



KNOWSLEY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT

2019 /2020

1.	Foreword	3
2.	Introduction	6
3.	Introduction to Knowsley	7
4.	The role / structure of the partnership	9
5.	Membership of the Strategic Forum	11
6.	Priorities of Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership	13
7.	Delivery of the strategic priorities	15
8.	Summary of performance	27
9.	Learning from Serious case reviews	36
10.	Independent scrutiny	39
11.	Engagement with children	51
12.	Multi-Agency Training Update and Evaluation	56
13.	Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)	67
14.	Finance	73
15.	What is next in 2020/2021?	77
16.	Appendix A - Contribution of partners	79
17.	Appendix B – Analysis of performance	93



SECTION 1 - FOREWORD

Dear colleagues,

I am pleased to present the Annual Report for Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership. The report covers the work of the first twelve months of the Safeguarding Children Partnership, which was established in July 2019 in accordance with the guidance set out in the Department of Education Working Together 2018. This guidance marked a shift of leadership and accountability for safeguarding children from the sole responsibility of the Local Authority to the equal responsibility of the three key partners, the local Clinical Commissioning Group, the local Police Force and the Local Authority. This is a significant change in leadership arrangements but safeguarding children remains a priority for all in Knowsley.

In Knowsley, the new arrangements were agreed through consultation and are set out clearly on the Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership website. The Partnership chose to retain an independent chair who is tasked with the responsibility of scrutinising the effectiveness of the multi-agency arrangements .The scrutiny report I have provided to fulfil these requirements is set out in section 9 of this report.

This has been a challenging year for the Knowsley Safeguarding Partnership and its leadership. Unsurprisingly the impact of Covid 19 and the subsequent restrictions on working arrangements caused the most significant changes in how professional across all agencies seek to protect the most vulnerable children within the community. Details of how this was managed are set out further in this report but it is positive that the three key agencies quickly established increased and formal communication to identify safeguarding issues at a the earliest opportunity. All agencies within the Partnership were able to provide details of the management of risk to ensure the work continued. Meetings of the Partnership have continued virtually and have been well attended.

While work has continued and assurances of managing risk have been provided the partnership, remains concerned about the potential impact on children who have now been at home for several months. At the time of writing this foreword, it is anticipated that schools will fully reopen in September and the Partnership will need to monitor rise in referrals and demand for services very carefully. As set out in this report the key focus of the Partnership work will continue to be addressing neglect in Knowsley experienced by the most vulnerable children in the locality. The impact of Covid 19 and subsequent restrictions lend urgency to this.

I would like to thank Knowsley staff across the Partnership for their work this year, not least their response to adapting to new ways of working in the last few months. They have risen to the challenge of the impact of the virus across the locality and have continued to provide a creative and safe service for children and families.

Audrey Williamson Independent chair





SECTION 2 - INTRODUCTION

Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership (KSCP) annual report is published, in accordance with guidance set out in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 (a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children) published July 2018.

The report provides a summary of the roles and responsibilities of the partnership and an appraisal of the progress made.

Legislative changes introduced through the Children and Social Work Act 2017 saw the replacement of Local Children Safeguarding Boards (LCSB's) with Local Safeguarding Children Partners.

On 29th July 2019, the new safeguarding children arrangements were implemented, Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership (KSCP) came into effect, replacing Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board. The partnership has focused on building on the strengths of the preceding LSCB, in particular the partnership ethos and commitment for learning.

The Covid 19 pandemic has brought about unparalleled challenges in the safeguarding children environment.

This report will reflect some of the challenges faced and the measures taken across the partnership to safeguard and protect children in Knowsley.



This annual report has been circulated to the following keys partners:-

- Knowsley Council lead member for Children's Services
- Knowsley Council Chief Executive
- Knowsley Clinical Commissioning Group Chief Officer
- The Chair of the Knowsley Health and Theyllbeing Board
- The Chair of the Merseyside Community Safety Partnership
- Knowsley Youth Parliament and Children in Care Council
- Department of Education

SECTION 3 - INTRODUCTION TO KNOWSLEV

Knowsley is one of six local authority districts that comprise the Liverpool City Region. It is located at the heart of the North Theyst, bettheyen 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, Prescot, Whiston and Cronton. Huyton is the most populous township in the Borough with an estimated population of 57,613 people living there (38.8% of the population of Knowsley). However, the Northwood ward in Kirkby has the highest overall ward population. (Based on 2018 estimates).

Knowsley is the second most deprived Local Authority area in the country. There were 8,660 children (under 20 years old) living in families in poverty in the Borough. The number and proportion of overall children living in poverty has been decreasing since 2008. The highest concentrations of child poverty (under 20 years old) are centred around the Page Moss (38.8%), Stockbridge (33.5%) and Longview (31.6%) wards in Huyton, and the Northwood (40.1%), Kirkby Central (31.7%) and Whitefield (29.9%) wards in Kirkby. There are also pockets of high child poverty in Halewood and Prescot.

Knowsley (24.8%) (Under 20 years old) has the second highest proportion of children in poverty in the City Region, and is 7.8% points higher than the England rate of 17.0%.

A higher proportion of children living in poverty in Knowsley (83%) live in households claiming Income Support (IS) or Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) compared to the England average of 70%, and the City Region rate of 80%. There remains a qualifications gap in Knowsley, which represents a significant barrier to employment with 18% of young people achieving grade 5 or above in English and maths compared to the England all schools rate of 40%. There also remains a skills gap across all qualification levels for adults in the Borough meaning parents are less able to take up higher paid work.

ONS Mid-year estimates for 2019, (not all breakdowns are available yet for 2019) show that there are **150,862** people living in Knowsley. This is an increase of 1,291 people from the 2018 mid-year estimates.

Based on the 2018 estimates:

- There were an estimated 1,987 births in 2018 and 1,632 deaths;
- 7,151 people moved into Knowsley from other parts of the UK, and 6,589 people moved out of Knowsley to other parts of the UK;
- 318 people moved into Knowsley due to international migration, and 231 left due to international migration.

Of Knowsley's population, ONS estimates for 2019, show that 71,717 (52%) are female and 79,145 (48%) are male.

The population of Children aged 0-15 is projected to increase slowly from 30,146 in 2018 to 31,989 in 2025 and then is projected to stagnate to 31,925 in 2030. Population of young people aged 16-24 is projected to decrease by nearly 1000 from 15,870 in 2018 to 14,987 in 2025 but is then projected to increase again to 16,578 by 2030.





SECTION 4 - THE ROLE / STRUCTURE OF THE PARTNERSHIP

Following consultation and research, the partnership developed and implemented a revised structure with clearly defined roles and responsibilities, which came into effect on the 29th July 2019.

The structure of the partnership and their respective roles and responsibilities is summarised below. Further details can be found in the publication of arrangements document <u>https://www.knowsleyscp.org.</u> <u>uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/KSCP-</u> <u>Publication-of-Arrangements.pdf.</u>

The partnership comprises of the following groups;

- Strategic Forum
- Core Business Group
- Safeguarding Review and Learning Group
- Policy and Performance Review Group

Strategic Forum

This Strategic Forum provides the required strategic direction and governance around the development and delivery of local safeguarding arrangements. It meets three times per year. Each meeting is intended to focus on a specific theme based around the key strategic priorities contained within the business plan.

Core Business Group

The Core Business Group supports the delivery of the business plan. This group is the key decision maker for the partnership. Three thematic leads for each of these strategic priorities have been agreed who will be accountable for driving activity set out in the business plan.

The agreed thematic leads are;

- 1. Child exploitation Merseyside Police
- 2. Domestic abuse Knowsley Council
- 3. Neglect Clinical Commissioning Group

Safeguarding Review and Learning Group

The role of the Safeguarding Review and Learning Group is to 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 is also responsible for being the conduit at a local level for the delivery in the event of serious child safeguarding review cases that are undertaken by the national panel.

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

Policy and Performance Group

The role of the Policy and Performance group is to report against a performance framework that is focused on improving outcomes for children and is aligned to the priorities identified in the business plan. The group is also responsible for developing and implementing appropriate thresholds, policies and procedures.

Local safeguarding partners

Under the new changes the responsibility locally rests with the three safeguarding partners who have a shared and equal duty to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area.

The three safeguarding partners should agree on ways to co-ordinate their safeguarding services; act as a strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging others; and implement local and national learning including from serious child safeguarding incidents. All three safeguarding partners have equal and joint responsibility for local safeguarding arrangements

The three safeguarding partners for Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership are;

- Merseyside Police
- Knowsley Clinical Commissioning Group
- Knowsley Council



MEMBERSHIP OF THE STRATEGIC FORUM

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

Organisation
Independent Chair
Knowsley Council's Cabinet Minister Childrens Services
Executive Director, Childrens Services, Knowsley Council
Knowsley Council (Education)
Knowsley Council (Children's Services)
Knowsley Council (Adult Services)
Knowsley Council (Children's Services)
Knowsley Council (Youth Offending Services)
Knowsley Council (Safer Communities)
Knowsley Council (Public Health)
Knowsley Council (Whole Life Commissioning)
CAFCASS
St. Luke's Catholic Primary School
Lord Derby Academy (Secondary)

Name	Organisation
Jamie Campbell	Bluebell Park School
Jeanine Williams	Knowsley Community College
Keith Gabbidon-Thompson	Vibe (formally Knowsley Youth Mutual)
Peter Davidson	Livv Housing (formally Knowsley Housing Trust)
Carla Jones	Merseyside Community Rehabilitation Company
Racheal Jones	One Knowsley
Helen Meredith	Knowsley Clinical Commissioning Group
Debbie Spruce/Debbie Hammersley	Knowsley Clinical Commissioning Group
Susan Norbury	STHK Teaching Hospital
Christine Griffith-Evans	NHS England
Rebecca McCarren	North west Boroughs
Martin Earl	Merseyside Police
Kevin Johnson	Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service
Sandra Oluonye	National Probation Service
Lisa Leary	Lay Member



SECTION 5 - PRIORITIES OF KNOWSLEY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP

Earlier this year members of the Strategic Forum met to review the strategic priorities of the partnership. As a result of consultation across the partnership the following strategic priorities were agreed and are set out in the KSCP Business Plan 2020 -2022;

- 1. Safeguarding and protecting children from domestic abuse
- 2. Safeguarding and protecting children from neglect
- 3. Safeguarding and protecting children from child exploitation
- 4. Safeguarding and protecting the mental theyll-being of children.

https://www.knowsleyscp.org.uk/wp-content/ uploads/2020/06/Knowsley-Safeguarding-Children-Partnership-Business-Plan-2020-2022. pdf

The partnership agreed to set reducing neglect as their key priority in terms of scrutiny, learning and activity. They recognised the adverse effect on the health and well-being of children who are exposed to neglect. The impact includes;

- Heightened mental health problems ranging from depression to memory impairment.
- An increased risk of physical health problems,
- an increased risk of disruption to education and increased school absences, leading to poor educational attainment, poor employment prospects,
- poor social relationships and a decrease in life chances2in the home environment are present

Additional priorities

- Domestic abuse
- Child exploitation
- Mental wellbeing

The partnership will continue to seek assurances that all children are protected through joined up and collaborative arrangements that are focused on improving outcomes for children.

The partnership will quality assure systems and processes as well as commissioning multiagency audits that are relevant and focused on learning;

KSCP work in collaboration with the Health & well-being Board and the Community Safety Partnership, to seek assurances that children in Knowsley are being safeguarded and protected from harm.





SECTION 6 - DELIVERY OF THE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

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

Neglect

The partnership have implemented a multiagency neglect reduction strategy that is focused on delivering the following strategic aims and objectives;

- To identify the extent of neglect across Knowsley
- To ensure that all agencies are able to recognise neglect at the earliest opportunity and provide an appropriate and timely response.
- To evaluate our practice in order to sustain and improve performance and outcomes

The partnership has focused on developing an understanding of the prevalence of neglect in Knowsley through the collection of accurate and relevant information. They want to understand the causative factors of why children are subject to Child protection plans under neglect, which will allow them to make informed decisions to reduce these risks. They recognise the importance of having clear and robust safeguarding policies and practice guidelines in place.

The multi-agency training plan continues to support the delivery of the neglect strategy by equipping practitioners with the requisite skills and knowledge to improve their understanding and ability to identify neglect in children.

The partnership has encouraged the development of systems and processes that enable consistent early recognition, identification and assessment of the signs and symptoms of neglect. They supported the implementation of the Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2), which is an assessment tool designed to provide an objective measure of the care of children who are, or maybe suffering from neglect. To support this process, KSCP developed a rolling programme of training to all agencies, to facilitate the attendance of as many professionals as possible. However they identified a significant variation in numbers of professionals attending the training, when compared with other agencies. This was reflected in the number professionals using the assessment tool comparison with other agencies.

The Strategic Forum acknowledged a robust and relevant performance framework as well as the implementation of the GCP2 are critical factors that will underpin their ambition to safeguard and protect children from neglect in Knowsley. The partnership commissioned a review of the governance arrangements of their performance framework.

In order to address these areas, they committed to improve our own governance arrangements and apply appropriate rigour. It was agreed that delivery of the neglect strategy could be achieved by the formation of a multi-agency neglect forum, which is chaired by the thematic lead and attended by the relevant partners.



Terms of reference and membership of the forum have been agreed. The forum will enable the delivery of a coordinated and joined up approach that will ultimately improve outcomes for children in Knowsley.

The partnership commissioned a review of the Knowsley's threshold of need guidance 2018. They supported the recommendation to implement the "Helping Children Thrive in Knowsley" document, which has replaced the previous guidance.

This document sets out the approach to keeping children in Knowsley safe and protecting them from harm. It provides guidance for;

- Practitioners who are in contact with children and families who have a concern about a child and want to know how they should help them.
- All children's service providers to provide clarity on areas of need to enable them to be consistent in how they support children who are referred to them.

Anyone who has concerns about a child. It is intended to help practitioners embed the Signs of Safety framework into their practice, looking at how practitioners in the first instance can offer help and encouragement to families to find their own solutions and to offer help and support when needed.

It is designed to ensure that practitioners consider that the right help is given to the children at the right time and for the right duration. Further details of the guidance can be found on the following link. <u>https://www.knowsleyscp.org.uk/helpingchildren-thrive-document/</u>

In 2018, the partnership adopted 'signs of safety' as the model for working with children and families in Knowsley.

The Signs of Safety model encourages building constructive relationships between families and professionals through its inclusive and asset based approach which acknowledges that all families, irrespective of any difficulties or concerns, have strengths and uses this principle as the basis for understanding how strengths can be harnessed to increase safety and address concerns.

The implementation by practitioners has become more evident in case records across Family First and Children's Social work Teams. Child Protection case conferences are now held using the signs of safety approach. The contextual safeguarding work with the University of Bedfordshire is being dovetailed with signs of safety.

The majority of Children's Social Care and Family First staff are now trained in the Signs of Safety approach. Staff have embraced the adoption of the model in practice.

To date, Signs of Safety training has been delivered 'in house' with no additional cost to the Partnerships. Children's Social care has continued to deliver briefings to 'awareness' briefings agencies who do-not require the full two days training but do need an awareness of the model.

Moving forward with the implementations of Signs of, the priorities have been identified as;

- Supporting Practitioners becoming confident using the signs of safety model. This will be achieved by the practice leads supporting staff in practice.
- Delivering an 'in house' signs of safety training programme for staff across the partnership.
- Aligning the IT system to support the implementation and embedding of signs of safety.
- Evaluating the impact of signs of safety as a model of practice with children and families

In line with other CCG's across Merseyside, the Health sub groups across Merseyside have been replaced with the Merseyside Providers Clinical Network (MPCN) hosted by Liverpool CCG. The Designated Nurse and Named GP from Knowsley CCG attends along with representatives from the relevant providers. The first meeting was held in January 2020 and continues bi monthly allowing for wider collaboration learning and information sharing across Pan Merseyside region.

Early Help and Prevention

The Early Help offer in Knowsley is a partnership offer that is aligned to the Helping Children thrive 2020 guidance,) Working with children and their families in Knowsley. 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. The Early Help Strategy was due for refresh in April 2020. However due to COVID-19 and the requirement by the Troubled Families Team to complete an Early Help System Guide, the development of the new strategy has been put on hold until the Autumn/Winter 2020 to allow it to be informed by the system guide and the newly developed Children & Young People's plan and Knowsley 2030 Strategy.

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 2019/2020 there has been a significant focus of work in developing the Level 2 Early Help Offer across the partnership in Knowsley. There is evidence of increased use of the Early Help Module and completion of Early Help Assessments by Level 2 partner agencies (see table opposite).

April 18	April 19	January 20 (NB comparing January due to COVID-19 impact on figures)
33	65	93

2019/2020 Performance data

Early Help Assessments completed by level 3 Family First	400
% of successful level 3 closures	83%
Early Help Assessments completed by level 2	297
% of successful level 2 closures	65%
Number of Young Carers Assessments completed	103
Number of Children stepped down to L3 from CSC	153
Number of Children stepped down to L2 from CSC	72

The level 2 Early Help Schools offer developed during 2019 has provided additional capacity to Knowsley schools in delivering the plan and carrying out direct work with children and families. In 19/20, the team received 71 referrals from 21 Knowsley schools.

Troubled Families Payment by Results

Phase 2 of this programme ran from April 2015 to March 2020. During the five years of the life of this phase of the programme, Knowsley worked with more than 2010 families and demonstrate progress for all members of these families against a range of outcomes. In comparison with the 11 local authorities in the region Knowsley finished top, achieving 100% of potential claims.

