



Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership
Annual Report 2020-21

Foreword - Safeguarding Partners

Welcome to the Annual Report of the Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP). This report covers the period April 2020 to March 2021.

The HSCP operates in accordance with the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 statutory guidance. The HSCP provides the safeguarding arrangements under which the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies work together to coordinate their safeguarding services, identify and respond to the needs of children in Hampshire, commission and publish Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, and provide scrutiny to ensure the effectiveness of the arrangements.

Helping and protecting children through a coordinated approach to safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility. Through collaborative efforts across organisations and agencies who work with children, young people and families, including those who work with parents/carers, the ambition of our arrangements is that everyone can recognise, respond and fulfil their responsibilities to ensure that children, young people, and families are effectively safeguarded and supported.

At the heart of these arrangements is a commitment from us, as safeguarding partners, to work together effectively, encourage constructive challenge where needed, and to foster a culture of professional curiosity and continual learning to drive improvement.

The challenges brought about by the past year and the COVID-19 pandemic, have further emphasised the benefits we can derive from proactive collaborative partnership working. We are extremely proud of the way our partners responded to the pandemic and how quickly they adapted to ensure Hampshire's children continued to have their safeguarding needs prioritised. As we move towards a period of recovery, we recognise the vital role the HSCP will play in coordinating a response that places best outcomes for children and families at its centre.

Steve Crocker
Director of Children's Services
Hampshire County Council



Louise Spencer
Interim Executive Director of Quality & Nursing
Hampshire, Southampton & Isle of Wight
Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)



Rachel Farrell
Chief Superintendent
Hampshire Constabulary



Welcome from Derek Benson, Independent Scrutineer



It is my pleasure to welcome you to the HSCP's Annual Report for 2020/2021, which covers the performance year to the 31 March 2021.

Whilst the year has undoubtedly been dominated by the COVID 19 pandemic and the unique challenges this has presented, day to day safeguarding issues and the wellbeing of children and young people have remained at the forefront of our minds and efforts. Colleagues from across the partnership, led by the local authority, the police and health in their role as the safeguarding partners, came together to respond to these new challenges whilst maintaining essential service provision with energy, innovation, and a collective determination to protect some of the most vulnerable members of our communities.

In my role as the Independent Chair and Scrutineer, I saw first-hand a fierce commitment to safeguarding; sharing timely and relevant information, agreeing priorities, maintaining a necessary line of sight, and taking effective action. We have learned many important lessons and will continue to work together to address areas where we can improve; tackling neglect, identifying at the earliest opportunity those in need of help, and making sure children and families are at the heart of everything we do. The safeguarding partners were visible and active in their respective and joint roles throughout 2020/21 maintaining an effective line of sight to our most vulnerable children, and the HSCP remains committed to the children and young people of Hampshire.



Hampshire
Safeguarding
Children
Partnership

Derek Benson
Independent Chair
Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Derek Benson', written over a light blue horizontal line.

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Hampshire
Safeguarding
Children
Partnership





About the Annual Report

Introduction

The Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP) publishes an Annual Report as part of its statutory responsibilities under [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018](#).

The Annual Report details the Partnership's achievements collected from the activity of the subgroups, training evaluations, learning from Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and audits, and single agency audits, as well as assurance and monitoring activities.

The Annual Report reaffirms the Partnership's commitment to working collaboratively across diverse organisational boundaries. Working in partnership with other public sector bodies and voluntary and community sector organisations, HSCP seeks to cultivate inter-professional communication

and cooperation to safeguard, promote and improve the welfare and outcomes for children and families. The HSCP's vision is to protect children from harm, shield them from the risk of being harmed and support their recovery after experiencing harmful situations. Drawing on the reflective, proactive and innovative practice of the children's workforce across Hampshire, the HSCP continues to develop and improve services through effective safeguarding, learning and development.

The Annual Report identifies how effective multi-agency safeguarding arrangements have promoted safeguarding for Hampshire's children with a focus on impact, evidence, assurance and learning, as agreed by the HSCP and scrutinised by the Independent Chair.



The Independent Chair

The Independent Chair

The role of the Independent Chair is to provide critical challenge and to seek assurance when judging the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Hampshire, including arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases. The independent chair is:

- **objective**
- **acts as a constructive critical friend**
- **promotes reflection to drive continuous improvement.**

The Independent Chair's Functions in 2020/21:

1. Acted as chair for the HSCP Main Board and other meetings, including the Section 11 Panel, and worked closely with the three safeguarding partners (who hold statutory responsibilities for the coordination of multi-agency working). In addition, the chair maintained oversight of the subgroups' workplans and monitored engagement and progression.
2. Scrutinised whether the three safeguarding partners were fulfilling their statutory obligations and acted as a critical friend to inspect performance management, support audits and ensure quality assurance mechanisms were effective.

3. Supported and encouraged an open culture of mutual and constructive challenge and arbitrated any resultant professional disagreements between the three statutory safeguarding partners.



4. Worked with the statutory partners in examining progress and measured impact and outcomes through monitoring and reviewing the HSCP Business Plan.
5. Supported the three safeguarding partners in their responsibility to identify and measure success and impact, and thereby ensured that arrangements had a positive impact on the lives of children.

The Strategic Leadership Group

This consists of:

- **Hampshire County Council's Children's Services**
- **Hampshire Constabulary**
- **Hampshire, Southampton and Isle of Wight Clinical Commissioning Group** (*which replaced West Hampshire CCG on 01 April 2021*)

Acting as a strategic leadership group the three lead safeguarding partners oversee the HSCP.

Members of the partnership hold a strategic role within their organisations and can speak with authority, commit to matters of policy, and hold their organisation to account. All three lead safeguarding partners have equal and joint responsibility for local safeguarding arrangements. Scrutiny of the effectiveness of the safeguarding arrangements is undertaken by the Independent Chair representing the partnership.

The multi-agency partnership in Hampshire is mature, robust and effective, with a clear commitment from senior leaders to review and improve ways of working, building on strengths within the strong partnership relationships that exist.

Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the partners adapted quickly to the national situation, responding effectively to local need and risk. Strong strategic leadership ensured rapid and decisive action to safeguard Hampshire's children and young people at risk of harm or abuse and ensured access to the most appropriate support services to keep them safe. Hampshire schools and early years settings remained open during the reporting period ensuring that rates of attendance for Hampshire children were among the highest in the country and that a professional gaze remained for the county's most vulnerable children.

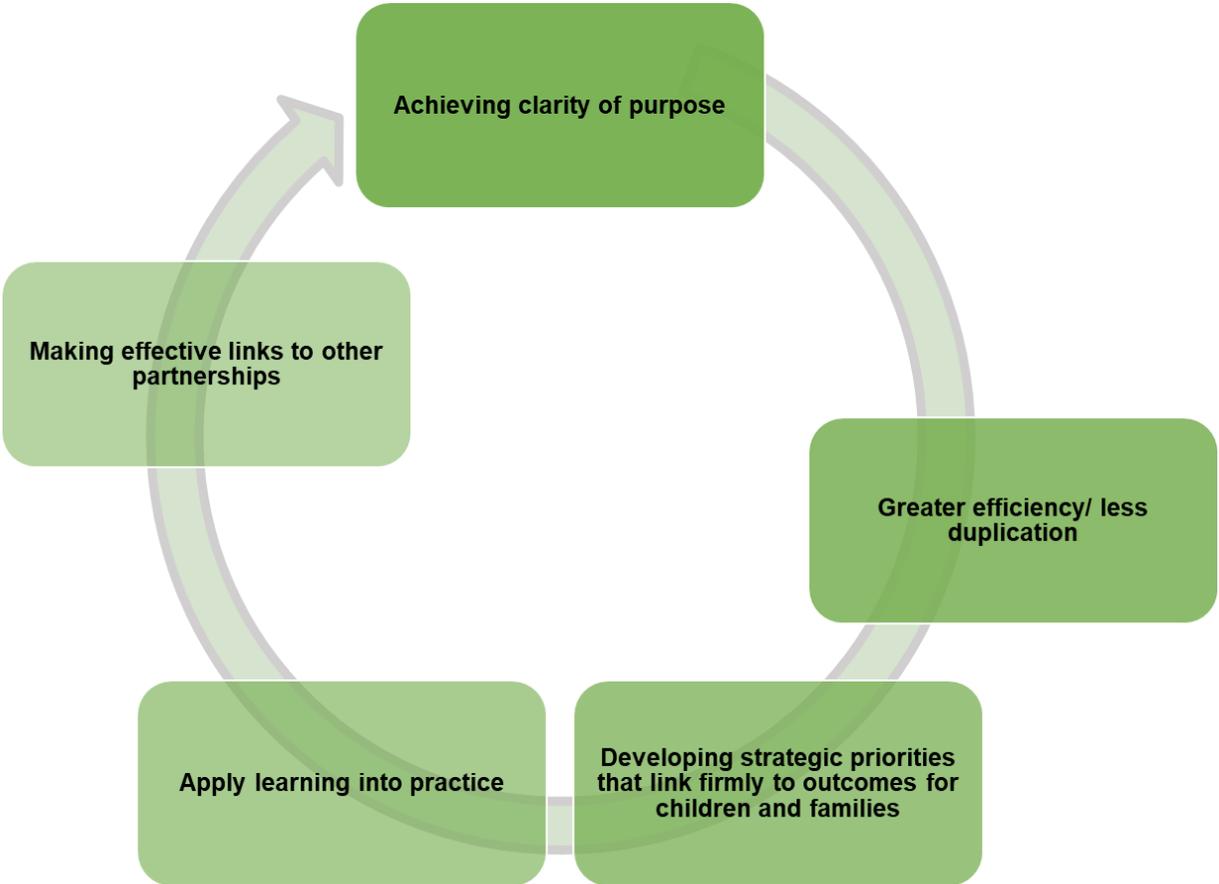
This Annual Report's findings provide evidence that safeguarding remained a firm priority for all partner agencies during 2020/21, demonstrated by consistently high levels of attendance, effective engagement in subgroups, and a strong culture of constructive challenge and debate. Key to the HSCP's success has been a focus on the different safeguarding contexts that exist across Hampshire, with emphasis being placed on children and young people being safeguarded in their lives at home, in their friendship circles, in health, in education and in the public spaces that they occupy both offline and online.



The Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Southampton, and Portsmouth (HIPS) Partnership

The HSCP works in partnership with the statutory safeguarding partners for the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton, known locally as 'HIPS'. It is acknowledged that for many agencies and professionals who work across more than one of the local authority geographical areas, the HIPS partnership provides greater joined-up working on strategic issues and common themes. Given that each local area was keen to retain some degree of distinct local arrangements, partners agreed to form the Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton (HIPS) Executive Group, supported by four subgroups, to work alongside the four local partnerships.

Benefits to all four areas:



The Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Southampton, and Portsmouth (HIPS)

The HIPS Executive: The HIPS Executive membership consists of the lead safeguarding partners across Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton plus the Independent Chair. The role of the HIPS Executive Group is to provide strategic direction, identify shared safeguarding priorities and opportunities and coordinate safeguarding activity across the four HIPS areas.

Health Group – coordinates health sector safeguarding business across the HIPS area. It takes the lead on the promotion and implementation of any best practice and learning for the health sector.

Child Exploitation Group – identifies risks requiring strategic intervention. The Group supports the development of a shared understanding of the threat and response to child exploitation, including patterns of activity that may reflect the organised exploitation of children. Operational requirements are managed through existing local structures to drive forward a collective response to child exploitation through a tasking system that maximises the specialist skills and experience of staff across the HIPS area. Vulnerabilities and risks associated with children who go missing are understood and incorporated within a consistent and robust multi-agency response.

