



CUMBRIA SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23



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Foreword

Welcome to the Annual Report for the Cumbria Children's Safeguarding Partnership (CSCP) covering the period 1st April 2022 - 31st March 2023.

The CSCP 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 Cumbria, 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 working across organisations and agencies who work with children, young people and families, including those who work with parents/carers we want everyone to recognise, respond and fulfil their responsibilities to ensure that children, young people and families are effectively safeguarded and supported.

At the heart of the arrangements is a commitment that the voice and lived experience of the child is at the heart of everything we do.

The annual report also sets out our partnership priorities. These are: safeguarding adolescents from risks and harms outside the home, improving responses to neglect and embedding learning to improve practice.

The reporting year, 2022/23, has been a period of significant change which has seen the establishment of Integrated Care Systems within the NHS and the ongoing work around Local Government Reorganisation in Cumbria, which will mean that from 1 April 2023, Cumbria County Council and the six District Councils of Cumbria will be replaced with two new Local Authorities, Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council.

Cumbria's Lead Safeguarding Partners have agreed to continue with a Pan-Cumbria Safeguarding Children Partnership for 2023/24, this will then be reviewed.

Finally, we would like to end by providing our thanks to all of our partners and their dedicated front line staff for their support and steadfast commitment to safeguarding all of our children.

About Cumbria Safeguarding Children Partnership

Our partnership vision is that we will be “Working together to keep Cumbria’s children safe”.

As a partnership we commit to the following shared values which will underpin everything we do:

- Learning is promoted and embedded in a way that services for children and families can become more reflective and implement changes to practice.
- Practitioners from all agencies working with adults and children work together and share information effectively to facilitate more accurate and timely decision making for children and families.
- The lived experience and the voice of children and young people is listened to and acted upon at all times.
- A ‘Whole-Family’ approach is understood and implemented by all practitioners across the Partnership.

Cumbria’s arrangements are delivered through a Lead Safeguarding Partners Group underpinned by a wider Partnership Board and a number of sub-groups.

The published arrangements can be found through the link below or on the website: [Cumbria arrangements](#)

Lead Safeguarding Partners Group

The Lead Safeguarding Partners is the key decision-making body and consists of the executive leads of the three statutory partners, Local Authority, Police and Integrated care Boards.*

Representatives from the lead safeguarding partners meet six times a year to ensure the business of the Safeguarding Children Partnership is efficient and effective, the vision is upheld, and the priorities are delivered.

**Clinical Commissioning Groups were replaced by Integrated Care Boards from 1st July 2022.*

CSCP Board

The CSCP Board membership includes the statutory partners as well as the other ‘relevant agencies’ (as detailed in Working Together 2018). In Cumbria this includes representatives from education, health, district councils, criminal justice and the voluntary sector. (add hyperlink to membership appendix)

The CSCP Board develops, implements and monitor an annual plan, agrees priority actions against core business; and directs the subgroups in delivery of the plan.