This performance represents significant impact for over 2000 families in Knowsley and achieving this result means that all the available £4.6m allocated to Knowsley has been brought into the Borough over the five years. This valuable financial resource has been reinvested into early help services to ensure that they can continue to support families early and effectively, and avoid them needing support from higher cost statutory services such as Children's Social Care.

Looked after children

The number of children looked after remained relatively stable in 2019/20. The numbers in care are below that of statistical neighbours at 92 per 10,000 compared with 118 pe<u>r 10.000.</u>





For those children who become looked after the majority are cared for in a family environment. As of March 2020, 20 Children Looked After were in Foster Care (71.4%) in line with statistical neighbours in 2018/19 (72%). 44 CLA were on care orders at home (14.3%). This includes 17 children and young people on interim care orders. 12 care orders were discharged in 2019/20 in favour of special guardianship orders or discharges of care orders at home. This is a positive outcome for the children concerned at is means they have a permanence plan which has been secure without he continued need for the council to share parental responsibility.

There is an expectation that children looked after will have an up to date assessment of needs every 12 months as a minimum. 85% of children and young people had an up to date assessment at the end of March. Those outstanding had been commenced were all underway and not significantly out of date. The stability rate for children looked after is measured for children under 16, in care for more than 2.5 years and in same placement for more than 2 years. They have seen an improvement in stability in 2019/20. This is clearly a positive outcome for our children looked after.

England (2018/19)	69%
North West (2018/19)	69%
Stat Neighbour (2018/19)	72%
Knowsley (2019/20) TARGET	75%
Knowsley (2017/18)	68%
Knowsley (2018/19)	66%
Knowsley March 2020	74%

60% of children and young people are in their permanent placement.

The most recent validated Virtual School data has reported that were 101 Children Looked After in 53 different primary schools: 58% attended Knowsley Schools and 42% attended out of borough schools. There were 114 CLA in 61 different secondary schools: 40% attended Knowsley Schools and 60% attended out of borough schools.

There have been no permanent exclusions of Knowsley Children Looked After since 2013. 11% have at least one fixed term exclusion, which is just below Children Looked After national and statistical neighbours. There was increased use of fixed term exclusion for children who displayed persistently disruptive behaviour. The behaviour of Children Looked After at school may be because of one or more factors such as trauma or attachment issues; unidentified social, emotional or educational needs; and placement stability issues.

2018 /19 saw a significant increase in the number of Children Looked After in KS4 (from 35 in 2017/18 to 59). There were 37 children in Year 11 (an increase of 16 children from year 10). These young people were new into care and in many cases were already experiencing issues around positive engagement with school, a higher number were excluded from out of borough schools. Overall attendance for the Virtual School was 93.6%, which was an increase of 0.6% on the previous year. Attendance in both Years 10 and 11 was less than 90% but above 93% in Year 7 to 9.

The number of Children Looked After with persistent absence in 2018/19 was concerning. The percentage increasing to 14.5% from 9.5% the previous year. 2018/19 saw a significant increase in the number of Children Looked After in KS4 (as mentioned above many of whom already had a history of poor attendance). When children enter care in KS4 can be difficult to encourage positive engagement before reaching school leaving age. Young people aged seventeen years are allocated a personal advisor from the care leaver's team to support their transition to adulthood. The personal advisor have specific tasks to undertake to progress the young person's independent plan, including housing applications. This enables the personal advisor to build a relationship with the young person before they leave care. Our leaving care service has developed in line with the requirements of the Children and Social Work Act 2017. Young People are supported until they are twenty five years old unless they choose to opt out form support at twenty one.

Domestic abuse

The Domestic Abuse Reduction Strategy has been coordinated through the Domestic Abuse Governance Group (DAGG) who provide reassurance to KSCP on the progress of the action plan. The Domestic Abuse Operational Group has met on a regular basis to develop and implement the domestic abuse reduction action plan, The Operational Group identified the following three key priorities, which run throughout the domestic abuse reduction action plan;

- Establish improved mechanisms to gain victim voice
- Identify workforce development needs and implement an appropriate training plan
- Improve awareness and use of domestic abuse pathways via the operational group representatives and wider partners

Safer Communities Service has lead responsibility to take forward the priorities and strategic direction for domestic abuse and the operational delivery for support services for those aged 16 plus impacted upon by Domestic Abuse. Along with strategic and direct operational practice the service is also responsible for a number of tactical, coordination and risk assessment process across the borough, these include

 BRAG Meeting: Screening of all low and medium risk assessed police incidents of DA

MARAC: (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) – domestic abuse high risk assessment conference

- MATAC: (Multi-Agency task and Co ordination) – domestic abuse high risk, serial/repeat perpetrator risk assessment conference
- MARAC Steering Group
- The Domestic Abuse Governance Group
- The Domestic Abuse Operational Group

Since 2015 Knowsley has invested in developing an aligned response to domestic abuse which has seen the establishment of a victim/ survivor pathway (16+) which ensures that every victim of domestic abuse is offered support, regardless of their risk level (low, medium and high). Knowsley also has a dedicated perpetrator/alleged perpetrator pathway targeting challenge and support to non-statutory offenders. Knowsley are the only City region Authority to implement this dedicated pathway. Safer Communities Domestic Abuse Service support victim/survivors who have been MERIT assessed as **bronze** or **silver**. The service also provides the perpetrator pathway for those non-statutory perpetrators of domestic abuse.

In Knowsley high risk victims of domestic abuse are referred to MARAC with advocacy support being provided via the grant aided First Step IDVA Service., Safer Communities Service manage this arrangement

The children of those referred to Safer Communities Service are supported via the existing pathways of support across universal services, Early Help and Prevention Services, Family First and Children's services. The Local Authority also commission therapeutic work for children to Listening Ear. In 2018/19 the Knowsley Domestic Abuse pathways were strengthened and extended through roll-out of a number of trials including Operation Enhance, Triage intervention, which is an enhanced perpetrator offer and the dispersed accommodation In March 2019 the BRAG meeting management and facilitation transferred from MASH to Safer Communities Domestic Abuse Service and Early Help and Prevention, the BRAG screens all bronze and silver risk police VPRF1's that have been completed by police colleagues following a call for police service due to a reported domestic abuse incident.

The BRAG is now facilitated two times per theyek and the process identifies the correct pathway at the earliest opportunity for those impacted upon by domestic abuse.

The change in the BRAG management has enabled the service to undertake a more thorough screening of incidents to ensure that only those that meet the definition of domestic abuse are sent to the service for support.

In order to respond to the level of domestic abuse referrals into Safer Communities Service the Troubled Families Programme piloting of a Domestic Abuse Triage Officer to review and

triage referrals as they are received into the service. The purpose of this offer is that a more dedicated service offer, more quickly, is likely to mitigate ongoing risks to that victim.

In 2019, Knowsley and the wider City Region Authorities were successful in securing funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to further extend and build upon the learning of the pilot dispersed accommodation project from 2017/18.

Managed by Knowsley as the lead authority and delivered by YMCA Liverpool the funding has been secured to increase and accelerate access to 160 safe accommodation units for those households fleeing domestic abuse (inclusive of start-up grant and target hardening). Running alongside this YMCA Empowerment Practitioners provide an intensive floating support service across all dispersed accommodation units. Knowsley has invested in establishing a dedicated perpetrator pathway for nonstatutory perpetrators. The pathway has been in place since 2016 and it currently has a seconded Merseyside Police PCSO supporting the pathway. The Pathway is also support by a Troubled Families funded Perpetrator Officer, seconded from CRC until March 2021.

The Perpetrator Officer also has responsibility for the development of MATAC, a multi-agency risk assessment conference for high-risk serial and repeat perpetrators of domestic abuse. Knowsley is the only Merseyside Local Authority who has a dedicated perpetrator offer and a MATAC approach to responding to high risk/serial perpetrators.

Child exploitation

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.

A robust governance process is driven by Knowsley's Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) meeting, which has oversight of all Children assessed as being at medium or high risk of exploitation. The aim of the meeting is to provide a framework and governance to promote a clear and consistent response to such concerns.

The meeting has developed to ensure that all forms of disruption for perpetrators or locations are being explored and that the affected children and families are receiving the correct levels of support. The next stage of development within Knowsley will be to focus on those children who are assessed as being at low risk of exploitation in order to ensure that services are responding at the earliest opportunity in each case.

In 2019/20, there was a quarterly average of 51 children under review by the MACE meeting. 41 new referrals were progressed to the meeting, 29 children were signed off as the risk had reduced to low, and there were no repeat referrals back into MACE within six months of cases being closed. All children in the MACE process have a lead practitioner and a named person addressing the exploitation concerns. The Shield team continues to offer consultations to enhance the skills of front line practitioners in responding to all forms of exploitation.

The demand to address cases of child criminal exploitation continues to exceed the demand to address child sexual exploitation. In 2019/20, the average number of child criminal exploitation cases being reviewed at MACE meetings was 51 compared to 37 child sexual exploitation cases. There continues to be a relatively higher percentage of high-risk child criminal exploitation cases (30% compared to 17% of child sexual exploitation cases). The Council's additional investment of £0.200m in 2019 enabled the Shield team to focus on child criminal exploitation in terms of employing additional resources to develop trusted relationships with children and families, understand the child criminal exploitation cohort (including links to organised crime groups), and focus on working with all partner agencies to propel all forms of disruption.

In 2019/20, the Shield team was able to offer a priority intensive service to 29 children who were being exploited. At the end of the first year, the exploitation risk for 42% of these 29 children was reduced to low and the cases were therefore stepped down from the MACE process. In 17% of the cases, the risk reduced from high to medium, and therefore the cases remain in the MACE process.

In 2019/20, there was 131 new Shield team investigations (91 child criminal exploitation and 40 child sexual exploitation'.

There have been three Police operations in relation to child criminal exploitation which have focused on county lines operations in North Wales and Bournemouth and on drug dealing within Knowsley. The most significant developments have been the Shield Team's arrests of two adult perpetrators for modern day slavery. The team continues to work closely with Merseyside Police and the Crime and Communities team to ensure that action is being taken to pursue all adult perpetrators.

In 2019, the Shield team established a quarterly child criminal exploitation multi-agency mapping meeting involving the Merseyside Police Intelligence Bureau to increase the team's knowledge of Knowsley's county lines operations and links bettheyen children and the adults involved, and to enable partner agencies to feedback intelligence for further police and probation disruption of the perpetrators.

Contextual safeguarding

The partnership has supported the introduction of a 'pilot', which is being managed in collaboration with the University of Bedfordshire.

In 2018, Knowsley submitted a bid to be a pilot site to work alongside a team from the University of Bedfordshire to implement a Contextual Safeguarding System into our children and family services to sit alongside our current traditional safeguarding model.

A number of local authorities were shortlisted and Knowsley, the only local authority in the North of England, along with four other authorities were selected.

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), they can evidence that children in Knowsley experience contextual risks; in particular abuse via Criminal Exploitation which includes the national trafficking of our children by Merseyside Organised Crime Groups for the purpose of drug supply.

They 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 they 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 three-year project started in May 2019. It has been running now for one year and there is a participation and training group established.

The participation group's focus is to consult with the local community and children about the contextual safeguarding approach and the training group has been focusing on raising awareness throughout the local partnerships.

During the create stage, Knowsley has been using the University of Bedfordshire's assessment tools and exploring how to adapt them to meet Knowsley's needs. Knowsley is about to start testing out (year 2) the approach in practice and re-design our services accordingly.

A partnership approach

Agencies across the partnership have continued to work together to improve outcomes for children. A snapshot of their contributions is summarised at Appendix A.



Section 7 – Summary of performance

The partnership has developed a robust performance framework, which is subject to rigour and scrutiny. This section provides a summary of the common data items that are reviewed by the partnership.

More detailed analysis of performance is included in **Appendix B**

Ref	Common Data Items	2018/19 Outturn	2019/20 Q1 Outturn	2019/20 Q2 Outturn	2019/20 Q3 Outturn	2019/20 Q4 Outturn	Target	Notes
	Contacts received into MASH - Level 3 and Level 4 (All activity)	11999	3040	3171	3039	2910	Data Only	A reduction of 4.2% (129) during quarter 4. Figures include all activity into MASH including - safeguarding, court reports, information only, missing and early help. Average monthly activity into MASH is 1013 contacts over the last 12 months and 2019/20 Q4 outturn (12160) exceeds 2018/19 by 161 (1.3%)
2	Number of incidents of Criminal Exploitation reported into MASH	72	11	37	54	61	Data Only	Cases received during Q4, increased by 7 to 61.9 cases referred to social care, 45 cases referred to Family First/Early Help and the remaining 7 required no further action. The total amount received during 2019/20 (163) is more than double the amount received during 2018/20. The increase appears to have taken place over the last 6 months between October 2019 and March 2020
3	Number of incidents of FGM risks reported into MASH	10	0		0	0	Data Only	None received in Quarter 4, and only 1 received in year (Q2) - information and advice only (No further action)

4	Conversion from contact to social care referral	27%	28.50%	33%	22%	22%	30%	Conversion rate from contact to referral has not remained at 22% during Q4, this conversion rate is considered too low. Regional colleagues report 25-35% conversion rates depending on their front door arrangements. The 2019-20 yearly conversion rate of 26% is a reduction of 1% compared to 2018/19
5	% Repeat-referrals	15%	16%	17%	16%	16%	20%	Re-referrals below target since March 2018 and below comparators. 53 repeat referrals in quarter 4, 50 progressed to assessment and 3 required NFA
6	Referrals Per 10,000	433	109.9	239.3	336.1	434.3	550	1454 received during 2019/20 a slight increase of 2% (28) compared with 2018/19. 91.6% of referrals progressed to a C&F assessment. 2019/2020 outturn is below target of 550 per 10,000
7	% EH Episodes closed due to non- engagement/consent withdrawn	5.20%	8.7%	7.7%	6.6%	5.3%	10%	The caseworker was unable to engage with the family in 185 of 2996 (6.17%) episodes closed during 2019/20
8	% Single Assessments	31.90%	22.80%	26.50%	39%	45%	30%	Single assessments resulting in no further action have increased again during Q4 3. Although Knowsley performs well against comparators, this is nearly 20% increase from Q2 and requires further analysis resulting in NFA

Ref Common Data Items2018/192019/202019/202019/20TargetNotesOutturnQ1 OutturnQ2 OutturnQ3 OutturnQ4 Outturn

9	Rate of Children in Need per 10,000	101	92	95	101	100	120	CIN numbers had been falling consistently over the past 18 months from 425 in April 2018 to 313 in April 2019, however after numbers increasing to a two year high of 390 in December 2019; numbers have fallen to 334 during Q4, which mirrors the fall in the number of open cases during the same period. Target of 120 equates to 400 open CIN plans
10	Rate of open cases per 10,000	354.1	362	373	365	328	370	Currently 1073 open CSC cases. Numbers fallen by 149 (12%) since Q3. Average caseloads at 18.5 per worker (target 18-20 per worker)
11	Rate of CP Plan per 10,000	63.5	66.6	73.5	63	51	70	The decrease in numbers of referrals during Q4 and high numbers of plans have contributed to the number of CP cases falling by 19% over the year, however numbers peaked at 252 August 2019. This in part was due to process issues and a number of plans not ending. This was investigated internally so the drop was expected but 171 is considered 'too low' for Knowsley
12	% S47 referrals converted to ICPC	42.60%	41.30%	34.40%	34.10%	32.20%	50%	238 out of 738 S47's completed have progressed to ICPCC (32.2%) however this measure has included children already looked after or subject of a plan historically. For example, in March 57 S47's were initiated, including 5 CLA (7) and 3 CP would not progress to ICPC. Ignoring these increases, the conversion rate would increase

Ref Common Data Items2018/192019/202019/202019/202019/20TargetNotesOutturnQ1 OutturnQ2 OutturnQ3 OutturnQ4 Outturn

								from 28 to 32%. Over the last 5 years, S47 enquiries have increased 21% nationally and 41% locally
13	New CP plans - within 12 months of previous plan	0.40%	0.40%	1.40%	1%	1.4%	5%	The rolling 12 months % of repeat plans within 12 months of the previous CP episode has increased from 1% to 1.4% in Q4. 201 CP started within the last 12 months of which 7 children, 3 families were re-registered within 12 months and are still CP. Repeat Plans ever currently stands at 16.4% compared to 21% nationally
14	Rate CLA per 10,000	91.4	91.7	93.5	91	92	95	308 looked after children currently. The number of CLA cases have remained above 300 since February 2019. 71% of the current cohort have previously been CP. They are below stat neighbours and north west comparator per 10,000 figures
15	Care Planning Meetings - 6 monthly	79.10%	93%	81%	84%	89%	90%	6-month performance has increased significantly is just below target. CLA2 remains the top contributor, currently 16 overdue as at 31/03/2020
16	Stability of placements (3 placements)	14%	10.30%	8.60%	10.50%	8.80%	10%	27 CLA children have had 3 or more placements over the previous year, a decrease of 10 since March 2019. 17 (63%) are female, 10 male (37%). 22 (81%) are aged 11 or over; 12 (44%) between 11 and 15 and 10 (37%) are aged 16 and over. The CLA cohort has increased by 7 over the last 12 months.

