



Knowsley's
Safeguarding Children Board
Annual Report **2016/17**

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Section 1 - Foreword

I am pleased to present Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board's annual report 2016 - 2017.

This is the third annual report. I have presented as the independent chair of the partnership and I believe this to be the strongest in providing evidence of good and sustained improvements in the work to safeguard vulnerable children in Knowsley. I hope you find it informative.

The partnership of agencies and individuals responsible for services and work with children and families make up the membership of the Safeguarding Children Board. The partnership has come a very long way since Ofsted judged children's services and the board to be inadequate in June 2014.

When children's services are judged to be inadequate Ofsted undertakes a further reinspection to ensure that services have improved. Knowsley was reinspected in March 2017 and inspectors judged children's services to be no longer inadequate. This is a significant achievement.

A range of improvements are in place and well embedded. New ways of working have been developed, for example a dedicated service for children at risk of exploitation is in place and is well led and resourced. The Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub provides a good response to those who have concerns about the safety of individual children. Children placed in Knowsley by other Local Authorities receive the service they need to make them safe. The Care Quality Commission which inspected health services for children in Knowsley this year also recognised partnership work in developing these services.

All of these improvements have been achieved through hard and detailed work at all levels of all the organisations and individuals responsible for the delivery of children's services. These include the Local Authority, Merseyside Police, a range of health services led by the Clinical Commissioning Group, probation services, youth offending services, early

help services and our lay members and faith representative. Our partnership has a detailed knowledge of how services perform, where the gaps are and how we address them. This has given us confidence in our work.

Strong and stable leadership has been critical in improving services and the board has benefitted from experiencing only a few changes of membership at senior level.

This is particularly evident within the council where political and chief executive support has continued. Although there was a change of lead member for children's services this year the same level of commitment and support continues. In addition children's services has benefitted from a consistent and experienced leadership team which provided strong strategic and operational direction to improve services.

The inspectors noted "good strategic planning combined with effective partnership with key statutory agencies mean that children in Knowsley are receiving an increasing range of high-quality, effective services."

It was particularly rewarding to see that the inspectors recognised the strong and stable work force within council children's services in stark contrast to the picture found in 2014. This in turn has led to better services for vulnerable children and their families. Staff are valued and well supported; morale is good within a difficult and demanding area of work.

This year there has been a clear focus on our priorities. The partnership has sought to learn from reviews, including serious case reviews, audits and scrutiny of individual services. This has helped us to shape new policies and ensure that training was available to support staff working, for example, with children experiencing neglect. We know there can be a severe impact on children who experience domestic abuse and the board has supported the development of a strategy and services to address this impact.

The board has taken responsibility for the delivery of training to all staff across the locality to raise awareness of this issue.

While good work has been achieved on our priorities there remains work to do.

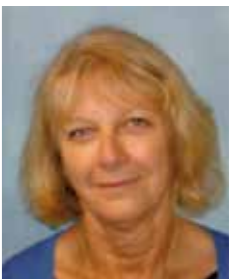
The voice and experience of children who need protection require strengthening. By doing this care plans will be more focussed, properly meet needs and be consistent in quality. Too many children in Knowsley continue to witness domestic abuse within the family and this may explain why there are more children with a child protection plan due to emotional abuse. We also know that some children have suffered neglect over a long period and require better support and care.

In recognition of the requirement to further improve, our priorities and focus will remain the same in this coming year. The board believes these are the right priorities and focus on the most vulnerable children in local communities. It is expected that this continued focus will lead to steady progress in services and, of more importance, better outcomes for vulnerable children.

There are challenges in the coming year, not least a financial climate requiring different ways to deliver services within limited budgets. The complexity of health arrangements, different Police structures and increased demands on the Council are all pressures which can potentially impact on services for children. In this context partnership and true collaboration are the only way to address such pressures in order to continue to meet safeguarding responsibilities and I am confident that the mature partnership in Knowsley is strong enough to meet these challenges.

As Independent Chair, I would like to thank all board members for their continued support in what has been a demanding year. I would also like to thank the hard working team that supports the board and ensures the smooth running of our business. Finally and most importantly I would like to thank all those who provide services, working with vulnerable children and their families in Knowsley.

Audrey Williamson
Independent chair, KSCB



Section 2 - Introduction

The Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board (KSCB) has been published to set out the board's progress against the strategic priorities set within the business plan for the period 2016 – 2018.

Under section 14a of the Children Act 2004 the Independent Chair of the local safeguarding board must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area.

The year 2016/2017 has proved to be an interesting and challenging year for KSCB. At a national level, the legislative provisions concerning safeguarding were reviewed. As a consequence The Children and Social Work Bill received Royal Assent in April 2017, removing the statutory requirement for Local Safeguarding Children Boards. They will be replaced by locally agreed safeguarding arrangements.

At a local level, in March 2017, Ofsted re-inspected Children's Services following the previous inspection in March 2014 which deemed that services at that point were inadequate overall. Since this time

an Improvement Plan, governed by an Improvement Board has been progressed at pace. The outcome of the re inspection has been very positive with Ofsted acknowledging that Services and outcomes for all children have significantly improved since the last inspection.

Adoption performance, experiences and progress of care leavers, together with leadership, management and governance were graded as 'good', whilst in the areas of children in need of help and protection and those looked after, Ofsted agreed with the Local Authorities self-assessment that further improvement was still required to achieve consistently good services.

Whilst Ofsted no longer re-inspect the LSCB arrangements inspectors did highlight the local authority's good collaboration with key partner agencies, which they described as 'well informed by a detailed understanding

of the needs of children in Knowsley.' Further detail regarding the Ofsted inspection is contained later in this report.

This Annual report of the LSCB In accordance with national guidelines has been circulated to the following key partners;

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

The report provides a summary of the roles and responsibilities of Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board and an appraisal of the progress made to date and the challenges ahead.

Glossary of terms

AIM Assessment Intervention Moving On
CAFCASS Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service
CAMHS Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
CCE Child Criminal Exploitation
CCG Clinical Commissioning Group
CDOP Child Death Overview Panel
CLA Children Looked After
CP Child Protection
CSE Child Sexual Exploitation
CQC Care Quality Commission
EHAF Early Help Assessment Framework
FGM Female Genital Mutilation
GP General Practitioner
GCP Graded care Profile
ICPCC Initial Child Protection Case Conference

IRO Independent Reviewing Officer
KSAB Knowsley Safeguarding Adults Board
KSCB Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board
LA Local Authority
KYM Knowsley Youth Mutual
LADO Local Authority Designated Officer
LSCB Local Safeguarding Children Board
LIF Learning Improvement Framework
MAPPA Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements
MARAC Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference
MACSE Multi Agency Child Sexual Exploitation
MASH Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub
MCRC Merseyside Community Rehabilitation Company
NFA No Further Action
NHS National Health Service

NPS New Psychoactive Substances
NWA 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

Section 3 - The structure of the Board, governance and membership

What is the LSCB?

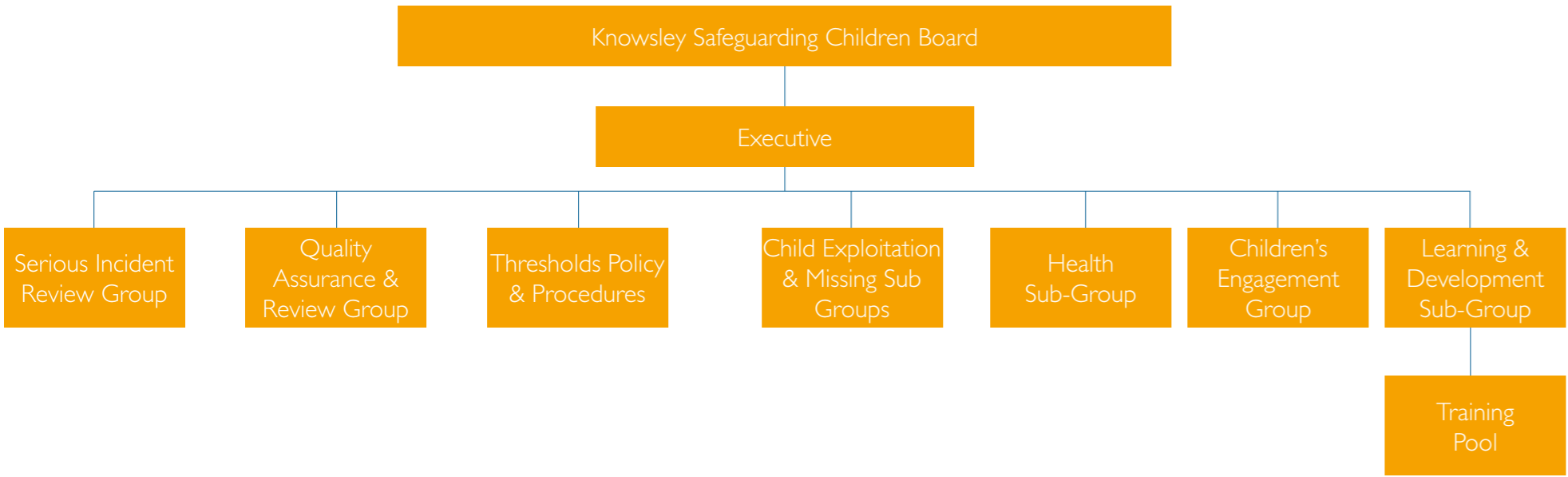
The Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) is a statutory body, which agrees how relevant agencies work together to help make children safer through promoting the welfare of children and making sure that activity undertaken is effective.

The work of the LSCB during 2016/2017 was governed by statutory guidance in Working Together 2015 and the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) regulations 2006.

The LSCB membership is formed from a range of senior leaders from a broad spectrum of organisations.

LSCB structure

The structure of the Board and its sub groups during 2016 to 2017 is set out below;



Independent Chair

The Independent Chair of the KSCB is Audrey Williamson. She is 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 Knowsley Council and met with the Lead Member for children and young people of the council regularly during 2016/17.

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, 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.

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.

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 2016/2017.

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 2016/17, engagement continued and was strengthened

with the Knowsley 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. In the light of the new children and social work bill, which received royal assent this year, there has been increased collaboration between respective LSCB's to share and learn from good practice.

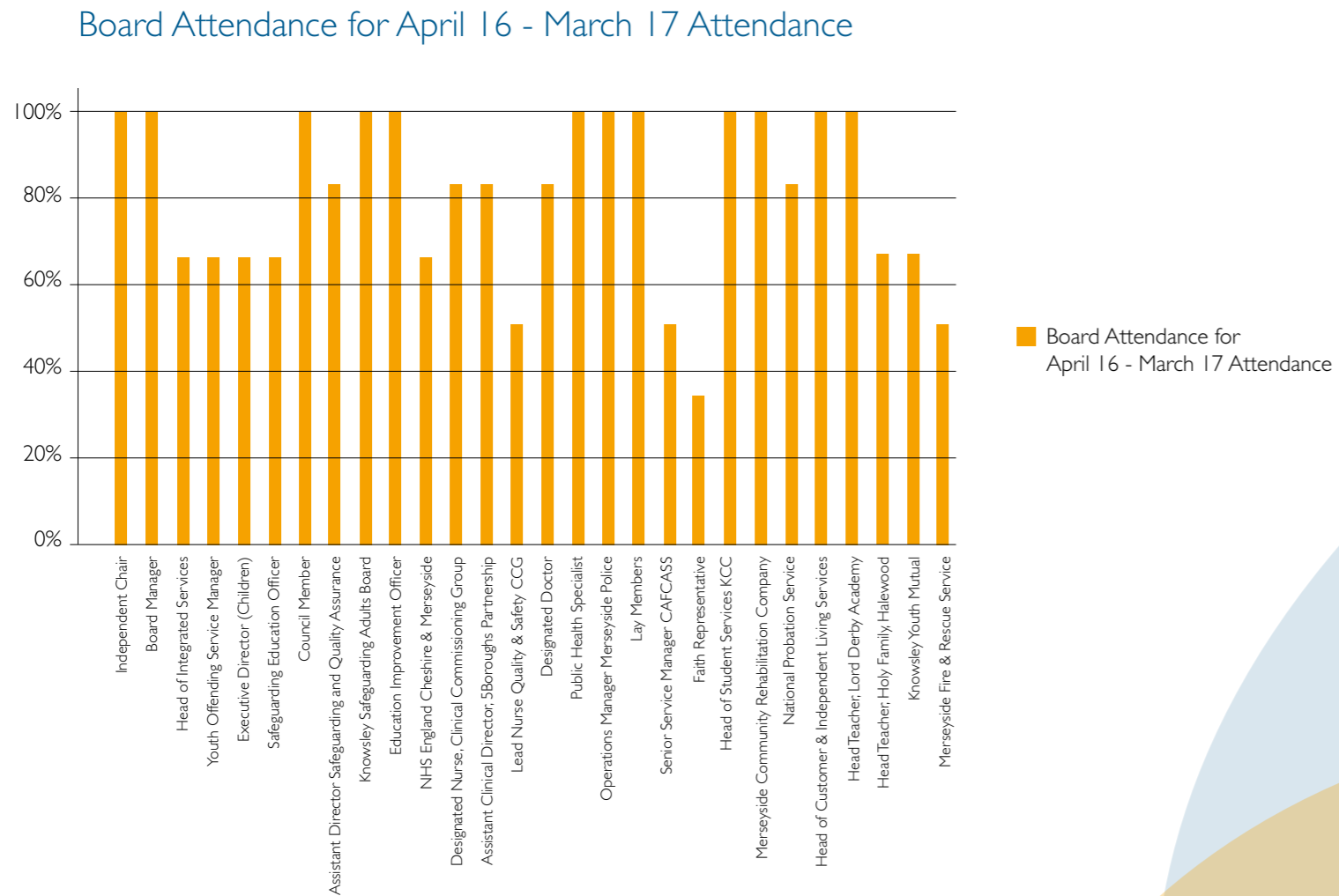
Board Membership and Attendance

During 2016/17 there were eight main board meetings, and six executive board meetings. The main board had a membership made up of representatives from all statutory partners and others concerned with safeguarding children.

The council's children's social care service is always represented at the board, either the Director or the Assistant Director attends.

There are two lay members, who sit on the Board. They provide challenge and rigor to the LSCB processes. They are active members of a number of sub-groups and their views are always welcomed.

They have supported safeguarding initiatives, for example the CSE Community briefings, which were attended by local parents and children aimed at raising their awareness of the risks associated with grooming, social media, gaming and other forms of exploitation. Membership and attendance at the board can be seen below.



The following comments are a snap shot of their thoughts;

I have been a Lay Member of Knowsley Safeguarding Children's Board for approximately one year. I have attended a number of Board meetings and have been impressed by the level of professionalism within the group. I feel very comfortable participating in discussions and I am happy to offer my thoughts and ideas on how we can address the Boards priorities. I have also been an active member of the Quality Assurance and Review Group.

My professional background in the health service has enabled me to encourage and where necessary challenge the performance of the partnership. This year I am looking forward to supporting the L&D group.

As a Foster Carer I have considerable first-hand knowledge of the risks and challenges faced by professionals in protecting vulnerable children. I have been a Lay Member of the Board for approximately one year. My professional experience has allowed me to speak from an informed position when challenging the Board. I have taken an active role as a member of the Training sub group. I have utilised my experience to promote training opportunities for foster carers, which are facilitated by the Board.

Safeguarding context in Knowsley - local demographics

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 1 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.

Knowsley Borough safeguarding snapshot 2016/17

- 32,486 children live in Knowsley
- 31.5% of children in low income families
- 236 children became subject of CPP for child protection investigations, 2nd or subsequent time
- 208 children on a child protection plan
- 113 Knowsley children and young people identified being at risk of CSE
- 304 incidents of children going missing from care
- 568 open children in need cases
- 3,259 referrals to children's social care
- 89% of referrals to CSC went onto single assessment
- 291 children and young people looked after as of March 2016
- 1,874 domestic abuse notifications made to the police where children and young people were in the household
- 15.8% child in need case with a disability
- 8 children and young people not resident in Knowsley at risk of CSE
- 845 incidents of children going missing from home and care

Section 4 - Strategic priorities for KSCB

KSCB set out its key priorities in the business plan for the period 2016 to 2018. It describes how we intend to improve services and practices to meet those priorities.

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.”

Our mission

Where children are at risk or have been harmed, we will take individual and collective responsibility to safeguard them and promote their welfare.

We will work hard together and offer challenge to ensure that we put children at the heart of everything we do.

These objectives are underpinned by the following guiding principles;

- Children in Knowsley are safeguarded and protected from harm, including abuse and neglect.
- The voice of children is fully embedded in practice and service planning.
- All practitioners working with children have the skills needed to help and protect children, are well supervised and well managed.
- All children 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.

KSCB priorities 2016/2018

The LSCB set the following priorities to enable us to achieve our strategic vision;

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

Section 5 - Progress against strategic priorities

Priority 1

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

Child exploitation

Knowsley has developed a comprehensive multi-agency response to the threat of child exploitation. The Shield Team is a multi-agency team comprising of Social Care, Police, Health and Education along with commissioned specialist services, and has been specifically designed to lead on issues of child sexual exploitation and children missing from home and care. The work of Shield spans across the Prevent, Protect and Pursue work streams. The Shield team maintains oversight of all CSE victims within the council and any Knowsley child looked after, placed outside the borough. It considers levels of

risk, what intervention is being delivered, offering consultations for lead practitioners or working directly with young people.

Shield also has an outreach side of the team which is called Operational Fairlop. On a monthly basis there are plans to raise awareness of CSE, and target any problem areas. The focus has been on:

- Primary schools, parents evenings Year 7 and 8
- Programme of engagement with all Knowsley secondary schools.
- Proactive work with voluntary and community organisations, such as Knowsley Youth Mutual (KYM).

The Shield Team has now taken the lead agency role in relation to the Child Criminal Exploitation agenda with administration transferred from Safer Communities to SHIELD on 1st February 2017.

It is recognised that children who go missing from home or care may be vulnerable to CE. To mitigate that risk the Missing from Home Coordinator, who works within the Shield team, has played a significant role in managing missing from home reports.

All missing episodes for young people placed in Knowsley from another borough, or young people not open to social care, are assessed in Shield.

Shield Social Workers check for any safeguarding concerns within the missing and found reports and review the return interviews to ensure all safeguarding needs have been addressed.

Young people who present with a high frequency of missing receive direct intervention from Catch 22.

Catch 22 is an independent service who have been commissioned by Knowsley Council to deliver a Missing from Home/Care Service.

They are part of the Shield Team. Catch 22 aims to conduct a return home interview with the young person within 72 hours of them being seen safe and well.

Return interviews are carried out within the family/care home, school or college. Each young person is seen independently from an adult to give them the opportunity to discuss reasons why they have gone missing, where they have been and who they have been with. Catch 22 offers to engage directly with young people who have had 3 episodes of missing within a 90 day period. This engagement focuses on reducing missing episodes, safety planning, confidence, etc. In the longer term Catch22 aim to refer the young person onto a positive activity.

Over the past year the structure of the Multi-Agency Child Sexual Exploitation (MACSE) process has been significantly changed in response to a diagnostic review that was carried out into their processes. The new service offers more interagency oversight, to ensure that children who were entering the MACSE process were being provided with the best service that the Police and Social Care could offer.

