



Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership

Annual Report 2022-2023



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Section I - Introduction

Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership (KSCP) annual report is published, in accordance with guidance set out in **‘Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children’**, (2018). The report provides a summary of the roles and responsibilities of the partnership and an update of the progress made.

The past 12 months has been a period where everyone is emerging from the aftermath of the Covid 19 pandemic and where services are responding to the impact of this period on children and their families. Partners are also now returning to other priority areas of work which were not possible during the period of the pandemic.

Significant for this past year has been the recruitment of the Business Manager and the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Assistant posts in the Partnership and staff commenced in these roles on the 24 October 2022. This will significantly contribute towards the ongoing development of the Partnership to ensure progress with our key priority areas.

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

Knowsley Council Cabinet Member for Children’s Services

Knowsley Council Chief Executive

NHS Cheshire & Merseyside

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

In 2022-23 the Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership has continued to work together to ensure children living in Knowsley are supported to lead safer lives. This Annual Report highlights the progress made in this year and plans for the future.

There was strong engagement in the Strategic Forum and the subgroup meetings, with virtual methods also utilised to continue full involvement.

Despite not having a business manager or administrator for the first half of the year the Chairs of the subgroups contributed over and above their roles to ensure the work continued and the groups delivered on their plans. Partners continued to participate in subgroups and in the crucial work of case reviews of the most serious incidents and audits and assurance activity continued. I want to extend a huge thank you on behalf of the board to them and the members of the subgroups.

Scrutiny work continued to focus on the structures and effectiveness of the board. Extensive consultations took place with other partners including education and schools', partners, and round table events with colleagues from the voluntary, community and faith sectors, with thanks to the support of One Knowsley. The outcome has been the start of a refreshed approach to the working of the partnership and review of the work of the subgroups, with further discussions being planned for 2023 to launch a new governance framework.

With thanks to the three statutory partners from the Local Authority, Merseyside Police, and NHS Cheshire & Merseyside who were committed to hearing feedback and determined to ensure the partnership evolved into a dynamic, accessible entity with their role as systems leader's paramount in the future. We met frequently to ensure any urgent issues received attention and a new Executive group function developed during the last part of the year to strengthen governance.

In the last half of the year the Partnership welcomed a new business manager and Partnership administrator who have spent the last months helping to shore up the statutory foundations for the Partnership, updating procedures, supporting subgroups, and ensuring the executive and statutory forum are supported. On behalf of the Partnership, I would like to thank them, they have a considerable workload and are developing and agreeing a new business plan and workplan as this report is being written, which will help shape the delivery of the Partnerships ambition in the coming year.

Sue Redmond
Independent Chair of Knowsley Safeguarding
Children's Partnership



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 2011.

Knowsley has 15 wards that are spread across the towns and villages of Huyton, Kirkby, Halewood, Prescott, Whiston and Cronton. Huyton is the most populous township in the Borough with an estimated population of 60,147 people living there (38.9% of the population of Knowsley). However, the Northwood ward in Kirkby has the highest overall ward population. (Based on Census 2021).

Knowsley is the second most deprived Local Authority area in the country. There were 12,268 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 18.3% between 2015-16 and 2020-21.

The highest concentrations of child poverty (under 16 years old) are centred around the Page Moss (42.4%), Stockbridge (40.2%), St Michaels (34.8%) wards in Huyton, the Northwood (53.8%), Whitefield (39.3%) and Cherryfield (34.2%) wards in Kirkby. There are also pockets of high child poverty in Halewood and Prescott.

46.1% of children in Knowsley who live in a low-income household; also live in a household where no one is in employment. This compares to the England average of 29.3% and the Northwest average of 36.9%¹.

There remains a qualifications gap in Knowsley, which represents a significant barrier to employment, with 26.2% of the population achieving no qualifications which is higher than the rate in England at 18.1%. There remains a skills gap across all qualification levels for adults in the Borough.

¹ This statistic is based on the relative low-income measure, which is defined as a family in low income Before Housing Costs (BHC) in the reference year. A family must have claimed Child Benefit and at least one other household benefit (Universal Credit, tax credits, or Housing Benefit) at any point in the year to be classed as low income in these statistics. Gross income measure is Before Housing Costs (BHC) and includes contributions from earnings, state support and pensions.

Section 4 - The Role & Structure of the Partnership

The partnership comprises of the following groups:

- Strategic Forum
- The Executive
- 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 development session this year have been in respect of Safeguarding Partnership improvements and reviewing strategic priorities for future direction and planning.

The Executive

The Executive supports the delivery of the business plan. It is supported by the key

partners; the Council, Police and Knowsley ICB. The agreed priority areas with identified leads have been:

1. Neglect – NHS Cheshire & Merseyside
2. Domestic Abuse – Knowsley Council
3. Child Exploitation – Merseyside Police

The Executive is now focusing on the development of the next Business Plan for 2023-26 and our key priority areas for this period. This work will be undertaken with partners in the planned Strategic Forum and development session in 2023 and will shape our key priorities for the coming years.

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, consideration and implementation of learning from Child Safeguarding Practice Review cases that are undertaken by the National Panel.

The Safeguarding Review and Learning Group is responsible for coordinating other local reviews, which do not meet the criteria for a Child Safeguarding Practice Review but present learning opportunities that will enhance delivery and effectiveness to safeguard and protect children.

The group is 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 multi-agency 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 “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
- NHS Cheshire & Merseyside
- 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	NHS Cheshire & Merseyside
Karl Baldwin	Merseyside Police
Nadine Carroll	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)
Stephen Mann	Knowsley Council (Whole Life Commissioning)

Name	Organisation
Paul Sambrook	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
Debbie Bennett	One Knowsley
Debbie Spruce	NHS Cheshire & Merseyside
Judith Blease	Wirral Community Health and Care NHS Trust
Tracey Martin	Merseyside Police
Kevin Johnson	Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service
Sandra Oluonye/Stephanie Richmond	National Probation Service
Lisa Leary	Lay Member





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 2020-22.

- | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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>

This plan concluded in 2022. A development day took place in October 2022 to consider key areas for the Partnership. Discussions have also taken place with our Executive leads regarding the future governance, structure and focus for the partnership. Consultation has also taken place with partners regarding a needs analysis of current issues and their priorities. The next step is to progress and agree this work via our planned Forum and Development Session in September 2023 where all partners can contribute to the development of our updated Business Plan and key priority areas for 2023 onwards.