Ref Common Data Items2018/192019/202019/202019/202019/20TargetNotesOutturnQ1 OutturnQ2 OutturnQ3 OutturnQ4 Outturn

17	Stability of placements (Long term)	66.40%	62%	61.60%	70.30%	73.90%	75%	There is 111 children who are under 16 and have been looked after 2.5 year or more as at 31/03/20, this is a decrease of 7 since December 2019 and the number of children who have remained in the same placement has fallen 1 to 82. The decrease in the cohort is the main reason for the increase from 66.4% during 2018/19 to 73.9% during 2019/20. Our performance is above the national, north west and stat neighbours comparators. 71% of those in a placement for 2 years are aged 10 years or above and 54% are male. 73% are in a placement with a non-relative
18	% CLA that went Missing in period (total Knowsley CLA)	5.30%	5.90%	9.90%	11.10%	12.70%	14%	Percentage of all Knowsley children looked after (308) that were missing between January and March 2020. 39 children on 157 occasions, 18 placed in borough and 21 out of borough
19	Missing Repeats	7	13	23	19	19	Data Only	Out of 39 missing, 19 had more than one missing episode
20	% Return interviews conducted within 72hrs	38.90%	60%	55.40%	60%	56%	50%	All children were offered an interview, 113 declined. 25 of the 44 missing episodes were a return interview took place, was completed within 72 hours
21	% Return interviews conducted within 7 days	100%	88.10%	81.50%	91%	65%	85%	29 of the 44 missing episodes had return interviews within 7 days

Ref Common Data Items2018/192019/202019/202019/20TargetNotesOutturnQ1 OutturnQ2 OutturnQ3 OutturnQ4 Outturn

22	% Missing episodes with a return interview (or offered)	75.50%	95.40%	97.50%	100%	100%	100%	All children offered a return interview following a missing episode
23	Number of Out of Borough children placed in your borough	245	260	241	259	279	Data Only	The data is reliant on other authorities informing Knowsley if children are leaving or entering the area
24	Number of private fostering	12	8	4	6	6	Data Only	6 children, 5 families, no changes since Q3
25	Rate of first time entrants to the Youth Justice system per 100,000)	305	305 (Maintained)	260	Not available yet	Not available yet	Data Only	YOS reports a quarter behind due to ministry of Justice reporting formats. The missing Q3 data will be published at the end of May 2020. Latest figures show a reduction of 19.1 percentage change compared to the previous year. This is also below average in relation to family comparisons figures. Service say there is no specific reason the drop and target is reduce numbers, which is 9 children in the last year
26	Number of young people detained in custody over 24hours		15		0	6	Data Only	There has been 6 arrests. These are for burglary, assault and 4 for attempted murder. All have been male ages 1×17 , 2×16 , 1×15 , 1×14 and 1×13

Ref Common Data Items2018/192019/202019/202019/20TargetNotesOutturnQ1 OutturnQ2 OutturnQ3 OutturnQ4 Outturn

27	Number of Knowsley children held in Police detention overnight (bettheyen 2300/0700rs)		15	7	17	21	Data Only	There have been 21 youth arrests with an overnight stay. 5 have been arrested after 2300 hours and dealt with the same day. There may be one or two anomalies were the custody sergeant has not stopped the clock on their release
28	Number of Knowsley children detained following charge				0	5	Data Only	There has been 5 youths remanded during this period. Four of the youths have been remanded for attempted murder
29	Rate of LADO consultations per 10,000	8.2	9	9.9	6.6	4.8	Data Only	16 LADO consultations have taken place during Q4, compared with 30 (Q1), 33(Q2) and 22 (Q3). 3 LADO processes met threshold from the 16 and were substantiated. 1 early years-nursery- dismissed, 1 foster carer- in house- ongoing training/support and 1 education-school - dismissed
30	Number of electively home educated children recorded	86	98	80	90	77	Data Only	Net decrease of 13 or 14.4%. There are several reasons why parents choose to elective home educate their children, parental choice, bullying, life style choice, mental health, breakdown in school relationship, avoid prosecution for non- attendance and media coverage

Ref Common Data Items2018/192019/202019/202019/202019/20TargetNotesOutturnQ1 OutturnQ2 OutturnQ3 OutturnQ4 Outturn





SECTION 8 - LEARNING FROM SERIOUS CASE REVIEWS



There have been no serious case reviews commissioned by Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership, during the relevant period.

Hotheyver, in October 2019 the partnership published a report concerning the death of an adolescent. To protect their anonymity the author has referred to them as Child Y.

This review had been commissioned by the preceding LSCB, who were satisfied that it met the criteria for a serious case review and believed that elements of learning and good practice could be identified from the case and shared with the wider partnership.

Child Y died having attended college that morning prior to leaving at lunchtime. Directly prior to this incident, Child Y had argued by text message with their partner. The family had experienced some challenges related to parental mental health difficulties and subsequent marital separation. A range of statutory and non-statutory children's services had supported Child Y intermittently over a period of ten years. During primary school years, Child Y was identified as a young carer in relation to the health of his father. The family had accessed both family support services and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

In seeking learning opportunities from the case the Review Panel determined that the review should consider all agency contact in relation to Child Y with a specific focus on the months leading up to the incident. It was noted from the outset that contacts in respect of Child Y during adolescent years were less frequent than in respect of a sibling. In addition, the review agreed to consider these contacts so that a focus could be given to understanding the relationship between the siblings. The review considered the following aspects:

- Understanding Child Y's journey through services
- Achieving an understanding of Child Y's day to day life
- An analysis of how effectively services were delivered, and whether there were missed opportunities to provide greater support to Child Y and his family
- Whether any indicators of vulnerability could have provided a better understanding of Child Y's emotional and mental health

The independent author made seven recommendations, which were accepted by the partnership. These are summarised as follows;

 The Board should ensure that the local definitions and threshold criteria in relation to domestic abuse encompasses the impact of abuse from any household member which threatens the welfare of children under 18 years.

- 2. For thematic audit to address the response of 16-18 years, olds in respect of domestic abuse and seek reassurance about the consistent application of threshold criteria.
- 3. Within the audit to address response to 16-18 years old, to establish the extent to which children are given a direct opportunity to express their views through the multi-agency partnership and that they are explicitly taken into account in decision making.
- 4. For GP practices to be required to review and report how important letters about children's mental health is processed with clinician oversight assured,
- 5. For the Hospital Trust to undertake an assurance exercise with regard to children's mental health presentations in Accident and Emergency and evidence confidence that the mental health pathway for children is being followed routinely,

- 6. For the LSCB with local NHS commissioners to consider the particular vulnerability of children accessing private counsellors and whether further engagement with the registering body is required to consider safeguarding risks,
- 7. The Board to engage in discussion with NWAS to achieve the following outcomes:
 - That the Safeguarding Policy provides specific guidance with regard to children and mental health/suicide risk.
 - That emergency responses to children with mental health presentations at all times explicitly consider risk of suicide when determining response

The partnership developed a robust action plan to implement the recommendations from this review. It was confirmed that the current definition of domestic abuse incorporates those who are 16+. In Knowsley, incidents involving victims aged 16+ (with a pattern of behaviours) will follow the dedicated domestic abuse pathway and the appropriate children's pathway in line with the threshold of need document. Auditable working processes have been introduced which ensures that all referrals for children waiting for CSMHS assessments in A & E are now emailed to CAMHS to ensure a clear, auditable trail. Referrals are no longer made by Fax.

The Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Pathway is currently confined to perpetrators who are 18 + only. A review was of domestic abuse services was due to start in March 2020; however, this was delayed because of the 'lockdown 'restrictions. The review will determine if this is an unmet need and if resources are required to respond.

The Covid 19 restrictions have also delayed plans by the St Helens and Knowsley Trust to complete an audit, which includes establishing the extent to which children are given a direct opportunity to express their views, which are taken into account in the decision-making processes.

North West Boroughs NHS Foundation Trust provides an offer to children who experience mental health difficulties.

The CAMHS Response Team responds to children that present with emergency/urgent risk presentations. Mainly working in A-E Departments, this team ensure that any urgent referrals are responded to swiftly and timely support/management plans implemented.

Routine referrals for CAMHS (that do not include a risk profile, which triggers an urgent response) go directly to the local Knowsley CAMHS Team. This spread of referrals across the two levels of services allows for a greater overall response to the mental health needs of children in Knowsley.

The independent chair of the partnership wrote to the Department of Health to raise concerns about the governance arrangements and consequent vulnerability of children accessing private counselling.

North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) have confirmed that a policy on safeguarding vulnerable persons and procedures is in place. The policy was reviewed in 2019. It has been designed to advise all staff and services of their safeguarding responsibilities and training requirements and provides accessible guidance and information. NWAS stated that they consider any risk of suicide with emergency responses to children and the response will be proportionate to the risk.

The partnership has been advised that In 2017 NWAS introduced an Ambulance Response Programme (ARP), which aims to improve the quality of care provided to patients. Clinicians working in the control rooms provide enhanced levels of clinical support to callers and patients. There are robust governance procedures to ensure standards are maintained.

In 2019 NWAS launched its Mental Health and Dementia Strategic Plan (2019-2022). The plan includes 17 recommendations and a range of actions for each recommendation, which collectively aim to shape and transform mental health and dementia care within NWAS.

The partnership has ensured that lessons learned are shared with practitioners. To facilitate this objective they hosted a multiagency learning event, which raised the awareness of practitioners who attended the event. The learning opportunities included presentations delivered by the independent author of the serious case review into the death of 'Child Y' and a presentation by a representative of the Lee Cooper Foundation, which is a local charity aimed at reducing incidents of suicide amongst young people.

Professionals attended the event from a variety of agencies including Children's Social Care and the wider local authority, Health, Education, other voluntary agencies and Merseyside Police.

The partnership recognised that the death of Child Y had a profound effect on those close to him. The family have indicated their hope that lessons can be learned which they hope will prevent other families suffering similar tragedy.

The partnership is determined to learn from this case and to prevent similar tragedies occurring in the future, they want to help to create an environment, which improves outcomes for children and enable them to achieve their potential.

SECTION 9 - INDEPENDENT SCRUTINY

The Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership is strategically placed within the Knowsley framework of strategic partnerships and plans. In particular, it supports the delivery of the Knowsley Strategy 2016 to 2020.

To maximise the impact of safeguarding work strong relationships are required within the locality across all existing groups. For Knowsley this means the Safeguarding Children Partnership needs to influence the health and Wellbeing Board and the Community Safety Partnership to ensure the needs of the most vulnerable children are prioritised.

The Knowsley Health and Wellbeing Board has strong representation from children's services including the DCS, as well as the independent chair. Annual safeguarding reports are presented and agenda items on specific issues concerning children are expected.

Knowsley Community Safety Partnership has increased its focus on safeguarding and there is Public health funding for violence reduction work. A stronger link is required between the Children Safeguarding Partnership and those leading on the stream of work on Domestic abuse given the known negative impact this can have on children.

Scrutiny report from Independent Chair

1. Methodology

This report is based on my work as independent chair of the Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership.

Throughout the year July 2019 -July 2020 I have met formally with a range of senior leaders and representatives of organisations, had access to all minutes relating to the work of the Partnership and received regular updates from the Local Authority in recent months on the impact of Covid restrictions on children in Knowsley. i believe all those I have met have been transparent and honest in their discussions, seeking to ensure that children are safeguarded and their wellbeing is promoted in Knowsley.

The following findings are based on the work I have undertaken which includes:

- Meeting with the elected lead member for children's services
- Meeting with two health agencies and met with a number of frontline staff and managers,(Whiston Hospital Trust and North West Boroughs Trust health visitors 0-19 service.)
- Observing the Policy and Performance
 Subgroup,
- Attending two challenge sessions days following Section 11 reports with identified agencies including Early Years, and School improvement services
- Together with the DCS, meeting with the Assistant Chief Constable, Merseyside Police, to discuss the impact of the changes made by the police service on the partnership.



- Meeting with the senior Merseyside Police representative of the KSCP
- Meeting with the senior Knowsley CCG representative of the KSCP
- Meeting with the DCS regularly
- Meeting with the Local Authority CEO regularly
- Reading minutes of the Core Business Group and the subgroups
- Attending the feedback from the Ofsted
 Focussed Visit
- Meeting with the two Executive Assistant Directors for Children's Services, Knowsley Council.

In addition between June and July 2020 I have undertaken a review of the current arrangements with the key Partnership leaders which explored functioning of the new arrangements, identified achievements and gaps and potential risks.

2. Review Findings of current arrangements

A) Leadership

During this review most of those questioned about the effectiveness of the new arrangements noted the number of changes in leadership that has taken place during the last twelve months and the subsequent potential impact. The Director of Childrens Services who was in post at the start of the Partnership and who was chair of the Core Business Group which drives much of the work, has now left.

Her replacement is an existing Senior Leader within the Council who is experienced in childrens services. This has ensured continuity and minimum disruption.

The Merseyside Police representative in post in July 2019 left in December 2019 and was replaced by an experienced officer. He in turn has now left and the Partnership, at the time of writing, has not yet met his replacement. The Police representative, as well as being lead senior officer in the Partnership, is the chair of the Case review Sub group and plays an important role in this area.

The lead for the Clinical Commissioning Group remains unchanged which is helpful given the above although it was noted that the leadership of important health organisations serving Knowsley families had also changed and new relationships needed building.

All recognised that these changes could impact on the tempo of work, as new managers require the time to build up knowledge and new relationships. In addition, the arrangements are still in the early stages of bedding down but all recognised the success of the transition from the Local safeguarding Children Board to the Children Safeguarding Partnership.

The three senior leads have recognised their roles within the new arrangements although the Local Authority continues to seek leadership from all partners in driving the work.

Recommendation 1

Following the easing of covid restrictions a relaunch of the Partnership to take place to raise awareness of the work of the Partnership, the three key representatives to meet and review their roles and responsibilities.

B) Priorities of the Children Safeguarding Children Partnership

The three priorities which form the focus of much of the work; neglect, domestic abuse and child exploitation, were agreed last year informed by clear information on what issues most impacted on children and young people in Knowsley. All Partners continue to agree that these are the most important areas to focus on.

Neglect

Forty-nine percent of children in Knowsley subject to child protection plans have experienced neglect and this is significantly higher than any other form of abuse experienced. The Clinical Commissioning group has led on the work in this area and the Partnership recently agreed that a sub group led by the CCG should be formally established to continue to drive progress.

The Clinical Commissioning Group lead has provided leadership in developing a neglect strategy supported by clear performance indicators, which will track progress. This development is welcomed and was identified as a real achievement by review participants.

Child Exploitation

Has continued to be a priority in Knowsley for several years and it an area that is relatively well resourced through the formation of the SHIELD team. Regular assurance is received from the Police lead on the work and it is expected that the partnership with Bedfordshire University will further enhance this work

Domestic abuse

Continues to be a priority given the high incidence within Knowsley and its impact on children. Resources and different ways of working are accorded a high priority. I support the analysis on progress on the priorities as set out in the body of the report.

C) Capacity

All review participants recognised the lack of capacity experienced in the last twelve months to support the Partnership. The head of the Safeguarding unit gained promotion and left the locality last August. Interim arrangements were made but there has been a lack of continuity. The post is critical in developing partnerships, identifying areas which require challenge and monitoring escalations. This gap has had some impact on progress and momentum of partnership work. The post is scheduled to be permanently filled by an experienced manager in September.

The Business Manager had to take a significant period off due to ill health and while some arrangements were put in place to cover this there were gaps, again impacting on momentum. In addition, the Training Officer was on maternity leave for the period covered in this report. While some of the post was covered during this period some areas of work could not be fully covered, so, for example, training on Graded Care Profile 2 has not progressed as quickly as originally planned.

The budget for the partnership work is in the main provided by the three key partners and relatively healthy. A full breakdown is set out in the Annual Report.

Recommendation 2

Three key partners to agree future capacity required to ensure continued effectiveness of the Partnership and ensure there is sufficient budget to meet this.

D) Structure of the Partnership Arrangements

As set out in the body of the report, the governance structure of the Partnership is relatively simple. **The Strategic Forum** consists of the three key agencies and partners and meets 3 times per year.

It agrees priorities and seeks assurance from members of the safeguarding work being undertaken. The forum is chaired by the independent chair. The majority of review participants recognised the value of an independent chair. Education representatives are valued but require higher profile and clarity on their role in promoting the flow of information to and from schools to inform the work of the Forum.

Further consideration should be given to the role of the Executive Assistant Director for Education in the current arrangements. Health partners are not generally members of the Forum although invited to provide updates on their services.

The Health Forum which was previously in existence requires a refresh and relaunch to maximise the contributions from all health organisations. The Core Business group, which meet bimonthly drives the business plan, identifies barriers to effective work and looks at performance in detail. To date the group has been chaired by the Director of Children's Services.

Further work is required to ensure that there is a clarity on the relationship between the Forum and the Core Business Group. It is my view that the Core Business Group which consists of the three senior leads of the Partnership should be the decisionmaking body and holds accountability for the Partnership and arrangements.

Subgroups There are currently two established sub groups in addition to the recently formed neglect subgroup.

The Safeguarding Review and Learning

Group, which more recently has taken on responsibility for Rapid Reviews, has a wide remit. Arrangements are robust in the decisionmaking regarding reviews. No further changes are required in these arrangements.

There were no reviews during this period although the annual report references a completed review from the previous year on the sad death of a young person and the subsequent learning.