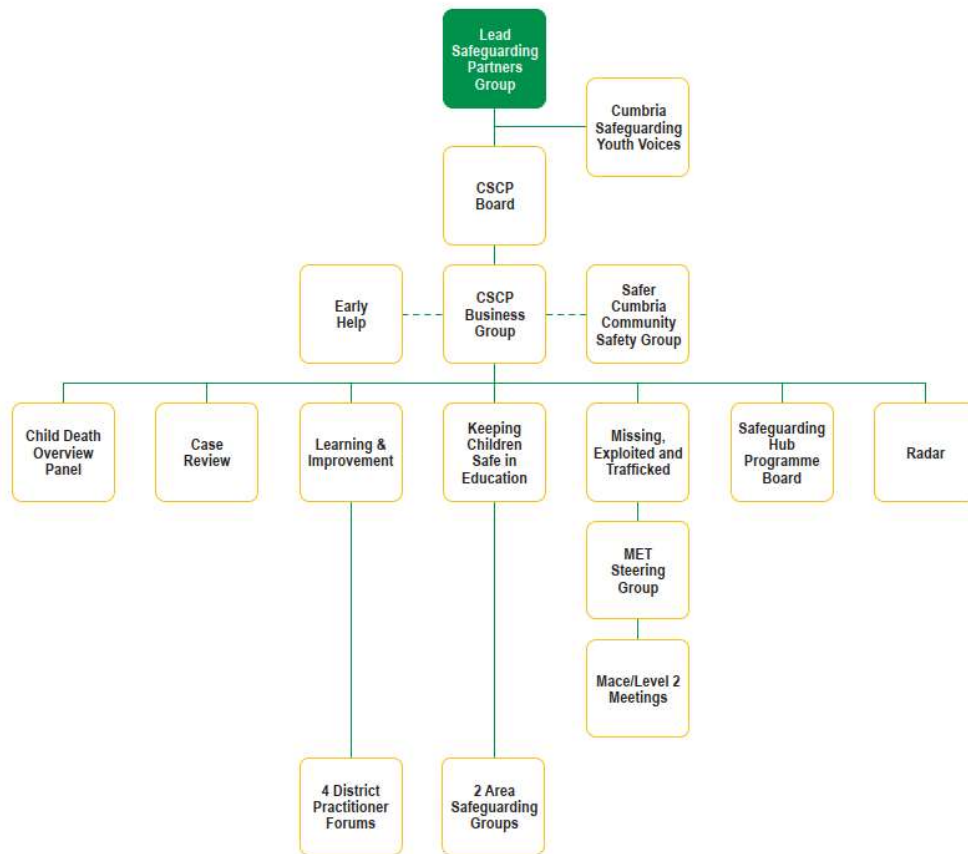
Partnership Subgroups

The CSCP is supported to deliver its priorities through a number of countywide partnership sub groups:

- Learning and Improvement
- Case Review
- Keeping Children Safe in Education Partnership
- Missing Exploited and Trafficked Children
- Early Help
- Safeguarding Hub Programme Board
- Radar
- Area Safeguarding Groups

The governance of the Child Death Overview Panel also sits with the CSCP.

Cumbria Safeguarding Children Partnership Structure



Independent Scrutiny

I will have been the CSCP Independent Scrutineer for a year and a half at the end of March 2023. My role is to bring a high level of scrutiny and challenge to all work of the Partnership; to ensure it is effectively working to protect and safeguard the children and young people of Cumbria. Independent scrutiny provides assurance by reflecting and reporting on the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements and supporting the Lead Partners, agencies and organisations to improve practice where necessary. The CSCP partners acknowledge that the independent scrutineer is never the sole provider of feedback or reflection, but they play an important role alongside a comprehensive quality assurance framework and intelligence from across the Partnership. In my role as independent scrutineer, I chair the CSCP Board and directly report progress and any areas of concern to the bi-monthly Lead Partners meeting.


As detailed in this report the Partnership have focussed on driving improved practice across the three key practice areas agreed in the CSCP business plan; neglect, exploitation and learning from practice. This is in addition to the other key functions of the CSAP which include assurance on the impact of key strategies and workstreams relevant to safeguarding children, publishing and ensuring recommendations from Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews are actioned, undertaking multi-agency training and audits. The progress and impact of this work and where practice improvements are required is clearly identified.

In last years report I outlined how the CSCP had developed a new Quality Assurance and Scrutiny Framework and how I initiated a new way of undertaking scrutiny. This year the CSCP was focussed on using the framework to; ensure an updated performance dataset, audit work focussed on testing multi-agency improvements in tackling exploitation and testing the responses to neglect using the new scrutiny process. The aim was to really understand the effectiveness of practice to safeguard children and young people and evaluate the impact of the Partnerships work.

The first pilot of the new scrutiny process focussed on evaluating the effectiveness of work to tackle neglect. Significant work had been undertaken by the CSCP historically in relation to neglect including developing a strategy, rolling out the Graded Care Profile 2 tools to support improved assessment. As you will read, the scrutiny process and event identified that significant work was still required to improve multi-agency practice with neglect. A robust action plan was developed to drive improvement and it was agreed that new tools for practitioners that focussed more on children's lived experience should be considered. Work is now moving at pace with a launch planned at a Neglect Conference and will be reported on in next years report. There has been good multi-agency buy in to this work and I will lead another scrutiny event to test the impact of the changes.

I have also undertaken assurance for the Lead Partners, to ensure that all the partnerships' workstreams and sub-groups are working effectively to improve safeguarding practice. As outlined in the report there have been several improvements made including new protocols for the Case Review Group and templates to better share learning from Rapid Reviews. Learning and its impact on practice is now better collated using an agreed template. My report "Review of Governance and Effectiveness of Structures to Deliver the Partnerships Objectives" identified that strong leadership is being provided by partner agencies but did identify that there is significant work to do to improve safeguarding in schools through the Keeping Safe in Education (KSIE) sub-group.

There was a plan to undertake scrutiny of the work undertaken on "learning from practice" to assess its impact. However, this had to be delayed due to the significant change as a result of



Local Government Reform which has split Cumbria County Council into two new unitary authorities, Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness and the transformation of health into two new Integrated Care Boards, North East and North Cumbria and Lancashire and South Cumbria. This evaluation will now take place early in summer 2023.

