



Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership

Annual Report 2021 /2022



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section 1



Section I - 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.

The Covid 19 pandemic brought about unparalleled challenges in the safeguarding children arena. 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 key partners:

Knowsley Council Cabinet Member for Children's Services

Knowsley Council Chief Executive

Knowsley CCG

Merseyside Police

The Chair of the Knowsley Health and Wellbeing Board

The Chair of the Merseyside Community Safety Partnership

Knowsley Youth Parliament and Children in Care Council

Section 2 - Foreword

I am pleased to share with you our Annual Report for 2021/22. This year has been one of change and challenge for the Knowsley Safeguarding Children's Partnership which has brought about new relationships and revised working arrangements in light of the COVID 19 pandemic, our recovery planning and the increased demands brought about by the high levels of deprivation and need within the borough. It is of note that whilst referral figures have reduced the complexity of cases has increased – resulting in greater pressure on the system.

Recruitment to key posts has also been a considerable challenge for the partnership during the year. This has led to some delays in completing some Partnership work plan actions however achievements have been made with partners looking to innovate to ensure progress has been maintained wherever possible.

The Neglect forum quickly responded to the constraints of the pandemic by ensuring training continued to be delivered virtually, which was more accessible for many staff who reported positively from all the sessions. Neglect continues to be a priority for the partnership and the impact of the forum will be monitored to help us understand the impact and shape the workplan for 2022/23.

The inception of the Knowsley Domestic Abuse Partnership Board in May 2021 has further strengthened the borough's response to the children, young people and their families who suffer, or are at risk of abuse, within their home. The collaboration between the Partnership and the Board will be a key strength in ensuring that the system makes best use of our collective resources as we look to reduce the number of domestic abuse incidents in the borough. The Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022/25 was agreed by the Partnership and supports one of our key priority areas by including the needs of children and young people within the 3 year plan.

Our services for children and young people who are at risk of exploitation are well regarded by partners and positively impact on some of our most vulnerable young people. We have acknowledged that we need to prioritise those who are at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation in 2022/23 due to emerging trends however the work undertaken in 2021/22 with those who are at risk of Criminal Exploitation, has resulted in good outcomes for many young people.

A common thread across all the priorities is to identify early the need for support and intervention. The Knowsley Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy will support the Partnership to achieve its outcomes by ensuring an early response to families who are at risk or are in need of additional support. Again, this is another example of how partners work well together both within the Knowsley Children's Safeguarding Partnership and with those Boards and Partnership that align and collaborate with us.

The strength of these relationships is evident in how the partnership, wider council and Merseyside Police are working to embed a preventative approach to enhance the capability and capacity to keep children safe in Knowsley and to prevent them becoming involved in criminal activity.

The development of a social work team who are to be based in schools from September 2022 is a further example of how the Partnership has influenced working together to improve outcomes for young people and provide a more cohesive response when need is identified.

Our thematic audits and Section 175 audits have provided us with both understanding and assurance. All schools reported to be promoting mental well-being with students, with some schools having mental health leads. Post-pandemic this is particularly pertinent.

The thematic reviews also considered mental health with a number of recommendations being made to the Partnership.

As a Partnership we have been keen to ensure the voice of the child is heard and their views and experiences inform our priorities and work plan. Their involvement this year has been significant, despite the restrictions the pandemic created. We will build on this during 2022/23 to keep them central to our work.

Again, despite the pandemic, the training programme has continued to be delivered by the Partnership with good outcomes being achieved. Whilst the team had to be more flexible and responsive with its approach to delivery methods, much has been gained especially in relation to accessibility of learning.

Finally, I continue to be impressed, encouraged and reassured by the strength of the relationship between the members of the Partnership. The individual, and collective, complexity of vulnerability and demand, presents a challenge to us all, but one which we are actively striving to meet.



Sue Redmond
Independent Chair of Knowsley Safeguarding Children's Partnership

Section 3



Section 3 - Introduction to Knowsley

Knowsley is one of six local authority districts that comprise the Liverpool City Region. It is located at the heart of the Northwest of England, between Liverpool and Manchester and covers an area of 33 square miles, just over 10 miles from south to north, and up to 7 miles across. Census 2021 shows that there are 154,500 people living in Knowsley. This is an increase of 8,700 people from the 2011.

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 59,112 people living there (38.8% of the population of Knowsley). However, the Northwood ward in Kirkby has the highest overall ward population. (Based on 2020 estimates).

Knowsley is the second most deprived Local Authority area in the country. There were 6,496 children (under 15 years old) living in families in poverty within the Borough. The number of children living in poverty in the borough has increased by 25% between 2015/16 and 2020/21.

The highest concentrations of child poverty (under 20 years old) are centred around the Page Moss (42.4%), Stockbridge (40.2%), St Michaels (34.8%) wards in Huyton, the Northwood (53.5%), Cherryfield (34.2%) and Whitefield (39.3%) wards in Kirkby. There are also pockets of high child poverty in Halewood and Prescot.

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 9.1% of the population achieving no qualifications which is higher than the rate in England at 6.6%. There remains a skills gap across all qualification levels for adults in the Borough.



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Section 4 - The Role & Structure of the Partnership

The partnership comprises of the following groups:

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

Strategic Forum

The Strategic Forum provides the required strategic direction and governance around the development and delivery of local safeguarding arrangements.

It meets three times per year and also has an annual development session where priorities are reviewed and agreed. Each meeting is intended to focus on a specific theme based around the key strategic priorities contained within the business plan.

The Core Business Group

The Core Business Group supports the delivery of the business plan. It is supported by the key partners; the Council, Police and Knowsley CCG.

The agreed priority areas with identified leads are;

1. Neglect – Knowsley CCG
2. Domestic Abuse - Knowsley Council
3. Child Exploitation – Merseyside Police

Safeguarding Review and Learning Group

The role of the Safeguarding Review and Learning Group is to facilitate the effective management of local Child Safeguarding Practice Review cases and undertake multi-agency safeguarding practice audits. The group is also responsible for being the conduit at a local level for the delivery in the event of Child Safeguarding Practice Review cases that are undertaken by the National Panel.

The Safeguarding Review and Learning Group are responsible for coordinating other local reviews, which do not meet the criteria for Child Safeguarding Practice Review but present learning opportunities that will enhance delivery and effectiveness 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 Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and local safeguarding practice audits.

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 KSCP Business Plan. The Policy and Performance Group is also responsible for developing, reviewing and implementing appropriate thresholds, policies and procedures that focus on improving outcomes for children and families. The group also provides support to the KSCP in providing strategic direction and governance that is focused on promoting the safeguarding and welfare of children.

Local Safeguarding Partners

The local responsibility 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 in addition to implementing local and national learning including that 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 CCG
- Knowsley Council

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

Name	Organisation
Sue Redmond	Independent Chair
Councillor Margaret Harvey	Knowsley Council's Cabinet Member Children's Services
Julie Moss	Knowsley Council, Executive Director, Children's Services
Helen Meredith	Knowsley CCG
Karl Baldwin	Merseyside Police
Jill Albertina	Knowsley Council (Education)
Lara Wood	Knowsley Council (Early Help and Children's Social Care)
Celine Gafos	Knowsley Council (Children's Services)
Paul Dalby	Knowsley Council (Adult Services)
Catherine Johnson	Knowsley Council (Youth Offending Services)
Ian Willman	Knowsley Council (Safer Communities)
Sarah McNulty	Knowsley Council (Public Health)
Helen Williams	Knowsley Council (Whole Life Commissioning)

Name	Organisation
Alan Sanders	CAFCASS
Jennifer Webster	St. Andrew's the Apostle Catholic Primary School
Vicky Gowan	Lord Derby Academy (Secondary)
Jamie Campbell	Bluebell Park School
Jeanine Williams	Knowsley Community College
Dale Blackburn	MYA, Merseyside Youth Association
Sarah Smith	Livv Housing
Racheal Jones	One Knowsley
Debbie Spruce	Knowsley CCG
Susan Fogarty	Wirral Community Health and Care NHS Trust
Paul Grounds	Merseyside Police
Kevin Johnson	Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service
Sandra Oluonye/Stephanie Richmond	National Probation Service
Lisa Leary	Lay Member



section 5



Section 5 - Priorities of Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership

The Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership agreed the following strategic priorities that 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 wellbeing of children.

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

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 multi-agency audits that are relevant and focused on learning;

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

section 6



Section 6 - Delivery of the strategic priorities

NEGLECT

Neglect continued to be a high priority for the KSCP for 2021. Knowsley CCG is the lead agency for this thematic priority, the group is currently chaired by the Designated Safeguarding Children Nurse & Children Looked After who took over the Chair in January 2022.

