

Knowsley's
Safeguarding Children Board
Annual Report **2015/16**

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Foreword

by the Independent Chair



Audrey Williamson
Independent Chair

I am pleased to present Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board's Annual Report 2015/16.

This report sets out the work of the board and all partner agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Knowsley. It provides a clear picture of where there have been improvements in services to protect children and identifies areas where there is more to do. I hope you find it informative.

Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board (KSCB) is a partnership of all agencies responsible for working with vulnerable children and their families in our community. The partnership is wide ranging and includes large organisations such as the local authority, the Clinical Commissioning Group and Merseyside Police. It also includes probation services, health organisations such as Whiston Hospital and health visiting services, schools

and the Youth Offending Service. Of equal importance we have contributions from the local community through a representative of the faith community and two local lay members.

All KSCB members are accountable for their agencies making a full contribution to services to meet the needs of vulnerable children and their families in Knowsley. To achieve this we need strong leadership and commitment to working together to develop and support a skilled workforce that is effective in working in what can be a complex and demanding setting. We need staff who are confident in constructively challenging their colleagues to improve services and who feel supported when escalating concerns to senior managers.

In May 2014 an external inspection by Ofsted judged Children's Services and KSCB to be inadequate, requiring an improvement plan to ensure that weaknesses were addressed and services rapidly improved. I am pleased to report that there was a positive and transparent response to the Ofsted findings and senior leaders of key agencies sought to both improve the quality and the level of services delivered in Knowsley. Political leadership has been critical to this response and has been maintained by the Local Authority through the lead member for Children's Services. Senior managers from the police, the local authority and the clinical commissioning group as well as other partners have all provided consistent strategic leadership in partnership work and have worked closely together to

identify and overcome barriers to multi-agency work.

As a result, our annual report demonstrates real improvements in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in Knowsley. We know, for example, that through the establishment of a multi-agency centre, referrals about children who may be at risk of harm are now quickly identified and receive a timely service. The partnership agreed the establishment of a service specifically for children who may be at risk of exploitation was a priority for the board. This in turn has led to early identification and good preventive work before serious harm occurs. Services for children who go missing have been established and we have seen a decrease in the numbers who go missing and an increase in our understanding of why they go missing from home or children's homes. All of these developments and services have improved outcomes for vulnerable children.

Children have to be at the heart of how services are designed and delivered, they need to be heard and believe they are listened to. In 2014-15 we recognised that we had insufficient understanding of what was important for children in Knowsley and what they would want to improve and strengthen communities. With the support of the secondary schools 1,800 pupils over


the age of 11 responded to our anonymised questionnaire on issues such as domestic abuse, sexual exploitation and substance misuse. The results showed us where Knowsley children wanted us to focus and what they were concerned about. This included promoting and educating students about healthy and positive relationships, understanding the risks of exploitation including criminal exploitation and highlighting the risks of so called "legal highs". All of these findings have been valuable and informed our work and priorities. I would like to thank all those who participated in the questionnaire and helped us to understand their experiences. Next year we will work to increase the influence of children in Knowsley on all work undertaken by the partnership.

The work described in this annual report has improved outcomes for vulnerable children but we recognise there is still much to do. We have looked in detail at the experiences of individual children through Serious Case Reviews, practice reviews, audits of multi-agency work and listening to staff working every day with vulnerable children. This has improved our understanding of the need to focus on specific areas of work. We know that some children experience neglect within the family home which can have a long term impact on their life chances. High numbers

of children who have a child protection plan have suffered from neglect in Knowsley. As a result we have prioritised our work in this area for the next 12 months as we want to make sure that all staff across the partnership recognise neglect and its impact on children and work with families at the earliest possible opportunity. Training to increase confidence amongst staff and to equip them with the tools to assess and address features of neglect has to be a priority.

We also know that too many children in Knowsley witness domestic abuse in their home which can impact negatively on their emotional development. After neglect the primary category for child protection plans is emotional abuse as a result of domestic abuse at home. There has been challenge from the board to ensure agencies work together and commission services to help and support children in these circumstances. We will raise the profile and understanding of the impact on children and seek assurances from board members that improvements in coordinated services take place.

The next twelve months will provide new challenges for KSCB. The government will be implementing legislation to change local arrangements to safeguard and protect children in localities. The three key agencies, the local authority, police and health will be



tasked with setting out strong local plans to deliver excellent services which protect the most vulnerable children in the community. It is the intention of KSCB to ensure these agencies are in a strong position to undertake this task and services for children continue to improve in Knowsley.

My role as Independent Chair is to bring independent challenge and scrutiny to the work of the board. This can only be achieved by the presence of committed partner agencies and a staff team which can support the work of the board. I would like to thank all board members for their support, the hard working team for supporting our work and all those who provide services for vulnerable children in a complex and challenging setting every day in Knowsley.

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The Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board annual report for 2015/16 is a transparent assessment on the effectiveness of safeguarding and the promotion of child welfare across the borough of Knowsley.



About the annual report

In line with statutory requirements and best practice, the KSCB annual report 2015/16 has been sent to the following:

- Knowsley Council Lead Member for Children's Services
- Knowsley Council Chief Executive
- Mersey Police and Crime Commissioner
- Knowsley Clinical Commissioning Group Chief Officer
- The Executive Director of Knowsley Children's Services
- The Chair of the Knowsley Health and Wellbeing Board
- The Chair of the Merseyside Community Safety Partnership
- The Chair of the Knowsley Safeguarding Adults Board
- Knowsley Youth Parliament and Children in Care Council

Knowsley Safeguarding Children Annual Report is an opportunity for KSCB to set out the progress made against the Ofsted Actions and the 2014-2016 business plan.

The report sets out the governance and accountability arrangements for the Safeguarding Children Board providing information about the structures in place that supports the partners to do its work effectively.

The context for safeguarding children is enclosed within the report and highlights the progress made by the partnership over the last year and the challenges going forward.

Contained within the report are the lessons that the KSCB has identified through its Learning & Improvement Framework and Serious Case Reviews and the actions taken to improve child safeguarding and welfare as a result of this activity.

Also highlighted is the range and impact of the multi-agency safeguarding training delivered by the KSCB.

The final section sets out the priorities going forward and the key messages from the Independent Chair of the KSCB to key people involved in the safeguarding of children.



Glossary of terms

AIM	Assessment Intervention Moving On	KSAB	Knowsley Safeguarding Adults Board
CAFCASS	Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service	KSCB	Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services	LA	Local Authority
CCE	Child Criminal Exploitation	KYM	Knowsley Youth Mutual
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group	LA	Local Authority
CDOP	Child Death Overview Panel	LADO	Local Authority Designated Officer
CLA	Children Looked After	LSCB	Local Safeguarding Children Board
CP	Child Protection	LIF	Learning Improvement Framework
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation	MAPPA	Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements
CQC	Care Quality Commission	MARAC	Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference
EHAF	Early Help Assessment Framework	MACSE	Multi Agency Child Sexual Exploitation
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation	MASH	Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub
GP	General Practitioner	MCRC	Merseyside Community Rehabilitation Company
GCP	Graded care Profile	NFA	No Further Action
ICPCC	Initial Child Protection Case Conference	NHS	National Health Service
IRO	Independent Reviewing Officer	NPS	New psychoactive substances



NWAS	North West Ambulance Service
NYAS	National Youth Advocacy Service
OFSTED	Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills
PEP	Pupil Education Plan
PLR	Practice Learning Review
PSHE	Personal, Social and Health Education
QA	Quality Assurance
QAF	Quality Assurance Framework
QARG	Quality Assurance and Review Group
SCR	Serious Case Review
SENCO	Special Educational Needs Coordinator
SIRG	Serious Incident Review Group
SUDI	Sudden Unexpected Death of an Infant
TAF	Team around the Family
TPPT	Threshold, Policy and Procedure sub group
YOS	Youth Offending Service



The KSCB is the key statutory body overseeing multi-agency child safeguarding arrangements across the borough of Knowsley.





The Board

Governed by the statutory guidance in **Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 and the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)** Regulations 2006, the KSCB comprises senior leaders from a range of different organisations. The basic objective is defined within the Children Act 2004:

- **to co-ordinate the safeguarding work of agencies and to ensure that this work is effective**

Key Role and Relationships

The Independent Chair

The Independent Chair of the KSCB is Audrey Williamson. Supported by a Board Manager and a dedicated team, the Chair is tasked with ensuring the Board fulfils its statutory objectives and functions. Key to this is the facilitation of a working culture of transparency, challenge and improvement across all partners with regards to their safeguarding arrangements.

The Chair is accountable to the Chief Executive of Borough of Knowsley and met with the lead member for children and young people of the council frequently during 2015/16. The Executive Director of Children's Services for Knowsley is a member of the KSCB and continued to work closely with the Chair on related safeguarding challenges.

Whilst being unable to direct organisations, the KSCB does have the power to influence and hold agencies to account for their role in safeguarding. This influence can touch on matters relating to governance as well as impact directly on the welfare of children.

An Executive group chaired by the KSCB Chair is in place to drive forward the Board's business plan.



GOOD PRACTICE

In December 2015, the Chair met with frontline practitioners to listen and respond to any challenges they face in providing a multi-agency safeguarding response to referrals. This led the chair to receive reassurances from the Contracted Translation Service as to access to translator. In light of this, process for access service was updated.



GOOD PRACTICE

In January and March 2016 the Chair, the Assistant Director Quality Assurance Children and the Board Manager ran Challenge Sessions, to ensure scrutiny and challenge is facilitated appropriately. Concerns were raised about the lack of mental health provision for children; and that improved access was required to CaHMS and Adult Social Care. Reassurances were given and action plan agreed.

Partner Agencies

All partner agencies across the Borough of Knowsley are committed to ensuring the effective operation of KSCB. Members of the Board hold a strategic role within their organisations and are able to speak with authority, commit to matters of policy and hold their organisation to account.

During 2015/16 the interface with the schools sector in the Borough has improved and is now supported by the attendance at board meeting of primary and secondary heads who subsequently feedback to the Knowsley Head Teacher Forum. The board has established a sub group for education representatives and this group has been vital in ensuring the education sector in the Borough are kept abreast of key safeguarding initiatives and engaged in Board activity.

GOOD PRACTICE

Tangible impact is seen through the engagement of schools in the KSCB Children's Safeguarding Questionnaire which resulted in 1,800 children submitting an on line questionnaire. This provided the KSCB with vital information from children which helped to shape the 2016/17 priorities.

Designated Professionals

The Designated Doctor and Nurse take a strategic and professional lead on all aspects of the health service contribution to safeguarding children. Designated professionals are a vital source of professional advice. Across the range of KSCB activities, these designated roles have continued to demonstrate their value during 2015/16.

GOOD PRACTICE

The development of a health sub group presented considerable challenges and lack of attendance and commitment was noted in October 2015. Following a formal request from the KSCB chair and attendance by the chair at the health sub group, significant improvement has been noted, a new sub group chair and a refreshed action plan is being monitored and delivered on behalf of this group.

Relationship with Other Boards

There is a clear expectation for LSCBs to be highly influential on strategic arrangements that directly influence and improve performance in the care and protection of children. There is also a clear expectation that this is achieved through robust arrangements with key strategic bodies across the partnership. During 2015/16, engagement continued and was strengthened with the Safeguarding Adults Board (KSAB) and the Health and Wellbeing Board across the Borough. Inter-board protocols for the Borough set out the interface across these forums to ensure clarity of strategic alignment and management of risk. From the KSCB's perspective, this helps ensure that the experiences and voice of children and their need for safeguarding are kept firmly on the agenda in terms of multi-agency work involving vulnerable adults, health and wellbeing and the local response to crime.

GOOD PRACTICE

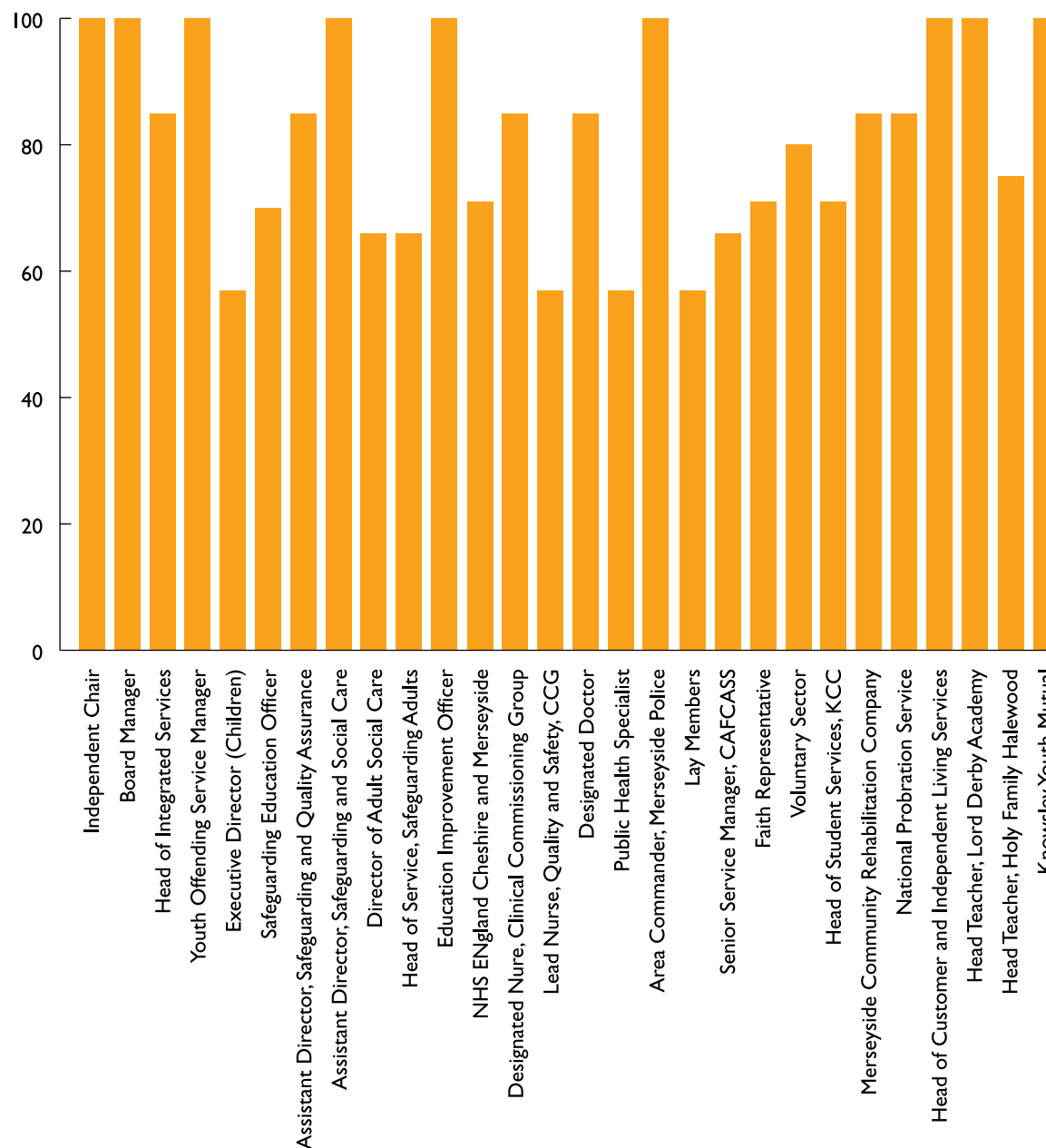
The Health and Well Being Board is using findings from the KSCB consultation with young people to inform their 2016/17 business plan.