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, the Domestic Abuse Board and the Adults Safeguarding Board to seek assurances that children in Knowsley are being safeguarded and protected from harm.

Section 6 - Delivery of the strategic priorities

NEGLECT

Neglect is a persistent feature of family difficulty in the Borough and was previously a priority for the Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership. NHS Cheshire & Merseyside was the lead agency for this thematic priority.

There were 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

The Neglect Forum's aim was to reduce the prevalence and impact of neglect across Knowsley through the provision of a joined up multi-agency response improving the outcomes for children. The Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children Nurse & Children Looked After became the Chair of the KSCP Neglect Forum in January 2022. The Governance and challenge was provided

by the Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership. In January 2022, due to a series of multifaceted issues, primarily the absence of key staff and competing demands on existing staff, the KSCP independent chair agreed the step down of this subgroup and agreed to review the focus at the KSCP Development Day in April 2022. At this Development Day, the partnership agreed that Neglect is thematic in all aspects of the KSCP partnership work already being undertaken and the work would continue within the existing KSCP subgroups. A focus would remain on the partners ensuring the GCP2 tool is embedded within partner agencies.

Several neglect performance indicators data lines have now been incorporated into the wider KSCP dataset through the Policy and Performance subgroup and continues to be monitored. Learning from National and Local safeguarding reviews will continue within the Safeguarding Review and Learning Group.

The GCP2 Tool has been endorsed by the KSCP for several years now as the tool of choice when Neglect is known or suspected, it can be

used at any time across the continuum of need, data identified there continued to be barriers to partners completing the GCP2 assessment.

A task and finish group with key members was held to review the barriers and constraints that currently prevented the GCP2 being fully embedded into all agencies across the partnership. Several barriers were identified, the GCP2 paper copy that was completed did not replicate the electronic copy on the LA system which resulted in a lengthy process. The GCP2 tool was only counted within the data once it had been transferred to the electronic system. A further task and finish group was identified to take this piece of work further.

The Neglect Screening Tool that intended to compliment the GCP2 tool, for front line practitioners to quickly identify areas of concern and indications a child/adolescent is being neglected was recirculated across the partnership, equipping frontline staff to identify early signs of neglect and alert the need to for further action, such as completing a Graded Care Profile 2 assessment.

Two 7-minute briefings were disseminated across the partnership, Understanding Neglect and the GCP2 to increase the Awareness of the tools utilized within Knowsley. Neglect Training continues to be a priority for the KSCP and is part of the KSCP programme of easily accessible training. Data provided identifies an increase in GCP2 Multi agency neglect training delivered across the partnership in 2022-23.

What next:

A task and finish group has been set up to review The KSCP Neglect Strategy' aims and objectives – Led by the Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children Knowsley Place.

Commitment from the KSCP partners is paramount to ensure the Graded Care Profile 2 tool is fully embedded across the partnership in every organisation as it is evidenced research-based and the tool of choice within Knowsley to support staff in recognising signs of Neglect.

The KSCP to continue to work in partnership and will undertake multi-agency audit to ensure compliance with the strategies aim and objectives, to reduce the prevalence and impact of neglect, improving outcomes for children and their families across Knowsley.

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.

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 2022-25 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 is 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.

In January 2023, the Domestic Abuse Governance Partnership commissioned a domestic abuse review, which will refresh the domestic abuse needs assessment, and review the model of domestic abuse services in Knowsley. This is due for completion during 2023 and there will be consultation with Children's Services.

Domestic Abuse Awareness Training and Workforce Development

In 2022-23 over 300 professionals completing training across Domestic Abuse Specialist Services, Children's Services, Adult Services,

Housing, Probation, and the Voluntary Sector. The aim is for over 700 practitioners to receive training to improve professional awareness of domestic abuse, how to spot the signs of domestic abuse and refer safely and appropriately to the Knowsley Specialist Domestic Abuse Pathway.

Safe and Together Model

In January 2023, Knowsley Council began the process to start to implement the Safe And Together Model. The model works to safeguard children impacted by domestic abuse by partnering with the non-abusive parent/carers and challenging the perpetrator. The training will provide professionals with the domestic abuse and trauma informed tools and models of practice which will build upon the three-day Domestic Abuse Awareness Training and enhance the Signs of Safety approach when there is domestic abuse present.

The Knowsley Domestic Abuse Offer includes:

- Specialist Community Based Domestic Abuse Advocacy Support
- Safer Communities Domestic Abuse Advocate – MASH
- Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Support Services

- Domestic Abuse Perpetrators Responses Pathway
- Dedicated Children's Pathway
- Thrive – Domestic Abuse Support for Children
- Operation Encompass
- Direct support to children via Targeted and Specialist services
- Therapeutic interventions for children (general)
- Therapeutic interventions for children (in Schools)
- Mental health support worker in school settings

Links between the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board and Knowsley Safeguarding Children's Partnership continue to strengthen to ensure this priority area develops and evolves to meet the needs of children and young people in the borough. An initial audit was undertaken in July 2022 to consider the application of threshold decisions at the front door in MASH, in cases where Domestic abuse is a concern.

This audit highlighted that there was evidence of good quality screening in MASH and Level 3

from the cases audited. Positive themes were noted regarding the Voice of the Child, information gathered, professional curiosity, and evidence of good safety planning. There was also evidence of good use of the Signs of Safety Mapping which is detailed and focused to assist with the decisions reached.

In recording, the domestic abuse pathway clearly referred to the incident that occurred, identifying the victim, the perpetrator and oversight on all decisions reached. There were clear rationales provided in terms of decision making and appropriate and timely supervision was provided. Agencies have also held other services accountable and if the services were not continued, then the reasons why have been provided.

Learning was identified regarding the consistency of contact with children's fathers. For one family, the audit group were of the view that a greater degree of professional curiosity was needed and there should have been improved communication with probation and the domestic abuse services.

In summary, 90% threshold decisions were deemed appropriate and there has been good examples of professional curiosity and liaising between L3 and L4 services. A clear action plan

was developed to address the learning issues, and tasks identified have now been completed.