The Neglect Forum was established in July 2020, which has enabled all partners to work within a coordinated, multi-agency response, with the overall aim of improving the outcomes for children in Knowsley.

The governance and challenge is being provided by the partnership who are accountable for the delivery of the KSCP Neglect Strategy.

The delivery of the strategies priorities is through the Neglect work-plan, which is monitored by the Neglect Forum and the KSCP Core Business Group. Exception reports are presented to the KSCP Strategic Forum as required.

There are 3 Key priorities for Neglect:

- **Priority 1** – Strong and effective leadership response to Neglect.
- **Priority 2** – Improve awareness, understanding and identification
- **Priority 3** – Evaluate and Improve performance and positive outcomes.

Although the Neglect forum has worked at pace since its inception the last 6 months of the year have been met with challenges, due to a variety of issues, Covid incidence, organisation restructure, inspections and sickness which has subsequently resulted in a significant decline in attendance by key members and slow progress of some of the actions within the work plan.

The work plan is a live document and is updated regularly to reflect any recommendations that have come out of reviews undertaken which pertain to neglect including the recommendations from a Multi-Agency Neglect Audit that was undertaken.

Individual leads are appointed responsible for the actions within the work plan to try and alleviate any drift in the progression of delivery. The progress of the work plan was monitored, and rag rated by the membership of the Neglect Forum, any exceptions were reported to the KSCP as appropriate.

Unfortunately, several actions within the work plan had not progressed as anticipated this is due primarily to absence of key staff and the competing demands on the attending forum members. Multi-agency audit and long term evaluation of the impact of the work undertaken has been unable to be progress due to capacity, and staff absences.

Due to the impact of Covid-19 face to face training could not take place, however this was swiftly mitigated by providing monthly virtual training sessions via the ZOOM platform, facilitated by the KSCB Training Coordinator, supported by members of the partnership.

Delivering the training virtually had the benefit of easier accessibility for a wider range of staff; evaluation of the training was undertaken by the KSCP Training Coordinator following sessions, positive feedback from all sessions was received.

In response to recommendations of the Multi-Agency Neglect Audit and a Safeguarding Practice Learning Review, a new Understanding Neglect training package was developed by the KSCP which was delivered by the Training Coordinator, supported by the practitioners from the wider partnership.

The implementation of the Graded Care Profile 2 Tool has had its own challenges namely due to limited training places available, which were offered on a bimonthly basis, this was namely due to GCP2 trainers moving onto different positions or leaving the organisation, requiring further practitioners being recruited and having to undertake the 'train the trainer' course. Another constraint was ensuring practitioners remained confident and competent in using the tool as part of their assessment with families if this was infrequent episodes.

The KSCP website has a dedicated website for Neglect where there is access to the recommended Neglect screening tool and the GCP2 tool. Training that is offered is highlighted on the sight and links to relevant policies and procedures, including the Multi Agency Neglect Strategy.

<https://www.knowsleyscp.org.uk/neglect-and-the-graded-care-profile-2/>

Recently further work has been undertaken by individual members of the Neglect Forum to identify any perceived barriers which may be mitigated to drive forward the embedding of the GCP2 across all areas of the partnership which has been very positive.

One of the barriers identified when consulting with practitioners was the paper tool used in practice with families did not replicate the electronic tool. Work is underway to replicate both the paper and electronic tool to ensure a speedier process when transferring the contents of the assessment.

Work has been undertaken to identify where the gaps in training need is across the partnership and recruit volunteers to undertake the GCP2 'train the trainer' course and boost the training capacity to ensure adequate courses are available.

Future work for the Neglect Forum

- Partners to undertake the Early Help module training to compliment utilising the tool, adding quality to the referral common language etc.
- Commitment from the partnership to invest in the training offer, supported by frontline staff to co deliver, real time examples. Allowing protected time for practitioners to contribute.
- KSCP Neglect Strategy and the Neglect Work Plan is to be reviewed and updated accordingly.
- GCP2 Champions to be embedded within organisations across Knowsley to promote and to support the use and completion of the tool, building confidence amongst practitioners.

DOMESTIC ABUSE

Domestic Abuse is a complex issue and as such it is a cross-cutting policy area which impacts on a range of council and partner services. In Knowsley, we recognise that an effective response to domestic abuse is reliant on a strong partnership and an aligned approach. Responsibility for support to victims and adult offenders of domestic abuse falls within the remit of the Communities and Neighbourhoods Portfolio.

The Knowsley Domestic Abuse Partnership Board is responsible for overseeing the coordination, offer and delivery of domestic abuse support services to victims, children and those who perpetrate the abuse. Knowsley Domestic Abuse Partnership Board.

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 places a statutory duty on tier one local authorities in England to appoint a multi-agency Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board to perform certain specified functions in relation to Domestic Abuse. The Knowsley Domestic Abuse Partnership Board was established in May 2021. The Board provides strategic oversight on the issue of Domestic Abuse in Knowsley and reports back to the Community

Safety Partnership, The Council and Government on delivering the duties in line with statutory guidance. The Board performs certain specified statutory functions, and these are to:

- Assess the need of Domestic Abuse victims and their children.
- Review service provision for domestic abuse and safe accommodation.
- Develop and implement a Domestic Abuse Strategy.
- Review commissioning arrangements and investments in domestic abuse services.

The Knowsley Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022 -2025

The Knowsley Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-2025 was published in January 2022, it outlines the Vision and priorities in relation to the multi-agency provision and responses for victims, children impacted upon by domestic abuse and those perpetrators who are causing the abuse. The document outlines the current offer to those impacted upon by domestic abuse, gaps in the current provision and how Knowsley will implement the statutory duties associated with the provision of safe accommodation and support services as required by the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

The strategy will be reviewed annually by The Domestic Abuse Partnership Board, and it will be flexible to the changes in need or prevalence and responsive to user voice and feedback. The strategy outlines the domestic abuse partnership priorities for Knowsley for the next three years, how partners will work together to achieve it and how we will take forward the vision that: **Knowsley has a zero-tolerance approach to domestic abuse. We want to build communities where domestic abuse is socially unacceptable, where those impacted know.**

The Knowsley Domestic Abuse Partnership Board have agreed the following priorities based on information gathered via the Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment, professional insight sessions and user voice feedback in 2021.

- **Priority 1:** Equipping the workforce to understand and respond to Domestic Abuse and Coercive Control.
- **Priority 2:** The victim voice and community engagement processes are central to the development of Domestic Abuse Strategies and Responses.

- **Priority 3:** Interventions respond to the lived experience of victims of Domestic Abuse, are victim led and trauma informed and include specialist domestic abuse advocacy support.
- **Priority 4:** Implementation of early intervention and prevention responses with children as victims of Domestic Abuse.
- **Priority 5:** Respond to the safe accommodation housing and support needs of those victims and children impacted upon by Domestic Abuse.
- **Priority 6:** To hold those that cause the harm and perpetrate Domestic Abuse to account and ensure support and challenge through appropriate behaviour change programmes.
- **Priority 7:** Work with the partnership to develop and implement Employee Domestic Abuse Workplace policy and support across the borough.
- **Priority 8:** To Increase the social and community awareness of Domestic Abuse and pathways to support within Knowsley.

The Knowsley Domestic Abuse Offer

Specialist Community Based Domestic Abuse Advocacy Support: Knowsley has invested in establishing a victim/survivor pathway (16+) that ensures that when referred, all victims of domestic abuse are offered support, regardless of their risk level (low, medium, and high). This offer is delivered by Knowsley Councils Safer Communities Specialist Domestic Abuse Service and The Independent Domestic Abuse Specialist Service – The First Step. This model enables a choice of provision for victim/survivors.

Domestic Abuse Perpetrators Responses: Knowsley have invested in establishing a dedicated perpetrator pathway for non-statutory perpetrators that runs alongside those statutory interventions delivered by The Probation Service. Both Knowsley Council Choices Pathway and The Probation Service responses to perpetrators provide a parallel support service to the victims. The support workers liaise directly with the victim/partner to ensure that they understand what the interventions are, what the programme entails, continuously review the risk, and keep them updated about the perpetrator’s progress.

Dedicated Children’s Pathway: Recognising the devastating impact that witnessing Domestic Abuse can have upon the wellbeing of children, Knowsley’s Children’s Services have developed needs led support for children. This means that children will have access to emotional and wellbeing support appropriate to their individual needs.

Operation Encompass - aims to support children, by ensuring police communicate directly with schools to inform them that an incident of Domestic Abuse has happened in a child’s home enabling schools to provide timely and appropriate support.