Policies and Procedures Group – develops all common multi-agency policies and procedures that inform single agency policy and practice across the HIPS area.

Child Death Overview Panel – performs the functions outlined in *Working Together 2018*.

The key functions of the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) are to:

- Review all child deaths, excluding those babies who are stillborn and planned terminations of pregnancy carried out within the law.
- Determine whether the death was preventable (if there were modifiable factors which may have contributed to the death).
- Decide what, if any, actions could be taken to prevent such deaths happening in the future.
- Identify patterns or trends in local data and report these to the Safeguarding Partnerships.
- Refer cases to the Safeguarding Partnership chairs where there is suspicion that neglect, or abuse may have been a factor in the child's death. In such cases a Serious Case Review (SCR) may be required.

Review of Safeguarding Arrangements

- The HSCP [Local Safeguarding Arrangements](#) provide details about how support services are arranged to meet the needs of Hampshire's children and families, whilst seeking to continually improve services so that even better levels of support and assistance can be offered in the future.
- Other relevant agencies listed in the Annual Report as specified in [The Child Safeguarding Practice Review and Relevant Agency \(England\) Regulations 2018](#) provide support with the implementation of local and national learning, including learning from serious safeguarding incidents.
- All partner agencies are committed to ensuring the effective operation of the HSCP, supported by Local Safeguarding Arrangements that define the fundamental principles through which the HSCP is governed.



The HSCP Business Plan

The HSCP Business Plan informs the basis of the partnership's work for 2020-2023. The Business Plan sets out the strategic commitment of the partnership to embed good practice making its vision a reality. The HSCP acknowledge that, for services to be effective, they should be based on a clear understanding of the needs and views of children and their families.

Multi-agency work within the HSCP groups and subgroups promotes work to drive a range of improvements to both the safety and welfare of children and young people and to reduce risk factors while increasing protective barriers. Partnership membership extends across several working groups to provide continuity.

The Business Plan also aims to ensure that the Partnership continues to oversee and advance improvements in its core business. Additionally, it will seek to ensure that an overview of safeguarding issues that affect a smaller number of children and young people are maintained.

The Business Plan and work programme developed in partnership with all agencies continued to progress a range of improvements to both the safety and welfare of children and young people during the reporting period 2020/21. The priorities remain flexible for the duration of the Business Plan, and the detail will be set out in specific work plans of the subgroups and task and finish groups. The HSCP reviewed its Business

Plan and priorities at a development day in January 2021. It agreed a revision of its thematic work, to better respond to local and national areas of safeguarding need and subsequently developed its 2021-22 Business Plan.

THEMED PRIORITIES FOR 2021—2022

Safeguarding Adolescents in the Home and in the Community (linking to Contextual Safeguarding)

Neglect

Child Sex Abuse (including Interfamilial Abuse)

Improving Collaboration between Children and Adult Service Providers (The Family Approach)

Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing

Funding Arrangements

Working Together 2018 states that the three safeguarding partners should agree the level of funding secured from each partner (which should be equitable and proportionate), and any contributions from each relevant agency, to support the local arrangements. Hampshire County Council, West Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group and the Hampshire Constabulary contribute £258,306 towards the total HSCP cost of £291,864.

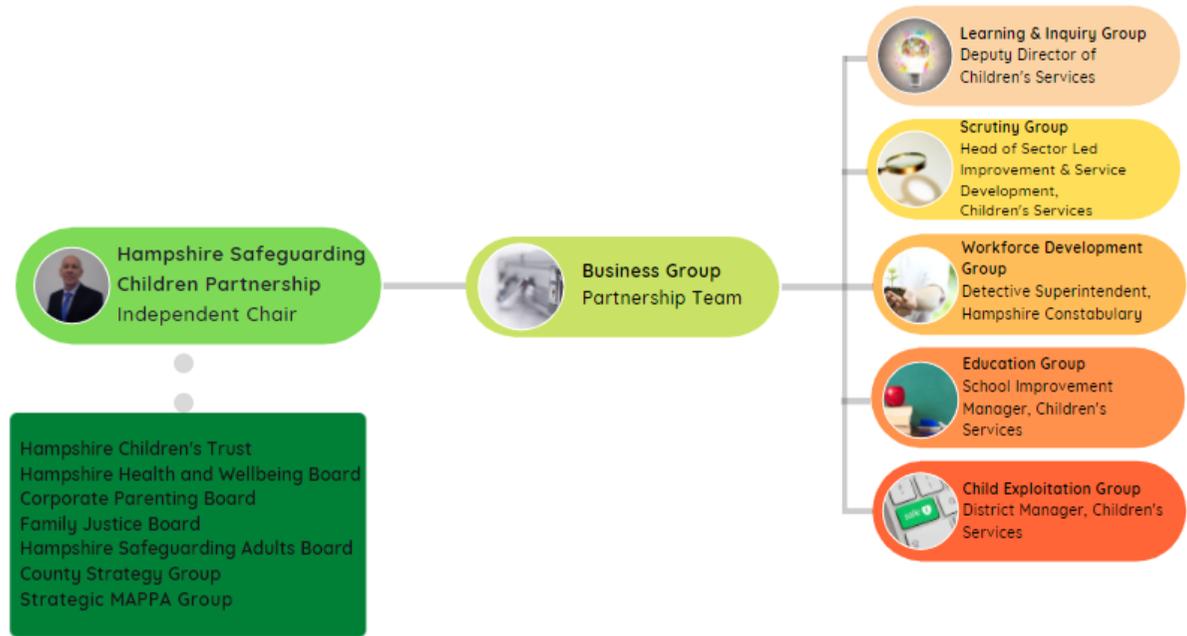
The current funding arrangements also comprise of contributions by partner organisations. Partner agencies continued to contribute to the HSCP budget for 2020-21, in addition to providing a variety of resources, such as staff time for training. The funding arrangements are regularly reviewed by the three lead safeguarding partners. Accommodation, legal and communications services are provided by Hampshire County Council.

The financial challenge for many frontline services across the safeguarding partnership is one of increasing demand, with reducing income from central government. The HSCP statutory and non-statutory partners have expressed their

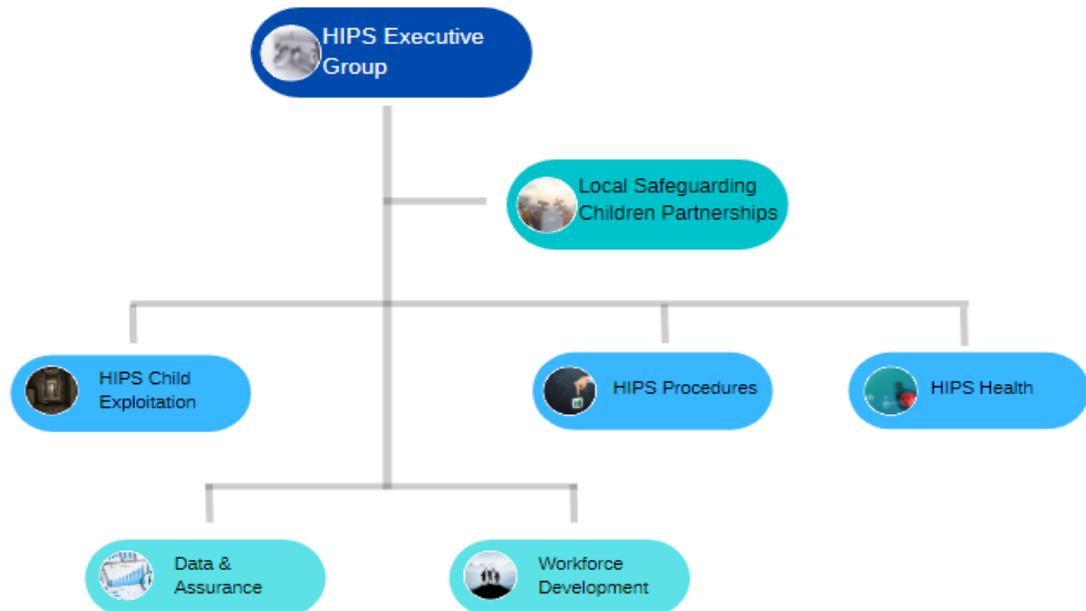
commitment to cross-agency support and continued to demonstrate a shared responsibility to safeguarding during 2020-21 ensuring that Hampshire's innovative and rigorous partnership is sustained. Although the HSCP local statutory safeguarding partners do not make equal funding contributions, they do make an equal and proportionate resource contribution in partnership time, demonstrated by high levels of attendance and effective engagement in subgroups. These groups ensure that the Partnership really makes a difference to local practice and to the outcomes for Hampshire's children and young people. Each subgroup has a clear remit and a transparent mechanism for reporting to the HSCP, and each subgroup's terms of reference and membership are reviewed annually.



HSCP Structure

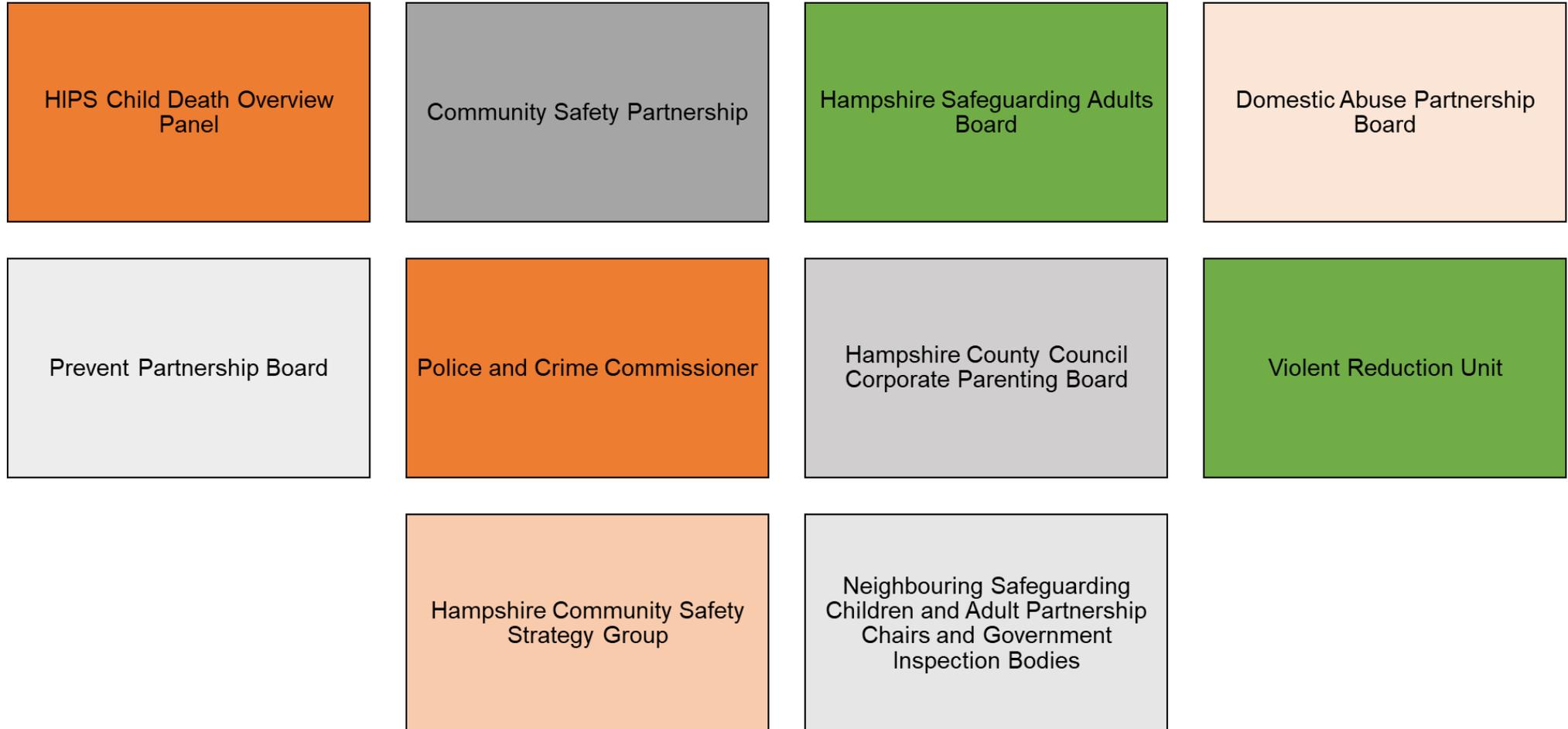


HIPS Structure



Links to Other Partnerships

The HSCP has formal links with other Hampshire and pan-Hampshire strategic partnerships, namely the Health and Well-being Board:



Reporting and Scrutiny Partnership Structure and Subgroups

Scrutiny and reporting processes include a regular review of the performance and impact of the HSCP. Performance is measured against the HSCP Business Plan's outcome measures and is reported to the Business Group and Main Board which includes the statutory safeguarding partners and executive.

