



Knowsley  
Safeguarding Children Board's  
Annual Report **2017/18**

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# 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

**CGL** Change Grow Live

**CLA** Children Looked After

**CP** Child Protection

**CSE** Child Sexual Exploitation

**CQC** Care Quality Commission

**CRC** Community Rehabilitation Company

**DARIM** Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment Matrix

**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

**KYM** Knowsley Youth Mutual

**LA** Local Authority

**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

**MACE** Multi Agency Child Exploitation

**MAP** Missing Action Plans

**MASH** Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub

**MCRC** Merseyside Community Rehabilitation Company

**NFA** No Further Action

**NHS** National Health Service

**NPS** New Psychoactive Substances

**NWAS** North West Ambulance Service

**NWBH** North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

**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

**RCPCH** Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health

**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 1 - Foreword

As Independent Chair of Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board, I am pleased to present the annual report for 2017/18.

The report provides a range of information about how we safeguard children and young people across Knowsley. It includes an analysis of how we have worked compared to last year and what areas we must continue to focus on to improve our work. Our ambition is always to provide the very best services for children in Knowsley who need help and protection.

Detailed performance information is provided and what it demonstrates is that Knowsley, unlike many other areas, has not witnessed a significant rise in children coming into the care system. Instead more children are receiving early help and when needed, more intensive support within their community. Overall this is a positive picture and demonstrates better outcomes for children.

I am pleased that following the Ofsted inspection last year it was agreed that the Local Safeguarding Children Board would take up the role of the Improvement Board and ensure that we would seek to continuously improve our services.

This development demonstrates the confidence across Knowsley in both the strength of the partnership and the commitment from all partners at senior level to continue to work together. It is only by doing this that we can meet the needs of the most vulnerable children in Knowsley.

Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board is a mature partnership reflecting the stability of agencies across the locality. Changes in personnel such as the departure of Paul Boyce, our previous Director of Children's Services and the appointment of his replacement Colette Dutton have been well managed. The Clinical Commissioning Group ensured continuity of a key service in the absence of a valued colleague and Merseyside Police provided leadership at a time when staff were promoted elsewhere.

All of this demonstrated the importance of safeguarding in the eyes of senior leaders and provides assurance that we are in a strong position to move into the new working arrangements in the forthcoming year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the team that supports the Board - without this team the Board would not function as well as it does. The training provided by the team is invaluable and supports the workforce to be confident and skilled.

I would also like to thank partners who are members of the Board for their work and providing me with a very high level of support. Their continued commitment will be critical during the next twelve months.

Finally, and most importantly, I would like to thank all those staff and practitioners who work with families every day, often in a challenging and complex environment. It is this work that makes sure that children are safeguarded in Knowsley.

**Audrey Williamson**  
**Independent Chair**  
**KSCB**





# Section 2 - Introduction

The Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board's (KSCB) annual report has been published to set out the Board's progress against the strategic priorities set within the business plan for the period 2017/18.

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 2017 to 2018 saw KSCB focus on consolidating, sustaining and building on the progress that had been made the previous year.

In March 2017, Ofsted reinspected Children's Services in Knowsley. The outcome was very positive with Ofsted acknowledging that services and outcomes for all children had significantly improved. KSCB have supported Children's Services efforts to sustain, improve and build a consistent level of performance, which is focused on improving outcomes for children.

Following this successful outcome, the Department of Education authorised the removal of the improvement notice.

The Education Minister noted the significant progress that had been made.

Although significant progress was noted, locally it was acknowledged that there needs to be a continued focus on improving performance through a robust governance structure.

It was agreed that Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board was the appropriate forum to maintain that focus and would adopt the roles and responsibilities of the Improvement Board (set up to drive forward the improvements to Children's Services in Knowsley).

At a national level, the Children and Social Work Bill received Royal Assent in April 2017, removing the statutory requirement for Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB). They will be replaced by locally agreed safeguarding arrangements.

New statutory guidance 'Working together to safeguard children 2018' was developed by the Department of Education and circulated nationally as part of a national consultation process. The views of those concerned with safeguarding and protecting children were collated and considered for inclusion in the final draft, which received parliamentary approval in June 2018.

The guidance requires significant changes in safeguarding arrangements and from 29 June 2018, local authority areas must begin their transition from LSCB's to safeguarding partner and child death review partner arrangements. The transition must be completed by 29 September 2019.

Knowsley LSCB has rightly taken a prominent role in the development of new safeguarding arrangements that will arise following the introduction of the new legislation. A multi-agency project team, under the leadership of an Assistant Executive Director from the local authority, has been formed to facilitate the smooth transition into the new arrangements.

This annual report of the LSCB, in accordance with national guidelines, has been circulated to the following keys 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.



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

## What is the LSCB?

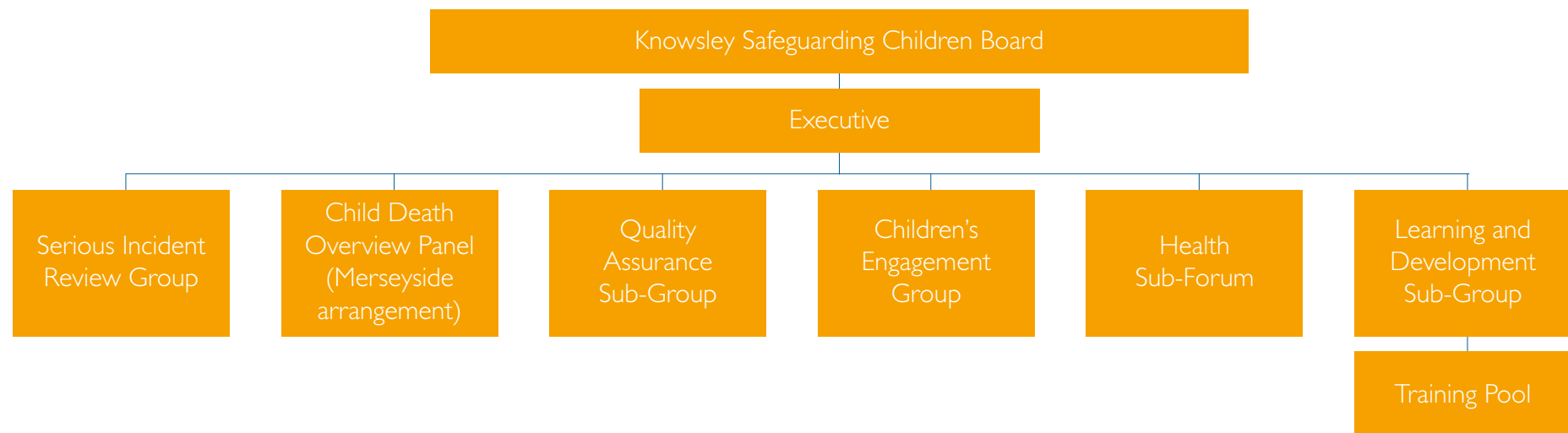
The Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) is a statutory body, which agrees how relevant agencies work together to help make children safer through promoting the welfare of children and making sure the sure that activity undertaken is effective.

The work of the LSCB during 2017/18 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.

## KSCB structure

The structure of the Board and its sub groups during 2017/18 is set out below:





## Independent Chair

The Independent Chair of the KSCB is Audrey Williamson. She is supported by a Board Manager and a small 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 Council's lead member for children and young people regularly during 2017/18.

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 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 2017/18.

## 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 2017/18 engagement continued.

Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board agreed to take on the responsibilities of the Improvement Board and has developed a governance structure to facilitate this responsibility.

Following discussions between senior leaders within the respective LSCBs of Liverpool and Knowsley there have been agreements in principle to consider the feasibility of developing collaborative opportunities through the commissioning and delivery of safeguarding training, harmonising policies and procedures as well as audits and inspection processes.

In addition there have been wider collaborative arrangements across the Merseyside area through the development of a Protected Vulnerable People Strategic forum and a number of sub-groups including thresholds and policy and a harmful practices sub-group.

## Board membership and attendance

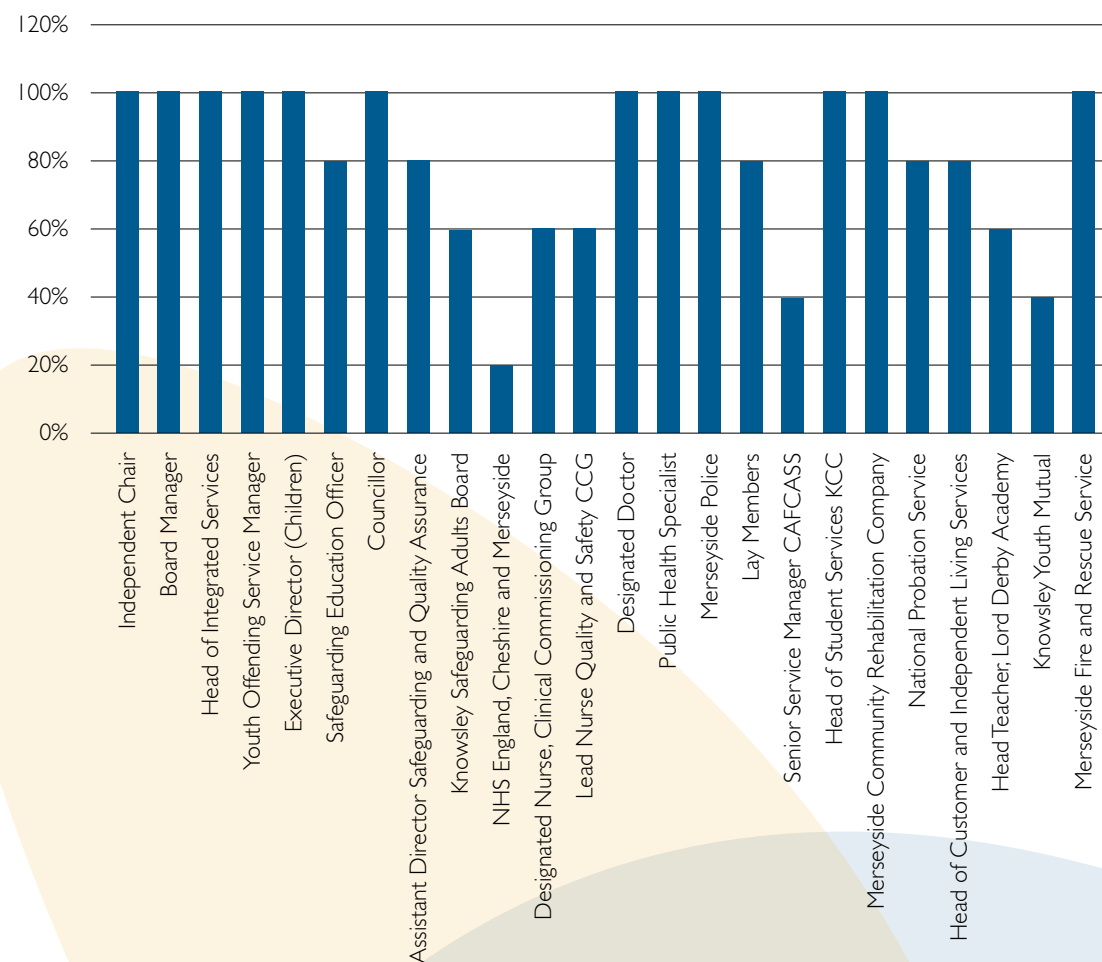
During 2017/18 there were six main Board meetings, and six executive Board meetings. The main Board had a membership made up of representatives from all statutory partners and others concerned with safeguarding children.

The council's Children's Social Care service is always represented at the Board; either the Executive Director or the Assistant Executive 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.

Membership and attendance at the Board can be seen below.

Board attendance for April 2017 - March 2018





## 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 32,728 are children.

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

In Knowsley there is one college of further education, 49 nursery and primary schools, 5 secondary schools, 6 special schools and a pupil referral unit. There are 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 safeguarding snapshot 2017/18

- 32,728 children live in Knowsley
- 31.5% of children in low income families
- 236 children became subject of Child Protection Plans 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 Children's Social Care 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

- Frontline 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 2018/20

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

- Children in Knowsley are safeguarded and protected from harm, including abuse, neglect and exploitation
- The voices and experiences of children are fully embedded in practice and service planning
- Learning from reviews is embedded, through the delivery of robust action plans, which enable early and appropriate intervention with a particular focus on:
  - Domestic abuse
  - Neglect
  - Child 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. It 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 workstreams.

The Shield team continues to provide oversight of all young people affected by CSE and CCE. On 5 October 2017, the CCE meeting and MASCE merged to form the Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE).

In 2017/18, there were 74 CSE cases that progressed through to the MACE and 65 CSE cases were removed from the MACE due to reduction of risk or the young person moved out of Knowsley. There have only been two repeat CSE referrals into MACE.

There has also been an increase in CE investigations and National Referral Mechanism applications.

This has been achieved through greater awareness of practitioners and the development of systems and processes to monitor the progress of referrals.

Looking forward, the Shield team is looking to benchmark our performance to gauge the impact of our interventions.

Knowsley developed an IT based assessment tool, which has been adopted across Merseyside. The tool has been designed to collate performance data to evidence reduction of risk levels and increase in outcomes in 2018/19.

In 2017/18, there has been an increase in direct work undertaken with young people and parents by the Shield social workers and consultations have reduced. This implies that the workforce has become more skilled and is not requiring the same level of guidance for CSE.

The Shield team is finalising a performance system, which will enhance the capability to collate and analyse future performance data.

The Shield team continues to provide outreach to the wider community. All secondary schools Year 7 have received online safety interventions. Alongside outreach work to Everton Football Club, health colleagues, foster carers and CSC social workers; Shield has begun to attend primary school assemblies to raise awareness for 'online' safety.

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, which is an independent service, 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 three 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 a 12 month period the total number of individuals who received a return interview increased by 126%.

## Neglect and its impact on children

KSCB commissioned a review of our assessment process to capture evidence of neglect, which is one of the strategic priorities for Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board. The review identified tangible benefits in upgrading the current Graded Care Programme, to the latest version GCP2.

KSCB approved the purchase of a license and a 'train the trainer' package. A task and finish group led by a senior manager has coordinated the delivery of a multi-agency training plan to practitioners across the borough.

The Board also approved the introduction of a neglect screening tool, which compliments the use of the GCP2. The system will

enhance our efficiency and effectiveness in identifying children who may be subject to neglect.

The thresholds of need guidance document were reviewed earlier in the year by the LSCB and subject to change following feedback from practitioners. These documents are provided as a reference document for practitioners across the partnership.

To reflect the Board's commitment to ensure that practitioners have the skills needed to help and protect, new neglect training modules have been implemented. For example a 'Child Abuse and Neglect' online course has been available to practitioners via the KSCB website and has been well received.

A new training course 'Exploring Neglect' was delivered by experienced practitioners from the Quality Assurance Unit and Family First. The training promotes the use of the GCP2 and provides practitioners with an opportunity to gain a more in depth understanding of neglect.



## Domestic abuse and its impact on children

Responsibility for the strategic oversight of domestic abuse pathways is the Domestic Abuse Governance Group (DAGG) - a group overseen and coordinated under the Community Safety Partnership.