Direct support to children via Targeted and Specialist services - Those families who are open to Early Help and Children’s Social Care will also receive support via the lead practitioner or family support worker. This will involve safety planning for children to enable them to identify and recognise the abuse in the home, understand it is not their fault and enable them to keep themselves safe if an incident occurs.

Therapeutic interventions for children

- Individual and group work sessions are provided to children who have been impacted upon by Domestic Abuse. A Domestic Abuse Risk Indicator Matrix (DARIM) risk assessment is completed to identify risks and needs of the child.

Therapeutic interventions for children

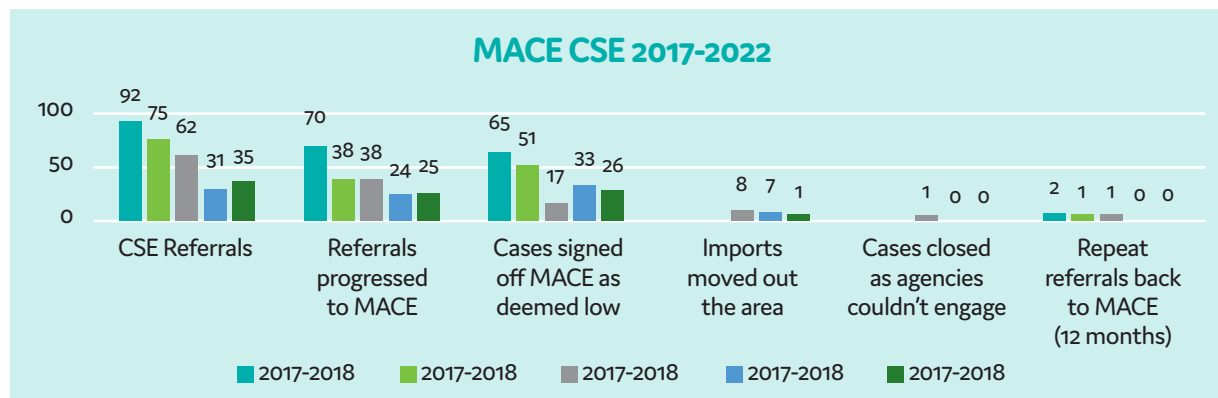
(Schools) - Schools can refer children who have witnessed or been part of domestic abuse for counselling sessions. These sessions can take place in school or remotely depending on the needs of the child.

Mental health support worker - All Knowsley secondary schools and most Knowsley primary schools also have access to a mental health support worker in the school setting. These workers can be used for immediate support for children

Me Time - In 2021/22 Services or individuals can refer children to access Me Time sessions run by Vibe. The sessions support young people who may require support if they have a caring role with a family member, or if they are vulnerable due to family substance misuse issues, have experienced domestic abuse or have a parent or carer suffering mental health issues or illnesses.

CHILD EXPLOITATION

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)



Since 2017 there has been an overall reduction in CSE referrals however a significant drop in the last two years. In 2020-2021 the reduction was thought to be due to covid restrictions, so children were not consistently accessing schools and coming into contact with professionals. In 2021-2022 there has been a further reduction. The average number of children in the CSE MACE this year quarterly was 21 which is low.

This reduction in CSE figures is evident across Merseyside and has been discussed at the Strategic PAN Merseyside MACE. This reduction has also been highlighted in the Independent Inquiry Investigation Report

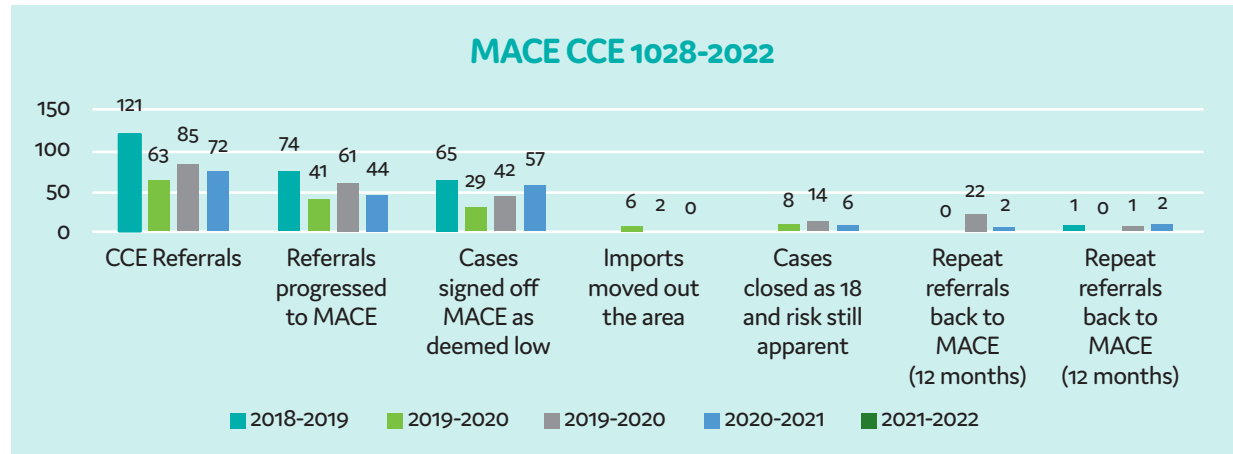
'CSE and Organised Networks' (Feb 2022). One hypothesis has been that a lot of the focus in recent years has been in relation to child criminal exploitation and has this taken away the focus on sexual exploitation. Knowsley Shield Service has prioritised sexual exploitation awareness raising and there has been an increase in CSE referrals in Q4. Going back to basics on CSE will remain a focus in 2022-2023.

During the year there has been a consistent focus on children being signed off MACE as risk has reduced to no current exploitation and it is good to note that there have been no repeat referrals into MACE for two years. There

has also been examples of Shield intervening early on two groups and preventing escalation of concerns: one group was linked with a Liverpool child with high CSE concerns and one group was allegedly being exploited by a person in a position of trust.

In 2021-2022 the data in relation to CSE is as follows: ages 0-11 4%, ages 12-13: 9%, ages 14-15: 48% and ages 16-17: 39%. There have been two children aged 11 within the year. In relation to ethnicity: 90% of the cohort is white, 5% undeclared and 5% mixed white and black African. In terms of gender, 96% of the cohort has been female this year. Within Q3 & 4: there have been two referrals for male CSE. Throughout all previous reports on CSE it has been highlighted the low to non-existent male CSE referrals. Shield has concentrated its efforts to raise aware of male CSE and has attended schools to raise awareness to male pupils. In 2021-2022, Shield has offered an intensive service to 22 children in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation.

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)



This is Knowsley’s fourth year of collating CCE performance data. This year, the quarterly average of children in the CCE MACE has reduced to 50. This reduction has coincided with the Vulnerable Children’s Meeting being established and referrals now being processed at a more appropriate level instead of coming to MACE. Since 2017, 70% plus of the cohort live with their family. Around 20% plus of the cohort are Knowsley looked after children. The majority of the CCE cohort continues to be white (97%), male (98%) and ages 16-17 (61%). In 2021-2022, an average of 16% of the cohort has some form of SEN identified and 8% have an EHCP.

There have been two children who were signed off and returned to MACE within a 12-month period, one child the risk reduced during lockdown restrictions then escalated when removed and one child was pulled back into entrenched family links of criminality. There was a quarterly 16% average of the cohort assessed with high concerns (being exploited) and at the end of the year there were still three children that have remained being exploited for over six months with county links to Devon and Lancashire.



Shield Deter Cohort

Since 2019, Shield has become knowledgeable about identifying concerns and intervening earlier and focusing on what helps to reduce risk: trusted relationship, education and employment and strengthening significant relationships to the child. The length of involvement has been extensive in some cases to build that trusted relationship.

2021-2022 had less covid restrictions and Shield has developed and become an established service in response to criminal exploitation and 36% reduced risk and were signed off MACE and no children in 2021-2022 came into care. In 2021-2022, there has also been 51% increase in children with school attendance or NEET accessing education or employment and 41% reduction in missing episodes.

Police Disruption

In 2021-2022 there was one CSE perpetrator sentenced. He received 20-week suspended sentence. There has also been two suspects charged with sexual offences which is an ongoing investigation. There has also been one warrant issued for CSE and an ongoing police investigation in relation a person in a position of trust. There has also been an issuing and breach taken of a Child Abduction Warning Notice (CAWN).

In terms of CCE, Shield has seen an increase in CAWN and there has been arrest for two adult males for Modern Day Slavery however these charges were unable to progress and resulted in charges of possession of cannabis against the adults. The oversight of police disruption has been further strengthened by Shield Police management oversight so it is expected that there will be an increase in disruption in 2022-2023.