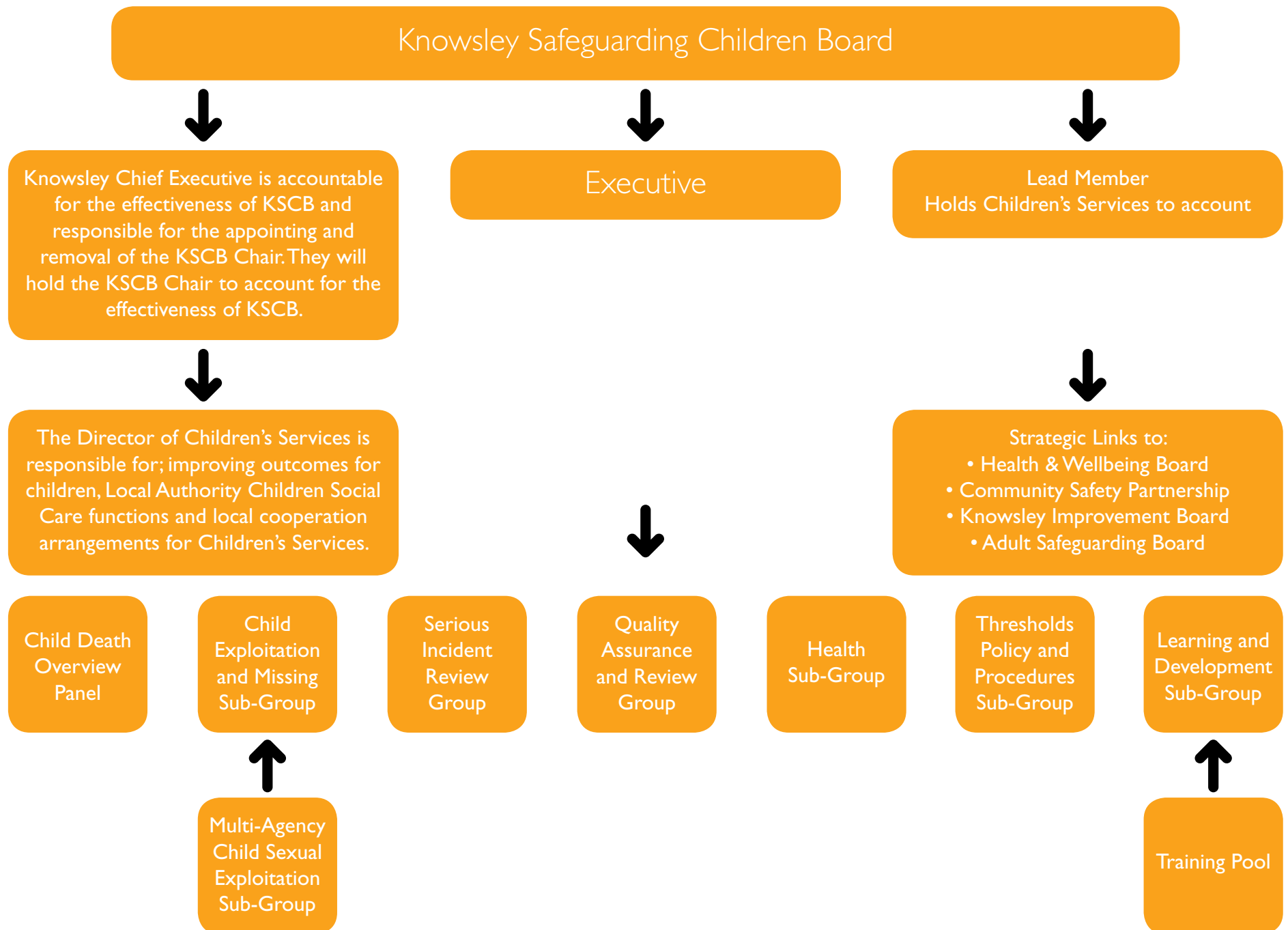


Board Membership and Attendance

During 2015/16 there were seven main board meetings, and five executive board meetings. The main board had a membership made up of representatives from all statutory partners and others concerned with safeguarding children. A business planning session was also held.

In 2015 the two long standing lay members decided they were unable to commit to the role and resigned from the board, two new board members were appointed during 2016. The council children service is always represented at the board, either the director or the assistant director attends.







Financial Arrangements

Partner agencies continued to contribute to the KSCB's budget for 2015/16, in addition to providing a variety of resources, such as staff time for training. Contributions totaled £248,014, with Knowsley Council contributing 50.42% of the total agency funding.

£33,444 of contingency reserves were accessed to help cover the increased expenditure in 2015/16 arising from Serious Case Review costs, additional work by the Independent Chair and staff vacancies in the Board team being filled.

A surplus of £23,541 was carried forward from the previous financial year making the total contingency available to the board £111,723 at the beginning of the year. Contingency ensured that the overall costs of running the KSCB were met. In this year costs were managed through the KSCB accessing these contingency reserves.

Funding changes in 2015/16

- The council increased the salary uplift costs by £5,160
- Leisure contribution was reduced by £2,865
- Public Health contribution was reduced as the CDOP expenditure was reduced

In 14/15, Probation contributed £9,300 this including a one off contribution of £6,427. (The annual agreed contribution was £2,873). In 15/16, Probation was reconfigured and the KSCB received a total contribution of £3,950

- £2,500 from Community Rehabilitation Company
- £1,450 from National Probation Service

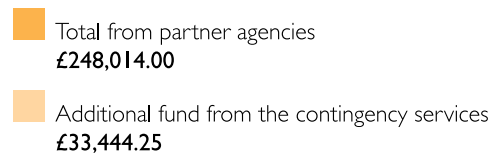
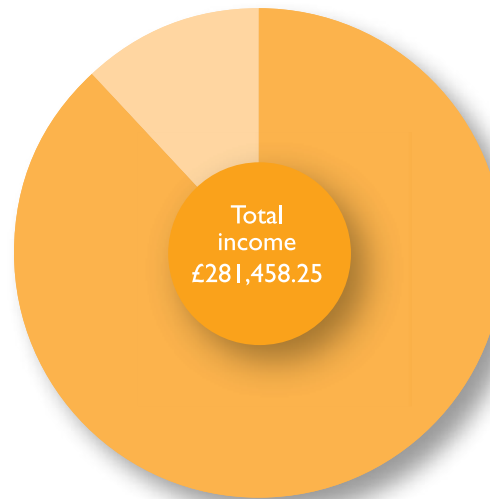
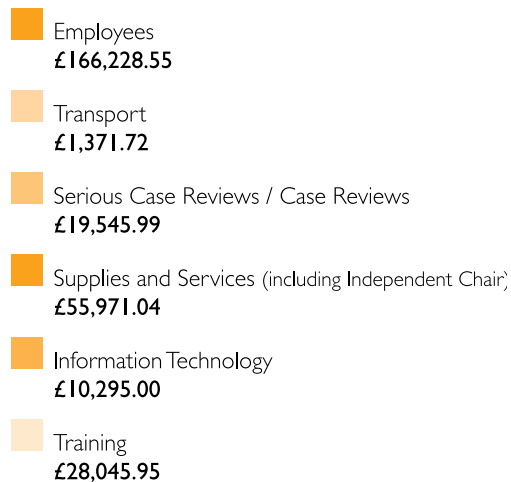
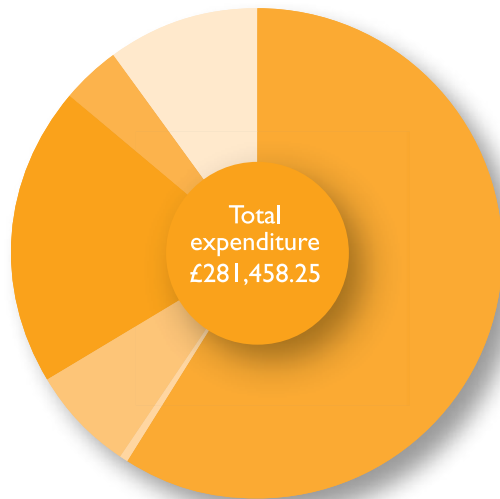
Budget pressures for 2017/18 have been identified, (due to the number of SCR) considered and mitigated by KSCB partners.

- Identification of access to free training venues saving a projected £2k going forward
- From July 2016 charges will be made for non-attendance at training events which will provide additional income
- From 2017 free access to partner venues for the executive and board meetings also board development sessions

Partner agencies continued to contribute to the KSCB's budget for 2015/16,



Expenditure and Income




What Our Lay Members Say


In line with the statutory requirements and to reflect KSCB commitment to embrace a joined up consultative approach to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people, KSCB have recently appointed two new lay members, to support and compliment the role of the existing lay advisor. They are local people, who come from different professional backgrounds but share a common goal in safeguarding children. Their independence enables them to observe and scrutinise decisions made by the Board.

The two new members of the board have indicated a desire to raise awareness of the role of the Board and what safeguarding children mean to the community of Knowsley.

The following comments are a snap shot of their thoughts:



“I have recently taken up the position of lay member of Knowsley Safeguarding Children’s Board. I intend to attend Board meetings, to listen and where appropriate, challenge performance. I am confident that my professional experience of working in the health service will equip me to make informed assessments, provide advice and influence the decision making process concerning the progress of the board in protecting children.”



“I was also successful in applying to take up the position of lay member of the Board. As a Foster Carer I have considerable experience in protecting vulnerable children. I have spoken to and listened to the concerns of children and young people. I believe I will have a unique perspective, which will enhance the performance of the board. This will enable me to challenge and confront the board to ensure that the board are focused on what matters to children.”





Communication

- Close working relationships with Knowsley Borough Council Communication team have aided our ability to expand our methods of communication
- Communication strategy delivered and a new website developed
- We recruited our new lay person through Twitter and Facebook adverts
- We have communicated CDOP and national campaigns through Internal Banners and publication on website
- Successful launch of 7 and 60 minute briefings and production of a regular newsletter

Knowsley Children Safeguarding Board snapshot website



Knowsley Borough safeguarding snapshot 2015/16



32,383

children live in Knowsley

30.2%

of children in low income families



1,874

domestic abuse notifications made to the police where children and young people were in the household

31.21%

Approximate number of children in receipt of free school meals



113 Knowsley children and young people identified being at risk of CSE

8 children and young people not resident in Knowsley at risk of CSE



304 incidents of children going missing from care

845 incidents of children going missing from home and care



568 open children in need cases

15.8% child in need cases with a disability



2,857 referrals to children's social care

26.8% were re-referrals



87% of referrals to CSC went on to single assessment

236 Children became subject of CPP for child protection investigations, 2nd or subsequent time



291 children and young people looked after as of March 2016

208 children on a child protection plan



In addition to the above, the following have also been recorded to provide a snapshot of safeguarding in Knowsley over 2015/16:

- 877 missing incidents reported to the Police for children going missing from home and care
- 2 Private Fostering arrangements as of March 2016
- 210.23 per 10,000 population child protection investigations
- 34 children became the subject of a CP plan for a second or subsequent time in 2015/16
- 568 open Children in Need cases as of March 2016
- 15.8% Child in Need case with a disability





In recent years, Knowsley has experienced population loss and now has around 146,000 people living in 65,000 households.



Safeguarding context in Knowsley

Knowsley is one of six Local Authority districts that comprise the Liverpool City Region; it is located at the heart of the North West, between Liverpool and Manchester and covers an area of 33 square miles; just over 10 miles from south to north, and up to 7 miles across. In recent years, Knowsley has experienced population loss and now has around 146,000 people living in 65,000 households. Of these 32,788 are children.

Knowsley has a comparatively small Non-White Ethnic population, representing only around 3% of residents; a higher than average proportion of lone parent households, and a relatively low proportion of single person households.

In Knowsley there is one college of further education, 54 schools, 49 nursery and primary schools, 5 secondary schools, 6 special schools and pupil referral unit. 7% of 16 to 18 year olds are not in education, employment or training compared to the national average of 5.8%. Approximately 30% of the local authority's children are living in poverty.

Business Priorities and Ofsted Single Inspection Actions

Scrutiny and Peer challenge

Following the Ofsted inspection KSCB was subject to a two day peer challenge in November which was undertaken by two experienced Independent Chairs. The peer challengers presented their findings and progress on the agreed key Lines of Enquiry at full Board on 5th November 2015. Significant progress was reported against the Ofsted Action Plan and the KSCB Business Plan. The following section sets out the progress and identified challenges.

Ofsted recommendation 145

The LSCB should review its business unit to ensure that sufficient capacity is available to conduct all the LSCB's business.

The KSCB carried out a review of the capacity in the business unit which supports the Board. Partner agencies increased their financial contributions to enable the Board to work effectively. The business unit is fully staffed.



Thresholds, Policies and Procedures

Ofsted recommendation 148

The LSCB should review the policies and training provided to ensure that professionals in all partner agencies understand and apply the thresholds for access to services.

Ofsted recommendation 149

The LSCB should seek from the managing bodies of each individual member agency a renewal of commitment to the role and responsibilities of the Board and Board members.

As part of the Improvement journey the Board has overseen the completion of the Ofsted action plan and all actions were signed off by the Ofsted Improvement Board in October 2015. KSCB were able to evidence the attendance at board meeting has significantly improved and development session delivered for partners to gain better understanding of the board and their contribution.

KSCB has strengthened the role of the sub groups establishing terms of reference and Action Plans. **The Thresholds, Policy Procedure Sub Group (TPPT)** has been instrumental in establishing a TPPT Quality Assurance Framework to ensure policies and procedures are good quality, for authors to use when writing documents, and for establishing a tracker so the group has an oversight of all policy progression.

The sub group has assisted in:

- Improving the governance system for multi-agency practice
- Developing a greater understanding of thresholds across the workforce
- Provision of targeted 'Applying the Thresholds' training sessions
- The ratification of Child Protection standards and Missing from Home and Care protocol

This group will be instrumental in:

- Maintaining the policy tracker ensuring review dates are adhered to
- Further develop mechanisms for ensuring the Voice of the Child influences policy and threshold development
- Monitoring implementation of KSCB escalation procedure and review escalation notifications

- Review and gap analysis of policies, procedures and thresholds linked to 2016/18 priorities and identify policy development in line with the SCR action plans

GOOD PRACTICE

TPPT Quality Assurance Framework has a specific area for Voice of the Child, and making sure that all policies include the voice of the child or experiences of children.

GOOD PRACTICE

The launch of the Sexually Harmful Behaviours Policy and Procedure was subject to delay, at which point concerns were escalated. Members of the TPPT could evidence that an increasing number of cases were showing signs of sexually harmful behaviour, and the decision to delay could be detrimental to the progress of such cases. The KSCB were responsive to this challenge, and agreed not to delay the launch of the policy. This demonstrates how the KSCB encourages and responds to challenge.





GOOD PRACTICE

Throughout 2015/16, the KSCB members regularly reviewed and monitored activity and impact through reference to performance information and sub group updates being submitted to each Executive Board meeting.



GOOD PRACTICE

Self-assessment has been updated to reflect on its progress against the expectations of the single inspection framework



Ofsted recommendation 150

The LSCB should ensure that focused training and briefing events take place on a regular basis on local and national lessons from serious case reviews and management reviews.

The Learning and Improvement Framework (LIF) has been revised providing more clarity regarding how the KSCB will review cases and cascade learning across the wider workforce, strengthening the links between the SIRG and Learning and Development Sub group.

Actions have been taken, including briefings to practitioners involved in the two Management Reviews (Child L and Child M) in 2015/16 and a wider workforce event. One of the young people actually subject to one of the management reviews performed a rap in order to share his story from his perspective. A 7 Minute Briefing was also produced and published in August 2015.

Learning from management reviews and SCRs has been embedded in to the updated Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 and Working Together to Safeguard Children Refresher courses.

A 60 Minute Briefing was delivered to cascade the learning from SCRs as well as learning from Knowsley Child L and Child M cases.

Board members were supportive in identifying how the lessons learnt related to their agency's policies, procedures and practice also how you can disseminate learning to front line practitioners.

Further details can be found in the SCRs and the Learning and Development section of this report.

Early Help

Ofsted recommendation 151

The LSCB should increase partners' understanding of and engagement in delivering services through the CAF model.

Ofsted recommendation 152

The LSCB should evaluate the effectiveness of early help services, and in particular check that help is delivered to those who most need it.

What have we done:

Early Help in Knowsley is defined as **“Helping children, young people and families to overcome difficulties as early as possible in order to prevent bigger problems occurring and to keep children safe”**.

The LSCB receives an update report at every board meeting and during the reporting period considerable activity has been undertaken to gain partner buy in and engagement in Early Help Assessments. An Early Help Advisory Board is established to ensure partners' engagement with the whole system of delivery. The governance structure is agreed for overseeing the

ongoing development of Early Help across the partnership.

Work to revise the **Knowsley Thresholds of Need document** was initiated and will be re-launched to KSCB partners during 2016/17. The publication of this document is a statutory requirement for LSCBs as set out in Working Together 2015. It details the process for the early help assessment and the type and level of early help services to be provided; the criteria, including the level of need, for when a case should be referred to local authority children's social care for assessment and for statutory services and clear procedures and processes for cases relating to the sexual exploitation of children.

Knowsley Early Help Assessment Framework (EHAF) has been implemented and is a key part of delivering frontline services that are integrated and focused around the needs of children, supporting them to achieve their full potential and positive outcomes in their lives. The EHAF is a standardised approach to conducting an assessment of a child's additional needs and deciding how those needs should be met. It is intended to provide a simple process for a holistic assessment of a child's needs and will also help to improve integrated working by promoting coordinated service provision.