A Domestic Abuse Reduction Strategy was agreed by partners for the period 2017/20. An agreed action plan was developed to drive and coordinate the strategy.

Representatives of the DAGG provide updates to KSCB on the progress of the action plan. The prevalence of domestic abuse is reflected in the volume of contacts and activity at the 'front door' of Knowsley's services for children, which is higher than other reasons for contact. In response, families are supported through Social Care, Family First and offered advice and guidance.

Professionals understand the impact of domestic abuse on children and their families. In Knowsley, services are provided to prevent families from continually experiencing domestic abuse. The following interventions have been introduced:

- Development of pathways for silver and bronze domestic abuse cases
- Commissioning of services such as 'Listening Ear' to help children affected by domestic abuse
- Development of a perpetrator pathway in order to hold perpetrators to account for their behaviour
- Development of a bespoke young person's Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) for those aged 16-21 years to ensure that they receive a consistent offer and support regardless of risk

For children and families who require interventions, the voice of the child is central to assessments and plans, and professionals working with families at all levels of intervention have been provided with extensive training on the impact of domestic abuse on children.

## Knowsley Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

In 2017/18, a number of significant developments in the progress of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) were reported.

The MASH brings a team of multi-disciplinary professionals from a range of agencies together to deal with all safeguarding concerns of a child or adult at risk. Information received in the MASH is collated and assessed to identify any risks, which allows practitioners to make informed decisions that enable children at risk are kept safe.

A practitioner from the Safer Communities team was posted into the MASH partnership in April 2018, which will increase the multi-agency footprint, and add significant value to the partnership working ethos.

KHT and education secured funding to facilitate the postings of representatives from their respective agencies.

With the recruitment of an extra Customer Referral Officer, MASH is now the first point of contact for both Children's and Adult's Safeguarding.

A risk assessment process 'BRAG' was introduced into MASH to review and prioritise all bronze merit domestic abuse referrals, which has improved their ability to target interventions more effectively.

In January 2018, as part of a commitment to improve the knowledge and skills of practitioners, a new multi-agency briefing structure was introduced into the MASH. This included briefings from Children's Social Care in relation to section 47, Adult Social Care briefed practitioners to highlight issues relating to vulnerable adults. These have been embedded into core functions along with shared learning to improve decision making for families. Practitioners have provided positive feedback indicating that the briefings have increased their awareness of issues that they may manage through the MASH.

In April 2018 the MASH monthly newsletter was introduced. This informal means of communication is intended to improve and extend engagement across the borough. Practitioners have been positive in their responses to date.

## Early Help

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.

During the period 2017/18, there was significant engagement with partners within Children's Centres and Knowsley Youth Mutual. This enabled Early Help to make changes to our service provisions, which support children and their families at the earliest opportunities.

Early Help coordinators worked closely with partners to identify any blockages and develop auditable level 2 interventions. This has included the Early Help Assessment process and Team around the Family meetings.

There have been changes made to the step up from level 2 to level 3 processes to ensure consistency with processes already embedded between levels 3 and 4.

There has been an increase in the use of DARIM forms to identify the needs of children where domestic abuse is a factor within the family. There has also been an increase in referrals for therapeutic support from Listening Ear.

The Family First service has grown significantly over the period 2017/18 with the addition of new teams. Two members of the Young Carers team were recruited to support young carers within Knowsley. One worker is responsible for completing assessments, creating a support plan and identifying appropriate interventions that meet the needs of the young carers. Since taking up this post, 53 young carers have received completed assessments and plans.

The second young carer worker engages with all Knowsley education establishments to identify appropriate levels of support, which will enable Knowsley young carers to continue to achieve their educational aspirations whilst maintaining their caring role.

The Early Help Children with Disabilities team has been relocated within the Family First Service and provides interventions to families at the earliest opportunity to enable them to access universal and targeted services.

The Level 3 Case Management team continues to provide support to Children's Social Care through a strong step down procedure which engages the family within Level 3 services prior to the closure of the case within Children's Social Care. This approach avoids any drift occurring in the continuation of support for children and their families. Family First continue to be the key team in



achieving Payment by Results by ensuring positive outcomes for children and families who have met the Troubled Families criteria. The objective is to 'turn around' families with poor outcomes relating to the following issues:

- Parents and children involved in crime and antisocial behaviour
- Children who have not been attending school regularly
- Adults out of work or at risk of financial exclusion and young people at risk of not working
- Children who need help
- Families affected by domestic violence or abuse
- Parents and children with a range of health problems

An 'Engaging Families Toolkit' was developed as a result of the learning from a number of Serious Case Reviews which highlighted the need for all partners to be persistent in their attempts to meaningfully engage families. The toolkit provides advice and guidance on methods of engaging families.

Domestic abuse - safety planning tools for children who are vulnerable to domestic abuse have been developed and cascaded across the partnership. The tools provide a

process and framework in which to work with children and their non-abusive parent to develop the child's own safety plan.

## 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 Knowsley's Troubled Families Programme and has ensured that the right number of families are worked with at the right time and achieved the right outcomes through assessment and delivery of a family plan.

## Multi Systemic Therapy

Knowsley has developed an 'edge of care' approach to children who do not need to be looked after but are at risk of becoming so.

Multi Systemic Therapy (MST) is an intensive 20-week family and community-based intervention that targets the root causes of antisocial and criminal behaviour in children aged 12-17 years. The main objective for MST is to prevent the need for out-of-home placements (local authority care or custody) by working with parents/carers to impact on the causal and maintaining factors of their child's negative behaviour.

MST aims to empower parents/carers by building on their strengths so they are able to impact on the systems that affect their child's behaviour and continue to do so without the need for ongoing statutory services once the intervention has completed.

In 2017/18 Knowsley MST worked with 34 families; 8 open and 26 completing interventions. Of the 26 families who completed intervention:

- 92% of referred children remained living at home
- 70% were in school or working

- 100% had not committed any new offences

In addition, no families were closed to the service due to lack of engagement. This demonstrates the strong and consistent outcomes that the MST has achieved during the life of the service.

The successful delivery of the MST model also provides opportunities to make financial savings by children not being placed in local authority residential accommodation or foster placements.

Looking forward, the Knowsley Prevention Investment Fund has approved to fund the transition of the current MST team into the MST-CAN model; a clinical adaptation of MST that works specifically with families where there is known physical child abuse or neglect. This transition is currently in development with a view to becoming operational by September 2018.

## Private fostering

Identification of privately fostered children has been an area of improvement in Knowsley leading to more children receiving the right support and safeguards within the community. A multi-agency group consisting of nominated 'champions' continues to meet regularly to review procedures. The meeting is well attended by agencies that include Children's Social Care, health and education representatives, Knowsley Youth Mutual, Knowsley Council's Communication team and the LSCB trainer.

The group developed a communications plan to raise awareness of private fostering across agencies. This has coincided with a significant increase in the number of privately fostered children open to Social Care. At the end of the current year ending 31 March 2018 the recorded number of privately fostered children was 10. A significant proportion of this number is as a result of engagement with both Liverpool and Everton football Clubs. Going forward the group will continue

to meet to ensure that those children in privately fostered situations are appropriately supported and have a social work assessment and their care is monitored.

There is a commitment to deliver ongoing training for agencies to support them in identifying such children.



## Priority 2

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

### What have we done?

During 2017/18 KSCB, in liaison with the Head Teachers Forum, facilitated an online children's safeguarding survey with young people aged 11-18 years. The purpose of the survey was to get an insight into children's thoughts concerning the safeguarding priorities of neglect, domestic abuse and child exploitation. In addition the survey has also included specific questions about healthy relationships, gang membership and on line safety. The survey is also attempting to establish children's awareness of what support is available to them.

Some 500 students responded to the survey. The results of this survey are to be analysed and will form the bedrock of future planning by the Board.

Longer-term, the Board has reached an agreement in principle with colleagues from Public Health to participate in a wider survey

within the health and wellbeing of young people in Knowsley portfolio.

### MADE

The Making A Difference Everywhere (MADE) Junior (8-13 years) and Senior (14-21 years) 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 CICC (Children in Care Council) they are also part of a regional network of CICCs across the North West which helps support their national voice and mission to improve care for all.

This year the engagement and participation of children in care and care leavers has increased through various changes and activity throughout the year. They have noted an increase in the appreciation of the benefits of active and meaningful participation and engagement.

This year there have been many developments that will impact positively on the children and young people we work with:

- Children looked after in Knowsley have been actively involved in supporting the foster carer recruitment campaign this quarter and have supported the recruitment of more carers for teenagers and sibling groups
- 9 children have also worked closely with the Ariel Trust and staff from Children's Social Care to produce a video of personal poems and animations. These provide a motivational piece encouraging children and young people to ask for help
- The group were 'runners up' for an award for positive contribution to health and wellbeing at this year's Knowsley Sports and Culture Awards
- MADE has developed a new action plan for the forthcoming year. They intend to consult with Heads of Service and key colleagues in CSC to ensure the areas of work within the plan are developed. The new plan includes accredited peer advocacy training for young people, and developing what 'contact' looks like in Knowsley
- 12 MADE group members attended an outdoor pursuits centre on a residential visit in September and thoroughly enjoyed their time



## 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 to consider when working with and making decisions about Children Looked After (CLA) and care leavers.

The Charter's images are displayed around the Charter Mural in Nutgrove Villa, Westmoreland Road Huyton, and are available online at [www.madeforus.co.uk](http://www.madeforus.co.uk)

On 16 December 2017 an annual evaluation of Knowsley Children's Charter pledge was undertaken. This involved a multi-agency survey focused on identifying the impact the Charter and their personal pledge had on the service they provided.

When asked if the Charter Mural has made an impact all responded 'Yes'. When marked out of 10 for impact of their involvement within the Children's Charter Pledge, the average impact rating was 8 from across all services.

## The areas of impact

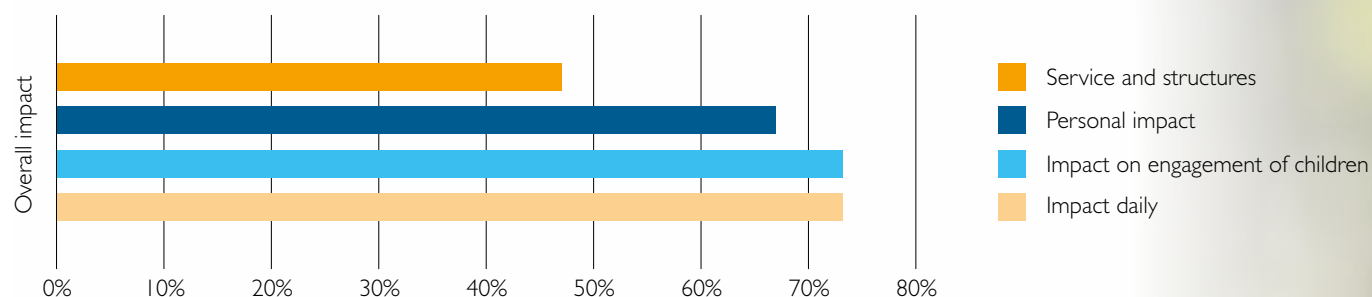
The following statements provide a snapshot of comments that reflect the impact on individuals.

"We have looked to develop our services such as special educational need and the exploitation teams to make sure that the teams around each young person are multi-agency and are able to respond quickly and in the best possible way for that young person to get the most out of our services."

"More children are now living in foster care compared to 12 months ago."

"Personally it has a positive impact on knowing the plans and work completed are the best they can be for the children for their benefit."

"Personal Pledges have helped to ensure professionals are 'taking a step back' and considering how listening to what children want from professionals within their lives /corporate parents can impact on the shape focus and vision of the service provided. There are huge benefits to engagement and participation on the individual and service and this is a great example of how we can ensure to remember this."



Knowsley's Corporate Parenting Board and MADE groups will review pledges annually and work together to involve and engage children and young people in shaping the service that they receive.

## Youth Offending Service

Youth Offending Service has developed an exit session which enables children, at the end of their period of intervention, to share their views with a Service Manager. This improves our understanding of the child's experience of the service and the impact we may have had on their lives.

Many children felt involved with decisions and understood what was happening. Many were able to identify a number of areas of their

lives that had improved and many had new skills and abilities.

The feedback assists YOS to understand children's experiences and improve delivery and interaction with children to increase relationship building, trust and sustainable outcomes.

The following summary provides an insight into the feedback provided:

- 99% of children stated they felt involved in the decision at YOS that affected them
- 99% of children stated they trusted the people who they see at YOS
- 100% of children stated that they had learnt new things that would help deal with things in their life
- 99% of children stated that YOS gave them the support they needed



## 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 summary of activities that have been undertaken on behalf of the Board to address learning from the Serious Case Reviews which have been published.

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.

A number of previous Serious Case Reviews highlighted that professionals were not recording their decisions in sufficient detail. In many cases it was not suggested that decisions made were incorrect, but a lack of detail on occasions presents difficulties in establishing the rationale for such decisions.

In an attempt to provide some practical support, the KSCB Business Unit conducted some research to identify a decision making model, that could be used a point of reference for professionals.

The unit developed an aide memoir, under the title 'Top tips for decision making', which provides practitioners with a structure and considerations that should be followed. 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.

The Board responded to concerns regarding the potential vulnerability of children who display sexually harmful behaviour towards

others. To mitigate this risk to children, KSCB approved a new policy, which focuses on raising awareness of the risks to children. A sexual harmful working group meets regularly to ensure that any risks are identified and appropriate action is taken.

Where cases meet the threshold for level 3 Family First support, a Case Manager is allocated to the family, who takes a lead role in assessing the needs and risk to the family. This forms the foundation of a family plan, which is completed in partnership with the family and other relevant agencies who are involved with the family.

The Board has facilitated the delivery of training to raise practitioners' awareness in the use of the Brook Traffic Light Tool, which is used to identify the level of risks associated with the sexual harmful practice.

A review identified inconsistencies in professionals' awareness of when a joint medical may be appropriate for cases where sexual assault is suspected. In accordance with national guidance for the standards for the provision of a paediatric forensic medical service for children who may have been sexually abused, the Board has commissioned the development of a multi-agency protocol



describing how children should be referred for a paediatric forensic assessment.

A series of awareness sessions were delivered by the Designated Safeguarding Paediatrician to practitioners, who have also benefited from a familiarisation visit to the Rainbow Suite at Alder Hey Children's Hospital.

There are approximately two thousand drivers, who are licensed to operate taxis in the borough of Knowsley. The LSCB identified that no safeguarding training is delivered to licensed taxi drivers.

A number of national high profile criminal cases highlighted links between the use of taxis and victims of child exploitation. A bespoke safeguarding training presentation was developed by the LSCB Training Officer, in partnership with Adult Safeguarding and Public Health. The training is aimed at raising the awareness of taxi drivers of the risks associated with child exploitation, the signs and the actions that can be taken to mitigate such risks.

The training has been expanded to raise the awareness of other issues that may be relevant to their role, including domestic abuse and suicide prevention.


The training is being developed into an e-learning training module, which will be coordinated by Environmental and Consumer Protection Service.

It will be incorporated into the knowledge test for new applicants and delivered to all existing licensed taxi drivers.



# Section 6 - Performance assessment

This chapter provides a summary of the performance measures monitored by KSCB. Knowsley sustained levels of good performance throughout 2017/18.