The statutory partners are responsible for appointing an Independent Chair. The Independent Chair meets with the statutory safeguarding partners four times a year to review the effectiveness of the arrangements and the impact of the HSCP. The safeguarding partners are further held to account

by the multi-agency Scrutiny Group.

The HSCP continue to strengthen the governance interface between the HSCP and other key strategic forums, subgroups, and their chairs, maintain the HSCP Learning and Improvement Framework, scrutinise and challenge performance, identify, disseminate and embed lessons, engage with Hampshire's children, young people and their families and evaluate the impact on outcomes.



Voice of the Child

The HSCP strongly believes that children and young people should have a say when decisions are made which may affect them. It also believes that children and young people should have the means and opportunities to be able to raise issues which are important to them, and be assured that they will be listened to. By doing so, this should create a stronger child protection system that is more responsive to the needs of Hampshire's most vulnerable children.

The HSCP ensures that children and young people are appropriately involved in the governance and decision making of the Partnership. The HSCP also challenges and holds partnership members to account on their engagement and involvement of children and young people within their own agencies, including through the Section 11 audit process.

The HSCP has continued to request that agencies consider how the voice of the child has impacted on their specific area of work. These contributions have provided a rich evidence base of how services are responding to children's voices in the day-to-day delivery of services and in longer-term strategic work.



Work Across the Partnership



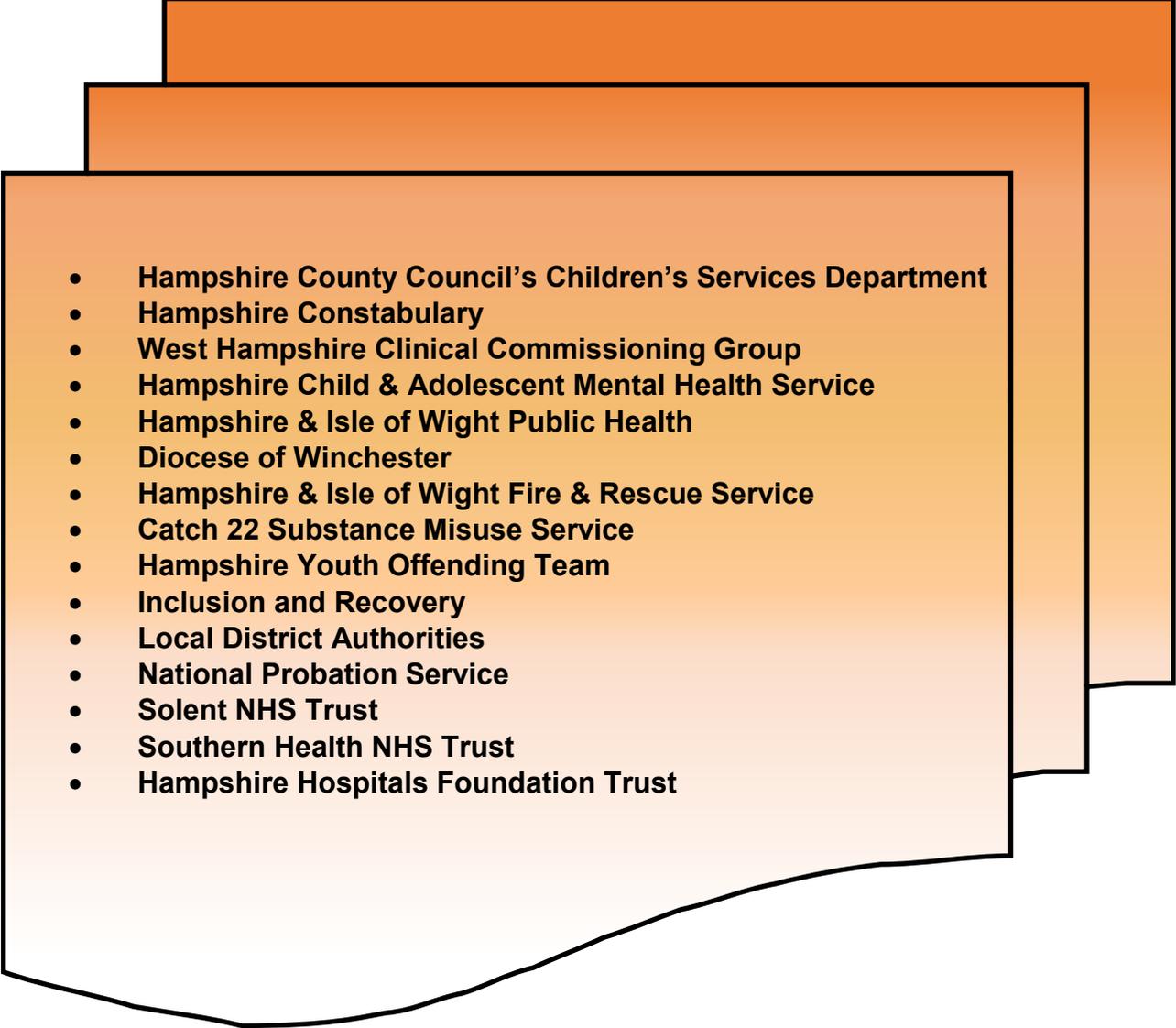
Introduction

The safeguarding leads and wider safeguarding partners within their agencies are active members of the Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP) groups and subgroups.

Safeguarding leads from the wider safeguarding partners have been involved in producing information, guidance and toolkits that have been made available through the HSCP.

This has led to a positive impact on the organisational understanding and awareness of key safeguarding themes across the children's workforce in Hampshire.

The following agencies have submitted evidence of the impact of the collective work of the wider safeguarding partners within the reporting period April 2020 - March 2021:

- 
- Hampshire County Council's Children's Services Department
 - Hampshire Constabulary
 - West Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group
 - Hampshire Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service
 - Hampshire & Isle of Wight Public Health
 - Diocese of Winchester
 - Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service
 - Catch 22 Substance Misuse Service
 - Hampshire Youth Offending Team
 - Inclusion and Recovery
 - Local District Authorities
 - National Probation Service
 - Solent NHS Trust
 - Southern Health NHS Trust
 - Hampshire Hospitals Foundation Trust

Effective Safeguarding of Unborn and Newborn Babies

Staff from the health service, with support from staff across the children's workforce contributed to the development of the updated **Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton (HIPS) Unborn Baby Protocol**, launched in March 2021. The updated Protocol has been delivered to staff across the partnership. Social care staff have adopted a new approach ensuring cases remain open where required and working with babies and their families referred under the Unborn Baby Protocol, which promotes the need for additional support to be made available to unborn and newborn babies.

Practitioners in **Hampshire Hospitals Foundation Trust (HHFT)** Safeguarding Children Team were members of all three working groups updating the HIPS Unborn Baby Protocol; the named nurse for safeguarding children took the lead in the development of the risk assessment within the Protocol.

The Protocol has been shared with all maternity colleagues and forms part of the Maternity Safeguarding Children Training. It is recorded when the Protocol is referred to in safeguarding supervision. The HHFT Maternity Safeguarding Children Guidelines include local pathways which mirror the Protocol. The Protocol also formed part of the HHFT Safeguarding Children Forum agenda with a virtual tour of the tool.

Hampshire & Isle of Wight (HIOW) Public Health also played a key role in analysing and interpreting the Unborn Baby Protocol audit and in informing how the review of the Unborn Baby Protocol could ensure effective guidance was available to practitioners. HIOW Public Health were involved in the launch of the updated Unborn Baby Protocol in March 2021 to help raise awareness across the partnership (including working in partnership with the commissioned Public Health Nursing Services).



Public Health's contribution to the review of the Unborn Baby Protocol has provided assurance that the new Protocol will be more effective for safeguarding unborn and newborn babies. The Public Health commissioners of services (the Public Health Nursing Services) have then been able to ensure awareness and implementation through the usual contractual routes.

Named nurses and members of the safeguarding team from **Southern Health NHS Trust** were members of all the Unborn Baby Protocol subgroups. Following the launch, the Protocol was circulated across the organisation including the development of a 'learner set' for staff and a Trust wide communication strategy to highlight the use of the Unborn Baby Protocol. Multi-agency training to identify increased risk of domestic abuse during pregnancy includes reference to the Unborn Baby Protocol.

Effective Safeguarding of Unborn and Newborn Babies



Protocol

Senior managers from **Hampshire Children's Services** have, throughout the year, developed and delivered several webinars on the Unborn Baby Protocol, Safer Sleep, Baby Bruising Protocol, Unidentified Adults, and Disguised Compliance, as well as identifying the training requirements for children's social care arising from individual case reviews.

The National Probation Service (NPS) have engaged with HSCP objectives, specifically around the Unborn Baby Protocol and the changes around expectations of Children's Services involvement when the baby is born, which has been disseminated to staff. The NPS is aware and up to date on the HSCP Business Plan objectives and is committed to supporting their delivery within their organisation.

The launch of the revised Unborn Baby Protocol has raised awareness across Hampshire's children's workforce and ensured that unborn and new-born babies' vulnerabilities are fully understood and responded to in a multi-agency approach. **The embedding of the Protocol is evidenced in increased referrals to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) where the Unborn Baby Protocol has been referenced.**

Child Health and Wellbeing: Supporting Parental Understanding

Southern Health NHS Trust have blended the HSCP and Hampshire Adult Safeguarding Board (HASB) policies into one 'Safeguarding Family Approach Policy' with contributions from members of the Southern Health Safeguarding Forum.