Significant improvements have been made in terms of the numbers of assessments undertaken, and successful outcomes at case closure:

- There has been a steady increase of assessments throughout 2015/16, with a slight fall at Q4, due to a fall in referrals during Q4. However, **there remains much higher numbers of assessments and referrals taking place than 12 months ago**
- The number of cases that are showing an improvement from their starting point have shown a steady and continual increase since Q2
- **68.8% of cases showed an improvement** from their starting point in Q4 15/16 - this is a 6.7% increase from Q3 (62.1%)

An Early Help Thematic audit was undertaken in October 2015, the main findings included:


- There were examples of outstanding practice with families, from organisations throughout the partnership, with Private, Voluntary & Independent nurseries demonstrating especially strong SENCO practice, and ownership of cases at Level 2

- Effective multi-agency working evident in many of the cases - with good recognition of when a case needed to be escalated to Children's Social Care

However, not all agencies understood how best to reflect the voice of the child in their assessments, and there were weaknesses on the timeliness of referrals from all agencies into early help, and with dealing with parents who were resistant or not compliant.





Good Practice 	Areas for improvement 
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Examples of excellent practice with families, from organisations throughout the partnership• Effective multi-agency working evident in many of the cases - with good recognition of when a case needed to be escalated to Children's Social Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Timeliness of referrals from all agencies into early help• How the voice of the child is understood and used• How parents with mental ill health and depression are supported• Strategies for dealing with non-compliance or resistance• Assessments at early help can be improved

Following the audit and the challenges raised, which led to a KSCB action plan, the following progress has been reported during 2015/16:

- A number of briefings were delivered to partner agencies which promoted understanding of thresholds and the application of Early Assessment to address emerging needs earlier. 96% of attendees felt these sessions increased their understanding of Early Help
- Training relating to the Early Help offer delivered to multi-agency staff on rolling programme
- The Early Help Team is undertaking a round of bi-monthly audits and moderation panels which review the quality of EH assessments carried out by partners
- The performance dashboard for Early Help will be used to evidence the value of Early Help work and positive outcomes to partners both at an operational and strategic level. This framework will also identify where Early Help through assessment and TAFs isn't taking place so challenge and support can be offered to key partners



- Training on access and use of the Early Help Module (IT system) is being delivered to approximately 130 staff Apr-Jun 2016 and an E-learning module is being procured to ensure an online rolling programme of training on Early Help is available for refresher training and new starters
- Voice of children is part of the Early Help briefing sessions and is an explicit component of the Early Help Assessment. The roll out of mobile technology has included the loading of tools designed to elicit the voice of the child and can be used in families' homes and other settings
- Case chronology training is being delivered to Family First staff and liaison with Children Social Care will inform implementation
- A programme of training is being devised for practice based approaches to Motivational Interviewing for those families resistance to support. This training program will be delivered across the partnership to enable all practitioners who work with Children and Families are using a consistent person centered approach with families. All practitioners will be using the same change model and tools to move families on and improve outcomes

- The Family First 0-18 service have adopted a robust file audit process, the initial report following the first round of audits was positive without any cases judged at inadequate. The learning from these audits is shared with staff and improvements tracked during supervisions and team meetings
- A significant issue relating to the impact of domestic abuse on children has been identified at all levels of the continuum of need. In order to begin to address this issue, as part of the development of a pathway, a bespoke training programme has been commissioned. The training, in the first instance, will be delivered to a cohort of 15 Family First Practitioners and will focus on early identification of impact and how to respond to that as early as possibly directly with the child. It is anticipated that this training will be available for partners to access later in the year

What we will do next:

KSCB will continue to receive performance report for Early Help in 2016/17 with a particular focus on Domestic Abuse/Violence. The following actions will be undertaken to establish a robust early help provision is available and improvement in outcomes for children:

- Review the contribution of lower intervention services to safeguarding children and hold services accountable
- Review the quality of single assessments, the effectiveness of the Step-Up Step Down Procedure and performance data
- Children requiring early help are identified
- Children are provided with the right response at the right time
- Children requiring early help have improved outcomes





Audit and Review Activity

Business Plan Priority Area 1
KSCB is effective in its work with partners to ensure that they deliver better outcomes for children and families who need help, through monitoring single and multi-agency arrangements to safeguard children.

Ofsted recommendation 146

The LSCB should establish a multi-agency audit framework and obtain a commitment from all Board members and the managing bodies of each individual member agency to resource a programme of audits of practice across the partnership.

Ofsted recommendation 147

The LSCB should arrange to assess whether LSCB partners are fulfilling their statutory obligations under section 11 of the Children Act 2004.

What have we done?

Multi-agency case file audits are led by the Audit and Review Group. The multi-agency audits scrutinise areas of practice (for example, child protection standards) or are thematic (for example, neglect). The audit reports are taken to the main board and the executive to enable challenge to be put in place.

The Audit and Review Group lead Section 11 audits and all partner agencies completed the audit within the required time frame. Peer scrutiny took place in 2015, and participants were instructed to create action plans to address any deficiencies within their provision. Scrutiny sessions will be repeated in 2016 to ensure that issues were addressed, and that all services are compliant with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 and giving children and their families appropriate safeguarding services.

Section 175 assessments by schools are monitored by the Audit and Review Group working closely with the Education Improvement team. The current status is:

- Schools have been encouraged to complete the audit
- Education Improvement team are examining quality and compliance - reviewing the audits and select those

showing red, these are then scrutinised and support offered to the school to ensure they are compliant

- Education representatives are reviewing the 175 audit tool to make sure it is current and continues to be fit for purpose
- The KSCB chair will hold a challenge session in 2016/17 to ensure external scrutiny of the process

There was 100% completion across schools of section 175 in 2015/16.

- **92% of schools graded themselves as 'Grade 4'**
- **8% of schools graded themselves as 'Grade 3'**

Schools that had self-graded as 'Grade 3' had completed all questions. Their grading reflected that they were in a process of change, with new staff into Designated Safeguarding Lead posts or updates of policy and process, and therefore their policy, procedures etc. were not fully embedded. On the whole this was identified and reflected in their action plans and comments.

What difference has it made?

From the evidence gathered through the audits, the Chair is able to challenge the effectiveness of practice, and work with partners to identify what changes are needed to bring about improvement. Such areas for improvement have included:

- A range of challenges have been made including coordination of Domestic Violence Strategy, commissioning of a service for interviews for those returning from missing episodes, adherence to child protection standards, re-referrals, impact of the work of health agencies, early help development
- Challenge to health providers on working together with Children Social Care on child protection conferences
- Challenge to strengthen early help and establish clear governance structures
- Challenge to council translation service to make it more accessible for social workers

Partners have shown a willingness to respond to these challenges. Through the audit process, improvements have been made to the audit tools, and the reporting. In the recent Early Help audit, Knowsley Youth Mutual undertook work with families to understand their perspective on the

effectiveness of the services they received. This practice will be expanded upon in the future.

What we will do next?

Plans for 2016/17 include merging with the Quality Assurance Sub-Group, undertaking further Section 11 challenge sessions, and three multi-agency case reviews. The first multi-agency case review will be on domestic abuse.

Single Agency Audits and Front Line visits conducted by Board members have also been conducted; an analysis of this work was presented to the board to inform the development of the 2016/18 business plan.

Voice of the Child

Business Plan Priority Area 2 The Voice of the Child is evident in all safeguarding practice in partnership planning and partnership working

KSCB in partnership with the council commissioned an independent young people organisation 'Voice of Children' to undertake some work to identify the views of young people in Knowsley on safeguarding issues.

A successful questionnaire for young people 11 years plus was undertaken and all secondary schools participated. Just over 1,800 young people responded.

Areas explored included:

- understanding of child sexual exploitation
- E safety
- Legal highs
- domestic abuse/positive relationships
- neglect
- criminality

It was an anonymous questionnaire therefore grounds for a high level of confidence in the strength of the findings.

Findings include:

- 12% of young people do not believe that CSE is illegal, although many could identify activities which caused vulnerability such as threatening to post pictures online of young people undressed
- 31% of young people believed legal highs were safe and identified a range of substances they know about including bleach and laughing gas
- The E safety questions identified that a high number of young people felt unsafe



particularly when someone they did not know added them on to Facebook

- 17% did not know how to report things when they felt unsafe online
- 56 young people believed it was normal in a relationship to be hit because they had made their partner angry
- 64 thought it was ok to being told what you can and cannot wear
- 7% of young people had felt pressured into joining a gang. And an equal number but not necessarily the same young people had been involved in an active criminal gang

The full report was presented to KSCB and an action plan produced; agencies then submitted their intended actions as a result of the findings. A “youth proofed” report was developed and distributed via the schools with agreed recommendations so that those who participated understand how important this work has been.

The report has provided KSCB and the council with a wealth of information which identifies areas of focus and informed the future. Of equal importance in the completion of the questionnaire, one child recognised that she may be subject to exploitation and took appropriate action to keep safe.

Two work force events have been delivered by KSCB and the Voice of Children to share the findings and highlight the importance of listening to children in daily practice. Tools to support working and communicating with children were made available including those used by practitioners working with disabled children.

What will we do next?

- KSCB through the evaluation of the multi-agency audits and Front Line visits will continue to monitor the partners’ activity of children’s engagement
- Children Engagements Strategy has been developed to be delivered by agencies and the subsequent action plan will be coproduced with children and monitored by the KSCB in 2016/17
- All future board meetings will begin with a presentation by a partner agency which evidences the engagement of children within that service area

Children at Risk of Exploitation

Business Plan Priority Area 3 Children and Young People in Knowsley are safeguarded from exploitation including Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

The Knowsley CSE sub-group coordinates the work of statutory partners in helping, protecting and caring for children in Knowsley and ensures there are mechanisms in place to monitor the effectiveness of those local arrangements. The group expanded its remit mid-year to include missing children and most recently the wider child exploitation agenda. This reflects the wider exploitation agenda also the inter-links between CSE and other forms of exploitation and missing children. In moving forward the sub-group will have a wider over-arching strategic responsibility for child exploitation.

The sub-group now referred to as “Child Exploitation and Missing” has been meeting on a six weekly basis throughout the year and is well represented across agencies. The KSCB has in place a performance framework which reports trends and

progress in relation to children affected by CSE or Missing children. In line with national and local context the sub-group has remained busy during the year, particularly in relation to CSE. In particular the sub-group has overseen the:

- Development of a multi-agency child sexual exploitation team with the introduction of the Shield team in October 2015. This now ensures there is a coordinated and dedicated response for children at risk of sexual exploitation that supports children and targets perpetrators
- Knowsley Local Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation Working Arrangements, July 2014 and the development of CSE Framework to provide and promote a clear consistent response to concerns about child sexual exploitation in Knowsley
- Commissioned a Practice Learning Review following the completion of Operation Searcy. This was the first organised case involving the sexual exploitation of children in the Knowsley area
- Provided oversight of the developing services for missing children particularly regarding return interviews, both in terms of the number and quality. Ensuring systems are in place to gather and use

intelligence operationally to better safeguard children

- Feb 2016 the TPPT ratified the Preventing and Tackling the Criminal Exploitation of Children procedure

KSCB regional links and oversight of CSE

Working Together 2015 sets out new expectations of LSCBs to conduct regular assessments on the effectiveness of Board partners' responses to child sexual exploitation and to include in the annual report information on the outcome of these assessments. A diagnostic assessment of CSE activity across the partnerships and an action plan was developed which is managed through the CSE sub group (which also covers CE and missing).

The Pan Merseyside Profile shows that CSE remains a significant issue in Merseyside. There were just over 400 referrals considered by MACSE across the county. Of these, approximately 180 were considered to need further action. 111 related to on-line grooming activity and approximately 70 involved personal contacts. There is no evidence from the data of predominance of any particular community or ethnic group. There is no strong evidence of concentration within particular localities although there are hotspots for activity within

each area. These have been highlighted for Boards. The predominant pattern is within the "boyfriend" model of one to one CSE with two specific aspects of particular concern. These are:

- The vulnerability of young people going missing from residential care
- The possibility of gang initiation activity

CSE Diagnostic

A diagnostic was completed on CSE activity in Knowsley across December and January 2015/16. The diagnostic team was jointly led by Malcolm Newsam and Gary Ridgway. Malcolm Newsam has worked as a Director of Children's Services in five local authorities. He was appointed by Department for Communities and Local Government and Department for Education in February 2015 as Children's Social Care Commissioner in Rotherham and also provides a regular independent evaluation service to Knowsley Council. Gary Ridgway was previously Detective Superintendent in Cambridgeshire Police and Head of Public Protection. He has pioneered proactive victim led CSE investigations and led Operation Erle which resulted in the successful conviction of ten offenders. He now works as an independent consultant supporting Councils and Police Forces on CSE and lectures at the College of Policing. Partners from health, police and social care comprised the core of the team.



Summary of Key Findings

- The diagnostic found that **there had been demonstrable progress across the partnership in tackling CSE in Knowsley in the latter part of 2015**. There was evidence of good strategic leadership by senior officers from all agencies with a clear prioritisation on ensuring appropriate attention to Child Sexual Exploitation. This was reflected in the capacity and investment in particular by the Police and the Council. All agencies see tackling CSE as a priority and demonstrated their commitment to this throughout this diagnosis
- There has been an exceptionally good law enforcement approach to CSE investigations and the diagnostic saw several examples of best practice, including the prevent and disruption work through Operation Fairlop, the “welcome visits” to children placed by other authorities in Knowsley and the scrutiny of children’s residential care homes. There was good commitment from health partners with examples of school nurses maintaining engagement when children move schools out of the borough and providing sexual health advice in a relaxed environment. **There was said to be an excellent grip on responding to concerns related to children missing from home and care both by the police**

and social care and the recent contract with Catch 22 has strengthened these arrangements. **Knowsley has an effective MASH**; it is well led and all partners play an integral role in information gathering and decision making

- The diagnostic found that the development of the specialist multi-agency CSE team, Shield, marked a big step forward in developing a joint approach to tackling CSE but indicated that steps needed to be taken to strengthen the governance and leadership of the service. Social care staff and managers spoken to as part of the diagnosis were generally less confident and knowledgeable than their police colleagues and it was found that they generally adopted an ancillary role within the investigation process. It was felt that the operational child protection arrangements in CSE need to be strengthened, particularly in respect of the section 47 pathway and the management of complex risk alongside a clearer understanding of the roles and responsibilities of social workers within these arrangements

The Merseyside Gold Group is made up of strategic representatives from the five Merseyside LSCBs, their Local Authorities and Merseyside Police. The groups remit is coordinating CSE activity across the region.

Its focus has been the implementation of the Pan-Merseyside Strategy; it has monitored and initiated progress on each of the five strategic objectives set out in the strategy. The following Groups all feed into the Gold Group:

- MACSE Development Group
- Merseyside Data Group
- Merseyside Communications Group
- Merseyside CSE Health Sub Group
- LSCB Silver Group from each authority area

The Pan Merseyside MACSE Development Group has been set up to review consistency of MACSE across Merseyside. **MACSE meeting** provides the framework to allow regular information sharing and action planning to tackle child sexual exploitation.

- A multi-agency action plan will be developed
- The intelligence and information shared will enable themes, patterns and trends to be identified

The Pan Merseyside Data Group has been set up which again is attended by all Merseyside areas. The data group has collated data from across the region from a number of partners in order to inform the

development of a Pan Merseyside problem profile. The profiles will be produced on a twice yearly basis, in January and July for the preceding six months.

What we will do next:

- Develop a coordinated strategic approach to tackling Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Forced Marriage, Honour Based Violence, Trafficking and radicalisation in Knowsley
- Identification of locations and individuals or groups who criminally or sexually exploit children, acting upon early indicators relating to individual children
- Children are prevented from experiencing or continuing to experience sexual exploitation and trafficking
- Children, parents, carers and friends and communities receive the appropriate support, protection, intervention, information
- We are diverting, disrupting and actively pursuing those individuals and groups intent on exploiting and trafficking children

The whole package of 'Listen to My Story' was launched in schools September 2015.

CSE - 'Listen to my Story'

First phase

- Raising awareness with professionals and children
- Development of the Listen to My Story website, posters, leaflets, and small credit cards signposting people to the website
- Adverts on local radio station Juice FM and the campaign was advertised on local bus routes across the region

Second phase

- Development of materials for taxi drivers including bumper stickers and specific CSE trigger cards for those working in the taxi business
- Working alongside a local business, Aerial Trust, to develop a Merseyside specific resource for raising awareness with children in schools aimed at year 6 in primary schools/ year 7 in secondary schools

Third phase

- Development of short animations

Feedback has been very positive. The Listen to My Story campaign has equipped practitioners from a range of agencies with the knowledge and

understanding to recognise the signs and vulnerabilities associated with child sexual exploitation and what to do if concerns arise. Resources have been utilised and used in a number of ways, for example Police Officers have developed their own presentations for assemblies which have been delivered in secondary schools across the borough. The MASH receives referrals and intelligence which was shared as part of the roll out of Listen to My Story and the initial week of action.

