



Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board

Knowsley  
Safeguarding Children Board's  
Annual Report **2018/19**

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# Section 1 - 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 2018/2019.

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.

During the period 2018 to 2019, the board continued with their focus on improving outcomes for children across Knowsley.

There was a specific focus on the strategic priorities of the board, namely domestic abuse, child exploitation and neglect.

The work of the board has been underpinned by the delivery of a comprehensive and effective training programme to professionals and volunteers across the borough of Knowsley.

During this year, legislative changes introduced through the Children and Social Work Act 2017 saw the replacement of Local Children Safeguarding Boards with new local safeguarding children arrangements. This legislation has brought about changes in the way children are safeguarded and protected.

The main legislative changes are:-

- The formation of a Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel to undertake reviews of a complex nature and cases, which are likely to be of national importance.
- The transfer of responsibility for child death reviews from Local Safeguarding Children Boards to new Child Death Review Partners
- A revision of the 'working together' guidelines, which came into effect in the summer of 2018.

- Responsibility to sit with the three safeguarding partners (Merseyside Police, Clinical Commissioning Group and Knowsley Council) who will have a shared and equal duty to make the arrangements work.

A significant level of planning and preparing for these changes was undertaken by KSCB. This involved consultation across a wide range of partners to discuss the new legislative requirements, identify current strengths and propose areas for developments.

Following the consultation and research, a new model was developed that builds on the strengths of the existing Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board. The model places a strong emphasis on the partnership ethos, learning, and development, while streamlining systems. In addition, we have developed a focused performance framework that facilitates the delivery of the business plan.

Ultimately, the new arrangements will concentrate on achieving a model that works for Knowsley, with safeguarding and protecting children at its core. A 'publication of arrangements' document setting out details of the new safeguarding arrangements was published in June 2019.

On 29 July 2019, Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board ceased to exist and was replaced by the new Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership.

This annual report of KSCB, in accordance with national guidelines, has been circulated to the following key partners:-

- Knowsley Council lead member for Children's Services
- Knowsley Council Chief Executive
- Knowsley Clinical Commissioning Group Chief Officer
- The Chair of the Knowsley Health and Wellbeing Board

- The Chair of the Merseyside Community Safety Partnership
- Knowsley Youth Parliament and Children in Care Council

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

## Section 2 - Foreword

I am pleased to present Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board's annual report 2018/19. I hope you find it informative. This is a short report but you will see from the appendices, the work that all agencies have undertaken during this twelve-month period and the positive impact such work has made on safeguarding children and young people in Knowsley. During this year, we have seen the impact of early help services to ensure children and young people receive services at the right time before a crisis takes place. The partnership has also supported and contributed to resourcing Signs of Safety, a positive way of working with families building on family strengths.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all agencies and organisations involved for their work and their commitment to the partnership. It is only by working together that we can provide excellent and safe services for the most vulnerable children and young people in the borough.

This is the final report from the Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board as recent government guidance has led to the development of new arrangements and the disbanding of the Board in July 2019. During the last few years, our partnership working in Knowsley has gone from strength to strength. As a result the new Partnership Forum led by the Core Leadership team (Merseyside Police, Knowsley Clinical Commissioning Group and Knowsley Council), are in good position to further develop safeguarding services. There are strong foundations in place to build upon and I look forward to supporting these in the coming year. Finally I would like to thank the small team that has supported the work of the Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board, board members and of course, all of the staff who work in this challenging and complex area.



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





# Section 3 - 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.

Knowsley has 15 wards that are spread across the towns and villages of Huyton, Kirkby, Halewood, Prescott, Whiston and Cronton.

The population of these towns and villages are as follows:

Huyton – 57,613 (38.8%)

Kirkby – 41,686 (28.1%)

Halewood – 20,543 (13.8%)

Prescot, Whiston and Cronton – 28,718 (19.3%)

Between 2010 and 2015, Knowsley moved from fifth to second most deprived of 326 Local Authority Districts, as measured in the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), which is one of several Indices of Deprivation published by the ONS.

Long-term population decline continued with the population falling by over 10% between 1981 and 1991, connected to economic decline in the 1980's and 1990's (particularly in manufacturing). Knowsley's population fell to a low of 145,900 in 2011. However, in the past six years Knowsley's population has increased by 1.85%, albeit at a lower rate than national (4.39%) and regional (2.87%) population growth. Knowsley has a much lower rate of international migration into the borough, affecting the overall population growth. Mid year population estimates in 2018 indicate a population of 149,571.

Changes to Knowsley's population in the last 10 years has seen a shift in the age profile of communities. This includes an 8.5% decrease in the age band 5 to 15 years, a 1.1% decrease in the working age population, which is expected to decrease further. The age bands 65+, 80+ and 90+ have seen increases and will continue.

Population projections indicate that the borough's population will increase by 2,155 between 2017 and 2022. It is projected that there will be more births than deaths, combined with a net migration gain (more people coming into than leaving the borough).



## Education:

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.

The following chart provides a summary of key performance indicators, which enable us to gauge the progress of children through education in the borough.

Performance Indicators for 2017/18	Knowsley	North West	England
Foundation Stage - % achieving a good level of development	68.3%	68.9%	71.5%
Key Stage 1 – Reading expected standard	71%	74%	75%
Key Stage 1 – Writing expected standard	65%	68%	70%
Key Stage 1 – Mathematics expected standard	72%	75%	76%
Year 1 phonics decoding	79%	82%	82%
Key Stage 2 – reading, writing & mathematics – expected standard	62%	65%	64%
Key Stage 4 – Average progress 8 score per pupil	-0.82	-0.16	N/K
Key Stage 4 – Average attainment 8 score per pupil	35.30	45.70	44.50

## Health

- 18.9% of all infants due a 6-8 week check that are totally or partially breastfed in Knowsley compared to England of 42.7% during the period of 2017/18.
- In 2017/18, 14.4% of reception age children living in Knowsley were obese in comparison to North West of 10.2% and England 9.5%.
- In 2017/18, 24.5% (2017/18) of Year 6 children living in Knowsley were obese in comparison to North West of 21.0% and England 20.1%.
- The rate of under 18 conceptions (rate per 1,000 females aged 15-17) for Knowsley is 26.3 (2016), whereas North West is 22.3 and England 18.8.
- There are 3% of children educated in a Knowsley school that have a social, emotional and mental health need. This is higher than the North West of 2.3% and England 2.4%.
- Healthy Life Expectancy at birth (male – 2015-17) for Knowsley was 58.4 years; this is lower than North West (61.2) and England (63.4).
- Healthy Life Expectancy at birth (female – 2015-17) for Knowsley was 58.6 years; this is lower than North West (62.3) and England (63.8).
- Under 75 mortality rate from all cardiovascular diseases (2015-17, rate per 100,000 - Directly Age Standardised,) for Knowsley was 100.8. This is higher than the North West (87) and England (72.5).
- Under 75 mortality rate from cancer (2015-17, rate per 100,000 - Directly Age Standardised,) for Knowsley was 190.1. This is higher than the North West (148.5) and England (134.6).
- Under 75 mortality rate from respiratory disease (2015-17, rate per 100,000 - Directly Age Standardised,) for Knowsley was 66. This is higher than the North West (45.8) and England (34.3).

## Housing

- There are more than 67,120 households in the borough with a target of an additional 6,300 new homes to be delivered between now and 2028. In 2017/18, a total of 620 (net) homes were built with 246 of those being affordable homes (36% of all new builds).
- During 2016, 14.6% of Knowsley's households experienced fuel poverty compared to the North West of 12.8%, and England 11.1%.
- 17% of all families living in social housing are classed as being in fuel poverty, which is below the overall Liverpool City Region percentage of 21% but slightly above the national average of 16%.
- Changes to the benefit system have led to a sharp rise of families presenting as homeless. The new housing act has meant that local authorities can offer help and advice to families under threat at a much earlier stage than had been previously allowed.
- In 2017-18, 125 households were accepted as being homeless and in priority need; this is the highest figure since 2009-10. This is equivalent to 1.98 per 1,000 households in the borough. This figure is the highest in the Liverpool City Region, with Liverpool second with 1.36 per 1,000. The average number of families in temporary accommodation per week has also increased from 19 in 2017 up to 27 in Quarter 2 of 2018.



## Employment and skills

- During 2017, 6.27% of Knowsley's 16-17 year olds were not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) compared to the North West of 3.35% and England 2.71%.
- 71.9% of Knowsley's working age population (aged 16-64 years) is in employment; this is lower than the North West of 73.8% and England 75.3%.
- 74.1% of Knowsley's working age population is currently economically active in comparison to 77% (North West) and 78.7% (England). Reasons for economic inactivity in Knowsley vary, but over a third of economic inactivity is due to long-term sickness. This has reduced in the last decade but remains the main driving factor of economic inactivity, and the persistent gap with the UK.
- 3.6% of Knowsley's working age population is unemployed; this is lower than both the North West (4.1%) and England (4.2%).
- 4.2% of Knowsley's working age population is claiming out-of-work benefits; this is higher than the North West (3.1%) and England (2.4%).
- 22.8% of Knowsley's households (where at least one person is aged 16-64) are classified as families in no paid employment. This is higher than both the North West (16.9%) and England (14.0%).
- 20.3% of children (aged under 16) live in a family with no paid employment; this is higher than the North West (12.6%) and England (10.5%).



# Section 4 - 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.

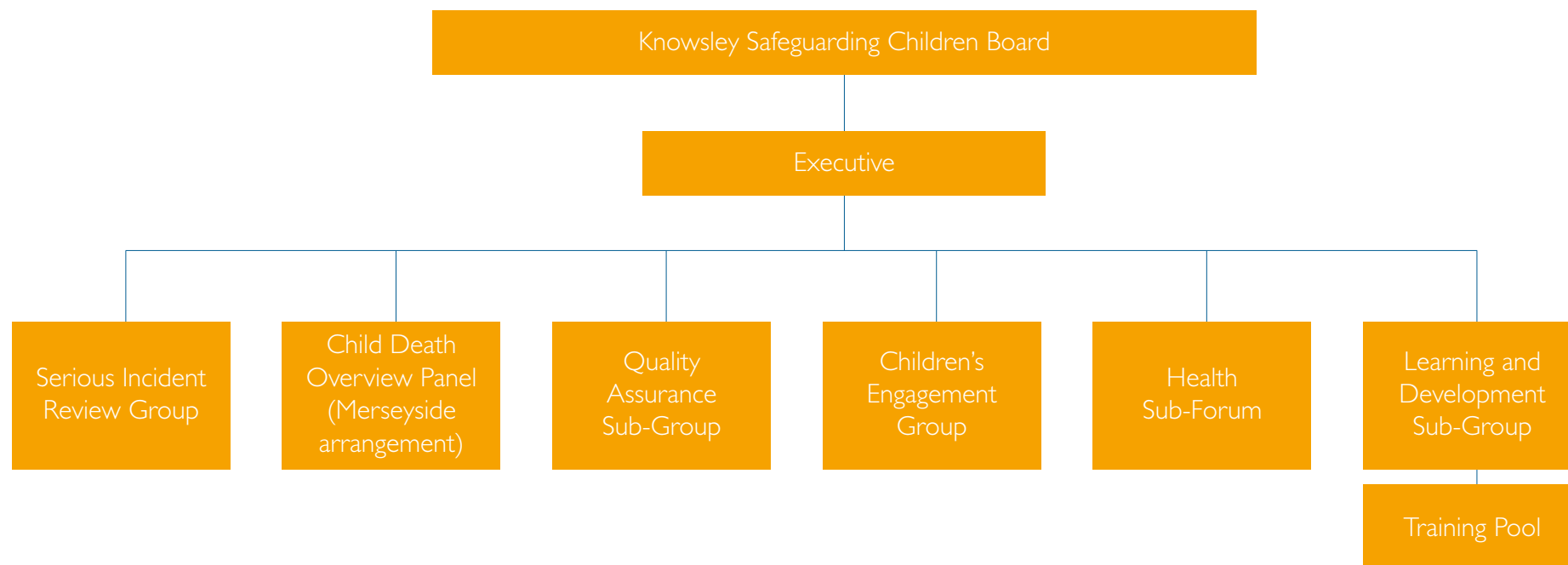
The work of the LSCB during 2018/2019 was governed by statutory guidance in Working Together 2015 and the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Regulations 2006.



