



Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership Learning and Improvement Framework

May 2020

Introduction

This document sets out how learning will be identified, disseminated and implemented in practice within a multi-agency context in order to improve outcomes for children and their families within Knowsley.

KSCP Learning and Improvement Framework is central to the Knowsley's multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, enabling not only a rigorous assessment of the quality of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements but how we learn from this to drive forward improvements to the safeguarding system and in turn, outcomes for children and young people.

How will we improve outcomes for children?

Learning will be drawn from a range of sources and all agencies who are represented on KSCP have an obligation to provide relevant, detailed and up to date information.

The partnership recognises that review processes are a valuable resource for identifying learning from practice. They will influence the priorities set out in multi-agency training plans.

It also recognises that it has responsibility for disseminating lessons to its partner agencies, and ensuring that those lessons are further disseminated within the agencies and that they are embedded in practice.

Methodology

KSCP will consider a variety of qualitative and quantitative information to help us understand what is working well and what can be improved in respect of frontline practice and improved outcomes for children including;

- Multi-Agency Datasets (incl. full dataset, key indicators, child exploitation)
- Inspection Reports – national and local
- Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (SCRs) local and national

- Practice learning reviews
- Research
- Multi-agency focus group audits
- Deep Dive audits
- Single agency audits
- Section 11 & Sec 175 Audits
- Peer reviews
- Case Reviews
- Frontline visits

An annual programme of audits will be agreed by the partnership, which will focus on the strategic priorities set for the relevant period or any emerging themes, which may become known.

The multi-agency audit topics for this year include:

- Neglect
- Domestic abuse
- Child Exploitation
- Mental health and well being

Communication

A dynamic communication strategy will facilitate the dissemination of learning through various mediums, including;

- Reviews appropriately published on the LSCP website
- 7 minute briefings,
- 60 minute briefings,
- Newsletters
- Briefing events across the partnership

Governance

The governance around the learning and improvement framework will be the responsibility of the Safeguarding review and Learning Group.

The group has a key role in driving the audit and inspection process including multi-agency audits and managing the governance around recommendations falling out of the review and / or audit process.

The Safeguarding Review and Learning Group will also facilitate the effective management of serious child safeguarding review cases, which in their opinion raises issues of importance in relation to their area.

The group will also act as the conduit at a local level for the delivery of serious child safeguarding review cases, which are undertaken by the national panel.

The group will also coordinate other local reviews, which do not meet the criteria for serious child safeguarding reviews but present learning opportunities that will enhance our capabilities to safeguard and protect children.

The group will be responsible for developing and driving the implementation of a training plan, influenced by the strategic priorities of the local safeguarding arrangements and from learning identified within serious child safeguarding review cases.

The group will be accountable to the Strategic Forum.

Independent scrutiny

Underpinning our learning and improvement framework, KSCP have developed a process of independent scrutiny.

Working Together 2018 states that the purpose of the independent scrutiny is to provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area, including arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases.

This independent scrutiny is part of a wider system, which includes the independent inspectorates of the individual safeguarding partners and the joint targeted area inspections.

Independent objective scrutiny will focus on the following three key elements:

- Effectiveness - What is the impact of the new multi-agency safeguarding partnership?
- Efficiency - How efficient is the new multi-agency safeguarding partnership in working together to achieve their strategic priorities.
- Leadership - How effective is the new multi-agency safeguarding partnership in influencing outcomes to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

The following areas will be considered for review:

1. Performance
2. Strategic priorities
3. Systems / processes
4. Structure

KSCP has chosen to retain an Independent Chair with the aim of providing independent rigour and scrutiny of arrangements in Knowsley.

The following areas will be considered for additional scrutiny:

1. An agreed number of front-line visits to discuss the views of practitioners across the partnership.
2. An agreed number of focus visits with children.
3. Scrutiny of the findings of multi-agency audits

Summary

The framework that has been developed will enable Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership to continue to work together to protect and safeguard children in Knowsley.