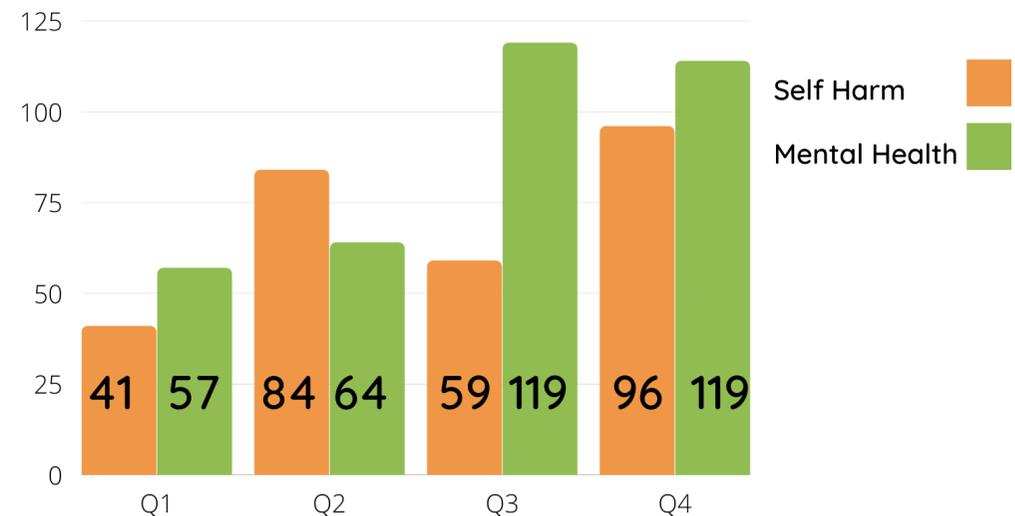
Data from **Hampshire Hospitals Foundation Trust (HHFT)** during the pandemic highlighted a significant change in young people accessing healthcare. There was a notable increase in children attending the acute trust in mental health crisis or significant self-harm during the last 18 months. The development of safeguarding dashboards, quality frameworks including data and reporting mechanisms, enabled HHFT to identify themes and trends to mitigate risks, for example, MASH data to inform 0-19 business.

Prior to lockdown, there had been a steady increase in children attending with psychological and behavioural problems, however, as with the rest of the country, this year's increase has been overwhelming. The rise in presentations in children who have deliberately self-harmed occurred shortly after lockdown restrictions were lifted in 2020, when there was a return to the community setting. There has also been an increase in children with learning difficulties, autism and behaviour concerns attending the Emergency Department.

As a result, **HHFT** are working with **CAMHS** to introduce a **Paediatric Psychiatric Liaison Service** and a cohort of youth workers into the Emergency Duty Department to

assess and support children when they come through the front door. The reduction in time a child spends in an Emergency Duty Department will improve outcomes, and early assessment of risk will determine appropriate discharge plans and should result in less admissions to paediatric wards. There will be period of evaluation, however, after reviewing the nature of the attendances of children in crisis. In nearly all cases, an admission has been appropriate.

Mental Health and Self Harm



Child Health and Wellbeing: Supporting Parental Understanding

HHFT have employed a **mental health lead nurse** who is recruiting a team to support departments across the Trust. It is anticipated that a children's psychiatric nurse will be part of this team to support children's services within the hospital.

HHFT are also in the process of securing a **safe room** in both Winchester and Basingstoke paediatric departments which will be designed to reduce the possibility of children self-harming on the wards.

Southern Health NHS Trust staff are provided with learning regarding managing risk and are required to complete detailed assessments using the HSCP & HSAB Family Approach.

These are then reviewed at supervision or during staff appraisal processes and Internal Management Assessments. This has also been reviewed with the formulation of Quality Improvement Plans.

Hampshire Hospitals 
NHS Foundation Trust



Safeguarding Missing, Exploited and Trafficked Children

There has been a significant focus across the partnership on missing children and the processes in supporting children at risk of exploitation. This has included:

- **Updating the Hampshire Children’s Services Missing Policy to incorporate new processes and minimise the risks associated with child exploitation.**
- **Production of leaflets to highlight missing children and the risk to both children and parents/carers.**
- **Renaming the ‘Return Interview’ to a ‘Return Conversation’, to make it more child-friendly and separate from the police ‘Safe & Well checks’**
- **Development of a new form by Hampshire Children’s Services for the Return Conversation that is more child focused and aligned to the Hampshire Approach.**
- **Monitoring daily and weekly missing data by Hampshire Children’s Services Willow Team (a specialist team based within Children’s Social Care supporting and working with children at risk of exploitation) to support district teams in ensuring their reporting is correct and received in a timely manner. Overall, this has been successful, and is gradually being returned back to the districts.**
- **Incorporating ‘missing’ as an ongoing agenda item for the District Operation Missing Exploited Trafficked Meetings.**
- **Establishment of a HIPS Missing Task and Finish Group that has focused on missing children including missing children from other local authorities (OLA), training gaps and some of the wider pan-Hampshire policies being used.**
- **Development of a training course, devised by Southampton and Hampshire, and delivered across the HIPS area.**

Safeguarding Missing, Exploited and Trafficked Children

The September 2021 launch of the new Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework (CERAF) located at [3.1 Children who are Exploited | Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton \(hipsprocedures.org.uk\)](#) supported by **Hampshire Children's Services** and **Hampshire Constabulary** has been subject to a HIPS-wide review of the way child exploitation is considered. This has ensured consistency across the four local authority areas. Hampshire Constabulary has dedicated staff to manage those children most at risk of exploitation and work with partners to determine an effective intervention.

HIPS Safeguarding Children Partnerships have conducted a review of the [3.8 Children and Families that go Missing | Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton \(hipsprocedures.org.uk\)](#) Procedure to incorporate a contextual safeguarding approach.

Hampshire Constabulary have launched **Op Endeavour**, where details of children that are regularly reported missing are shared with their school using the police **Public Protection Notice (PPN1) Form**. This enables the school to consider any pastoral intervention that may be required and share any intelligence they hear regarding the child and missing episodes with police via a **Community Partnership Information (CPI) Form**. Op Endeavour is supported by research undertaken in Wales and has shown to be effective in supporting children who are regularly reported as missing.

Hampshire Constabulary commissioned the **'Missing People' charity** to conduct a review of the way in which missing person investigations were dealt with by Hampshire

Constabulary. The review also considered return interviews conducted by police officers. This review has provided clear areas for improvement for Hampshire Constabulary and an action plan has been put in place to deliver these improvements.



National Probation Service staff have attended training to improve awareness of risk factors and support for children who are at risk, or have been considered at risk, of exploitation or sexual harm. There has been a focus to improve the quality of referrals across the service and a Practice Improvement Tool has been developed to ensure that referrals to Children's Services are timely, of good quality and include key information.

Safeguarding Adolescents

The Safeguarding Adolescents Task and Finish Group was established to progress the HSCP's safeguarding adolescents Business Plan [HSCP-Business-Plan-2020-23.pdf \(hampshirescp.org.uk\)](https://www.hampshirescp.org.uk) objective, which identifies the following outcomes:

The HSCP has a good understanding of the range of complex and inter-related risks that impact on the safeguarding of adolescents in Hampshire. This should include consideration of transitional safeguarding issues.

Staff in HSCP agencies understand and can recognise factors and indicators of safeguarding risks to adolescents.

Staff in HSCP agencies are supported in their work with adolescents by practical, applicable tools and information to keep adolescents safe from harm.

The Task and Finish Group is chaired by a senior manager from Children's Services in collaboration with safeguarding leads and professionals from the wider partnership from Hampshire and the Isle of Wight (HIOW). The work is being supported by young people who attend all task and finish groups to ensure that the strategy is relevant and meaningful.

During 2020/21 the Group have:

- *Scoped the current level of multi-agency understanding and response to risks that impact on adolescent safeguarding.*
- *Collated examples of good practice and established how this can be shared across agencies.*
- *Listened to the experiences of children and families who have received services from HSCP partner agencies.*
- *Consulted with multi-agency professionals and identified what tools, training, and support would help develop practice.*
- *Developed an outline for a multi-agency strategy and toolkit.*

During 2021/22, the group is focusing on developing the HSCP and IOWSCP Safeguarding Adolescents Strategy which will include integrated tools, training and support aimed at strengthening practice for adolescent children and their families. A launch event is scheduled for December 2021.

Safeguarding Adolescents

These are two examples highlighting the impact of this work from partner agencies:

1. Hampshire & Isle of Wight (HIOW) Public Health are active members of the HSCP Adolescent Safeguarding Task and Finish Group, with a key leadership role within the mental health team in partnership with Isle of Wight Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). The scope of this work included a review and learning from activity in other areas. This has led to Public Health and partners prioritising a children and young people's mental health needs assessment (0-25 years), which commenced in March 2021.

2. Catch 22 Substance Misuse Support have used contextual safeguarding research highlighted as part of the Adolescent Safeguarding Strategy Task and Finish Group to ensure that there is a clear understanding for staff across their service, responding to, and working with, young people to address adolescent experiences of significant harm and risks.

The Adolescent Strategy will provide an accessible source of information for children, young people, parents, carers and professionals. The Strategy will support greater awareness of the specific needs of adolescents with resources that can be utilised to provide support and advice generally, but also in supporting staff in social care to have the appropriate tools available to intervene and engage to reduce risks.



Responding to Neglect

The updated Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Safeguarding Children Partnership's Neglect Toolkit [Neglect Strategy - Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership \(hampshirescp.org.uk\)](https://hampshirescp.org.uk) was launched in February 2021 across the partnership with support from **Hampshire Children's Services, Hampshire Constabulary, and the Clinical Commissioning Group**. Safeguarding leads and practitioners from the wider partnership provided clear insight into the design and direction for the use of the Neglect Toolkit. HSCP safeguarding children training has been strengthened to develop staff understanding of neglect and to consider the potential risks on the health and wellbeing of children.

The impact of the Toolkit is evidenced in the increased number of **Hampshire Hospitals Foundation Trust (HHFT)** Safeguarding Children Health Liaison Forms received by the Safeguarding Children Team, where neglect has been identified as either a presenting factor or is identified when a child attends HHFT for treatment. Further evidence has been identified in the 60% increase in Safeguarding Children Health Liaison Forms received following an adult presentation where practitioners are considering the wider social context for the child.

HHFT staff are signposted to the Neglect Strategy and Toolkit in supervision, child forums and peer reviews. The HHFT's Safeguarding Children Newsletter included a direct link to the Toolkit and a description of how to use the thresholds.



The use and awareness of the Neglect Strategy and Toolkit has led HHFT to request multi-professional meetings following children presenting in the acute where neglect has been suspected. The early identification of neglect has led to quicker multi-agency planning, evidenced through the increase in the number of professional's meetings attended by consultant paediatricians and the increase in inpatient Child Protection Medicals.