Overall, I see a Partnership where there are effective working relationships at both a senior and operational level. The partnership systems are also bringing an appropriate balance between assurance and strategically driving multi-agency improvements where necessary. A culture of high support but high challenge is being embedded. At this point, there has been agreement that despite the move to two new unitary authorities, the safeguarding arrangements are best delivered at this time by retaining a Pan-Cumbria Safeguarding Partnership. However, this will be subject to a review after twelve months. Due to significant changes in personnel across key agencies, it will be absolutely critical to ensure that this does not impact on the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding practice and that the partnership are assured that the new multi-agency models of delivery, for example the safeguarding hubs and Early Help are working effectively and having a real impact for children and their families. Equally, that the changes do not impact on the partnerships planned improvement work.

Lesley Walker

Independent Scrutineer, Cumbria Safeguarding Children Partnership

Cumbria Context

Cumbria is a large county geographically with a relatively small population. This presents challenges in delivery of services and connectivity across the county.

Over half (53%) of Cumbria's population lives in rural areas, with urban centres around the periphery of the county. (Source: ONS population estimates 2019 / ONS Rural Urban Classification 2011.)

Cumbria has a population of 92,950 children aged 0-18, approximately 19% of the County's total population.

Currently the county has two tiers of local government; one county council, six district councils, along with two national park authorities and 266 parish councils.

Cumbria has a total of 321 local authority-maintained schools and academies, comprised of:

- Nursery schools – 5
- Primary schools – 268 (including infant, junior and primary schools)
- Secondary schools – 39
- Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) – 3
- Special schools – 6

Cumbria also has 43 Children's Centres (including satellite centres).

For Health, Cumbria is part of two Integrated Care Board (ICB) North East and North Cumbria ICB and Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB.

8.1% (26 out of 321) of Cumbria's Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) sit within the most deprived 10% of LSOAs nationally. (Source: IMD 2019 - Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 2019.)

As a proportion of the 0-25 age population in Cumbria, 3.5% have an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) – 4489 young people (SEN2, January 2023).



Children and Young People in Cumbria

Cumbria has a population of **90,376** children aged 0-18, approximately 18% of the total population.

In March 2023 there were:

1231 Contacts into the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub

237 referrals to Children's Social Care

Top 3 referrers

**Health
24%**

**Education
21%**

**Police
16%**

**Top 3 referral
reasons**

**Domestic Abuse
15%**

**Neglect
13%**

**Concerning
Behaviour
8%**

452 Children subject to Child Protection Plans

**Emotional Abuse
46%**

**Neglect
45%**

**Sexual Abuse
6%**

**Physical Abuse
3%**

741 Cumbrian Children Looked After

257 Children Looked After placed in Cumbria by other Local Authorities

154 missing episodes

53 children identified as at risk of Child Exploitation

The Impact of the Partnership upon Safeguarding Children

The Safeguarding Partnership has engaged in a range of activity during 2022-23, detailed within this report, which has contributed to ensuring that children and young people are more effectively safeguarded. This includes learning the lessons from cases where unfortunately children have suffered harm and where we have undertaken rapid reviews and subsequently Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, in accordance with statutory guidance (Working Together 2018). We have also considered and disseminated the learning from the National Child Safeguarding Review Panel. Further detail is provided about the work of our Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and how learning from these is being implemented into practice improvements. The CSCP has also delivered an extensive and increased programme of multi-agency training to partners during the past year, and this has involved feedback from participants to demonstrate the impact upon their practice and changes made to improve safeguarding.

We have continued with a full programme of quality assurance activity via our subgroups and Area Safeguarding Groups, which involves qualitative multi-agency audits undertaken together, to examine the quality of practice across a range of professionals including social workers, health professionals, police officers and others to support and protect children and young people. The findings from quality assurance activity is developed into action plans which are regularly reviewed and evaluated for their impact. The practice themes and some of the improvements undertaken are summarised later in this report

We continue to have strong communication with partner agencies via our regular communications including a monthly Safeguarding Newsletters and 5-minute briefings, which provides information on latest safeguarding practice developments, new legislation, research findings, and safeguarding training opportunities and reaffirms key messages.

The Partnership has also engaged in a variety of ways with children and young people to hear their voice and views with regard to safeguarding. The outcome of this work is addressed later in this report.

The partnership has recognised that while some strong work has been undertaken to improve safeguarding practice that they require additional assurance about practice and the impact of the partnerships work. We have refreshed the Quality Assurance and Scrutiny Framework which is a key part of the independent evaluation of the impact of the partnerships work.

Our Priorities

Cumbria Safeguarding Children Partnership will seek to gain assurances that safeguarding arrangements across the partnership are effective in helping to keep children, young people and safe from abuse and neglect and achieving positive outcomes.