Care Home Governance Group

Following an analysis of the data concerning children placed within Knowsley care homes and the recognition of the high incidences of children going missing from their care home, the sub group was established with the primary purpose of reducing the risk to children by preventing missing episodes from care, or at the very least reducing the occasions on which they go missing. The Care Home Governance sub-group is focused against the following KSCB priority:

Children and Young People in Knowsley are safeguarded and protected from harm, including abuse, exploitation and neglect.



Although the power to inspect children's social care services, including children's homes, lies with Ofsted, the Director of Children's Services has professional responsibility for the leadership, strategy and effectiveness of local authority children's services. The Care Home Governance Sub-Group Work Plan is focused on assurance that any looked after child living in Knowsley has access to the best provision available, and will scrutinise homes to ensure that children and young people are safe and the home operates in a way that provides the best setting for the child.

What difference have we made?

- Enabled strategic oversight of the Care Homes Protocol; the homes causing concern; the action taken to bring about home improvement and the outcomes of Ofsted Inspections
- Produced communications to homes
- Liaised with other placing authorities
- Prepared reports for KCSB
- Enabled Responsible Individuals to be held to account for the effectiveness and impact of action taken

The Group has been established for 6 months and meets quarterly. The accompanying provider forum also meets

quarterly and has had good attendance from providers in the area. The group is closely aligned with the LSCB, CSE and Missing sub group through the Assistant Executive Director sitting on both groups.

To date the sub group has demonstrated good outcomes with the incidents of missing episodes reducing and the number of return interviews has dramatically increased (20-75%.) Feedback from the providers regarding the forums has also been positive. A working agreement with Lambeth council about the management and oversight of children placed here from Lambeth has been developed as a specific example of the benefit of the sub group and the close liaison with the Shield team.

What are we going to do next?

As the group is relatively recently developed the plan for the next 12 months is to embed the processes and refine whilst at the same time robustly scrutinising the data concerning care homes within the borough and their management of episodes of children going missing and the associated risks as far as is possible. The sub group intends to form stronger working relationships with the Shield team and ensure that all types of exploitation are considered by care homes in their care of children and young people

Children Missing from Home and Care

The Children's Society 'Still Running' survey estimated that around 100,000 children under the age of 16 run away from home or care each year across the UK.

Ensuring that partner agencies provide the most appropriate safeguarding response for children who go missing from home, care and education remains a priority for the KSCB. In January 2015, the Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board agreed a protocol for children missing from home and care which was reviewed then updated September 2015. The KSCB Missing Children Working Group implemented the missing children protocol building upon existing progress focusing upon raising awareness and increasing accountability amongst partner agencies, prevention of missing episodes and reducing repeat missing episodes through collaborative multi-agency working. Within Knowsley, there are effective multi-agency arrangements in place that provide a coordinated response when children go missing from home, care or education.

Merseyside Police lead on all children who go missing from home or care and a coordinated response takes place with Knowsley Children Social Care, working

closely with the child's parents or carers. NYAS were originally commissioned by Knowsley to complete return interviews, the contract was then transferred to Catch 22 in November 2015, and they undertake with children a return home interview within 72 hours of the missing episode. These interviews are followed up with therapeutic support depending on the outcome to address risk-taking behaviour. This is in line with statutory guidance published by the Department of Education in 2014. During 2015/16 KSCB received data reports on missing children as part of the performance framework and it is intended to develop the report framework to enable the board to identify trends and patterns.

Between April 2015 and March 2016 there were 877 reported missing episodes pertaining to 433 children. 304 episodes (35%) of the 877 recorded incidents were children missing from care.

Of the above recorded children:

- 261 children completed one or more return Interviews
- 172 did not complete a return interview

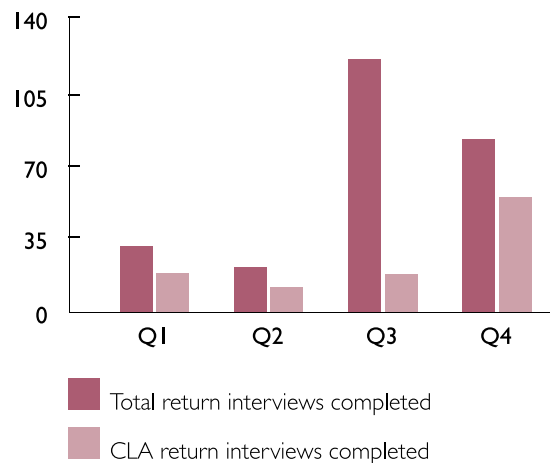
Missing from home and care	Definition of data being requested/reported	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Total number of missing children	The total number of individual children living in Knowsley or looked after by Knowsley who were reported as having had one or more missing episodes in this period	107	124	79	123	433
Total number of missing episodes	The total number of missing episodes, in the period (for all children)	214	262	171	230	877
Number of CLA missing	The number of Knowsley children looked after who have had missing episodes in the period (regardless of where they are placed)	21	21	26	17	85
Total number of CLA missing episodes	The total number of missing episodes, in the period for Knowsley CLA (regardless of where they are placed)	68	69	92	75	304

Of the 433 missing children recorded, 85 were children in the care of Knowsley and 348 were children missing from home. The quarterly figures will be subject to some duplication, as the data does not account for the same children having multiple missing episodes across the year.

Children in the care of Knowsley went missing an average of 3.6 times (304 incidents), and children missing from home had an average of 1.6 missing episodes (563 incidents); so although there were fewer children missing from care, the number of incidents per child was higher.



Between July 2014 and March 2015, there were 156 children recorded as being missing from care. Allowing again for duplication and the shorter reference time frame this still shows a lower figure for 2015/16; at the close of 2014/15 there were 306 children in the care of Knowsley and 291 at the close of 2015/16. There is a reduction in children in care numbers, but not so significant a reduction to entirely negate the lower numbers of children with missing episodes recorded in 2015/16, which positively reflects actions undertaken by KSCB.



The proportion of children looked after having return interviews after missing episodes varies over the year, with a significant number of return interviews being completed in quarter three and only a small portion of these being for children looked after. The proportion of return interviews held for children looked after improves in the final quarter of the year in line with the embedding of the Catch 22 contract.

What are we going to do next:

- A review of the performance information for children missing is being undertaken and the board has requested that future reporting to the board includes the analysis of return interviews as carried out by Catch 22 on a quarterly basis
- The KSCB will continue to oversee performance and the actions required to support the KSCB strategy on missing children
- The KSCB to better understand the reasons why children go missing through the intelligence gathered via the performance framework
- A closer alignment of the work involving CSE and Missing children will occur, with the CSE working groups taking on a wider remit of children exploited and missing

- Further scrutiny of the progress made regarding tracking children missing education
- Update training strategy to identify the work of Catch 22 to deliver training to partners regarding skills and resource in relation to children missing



GOOD PRACTICE

Reporting of children missing from home has improved as has the percentage of return interviews completed. Incidences of Knowsley CLA missing from home have started to decrease. A quarterly report is produced by Catch 22 on the outcome of return interviews and this is used operationally within the SHEILD team and within the Care Home Scrutiny Group.





There has been a tangible improvement in the child protection conferences with more services held accountable for their contributions.



Scrutinising the effectiveness of safeguarding children

Quality Assurance and Child Protection Standards

What have we done?

The Quality Assurance and Review Group (QARG) has developed and manages the Quality Assurance Framework (QAF) which provides the management information to the board to ensure child protection compliance. The group also took the lead in presenting the evidence to inform the work of the KSCB in 2016-2018.

Through assessment of Serious Case Review learning, multi-agency audits, monitoring performance and from recent evaluations such as Single Agency Audits and Frontline Visits the QARG has led specific pieces of work on identifying significant issues in Knowsley, and providing a basis for including the links between families who have not met social care thresholds for issues like domestic violence and children who are experiencing or vulnerable to exploitation.

What difference has it made?

The evidence presented through the Quality Assurance Framework has enabled effective challenge, Child Protection Standards have been developed and form part of the performance framework, this has led to the KSCB work on domestic abuse, and child protection conferences.

There has been a tangible improvement in the child protection conferences with more services held accountable for their contributions. The work in the QAF identified that the children who were vulnerable to exploitation had experienced low levels of domestic abuse in their childhood, and evidence was found that while services were good in protecting children in domestic abuse crises, that more long-term work was needed to protect them in adolescence, and to understand health relationships.



Attendance at Child Protection Conferences

Quarter	Invited	Attended	%	Reports submitted	%	Reports on time	%	Reports shared with parents	%
Q1	279	235	84%	160	68%	134	84%	84	53%
Q2	530	413	78%	371	90%	290	78%	127	34%
Q3	434	313	72%	293	94%	254	87%	118	40%
Q4	434	370	85%	327	88%	274	84%	189	58%
Total	1,677	1,331	79%	1,151	86%	952	83%	518	45%

Note: Q4 the figures do not include CSC, the collection method was altered in January 2016 moving from a manual to an electronic system. From the 01/04/16 the CP electronic system has a trigger that means the collection the CP standards data will improve the level of reporting, therefore any future analysis needs to be taken into account.

Attendance at Child Protection conferences was monitored by KSCB during 2015/16 to assess contributions from all partners. The above data shows attendance figures, as well as subsequent report submission and sharing for Child Protection conferences over the four 2015/16 quarters. In total, 1,677 individuals across partner agencies were invited to conferences, with 1,331 (79%) attending.

Of the attendees, 86% submitted reports, and of these reports 83% were submitted on time.

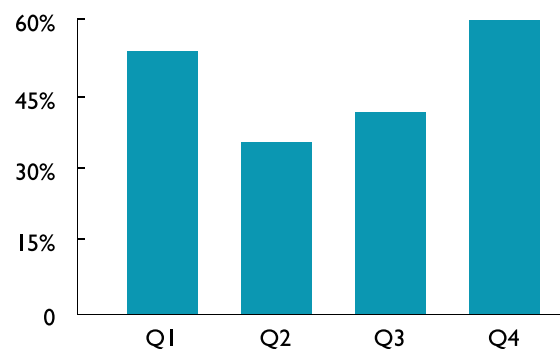
At the end of the 2nd quarter the KSCB raised a challenge to partners in relation to the sharing of reports with parents. This issue has been addressed with partners and there has been a gradual increase in the sharing of reports. Quarter four, 58% of reports were shared with parents, demonstrating a gradual

improvement in report sharing over the year. A total annual of 45% of all submitted partner reports were shared with parents. KSCB will continue to seek improvement in this area.

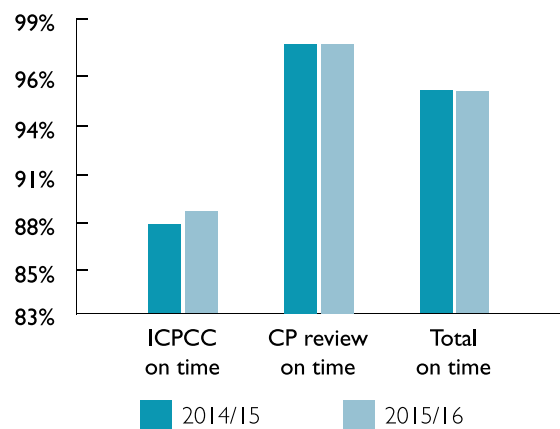
During 2016/17 through the QARG the CP standards, alongside the KSCB performance framework will be monitored and report at each KSCB meeting.



Percentage of partner agency reports shared with parents by quarter



Child protection conferences held on time



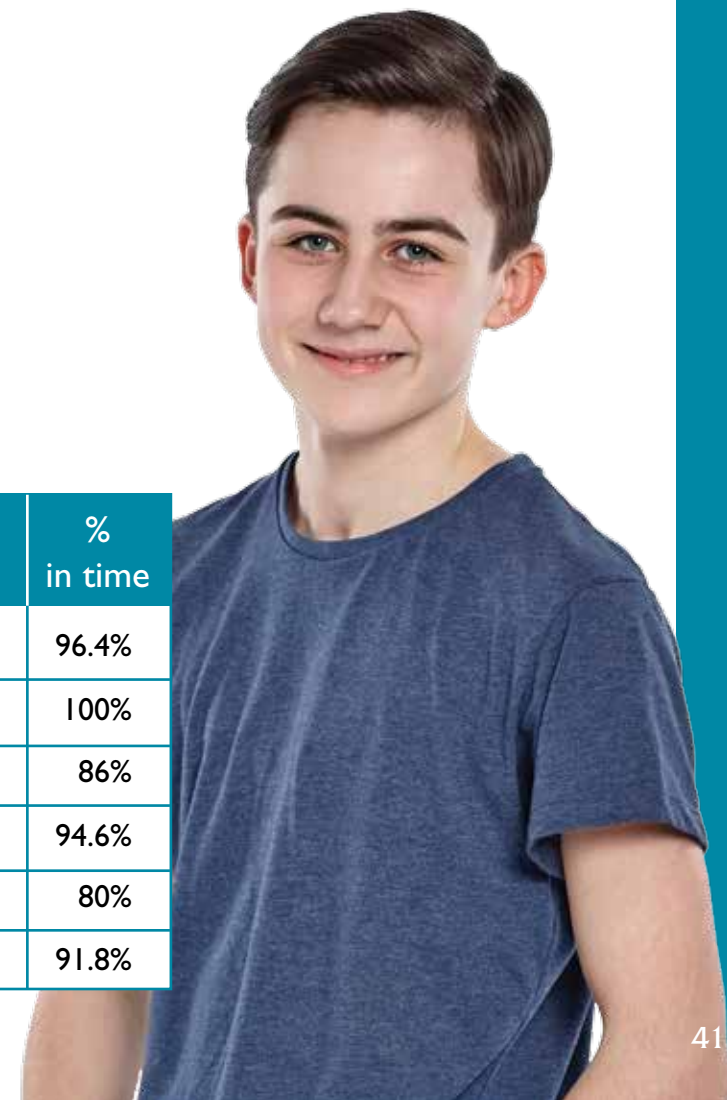
The number of initial and review **child protection conferences held on time** is almost exactly the same as in 2014/15, and **stands at a very positive 94%**. This is important as it means that children who may be at risk of harm are receiving a timely service and protection plans if needed are being made swiftly. It is notable that more ICPCC and CP Reviews were held in 2015/16. Therefore the maintenance of a high percentage of reviews being held on time is extremely positive.

	ICPCC held	CP Rev held	Total
2014/15	225	546	771
2015/16	291	571	862

Child Protection Statutory Visits

	Red	Green	Total	% in time
ICS - CP 1 North	1	27	28	96.4%
ICS - CP 2 North		42	42	100%
ICS - CP 3 Central	7	43	50	86%
ICS - CP 4 Central	2	35	37	94.6%
ICS - CP 5 South	5	20	25	80%
Total	15	167	182	91.8%

Knowsley's target for statutory visits being completed in the recommended time frame in 2015/16 was 95%. Although still slightly under this target at 91.8%, is an improvement upon 2014/15, where **90.7% of statutory visits were completed within the specified time frames**. It is noted that two CP teams perform significantly below the target.



What are we going to do next?

- Plans for 2016/17 include merging with the Audit and Review Group to ensure that the auditing undertaken are informed by the performance data
- Develop a new performance dataset that reflects the new priorities. This will enable the KSCB to receive reports which informs them of the progress in children's outcomes against the priorities set in the new business plan.
- KSCB will continue to monitor compliance with the standards and in the first quarter of 2016 with a particular focus on sharing of reports with parents and statutory visits by those teams who are below the set standard.

Child Protection

The categories and themes set out in this section do not cover all the factors influencing the risk to children in Knowsley. The focus is on key local vulnerabilities and related themes, about which the KSCB needs to have heightened scrutiny in terms of effective multi-agency practice to protect children.

Deep Dive in Child Protection Teams Diagnostic Report - Malcolm Newsam, (Independent chair of the Improvement Board) 2016.

It was noted in Malcolm Newsam's diagnostic report in March 2016 on Child Protection teams that there were high levels of good morale in staff and managers within well

organised teams, an increasingly stable workforce and a valuable structure.

There was evidence of effective problem solving and good communication, appropriate caseload management and awareness of proper caseload size for practitioners.

There were strong links with Early Help services and evidence that Early Help were providing Child Protection teams with support through step down meetings and joint visits. The team demonstrated **good use of risk assessment, signs of safety and thresholds**, as well as appropriate engagement with the Head of Service for any difficult decision making. Malcolm's findings suggest a strong core team with good links to other agencies and appropriate hierarchical structures to allow practitioners to perform to the best of their abilities.

