



Nottinghamshire
Safeguarding
Children Partnership

NSCP Newsletter



Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) newsletter.

As we move into the autumn period, we continue to build on our collective commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people across Nottinghamshire.

This edition provides updates on key developments across the partnership, highlights learning and improvement activity, and shares information to support practitioners and leaders in delivering effective services for children and families.

We are pleased to include a contribution from our Independent Scrutineer, Darren Downs, reflecting on the development of the new safeguarding arrangements and the opportunities they present for strengthening collaboration, accountability, and impact across the safeguarding system.

We hope you find this edition informative and useful, and we thank all partners for their continued support and commitment to keeping children safe.

Best wishes,

John Scaysbrook

Service Manager

Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership



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Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership



Welcome to the partnership – Zain Iqbal

Hello everyone,

Colleagues in the world of education may already know me, but I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to everyone who receives our newsletter.

My name is Zain Iqbal, and I am the Safeguarding Children in Education Officer (SCIEO). I have an extensive background in education and local government, with my career beginning as a bright-eyed teacher in Nottingham before progressing into senior leadership. Following several years in these roles, I relocated to Manchester and took up a position as Lead Practitioner for Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH), supporting schools across Manchester City.

This valuable experience enabled me to deepen my understanding of safeguarding and how some of our most vulnerable children can be exposed to a range of safeguarding concerns. A few years later, I returned to Nottingham, continuing my work within education before joining Nottinghamshire as the SCIEO.

Outside of work, my interests are broad and varied. I enjoy attending live music events, travelling whenever the opportunity arises, and spending time with family and friends both in and beyond Nottinghamshire.

Historically, the SCIEO role sat within the Local Authority's Education, Learning and Inclusion directorate. More recently, the role has transferred into the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP). This move reflects a commitment to ensuring that education has a stronger voice within the partnership and that links between education and the statutory safeguarding partners continue to develop and strengthen.

Education plays a crucial role in safeguarding children and young people. By working collaboratively across agencies, we can ensure that the experiences, insights and expertise of education professionals help shape strategic decision-making, policy development and safeguarding practice across Nottinghamshire. My hope is that this strengthened connection will support even more effective systems and processes, ultimately helping to keep children and young people happy, healthy and safe.

I look forward to working with colleagues across the partnership and continuing to champion the vital contribution that education makes to safeguarding children and improving outcomes for families.

Zain Iqbal

Safeguarding Children in Education Officer

NSCP multi-agency arrangements update

On 5th July the Partnership held a workshop regarding the future of the NSCP, its priorities, and plans to refresh governance.

During the meeting we received collective feedback from all partners on the priorities for the next few years.

The areas of:

- Neglect
- Child Exploitation
- Child Sexual Abuse
- and Safeguarding in Education will now become the four priorities for the NSCP.

The Designated Safeguarding Partners (DSPs) have agreed that, whilst the priorities are as above, they will develop guidance within the Terms of Reference (TOR) on the key areas of focus. So, as an example under Child Sexual Abuse, the focus will be on inter-familial abuse, rather than peer-on-peer abuse.

It was also agreed that each priority will have a subgroup, along with a new Practice, Performance, and Learning (PPL) subgroup, each of which will report to the DSPs on a month-by-month basis.

The chairs for those subgroups are as follows:

- Neglect – Jo Elbourn – Police
- Child Exploitation – Hannah Johnson – Nottinghamshire County Council
- Child Sexual Abuse – Lisa Nixon – Health
- Safeguarding in Education – Ash Rahman – Education
- Practice, Performance, Learning – Haley Thompson - Nottinghamshire County Council

As a consequence, the previous subgroups will stand down, and we would like to place on records our thanks to those who have led those groups for the past few years. This is a really exciting opportunity for the NSCP to refresh and refocus some of its activities and to explore how we can collaborate more to deliver the best we can collectively for the children and young people of Nottinghamshire. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their enthusiasm and engagement so far, and to say that I think we can collectively make a real difference for the children of Nottinghamshire through these changes.