Our priorities from April 1st 2022 – March 31st 2023 were:

Priority 1 - Improving Responses to Neglect

The Partnership's priority is to ensure that Practitioners across the partnership can collectively identify, assess and intervene early to prevent the harmful impact of neglect on children and young people. This work is part of a whole system approach and is based on a clear understanding of local need.

Priority 2 - Safeguarding Adolescents from risks and harms outside the family home

The Partnership will work with all agencies to ensure that there is a highly coordinated multi-agency approach to a range of adolescent risks that occur in contexts beyond the family home



(e.g. neighbourhood, schools, local shopping centres, youth venues etc.). These risks include child criminal exploitation, child sexual exploitation, serious youth violence, peer on peer abuse, harmful sexual behaviour and other overlapping forms of harm.

Priority 3 - Embedding Learning from Practice

The partnership will ensure effective systems are in place which means learning and practice improvements highlighted by the CSCPs work is effectively disseminated and embedded in CSCP agencies and is having a demonstrable impact for children and their families.

The Quality Assurance and Scrutiny Framework will assess the impact of the work against the three priorities and will ultimately assess the impact of and success of the partnership as a whole, in meeting its key purpose and vision.

Our progress in achieving these priorities is set out in our Business plan delivery plan -

Appendix C

Involving Young People

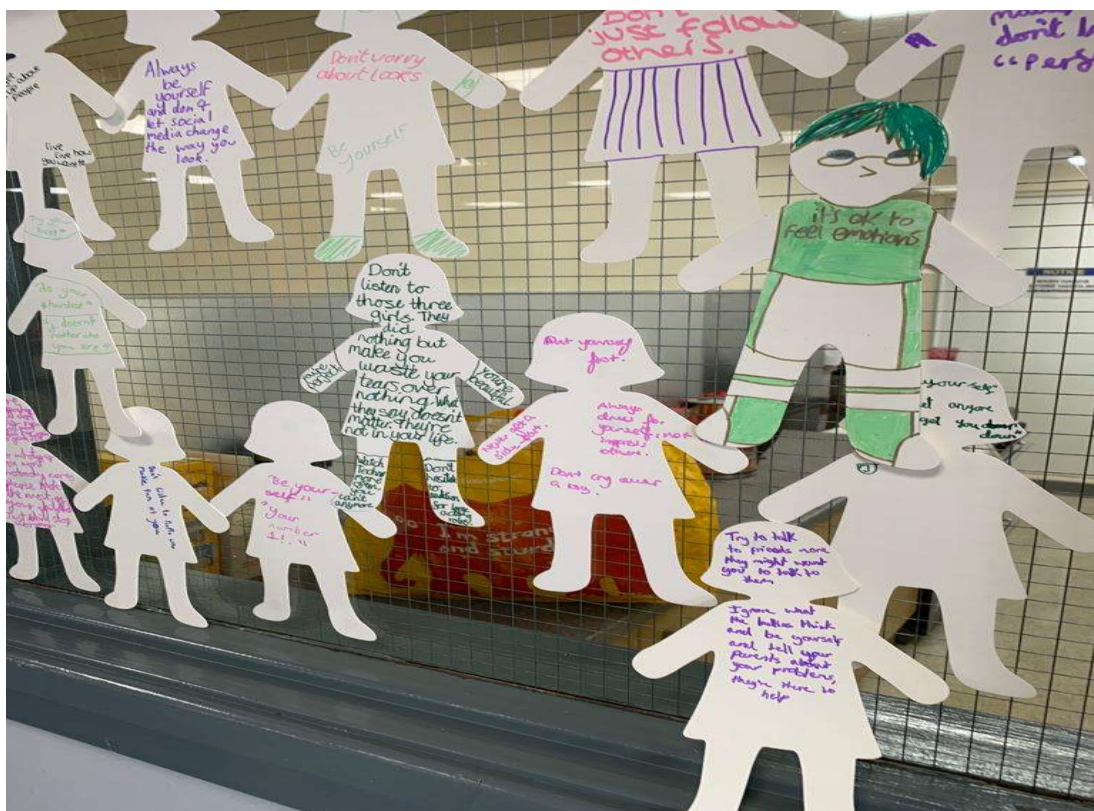
Cumbria Safeguarding Children Partnership believes that it is important for children and young people to take an active role in the design and development of services that are provided for them.

Safeguarding week

During safeguarding week 60 young people from year 6 that would be transitioning to secondary school from a range of schools in Barrow and Workington took part in sessions as part of their 'transition days'.