There is also greater focus around perpetrators who had come to the attention of Police, but not prosecuted. The enhanced offender management process enables agencies to manage or disrupt these individuals.

The MACSE meeting provides a more strategic overview of victim and offender activity leaving operational decision making to the daily business processes within the Shield team.

Neglect

The Board raised concerns about the prevalence of child neglect in the Borough. This was reflected in a number of learning points identified within local serious case reviews. They commissioned a multi-agency review of the neglect strategy. The group was chaired by a senior Manager within the local authority. The purpose of the review was to develop a multi-agency understanding and response to neglect.

A 'task and finish' group represented by partner agencies has met on a regular basis since July 2016. It has focused on a number of significant areas for development. The strategy was approved and will be implemented. It will strengthen our strategic and operational response to dealing with

child neglect. To support the implementation of the neglect strategy practice guidance has been developed to raise the awareness of practitioners.

The Board has promoted the use of the graded care profile, a nationally recognised assessment tool of children who may be exposed to neglect. Healthcare providers within Knowsley have started implementation of this assessment tool and will closely monitor its use.

Domestic Abuse

Children's services have established a Protect Children Group led by an Assistant Executive Director which is focussed on supporting and working with children affected by familial domestic abuse. Since its inception the group has set about developing a number of key areas of work: Introduction of the Domestic Abuse Risk Identification Matric (DARIM) for use with children to use as a proxy measure of how domestic abuse in their family is impacted on their daily lived experience. The training across the partnership started in November 2016 and continues into the coming year to ensure that all partners are using this at all levels of the continuum in order to make sure that children are able to access the right level of support and services at the right time.

There are now very clear pathways in place for children who are experiencing the impact of domestic abuse. This allows practitioners to be absolutely clear on how best to identify risks, assess and refer for appropriate interventions.

A model of safety planning for children is being developed by the Protect Group and will be considered for roll out across the partnership by the Safeguarding Children Board during 2017/18. This will further strengthen the support offered to children and allow them to be empowered to deal with situations as they arise.

Operation Encompass has continued to raise awareness within the schools of potential risks to children who have been present at a domestic abuse incident.

Information is provided by Merseyside Police to enable school staff to provide early support to children and young people in a way that means they feel safe and included in the school day. The LSCB identified a potential gap and extended the process to include child minders and nurseries. It allows the provision of immediate early intervention through silent or overt support dependent upon the needs and wishes of the child.

During the year we have increased the capacity of Listening Ear, a service offering therapies and support to children affected by Domestic Abuse. This will be further enhanced by a grant from DCLG again supporting children affected by this issue.

Merseyside Police have co-located 4 Police Community Support Officers with the Safer Communities Team to further enhance our offer to support people affected by domestic abuse.

Sexually harmful behaviour

Evidence suggests that children and young people who display sexually harmful behaviour towards others may have suffered considerable disruption in their lives, been exposed to violence within the family, may have witnessed or been subjected to abuse, have problems with their educational and/or social development and may have committed other offences.

To reduce the risk to children, KSCB commissioned a review to be undertaken of policies and procedures regarding children who display sexually inappropriate and harmful behaviour. A multi-agency task and finish group was set up, chaired by a senior Manager within the council.

A new policy has been written and will be implemented. The policy focuses on raising awareness of the risks to children and developing a performance framework, underpinned by a robust governance structure.

KSCB commissioned an expert to develop and deliver training to front line practitioners. In addition bespoke training on the Brook traffic light system has been commissioned, to be delivered to practitioners. This training raises awareness of how practitioners can identify and assess the risks to children.

Knowsley MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub)

Knowsley MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) has been in operation since February 2014 and has continued to perform to a high level. The MASH arrangements received very positive feedback in the recent Ofsted re-inspection. The MASH was set-up in order to manage the initial multi-agency response to safeguarding concerns in relation to children and adults at risk.

Within the MASH, information from different agencies is collated and assessed, which is used to influence decisions concerning safeguarding. This enables agencies to

provide a prompt and coordinated response, ensuring that vulnerable children and adults are kept safe.

During 2016 to 2017 MASH have responded to over 13,000 contacts from professionals and the public in relation to our most vulnerable children and adults. MASH has provided a child centred partnership response ensuring children are protected and risk reduced with effective information sharing and decision making across the thresholds. Whilst managing these demands they have continued to make progress against their strategic priorities. With an overarching aim “to establish an intelligence led, evidence based and sustainable MASH model”.

MASH has embedded a consistent multi-agency quality assurance and performance framework in relation to contacts into the MASH. Audits are thematic e.g. homelessness, consent, MARF quality, and some of the findings have resulted in significant improvements: They reviewed the response to domestic abuse by implementing a MASH daily multi-agency screening and allocation meeting of low risk police DA notifications:

We have continued to ensure current MASH partnership meets the demands of the service:

- With support from the Knowsley Education Improvement team and schools they secured further funding for the MASH education officer post.
- They implemented Family First level 3 duty services and relocated level 2 Early Help support service to a community base.
- They escalated to the KSCB concerns regarding deficiency in MASH health provision with a formal review by the CCG to be concluded at the end of May 2017. They have continued the development of integration between the Children's and Adults arms of the MASH via:

- Development and implementation of performance monitoring frameworks for both MASH ASC and CSC
- Increased call advisor capacity with all staff trained to respond to both adult and child enquiries
- ASC supporting the CSC audit process and Domestic Abuse screening and allocation meetings
- Development of a single MARF for both adult and child referrals

The MASH identified through its analysis of information that domestic abuse (DA) has consistently remained a significant factor in the numbers of contacts and repeat contacts into the MASH. It continues to impact significantly upon the physical and emotional health and wellbeing of Knowsley Children, Families and Vulnerable Adults. The MASH commissioned a review of its response to DA. In an effort to improve our response to domestic abuse, the MASH has piloted an extended screening model for domestic abuse, known as (BRAG.) This process will enable services to intervene earlier and more effectively. It will widen the availability of services at an earlier stage and reduce inappropriate referrals to level 4 services.

Early help strategy

Early help means providing help for children and families as soon as problems start to emerge or when there is a strong likelihood that problems will emerge in the future. The revised early help strategy 2017 to 2020 was recently approved and implemented. The strategy reflects local changes in practice that demonstrates our commitment to providing early help.

Whilst most children, young people and their families in Knowsley are able to have a good quality of life with minimal additional support from public services, there are some who find life more difficult for a variety of reasons. At different times in their lives, children and their families in these circumstances may need additional support and help from universal, targeted and specialist assistance and providing support at the right time can reduce the likelihood of problems escalating and improve long term outcomes for children, young people and their families, enabling them to lead happier and healthier lives.

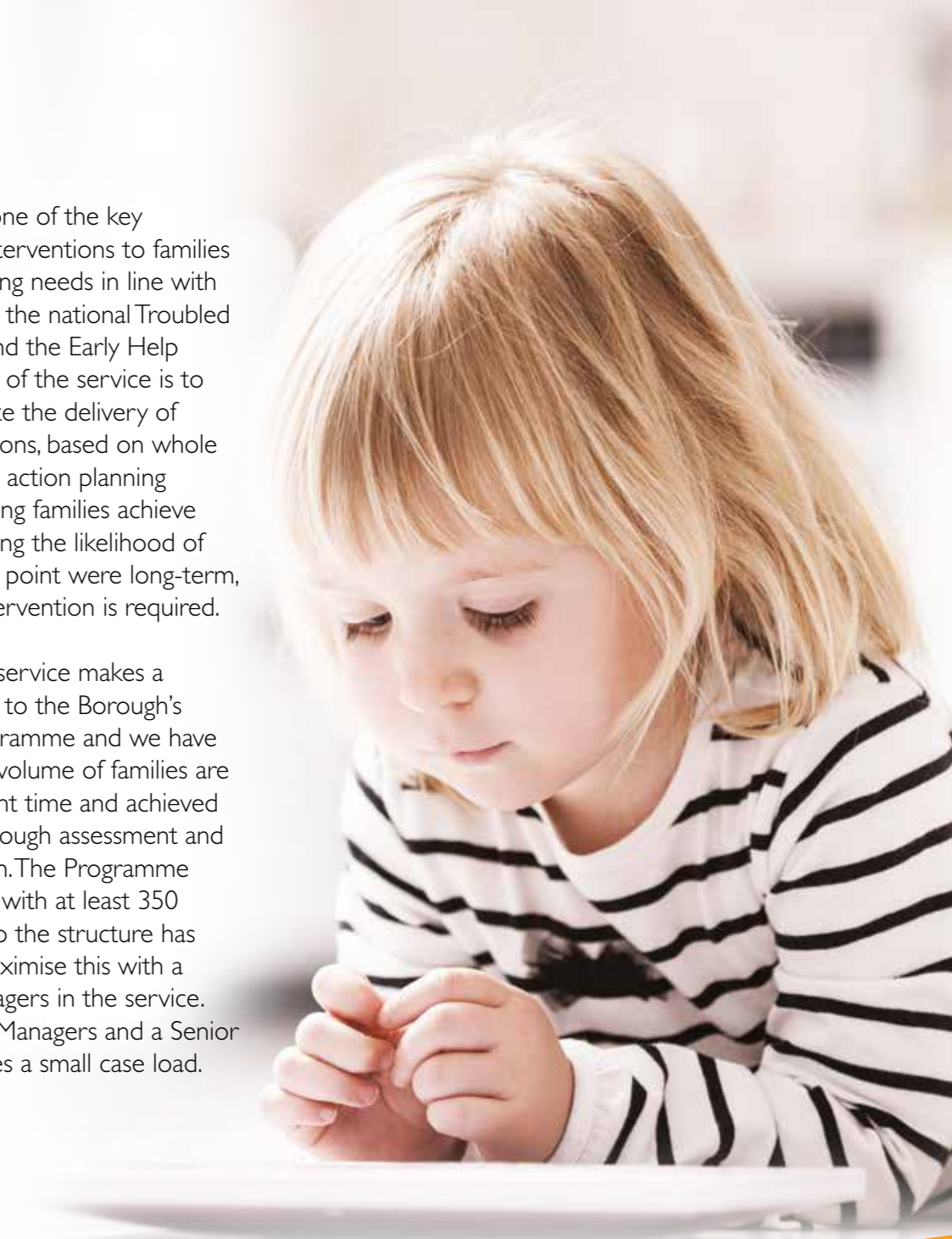
The strategy outlines a series of key priorities that the partnership is committed to over the next 3 – 4 years that will seek to ensure we have a strong, multi-agency and community focussed approach to early help. The Strategy aims to ensure that the borough provides the right conditions to allow children and families to thrive and reach their potential.

The strategy sets out a number of long term outcomes that will enable us to achieve our commitment to delivering effective Early Help as a partnership:

Family First

Family First service is one of the key resources delivering interventions to families with complex, interacting needs in line with Knowsley Family Policy, the national Troubled Families Programme and the Early Help strategy. The emphasis of the service is to enhance and coordinate the delivery of multi-agency interventions, based on whole family assessments and action planning with the intent of helping families achieve outcomes while reducing the likelihood of issues escalating to the point where long-term, high cost, statutory intervention is required.

In addition to this, the service makes a significant contribution to the Borough's Troubled Families Programme and we have ensured that the right volume of families are worked with at the right time and achieved the right outcomes through assessment and delivery of a family plan. The Programme requires that we work with at least 350 families per year and so the structure has been developed to maximise this with a total of 22.5 case managers in the service. There are three Team Managers and a Senior Practitioner who carries a small case load.

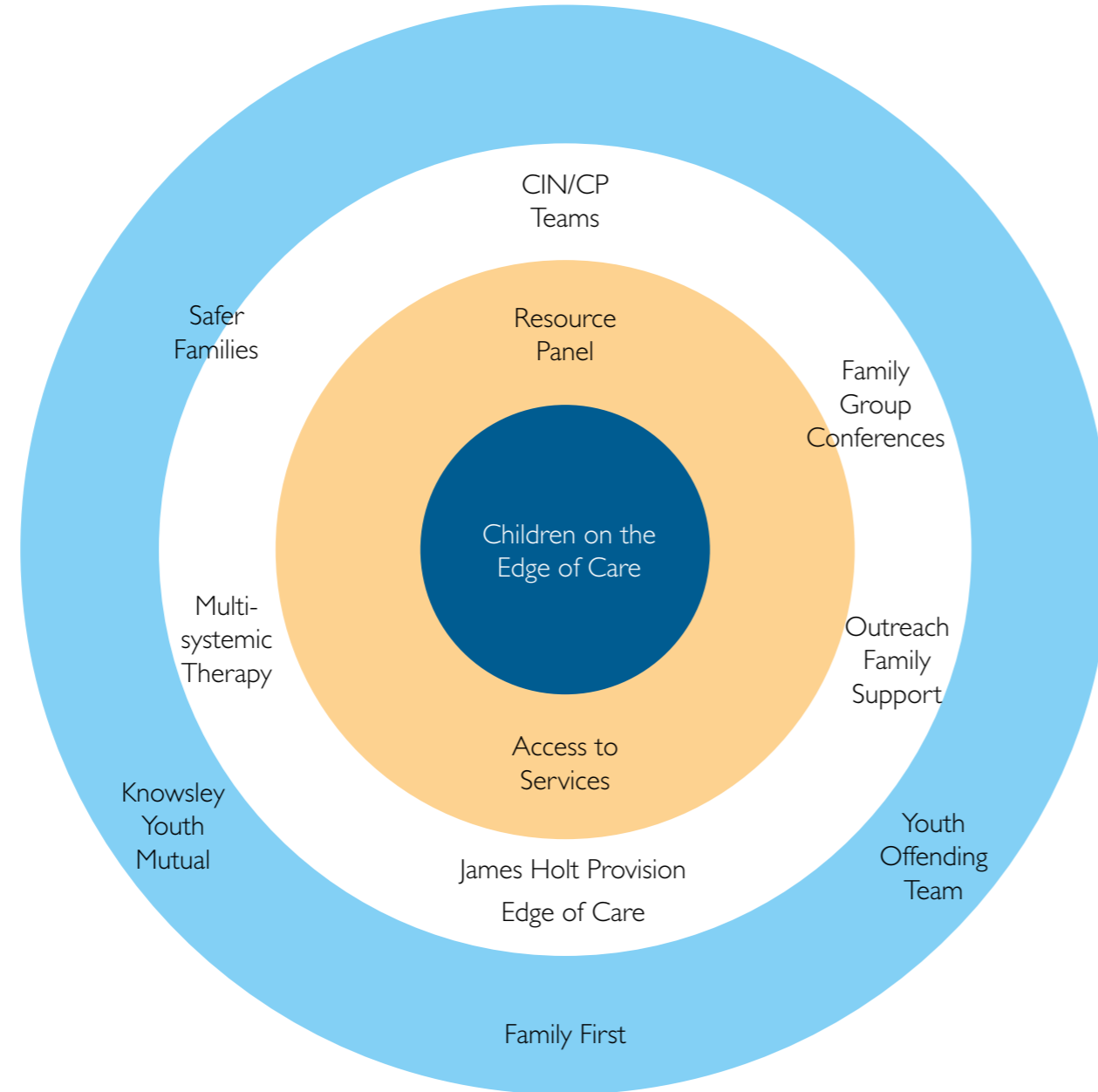


Edge of care

Knowsley have developed an 'edge of care' approach to children who are at risk of becoming looked after. It combines practical support with challenge to address complex and enduring needs for children and their families, such as family conflict, absence from home, child sexual exploitation and substance misuse. Intervention is supportive, and involves a number of agencies working closely together to provide effective support for families.

The edge of care services will specifically target families with children who are at risk of becoming looked after.

The edge of care service includes services early help to the use of an edge of care respite home. The following services encompass the whole model:



Adoption performance

Knowsley have made significant progress in promoting permanence for children through adoption.

19 children have been adopted in 2016/17 which is an increase of 9 children from the previous year. The average completion time for care proceedings in February was 27 weeks (2 cases); the average time over the year is 21.8 weeks (28 cases).

According to the recent Adoption Leadership Board data Knowsley have performed well in the North West in significantly reducing the time children are placed with adoptive families from when the decision was made for adoption by the Agency Decision Maker. Children continue to be tracked via Permanency Panel and good partnership work continues to happen between the Adoption and CP/CLA Teams to ensure early identification of cases where a possible plan for fostering to adopt is being considered. Due to the regionalisation, increased partnership work is continuing to build momentum with Sefton, Liverpool and Wirral.

The Adoption Team are now focusing on the pending implementation of the regionalisation to AIM (Adoption in Merseyside) which will commence in July 2017 with a view of going live January 2018.

Private Fostering

Knowsley children's services currently have 2 private open fostering cases.

A multi-agency group consisting of nominated 'champions' from Children's Social Care, Health, Education, Communications Team, Knowsley Youth Mutual and Housing meet regularly to review procedures.

The group has raised awareness to practitioners by ensuring that publicity material is available for all agencies and this is disseminated via the LSCB and local media. Awareness has also been raised to practitioners through the delivery of sixty minute briefing and a seven minute briefing.

There have been meetings with representatives of both Liverpool and Everton football clubs to harmonise procedures for private fostering arrangements for children who are residing within the Borough.

Priority 2

The voices and experiences of children are fully embedded in practice and service planning.

What have we done?

During 2015/16, KSCB commissioned an organisation called "Voice for Children" to undertake an online questionnaire survey of young people aged 11-18 years old in order to get an insight into children's thoughts concerning the following safeguarding issues: Legal Highs, E-Safety, Domestic Abuse and Positive Relationships, Criminality, CSE and Neglect.

All secondary schools in Knowsley took part in the survey with a total of 1808 young people completing the online questionnaire survey. The survey informed the priorities and outcomes that are included in Knowsley's Children and Young People's Plan. The findings also influenced the Boards' priorities and the multi-agency training programme for 2016-2018.

A workforce conference, titled 'Capturing and Responding to the Voice of the Child' was held to share these findings and

attendees were given the opportunity to reflect on how they capture the voice of the child within their own settings. The findings from the survey and the multi-agency responses are detailed below:

Key finding 1

Young People have a good understanding of CSE, particularly its links to social media. Consideration was needed regarding what young people's understanding regarding CSE and the law was and we also needed to raise their awareness of what agencies are available for help and advice.

Our response

We have promoted the pan Merseyside 'Listen to My Story Campaign.' Aimed at raising awareness of CSE.

KSCB and Public Health commissioned 'Essential safeguarding' to deliver a CSE awareness programme in secondary schools in Knowsley. This programme included the Chelsea's Choice drama production which was presented to year 9 students across the Borough. The objectives of the programme included raising awareness amongst young people of the issues surrounding CSE, promoting an understanding of and a desire

for healthy relationships, promoting safe internet use and sign-posting relevant advice and service providers.

Shield team with partner agencies such as Catch 22 and safer communities have delivered a wide range of training and briefings to children, parents/carers and practitioners regarding child sexual and child criminal exploitation.

Key finding 2

Legal Highs are a growing area of concern and findings from the survey and workforce conference have highlighted that we need raise awareness of the dangers and implications of taking legal highs with not only young people but with parents/carers and professionals.