Improvements in processes, better quality assessments and a greater understanding of thresholds from partners has seen re-referrals improve from 31% to 21%. Assessments resulting in no further action have also seen significant improvement, with a great number stepping across to Early Help or becoming subject of a CIN plan for a short period.

Performance fell from 51% to 37% in year. Compliance measures such as statutory visits, core groups, CLA and CP reviews are consistently on time and on target. Children participate in their reviews (100% March 2018), and care planning meetings are an improving picture. The workforce is experienced and stable. Vacancy and sickness rates are both below target as are caseload numbers. Staff receive regular supervision.

Child Protection numbers have fallen in year (217 down to 188 at 31st March), however children subject to a second or subsequent plan is now considerably above comparators.

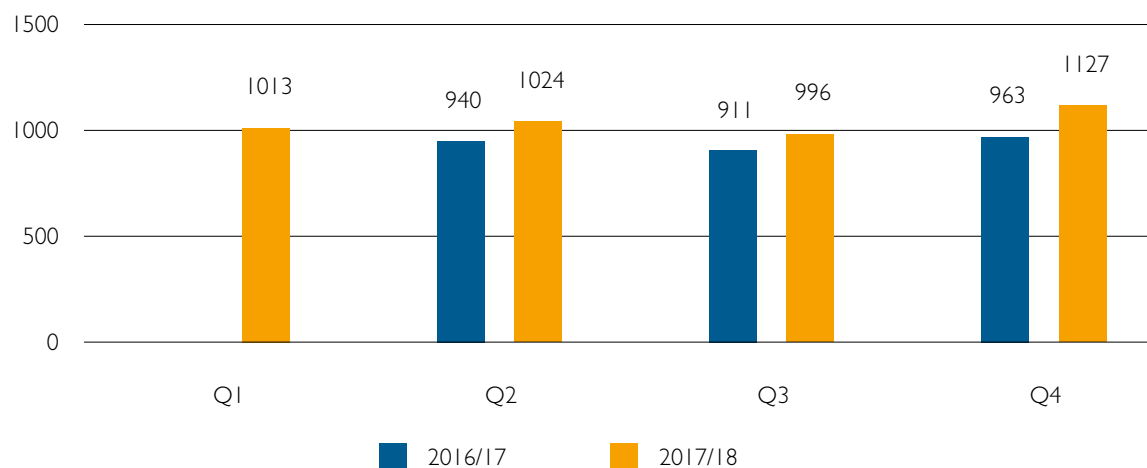
In contrast to CP, children looked after numbers are increasing, as are our stability measures and children placed over 20 miles from home. This is in part due to a number of hard to place adolescents. CLA re-assessments are improving, but still below the 85% target (61% re-assessed within the previous 12 months). Children missing from placement has fallen by 50%, as have the number of episodes they are missing from their placement.

Care leavers in education, employment or training have fallen throughout 2017/18. Three in five care leavers are not currently accessing any form of education, employment or training. Seven care leavers were in custody at year end.

### MASH contacts through Early Help and CSC common data items

Common data items	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Notes
Rate of contacts per 10,000 (subject to common definition of contact)	1013	1024	996	1127	All contacts received through MASH to Early Help and Social Care. Contacts screened by early help may have previously been screened by CSC

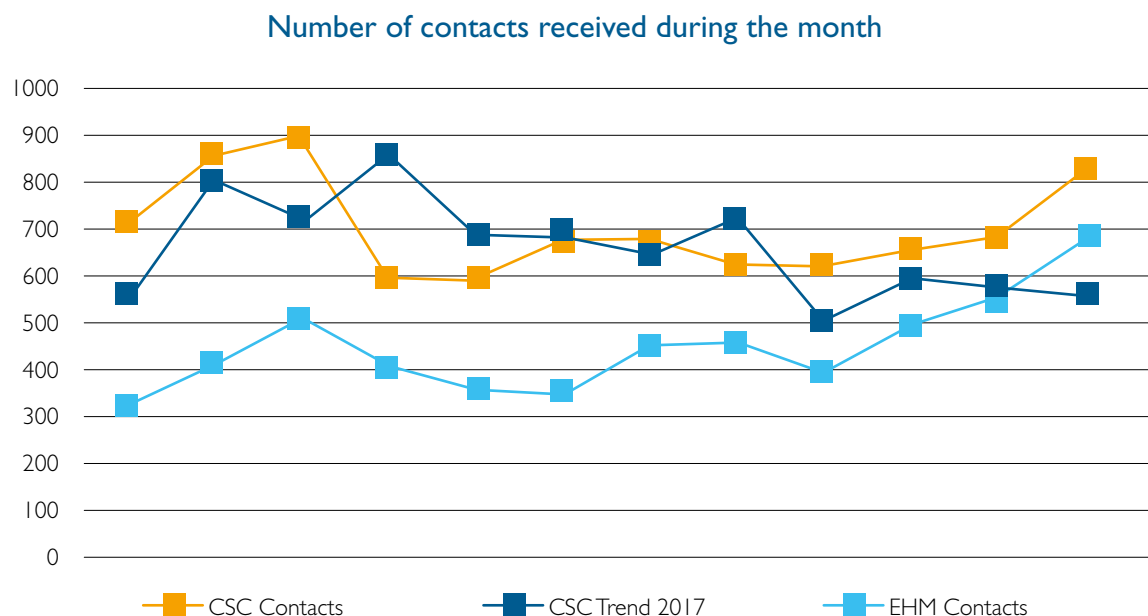
### Rate of contacts per 10,000



The numbers opposite show a combined figure for contacts to MASH through Early Help and CSC. While domestic violence drives most demand at the front door, neglect accounts for the majority of long-term cases in social care. Across the continuum, the number of episodes in CSC are decreasing, whereas the number of episodes within Early Help Level 2 and Level 3 are increasing.



## MASH Front Door



## Contacts

Although there was a peak in contacts received, the number of CSC contacts shows a downturn from that of the previous year. The number of contacts being received at Level 2 and 3 has begun to rise and shows more appropriate initial referrals to MASH.

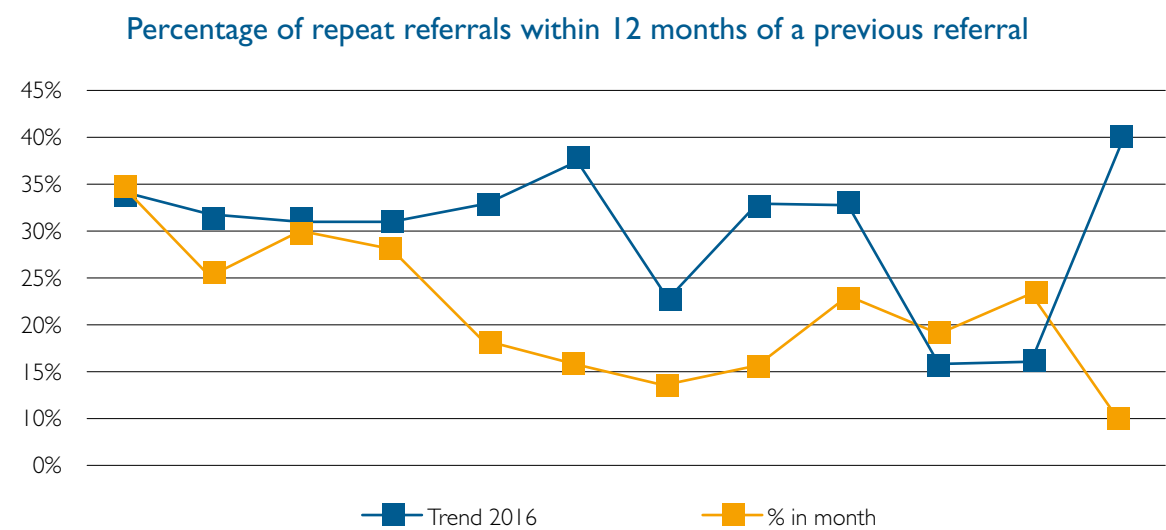
There was a 22% conversion from contact to CSC referral and average referrals fell from 199 in 2016/17 to 129 in 2017/18.

The overall volume of contacts received and recorded in EHM during March 2018 increased by 97 (16.55%) to 683. Coupled with fewer cases being escalated from Early Help to CSC, the management of Level 2 and 3 is being effective so demand on CSC is not stretched further. It also means that children are receiving support at the earliest opportunity and before need escalates.

The primary category for notifications into MASH is for domestic violence.

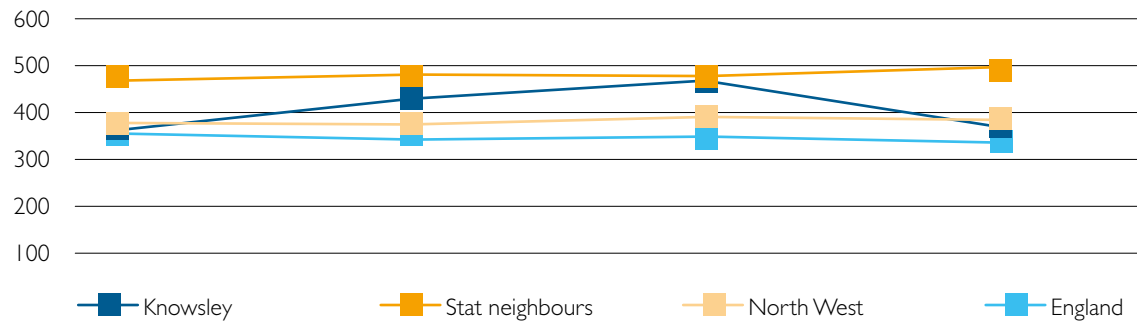
Repeat referrals within  
12 months of a previous referral

England (2016/17)	21.9%
North West (2016/17)	21.7%
Stat Neighbour (2016/17)	17.54%
Knowsley (2017/18)	21%



March 2018 had the lowest number of repeats (11). 2017/18 re-referral rate of 21% against a target of 20% equates to a 10% shift from March 2017's outturn of 31%, and below the latest North West (21.7%) and England average (21.9%) This is improved performance as it means that referrals are being appropriately dealt with.

Rate of CIN with or without a plan per 10,000



The data shows that Knowsley has continued to be lower than stat neighbours for the Rate of CIN per 10,000 for the last 4 years, even after a rise in 2016. Local figures show consistent numbers of CIN local strategies that are in place ensure assessments and plans are in place appropriately.

Common data items	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Notes
Rate of CIN with or without a plan per 10,000	122	118	115	123	Children in Need only (excluding CLA, CP, care leavers)

The data above is quarterly numbers per 10,000. Actual CIN figures remain consistent.

% EH children stepped up to Social Care

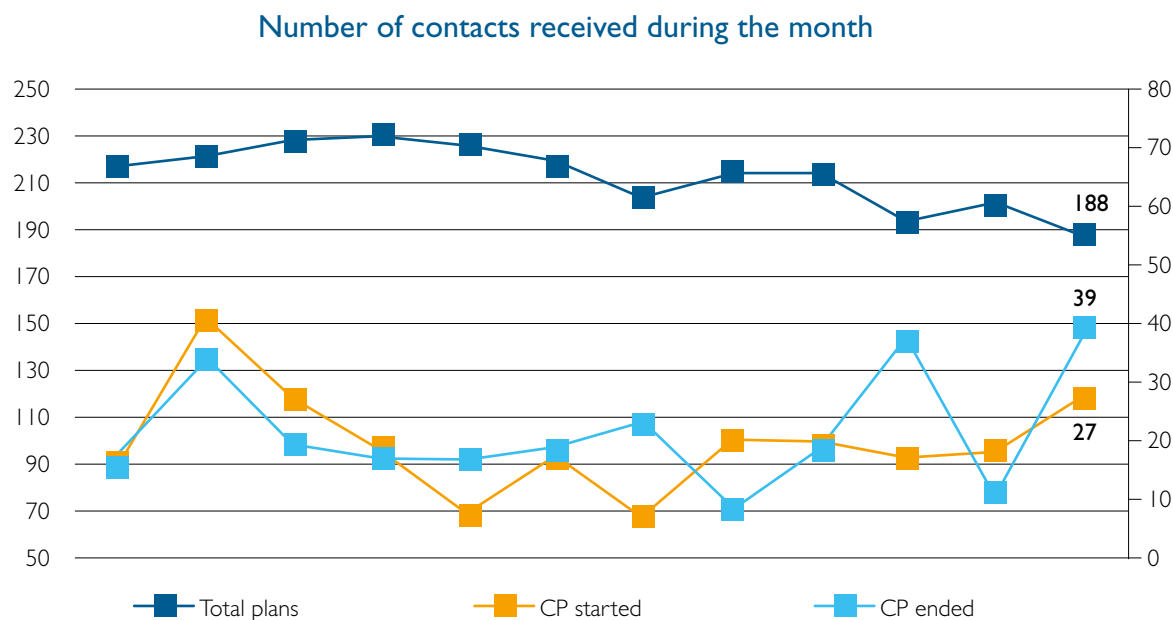
Common data items	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Notes
% EH children stepped up to Social Care	0	14%	7%	5%	Numbers of cases stepped up to social care remain good

The above figures show that more cases are being managed at level 3 within Family First.



Common data items	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
% of CIN stepped down to EH	0	0	41%	49%

74 children transferred to Early Help from either single Assessment or from CIN. 3 (41%) of them came from CIN.

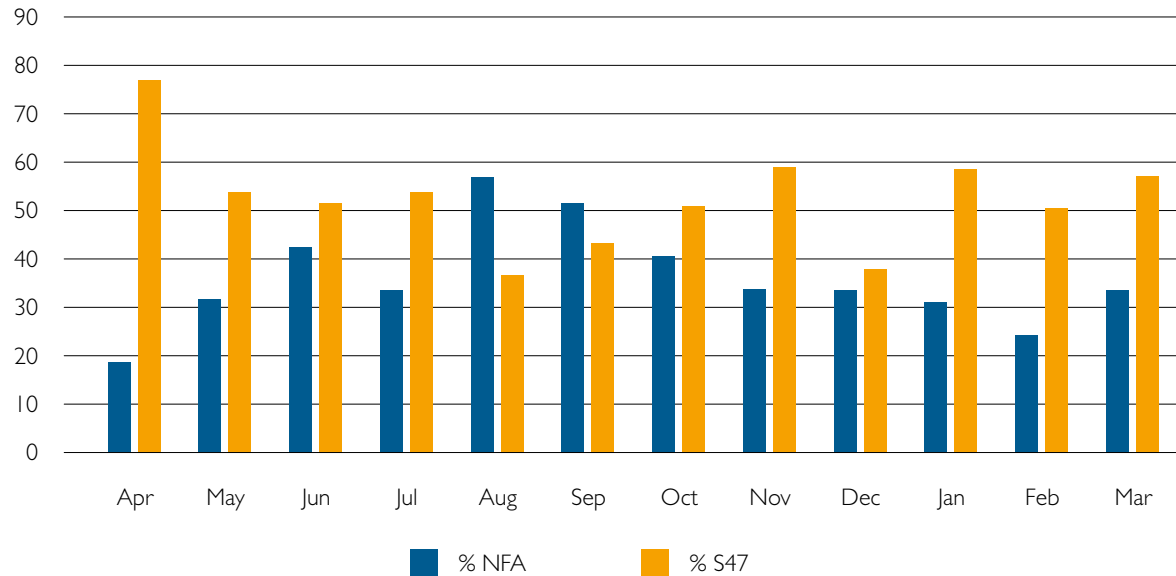


The graph shows that the total number of Child Protection plans is gradually reducing. Despite evident reductions in demand and throughput in social care there are still challenges in managing complex demand. For example:

- Contextual safeguarding - more children open to social services for exploitation (criminal exploitation especially)
- Placement breakdowns for adolescents - in particular children in Special Guardianship Orders

Children requiring interventions (protection plans and becoming looked after) due to neglect.