EARLY HELP AND PREVENTION

The Early Help offer in Knowsley is a partnership offer that is aligned to the thresholds set out in Knowsley's Thrive document. The aim of the Early Help offer is set out in the refreshed Early Help Strategy which supports the delivery of Knowsley's Children and Families Plan 2021-2024.

The COVID-19 pandemic, without doubt, significantly shaped the policy landscape, continued to do so during the recovery phase and now shaping service delivery and demand moving into business as usual. As we move further into the 'new normal' phase and the full scale of the impact on children and young people is uncovered, it is anticipated there will be additional national policy changes as increased or changed need is identified.

There is no statutory requirement to deliver Early Help to families however it is recognised that intervening earlier is better for the families, will support them to achieve better outcomes and is financially better for public agencies. There are clear prevention ambitions for the Borough outlined in Knowsley 2030 and in the Children and Families Plan 2021 – 2024. The recently refreshed Early Help and Prevention Strategy 2021 - 2024 highlighted the need to not only have ambition for our children and families but the need to put in place the enabling factors to make this achievable across the Partnership.

Within the statutory guidance (Working Together 2018) there is a clear expectation that all agencies will take an Early Help approach. This approach is also supported through the National Troubled Families programme which has been relaunched as Supporting Families Programme. This 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. In Knowsley despite the restrictions of COVID the service achieved 100% of the expected claims during 21/22.

In August 2021 Children's Social Care implemented a management restructure which has provided additional capacity at Senior Leadership level with the appointment of several Service Managers.

The new structure brought together Early Help and Child Protection Services together under one Head of Service. Following the restructure and the recent Ofsted inspection of Children's Social Care an improvement plan has been established which along with the new Early Help Strategy Development plan will shape and develop services across the whole of Early Help over the coming 12 months. Some of the areas we are developing are:

Responding to the increase in Anti-Social Behaviour - Over the last 12 months there has been a significant rise in incidents of anti-social behaviour and serious crimes committed by children. The Crime Summit held by the Council in 2021 identified the gap in provision, the increase in demand and provided a significant investment to develop a Crime Prevention Service. The service will be multi-disciplinary and provide a graduated response to children who are on the cusp of anti-social behaviour through to those children who require more targeted interventions to divert them from crime or exploitation.

Improving the working relationships with Secondary schools - The new Social Workers in Schools Team established as part of the restructure has a focus on bringing Early Help and Child Protection services closer together in practice and will be key in supporting school practitioners to deliver their Early Help Offer, identify need and strengthen the relationships between Social Work and Education staff across the partnership. This two-year pilot will explore new ways of working to inform mainstream service design. Recruitment for the posts will take place and the new service will go live in September 2022.

Improving the response to children impacted upon through Domestic Abuse - is a key area for improvement with domestic abuse continuing to be the highest referral need both within Early Help and Child Protection teams also seeing a significant increase during the pandemic.

Children's Social Care is a key partner within the delivery of the new Domestic Abuse Strategy action plan, all staff across the partnership will receive awareness training, Lead Practitioners will receive more targeted bespoke assessment training and there will also be training sessions for those with a supervisory role to ensure there is robust management oversight on these complex cases.

A recent positive development has been the appointment of a Domestic Abuse Advocate within the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) this has provided much needed support in decision making at the front door. Service Managers across Early Help, Child Protection are reviewing thresholds of cases to ensure children are receiving the right support by the right service in a timely manner.

Sustainability of Early Help and Edge of Care Services - To have effective and high-quality services which reduce the demand on more costly provision there needs to be an understanding of the impact of those services and the difference they make to children's outcomes. All of these services will be reviewed via the corporate policy and performance team and decisions made on the future investments.

Section 7



Section 7 - Scrutiny

Sue Redmond took up the role of Independent Chair /Scrutineer towards the end of 2021 and commenced initial examination of the effectiveness of the formal governance processes for Childrens Safeguarding, namely the Partnership Forums and all the subgroups, collating the views of all partners. Utilising the Framework from Bedford University, looking at the first few Steps for Independent Scrutiny.

There is commitment to working together, members support a huge range of meetings and actions, however there was a collective sense that a clearer focus could deliver more. In the later quarter of 21/22, the Independent Chair/Scrutineer and 3 leads revised and refreshed KSCP governance and priorities.

It was agreed that for 2022/23 the role of the Independent Chair/Scrutineer would continue to be a joint one to support the Executive and redesign a more streamlined and effective structure to provide a more inclusive and constructively challenging culture. This work will continue in 2022/23 including further development work and implementation of refreshed partnership arrangements and structure.

However, as part of the commitment to improve outcomes for children, the partnership facilitates a number of audits. These included thematic audits and Section 175 audits which are explored below: -

KSCP Section 175 Report findings 2021/22

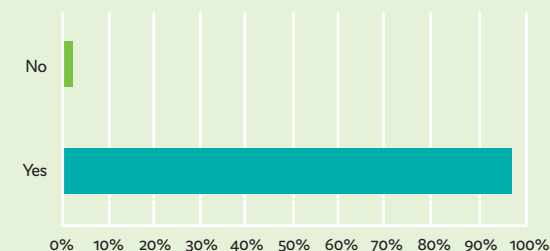
In total, 41 schools completed the audit within the allocated timescales. 40 schools have highlighted that they have all of the relevant policies and procedures, in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021 and the remaining school have a policy in place but are awaiting ratification from their Governing Body. All schools say they have processes in place to ensure they are read, kept up to date and understood by all relevant staff.

There are some identified gaps in training, a small selection of schools indicated that they need to address this. The training concerned was Graded Care Profile 2, Working Together to Safeguard Children Refresher, Prevent, Contextual Safeguarding, Domestic Abuse and Suicide Awareness.

Q5

The school/college/early years setting has a policy which is up to date, in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education (Sept 2021) and ratified by the Governing Body/Management Committee/Trustees.

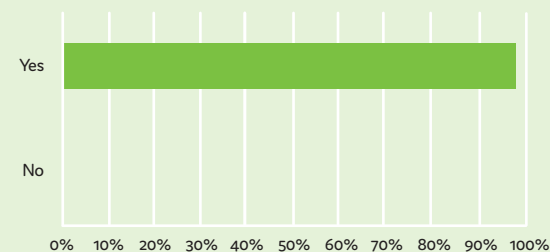
Answered: 41 Skipped: 0



Q6

There is evidence that the policy has been read and understood by all staff and volunteers.

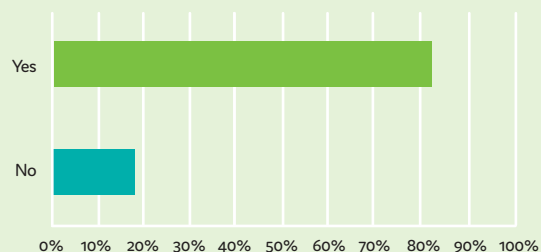
Answered: 40 Skipped: 1



Q54

Has the DSL attended the Multi-Agency Working Together Training (initial or refresher)

Answered: 39 Skipped: 2



Of the schools that answered 'No' to the Designated Safeguarding lead (DSL's) having attended Multi-Agency Working Together Training all had identified this as a training need or have staff booked on to up and coming training dates.

In this years audit the question relating to Signs of Safety was worded a little differently, initially asking about staff awareness of the approach.

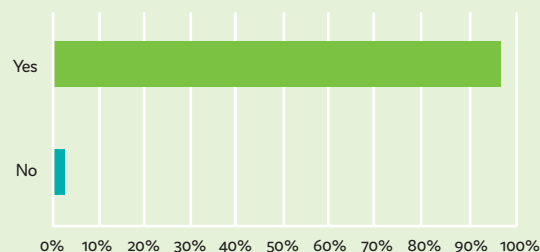
A follow up question was used to determine how many staff had completed the training and their roles in school.

15 schools confirmed at least **2** staff had been trained, **26** schools had **3** staff or more trained with **1** school having **8** staff trained.

Q20

Are staff in school aware of Signs of Safety?

Answered: 41 Skipped: 0



The general consensus was that the role of the staff trained was DSL's, members of the school safeguarding team and Head Teachers.

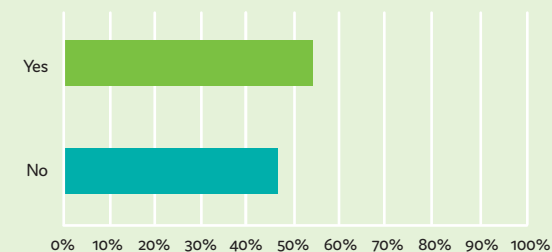
Questions 18 and 19 in the audit related to Graded Care Profile 2 Training and Graded Care Profile 2 Assessments. **9** Schools indicated that none of their staff had yet accessed Graded Care Profile 2 Training (GCP2). **32** Schools indicated that at least 1 or more members of their staff had accessed GCP2 Training. **18** GCP 2 assessments had been initiated by schools, and schools had contributed to **37** GCP2 assessments initiated by other agencies.