Our response

- 7 minute and 60 minute briefings regarding NPS (new psychoactive substances) have been cascaded to partner agencies. GCL offer Basic Drug Awareness training to frontline practitioners that are advertised via the board.
- Training plan is under development between KSCB and CGL to deliver training to children in the Borough highlighting the risks associated with NPS

Key finding 3

The majority of young people surveyed knew how to keep themselves safe online however a small percentage didn't. We will need to continue raising awareness of online safety to ensure all young people know what to do and how to report issues that arise online.

Our response

- 7 minute briefings and updates delivered to frontline practitioners, advising them how to keep children safe online.
- KSCB commissioned Merseyside Police Cyber Unit to deliver a training seminar called 'protecting children online' which was delivered to front line practitioners on the risks associated with social media, gaming and sharing images on line.
- A Social media 'app' guide has been disseminated to practitioners and posted on the KSCB website, to appraise professionals of current use and the risks associated with these forums.
- Briefings to children and parents/carers in community settings were organised and delivered, raising awareness of CSE, social media and missing. The briefings were supported by the lay members of the Board

Key finding 4

Young People were asked to consider both what makes an abusive relationship and positive relationship. The majority of young people responded appropriately but a small minority considered abusive behaviours such as 'being made to not see your friends anymore' and 'being hit because you made them angry' as normal, highlighting that this is an area of work with young people still requiring further exploration.

Our response

- KSCB and Public Health commissioned 'Essential Safeguarding' who facilitated a drama production called 'Black Eyes & Cottage Pie' to be performed in schools across the Borough.
- KSCB showcased the drama, inviting School Heads and practitioners to view the production, before it was aired to students.
- KSCB and Public Health commissioned 'Essential safeguarding' to deliver a healthy relationships awareness programme in secondary schools in Knowsley, which promoted healthy relationships and highlighted the risks associated with domestic abuse

- As part of this programme 'Essential Safeguarding' delivered training about healthy relationships to teachers and mentors in secondary schools and primary schools in Knowsley.

Key finding 5

The majority of young people surveyed recognised the signs and symptoms of neglect and would know what to do if they had concerns.

Our response

A multi-agency neglect working group was established to develop and implement a neglect strategy and a neglect work plan which includes a training plan for practitioners

Key finding 6

Young people were asked whether they were involved in a criminal gang or if they had ever been arrested. The majority of young people answered no and stated that they felt safe in the area where they lived.

Our response

Shield Team and Safer Communities Partnership have delivered a number of presentations to children highlighting the risks concerning criminal exploitation.

Children's engagement

The KSCB agreed to create a Children's Engagement Sub Group in order to progress a work plan and improve how we capture and respond to the voice of the child. The KSCB have commissioned a small team to develop and agree a definition for the 'Voice of the Child' to provide clarity and consistency of approach. We are undertaking a mapping process to establish the current level of engagement across partner agencies.

M.A.D.E

The M.A.D.E (Making a Difference Everywhere) Junior (8-13 yrs.) and Senior (14-21) groups consist of a number of care experienced CLA and care leavers who work together to improve care experiences for all CLA and Care leavers. Although they form Knowsley's C.I.C.C. (Children in Care Council) they are also part of a regional network of C.I.C.C.s across the North West which helps support their national voice and mission to improve care for all.

Over the past year the M.A.D.E group have worked alongside their corporate parents and partners to:

- Produce a virtual memory box to save personal memories such as photos of childhood, educational achievements, and holidays with carers etc.
- Build a strong relationship with Knowsley Fostering service to support the need for an increase in the recruitment in Knowsley foster carers, as well as supporting training needs for carers.
- Work closely with CSC Heads of Service to improve contact arrangements and facilitation for Knowsley's CLA, as well as providing regular insight and feedback about care experiences of CLA and care leavers.

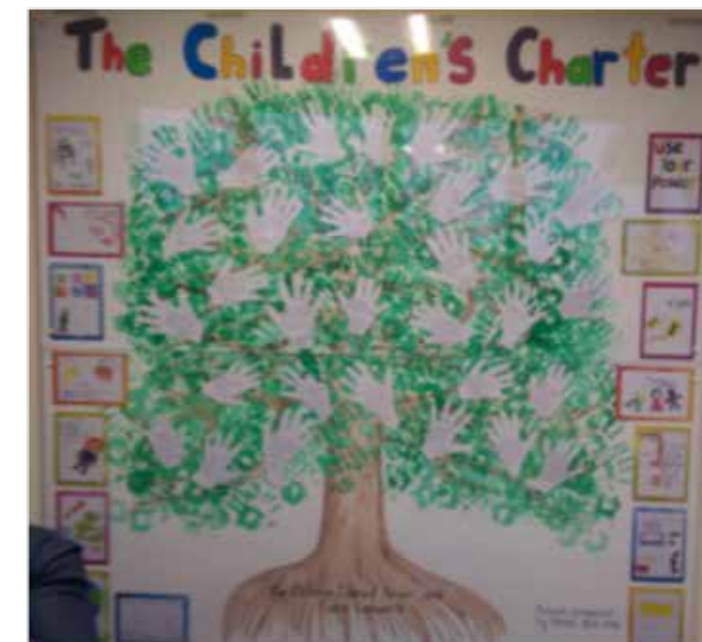
- Begin working with the Ariel trust, CLA Health Team, Listening Ear and other services to improve the mental health support offered for CLA and care leavers.
- Re-evaluate the Children's Charter Pledges from Corporate parents ensuring the child's 'Voice'; is understood and embedded throughout the boroughs services to CLA and Care leavers with the hope to impact on better care experiences.
- Support Participation Officer to engage young people in co-facilitating training to CSC, and Liverpool University students to raise awareness of the voice of the child looked after.
- Continue to support the annual Celebration of Achievement event which celebrates the personal and educational achievements of CLA and care leavers.
- Working with Liverpool family courts to inspect the court with support from the FJYPB (Family Justice Young People's Board), redesign the family courts young people room and facilitate a group session to meet Judge De Haas to encourage young people to understand more about Judges and the family courts impacting on their own sense of identity.
- Working with the Independent Reviewing Officers to re-evaluate the engagement tools used prior to and during reviews to encourage more meaningful participation in reviews.

- Support the Early Help service Improvement Manager to explore young people's priorities and view within the current early help strategy.
- Support the Shield (Child exploitation and missing team) to explore different ways to engage children and young people to gain participation in consultation activity within the team.
- Host a regional North West CICC event in December which began collaboration of work between CICC's across the North West.

The Corporate pledge

Knowsley's Children's Charter holds key messages from children and young people looked after in Knowsley. The messages are intended for corporate parents for consideration when working with and making decisions about Children Looked After (CLA) and care leavers. The Charter images are displayed around the Charter Mural in Nutgrove Villa, Westmoreland Road, Huyton, and are available online at www.madeforus.co.uk

On 16th December 2016 The Children Charter Mural was launched to hold personal pledges from corporate parents and partners to provide a visual reminder and representation of the care and commitment we as corporate parents pledge to CLA and care leavers. Knowsley's Corporate Parenting Board and M.A.D.E groups will review pledges annually to monitor progress.



PRIORITY 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

What have we done?

This section of the report provides a snapshot of activities that have been undertaken on behalf of the Board to address learning from the serious case reviews which were published in 2016 /2017.

The recommendations from serious case reviews are collated by KSCB, who manage the resulting improvement plans, through a working group, which is chaired by a senior manager.

Knowsley Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) was established and continues to perform to a high standard.

A multi-agency 'Shield team' was set up for children at risk of sexual and criminal exploitation, trafficking, and missing from home or care placed in and out of the borough.

Children who are reported missing are subject to a thorough investigation in order to find them. Merseyside Police have developed a graded response based on the risk to the child. All missing person are risk assessed, which is subject to continuous review.

The neglect strategy was reviewed and a working group established, chaired by a senior manager within the local authority. A revised strategy and practice guidance recently approved by the LSCB will strengthen our strategic and operational response to dealing with child neglect.

The Board agreed that the graded care profile should be used across the partnership, a nationally recognised assessment tool of children who may be exposed to neglect. Healthcare providers within Knowsley have already started implementation of this assessment tool and will closely monitor its use. We will also monitor its use across the partnership as it is critical that there is a consistent assessment tool for all staff working in this complex area.

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) continues to be a priority for the Board, alongside child exploitation and children who are missing from home or care.

A working group was established, chaired by a senior manager within the local authority. The group has driven and strengthened our strategic and operational response to dealing with this important issue.

A multi-agency domestic abuse action plan has been developed and is being delivered with a clear emphasis on supporting victims and taking positive action against perpetrators.

To reflect the Board's commitment to listen to the voices of children, a focus group was commissioned to explore how we can engage and respond to children's concerns. The Board demonstrated a commitment to working together to develop and support a skilled workforce. They encourage a learning ethos for practitioners to equip them with the knowledge required for their respective roles.

As part of an ambitious training plan, targeted training has continued to be delivered to a wide range of professionals across the agencies. The focus of the training was aimed at the priorities of the Board and reflects the lessons that are identified within serious case reviews.

The 5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Foundation Trust significantly redesigned their clinical services to streamline and integrate children's and adult services. This has enabled them to respond better to local needs in Knowsley and to strengthen relationships and pathways with partner agencies and services.

The impact of co-sleeping has been considered by KSCB, who supported the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) Safe Sleeping Campaign. This included distribution of leaflets, posters, banners etc. An electronic version of the literature was posted on the KSCB website to help all who work with young children and their families.

The 5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Foundation Trust has commissioned a review of the information provided by health professionals concerning sleeping arrangements for infants.

Further work has been supported by the Clinical Commissioning Group and Public Health in relation to the introduction of an initiative known as 'Baby Box.' aimed at enhancing safe sleeping. The initiative will be phased in across Merseyside. It has been developed as a result of international research that was undertaken to reduce this potential area of risk to infants.

The Trust has also developed and is currently implementing a living life well transformation programme to improve the quality of service to the community of Knowsley. This includes a review of working practices and pathways, with an emphasis on actions to improve the "think family" approach and parenting within adult mental health services. The Think Family agenda is a national initiative that recognises and promotes the importance of a whole-family approach to address this issue.

Practice guidance concerning the role of 'lead professional' was developed and circulated across the LSCB. The Board are monitoring the progress of this issue, to ensure there are lead professionals across all agencies.

An early help strategy has been reviewed and revised. Early help services have developed guidance concerning persistent non engagement with professionals.

The guidance highlights the roles and responsibilities of professionals who manage this issue. It will support practitioners to be more confident when working with parents.

KSCB commissioned a review of the escalation policy. A seven minute briefing was cascaded to partner agencies, highlighting the use of the policy. The use of the

escalation policy is monitored by the Board, which reflects a culture of professional challenge.

The serious case review identified the need to be very clear with parents that children's social care implement written agreements. As a result we have strengthened how we do this and will be monitoring improvements.

Early help services have developed guidance concerning persistent non engagement with professionals. The guidance highlights the roles and responsibilities of professionals who manage this issue. It will support practitioners to be more confident when working with parents.

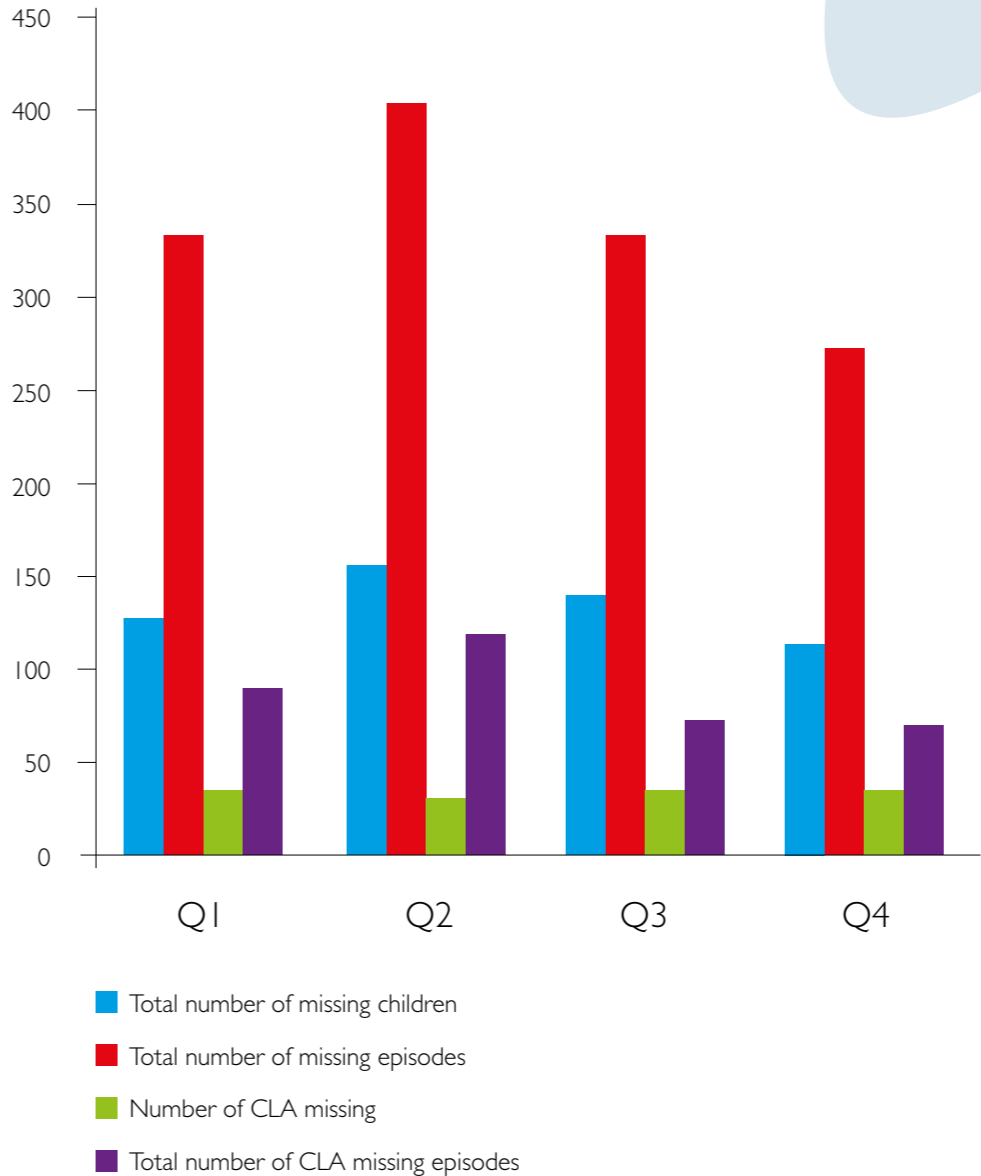
Section 6 - Performance assessment

Children missing from home and care

This section provides an assessment of our performance against local and national indicators. There have been many positive stories in respect of compliance this year and the development of our performance framework, for example multi-agency attendance at child protection conferences and the sharing of reports with parents in line with standards, however we want to develop this framework further now, have a real focus on outcomes and capture how the child's lived experience has improved.

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	127	155	140	115	403*
Total number of missing episodes	The total number of missing episodes in the period for all children	335	404	334	274	1347
Number of CLA missing	The number of Knowsley children looked after who have had missing episodes in the period	34	29	33	33	79*
Total number of CLA missing episodes	The total number of missing episodes in the period for Knowsley CLA	91	119	72	68	350

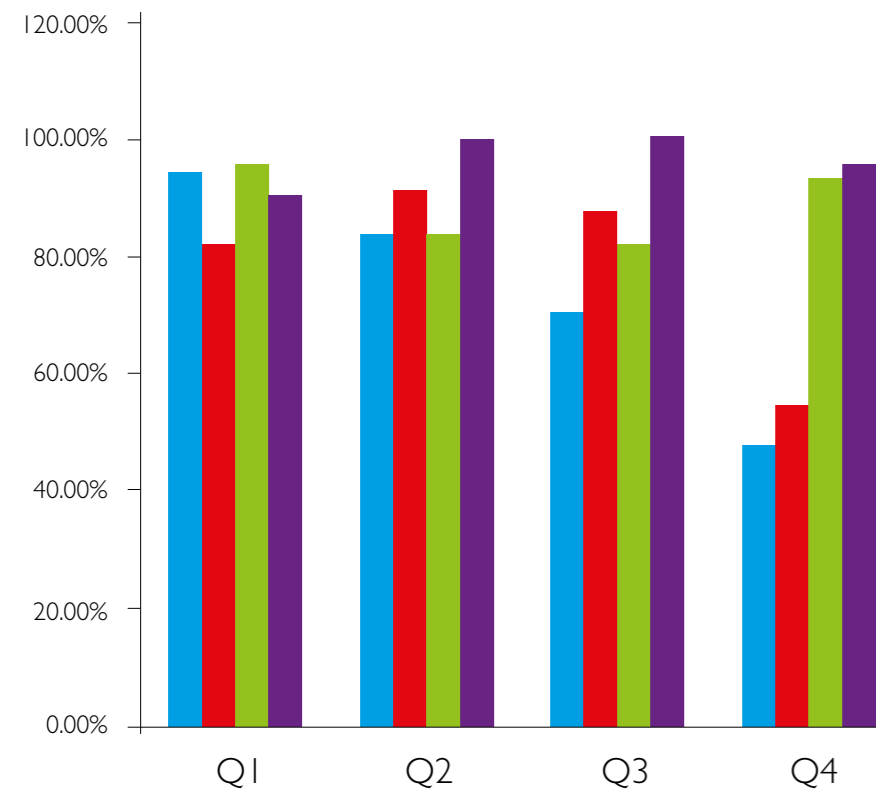
*Some children have had multiple missing episodes across the year; these have been removed to give the total of 403 individual children who have had at least one missing episode in 2016/17 and 79 CLA who have had at least one missing episode



The total number of missing episodes in 2016/17 was 1,347, and the total number of missing children was 403. Children looked after make up a small proportion of this total, with 79 children going missing being either in the care of Knowsley or the care of another authority and placed in Knowsley.

The number of episodes for all children and children looked after is significantly higher than the number of children missing, suggesting that all children are prone to multiple missing episodes.