Darren Downs
Independent Scrutineer NSCP

MASH and early help update

Exciting changes have taken place in Nottinghamshire's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and Early Help services to help children get the right support at the right time. Here's a recap about the support that's available.

Family Hub Networks

These have been established across Nottinghamshire to support families from conception until their child reaches the age of 19. Teams provide universal and early help support helping families as needs emerge. More information can be found here:

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/family-hub-networks>

Accessing Support

There have also been some changes in the way you can refer to council early help services. Requests for support can now be made using one online form regardless of the age of the child/young person. The form and guidance can be found here: [referring to early help services](#). In addition, Early Help Advisors are now based locally across the county. They work with partners to coordinate support, strengthen multi-agency working and help find solutions for families. If you would like advice or to discuss a family, contact them directly or via **0115 804 1248** or earlyhelp@nottsc.gov.uk

Conversational model

In July the MASH moved to a conversational model, asking professionals to call the MASH with child protection concerns rather than sending an email or online form – 0300 500 8090. Conversations have allowed the MASH to better understand the child's needs and rapidly protect those at risk of significant harm. From the Autumn, professionals will be asked to access advice from their Designated Safeguarding Lead, local Early Help Advisor or Family Hub rather than the MASH consultation line, as we continue to bring resources into local communities.

Working differently together

These changes reflect a wider shift towards relationship-based practice and stronger multi-agency working. They align with the Families First Partnership Programme, which focuses on helping families earlier, strengthening multi-agency child protection work and making better use of family and community networks.

With your support, these changes will continue our collective mission to ensure children get the right support at the right time.

Nottinghamshire families first partnership programme – update

Since our last update, significant progress has been made in implementing Nottinghamshire's Families First Partnership Programme. Partners across children's services, health, police, education, district councils and the voluntary and community sector are moving from design into delivery, strengthening how support is coordinated for children and families.

This work continues to align local practice with national reforms, including Working Together to Safeguard Children, the Children's Social Care National Framework and wider developments in safeguarding and family support.

Aligned leadership arrangements across the North, Central and South localities are supporting a more joined-up and family-centered approach across the county.

Family Help: bringing services closer together

Since their introduction in April 2026, Family Support and Safeguarding Teams have strengthened coordination across Targeted Early Help, Child in Need and Child Protection services, helping partners provide more joined-up support for families.

This approach is strengthening multidisciplinary working alongside partners including Change Grow Live (CGL), Juno Women's Aid and the housing pilot in Newark and Sherwood. Work is also underway to explore how adult mental health talking therapies could be better integrated within locality arrangements.

A key priority for 2026-27 will be embedding a consistent operating model across all localities, helping to ensure that children and families experience coordinated and effective support wherever they live in Nottinghamshire.

A simpler approach to working with families

Building on earlier co-design work with practitioners and partners, the single Family Help Assessment and Family Help Plan are now moving into testing and refinement ahead of planned implementation from 1 April 2027.

These tools are designed to simplify how support is assessed, planned and coordinated, creating a more consistent experience for children, families and practitioners across agencies.

Strengthening child protection

Following testing of elements of a future multi-agency child protection model, partners are now progressing plans for a Multi-Agency Child Protection Team

[Children's social care national framework - GOV.UK](#)

(MACPT). The team will bring together professionals from social care, police, health and education to strengthen decision-making, information sharing and quality assurance. A pilot in Newark and Sherwood will help refine the approach before planned county-wide implementation from 1 April 2027.

Investing in our workforce

These reforms are supported by a shared relational, restorative and trauma-informed practice framework, alongside strengthened family network approaches and a comprehensive workforce development programme.

More than 1,200 practitioners across Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City have already completed restorative and relational practice training. Further training and development will continue throughout 2026–27 to support lasting cultural and practice change.