Performance and Policy Group. This group meets regularly on a bi monthly basis. Alternating between policy reviews and performance scrutiny. There is still a heavy focus on performance indicators submitted by children's social care and more work is required to ensure all partners are contributing to safeguarding work in accordance with agreed standards , for example the completion of the Graded care Profile 2 tool prior to referral to children's social care.

Review participants are seeking to review the terms of reference and the governance arrangements for the sub groups. A higher profile for the subgroups would support their work and provide the key partners with the detailed information needed to inform decisions.

Recommendation 3

Strengthened governance arrangements to be implemented in the next three months and to include subgroup Terms of Reference and reporting arrangements.

Recommendation 4

Further work to be undertaken with schools and the education service to ensure the appropriate representation is in place'

Recommendation 5

Further work to be undertaken with all health agencies to ensure there is a robust health forum including adult and mental health services.

Recommendation 6

A Risk register to be established identifying key risks to safeguarding work and the mitigation taken.

E) Performance

Performance is set out in the body of the report at section 7 and is generally very positive. The Early Help service remains a strong feature in Knowsley in helping children. Numbers of children looked after remain consistent and most are placed in foster care.

Assessments are undertaken in a timely manner ensuring decisions are made early and drift avoided.

Areas that require further work have been identified at the Forum and include low levels of referrals and contact compared to statistical neighbours. Further work with schools will be required to take place in particular.

Reports should be shared with parents prior to Child Protection case conferences; this has been raised by the chair of performance and will be closely monitored over the coming months. The performance information, while still too focussed on children's social care is of high quality and is transparent. Regular presentations are made to the Partnership and work required identified. I support the analysis set out in the body of the annual report.

Multi agency audits are critical to triangulate quality. This has been an area of weakness during the last twelve months partly due to capacity issues but also because Partners have at times did not provide the drive to ensure completion. Such audits provide a picture of how the partnership works together to ensue children are safe and thriving in addition to identifying trends. The Section 11 exercise provided some good information for the Partnership but again the quality of the work cannot be fully evidenced or triangulated. Single agency audits from agencies should be provided and monitored, as these have not routinely been made available to the Forum or the Core Business Group.

Recommendation 7

The programme of multi-agency audits to be completed in the next twelve months and agreed actions to be robustly monitored. This should be a priority.

Recommendation 8

Dip sampling of some cases to be undertaken thereby increasing the numbers of multiagency audits.

Recommendation 9

A programme of single agency audits to be agreed and then individually presented to the Policy and Performance sub group.

F) Views of front line practitioners

The Partnership has continued to prioritise visits by members to agencies across the locality. This enables Forum members to have a good understanding of the work that is being undertaken and some of the barriers encountered. In addition I have met staff from a number of agencies, including the police, health visitors, hospital staff and front line managers in social care. All have spoken positively of the good relationships between agencies and many were able to name individuals in other agencies they would contact for discussion . All stated they felt supported by their managers to undertake their work and could provide examples of good practice.

Thresholds were understood. It is too early to analyse the impact of the THRIVE model which seeks to promote a culture of partnership working rather than gatekeeping. This is a very positive development and deserves noting as best practice.

The Partnership does not have a high profile amongst staff although most used the website to find out about training. Take up of training has been lower this year; it is reasonable to assume that this is in part due to the capacity issues described above and the impact of Covid. On line courses are now being developed but the Partnership will want to ensure that training opportunities are taken up by all partners in the next twelve months and the numbers increase. The seven minute briefings were particularly welcomed by staff as being brief, accessible and informative. It is clear that in discussions with front line staff learning from reviews and subsequent changes to practice are not wide spread. This has been noted at the Forum and recognised as an area for development in the next 12 months.

G) Children and Young People

When discussing the achievements of the last twelve months review participants recognised the success of the development of the Young Advisers group. Young Advisers volunteered to undertake commissions form the Partnership to inform work on priorities. An excellent piece of work was undertaken by the group on neglect and its impact on young people. A presentation was well received at the Forum and their recommendations were accepted. Some of their work was constrained by COvid restrictions and it is hoped that in the next school year they will provide additional information through direct contact with young people.

In addition to Young Advisers the voice of children is captured through the work of Youth Mutual, the Knowsley Looked After group, MADE, and individual reviews where young people attend.

It is difficult to fully understand the impact of partnership services on children and young people. Nationally and unfortunately impact is noted when arrangements do not work as for example in Serious Case Reviews. Locally the Partnership needs more examples of good practice where agencies have worked well together to safeguard children.

Recommendation 10

Children and young people to be consulted on priorities for the forthcoming year.

Recommendation 11

Continued support of Young Advisers and additional recruitment to take place.

Recommendation 12

Build on the work of the Young Advisers and embed the approach as demonstrated in the work on the neglect strategy.

Recommendation 13

Next year's Annual Report to include a section from Young Advisers with their findings on the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements.

Recommendation 14

Good practice case examples to be provided by members of the Forum.

H) Impact of Covid

As restrictions have continued the Partnership has developed new ways of meeting and progressing the work although inevitably at the beginning of restrictions some work was delayed. Overall, the partnership has recognised and met the challenges of the restrictions and good leadership has been demonstrated.

The three key partners established good and regular communication quickly through virtual meetings every three weeks. This ensured continuity of communication. The Forum cancelled an early April meting but subsequently met virtually and arranged an extra meeting to cover all the issues required. The Core business group has met virtually and maintained the schedule of meetings.

The Local Authority has provided good support for partners to attend meetings via Microsoft Teams. There is some learning from this experience and the Partnership will want to fully understand and agree what virtual meeting it wishes to retain in the event of further easing of restrictions.

The Local Authority has provided weekly updates on arrange of information such as virtual visits to children with a child protection plan offering assurance of mitigation of risk .It is very difficult to fully understand the impact on children and young people of the experiences of being at home for such a lengthy period until there is a full return to school.

High demand on children's services is predicted particularly mental health services. Referral numbers are now rising following an extreme fall in April and moany concern the adolescent age range. The Partnership will wish to be prepared for expected rise in demand and will need to keep all partners informed of their recovery plans.

Recommendation 15

The partnership to undertake a short piece of work on learning from working arrangements during restrictions and agree lessons to be applied to future working arrangements.

Recommendation 16

Young Advisers to support the Partnership as it seeks to recover following the easing of restrictions. This to be achieved through the Partnership commissioning a piece of work by Young Advisers to seek the views of young people in Knowsley on the impact of Covid and subsequent restrictions.

I) Conclusion

While the new arrangements were being established the Partnership has been subject to challenging times and had to adapt quickly to new ways of working to protect staff and adhere to government legislation and guidance. The Partnership has met these challenges and the arrangements continue to work. All of the recommendations made in this report have been discussed at the Forum or with review participants and highlighted in the

Annual report. Many are already included in the plan of work. There is a commitment by partners to make the arrangements work well and to continue to prioritise safeguarding

children and young people in Knowsley. All the recommendations are achievable and will serve to strengthen the Partnership.

Section 9a – Scrutiny by the partnership

In accordance with the guidance, set out in 'Working Together 2018', Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership developed a process of independent scrutiny, to provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of multi -agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in the borough.

Section 11 audits

Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places duties on a range of organisations and Individuals to ensure their functions, and any services that they contract out to others, are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the theylfare of children. The partnership asked agencies to complete an online self-assessment to gauge their compliance with their statutory responsibilities.

Further rigor was applied in the form of a number of scrutiny session attended by service leads or agency representatives. The Chair of the Strategic Forum chaired these sessions.

The audit process identified strengths and evidence of good practice across agencies. Areas of development included:

- The need for a joint substance misuse mental health worker within one service
- The need for safeguarding audit activity to take place and Management take up of multi-agency safeguarding training within another service
- The need for safeguarding audit activity at Level 2, together with the need to promote Children's Centre engagement in the EHAT process and the need to encourage improved health representation in the TAF process in another service

• The need for services to ensure that quality as well as compliance is measured

Some common themes that emerged from the audit included the lack of senior managers attending multi-agency training and the lack of easily accessible child mental health services.

The partnership has developed an action plan to address the areas identified.

Multi-agency front line visits 2019 to 2020

Front line visits were undertaken by members of the Strategic Forum to enable the partnership to assess the awareness and capabilities of frontline staff in respect of safeguarding policies and procedures

Members of the forum visited the respective agency representatives and asked a series of standardised questions. Their responses were recorded and subsequently analysed, providing a picture of how safeguarding policies and procedures are implemented at ground level by those working directly with children and families.

The partnership identified three areas of concern that have prevailed over previous years, which now form the basis of a focused action plan that is endorsed and driven by the partnership. These areas of concern are-

- The availability of services for children experiencing mental health, emotional wellbeing issues.
- 2. Implementation of the escalation process.
- 3. Limited evidence to demonstrate the impact of learning from reviews because of the absence of any clearly defined evaluation and communication plan, set out in the audit and inspection process

Covid 19 - Scrutiny of arrangements

The spread of the Covid 19 pandemic brought about significant risks to the health and wellbeing of the public.

There were concerns from a safeguarding children perspective, that the restrictions imposed to reduce the risk form the pandemic may have compounded current risks or identified new risks to children. Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership recognised its role in supporting a coordinated, joined up multi-agency response to current and future challenges.to support that role they scrutinised the response of agencies across the partnership.

Agencies were asked to identify the three most significant risks to children in Knowsley during this pandemic, the steps they had taken to mitigate those risks and the outcome of any interventions.

Agencies provided numerous examples of working together in a coordinated and joined up manner, which has improved outcomes for children.

The information provided was collated and included in a summary of learning which has been circulated to the agencies represented in the partnership.

The document is intended to be a point of reference for agencies to refer to in their planning for the recovery phase.





SECTION 10 - ENGAGEMENT WITH CHILDREN

This section provides an insight into how Agencies across the partnership have continued to engage and learn from children and young people, which has influenced their working practices. These included;

1:1 work with children who have experienced domestic abuse, which has enabled Early Help to put appropriate measures in place to support them

Understanding the young persons (17/18 years old) views has facilitated radical acceptance work being undertaken with Practitioners recognising that there are times when the quality of the VOC could be better with assessment tools sometimes requiring an 'interview style' which does not always translate well to partners.

St Helens & Knowsley Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has developed a number of approaches after listening to the child's voice including:

- Children with diabetes practical changes to practice have included a system where children can text blood results to clinic, appointment s later in the day to work around school
- Care plans are developed with the child and signed by the child

Although some agencies work predominantly with adults, they take cognisance of the need to ensure that the needs of children are considered. For example;

- Adult Services Staff are encouraged to attend multi-agency training to raise awareness of this issue.
- Merseyside Police VPU have developed systems and processes that seek to ensure that the voice of the child is captured in their work. All staff are briefed in terms of capturing the child's experience.



- Police attending incidents of domestic abuse, seek out children when they are present in a home in order to assess the impact on them and respond appropriately when considering additional support.
- The Centre for Independent Living seek to involve the child in the assessment process wherever possible. In complex cases, they liaise with Schools for who may have better knowledge of child's needs.
- National Probation Service processes
 documents have incorporated prompt
 listening to the child and considering
 context. For MAPPA 2 cases there is a
 specific question relating to the voice of
 the child. There is good communication
 with MASH in respect of offender
 management information so that
 offender managers are better informed as
 to circumstances.



Although Offender Managers do not always have direct contact with children, they have been encouraged to seek the voice of the child from agencies who do have direct contact, e.g. Early Help Family Support worker, Children's Social Care, Health Visitor etc.

- Evidencing the voice of the child is a focus for the Quality Assurance Unit (QAU) including supporting children to set the agenda and Chair their own Review.
- Children attending sexual Health Services are flagged up within the system for prioritising and additional privacy, lone interviews and quicker response times once within the centre.
- The location of the service in Huyton was chosen as the site for children and young person's clinics because of its central location within the borough, transport links and discrete and private location. The staff discussed the additional time capacity they now have has made a significant difference to the nature of their ability to engage and 'see through' actions.

Youth Offending Service processes include strong engagement with children during the initial assessment, review and closure stages of intervention.

Children complete self-assessments to assist practitioners to design needs led strength based plans to support children and reduce risk.

Children also design their own 'My Plans' to prioritise areas of their life they want support with.

YOS has an annual Engagement & Participation Plan to improve engagement with children,. Parents and victims. Children also have exit sessions to assist YOS to understand what we are doing well and how we could improve our service.

Knowsley professionals are able to support children, young people and families to influence the work of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH). We are fortunate that some of the CYP in Knowsley are part of the national group "RCPCH&Us", improving the health and wellbeing of CYP and families nationally, ensuring that the voice of the child is heard e.g. the rights of all children, "Being me" helping children in care to thrive. https://www.rcpch. ac.uk/work-we-do/rcpch-us-children-youngpeople-families

Young Advisors

In June 2019, Young Advisors were recruited by the partnership and have recently concluded their first commissioned piece of work.

In November 2019, the Young Advisors were commissioned to consult with Knowsley children and young people gain more insight in to how young people feel about certain areas raised within the draft Neglect Strategy.

They met with representatives of Knowsley CCG, supported by Liverpool Safeguarding Children Partnership, to gain further detail of the consultation theme, and context of the neglect strategy.

A draft questionnaire was amended following advice from the YA's. The survey took place, initially with children at a number of youth clubs across the borough.

At this stage, the Young Advisors have a limited engagement network so they were grateful for the support of Knowsley Youth Mutual (KYM) in facilitating these interviews, through some of their engagement network. The Christian Fellowship, who assisted with the survey, also supported us. Unfortunately, due to the restrictions imposed because of the Covid 19 pandemic, it was not possible to achieve the target sample number of 100 children. Other competing demands also restricted opportunities for the young advisors to undertake the consultation process. The YAs have indicated that future commissioned work undertaken by them can be enhanced if they are given an appropriate level of training on the subject matter. This gap is being addressed by the partnership.

The YA have presented their report to the Strategic Forum, who accepted the learning and recommendations.

- KSCP to reassure themselves that schools in Knowsley are promoting awareness of neglect to children and have appropriate support mechanisms in place.
- 2. KSCP to raise awareness of children in Knowsley of the support agencies available to support children who may be subject to neglect.
- 3. KSCP to engage with Young Advisors to seek their views on appropriate research methodology.
- 4. KSCP to consider a multi-agency 'Prevent neglect campaign' in Knowsley, with clearly defined aims, objectives and intended outcomes.

These recommendations have been incorporated into an action plane that will be managed by the Neglect Forum.

KSCP have welcomed the contribution from the Young Advisors and are planning to commission further research and engagement with them.

VIBE

Since March 2020, VIBE has focused its online educational activities to support those young people who through lockdown have had little or no interest shown to them in respect of their education. They have completed virtual tours of educational establishments, updates of what education may look like in Knowsley after the pandemic, supported groups to attend virtual webinars with the Metro Mayor, getting their voices heard and answers to their concerns.

VIBE has supported young people who have felt lost after their exams were cancelled and their futures left uncertain, young people felt they had no direction and no anstheyrs as to what their options were. They perceived that they were victims of neglect and often had no one to turn to for support except their youth workers and peers.

VIBE has used social media platforms to signpost young people who may be suffering from neglect, these included how to contact Child line and support young people who required food bank support by making referrals to the Big Help project, Huyton.



SECTION 11 - MULTI-AGENCY TRAINING UPDATE AND EVALUATION

Training during this year has been significantly disrupted, due to the impact of the Corona-Virus – however, it is anticipated that when the current restrictions are relaxed and when it is safe to do so - training will resume accordingly.

The focus of the KSCP has remained on the themes of Domestic Abuse, Child Exploitation and Neglect in line with the identified priorities of the Partnership and the needs of the community.

Additionally, the training focus is influenced by lessons derived from local serious case reviews, audits and national safeguarding agendas.

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

What training has been updated and what is new?

UPDATED

Working Together to Safeguard Children -Initial (2 day) and Refresher (1 day) courses.

Having previously been updated to reflect the publication of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 - the training package was revietheyd and updated (within Knowsley) to reflect the new guidance document, 'Helping Children Thrive 2020'.

Accredited trainers within KSCP consulted regarding the proposed amendments (including the new material to be included) in advance of its delivery. Additionally, feedback was sought following its dissemination. This reflected that the changes complimented the package and that, not only had the new learning objectives been met but the remaining (original) objectives - including material relevant to national agendas such as contextual safeguarding and ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) were also achieved. The course was also amended to include an activity-based session, demonstrating how a child protection conference would be impacted upon professionals from various agencies by the 'Signs of Safety' framework adopted within Knowsley. This was considered beneficial, as many participants had not yet attended a conference managed under the new framework.

The work of the Merseyside training group continues to improve cross-border collaboration and to ensure that 'Working Together' courses delivered across the county are regularly revietheyd to ensure they are compatible, are of good quality and meet the appropriate aims and objectives.

Awareness raising regarding suicide prevention and mental ill-health linked to suicide prevention training was ensured through a joint presentation involving the KSCP and the Lee Cooper Foundation, a local youthbased organisation established following the death of a young person in Knowsley and the subsequent review (Child Y). The Merseyside Child Death Overview Panel worked alongside Merseyside Youth Association and the Young Persons Advisory Service to create a course call 'Serious' regarding Child Suicide. They have two trained professionals able to deliver this, and sessions have begun to be delivered in our schools.

The delivered content was influenced by the impact on the family of Child Y and by Children effected upon by the suicide of others and reflected their views, wishes and feelings regarding how professionals should talk to them about this sensitive issue.