Missing return interviews 2016 / 17

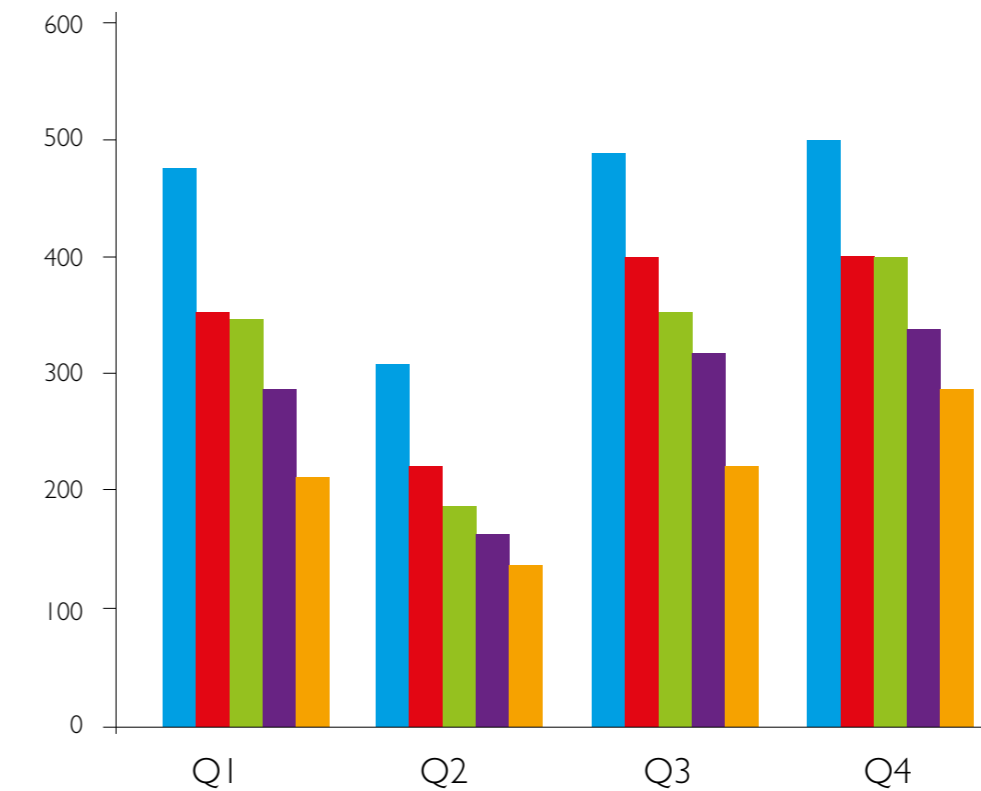


- Return interviews completed for all missing children
- Return interviews completed for all missing CLA
- % of all missing children offered return interviews
- % of CLA offered return interviews

The number of return interviews for missing children has decreased over the course of 2016/17, although the number of interviews being offered to missing children looked after is consistently high.

Child Protection

Attendance at Child Protection conferences and report sharing

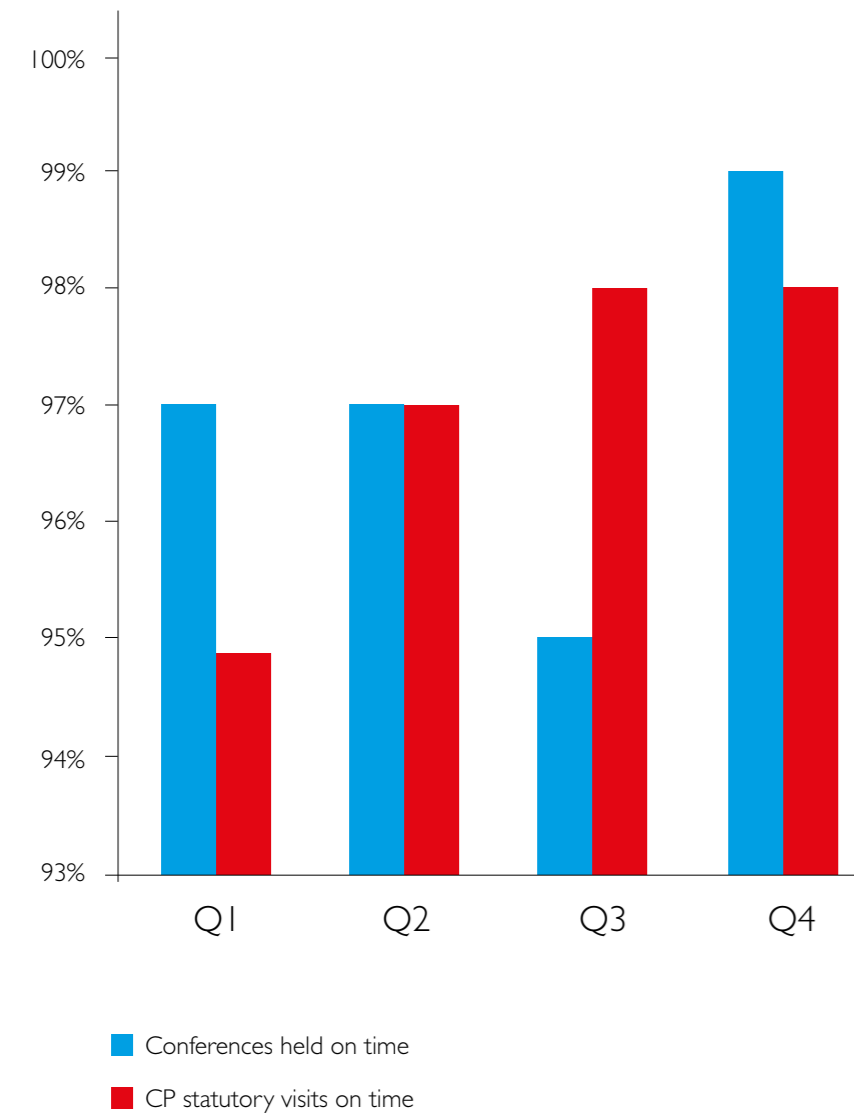


- Invited
- Attended
- Report submitted
- Report on time
- Report shared with parents

Health visitors have not been included in the figures, as there were some system issues across the year with recording their attendance and the data may therefore not be accurate.

The graph to the left shows the number of invitees and attendees to Child Protection conferences each quarter in 2016/17. The number of practitioners invited exceeds those who attended each quarter. Report sharing improved in the latter half of 2016/17, with increases in reports being submitted and shared with parents recorded.

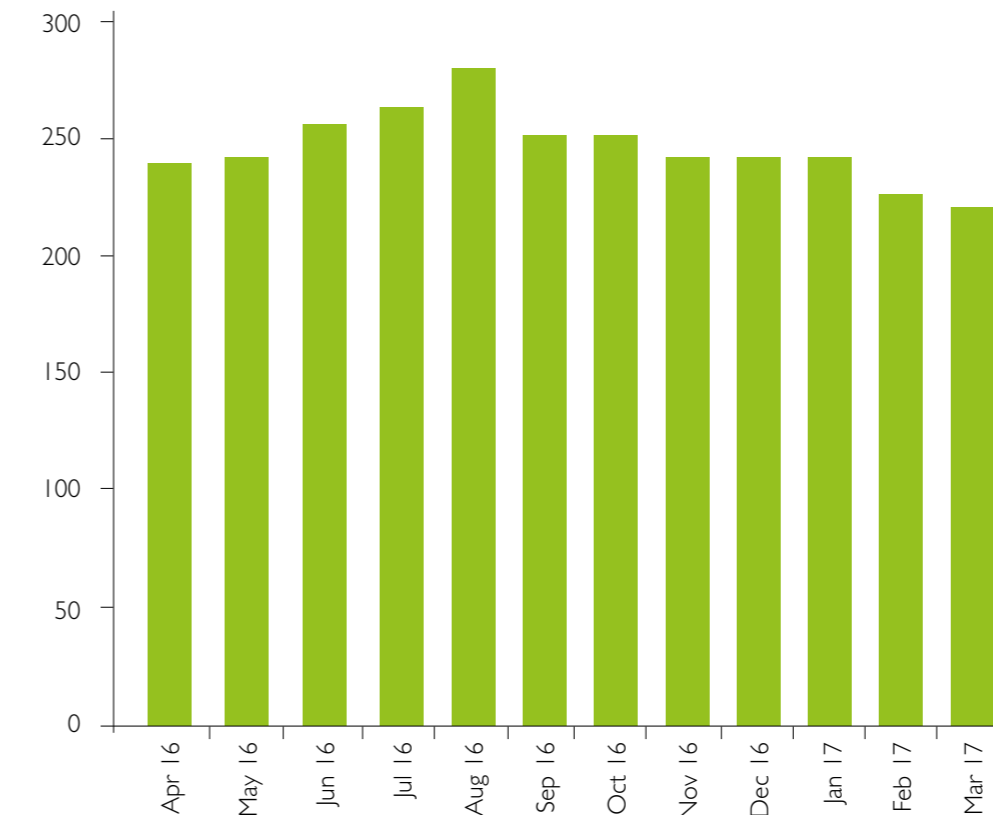
Child protection conferences were consistently held on time, with figures for conferences being held on time not falling lower than 95% across the year. Figures for statutory visits being held on time demonstrated the same consistence.



Child Protection per 10,000

	Child Protection
England (2015/16)	43 per 10000
North West (2015/16)	55 per 10000
Stat Neighbour (2015/16)	67 per 10000
Knowsley (2016/17) TARGET	70 per 10000
Knowsley (2014/15)	62 per 10000
Knowsley (2015/16)	64 per 10000
Knowsley CP March 2017	67.7 per 10000

Total Child Protection plans by month



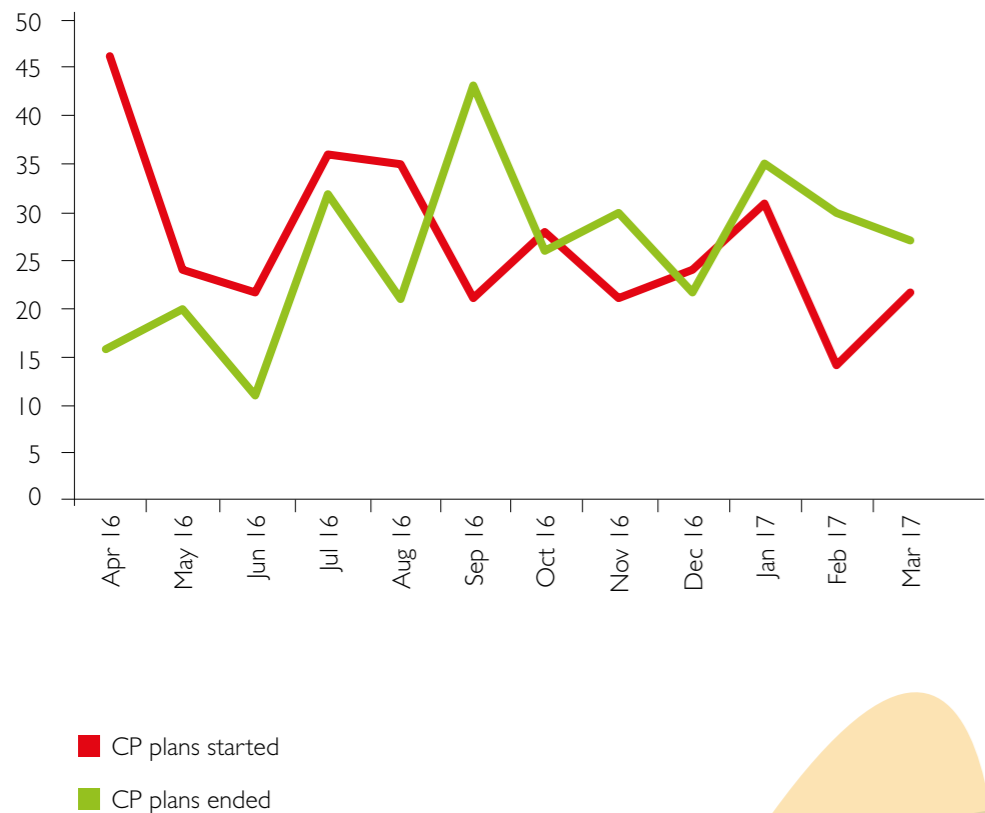
The total CP plans per month has increased from the 2015/16 figure of 64.5 per 10,000 to 67.7 per 10,000. There were 220 CP plans active in March 2017, compared with 208 in March 2016. The number of CP plans has increased in 2016/17. The highest number of active CP plans recorded was in August 2016, with 278.

CP Plans for a second or subsequent time:

England (2015/16)	17.9%
North West (2015/16)	18.2%
Stat Neighbour (2015/16)	13.9%
Knowsley (2016/17) TARGET	15%
Knowsley (2014/15)	13.3%
Knowsley (2015/16)	13.9%
Knowsley rolling 12 month	13.0%
Knowsley YTD	13.0%

Families being subject to CP plans for a second or subsequent time is under the 2016/17 target of 15%, and as of March 2017 stood at 13%. As of March 2016 the figure was 14.4%, so the percentage of repeat CP plans has decreased slightly in 2016/17.

Number of CP plans started and ended per month:

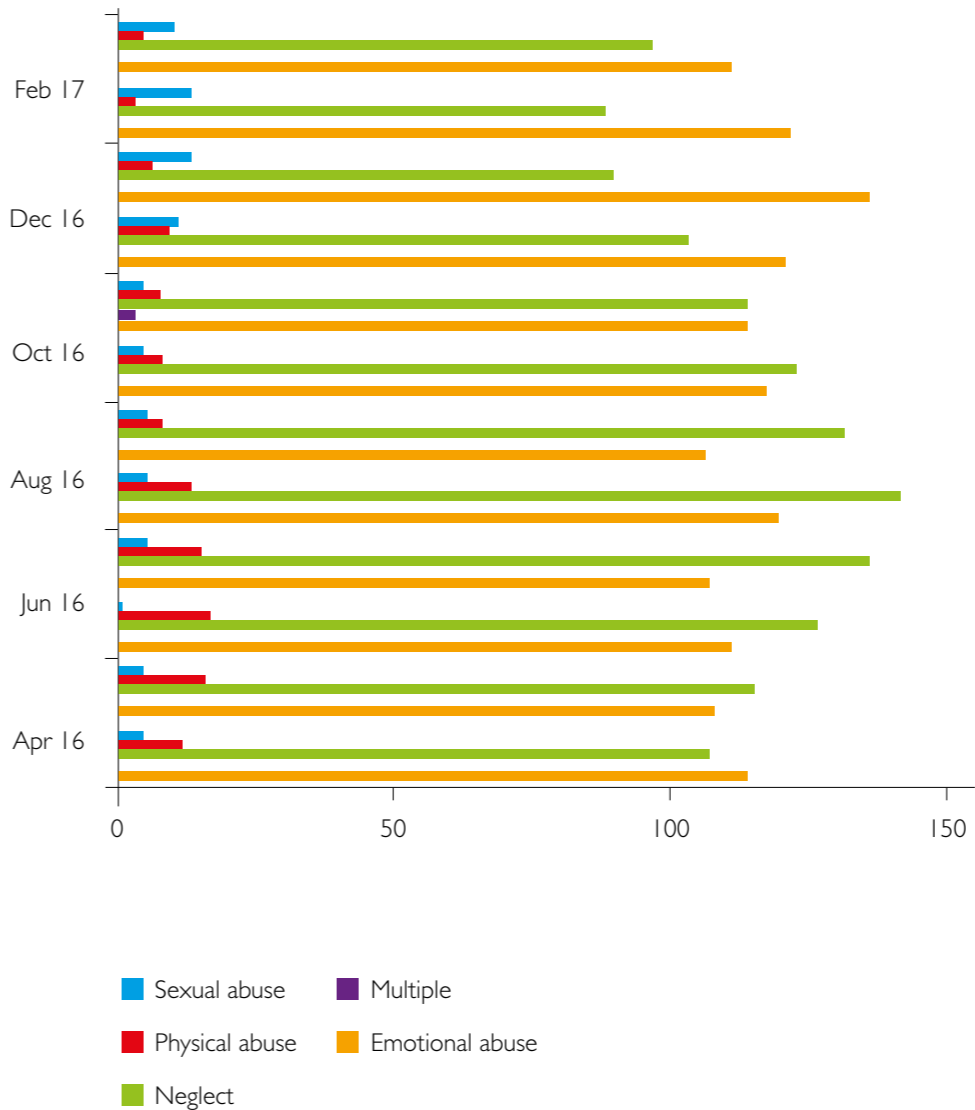


The highest number of CP plans were started in April 2016, with 46 plans being started this month. February 2017 saw the lowest number of CP plans being started, with only 14 plans being started this month. The highest number of CP plans ended was in September 2016, with 43 plans ending this month. The lowest number of CP plans ended was in June 2016, with 11 plans being ended.

Child Protection plans by category at year end

Category	Outturn 2016/17	%
Emotional abuse	110	50.0
Multiple	0	0.0
Neglect	96	43.6
Physical abuse	4	1.8
Sexual abuse	10	4.5

Child Protection plans by category 2016 / 17



Child Protection Plan categories have been subject to some change in 2016/17. In quarter 3 of 2016/17, emotional abuse became the primary reason for starting CP plans for the first time, and this maintained into quarter 4.

For the first time in 2016/17, the largest number of CP plans started in the quarter were for emotional abuse rather than neglect. At 48.1%, this is higher than statistical neighbours where the figure is 35%.

Whilst the instigation of emotional abuse plans has overtaken that of neglect, it has been higher than statistical neighbours since Q2 2016/17 when data collection started. With further investigation (see results tabulated below) it becomes apparent that Knowsley has been over the statistical neighbour figure for significant periods:

2014-15			2015-16		2016-17	
	Month	% CP Plans Emotional abuse	Month	% CP Plans Emotional abuse	Month	% CP Plans Emotional abuse
Q1	Apr	32.60%	Apr	32.80%	Apr	47.90%
	May	32.60%	May	32.00%	May	44.30%
	Jun	31.00%	Jun	37.60%	Jun	43.50%
Q2	Jul	27.00%	Jul	37.40%	Jul	40.70%
	Aug	29.00%	Aug	37.40%	Aug	42.80%
	Sep	29.80%	Sep	43.80%	Sep	42.40%
Q3	Oct	30.60%	Oct	47.10%	Oct	46.40%
	Nov	32.40%	Nov	46.00%	Nov	46.70%
	Dec	32.90%	Dec	40.80%	Dec	48.10%
Q4	Jan	34.10%	Jan	42.40%	Jan	55.50%
	Feb	34.50%	Feb	42.50%	Feb	53.70%
	Mar	30.80%	Mar	42.30%	Mar	50.00%

The statistical neighbour figure for 2013/14 was 29.8%. There is only one quarter (Q2 2014/15) where Knowsley are under that figure. The statistical neighbour comparative figure rose to 35% in 2015/16, and Knowsley only fell under this for April and May 2015.

During 2016/17, Knowsley has consistently been over the 35% benchmark, and finally in December 2016 CP plans for emotional abuse overtook neglect as the most common category, a phenomenon that has not occurred between 2014 to present.

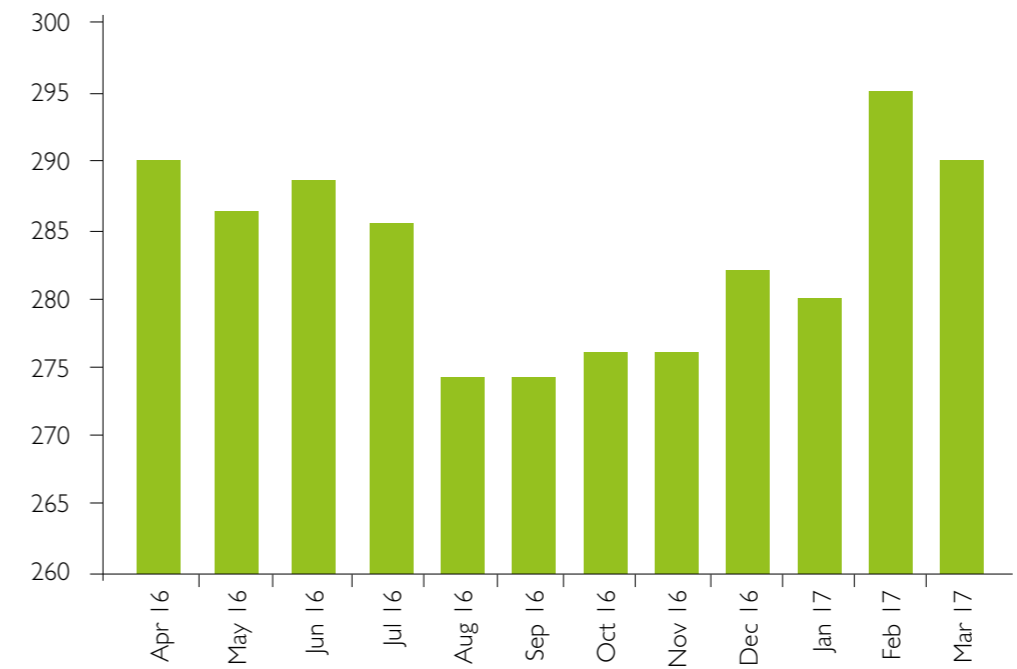
Anecdotal evidence suggests that the increase in CP plans under the emotional abuse category is due to higher levels of domestic violence referrals and CP plans being categorised as such.