Membership of the LSCB is formed from a range of senior leaders from a broad spectrum of organisations:-

Name	Organisation
Audrey Williamson	Independent Chair
Jill Albertina	Knowsley Council (Education)
Albie Crist	St. Luke's Catholic Primary School
Alan Sanders	CAFCASS
Christine McGowan	Lay Member
Paul Dalby	Knowsley Council (Adult Services)
Colette Dutton	Knowsley Council (Children's Services)
Celine Gafos	Knowsley Council (Youth Offending Service)
Cllr Margaret Harvey	Knowsley Council's Cabinet Member for Children's Services
Helen Meredith	Knowsley Clinical Commissioning Group
Jeanine Williams	Knowsley Community College
John Quick	Merseyside Community Rehabilitation Company
John Williams	Merseyside Police
Kevin Johnson	Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service
Jemma Jones	Knowsley Council (Community Safety Partnership)
Lorna Griffiths	Assistant Clinical Director, North West Boroughs
Lisa Leary	Lay Member
Peter Murphy	Knowsley Council (Children's Services)
Paul Oginsky	Knowsley Youth Mutual
Peter Davidson	Knowsley Housing Trust
Sandra Oluonye	National Probation Service
Julie Tierney	Knowsley Council (Public Health)
Vicky Gowan (Lord Derby)	Lord Derby Academy

# Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board Organisational Structure







# Section 5 - Strategic priorities for KSCB

The strategic priorities of are set out in the business plan for the period 2018 to 2020, which are set out below;

## Our vision

“Working together to safeguard and protect children from harm in Knowsley.”

## Our mission

We will work together to safeguard and protect children in Knowsley to enable them to grow up safe, be healthy, feel listened to and given the right opportunities to achieve their potential.

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 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

The independent chair of KSCB encouraged a partnership ethos to achieve success. This is underpinned by a robust performance framework, which has been incorporated into the core business of the board.

A focused, joined up; multi-agency approach has enabled us to deliver against our strategic priorities.

The Domestic Abuse Reduction Strategy has been coordinated through the Domestic Abuse Governance Group (DAGG) who provide reassurance to KSCB on the progress of the action plan.

Knowsley has continued to deliver 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 continues to provide oversight of all young people effected by child sexual exploitation and child criminal exploitation.

A Neglect Strategy was developed and implemented at a local level. There has been strong emphasis on developing early help provisions ensuring that children requiring early help are identified and provided with the right response at the right time.

The strategic objectives of KSCB have been achieved through the commitment and effort of all our partners who have continued to work towards improving outcomes for children. A snapshot of their contributions is summarised at Appendix A.

The Independent Chair of KSCB has been a strong advocate of ensuring that practitioners have the appropriate skills and knowledge to enable them to fulfil their roles. This has formed the foundation for success.

During the period 2018/2019, 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.

A summary of the training provided and an evaluation of the impact can be found at Appendix B.

# Section 6 - Serious Case Review and reflective learning

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

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

Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB) are required to follow statutory guidance for conducting a serious case review. The Serious Incident Review Group (SIRG) carries out the statutory function around serious incident notification, initiating SCR or reflective reviews.

During the period of 2018/ 2019, Knowsley Children Safeguarding Board did not commission any SCRs or reflective reviews. These cases did not meet the criteria for a SCR although it was acknowledged that lessons could be learned.

Two cases had been commissioned prior to the 1 April 2018 and concluded during the 2018 to 2019.

## Case 1 - Child Jane

In 2017, KSCB commissioned a serious case review of child Jane, 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 a 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.

The independent author concluded her report in the summer of 2018. She made a number of recommendations including dispute resolution, safety plans, pathways for medical examinations and 'achieving best evidence' interviews. The board accepted these recommendations.

In autumn 2018, KSCB hosted a multi-agency practitioners learning event, which was attended by over 100 professionals across the borough.

The independent author of the review presented an overview of the case and highlighted the key learning that had been identified.

Professionals attending the workshop acknowledged that the learning had enhanced their knowledge of safeguarding children.

## Case 2 Child Y

In early 2018, KSCB commissioned a serious case review following the death of a child. Concerns were raised concerning the way in which agencies responded to the needs of the child.

The purpose of a 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.

The independent author concluded her report and made a number of recommendations concerning information sharing; the assessment of risk, communication and ensuring the voice of the child is heard at all times. The board accepted these recommendations and has developed a robust action plan to address the key learning identified in the review. Arrangements are at an advanced stage to host a professional's seminar; to raise awareness of the issues highlighted in the review and provide practical solutions.





# Section 7 - Finance

Agency contributions	18/19 Contribution (£m)	% per agency
Knowsley Council	0.147	53.65
Knowsley Council - Early Years' Service	0.003	1.09
Public Health – Suicide Prevention Training	0.005	1.82
National Health Service	0.047	17.15
Dedicated School Grant	0.042	15.33
Police	0.021	7.66
Knowsley Housing Trust	0.005	1.82
Community Rehabilitation Company	0.003	1.09
CAFCAS	0.001	0.36
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.274</b>	<b>100</b>
Carry forward of contingency from 17/18	<b>0.053</b>	
<b>Total resources available</b>	<b>0.327</b>	

## Expenditure

Expenditure for 2018/19 totalled £0.194m; the following table shows the percentage split across the main areas of KCSB.

Expenditure	18/19 Expenditure (£m)	%
Staffing	0.128	65.98
Serious Case Reviews	0.007	3.61
Independent Chair	0.012	6.19
Training	0.017	8.76
Child Death Overview Panel	0.000	0.00
General Expenses	0.012	6.19
Information Technology	0.018	9.28
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.194</b>	<b>100</b>

There was a slight decrease expenditure by KSCB during 2018/19 compared to the previous year. Expenditure 17/18 was £0.199, while in 2018/19 spend is £0.194.

The factors influencing this decrease in expenditure were;

- (£0.020m) – Staff resignation and recruitment into post at reduced hours;
- £0.005m – Increase in training costs;
- £0.004m – Increase in independent chair costs; and
- £0.006m – Increase in IT expenses.

# Projections

In line with other public sector agencies who have been required to make financial savings, the budget for 2019/20 has been reduced by £109,310

This saving has been achieved through a reduction in staffing levels, reduction in professional fees budget and centralisation of the serious case review budget.





# Section 8 - Concluding remarks from Independent Chair Audrey Williamson

At a time of increasing demands on services and decreasing budgets, it is positive that the partnership has provided strong leadership and continues to prioritise the safeguarding of children and young people in Knowsley. The borough has a high level of poverty and unemployment placing demands on services that are not always experienced by more affluent areas.

The challenge of working with children and young people who may be criminally and/or sexually exploited has been more apparent in the last 12 months. The successful bid to work with Bedfordshire University to address this challenge is particularly welcome and I am sure there will be a focus on this area over the coming year. It is an area that all agencies across the partnership need to better understand to reduce the very clear risks to some of our children and young people.

Overall, it has been a positive year for the partnership and the transition to the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements went relatively smoothly. This coming year my challenges to the new partnership are:

- How will you maintain the momentum to fully contribute to the partnership?
- How will you promote a learning culture; changing services as a result of reviews?
- How will you listen to children and young people when delivering services?
- How will you hold each other to account and challenge when there are difficulties?
- How will you measure the impact of the work your service delivers to children and young people.
- Are you making a difference?

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



# Appendix A

## Contribution from partners

KSCB has a strong partnership ethos. This document has been prepared to reflect the commitment and effort of all our partners who have continued to work towards improving outcomes for children.

### Early Help and Prevention

The Early Help offer in Knowsley is a partnership offer that is aligned to the thresholds set out in Knowsley's continuum of need. Overall governance of the Early Help offer sits with the Children and Families Partnership Board. The aim of the Early Help offer is set out in the Early Help Strategy which supports the delivery of Knowsley's Children and Young People's Plan.

There is no statutory requirement to deliver Early Help to families however it is recognised that intervening earlier is better for the families and will support them to achieve better outcomes and is financially better for public agencies.

Within the statutory guidance (Working Together 2018) there is a clear expectation that agencies will take an Early Help approach. This approach is also supported through the national Troubled Families programme which captures Government's commitment to Early Help and provides some funding to support the development of this approach via the Payment by Results mechanism attached to the programme.

During the period 2018/2019 the focus of improvement has been to develop the Level 2 Early Help Offer across the partnership in Knowsley.

This is now supported via the establishment of a Multi-Agency Early Help Governance Group this group sits below the Children and Families Partnership Board and is responsible for support and challenge to Council services and Partners in the development and sustainability of a strong Early Help offer.

Evidence over previous years has demonstrated that Early Help has been effective in supporting and enabling children's social care to reduce demand, in particular there has been a sustained reduction in Child in Need cases. The majority of this demand has been directed to Family First resulting in times of capacity issues at points within the year. Work needs to continue to develop and improve the level 2 offer. This development will ensure we have a mature and effective offer to provide the appropriate assessments and interventions at the earliest opportunity to improve outcomes for children and reduce demand on more costly services.



### 2018/2019 Performance data

Early Help Assessments completed by level 3 Family First	503
% of successful level 3 closures	77%
Early Help Assessments completed by level 2	283
% of successful level 2 closures – this is from a total of episodes closed (1,773) not a % of Early Help Assessments completed. Not all L2 episodes will have had an EHA.	74%

As part of the development of the level 2 offer the council has provided additional capacity to support schools as part of a pilot project. A team of four Family Support Workers and a Senior Practice Lead have been recruited to provide direct support and interventions to children and families as a result of an Early Help Assessment and Family plan being completed by one of the targeted schools. Early indications have shown this is having a positive impact. Since the team was established in March 2019 they have worked with **46** Families with a **63%** successful closure rate to date. 17 of the 20 schools identified have engaged with the pilot and evaluation work has started to capture the difference this service has on outcomes for children and the benefit to schools.

### Early Help Sustainability

Work is in progress to examine the impact on the Early Help offer in Knowsley following the potential reduction in resources during 2020/2021 this is due to the ending of the Government's Troubled Families Programme and removal of the ring fence of the Public Health Grant. A significant number of Council services who deliver Early Help are funded through these funding streams any reduction in these services will have a negative impact upon demand within Children's Social Care.