Further work is planned in 2024 as part of the Domestic Abuse strategy to further assess the impact of the full implementation of the training and to examine impact for children & families.

CHILD EXPLOITATION

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Since 2022 Shield has prioritised sexual exploitation awareness raising and as a result there has been an increase in CSE referrals. This is seen as a positive result due to a significant drop in CSE referrals since 2020. During the year there has been a consistent reduction of risk as children have been stepped down from the Multi Agency Child Exploitation (MACE). It is good to note that there have been no repeat referrals into MACE for three years.

In analysing CSE data between 2017- 22, the age cohort had remained similar with ages 14-15 being our highest age range however this year there has been a shift due to an increase in the number of male referrals being made. Prior to this year, all-previous reports on CSE have highlighted low to non-existent male CSE

referrals. In 2022-23, Shield has concentrated its efforts to raise awareness and increased the remit of Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) screenings of males and this has resulted in an average of 21% males and 79% female in the MACE which is a significant improvement.

The models of exploitation affecting Knowsley males have been mainly online CSE. However, some other models have also emerged such as Harmful Sexual Behaviour and Criminal Exploitation. More professional curiosity is evident in working with boys around Criminal exploitation from front line practitioners which is positive. In relation to ethnicity: 86% of the cohort is white, 7% undeclared and 7% mixed heritage. 1% of the CSE cohort have an Education and Health Care Plan.

A quarterly average of 14% of the cohort have been assessed as being exploited. There have been three girls who have been assessed as being exploited during the year for over six months. One has reduced in Q4 however two remain with high concerns of being exploited. All possible disruption and safeguarding actions are taken to support young people. Shield continues to take a proactive approach to any concerns that come from missing episodes or suspicions of exploitation.

Shield will focus on warning signs and thoroughly explore until they are satisfied (as much as they can be) there is no exploitation. In 2022-23 – Shield worked with 29 children in relation to CSE. 7 were already Cared for Children, and 22 of those children prior to Shield involvement were living at home with family. One child (4%) from the CSE cohort became a Cared for Child in Q1 (2022-23). The length of time of involvement can range from 6 months to four years. The CSE work is often intensive, and workers will respond daily when crisis presents usually over mental health issues, exploitation risk raising and family tensions.

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

Shield Prevention have not had any children escalate into MACE. Therefore, as the prevention approach has been embedded around exploitation the MACE numbers do appear to have reduced. As the YOS prevention service (STEP) is further embedded hopefully there will be a further reduction. It also highlights that the children in the MACE are at an appropriate threshold.

The majority of the CCE cohort continues to be white (93%) and ages 16-17 (70%). In 2022-23 an average of 15% had an EHCP. There has however been a shift in the percentages that relate to gender - over the last four years males

have been consistently 95% plus. In 2022-23, there has been a shift in figures being 88% male and 12% female. This shift is similar to the CSE cohort and a result of Shield focusing on developing professional curiosity of the exploitation models and gender. The models of exploitation is mainly girls who are linked with boyfriends who are being criminally exploited and a mixture of warning signs or actual drug dealing arrests with males out of borough. Although the annual quarterly average of children in the MACE has reduced in 2022-23, the volume of referrals has increased. This is again due to Shield increasing its remit on screening referrals at MASH to ensure that males on the CSE cohort are not missed.

There has been an increase in repeat referrals in 2022-23 who were signed off and returned to MACE within a 12-month period. In Q1 there were three repeat referrals. There have been a further 3 repeat referrals in a 12-month time frame in Q2. In Q3 and Q4, there were no repeat referrals within a 12-month period. 17% of the cohort is assessed as being exploited and one child risk assessed as being exploited over six months. All safeguarding and disruption are in place.

Within Quarter 3 however there were three Knowsley children and one vulnerable adult that have been to Dubai where concerns were

raised that they were being exploited. An operational review of the children who were exploited to Dubai has taken place and various actions have been outlined to make changes in practice which will be built into the Contextual Safeguarding Action plan 2023-24.

Exploitation of children to Dubai is becoming apparent in Knowsley which is not seen in other parts of Merseyside. Knowsley approach to response to this escalating risk is a priority and is being undertaken with partners. Another key issue emerging across Merseyside including Knowsley, involves children using Ketamine and some young people on the CE cohort are presenting with significant health needs as a result of this. Awareness raising has already begun and it has been discussed at Strategic PAN Merseyside to ensure further wider awareness raising.

Progress, Challenges and Risks

In 2022-23, Shield worked intensively with 77 children who were in the MACE assessed as being or may be exploited by CSE and CCE or both. 59 children lived at home with family and 97% have remained at home. There have been three police operations tackling CCE and 6 arrests for CSE and CCE and 21 Child Exploitation Warning Notices issued to adults.



Shield also worked with 23 children on the prevention cohort and none of the children escalated to MACE. All such children have shown a reduction of warning signs of exploitation, as they were able to apply learning to themselves to keep safe, problem solve to remove risk of being exploited or ASB. 68% were successfully supported to engage in positive diversionary activities and 24% were supported into employment or training to support future employment. 81% of direct support was completed with parents/carers to increase safety planning. Shield prevention funding has been extended for a further 12 months by Merseyside Police.

Shield was granted permanent funding in 2022-23 for the intensive CCE work which has had a significant impact on staff members feeling more secure about their employment and reduces the risk of losing excellent staff who are highly skilled and experienced now in this line of work. At a time when the social care side of Shield has stabilised the police side of the team is about to have some significant changes with the CE police being moved to a more centralised model of working. Shield will need to adjust to the police being centralised and negotiations are underway to ensure that close working relationships are maintained however there are anticipated challenges ahead.

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 2021-24.

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 2021-24. The recently refreshed Early Help and Prevention Strategy 2021-24 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. This approach contributes to the priorities of the Knowsley Children's Safeguarding Partnership.

Within the statutory guidance (Working Together 2018) there is a clear expectation that all agencies will take an Early Help/preventative approach. This approach is also supported

through the 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 the service achieved 100% of the expected claims during 2022-23.