The report outlines some priorities for the Child Protection team moving forward:

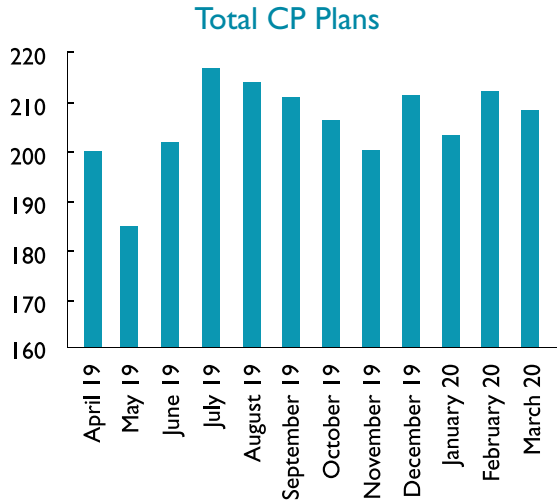
- a focus on evidencing high quality assessments as a foundation for effective practice
- consistent expectations on compliance across all teams
- improving the evidence of capturing the voice of the child





Child Protection Plans

Child Protection plans active in 2015/16 by month:



In March 2016, there were 208 children subject to child protection plans, an increase from 201 child protection plans in March 2015.

	Child Protection
England (2014/15)	43 per 10,000
North West (2014/15)	50 per 10,000
Stat Neighbour (2014/15)	67 per 10,000
Knowsley (2015/16) target	75 per 10,000
Knowsley (2014/15)	62 per 10,000
Knowsley CP Mar 2016	64.5 per 10,000

The above table shows child protection plans up to March 2016, where 64.5 plans per 10,000 are active. This is still under the 2015/16 target of 75 plans per 10,000 but is an increase from 2014/15 where active child protection plans were at 62 per 10,000. Monthly monitoring is undertaken into the number of children subject to CP plans. 217 plans were completed in July 2015 which has increased to 239 plans in April 2016 going forward 2016 is showing a steady increase.

On the 30th June 2014 the outcome of the Ofsted inspection stated that:

Inadequate assessments were undertaken by social workers that do not consider all risks to children and young people.

The CP diagnostic reports that there were strong links with Early Help services and evidence that Early Help were providing Child Protection teams with support through step down meetings and joint visits. The team demonstrated good use of risk assessment, signs of safety and thresholds, as well as appropriate engagement with the Head of Service for any difficult decision making.

November 2015: A Local Government Association peer review identified that Knowsley had no consistent and endorsed Risk Assessment tool.

In February 2016 KSCB received an updated from the Task and Finish group as to progress against the development of a risk tool.

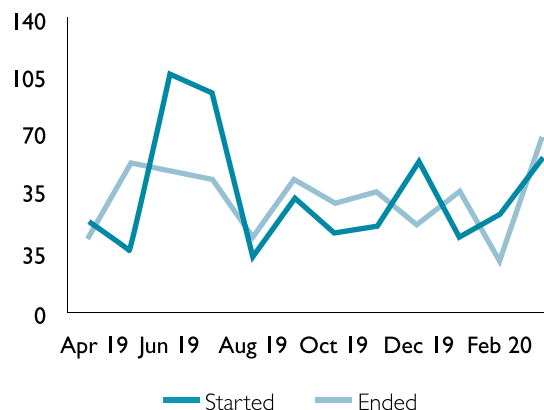
The information provided to KSCB has provided reassurance that Children Services are appropriately managing child protection risk.

England (2014/15)	13.3%
North West (2014/15)	17.8%
Stat Neighbour (2014/15)	14.3%
Knowsley (2015/16) target	15%
Knowsley (2014/15)	13.3%
Knowsley CP Mar 2016	14.4%

Percentage of children becoming subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time

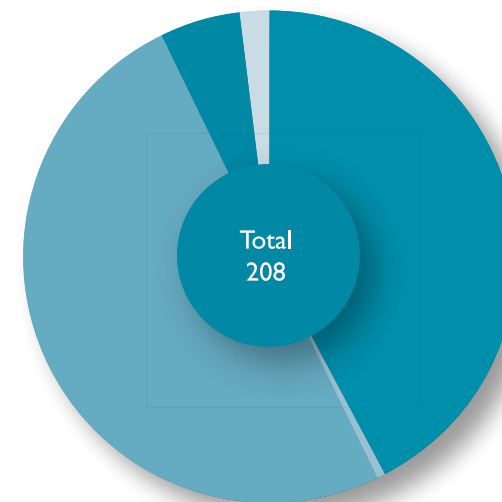
There were a total of 34 repeat child protection plans started in 2015/16, and 22 families involved in repeat plans. This is a slight increase on the figure of 30 repeat plans started in 2014/15, but still demonstrates a continued improvement from the 53 repeat or subsequent plans started in 2013/14.

Numbers of CP Plans started and ended



236 child protection plans were started in the 2015/16 year, and 225 plans were ended. Child protection plans being started peaked in June 2015 with a number of 40 new plans being started in this period. Plans being ended peaked in March 2016 with a total of 29 plans ended.

Child Protection plans by category



Emotional abuse	88	42.3%
Multiple	1	0.5%
Neglect	104	50.0%
Physical abuse	11	5.3%
Sexual abuse	4	1.9%

236 child protection plans were started in the 2015/16 year.





Child protection plans in relation to neglect were the most prevalent in 2015/16 with 104 plans relating to neglect active in this time, making up 50% of the total active child protection plans. Emotional abuse was second to this at 88 plans. The numbers for plans relating to physical and sexual abuse were low. This data reinforces the board's commitment to tackling neglect as a priority in the Knowsley region.

What will we do next?

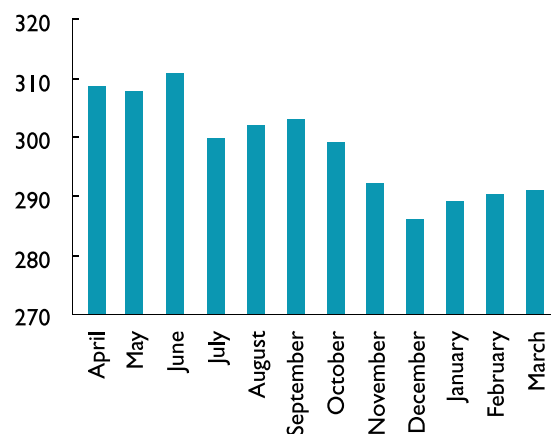
The KSCB has identified as a key priority Neglect as data evidences that it is significant issue for children living in Knowsley. We intend to:

- Continue to prioritise the voice of the child and evidence this throughout the child protection process
- Increase our focus on how effective services are in recognising and addressing neglect.
- Consider the partnership effectiveness in working together to prevent and respond to neglect in the community
- Ensure that partners can identify through Early Help, children at risk of or experiencing neglect and that these children have improved outcomes.

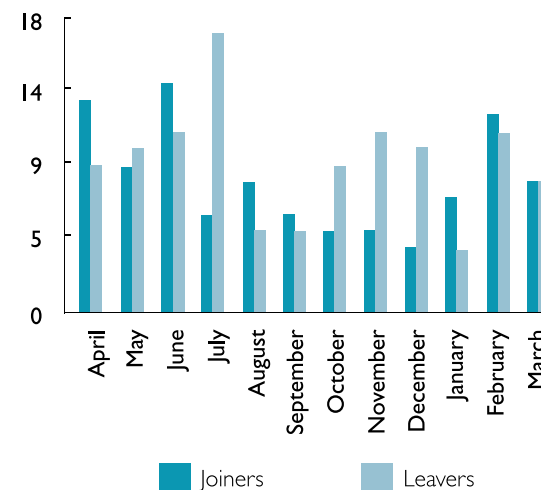
Children Looked After

This annual report provides a summary of key outcomes that have enhanced the safeguarding needs in 2015/16 it links directly to the Knowsley Children Looked After, Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report, and Knowsley Placement Strategy. These reports collectively, together with this report, describe the full Strategic plans that have been implemented to ensure that Knowsley children in care are provided with safe care and the opportunity to achieve positive outcomes.

Below shows the number of children looked after in Knowsley by month in 2015/16. April, May and June show the highest figures, with the number of children looked after reaching a peak of 311 in June 2015.



Shown below are the numbers of children becoming looked after (joiners) and children leaving the care of Knowsley (leavers).



At the end of 2015/16 (figure from March 2016) there were 291 children looked after in Knowsley; this equates to 90.2 per 10,000. The number of CLA has decreased slightly from the figure of 306 at the end of 2014/15 and 309 in April 2015; the number of children looked after has decreased steadily over the year to finish at 291.

Most children looked after are aged 10-15 years, this stays a consistent trend throughout the year. In terms of gender, there is a slight increase of males to females.

Knowsley Children service has made a concerted effort to reduce children becoming looked after under voluntary arrangements; in April 2015 there were 43 children who were in placement under s.20 arrangement. This number has consistently reduced and in March 2016 there were 30 children voluntarily accommodated. Changes in social work practice and robust legal action through the tracking of cases has resulted in greater transparency within court proceedings. Subsequently the number of children on full care orders has increased during this time from 167 to 203 (March 2016).

Region	CLA
England (2014/15)	60 per 10,000
North West (2014/15)	82 per 10,000
Stat Neighbour (2014/15)	97 per 10,000
Knowsley (2015/16) target	106 per 10,000
Knowsley (2014/15)	95 per 10,000
Knowsley CLA Mar 2016	90.2 per 10,000

The target for children looked after in 2015/16 was 106 per 10,000; the actual figure of 90.2 per 10,000 is below the target and below the previous year's figure of 95 per 10,000.

During 2015/16 there have been 110 children leaving care and 97 becoming looked after. Children leaving care peaked in July 2015 with 17 children leaving care; June 2015 saw the most children becoming looked after, with a yearly high of 14.

Stability of placements is generally good in Knowsley. 36 CLA have had three or more placements over the previous year. This has increased from the previous year due to a number of reasons including CSE issues and criminal exploitation. A number of children have also moved within the same provider. The Senior Conference Reviewing Manager meets regularly with the Fostering Manager to discuss cases that may be at risk of breaking down. Independent review Officers also bring reviews forward if there is a possibility of a placement breaking. 883 reviews were held in the year, with an average participation of 94.8%.

The percentage of Children Looked After placed outside of the Knowsley Boundary and more than 20 miles from home has remained lower than the rate per 10,000 for England (17.4%) and our Statistical Neighbours (9.9%) for the past year.

The number of children and young people in independent residential placements remained steady as an average of 30, with the foster placements reducing from 75 in April 2015 to 54 in March 2016.

CLA Education Attainment

Attainment at Key Stage 2:

There were twelve young people in the qualifying cohort at Key Stage 2, which meant each young person represented 8.3% of the cohort achieving level 4 or above. Four of the young people who did not achieve a level 4 attended specialist education provision and one young person made the transition from a mainstream primary to Secondary School. A further young person had a history of poor school attendance prior to coming into care and during Year 6 whilst she was looked after.



Key Stage 2 percentage achieving a level 4 or above

	Reading	Spelling, punctuation and grammar	Mathematics	All
All Knowsley CLA	37.5%	31%	37.5%	19%
Knowsley qualifying cohort (SSDA903)	42%	33%	42%	17%
National qualifying cohort (SSDA903)	71%	54%	64%	

Attainment data is for 2015

Key Stage 4

	5+ GCSEs A*-C or equivalent	5+ GCSEs A*-C incl English and Maths	5 GCSEs or equivalent A-G	1 GCSE or equivalent A-C	1 GCSE or equivalent A-G
All Knowsley CLA	6%	6%	28%	33%	44%
Knowsley qualifying cohort (SSDA903)	7%	7%	29%	28%	50%
National qualifying cohort (SSDA903)	14%	18%			

Attainment data is for 2015

Attainment at Key Stage 4

In 2014 Knowsley CLA achieved the highest performance on record. As the cohort size is small one young person can result in a significant percentage increase or decrease. In 2015 the makeup of the cohort was considerably different with half of the qualifying cohort being long standing attendance concerns and exceeding 25 days (over 5 schools weeks) absence during the academic year. Over a third of the cohort were educated within specialist education provision, one of which attending education provision within a secure unit.

GOOD PRACTICE

The number of completed PEP's has improved from 43% to 94% in the last year.



CLA Health Outcomes

	Number of children immunisations up to date	%	Number of children their teeth checked by a dentist	%	Number of children who have had their annual health assessment	%	Number of children with an SDQ score	%
2015/16	210	95%	214	97%	215	97%	191	86%
2014/15	170	93%	169	93%	156	86%	151	86%

GOOD PRACTICE

During 2015/16 there has been improvement in every measure for the health outcomes for children looked after.



In recent years, Knowsley has performed well against targets for care leavers. The current dip in performance can be accounted by the change in reporting of NEET care leavers to look at 17-21, not just at age 19. There are also 2 care leavers in custody currently.

An updated performance framework will support the KSCB Business Plan 2016/18 and the outcomes to Care leavers will be monitored through the QAARG. It is noted that CLA and care leavers are a particular vulnerable group in relation to CSE and Missing.

Care Leavers

Leaving Care with 5 A-C GCSEs	15.6%	5.26%	10.71%	12.5%
NEET	100%	82%	57.38%	58.2%
Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation	100%	100%	95.08%	95.08%





Private Fostering

Knowsley children services received 2 private fostering notifications between April 2015 and March 2016. One arrangement ended in July 2015 and one is ongoing from 2014. Knowsley have two private fostering arrangements open.

Since last year there has been a lot of activity by agencies in promoting awareness in respect of private fostering. A multi-agency private fostering group has been set up, the group meets on a bi monthly basis, and agencies represented include, Education, health, housing, youth offending, the fostering team manager, and the Councils communication are monitored by the group at each meeting.

- Private fostering materials have been published and distributed to public places and to professionals
- A number of training events have been delivered to various agencies including the youth offending service and adult services
- 7 minute briefing has been circulated to agencies
- Newsletter about private fostering was sent out to families by schools

- News article about private fostering went to the general public in the published Knowsley Challenge magazine.
- The private fostering procedures have been updated

What are we going to do next:

- The safeguarding lead professional within each partnership will take on the role of private fostering champion and will promote private fostering within their individual organisations using recently published publicity documents/leaflets and posters.
- Training is provided to all agencies via 2 x 60 minute training sessions a year, and through 7 minute briefings
- A survey is undertaken to ascertain staff understanding of Private Fostering and the impact of the increased publicity and training.

Youth Offending Services

The Strategic Youth Justice Plan sets out to provide an overview of the key themes, performance, direction, aspirations and objectives of the YOS Partnership for the years 2015 to 2018. Underpinned by the principles of Public Protection and

Safeguarding, the priorities within the plan are driven by the 3 youth justice national outcome indicators, which by their very nature are core to the purpose of every Youth Offending Service.

The 3 outcome indicators are:

- Reducing the use of Custody
- Reducing Re offending
- Reducing First Time Entrants to the Criminal Justice System

By driving forward improvements in service delivery, realigning resources so that they are better targeted and good partnership working, Knowsley YOS have during the previous 3 year planning cycle achieved well against the 3 outcome indicators above. At the time of writing this plan re-offending and custody rates and the numbers of children entering the criminal justice system in Knowsley compare favourably and often better than both Merseyside and comparator YOS. Continued investment in targeting resources to divert low risk young people away from the formal criminal justice system has enabled a realignment of the service to concentrate on those young people who are more entrenched with a range of complex issues, and, who pose a greater risk to themselves and the wider community.

Knowsley YOS have invested in a number of initiatives to reduce the use of Custody. The Custody Panel plans alternative packages to offer the court and also analyses the use of remands and custody by the Court to ensure that only those that meet the threshold are remanded and or sentenced by the Court. Additionally, YOS along with Children's Social Care and Stronger Families have invested in the services of Multi Systemic Therapy to ensure those who are on the periphery of custody are afforded the intensive family therapy to prevent this. The service provides 24/7 support to children and families on the cusp of custody or care. MST is funded for a further 2 years via Troubled Families.

Staff are more aware of the impact of neglect, particularly in relation to adolescents, and are using the Graded Care Profile as part of assessment processes, assisting discussion and planning on a partnership basis.

Staff have received the Prevent eLearner so have received the most recent legislative updates to further assist safeguard children.

This year has also seen stronger working relationships between Children Social Care & YOS, which has increased awareness of individual of roles and responsibilities

including an increase in confidence of YOS management to escalate issues as appropriately.

What are we going to do next:

The YOS have begun the process of implementing the new Youth Justice Board Assessment tool, Asset Plus; this replaces the original 15 year old assessment tool ASSET. The new ASSET Plus better supports the Think Family Approach to assessment and has been developed following Munroe recommendations. Parts of the new assessment have already been implemented in order for staff to become familiar with them and to streamline assessments of young people. A comprehensive implementation plan is in place with all staff to be trained by April 2016 for a go live date in early May 2016. The assessment tool will enable Practitioners to pull together and analyse elements of the information to make judgements about the children in four main areas:

- explaining offending behaviour patterns and trends based on the young person's individual context
- considering potential future behaviour; its likelihood and impact
- an indicative rating of reoffending to determine the likelihood of reoffending rating and Risk of Serious Harm rating

- making a professional judgement about the likelihood and impact of adverse outcomes in relation to the young person's safety and well-being

Further YOS staff will be trained in AIM2 for under 12's to widen the ability & expertise to deliver harmful sexual behaviour assessments and intervention within Knowsley.