### Troubled Families Payment by Results

As we are heading towards the end of this programme Knowsley is in a positive position in relation to the claims for achieving positive outcomes for children and families in Knowsley. At the end of quarter 1 (June 2019) we had successfully claimed for 71% of our target families which is significantly





higher than our statistical neighbours and higher than the national averages. In addition to the increase in funding this has achieved for the Local Authority it also demonstrates the positive impact that Early Help and Preventative services has on improving outcomes for Knowsley children and families.

### **Children's Social Care**

The department is fully resourced with permanent staff from newly qualified social workers up to the Director. The service has not had to rely on agency staff to deliver a service for over two years. A recent health check showed that morale in the workforce is good. Staff are supported to develop their skills experience and knowledge through a comprehensive work force development offer that presents in different forms such as traditional training, a clear progression route, briefings and practice sessions.

The aim of Children's Social care is to deliver a consistently good service to children and families in the Borough. The Children's Social Care Principal Social Worker leads on a work plan with an overall aim of embedding consistently good social work practice.

The Quality Assurance framework was revised in May 2019, which tests out the quality of social work practice by Team and Senior managers auditing case records and by seeking feedback from families about the quality of social work practice. In November 2018 Children's Social Care had a two day focussed visit from Ofsted into the front door arrangements. Inspectors found there was effective social work practice in the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub that receives all referrals for children who require support or safeguarding. Inspectors found strong partnerships that resulted in timely responses to children who require a service from the Councils Early Help Service, Family First, or Children's Social Care.

Performance in Children's Services is good, the focus for the department as stated is to provide a consistently good service. To support the Council in achieving this, in addition to the Principal Social Workers plan and the QA framework, the Council consistently invites external bodies in to consider the quality of social work practice with a critical eye ensuring that our self-view is accurate.

### **Contextual Safeguarding:**

Alongside partners, Knowsley will be working with the University of Bedfordshire to implement a Contextual Safeguarding System into our children and family services to sit alongside our current traditional safeguarding model. Knowsley are the only local authority in the North of England to be selected to pilot this programme.

Contextual safeguarding differs to our current traditional model of safeguarding which focuses largely on the risks to the child within the family. Instead, a contextual approach focuses on those external 'contextual risks' that our children also face within the community, schools, public spaces, transport, peer group and online and considers interventions to change the systems and conditions in which this type of abuse occurs.

Through analysis of referrals into the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), we can evidence that children in Knowsley experience contextual risks; in particular abuse via Sexual Exploitation and, of even greater prevalence, Criminal Exploitation which includes the national trafficking of our children by Merseyside Organised Crime Groups for the purpose of drug supply.

We know that organisations, professionals, and others play a role in shaping the environments in which this type of abuse is occurring. Rather than removing children from such harmful environments (unless absolutely necessary), a contextual approach seeks to identify ways we can instead use our knowledge, skills, expertise, influence and statutory powers to change the social conditions of environments which has allowed this type of abuse to occur.

The project runs from May 2019 - April 2022, with delivery split into three annual milestones:

- *Year 1 Create:*
- *Year 2 Test:*
- *Year 3 Embed:*


The pilot will commence following an initial visit from the University of Bedfordshire team on 9th May and will involve regular site visits with the team working alongside practitioners as part of the implementation process.

## Signs of Safety

Signs of Safety is a risk assessment, risk management and case-planning process that integrates professional knowledge with local family and cultural knowledge. It helps keep the safety and well-being of the child at the centre of social work.

In September 2018 the Board supported the secondment of the Principle Social Worker from Children's Social Care to implement and embed Signs of Safety. There are governance arrangements in place to oversee and track the progress. The Board are appraised regularly on the progress of the implementation and any risks to embedding the model.

Overall staff in all agencies are embracing the model of intervention and training courses and briefings are well attended. Children's Social Care is beginning to see the model reflected on children's case files.



In Knowsley we want all our children and young people to be happy, healthy, and safe, and to be able to live a life that is full of fun and opportunities to learn and develop. Where possible, we want to support our children and young people to remain with their families within a loving, caring, safe and stable environment. When children are unable to remain in the care of their families, we want to ensure they receive a permanent, loving home as soon as possible. Knowsley is adopting Signs of Safety as our way of working with families because this will support us to achieve the type of service that children, young people, parents and carers have told us they want.

We have four priorities in Children's Social Care, which Signs of Safety will support us to achieve and embed:

- We always put children and young people first
- We understand what impact the situation is having on the child or young person
- We take action to make positive change a reality
- We work with families to achieve long lasting change. Children and young people get the right service for them at the right time.

We believe that using Signs of Safety will support us to deliver high quality practice, and through working together in partnership with families we will be able to achieve strong and sustainable outcomes for children, young people and their families, and empower our families and our professionals.

### **Knowsley Clinical Commissioning Group:**

This year we have maintained CCG representation at the Strategic Board, Executive Board and each of the relevant KSCB Sub Groups.

The safeguarding team are active and valued members of the Board and have participated in several work streams. During the past year the Designated Doctor, Named GP and Designated Nurse have made significant contributions which have included being panel members of a number of Serious Case Reviews.

We have all participated in 'Front Line' visits promoting the work of the safeguarding board and submitting reports highlighting evidence of good practice and raising practitioners concern to the board when indicated at these visits.

The team 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 Named GP for Safeguarding Children continues to develop resources and advice for safeguarding in primary care. This has included delivering in house training to GP practices on request and an annual update session at the GP forum, which was well attended in June 2018. (A further annual update is planned for 2019).

In addition safeguarding updates are provided to be included in the CCG bulletin sent out to all practices: which include best practice guidance and changes to legislation. Additional training has been provided by the Designated Nurse at Practice Nurses and Practice Managers Forum, tailored to their required levels of need.

Following on from the introduction of a safeguarding self-audit for GP's last year we have reviewed their responses and evidence provided. This led the team to have worked alongside the CCG Quality and Safety Team and undertook a number of Safeguarding visits to GP Practices and larger NHS providers: the aim to assess the evidence the practice and providers had indicated existed within their audit. These front line visits will continue into the 2019/20 work plan.


Recognising the significant damage that domestic violence (DV) has on children and working alongside the Community Safety Unit we have developed a DV pathway and referral form for primary care so that practitioners are aware of the different agencies that can support victims/perpetrators of DV who are experiencing all levels of harm.

The Designated Doctor for Knowsley remains a member of the multi-agency strategic Royal College of Paediatric & Child Health (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.

At the medical safeguarding unit at Alder Hey, the Designated Doctor has delivered multiagency 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 and Named GP attended the Cheshire and Merseyside CDOP workshop and contributed to discussions on the statutory changes to the model and work





of CDOP which will take effect in 2019/20. Further Board support has been provided in reviewing of guidance regarding when to suspect non-accidental injury in a non-mobile child who has bruising. The designated Doctor has chaired multi agency reviews for children with significant health and safeguarding concerns including Fabricated Induced Illnesses (FII).

Our Designated Doctor was the key author for the new Multi Agency Child Sexual Abuse clinical pathway for children suspected of being sexually abused. This has been presented to the Merseyside safeguarding boards; the pathway has now been accepted across the Merseyside region. To support this piece of work the Designated Doctor has produced a narrated power point to accompany the CSA clinical pathway, which can be accessed by practitioners via a link on the safeguarding board's website.

The Health Provider Sub Group has continued which provides a forum for named health professional from all health organisations to facilitate a peer review network which supports joint working across provider services to ensure a robust and seamless delivery of effective safeguarding practices within Knowsley. It acts as a conduit for information sharing and ensures the Boards strategy and work plan is delivered by the health partners.

Looking forward to 2019/20 the Team with other significant partners will continue to support and participate in shaping the changes to the safeguarding children's landscape, following legislative changes; which will see us move away from the LSCB and towards the newly formed Safeguarding Children Partnership. The priorities of protecting Children from harm, abuse, neglect and exploitation will remain at the forefront of the CCG strategy and will include working

toward embedding 'signs of safety' across the health economy and participate in piloting the concept of contextual Safeguarding.

### **Private Fostering:**

A multi-agency private fostering group continues to meet quarterly. The role of the group is to raise the profile of Private Fostering in Knowsley and to develop a working action plan to ensure that Agencies/ staff receive training in respect of Private Fostering and have the up to date publicity materials.

The group develops working links with children and community groups to ensure Knowsley residents are aware of Private Fostering.

In addition to the above the Local Authority twice yearly audits all privately foster children cases, to ensure standards and procedures are being adhered to and that permanency for children in such circumstances is progressed without delay.


In 2019 at its peak there were 11 privately fostered children open to Children's Social Care. Many have moved on to permanent situations such as Special Guardianship placements.

Developments in privately fostered children arrangements have progressed to ensure all privately fostered carers have a link worker from the Councils Family and Friend's Team (with the exception of children who are privately fostered because they are part of Liverpool or Everton Football Academies). Also that for those children who are privately fostered they have access to the Councils virtual memory box, where they can store memories, i.e. photographs and certificates for the time they are privately fostered.

### **Merseyside Police:**

We have identified the following Issues and challenges during the year, including barriers to delivering service objectives:

1. We recognised ongoing challenges relating to the demand for the production and review of third party material. It is appreciated that this creates significant workload for Social Care and other key partners and we continue to work with our CPS colleagues to ensure that requests are necessary and proportionate.
2. We recognised the significant increase in CCE and that not having accurate intelligence is adversely affecting our response. The review of the CSE/CCE processes is both essential and timely as we need to improve in this area. The recent launch of the Police Intel portal should assist with the collation of partner data, but this is reliant on partners using the system to provide timely information.
3. Although the increased reporting of child abuse and neglect is welcomed we continue to encourage statutory and third party partners to report suspected cases of neglect in a timely manner. Staff should be encouraged to utilise their professional curiosity to highlight concerns thereby facilitating appropriate and timely intervention. This will assist us to collaborate with partners, in particular CSC, to test the effectiveness of child care plans.



We have identified further work, which will support us in achieving our strategic priorities:

1. Effective Programme of Education in schools (from primary school upwards) to ensure children are aware of the dangers of gang related activity, CE and what to do to avoid it and report it. i.e. 'Get Away N Get Safe', 'Ariel Trust' and the 'Cells Programme'.
2. Review of Harmful Practice Notifications / Investigations to ensure that relevant information is shared between agencies. A harmful practice development meeting has been set up involving representation from Saveria, Police, Social Care practitioners and their Legal departments.

Further meetings are scheduled as we seek a more efficient response in respect of a child /adult who may be under the

constraints of a Harmful Practice Order and /or persons who may have previously come to the attention of services due to Harmful practice concerns.

3. Voice of the child. A number of Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers within Local Policing East (St Helens and Knowsley) have attended 'Voice of the Child' training. This is an ongoing Programme.

During the period, 2018/19 Merseyside Police committed to:

1. Improve internal communication strategy to disseminate learning and information - Police Officers and Police Staff have undergone training relating to spotting the signs of child exploitation and the process of reporting. This includes inputting of intelligence and is an ongoing Programme.

2. Ensure continuous improvement of Child Protection process through constant review - Governance processes have been examined, refined and where necessary reintroduced. This includes timely reviews of investigations and more rigorous local review in respect of Exploitation, Rape and Serious Sexual Assaults.
3. To ensure that Knowsley and St Helens operational MACE processes are being conducted in accordance with the Pan-Merseyside model and that monthly governance meetings are where issues / blockages and good practice are identified.

### Adult Services:

Knowsley has a fully integrated adult and children's Multi Agency safeguarding Hub (MASH), this is unique to the North West region and nationally.