In Whitehaven a Girl's Wellness Session was attended by 25 young people, that were suffering with anxiety and eating disorders/body image and confidence problems. The event was held in collaboration with providers of services and supported the young people to get their voices heard and engage in positive activities.



Bright Star Consultation

As a result of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Leo, The Independent Safeguarding consultant met with the Bright Stars group. The group is made up of Care Experienced young people who are parents. The group articulated their thoughts and feelings about what life is like as a parent and care leaver.

The Bright Stars group also presented some ideas that they felt would support Care leavers who are parents.

- ✓ A whatsapp group for parents that have been in care
- ✓ Develop a role for residential and foster carers who have previously cared for a young person so that they can be grandparents
- ✓ Include parenting in pathway plans
- ✓ Raise awareness that many care leavers as parents are treated differently in a negative way

The volunteer role of Experts by Experience (young scrutineers) has been created to support the work of the Independent Scrutineer. Three young adults have been recruited into post.

What we plan to do

- ✓ Develop the role of Experts by Experience and involve them in the scrutiny process
- ✓ Undertake a widespread consultation on contextual safeguarding to help us to understand and respond to adolescents' experiences of significant harm beyond their families.
- ✓ To evidence impact we will support the young scrutineers to develop a tool to feedback on the impact of their involvement.

Missing Exploited and Trafficked Children

The Cumbria Safeguarding Children Partnership's (CSCP), 'Missing, Exploited and Trafficked (MET) Children Group' has multi-agency strategic oversight of Child Exploitation (CE) in Cumbria. This group is chaired by the Police, it meets on a quarterly basis and has representation from across a range of agencies.

What we have done

In April 2023 a Complex Safeguarding Team will be implemented in each Council (Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council). The team includes a Complex Safeguarding Team Manager and Child Exploitation Intervention Workers .

The Child Exploitation Risk Assessment and Review (CERAR) process continues to be evaluated and is overseen by the Complex Safeguarding Team Manager, managed by Children's Services who acts as a single point of contact for child exploitation across the partnership, with support from a CERAR Coordinator from Cumbria Police. The CERAR process enables the partnership to offer consistent and high-level chairing to support the development of individual risk assessments leading to the creation of effective safety plans and information sharing.

Operationally we now have oversight as a partnership of all children identified as being at risk of CE via the Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE)/Level 2 CERAR Meetings. The MACE/level 2 meeting currently meets fortnightly but is looking to move to monthly. The meeting provides the framework to allow regular information sharing and action planning to tackle CE in Cumbria. It also enables the group to discuss those children who are looked after and placed outside of Cumbria and also considers children who have repeated episodes of going missing.

The Child Exploitation Strategy and delivery plan that was developed and launched in November 2021 continues to be reviewed by the MET Steering Group.

Workforce development has been a priority over the last year. Level 1 (e-learning) and level 2 training is now in place. Specialist Training NWG 'mind your language' training has begun and will continue into 2023 . The Children's Society language guidance has been adopted and has been widely shared and embedded into training.

The CE/Missing Champions Network has been developed and have met on a number of occasions. CE Champions now include a wide range of professionals including support workers within the LA care homes, Missing Exploited and Trafficked Children Officers (METCO), Police within the Safeguarding Hub, Health representatives, third sector, Social Workers and Targeted Youth Support.

A Transitional Safeguarding Group was set up to take forward the actions from Safeguarding Adults Review Kate to ensure young people have a timely referral to adult services.

What we will do

- Publish and embed the Transitional Safeguarding Procedure
- Develop our focus on the transition between children and adults
- Benchmark Child Exploitation work in Cumbria against the Research in Practice Principles for responding to Child Exploitation and Extra Familial Harm
- Embed the changes to the Missing procedure which aligns with the CERAR process
- Continue Child Exploitation performance and quality assurance activity including the regular cycle of auditing
- Development of agency self-assessment document
- Improve engagement and direct work with children and young people, and their parents and carers as part of the CERAR process

Early Help

In April 2020, it was agreed that the governance for Early Help, would transition from the Cumbria Safeguarding Children Partnership (CSCP) to the Cumbria Children's & Families Partnership as the strategic lead for early intervention and Think Family.

Our partnership early help subgroup reports to the Cumbria Children's & Families Partnership but retains a reporting line to the CSCP, via the CSCP business group. The Cumbria Safeguarding Children Partnership (CSCP) will seek assurance from the Cumbria Children's & Families Partnership. In February 2021 we launched our Cumbria Early Help Strategy.

The partnership is seen an area of strength however, the notion of early help being everyone's business could be further embedded across the partnership.