Professional Challenge

UPDATED

This course was originally created (in 2017) by NWIAT (North West Inter Agency Trainers) in response to findings from serious case reviews and audits. It was identified that, in some circumstances, practitioners failed to appropriately challenge other colleagues and managers both internally and externally in the event of inappropriate or ineffective responses, record their actions and utilise multi-agency escalation policies.

Domestic Abuse

NEW

A one-day course has been developed specifically highlighting the risks and responsibilities linked to this coercive and controlling behaviour trait. Its development followed repeated requests (particularly from social workers) for bespoke training linked to this form of abuse, which is particularly prevalent (and affects children) within Knowsley.

Additionally, it followed a review of a number of serious incidents involving child/adult or adult/child abuse (in some instances linked to other vulnerabilities). It is intended that the material be jointly delivered with staff from 'The First Step' and actors from a local drama organisation, who have developed a short presentation linked to domestic abuse.

Merseyside Police have teamed up with Lancashire University to produce a course suitable for the whole police service. Alongside this, a multi-agency professional's course is being developed.

Signs of Safety

ONGOING

'Signs of Safety' will support the delivery of high-quality practice and, by working together in a partnership - including families it is anticipated that strong and sustainable outcomes will be achieved for all.

'Signs of Safety' is an innovative, solutionfocused, strengths-based approach to working with children, young people and families. It provides a clear framework for how 'Children's Services' should 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 were afforded 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. The vast majority, of those front-line practitioners has now received training.

Senior stakeholders and managers were also required to attend a 2-day training session. The Working Together to Safeguard Children courses have been updated to reflect the changes introduced by adapting the Signs of Safety Framework.

Identifying and Talking About Suicide – Papyrus

ONGOING

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 KSCP and prepared participants to identify young people with suicidal ideation and how to respond appropriately and effectively and how to connect people to support.

60 Minute and 7 Minute Briefings

A number of 60 Minute (and workshop style) briefings remain available via the KSCP website. Themes have ranged from Universal Credit, Completing Child Protection Conference Reports, Ecstasy and Current Trends and the 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 have been revietheyd and updated and are distributed and published on the KSCP website on a regular basis. They have proved extremely popular.

The following list is a snapshot 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 focused on the delivery of the 'Coercive Control' conference and development of the course.

Identified training themes: KSCP Business Priorities

Domestic Abuse

KSCP has developed a Domestic Abuse course incorporating 'coercive control'. Dr Charlotte Barlow (Lancashire University) previously created a shorter version of the module for partner agencies. There is a training element within the Domestic Abuse Operational Group Action Plan. The domestic abuse course incorporates harmful practices (FGM, Forced Marriage and Honour-based abuse).

Other Courses have included:

- 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.
- Online awareness of Domestic Violence and Abuse
- 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
- Prevent
- Operation Encompass briefing
- Thresholds
- LADO briefing
- Coercive Control Train the Trainer

100% of delegates that attended courses related to domestic abuse rated them as good or excellent. Evaluations were extremely positive and this is an example of some of the comments that were made:



"IT WAS VERY INFORMATIVE AND PROVIDED AN INSIGHT INTO COERCIVE CONTROL." "HIGHLIGHTED SIGNS AND TACTICS USED BY PERPETRATORS" ONE PRACTITIONER INTENDED TO: "SHARE WITH OTHER COLLEAGUES AND THE EXPECTATION IS THAT IT WILL ASSIST US ALL IN OUR WORK WITH VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE, WHO OFTEN FIND THEMSELVES IN CONTROLLING AND ABUSIVE SITUATION WITHOUT REALISING IT."

Child Exploitation

Child exploitation and contextual safeguarding are included within the Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 presentation. The link between potential exploitative situations, safeguarding concerns and missing episodes involving children and young people is clearly demonstrated.

90% of delegates that attended courses related to child exploitation rated them as good or excellent. Evaluations were extremely positive and this is an example of some of the comments that were made: "NETWORKING WITH USEFUL AGENCIES AND MORE INSIGHT TO CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION IN KNOWSLEY."

> ONE PRACTITIONER WILL GO ON TO: "SPOT THE PUSH AND PULL FACTORS FOR VP SO I AM MORE ALERT TO POTENTIAL SITUATIONS THEY MAY FACE"

Neglect

KSCP have continued to deliver the 'Graded Care Profile 2' training course. Six professionals are licensed to deliver this training and they 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 KSCP meetings.

A 'Child Abuse and Neglect' online course is available to practitioners via the KSCP website.

A new, bespoke course linked to neglect was considered however it was felt that this would not be created as the GCP2 training contains an introduction to neglect and the delivery of such a course would undermine attendance at GCP2 events and as such (for the time-being) it has not been taken further.

100% of delegates that attended courses relating to neglect rated them as good or excellent. Evaluations were extremely positive and this is an example of some of the comments that were made: "THE WHOLE TRAINING WAS USEFUL, GREAT INSIGHT AND GREAT TOOL TO BE USED IN THE FUTURE." "THE GRADED CARE PROFILE IS AN AMAZING TOOL TO COMPLETE AND GIVES PRACTITIONERS THE INFORMATION THEY NEED AND THE" TOOLS NEEDED"

ONE PRACTITIONER WILL APPLY THIS TRAINING "WHEN I AM WORKING WITH FAMILIES WHERE THE PREDOMINANT THEME IS NEGLECT, I WILL BE USING THIS TOOL TO SUPPORT MY INTERVENTION WITH THE FAMILY."

Serious Case Review Learning Event – Child Y

Practitioners and managers were invited to attend a briefing to cascade the learning and recommendations from the 'Child Y' serious case review. This review related to the death of an adolescent.

Attendance

During the period of 2019-20 – 1193 delegates (including the serious case review learning event and online modules) have accessed or attended training sessions, briefings or conferences delivered or administered by the KSCP.

A reduction of 865 delegates attended training compared with 2018-19. The Adult and Children's Alerters training has not taken place within this period, this would equate for large numbers of delegates. They have continued to enforce the 'Non-Attendance' policy. Large numbers of delegates who are unable to attend a training session now inform the Course Coordinator via email.

The following chart depicts total attendance figures booked via the KSCP training-booking portal for the KSCP training programme by agency basis. Education, Children's Social Care and Early Help make up the majority of delegates.



Adults Other Children's Social Care Community Rehabilitation Community Early Years NHS Emgland **Residential Care** Youth Offending Service Knowsley Housing Trust Knowsley Youth Mutual **Public Health** St Helens and Knowsley Hospital Trust

Total

Course and Impact Evaluation

Multi Agency KSCP training is evaluated using a number of methods:

- Course evaluation from participants after the course via the online booking portal;
- Quantitative means i.e. scrutinising
 attendance figures and agency breakdown
- Feedback from trainers;
- Impact and Evaluation Process using post course questionnaires, survey monkey, observations, course reviews and follow up consultation by the KSCP Training Officer supported by Learning & Development Sub Group members on certain courses identified via business plan priorities.

All delegates on KSCP training sessions are asked to complete an evaluation form at the end of a course. In the past year, 42% of evaluations were completed online.

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 intend to use what they have 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, 97% 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; Knowledgeable delivery, meeting practitioners from other agencies, mixture of participation and listening, friendly trainers, and trainers that are open to questions.

96% of those who completed evaluation forms online rated the training as good or excellent.

Training Priorities

Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic, face-to-face training will continue to be suspended until further notice. The KSCP priorities along with, the rollout of GCP2 and impact of ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences) will continue to be delivered via alternative methods such as online training, virtual 60 minute briefings, newsletters and 7 Minute briefings. The Training Strategy, which includes our minimum standards regarding safeguarding training, is being revietheyd and a new strategy produced this forthcoming year.

"EXCELLENT TRAINING, THOROUGHLY ENJOYED IT, IT WAS VERY INFORMATIVE."

OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE DURING THE SESSION." "EXCELLENT TUTORS, WARM AND FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT"

"THE TRAINERS HOLDING THE CONFERENCE WERE VERY PASSIONATE ABOUT THE SUBJECT AND ALSO VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE."

SECTION 12 - LOCAL AUTHORITY DESIGNATED OFFICER

All agencies that provide services for children, provide staff or volunteers to work with, or care for children are required to have a procedure in place for managing and reporting allegations against staff, which is consistent with statutory guidance published by HM Government (revised guidance: Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013, 2015 and 2018).

The LADO is responsible for ensuring that these procedures are effective, proportionate and fair.

The LADO has continued to provide support to partner agencies. The Independent Reviewing Officers/Child Protection and Review Managers provide support. Management oversight provided by the Safeguarding Quality Assurance Manager.

Management of allegations

There has been an increase in the number of allegations during the period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020. 76.6% if those allegations required no further action.

Referral Year	Total (including contacts and advice given)	NFA after initial consideration
2017 – 2018	126	86
2018 – 2019	118	81
2019 – 2020	124	95

The data shows that the higher numbers of allegations that were referred to the LADO related to staff who are based in schools, residential care workers, foster carers and early years.

There has been an increased number of enquiries in relation to in-house foster carers, however these have not all progressed to the full LADO process This year a significant proportion of allegations have come from the education sector. The LADO continues to work closely with Knowsley Schools' Safeguarding Leads and Knowsley's Education Safeguarding Officer, along with the School Improvement Team. The LADO has continued to provide ongoing support to these agencies in the form of written advice, guidance and training,

Source of allegations

Sector	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
Faith Groups	0		0
Foster Carers In-house	16 (This figure combined	18 (This figure combined	14
	Foster Carers in-house	Foster Carers in-house	
	and other)	and other)	
Foster Other	See above	See above	9
Early Years	12	10	13
Education LA	25	49	
	(This included all sectors)	(This included all sectors)	
Primary Schools			18
Secondary Schools FE			13 1
1 L			
Education Non LA	2	о	2
Health	3	4	5
Other	7	8	13
Police	2		3
Probation/YOS	0	0	0
Residential LA		0	2
Residential Non LA	40	18	22
Leisure/Sport	6	2	2
Other Social Care Workers		5	3
Self Employed	6	0	0
Transport	6	2	4

Category of allegations;

The chart shows that the number of allegations mainly relate to physical and conduct. The number of sexual allegations has reduced during this reporting period.

Category	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
Conduct	32	38	39
Emotional	8	12	19
Neglect	5	4	2
Physical	50	49	41
Sexual	32	15	12
Other	0	0	11

There was a significant rise outlined above in referrals from the education sector, which resulted in a full LADO management process being initiated.

The number of physical harm allegations has remained high but it is noted that this is primarily in relation to residential, foster carers and education settings. Allegations of physical harm by professionals often relate to physical contact in the context of some form of behaviour management strategy or a restraint situation and have a high amount of contact with children on a daily basis.

The allegations of conduct have remained consistent with the previous year. These are mainly where advice and guidance has been provided by the LADO and agencies are provided with the appropriate support in relation to disciplinary, HR and training processes to be put in place.

Overall Outcomes

	2017- 2018	2018-2019	2019 - 2020
NFA after initial consideration/investigation.	95	81	95
Unfounded	0	4	8
Unsubstantiated	17	17	15
Malicious	0	0	1
Substantiated	6	11	11
Training needs identified	21	19	
Investigation continuing	9	6	0

Please note that in some cases there is more than one outcome, which can result in the appearance of the overall figures seeming inflated.







Substantiated Allegations

A total of 11 allegations were substantiated related to the following agencies

- 3 from Education,
- 1 from Police,
- 1 from Transport,
- 1 from Foster Carers,
- 2 from Residential,
- 1 from Health
- 1 from the Voluntary sector
- 1 from Early Years.

Disposal of substantiated cases

- 7 have been dismissed,
- 3 were offered training and support and was an internal investigation.
- 3 have been referred to DBS
- 4 have been recommended to be referred to DBS.



SECTION 13 - FINANCE

Partner agencies continued to contribute to the KSCP's budget for 2019/20, in addition to providing a variety of resources, such as staff time for training. Financial contributions totalled £0.156m for 2019/20 (see below for breakdown), as well as this year's contributions, KSCP had a contingency balance brought forward from previous financial years of £0.133m, The contingency carry forward into 2020/21 is £0.106m.

Agency Contributions	19/20 C	ontribution (£m)	% per Agency
Knowsley Council		0.035	22.44
Knowsley Council - Early Years' Service		0.003	1.92
Clinical Commissioning Group		0.047	30.13
Dedicated School Grant		0.042	26.92
Police		0.021	13.46
Knowsley Housing Trust		0.005	3.21
Community Rehabilitation Company		0.001	0.64
CAFCAS		0.001	0.64
Newport SSCL Probation Centre		0.001	0.64
	Total	0.156	100
Carry forward of contingency from 18/19		0.133	
	Total Resources available	0.289	



Expenditure

Expenditure for 2019/20 totalled £0.186m; the following table shows the percentage split across the main areas of KCSP.

Expenditure	19/20 Expenditure (£m)	%
Staffing	0.129	65.05
Serious Case Reviews	0.005	6.99
Independent Chair	0.008	4.30
Training	0.008	4.30
Child Death Overview Panel	0.000	0.00
General Expenses	0.021	11.29
Information Technology	0.015	8.06
Total	0.186	100

There was a decrease in expenditure by KSCP during 2019/20 compared to the previous year. Expenditure 18/19 was £0.194m, while in 209/20 spend is £0.186m.

The factors influencing this decrease in expenditure were;

•(£0.002m) – Decrease in Serious Case Reviews •(£0.011m) – Decrease in training costs

•(£0.004m) – Decrease in independent chair costs

•£0.009m – Increase in General Expenses

•(£0.003m) – Decrease in IT expenses

The KSCB was required to use £0.027m of its contingency funding in 2019/20

Projections

There are no planned budget reductions for 2020/21



SECTION 14 - WHAT IS NEXT IN 2020/2021?

Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership will continue to work together to safeguard and protect children in Knowsley.

They are committed to enabling them to grow up safe, be healthy, feel listened to and given the right opportunities to achieve their potential.

They intend to achieve this goal by focusing on the following issues:-

- 1. Delivering the strategic priorities, which are set out in the Business Plan 2020 to 2022.
- 2. Reducing neglect will be the primary focus for the partnership in terms of scrutiny, learning and development.
- 3. Improving our engagement with children so that their voices are heard and influence practice and service planning.
- 4. Continuing to develop and enhance governance systems and processes that provide appropriate rigour and scrutiny.

- 5. Developing systems and processes that will facilitate the commissioning of serious child safeguarding cases locally and by the new national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel.
- 6. Striving to improve our knowledge and learning from learning from Serious Case Reviews.
- 7. Continuing to support the implementation of the new 'signs of safety' child protection planning model.
- 8. Continuing to support the implementation of the Graded Care Profile 2 risk assessment tool and assess its impact.
- 9. Enhancing the skills and knowledge of practitioners through the delivery of an ambitious training plan, set against the strategic priorities of the partnership.
- 10. Collaborating on a pan Merseyside perspective to improve efficiency and efficiency





APPENDIX A - CONTRIBUTION OF PARTNERS

Knowsley Youth Mutual

Knowsley Youth Mutual has a wide reach across the borough through its universal and targeted projects at various sites, working with young people ranging from 7- 21yrs. As key workers for young people, our success relies on our ability to form positive relationships and provide safe spaces for young people to develop and learn and develop a curriculum for life informally. KYM offers awareness sessions on a number of issues affecting young people and positive relationships are integral to any SRE sessions.

Through relationship and trust building YPs can and do share their lives and experiences, which could potentially lead to disclosure and safeguarding procedures. These range from KYM Record Your Concern, to safeguarding child protection protocols.

KYM maintains high standards in delivering quality services in the community, supporting both young people and their families and which safeguarding is paramount. KYM staff and volunteers are conversant with KMBC current safeguarding procedures through regular and ongoing training currently online, including 7-minute briefings. KYM have also provided opportunities in Domestic Abuse training and using signs of safety to inform and raise awareness.

KYM targeted services requires referral process, partner agencies can refer to:-

 Me Time group for young carers compromised care by using KYM online referral form Step Forward 1-2-1 early help intervention requiring open episode and using KYM referral form on EHM system.

This system monitors KYM referrals with DARIM and reductions in risk taking behaviours.

- NEET referrals from careers connexions, Virtual schools, KMBC tracking team.
- THinK services school clinics,
- THinK clinics KYM universal provision.

This partnership work requires a multi-agency approach to support YP through information sharing and best practice by using TAF, Strategy, MASH and MACE.

KYM are third sector partners in Contextualising Safeguarding Scale Up pilot with KMBC and University of Bedfordshire to establish a framework, which includes extra familiar harms into established safeguarding systems to cover context and places of harms for young people. KYM youth membership will be consulted to inform the framework and develop best practice as a new safeguarding policy and procedure.

Our targeted services approach is successfully delivering on the key outcomes in line with the KSCP board's priorities such as ensuring consistent support for families, partners working together and ensuring the voice of the child is key to KYM service. A major concern for youth workers at VIBE throughout lockdown have been those young people who are victims of neglect, VIBE youth workers have been able to provide structure and routine to young people's day through lockdown, by being a constant contact and support, no matter the time of day.

Youth workers have held one to one support sessions and group virtual support sessions to discuss coping techniques for anxiety and stress through such uncertain times, as well as sessions to escape the stress of the day and engage with their peers on games, quizzes and virtual scavenger hunts.

Since March 2020, they have hosted a virtual offer to our members, they have shared with young people where they could access support to health services, organisations they could refer them to for support with food supply, they have hosted and promoted self-care days for those young people were their physical care may have been neglected,.