With regards to Safer Recruitment, the majority of schools are appropriately trained and have up to date policies. While schools who purchase the School Safeguarding SLA

Q50

Has the DSL received "Allegation Management" training?

Answered: 39 Skipped: 2



have access a module in the DSL training that covers Allegations Management there is a continuing training need has been identified regarding Allegations Management.

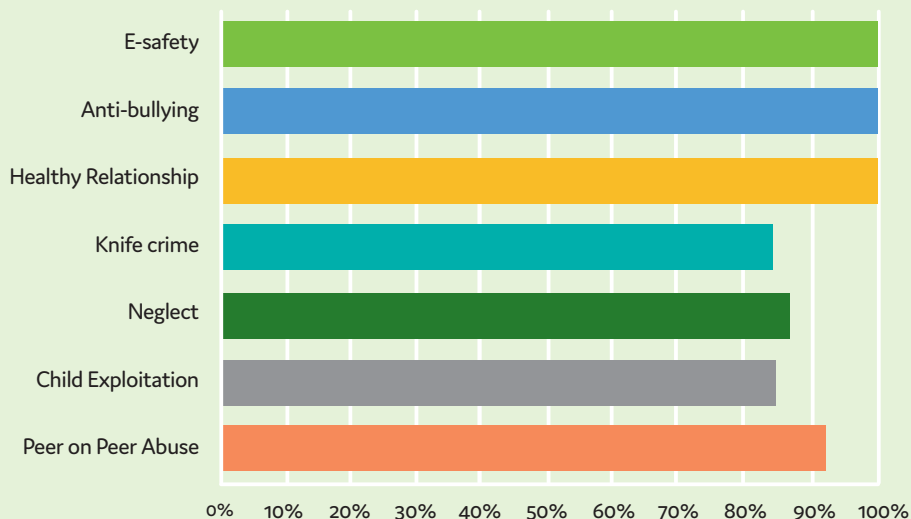
Schools have highlighted good practice regarding the age-appropriate safeguarding information they provide to students, covering a number of topics. This information is provided to students in a variety of ways including assemblies, lessons, talks and online modules. The majority of schools have a process in place to capture the child's voice, particularly where bullying is concerned. Some examples are working with Bully Busters, utilising tools such as Three Houses, questionnaires, surveys and assemblies.



Q56

Do all students receive age-appropriate safeguarding information on topics including:

Answered: 39 Skipped: 2



Once again, the S175 audit included questions on mental health, as following the COVID 19 Pandemic this remains an issue for all education settings. The audit asked specifically about the types of interventions schools have to offer students. All schools promote mental well being with students, with some schools having mental health leads. Some schools have achieved or are working towards a Wellbeing Award and for many school's mental health is a priority area for development.

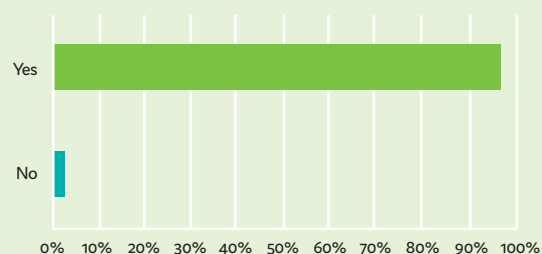
Some of the mental health interventions captured in the S175 Audit are referenced here.

Finally, this year's S175 Audit asked specific questions relating to the school's approach to incidents of Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment (Peer on Peer abuse) as detailed in Part 5 of KCSiE. All schools gave responses that indicate that this issue is being addressed in school and a range of training and interventions have been accessed. This includes whole school training on Peer on Peer abuse, to schools who have had specialised training on AIM Education Guidance, Supporting School Staff in dealing with incidents of Harmful Sexual Behaviour.

Q79

Are staff in school aware of Signs of Safety?

Answered: 41 Skipped: 0



Frontline Visits

Frontline visits by members of the Strategic Forum normally take place annually and enable the partnership to assess the awareness and capabilities of frontline staff in respect of safeguarding policies and procedures. Due to the Covid pandemic, it was not feasible to conduct frontline visits this year, but partnership will be reviewing the re-introduction of these going forward.

Multi-Agency Audits

As part of the scrutiny process, multi-agency audits are undertaken by the partnership. There were two audits completed this year both with the theme of Mental Health.

The purpose of the first audit was to “review the quality and impact of multi-agency practice in working with children experiencing mental health and what lessons can be learnt.”

The audit considered information from performance data and identified a number of case files to be audited using the multi-agency audit model. Partners completed chronologies in respect of the cases identified to evidence the work undertaken with any of the children selected. Following this stage

of the information gathering, sessions were planned so that partners could meet with practitioners, to identify learning from the selected cases in respect of good practice, local barrier and common themes and issues to support learning and practice improvement. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 the second aspect of this audit was unable to go ahead.

Later in the year the Safeguarding Review and Learning Group became aware of an emerging issue in respect of a child with complex needs and high risk presenting behaviours. However, they did not meet the criteria for Tier 4 mental health diagnosis and intervention. This case did not meet the threshold for a local safeguarding practice review, but the partnership were concerned that there were reports of other children starting to emerge with similar issues and needs. As a result, a multi-agency case audit was conducted, practitioners completed chronological data and analysis in respect of the child. Each agency identified their involvement, early indicators, points of escalation, what worked well and what we could learn from the case audit. Following a multi-agency audit event, a number of recommendations were drawn up to be shared with the partnership and KSCP Strategic Forum, which included:

1. Consider a Partnership response to the national shortage of welfare beds.
2. Explore commissioning contracts and consequences of immediate notice by providers.
3. Explore options for stronger multi-agency collaboration with identified specific points of contact in each agency to develop a stronger partnership network.
4. Call Care, Education, Treatment Review (CETR) Meetings earlier for similar future cases, develop a local CETR procedure which highlights the pathway and a flowchart to assist practitioners.
5. As there is a gap in service where children are not acute, consideration to be given to:
 - Education, Health and CSC working collaboratively to respond to future cases.
 - Joint Tier 3.5 service for children in emotional and behavioural crisis.
6. Consider training briefings for staff regarding children in high level emotional & behavioural crisis and thresholds for Tier 4 mental health.
7. Explore clinical supervision for care providers managing a child in crisis. Ensure there are clear debriefing and support is in place for all relevant staff to recognise the emotional impact such cases have on professionals.



Section 8



Section 8 - Performance

Performance headlines for 2021/22 include the following:

- Cases open to social care decreased in 2021-22, however complexity increased. This has resulted in lower levels of Child in Need Plan's, but higher levels of Child Protection Plan's and Children Looked After.
- The decrease in Child in Need has been offset by an increase in Early Help Episodes. There has been a 35% increase in cases open at Level Two, and a 56% increase in cases open to Level Three (Family First).
- The rate of referrals into social care fell 7% in 2021-22, a net decrease of 109. Repeat referral rate has remained at 18.9% since 2020-21.
- Thresholds are good; 96% of referrals into social care result in a C&F Assessment.
- There has been one Police Protection Order in the last two years (Q4 2021-22). No young people remanded to custody in quarter four, however three children were remanded in 2021-22.
- Use of section 47 enquiries has remained largely unchanged from 2020-21. 583 S47 enquiries took place in 2021-22 – 169 per 10,000. This is roughly in line with North-West (172) and national comparators (164), and considerably lower than stat neighbours (304).
- There was a significant improvement in repeat CP plans in 2021-22. A net decrease of 14 repeats saw the rate fall from 25% to 16%. Children subject to a plan for 2+ years also fell from 13 to 3 (1 family) in the same period.
- Children continue to participate in the review process. 94% attend, speak or share their views at review meeting. 2 children chaired their own review in 2021-22 (CLA).