A quality assurance framework has been developed for early help, setting out how we will measure the quality of Early Help Services and Early Help Processes across the County. This includes reviewing performance information, undertaking audit activity and listening to the voice of children and families. Regular audits are undertaken by the early help team. Reports are presented to the CSCP early help subgroup. The areas of discussion on the Early Help audit form are:

- ✓ Child Centred Practice
- ✓ Quality of the Early Help Assessment and Analysis
- ✓ Early Help Action Plan; Team Around the Family, (TAF),
- ✓ Review Meetings
- ✓ Oversight and Supervision
- ✓ Child and Family Feedback
- ✓ Signs of Wellbeing Bottom Lines

Early Help roadshows took place across the County and were well attended. The Early Help and Family Support Panels were highlighted as a strength in that there is good attendance from professionals and rich conversations which support practitioners who are working with families where the situation feels stuck.



Area Safeguarding Groups

The aim of the Area Safeguarding Groups is to bring the CSCP Board closer to frontline practitioners in order to be able to learn from them and improve practice. The groups consider a range of practice issues by facilitating multi-agency events which triangulate evidence from a variety of sources, including audit and performance and use this to challenge the practice of all agencies and support improvement.

The Safeguarding Group brings together the views of children, their families and professionals to inform the continuous development of services and approaches aimed at protecting children from harm and making positive differences to their lives.

In 2022/23 in recognition of the geography of Cumbria we had three locality safeguarding groups in place;

- Allerdale and Copeland – Chaired by Cumbria County Council
- Carlisle and Eden – Chaired by Police
- Barrow and South Lakes – Chaired by ICB

With the expected implementation of the two new unitary authorities replacing Cumbria County Council and six District Councils (Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council) we will look to change the 3 area safeguarding groups to meet the geographical areas of the two new councils with an area safeguarding group for each new council area, this reducing the area safeguarding groups to 2.

The Process to Improve Practice



Themes in 2022/23

Data Deep Dive- September 2022 – January 23

Repeat Child Protection plans within two years

- A range of data was shared with the group to enable attendees have an overview of children in Cumbria.
- The CSCP Business Group tasked the Safeguarding Groups to explore the increase in the repeat child protection plans within two years.
- As there were still 3 Safeguarding groups at this time which had 3 districts, 2 files were chosen from each district with a total of 12 files being explored.
- The files were chosen at random by the performance team from the data provided
- The CSCP programme officer worked with senior managers and team managers to explore the files.

Findings

- There were some large sibling groups with 4-8 children in the family
- Only two had previously had Early Help Assessment (EHA), three had been agency to pursue (where an agency had been tasked with initiating an EHA
- Some children had been involved with children's services for a number of years
- The children had been subject to a number of concerns which included, domestic abuse, alcohol use, mental health and partners who posed a risk. Neglect, which included home conditions, lack of appropriate clothing and routines was also identified as a reason from repeat plans
- For some it appeared as if it was a revolving door for families
- It was thought the history of the family was not explored
- Concerns there was no service to step plans down to
- The capacity of service was raised

Data is reviewed regularly and some of the findings is looked at in other subgroup work , but since this deep dive was undertaken the data has stabilised.

Theme – Learning from Practice

As mentioned earlier in the report one of the priorities of the CSCP is Embedding Learning to Improve Practice. The CSCP disseminate information and learning from local and national reports , local and national Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs) and from previous Serious Case Reviews. This theme was to explore if agencies are embedding the learning and making changes from the learning to their frontline practice.