The mature and established working arrangements within MASH ensure an effective and efficient response in sharing information, multi-agency decision making and ensure appropriate actions are put in place to safeguard and support families in Knowsley.

There has been continued development in terms of utilising the daily MASH meeting for multi-agency decision making with a particular focus for adult social care on domestic abuse.

We reviewed our communication literature to reflect a family focused MASH and with the support of the LSCB, a MASH **Who's Who Guide For Practitioners** was published.

We developed partnership working between MASH, Safer Communities team, a nominated representative from the National probation service and developing links with Community Rehabilitation Company.

We reviewed and refreshed the quality assurance framework including the development of weekly audit meetings for Adult Social Care in MASH which monitors the quality of contacts, inappropriate referrals and overall screening of contacts into MASH.

We improved systems to monitor consistency of feedback to referrers.

### What difference we have made:

The MASH episode captures the impact on the child or Adult and/or the voice of the child/adult as part of rationale for decision-making.

- Appropriate decisions are being made and being made in a timely way.

- The knowledge and understanding of thresholds and criteria by partner agencies has increased.
- There has been an increase in partner agencies directly referring cases to the daily MASH meeting
- We have seen a more robust and consistent system of information sharing which is embedded in day to day practice.
- 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 Adults and children.



### Community Safety Partnership:

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 2017–2020. 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.

April 2018 saw the launch of the Domestic Abuse Operational Group which has met on a regular basis to develop and implement the domestic abuse reduction action plan, which sits below and delivers the Domestic Abuse Reduction Strategy 2017 – 2020, across the partnership. Co-Chaired by Knowsley Council's Safer Communities Service and Early Help and Prevention Service, the Domestic Abuse Operational Group has

worked to establish positive and effective partnership working across the borough in order to ensure the delivery of safe practices in relation to domestic abuse across the partnership.

In 2018 the Sustainable Borough Scrutiny Committee reviewed the delivery of domestic abuse services in Borough. The Committee reported back that they were impressed by the committed and proactive approach being adopted by partners across Knowsley to tackle the issue in a context of ever-reducing and uncertain funding. It was highlighted that Knowsley is adopting innovative practices that aim to make real difference to the lives of both victims and perpetrators. The Committee have made eleven recommendations, which will form part of the Domestic Abuse Reduction Action Plan moving forward into 2019/20.

Knowsley has an established victim/survivor pathway which ensures that every victim of domestic abuse is offered support, regardless of their risk level (low-high). In 2018/19 the pathway for adult advocacy support saw over 1400 referrals for service. Knowsley also has a dedicated perpetrator/alleged perpetrator pathway targeting challenge and support to non-statutory offenders.

Living with domestic abuse adversely affects children's health, development, relationships, behaviour and emotional wellbeing, which has consequences for their educational attainment and future life. These Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) are strongly related to the development of risk factors for disease and social wellbeing as they get older.

The impact of domestic abuse on children is recognised as a priority across the partnership. Tables C and D below

illustrates that 62% of total referrals into Safer Communities and MARAC in 2018/19 had children present in the family unit with medium risk assessed incidents demonstrating the highest number in line with the overall referral risk.

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. 2018/19 saw the following partnership success and new initiatives and interventions introduced:-

- Transfer of responsibility for BRAG (bronze and silver domestic abuse screening meeting) from Knowsley MASH to Safer Communities and Early Help and Prevention Service
- Launch of Knowsley Operation Enhance Pilot Programme in partnership with Merseyside Police – Operation Enhance is a secondary response to police call out where victim/survivors are visited jointly by a Knowsley Domestic Abuse Advocates and a police Officer following a police call for service due to domestic abuse.
- Further implementation of pathways for silver and bronze domestic abuse cases
- Increased use of the domestic abuse perpetrator pathway by partners in order to hold perpetrators to account for their behaviour
- Launch of Multi-Agency Task and Co ordination Meeting (MATAc) – a risk assessment conference to identify and provide a partnership response to

challenge the behaviour of high risk serial and repeat perpetrators of domestic abuse.

- In 2018/19 Safer Communities were approached by Children Service Child Protection Chairs regarding the number of children returning to child protection conference/status due to continuing domestic abuse with the family unit. The impact of the Freedom Programme delivered across the borough was acknowledged as extremely positive however, a request was made for a more individualised offer, as there was evidence that individuals were attending Freedom but experiencing further incidents of abuse. In response to this Safer Communities Service commissioned Listening Ear to deliver a Domestic Abuse Group Work Intervention Pilot, with a small group of women whose children were open to CSC and repeat to child protection process.

- In 2018/19 the Knowsley and the wider City Region Authorities were successful in securing funding from The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to further build upon the learning of the pilot dispersed accommodation project from 2017/18. Managed by Knowsley as the lead, the funding has been secured to increase and accelerate access to 160 (30 Knowsley) safe accommodation units for those households fleeing domestic abuse
- Commissioning of services such as 'Listening Ear' to help children affected by domestic abuse
- Early Help and Prevention Service – Family First co-ordinate and deliver the Freedom programme across Knowsley, First Step also facilitate Freedom programmes. At this point in time the delivery of the Freedom programme is undertaken by Family First practitioners. In 2018/19 there have been 10 groups of Freedom delivered in north, central and the south areas of the borough.

In July 2018 Knowsley in partnership with Sefton launched a domestic abuse campaign focusing on coercive control. This area was chosen as most domestic abuse campaigns have focused on physical abuse - some have included emotional abuse; this campaign deals with coercive control exclusively.

There was a need for a campaign to educate that 'coercive control' is part of domestic abuse (and that this is a crime). The campaign focused on 'controlling behaviour', in particular to highlight the key signs. The campaign utilised several creative routes, co-created with key partners from Knowsley & Sefton councils, DA services, Police, OPCC. The use of public testing and stakeholder input led to the final campaign. The key aims of the campaign were to:

- Increase awareness of what coercive control is to the general public / family / friends and victims themselves and that coercive control constitutes domestic

abuse Provide information about accessing help and support services available to victims;

- Offer encouragement to take action by public / family / friends through raising concerns and supporting victims to access support;
- Engage front line staff and support local measures to increase referrals;
- Contribute to making coercive control socially unacceptable.

In 2018/19 Knowsley hosted the second Domestic Abuse Conference in partnership with Sefton. Building on the Domestic Abuse Campaign the conference focused on raising the issue of coercive control to practitioners from Knowsley and Sefton the conference was took place November 2018 and saw 211 delegates in attendance.

Delegates were from across the partnership Safer Communities Service, Strategic Housing, ASC, Police, Early Help and Prevention Services, Family First, Education, IDVA's ,

MASH, registered Social Landlords, Health Professionals, Community and Voluntary Sector Organisations, and others.

The Domestic Abuse Operational Group have worked closely with the KSCB Training Officer to develop a coercive control awareness course for practitioners across the borough. A 'train the trainer' session was delivered to 19 multi-agency professionals identified via the domestic Abuse Operational Group. The course has equipped them with the knowledge, presentation and resources required to facilitate half-day sessions to practitioners in the borough.

The development of links with health services including mental health services is an area that is a priority for further development across the borough. Universal health services such as midwifery, health visitors, GP surgeries, Family Nurses and school nurses

have early contact with vulnerable victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse, as such improving awareness of the pathway to support is required.

In 2018/19 Safer Communities Service attended a number of CCG organised forums and spoke to over 200 practise nurses, GP's, and practise managers in relation to the domestic abuse pathway in Knowsley and patterns of coercive control. To date referral numbers have been disappointing, but the domestic abuse lead is in the process of meeting with a number of centrally located GP surgery practise managers individually to ensure they have the relevant understanding of referring a client is whereby they require support with domestic abuse.

## **Education:**

### **What have we done?**

During the time period September 2018 to June 2019 we offered 175 free single agency Child Protection training places to all schools. We have had 143 staff attend this training.

As part of the school safeguarding SLA we have delivered whole school Child Protection training to 8 schools.

We have offered additional training for schools covering the following topics. Keeping Children Safe in Education update 2018; Operation Encompass refresh; Drug Awareness; Contextual Safeguarding; Peer on Peer abuse; Record Keeping; Single Central Record training; Unspoken risk: Pornography school resources and research; Prevent; Serious: how serious is suicide training; Safer Recruitment.




In response to the findings revealed through Public Health survey we carried out a review of secondary school safeguarding provision with regards to key issues, Bullying; Exploitation; Relationship and sex education. This resulted in a report that was submitted to the board. Schools were also provided with an informal action plan.

Working in partnership with Adults and Children's services we funded a PREVENT/ Channel event delivered by the Merseyside Counter Terrorism Offices and a guest speaker who was able to speak about radicalisation from a personal perspective. A total of 152 people attended across all services.

### **Lord Derby Academy:**

Safeguarding Lead and Deputy are members of the senior team. Annual safeguarding audits completed by the LA safeguarding team and Safeguarding Governor.

- Introduction of CPOMS on line tool to monitor and record safeguarding termly
- Safeguarding training for all staff –
- Help to identify signs of Early Help
- School referrals are successful and pupils and their families are getting the support they need more efficiently
- School identified as a pilot for level 2 support
- Weekly Safeguarding bulletins to all staff – including how to identify the signs of neglect, abuse etc.
- Daily safeguarding briefings with team plus weekly meeting to review the week and entries/follow up/ actions in CPOMS – which ensures the voices and experiences of the children are embedded
- 'Keeping Safe' information board in the main atrium
- Safeguarding assemblies by key staff including Safer Schools Police Officer on issues such as county lines and exploitation
- Safer Schools Police Officer work with pupils on knife crime and county lines so pupils are aware of the signs of exploitation
- Termly/high profile reminders to staff and pupils on how to report any concerns no matter how small - it could be part of a bigger picture
- All SLT and Governors – Safer recruitment
- All staff – PREVENT refresher
- Pupil planners and pupil toilets – key safeguarding information/numbers/access to support/ how to find support in school and during school holidays
- Wellbeing Market Place in collaboration with key Knowsley Services
- Access to continuous training from the Safeguarding team which in turn is cascaded through the school
- Role of key pastoral / safeguarding officer – targeted work with small groups



/ individual vulnerable pupils and those reintegrating into mainstream following external placement / IYTs etc.

- Rigorous challenge of PA pupils. Daily home visits. Home visits following failure to return from holidays

For the Wellbeing Market Place to be an annual event – will need key services to commit to supporting such events, as the demand from other schools became a barrier to their time. This needs a strategic approach across the borough as it is beneficial.

After a recent meeting with a detective – arrangements will be made to invite him in speak at an assembly to raise awareness of exploitation on line. It is anticipated that the key learning delivered by someone who deals with this issue on a daily basis will give a powerful message to the pupils.

### **First Ark – Knowsley Housing Trust:**

In the last year, we have continued to raise the profile of Safeguarding across the Group, this has included:

We have appointed a dedicated Safeguarding Advisor to work in the MASH, providing a more consistent presence. We carried out an Internal Audit of Safeguarding arrangements across the group. The Audit gave reasonable assurance. An action plan has been delivered to address areas for improvement identified in the audit.

We have carried out a review of our Safeguarding Policies and have combined our Safeguarding Adults and Safeguarding Children Policies into a single Safeguarding Policy for the Group. We have delivered a comprehensive programme of Safeguarding training across the group. We have continued to develop our relationship with Children's

Social Care – Young Persons Team and the protocol for rehousing Care Leavers and supporting them to maintain sustainable tenancies.