Children Looked After

CLA per 10,000:

Region	CLA
England (2015/16)	60 per 10000
North West (2015/16)	82 per 10000
Stat Neighbour (2015/16)	100 per 10000
Knowsley (2016/17)	
TARGET	95 per 10000
Knowsley (2014/15)	95 per 10000
Knowsley (2015/16)	89 per 10000
Knowsley CLA March 2017	89.3 per 10000

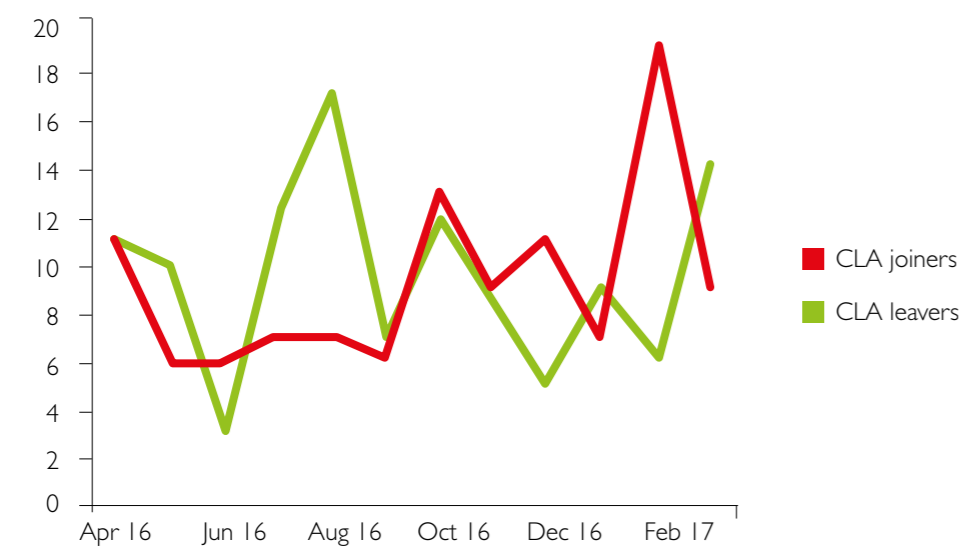
Number of Children Looked After by month 2016 / 17



At the close of 2016/17, there were 290 children in the care of Knowsley; at the end of 2015/16 there were 291 children looked after in Knowsley so there has been no significant change in the numbers of CLA within Knowsley this year.

The CLA per 10,000 has increased slightly in 2016/17 to 89.3 per 10,000 where it was 89 per 10,000 in 2015/16. The figures overall demonstrates a very stable number of CLA in Knowsley with some monthly fluctuation.

Number of joiners and leavers per month 2016 / 17:

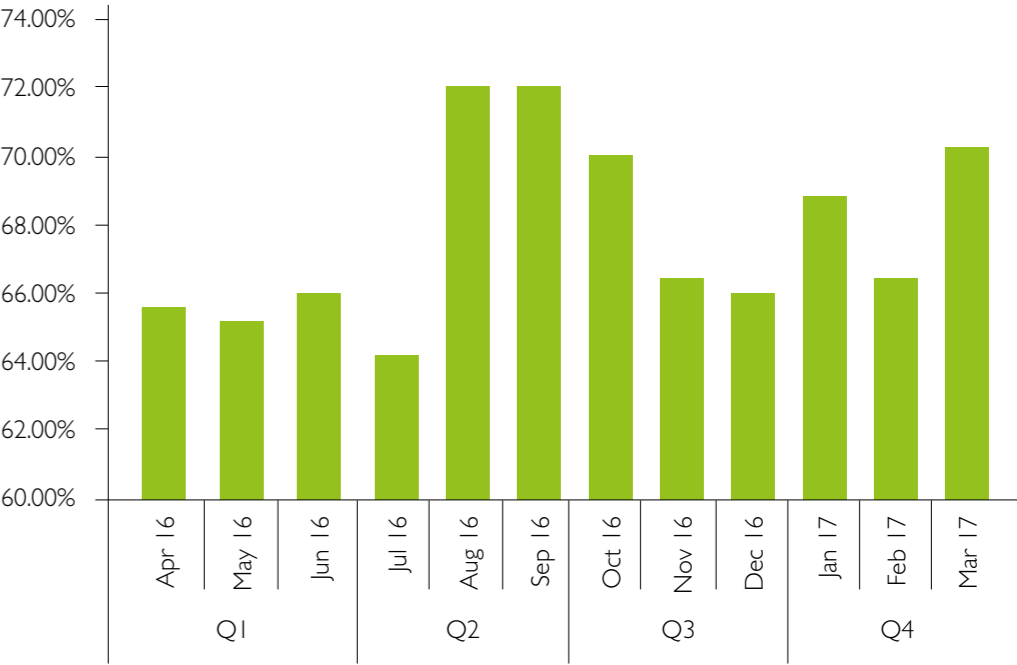


The number of children becoming looked after (joiners) and children leaving the care of Knowsley (leavers) fluctuates each month within 2016/17. CLA joiners peaked in February 2017 with 19 children becoming looked after. The CLA leavers peaked in August 2016 with 17 children leaving the care of Knowsley.

Placement stability of children looked after is measured by longevity. Figures are recorded each month of the number of children looked after who are in placements that have been ongoing for more than two and a half years.

The target figure for placement stability in 2016/17 was 70%. This target was exceeded in August, September and October 2016, with steady rates of over 60% the rest of the year.

Stability of placements



Section 7 - Multi-agency auditing process

Each year the Board undertake mandatory audits of all agencies in Knowsley. The audit programme currently consists of Section 11 and Section 175 audits, frontline visits and single agency audits.

Section 11

The Section 11 audits are statutory for agencies working with children in the borough.

The 2016 Section self-assessment audits were completed by agencies, which were analysed by the KSCB business unit for elements of good practice or potential improvement.

The key themes identified in the audits related to knowledge of policies and procedures, particularly by 'contracted' visitors.

There was good evidence of staff training however inconsistencies were identified in the measuring of impact and limited training needs analysis undertaken by agencies. The Board commissioned a number of 'challenge sessions' which enabled them to

scrutinise further the evidence submitted and for agencies to build on their submissions. Each agency has been provided with a bespoke letter highlighting areas of good practice and areas of development.

Section 175

Section 175 audits are statutory for all education providers within Knowsley. Schools complete online self-assessment tools and grade their own compliance against Section 175 guidelines. Audit completion and compliance was monitored and analysed by KSCB, and a report produced highlighting areas of good practice or potential improvement.

The key findings related to compliance with recruitment processes, allegations management and child protection/ safeguarding procedures.

Where gaps were identified an action plan was developed and is monitored through the Quality Assurance and Review Group.

Frontline Visits

Frontline visits by Board members take place annually and enable the Board to assess the awareness and capabilities of frontline staff in respect of safeguarding policies and procedures.

Responses were collated and analysed by the KSCB Business Unit, providing a picture of how safeguarding policies and procedures are implemented at ground level by those working directly with children and families. Overall the visits identified that agencies were compliant with the principles of safeguarding. The important role played by supervisors in driving safeguarding was noted in the audits.

Where gaps were identified an action plan was developed and is monitored through the Quality Assurance and Review Group.

Single Agency Audits

Single agency audits are an opportunity to assess the audit practices of individual agencies working with KSCB, specifically considering safeguarding practices. The information provided by agencies was collated and analysed by KSCB. The audit established that where agencies had access to children, they had auditing processes in place. There was inconsistency across agencies concerning the frequency of audits. Agencies used a variety of methods to disseminate the findings from audits.

In addition to the statutory functions of conducting section 11 and section 175 audits, KSCB have facilitated a number of multi-agency audits, in line with our strategic priorities.

A number of cases that are open to multi-agency intervention were examined. A focus group reviewed the cases and identified any learning opportunities.

Recommendations were made from the audit group, which are managed through the appropriate sub group.

The following paragraphs provide a summary of the audits undertaken and the key learning identified;

The topics covered in 2016/17 were:

1. Domestic abuse
2. Neglect
3. Inappropriate and harmful sexual behaviour

1. Domestic abuse multi-agency audit

In 2015/16 a total of 1,874 domestic abuse incidents reported to the police were recorded as having had a child present during the incident. Domestic abuse continues to be the single biggest reason for contacts made to MASH about safeguarding concerns for Knowsley children. The review identified the following key findings:

- Effective partnership working is often imperative to fully engage with families and provide the best support;
- Ongoing personal or familial issues are

in some cases not addressed due to a lack of engagement, meaning that although a good outcome may be achieved for the family, triggers and underlying causes for inappropriate behaviour are not always easily remedied;

- The impact of domestic abuse on children needs to be thoroughly considered via the voice of the child, which should be reflected upon not just via direct communication with children, but through observations and interactions;
- Distinction between cases now, and previous engagements – really strong evidence that the system is working better. This audit was different to other audits that the KSCB has completed in that auditors didn't have to look for good practice as it was evident;
- Different outcomes from other audits the KSCB has carried out – in that there was far more evidence of collective work across the partnership;
- Evidence of strong systems in place for dealing with families who are experiencing domestic violence. The impact of how improvements have been made to the whole system were evident – MASH, CSC and Early Help systems have all had positive impacts on these cases;

- The key to good practice was often getting the right practitioner in place, someone who could engage well with the family - regardless of which agency they are from.

II. Neglect multi-agency audit

A thematic multi-agency audit was conducted in order to review the abilities of agencies to deal with cases of neglect, and ascertain areas of good practice or areas with room for improvement. Neglect has consistently been the primary reason for commencement of child protection plans since 2014-15 when the last audit took place. The main findings are summarised as follows;

- The graded care profile is not used consistently across cases and there are some concerns from practitioners that the tool is not widely used, requires a lot of time and rapport with families and that it isn't intuitive or useful for schools or other agencies;

- The use of the graded care profile could be extended for multi-agency implementation, to ensure observations from different agencies are used to build a fuller picture of a child's circumstances;
- There is significant evidence to suggest that parental mental health issues, substance misuse and domestic abuse are contributing factors to neglectful parenting and in turn this may lead other issues being identified as primary in cases and neglect being viewed as a symptom of other factors rather than an issue itself;
- Good intuition and ability to identify neglect across cases and agencies, however some need for practitioners to better understand the more subtle signs of neglect was identified;
- A lack of awareness on how to evidence the 'voice of the child' was apparent across cases – it was not necessarily that practitioners had not done sufficient work in this area, more that the work they had done they didn't consider to be indicative of the child's voice;

- Auditors were in agreement that the multi-agency audit tool, being a universal tool for audits across any subject, lacked some depth and specific focus on issues pertaining to neglect.

III. Inappropriate and Harmful Sexual Behaviour audit

Harmful sexual behaviour is any behaviour of a sexual nature that takes place when: There is no informed consent by the victim and/or the young person has allegedly displayed a harmful sexual behavioural threat (verbal, physical or emotional) to coerce, threaten or intimidate the victim.

As a result of learning identified in a recent serious case review concerning harmful sexual behaviour, we took the decision to conduct a multi-agency audit around inappropriate and harmful sexual behaviour. The review identified the following key findings;

- Responses to the cases were generally good within Knowsley
- Some concerns raised at the audit day surround key incidents from children's pasts not being shared across agencies. It was felt that historic incidents may have shaped the response to children and families alike when it came to inappropriate or harmful sexual behaviour, and opportunities to share such information were not always taken
- Ongoing police investigations were cited by practitioners as a barrier to appropriate responses at times, and it was felt that there was not much practitioners were able to do to support children during investigations
- Practitioners made good efforts to consider the voice of the child, although ongoing police investigations and the nature of allegations made against children often meant that children were hard to engage or unwilling to talk about the issues they faced as a result of any allegations made

- In some cases it is easier to consider the lived experience and the voice of the alleged victim rather than the source of risk; this was particularly evident in a case where the source of risk and victim were siblings sharing a family home
- There was little evidence of prior concerns or inappropriate behaviours noted in the children whose cases were audited

Quality Assurance

As part of the Boards commitment to enhance knowledge across all agencies, the Learning and Development sub group undertook a review of the GP Level 3/Child Protection training. This involved the sub group reviewing the content of the course and observing the sessions that took place. Feedback was provided, together with recommendations on how to enhance the training. These recommendations were accepted and have been implemented for future training sessions.

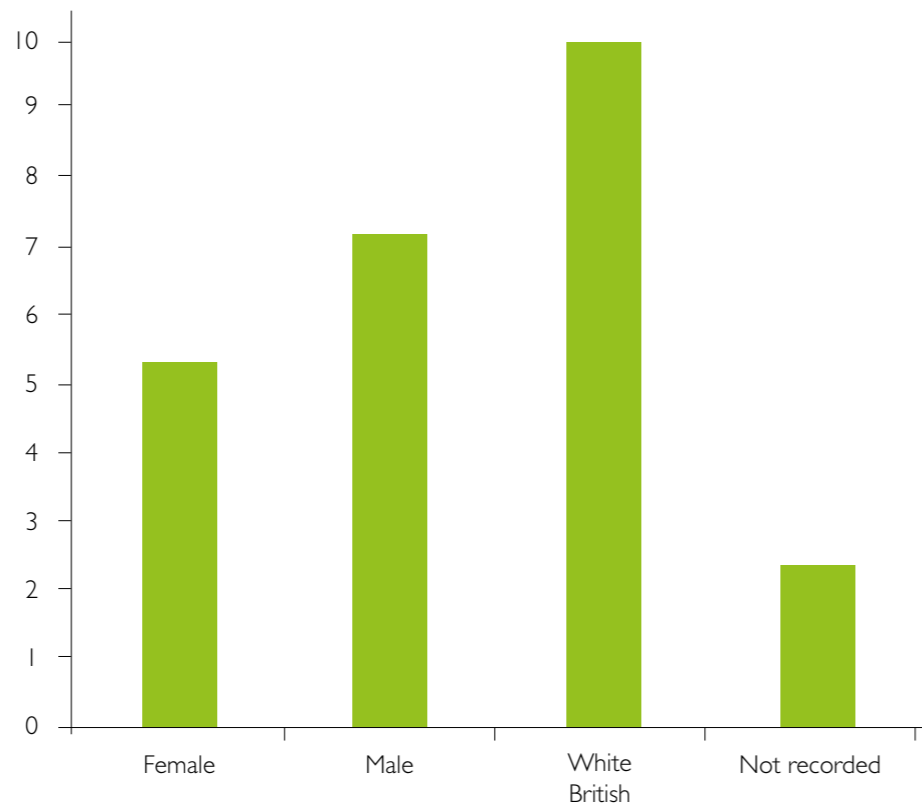
Section 8 - Child Death Overview Panel

Knowsley LSCB has been a member of the Pan Merseyside Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) since 2014.

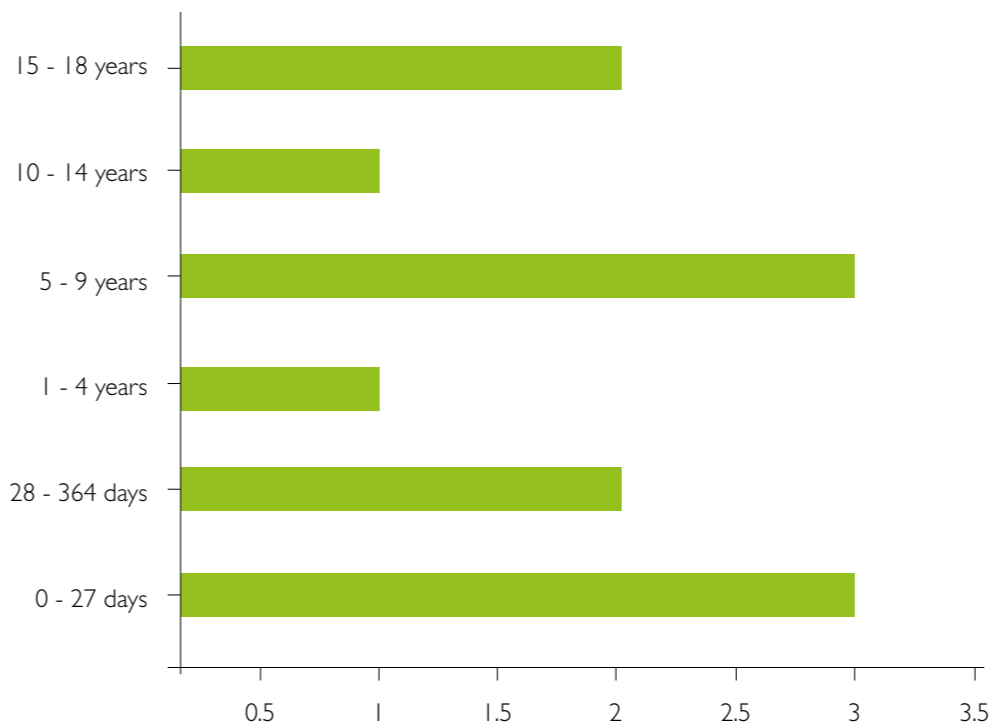
Child Death Overview Panels (CDOPs) are responsible for reviewing information on all unexpected child deaths. They record preventable child deaths and make recommendations to ensure that similar deaths are prevented in the future.

CDOPs are accountable to the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) and they are made up of representatives from agencies including social care, the police as well as paediatricians.

In 2016/2017 a total of 12 child deaths were reported in Knowsley. Male deaths (7) made up the majority of reported deaths in the Borough.



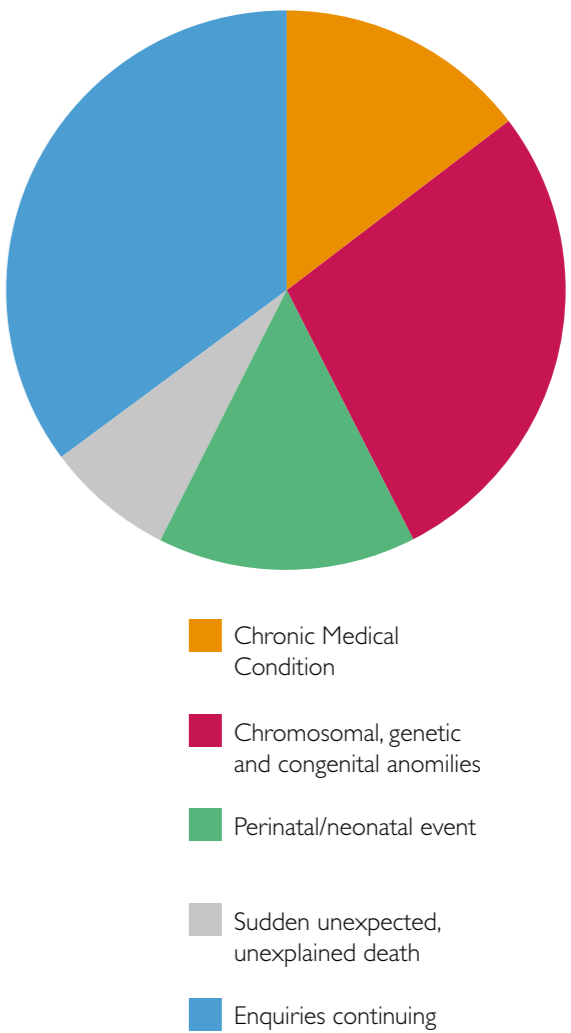
The highest number of deaths in age category (3) came from children under 28 days.