Looking ahead

Throughout 2026-27, Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Partners will continue to embed these reforms, strengthen integrated safeguarding arrangements and build on the progress already achieved through the Families First Partnership Programme.

Priorities include further embedding Family Help, implementing new assessment and planning arrangements, progressing the Multi-Agency Child Protection Team model and continuing to invest in workforce development.

Together, these changes will help create a safer, simpler and more connected system of support for children, young people and families across Nottinghamshire.



Local 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 (NCSPRP).

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 (LCSPR) where necessary. LCSPR Reports are published on our website; however, we do not publish Rapid Reviews Reports, as there is no statutory requirement to do this. We have three Rapid Reviews to share with you this time.

Please be aware you may find some of the content, particularly around the family circumstances distressing:

RR 26-01

A review was completed following the sad passing of a seven-year-old. He left the family home alone perceiving it as a game to run away with his mother chasing him. However, was hit by a car and sadly died of his injuries the same day. This child had a diagnosis of ASD and had limited communication skills; there were previous concerns regarding neglect including poor home conditions.

Partnership observations

- The Nottinghamshire Children's Safeguarding Partnership recommends learning from this case is used in the ongoing work being carried out in the MASH to ensure multi agency decision making is standard process for all referrals.
- The Nottinghamshire Children's Safeguarding Partnership to develop and embed an Early Help pathway for recognising, exploring, and responding to parental learning difficulties, aligned with the Family First Partnership model, so that concerns about understanding, retention, and capacity to implement safety plans are identified and supported and hopefully preventing unnecessary escalation to statutory safeguarding services.

RR 26-02

A review was completed following a thirteen-year-old suffering a cardiac arrest at the family home following a suspected overdose. Following her death, it was found she was in sexual communication with an eighteen-year-old male. Additional concerns were raised during the review period regarding the impact of immigration challenges and racism experienced in the school environment.

Partnership observations –

- Although no statutory duty exists to assess cultural or migration history in the absence of concerns, newly arrived families may face barriers, trauma, or unmet needs that remain invisible unless services take a proactive, relational approach. NCSP should consider how it can strengthen early help pathways for newly arrived families, ensuring schools, health, and community services have clear guidance on when and how to offer support even when no safeguarding concerns are present. Education settings should ensure that all safeguarding concerns are fully explored and recorded, including incidents that may indicate extra-familial risk such as relationships with older individuals or harmful online activity.
- Schools should strengthen practice in identifying, recording and responding to racially motivated incidents, ensuring these are recognised appropriately and inform safeguarding considerations.
- Mental health or wellbeing support provided in schools should ensure there is a clear, documented plan including intended outcomes and review points to evidence the support provided and its effectiveness.
- Health services should review processes to ensure there are robust processes for ensuring the correct identity of children when they are registered with primary care to enable registration on the CHIS.
- NCSP should work with local school nursing services, delivered by Specialist Community Public Health Nurses (SCPHNs), and Designated safeguarding leads in schools to support the uptake of Year Nine health questionnaires by developing a consistent, partnership-endorsed approach that supports schools to participate confidently and routinely. Although the questionnaire is not a statutory requirement, it provides an important early opportunity to identify emerging health, wellbeing, and safeguarding needs that may not otherwise come to professional attention.
- The National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel is asked to consider whether there should be national processes to ensure that where a parent's work visa becomes at risk, relevant agencies are aware of potential increased vulnerability. This is particularly important for families new to the UK who may have limited understanding of, or access to, support services. Consideration should also be given to strengthening local information sharing processes where changes in circumstances are known to individual professionals but not routinely shared.

For more information on learning from our Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Rapid Reviews go to our website: [Learning and improvement framework](#)



New booking on process for all NSCP events now live!

As many of you will be aware NSCP transitioned to a new training booking platform 14 months ago. Following ongoing feedback and frustrations particularly around the difficulties experienced when creating accounts and accessing the system using multi-factor authentication, the decision has been taken to move away from this system.