### **What Difference did it make?**

All of the above initiatives (and others) have contributed to significantly raising the profile of Child Safeguarding across the whole of the Group. This in turn has given staff greater confidence to raise concerns with confidence that they will be sensitively and appropriately dealt with.

### Knowsley Youth Mutual:

KYM facilitated the delivery of a programme of support activities that were focused on improving outcomes. They include;

Me-Time Programme which provides targeted, diversionary activities for children aged between 5-18 years who are identified as young carers or are affected by compromised care commissioned by KMBC.

To be referred onto Me-Time the child/young person must be affected by one of the following issues at home.

- Being a young carer - Any care responsibility for a sibling, parent, carer that impacts on their free time at home. or
- compromised care that falls into three sections below:
  - Mental Health - Parent or carer suffering from any type of mental

health such as depression and anxiety that has an impact on the child becoming isolated at home and affecting their social life.

- Drug/Alcohol Misuse - Any parent/ carer struggling with addiction that would directly affect their child at home, school and social life.
- Domestic Violence - Any child affected by this within the home environment.

Me-Time supports services such as Children's social care, Family first, Health services and Schools.

KYM operate a number of weekly respite sessions enabling children and young people to access health care, emotional support, advice and guidance and encourages social interaction that is personalised to each person. Me-Time is a twelve to twenty four week programme, depending on the individual child/young person. Each child is

collected from home, brought to the Centre, provided with a meal before starting the session and returned home later that evening.

### Brief Case study: Tommy, Male, 13 years old.

Tommy joined the programme in September 2018 and was referred through Knowsley Youth Mutual 'Step Forward' programme. Tommy really struggled with making and maintaining friends. This affected his school, home and social life and proved a constant struggle. The team focused in on targeted time with Tommy working through the foundations of friendships and exploring the type of friends he was seeking. A lot of work went into helping Tommy understanding how certain behaviours are not socially accepted for example, hitting out at other children or putting them down to make himself feel better. Workers also run a number of confidence building workshops which he really benefited from.

Tommy worked so hard and completed a 24 week programme. As a result of his commitment to the programme he has built up a positive friendship with group members and is committed to maintaining these friendships. Following feedback from our interventions this also improved Tommy's home and school life.

### **NEET Moves Project - (Not in Education, Employment or Training)**

NEET Moves provides one to one support to NEET 16-19 year olds to identify barriers and support given to become engaged in Education, Employment and Training.

A personalised strategy is designed with the young person through a holistic approach along with support to access specialist services that meet the needs of the individual.

The project is commissioned by the KMBC 16-19 team. It is designed around a KYM 'One Stop' approach that offers specialist services such as maths, english, career guidance, health services, universal and targeted services, and the YES project which provides information, guidance and support with housing issues, debt management and universal credit. In addition the project offers access to accredited outdoor pursuits such as kayaking, orienteering and archery.

The referral process is open to any service that feels a NEET young person 16-19 would benefit from this holistic approach or an individual can self-refer.

### **Case Study: Owen**

Owen was referred to the team as he had not responded or engaged with any services for a long period of time.

Following multiple visits to the family home by the NEET Moves team trust and relationships were built with the family and Owen. This process was key to supporting Owen and enabled the NEET MOVES team to assess the barriers, identify solutions and support him to attend any appointments and complete relevant applications. Owen had become NEET due to leaving his college course over a year ago due to what Owen felt was lack of support which manifested as anxiety and feelings of low self-worth. This impacted his emotional health and well-being, subsequently resulting in him feeling his only option was to leave college despite him being academically capable as he had achieved high results in his exams and had secured a



place at a notable college. As time passed he became socially isolated, frustrated and unable to identify where to start addressing the issues which, concerns about dealing with multiple services which ultimately affected his well-being.

Through weekly visits the NEET Moves worker created a plan with Owen by identifying and prioritising actions, contacting and completing referrals for the relevant services along with setting tasks for Owen to improve his confidence and become independent.

This resulted in KYM providing transport and supporting him to attend appointments, complete paperwork and applications with services such as, Careers Connect, Knowsley Works and the YES Project. This work enabled him to create a CV, complete employment applications and register with universal credit to get additional support.

KYM supported an application for a citizen card as proof of identity as this had been a constant barrier to access services. These actions enabled him to start to become independent by opening his own bank account and listening to advice on how to manage his money successfully.

### **Step Forward Programme**

Step Forward is a 1-2-1 intervention programme assisting young people's personal development and self-reflection. It uses a 'Youth Star' as a measurement tool to evidence the distance travelled and participant's development during the programme.

The referral process and criteria to access the programme comes through the KMBC 'Early Help Monitoring' system. The outcomes are entered on the 'EHM' system where information can be shared with other professionals working with the aim of the 'child in need' being de-escalated.

The programme negotiates the starting point with participants on the first session and then delivers six Youth Star sessions covering Communication, Making a difference, Wellbeing, Education/Work, Choices and Behaviour, Hopes and Dreams.

Issues can be addressed by the young person to identify, reflect and improve outcomes by giving actions within every session of the programme that enables and re-enforces the journey of change. The final session evaluates the progress on the star and provides a visual map for the young person to reflect.

Step Forward has benefited excluded pupils to access mainstream education, addressed issues such as self-harm, mental health, substance misuse, risk taking behaviour and conflict resolution. The programme also includes an exit strategy to Knowsley Youth Mutual universal offer, targeted services or can help an individual seek out external provisions/support.

### **Brief case study: Megan**

Megan was referred to Step Forward by Social Care due to struggling at school and self-harming. Megan had previously been accessing CAMHS and experienced a family breakdown involving the loss of family member whilst at junior school which she struggled with. This resulted in lost time at school, being bullied and feeling ostracised.

Megan's behaviour declined in secondary school as the bullying continued which added to her having poor school attendance and further self-harming issues when she started on the programme. Megan stated that she felt unlistened too, misunderstood and didn't fit in anywhere.

The programme enabled Megan to build confidence, start to identify a friendship groups and develop self-harm reduction strategies.

Megan engaged and participated fully on the programme and when she completed wanted to stay engaged with KYM services. She attended her local KYM youth club to address her isolation issues and through continued support she joined the KYM 'Be Yourself' group (LGBTQ) which she attended regularly and made good friends with similar views and interests. Megan went on to become a KYM youth club and cabinet representative enabling her to explore her social and political aspirations.

### **Merseyside Community Rehabilitation Company:**

Merseyside Community Rehabilitation Company (MCRC) 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/ safeguarding practice.

Over the last 12 months we have embedded 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.

MCRC has implemented a new Integrated Through the Gate (ITTG) service for men and women in the custodial setting. ITTG supports people through the custodial setting and back in to the community following release from custody. Additionally, Care

Leavers are identified as a group requiring a bespoke approach to support their transition from custody to the community.

The impact of imprisonment on children and families is central to our thinking. We will continue to work across agencies including early help to improve the outcomes for children through direct interventions with adults in the criminal justice system. We build in to our assessments a broad understanding of the whole person and the wider context of their lives.

This includes amongst other things their wider networks including their families and children in contact with the service user. We have developed a range of interventions addressing the needs profile of our service user's interventions which address Domestic Abuse.

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.

More recently MCRC has seconded two staff members to the Local Authority to develop an innovative approach to domestic abuse and the broader safeguarding agenda. We are also looking forward to supporting the contextual safeguarding pilot.

### **National Probation Service:**

#### **What have we done (in our organisation)?**

Having identified that working relationships had drifted and that staff in both children's services and NPS were not necessarily

"up-to-speed" with changes in practice in each other's organisations, liaison took place between key individuals within the respective agencies to refresh working relationships and develop common understanding of practice/roles across the teams.

#### **What difference did it make?**

Improved working relationships, improved mutual understanding of how each other's agencies work, improved quality of referrals, better communication and integration with MASH.

#### **How did your agency implement the KSCB priorities?**

- Children in Knowsley are safeguarded and protected from harm, including abuse, neglect and exploitation.
- Ensuring timely referrals made at the appropriate threshold when safeguarding concerns arise

- Engaging with Child Protection Conference process, CIN process, participating in core group meetings as required
- Providing NPS representation to MASH
- Working in collaboration with CSC to assess and manage risk to children
- Contributing to SCRs as required
- Structured management oversight of Child Protection cases
- Appropriate use of MAPPA framework for cases that require formal multi-agency risk management
- The voices and experiences of children are fully embedded in practice and service planning.
- Practitioners encouraged to use home visits to consider the home circumstances of children and family relationships
- Voice of the child is explicitly noted in MAPPA meeting minutes
- Practitioners are mindful of which partners are based placed to report on the views and experiences of the children

(NPS practitioners do not often have contact with children)

- Embed the learning from case reviews through delivery of the robust action plans, including:
  - Early Help - with particular focus on Domestic Abuse
  - Neglect
  - Exploitation

Local practice workshops held as and when required to discuss and implement learning from SCRs, SFOs and DHRs


### **North West Boroughs Partnership:**

The Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children Community Health Services is supported by a team of four full time Safeguarding Children Specialist Nurses (SCSN).

They provide support and advice to Community Health Practitioners as well as delivering a structured programme of case supervision for all children who have an identified level of additional need, the team also supports the Multi agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) providing full time representation.

The Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children Mental Health and Learning Disability Services is supported by a full time lead Practitioner, offering support and case supervision for practitioners working in both children's and adults services, as well as delivering a structured programme of group supervision to those staff in CAMHS and EIT supervision. They are also involved in the development, planning and delivery of training for a variety of safeguarding themes for single and multi-agency audiences.





The Named Nurse for Looked after Children is supported by a Specialist Nurse for Looked after Children and a Looked after Children Support Worker. Local authorities have a statutory duty to promote the health and wellbeing of children looked after (CLA). The local authority carries out this duty through a commissioning process hosted by Knowsley CCG. This service is provided by North West Boroughs Health Care NHS Foundation Trust (NWBH) to ensure this duty is discharged.

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

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

The Safeguarding Service is required to report a KPI data set to Merseyside Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) on a quarterly basis. This data set includes but is not limited to:

- Safeguarding training compliance
- Attendance at multi-agency meetings
- Oversight of key policy and procedures
- Provision of Safeguarding case supervision to frontline practitioners
- Completion of Initial and review LAC health assessment within statutory timeframes
- Key public health data for children looked after
- Audit

An important part of the role of the Safeguarding Children Service is the provision of Safeguarding Case Supervision to all front line practitioners within NWBH who work with children. This is delivered through a variety of methods including face to face one to one individual case supervision, team group supervision, and multi-disciplinary group supervision.

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

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

For children who have been looked after continuously for 1 year by 31st March in the reporting year Statutory Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) are reported to the Department for Education (DfE) by Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council Children's Services on 31st March. The local authority national KPI's for health are:


- Up to date health surveillance or health promotion checks for children from birth to 5 years of age.
- Immunisations up to date.
- Dental check during the reporting year.
- Statutory L.A.C. health assessment during the reporting year.
- Substance misuse (identified, receiving interventions, offered interventions.)
- Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) score for children between 4 years and 16 years.

The Safeguarding Children service has continued to strengthen the provision of case supervision and developed new supervision paperwork to ensure that the voice of the child is captured, and that the Signs of Safety Model is embedded in supervision. Improvements have been made to the health action plans for children looked after and a schedule of internal training has been delivered to support this.