The highest number of deaths reported (3) were caused by chromosomal, genetic and congenital anomalies, two deaths were attributed to chronic medical condition while a further two deaths were recorded to have occurred as a result of a perinatal/neonatal event. One death was recorded as sudden unexpected, unexplained death.

Enquiries are continuing into the four remaining deaths.

There were no deaths recorded as being the results of deliberately inflicted injury, abuse or neglect. There were no referrals for serious case reviews.





Section 9 - Serious Case Review and Reflective Learning

A serious case review (SCR) takes place after a child dies or is seriously injured and abuse or neglect is thought to be involved. It looks at lessons that can help prevent similar incidents from happening in the future.

A SCR should take place if abuse or neglect is known, or suspected, to have been involved and a child has died or a child has been seriously harmed and there is cause for concern about how organisations or professionals worked together to safeguard the child. In addition a SCR should take place if a child dies in custody or a child died by suspected suicide.

Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB) are required to follow statutory guidance for conducting a serious case review. The Serious Incident Review Group (SIRG) carries out the statutory function around serious incident notification initiating SCR or reflective reviews. During the previous year the group has developed clear and auditable business processes.

There has been a strong emphasis on ensuring the SIRG capture the learning from the three reports that have been published. A governance structure has been developed to hold agencies to account for delivering actions falling out of the respective recommendations. Meetings are well attended and the SIRG policy has been implemented for SCRs which is more challenging and reflective for the Board and practitioners.

In 2016 / 2017 Knowsley Safeguarding Children's Board published three serious case reviews in respect of four children. They are available on the KSCB web site www.knowsleyscb.org.uk

Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board has also commissioned a reflective review for a case that did not meet the criteria for a serious case review, but it was considered that lessons could be learned.

Case I Child O

In 2015 Child O was found deceased in a public place. At a subsequent inquest the Coroner ruled a verdict of suicide. Child O lived in the family home with both parents and a large sibling group. The review established there had been significant contact between agencies and the family concerning a range of issues, including school attendance, home living conditions, domestic violence and substance misuse.

KSCB commissioned an independent serious case review to be undertaken. The purpose of the review was to establish what lessons can be learnt from the case to improve safeguarding in the future, to improve inter-agency working and to better safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the local area.

The report identified eight key lessons from the serious case review and has made eight recommendations, which the board have accepted.

The review concluded that based on the information received by the review neither professionals, agencies or indeed Child O's family could have predicted or prevented Child O's tragic death.

However they identified a number of findings, where lessons can be learn to across agencies on how we safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Knowsley.

The review highlighted some key learning points, which are summarised as follows: the need to provide a coordinated response to issues of neglect; the impact of domestic abuse on children living within such an

environment, lack of information sharing between agencies concerning substance misuse, the role of housing services in safeguarding children, no clear lead professional to coordinate activity, reluctance to implement the escalation policy, some agencies failed to Listen to and act on the voice of the child.

The review made a total of eight recommendations to address the learning, which were accepted and implemented by the Board.

Case 2 Child R

In 2015 emergency services responded to the sudden unexpected death of Child R. Paramedics attended and attempted to revive the infant, however, resuscitation was unsuccessful. It was reported that prior to death, Child R had been in bed with mother. Police conducted an investigation into the death of Child R. A report was submitted to Her Majesty's Coroner, who recorded the cause of death as 'unascertained'.

KSCB commissioned a serious case review to be undertaken. The purpose of the review was to establish what lessons can be learnt from the case to improve safeguarding in the

future, to improve inter-agency working and to better safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the local area.

Child R was the youngest child in a large sibling group. The family had a history of involvement with services dating back a number of years. The primary agencies involved with the family were Mental Health Services; Maternity and Midwifery Services; Health Visiting Services; Probation Service; Children's Social Care and Family First/Early Help Services. Police were also involved in relation to domestic abuse call-outs and the father's offending.

The review highlighted some key learning points, which are summarised as follows; Multi-agency work was inconsistent and uncoordinated, the views of the child not fully considered by agencies, the impact of adult mental health issues on children was not fully considered, the impact of domestic abuse on children in the home was not fully explored, and the impact of parental drug abuse on children was not fully explored.

The review made a total of four recommendations to address the learning, which were accepted and implemented by the Board.

Child Q and S

KSCB published the independent serious case review concerning two looked after children who were victims of child sexual exploitation.

These cases are independent from each other, however the decision was made by the Board to merge the cases into one serious case review in order to increase the learning opportunities in respect of child sexual exploitation (CSE).

In 2006, Child Q and their sibling group were made subject to child protection proceedings under the category of neglect. The children became subject to full care orders. After a number of moves, Child Q was ultimately placed in a specialist residential children's home.

In 2014, Child Q was looked after in a cross boundary local authority area independent residential children's home. Child Q was considered to be a child at risk of CSE, due to increasing missing from care episodes and inappropriate internet use. There was regular contact and close communication between

the Police and the Residential Care Workers to manage the risk. Child Q had been missing from care for over 42 hours, having spent the two nights at the home of a registered sex-offender.

Child Q had also been communicating with other inappropriate adults, on social media sites. Convictions have been secured against the registered sex offender and other non-related adults in respect of these offences. The review concluded that the possibility of Child Q becoming a victim of CSE was potentially predictable but at the time not preventable. There is not one identifiable factor/event that could have led to CSE being prevented. A large number of lessons and good practice were identified by the independent reviewer.

Child S suffered enduring and long term neglect combined with inadequate care and poor parenting.

Child S was regularly reported missing from care, school and home. This pattern of behaviour escalated when the child became accommodated as a looked after child, with increasing and longer missing episodes including overnight.

In 2015, Child S became subject to child protection proceedings and a child protection plan was formulated under the category of neglect. In mid-2015, interim care proceedings were instigated resulting in Child S becoming subject to a full care order a few months later and accommodated in a series of foster care placements and residential children's homes locally and in cross boundary areas. Later that year, through to 2016 three referrals were made to the specialist CSE team regarding CSE concerns, these were assessed as low risk. Child S soon after had a number of missing episodes, one which led to a national alert and media reporting. It was agreed that residential care with appropriate safeguards was most suitable for Child S. This incident was assessed as a CSE incident due to the previously known risk factors, previous intelligence about the parties involved and concerns that a male had seen Child S whilst knowing the child was missing from care. Whilst there have been criminal investigations in respect of potential offenders, there have been no disclosures made by Child S and no convictions secured in respect of potential offences against the child. Child S does not perceive that they have been a victim of CSE, believing that all activities were consensual and within the range of activities for all young people.



The review concluded that the possibility of Child S becoming a victim of CSE was potentially predictable but at the time not preventable. It could not be certain that had early intervention been more effectively implemented CSE would have been prevented. However, if intervention had been implemented and the outcomes evaluated the impact of neglect may have been minimised thereby reducing the risk of CSE.

The review highlighted a number of key learning points, which are summarised as improving information management, governance, training of foster carers, partnerships, development and implementation of a neglect strategy, guidance around restraint procedures, and guidance around deprivation of liberty; training and development, the need to consider the impact on children living with neglect.

The review made a total of five recommendations to address the learning, which were accepted and implemented by the Board.

Section 10 - KSCB Training Programme 2016 - 17

Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board believes that skilled and confident staff can make a difference in safeguarding and protecting children. As a result during the period 2016/2017 KSCB has delivered an ambitious training plan, based on the strategic priorities of the Board and influenced by lessons deriving from local serious case reviews, audits and national safeguarding agendas.

This year, there has been a focus on domestic abuse, child exploitation (both criminal and sexual) and neglect. Training regarding children displaying inappropriate and harmful sexual behaviours has also featured in this year's programme, a theme which emerged from a local serious case review.

Training has been delivered to a wide range of agencies, using various mediums including 60 minute briefing, 7 minute briefings, and conferences, online training and bespoke training courses.

A breakdown of the agencies that have benefited from training is set out at Appendix A

Key themes

The following summary provides a snapshot of the training which has been delivered by KSCB.

I. Domestic Abuse

A comprehensive Domestic Abuse Training Programme has been developed. This was initially targeted at identified cohorts of practitioners and then opened up to the wider workforce. The training was delivered by an experienced Domestic Abuse specialist. Listening Ear were commissioned to deliver training courses which focused on the strategies and interventions available to support children who experience domestic abuse. This training equipped practitioners with a toolkit to address the needs of

children who have experiences of domestic abuse.

The Operation Encompass scheme has been extended to include Childminders and Early Years' Providers. Practitioners were given the opportunity to attend twilight sessions to raise their awareness of domestic abuse and its impact on children and how Operation Encompass can support in safeguarding this cohort of children. A refresher course was also delivered to schools.

An 'Intro to FGM Forced Marriage Spirit Possession' and Honour Based Violence and 'Awareness of Domestic Abuse and Violence' have both been delivered as 'online' courses.

II. Child Criminal and Child Sexual Exploitation

An annual workforce conference took place entitled 'Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) - What have we learnt?' Guest speakers were invited to present the lessons learnt from the Rotherham CSE case and the local serious case reviews involving CSE.

Catch 22 provided a number of briefings to practitioners regarding CSE and Missing. They delivered twilight community briefings for Parents/Carers and children 11+. These have been piloted in two youth settings within the borough and sessions were supported by our lay members.

CSE and CCE Protocol Briefings were provided to update professionals with the changes in process and procedures in this area.

'CSE for practitioners' has been delivered in partnership with the multi-agency Shield Team, it has now been updated to 'Child Exploitation and Missing for Practitioners' to incorporate child criminal as well as child sexual exploitation and the risks associated

with going missing. This new course will also keep practitioners up to date with the latest referral pathways and procedures associated with child exploitation.

Online Child Sexual Exploitation training has been available.

KSCB arranged for a theatre production company to present a drama called 'On One Condition'. The drama was funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner and explored criminal exploitation, online gaming and sexual exploitation. It was seen by a number of students across the borough.

III. Neglect

Further Neglect and the Graded Care Profile (GCP) training was commissioned to raise practitioners' awareness in the use of the GCP tool.

A multi-agency Neglect Workshop was organised and funded by KSCB, which focused on the lived experience of neglect. An eminent expert in research and writing on child welfare policy and neglect was a guest speaker at the workshop.

A 'Child Abuse and Neglect' online course has been made available to practitioners via the KSCB website.

A new multi-agency course entitled 'Exploring Neglect' has been developed and is being delivered by experienced practitioners from across the partnership. This training incorporates the use of the GCP and will include the updated neglect strategy and practice guidance when published.

IV. Emerging issues - Inappropriate and Harmful Sexual Behaviours

The charity 'Brook' was commissioned to deliver Traffic Light Tool Training to aid professionals to assess if a child's sexualised behaviour is normal, inappropriate or harmful. AIM 2 Assessment and AIM Managers training was commissioned to equip identified cohorts of practitioners with the skills and tools necessary to assess children displaying sexual harmful behaviours.

KSCB commissioned an expert to deliver 'Whole Systems to Intervention' training where practitioners were given the knowledge and skills to interpret and assess sexual harmful behaviours.

V. Serious Case Reviews

A 'Learning the Lessons' Event was organised in order to cascade the learning and recommendations following the publication of a number of serious case reviews that had been commissioned in the borough.

In order to improve our processes concerning the commissioning of a serious case review KSCB facilitated a multi-agency training event to raise awareness on a new SCR process, known colloquially as the 'Welsh Model'. The training was delivered to members of the SIRG and other key practitioners across the borough.

VI. Joint Children and Adult Alerters Training

The Children's and Adults Board Training Officers undertook a review of the content of the course content delivered at the Joint Commissioned Alerters Training. In collaboration with the training provider, the course revised and focused on the strategic priorities of the Board. Scenarios now focus on domestic abuse, child exploitation, adults with learning disabilities and institutionalised

abuse. In excess of 550 Adults and Children's practitioners attended and provided positive feedback.

VII. Other Key activities

KSCB have continued to deliver core training courses such as Working Together to Safeguard Children, WTSC Refresher and Compromised Care. We have developed and delivered two new training courses to the programme, Exploring Neglect and Recognising Child Sexual Abuse, both of which are facilitated by professionals from partner agencies.

We have arranged a number of Thresholds and the Continuum of Need briefings to update practitioners with new copies of the Thresholds of Need Guidance. Practitioners were given the option to attend daytime or twilight sessions and given the opportunity to review the guidance and apply it using case studies.

Practice Guidance briefings are planned with the intention of raising practitioners awareness of the revised 'Knowsley's Threshold of Need Guidance 2016' as well

as the new Pan Merseyside Multi Agency Referral Form (MARF), the changes for the referral pathway for Early Help Level 2 and Information Sharing and Consent procedures. Working in partnership with the Education Improvement Team, Prevent (radicalisation and extremism) briefings have been delivered to education settings.

Briefings have been provided to Social Workers and Police Officers to raise awareness of the Joint Working Protocol regarding S47 Enquiries and ABE (Achieving Best Evidence) Interviews.

A series of briefings have been delivered to practitioners, which are summarised below.

VIII. 7 Minute Briefings have included:

- Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
- Children and Young People who Display Inappropriate and Harmful Sexual Behaviour
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)
- Young People Carrying Knives
- KSCB Escalation Policy
- Multi-Agency Information Sharing



- New updated Child Criminal Exploitation Procedure
- Updated Children Who Run Away Or Go Missing From Home or Care Strategy
- Private Fostering
- Preventing Radicalisation and Extremism
- Working Effectively with Men in Families
- Safer Sleep Week and SIDS

IX. 60 minute briefings have included:

- Personality Disorders
- Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
- Local Authority Designated Officer
- Prevent - Radicalisation and Extremism
- Channel and Prevent for Schools
- Private Fostering
- Protecting Children Online
- CSE and CCE procedures

Section 11 - Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) has responsibility for the management of allegations against adults who work with children.

In accordance with 'Working Together to Safeguard Children', (2015), the LADO has oversight of individual cases as well as providing advice and guidance to employers and voluntary organisations, liaising with the police and other agencies and monitoring the progress of cases to ensure that they are dealt with in as timely a manner as is possible consistent with a thorough and fair process. The following data provides a snapshot of allegations that have been referred to the LADO during 2016/2017 it includes comparison data from the previous two years.

Referral Year	Total	NFA after initial consideration
2014 - 2015	71	16
2015 – 2016	89	54
2016- 2017	63	44

There has been a reduction in the number of referrals to LADO in the last twelve months, with the number of referrals requiring no further action increasing to 70%. This may be due to a change in role for the LADO as it no longer manages allegations relating to discipline or conduct.

There is a continuing trend in the data which shows the staff more likely to be referred to the LADO are residential social workers, foster carers, school staff, and early years staff. These professionals have high levels of interaction with children.

An influencing factor in the data over this reporting period has been a number of allegations (9) made by one young person based in one of the independent residential establishment in the borough. These referrals did reduce when this youngster

began receiving appropriate treatment. Referrals from residential establishments have reduced overall, which may be due to the development of good working relationships between the LADO and Registered Managers.

In addition there is continued dialogue through the provider's forum which all providers are invited and able to discuss areas of concern between professionals. The LADO continues to be involved with the Residential Home Providers Governance sub-group to discuss themes and trends and meets with the providers as part of the Residential Homes Providers forum.

There is a quarterly networking group in place to discuss themes, trends, and any allegation that is complex/out of the ordinary, which requires additional thought. The group includes representatives from Health, Education, Licencing, Legal, HR, Early Years, and Fostering & Adoption.

A close relationship with the Education Improvement Team has played a significant role in moving forward and addressing issues raised in relation to allegations within schools. An education representative is also part of the quarterly networking meetings.

	2014 – 2015	2015 - 2016	2016 - 2017
NFA after initial consideration/investigation.	16	54	44
Unfounded	6	1	2
Unsubstantiated	14	10	8
Malicious	0	1	2
Substantiated	9	9	6
Training needs identified	0	6	10
Investigation continuing			5

Disposal of Substantiated Allegations

There was a total of 6 substantiated allegations, which were disposed of as follows;

- One employee resigned their L.A. post prior to conclusion of the criminal investigation into inappropriate images on their personal computer. The employee was convicted and received a Community Service Order. A referral was made to DBS by the employer.
- One employee was subject to a criminal investigation into inappropriate images on their personal computer. The employee was convicted and a referral was made to DBS by the employer.
- One employee resigned their temporary post due to their own family circumstances. Their own children were supported through a Child Protection plan due as a result of domestic violence within the household. The employee refused to acknowledge the harm caused by domestic violence and her personal problems were impacting on their work.
- One employee was dismissed by their employer - CCTV footage confirming evidence of physical assault of a child within a care home. A referral made by the employer to the Disclosure & Barring Service.
- Allegations against two teachers were substantiated. They were investigated under the school's disciplinary procedures for inadvertently leaving children unattended within the classroom setting, they have subsequently returned to their post having had training issues identified. A third teacher is still being investigated under disciplinary procedures and has been suspended from their post for an alleged physical assault of a child.

Section 12 - Financial Summary

Resources

Partner agencies continued to contribute to the KSCB's budget for 2016/2017, in addition to providing a variety of resources, such as staff time for training. Financial contributions totalled £0.268m for 2016/2017 (see below for breakdown), as well as this year's contributions, KSCB has a contingency balance brought forward from previous financial years of £0.078m, making total resources available of £0.346m for 2016/2017.

Agency contributions	16/17 Contribution (£m)	% per agency
Knowsley Council	(0.149)	55.56
National Health Service	(0.047)	17.53
Dedicated School Grant	(0.042)	15.66
Police	(0.021)	7.75
First Ark	(0.005)	1.91
Community Rehabilitation Company	(0.001)	0.56
National Probation Service	(0.001)	0.41
Knowsley Community College	(0.001)	0.40
CAFCASS	(0.001)	0.22
TOTAL	(0.268)	100.00
Carry forward of contingency	(0.078)	
Total resources available	(0.346)	

Contributions from 2015/2016 have increased by (£0.020m). This is due to an increase from Knowsley Council of (£0.024m), offset against a reduction of contributions from 5 Borough Partnerships £0.003m, and Community Rehabilitation Company £0.001m.

Expenditure

Expenditure for 2016/2017 totalled £0.311m; the following table shows the percentage split across the main areas of KCSB.