### Strategy Outcomes



1,111 Strategy discussions took place in 2017/18, 583 (53%) progressed to S47 enquiry.

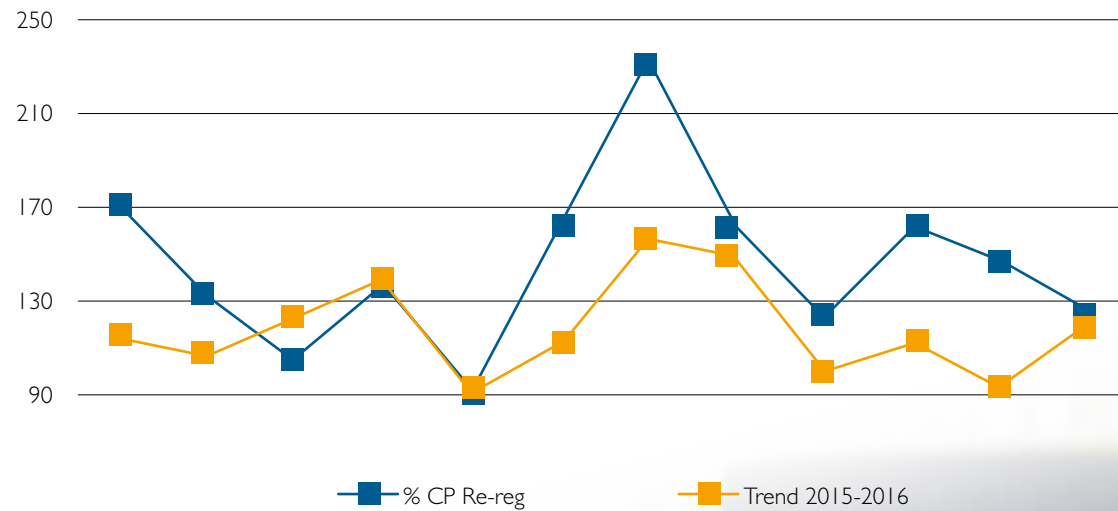
### Child Protection strategy discussions

The number of Child Exploitation cases considering the threshold has been met for investigation continues to rise becoming one of the authority's key focus areas. Shield now has a performance framework considering successful outcomes relating to not only Child Sexual Exploitation, but that of Child Criminal Exploitation in equal measure.

#### % of children becoming subject to a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent Time

England (2016/17)	18.7%
North West (2016/17)	18.4%
Stat Neighbour (2016/17)	14.8%
Knowsley (2017/18) TARGET	14%
Knowsley (2014/15)	13.3%
Knowsley (2015/16)	13.9%
Knowsley (2016/17)	13%
Knowsley rolling 12 month	24%
Knowsley YTD	24%

% CP re-registration



Performance increased from 13% in 2017 to 24% in 2018. Knowsley is now higher than England, North West and statistical neighbours. This measure does not have a time limit, and some original plans date back over a significant period of time, meaning there is no direct link to the historic plan. A more meaningful measure is repeat plans within 12 months, where Knowsley performs significantly better - 9%.



## Children in Care Numbers per 10,000

The number of CLA per 10,000 in Knowsley has remained below the target of 90, and remains lower than stat neighbours at 106.8 per 10,000. This is positive and demonstrates that support is provided to children to keep them in their families and communities.

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Total CLA	280	276	275	273	258	255	261	272	279	285	282	288	
CLA Trend 2015-16	290	286	289	284	274	274	276	276	283	281	295	289	
Staying Put (18+)	20	20	19	18	18	17	17	17	19	19	17	17	
Joiners	1	7	4	5	4	1	14	15	11	12	3	11	<b>88</b>
Leavers	10	11	5	7	19	4	8	4	4	6	6	5	<b>89</b>
Joiners prev CLA	0	1	1	0	1	1	4	1	1	0	1	0	<b>11</b>
Leavers at 18 years old	2	3	2	2	2	0	1	1	2	2	2	1	<b>20</b>



## Care leavers in education, employment or training

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Target
% care leavers in education, employment or training	51.32%	46.27%	48%	35%	<b>70%</b>

The number of Care Leavers that are NEET has been rising over the last 12 months. The actual numbers of NEET in March 2018 was 37.7 care leavers are in custody, 87% are in suitable accommodation.

## Domestic abuse

Number of repeat domestic abuse incidents where children are present (police indicator).

Knowsley	2016/17 Financial Year				2017/18 Financial Year			
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Number and % of DA reports where children were present								
Children involved	331	332	291	313	313	382	380	397
Total DA Reports	738	716	646	673	802	785	778	818
%	44.85%	46.37%	45.05%	46.51%	39.03%	48.66%	48.84%	48.53%

After what seemed like a drop in the number of Domestic Abuse reports where children were present in Quarter 1 of the 2017/18 financial year of 39.03%, Quarter 2, 3 and 4 figures show a rise to an average 48.68% for the three quarters.

## Encompass Referrals

No data is collated at present for Encompass Referral outcomes, but this can be monitored over the next year to be considered for inclusion in the next annual report.

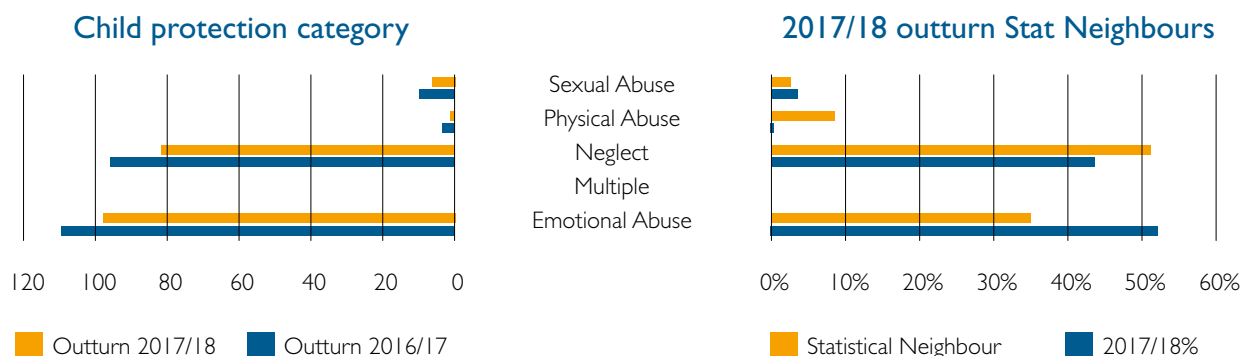
Knowsley Early Help are working closely with the Local Government Association for peer support in developing the Performance Framework for Domestic Violence.

Further progression for measuring the successful interventions for domestic abuse and violence are the development of the MATAC, for the monitoring of perpetrators. This will include cross border perpetrators involved with victims within the borough, and also those outside, this will capture multiple victims that may not be monitored via MARAC and or MASH, as individually there are considered silver or bronze and may not trigger concern alone.

## Neglect

### Child protection

CP Category	Outturn 2016/17	Outturn 2017/18	2017/18%	SN
Emotional Abuse	110	98	52.1%	35%
Multiple	0	0	0%	0%
Neglect	96	82	43.6%	51%
Physical Abuse	4	1	0.5%	9%
Sexual Abuse	10	7	3.7%	3%
Grand Total	220	188		



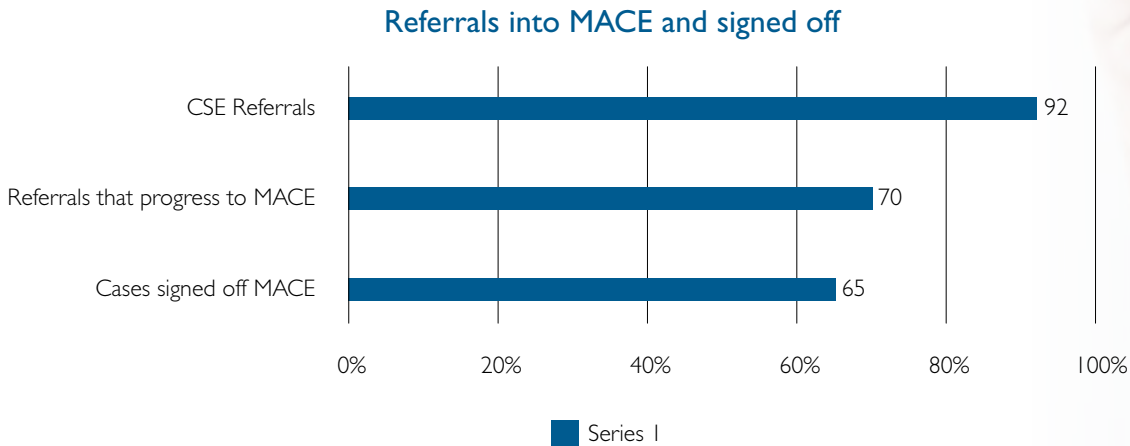
Neglect remains one of the strategic priorities for KSCB, which as shown from the charts above is rising from 2016/17. Statistical neighbours for the year are at 51%, with Knowsley below this at 43.6%. Neglect continues to be the category that has the longest intervention rate from CSC compared to other areas.

## Child Exploitation

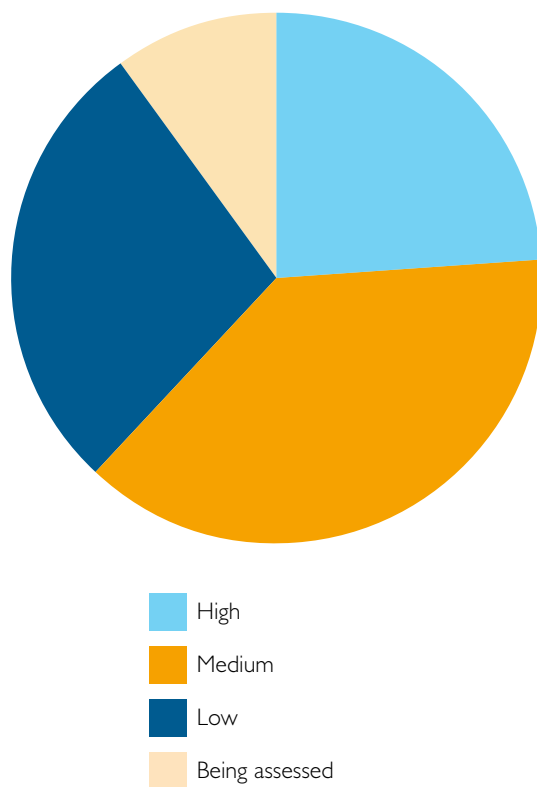
	Q1 2017/18	Q2 2017/18	Q3 2017/18	Q4 2017/18
Number of MASH contacts that are Criminal Exploitation related	28	36	28	27

The above information is MASH front door for both CSC and Family First. As Shield has recently taken over there is no trend data for comparison for Criminal Exploitation.

	Q1 2017/18	Q2 2017/18	Q3 2017/18	Q4 2017/18
Number of MASH contacts that are Sexual Exploitation related	43	29	25	36

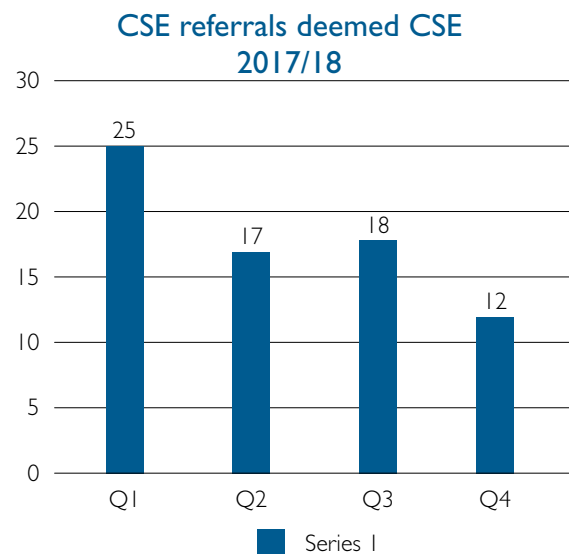


## CSE



These are the average risk levels within the CSE cohort during the year.

## CSE referrals deemed CSE



Increase in CSE referrals was within quarter one and Shield expects the same increase in 2018/19 quarter one.

## CLA - Missing

Catch 22 data often does not match with other return interview figures because of the import and export figures. The missing contract with Catch 22 has been changed to ensure a 7 day a week service from 1 June 2018. The data they provide will provide a priority focus for 2018/19.



	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Missing Episodes	42	39	45	38	47	39	16	18	11	12	18	16
Missing Children	21	15	13	15	11	12	11	9	8	8	10	10
CLA population	280	276	275	273	258	255	261	272	279	285	282	288
% missing children	7.5%	5.4%	4.7%	5.5%	4.3%	4.7%	4.2%	3.3%	2.9%	2.8%	3.5%	3.5%
Episodes with return interview	22	20	22	12	17	13	10	14	5	9	13	7
Episodes with return interview offered but declined	17	19	23	26	28	25	5	3	6	3	3	4
% episodes with return interview offered	92.9%	100%	100%	100%	95.7%	97.4%	93.8%	94.4%	100%	100%	100%	88%

CLA missing cases will be subject to a monthly action plan, to ensure return to home interviews are held, CSE issues considered and strategy meetings are adhered to and cases closely monitored to understand and reduce missing episodes.

## Repeat Missing episodes

	Q1 2017/18	Q2 2017/18	Q3 2017/18	Q4 2017/18
Repeat Missing episodes	0	15	10	10

In the last quarter of the year, of 19 children missing, 10 were repeats accounting for 47 recorded missing episodes in the period.

# Section 7 - Multi-agency auditing processes

In addition to the statutory functions of conducting section 11 and section 175 audits, KSCB has 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 2017/18 were:

1. Management of child protection plans
2. The impact of substance misuse on domestic violence
3. Early Help

## **I. Management of child protection plans**

A multi-agency audit was held to examine the management of child protection plans, which have been open for at least one year. The purpose of the audit was to review the abilities of agencies that manage child protection plans and ascertain areas of good practice or areas with room for improvement.

A number of learning points were identified during the audit process.