In December 2022 Knowsley was successful in becoming one of the 75 Local Authorities to receive Government funding to develop Family Hubs. The Family Hub model sets out how the Council should approach delivery at a system level. The guidance states that Family Hubs be used as a way of co-locating and "joining up" the planning and delivery of family services. Family Hubs are designed to offer support to families with children of all ages which is 0-19 (or up to 25 for those with special educational needs). The development and delivery of the Family Hubs programme is a true partnership model that presents an opportunity to further embed the Knowsley Better Together ethos and approach around a tangible and high-profile project.

The development of the Family Hub in Knowsley will be aligned to work currently taking place within Northwood in Kirkby. Right to Succeed are a charitable organisation

leading on a Liverpool City Region project developing, piloting, sustaining, and growing collaborative solutions that meet the needs of children and young people across the 5 Local Authorities. This work will compliment and dovetail with the Family Hub development in the Northwood area of Knowsley and further enhance our preventative approach in Knowsley.

The partnership Early Help Governance Group continues to monitor the Early Help offer within Knowsley. The Early Help strategy delivery plan is reviewed within this forum and progress has been made on collating an Early Help performance dashboard this provides insight into the numbers of Early Help Assessments completed by partner agencies and the successful outcomes of subsequent interventions. The practitioner locality network meetings have continued to provide support to front line practitioners to deliver Early Help via bitesize awareness sessions, sharing good practice and quality assuring assessments.

In 2022 several Edge of Care services were evaluated to evidence the impact of their work. Shield Prevention, Multi Systemic Therapy and Family Group Conferencing services all provided significant data which evidenced most of the children they supported did not subsequently become cared for by the Local Authority. As a result of this evaluation those services received permanent funding which strengthens the preventative approach in Knowsley.

Section 7 - Scrutiny

Scrutiny focusing on the role and functioning of the partnership continued this year. The feedback received in previous consultations with partners highlighted a collective desire to strengthen the strategic function, reduce duplication and become more effective.

Recommendations were made to refine governance and for the 3 strategic leads to form a new executive group to focus on systems leadership. The executive were totally committed and determined to develop their roles and ensure the Partnership becomes

- Streamlined
- Focused
- Impactful
- Linked to practice
- Dynamic
- Uses resources most effectively

They also committed to working together as the 3 leads to directly evidence impact, be more accessible and create ways to free up barriers directly.

Round table and other listening events were held with key partners including education and voluntary sector to understand their concerns and issues so they could more effectively contribute to the partnership and in turn feel more connected and able to influence. Recommendations and actions plans were developed and are currently being taken forward to the development session later in the year to inform further redesign. It is clear they need to be more actively involved but need to be supported to do so and their insights and expertise will help enrich multi agency working and help keep more children safe, many from earlier joint working.

There are positive developments with the work of the new Business Manager at linking in with other strategic boards and the new connections being made with the Adults Board which should lead to better outcomes.

Closer connections are developing with other strategic boards, with a joint Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) review commissioned together by both Childrens Partnership and Adults Board, which took

place in January 2023. Meetings with the independent reviewer evidenced the openness and transparency with which all partners and frontline staff in the services approached this work. The response to the survey sent out to all partners was the best seen by the experienced reviewer and the willingness to implement his recommendations with pace is evidence of the commitment senior partners are giving to the action plan. This bodes well for the coming year as the new governance arrangements are launched and operationalised.

The new scrutiny plan for the coming year will focus on evidencing impact and delivery against plans, and on observations of the working of the partnership at all levels.

Frontline Visits

Frontline visits by members of the Strategic Forum have previously taken place annually to enable the partnership to assess the awareness and capabilities of frontline staff in respect of safeguarding policies and procedures. However, the Partnership are reviewing this approach and exploring a range of ways in which to best achieve these aims. This review and implementation of an alternative strategy forms a key part of our workplan for 2023-24.

Multi-Agency Audit

A joint MASH Review was commissioned by the Knowsley Safeguarding Childrens Partnership (KSCP) and the Knowsley Safeguarding Adults Board (KSAB) and took place over February and March 2023. Several key strengths were identified including the strength of the management team, the appropriate application of thresholds, and planned service development. Key areas for development included, enhanced working together across Children's Social Care & Adults Social Care, gaps identified related to interagency working in particular the limited Health representative and the vacancy of the

MASH Co-ordinator role. The reviewer felt the service was safe and noted that all partners engaged well with the review and were positive about the strong partnership within the MASH. The MASH Governance Board has developed an action plan which is scheduled to be presented in September 2023 at the MASH Governance Board. The KSAB & KSCP will own the action plans and the MASH Governance Board will be the mechanism at which partners come together to implement the recommendations and report back to the safeguarding partnerships. However, progress has already begun in relation to progressing key tasks on the action plan. The MASH Co-ordinator post has since been filled and has picked up the progression of the action plan. The issue in relation to the extent of the provision of a health representative has since been resolved and the MASH Co-ordinator is positively impacting on the service already and is working closely with health partners. This joint review has proved beneficial and the learning to come from the review will serve to further enhance the service and build on the strengths identified.

Thematic Audit

As part of the scrutiny process, multi-agency audits are undertaken by the partnership. 2022-23 has focused on working on the action plan from the last multi agency audit and implementing the learning highlighted in the audit and associated action plan. However, based on further emerging themes related to this audit and a small cohort of other cases, it is now planned that in 2023-24, KSCP will commission an external review to further examine the related safeguarding themes. Once this external audit is commissioned, and key lines of enquiry developed, all learning will be incorporated into a clear action plan to assist implementation of further learning across the Partnership.