The service has focused on improving practitioner's knowledge and understanding of County Lines and the effects on children in Knowsley, with a series of training events having been delivered and a programme of awareness raising completed.

### **Knowsley Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Unit:**

Knowsley Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Unit has a fully staffed team of permanent staff who carry out the function of Independent Reviewing Officers and Child Protection Chairs, and a Participation Officer. Having a permanent team of staff has enabled positive and meaningful relationships to be built with Children, Families and Partner agencies. All Reviewing officers are trained to an advanced level of IRO via Edge Hill University. The Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Unit is responsible for the monitoring and reviewing of child protection plans and care plans for children looked after ensuring plans for children are robust smart and do-not drift. If plans do not have the desired effect of improving outcomes for children then it is the role of the Safeguarding unit to challenge both Children's Social Care and Partners.



The performance within the unit is good, and is above statistical neighbours in relation to Child Protection and Children Looked After reviews. This has ensured that children who are at risk of significant harm are supported by a multi-agency plan in a timely manner and that partner agencies are all working together to protect children in Knowsley. We have seen more children attend their Child Protection Conferences during this year. This has enabled children to understand why they are on a Child Protection Plan and why professionals are concerned for their wellbeing. Child Protection Chairs have also been visiting children who have been on Child Protection Plans for over 18 months, this has enabled them to have a greater understanding of the child's daily lived experience.

Independent Reviewing Officer's use a variety of different engagement tools aiming to suit the individual's child's preferences, personality, likes and dislikes. e.g. cake making, make up

activity, drawing workshops, use of the Ketso tool (an engaging and interactive tool which encourages children's active involvement in the agenda and action planning), adaptations of the signs of safety model with the focus on strengths. IROs have a duty to ensure that children's plans are clearly scrutinised and that a plan for permanence is achieved in a timely manner and any drift and delays to the plans are challenged.

One of the priorities for the unit was engaging children to chair their own reviews. A third of Children Looked After, chaired their own reviews during this year. This enabled the child to have ownership of their own plans and ensures that their voices are heard. This ensures that the meeting is child led and that their views are acted upon.

We have been working with professionals to change the language we use within our documentation such as consultation forms for children, parents and professionals, and that

jargon is not written within reports. This had led to reports that are produced being more easily understood by children and families.

The Safeguarding Quality Assurance Unit is supporting the implementation of Signs of Safety and the Unit are seeing staff within all agencies starting to implement the principles of Signs of Safety both within the Child Protection Process and Children Looked After service. The Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Unit is also supporting the implementation of Contextualised Safeguarding model. Staff within the Safeguarding Quality Assurance Unit have been trained to be Contextualised Safeguarding Champions. This will further support the unit in developing plans that will consider the risk outside of the family home.

### **Participation – Part of the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Unit**

Since March 2018 – April 2019 Knowsley CICC consultation groups, MADE - Junior and Senior, restructured their meetings to ensure that all age groups known to specific social work teams had their voice heard. This change was to ensure that children and young adult's voices were captured more effectively to capture views through lived experiences.

Together the care experienced groups have worked to ensure their lived experiences are shared to impact on the provision of care and services available to them across Knowsley. They have worked closely this year providing feedback and suggestions for future developments at the Corporate Parenting Board, to Lead Members, John Moore's university students, to Health professionals from across the country and Knowsley Foster

carers. They have delivered this through projects and organised consultation methods this year in order to improve the experiences of children in care and care leavers.

An example of the work completed was with the Royal college of Paediatrics in February where eight of our children began working with Children Looked After from Warrington on a joint Child Health project. The aim was to creatively express ideas about how to better engage with children about their health and wellbeing. The RCPCH conference took place on 13th May 2019, and six children presented their findings to over 250 health professionals. MADE have since made links with Alder Hey health professionals and have been requested to support consultation in the future to ensure a range of children's views are fully represented, this will support the future work and priorities of the board.

In October, the Partnership supported CSC's fourth annual Celebration of Achievement event in Knowsley's 'The Venue'. The event recognises the successes of Knowsley's looked after children and includes awards in education, personal achievement, sports and leisure. Over 150 children were given recognition for their hard work, and personal achievements throughout the year.

This year Our Participation Officer and three Care Leavers were commissioned by John Moore's University to deliver 'The voice of the child looked after' training to 54 Social work MA students. The training was well received and students as well as the course coordinator gave excellent feedback: 'This was the most beneficial day I have had yet in university', 'Thank you for supporting my learning', 'It's been the most interesting lecture yet'.

During summer our children attended the North West CICC game changer conference held in Manchester University. The group joined over 16 local authorities across the region to discuss areas of interest which then later developed in to focusing Knowsley's CPB themes for the year such as Care leavers Local Offer, Placements (where you live), Emotional health and education.

### **Youth Offending Service:**

Since the submission of the previous annual plan there have been a number of significant changes for Knowsley Youth Offending Service (YOS), these include Membership changes to Youth Justice Management Board, the election of a new Chair for the Youth Justice Management Board, commencement of a Service Review to be implemented in 2019,

Consultation and publication of the new National Standards, new HMIP Inspection framework, successful selection to be part of 3 year pilot with University of Bedfordshire to embed contextual safeguarding within Knowsley Children's services and Merseyside YOS development of Trauma Led Practice in YOS.

In respect of the Strategic Youth Justice Plan 2018/19 the improvement plan has been successfully completed, approved and signed off by the Youth Justice Management Board (YJMB).

During this year Knowsley YOS experienced further governance/leadership changes and ongoing statutory partner cuts whilst responding to local issues and demands.


Despite this Knowsley YOS has delivered all of the planned improvements in response to emerging themes within the local and

national arena for youth justice. The Health and Wellbeing Review was postponed due to the implementation of Thrive but will be carried over into this year's Improvement plan.

The Improvement Plan assisted Knowsley YOS to continue to deliver a successful Community Resolution service and develop criminal exploitation extended voluntary programme for children at risk who are coming to the end of an Out of Court or Court disposal.

We have strengthened experiences, networks and processes regarding human trafficking, Prevent/Dovetail, Y2A Transitions and MARTH/IOM. As well as re-invigorating the Custody Panel and further developing the Merseyside Central Court Service.





Exploration of data and intelligence has also supported understanding of our re-offending cohort, including analysis of children arrested for offensive weapon offences regarding their educational background & status.

This has supported our contribution to the Knowsley SEND strategy and the development of educational pathways for YOS children and their siblings, as well as ongoing work around Restorative Practice/ Victims, Children Looked after and Care Leavers, Participation and staff professional development.


Knowsley YOS continues to sit on the Merseyside Criminal Justice Board (MCJB) and all YOTs are active members of the MCJB subgroup Youth Performance Improvement Group. In addition Greater Merseyside YOTs still maintain the Greater Merseyside Strategic Leads Group which was chaired by Knowsley YOS Service Manager until April 2019.

This collaboration allows us to jointly respond to demands, share resources, national developments, and Inspection updates in a swift and timely manner. It also assists us in the Collaborative Training Group which provides shared training and joint training priorities across Greater Merseyside to ensure staff have the most up to date training and development to meet the needs of children and achieve outcomes using a collaborative efficient shared training model.

In 2018 we launched the reviewed Pan Merseyside Unnecessary Criminalisation of Looked after Children Protocol following approval from Merseyside Criminal Justice Board and the Directors of Children's Services. The protocol was launched locally within Knowsley but also across Merseyside including the Merseyside Care Home Providers forum.

Within a few months of this launch the National Protocol on Reducing Unnecessary Criminalisation of Looked-after Children and Care Leavers was published in November 2018. This has resulted in additional work with Knowsley Commissioning Services and Leaving Care Team to respond to the additional considerations that need developing this year. These were presented to the Knowsley Corporate Parenting Board in March 2019.

In addition, the Pan Merseyside 'Out of Court Disposal (OCD) Protocol was reviewed taking into account findings from the thematic inspection on OCD. The Protocol finalisation has been delayed awaiting a Police IT upgrade before it can be rolled out, although the work between the YOTs and Merseyside Police regarding Cannabis Community Resolutions has commenced.



The Strategic Youth Justice Plan 2019/20 has not yet been completed but we face a number of challenges this year: we have a service review to complete due to an accumulation of council required savings, statutory partner cuts and increasing staffing costs/progressions. We also anticipate an inspection soon and we are also planning for the National Standards changes that will present its own challenges and risks.

At the same time we are developing trauma led practice in YOS to tackle and support the increasingly complex re-offending cohort, and we will also be part of the University of Bedfordshire Contextual Safeguarding developments within Knowsley over the next 3 years.

### **Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service:**

In December 2018, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service (MFRS) were inspected by HMIC FRS around the following three main questions:

1. How effective is MFRS at keeping people safe and secure from fire and other risks.
2. How efficient is MFRS at keeping people safe and secure from fire and other risks.
3. How well does MFRS look after its people?

Under section 1, in respect of preventing fires and other risks MFRS were awarded the judgement grade of 'outstanding'. Although safeguarding was not a specific theme on this occasion, the Inspectors did make the following observation, "Firefighters we spoke to provided us with consistent first-hand evidence of occasions when they had dealt with safeguarding concerns, both at

operational incidents and during day-to-day business. We found that they are well trained and confident. They explained to us how they followed the referral pathways the service had in place".

The main prevention activity of MFRS continues to be the Home Fire Safety Check (HFSC) which is conducted by Operational Crews and the Safe and Well visit (for higher risk individuals), which is delivered by our Vulnerable Person Advocates (VPA). We visited approximately 60,000 properties across Merseyside in 2018-19 (approximately 4,500 of these in Knowsley). During these visits, a risk assessment is undertaken which includes looking at the environment for families, children and young people;

In September 2019, MFRS will be delivering a Fire Cadets Unit (13-17 years old) after school at All Saints Secondary School;

MFRS are representing the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) at the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) looking at safeguarding in out-of-schools-settings; MFRS have appointed an Early Help Coordinator who will undertake duties in September 2019.

MFRS continue to identify children between the ages of 4-12 who display signs of interest in fire-setting and deliver our Safety Awareness Fire Education (SAFE) package. Multi-agency Interventions are bespoke for young people aged between 12 and 18.

In addition to our Princes Trust (based at Prescott Fire Station), MFRS delivered a Beacon in partnership with Everton in the Community (EitC) project that supports young people who are on the cusp of exclusion and at risk of child criminal exploitation due to this - [https://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/in-your-area/primary-beacon-programme-supports-](https://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/in-your-area/primary-beacon-programme-supports-youngsters-16444927.amp?__twitter_impression=true)

[youngsters-16444927.amp?\\_\\_twitter\\_impression=true](https://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/in-your-area/primary-beacon-programme-supports-youngsters-16444927.amp?__twitter_impression=true)

### **What difference did it make?**

MFRS recorded the lowest ever fire deaths (4) and accidental dwelling fires (981), highlighting MFRS prevention strategy and making Merseyside communities safer from the risk of fire;

Due the attendance of MFRS at fire incidents and during the delivery of prevention activities, MFRS have identified numerous families and children and young people who have been exposed to risk or have been identified as being at risk and have been referred for either high risk fire interventions or considering for safeguarding.

Our Youth Engagement activities have reduced the levels of violence at work against the Fire and Rescue Service and engaged children and young people in activities that are diversion from ASB and CCE.