The following summary provides a snapshot of the lessons learned:

- Some child protection plans were not strong enough in terms of SMART actions
- Plans need to be written for parents not professionals in order for parents to better understand what is expected of them
- Across the cases audited, there has been no consistent agreement that outcomes for children have improved

- There is good evidence that children are listened to, supported and have involvement in the process
- Plans and assessments are up to date or are due to be undertaken - this has resulted in some cases audited being stepped down to Child in Need plans. Other cases where CP plans are ongoing have appropriate plans and assessments to be undertaken in due course
- There is evidence of supervision playing a positive role in managing plans - practitioners are well supported through supervision and practitioners are comfortable escalating issues to management

## 2. The impact of substance misuse on domestic violence

A multi-agency audit was commissioned by the board to consider the impact of substance misuse on domestic violence.

A number of learning points were identified during the audit process.

The following summary provides a snapshot of the lessons learned:

- It was recognised that in all of the cases, substance misuse was a factor present in the case, although it was not possible to determine its level of influence
- A number of cases showed instances of non-engagement, particularly with estranged fathers. However in some cases agencies were not aware of other areas of support being provided through support services. There was a need for a more joined up approach
- There were instances of disguised compliance evident from cases, particularly through engagement with services and liaison with schools
- There is limited knowledge of the reporting structure from schools into other agencies. There is a risk that issues are being dealt with in isolation rather than being linked

- There is a limited understanding of the work being completed with specialist services like Community Psychiatric Nurses. This service does not attend CIN meetings so limits the ability to measure progress on the plan
- The role of the school mentor was acknowledged as an area of good practice in supporting children who may be witnessing domestic abuse. There was good evidence of engagement and listening to the views of a child

## 3. Early Help multi-agency audit

A multi-agency audit was undertaken to examine the provision of Early Help.

A number of learning points were identified during the audit process.

The following summary provides a snapshot of the lessons learned:

- There was good evidence of risk being identified, assessed and proportionate multi-agency responses being implemented
- On occasions, a lack of liaison between agencies impacted on service provision
- Concerns were raised that not all family members are engaged in the Early Help provisions, in particular fathers
- Concerns were raised about the prevalence of the 'hidden male'
- Limited access to the Early Help module was considered by some professionals as a blockage to performance. It was suggested that adding the module to the council website may assist. This has been addressed; the module is now a web based system available across agencies
- There was evidence of good short term support being provided to manage a risk but limited evidence of plans considering long term measures to address the underlying cause

## Front line visits

Each year, the Board commission a number of frontline visits, which are undertaken by Board members. The visits enable the Board to assess the awareness and capabilities of frontline staff in respect of safeguarding policies and procedures.

Responses were collated and analysed, 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.

A number of learning points were identified. The LSCB developed an action plan to address the learning opportunities, which will be monitored through the Quality Assurance and Review Group.

The following summary provides an insight into some of the learning identified:

1. Sexual Health Services identified a number of challenges in securing access into secondary and the level of information shared with school nurses.
2. One agency that had been involved in an audit highlighted the limited feedback received from audits in respect of any learning that had been identified.
3. There was limited evidence of how learning from SCR's had influenced any changes in working practices.

There appears to be some confusion with the role and focus of the agency.





# 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. Merseyside CDOP were notified of 115 child deaths between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018.

Fourteen of those deaths were reported in Knowsley. The majority of deaths (10) were male and four were female.

The highest number of deaths in age category (seven) was children under 28 days old. From the nine cases reviewed by CDOP, three children died as a result of chromosomal, genetic and congenital anomalies, three children died as a result of a perinatal/neonatal event, one child died

as a result of an acute medical or surgical condition and one child died as a result of infection.

No deaths occurred as a result of a deliberately inflicted injury, abuse or neglect. Enquiries are continuing into the circumstances of the remaining five deaths. One of these cases has been referred for a Serious Case Review.

Looking forward to the year 2019/20, the current child death review process is to change following changes to the 'Working Together 2015' guidelines.

Responsibility for Child Death Reviews will transfer from the Department for Education to the Department of Health, with local authorities and CCGs being the new accountable bodies.

Although the CDOP's role will remain largely unaffected, its reporting and accountability will change. Clinical Commissioning Groups and local authorities now constitute the

new Child Death Review Partners and have a responsibility to develop these new Child Death Review arrangements.

In April 2018, the Department of Health (DH) became accountable for Child Death Reviews from the Department for Education; however at a local level, LSCBs will continue to have the responsibility for the Child Death Review processes in Merseyside, until they are formally transferred to another accountable body/forum, on or before April 2019.

There will be a new role of Designated Doctor for Children's Deaths, a senior paediatrician with professional responsibility for the wider child death review process and advising the CDOP in relation to themed panels.



# 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.

In 2017/18 Knowsley Safeguarding Board commissioned two Serious case Reviews to be undertaken.

Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board has also commissioned three reflective reviews for cases that did not meet the criteria for a serious case review; however it was acknowledged that lessons could be learned.

## Case 1 Child M

In 2017 KSCB commissioned a serious case review of child M, who is believed to have been the victim of sexual abuse. Concerns were raised concerning the way in which agencies responded to the needs of the child. The purpose of the review was to establish what lessons can be learned 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.

An experienced, independent author was commissioned to undertake a review. Terms of reference were agreed and it is anticipated that the author will submit their findings in July 2018.

## Case 2

### Child Y

In 2018, KSCB commissioned a Serious Case Review following the death of an adolescent. Concerns were raised concerning the way in which agencies responded to the needs of the child.

The purpose of the review is to establish what lessons can be learned 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.

An experienced, independent author was commissioned to undertake a review. Terms of reference were agreed and it is anticipated that the author will submit their findings in September 2018.

The LSCB has committed to ensuring that we embed the learning from Serious Case Reviews in an effort to assess the impact these learning points have. It has commissioned an evaluation of key learning points that have been identified within the respective reviews and establish the impact these recommendations have had across the partnership.



# Section 10 - KSCB training programme 2017/18

During the period 2017/18 Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board continued its commitment to providing a comprehensive and effective training programme to professionals and volunteers across the borough of Knowsley.

It is informed by the identified priorities of the Board and influenced by lessons deriving from local Serious Case Reviews, audits and national safeguarding agendas.

This year, the focus has remained on the themes of domestic abuse, child exploitation (both criminal and sexual) and neglect, in line with the identified priorities of the Board. Practitioners have had the opportunity to access online modules, face to face training courses and 60 and 7 Minute briefings. 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.

### Domestic abuse

A varied multi-agency domestic abuse training offer has been delivered to practitioners. An experienced and respected domestic abuse specialist was commissioned to deliver bespoke training courses.

The services of Savera UK were utilised to provide practitioners with the opportunity to attend bespoke harmful practices training courses, which included:

- Harmful practices - Forced Marriage, Female Genital Mutilation and Honour Based Violence
- Domestic abuse: understanding risk
- Teenage relationships and abuse

Partners from NWBH and CGL supported the delivery of Compromised Care (Parental Mental Health, Parental Substance Misuse and Domestic Abuse) training. A multi-agency audit identified that debt was a factor in many cases involving domestic abuse. To raise the awareness of practitioners, a 60 Minute Briefing 'The Impact of Debt on Families' was provided by the Citizens Advice Bureau and Centre 63.

KSCB supported the Knowsley Safer Communities Partnership in their delivery of the Knowsley Domestic Abuse Conference - 'A Holistic Approach to Domestic Abuse', raising awareness of domestic abuse including the impact on children, young people and adults and cultural awareness in safeguarding have been available online courses via the KSCB website.



## Child Exploitation and Child Sexual Exploitation

A series of briefings were provided by Catch 22 to a number of practitioners around Child Exploitation and missing.

60 minute briefings were provided to practitioners to advise them of the update professionals with the changes in CE processes and procedures in this area. 'CE and missing for practitioners' training was delivered in partnership with the multi-agency Shield team, incorporating child criminal as well as child sexual exploitation and the risks associated with going missing. This course kept practitioners up to date with the latest referral pathways and procedures associated with child exploitation. Online Child Sexual Exploitation training has been available.

Three schools were given the opportunity for pupils to watch a theatre workshop, 'On One Condition', which explored the exploitation of young people. The piece was delivered by the 'Last Minute Theatre Company', and was funded by the Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner.

Positive feedback was provided by staff, who acknowledged the benefits of the workshop.

## Neglect

KSCB has taken a lead role in driving the development and implementation of the NSPCC Graded Care Profile 2 Tool. A multi-agency training plan was developed, which resulted in representatives of the relevant agencies undertaking a 'NSPCC train the trainer course.' This will increase our capacity to deliver training across agencies in the use of the tool to frontline practitioners.

A 'Child Abuse and Neglect' Online Course has been available to practitioners via the KSCB website.

A new training course 'Exploring Neglect' was delivered by experienced practitioners from the Quality Assurance Unit and Family First. The training promotes the use of the GCP2 and provides practitioners with an opportunity to gain a more in depth understanding of neglect.

Inappropriate and Harmful Sexual Behaviours KSCB continued to commission the Brook Charity to deliver 'Traffic Light' tool training to aid professionals to identify whether a child's behaviour is normal, inappropriate or harmful. An Inappropriate and Harmful Sexual Behaviours Workshop was delivered to provide an update to current procedural

guidance for practitioners working with children that display inappropriate and harmful sexual behaviours.

## Recognising child sexual abuse

The emphasis on the training course is to further improve practitioner understanding of the signs of sexual abuse. It is now an integral course within the KSCB annual training programme. The training is delivered by the KSCB Training Officer, supported by the expertise of the Designated Doctor for Knowsley and an experienced social worker. The number of children on child protection plans under this category has increased and recent findings from local audits have highlighted there has been practitioner improvement in recognising the signs of child sexual abuse.

## Advanced Sexual Abuse

KSCB commissioned an independent consultant trainer in Children's Social Care to build on the knowledge learned from the introduction of the Sexual Harmful Behaviours Protocol. The course focused on perpetrators and offenders, trauma and the impact on children. The training provided some practical advice on issues to be considered through an assessment process.



### Professional Challenge

The North West Inter Agency Trainers (NWIAT) group identified a training need regarding challenge. Lack of challenge has been identified as a concern from a number of Serious Case Reviews, practice learning reviews and audits across the North West LSCB's. A task and finish group was set up to create a training package and a train the trainer event was delivered to LSCB Training Officer's and other identified professionals. Areas have chosen to deliver the course in full or include some aspects of the training in embedded courses such as Working Together.

### Joint Children and Adult Alerters Training

The Children's and Adults Boards have continued to facilitate the delivery of joint commissioned Alerters Training. The safeguarding scenarios have reflected local priorities and emerging issues at local and national levels. The subjects covered included domestic abuse, child exploitation, adults with learning disabilities and institutional abuse.

### Other training

KSCB were indebted during the previous year to colleagues from a number of partner agencies who facilitated the availability of their training venues. We supported them through the delivery of some bespoke training to those services, including:

- The impact of domestic abuse on students - Knowsley Community College
- Role within the Thresholds - Knowsley Youth Mutual
- Operation Encompass Briefing for Early Years

KSCB also provided and/or supported delivery of the following:

- Safeguarding children for foster carers
- Safeguarding children for volunteers
- Safeguarding children for MADE Senior's and Junior's
- Working together to safeguard children for NWBH practitioners
- Safeguarding training developed for licensed taxi drivers
- Prevent
- AIMS 2 refresher session
- Domestic abuse training for Knowsley Housing Trust and Early Years Safer recruitment
- Operation Encompass for schools

### 60 Minute Briefings

These have proved to be an effective and popular means of raising awareness of a wide range of subjects to practitioners across the partnership. Agencies have volunteered to deliver briefings or have been contacted by us when an emerging issue or subject has come to light.

### 7 Minute Briefings

These have also proved to be a successful method of cascading information on a wide range of subjects to practitioners. Agencies have included 7 Minute Briefing in their internal newsletters, manager's updates and referred to them in team meetings. They are published on the KSCB website.

## Course and impact evaluation

This year there has been a commitment to critically evaluate the impact of our training plan.

Multi-agency KSCB training has been evaluated using a number of methods:

- Course evaluation from participants after the course via the online booking portal
- Quantitative means - scrutinising attendance figures and agency breakdown

- Feedback from trainers
- Impact and evaluation process using post course questionnaires, survey monkey, observations, course reviews and follow up consultation by the KSCB Training Officer supported by Learning & Development Sub Group members on certain courses identified via business plan priorities.

All delegates attending KSCB training sessions were asked to complete an evaluation form at the end of a course. In the past year only approximately 30% of delegates completed an end of course evaluation forms after attending a course. Due to the poor response further feedback was gathered via emails and survey monkey.

Of those who completed an online evaluation, 99% of respondents rated their subject knowledge as having improved extensively or to some extent.

97% of those who completed evaluation forms online rated the training as good or excellent.

We have considered how training has impacted on practice and improved outcomes for children.

The following examples have been provided by delegates who attended the Brook Traffic Light training:

- Concerns were raised regarding the perceived sexualised behaviour of a child. The professional utilised the Brook Traffic Light tool to reassure the parents that although the behaviour may be concerning for the mother, the behaviour was healthy exploration and not unusual for a child that age. The practitioner agreed to work with the child around this matter
- Brook Traffic Light tool used in a Team Around the Family (TAF) meeting to help identify appropriate actions regarding a child's sexualised behaviour. TAF decided that the practitioner would complete 'Kids Talk' work around appropriate touch, personal space, feelings and emotions and keeping safe etc together with NSPCC safe pants work

# 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.

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 2017/18 it includes comparison data from the previous two years.

Referral Year	Total	NFA after initial consideration
2015/16	89	54
2016/17	63	44
2017/18	126	86

There has been an increase in the number of referrals to LADO in the last 12 months, with the number of referrals requiring no further action increasing to 71.7%.

The data indicates that residential social workers, independent foster carers, school staff, leisure and early years' staff were more likely to be subject of a referral into the LADO. These roles involve high levels of interaction with children and there is greater safeguarding awareness.

The number of allegations have increased overall and in particular physical and conduct referrals. The number of sexual allegations has remained high. These have been from across the sector of agencies such as education, health, leisure and residential.

A number of allegations related to amateur football. This may have occurred as a result of increased public awareness following a number of high profile cases reported in the media.

A factor in the increase in referrals over this reporting period has been a number of referrals made by an individual based in one of the independent residential establishments in the borough.

There has been an increase in advice provided by the LADO to agencies. The percentage of referrals being closed at the initial stage remains high, however the LADO signposts contacts to other appropriate professionals.



## Outcomes of substantiated allegations

A total of six allegations were substantiated. Two of these cases were from Early Years, one case was from leisure, two cases were from residential and one case was from independent provision. Two practitioners have since returned to work with full support and training provided by their employer. One employee retired during the LADO process, two employees were dismissed. The case in respect of one practitioner has not yet been disposed of.

# Section 12 - Financial summary

## Resources

Partner agencies continued to contribute to the KSCB's budget for 2017/18, in addition to providing a variety of resources, such as staff time for training. Financial contributions totalled £0.268m for 2017/18 (see below for breakdown), as well as this year's contributions, KSCB has a contingency balance brought forward from previous financial years of £0.035m, making total resources available of £0.303m for 2017/18.

Contributions from 2016/17 have remained the same. However, there is an increase from the Community Rehabilitation Company (£0.002m); being offset against a reduction in contributions from the National probation Service £0.001m and Knowsley Community College £0.001m.