Section 8 - Performance

Performance headlines for 2022-23 include the following:

- Cases open to social care increased marginally in 2022-23 (1%). Although a nominal change overall, Child in Need Plan's increased by 29%, and the number of Cared for Children increased by 14%. The increase in Cared for Children was largely attributed to twenty-seven Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) becoming looked after in the year
- There were 156 Children subject to a Child Protection Plan at year end, a decrease of 26%. This is the lowest outturn since 2013
- Early Help Level Three Episodes increased 13%, a net increase of 113 cases open to Family First
- The rate of referrals into social care fell 19% in the year, a net decrease of 269. Repeat referral rate fell to 15% and is below comparators
- Thresholds are good; 99% of referrals into social care result in a Children and Families Assessment
- There were seven Police Protection Order compared to one in 2021-22. One young person was remanded to custody in 2022-23
- There was a net decrease of 6 overnight detentions (11-7am). 12 overnights compared to 18 in 2021-22
- The completion rate of Graded Care Profile 2 for Child Protection Plan's with a category of Neglect has fallen from 75% to 38%. Following examination of this, it has emerged, that this is in some part due to issues with our IT systems and recording. Often a higher amount of paper copies of the GCP2 assessment have actually been completed with families but they are not reflected into performance figures until shared on IT system and there are existing compatibility issues. Discussions are taking place to seek to find an appropriate resolution to this
- Use of Section 47 enquiries fell compared to 2021-22. 497 S47 enquiries took place in 2022-23 – 144 per 10,000. The rate is lower than North-West (189) and national comparators (180), and considerably lower than stat neighbours (322)

- Repeat Child Protection Plans increased to 21% against a target of 20%. Repeat plans in a two-year period was 4% in 2022-23. 40 Children becoming subject of a CP Plan in 2022-23 have previously been on a plan
- Seven children subject to a Child Protection Plan for two or more years at year end
- Children continue to participate in the review process. 95% attend, speak or share their views at review meeting. Four children chaired their own review in 2022-23 (CLA)
- Multi agency neglect training delivered across agencies increased from 30 to 80 in 2022-23

The following table highlights the performance data set for 2022-23 as well as the data owners within the Knowsley Safeguarding Childrens Partnership:

Data Items	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Target	Data Owner
Rate of Children in Need per 10,000	121	98	126	135 (430 CIN)	Social Care
Rate of Child Protection Plan per 10,000	56.2	61.3	45.3	60 (200 CP)	Social Care
Rate Children Looked After per 10,000	93.8	88.6	99	90 (300 CLA)	Social Care
Completion of graded care profile 2 concerning neglect (Child Protection Plans)	44%	75%	38%	80%	Social Care
Number of High/Medium/Low DA referrals, where children are present	261	243	High – 575 Med/Low – 1247 (Referrals)	Data Only	Safer Communities
Number children subject to Police Protection Order	0	1	7	N/A	Merseyside Police
Number of children missing from home (inc repeats)	146	124	133	264	SHIELD
SHIELD – MACE data (Med/High)	8% High CSE 26% High CCE	11% CSE (Being Exploited) 25% CCE (Being Exploited)	CSE – 30 risks of exploited CCE 42 risks of exploited	Data Only	SHIELD
Number of new remands in custody episodes in period	1	0	1	Data Only	YOS

Data Items	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Target	Data Owner
Young People receiving a conviction in court who are sentenced to custody	2	1	0	Data Only	YOS
Overnight detention (11-7am)	19	18	12	Data Only	Merseyside Police
Multi agency neglect training delivered across agencies		30	80	Data Only	KSCP
Early help Assessments per 10,000		173.6	482	Data Only	Early Help
Referral rates per 10,000	453.7	409.4	325	465	Social Care
Referral to C&F Assessment (Conversion)	95%	96%	99%	95%	Social Care
S47 rate per 10,000	167.3	169.3	169	175	Social Care
Repeat CP Plans	25%	16%	21%	20%	Social Care
LADO Referrals	28	49	42	Data Only	LADO/SQAU
Participation/Voice of the child (QAU)	98%	94.3%	93%	95%	SQAU



During 2022-23 KSCP Policy and Performance subgroup reviewed the above performance table and produced a more current multi-agency dataset. This was agreed by the members of the subgroup and presented to the Executive Leads in February 2023. The dataset will be the new performance table for 2023-24 and will provide the Policy and Performance Group with a more varied range of safeguarding related activity.

It is envisaged that the new data set will capture more intelligence from across the partnership and assist us to understand a broader impact of safeguarding in this post-covid period.

In addition to the data set there will also be presentations from partners in respect of annual data and emerging patterns of activity, these will be presented to the subgroup and provide wider assurance of safeguarding performance and activity across the partnership.

CHILDREN’S SERVICES

Measure	Data/Target
MASH/Demand	Data Only
Referral Rate (Demand)	Data Only
Early Help Assessments	Data Only
Repeat Referrals	20%
Child Protection Plans per 10,000	60 per 10,000 (200)
Repeat Child Protection Plans within 24 months	5%
Cared for Children per 10,000	95 per 10,000 (330)
Placement Stability – 3 placement moves	10%
Personal Education Plan’s for Care for Children	95%
Multi agency Neglect Training delivered across agencies	
Completion of Graded Care Profile 2 concerning neglect (Child Protection Plans)	85%
Educational Neglect (MASH Referrals)	
LADO Referrals	

Measure	Data/Target
Overnight Detention between 11pm-7am	
Exploitation – CSE MACE Data (may be being/being exploited)	
Exploitation – CCE MACE Data (may be being/being exploited)	
No Children Missing from Home (inc. repeats)	
No Children Missing from Education	
No EHCPs	
Elected Home Education	



PARTNERS

Measure	Data/Target
Whole Life Commissioning	
Listening Ear	100 referrals per quarter
Kooth Online registrations	
Kooth Face-to-face referrals	
CAMHS	
No of children open to CAMHS	
Waiting list times	
Number of referrals	
Number of referrals accepted	



POLICE

Measure	Data/Target
Custody	
Detainees aged 17 or under in custody over 15 hours	
Missing	
Persons aged 17 or under missing 9+ times in 3 months	
All Crime	
Crimes recorded where victim aged 17 or under	
Victim aged 17 or under, any perpetrator arrested	
Victim and any perpetrator/suspect aged 17 or under	
Solved outcomes where victim aged 17 or under	
Sexual Crimes	
Victim aged 17 or under, any perpetrator arrested	
Crimes recorded where victim aged 17 or under	
Victim & any perpetrator/suspect aged 17 or under	
Solved outcomes where victim aged 17 or under	

Measure	Data/Target
Violence crimes	
Crimes recorded where victim aged 17 or under	
Victim aged 17 or under, any perpetrator arrested	
Victim and any perpetrator/suspect aged 17 or under	
Solved outcomes where victim aged 17 or under	
Vulnerable Person Referral Form (VPRF)	
VPRF completed: Child Abuse or Concern	
VPRF completed: Child Exploitation (Criminal or Sexual)	
VPRF completed: Domestic Abuse (with child)	