Designated Officer Role

The role of the LADO is set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015) and is governed by the Authorities duties under section 11 of the Children Act 2004. In 2015 the government updated and replaced the current statutory guidance *Working Together to Safeguard Children*. The revisions include changes to the LADO process and the referral of allegations against those who work with children. New guidance no longer refers to 'LADO's' but says 'Local authorities should have designated a particular officer, or team of officers (either as part of multi-agency arrangements or otherwise)' but should be social work qualified. Knowsley council has in post a designated Officer who meets the requirement of the statutory guidance.

In 2015 a permanent designated LADO was appointed.



Referral year	Total	NFA after initial consideration
2013/14	76	30
2014/15	71	16
2015/16	89	54

There has been a significant increase in the number of referrals to LADO in the last twelve months, with the number of referrals requiring no further action being over 50%. The increase in referrals is surprising, as the remit for LADO is much narrower as LADO no longer manages allegations relating to discipline or conduct. The high percentage of referrals being closed at the initial stage is indicative of referrals relating to conduct continuing to be made and should reduce as professionals understanding of the remit increases.

Referrals concerning staff/volunteers according to employment sector.

There is a continuing trend in data analysis, which clearly identifies the staff more likely to be referred to the LADO as being residential social workers, foster carers, school staff, and early years staff. This is expected, as these are areas where there are high levels of interaction with children and where the issue of safeguarding awareness is highest which may subsequently result in a referral/consultation to the LADO.

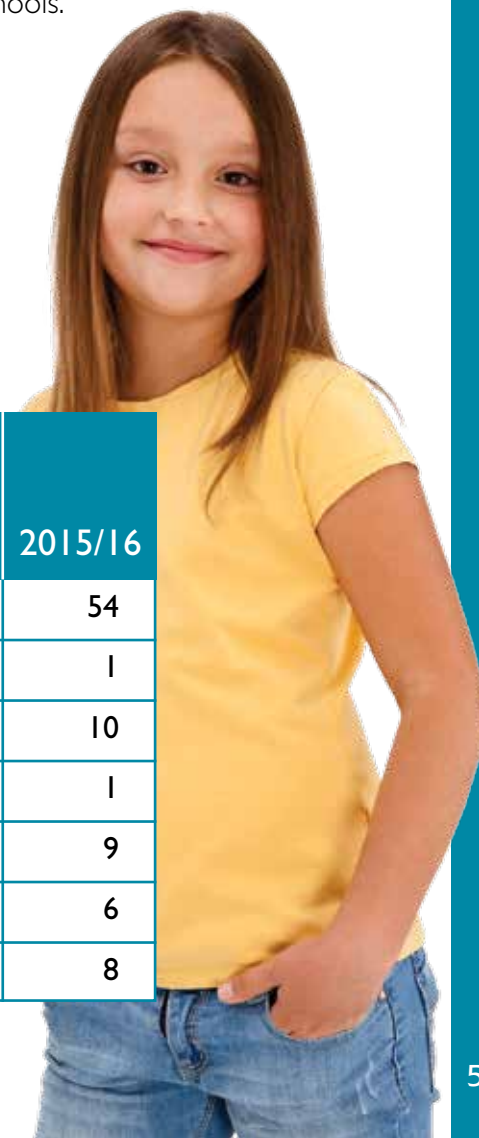
What has been noticeable is a number of referrals made from Residential establishments when restraint has been involved that are quickly considered by the police as being reasonable and proportionate which leads to no further action from LADO. The referrals from residential establishments also reflects a number of children placed from other Local Authority areas who have very complex needs and display difficult behaviours. There is now a provider's forum in which issues of concern are discussed and consideration has been given to establishments revisiting their matching processes to ensure there is a correct mix of staff and children.

Overall Outcomes

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
NFA after initial consideration/investigation	30	16	54
Unfounded	9	6	1
Unsubstantiated	12	14	10
Malicious	4	0	1
Substantiated	2	9	9
Training needs identified	8	0	6
Investigation continuing			8

What are we going to do next:

A priority for 2016/17 is for the LADO and HR Services with the support of the KSCB to deliver 2 x Multi-Agency training Managing Allegations and Safer Recruitment component to them. The Education Safeguarding Team this year has been leading on this training for schools.







Learning and development

The board is committed to providing a comprehensive and effective training programme to professionals and volunteers across the borough of Knowsley. The recruitment of a full time Training Officer has enabled the board to prioritise training in line with gaps identified in training needs analysis, to provide a more focused training programme on themes arising from the business plan and lessons learnt via the Learning and Improvement Framework.

The Learning and Development Sub Group initially met on a bi-monthly basis, this has been reduced to quarterly meetings to enable its members to achieve the actions set out in the work plan. A key role is to quality assure single and multi-agency training, a timetable is now in place and a quality assurance tool has been developed to support members with this task.

Key Achievements 2015/16

- New full time Training Officer in post
- Updated Training Strategy which aims to support the KSCB in fulfilling one of its key responsibilities; to ensure both single and inter-agency learning activities are delivered to a consistently high standard and that a process exists for evaluating the effectiveness of training and learning
- A local Learning and Improvement Framework has been written to assist the board with its responsibility to ensure that all sources of learning are considered, recognised and used to drive improved outcomes for children and families. The board commissioned a peer review, this review identified that although practitioners were aware of the new thresholds document, further guidance was required regarding applying the thresholds. This prompted a delivery of Multi Agency 'Applying the Thresholds' Briefings to improve knowledge and understanding
- 2082 delegates from a wide range of agencies have accessed or attended training sessions, briefings or conferences delivered by the KSCB
- 90% of attendees rated their subject knowledge as having improved extensively or to some extent
- Creation and introduction of a new bespoke electronic training booking portal that has been specifically designed to allow practitioners to manage their own bookings (with manager's approval), provides evaluation and certification. An additional reporting tool has been developed to enable the KSCB to provide end of year data and analysis
- The 2015/16 Training Programme was updated to include new and improved courses. The following courses are delivered by multi-agency professionals who are members of the KSCB training pool. 'Compromised Care', a course which focuses on the toxic trio (domestic abuse, substance misuse and mental

health issues) a phenomenon which has been identified as a recurring theme in both local and national case reviews. 'CSE Training for Practitioners' a course which aims to equip staff with the knowledge and skills necessary to be able to react when concerns arise and 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (plus a refresher course) has been revised and updated to reflect the introduction of new guidance such as the CP Standards and messages from case reviews

- We commissioned the AIM Project to deliver 'AIM Assessment Training' regarding the assessment of children who display inappropriate and harmful sexual behaviours, this was subsequent to the launch of the new procedure which was created to respond to the increase in cases involving this cohort of children.
- Monthly 60 Minute briefings have been held and regular 7 Minute Briefings have been cascaded both of which have proven a resounding success. Learning from management reviews, new policies and procedures and a number of themes have been communicated to staff via these innovative methods
- The Graded Care Profile was introduced as the agreed tool for assessing neglect. This was identified by Ofsted as a gap. Subsequently large numbers of practitioners were identified and trained

in the tool and the tool was added electronically to relevant IT systems, a number of methods were used to capture evidence that the training and use of the tool is making a difference. Using an evaluation and impact process we have been able to evidence that since its launch, the Graded Care Profile has enabled practitioners to:

- **Improve Multi Agency Working**
- **Use as a reflective tool**
- **Use as evidence to move a case through the thresholds of need**
- **Use and be accepted as evidence in court**
- **Improve engagement and understanding with parents**
- **Inform other assessments**
- **Use a quantifiable, measurable tool**
- **Signpost parents to parenting programmes**
- **Highlight positive areas as well as negatives**
- **Look at all aspects of safeguarding not just what was pertinent to their role**

Examples of impact on children include the removal of children from a family as the tool was accepted by a judge as evidence of the increasing neglect children were experiencing. Cases are being closed to Children's Social Care or Family First where the tool has evidenced improvements in care and home conditions.

- Over 110 practitioners attended the 2015-16 Annual Conference focused on 'Capturing and Responding to the Voice of the Child'. The KSCB commissioned 'Voice for Children' to undertake a safeguarding survey with secondary school age children. Over 1800 responded and provided insight into the views of children related to issues such as neglect, domestic violence and child sexual exploitation. We used the conference to feedback these views and opinions to professionals asking them to consider how we can improve practice in light of their responses
- We introduced a comprehensive, targeted CSE Training Programme on identified areas such as working with parents, communicating with children and strengthening links with the wider community. We can evidence that delegates have increased subject knowledge, confidence and understanding, clarity of new teams, processes of referral and feel fully



equipped with resources and information to share with children and other professionals. A new CSE Training and Development Strategy is now in place to support the board to fulfil its identified priorities regarding CSE

- An established Learning and Development Sub Group is now in place. One of this groups key roles is to quality assure single agency training, a timetable is now in place and QA Tool available to the group
- New members of the KSCB Training Pool have been recruited and development sessions held. Training Pool members have engaged in the revision process of the updated Working Together training courses and continue to facilitate these courses on a regular basis

In line with the identified priority themes of Domestic Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation a varied training programme will be on offer throughout 2016/17, which will include online modules, training courses and 60 and 7 Minute briefings. A task and finish group will be set up to ascertain what Domestic Abuse training has already taken place and to identify which cohorts of staff it should be mandatory for; this will allow the KSCB to target the correct courses at specific staff groups. Neglect and the Graded Care Profile training will continue to be commissioned

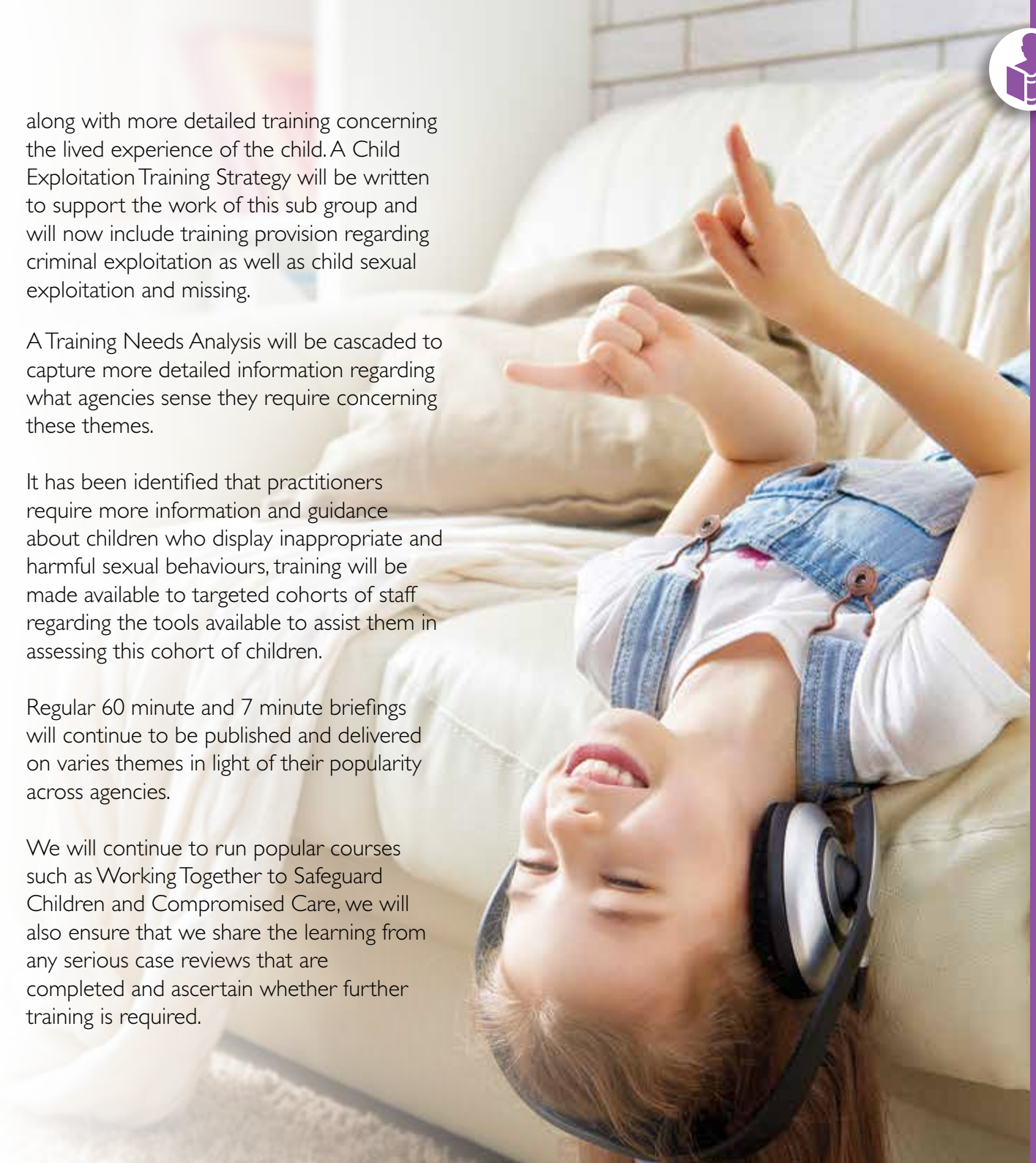
along with more detailed training concerning the lived experience of the child. A Child Exploitation Training Strategy will be written to support the work of this sub group and will now include training provision regarding criminal exploitation as well as child sexual exploitation and missing.

A Training Needs Analysis will be cascaded to capture more detailed information regarding what agencies sense they require concerning these themes.

It has been identified that practitioners require more information and guidance about children who display inappropriate and harmful sexual behaviours, training will be made available to targeted cohorts of staff regarding the tools available to assist them in assessing this cohort of children.

Regular 60 minute and 7 minute briefings will continue to be published and delivered on varies themes in light of their popularity across agencies.

We will continue to run popular courses such as Working Together to Safeguard Children and Compromised Care, we will also ensure that we share the learning from any serious case reviews that are completed and ascertain whether further training is required.





The SIRG has continued to refine the process used for referral of cases in to SIRG.



Serious case review and practice learning activity

The Serious Incident Review Group (SIRG) carries out the statutory function around serious incident notification; initiating Serious Case Reviews (SCR) or practice learning reviews. The meetings are well attended and the SIRG policy has been implemented for SCRs which is more challenging and reflective for the Board and practitioners.

Learning from Practice Learning Reviews conducted in 2014/15 has resulted in policies being developed; practice changing and training rolled out to practitioners i.e. Sexual Harmful Behaviours and Legal Highs, Criminal Exploitation.

During 2015/16

The SIRG has continued to refine the process used for referral of cases in to SIRG and the way in which they are subsequently assessed and recommendations made to the Independent Chair. The sub group meet bi monthly but due to the number of referrals extra ordinary meetings have been held to accommodate the demand. Frontline professionals attend the SIRG to formally discuss the referral information, this serves the purpose of the LSCB developing a relationship with frontline practice and an understanding of the tensions they have to manage whilst delivering services. Also having the benefit of a greater understanding by practitioners of the work of LSCB, their role in monitoring practice and the impact the work of SIRG should have on improving practice and outcomes within the Borough.

Referrals and Outcome - from April 2015 - end March 2016; ten referrals were received into SIRG. Five cases were deemed to meet the threshold criteria for Serious Case Review (SCR) by the SIRG members and recommendations to this effect were made to the Independent Chair who agreed to commission Independent reviewers to conduct them.



Case 1: Child O

This case is with regard a child death. An Independent Reviewer was appointed to review this case under systems methodology. Early findings indicate the lack of a holistic assessment of the family where domestic abuse and neglect were a feature and the lack of use of escalation by professionals.

Case 2: Child Q

This case is with regard to a child in the care of Knowsley Local Authority in an out of area placement. Child Q was recognised as being at risk of child sexual exploitation (CSE). The Independent Reviewer is using a hybrid of systems methodology.

Emerging findings suggest that there have been tensions with placement, planning and the management of the cross boundary arrangements in cases as complex as this. Other findings include risks for and the safety of young people using social media.

Case 3: Child P

This case is with regard to a child who was thought to have a disorder of eating / eating disorder. An Independent Reviewer has been appointed to review this case under systems methodology.

During the SCR process information presented to the Reviewer differed to information presented at the initial SIRG meeting giving cause for concern about the threshold for a SCR continuing to be met. The Panel agreed that a recommendation be made to the Independent Chair that this case no longer met the threshold criteria for SCR. The review process will not change and is currently progressing within given timescales.