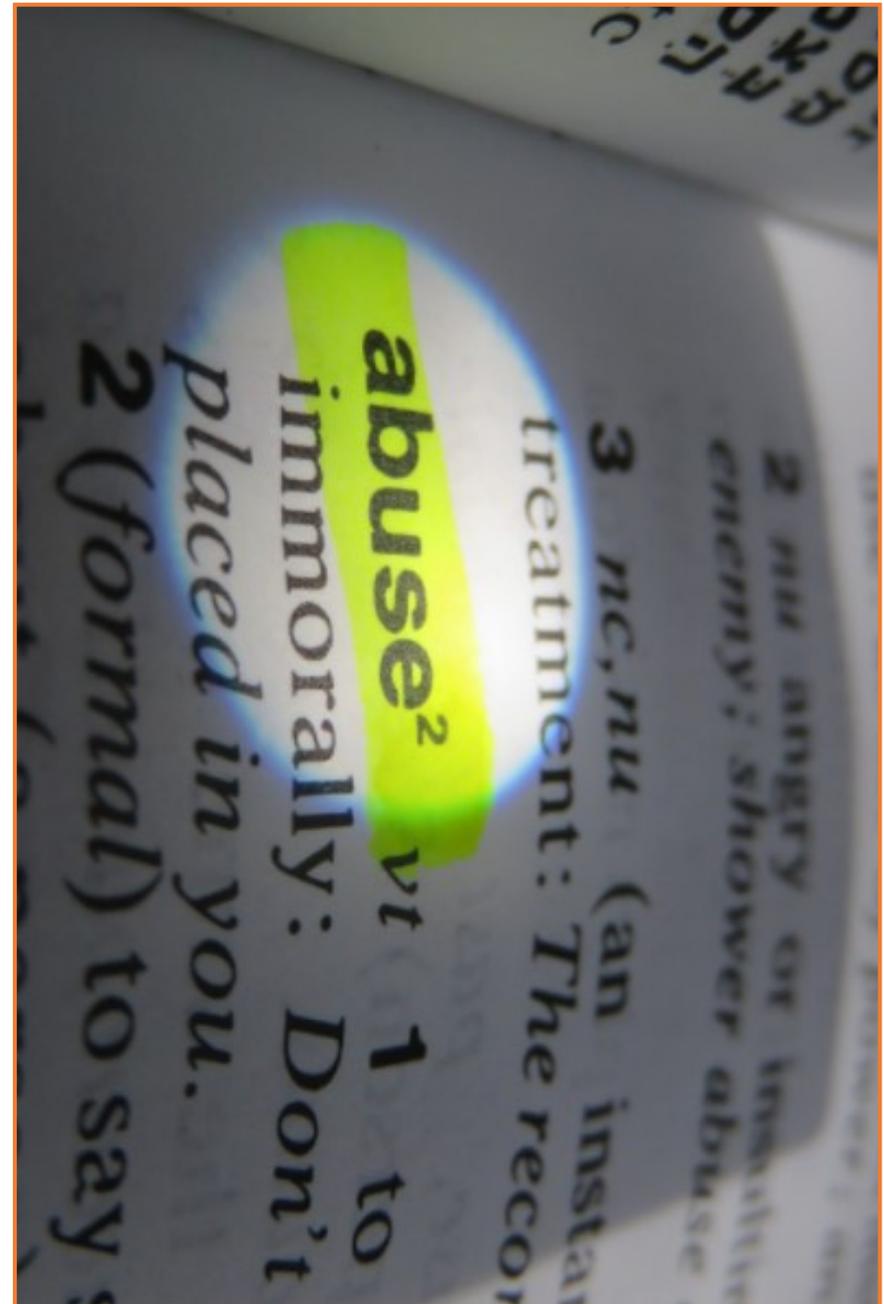
Solent NHS Trust have developed a Health Neglect Toolkit that aligns with the HSCP Neglect Strategy and Toolkit. This health-focused tool helps support practitioners to recognise neglect and to include evidence of thresholds within referrals. Named nurses have contributed to the development of the Neglect Toolkit. Information about the Toolkit has been provided across the organisation, including development of a 'learner set' for staff and a Trust-wide communication strategy to highlight the use of the Neglect Strategy and Toolkit when risk assessing service users.

Responding to Domestic Violence

The Domestic Abuse Bill strengthens local district authorities' protocols when housing families affected by domestic abuse. The recent guidance about children and young people who are victims/survivors of domestic abuse has been implemented by **Local District Authorities Housing and Community Safety Teams**. Families who are affected by domestic abuse are prioritised for housing.

By implementing the guidance on working with individuals who have been affected by domestic abuse, vulnerable residents are further supported and protected. Local district authorities housing officers making referrals relating to children or young people use the established HSCP threshold guidelines. The threshold guidelines have helped housing officers to understand when and who to make a safeguarding referral to.

Hampshire Youth Offending Team (HYOT) has supported awareness raising of adolescent to parent violence, which has largely been a hidden problem. Findings from a thematic inspection were put together with national research to inform the HYOT strategy. This has resulted in the issue becoming more of a focus for HYOT. As a result, HYOT finance the Non-Violent Resistance (NVR) Programme which HYOT delivers alongside **Hampshire Children's Services**.

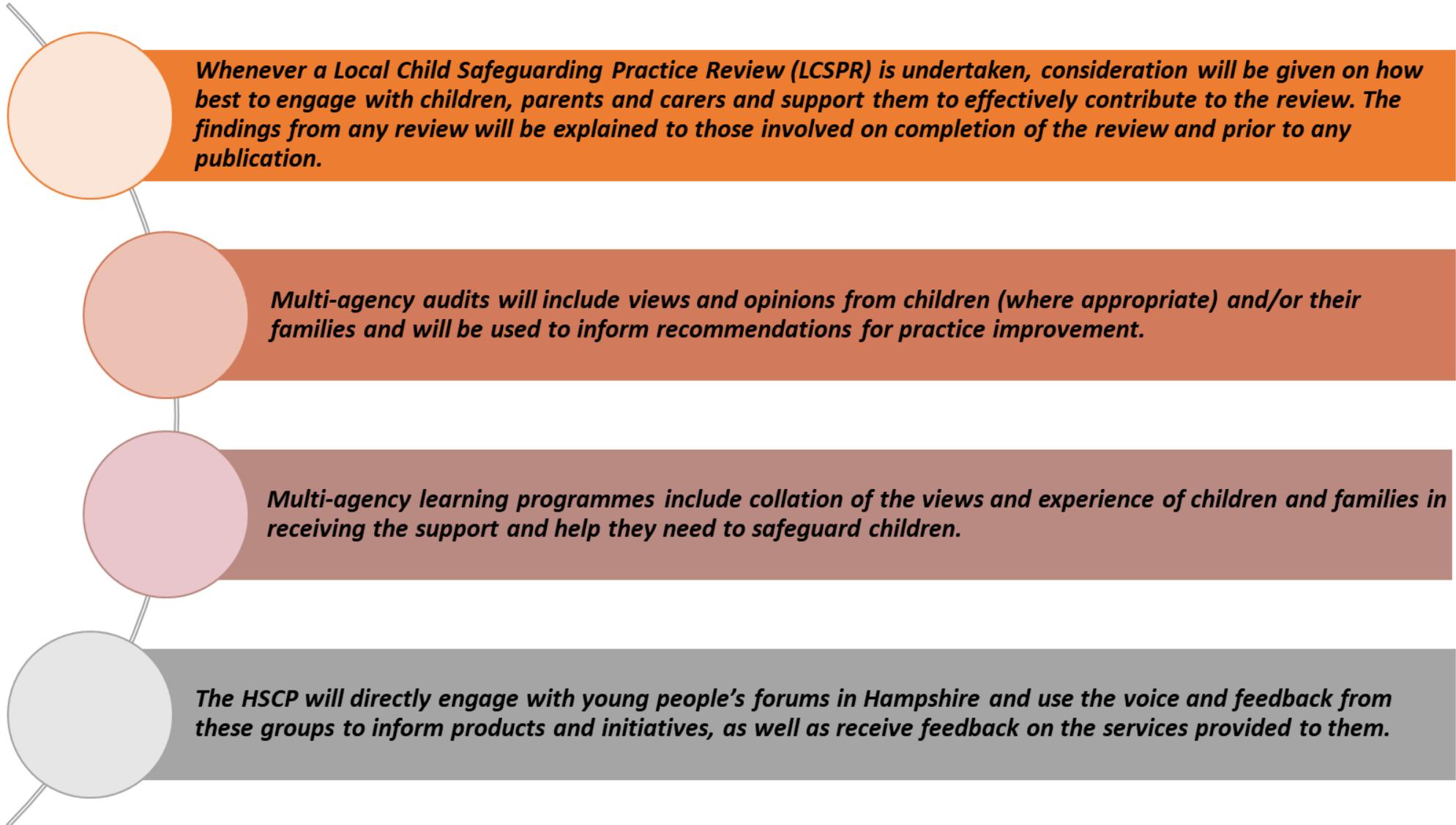




**The Voice and
Lived
Experience of
Children and
Families**

Introduction

The voice and experience of children and families is central to how Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP) operates:



Spotlight on three Hampshire Young People's Forums

(1) Youth Commission

The Youth Commission allows young people to act as a conduit between their peer group and the Police and Crime Commissioner, exploring real experiences on policing and crime, coupled with finding solutions for those issues.

Members are aged between 14 and 25 from Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton and, from diverse backgrounds, including some who may have direct experience of the police and justice systems.

Members of the Youth Commission are currently taking an active role in the Safeguarding Adolescent Task and Finish Group and have influenced the development and implementation of the Adolescent Strategy and Toolkit and

will co-lead the launch events planned for 2021/22.

Members of the Youth Commission attend the HIPS Strategic Child Exploitation Group. They have a standing agenda item to feedback on results of their 'Big Conversation' and provide responses to lines of enquiry posed by the group members.



Spotlight on three Hampshire Young People's Forums

(2) Hampshire Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Participation Project

Hampshire CAMHS Participation Programme was relaunched during 2020 with new branding and a more streamlined registration. The Programme continues to support and promote the involvement of young people, parents, and carers in shaping how services are provided, and improving the service they offer. This is not just for those young people who have or are currently accessing CAMHS services. Initiatives that young people have been involved in shaping during 2020/21 include:

Lockdown Letters Project

Young people were invited to write letters about their experience of COVID-19 and lockdown. The intention was to capture a major life event that everyone will have gone through but will have had different experiences based on a number of factors. This was an opportunity to hear the voices of young people, share, connect and learn about others' experiences. In addition, open letters from adults to young people were shared. The letters have been read by a selection group made up of young people, a parent and two published authors. The selected letters are now part of a book that Hampshire CAMHS are self-publishing for launch in mid-July 2021.

E-Learning

A basic introduction to mental health has been created for those professionals working with young people that do not have mental health training, such as school staff, police, social care, paediatrics and accident and emergency staff. There are four modules that include child development, what mental health and mental illness is and managing crisis. The modules are engaging and easy to understand and free to access from the [Hampshire CAMHS](#) website.

Recipes4wellbeing

A series of 15 A5-sized cards have been created, targeting parents and carers. The cards cover a range of issues including: low mood, bullying, relationships, and anxiety. The information is to assist in identifying and supporting young people and includes relevant suggestions and signposting. These are available as a downloadable PDF, printed card, or QR poster on the [Hampshire CAMHS](#) website.

Spotlight on three Hampshire Young People's Forums

(3) Hampshire Children's Services Participation Programme including Care Ambassadors

The Care Ambassadors Meetings have continued throughout the pandemic, moving to online platforms in response to COVID-19 regulations. This group had previously operated as a 'closed' group of young people who have made a longer-term commitment to the role. However, the impact of COVID-19 has led to some changes to this. Over the lockdown period, several care ambassadors have paused or ended their involvement, reporting that other pressures such as exams, accommodation and employment issues etc. have taken priority. In response, the participation officer has continued to hold Care Ambassador Meetings and, where possible, offered participation opportunities as one-off commitments. The roles and remit of the Care Ambassadors Group are being considered as part of the Participation Strategy refresh and may require a 'relaunch'.

For 2020/21, the Care Ambassador Group were involved in:

Accommodation Inspections

The Care Ambassador Group works with commissioning to complete inspections of post-16 accommodation. Young people can give their own unique perspectives which are

then incorporated into the inspection report and fed back to the provider for action, where required. Young people completed three accommodation inspections during 2020 and one in 2021. One provider was required to produce an action plan as a result of concerns raised by the inspection team.

Interviews for the New Virtual School Head

In June 2020, a young person was involved in the interview process for the new Virtual School head. Feedback from the panel showed that his contribution was valued and useful in confirming their decision.

Spotlight on three Hampshire Young People's Forums

(3) Hampshire Children's Services Participation Programme including Care Ambassadors

Consultation on County Policies and Strategy

In the reporting period, care experienced young people were consulted on three areas of service improvement – personal allowance payments, health passports and the review of the Independent Reviewing Service (IRS). In total, eight young people were involved in these consultations. These projects have now been completed and improvements rolled out.