We are now using Microsoft Webinars for all our online training sessions.

This means:

- You can self-register directly onto events
- You can cancel your place yourself (The link to do this is included in your original course confirmation e mail you will receive once you have registered for the event – so please retain this. You will also receive a further confirmation email 3 days prior to the event as a reminder and you can also cancel your place from this email too)
- External partners will no longer need to create an account or use Multi Factor Authentication, making the process quicker and easier
- Local authority staff will no longer access NSCP training via My Learning My Career and will instead register via the MS Teams Webinar links
- Course evaluations, Certificates, Presentations and Resources will be easier to access as they will be shared via email after each event. (Course certificates will be sent 2 weeks after each event and only be issued to delegates who attended the whole event and have completed the course evaluation form)

These changes are designed to make the booking process simpler, more accessible, and more user-friendly, while maintaining the same high-quality training offer.

Note: Users who have already booked onto one of our up-and-coming training events from now to March next year will need to self -register onto the event to secure your place.



eLearning

Since we moved to the new LMS, you may be aware we have had a significant reduction in the availability of eLearning modules. Following a consultation and comparison with partner organisations, it was apparent that the limited courses offered on our system are often replicated across many organisations in-house, and as such we are no longer offering any NSCP eLearning. We are now signposting partners to either free or low-cost eLearning which have been selected from government or recognised national providers. To see a list of suggested eLearning and further resources go to: <https://nscp.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/training/safeguarding-children-elearning/>

Safeguarding children in Nottinghamshire – additional local information booklet

If you choose to access any of the introductory eLearning courses or other subject matter courses, we recommend that all staff also read our local information booklet:

<https://nscp.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/media/fsjhrbfb/nscplocalinformationbooklet.pdf>

It aims to supplement the generic safeguarding eLearning modules by providing the local context to safeguarding children in Nottinghamshire, for example, the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Procedures, our local threshold document, including support services and where to make referrals.

Up and coming training/briefing events

- Effective Strategy Discussions
- Reducing Parental Conflict
- Safer Sleep and SUDI
- Attending Child Death Review and Rapid Review Meetings
- Working Together to Safeguard Children
- Child Exploitation
- Safeguarding Children Today
- NSCP Monthly Briefings
- Gas and Solvent Use
- Child Poverty

<https://nscp.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/training/>



Briefings are here to stay!

Since introducing our new style of training in January, our briefing sessions have become a valuable addition to the partnership's learning offer. Designed as bite-sized learning events lasting between thirty minutes and one hour long, briefings provide a flexible and accessible way for practitioners to update their knowledge, explore key topics, and stay informed about emerging issues. The positive feedback and strong attendance we have received demonstrate that these shorter, focused sessions are meeting a real need across the workforce. As a result, briefings are here to stay and will continue to form an important part of our training programme, helping us provide timely, relevant learning opportunities that fit around busy schedules.

New briefing - attending child review meetings and rapid review meetings

This briefing session will provide an overview of information shared by the children's safeguarding partnership regarding partnership representation within child death review meetings/ joint agency response meetings and rapid review meetings. The session will focus on what to expect if you are asked to attend one of these meetings, including the purpose of each process, the role of partner agencies, what information you may be expected to contribute and how to prepare. The aim is to provide a clearer understanding of these multi-agency safeguarding processes and greater confidence should you be asked to attend. The events are free of charge to all partners who work with children and families in Nottinghamshire. As this is not a full training course, a certificate will not be issued. We have two dates on offer; you only need to attend one:

Monday 28 September 2026 – 12.00am to 1.00pm please register by clicking on this link: [Self-register for this event online via Teams webinar.](#)

Friday 9 October 2026 – 9.30am to 10.30am please register by clicking on this link: [Self-register for this event online via Teams webinar.](#)

Resources

NSPCC Expert insight videos

Watch experts talk about key child protection topics and learn from their safeguarding experience.