Merseyside Police

Merseyside Police continue to work with partner agencies to provide a systematic approach to support the delivery of the strategic priorities. For example as part of the multi-agency response to domestic abuse, they support and participate in the MARAC process and Op Enhance; this ensures they provide a quality service to the victims of DA and that the victims and their families are safeguarded and supported.

They work with local DA advocates and IDVA to provide support to victims and families that would not normally have gone to MARAC, this provides victims and families with additional support, which ordinarily would have gone unrecognised.

A large amount of work has been completed to ensure that the Voice of the child is captured following interaction with the police. This includes amendments to the VPRF, introduction for a specific in custody VPRF, Amendments to Niche to capture during an investigation involving a child. This has all be supported with significant internal marketing and drive to ensure compliance.

They have a dedicated DA investigation team; within the department who have experience dealing with DA, they can focus and provide a bespoke service to victims and families.

They have developed a recovery support service- Victims of DA who are reluctant to proceed to court of have concerns, will be visited and support provided, they will also be supported during the court case and provided with a tailored care package.

They have targeted offenders of DA, Staff from Targeted, Local Policing and Investigators have targeted named offenders for Domestic related offences, this has been supported by a press/ media appeal incorporating social networks and a name and shame strategy they have arranged a number of Police operations to target the suspects within the community and working with partner.

Technology has been utilised to protect victim's Tesco's devices issued where applicable and staff fully aware of the procedures. They have now automated operation encompass and the system has been streamlined. Internal process have been streamlined in relation to partner agency meetings and remote working which has allowed staff to interact more with partners.

During the end of last year, Merseyside Police launched a 3-month drive around embedding quality in relation to Domestic Abuse. This focused on body worn video evidence, evidence led prosecutions and ensuring the Community First.

They provide dedicated staff to both the MASH and SHIELD teams, who are specialists in identifying risk factors and are fully conversed with the Pan Merseyside Child Exploitation Multi-Agency Assessment Tool (CE2). They take proactive action and implement disruptive tactics against those who are sexually or criminally abusing and exploiting children and young people. This is often done via force / or local operations such as Operation Toxic (Merseyside Police Force's response to tackle County Lines emanating out of Merseyside and importing into other Police Forces nationally), Operation Glaz (an Operation bettheyen Knowsley CE team, Sefton CE team and North Wales Police to address the specific exploitation of a known victim)

Merseyside Police employ high victim contact standards, Victim Contact Contracts must be included on all investigation logs; these contracts will be agreed with the victim and will determine how frequently they wish to be updated on their crime. This is then adhered to, with the investigation flagging up should the Officer in Charge go over the agreed time, without initiating contact. Where children are reluctant to engage with police, this contact can be completed with their guardian or any person with appropriate parental responsibility. They work closely with other agencies, such as social care & catch 22, so that they can liaise with us if the child confides in them, and vice versa. Sharing knowledge is vital.

They provide a 24-hour non-emergency contact number and a 24-hour emergency number. They are also actively involved with crime stoppers and they have our own Tell Us system.

Youth Offending Service

YOS have focused on raising awareness for staff, increasing assessment and identification of children witnessing DA, as they'll as well as identifying the early signs of child to parent violence, sibling violence or relationship abuse.

Holistic assessment identifies the impact of Domestic Abuse on children, recognising the trauma and adverse childhood experience this can have including long term behavioural and health implications.

They have made staff aware of the local services to support children where Domestic Abuse is evident as well as Parenting support and access to wider local support in the community.

Staff have more recently had experience with a number of Trafficking cases in respect of CE (see below) and have all had training in Prevent/ Radicalisation.

They have Managers represented on Channel and MARAC who also disseminate updates and training on Prevent and DA, as they'll as well as supporting the strategic approach to these priorities.

They have supported and helped develop a greater understanding of contextual safeguarding risks to children in Knowsley and YOS Multi-agency risk management (MARM) processes reflect this to mitigate the risk. They have Strategic, Operational and practitioner Champions for Contextual safeguarding in YOS, as they'll as well as those who also represent YOS at MACE and Shield Performance Board to support the strategic approach.

Staff are trained and committed to tackling all forms of child exploitation in Knowsley.

They assess all children to capture exploitation at initial assessment stages and throughout intervention. They employ Safeguarding pathways to respond to children exposed to criminal exploitation, including multi-agency working in respect of NRM, Human Trafficking cases exploited by individuals and serious organized crime.

All staff are fully aware of the Pan Merseyside Protocol and local pathways and contribute to the MACE processes to protect children. Staff raise awareness to children, parents and carers, to assist with early identification and highlight signs and symptoms of CE. They offer voluntary extended programmes to continue to support children assessed as at risk of CE when coming to the end of YOS intervention.

Merseyside YOTs also supported development of a practitioner guide to assist with complex NRM, Human Trafficking cases, given the different legislative processes and timescales that conflict with criminal prosecutions when a child is identified as a victim of CE.

As part of the assessment process for all children in YOS they explore issues of safety and well-being including neglect. This enables YOS to provide needs led intervention, building on strengths whilst addressing vulnerabilities to reduce risks. Several staff within YOS have attended GCP2 and more staff will access this training during the forthcoming year.

MST Child Abuse & Neglect (CAN) MST CAN has now been running for 18 months and specifically targets children at risk of physical abuse or neglect. This intensive 24/7 model is a

better fit for children in Knowsley on the edge of care and through the intensive therapy for the families has been achieving high levels of success for all those families.

Community Safety

The Domestic Abuse Operational Group 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 (appendices 1). 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.

Safer Communities Service have the lead responsibility to take forward the priorities and strategic direction for domestic abuse and the operational delivery for support services for those aged 16 plus impacted upon by Domestic Abuse .The service is responsible for a number of tactical, co-ordination and risk assessment process across the borough, these include

- BRAG Meeting: Screening of all low and medium risk assessed police incidents of DA
- MARAC: (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) – domestic abuse high risk assessment conference
- MATAC: (Multi-Agency task and Co ordination) – domestic abuse high risk, serial/repeat perpetrator risk assessment conference
- MARAC Steering Group
- The Domestic Abuse Governance Group
- The Domestic Abuse Operational Group

Domestic Abuse - the Knowsley Pathway (16+)

As indicated since 2015 Knowsley has invested in developing an aligned response to domestic abuse which has seen the establishment of a victim/survivor pathway (16+) which ensures that every victim of domestic abuse is offered support, regardless of their risk level (low, medium and high). Knowsley also has a dedicated perpetrator/alleged perpetrator pathway targeting challenge and support to non-statutory offenders. Knowsley are the only City region Authority to implement this dedicated pathway.

Safer Communities Domestic Abuse Service support victim/survivors who have been MERIT assessed as bronze or silver. The service also provides the perpetrator pathway for those non-statutory perpetrators of domestic abuse.

In Knowsley high risk victims of domestic abuse are referred to MARAC with advocacy support being provided via the grant aided First Step IDVA Service., Safer Communities Service manage this arrangement. The following section provides and overview of the performance data for The IDVA Service during quarters one and two of 2019/20.

The children of those referred to Safer Communities Service are supported via the existing pathways of support across universal services, Early Help and Prevention Services, Family First and Children's services, the Local Authority also commission therapeutic work for children to Listening Ear In 2018/19

the Knowsley Domestic Abuse pathways were strengthened and extended through roll-out of a number of trials including Operation Enhance, Triage intervention, an enhanced perpetrator offer and the dispersed accommodation.

BRAG:

In March 2019 the BRAG meeting management and facilitation transferred from MASH to Safer Communities Domestic Abuse Service and Early Help and Prevention, the BRAG screens all bronze and silver risk police VPRF1's that have been completed by police colleagues following a call for police service due to a reported domestic abuse incident. The BRAG is now facilitated two times per theyek and the process identifies the correct pathway at the earliest opportunity for those impacted upon by domestic abuse.

The change in the BRAG management has enabled the service to undertake a more thorough screening of incidents to ensure that only those that meet the definition of domestic abuse are sent to the service for support. Previously a large amount of inappropriate referrals was received. The facilitation and management of BRAG has been incorporated into the daily business of the service without any current additional resource to support the process.

Triage Advocate:

In order to respond to the level of domestic abuse referrals into Safer Communities Service the Troubled Families Programme has provided investment, currently to 31 March 2021, for a Domestic Abuse Triage Officer to review and triage referrals as they are received into the service. The purpose of this offer is that a more dedicated service offer, more quickly, is likely to mitigate ongoing risks to that victim.

Operation Enhance;

Is the name given to Knowsley's secondary response to Domestic Abuse incidents and parental conflict whereby victims are jointly visited by a police officer and a Safer Communities Domestic Abuse Advocate in the days following a domestic abuse incident. The intervention is jointly delivered by Safer Communities Service and Merseyside Police SIRT Team with the Operation Enhance Advocate being funded by the partnership's successful Public Health Innovation Fund Project bid and Adult Social Care until March 2021.

Dispersed accommodation

In 2019, Knowsley and the wider City Region Authorities were successful in securing funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to further extend and build upon the learning of the pilot dispersed accommodation project from 2017/18. Managed by Knowsley as the lead authority and delivered by YMCA Liverpool the funding has been secured to increase and accelerate access to 160 safe accommodation units for those households fleeing domestic abuse (inclusive of start-up grant and target hardening). Running alongside this YMCA Empotheyrment Practitioners provide an intensive floating support service across all dispersed accommodation units. The Dispersed accommodation model has proven to be a positive approach responding to individual

support and accommodation need, a further funding proposal is being submitted to MHCLG for continuation funding until March 2021, following which it is anticipated that further funding be made available for Local Authorities to fund safe accommodation based services (not to replace existing advocacy support) in order to discharge the statutory duties stemming from the forthcoming Domestic Abuse Bill

Perpetrator Pathway

Recognising that in order to address the issue of domestic abuse those responsible need to be held to account for their behaviour Knowsley have invested in establishing a dedicated perpetrator pathways for nonstatutory perpetrators. The pathway has been in place since 2016 and it currently has a seconded Merseyside Police PCSO supporting the pathway The Pathway is also support by a Troubled Families funded Perpetrator Officer, seconded from CRC until March 2021. The Perpetrator Officer also has responsibility for the development of MATAC, a multi-agency risk assessment conference for high-risk serial and repeat perpetrators of domestic abuse. Knowsley is the only Merseyside Local Authority who has a dedicated perpetrator offer and a MATAC approach to responding to high risk/serial perpetrators.

Special Education Sector

The following list provides examples of special schools engaging with programmes aimed at raising awareness of the risks and support available to reduce incidents of domestic abuse.

- Black eves and cottage pie
- domestic violence and child exploitation training
- access to learning mentor support
- domestic abuse training in Northwood

The following list provides examples of special schools engaging with programmes aimed at raising awareness of the risks and support available to reduce incidents of child exploitation

- Being Street safe gangs, guns, knives, exploitation(PHCSE)
- Media and Technology online grooming etc (PHSCE)
- Exploring themes such as online safety, sexual/criminal exploitation
- Child exploitation presentation to staff/ parents /pupils
- Chelsea's choice play CSE
- CELLS project
- Grassing and Grooming work
- Real men don't carry knives programme
- Get Away Safe programme
- County lines information training. presentation to special school head teachers around contextual safeguarding.
- Some of the ways to bring this to young people, e.g. plays, showed a lack of linking into their world within the context of a special need

National Probation Service

Domestic abuse is a core area of business for National Probation Service. NPS supervises high risk and/or MAPPA-eligible offenders who have been convicted of domestic abuse offences, as well as offenders convicted of other offences who have a history of, or current evidence of, perpetrating domestic abuse. They also supervise offenders who may themselves be, or have been, victims of domestic abuse.

All high risk, MAPPA eligible and Child Protection cases are subject to Management Oversight, which is a formal process where cases are revietheyd bettheyen the manager and practitioner on a six-monthly basis, to ensure that risks are being appropriately managed. In domestic abuse cases, this includes assurances that safeguards are in place to protect victim-survivors and children.

NPS practitioners actively contribute to Child in Need, Child Protection and Early Help plans, and will contribute to the package of interventions/safeguarding measures by facilitating offending-behaviour work, purchasing programmes and imposing licence conditions to protect children from the effects of domestic abuse. For example non-contact with partner/children) without approval, the requirement for an offender to notify of developing relationships and exclusion zones.

National Probation Service joined the Knowsley MASH partnership on 7th August 2019 on a half-day basis, five days per week. The MASH SPOC attends the daily MASH meetings, completes checks and shares information in relation to new referrals.

NPS are committed to supporting multiagency approaches to managing the risks associated with domestic abuse. Locally, NPS is represented at Knowsley MARAC, DVDS and MATAC conferences.

Staff consult with partner agencies as part of the assessment process, including police and MASH/CSC. If a child/family is receiving support from Early Help, or is subject to Child Protection/Child in Need Plan, this will be integrated into their risk management plan and sentence plan. Offender Managers actively contribute to CP and CIN processes.

NPS work closely with Merseyside Police and other partners to ensure that information pertaining to exploitation of children linked to offenders is shared and acted upon in a timely manner. If an offender is identified as being linked to an Organised Crime Group, practitioners will request intelligence and will consider whether their activity/affiliations present risks to any known children; if so, MARF will be completed.

The NPS MASH PSO acts as a link between MASH and NPS in terms of sharing information. They have access to Early Help Module and CSC systems. Where information indicates that risk is unmanageable in the community and can be disclosed to the offender and Public Protection Casework Section, this can be used to support recall of the offender back to custody

North West Boroughs

NWBH provides two representatives to the MARAC, one representing mental health adult and children's services and one representing children's community health services. This ensures that information is both provided to the MARAC and that all health practitioners working with victims and perpetrators are aware of the actions of the MARAC.

All Operation encompass domestic abuse notifications are received by the NWBH safeguarding team who ensure that these are added to the electronic child health record and a copy provided to the GP to ensure that all health practitioners are aware and able to offer support as required. The 0 - 19 services have a pathway of response to these notifications to ensure consistency in approach.

Targeted Criminal Exploitation & County Lines briefing sessions have been delivered to all mental health services that work with clients under the age of 18.

A recent audit completed within Mental Health/Learning Disability Services provided assurance of staff confidence and competency to respond effectively to CE in practice.

Livv Housing

The partnership works well and our staff are confident in working together with other agencies.

The following headlines reflect some of the systems and processes they have developed and implemented to support the priorities of the partnership,

- Domestic Abuse Policy
- Internal Concerns process
- Dedicated Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator
- Dedicated Safeguarding Officer in MASH team
- DA Champion (HR representative) for employee awareness/disclosures/ theyllbeing
- Robust case management system and regular case review
- Deliver regular training to all staff (Domestic abuse/concerns/ACEs)
- Member of Community Safety Partnership
 Executive Team
- Member of Knowsley Safeguarding Children
 Partnership
- Member of Domestic Abuse Operational Group
- Member of Domestic Abuse Governance
 Group
- Regular attendance at MARAC
- Awareness raising (e.g. White Ribbon week.)

In addition, they have put forward recommendations, aimed at improving our engagement processes including briefing to officers' attending CP conferences, TAF meeting etc,

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service (MFRS) deliver Target Hardening visits for individuals who may be at risk of arson due to Domestic Abuse. They also offer Home Fire Safety Checks (HFSC) to individuals who are not at risk of arson, however due to other issues such as medication, alcohol; drugs, mental wellbeing, smoking etc. may be at an increased risk of fire in the home.

MFRS also through monthly safeguarding briefing raise awareness (7-minute briefings) with Operational Crews and other frontline staff to look for the signs of DA when attending incidents, post incident of via routine prevention work. MFRS Youth Engagement Teams have delivered intervention projects, particularly with Everton in the Community (EitC) with children and young people who are on the cusp of being excluded from school and at a higher risk of becoming involved in County Lines, Gang and knife crime.

Operational Crews and frontline staff are given awareness training of what the indicators are when attending incidents, post incident and through routine prevention activity.

Also via Fire Cadets, MFRS raise awareness of CE.

Adult Social Care

Adult Social Care, with other partners in Knowsley's MASH respond to circumstances of domestic abuse through the operational processes within the MASH including daily strategy meetings and interventions where there are adults with needs for care and support or with relevant caring responsibilities. Performance reporting to the MASH Governance Board, chaired by the DASS at Knowsley Council, ensures both visibility and challenge.

Adult Social Care has a statutory duty under the Care Act 2014 to respond to safeguarding concerns in respect of adults with needs for care and support who are experiencing, or likely to experience, abuse or neglect.

Hotheyver, Adult Social Care recognises the context within which child exploitation occurs, not least through its transitional arrangements with Children's Social Care, wider Council Services and work with the Community Safety Partnership. They are developing our responses through the Contextual Safeguarding Strategic Board to 'transitional safeguarding', which includes issues relating to the exploitation of young people moving into adulthood.

The Merseyside Safeguarding Adult Board in partnership with Liverpool John Moores University has agreed that multi-agency guides for staff in respect of 'transitional safeguarding' and 'inter-familial neglect' will be developed over the coming year.

Merseyside CRC

CRC currently deliver the following interventions for male perpetrators of Domestic abuse:

Building Better Relationships

Is a 29-session group based programme targeted at adult men, i.e. those aged 18 plus who are, or were, in a heterosexual relationship when the violence and/or aggression took place.