This project continues to make progress, with the videos for University and Homebid completed and signed off.

The intended outcome is for Basingstoke and Deane to produce accessible and informative housing advice that is specific to the needs of care leavers, and for this to be available in one place.

Care Experienced Young People/Housing Project

Basingstoke and Deane Housing Services are working with six care leavers to produce a video and '10 top tips' relating to specific areas of housing need:

How to safely live with a private landlord

[Homebid](#)
[University](#)

What to do if you are homeless



Seeking the views of children and their families

HSCP regularly seek opportunities to gather the views of children and their families to inform initiatives and partnership developments. During 2020/21, two surveys were distributed across the partnership. A summary is included below:

HSCP Website Survey

The HSCP disseminated three separate surveys to gauge views on its website relating to its accessibility and if it meets the requirements of our target audience.

Approximately 60% of children and young people surveyed indicated that they had not heard of HSCP before starting the survey. A similar number advised they had never visited the website.

Of those who responded, 60% of parents and carers had not heard of HSCP and 76% advised they had not visited the website.

Whilst there were some positive comments received, some feedback indicated there was work to do in improving accessibility of the site. This included:

The colours of the tabs are a bit all over the place! The text lists just roll into one. If they were broken up a bit with titles or boxes, it would be easier to read.

Not clear where to look for the info you want.

Home page is a bit messy. Content is all good but could be presented in a more up to date design and be a bit more user friendly.

Very busy, looks "old school" style as opposed to the new dynamic websites that I have seen.

Results from the survey indicated the HSCP website was not frequented by young people and their families, and on the occasions when they did visit the website, they were not always successful in finding what they were looking for. The safeguarding partners have approved for the website to be refreshed during 2021/22. Children and their families will be asked to contribute to its design and support promotion of its re-launch.

Seeking the views of children and their families

Safeguarding Adolescent Survey

The HSCP disseminated three separate surveys on the theme of safeguarding adolescents and what form a strategy and toolkit on this theme should take. Each survey targeted a different audience; namely, children and young people, parents and carers and professionals.

The highest number of responses were received from children and young people. They stated that emotional mental health was the most significant theme impacting on them and identified this as being something that required a central focus in any strategy. Other themes were very split, which affirmed the need for a broad consideration of themes.

Overwhelmingly, a trusted adult was identified as the place children and young people would go if they were worried that they, or a friend, were unsafe. This included teachers and parents. Given these findings, ensuring parents, carers and professionals have access to relevant information would support safeguarding adolescents; as these are the people who are most likely to be supporting them in managing their concerns. On exploring how best to present resources, use of video clips, followed by interactive resources, appeared to be the preferred options.

Some comments gathered from children completing the survey are included below:

1 ***“Yes, we're younger and can be very immature at times, but being treated like slightly larger children, or patronised, doesn't exactly provide a motivation to be mature.”***

2 ***“Make it approachable by not using complicated information.”***

3 ***“Make sure that the resources heavily use teenagers and their own experiences.”***

Seeking the views of children and their families

Overall young people have confirmed that their voice is central to the project.

Parents and carers also offered some important insights and described how they would seek advice and support from professionals which further reinforced the need to ensure professionals have easy access to relevant information to appropriately support them.

Adolescents are unique and there's not a one fits all solution to the issues that they encounter through life.

Just that it's good you are raising awareness, as parents we need to be aware our young people are exposed to all sorts of risks, sadly, and that it's good to know support is available to help keep them safe.

It is great that you are looking into this. The transition to adulthood can be a treacherous one. There is lots of support with difficult times with young children, but a lack of information on guiding young people in a helpful way.

It would be amazing to have an easy to use platform for any individual (parent/young person) to use, that was friendly and well known to all.

Recommendations from the survey have been incorporated into a template for a joint HSCP and Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnership (IOWSCP) Adolescent Strategy and Toolkit, due for launch in 2021/22.

Areas for Development

Whilst a focus on maintaining this approach has been retained during 2020/21, the challenges associated with COVID-19 have led to some changes in practice and reliance on virtual platforms. It is hoped that during 2021/22 some forms of face-to-face engagement can recommence including scrutiny visits to organisations, where the views of those using the service are actively sought. HSCP is committed to:

- *Seeking ongoing opportunities to engage with children, parents and carers, and to support them to effectively contribute and understand findings associated with Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPRs).*
- *Evolve mechanisms to include views of children and their families and consider their lived experiences within HSCP auditing and assurance activities.*
- *Develop engagement with children and their families in the multi-agency learning programme to ensure their views and experiences are reflected and acted upon.*
- *Directly engage with young people's forums in Hampshire and include them in relevant HSCP groups, to ensure their voice and feedback is used to inform and shape initiatives.*

Planned activities include:

- *Relaunch of the HSCP website in line with outcomes of consultation with children and their families.*
- *Launch of the Adolescent Strategy and Toolkit with members of the Youth Commission acting as co-chairs.*



Scrutiny & Assurance

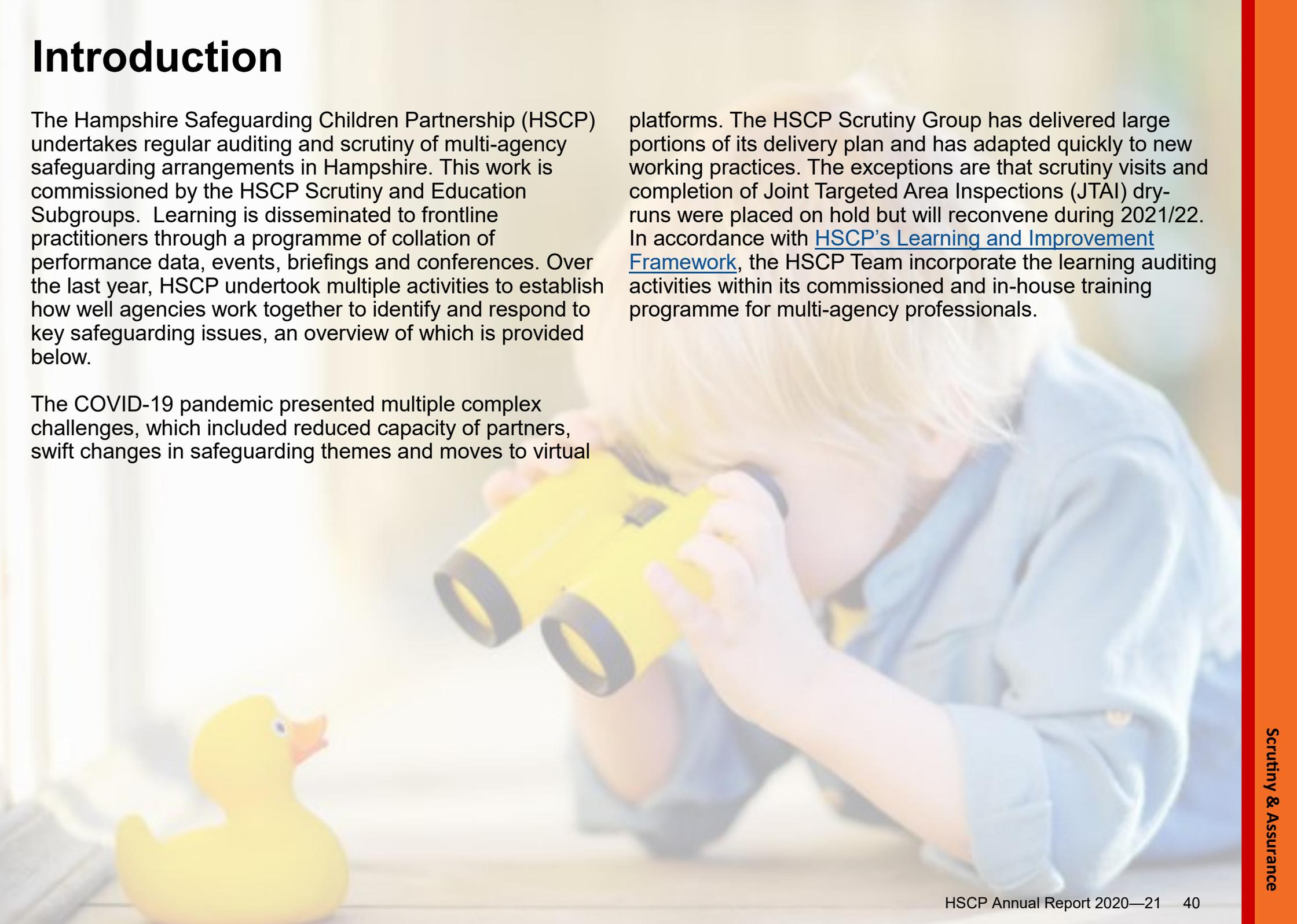


Introduction

The Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP) undertakes regular auditing and scrutiny of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in Hampshire. This work is commissioned by the HSCP Scrutiny and Education Subgroups. Learning is disseminated to frontline practitioners through a programme of collation of performance data, events, briefings and conferences. Over the last year, HSCP undertook multiple activities to establish how well agencies work together to identify and respond to key safeguarding issues, an overview of which is provided below.

The COVID-19 pandemic presented multiple complex challenges, which included reduced capacity of partners, swift changes in safeguarding themes and moves to virtual

platforms. The HSCP Scrutiny Group has delivered large portions of its delivery plan and has adapted quickly to new working practices. The exceptions are that scrutiny visits and completion of Joint Targeted Area Inspections (JTAI) dry-runs were placed on hold but will reconvene during 2021/22. In accordance with [HSCP's Learning and Improvement Framework](#), the HSCP Team incorporate the learning auditing activities within its commissioned and in-house training programme for multi-agency professionals.



Multi Agency Audits on the Theme of Child Exploitation

Exploitation themed audits were commissioned by the HSCP Scrutiny Group as part of a broader scrutiny exercise looking at the partnership understanding and response to children who are at risk of exploitation. The review has continued into 2021/22.

During 2020/21 activities completed included:

MASH Audit
District Tracking Audit
District Missing Exploitation Trafficking Review

HSCP uses audits and scrutiny events as a window into current practice and to identify good practice and areas for development. It is recognised that the sample size presents a 'snapshot' rather than evidence of systemic practice. Therefore, the findings of HSCP audits are considered alongside other single and multi-agency quality assurance activities where themes can be identified.

MASH Audit

On 4 August 2020, a multi-agency group comprising Scrutiny Group members from HSCP, along with staff and partners who work as part of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), reviewed eight cases referred to MASH.

The audit focused on referral, assessment and decision-making processes for cases referred due to alleged child exploitation.

The following good practice was noted:

- ✓ Police MASH were prepared for the Section 47 strategy discussion within the required timescale. Consideration was given to potential criminal investigations where applicable.

- ✓ High quality police referrals/Police Protection Notices (PPN1) were received that clearly identified exploitation risk factors.
- ✓ The Children's Reception Team and MASH successful identification of risk and protective factors associated with exploitation.
- ✓ Additional requested information provided by partners was of a high quality and timely.
- ✓ All case outcomes and follow-up were compiled within agreed timescales.
- ✓ Good quality health information was provided to inform case decisions and strategy discussions.

Multi Agency Audits on the Theme of Child Exploitation

Opportunities for learning were identified regarding:

- Consideration of all known information and risk factors, including the need for professional challenge when not completed.
- Consistency of inclusion of the voice of the child in referrals.
- Referral feedback mechanisms in districts.
- Consistent completion of the Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Form (SERAF) now the Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework (CERAF) by referrers.