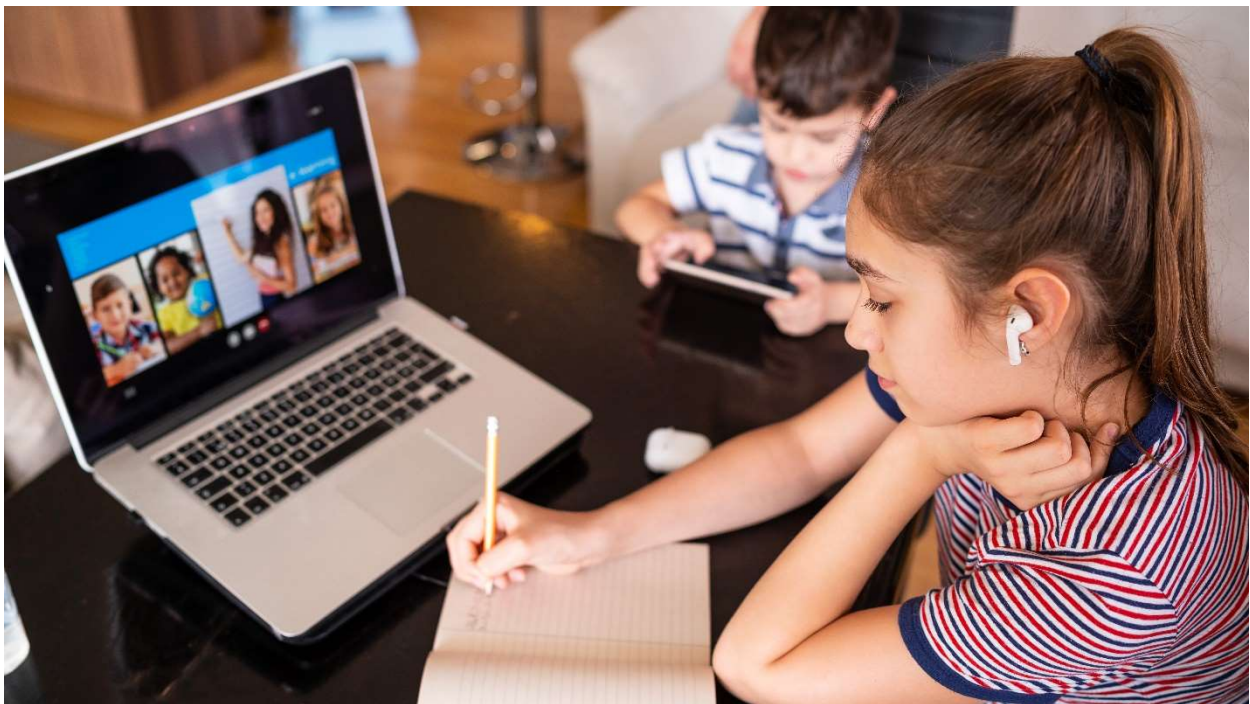
- Six success factors were agreed with the Independent Scrutineer
- 12 multi-agency audits were undertaken, six files from each councils' children's services in between May and June 2023
- A Practitioner Survey was developed and disseminated via the CSCP
- Mapping was undertaken via the Practitioner forums
- A questionnaire was developed for the CSCP Board members to complete
- The voice of the child and family was sought by the Children's Rights Officers

- The findings from work was collated and an analysis completed.
- A Scrutiny event is to held in July 2023 and chaired by the Independent Scrutineer

Findings

- It was clear there are clear lines of dissemination of learning
- There was evidence that some practitioners were not aware of key learning
- Time allowed to complete reading of disseminated learning was seen as a barrier
- Good evidence of the use of safe sleeping guidance was reported
- There was evidence of the use of some tools to support the assessment processes
- Evidence of some work with males/male carers was reported
- Professional curiosity was evident in some of the multi-agency audits
- There was some evidence of history of the family been reviewed and understood

The scrutiny event to be held will include a range of practitioners who will explore the findings of the work to date and an action plan will be developed.



Learning and Improvement

The Learning and Improvement Subgroup is in place to ensure that the CSCP fulfils its obligations as set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children, which is 'to support and enable local organisations and agencies to work together in a system where; learning is promoted and embedded in a way that local services for children and families can become more reflective and implement changes to practice'. The group is responsible for the planning, co-ordination, commissioning and evaluation of high-quality multiagency training to the children's workforce, and the sub-group also helps influence the content of training and education resources.

The group review and strengthen policies and procedures in the light of learning from quality assurance work and child safeguarding practice reviews, to ensure their effectiveness and application

The website was reviewed and updated to incorporate a new look 'Learning Zone' that is more accessible and easier to navigate.

Summary data

82
Training events

2,845
Practitioners attended either virtual or face to face
learning events

9,549
Practitioners undertook online training courses

E-learning remains a popular medium for providing training opportunities to professional safeguarding practitioners, third sector organisations, education settings and faith groups across Cumbria. Awareness of Safeguarding and Child Protection Level 1 is the most popular course completed by 3306 practitioners.

Course Title	
CSCP - Awareness of Safeguarding and Child Protection Level 1 2022/2023 (eLearning)	3306
CSCP - Awareness of Safeguarding and Child Protection Level 1 2021/2022 (eLearning)	1576
CSCP - Child Exploitation (eLearning)	1125
CSCP - Early Help for Children and Families (eLearning)	593
CSCP - Safeguarding Responsibilities, Threshold Guidance and Referral Process - Level 2 (eLearning)	524
CSCP - Female Genital Mutilation (eLearning)	502
CSCP - Safer Recruitment (eLearning)	285
CSCP - Domestic Abuse (eLearning)	269
CSCP - Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking (eLearning)	254
CSCP - Child Sexual Exploitation - 2021/2022 (eLearning)	242
CSCP - Honour based violence and forced marriage (eLearning)	238
CSCP - Neglect (eLearning)	222
CSCP - Self-Harm (eLearning)	208
CSCP - Emotional Abuse (eLearning)	204
Course Name	1
Grand Total	9549

Impact

Trauma informed practice was added to our programme in 2022. 38 practitioners have undertaken the training. Feedback was excellent and at the follow up session four weeks later practitioners outlined how they were putting their new skills into practice

'I've been using the mentalizing approach already to guess what a girl was feeling and thinking, and this helped. She could see me seeing it from her point of view, even though I didn't necessarily agree'.