On a national basis MFRS/NFCC are contributing to the out-of-school-settings steering group, advising how the use of fire safety legislation and softer intelligence can contribute to identifying and reducing safeguarding risks within these settings.

### **How did your agency implement the KSCB priorities?**

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

The MFRS prevention strategy reduces the risk of fire in Merseyside, however it also ensures that safeguarding awareness is embedded in all activities delivered and MFRS staff are able to refer confidently through the appropriate channels.

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



MFRS use the engagement with Children and Young People to allow them to be able to voice their journey through their time with MFRS and advise us how we can improve our interventions to make them relevant.

3. Embed the learning from case reviews through delivery of the robust action plans, including:
  - 3a) Early Help - with particular focus on Domestic Abuse
  - 3b) Neglect
  - 3c) Exploitation

MFRS are creating an area on our new internal portal pages that will highlight learning from case reviews and include good practice to be implemented by MFRS; MFRS continue to use case studies at CPD Days to ensure learning is shared with Vulnerable Person Advocates.







# Appendix B Multi-Agency Training

## Update and Evaluation report 2018 - 19

### I. Introduction

The focus of the KSCB Training Officer has remained on the themes of Domestic Abuse, Child Exploitation and Neglect in line with the identified priorities of the Board/ Partnership. As well as being informed by the identified priorities of the Board, it is influenced by lessons derived from local serious case reviews, audits and national safeguarding agendas.

Practitioners have had the opportunity to access online modules, an annual conference, face-to-face training courses, 60 Minute briefings and 7 Minute briefings.

### 2. Training Update – what has been updated and what is new?

#### **UPDATED**

#### **Working Together to Safeguard Children (Initial (2 day) and Refresher (1 day) courses)**

The courses were updated to reflect the publication of Working Together to Safeguard Children guidance in 2018. Members of the training pool were consulted with the new presentation and materials and provided positive feedback that the updated course reflected the new changes in guidance and met the course objectives. National agendas such as 'Contextual Safeguarding' and 'ACES' (Adverse Childhood Experiences) have also been included. The course has also been updated to include information on the 'Signs of Safety' framework. More amendments will eventually be required as child protection conferences change their format in line with

the 'Signs of Safety' framework.

A Merseyside training group has been formed, to improve cross border working and the Working Together courses delivered across Merseyside have been reviewed to ensure they are comparable and of good quality, meeting similar aims and objectives.

#### **NEW**

#### **Professional Challenge**

This course was created by NWIAT (North West Inter Agency Trainers) in response to findings from serious case reviews and audits, in which it was identified that in some circumstances practitioners failed to appropriately challenge other colleagues, record their actions and utilise their multi-agency escalation policies. The course was created in 2017 and was included in this year's training programme for the first time.

### **NEW**

#### **Identifying and Talking About Suicide - Papyrus**

This course was commissioned by Public Health in order to equip practitioners with the necessary skills and knowledge to identify and talk to children about suicide. The course was advertised and managed through KSCB and prepared participants to identify young people who are having thoughts of suicide, how to respond appropriately and effectively and how to connect them to support.

### **NEW**

#### **Safer Recruitment**

The majority of 'Safer Recruitment' courses have been delivered solely to Education providers by the 'Education Improvement Service'. In recognition that it is best practice for other agencies to attend this training, the

course has been amended to include multi-agency information and case studies. We have offered additional places, in particular to early years settings. They have welcomed the opportunity to improve their recruitment processes and procedures.

### **NEW**

#### **Merseyside CDOP – SERIOUS Suicide Prevention Training**

This course is currently under development in partnership with Merseyside Youth Association. The course content will be influenced by local parents of children who died by suicide and by young people's views, wishes and feelings regarding how professionals should talk to them about this issue.

### **NEW**

#### **Coercive Control**

This course is currently under development. Merseyside Police have teamed up with Lancashire University with a view to them producing a course suitable for the whole police service. Alongside this, a multi-agency professionals course will be developed.

### **NEW**

#### **Signs of Safety**

Knowsley is adopting the 'Signs of Safety' framework as our way of working with families because this will support us to achieve the type of service that children, young people, parents and carers have told us they want. We believe that using 'Signs of Safety' will support us to deliver high quality practice, and through working together in

partnership with families, we will be able to achieve strong and sustainable outcomes for children, young people and their families, and empower our families and our professionals. 'Signs of Safety' is an innovative, solution-focused, strengths-based approach to working with children, young people and families. It provides a clear framework for how to do the work within 'Children's Services'; how to build relationships with families and work effectively with them to achieve better outcomes for children and young people.

In terms of training, multi agency practitioners will be given the opportunity to attend briefings, workshops and more 'in-depth' training courses to equip them with the knowledge and skills required to embed the 'Signs of Safety' framework. Senior stakeholders and managers were initially invited to attend a 2-day training session; large numbers of front-line practitioners are now scheduled to attend.

### 60 Minute and 7 Minute Briefings

A number of 60 Minute (and workshop style) briefings have been delivered. Themes have ranged from Universal Credit, Completing Child Protection Conference Reports, Ecstasy and Current Trends and Graded Care Profile 2. Agencies have volunteered to deliver briefings or have been contacted by us when an emerging issue or subject has become known.

7 Minute Briefings are distributed and published on the KSCB website on a regular basis and have proved extremely popular. The following list is a snap shot of some of the themes that have been covered and a number of editions have launched new policies and procedures.

- Knowsley Neglect Screening Tool (GCP2)
- Working Effectively with Men in Families
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)
- Coercive Control

- Knowsley Child Exploitation Policy
- National Enquiry of Suicides Jan 2019

### Bespoke Training Courses

- Safeguarding Children for Foster Carer's
- Working Together to Safeguard Children for NWBH Practitioners
- Safeguarding Presentation available for Taxi Drivers
- Prevent
- Operation Encompass briefing
- Thresholds
- LADO briefing
- Coercive Control Train the Trainer

### 3. Identified Themes: KSCB Business Priorities


#### Domestic Abuse

The KSCB Training Officer has been involved in the development of a Coercive Control course; this was initially researched and written on behalf of Merseyside Police. Dr Charlotte Barlow (Lancashire University) also created a shorter version of the module for partner agencies. Dr Barlow came to Knowsley and delivered a 'train the trainer' session to 19 multi-agency professionals, equipping them with the knowledge, presentation and resources required to facilitate half-day sessions within their own agencies. The first multi-agency session has recently and successfully been delivered; more sessions will be on offer in next year's programme. There is a training element within the Domestic Abuse Operational Group Action Plan; we have remained

focused on the delivery of the 'Coercive Control' conference and development of the course.

Other Courses have included:

- Online: An Introduction to FGM, Forced Marriage, Spirit Possession and Honour Based Violence
- Partners from NWBH and CGL supported the delivery of Compromised Care (Parental Mental Health, Parental Substance Misuse and Domestic Abuse) training. These issues have been recurrent in local serious case reviews and audits.
- KSCB supported the Safer Communities Partnership in their delivery of the Knowsley Domestic Abuse Conference - 'Exploring Coercive Control'.
- Online awareness of Domestic Violence and Abuse



“ At the conference, I particularly enjoyed hearing the account of the survivor and their experiences of agencies and how she highlighted the lack of knowledge / understanding of the family courts ”

“ Very informative, really Improved my knowledge and was extremely thought provoking in terms of practice ”

### Child Exploitation

- Catch 22 provided a number of practitioner 'Child Exploitation' and 'Missing' briefings. These have been updated to include child criminal exploitation.
- Knowsley led on a Pan Merseyside Child Exploitation and Missing Event and subsequent briefings have been delivered to Knowsley practitioners to update them on changes to the new policy.



“Facilitator had excellent knowledge and understanding and training was delivered at an appropriate level and pace”

“The trainers had a lot of knowledge and were insightful”

“It was really beneficial. Great links to resources and practical ways of engaging young people”

### Neglect

- We have continued to deliver the 'Graded Care Profile 2' training course. Seven professionals are licensed to deliver this training and we have continued to monitor attendance and the use of the GCP2 via the 'Early Help Module' and ICS. Regular updates are provided to the main board meetings.
- A 'Child Abuse and Neglect' online course has been made available to practitioners via the KSCB website.
- Experienced practitioners have delivered 'Exploring Neglect' training, which promotes the use of the GCP2 and will include the updated neglect strategy and practice guidance.



Amazing teachers. Really relaxed and informative.  
Loved it

A very interesting day, very interactive

I thought the whole session was well run and the  
facilitators very knowledgeable



I would highly recommend this training, especially the  
partnership working and training together

Positive training, clearly delivered

Felt it was delivered in a very good way, informative,  
clear and precise



### **Serious Case Review Learning Event – Child Jane**

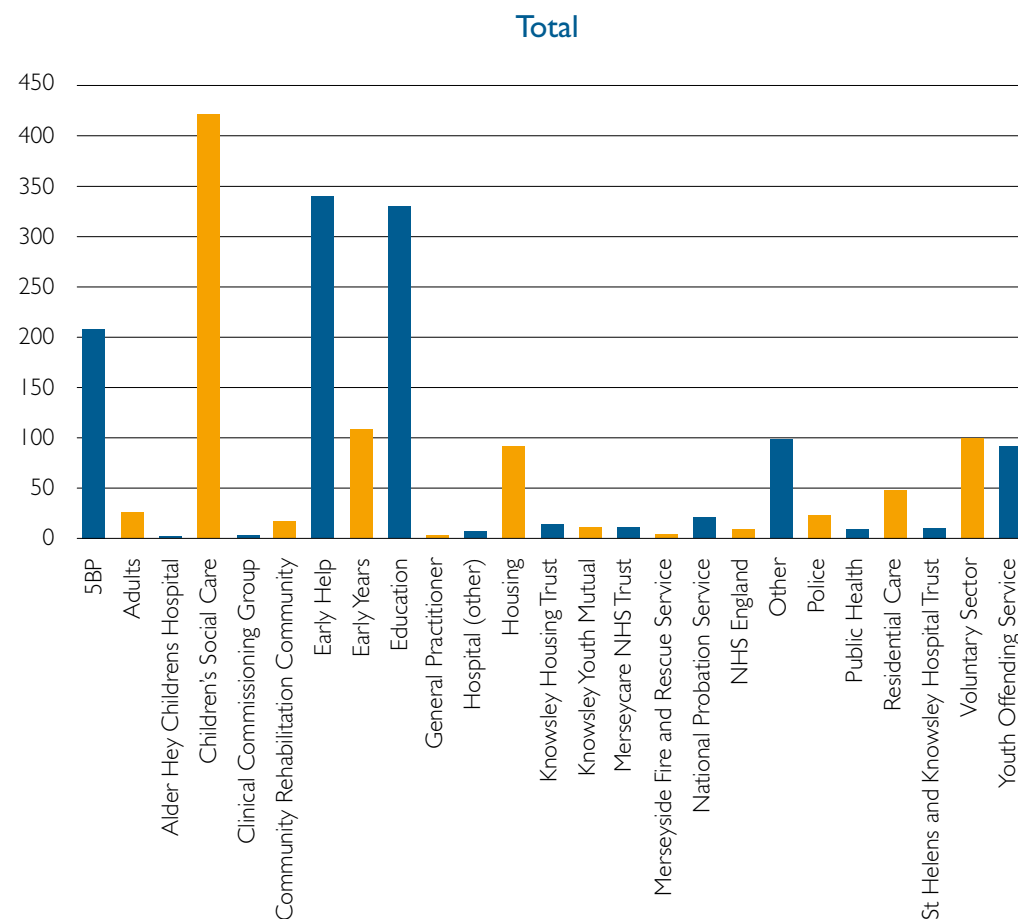
Practitioners and managers were invited to attend a briefing to cascade the learning and recommendations from the 'Child Jane' serious case review. This review concerned allegations of sexual abuse. We also published a 'Response document' highlighting what we have done in response to the recommendations and lessons learned.