Section 9 - Learning from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

The Safeguarding Review and Learning Group (SRLG) has continued to provide governance and drive activity around local learning reviews and audits, National & Local Safeguarding Practice Reviews and have also ensured the learning from such reviews is acknowledged, understood and cascaded. One example of this are the cases of Star Hobson and Arthur Labinjo-Hughes. The SRLG have acted as a conduit at a local level for the delivery of these serious child safeguarding review cases, which were undertaken by the National Child Safeguarding Review Panel. An Action Plan responding to the Government Paper was designed and is being progressed through the Safeguarding Review and Learning Group. In delivering these recommendations, enhancements to service delivery and joint working have been made in the following areas:

- Review of Domestic Abuse services and a clear understanding of what each service offers
- Review of information sharing protocols to ensure that practitioners have an accurate understanding what data is available and

what information must be shared, ensuring sufficient information is available to the emergency duty service

- The Mental Health Triage team are aware of their responsibility to make safeguarding and domestic abuse referrals
- A full review of the current MASH arrangements has been completed

Other national documents that have been reviewed under the SRLG are:

- Bruising in non-mobile infants
- Child Death Review Report
- Safe sleeping
- Asthma and neglect
- Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse

With all such documents, assurances were obtained within the group that all agencies had safeguarding and relevant investigative processes in place around these areas to ensure the protection of children.

The SRLG has monitored emerging trends on both a national and local level. One such example of this is the Child Q report. Again, through the partners within the group, the meetings have ensured that any recommendations to be applied locally within Knowsley are monitored and tracked. Education and Police have fed back to the group around their processes, ensuring the protection of children subject to the search process.

Knowsley Safeguarding Children's Partnership have recently commissioned a local Safeguarding Practice Review in relation to a young child following an incident in early 2023. The case was referred to the National Panel, as per required statutory policy, and they agreed the matter required a local review. Undertaking the functions of a Rapid Review Group, this sits under the chair of the SRLG, and the matter remains ongoing and is in its early stages. Any recommendations from this review will form an action plan and will be monitored through the Safeguarding Review and Learning Group.



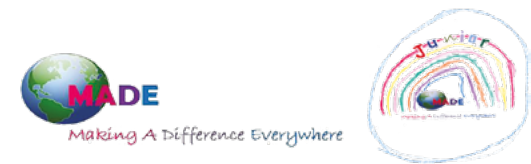
Section 10 - Children Engagement

Young Advisors

Knowsley Young Advisors have continued to support the Safeguarding Partnerships priorities. Their work has included specific focus on: Neglect, reduction of criminal exploitations, and children’s mental health.

They produced a film with children from across Children’s Social Care which has now been shared across eSchools and Education settings and will continue to be shared to raise awareness of Criminal Exploitation.

The partnership is currently focusing on further developing the work of the Young Advisors to agree updated priority areas of focus, for both their work and the work of the partnership. This will further assist to embed children’s views into boroughwide service developments based on what Knowsley’s children, think, wish for, and experience.



M.A.D.E (Making A Difference Everywhere– Knowsley’s Children in Care Council) and Care Experienced People Forum (formerly Care Leavers Forum)

This year MADE, recruited 11 new children, and continue to grow their membership. MADE Junior/senior and care experienced people have started working closer together to strengthen their profile.

MADE continue to have MADE Together meetings twice a year with Heads of Service and named professionals. This meeting brings together corporate parents and the engagement/consultation groups together to consider feedback from children and young people about their lived experiences, making recommendations and offering creative alternative to engagement between the child

and their social worker or adult support. MADE also continue to represent children known to CSC at Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) by using MADE Together meetings as shadow board meetings.

Some of the things MADE have discussed with adults this past year include:

- Feelings and emotions when you are at school
- Activities and opportunities to have fun
- The support available for care experienced people including the local offer
- A new way of focussing on and developing what is needed for cared for children and care experienced people (new strategies)
- Pocket money and the price of clothes for children and young people
- Fundraising and helping people less fortunate
- Welcome packs including the information children should know when they first come into care or get a social worker
- Behaviours and how to best manage them in tricky situations

Some of the activity and projects that MADE, and our children and young people have been involved in this year include:

- MADE hosted a Christmas event in Volair, Christmas Eve boxes
- MYA (Merseyside youth association) Winter Hope Hacks event
- Knowsley Children's Charter is being used to embed children's voices across services

Knowsley Borough of Culture activity

Over 150 children contributing towards the production of artwork and revised Charter which were merged to form the Wangle Jangle cat from their planned owl and the pussycat trail. The cat was one of the 32 large statues that have been placed across the borough.

Cared4 network & Children's Conference

In addition to the above activity, 4 'Voice of the Child' training sessions have been delivered across three University sites this year (Liverpool Hope, Edge Hill, and Liverpool John Moore's). All involved expressed the value and importance of sharing lived experiences to inform future Social Work practice.



- 1 Care for me the way all children should be cared for.
- 2 Treat me as an individual we are all different.
- 3 Help me reach my goals and believe in me.
- 4 Don't judge me, take time to get to know me.
- 5 Understand what is important to me and why.
- 6 Listen to me, with your heart as well as your ears.
- 7 Be honest with me and help me understand my life story.
- 8 Help me to be both happy and safe.
- 9 Think about my life as a 'whole'.
- 10 Understand what 'family' is for me and help me to keep in touch with the people who are important to me.
- 11 Work well with others from different services to improve the support and opportunities that are available to me.
- 12 Communicate with me clearly and in a way I can understand what you are trying to say.



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.

Practitioners from across the partnership have had the opportunity to access core training courses virtually via the platforms Zoom or Microsoft Teams and online training modules have been made available via the Virtual College. Some courses have been delivered face to face due to their sensitive content, we intend to utilise this method of delivery more, offering a hybrid model of training going forward.

Our core training courses were:

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

Working Together to Safeguard Children

This training was delivered virtually, any further comments gathered were positive with some highlighting that although they enjoyed these sessions, they would prefer face to face training. This is something we are looking to reinstate next year as the whole ethos of the Working Together training is to come together in a multi-agency forum to share knowledge, experience and to network. Although this can be achieved via the use of breakout rooms many feel that face to face training is much more beneficial and valuable.