The following table highlights the performance data set for 2021/22 as well as the data owners within the Knowsley Safeguarding Childrens Partnership:

Data Items	2020/21 Outturn	2021/22 Quarter 1	2021/22 Quarter 2	2021/22 Quarter 3	2021/22 Quarter 4	Target	Data Owner
1 Rate of Children in Need per 10,000	121	93	107	98	98	135 (430 CIN)	Social Care
2 Rate of Child Protection Plan per 10,000	56.2	59.7	63.9	62.1	61.3	60 (200 CP)	Social Care
3 Rate Children Looked After per 10,000	93.8	87.1	83.9	85.1	88.6	90 (300 CLA)	Social Care
4 Completion of graded care profile 2 concerning neglect (Child Protection Plans)	44%	41%	38%	84.5%	75.3%	80%	Social Care
5 Number of High/Medium/Low DA referrals, where children are present	261	259	156	221	243	Data Only	Safer Communities
6 Number children subject to Police Protection Order	0	0	0	0	1	N/A	Merseyside Police
7 Number of children missing from home (inc repeats)	146	188	130	142	124	264	SHIELD
8 SHIELD – MACE data (High)	8% CSE 26% CCE	11.5% CSE 14% CCE	6% CSE 14% CCE	12% CSE 18% CCE	11% CSE 25% CCE	Data Only	SHIELD
9 Number of new remand in custody episodes in period	1	2	0	1	0	Data Only	YOS

Data Items	2020/21 Outturn	2021/22 Quarter 1	2021/22 Quarter 2	2021/22 Quarter 3	2021/22 Quarter 4	Target	Data Owner
10 Young People receiving a conviction in court who are sentenced to custody	2	3	1	0	1	Data Only	YOS
11 Overnight detention (11-7am)	19	17	11	18	18	Data Only	Merseyside Police
12 Multi agency neglect training delivered across agencies		8	20	0	30	Data Only	KSCP
13 Early help Assessments per 10,000		126	232	140	174	Data Only	Early Help
14 Referral rates per 10,000	453.7	124.9	218.1	313	409.4	465	Social Care
15 Referral to C&F Assessment (Conversion)	94.5%	93.5%	90.7%	90.6%	96.4%	95%	Social Care
16 S47 rate per 10,000	167.3	40.9	104.8	133.9	169.3	197.1	Social Care
17 Repeat CP Plans	25%	23.6%	19.8%	16%	16%	20%	Social Care
18 LADO Referrals	28	40	31	44	49	Data Only	LADO/SQAU
19 Participation/ Voice of the child (QAU)	98%	97.3%	98%	97%	94.3%	95%	SQAU

The current dataset does not capture intelligence across the partnership and is an area of development. The KSCP dataset currently has only two partner measures and so during 2022/23 the partnership will be exploring additional data that examines safeguarding performance across the partnership.

Section 9



Section 9 - Learning from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

Knowsley Safeguarding Children's Partnership commissioned a local Multi-Agency Learning Review in regards to a child following an incident in late 2020. The incident did not meet the criteria for a Child Safeguarding Practice Review, however the partnership believed that lessons that could be learnt and a local review could identify improvements to be made to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Some of the issues identified in the Multi-Agency Learning Review are not unique to Knowsley, but included recommendations in respect of:

- Neglect Training and Pathway
- Pre-birth assessment
- Leadership
- Record keeping
- Engagement with Adult Services
- Adults and Children with learning difficulties
- Escalation Procedures

An action plan responding to the above recommendations was designed and is being progressed through the Safeguarding Learning and Review Group.

The partnership has also continued to improve its delivery of safeguarding practice through implementing the recommendations from the previous Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews of Child Ava and Child Paul. Enhancements to service delivery and joint working have been made in the following areas:

- Embedded processes to enhance risk assessments for looked after children through a safer area report produced and shared by police.
- Mitigating the known hazards for looked after children living out of borough through a process of location assessments being completed.

- Embedded process to support concerns raised relating to placements through stability meetings that are held once a concern is identified.
- Delivery of CPD through briefings to practitioners relating to culture, belonging and identity to ensure the needs of minority ethnic looked after children are met.
- Delivery of training by Merseyside Police to enhance intelligence across the partnership.

section 10



Section 10 - Children Engagement

This past year Knowsley Young Advisors (YAs) have continued to support the Safeguarding Partnerships priorities and specific elements of work that has been completed by them is noted below:

- **Neglect Awareness Week**

Young Advisors worked with Knowsley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to deliver engaging posters and a short film raising awareness and delivering key messages about neglect across Knowsley. Recommendations were presented to the partnership. They included: the need for more social media campaigns, the use of school PHSE and assemblies to raise awareness of neglect.

- **Children's Mental Health Survey**

Young Advisors worked with CCG to design a mental health survey which was delivered across Knowsley's schools. Lockdown impacted on the completion of the survey, but despite this 46 completed surveys were collected.

- **Covid Vaccination Awareness Poster**

Young Advisors helped the partnership to produce a covid vaccination poster. The poster holds key information for children and young people, raising awareness of the benefits of getting vaccinated and is shared on various platforms across Knowsley.

- **Safe Spaces**

Young Advisors have worked alongside Knowsley Youth Cabinet and M.A.D.E to raise awareness to Knowsley's Children and Families Board and partners about the need for safe spaces in Knowsley. This work was completed in consideration of the feedback gained from contextualised safeguarding pilot consultation with vulnerable children and young people. Actions were put in place and developments are still ongoing in relation to this work.

- **Criminal Exploitation film**

Young Advisors worked with children from across Children's Social Care (CSC) to produce a Lego stop-motional film on criminal exploitation. They worked in

partnership with Knowsley Youth Parliament and CSC Children in Care Council to ensure the film was had the best possible impact on the lives of children and young people across Knowsley. The film was presented at the KSCP development day and will be shared across schools and youth focussed activities and organised groups.

- **Awareness raising – Grooming and Online Safety**

Shield Team ran a Crucial Crew with key partners across a week-long event. Social work staff and key partner colleagues worked with over 130 children in Year 6 from Knowsley schools to raise awareness and educate them about Grooming and Online safety. Following the sessions, the children had opportunities to share the knowledge they had gained with adults about the sessions. The feedback was really positive, and staff and children alike commented that they enjoyed the sessions and felt their knowledge of grooming and how to stay safe online improved. Shield are currently considering the YA's Lego film for future sessions.

- **National Young Advisor of the year**

This year two of our YA's have been nominated for a Young Advisor of the Year Award from the YA's national charity and we are very proud to inform that from a large number of nominations across England, Knowsley's Rebecca Weller won the award. We are incredibly proud of her.

- **The National Agenda**

Young Advisors supported the completion of the National Young Advisors Strategy 2022-23, working alongside the trustees, CEO and partners of the YA National charity to produce a vision for the year ahead. Our Young Advisors will contribute to the strategy annually. They will also work alongside Liverpool and Sefton YA's this year to consider how Knowsley link in with the City Region agenda to reduce youth violence and to research, advise and support the KSCP priorities.

Engagement and Participation of Children across Children's Social Care

Children's Social Care (CSC) and partners hold a shared vision and place value upon the impact that effective and meaningful participation can have on the experiences of our children and young people. There has been a volume of work completed to support this, including closer working relationships with our new Youth Service and the Knowsley Culture events and development team. Also, there will be a new Participation Strategy supported and promoted by the CSC participation champions; coordinating participation standards across the service.

M.A.D.E (Making A Difference Everywhere) & ADAPT (Care Leavers Activity Group)

This year MADE, recruited 11 new children and continue to grow their membership. ADAPT and MADE Senior have started working more closely together to strengthen the voice of Care Leavers and support transitions to adulthood. It is felt that this will help raise the profile of Care Leavers improving the support that is offered through delivering recommendations and requests for needs-based support.

MADE continue to host bi-annual MADE Together meetings with Heads of service and named professionals. This meeting brings corporate parents and the engagement groups together to consider feedback from children and young people about their lived experiences, making recommendations and prompting change. MADE also continue to represent children known to CSC at Corporate Parenting Board meetings and respond to thematic agendas, evidencing children's feedback, views and ideals. The activity and projects that MADE have been involved in are noted below.

- **Midsummer Xix**

This summer 7 of our teenage children took part in a midsummer mix arts based project alongside Liverpool and Sefton CSC. The children had a wonderful time and 6 children from Knowsley gained their Bronze arts awards.

- **Knowsley Children's Charter**

The key principles within the messages from children focus on treating the child as an individual, effective communication, forming positive and lasting relationships with adults working with children, as well as the importance of honesty through transparent and inclusive practice. The reformed charter was launched online across children's services in May and will be used to embed children's voice across the service. The focus is to embed the messages within everyday practice alongside Knowsley practice and participation standards.

- **Knowsley Borough of Culture activity**

Our Participation Officer has been working alongside the Knowsley Culture events team to gain opportunities for children and care leavers to enhance belonging within their community.

- **Voice of the Child Training**

During the past year 5 training sessions have been delivered across three university sites Liverpool Hope, Edge Hill, and Liverpool John Moore's. Our Participation Officer and 4 care leavers successfully delivered The Voice of the Child training to over 90 students. They received excellent feedback, and those involved expressed appreciation to them for sharing lived experiences to inform future Social Work practice.