Help

Is a 15-session group based healthy relationship intervention for adult male Service Users with identified relationship difficulties. Help is an early intervention and can be delivered to Service Users who have DA convictions or with those who have identified relationship problems, which are a factor in their general offending behaviour.

Creating Safer Relationships;

Is a healthy relationships programme delivered by the Case Manager on a one to one basis for service users who meet the eligibility criteria but are unable to complete a group-based programme. The programme can be adapted to the needs of the service user and consists of a minimum of 8 sessions with up to 14 sessions available.

The Partner Link Worker offers support to the partner at the time of the incident and any current partners of men attending either BBR or HELP. In the case of BBR, the contact with the women is at the end of each module, which is approximately every 6 theyeks.

PSS/Women's Turnaround:

They offer interventions for DA victims, which are the Freedom Programme and Ruby support.

MCRC are currently planning commencement of a HELP for women pilot, which they will be running at Prescot beginning in March 2020.

Domestic Abuse Perpetrator worker:

Merseyside CRC currently have a staff member seconded out to the Safer Communities Domestic Abuse Service operating from Knowsley MBC until March 2021. This innovative post involves managing a caseload of Domestic Abuse Perpetrators/Alleged Perpetrators in order to deliver intervention to reported or identified domestic abuse incidents.

Safer Communities Advocate (Triage/Repeat); This involves working as a member of the Community Safety Service delivering a victim focussed response to reported issues of crime and anti-social behaviour.

MATAC:

The above Domestic Abuse perpetrator worker attends the MATAC meetings and links in with CRC staff re any relevant cases. Senior Case Managers based at Prescot CRC attend the MATAC meeting also to contribute to the multi-agency approach, risk assessment and management.

Merseyside CRC Risk, Safeguarding and Public Protection Group:

This Group meets monthly to ensure risk assessment, risk management and planning to manage risk of harm is delivered effectively to support public protection. Members interrogate data against the Interchange Rehabilitation Outcome Framework and ensure that key activities are delivered which ensure MCRC manages cases safely.

Evidence from Internal Quality Assurance and other Audits will drive priorities and benchmark practice. The Group highlights and shares good practice and, in addition, will provides governance to this important area of work and support a culture of challenge and accountability.

St Helens and Knowsley Hospital Trust

STHK has a dedicated Domestic Abuse policy applicable to patients and staff.

The Trust provides representation to Knowsley MARAC and shares relevant information in relation to cases as applicable. Also, attend the Domestic Abuse operational group.

STHK provides representation to the MACE and MACSE meeting in Knowsley, as well as the CE missing and performance board and Contextual Safeguarding implementation group.

The ED department have completed an audit examining attendances for children pre MACE meeting inclusion to identify a possible early indicators, this has resulted in the development of a CE screening tool being added to ED attendance documentation

Children's Social Care

Children's Social care work with partner agencies to provide a coordinated joined up approach that reflect the priorities of the partnership.

The following headlines are a reflection of their commitment to provide a quality service to the victims of domestic abuse and that the victims and their families;

- Assessment of impact of Domestic Abuse via a whole family Early Help Assessment and Family Plan.
- Completion of DARIM to identify needs for children and subsequent referral into Listening Ear for therapeutic intervention for children.
- Safety planning with victim/survivors of Domestic Abuse
- Safety planning with children to reduce the impact of Domestic Abuse
- Partnership working with Safer
 Communities team to provide Target
 Hardening

Referrals into Safer Communities team for perpetrator pathway

- Application for dispersed accommodation for victim/survivors of Domestic Abuse.
- Direct work sessions with children on the impact of Domestic Abuse
- Delivery of the Freedom Programme
- Provision of information into Children's Social Care regarding Mum's engagement in Freedom programme to assist their planning and decision-making.
- Provision of research and planning as part of MARAC
- Screening of BRONZE VPRF via BRAG
- Screening of SILVER VPRF within Family
 First duty

The restrictions imposed by the pandemic limited the amount of face-to-face contact with children and families. They are currently working on the recovery plan to re-introduce increased visits and direct work sessions with children. Children's Social Care have continued to support the delivery of the Graded Care Profile 2 assessment tool, which has been used in Knowsley for the last two years.

The tool not only looks at physical neglect but also goes wider to assess safety, child development and the emotional needs of children. It is a comprehensive assessment tool, which can help staff from many agencies develop their own practice and plan appropriate intervention work with families.

Training has been provided to all relevant agencies from a team of multi-disciplined practitioners since the tool was launched. This training not only develops an understanding of the tool but looks at the wider issue of neglect and how they can improve our practice to understand better that neglect is a pattern and not an event as well as working with families to prevent multiple referrals to services.

The training has been very well received so far and they are well on the way to embedding the Graded Care Profile 2 into practice across the children's workforce.

Primary schools

Primary schools have used CPOMS digital system to log all concerns or incidents of Domestic Abuse, neglect and child exploitation. They work in collaboration with Social Care, Operation Encompass and other agencies to meet the needs of our families.

There are designated Safeguarding Officers in schools who access relevant training along with the wider staff when appropriate such as Keeping Children Safe In Education, PREVENT, FGM, Knife crime, County Lines and Keeping Children Safe In Education.

There are regular NSPCC assemblies and children are aware of Child line numbers and what to do through posters displayed around school.

Regular safeguarding team meetings are held to discuss concerns or issues and all Governors and staff are familiar with safeguarding procedures, which are reviewed and recorded.



APPENDIX B - ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE

In Knowsley there is one college of further education, 50 nursery and primary schools, 6 secondary schools, 4 special schools and a pupil referral unit.

The following chart provides a summary of key performance indicators, which enable us to guage 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	67.8%	68.9%	71.8%
Key Stage I - Reading expected standard	72%	73%	75%
Key Stage I - Writing expected standard	65%	67%	69%
Key Stage I - Mathematics expected standard	72%	74%	76%
Year I phonics decoding	80.5%	81.9%	82%
Key Stage 2 - reading writing & mathematics - expected standard	63%	65%	65%
Key Stage 4 Average progress 8 score per pupil	-0.81	-018	-0.02
Key Stage - Average attainment 8 score per pupil	33.8	45.5	46.9

Number of VPRF forms submitted -

Merseyside Police to the Vulnerable Persons Referral Unit between 1st April 2019 – 31st March 2020 processes summary of all VPRF

Adults at Risk	791
Channel	3
Child Abuse or Concern	1,194
Child Exploitation (Criminal or Sexual)	114
Domestic Abuse	3,266
- Gold	184
- Silver	857
- Bronze	2,224
Mental Health Concern	910
Total	6,278

Knowsley

Number of young people detained in custody over 24hours

Between 01/04/19 to 31/03/20 records show 6 persons between 10 and 17 yrs old detained in custody for over 24 hours.

Of note, four males related to the same investigation.

Number of Knowsley children held in Police detention overnight (between 2300/0700rs) 58 children detained overnight. This figure includes a number who were arrested after

includes a number who were arrested after 2300 hours.

Number of Knowsley children detained following charge.

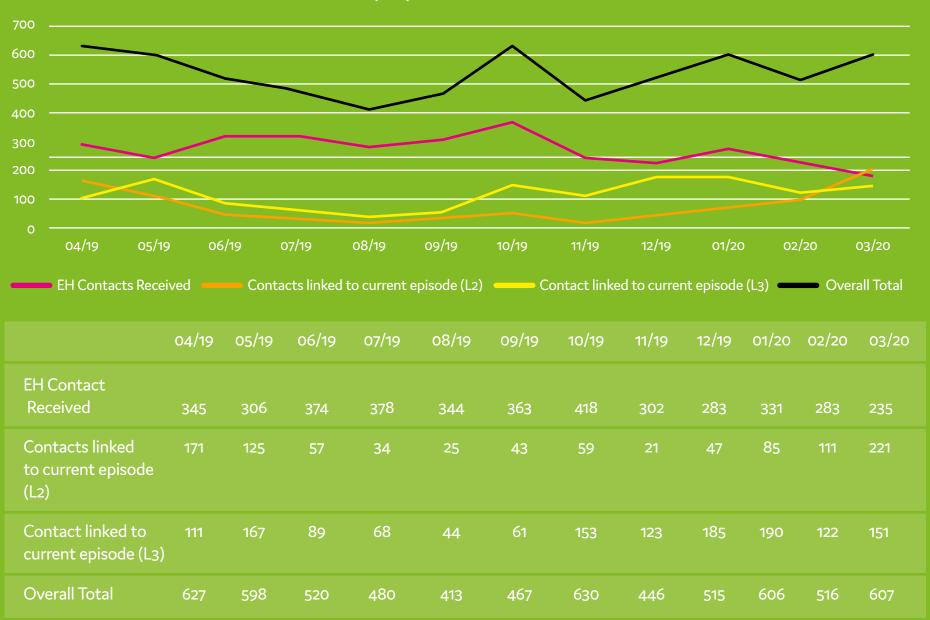
There have been 15 youths remanded following charge.

Early Help

- 1238 level 3 assessments were completed during the year.
- 987 of 1342 (74%) level 3 episode closures were classed as successful
- 544 level 2 assessments were completed during the year
- 1129 of 1553 (73%) level 2 episode closures were classed as successful

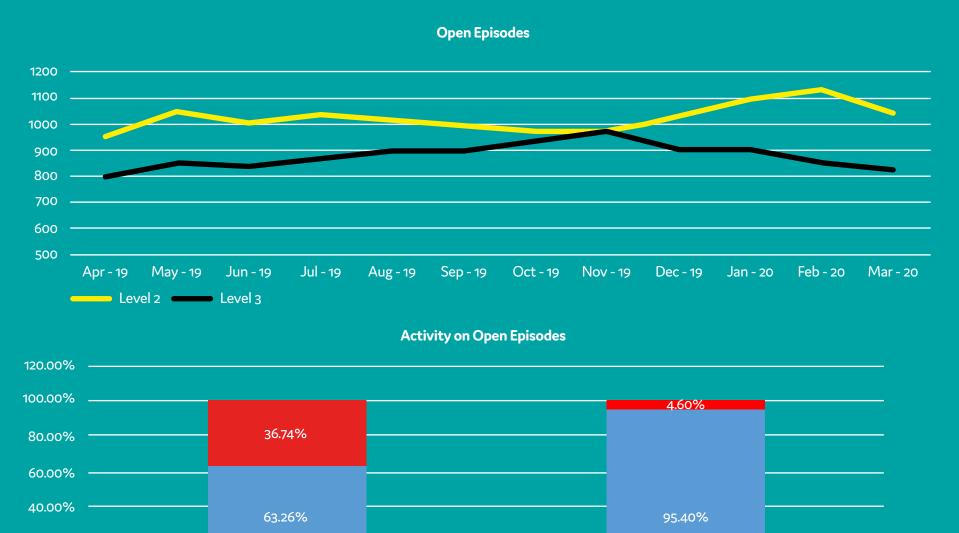


Contacts into MASH – For Early Help



Early Help Contacts - 12 month trend

Episodes





Activity within 60 days decreased by 4% for level 2, however activity within 30 days increased marginally to just over 95% for level 3.

Numbers of Children & Adults open to Early Help

Establishment	Adult	Children	Total
Central Area Support	1	3	4
CWD Support Workers	2	2	4
Early Help L2 Team	59	84	143
EHM Leadership Team	5	10	15
Family First One	1	3	4
Family First Two	16	17	33
Knowsley Integrated Early Years' Service	31	47	78
Liverpool Women's Hospital	3	1	4
Merseyside Fire Service	1		1
NWBH	45	68	113
Portage		2	2
Primary	139	258	397
Private Nurseries	10	15	25
School Attendance Team - EHM	3	2	5
Secondary	77	100	177
Special	16	27	43
The First Step	1	2	3
Youth Offending Service	1	4	5
Grand Total	411	645	1056

Numbers of Children & Adults open to Family First

Establishment	Adult	Children	Total
Family First One	88	150	238
Family First Two	125	205	330
Family First Three	96	145	241
Unknown		6	13

Social Care summary

Referral numbers have remained consistent over the last two years. Per 10,000 referral numbers have been below comparators throughout the period - Knowsley p10k. 1454 referrals screened by MASH in 2018/19, compared to 1426 in 2018/19 – a net increase of 32 referrals. 96% of referrals progressed to a children and families assessment.

Sustained quality of assessments, the established early help off and understanding of thresholds from partners has seen repeat referrals continue to outperform comparators. Repeat referral performance did hotheyver increase from 15% in 2019/19 to 16% in 2019/20, compared to the national rate of 21%. In real terms, there was a net increase of 19 repeat referrals (233 from 214). Assessments resulting in no further action have also remained steady, cases continue to step across to Early Help or becoming subject of a CIN plan for a short period. 29% of assessment resulted in no further action in 2019/20.

Compliance measures such as statutory visits, core groups, CLA and CP reviews are consistently on time and on target. Children participate in their reviews (98% March 2019), and care planning meetings take place.

The workforce is experienced. Staff are supervised regularly. Vacancy rates are both below target and caseload numbers across the department have reduced to 18.7 in year (target 18-20 cases per worker). Knowsley has not employed an agency social worker since September 2017, however maternity leave regularly affects caseload numbers; on average 4 workers were on maternity leave each month throughout 2019/20.

More Section 47 enquiries were completed in 2019/20 than the previous year; up 20%. A number of these were completed on children looked after or already subject to a plan, however the conversion rate from child in need plan to initial conference (72%) is higher than new cases into the system (28%), however this trend is switching. In March 2020, 100% of new S47 enquiries progressed to initial conference compared to 40% of child in need. Child Protection numbers fell 18% in year (171 down from 209 at 31st March), and is now considered too low. Per 10,000 rate of 51 is considerably lower than statistical neighbours (66). Children subject to a second or subsequent plan has remained at 17% over the last two years. In contrast, the national trend for repeat plans has increased to 21%. Knowsley also performs well on children being subject or a second plan within 12 months – 1.4% (1 family).

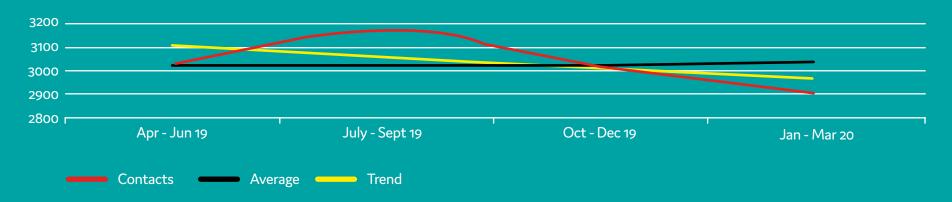
Graded care profiles are not routinely recorded for children experiencing neglect. 24% (22) of the 93 child protection plans for neglect had a graded care profile at year-end.

The Children looked after cohort was stable throughout 2019/20. Numbers peaked at 312 in August 2019, and 308 children were looked after at year-end – 92 per 10,000 (below North West 94, and statistical neighbours 118). Numbers entering care and ceasing to be looked after fell way below the average in 2019/20. 77 children started to be looked after, and 69 ceased. Historically turnover figures have been between 100-120 per year. Low numbers entering and leaving the system have played a part in stability measure improvements. Less children experienced 3 or more placements (27 down from 37), and longterm stability (placed with the same carer for 2 years) increased from 63% to 74% in 2019/20. The care planning process and pre disruption meetings is now embedded across the service, and a permanency tracker was launched September 2019. 70% of looked after children are in their permanent placement. Permanency was achieved for additional 18 children in 2019/20; 6 children were adopted and 12 special guardianship orders were award in the year

230 children were missing from their placement on 629 occasions during 2019/20. 97.4% were offered, or had a return interview completed, hotheyver this falls to 37% for children with a completed return interview. Cohort consists of a small number of children who regular abscond from their placement and their whereabouts is known (family/ friends).

95% of care leavers have a valid pathway plan and they are in regular contact with 85% of care leavers (bi monthly visits). Care leavers in education, employment or training improved to 61% in November 2019, compared to a national average of 51%. Hotheyver, this declined to 50% at year-end, largely due to the Covid 19 pandemic. 92% of care leavers were in suitable accommodation at year-end, hotheyver the 6 who were unsuitable were in custody

Contacts in a period



	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
L4 Screening	402	436	413	470	381	443	546	434	428	517	481	423
Info & Advice	152	156	134	166	181	163	164	130	90	156	106	111
Court Reports	19	36	9	41	28	29	27	28	33	25	19	63
Missing	61	113	66	65	64	46	54	44	45	65	48	55
EHM Contacts	345	306	374	378	344	363	418	304	283	331	283	234
Total	979	1047	996	1120	998	1044	1209	940	879	1094	937	887





New contacts proceeding to referrals in March dropped down to 69 in March, which is the lowest the figure has been in 12 months. Referral trend fell in part due to the Covid19 outbreak

Repeat Referrals within 12 Months of a Previous Referral

England (2018/19)	21%
North Theyst (2018/19)	21%
Stat Neighbour (2018/19)	19%
Knowsley (2017/18)	21%
Knowsley (2018/19)	15%
Knowsley Rolling 12 month rate	15.8%
Knowsley 2019/20	16%

Percentage of referrals in Month within 12 months of a previous Referral

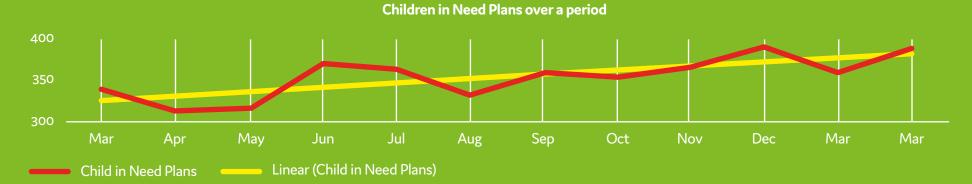


Knowsley's repeat referral rate remained below comparators throughout the year, but increased fractionally from 2018/19.