Graded Care Profile 2

We will continue to deliver Graded Care Profile 2 training to the partnership as it is still the identified tool for assessing neglect in Knowsley. The course content is being refreshed as the NSPCC have issued new video clips to be used within the training after receiving feedback from trainers and delegates that the previous clips were not fit for purpose. This will improve the training experience for those attending in the future.

Signs of Safety

We will continue to provide practitioners with opportunities to attend the comprehensive 2 Day Signs of Safety training and the briefing sessions, which can be utilised as refresher training.

Other courses included:

How Serious is Serious – Child Suicide Prevention Training

This has been delivered face to face due to the extremely sensitive nature of this training programme. This training has been designed to help professionals working with children and young people to spot the signs of a young person at risk of suicide and, more importantly, to build confidence in professionals to talk openly with young people about suicide.

Neglect: Recognition and Action

This course was created to address the inconsistencies identified in practitioners recognising what constitutes child neglect and how they act when it is identified.

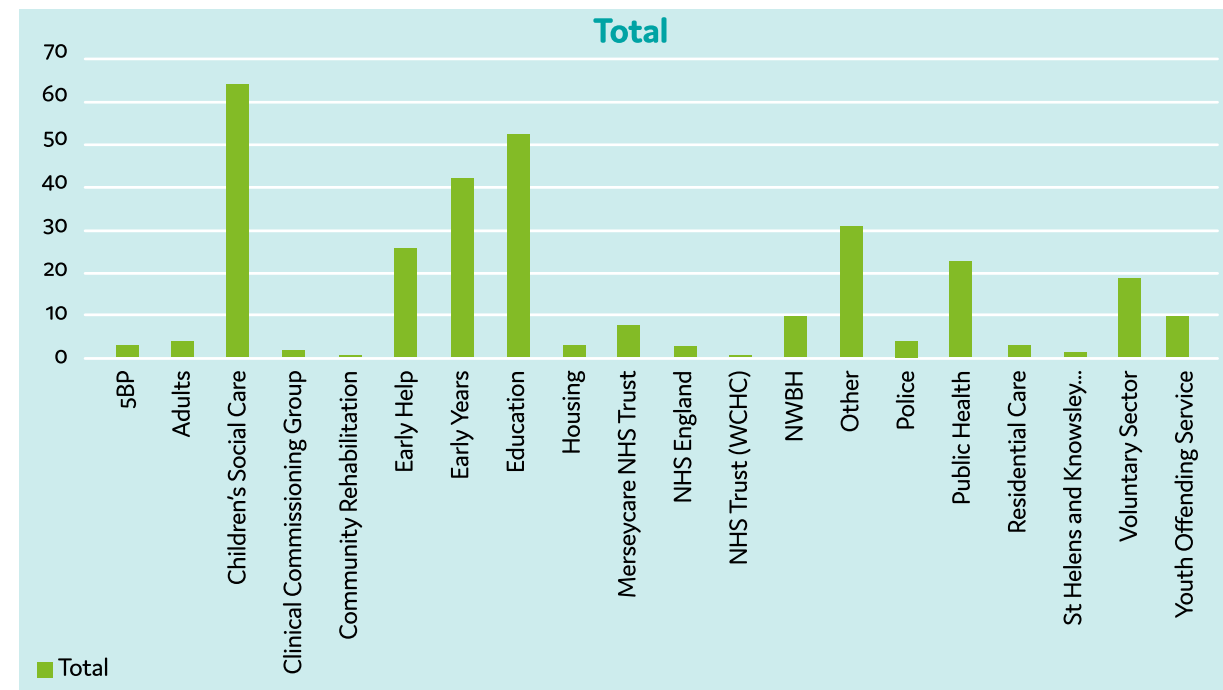
Safer Recruitment

This course explores a set of practices that will help make sure staff and volunteers are suitable to work with children and young people. It is a vital part of creating a safe and positive environment and making a commitment to keep children safe from harm. It is primarily targeted at Education providers however early years providers and other partners are invited to attend.

Agency Attendance

During the period of 2022-23; 311 delegates have accessed training sessions/briefings.

The following graph depicts a breakdown of attendance by agency. Children's Social Care, Early Help (Family First), Early Years providers and Education consistently utilise most training places.

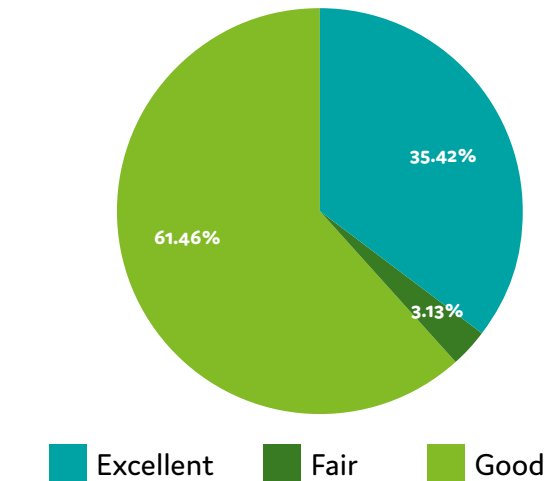


Feedback and Evaluation

Multi Agency KSCP training is evaluated using several 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

Post course evaluations have been created to not only capture general feedback but also to reflect the Signs of Safety Method of using scaling questions and the technique of asking what worked well and what delegates were worried about.



Of those who completed evaluations, 96% rated the training as excellent or good.

Of those who scaled their knowledge as less than 5 prior to the training, we saw an increase ranging from 3-8 points, demonstrating that there is clear evidence of increased knowledge and understanding.

The following word cloud highlights frequently used words used in the evaluations.



Attendees provided feedback on the delivery of the training and the proficiency of the facilitators, the multi-agency aspect of the sessions and the challenges they may face when embedding the learning. The following comments highlight this:

What Worked Well?

“Really knowledgeable presenter. Really enjoyed the breakout rooms and the opportunity to share experience and ideas with other professionals from different agencies”

“The trainer was brilliant, her ability to interact with the training group”

“I feel the pace, language used, and examples given including the presentation slides were all accessible”

“I found the presenter engaging, knowledgeable and approachable”

Worried about?