These talking head videos feature subject matter experts and practitioners sharing their insights and best practice on keeping children safe from abuse and neglect.

Each series of videos covers a different topic and tackles the top questions to help you support the Babies, children and young people you work or volunteer with.

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/expert-insight-videos>

Expert insights

How can we facilitate hearing the child's voice?



Topics include:

- Domestic abuse in pregnancy
- Child criminal exploitation
- Online safety
- Multi-agency working and information sharing
- The voice of the child
- Child mental health: recognising and responding to issues
- Protecting children from domestic abuse
- Safeguarding for tutors
- Managing safe online communities

Education partners – keeping children safe in education 2026

The Department for Education (DfE) has published the 2026 edition of Keeping children safe in education (KCSIE). The guidance came into force and replaced KCSIE 2025 on 1 September 2026. The statutory guidance sets out what schools and colleges in England must do to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Key changes in KCSIE 2026 include new and updated guidance around: regulations and safeguarding requirements on school premises; children requiring mental health support; young carers; children who are questioning their gender; and safer recruitment and regulated activity.

Read the guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>

Read NSPCC summary : [Keeping children safe in education Caspar briefing](#)

Child sexual abuse

NSPCC Child sexual abuse: statistics briefing

How many children experience sexual abuse?

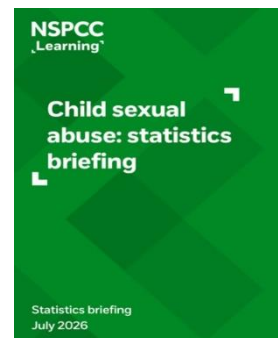
We don't know exactly how many children in the UK experience sexual abuse. However, research with 2,275 young people aged 11-17 about their experiences of sexual abuse suggests around 1 in 20 children in the UK have been sexually abused.

Sexual abuse is usually hidden from view. Adults in the child or young person's life may not recognise the signs of sexual abuse and the child may be too young, too scared or too ashamed to tell anyone what is happening to them.

There are a number of different sources of information which help build up a picture of the scale of the abuse, including data from services which work with children and research into children's and adults' self-reported experiences of abuse.

This briefing looks at the available data and statistics about child sexual abuse to help professionals, and the organisations they work for, make evidence-based decisions.

Child sexual abuse statistics briefing



Sharing information to tackle child sexual abuse- on-line resource for all professionals

This is a comprehensive guide to finding, sharing and using information from different agencies and organisations to better respond to child sexual abuse. When responding to concerns about child sexual abuse, professionals collect a lot of information about the children and families they work with, the nature of their abuse, and those who may have abused them. This resource has been developed by the centre of expertise on child sexual abuse to help explain who holds what information and how to make sure the right information is shared in a timely and proportionate way.



To access the document go to: <https://www.csacentre.org.uk/research-resources/practice-resources/sharing-information-to-tackle-child-sexual-abuse/>

Child sexual abuse

Whole- school approach to child sexual abuse

The Centre of Expertise on child sexual abuse has published a new, step-by-step guide for early years provisions, schools, colleges and other education settings to help improve their response to child sexual abuse.

Education professionals are in a unique position to identify and respond to child sexual abuse, and evidence shows that when education settings are well equipped to respond, the effect can be transformative.

To help them, we have developed a free, accessible Whole School Approach framework. It provides education settings with useful prompts and templates to assess their response to child sexual abuse, identify where policies, recording practices, information sharing, and culture are working well, and where gaps may exist.

Read the framework in a new, mobile-friendly web format on the CSA Centre website, share with other education settings or colleagues you know, and start to transform your response to child sexual abuse today.

<https://www.csacentre.org.uk/guides/implementing-a-whole-school-approach-to-child-sexual-abuse/>

Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse – free webinars!