Emerging findings include: Communication difficulties exist between CAMHS and other agencies/ organisations which potentially impede multi-agency working in complex cases.

Case 4: Child R

This case is with regard to the SUDI of an infant. The family was known to Children's Social Care but not an open case at the time of death. An Independent Reviewer has been appointed to conduct review under systems methodology.

The theme of the review was thought to be one of issues around co-sleeping however, on review of the submitted information it became evident that the case was more complex.



What are we doing next:

- Once the action plans from the SCRs have been endorsed by the Knowsley LSCB one composite action plan will be developed for the SIRG to have oversight
- Two PLR commissioned in 2014/15 were concluded in 2015/16 and the action plans are being monitored by the SIRG
- SCR and PLR - Lessons learnt and activity will be Standing item at KSCB and will feature in all reports presented to the board
- Develop and deliver a range of safeguarding learning events aimed disseminating key findings from Knowsley SCRs
- Implement a practitioner questionnaire to test learning from SCR and Practice Learning Reviews
- Communication with a diverse range of groups and the dissemination of specific messages



GOOD PRACTICE

Following a Practice Learning review a framework is now in place to ensure provision of service for child perpetrators and victims of sexually harmful behaviour.

The meetings are well attended and the SIRG policy has been implemented for SCRs.

Child Death Overview Panel

Since 2014 Knowsley has been a member of the pan- Merseyside Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) and it enables the KSCB to carry out its statutory functions relating to child deaths.

LSCBs are the responsible bodies in relation to the pooled funds which commissions the administration function. Following a recent review of the CDOP, LSCB Chairs and Directors of Public Health met on two occasions to discuss how each recommendation could be implemented:

- Reduce the number of full panel meetings, whilst introducing a less onerous process for reviewing less complex neonatal deaths
- Re-evaluating the resources required to undertake the activities associated with CDOP
- Performance framework to be developed and a monthly data report to be produced for each LSCB area in relation to out of date cases to and develop

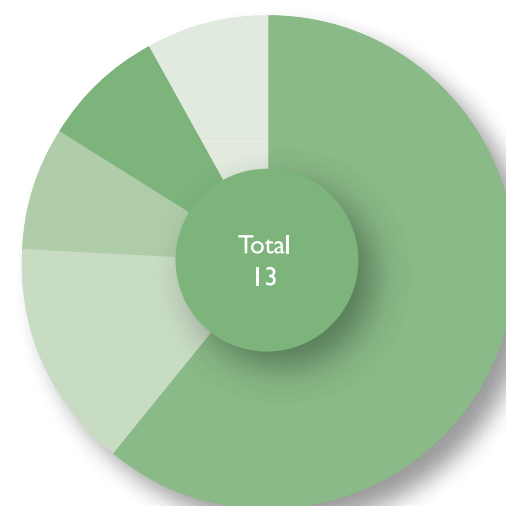
an action plan in place to deal with the backlog

KSCB has worked closely with CDOP during this period to decrease the number of outstanding reports and have implemented a clear process which over sees all Knowsley child deaths. The lessons learnt from CDOP feed into the SIRG and from part of the LIFT priorities

In 2015/16, 13 child deaths were reported in Knowsley.

Male children make up the majority of reported child deaths with 9 of the 13 recorded deaths being males, and the majority of deaths recorded concerned children under the age of 28 days.

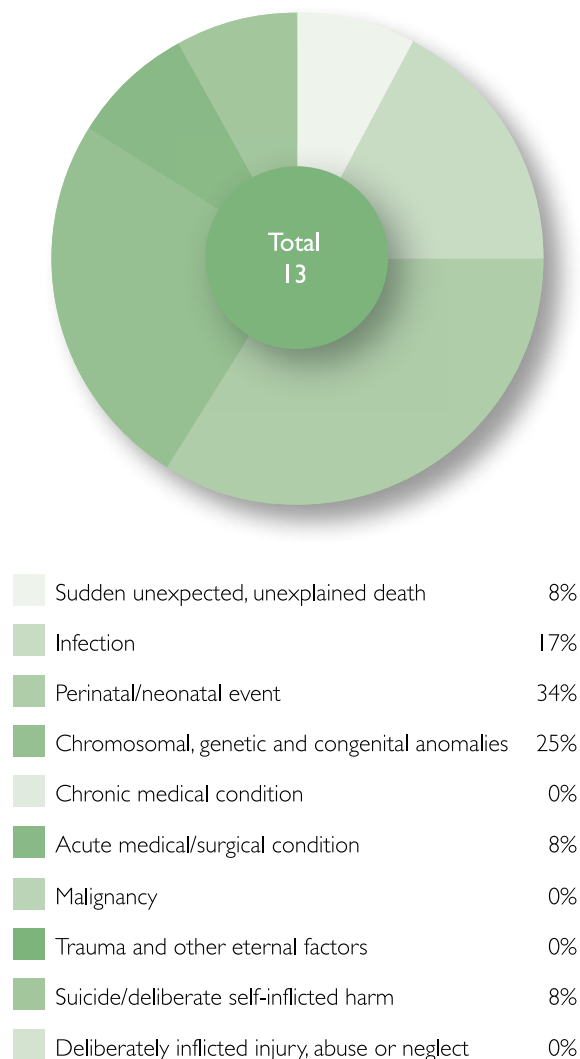
Child deaths by age



Under 28 days	61%
29 days to 1 year	15%
1-4 years	8%
5-9 years	8%
10-14 years	0%
15-18 years	8%



Causes of child death



The majority of child deaths reported in 2015/16 were the result of perinatal or neonatal events (4), followed by chromosome, genetic or congenital abnormalities (3). Two instances of death by infection were recorded, one incident of death from an acute medical or surgical condition and once incident of a sudden unexpected and unexplained death. There were no deaths recorded as being the results of deliberately inflicted injury, abuse or neglect, and one recorded incident of suicide or deliberate self-inflicted harm. Two deaths recorded in 2015/16 were subject to serious case reviews, the details of which are included later in this report.

Four cases were identified with potential modifiable factors, as categorised below:

- Potential co-sleeping/parental smoking
- Maternal smoking/substance abuse and lack of engagement during pregnancy
- Maternal smoking
- Review of maternal condition was not undertaken and a request for medical assistance could have been made sooner

There was only one child death concerning a child subject to child protection plans, child in need plans or children looked after in 2015/16. This was the death of a child subject to a child in need plan, and occurred in quarter 4 of the year.

- A review of child suicide is being conducted which the KSCB are actively involved, the findings will form part of KSCB action plan relating to a local SCR
- Co sleeping is also a priority across the region and the KSCB through its partners will ensure distribution and promote safe practice across the partners





Our Vision

We believe that all children should be able to grow up safe, be healthy, feel listened to and are given the right opportunities to achieve their potential.



KSCB priorities 2016/18

The information contained in the Annual Report has been provided by the partners who make up KSCB. The main findings in the report have assisted in the development of a new business plan 2016/18 which is endorsed by all partners. The board has reviewed its Vision and updated the Mission Statement with clear measurable outcomes being set. The new priorities, detailed below will be monitored through a new governance arrangements with clear accountability framework to board, executive and sub groups members

Our Mission

We will work together to ensure that we put children and young people at the heart of what we do. Where children are at risk or have been harmed we will actively cooperate to safeguard them and promote their welfare.

Key Outcome

Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board will have assurance that:

- Children and Young People in Knowsley are safeguarded and protected from harm including abuse and neglect.
- The voice of children and young people is fully embedded in practice and service planning.
- All practitioners working with children and young people have the skills needed to help and protect children, are well supervised and well managed.
- All children, young people and their families receive consistent support, and are fully involved in making decisions about their lives.
- Front line social work practice is consistently good and effective. There is effective multi-agency delivery of early help.

- All partners work together effectively to support and protect the most vulnerable children and families.

And in order to do this, Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board will provide effective leadership, scrutiny and challenge.

Priorities for KSCB 2016/18

1. **Children in Knowsley are safeguarded and protected from harm, including abuse, neglect and exploitation.**
2. **The voices and experiences of children and young people are fully embedded in practice and service planning.**
3. **Embed the learning from serious case reviews through delivery of the robust action plans, including:**
 - 3a **Early Help - with particular focus on Domestic Abuse**
 - 3b **Neglect**
 - 3c **Exploitation**





Conclusion

This report demonstrates a very real commitment made by the partnership across Knowsley to improve services for vulnerable children in Knowsley. It provides clear evidence of progress and assurance that all those responsible for providing services have taken the findings of Ofsted in 2014 very seriously. As a result many more vulnerable children in Knowsley are receiving services, protection and safeguarding at the right time and in a way which meets individual need.

At the same time analysis provided in the annual report highlights the areas we need to concentrate on, particularly in identifying those children who experience neglect, sometimes for many years.

My challenges to board members, managers and practitioners of all agencies for this coming year are:

How will you make sure your agency provides the leadership required to continue the improvements we have made?

How will you make sure your agency contributes to providing early help to children?

How will you make sure your agency recognises and addresses neglect and domestic abuse in families?

How will you make sure that your agency works with others constructively including escalating concerns when needed?

By meeting these challenges our partnership will be strengthened and we will be increasingly successful in safeguarding the most vulnerable children in Knowsley.

Audrey Williamson
Independent Chair





Safeguarding assurances from partners

Compared to the last KSCB annual report the attendance and involvement in the Board Meetings and sub groups has significantly improved which provides opportunities for obtaining Safeguarding Assurance from partners.

Further assurance has been obtained through:

- Completion and evaluation of Section 11 audits as required by Working Together
- The Challenge sessions explore the evidence for the self-assessed Section 11 audits
- The programmed Multiagency audits

Contributions received from the following assurance which provided evidence of good practice in relating to safeguarding children:

- NHS Bodies including Mersey region NHS Mental Health Trust, Knowsley Clinical Commissioning Group
- Mersey Police Safeguarding
- National Probation Service
- Merseyside Community Rehabilitation Company
- Youth Mutual
- Organisations offering service under section 114 of the Learning and Skills Act



Organisation	2015/16 contribution and 2016/17 plans
Knowsley Youth Mutual	<p>KYM have undertaken an Early Help Audit, where parents, children and young people who had received support from Early Help Services were interviewed and invited to share their experience of the services they receive.</p> <p>They have facilitated young people's involvement in the Voice of the Child consultation to gather young people's views on feeling safe and awareness of CSE, and have been involved in various Safeguarding awareness raising events.</p> <p>During the next year, KYM have pledged continuous investment in training and developing staff and volunteers to deliver the best outcomes for young people, taking an organisational approach to Safeguarding training and supporting its entire workforce to engage in relevant practice based training courses, including Child Protection, Child Sexual Exploitation and Criminal Exploitation awareness.</p>
Knowsley Borough Council Children Social Care	<p>The Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub has been further strengthened during 15/16 with improved robust systems and processes which place children and families at the heart of decision making.</p> <p>Social Work practice has improved across all areas and this has been validated by a number of external sources including Peer review's, Ofsted monitoring visits and service reviews by the chair of the Improvement Board. Recruitment and retention of experienced and high quality practitioners at all levels is a notable improvement in 15/16. External scrutiny and feedback from staff has identified confirmed this sighting a more positive and engaging culture</p> <p>Enabling front line practitioners to undertake their roles more effectively has been a priority; this has been achieved by enhancing business support, introducing mobile technology and smartphones.</p> <p>A full review of Early Help services has resulted in a restructure and relaunch of the Family First service.</p>
Knowsley Safeguarding Adults and Quality Assurance Unit	<p>KSAB and KSCB have agreed a joint protocol which acknowledges that whilst they discharge their functions for different groups of people there are many common areas of work and related processes. Quarterly meetings are held between the Chairs and support staff of the Boards, and have identified valuable opportunities for information and practice sharing.</p>



Organisation	2015/16 contribution and 2016/17 plans
	<p>A particular area of focus for both the KSAB and the KSCB is the need to ensure that all members of the adults' workforce and the children's workforce are clear about their responsibilities to report concerns about both groups.</p> <p>The KSAB Training Officer will work with the KSCB Training Officer in the year ahead to consider overlapping themes for training.</p>
Education Improvement service	<p>Developments in staffing have had a significant impact on the provision of support and challenge to education settings regarding safeguarding issues. The appointment of four new Education Improvement Officers meant that a focus could be given to improving communication with schools and partner agencies. The Education Improvement Officer for engagement now line manages the Safeguarding Officer and the MASH Education Officer. This has resulted in a team approach to engaging with partners to support vulnerable children.</p> <p>The Education Safeguarding Officer and Education Improvement Officer both sit on the KSCB and contribute to various working parties including the audit and quality assurance group. The Safeguarding officer also attends MACSE and CDOP meetings as the education representative. Both roles ensure professional challenge to schools as well as support for any safeguarding concerns. The safeguarding SLA was reviewed this year and offers statutory and additional training on various safeguarding issues such as Child Protection and the role of the safeguarding lead. The Safeguarding Officer is also part of the KSCB training pool.</p> <p>The Safeguarding Officer has been instrumental in the development of several safeguarding initiatives such as sexual harmful behaviour protocol and private fostering materials and training. She has ensured the dissemination of training materials to schools particularly in relation to FGM and PREVENT and has been instrumental in developing the Education safeguarding newsletter which is sent to all education settings following each KCSB meeting.</p> <p>Having a team in place has meant the encouragement of schools to complete the section 175 audit was effective in achieving 100% completion rate compared to a much lower figure last year. The team has been able to highlight areas of concern and support has been given to schools where the audit indicated lack of information or understanding.</p>

Organisation	2015/16 contribution and 2016/17 plans
	<p>Primary school representation on the KSCB has always been positive but securing secondary representative has been less successful. However, this year, due to closer links and liaison, a representative of the secondary sector now sits on the board and is a proactive member of the group.</p> <p>The education team has been proactive in supporting the Board development plan and ensured school access to initiatives such as Chelsea's Choice and more recently, Black Eyes and Cottage Pies. They have also been able to liaise directly with schools ensured a positive uptake of the Voice of the Child questionnaire with 1800 pupils completing this in school.</p>
<p>Knowsley LSCB Health Sub Group</p>	<p>The Health contribution to MASH arrangements and support are ongoing and fully embedded, supporting children with health needs within this framework.</p> <p>There has been a reduction in delays within the adoption processes to ensure children receive health assessments and care within all timescales, and GPs and Primary Care staff now share information relating to safeguarding children in an appropriate and timely manner.</p> <p>In the coming year, the Health sub group will work on an integrated dashboard for all health agencies to be presented to the wider Board meeting.</p> <p>Moving forward, there will be involvement in a single and multi-agency audit process and programme for health across Merseyside, and greater emphases on the inclusion of Voice of Child from health perspective at Board meetings will be implemented.</p> <p>The group will ensure all health staff receive appropriate multi-agency safeguarding training relevant to their roles and there will be reviews of health agency contributions to Obesity; Self-harm/Suicide; Sexual abuse/exploitation.</p>
<p>NHS England</p>	<p>The inclusion of CSE within standard national contracts from April 2016 has required all NHS Trusts to have an identified CSE lead. NHS North distributed 80,000 NHS England CSE pocket guides to all frontline health staff to further support this.</p>



Organisation	2015/16 contribution and 2016/17 plans
	<p>This year saw the implementation of a Cheshire & Merseyside health pathway regarding Female Genital Mutilation and mandatory reporting, alongside the distribution of 50,000 FGM NHS England pocket guides to all frontline health staff. There have been nine regional events (two in Cheshire & Merseyside) regarding FGM and role of health services. Over 2,000 delegates attended all events.</p> <p>A north regional Prevent conference was held in December 2015 to raise awareness of Prevent along with the delivery of a series of executive masterclasses to raise awareness of Prevent.</p> <p>There was a North regional event held to share learning from Bradbury Investigation with 90% of health providers, and full dissemination of all information relating to the Goddard Inquiry to all NHS organisations.</p> <p>There has also been a communication to all Cheshire & Merseyside LADOs to ensure allegations involving those professions managed via NHS England are referred to NHS England Safeguarding Lead.</p> <p>In the coming year, the NHS are looking at the commissioning of health services to support those experiencing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child Sexual Abuse/Exploitation• Female Genital Mutilation• Trafficking and Modern Slavery• Unaccompanied children from abroad
Public Health	<p>This year, Public Health conducted an audit of providers' safeguarding policies and training, and monitored safeguarding frameworks and incidents routinely.</p> <p>There has been enhanced PSHE provision in primary and secondary schools focusing on healthy relationships, as well as Drug Awareness Training for a range of front line professionals focusing on drug use in children and emerging trends in this area.</p> <p>Public Health produced three seven minute briefings this year to raise awareness amongst the local workforce around New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), social media use amongst children and foetal alcohol syndrome.</p>