Assessment timescales

Year/Month	0-10	11-25	26-35	36-45	46+	Grand Total
2019/04	96	62	30	11		206
2019/05	112	54	28	17		211
2019/06	71	44	22	6		143
2019/07	74	72	25	8		179
2019/08	45	58	44	10		157
2019/09	30	54	52	25	3	164
2019/10	34	46	55	42	11	188
2019/11	24	39	70	27	16	176
2019/12	19	43	31	27	12	132
2020/01	37	61	39	18	6	158
2020/02	70	35	47	23	6	181
2020/03	40	44	64	38	16	202
Grand Total	655	614	507	252	77	2107
		84%			16%	

Knowsley continue to work to a 35 day assessment limit, which has seen them perform better than comparators. 45-day timescale (DfE limit) of 96% is amongst the highest in the country.



Child in need plans perform well, in spite an upward term throughout the year. An increase in CIN cases was expected however due to a local decision to bring children with disability direct payments back into the CWD team (previously sat in Early Help).

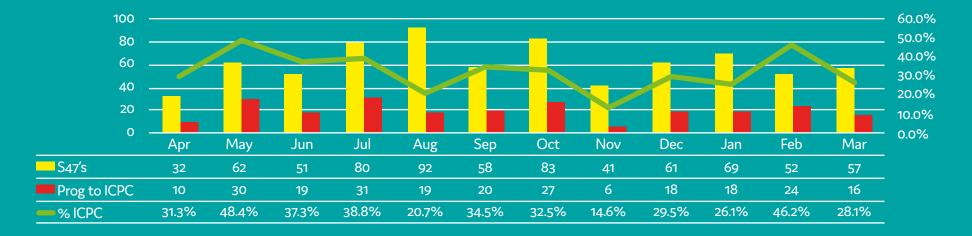
Child Protection

CP Category	Total	%	SN 18/19
Emotional Abuse	63	36.8%	38%
Multiple	0	0%	0%
Neglect	93	54.4%	49%
Physical Abuse	7	4.1%	9%
Sexual Abuse	8	4.7%	4%
Grand Total	171	100%	100%

CP Plans over time



Child protection plans fell from 209 to 171 during 2019-20 – an 18% fall, resulting in a year-end figure of 57 per 10,000 compared to 70 per 10,000 in the North West. At year-end, 3 children have been subject to a plan for 2 or more years. Knowsley has more children subject to a plan for neglect than statistical neighbours.



s47's and % progressing to ICPC

% of Children becoming Subject to a Child Protection Plan for a 2ND or Subsequent Time

England (2018/19)	21%
North West (2018/19)	22%
Stat Neighbour (2018/19)	20%
Knowsley (2017/18) TARGET	14%
Knowsley (2017/18)	24%
Knowsley (2018/19)	18%
Knowsley rolling 12 month re-reg within 12 months	1.4%
Current CP, Previous CP	17.9%

Knowsley (2017/18)	24%	
Knowsley (2018/19)	18%	
Knowsley rolling 12 month re-reg within 12 months	1.4%	
Current CP, Previous CP	17.9%	

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Repeat CP ever	3		5	5	3	0	5	О		0	0		33
Repeat in 12 mth	0	0	0		0	0		0	2	0	0	Ο	
Repeat families	2		3	3	2	0		0	2	0	0		18
CP Started	21	16	32	25	33	14	20	6	6	3	11	14	201

%CP Re Registration Rolling 12 month



Of the current CP cohort (171 children), 35 had a previous CP episode (20%). 7 had a previous CP episode that ended less than 12 months before the latest episode started, this was 3 families. The rolling 12 month figure for repeat CP ever is 16.4%. 201 CP episodes were started within this timeframe, 33 have previously been subject to a plan. 14 CP cases started in March. The rolling 12 month % of repeat plans within 12 months rose to 1.4% in March. 4 indivuals were repeat CP this month - 1 family. Knowsley performs sigificantly better than comparators in terms of repeat plans.

CP Reviews (and Initial conferences)

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
% ICPC Held within timescale	100%	100%	100%	100%	83%	100%	91%	67%	75%	67%	58%	63%	87%
% ICPC outcome of CP Plan	81.0%	92.9%	93.3%	90.5%	100%	100%	86.9%	100%	75%	67%	91.6%	87.5%	90.9%
% CP REV held within timescale	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	97%	95%	93%	98%	89%	100%	100%	97.5%
	% on time												
Total	95.9%												

Child Protection Statutory Visits Knowsley (2017/18) TARGET is 100%. Report updated 01/04/2020.

Children subject to a child protection plan are regularly visited and seen by their social worker. Caseloads are consistent meaning just 11% of children have 3 or more social workers.

Child Protection Core Groups

Knowsley (2017/18) TARGET is 100%. Report updated 01/04/2020.

Key Team	% on time
Grand Total	84.8%

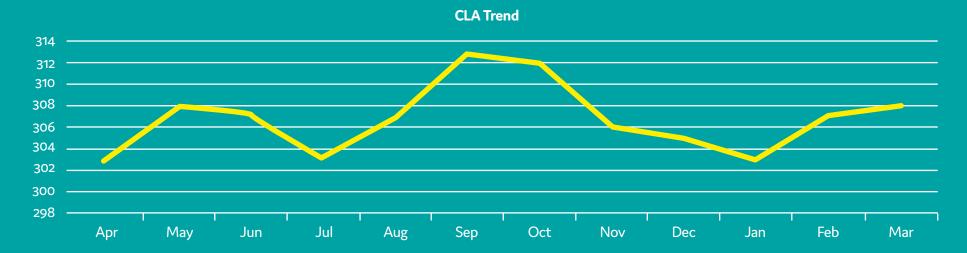
Core groups for children subject to a child protection plan are recorded hotheyver, this measure is consistently below target

Graded Care Profile

All cases subject to a Child Protection Plan, category neglect, to have a graded care profile recorded in ICS.

Key Team	Yes	No	Total	%
Grand Total	22	71	93	24%

93 of the current CP cohort (171 cases) are neglect related. The number of those having a graded care profile at year-end is 24%. This number seems to be reducing month on month and moving further away from the target of 80%.



Children Looked After

Children in care numbers peaked at 312 in September. Numbers throught the year have remained largely consistent, ending the year at 308 or 92 per 10,000, compared to 118 per 10,000 for statistical neighbours.

Children joining and leaving care fell dramatically this year. Numbers have been consistently above 100 (joiners and leavers) in recent years, but in 2019-20 77 started to be looked after and 66 ceased.

CLA – By Placement Group

Placement Group	Total	%
Foster Carer - In House	103	33.4%
Foster Placement - Relative or Friend	69	22.4%
Foster Carer - Agency	48	15.6%
Placed with Parents	44	14.3%
Homes and Hostels - Agency	27	8.8%
Semi Independent Living	8	2.6%
Homes and Hostels - In House	2	0.6%
Independent Living	4	1.3%
Youth Offending Institute/Prison	1	0.3%
Placed for adoption NOT with current foster carer	1	0.3%
Residential School - Agency	1	0.3%
Grand Total	308	

220 CLA are in Foster Care (71.4%) marginally lower than SN 2018/19 (72%)

44 CLA are Placed with Parents (14.3%).



CLA – Care Planning Meetings

6 monthly Care Planning Meetings

Team	0-3 months	3-6 months	6-12 months	1 year+	No CPM	Total
CSC CLA Team 1 - ICS	47	28	2		О	78
CSC CLA Team 2 - ICS	42	24	13	3	0	82
CSC CP1 Team - ICS	3		0	0		8
CSC CP2 Team - ICS		о		0	0	11
CSC CP3 Team - ICS	9	2	0	2		14
CSC CP4 Team - ICS	6	о	0	0		
CSC CWD Team - ICS	15		3	0	0	22
CSC Young Persons Team	32	50		0	0	86
Grand Total	161	112	26	6	3	308
	89%		109	%	1%	

Care planning meetings to take place between looked after reviews, or a maximum of 6 months. 9 out of 10 looked after children had a care-planning meeting in the period

CLA – Three or More Placement Moves

England (2018/19)	10%
North Theyst (2018/19)	10%
Stat Neighbour (2018/19)	9%
Knowsley (2019/20) TARGET	10%
Knowsley (2018/19)	12.3%
Knowsley rolling 12 month	8.8%
Knowsley (2019/20)	8.8%

27 CLA children have had 3 or more placements over the previous year, a decrease of 1 since last month – 8.8% (a decrease of 0.3% since last month). 17 (63%) are female, 10 male (37%). 22 (81%) are aged 11 or over; 12 (44%) between 11 and 15 and 10 (37%) are aged 16 and over. A further 62 children have had 2 placement moves over the previous year (20%). 2 children's number of placements fell from 3 to 1 in the past 12 months and 1 child's placements increased from 2 to 3.

Number	Total	%
6		0.3%
5	2	0.7%
		1.3%
3	20	6.5%
2	62	20.1%
	219	/ 1.170
Grand Total	308	

3 placements – 12 month rolling figure

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
3 placements	37	31	31	23	28	27	40	35	32	28	28	27
% 12%	10%	10%	8%	9%	9%	13%	11%	10.5%	9.2%	9.1%	8.8%	

CLA cohort has increased by 7 over the last 12 months however the number children with 3 or more placements over the previous 12 month is 10 less compared with 12 months ago.

CLA – Placement Stability

Child under 16, in care for more than 2.5 years in same placement for more than 2 years.

England (2018/19)	69%
North West (2018/19)	69%
Stat Neighbour (2018/19)	72%
Knowsley (2019/20) TARGET	75%
Knowsley (2017/18)	68%
Knowsley (2018/19)	66%
Knowsley March 2020	74%

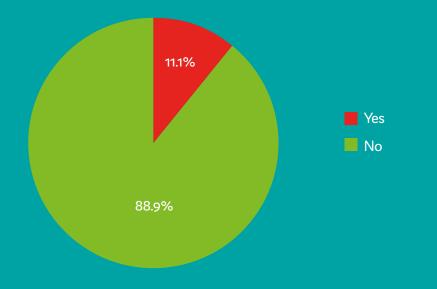
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Placed2yrs	63%	60.70%	62.00%	59.80%	61.50%	61.60%	63.10%	68.60%	70.30%	71.80%	74.30%	73.90%
Trend 2019	68.30%	69.70%	68.60%	67.20%	65.30%	63.60%	65%	65.30%	68.60%	65.20%	65.80%	66.40%

The number of children who are under 16 and have been looked after 2.5 year or more as at 31/03/20 has fallen from by 2, from 113 to 111 during March. The number of these children who have remained in the same placement for 2 years has fallen by 2 from 84 to 82 (73.9%). Our performance is just below Knowsley's 2019-20 target of 75%, above the statistical neighbours (72%) and the national and North West averages (69%).

CLA – Distance from Home

CLA placed outside LA Boundary and more than 20 miles from home

CLA Placed more than 20 miles from home



England (2018/19)	20%
North Theyst (2018/19)	14%
Stat Neighbour (2018/19)	9%
Knowsley (2019/20) TARGET	10%
Knowsley (2015/16)	9%
Knowsley (2016/17)	8%
Knowsley (2017/18)	12%
Knowsley (2018/19)	11.6%
Knowsley March 2020	11.1%

32 CLA are placed more than 20 miles from home (10.4%), down from 11.1% (34 children) last month. Performance is above Stat Neighbours comparator and just above Knowsley's target (10%), however it is considerably below the national and North West comparator. 18 (56%) of the children are male and 21 (66%) are over the age of 11. 22 (69%) have been in their current placement for at least 12 months or more. The 32 children placed over 20 miles from home are in the following placements:-

Foster Carer – Agency	2
Foster Carer - In House	3
Foster Placement - Relative or Friend	8
Homes and Hostels - Agency	14
Independent Living	
Placed for adoption NOT with current foster carer	
Placed with Parents	
Residential School - Agency	
Youth Offending Institute/Prison	

CLA – Reviews Held Within Time

England	No data since 2010
North Theyst	No data since 2010

Participation	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
child participated	46	58	54	80	40	72	69	56	50	72	49	64	710
child did not participate	2	2	2	2			2		0			2	17
Total		48	60	56	82	41	73	71	57	50	73	50	66 727
% participated in review	96%	97%	96%	98%	98%	99%	97%	98%	100%	99%	98%	97%	98%

Stat Neighbour	No data since 2010
Knowsley (2017/18)	98.4%
Knowsley (2018/19)	98.7%
Knowsley (2019/20)	98.8%

Month	LATE	ON TIME	Grand Total	%
Grand Total	10	836	846	98.8%



Review Participation

Children regularly participate and chair their own reviews in Knowsley

Missing

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Missing Episodes	20	34	40	34	36	107	77	60	64	55	55	47	629
Missing Children	11	11	15	17	18	26	17	24	30	17	22	22	230
CLA population	303	308	307	303	313	312	312	305	305	303	307	308	308
% missing children	3.6%	3.6%	4.9%	5.6%	5.8%	8.3%	5.4%	7.6%	9.8%	5.6%	7.1%	7.1%	6.2%
Episodes with return interview	13	12	17	21	16	45	7	18	26	13	10	33	231
% Episodes with return interview	65.0%	35.3%	42.5%	61.8%	44.4%	42.0%	41.1%	30%	74.2%	72.2%	58.8%	76.7%	36.7%
Episodes were return interview not offered	0	Ο	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	о	2
% Episodes were return interview not offered	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	0.0%	2.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%
Return interview offered but declined	7	22	22	13	19	62	12	21	26	5	6	10	225

% Return interview offered but declined	35.0%	64.7%	55.0%	38.2%	52.8%	57.9%	63.1%	35%	40%	28%	18%	23%	35.7%
% With return interview or offered and declined	100%	100%	97.5%	100%	97.2%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	97.4%

Care Leavers Accommodation/ Activity (Annual) Benchmarking includes 19, 20 and 21 year olds only

	Suitable Accommodation	Education, Employment or Training
England (2017/18)	84%	51%
North Theyst (2017/18)	87%	50%
Stat Neighbour (2017/18)	88%	52.4%
Knowsley (2018/19)	90%	44%

Care Leavers Accommodation/ Activity (Bi-Monthly Monitoring ex CLA 17-2	0 years)	

YPT Ex CLA	Current 'In Touch' Visit/ Form	Overdue Visit	Without Form	% Completed
82	75	5		85%

NEET/ EET

NEET/ EET	17	18	19	20	Total
EET		13	11	10	35
NEET		9	14	13	36
Grand Total		22	25	23	71
% NEET	0%	41%	56%	56%	51%

Children in education employment and training impacted by C19

Suitable Accommodation

Suitable?	17	18	19	20	Total
1 – Suitable		17	30	19	67
2 – Unsuitable		2	3	3	8
Total		19	33	22	75
	100%	89%	90%	86%	89%

8 children unsuitable age 18 or 20, as with in the previous 2 months. 6 in custody, 1 in supported living and 1 placed with parents/relatives. 89% of care leavers seen in last 3 months suitably accommodated.

Pathway Plans (age 16-20 years)

Age	Total	Has a Plan	% with Plan	<6 months old	% <6 months old (Target 95%)
16.5-17 years	51	50	98%	50	89%
18-20 years	80	76	95%	76	95%
Total	131	126	96%	126	95%

131 care leavers aged 16 and a half to 20 in March 126 have a pathway plan (96%) an increase from February (94%).

Adoption

Measure	2019/20	Target	Status
Number of Adoptions	6	Data Only	A
Avg time bettheyen a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family (days)	321	426	
Average time bettheyen receiving court authority to place a child and deciding on a match (days)	142	121	
Children who wait less than 14 months bettheyen entering care and moving in with their adoptive family (%) – Annual	50%	100%	
Children with Placement Orders Granted	14	Data Only	A

6 adoptions since April. 1 adoption aged over 5. 13 children currently awaiting adoption. 7 cases adopted in 2018/19.

Caseloads

Key Team	Total Cases allocated to workers	CLA	cla and cp	ср	CIN or Other	Average Caseload per worker
CSC Care Leavers Team	122	0	0	0	122	24.4
CSC CLA Team 1	90	79	0	0	11	16.6
CSC CLA Team 2	94	82	0	0	12	17.2
CSC CP1 Team	107	8	0	41	58	14.7
CSC CP2 Team	113	11	0	32	70	18.5
CSC CP3 Team	120	10	3	39	68	20.6
CSC CP4 Team	183	6	0	54	123	20.3
CSC CWD Team	126	22	0	2	102	22.9
CSC Frontline	9	Ο	0	0	9	0
CSC Young Persons Team	87	86	0	0	1	14.5
Grand Total	1051	304	0	168	576	
Caseloads including Frontline						18.8
Caseloads excluding Frontline						18.8
Caseloads in CP teams						18.5

Complaints / Compliments

	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	Total
Responded in target time	3	1	4	2	2	4	3	0	1	3	1	3	27
Total number complaints	3	2	4	2	2	5	3	1	2	3	2	4	33
Percentage	100%	50%	100%	100%	100%	80%	100%	0%	50%	100%	50%	75%	82%

4 complaints received in March 2020, 75% were responded too in the required timeframe.