Expenditure	16/17 Expenditure (£m)	%
Staffing	0.201	64.81
Serious Case Reviews	0.037	11.85
Independent Chair	0.023	7.47
Training	0.017	5.32
Child Death Overview Panel	0.016	5.06
General Expenses	0.009	2.86
Information Technology	0.008	2.63
TOTAL	0.311	100.00

KCSB expenditure has increased by a total of £0.029m compared to 2015/2016. This is due to:

- £0.035m – Staffing increases - of which £0.025m is redundancy costs for the previous manager and is therefore one-off and not recurrent.
- £0.017m – Increase in serious case reviews
- (£0.011m) – Reduction in Training costs
- (£0.007m) – Reduction in Independent Chair costs
- (£0.003m) – Reduction in Chronolator Licence costs

Projection for 2017/2018

It is anticipated the level of contributions will remain the same for 2017/2018, an update will be provided to the board during 2017/2018.

The available contingency carry forward from 2016/2017 will be a total of £0.035m.

Section 13 - Critical Successes

1. At the time of the last Ofsted inspection (April 2014) concerns were raised about the size of the social worker caseloads within the child protection teams.

Since that time and in line with other aspects of the Improvement Plan the senior management team along with team managers developed a governance structure to ensure that social worker caseloads are manageable and the reduction has been evidenced in monthly activity reports. Reducing caseloads continues to be a priority.

At the end of February 2017, the average caseload for a qualified social worker was 17.4. This is a reduction from an average of 18.8 for qualified social workers in August. While numbers do not reflect activity or complexity, allocations of cases does take such issues into account.

The governance structure has been effective. Since being in place the number of cases open to the CP/CIN service has reduced by 200 cases. In recent months, there has also been a reduction in the number of contacts coming into the

service, which supports the ongoing drive to reduce caseloads for social workers.

2. Following the Ofsted inspection in 2014 there has been a focus on recruitment to new and existing vacant posts, particularly positions where there is a requirement for a person with a social work qualification, along with an 'offer' of a coherent programme for training and professional development.

As a result of this focused approach on recruitment the social work workforce is regarded as stable and experienced.

There is a good 'blend' amongst social workers of recently employed and long serving staff. Particularly during the last two years Knowsley has developed a reputation as a good employer in the Merseyside region and as such has been successful in the recruitment of experienced and newly qualified social workers.

During the last 12 months there has been minimal staff turnover amongst social workers. A comprehensive training plan is in place supported through regular workforce development meetings where gaps are identified and training commissioned. There are also monthly Practice Development Workshops held to further support and up skill staff.

The stability amongst the workforce has supported good morale, confidence and a feeling of staff being supported. In its most recent inspection in 2017, Ofsted highlighted as a positive indicator the progress made by the local authority in recruiting and retaining a stable workforce.

3. Family first has worked closely with Children's Social Care, to develop an infrastructure where practice and service improvement is embedded within the service with a focus on audit, analysis and continuous learning.

In recent months there has been significant progress in partners understanding thresholds better, and when they are best placed to refer cases to Family First through the MASH.

Family First has developed a robust step down process where they discuss cases with children's social care and make joint decisions on whether stepped down to Level 3 or Level 2 early help is appropriate. If a case is at risk of being stepped up to social care, social workers are invited to Team Around the Family meetings to provide additional advice to families, and with any step-ups Family First remain involved with the family – providing interventions whilst single assessments or section 47 investigations are ongoing.

Ofsted described the service provided as "well-coordinated and effective"

4. The strategic priorities of KSCB have been the bedrock for the development and implementation of an ambitious training plan, which has been developed and implemented by the Board.

We have delivered training to in excess of 2,400 delegates, using a wide range of mediums including 60 minute briefing, 7 minute briefings, and conferences, online training and bespoke training courses.

The feedback from delegates has been positive.

Although training has generally been focused on the strategic priorities for the LSCB, it has been flexible enough to deliver training for emerging issues for example sexually harmful behaviour.

5. The new MACSE system has provided an enhanced multi-agency quality assurance service at key points in the process. This ensures that all information pertaining to the child is captured at the initial stage and an action plan is written to immediately safeguard the child.

This approach has reduced the number of outstanding domestic abuse suspects for Knowsley, provided clarity around roles and responsibilities for Police and partner agencies, reduced the repeat offending rate of the main DA perpetrators and ensured the safety of vulnerable victims.

6. The MASH has continued to perform well. This was reflected by the most recent Ofsted inspection in 2017. They described how "Children in need of help and protection receive a timely response

from the MASH!" They continue "Social Workers gather information and apply well understood thresholds to ensure children receive a swift response, whatever their level of needs."

Ofsted highlighted that "strong management oversight" ensures good information sharing and consideration of risk. Qualified staff undertake appropriate investigations, children are seen and spoken to and decision making is timely and appropriate."

7. Knowsley have developed an 'edge of care' approach to children who are at risk of becoming looked after. Ofsted described the services to children on the edges of care as a 'strength'. They complimented the 'well-resourced care packages' which are drawn together by a resource panel. Wrap around support is provided to very vulnerable families, helping some to make positive changes so that children can remain safely in their care.

8. Ofsted acknowledged the efforts leaders have made in providing high quality training to practitioners and enough time to give children the help that they need as a result services for all children have improved and services to children who are adopted and care leavers were graded as 'good.'

9. In the most recent inspection Ofsted highlighted the performance of the Adoption Team, who they graded as 'Good'. They noted that the local authority "rigorously monitors progress of children's plans to prevent delay."

They described family finding as "purposeful and effective" for children who need families with their siblings and children who have complex needs.

They acknowledged that matching of children with their new parents is "well informed by a detailed understanding of potential adopters' strengths and circumstances."

10. Ofsted also highlighted the positive approach taken in respect of care leavers, which they graded as 'good'

They acknowledged that care leavers in Knowsley are well supported to make a successful transition to adulthood. They described the service provided by the local authority as 'responsive to the issues they face.'

Personal Advisors are described as 'tenacious' in their efforts to keep in touch with even the most reluctant of care leavers.

11. Ofsted highlighted the efforts made at a local level in promoting 'staying put' with former foster carers as an option for care leavers.

They acknowledged the good range of suitable accommodation available to meet the needs of care leavers.

Ofsted acknowledged the local authority's energy and commitment in improving access to education and employment, which have resulted in the rate of 16–17 year olds who are in employment,

education or training (EET), at 91%, matching the England rate for all young people. This is far better than Knowsley's general 16–17 year old population.

12. Ofsted acknowledged the leadership, management and governance in place in Knowsley, which they graded as 'good'.

They described senior leaders and elected members as being 'visible, accessible and well informed.' They described their performance as "highly aspirational, aiming to provide children with high-quality services that achieve good outcomes for them."

They praised the good strategic planning, combined with effective partnership working with key statutory partners, which meant that children in Knowsley are receiving an increasing range of high-quality, effective services.

Section 14 - What's next in 2017 / 18?

Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board is highly motivated and determined to maximise our potential to protect and safeguard children against harm.

We intend to achieve this goal by focusing on the following issues;

1. The strategic priorities through to 2018 will remain unchanged, which include domestic, child exploitation, and neglect.
2. Through the development of a children's engagement sub group, KSCB will continue to ensure that the voices and experiences of children are fully embedded in practice and service planning.
3. We will strive to improve their performance by learning from serious case reviews,
4. Implement governance of newly revised strategies including neglect, domestic abuse and inappropriate and harmful sexual behaviour,
5. Enhance the skills and knowledge of practitioners through the delivery of an ambitious training plan, set against the strategic priorities of the Board.

6. Continued support from the sub groups, to deliver against the key areas of vulnerability.
7. Reflect and consider the recommendations made in the recent Ofsted inspection.
8. Embrace the changes that will arise from implementation of the new Children and Social Work Bill 2017.
9. Collaborate on a pan Merseyside perspective to improve efficiency and reduce risk.

Section 15 - Conclusion

This annual report sets out both the challenges and the achievements across the partnership. This has been a positive and rewarding year. There is clear evidence of improved outcomes for many vulnerable children and a growing confidence by staff who work with them. Following the positive Ofsted re-inspection there are, however, new challenges to face this year.

New legislation requires the establishment of new safeguarding arrangements in each locality during the next 18 months. The three key agencies, (police, the clinical commissioning group and the council) will become responsible for a new Safeguarding Plan.

At the same time we will need to maintain the strengths we have developed and retain our focus on safeguarding vulnerable children. We know for example that we need to focus on improving planning for all children in need and those on child protection plans. We need to ensure that children's lived experience informs those plans.

Last year as part of my role to provide independent challenge and scrutiny I asked board members to make sure their agencies played a full and constructive part in improving services. It was rewarding to see agencies collaborate, challenge and seek solutions to some of the issues we encountered.

This year I am asking:

How will you ensure your agency maintains the momentum and focus on safeguarding children established during the last three years?

How will your agency play a full role in providing help for vulnerable children and their families at the earliest opportunity?

How will your agency contribute to collaboration and partnership at a time when your resources may decrease and you may be subject to competing priorities?

How can we make sure that our safeguarding children partnership continues to drive improvements?

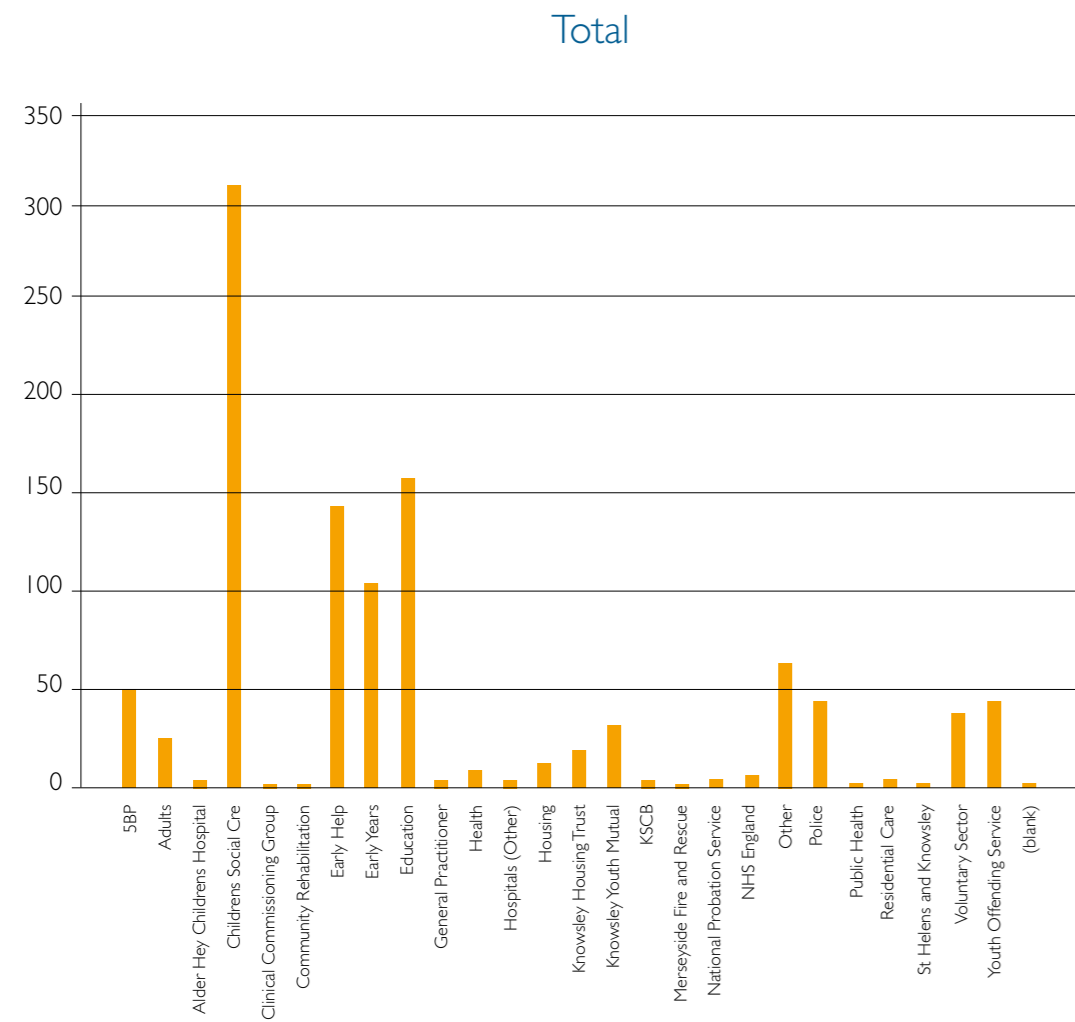
The partnership should move forward with confidence in the next twelve months and by addressing these challenges secure good outcomes for vulnerable children in Knowsley.

Audrey Williamson
Independent chair,
KSCB

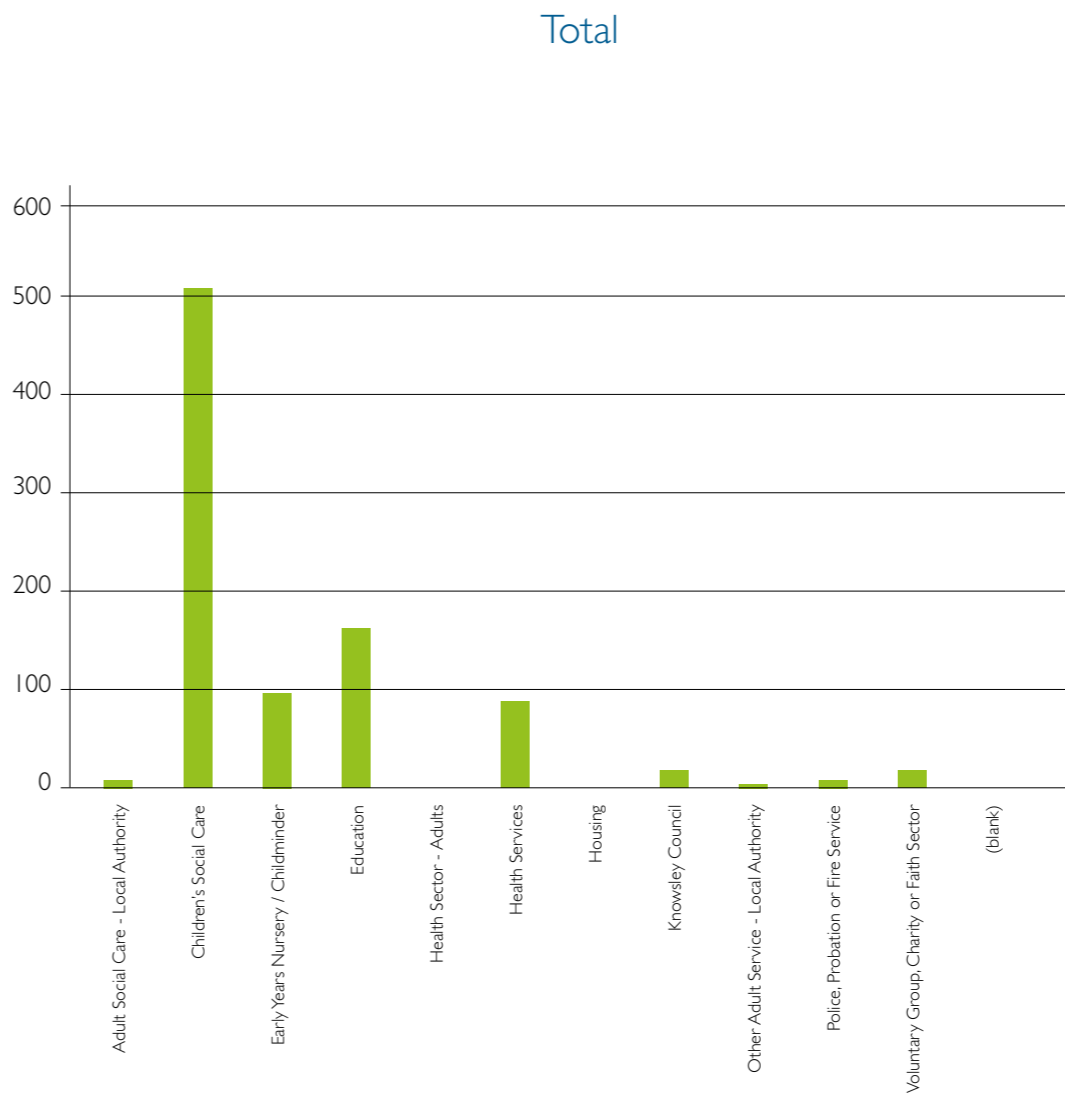


Appendix A - Training statistics

1756 delegates from a wide range of agencies have accessed or attended training sessions, briefings or conferences delivered by KSCB. The following chart (1.1) depicts the makeup of those practitioners who accessed face to face training sessions.



In addition, 925 practitioners applied to access online training via the Virtual College, 701 practitioners successfully completed their online module. The following chart provides a breakdown of the agencies that accessed our online modules.



- Modules included:
- An Introduction to FGM, Forced Marriage, Spirit Possession and Honour Based Violence
 - Awareness of Domestic Violence and Abuse
 - Hate Crime
 - Safer Recruitment
 - Safeguarding Children from Abuse by Sexual Exploitation
 - Trafficking, Exploitation and Modern Slavery
 - Working with Children with Disabilities
 - Child Abuse and Neglect
 - Understanding Pathways to Extremism and the Prevent Programme

Appendix B - Partners contribution to safeguarding children in Knowsley

Children's Social Care 2016-17

Children's Social Care has continued to work hard in 16/17 to deliver improvements to ensure that children are safeguarded, services have improved and multi-agency working is strengthened. Specific examples include:

Social Work practice has significantly improved across all areas and this has been validated by a number of external monitoring visits, including Ofsted and the Independent Chair of the Improvement Board. Specifically feedback includes, our assessments are timely and of quality, policies and procedures are clear and well understood, reviews are timely and child focused, statutory visits are completed on time, permanence planning is robust, placements are more stable and children are better matched, children are well engaged in decision making about their lives, social workers know their children well, children receive support without delay,

There has been significant investment in new services which has strengthened prevention through the development of 'Family First', the new residential provision (The Holt), MST,

Safer Families, Catch 22, Listening Ear all of whom form a 'whole system' approach to children and family services.

With the development of Early Help services the Family First service has worked effectively with Social Care to embed arrangements to support 'step up and step down' procedures, ensuring that services are targeted at the correct level of need.

Following the successful introduction of mobile technology and smartphones for all practitioners in 2015/16, the positive impact on direct working with children has continued to be demonstrated through 16/17. Practitioners are using a variety of tools to engage children and families using technology which has proved popular and effective. The development of technology has enabled the introduction of live minute taking at strategy meetings which is valued by the service.

The introduction of Qlikview has enabled managers to access 'live' detailed performance information. This has enhanced the strong performance led culture that has been established.

Education improvement team

The Education Safeguarding Officer and Education Improvement Officer both sit on the KSCB and contribute to various working parties including the neglect working party. During 2016/17 the Safeguarding Officer has played a role in the development of several safeguarding initiatives such as the neglect policy, development of DV pathway and Sexually Harmful behaviour protocol. She has ensured the dissemination of training materials to schools particularly in relation to Mental Health and Child Protection.

Following each KCSB full meeting an education sub group continues to meet in order to consider relevant information for school settings and the Education Safeguarding Officer produces a newsletter containing current information and links to

appropriate resources. This is now embedded as a communication tool and is highly valued in schools.

Officers have taken part in front line visits to YOS and the Leaving Care Team. Close working relationships continue to be developed between Education Officers, Early Help, Social Care, MASH, YOS and Health colleagues.

