Infancy and a cross partnership 'safer sleep working group' is considering the learning from the national and local reviews and implications for practice within Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City.

National

Three important national publications are referenced in a bulletin published on the NSCP website in June 20 and which can be found by following the link [Learning from case reviews - national publications](#).

- Complexity and challenge: A triennial analysis of serious case reviews 2014-2017
- The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel Annual Report 2018 – 2019
- The first National Child Safeguarding Practice Review “It was hard to escape: Safeguarding children at risk from criminal exploitation”

More recently, the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel has published its second national review [Out of routine: A review of sudden unexpected death in infancy \(SUDI\) in families where the children are considered at risk of significant harm](#). The review looked at 40 cases of SUDI deaths, which were reported to the National Panel from June 18 – August 19.

The National Panel is currently working on its third national review which will look at non-accidental injury in babies under 1 year old, with a focus on how the safeguarding system works with men (especially those who might present a risk to those children).

DfE Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020 (KCSiE)

A new version of the statutory guidance for schools and colleges has been published by the Government and came into effect on the 1st September 2020.

A summary of key changes from KCSiE 2019 can be found in Annex H – follow the link to find out more: -

[KCSiE 2020](#).

Tri.X who host our interagency safeguarding procedures, regularly update their COVID – 19 resource library to help users keep up to date with changes to national guidance and regulations

<https://www.proceduresonline.com/resources/covid19/#>



Principal Social Worker, Diana Bentley, has provided a series of **Bite-sized briefings for Children’s Social Care on COVID- 19** related issues covering food poverty, school anxiety and safeguarding vulnerable infants. We’ve now posted them on the NSCP website, so they are available across the Partnership.

‘Was Not Heard’

Is a film created by young people about youth voice and the importance of listening and creating safe environments of communication – funded by safeguarding partners in Leicester & Leicestershire please take a look and share it with your colleagues

<https://vimeo.com/386349500>



Local guidance can be found at: -

[Radicalisation and Violent Extremism](#)

Terrorist recruiters purposefully target and groom the most vulnerable in society to support their cause. The Prevent programme exists to safeguard and divert individuals from these harms, in a similar way to processes designed to protect people from gangs, drug abuse, and sexual exploitation. Prevent activity is mobilised locally through a whole-of-society approach, involving teachers, healthcare practitioners, social workers, the police, charities, psychologists and religious leaders. It has changed and saved the lives of individuals from all walks of life, supporting them in moving away from radicalisation and violent ideologies.

A new website, www.actearly.uk, has been launched to help families and the public spot the signs when a loved one is being led down a path towards hatred and extremism. The site is accompanied with a national advice line that will provide direct access to Prevent specialists who are trained to guide people through the process of sharing concerns about a person at risk.