Agency contributions	17/18 contribution (£m)	% per agency
Knowsley Council	-0.144	53.73
Knowsley Council - Early Years' Service	-0.003	1.12
Knowsley Council - Domestic violence training contribution	-0.002	0.75
National Health Service	-0.047	17.54
Dedicated School Grant	-0.042	15.67
Police	-0.021	7.84
Knowsley Housing Trust	-0.005	1.87
Community Rehabilitation Company	-0.003	1.12
CAFCAS	-0.001	0.37
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-0.268</b>	<b>100</b>
Carry forward of contingency from 2016/17	-0.035	
<b>Total resources available</b>	<b>-0.303</b>	

## Expenditure

Expenditure for 2017/18 totalled £0.199m; the following table shows the percentage split across the main areas of KCSB.

KCSB expenditure has decreased by a total of £0.112m compared to 2016/17. This is due to:

- (£0.053m) - Staffing reductions - in 16/17 one off £0.025m for redundancy costs, reduction in one post £0.028m
- (£0.031m) - Reduction in serious case reviews
- (£0.005m) - Reduction in Training costs
- (£0.015m) - Reduction in Independent Chair costs
- (£0.016m) - Reduction in Child Death Overview Panel costs
- £0.004m - Increase in General Expenses
- £0.004m - Increase in IT Expenses

Expenditure	17/18 contribution (£m)	%
Staffing	0.148	74.37
Serious Case Reviews	0.006	3.02
Independent Chair	0.008	4.02
Training	0.012	6.03
Child Death Overview Panel	0.000	0.00
General expenses	0.013	6.53
Information Technology	0.012	6.03
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.199</b>	<b>100</b>

## Projection for 2018/19

It is anticipated the level of contributions will remain the same for 2018/2019, an update will be provided to the board during 2018/2019.

The available contingency carry forward from 2017/2018 will be a total of £0.103m.

£0.050m to be spent from contingency carry forward for Signs of safety.

Total contingency available as a resource in 2018/19 will be £0.053m.

# Section 13 - Positive outcomes

- I. In order to maintain their drive for sustained continuous improvement, an independent evaluator was invited to conduct a 'diagnostic' inspection of the child protection provisions across the borough.

The review acknowledged that the momentum to deliver good social care services has continued following the last Ofsted inspection. This was reflected throughout the organisation by senior leaders and practitioners alike. The senior management team displayed evidence of strong confident leadership that is both accessible and visible.

This was noted as a contributing factor in enabling Knowsley to attract and retain many experienced and highly skilled workers who are delivering some very effective child focussed interventions.

The review acknowledged that compliance with procedural and statutory responsibilities was generally adhered to. There were excellent pen pictures on files, good chronologies in place and good recording of statutory

visits. Social workers clearly knew their children and cared about their outcomes. The children's voice came through very strongly on the case record with many examples of the use of creative tools to capture this.

The review noted that social workers have access to a range of therapeutic services to support their work. The quality of social workers directly delivering AIM and Freedom based interventions was subject to favourable comment by the reviewer.

The diagnostic review highlighted, as good practice, the management of domestic abuse referrals. The VPRFI forms completed by police first responders were of a very high quality and indicative of a significant investment in the training and development of police officers. All bronze rated domestic abuse contacts are discussed at a daily meeting with MASH partners (the BRAG meeting) where a joint decision is made in relation to the most effective outcome for the family or adults involved in the incident.

Child protection and children in need were highlighted as areas of strength. Highly skilled staff have demonstrated a high quality of level of social work practice within the Child Protection teams. Staff undertaking direct work with children and their families has used a range of imaginative methods and tools. Work with parents has been enhanced.

The Children Looked After teams have continued to perform well. The diagnostic review acknowledged that social workers know their children well and undertake direct work with children. Each child has a 'My Memories box' which ensures they can retain a collection of their past achievements and key moments in their lives.

The review noted an improved focus on permanence and an increasing use of adoption, Special Guardianship Orders and the formalising of long-term placements. There was evidence of twin tracking and on occasions putting in place contingency arrangements should the primary plan hit difficulties. Some placement choices were described as 'excellent'.



2. In January 2018 an independent, evidence based review was undertaken by a child protection consultant and former Ofsted Inspector. The purpose of the review was to assess the performance of the MASH. The reviewer noted the “massive strides to improve” that have been taken to improve performance.

The review highlighted a number of service strengths including:

- Senior managers have created the right environment for practitioners to flourish
- High priority is given to ensure practitioners receive regular supervision. Supervision is focused on aspects of quality such as chronologies and the use of research
- The workforce is good quality. Staff want the very best for children and families and are committed to their task
- The signs of safety model is embedded, being used effectively to comprehensively draw out risk and protective factors to shape plans
- Partner agencies give high priority to support the MASH business

operation. The review noted the mature multi-agency relationships that exist to support effective information sharing, leading to a robust multi-agency response

- Strategy meetings are held swiftly and the multi-agency response is supported by partners engaging well and provides rigour to the planning process including initial plans to reduce risk for children
- Meetings are chaired well and managers provide a strong steer for professionals to make decisions. For example, in some of the most complex cases that involve drugs, guns and gangs
- The ‘daily morning multi-agency meeting’ is a model of good practice leading to highly effective information gathering to support assessments leading to clear decisions and decisive action
- Social worker action is sharply focused on risk and reducing risk; multi-agency intervention is almost always swift and decisive
- High priority given by agencies to screen low level domestic violence cases at the BRAG meeting is effective

so children and young people do not enter statutory services unnecessarily

- Social work practice to protect sensitive child level information is embedded
- Overall the quality of referrals is good this stems from the consistent use of a single template
- Performance on the timely completion of ICPCs and CP Reviews is strong

3. The KSCB took a lead role in developing a partnership with Everton Football Club to raise awareness in respect of private fostering, which has subsequently led to five additional private foster placements.
4. The LSCB has taken a prominent role in driving the development and implementation of a new ‘signs of safety’ child protection planning model.

Signs of safety is used in over 50 areas in the UK. It is most commonly used in child protection and statutory children’s social care services but can also be adapted to be used as part of early help/targeted services.

A project lead has been identified to develop a two year programme with different elements including a training strategy, leadership, performance measures and organisational alignment.

It is anticipated that the signs of safety model will be implemented from the latter part of 2018.

This will enable agencies to sustain the recognised improvements and make further progress across the partnership in safeguarding children.

5. KSCB commissioned a review of our assessment process to capture evidence of neglect, which is one of the strategic priorities for Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board.

The review identified tangible benefits in upgrading the current Graded Care Programme, to the latest version GCP2.

KSCB approved the purchase of a license and a 'train the trainer' package.

A task and finish group led by a senior Manager has coordinated the delivery of a multi-agency training plan to practitioners across the borough.

The Board also approved the introduction of a neglect screening tool, which compliments the use of the GCP2.

The system will enhance our efficiency and effectiveness in identifying children who may be subject to neglect.

6. The thresholds of need guidance document were reviewed earlier in the year by the LSCB and subject to change following feedback from practitioners. These documents are provided as a reference document for practitioners across the partnership.
7. Children displaying sexual harmful behaviours was identified as an emerging issue in Knowsley. To reflect our commitment to equipping our practitioners with the requisite skills and tools to safeguard and protect children, KSCB commissioned Brook to deliver Brook Traffic Light tool training to compliment the launch of the sexual harmful behaviour protocol.

Practitioners have spoken positively on how the training programme and the assessment tool has improved their awareness and enabled them

to assess and respond appropriately to sexual behaviours and understand the distinction between healthy sexual development and harmful behaviour.

8. Operation Barbari was a multi-agency investigation which commenced in October 2017, following concerns being raised for the safety of four vulnerable children, who had been reported missing.

Although the children were found there were fears that they had been sexually exploited by adult males in another borough.

A sensitive, protracted investigation commenced, which was coordinated by the Shield team. Evidence gathering opportunities were limited as some witnesses were reluctant to cooperate with the investigation, through fear.

There was a strong emphasis on supporting victims and witnesses through multi-agency interventions. There were numerous joint visits and strategy meetings. Direct work was undertaken by social workers with the children.

This approach enabled police to gather evidence from vulnerable, intimidated witnesses and led to the arrest and charge of a man for numerous serious sexual violence offences.

Court proceedings are ongoing.

9. KSCB developed an initiative to raise awareness of the dangers faced by children online and provide advice on how to conduct themselves appropriately.

The initiative was organised in partnership with the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF), a charity that works to eliminate child sexual abuse. There are concerns that the expanding use of social media increases the risk of child exploitation to children in Knowsley.

In an effort to mitigate that risk, we delivered a bespoke 'train the trainer' session, covering subjects including staying safe online, risks to young people, sexting, sextortion, consent, revenge pornography, pornography, reporting child sexual abuse images.

The training was delivered to practitioners from schools, college, YOS, CLA, Children's Social Care, Knowsley Youth Mutual, and CAMHS, who have cascaded the learning to frontline practitioners.

This will enable practitioners to identify potential areas of vulnerability for children and take appropriate steps to mitigate that risk.

10. The Board reviewed considered ways of improving our consultation processes to enable the voice of the child, to be clearly heard and influence our priorities. They looked at the principles, which underpin the 'voice of the child' however a lack of clarity over the meaning of the phrase limited our capability to listen and engage with children.

Following consultation across the partnership, the Board agreed a definition for Knowsley that clearly articulates the meaning of the voice of the child.

- Voice of the child, at an individual level, means ensuring the child's voice is listened to, heard and acted upon. Professionals will have

a clear understanding of their lived experiences and ensure they influence or participate in decisions which affect them

- At service level, it means ensuring children use their expertise arising from their experience to participate in or influence the planning, design, delivery and evaluation of services
- At strategic level, it means ensuring children's views are embedded into the aims, objectives and priorities of Knowsley Safeguarding Board. This in turn will influence and ensure consistency in the aims, objectives and priorities of partner agencies

This enabled the board to agree a set of guiding principles, which underpin our mechanisms for capturing the 'voice of the child.'

## V.O.I.C.E

**Valuing** the views and opinions of children in Knowsley by listening to them.

**Open** and transparent in our engagement, developing trust.

**Inform** and involve children in the planning, design and delivery of services.

**Communicate** through a wide range of methods, including verbal, observational, drawings, written words and technology.

**Ensure** that the views and lived experiences of children influence how we shape services for the future.

A communication plan was implemented which raised the awareness of practitioners of these principles. Coinciding with the dissemination of the voice of the child principles, the LSCB created a short animation to highlight the role of the KSCB and illustrate who children can talk to do if they have concerns. The animation is available on the home page of the KSCB website.

The Youth Offending Service reduced First time Entrants (FTE) by 37% this year. A significant factor in achieving

this reduction has been community resolution and strong diversion service delivered by Knowsley YOS. This work is delivered using the multi-agency team to provide support to children and families in Knowsley and promotes an ethos of early intervention and meeting the individual needs of the children involved.

11. In December 2016 a woman was sentenced to a 12 month Community Order for an offence of theft.

In August 2017 she appeared in Court again for similar offences. The subject had two children who were living with family members as they were subject to a Child Protection Plan. She had previously been a victim of domestic abuse, had experienced poor mental health and had substance use and financial problems.

The individual concerned wanted to make changes to her life. CRC took a lead role in developing a multi-agency response to address the issues from the case. They facilitated a referral to Women's Turnaround, which she attended for group work sessions. She completed 'Positive You' sessions and also attended one to one counselling.

CRC facilitated referrals to CGL, education, training and employment services.

She successfully detoxed from substances misuse. She worked closely with CGL, and flourished. Her children were returned to her care following a period of stability.

In May 2018 her order was returned to Court and revoked on the grounds of good progress. She was illicit substance free, working very closely with CGL and hopes to go on to be a mentor. In addition she has significantly improved her relationship with her children and her wider family.



# Section 14 - What's next in 2018/19

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. Delivering the strategic priorities through to 2020, which will remain unchanged. They include a focus on the impact of domestic abuse, child exploitation, and neglect.
2. Ensuring a smooth transition of the legislative changes introduced through the Children and Social Work Act 2017 which sees the replacement of Local Children Safeguarding Boards (LCSBs) with local safeguarding partners.
3. Developing systems and processes, which will facilitate the review of serious child safeguarding cases both locally and those commissioned by the new national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel.
4. Facilitating the transfer of responsibility for Child Death Reviews from Local Safeguarding Children Boards to new Child Death Review Partners.
5. Maintaining a focus on continuous improvement through a robust governance structure.
6. Striving to improve our performance by learning from Serious Case Reviews.
7. Continuing to drive the development and implementation of a new 'signs of safety' child protection planning model.
8. Continuing to support the implementation of the Graded Care Profile 2 risk assessment tool.
9. Enhancing the skills and knowledge of practitioners through the delivery of an ambitious training plan, set against the strategic priorities of the Board.
10. Collaborating on a pan Merseyside perspective to improve efficiency and reduce risk.



# Section 15 - Conclusion

Overall this has been a positive year for the safeguarding partnership in Knowsley and, as evidenced, some good outcomes for many vulnerable children and young people have been achieved.

To maintain this, however, remains a challenge, not least because of increasing demand and decreasing resources. New ways of working, raising awareness in the community of areas of risk for children and providing a work environment to retain staff in a competitive field are all important. Unless these are addressed then Knowsley will not achieve its ambition.

Within this context my challenges to partners are:

- How will you ensure that the transition to the new arrangements does not divert your focus on providing excellent services to children and young people who need them?
- How will you know that the implementation of new tools in your service is successful, for example Graded Care Profile 2 which provides a clear focus on the experience of children suffering from neglect?

- While resources are so tight how will you continue to make sure safeguarding is a priority particularly under the new arrangements?
- How will you develop and deliver on emerging priorities such as child and criminal exploitation when your services are already stretched?
- How will you challenge your own and other organisations when you identify the need for improvement?
- How will you know that your organisation and the partnership listen to and understand the experiences of children who need protection?

By addressing the above I believe that the partnership in Knowsley will meet its responsibilities to children and young people.

**Audrey Williamson**  
**Independent Chair**  
**KSCB**





# Appendix A - Training statistics

During the period of 2017/18; 2005 delegates (including online access, bespoke training courses and joint Adults and Children's Alerters training) have accessed or attended training sessions, briefings or conferences delivered and/or administered by the KSCB.