The recommendations taken forward included:

- Reissuing of criteria for health and police checks.
- Redesign of the Inter Agency Referral Form (IARF) to include voice of the child prompts for referrers.
- Partner agencies being asked to provide assurance to HSCP that professionals take appropriate account of the child's voice when referring.
- Findings of the audit used to develop the CERAF form and guidance.
- Assurance of referrer feedback mechanisms.



Multi Agency Audits on the Theme of Child Exploitation

District Tracking Audit

On 7 and 21 August 2020, a group of multi-agency professionals reviewed eight cases referred from MASH to District Children Service's Teams, where risk factors associated with child exploitation had been identified.

The following good practice was noted:

- Strengths in partnership working. Factors such as positive communication, tenacity, creativity and family engagement were all highlighted.
- Appropriate and timely use of the National Referral Mechanism (NRM).
- Recognition of children's vulnerability against the risk of harm they may pose to others was well considered.
- Evidence of good cross-border working.
- Use of multi-agency meetings to explore the context of risk around particular cases, which strengthened partnership understanding and response.
- Positive application of Child Abduction Warning Notices (CAWN).

Opportunities for strengthening practice were identified:

- Shared understanding of partnership responses associated with accommodating children, use of CAWN and sharing of intelligence.
- Sharing information to ensure a mutual understanding of exploitation risk factors across multi-agency systems.
- Response to identified diversity needs and application of trauma informed approaches.

The recommendations taken forward included:

- Production and promotion of myth busting guides on accommodating children and CAWNs.
- Strengthening health representation at district MET meetings.
- Ongoing review and update of the CERAF tool and guidance.
- Ongoing assurance activities associated with the multi-agency response to children's diversity needs.

Multi Agency Audits on the Theme of Child Exploitation

District Missing, Exploited and Trafficked (MET) Children Meetings Review

District level Operational MET Meetings were established in early 2020. They act as a subgroup to the County Operational MET process, building on the local knowledge to ensure the identification, support, safeguarding and diversion of children who are at risk of or, are being exploited within the district. Over July and August 2020, all District Operational MET Meetings have been attended by HSCP representatives.

The following good practice was noted:

- All groups included multi-agency partners from across the local area.
- There was evidence across all groups of strong multi-agency engagement in the decision-making process including consideration of the means of exploitation for high-risk cases.
- Use of the Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework.
- Opportunities to share information relating to children who are on the cusp of exploitation activity and would benefit from targeted multi-agency working.
- The use of a comprehensive MET mapping document outlining known links between children and perpetrators, intelligence on locations and other related issues.

Opportunities for strengthening practice were identified regarding:

- Need for increased clarity of meeting governance and consistency in meeting arrangements across the districts.
- Need to include more on the broader context of exploitation in the district, including trends and themes, perpetrator profiles and other intelligence mapping to feed into the county-wide Operational MET Meeting.
- Increased consideration of police-led interventions and disruption techniques.
- Key moments in meetings to inform next steps in partnership working.
- Increased recognition of the education status particularly for children who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) or accessing limited provision.

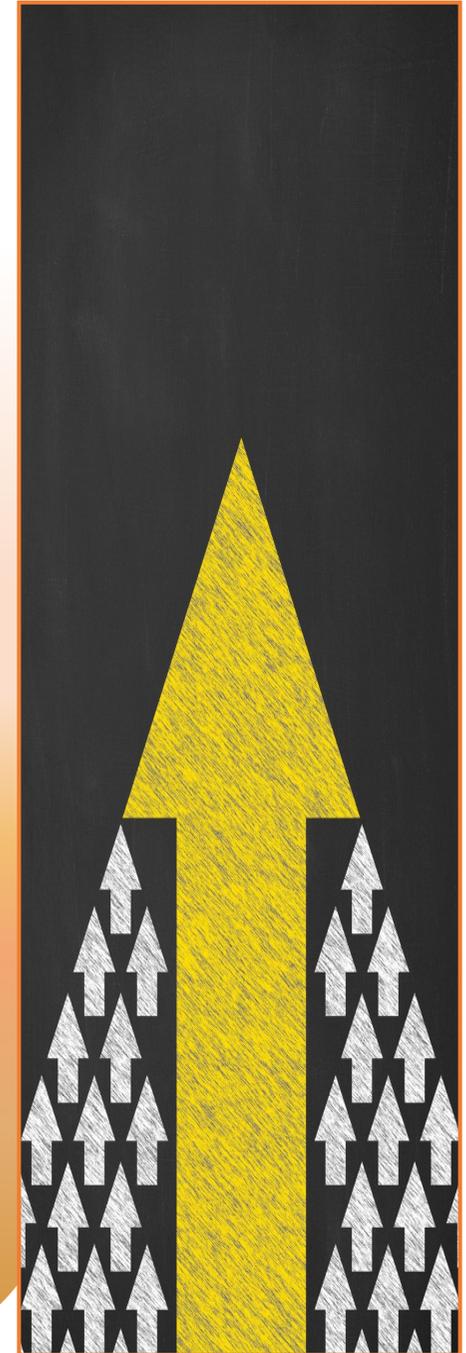
The recommendations taken forward included:

- Sharing of findings with district chairs and wider partners.
- A revisit of observations to identify what progress and changes have been adopted.

Multi Agency Audits on the Theme of Child Exploitation

What impact has this work had?

1. *Understanding and identification of risks/issues.*
2. *Supporting a culture of continuous improvement which includes identification of good/best practice.*
3. *Improvements in policy and procedure and information sharing.*
4. *Informed training and development.*
5. *Frontline professionals and managers provided with an opportunity to have their views heard and contribute to multi-agency understanding.*
6. *The voice of the child and their lived experience has been heard and acted upon.*



Section 11 Audit

The purpose of the Section 11 Self-Assessment Audit, which is aligned with the safeguarding standards outlined in [Section 11 of the Children Act 2004](#), is to:

- Enable agencies to scrutinise and reflect on their safeguarding governance, processes and practice, and to identify how arrangements could be strengthened.
- Enable agencies to showcase areas of good practice where positive outcomes for children can be evidenced.
- Provide a feedback mechanism to the safeguarding children partnerships on progress against areas for improvement, including any barriers to partnership working.

The Keeping Children Safe - Section 11 Audit is a key mechanism utilised by the HSCP to discharge these functions.

The process which is endorsed by the four HIPS Safeguarding Partnerships reflects a two-year cycle of self-assessment (year 1) followed by monitoring and tracking of action plans (year 2). The focus for 2020/21 was to revisit the safeguarding standards through completion of a new self-assessment and a mandatory staff survey (year 1).



Section 11 Audit

In total, 44 organisations submitted a return. Due to the breadth and diversity of agencies that completed returns, the identification of consistent themes was challenging. Some patterns were observed, as detailed in the summary below:

Areas of Strength	Areas for Development
<p>1.1 Our organisation has a designated senior lead with overall responsibility for safeguarding.</p> <p>1.4 There are internal processes that support proper reporting of child protection concerns to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).</p> <p>1.8 Our organisation has written a safeguarding policy that incorporates support for vulnerable groups (e.g., missing, exploited, trafficked and those at risk of radicalisation) that is reviewed regularly (at least every three years).</p> <p>3.2 Every member of staff always has a named identified manager, including times when the organisation has management vacancies.</p> <p>6.8 Records are maintained detailing checks taken in respect of staff and volunteers.</p> <p>7.2 There is a named senior officer with responsibility in respect of complaints and allegations against staff and volunteers and they are aware of who their Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) is.</p> <p>7.4 Incidents and allegations of abuse are recorded appropriately.</p>	<p>1.5 Our organisation has an identified staff member to support practitioners with early help processes i.e., the early help assessment and Team Around the Family practice across the organisation.</p> <p>2.8 Staff are made aware, and specific training is provided where appropriate, of the additional vulnerabilities a child with communication difficulties, a child for whom English is not their first language and/or who is from a different culture, may face.</p> <p>8.3 Staff are able to identify children with additional needs who require an early help assessment.</p> <p>11.3 Staff in our organisation that work with/have contact with disabled children and their families have been given specific training to help them support families and understand and identify the risk factors to look out for.</p> <p>11.5 Our organisation has access to an up-to-date list of resources, local specialist services, intermediaries and registered and qualified interpreters who are prepared to undertake child protection work.</p> <p>11.9 Our organisation ensures participation of disabled children in service development and improvement so that they are listened to and encouraged to voice their views and thoughts.</p> <p>12.8 Contractors and sub-contractors are enabled to receive HIPS information, updates and have access to LSCP training.</p>

Section 11 Audit

In recognition of pressures and challenges associated with COVID-19, some adaptations were made and a separate section on the self-assessment tool titled 'COVID-19 Assurance' was added. There was significant evidence of how models of practice had been adapted in response to restrictions and shifting needs, which have continued to evolve since the returns were completed. HSCP will continue to seek assurance on how multi-agency systems will respond to the longer-term impacts of the pandemic and what recovery and reconstitution looks like during year 2 of the process.



What impact has this work had?

- *Offers assurance from partner agencies that services are compliant with safeguarding standards.*
- *Enables partner agencies to showcase areas of good practice where positive outcomes for children can be evidenced.*
- *Enables partner agencies to reflect on their safeguarding priorities and to identify areas for improvement.*
- *Provides a feedback mechanism on progress against areas for improvement including any barriers to partnership working.*
- *Sharing of good practice and best practice examples.*
- *Supports a culture of continuous improvement and professional accountability for safeguarding practices.*
- *Hears the voices of frontline practitioners.*

Education Safeguarding Children Audits



There is a requirement for all schools and colleges, including local authority-maintained schools, academies and the independent sector, to complete an **Annual Safeguarding Children Audit**. This Audit is conducted in line with the statutory obligations placed on the governing bodies (or equivalents) by Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE) 2016 (with reference to section 175 of the Education Act 2002, section 7 of the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 and Section 3 of the Non-Maintained Special Schools (England) Regulations 2015).

Accompanying the HSCP request was a self-assessment tool which schools could have chosen to use to support their summative return. In the context of the challenges faced by schools because of COVID-19, additional time was given to schools. There was a 100% return rate for all schools.

HSCP and the Assistant Director (for Education and Inclusion) of Hampshire Children's Services commissioned a quality assurance (QA) exercise in relation to the annual school audit process. In 2019/20, this QA process was undertaken by Hampshire County Council's Internal Auditing Team. It was agreed that the process would assess the effectiveness of controls in place, focusing on those designed to mitigate risk.

Within the audit return, schools were asked to respond to ten questions and identify whether they feel they have fully met, partially met, or not met the statement. All schools indicated they had met or partially met each of the ten statements. Colleges identified that they had met all the statements. Schools identifying areas that were partially met were contacted and offered advice on how they can secure the required improvements.

Education Safeguarding Children Audits

The majority of schools and colleges provided a number of priorities within the action planning section of their return. This means that, whilst they believe that they meet requirements in a particular area, they wish to further strengthen that area or place a spotlight on it in order to maintain the current standard. The following highlights the top six key themes identified by headteachers, governors and designated safeguarding leads (DSLs) completing the form:

Theme	Number of schools
Training	437 schools identified training in their action planning.
DSLs	211 schools mentioned DSLs within their action planning.
Governors	145 schools mentioned governors within their action planning.
Curriculum	144 schools mentioned curriculum in the context of their action planning. Many schools mentioned the development of a safeguarding curriculum.
Policies	95 schools mentioned policies within their action planning.
Parents	46 schools mentioned parents within action planning. The majority of these were associated with building awareness of online safety.

Education Safeguarding Children Audits

What impact has this work had?