#### **4. Attendance**

During the period of 2018-19; 1858 delegates (including the annual conference, online modules and Joint Adults and Children's Alerters Training) have accessed or attended training sessions, briefings or conferences delivered or administered by the KSCB. A decrease of 150 delegates compared with last year. Of those recorded on the KSCB booking portal, 47 did not

attend, equating to a 4% non-attendance rate, a significant decrease from the 13% from the previous year. We have continued to enforce the 'Non-Attendance' policy. Large numbers of delegates who are unable to attend a training session now inform us via email.

The following chart depicts total attendance figures booked via the KSCB training booking portal for the KSCB training programme (not including Alerter's Training) by agency basis. Practitioners employed by Children's Social Care take up the majority of the attendance followed by Early Help (mainly Family First), Education and North West Boroughs Healthcare (Inc. 5 Boroughs Partnership).



## Online Training Programmes

This year a total of 330 licences were on offer to practitioners via the 'Virtual College'. The following table highlights the most popular courses accessed.

Most Popular Online Courses	Total
Knowsley - An Introduction to FGM, Forced Marriage, Spirit Possession and Honour Based Violence	58
Knowsley - Awareness of Child Abuse and Neglect - Core	56
Knowsley - Safeguarding Everyone – Protecting Children, Young People and Adults at Risk	72

The majority of online courses were accessed by Children's Residential Settings, Early Years Settings and Education.

## 5. Course Evaluation

Multi-Agency KSCB training is evaluated using a number of methods:

- a) Course evaluation from participants after the course via the online booking portal;
- b) Quantitative means i.e. scrutinising attendance figures and agency breakdown
- c) Feedback from trainers;
- d) Impact and evaluation processes using post course questionnaires, survey monkey, observations, course reviews and follow up consultation by the KSCB training officer supported by the 'Learning & Development' sub-group members on certain courses identified via business plan priorities.

All delegates on KSCB training sessions are asked to complete an evaluation form at the end of a course. In the past year, 70% of evaluations have been completed, a significant increase from 30% the previous year. This has been due to the persistence of the administrator by sending reminders to participants.

Participants are directed to comment on what they felt most useful, to rate their subject knowledge and understanding prior to; and after attending the course, how they intended to use what they had learnt back in the workplace, what their overall evaluation of the course was and for any further comments.

Of those who completed an online evaluation, 98% of respondents rated their subject knowledge as having improved extensively or to some extent. There is clear evidence of increased knowledge and understanding with attendees particularly appreciative of;

- The knowledge and enthusiasm of facilitators
- Being provided with relevant up to date information
- Being given opportunities for discussion and reflection
- Learning from colleagues from other disciplines
- Multi-agency working and the mix of group work and activities to make training more enjoyable
- Well informed, insightful, professional friendly trainers.



“

I loved how the staff giving the course interacted and had everyone up getting involved, they were really friendly and knowledgeable!

Amazing teachers, really relaxed and informative.  
Loved it

”

“

Brilliant information and activities, the speaker was very sensitive and had a lovely mannerism. There were opportunities to voice opinions in a safe environment.

“Material used was informative and thought provoking

”

98% of those who completed evaluation forms online rated the training as good or excellent.

We received excellent feedback regarding the Graded Care Profile 2 training programme. 99% of those who attended rated the training as good or excellent, with 99% stating their knowledge has increased to some degree or extensively. Feedback included: “The course delivery was excellent and the content was really useful.” “Knowledge of content by tutors was very good and they were approachable. Both tutors went over the same information and asked questions to identify when learning had taken place.” “Amazing teachers. Really relaxed and informative. Loved it.”



A 'Survey Monkey' questionnaire was issued to 60 practitioners that had completed the 'Graded Care Profile 2' training in order to capture their feedback and determine whether they had progressed to utilise the tool. 30% of those surveyed had gone on to use the tool, the majority at level three of the 'Continuum of Need'. The tool (GCP2) was most regularly used to step cases up or at multi-agency meetings such as 'Team Around the Family' or 'Child Protection' meetings. It was also used at level three and four to focus and target particular areas of concern.

Practitioners were asked to record what had been the outcome for children and families after utilising the form. Their responses included;

- Addressed concerns with parents and children to offer support.
- The parent engaged very well and we have seen improvements for the whole family. Mum's state of mind seems much

improved and the engagement with children has improved. Children seem happier and more confident. This tool allowed us to explore in depth, some of the concerns regarding the emotional aspect of parenting.

- Improved home conditions.
- Improved relationship with the family.
- It has been possible to hold a focussed conversation with parents to address a concern and it has been described as 'an agreed shared view between agencies to the parents, not just based on one person's view'.
- Step up to CSC following single assessment.
- Improved nutrition.
- One case was stepped up, another case highlighted strengths and areas for development.
- Improved stimulation, development and attending health appointments.

- Identified areas for progress around rules and boundaries impacted by parental substance misuse.
- Able to target interventions where they are most needed to ensure children's needs are being met. Parents have been able to see clearly, why professionals are worried. Plans enable a targeted approach to interventions that have improved situations for young people.
- Highlighted gaps in support or identified further complexities to a family's situation that may identify as barriers to engagement. Further explored support needs and justification; Evidence to families (particularly parents) why professionals are concerned and show them what we can do together; Evidence individual family member's views and voices.
- Helped to highlight concerns in the family home.

- It has enabled practitioners to focus on priorities for change and allowed parents to focus on making the changes needed. Relationships have been sustained, as there is a written measure.

This highlights how using the GCP2 effectively, can make a difference for the families and children receiving support from partner agencies.

The 70% of those who had not used the tool yet gave various reasons, such as not having access to the 'Early Help Module' system, this has now been rectified and access for partner agencies has now improved. Other reasons included not having a suitable case and time constraints.

Going forward, in order to increase use of the tool, the Board will be monitoring data regarding its use.

The case studies below highlight how a case was used at child protection level and family first (level 3):

### **Case Study 1 – Child Protection**

Large sibling group living with both parents. The oldest child is a teenager and the youngest is a baby. The family moved to Knowsley and had no family support in the area. A referral was made to Children's Social Care due to concerns regarding the father's inappropriate relationship with a young female.

A strategy meeting was held and a Section 47 investigation and Single Assessment was completed. During the completion of the assessment a number of concerns regarding 'neglect' were identified. These included home conditions, lack of engagement with health services, developmental delay of the younger children in the family, physical chastisement and behaviour issues with the older children.

Four months later, the children were made subject to 'child protection' plans.

Another four months later, a Graded Care Profile 2 was completed. This identified the areas that required addressing as part of the child protection plan. Family support workers arranged to visit the family on a regular basis to address the issues including home conditions and managing the children's behaviour. It was identified that Mum struggled to bond with the children. Family Support were able to work on this and Mum was referred to another service for support. Nursery and schools were able to provide additional support to help the children with their development and health professionals provided extra support to attend health appointments.

Other agencies supported the children with activities and therapeutic support respectively. A further Graded Care Profile 2 was completed 4 months later, which indicated that there had been some improvements. Agencies were still concerned that there was risk of significant harm so the children remained on child protection plans at the review conference.

A further Graded Care Profile 2 was completed and this showed that significant improvements had been made across all domains. Agencies were satisfied that the parents had been able to evidence significant and sustained positive change and it was agreed that the child protection plans could end.

### **GPC2 Case Study 2 Family First**

Mother and Father (Mother has some learning difficulties) with a large sibling group of children, some with identified learning difficulties and developmental delay. The family had been open to children's services over a period of years and eventually was stepped down to 'Family First' following completion of an initial graded care profile (prior to the new GPC2). The case had been open to 'Family First' for a period of 18 months.

There were initial concerns regarding parenting capacity, mother's learning needs, supervision of the children, lots of accidents reported to health, family home environment, hygiene and cleanliness levels in the home and parental capacity to upkeep their property. The family resided in a small housing association property.

The Mother was assessed by adult services regarding her needs and level of understanding, support was offered regarding routines, bedtime safety in the home, transition for support via adult services; referral for further assessment of one of the children's learning needs. Support was also provided regarding school attendance levels.

Completion of the GCP2 enabled parents to see what they had achieved and what areas of their lives they had made progress in, as well as what areas continued to be a difficulty. Parents engaged well in this process. The approach from multi agencies has evolved, from a somewhat negative approach initially, which disengaged the parents to a more inclusive approach. The parents are now happier to attend meetings. The GCP2 highlighted housing as an area that required further support. The family have recently moved to a larger, more suitable property.

Professionals are now looking to step the case down to health and schools in the future due to all areas of support being completed and the family having made significant improvements with how they now care for the children.

## 6. Training Pool

Members of the KSCB training pool have contributed to the design, review and delivery of training courses including 'Professional Challenge' and 'Coercive Control'.

The Training pool is currently made up of practitioners from the following roles and agencies:

Health: Specialist Nurses Safeguarding Children
Senior Children's Development and Learning Officer
Early Years: Early Years Quality Manager
Health: Adult Mental Health
SHIELD
Family First
QAU Conference Chairs
QAU Quality Assurance Lead
Catch 22
Public Sector: Community Prevention and Education Worker
CSC/MASH: Social Workers
Education: School Designated Safeguarding Officer

## 7. Learning and Development Sub Group

The Learning and Development Sub Group meet on a quarterly basis, a key role of this group is to ensure agencies are aware of the multi agency training programme on offer and to quality assure single agency training when requests are made. They also consider any new multi-agency training courses that may have been introduced. Members are provided with a quality assurance tool to support them with this task.

The KSCB Training Officer has chaired most of the meetings, providing members with updates regarding the training programme, feedback from participants and forthcoming training opportunities. The chair considers learning from recent serious case reviews or practice learning reviews and shares this with the group to ensure learning is cascaded throughout the partnership.

Members of the 'Sub Group' reviewed the content of the Level 3 online training 'North West Boroughs Healthcare' have produced in line with their intercollegiate document. The quality assurance process highlighted a number of inaccuracies which have since been rectified.

This group will continue to play a role in quality assurance and a more significant responsibility of sharing the learning of local and national reviews.

## 8. Conclusion

The 2018-19 KSCB Training Programme has proved to be a success with participants, the introduction of new and updated training courses have enabled participants to feel that the knowledge and skills they have gained are right up to speed with current legislation and guidance. We have been able to react when learning has been identified by providing 60 Minute or 7 minute briefings whilst planning

courses for future training programmes. The KSCB training booking portal and its reporting system Qlickview has enabled the Board to monitor attendance and evaluation allowing its administration officer to implement the 'non-attendance charging policy' when necessary and track the progress of whether delegates have completed online evaluations. We have seen significant improvement in both the number of evaluations completed and the numbers attending training or providing sufficient notice when cancelling a reservation. Courses have proved extremely useful, informative and relevant to participants. There is clear evidence of increased knowledge and understanding.