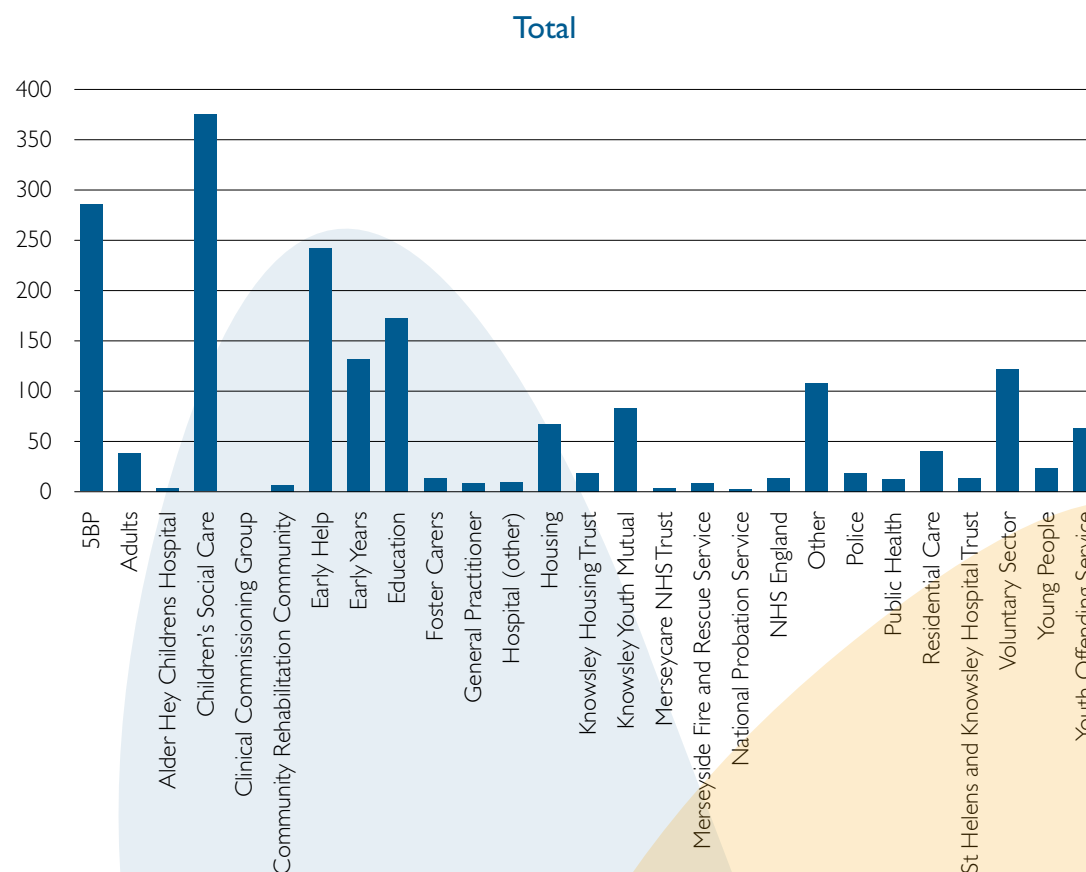
Although there has been steep reduction of online licences available we have delivered to a comparative number of practitioners.

Of those booked on to KSCB training courses recorded on the KSCB Booking Portal (927), 13% did not attend; this is a significant reduction from the previous level of 30% non-attendance from last year's data. After the introduction of the non-attendance charging policy and an improvement in administration processes we have seen an increase in practitioners contacting us to cancel courses rather than just not turning up. The charging policy is being utilised and we have begun to impose appropriate financial sanctions.

A number of courses this year were targeted at specific cohorts of staff identified as priority groups.

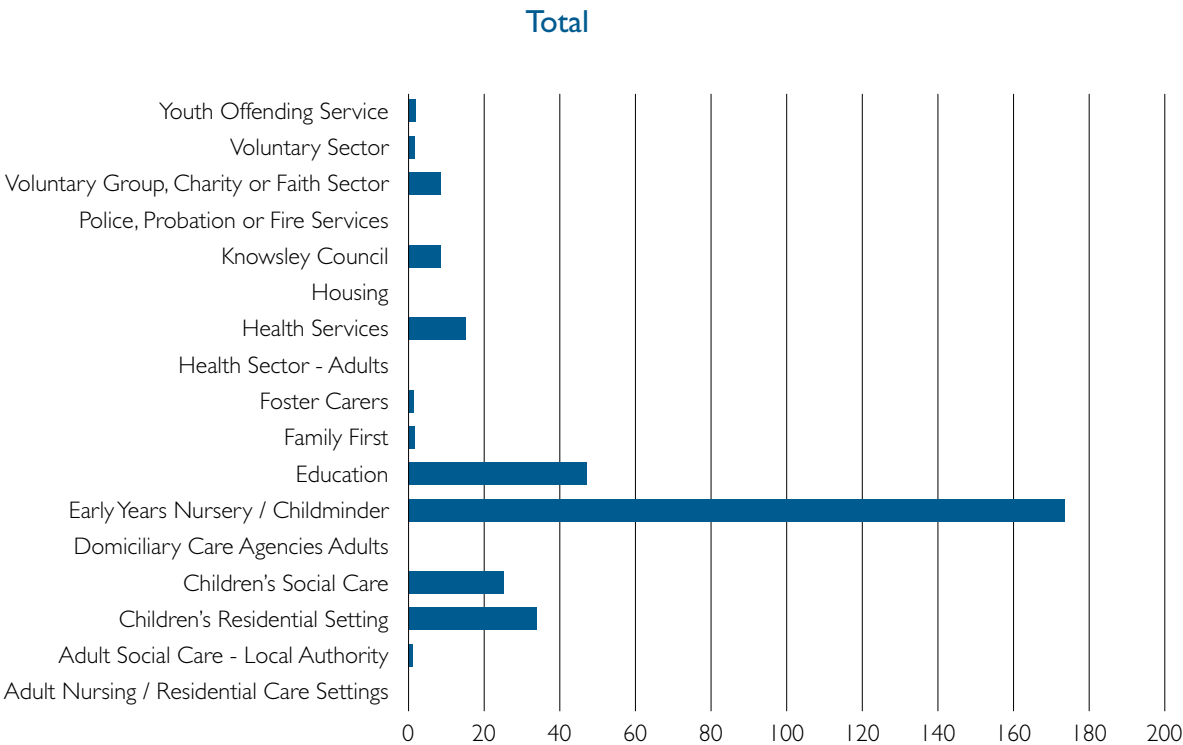
The chart below depicts total attendance figures for the face to face KSCB training programme (not including Alerters training) by agency basis. Practitioners employed by Children's Social Care take up the majority of the attendance followed by NWBH (5BP), Early Help (including Family First) and Education.

This is a similar pattern to last year's attendance figures. 'Other' predominantly represents public sector agencies.



## Online training programme

This year a total of 330 licences were on offer to practitioners via the virtual college. The following chart depicts the makeup of those practitioners who accessed our online modules.



Most popular online courses	Total
Awareness of child abuse and neglect	115
An Introduction to FGM, Forced Marriage, Spirit Possession and Honour Based Violence	70
Understanding pathways to extremism and the Prevent Programme	62



# Appendix B - Partners update

## Children's Social Care 2017/18

During 2017/18 Children's Social Care has worked continued to strive towards improving and sustaining their performance to ensure that children are safeguarded, services have improved and multi-agency working is strengthened.

Social work practice has continued to improve. This was acknowledged following an independent 'diagnostic' review of performance within Children's Social Care. The review highlighted the following areas of good practice. Strong and accessible leadership, which exudes a culture, which is viewed as 'nurturing and supportive.'

The review noted the recruitment and retention of skilled social workers, who were described as 'first class'. The review highlighted the high quality of pen pictures, chronologies and recording of statutory visits.

The review acknowledged that social workers know their children and care about them. Evidence of the voice of the child being heard is reflected in case recordings. There has been an improvement in governance procedures, supervision meetings

are held regularly with practitioners and this process is subject to quarterly audits. This support has led to an improvement in the volume of cases being managed by social workers. Practitioners are now managing a realistic case load.

There has also been a reduction in sickness levels, which is below the council's target. There has been a significant reduction of almost 50% in the number of re-referrals, which are currently 19.1%, in comparison to 2016/17.

## Educational Improvement team

The Education Safeguarding Officer and Education Improvement Officer continue to support the activities of KSCB.

The Safeguarding Officer attends MACE and CDOP meetings as the education representative. Both roles ensure professional challenge to schools as well as support for any safeguarding concerns. The safeguarding service level agreement was reviewed this year and offers statutory and additional training on various safeguarding issues such as child protection and the role of the safeguarding lead.

The MASH Education Safeguarding Officer has provided training for schools on the completion of referrals for MASH. The quality of referrals has improved over time. The MASH Education Safeguarding Officer also monitors the attendance of schools at strategy meetings and follows up non-attendance if required. Communication systems appear to be embedded and there is an improve attendance by schools. Links with out of borough schools are also improving.

The section 175 audit was completed by primary and secondary schools. The audit was extended to incorporate additional questions regarding Operation Encompass and private fostering. The audit was assessed and 57 schools rated themselves as a Grade 4 with only one school grading themselves with an overall rating of Grade 3.

The team continue to be responsive to need. The team have responded to individual requests for safeguarding audits and reviews from education settings purchasing the traded offer. The team also provide advice and guidance to schools about safeguarding issues. Data is now being collected to track the calls and interventions with schools so that a more detailed view of school practice and experience can be obtained.

The Education Safeguarding Officer continues to contribute significantly to the KSCB training pool. The training offer reflects emerging national themes and local need. Training has been delivered across schools and other agencies.

In addition to the training delivered by KSCB, the Education Safeguarding Officer has delivered on Prevent, suicide and self-harm, referrals into MASH, allegations management, forced marriage and honour based violence.

Additional sessions for Prevent and a refresher session for Operation Encompass are planned for the summer and autumn terms.

## First Ark Group / Knowsley Housing Trust (KHT)

Knowsley Housing Trust (KHT) and the First Ark Group have continued to build on their commitment to safeguard children, improve services, strengthen partnerships and increase the role of KHT in safeguarding children in Knowsley.

Safeguarding remains a strategic priority and we have continued to develop our

knowledge and understanding of safeguarding practices, and how we contribute to the work of the Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board. This has included:

- Neglect training delivered to operational staff
- Development of the internal Safeguarding Forum within the First Ark Group - raising awareness of safeguarding across the group
- Facilitate the appointment of a dedicated safeguarding advisor to be permanent and consistent officer in MASH
- Completed an internal audit of safeguarding within the group
- Development of a training matrix to enable bespoke training to be delivered to specific roles and needs within the group

As we look forward we want to build on our success. This includes developing a quality assessment framework to ensure that safeguarding cases are compliant to both internal service standards as well as the multi-agency standards.

We will develop a performance framework for safeguarding, to enable us to identify and manage areas of risk from the safeguarding environment we work in.

## Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service (MFRS) continue to contribute to the safeguarding of children through:

- Identification of early help support requirements for families identified during our Home Fire Safety Check visits
- Delivery of safety awareness fire education package to children aged between 4-12 years old who display signs of interest in fire/fire setting
- Delivery of target hardening initiatives to families who are threatened by arson, due to domestic violence or organised crime
- Delivery of Princes Trust for young people aged 16-25 years old (based at Prescott Community Fire Station and Kirby Community Fire Station)

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service has strengthened their relationships in Knowsley. A senior manager is now a Board member of KSCB which will strengthen our ability to influence the outcome KSCB priorities in 2018/19.

We have reviewed and revised our reporting procedures for reporting and dealing with

the identification of safeguarding and early help issues for children and young people.

Looking forward we intend to consolidate our position within the safeguarding arena. We have created an Early Help Hub Managers post based at Service Headquarters; and researching the feasibility of implementing a Fire Cadets Team in Knowsley for young people aged 13-18 years old.

## Merseyside Police

In 2017 Merseyside Police introduced a functional model of policing which has seen significant organisational change.

During 2017/18 Merseyside Police has continued to focus upon the KSCB priorities. CSE, CE, Domestic Abuse, Honour Based Abuse and Mental Health all remain a strategic priority for 2018/19. Senior leaders and staff understand and are committed to making child protection and safeguarding a priority. There is a clear focus on CP and safeguarding with structured governance both at local and force level. Training has increased awareness of responsibilities regarding vulnerable children and signs of neglect.

The force has introduced a mental health triage car and partners are the first responder to incidents of mental health, and there is also a dedicated sergeant who ensures domestic abuse incidents are resourced and risk assessed.

Knowsley Local Policing team hold monthly Children and Young Person's Meetings with partners and Multi-Agency Response to Threat Harm Risk meetings in which young people are identified for vulnerability and risk of CE or harm of serious organised crime by organised crime groups. This provides further opportunities to identify vulnerability and risk and signpost to MACE and other partners for early intervention and prevention.

Knowsley Local Policing team are also piloting a Youth Community Engagement Officer role who works within the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Unit, alongside the Youth Offending Service (YOS) officer and partners to build effective relationship with young people so a step up/down facility is provided to young people to prevent escalation of criminality and or harm.

The resourcing model to meet the demand for child exploitation (CE) is now embedded and we have driven daily multi-agency

meetings to incorporate missing, child exploitation and human trafficking. Much of this development has been driven through the multi-agency Shield team.

One of the objectives of the team was the introduction of a multi-agency criminal exploitation pathway to address concerns of the detrimental effects of this issue on children in the borough. This process has now begun to assess a number of children and created bespoke plans to address this issue and improve their outcomes.

We have had significant involvement in establishing Pan Merseyside CE and Missing policies to create consistency and good practice. We have streamlined the safeguarding oversight of CE assessments and plans by merging the MACSE and CCE meeting into MACE.

Furthermore we have developed systems and processes which have enabled us to identify problematic relationships which affect children. We have continued to support the multi-agency focus upon children missing from care in Knowsley, through the development of missing action plans (MAP) surrounding regular children missing from home.

The introduction of the criminal exploitation pathway has been particularly useful in Knowsley due to the demographic profile and organised crime element present within the borough. This focus by Shield has resulted in an improved understanding of the significant prevalence and complexity of the issue. This will act as a foundation in the development of further systems to tackle this issue and reduce vulnerability.

We intend to continue to develop our response to CE through the wider partnership through the development of a joint working protocol between ourselves, Housing, Children Services and Safer Communities to respond to families at risk due to criminal exploitation.

A contextual approach to safeguarding is required to understand and responding to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. To facilitate this we are jointly embarking upon improvements to the model utilised to tackle CE which will enable all children to have good assessments and plans, addressing CE and reducing the risk. Although the evidence surrounding the effectiveness of MAP's is in its infancy we intend to extend this approach to involve the partnership and ensure a multi-agency holistic

view to support the child and reduce the missing episodes. Our response to this aspect of vulnerability will be developed further in the forthcoming year.

## Knowsley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)

The CCG is a clinically-led statutory NHS body responsible for the planning and commissioning of health care services for the residents of Knowsley Borough registered with a Knowsley GP. We ensure that safeguarding is embedded in the key performance indicators of the services we commission and maintain a strategic oversight over the commissioned services.

This year we have maintained CCG representation at the Strategic Board, Executive Board and each of the KSCB Sub Groups. The team are active and valued members of the Board and participate in several workstreams of the LSCB.

The Designated Doctor and Named GP have made significant contributions to the Serious Case Reviews undertaken and ensured with the team that recommendations have been acted on.

The Named GP for Safeguarding Children continues to develop resources and advice for safeguarding in primary care. They have produced a national safeguarding web site for GPs.

The Designated Doctor is a member of the multi-agency strategic RCPCH child protection committee contributing to the national work for safeguarding children. The Designated Doctor is recognised as a national expert, particularly in the area of sexual abuse and brings this expertise locally to Knowsley.

An information sharing process, developed by the Named GP last year and shared locally with GP's has been recognised by NHSE and has been delivered as a webinar for GP's nationally. This is also being used by NHSE as part of training resources for Named GP's across the country.

To improve information sharing by GP's for the MASH and case conferences the CCG has now included the safeguarding audit tool and information sharing for case conferences within the Primary Care Quality Premium.