- **Children's Annual Survey**

In February 2022 the children's annual survey was delivered to children and care leavers across CSC, we gained a 25% response from children and gained insight into how children feel supported and cared for in relation to how they feel considered, listened to, key actions included better support for care leavers, and a revised charter. The detail will help shape the themes for Corporate Parenting Board for the following year.

Focus for 2022-2023

Engagement and participation this forthcoming year will include a stronger focus on embedding Knowsley's Participation Standards, ensuring children and young people have a voice, chances to be heard, influence services and most importantly for them to see how their engagement has shaped change for the benefit of children and young people in Knowsley.



section 1

Section II - KSCP Training Evaluation

The Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership is committed to providing a comprehensive and effective training programme to professionals and volunteers across the borough of Knowsley. The focus of the KSCP Training offer has remained in line with the identified priorities of the partnership and is influenced by lessons deriving from case reviews, audits and national safeguarding agendas.

Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic all face to face training was originally suspended in March 2020. Practitioners from across the partnership have continued to have the opportunity to access online training modules and a number of core training courses were modified to be delivered virtually via the platforms Zoom or Microsoft Teams.

A number of virtual 60 Minute Briefings were delivered covering a range of topics and 7 Minute Briefings continued to prove popular and were produced to ensure that practitioners were updated regarding relevant safeguarding children's agendas.



7 Minute Briefings

We regularly produce and publish 7 Minute Briefings covering a variety of subjects relevant to safeguarding children, often updating practitioners on the latest policies, procedures or guidance that has been produced both nationally and locally. We have received great feedback from practitioners regarding this method of communication.

Feedback has included:

I find the briefings very useful, bite size chunks delivered in an easy read. I personally would want them to continue. As soon as a new briefing comes in, the document is uploaded on to the staff intranet and all staff working across Knowsley must read. The document is shared with all new staff and students.

ForHousing

YOS continue to find the 7 min briefings useful and a good way to keep updated in a concise way. We ensure the briefing emails are distributed to all staff. They are saved on our own drive for ease of access at a later date and they are a standing item on our monthly team meetings where they are discussed in more detail.

Youth Offending Service

I share these with my team in Knowsley but also with the wider local solutions supported lodgings teams in Sefton, Liverpool, Wirral and Wales. I also send them onto our intense mentoring project and hostel staff. My team find them really useful, and they have been able to identify areas where they may want further training.

Local Solutions

I find them really useful; I send them out to the safeguarding team at Alder Hey and other safeguarding teams that would benefit. They collate lots of info and a very useful resource to search further beyond the links. I frequently show a screen shot in power points, make reference to them when teaching, training, presenting, locally and nationally.

Designated Doctor KSCP

We have published over 70 briefings over the past few years and all published editions can be found under the News tab on the KSCP Website at the following link - <https://www.knowsleyscp.org.uk/news/7-minute-briefings/>

Virtual College Online Training



This year 200 online modules were accessed by a range of partner agencies. The most popular courses accessed were 'Safeguarding Children Level 3' and the 'Safeguarding Children Refresher', of the more specialist courses the Gang Related Issues and County Lines course was the most popular. Courses were utilised by the partnership including members of the Voluntary Group, Charity or Faith Sector, Education and Early Years.

We have received some excellent feedback:

The Safeguarding training supplied by Virtual College is excellent. Being able to access this quality of training for such a wide subject matter is a vital support in my role as Safeguarding Lead for this Nursery. The wide range of subject matters included in this training package has meant that my staff have been able to continually develop their safeguarding knowledge. If we ever have any queries or problems the service team are

very helpful and quick to respond. I cannot recommend the virtual college training highly enough – without it my role as lead would be considerable harder and my staff team would be less knowledgeable. Having a well-trained staff team gives me the confidence to know that safeguarding needs can be identified and reported.

Nursery Manager.



Virtual Training Courses

The majority of training that has taken place this year has taken place virtually, via Zoom or Microsoft Teams. Trainers are becoming more confident at using online platforms for the delivery of training. After reviewing the training programme and deciding which courses could be translated into virtual courses a virtual training programme became available to all practitioners. Our core training courses were:

- Working Together to Safeguard Children
- Working Together to Safeguard Children Refresher
- Graded Care Profile 2
- Signs of Safety

These were successfully delivered via Zoom. Courses regarding Neglect, Child Suicide Prevention and the Role of the Local Authority Designated Officer were also added to the programme. Other courses delivered included:

- Bruising and Non-Independently Mobile Children
- Child Exploitation Training
- Contextual Safeguarding Briefing
- How Serious is Serious? Child Suicide Prevention
- LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) Briefing
- Neglect: Recognition and Action
- Parental Mental Health
- Perplexing presentations and fabricated or induced illness in children
- Pre-Birth Assessment Briefing
- Safer Recruitment
- Signs of Safety Briefing Session
- Special Measures for Child Victims and Witnesses
- Safeguarding Training for Foster Carers
- Safeguarding Training for the Voluntary and Community Sector

The 'How Serious is Serious – Child Suicide Prevention Training' continued to be delivered face to face when covid restrictions were eased due to the extremely sensitive nature of this training programme.

A number of these courses were organised as a direct result of the recommendations deriving from local Multi Agency Learning Reviews.



Feedback and Evaluation

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

- a) Course evaluation from participants after the course via the online booking portal.
- b) Quantitative means i.e., scrutinising attendance figures and agency breakdown
- c) Feedback from trainers.
- d) Impact and Evaluation Process using post course questionnaires, survey monkey, peer observations and course reviews.

Part way through the year, the course evaluations have been redesigned to be aligned with the Signs of Safety method of using scaling questions. All delegates on KSCP training sessions are asked to complete an evaluation form at the end of a course. Of those booked on via the Booking Portal only 60% of delegates completed an end of course evaluation forms after attending a course, despite receiving reminder emails.

Participants are directed to scale their knowledge, understanding and application of session, the trainer, the online platform used to deliver the session and then asked to provide some overall feedback.

Of those who completed an online evaluation, 95% rated the training as excellent or good. On a scale of 0-10 (10 being the highest/best) participants were asked to scale the trainer's delivery and their confidence before they had completed the course and how they felt now they had completed the course. 60% of respondents scaled the trainer's delivery as a 10. Of those who scaled their knowledge as less than 5 prior to the training, we saw an increase of 4 points, demonstrating that there is clear evidence of increased knowledge and understanding.

We received excellent feedback for the majority of courses, here is a word cloud highlighting some of the positive comments made by participants:



Graded Care Profile 2 Evaluation

With regards to **Graded Care Profile 2 Training**, we received feedback from participants who had undertaken the training in the previous year. We undertook a survey in order to gain more feedback to ascertain whether they had gone on to utilise the tool in their everyday practice. A Survey Monkey was completed, and the responses highlighted that of those going on to use the GCP2, it was utilised at all levels of the Thrive Model and used individually (in supervision for example) and for multi-agency meetings such as Child Protection Conferences and Team Around the Family meetings. It was also used as evidence to step cases up and to target interventions.

When asking respondents to consider the impact using the tool has made, they gave the following examples:

RESPONSES
Improve home conditions and improved parental awareness as to where improvements may be beneficial
Home conditions improved and basic needs of the children improved thanks to family plan
Help parent to understand concerns and use as a benchmark
Has helped mum focus in on the area of concern (home condition)
Interventions can be targeted

A greater proportion of the respondents had not gone on to use the GCP2 after attending the training stating that they had not had cause to use it, lockdown happened and some practitioners lacking confidence in their role.