In response to the Boards priorities a conference on mental health and trauma in children, with specific reference to domestic abuse, was organised by the Safeguarding Officer in collaboration with governor support. The key note speaker was a nationally renowned academic of applied psychology and her presentation was thought provoking and informative. This was well attended and continues to have impact with school staff who attended the conference.

During 2016 we completed the government consultation on Keeping Children Safe in Education parts 1 and 2 and the updated guidance was disseminated to all schools in September 2016. In response to this

refresher training on KCSIE has been made available to schools on request and a session delivered to school governors.

First Ark Group / Knowsley Housing Trust (KHT)

In the last year, Safeguarding Children has taken on a significantly increased profile across the Group. Some examples to illustrate this include:

The setting up of an Internal Safeguarding Forum, with representation from a much wider group of staff from across the Group thus ensuring that knowledge and understanding of issues is disseminated more widely to all staff.

We have reviewed and improved our internal Concern Process, incorporating better use of technology, which allows any staff member who has concerns about an individual or a family to report their concern. The most relevant staff member then follows this up, with relevant onward referrals being made. The individual raising the concern receives feedback on actions taken.

We have signed a protocol with the Young Persons Team in Children's Social Care for the re-housing of 16-18 year old care leavers. Through the work on this initiative, we have built much closer working relationships with the Young Persons Team.

We have progressed work on a Home Share Pilot scheme to match vulnerable young people in need of housing with older people who can offer them a secure home in return for company and low-level support.

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service

MFRS have set up a task and finish group to determine an appropriate Safeguarding Strategy for the organisation. The group meet to review policies and procedures, to enhance internal and external communications and to raise awareness of practitioners of safeguarding within the organisation.

MFRS youth engagement team currently have one of their youth advocates on a part time secondment to Knowsley/Sefton Child

Criminal Exploitation Prevention and support team where he works as a Child Criminal Exploitation Prevention Officer.

We have worked closely with Knowsley CSC to ensure the part time hours have sufficient flexibility to allow for the needs of the project are met.

The fire setters' intervention for children and young people has been completely refreshed and relevant staff have been trained to deliver in each local area. MFRS actively participate in the Chief Fire Officers Association Fire setters workshops. A presentation regarding the intervention and referral process was delivered to the board.

Merseyside Police

Merseyside Police has been undergoing an organisational change programme. The Community First model for investigations was introduced in November 2016, resulting in one team of officers dealing with Safeguarding and Vulnerable Persons for both St Helens and Knowsley.

Knowsley Community Safety Partnership has developed a comprehensive Domestic Abuse (DA) Strategy and action plan which Merseyside Police contributes towards. In particular a Detective Inspector leads in relation to dealing with perpetrators under the PURSUE section of the plan. This aims to promote prompt arrest of offenders, action plans for repeat offenders and an enhanced multi-agency response using wider legislation to prevent re-offending.

Merseyside Police are currently developing their own Early Help capability to support the wider ethos of early help within local partnerships. The main areas of work will be to intervene in cases that create high levels of demand for police services and those cases that do not meet the threshold for statutory social care intervention but still carry underlying risk. Knowsley have recruited four staff to embark on a test and learn phase of this work which commenced in February 2017.

Knowsley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)

We have maintained CCG representation at the Strategic Board and Executive Board and each of the KSCB Sub Groups.

The Designated Nurse has led on the review of the KSCB Protocol for Sexually Active Young People under 18 years old incorporating an assessment tool for early detection of physical and or sexual exploitation.

The Designated Nurse has provided significant contribution to the Serious Case Reviews undertaken within 16/17.

We have considered the views of the child when commissioning new services, for example the commissioning of the Merseyside Eating Disorder Service. The Care Quality Commission Inspection team arrived in November 2016 and reviewed the Safeguarding Children and Children Looked After services within

Knowsley and good practice was highlighted and a number of recommendations have been made.

The Named GP for Safeguarding Children CCG has worked with the multiagency team and the Local Medical Committee to identify and resolve barriers to GP information sharing in safeguarding. Processes have now been agreed and are in place to promote effective information sharing and have been disseminated to all GP's.

A Protected Teaching Event organised by the CCG in February 2017 provided GP's and practice staff with an update on safeguarding. This included lessons learnt from local SCR's mainly around child sexual exploitation, female genital mutilation and information sharing processes for safeguarding in primary care.

The CCG have undertaken frontline visits to several primary care practices to improve their safeguarding systems and processes and have been supportive when taking over new practices. An audit tool is in place within primary care to evaluate impact.

National Probation Service- North West Division

A senior manager from NPS attends the Local Safeguarding Boards and contributes to multi-agency case audit, serious case reviews, business planning, learning and development and annual section 11 reviews.

During 2016 there has been an ongoing focus on CSE and missing from home training and briefings for all staff, the safeguarding leads have developed briefings that have been cascaded in team meetings.

We are an adult facing organisation but those adults we manage who have regular contact with children are subject to PVP checks with police and MASH referrals. We play an active role in child protection conferences, core panels and professionals meetings.

We are represented on MARAC panels and attend MACSE meetings whereby we can contribute relevant information about offenders who pose risks to children and help develop risk management strategies.

During 2016 NPS North West developed and launched a new Management Oversight (MO) process, which carries out a review function throughout the duration of the sentence for those cases that are assessed as high risk, MAPPA or child protection, almost all our cases meet the criteria for the Management Oversight process. This process includes a specific section on safeguarding children.

The MO process also includes sections specifically around domestic abuse and sexual abuse and the associated risk to children.

All NPS practitioners, including team managers have benefited from mandatory safeguarding training which has been delivered in 2016 and is ongoing. This training involved an E-Learning module followed by a classroom based event. All staff are expected to attend and the area safeguarding leads are tasked with monitoring attendance and compliance.

Merseyside Community Rehabilitation Company (MCRC)

MCRC has established itself as a high quality provider of probation services. The MCRC has responsibility for the supervision of offenders who are assessed as low or medium risk of harm who have been sentenced to a custodial sentence or community penalty. A Through the Gate service is delivered by Shelter; this service ensures the smooth transition of offenders from prison in to the community. The MCRC also provides a suite of interventions for all offenders who are subject to probation supervision, including, services delivered on behalf of our key partner, The National Probation Service.

The MCRC cohort includes a significant numbers of people who benefit from rehabilitative interventions which challenge attitudes and behaviour, address drug/ alcohol misuse and we support those experiencing mental health issues. Many need practical help with accommodation, finance and employment and training. By working with

adults, who may have children or young people in their homes, we make a positive difference to families.

Our aim is to 'redefine the future for people and places' and to do this the MCRC along with the supply chain has established itself as key partner in Knowsley . The MCRC works with perpetrators of domestic abuse and protects victims by playing a key role in MARAC. Sharing information and working together to address shared priorities has resulted in multi-agency initiatives to address domestic abuse, gang related offending and wider safeguarding concerns.

During 2017 the MCRC aspires to be key partner in the MASH in Knowsley and will work with our strategic partners to bring innovative approaches to life. The MCRC will embed our service delivery model, 'Interchange', and through our new Quality Assurance Framework we will evidence quality delivery of probation services including safeguarding children.

Youth Offending Service (YOS)

The HMIP Inspection improvement plan was successfully completed and the Knowsley Strategic Youth Justice Plan 2015-2018 Refresh Statement Sept 2016 identified several areas of successful developments, recognizing the importance of balancing early diversion with high risk interventions to effectively manage the complex needs of children across the scope of Youth Justice using an integrated multi-agency specialist approach.

The focus last year was to ensure staff training and development focussed on lessons from serious case reviews and emerging local issues to increase awareness and effectiveness in working with local children with complex needs involving offending and risk taking behaviours compounded by historic trauma, neglect, domestic abuse and parental mental health/ substance misuse.

Knowsley YOS has developed monitoring tools to explore Children Looked After (CLA) entering the criminal justice system, Top 10 re-offenders and High Risk young people to ensure integrated needs led approach to reduce risk whilst protecting the public.

Knowsley Shield team has been expanded to respond to both child sexual and criminal exploitation. This service continues to progress and develop in response to local issues and concerns such as links between local young people, organised crime and cross boarder activity. Knowsley YOS continues to work closely within Integrated Services to ensure joined up, information sharing and effective working to protect children from becoming victims of child exploitation.

5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Foundation Trust Report.

Local authorities have a statutory duty to promote the health and wellbeing of children looked after (CLA). The local authority carries out this duty through a

commissioning process hosted by Knowsley CCG. This service is provided by 5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Foundation Trust to ensure this duty is discharged.

The looked after children health team has a pivotal function in coordinating the statutory health care for children and young people looked after by Knowsley MBC regardless of their placement. The services of Community Paediatrics are commissioned from Alder Hey Children's Foundation Trust for the Borough of Knowsley. The Community Paediatricians provide medical input to looked after children placed within the borough of Knowsley and this is coordinated by the LAC health team.

During the reporting period a targeted inspection of Safeguarding children and Children looked after was completed by The Care Quality Commission, the resulting report was complimentary of the services provided by 5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.

The Safeguarding Service is required to report a KPI data set to Merseyside Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) on a quarterly basis.

An important 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. All members of staff who work within Knowsley for 5 Boroughs Partnership delivering services to adults or in non-clinical functions also have the opportunity to attend quarterly Safeguarding Children updates and group supervision.

The team provide full time support to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) ensuring that information and feedback is provided on behalf of all Knowsley Health Providers.

The Safeguarding Children service has continued to strengthen the provision of case supervision and developed and introduced supervision paperwork to ensure that the voice of the child is captured.

The introduction of a substance misuse screening tool for Looked After Children from age 11 years has improved the care children receive in relation to this, resulting in a number of children being referred to specialist services.

Due to the Transforming Services plan implemented through the Future Fit planning the borough has undergone a full service review, the aim being to align services to the borough based model. This will be implemented in 2017.

Public Health

In general terms, we continue to circulate information from the Board both internally to Public Health staff and to providers of Public Health commissioned services. We undertake routine monitoring of their safeguarding and incident management frameworks as part of our regular contract

review meetings and in more depth during mid-contract desktop service reviews. We have introduced a quality dashboard which we now use to report all aspects of provider quality including safeguarding. Public Health have secured the services of Essential Safeguarding Ltd to provide a consistent approach to healthy relationships education across Knowsley, Chelsea's Choice has been delivered to the 2016/17 to year 9 cohorts and more is scheduled for 2017/18. Also the theatre production play the "Black Eyes and Cottage Pie" has been commissioned for the forthcoming year. It focuses on abuse within intimate teenage relationships. Essential Safeguarding have also begun to undertake training with children's centre staff to ensure age appropriate healthy relationships support is provided in early years.

Change, Grow, Live continue to provide drug awareness training with a range of front line professionals focussing on drug use amongst young people in the borough and emerging patterns and trends. The training includes information on new psychoactive substances (commonly referred to as legal highs) and aims to raise awareness of this rapidly emerging issue.

Public Health produced a seven minute briefing on HIV to raise awareness amongst the local workforce.

Public Health commissioned Knowsley Youth Mutual (KYM) to undertake a refresh of the historic Teenage Health in Knowsley campaign. This included developing poster campaigns to focus on various risk taking behaviours such as alcohol use, cannabis use and gambling with the aim of educating young people around the myths and facts associated with these. A child sexual exploitation (CSE) campaign was developed to coincide with National CSE Awareness Day on March 18th 2017 and will be included on the Think website and subsequently developed into a Think poster campaign.

Public Health commissioned Barnardo's to deliver training around child sexual exploitation (CSE) to a member of staff from each primary and secondary school in the borough during 2015/16. This was alongside the purchase of the 'Real Love Rocks' healthy relationships resource developed by Barnardo's which has been provided for each school within the borough.

Knowsley Community College

In addition to our routine safeguarding activities and close collaboration with Think, KYM and Kooth staff, Knowsley Community College has:

- Invested in ensuring key staff undertake a wide range of safeguarding training
- Commissioned Time for Change to provide staffed stands and sessions covering mental health stigma and discrimination.
- Commissioned Shontal Theatre Education to put on a performance of Busted. This meant that 340 students have been helped to avoid debt and understand the dangers of loan sharks.
- Hosted two Police drama performances entitled Terriers which delivered key messages around guns and knife crime, gang culture and sexual exploitation to over 300 students.
- Developed additional methods of communicating safeguarding messages to students such as:
 - o Our weekly Student Messages linking key safeguarding topics to news items and

- o Our development of online tutorials covering, for example, Prevent and Radicalisation.
- o Our regular messages for students on computer screens and the College intranet
- Reviewed and revised our core policies and procedures document in keeping with KSCB priorities

Liverpool Women's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Training around the Early Help Agenda has been accessed by midwifery staff as part of the agreed CQUIN. Liverpool based midwives are now above 90% trained, however fewer sessions have been provided by Knowsley and Sefton meaning that the staff have had to wait longer to be trained and Liverpool Midwives cannot assist with this as it is a different Early Help process.

It has been agreed in December 2016 with Liverpool City Council that LWH will receive a designated Early Help Practitioner once more practitioners have been recruited and trained.

LWH Electronic Patient Records system MEDITECH has been updated to provide data around how many patients are offered Early Help support as well as how many patients are accepting early help. This information will be provided to Commissioning in our Q4 performance data capture.

Continued completion of various Neglect Audits from the Board and engagement with multi-agency review meetings following audit will continue into the coming 12 month reporting period.

In respect of CSA / Missing Families, building on the foundation work completed by the Safeguarding Team in 2015/16, CSA remains a priority for us and in the coming 12 months, LWH will be:

- Continuing to raise awareness of CSA and how to respond, amongst children and young people; parents and carers; the local population; staff coming into contact with children.

- Providing further bespoke CSA training which has been implemented to high risk areas across the Trust as well as CSA being continually updated within Safeguarding Training.
- CSA flyers via communications and a specific CSA section on the Safeguarding intranet.
- LWH are now part of MACSE distribution lists and as such information is shared prior to meetings and actions taken back.

NHS England Contribution to Knowsley Safeguarding Annual Report 2016/17

NHS England is committed to the work of Knowsley LSCB and working with our partners to ensure that all health services safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.

NHS England as the commissioner of primary care (GPs, Dentists, Pharmacists and Opticians) and specialised services is responsible for ensuring these services meet all required safeguarding standards. These

standards include essential safeguarding training for all staff and how staff must listen to children and young people to improve the services they deliver. We monitor these standards regularly and work with organisations to make improvements to the care they deliver.

Below is the work undertaken by NHS England North (Cheshire & Merseyside) during 2016/17:

NHS England North Region safeguarding assurance tool completed and audited across all Cheshire & Merseyside CCGs. Tool supported CCGs to demonstrate compliance with national safeguarding standards.

Inclusion of Child Sexual Exploitation/Sexual Abuse (CSE/CSA) lead within standard national contract from April 2016. This requires all NHS Trusts to have an identified CSE lead to support implementation of national guidance and ensure voice of child is central to health services.

Distribution of NHS England CSE pocket guides to all frontline health staff including GPs, Pharmacists and Dentists.

Launch of NHS England Safeguarding App to all frontline health staff.

Promotion of national “Seen and Heard” campaign to all frontline health staff www.seenandheard.org.uk Continued promotion and implementation of Cheshire & Merseyside health pathway regarding Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and mandatory reporting Distribution of NHS England FGM pocket guides to all frontline health staff including GPs, Pharmacists and Dentists.

A north regional Prevent conference was held in December 2016 to raise awareness of Prevent with evaluation from attendees being very positive.

Delivery of a series of executive masterclasses to raise awareness of Prevent; slavery and human trafficking at a senior level within health organisations and ensure that

there was confidence in understanding the requirements under the new statutory duty. Dissemination of all information relating to Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) to all NHS organisations to ensure aware of duties in relation to the inquiry and management of allegations.

Regular liaison with IICSA to promote “Truth Pilot” across Cheshire & Merseyside to all health providers and primary care staff. Ongoing communication to all Cheshire & Merseyside LADO’s to ensure allegations involving those professions managed via NHS England (GPs; Pharmacists; Dentists and Opticians) are referred to NHS England Safeguarding Lead for investigation in accordance with safeguarding policies and procedures.

Cafcass

Cafcass (the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service) is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Ministry of Justice. The role of Cafcass within the family courts is: to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; provide

advice to the court; make provision for children to be represented; and provide information and support to children and their families.

Cafcass is a statutory board partner of every Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) in England, under s13 (3) of the Children Act 2004. The Act does not specify how the duty of membership is to be discharged, other than placing a reciprocal duty on the authority that establishes the Board, and each member agency, to co-operate in the establishment and operation of the LSCB.

Cafcass is committed to making a meaningful contribution to the work of KSCB and seeks to achieve this through the following mechanisms;

Oversight of LSCB agendas and papers, and a contribution on those matters that fall within Cafcass’ functions and operations.

We actively seek to bring developments within family justice, and safeguarding matters derived from our work in this field (including operational matters, management information, matters addressed by Local

Family Justice Board and research) to the attention of the LSCB. Thus, helping to ‘bridge’ safeguarding and family justice.

We are committed toward contributing to learning and development through LSCB training events that relate to Cafcass’ functions.

Cafcass contributes to SCRs, at the request of LSCBs, through the provision of written reports and chronologies, panel membership and attendance at learning events.

Alder Hey Statutory Services

The safeguarding team are based within the Rainbow Centre, which is situated on the ground floor of the new hospital near the Emergency Department and provides a ‘hub’ for the co-ordination of the safeguarding service across the whole Trust.

Work covers safeguarding advice to professionals and holistic child protection assessments of children across all areas of Merseyside. The unit includes the children’s SARC for children suspected of being

sexually abused. On a regional basis the Rainbow Centre provides safeguarding assessments and opinions for complex and perplexing cases referred into the regional medical and surgical specialist units at Alder Hey."

The children's SARC has recently received funding to provide psychological support for children and young people accessing this service. This has previously been an identified gap in service provision and will aim to provide short term assessment, treatment and if necessary referral on to relevant services.

AHH is actively involved in CSE awareness strategy. Information circulated throughout the organisation via screen savers, poster campaign and safeguarding newsletter CSE risk assessments are carried out on all children attending the children's SARC. The safeguarding nurses are also linked in to Liverpool, Knowsley and Sefton MACSE meetings. The trust has invested in recruiting a Nurse Social Work (NSW) team, to assist with discharge planning of complex children and

provide help and support to families at an early stage of admission. The NSWs take a lead role in completing formal assessment tools to help ensure early intervention and the co-ordination of both health and social services.

The trust has delivered additional internal targeted training, with topics reflecting the LSCB priorities. In addition, the safeguarding team delivered a LSCB multi-agency training event regarding bruising in non-mobile children.

In January the Safeguarding team presented 'The Child Death Review Process' at the trust Grand Round and there are further plans to facilitate a Mersey Wide SUDiC protocol relaunch event at Alder Hey. The safeguarding / LAC team have reviewed the patient journey from CP assessment, undertaken within the Rainbow Centre, to IHA if a child becomes LAC. A pathway profoma has been developed to enable one single assessment to be undertaken, which encompasses the necessary assessments for both CP examination and IHA's.

The pathway has been successfully utilised for a small number of patients, resulting in these patients not having to undertake unnecessary further medicals. Therefore, the plan is to now formally incorporate the Rainbow - LAC assessment into the IHA pathway.