The Named GP continues to deliver in house training to GP practices on request and an



annual update session at the GP forum which was well attended in June 2017. In addition a bi monthly safeguarding bulletin is sent out to all practices which include important and current updates.

Level 3 training for GP's was delivered by the Named GP with support from the safeguarding nurse from NWB and the Shield team and Quality Assured by the training subgroup of the LSCB.

The Care Quality Commission inspection team arrived in November 2016 and reviewed the safeguarding children and children looked after services within Knowsley. Good practice was highlighted and a number of recommendations were made, and an ongoing improvement action plan is in place. We are embedding good safeguarding principles in primary care by ensuring that each practice undertakes a self-assessment audit to achieve the NHS commissioned standards for small providers.

The Designated Doctor has helped facilitate training to professionals to recognise and enhancing the skills and knowledge of practitioners for those children who may have been sexually abused. At the medical safeguarding unit at Alder Hey,

the Designated Doctor delivered multi agency training to Knowsley professionals. This increased the understanding of roles for all practitioners benefiting the children and families who are subjected to safeguarding enquiries.

The Designated Doctor and Named GP continue to take a strategic and clinical lead on health aspects relating to child safeguarding. They provide advice and supervision to health colleagues and to professionals from other agencies covering all forms of abuse including inflicted injuries, neglect and fabricated or induced illness.

The team will continue to work with practices to further develop understanding and referral pathways that exist for vulnerable children and adults. Our next focus is to be domestic violence referrals into the Vulnerable Victims Service.

We are developing a DV pathway for primary care so that practitioners are aware of the different agencies that can support victims/perpetrators of DV.

We have developed a Health Provider Sub Group that act as a conduit to embed the strategy of the Board. The group provides a

forum for named health professional from all health organisations to facilitate a peer review network and to support joint working across provider services to ensure a robust and seamless delivery of effective safeguarding practices within Knowsley.

## National Probation Service - North West Division

The National Probation Service acknowledges its role in safeguarding children against potential risks they may encounter through parental/other adults behaviour including abuse, neglect and exploitation. Over the last year we have worked collaboratively with our partners to improve information sharing, contributing financially to the safeguarding children board, providing resources into the Knowsley Youth Offending Service and working with our partners to carry out the range of safeguarding functions aimed at protecting children and young people at risk. The NPS has developed a regional Safeguarding Children's Plan, identified safeguarding children leads at regional and local level and have developed organisational policies and practice guidance for staff outlining their roles and responsibilities in

safeguarding the welfare of children and young people. All our new staff at induction are issued with information relating to 'what to do if you are worried about a child being abused'. We have also contributed to the recent consultation on changes to LSCBs.

The work we have done over the last year has raised awareness amongst staff with regards to their responsibilities in safeguarding children, which we believe have led to early identification of potential children at risk and where necessary enforcement action taken to minimise such risk by removing the perpetrator from the home environment including recall to custody where appropriate.

We have seen an improved level of communication with partner agencies and greater information sharing, including dissemination of the 7-minute briefings provided by KSCB thereby ensuring greater consistency in our work with partner agencies. In the future we look forward to exploring new partnership opportunities to enhance the lives of the families we work with across Knowsley.

We are keen to work with partners to develop a family based approach to our work with parents who are in custody by identifying potential intervention pathways through the MARAC, MAPPA and other multi-agency initiatives that may arise over the forthcoming year aimed at safeguarding children and young people in Knowsley.

We are also looking at how we can contribute to the Early Help and MASH arrangements in Knowsley and would like to explore the possibility of providing a staff resource to enhance the communication channels between NPS and other partners.

We also recognise the increasing concern regarding child criminal exploitation and the likelihood of some of the perpetrators and vulnerable young adults being known to the NPS. We are keen to engage with partners to develop preventative measures aimed at targeting the young people at risk of exploitation and adopting collaborative approaches to working with perpetrators to address their criminality.

All NPS staff have completed mandatory training of safeguarding children and our staff based in Knowsley have attended a range of multi-agency training to ensure they adopt a consistent approach to their work with families in safeguarding children who may be at risk.

Our staff regularly attend the MARAC and Domestic Abuse Protect meetings for children and adults. Where appropriate perpetrators are referred to relevant programmes delivered by our CRC partners and our female offenders, who may be survivors of domestic abuse are linked into local services. We have also developed a pan Merseyside dedicated women's team aimed at addressing the specific needs of women some of whom have had their children removed from their care and our staff work to support them in changing their lifestyles and wherever appropriate may result in the safe return of their children into their care.

Whilst our agency does not directly work with children, we have ensured the voice of the child is reflected in our policies including our MAPPA processes and we are represented at child protection/core panels in cases involving offenders under our supervision.

## Merseyside Community Rehabilitation Company

Merseyside Community Rehabilitation Company is an Interserve led provider of probation services. We are committed to delivering high quality rehabilitative interventions for people who have committed criminal offences and work to improve community safety through robust public protection practice. Over the last 12 months we have implemented a structured Quality Assurance framework which includes the auditing of 1.5% of the caseload every 3 months, embedded a new supervision and appraisal model and formalised an enhanced management oversight for the most complex cases. MCRC has prioritised children's safeguarding and has established a Safeguarding Committee which brings together senior managers, middle managers and lead practitioners to drive excellence in safeguarding practice. Over the last year we have already observed significant improvements in safeguarding audit outcomes and we have a strong focus on our section 11 action plan and the professional development of our employees.

MCRC along with Knowsley Council has started to scope out how children can be supported when one of their parents is imprisoned. This work will be key to supporting families and the Early Help offer to families going forward. To ensure we can maximise the benefit of this approach we will appoint specialist Senior Case Managers and Case Managers assigned to managing men and women who are serving custodial sentences. MCRC is also implementing a new Domestic Abuse Strategy and has developed interventions which promote healthy relationships and an understanding of the impact of domestic abuse on children.

MCRC is committed to working collaboratively with our partners to ensure a coordinated approach to supporting children and families. In this regard we work collaboratively with partners, share organisational expertise and identify areas of development to continuously improve our service delivery. MCRC has consistently had representation on Merseyside wide groups focused on criminal exploitation and sexual exploitation and we lead on promoting a family approach to reducing reoffending.

## Youth Offending Service (YOS)

The Youth Offending Service has implemented a collaborative training plan which has focused on raising staff awareness and skills to safeguard children families and victims. The training has included criminal exploitation/cross border serious organised crime training, whole family and voice of the child training.

Following the introduction of Asset Plus we have reviewed the implementation every six months and incorporated actions plans to ensure quality was not affected by this huge assessment and intervention change to the way we work.

We identified highlighted participation as an area for development and nominated an engagement champion. This also included the Asset Plus development involving a strong engagement from children and parents, including new self-assessments. These are used throughout the work to assist us to understand the issues and for children and parents to inform the intervention we deliver and the service we provide.

Our work this year has balanced 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, which aims to detect risk and exploitation at the earliest stages of our involvement.

Asset Plus recognised desistance factors that we can build on to reduce risks and address complex needs of those children who come into the criminal justice system. We are able to identify adverse childhood events and support these rather than just focus on the current presenting behaviours. This means we can try to reach the core of the issue and support long term recovery and positive outcomes for those children who have experienced much trauma but also present with the highest risks to the community.

We have explored needs analysis of our higher re-offending cohort to understand complex needs and safeguarding issues to examine best use of reduced resources.

We have seen developments in participation and engagement. We have presented staff with Engagement Workshops that have assisted us to look at what areas we need to include in an Engagement Action Plan. We have amended the exit interviews and, wherever possible, each child finishing a

statutory order meets with the YOS Service Manager to talk about their experiences, their views of the staff and service and to tell us what we could do better and how. The exit interviews also assist us to know if they felt engaged, if they understood and contributed to their intervention plans, if we helped them and if they felt things had got better in their lives. This area of work will be further developed in the following year.

We continue to collaborate with Integrated Services and Children's Services to improve delivery and support to children and families, and work closely with Pan Merseyside YOTs to provide collaborative work and training to improve services, quality and training for staff

We will continue to work closely with Pan Merseyside YOTs to explore further joined up working, as well as launch the revised Merseyside Decriminalisation of Looked After Children Protocol.

The Pan Merseyside out of Court Disposal Protocol has also been revised and YOS continues to be involved in the delivery and scrutiny of these disposals. YOS also contribute to the Overnight Detention Scrutiny Panels and we work closely with local care home providers.

We have a single point of contact in YOS who is the link to local care homes to assist with increasing understanding and joint working, particularly with children in Knowsley placed from out of borough. We will further develop this area of work and hope to encourage other regions to take up or adopt the Merseyside Decriminalisation of Looked After Children Protocol.

Plans for the forthcoming this year include expanding on the delivery and support for Children at risk of Criminal Exploitation, with a pilot voluntary package for out of court disposals coming to an end, which are identified as needing further work to reduce risk.

## North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust Report

North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust delivers a wide range of services to children living in Knowsley. These include the 0-19 year service, Immunisations teams, Bosom Buddies, Allied Health professional's teams, CAMHS, Walk in Centre services and a Safeguarding



Children and Looked after Children Service. During 2017/18 the organisation has provided support and health care to all children who have a child protection or Looked after Child plan in place, as well as offering a wide range of early help interventions.

The NWBH safeguarding service has ensured that the organisation meets the high standards that we set ourselves through a programme of quality assurance and audit, maintaining policy and procedure in line with national and local guidance and ensuring that our staff are up to date with safeguarding training.

The Deputy Director of Nursing and Quality for NWBH and the Named Nurse for safeguarding children have continued to offer full support to the Safeguarding Board and its sub groups.

NWBH continues to deliver the statutory health care of all Knowsley Looked after Children (LAC) regardless of their placement. This service extends to looked after children placed in Knowsley from other local authorities.

Over the last year, NWBH has continued to

ensure that alongside our partner agencies children who are looked after receive timely and comprehensive health assessments which produce outcome focused individual health plans that clearly demonstrate the voice of the child. NWBH work in collaboration with Knowsley Children's Social Care to collate and report on key performance indicators for health which are on target for the period 2017/18 to exceed previous years' performance.

The Looked after Children health team have completed work this year on the Knowsley Ofsted action plan to ensure that all care leavers have access to and understand their health histories. Implementation of a health passport for all care leavers commenced in 2017 and guidance produced to support and advise colleagues within Children's Social Care and the NWBH LAC Health team. This will ensure that Knowsley care leavers will have knowledge of their past health history, care needs and how to access other services within the community which will stay with them throughout their adult life. This is also accessible on children's social care systems to enable support to care leavers from their personal advisors.

The Deputy Director of Nursing and Quality

for NWBH and the Named Nurse for LAC continue to represent the organisation on Knowsley's Corporate Parenting Board and other key partner meetings.

The key priorities of KSCB continue to be a main consideration when planning service delivery, developing policy and procedure to support health practitioners across Knowsley. Moving forward, NWBH will continue to develop an effective service that has the health care of children looked after at the heart of service delivery.

## Public Health

Public Health has taken a lead role in promoting a number of initiatives to reduce the vulnerability of children. These included:

- Hosting and promoting training for 16 Knowsley primary schools around the Ariel Trust "Safe Skills" CSE education resource
- Delivery of healthy relationships training and support to Knowsley primary schools, secondary schools, special schools, early years settings and wider CYP workforce as part of the Essential Safeguarding contract

- Delivering the 'Chelsea's Choice' and 'Black Eyes and Cottage Pie' healthy relationships drama performances to Year 9 pupils
- Producing a pathway for young people subjected to CSE in contact with the Shield Team to be able to receive timely support from Knowsley Sexual Health Service
- Development of a CSE and emergency hormonal contraceptive campaigns as part of the Teenage Health in Knowsley (THINK) campaign and promoted to Knowsley young people

Public Health supported the Merseyside CDOP safe sleep campaign by ensuring the safe sleep protocol is embedded within our commissioned services (0-19 service). This was evidenced by a follow up audit which showed considerable improvements in recording the conversations with parents around Safe Sleep and requesting to view babies day and night time sleeping environments. This is part of a Merseyside wide campaign which incorporates Midwifery, 0-19 services and children's centres.

As part of the alcohol plan, Public Health followed up the foetal alcohol spectrum disorder campaign of 2016/17 with a training

event on foetal alcohol spectrum disorder delivered by an expert in the field. There are two events to be held in March 2018 aimed at GP's, Midwives, Health Visitors and any other staff who are in position to influence a mother's decision to drink alcohol or not while pregnant. Foetal brain damage caused by alcohol is entirely preventable. Abstinence while pregnant can prevent a lifetime of behavioural, social and learning difficulties for the child and is a key safeguarding issue.

## Knowsley Community College

Safeguarding is a key College priority evidenced through its commitment to continually enhancing its staffs' safeguarding skills, ensuring students receive a wide range of safeguarding education linked to KSCB priorities and the College Lead Safeguarding Officer's proactive membership of KSCB.

College staff receive regular routine internal safeguarding training, quality assured and commended by KSCB. In addition, key staff have participated in a range of specific additional training provided by external specialists. This year, the focus has been on the impact of domestic abuse on students' learning, the rising concern about gambling

as a safeguarding issue and its consequences and Prevent.

Students have received safeguarding education on topics including healthy relationships including sexual consent, domestic abuse, e-safety, substance misuse and sexual and criminal exploitation. Over a hundred students attended performances designed to protect them from exploitation by loan sharks.

So far, more than two hundred students have participated in workshops to understand the potential dangers of gambling. Weekly student notices regularly cover national and local safeguarding issues which are then discussed in tutorials, eg street safety and keeping safe from gun and knife crime.

This is in addition to continuing excellent input from external partners who regularly visit the College to ensure students understand the support their services offer and how to access it.

The College Safeguarding Lead is chair of the KSCB Children's Engagement Committee. Its key outputs are a set of children's engagement standards for adoption by all appropriate Knowsley agencies (VOICE).

A video for children to explain the purpose of the KSCB and, a children's survey to obtain feedback to help inform KSCB's work and priorities. Section 11 self-assessment was also completed with positive feedback.

## Liverpool Women's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

This has again been a year of significant activity and scrutiny for Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust, throughout which the Trust has demonstrated that there are robust mechanisms in place to safeguard adults, young people and children from abuse. As approaches to safeguarding continually evolve and the complexity of decision making increases around newly recognised forms of harm and abuse, the current structures and processes have continued to develop in response.

Through continued collaboration between the Trust, the local authority, police and other services and external partners, Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust have further developed and implemented improvements in the quality and provision of services for children, young persons and adults to ensure

that safeguarding practice and procedures are adhered to and compliant with national and local standards, primary legislation, Government guidance and strategy.

Collaboration with partner Trusts have enabled Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust to provide expert advice and strategic direction to Aintree University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust with regards to safeguarding in accordance with national and local policy and in the best interest of the reputation of the Trust and ensure the provision of assurance relevant to safeguarding to the hospital Board. This has enabled Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust to build on the established Safeguarding team and processes, compliant with legislation, within the Trust and further develop the collaborative vision for safeguarding across provider organisations.

Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust has continued to ensure a close working relationship with commissioners and external agencies/partners regarding service design and delivery relating to safeguarding issues and including provision of quarterly and annual key performance data.