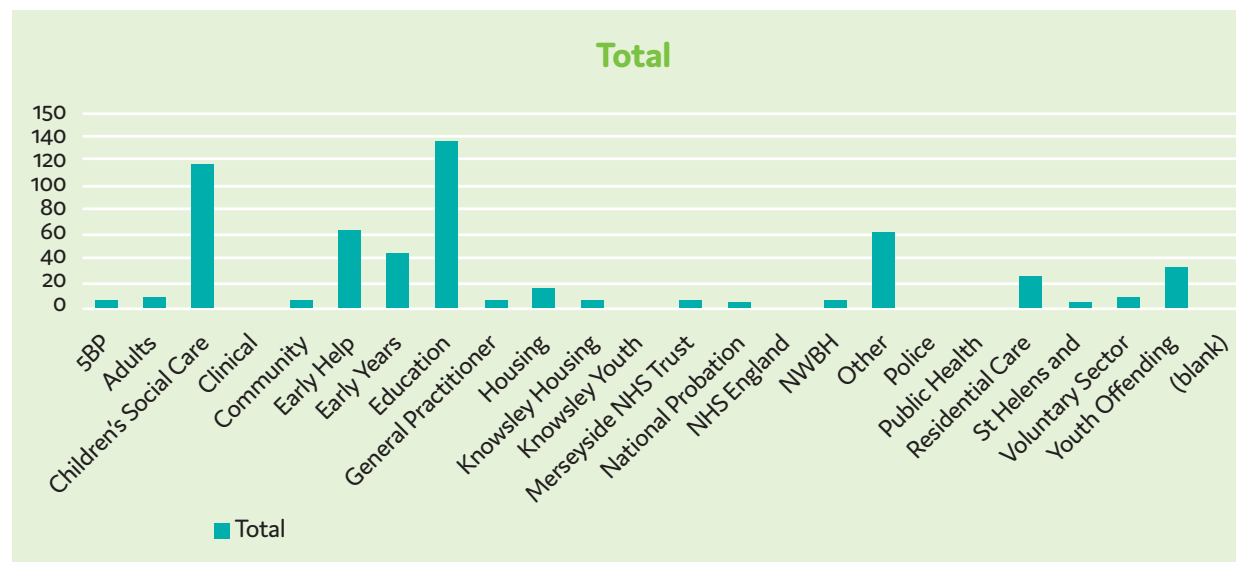
This feedback has been shared with members of the Neglect Forum and use of the GCP2 tool is a constant agenda item for its members.

Attendance



During the period of 2021-22; 900 delegates have accessed online modules or virtual training sessions/briefings. This is clearly a decrease from previous years due to the effects of the Covid pandemic, particularly due to lack of training provision for a number of months and the inability to deliver conferences and large-scale events that would usually attract large numbers. There was also less interest in undertaking the Virtual College online modules than usual, this has had an impact on the numbers accessing training this past year.

The following chart depicts the total attendance figures for those who booked onto training via the training booking portal, by agency basis. Practitioners employed



by Education take up the majority of the attendance followed by Children's Social Care, Early Help (the majority of which are Family First practitioners) and Early Years. There has been a significant decrease of attendance by Health professionals this past year.

Partnership Learning from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

KSCP is committed to ensuring that the learning from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and local multi-agency learning

reviews is disseminated to practitioners and volunteers across the borough. Lessons learnt, key themes and emerging issues that may be identified at a national level are incorporated into a comprehensive communication and training programme. Learning Summaries were created and sent out across the partnership, the full reports and responses from the Partnership can be found on the KSCP website at the following [link](#).

The Merseyside LSCP Trainers Group met to collectively review the learning from both Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Local Multi Agency Learning Reviews that have taken place across the Merseyside region within the past 3 years. A number of common themes were identified, and an interactive newsletter is in the process of being developed to inform practitioners of this regional learning. The common themes identified were regarding:

- Recording and Decision Making.
- Professional Curiosity, Challenge and Escalation.
- Interagency Information Sharing.
- The Lived Experience and Voice of the Child.
- Contextual Safeguarding.



Neglect Awareness Week 12-16th April 2021

The Neglect Forum was established in July 2020. As Knowsley CCG is the lead agency for this thematic priority, the group is chaired by the Interim Designated Safeguarding Nurse. Through its workplan and concurring audits it had been identified that practitioners understanding of neglect and all its forms was not consistent. In order to raise awareness of this theme, the group decided

that a Neglect Awareness course should be developed and that we should hold a Neglect Awareness Week for practitioners across the partnership. Due to the Covid pandemic, this was held virtually and a number of useful resources, videos, local case studies and posters were created for practitioners to utilise and share across the partnership. Resources included a PowerPoint presentation created by the KSCP's Young Advisors, an updated neglect screening tool and flowchart for practitioners to utilise when they first identify that neglect may be a concern for a child. These were available to access via the KSCP website.

Pan Merseyside and Northwest Inter Agency Training Forums



In order to ensure that we work as collectively as is possible across Merseyside and the Northwest, these forums take place regularly to allow Safeguarding Children Partnership Training Officers the opportunity to share ideas and their current training opportunities, reflect on the learning from case reviews and work together on initiatives that have cross border issues. This is something we all want to improve on collectively as a way of pooling resources in the future.

Conclusion



Due to the Covid pandemic, the 2021-22 KSCP Training Programme has been primarily delivered via virtual platforms. Although this has been an unprecedented year and we have had to tailor training to suit the virtual world it has allowed for experimentation and has highlighted how virtual training can become part of the conventional training programme every year. Particularly for those shorter courses and 60 Minute briefings. We have still been able to react when learning has been identified by providing 60 Minute or 7-minute briefings whilst planning courses for future training programmes.

Courses have proved extremely useful, informative and relevant to participants. There is clear evidence of increased knowledge and understanding with attendees. Attendance on courses has helped to change practice, particularly when tools have been introduced to practitioners. Some very specific examples have highlighted how being trained to use such tools can impact upon children and their families.

section 12



Section 12 - Finance

Partner agencies continued to contribute to the KSCB's budget for 2021/22, in addition to providing a variety of resources, such as staff time for training. Financial contributions totalled £0.151m for 2021/22 (see below for breakdown). As well as this year's contributions, KSCB had a contingency balance brought forward from previous financial years of £0.102m, the contingency carry forward into 2022/23 is £0.132m.

Agency Contributions	21/22 Contribution (£m)	% per Agency
Knowsley Council	0.047	31.13
Knowsley Council - Early Years' Service	0.003	1.99
National Health Service	0.047	31.13
Dedicated School Grant	0.027	17.88
Police 0.021	13.91	
Knowsley Housing Trust	0.005	3.31
Knowsley Probation Centre	0.001	0.66
Total	0.151	100
Balance Sheet carry forward from 20/21	0.102	
Total Resources available	0.253	

Expenditure

Expenditure for 2021/22 totalled £0.121m; the following table shows the percentage split across the main areas of KCSB.

Expenditure	21/22 Expenditure (£m)	%
Staffing	0.081	66.94
Serious Case Reviews	0.006	4.96
Independent Chair	0.008	6.61
Training	0.005	4.13
Child Death Overview Panel	0.000	0.00
General Expenses	0.013	10.74
Information Technology	0.008	6.61
Total	0.121	100

There was a decrease in Partner contributions to the KSCB in 2021/22 compared to the previous year of £0.024m. Income in 2020/21 was £0.175m, while in 2021/22 income is £0.151m.

The factors influencing this decrease in income were,

- (0.015m) – Decrease in Dedicated School Grant
- (0.003m) – Decrease in Community Rehabilitation Company contribution
- (0.002m) – Decrease in KMBC contribution
- (0.004m) – Additional income from Balance Sheet not required in 2021/22

There was a decrease in expenditure by KSCB during 2021/22 compared to the previous year. Expenditure in 2020/21 was £0.168m, while in 2021/22 spend is £0.121m. The factors influencing this decrease in expenditure were;

- (£0.019m) – Decrease in Staffing costs
- (£0.016m) – Decrease in Serious Case Reviews
- £0.001m – Increase in training costs
- (£0.007m) – Decrease in independent chair costs
- (£0.006m) – Decrease in IT expenses

Due to the reduction in expenditure in 2021/22 the KSCB was left with a surplus of £0.030m, this was added to the Balance Sheet to be carried forward into 2022/23.

In respect of projections there is a planned reduction of the DSG Partner Contribution of £0.008m in 22/23 with ongoing reductions of 20% per year.

Section 13 - The Next Steps

Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership will continue to work together to safeguard and protect children in Knowsley. All partners are committed to enabling children to grow up safe, be healthy, feel listened to and given the right opportunities to achieve their potential. Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership intend to achieve this goal by focusing on the following areas during 2022/23: -

1. Continue to deliver the strategic priorities, identified within the Business Plan 2020 to 2022.
2. Developing our engagement with children so that their voices are not only heard but they also influence practice and service planning through development of more co-production opportunities.
3. Continue to develop and enhance governance systems and processes that provide appropriate rigour and scrutiny across the partnership.
4. Further develop systems and processes that will facilitate the commissioning, learning and practice improvement in response to serious incidents relating to local and national Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.
5. Enhancing the skills and knowledge of practitioners through the delivery of the KSCP Training Plan, set against the strategic priorities of the partnership and learning from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.
6. Collaborate across a Pan Merseyside perspective to improve efficiency and effectiveness in practice, professional development and responding to local matters arising.
7. Examine the multi-agency safeguarding partnership in response to the 'Wood Review of Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements' (2021). Review the current arrangements and the effectiveness of responding to current and emerging safeguarding themes, which will assist to identify future priorities for the new Business Plan for 2022/23 onwards.