11:00-12:00 Wednesday 9th September:

<https://www.csacentre.org.uk/events/putting-the-child-sexual-abuse-response-pathway-into-practice-09-09-26/>

10:00-11:00 Tuesday 22nd September:

<https://www.csacentre.org.uk/events/responding-effectively-to-sibling-sexual-behaviour-22-09-26/>

The child safeguarding practice review panel



The CSPRP have launched a new independent website which is designed to support safeguarding practitioners working with children and families across England. The website brings together learning from safeguarding reviews and accessible, practical resources in one place, making learning easier to find and use. It has been built with input from practitioners across health, policing, education, social care, youth justice and the voluntary sector, and is free to access with no login required.

<https://chilsafeguarding.independent-panel.uk/>

New resources include:

- Neglect – resources to help professional recognise cumulative harm and respond to neglect
- Adolescent Suicide – resources to help professional recognise suicide risk and respond early

Annual report 2024-2025 <https://chilsafeguarding.independent-panel.uk/publications/annual-reports/>

They are also pleased to share their Annual Report 2024/25, which provides a national overview of the most serious child safeguarding incidents in England. It examines local learning about 360 children who had tragically died or been seriously harmed due to abuse or neglect and who were included in serious incidents notified to the Panel between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025 and in the safeguarding reviews that followed those incidents. Bringing together their oversight of local safeguarding reviews and our national programme of work, this report offers a unique, system-wide overview of child protection practice in England in the context of serious incidents and should be essential reading for everyone with safeguarding responsibilities.

This year's report finds:

- Of the 274 rapid reviews considered last year, 47% involved the death of a child, most of these were under 1.
- 60% included neglect as a factor and 51% included domestic abuse.
- Babies under 1 remain the most vulnerable age group, accounting for a third of all serious incidents and 60% of the deaths reported to us this year.



Upcoming changes to early years foundation stage

(EYFS) Safer Sleep Requirements

From 1st September 2026, the Department for Education (DfE) has updated the safer sleep requirements in the EYFS statutory framework. The aim is to strengthen safeguarding practice and help reduce the risk of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) and Sudden Unexpected Death in Childhood (SUDC). The EYFS legal requirements state that babies and children must be placed down to sleep safely.

For children under two years of age, providers will be expected to ensure that:

- Children are placed down on their back in their own separate sleep space on a clear, flat, firm surface such as a cot, bed or suitable mattress on the floor
- Babies aged 12 months and under sleep only in a cot, carrycot, Moses basket or travel cot.
- Sleep spaces contain only a firm, flat mattress and suitable lightweight bedding, or an appropriately fitted sleep bag. Where blankets are used, the child should be placed feet-to-foot at the bottom of the cot, with blankets tucked in.
- Cots are free from toys, pillows, bumpers, wedges, straps and loose bedding.
- Children's heads remain uncovered and they are not too hot or too cold.
- Babies under six months are supervised by an adult in the same room for every sleep.
- All sleeping children are within sight and hearing of staff and are checked frequently.

What Does This Mean for Early Years Providers?

Most early years settings will already be following safer sleep guidance through existing EYFS requirements and NHS recommendations. However, now is a good time to review sleep policies, risk assessments, staff knowledge and sleeping arrangements to ensure they align with the new requirements. Providers should pay particular attention to the use of sleep spaces, bedding, supervision arrangements and procedures for children who fall asleep in prams, pushchairs or car seats. The DfE has also confirmed that floor beds also known as coracles and sleep pods are not recommended for babies aged 12 months and under.

Further Information: The NSCP encourages all early year's practitioners and leaders to familiarise themselves with the new expectations ahead of implementation.

Useful links:

- <https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/2026/04/early-years-foundation-stage-eyfs-safer-sleep-requirements-frequently-asked-question/>
- <https://www.nhs.uk/baby/caring-for-a-newborn/sudden-infant-death-syndrome-sids/>
- <https://www.lullabytrust.org.uk/professionals-hub/promoting-safer-baby-care/early-years-hub/>
- <https://help-for-early-years-providers.education.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/safer-sleep>