Organisation	2015/16 contribution and 2016/17 plans
	<p>In response to the Children Questionnaire Feedback, Public Health commissioned Knowsley Youth Mutual to undertake a refresher of the historic Teenage Health in Knowsley Campaign. Public Health have commissioned Barnardos to deliver training around child sexual exploitation (CSE) to a member of staff from each primary and secondary school in the borough.</p> <p>Currently and moving into the next year, Public Health are refining and reviewing a quality dashboard which we have in place that monitors safeguarding as part of a quality assurance dataset.</p>
CCG Safeguarding Children	<p>NHS Knowsley Clinical Commissioning Group continues to be actively engaged with the business of the Board and make significant contributions to the LSCB meetings. The CCG are a strategic lead within the Merseyside CDOP Child Death Overview Panel processes and Merseyside Child Sexual Exploitation agenda.</p> <p>This year, the CCG have reviewed the Quality Schedule for all providers and updated the Key performance indicators in line with any learning from recent reviews that are being reported and monitored.</p> <p>Within the next year, the CCG's aim is to ensure that the voices and experiences of children are taken into consideration in any future service redesign or commissioned services.</p>
5BP	<p>A large part of the role of the Safeguarding Children Service is the provision of Safeguarding Case Supervision to all front line practitioners within 5 Boroughs Partnership who work with children. This is delivered through a variety of methods including face to face one to one individual case supervision, team group supervision, and multi-disciplinary group supervision.</p> <p>For children who have been looked after continuously for 1 year by 31st March in the reporting year Statutory Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) are reported to the Department for Education by Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council Children's Services on 31st March.</p> <p>The Safeguarding Children service has continued to strengthen the provision of case supervision and developed and introduced a schedule of quality assurance of the supervision offered.</p>



Organisation	2015/16 contribution and 2016/17 plans
	<p>Both the Safeguarding Children and Looked After Children procedures have been revised, as well as the Supervision procedures, Domestic abuse procedures, FGM procedures and managing allegations procedures.</p> <p>Due to the Transforming Services plan implemented through the Future Fit planning the Borough is undergoing a full service review, the aim being to align services to the Borough based model.</p>
GPs	<p>This year, GPs have been looking at ways of improving GP contribution to case conferences: a new request form was designed for GPs along with guidance and it was agreed that secure email addresses for GP practices would be used. This will be audited within the next year.</p> <p>An information sharing process has been established for GPs to receive information about any registered patients being discussed at MACSE/MARAAC.</p>
North West Ambulance Service (NWS)	<p>Safeguarding activity at NWS has increased throughout the year; this is reflected in the increase in the numbers of safeguarding concerns raised about adults at risk.</p> <p>Each month, the NWS safeguarding concerns rejected by Children's Social Care are scrutinised to understand the themes and are either reallocated to the correct service or to the patients GP as appropriate.</p> <p>Audits have been introduced to monitor the quality of safeguarding calls made by staff to the Trust Support Centre, and 92% of all NWS staff have now received WRAP 3 training (Workshop to Raise Awareness of PREVENT) as part of the Government's anti-terrorism strategy.</p> <p>During 2016-2017, CSE will be included within mandatory training. Domestic Abuse referral pathways will continue to be developed and working partnership are being forged between various partner agencies.</p> <p>The Safeguarding Team will continue to raise awareness of children who are self-harming, expressing suicidal ideas or attempting suicide, and the Trust will be updating its mandatory training relating to Human Trafficking, Modern Slavery and Domestic Abuse in the next year.</p>

Organisation	2015/16 contribution and 2016/17 plans
<p>Alder Hey</p>	<p>The new Alder Hey in the Park, which opened in October 2015 will provide a world class healing environment for thousands of patients from across the UK. As one of Europe's biggest and busiest children's hospitals, Alder Hey treats around 275,000 patients each year. The New Rainbow Centre is situated on the ground floor near the Emergency Department and provides a 'hub' for the co-ordination of the safeguarding service across the whole trust.</p> <p>This year, services provided by Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust have been rated as 'Good' overall and 'Outstanding' for caring by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), England's independent regulator of health and social care following a re-inspection in June 2015.</p>
<p>Aintree</p>	<p>Aintree University Hospital is a large teaching hospital in Liverpool providing Accident and Emergency and Trauma services; in addition to a wide range of acute and non-acute specialities serving North Liverpool, South Sefton and Kirby. Although an Acute adult provider, children attend for specific services or are cared for by an adult that is considered vulnerable. The Trust staffs, clinical and non-clinical have a role and responsibility to safeguard children and vulnerable adults.</p> <p>To date, Aintree have shared valuable up to date information to strengthen awareness / education to Aintree staff in the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Sexual Exploitation • Domestic Violence • Safe Sleep Campaign • Threshold's into social care • Referral process into MASH and working with social care • Serious Case Reviews (child) <p>Aintree Hospital staff has also attended study days for Domestic Violence provided by KCSB.</p> <p>Aintree Hospital will continue to work closely with Knowsley LSCB by continuing to attend Board/Sub Boards and Group meetings. Information gained will be shared through Aintree Hospital Safeguarding Group to then be shared throughout trust to clinical and non-clinical staff to safeguard children.</p>



Organisation	2015/16 contribution and 2016/17 plans
Liverpool Women	<p>This year at Liverpool Women there has been a full team review and restructure of Safeguarding Service, and a substantive team is now in post. There has also been development of a 2 year Safeguarding Strategy and embedded Action Plan to ensure that standards are maintained in line with compliance recognised by the CQC, as well as monitoring progress and evidencing actions.</p> <p>There have been Quarterly Safeguarding KPIs progressed for review by the CCG and a position statement as to where the service was and actions to address this were produced; this has now improved to steadily reduce the RED rated metrics.</p> <p>This year, revised training in line with legislative requirements was completed, and a CQC Themed unannounced Safeguarding Inspections Toolkit and report template were developed. There has also been an update and development of Key Policies and a Safeguarding Intranet with repository for policies, referral and safeguarding external board guidance.</p> <p>Compliance with NHS Safeguarding Audit Tool/Section 1 Audits/SCRs/Domestic Homicide Reviews for external boards has been ensured and now revised SG Audit Plan has been put together.</p> <p>The Child Sexual Exploitation/FGM/Harmful Practices processes have been reviewed, training updated and has started to be thoroughly embedded across the Trust.</p> <p>In the coming year, Liverpool Women plan to test their embedded processes with relevant audit and continue with the work required and set out by the relevant Board work plans.</p>
Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen	<p>During 2015/16 the Trust recognised that it needed to strengthen its own internal working arrangements relating to safeguarding for both children and adults, and in order to start building on working together and share learning, they re-started Link Nurse Meetings where attendees can share common practice and learn lessons from incidents and concerns raised.</p> <p>There has been an increased awareness in relation to Human Trafficking, Modern Slavery and Child Sexual Exploitation through training. The organisation has also introduced a safeguarding folder kept within each clinical area that is updated with additional information as it is sent to the trust.</p>

Organisation	2015/16 contribution and 2016/17 plans
	<p>The safeguarding team have also participated in 'You Said, We Listened' events where they have engaged with outside agencies to come and share what services and support are available both within the Trust for children and also what is available on the wider health and social care economy.</p> <p>Training that is delivered to all staff within the Trust is currently being reviewed, and plans are in place to increase the number of staff that will have an enhanced level of training. The Trust also recognise that further training for all front line staff across the organisation to complete the Merseyside Risk and Identification Tool (MERIT) domestic homicide review score is required and work is underway to organise this.</p>
Merseyside Police	<p>Since 2013 the number of investigative staff in Knowsley dedicated to child protection and safeguarding has doubled to now involve around forty staff. This area of work has grown due to increased awareness and reporting in areas such as Domestic Abuse, Child Sexual Exploitation and the Criminal Exploitation of children.</p> <p>A recent inspection found evidence of national best practice evident in the day to day operations of Team Shield, with Investigators winning Merseyside Police's 'Team of the Year' award in 2015 for their work.</p> <p>In December 2015 Police Officers and Social Workers from across Knowsley came together to launch a revised set of clear Child Protection joint working standards and re-calibrate professional's understanding of commitments to joint investigations under Working Together 2015.</p> <p>The Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) continues to develop more effective ways of working together during the approach to the 3rd year of Hub working. This is evident in the development of an operational manual, daily multi-agency conferencing, internal audit procedures and ongoing support for Operation Encompass which shares information with schools where children are witnesses to Domestic Abuse.</p>



Organisation	2015/16 contribution and 2016/17 plans
The National Probation Service	<p>The service has in place national, regional, and local safeguarding policies and procedures in place with regard to child protection. National Interim Guidance was distributed in June 15 by the National Lead for Safeguarding Children.</p> <p>A regional Safeguarding Children Plan was devised by the NPS North West regional Risk Lead managers. This has been distributed across the region and is to be adhered to all NPS staff.</p> <p>Our electronic recording system Delius has a flag system operating, whereby flags can be added to offender records to identify any risk to children issues or safeguarding children concerns. Additionally any cases managed within MAPPA (Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements) are subject to regular review of any safeguarding children issues.</p> <p>In January 2016 the MAPPA Strategic Management Board undertook an audit of MAPPA cases to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of Level 2/3 meetings and minutes in order to ensure that children are safeguarded and that their voices are heard. The audit process also enabled those involved to ensure an alignment between MAPPA Risk Management Plans, and other multi-agency plans. The cases were randomly selected from across each Local Authority. Of the 13 cases, 8 were rated sufficient and 5 were rated good.</p> <p>The NPS supports continuous development and improvement of practice and is committed to the protection of the public and safeguarding of children. In the coming months Merseyside will be introducing a new Management Oversight procedure which will underpin the supervision process.</p> <p>This process focused on those offenders identified as posing a very high or high risk of harm and those identified as posing a risk to children. This new process will ensure such cases are fully reviewed and that there is sufficient and effective oversight.</p> <p>NPS are also in the process of rolling out a development programme for managers and staff to highlight and embed the learning from serious further offence reviews, serious case reviews and domestic homicide reviews. This process will give staff the opportunity to learn from such reviews and improve practice robustly safeguard those at risk.</p>

Organisation	2015/16 contribution and 2016/17 plans
<p>Merseyside Community Rehabilitation Company</p>	<p>Following the Government's 'Transforming Rehabilitation' programme, probation services in Knowsley are now split into two organisations, with Merseyside Community Rehabilitation Company (MCRC) being privately owned by Interserve Justice. The National Probation Service continues to be publicly owned. The MCRC has responsibility for the supervision of offenders in the community assessed as low to medium risk of harm. This cohort includes a significant number of people who have drug/alcohol, mental illness issues. Many of these people live in families with children, and many of these families have domestic abuse as a dynamic within them.</p> <p>The vision for the new MCRCs is to work more closely with their partners, often in a co-located facility. Work has been progressing over the last 12 months to forge better links with the Family First agenda in order to create a more joined up approach to working with individuals within families and to support the safeguarding of children within those families.</p> <p>The MCRC is a member of the MASH and also has a close information sharing relationship with the MARAC process. Knowsley Integrated Offender Management Scheme (IOM) is aiming to provide a multi-agency approach to managing the most risky domestic violence perpetrators which will include a close working partnership between MCRC and the police.</p> <p>MCRC has also developed a voluntary perpetrator programme called HELP for domestic abuse perpetrators and this is being rolled out in Knowsley.</p>
<p>Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service</p>	<p>During this year both operational and non-operational staff have received information regarding the signs that may indicate Child Sexual Exploitation. In addition Youth Engagement Staff have received enhanced CSE training as they work more closely and regularly with children and young people.</p> <p>Staff have been kept apprised of MASH and EHAF and how this works with our internal policies.</p> <p>Due to an internal restructure, personnel and positions have changed and there is currently an ongoing review of our Safeguarding partnerships. Following this a training audit will be completed to ensure the correct personnel receive training in order to correctly service their roles.</p> <p>In addition, having regard to the restructure, the Safeguarding internal policy will be reviewed to ensure that Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service can continue to respond appropriately to any Safeguarding alerts made by staff across 24 hours each day.</p>



Organisation	2015/16 contribution and 2016/17 plans
CAFCASS	<p>The Child Exploitation Strategy introduced in 2014/15 to include trafficking and radicalisation as well as sexual exploitation was extended into 2015/16.</p>
	<p>This year has also brought about the development of innovations that are aimed at improving practice and supporting family justice reform. These include: piloting the provision to our Family Court Advisers of consultations with a clinical psychologist; the extension of Family Drug and Alcohol Courts; the supporting separated parents in dispute helpline (a pilot across five service areas aimed at promoting out-of-court settlements of disputes where safe to do so).</p> <p>A Service User Feedback Survey was commissioned, which looked at the interim outcomes of children six to nine months after private law proceedings concluded. Specifically the survey looked into whether arrangements ordered by the court had sustained; how effective communication was between parents before and after court proceedings; and whether participants believed that the court order was in their child's best interests.</p>
Knowsley Community College	<p>Knowsley Community College had three key priorities for the continuous improvement of College safeguarding in 2015-16.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To continuously improve safeguarding information to leaders, managers and staff. Completed activities include embedding a weekly Safeguarding Summary Report to senior College leaders. This has given the College Senior Leadership team an overview of work on new and existing safeguarding cases and enables safeguarding practice to be closely monitored. Also, a termly College-specific KSCB newsletter was introduced to feedback key KSCB issues to all staff. This has raised awareness of KSCB work, its priorities and required action. KSCB briefings have also been disseminated to staff as appropriate. Lastly, on-line safeguarding resources for staff have been developed and are available on the new College internal website. 2. To extend safeguarding advice to students by developing links with more external organisations. Examples are KYM activity supplementing the weekly College THinK Clinic work. This has resulted in wider student access to relationship advice, contraception advice and access, and pregnancy and chlamydia testing. Michael Causer Foundation staff delivered nine workshops to improve LGBTQI awareness, support and signposting information. Time for Change delivered mental health information

Organisation	2015/16 contribution and 2016/17 plans
	<p>via pop-up stands and workshops, enhancing the College Kooth counselling provision. The College also commissioned the Puppet Broadcasting Company which delivered four performances to help students understand Prevent and how to keep safe from radicalisation. This was in addition to annual performances of the police commissioned play 'Terriers' on gun and knife crime, gangs and sexual exploitation and CAB commissioned 'Busted' to give students the skills to avoid financial exploitation.</p> <p>3. To further develop student access to safeguarding information, including on-line resources. Completed work includes piloting a new e-learning course on positive Mental Health. To date over three hundred students have completed the first module and external support agency contacts have been more widely promoted throughout the College.</p> <p>Our next steps are to maintain and build on existing and new activity, particularly in relation to mental health, Prevent and on-line safety education to students.</p>



KSCB membership

Independent Chair

Audrey Williamson

Independent Chair for Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board

Vice Chair

Helen Meredith

Lead Nurse Quality & Safety, Clinical Commissioning Group

Members (Statutory)

Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council

Paul Boyce

Executive Director (Children)

Sean Cook

Head of Service, Adult Social Care

Colette Dutton

Assistant Director of Safeguarding & Quality Assurance

Peter Murphy

Director, Safeguarding & Social Care (Children)

Paula Sumner

Assistant Executive Director (Early Help)

Julie Tierney

Public Health Specialist



Health

NHS England Cheshire & Merseyside

Lisa Cooper

Deputy Director Quality & Safeguarding

Sue Gunson

Designated Nurse, Clinical Commissioning Group

Helen Meredith

Lead Nurse, Quality & Safety, Clinical Commissioning Group

Dr Linda Teebay

Consultant Community, Paediatrician - Designated Doctor

Education

Trish Long

Head of Student Services, Knowsley Community College

Gill Holland

Headteacher, Westvale Primary School

Barry Bridden

Headteacher, Lord Derby Academy

Vicki Clements

Education Safeguarding Officer

Susan Pennington

Education Improvement Officer

Merseyside Police

Chief Superintendent Jon Roy

Area Commander

Community Rehabilitation Company

Rosie Goodwin

Assistant Chief Executive Officer

National Probation Service

Marie Orrell

Assistant Director



Youth Offending Team

Dionne Atkinson
Head of Integrated Services

Children and Families Court
Advisory Support Service (CAFCASS)

Alan Sanders
Senior Service Manager

Members (by invitation)

Housing

Martina Daly
Head of Customer & Independent Living Services, Knowsley Housing Trust

Fire and Rescue

Caroline Crichton
Senior officer for Children and YP

Faith Groups

Jeremy Fagan
Vicar, St Martin's Church

Knowsley Youth Mutual

Sandra Richardson
Chief Executive Office

Voluntary Sector

Vacancy

Lay Member

Caroline Collins
Cathy Manley

Participating Observer

Councillor Gary See
Lead Member

Support Staff

Lesley Goode
KSCB Board Manager (Interim)

Carly Gebhardt
KSCB Executive Support Assistant



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