“Gaining confidence to derive questioning and scaling questions when using signs of safety”

“The frequency of using the tool in my role”

“I think that I will feel nervous completing the assessment the first time and how I will explain this to parents’ and carers”

“Gaining confidence. It is just having confidence in my own scaling of cases, which is getting easier as I do it more”

KSCP Training Conclusion

The 2022-23 KSCP Training Programme has been primarily delivered via virtual platforms. As in the previous year we have continued to tailor training to suit the virtual world, this shift has highlighted how virtual training can become part of the conventional training programme every year. Particularly for those shorter courses. However, some courses are more suitable to face to face delivery and we endeavour to deliver a hybrid model of training next year to cater for different learning styles, sensitive training courses and convenience.

Courses have continued to provide delegates with good quality, engaging training giving attendees the confidence and skills to effectively safeguard children. In order to further improve the experience for partner agencies. Future work will focus on a planned upgrade to the training portal and booking system and an update of the KSCP website to improve accessibility for partner agencies. This will be combined with an updated training strategy and programme to provide greater clarity and information for practitioners when choosing which training courses are most suitable for them.

We have reintroduced the Training and Development Subgroup which will be responsible for ensuring there is a full and effective multi-agency safeguarding training programme in place that is widely publicised and disseminated across the partnership. Also, to ensure that the development of our training strategy is fully informed by learning from National and Local Safeguarding Practice reviews. Other roles of the subgroup will include reviewing attendance at training, evidencing the impact of training on the workforce, and on outcomes for children and young people and to develop and coordinate a collaborative approach to disseminating and embedding learning.



Section 12 - Finance

Partner agencies continued to contribute to the KSCP's budget for 2022-23, in addition to providing a variety of resources, such as staff time for training. Financial contributions totalled £0.155m for 2022-23 (see below for breakdown). As well as this year's contributions, KSCP has a contingency carry forward into 2022-23 of £0.132m, (mainly due to the previous staffing vacancies in the Partnership).

Agency Contributions	22-23 Contribution (£m)	
Knowsley Council	0.054	34.84
Knowsley Council – Early Years' Service	0.003	1.94
National Health Service	0.047	30.32
Dedicated School Grant	0.022	14.19
Police	0.021	13.55
LIVV Housing	0.005	3.23
Knowsley Probation Centre	0.003	1.94
Total	0.155	100
Carry forward of contingency from 21-22	0.132	
Total Resources available	0.287	

Expenditure

Expenditure for 2022-23 totalled £0.119m; the following table shows the percentage split across the main areas of KCSP.

Expenditure	22-23 Expenditure (£m)	%
Staffing	0.071	59.66
Safeguarding Review	0.003	2.52
Independent Chair	0.015	12.61
Training	0.004	3.36
Child Death Overview Panel	0.000	0.00
General Expenses	0.014	11.76
Subscriptions	0.009	7.56
Information Technology	0.003	2.52
Total	0.119	100

There was a decrease in Partner contributions to the KSCP in 2022-23 compared to the previous year of £0.024m. Income in 2020-21 was £0.175m, while in 2021-22 income is £0.151m.

21-22 Contribution (£m)	Difference
0.047	0.007
0.003	0.000
0.047	0.000
0.027	-0.005
0.021	0.000
0.005	0.000
0.001	0.002
0.151	0.004

The factors influencing this decrease in income are:

- (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 KSCP during 2022-23 compared to the previous year. Expenditure in 2020-21 was £0.168m, while in 2021-22 spend is £0.121m.

21-22 Expenditure (£m)	Difference
0.081	-0.010
0.006	-0.003
0.008	0.007
0.005	-0.001
0.000	0.000
0.013	0.001
0.000	0.009
0.008	-0.005
0.121	-0.002

The factors influencing this decrease in expenditure are:

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

In respect of projections there is a planned reduction of the DSG Partner Contribution of £0.008m in 2022-23 with ongoing reductions of 20% per year.

Further work will take place in 2023-24 to consider future budget projections and to review funding arrangements for the Partnership to ensure ongoing continuity in delivery of key priority areas and statutory responsibilities. There are some key challenges regarding the planned further reduction in the Designated Schools Grant (DSG), and work is required with our education partners to negotiate a traded schools offer to recoup this funding. There are also challenges regarding the funding of recommended staffing increases made in a review of the Partnership in July 2022.

This work to review our funding arrangements and consider future income and spending projections and possible savings, based on our key statutory functions and deliverables will be completed in 2023-24 and will assist to ensure delivery of our ambitious development agenda for the Partnership.

Section I3 - The Next Steps

Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership will continue to work together to safeguard and protect children in Knowsley. All partners remain committed to enabling children to grow up safe, be healthy, feel listened to and be given the right opportunities to achieve their potential. Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership intend to achieve this goal by focusing on the following areas during 2023-24:

1. Review and agree future priorities to complete new Business Plan 2023-26
2. Further develop the work with our Young Advisors to capture the voices and experiences of our children in Knowsley to influence practice development and service planning activity right across the partnership
3. Development work with partners to capture the representation of the voices of children in our community
4. Review and strengthen enhanced governance systems, structures, and processes to ensure appropriate rigour and scrutiny across the partnership

5. Enhance practitioner engagement with the reintroduction of KSCP practitioner events to discuss relevant issues and improve engagement with frontline practitioners & managers
6. Explore closer working and shared development work with the Adult Safeguarding Board on joint areas such as Transitional Safeguarding
7. Review and update systems and processes related to the commissioning, learning and practice improvement in response to serious incidents relating to local and national Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews
8. Enhancing the skills and knowledge of practitioners through the delivery of an updated KSCP Training Plan, set against the strategic priorities of the partnership and focused on areas of learning identified in National & Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and multi-agency audits
9. Establishment of the Training & Development subgroup to enhance multi agency development of our training offer and the development of an updated training strategy and workplan

10. Development of the KSCP website and training booking portal to improve its accessibility and effectiveness for partners and members of the public and to enhance our monitoring & reporting capabilities
11. Development of KSCP newsletter to summarise learning for partners from National & local reviews, Audits, promote training etc
12. The implementation of a dedicated scrutiny process for the Partnership to ensure effective operational oversight
13. Examine the functioning of the Partnership against the key recommendations made in the 'Wood Review of Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements' (2021) and the proposed changes in 2023 to 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (2018)
14. Ongoing review and improvement of KSCP operational processes and systems