- Requires schools and colleges to demonstrate implementation of aspects of KCSiE.
- Prompts schools and colleges to self-assess and to evidence their judgements.
- Offers assurance that schools and colleges self-assess as being compliant with safeguarding standards and/or are taking appropriate action.
- Enables schools to showcase areas of good practice where positive outcomes for children can be evidenced.
- Enables schools to reflect on their safeguarding priorities and to identify areas for improvement.
- Provides a feedback mechanism on progress against areas for improvement.
- Offers sharing of good practice and best practice examples.
- Enables HSCP to identify any common themes for professional development/strategic improvement focus.
- Supports a culture of continuous improvement and professional accountability for safeguarding practices.
- Helps inform the content of DSL newsletters, Safeguarding Matters (a booklet for schools produced by

Hampshire Inspection and Advisory Service (HIAS)), training offered by governor services, the area safeguarding forum events and the annual HSCP DSL conference.



Multi-Agency Dataset

HSCP oversees an agreed dataset that monitors multi-agency child protection arrangements. This is requested quarterly from the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies.

HSCP's dataset is reported biannually to the HSCP Scrutiny Group and Main Board. This includes analysis undertaken by the HSCP Team against key themes linked to safeguarding priorities. This enables HSCP members to understand how their services are performing and highlights any emerging safeguarding issues that require strategic intervention.

The dataset demonstrates the performance of the partnership in terms of its strategy to improve outcomes for children across all priority areas. Clear explanations of upward or downward trends, including performance against national and local targets, are shared. Relevant comparisons are made with other areas and/or organisations, and the analysis identifies further opportunities to strengthen practice. This has enabled partner agencies to take forward areas identified in the report as requiring strategic intervention and oversight. This supports early identification and analysis of new safeguarding issues and emerging threats.

Specific areas the safeguarding partners have considered during 2020/21 include:

Early help - given the sustained reductions in the number of cases open to early help, alongside the challenges of engaging with families during the COVID-19 pandemic, Board members were asked to reaffirm their commitment to early help alongside the restoration and recovery of their core services.

Mental health - with the reported increase in mental health concerns for both children and their families, the safeguarding partners have sought additional assurance during the restoration and recovery phase to ensure that the mental and physical health needs of children are being met.

Family approach - given the risks associated with increasing parental domestic abuse, substance misuse and mental ill health, a focus on collaborative responses was retained.

Elective home education – increased numbers of children known to be electively home educated has helped support the need for ongoing focus and challenge.



Themed Scrutiny Events

Safeguarding partners can establish specific events to explore emerging safeguarding themes and risks.

During 2020/21 this included:

Restraint practices in secure settings—During 2020/21 an extraordinary meeting to review the use of restraint practice in secure settings took place. Overseen by the HSCP, independent chair representatives from the safeguarding partners formed a Scrutiny and Assurance Panel to review the three secure settings in Hampshire (two hospitals and one secure children’s home). This event demonstrated assurance that there is appropriate governance, oversight and review of identified themes and it also helped facilitate sharing of good practice. The Hampshire Physical Intervention Steering Group will be asked to report on restraint practices annually to the HSCP.

Taxi and private hire vehicle standards -In November 2020, requests were sent on behalf of the HIPS Child Exploitation Meeting seeking assurance on the updated [Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards](#), with particular reference to the requirements for safeguarding awareness training to identify warning signs associated with county lines exploitation. Licensing authorities within the HIPS area provided details of their compliance via completion of a brief assurance questionnaire. Locally, there was a 100% response rate, with fourteen licensing authorities confirming that they do have training implemented, which complies with the requirements. HSCP, on behalf of the HIPS Child Exploitation Meeting, will repeat the exercise annually so that the HIPS Child Exploitation Group can continue to seek assurance and have written confirmation of compliance.

Areas for development during 2021/22

Continued focus and development of inclusion of the voice of the child and their lived experience within assurance activities, e.g., identified as the theme for the 2021/22 MASH audit.

Progression of assurance activity associated with the HSCP's strategic objectives to enhance understanding of partnership responses to safeguarding adolescents and neglect.

Auditing of the [HIPS Unborn Safeguarding Protocol](#) to assess impact of the 2021 revision.

Resumption of peer scrutiny visits and JTAI dry run activities.

Completion of year 2 of the Section 11 process, which will include a focus on action planning implementation.

Evaluation of the [Every Sleep Counts](#) Programme.





Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPR)

Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPRs)

Serious child safeguarding cases are those in which:

- abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected, and
- the child has died or been seriously harmed.

Meeting the criteria does not mean that safeguarding partners must automatically carry out a **Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LSCPR)**. It is for them to determine whether a review is appropriate, considering that the overall purpose of a review is to identify improvements to practice. Issues might appear to be the same in some child safeguarding cases but reasons for actions and behaviours may be different and so there may be different learning to be gained from similar cases. Decisions on whether to undertake reviews should be made transparently and the rationale communicated appropriately, including to families.

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 requires that all multi-agency reviews undertaken are LCSPRs and are required to be published. Families and frontline professionals should be invited to participate in the review. Different methodologies can be used to complete the LCSPR to enable identification of learning in a way that is proportionate.

Where a case meets the criteria for a **Local Authority Serious Incident Notification** as set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships (LSCPs) are required to undertake a **Rapid Review**. This requires key partners to review information from all available agencies to identify learning and establish whether a further review (LCSPR) is required. The timescale for a Rapid Review is 15 working days, from notification of the serious incident.

Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPRs)

During 2020/21, the Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership's (HSCP) Learning and Inquiry Group (LIG) received 15 referrals. This is an increase of one from 2019/20.

Of the 15 cases referred to LIG:

- Three cases resulted in a LCSPR being undertaken.
- Twelve cases did not result in any requirement for further review.

Year	Referrals	No further action	SCR	MAR/ Single Agency Review	LCSPR
2015/16	17	10	1	6	NA
2016/17	12	6	2	4	NA
2017/18	10	2	5	3	NA
2018/19	9	4	1	4	NA
2019/20	14	9	NA	NA	5
2020/21	15 (including four Rapid Reviews)	12	NA	NA	3

Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPRs)

During 2020/21, work continued in the development of the Rapid Review process to enable learning to be identified from cases without the requirement for a further review.

These figures illustrate the impact in volume of work immediately following amendments in the additional guidance and definition of a Serious Case Review (SCR) provided in Working Together 2013, updated in 2015 and the transition to a Local Safeguarding Children Partnership in 2019.

HSCP is committed to exploring and using different methodology for all types of reviews and will consider which methodology is the most appropriate to extract learning.

During 2020/21, HSCP published one SCR, which had been commissioned in previous years: [Child Z](#).

The SCR reports and HSCP responses are published on the [HSCP website](#).

Learning from these reviews has been built into current HSCP workstreams and training opportunities for frontline professions. For a full list of recommendations please review the [SCRs](#) on the HSCP website.



Disseminating Lessons Learnt from Reviews

During 2020/21 learning lessons from reviews were included in the HSCP virtual training offer, including a dedicated session on Learning from LCSPRs as well as courses on themes that have arisen from LCSPRs such as disguised compliance, fabricated or induced illness, unidentified adults and understanding and identifying and responding to neglect.

**Multi-agency
Training
&
Workforce
Development**



Multi-agency Training & Workforce Development

Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP) commissions and delivers multi-agency learning to complement single agency training. HSCP offers fully funded multi-agency events that bring professionals together to develop knowledge and skills, emphasising the benefits of working together to deliver positive outcomes for children and families. HSCP have produced a [Training Brochure](#) that includes the learning outcomes for each multi-agency course.

As a result of the COVID-19 restrictions at the end of 2019/20, HSCP suspended all face-to-face training.

Work was undertaken to develop the HSCP virtual offer comprising of a series of eLearning programmes and webinars based on themes arising from Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPRs), audits and national legislation, research and findings.

On 16 June 2020, HSCP hosted its first Webinar Wednesday, comprising of three one-hour sessions based on the theme of Missing, Exploited and Trafficked (MET) Children.

Throughout 2021, a further 37 different themed webinars were delivered to professionals across Hampshire with new courses being developed for delivery in 2021/22.

A total of 15 eLearning programmes were also devised during 2020/21, with more in development for 2021/22.



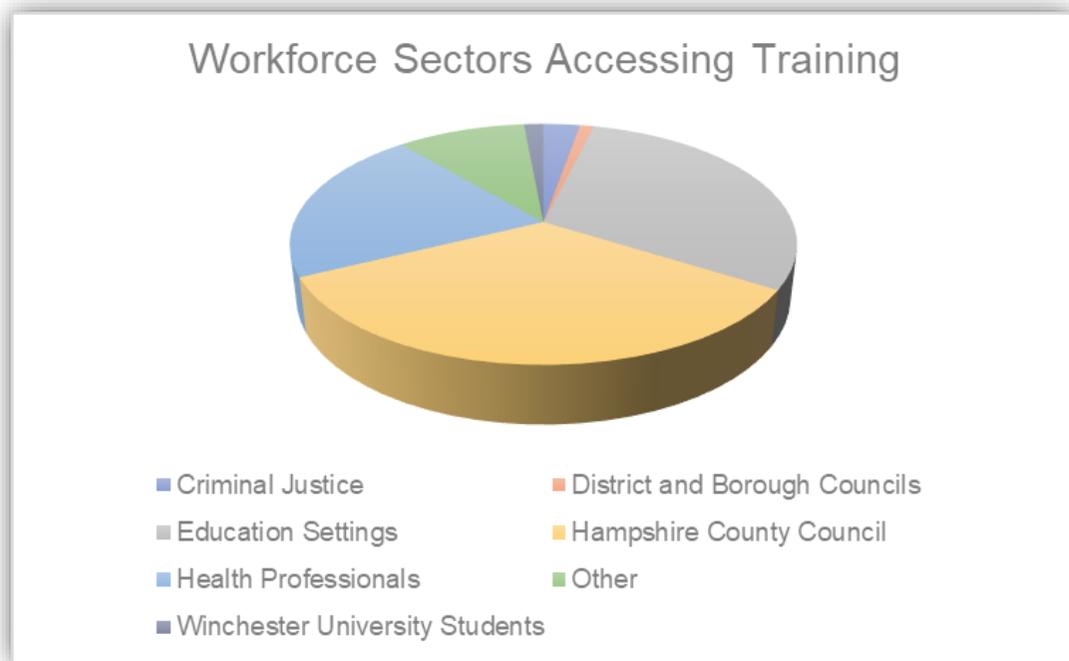
Examples of some of the courses developed include:

Harmful Practices
Learning from Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews
Disguised Compliance
Unidentified Adults
Domestic Abuse themed webinars
Missing and Child Exploitation themed webinars
A Family Approach
Safeguarding Infants
MASH Workshops
Prevent

Multi-agency Training & Workforce Development

Attendance

A total of 4225 professionals attended HSCP Webinar Wednesdays during 2020/21 :



Feedback on all virtual courses has been overwhelmingly positive, with learning gain identified on every course.

Professionals have fed back that undertaking shorter virtual sessions has enabled them to access more training than they had previously been able to, and that the increase in subject areas has been extremely beneficial to them.

Below are a sample of responses on how the training will inform future practice :

Able to disseminate information through training opportunities and to colleagues.

I am now more aware of how to support clients and also who to go to for further advice and support.

Feeling more confident to ask the necessary questions and to feel that this is a part of my role.

Be able to share with colleagues in school and also Pastoral Heads of Year and will look at the resources and toolkit to see if there are tips to improve how I talk to students and families. I reported back to my line manager how useful this was and urged her to email colleagues to register with the website and undertake this course and browse others which may be relevant to them.