Courses are regularly reviewed and evaluated. An evaluation of the Safeguarding in Practice – Working to Safeguarding to Safeguard Children, Multi Agency Approach to safeguarding/protect/promote welfare of children – Designated Safeguarding Leads Only Level 3 training was undertaken on courses delivered between 1st September 2021 up to 30th September 2022. Throughout this period 11 sessions were delivered with a total of 359

participants. The training course received very positive feedback, 93% said that the quality met their expectations, 98% felt the course was relevant and 97% noted that trainers met their expectations. When asked 'What they will / may do differently in the workplace after attending this course' examples included;

- ✓ Feedback relevant new information to my team to ensure we are following correct safeguarding measures
- ✓ Ensure multi-agency communication is as good as possible and will be using the Risk and Resilience factors tools moving forward.
- ✓ Review chronological logs on set regular basis
- ✓ My professional curiosity thorough relationships with families, be curious and build the jigsaw!
- ✓ Challenge when information isn't shared

Safeguarding week

Cumbria Safeguarding Children Partnership (CSCP) held our annual Safeguarding Week during the 14th – 18th March. The key purpose of the week is to highlight that safeguarding is everyone's business and provide a range of learning and development opportunities for staff and volunteers working with children and young people.

The theme of safeguarding week was 'Learning from Practice'. Virtual learning sessions were provided linked to the learning from both local and national safeguarding reviews where children have been subject to harm or death.

The Safeguarding week programme was extensive offering a variety of events for practitioners to attend. Safeguarding week was launched with a virtual opening conference where keynote speaker Annie Hudson from the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel shared learning from the panel's annual report on serious child safeguarding incidents. The focus of this session covered practice themes, non- accidental injury in under ones, and learning from the report Myths About Men.

On the final day of the week a session was delivered by the CERAR coordinator and the Police on Child Exploitation and this coincided with National Child Exploitation Awareness Day. 134 practitioners attended this session.

There were 18 virtual learning sessions delivered over the week, delivered by experts in the field, with over 1097 attendees. The sessions included,

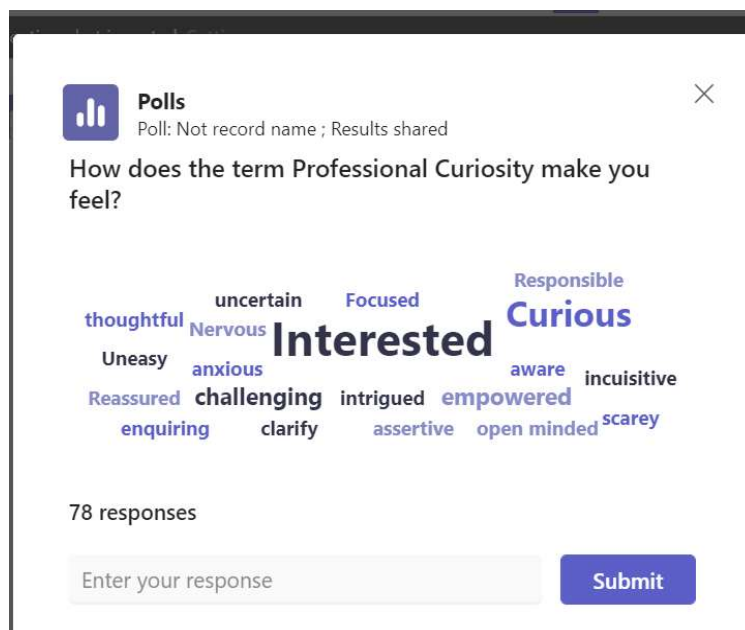
- ✓ Signs of Safety (SOS) multi-agency group supervision – mapping
- ✓ Safeguarding is everyone's business
- ✓ Parental substance use: learning from reviews
- ✓ Hearing the voice of the child
- ✓ Safer sleep
- ✓ Early help training
- ✓ Working with neglect – key ingredients for success
- ✓ The impact of parental mental health
- ✓ Spotting the early signs of domestic abuse and exploring the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people
- ✓ Graded care profile 2 (gcp2) in practice
- ✓ Child exploitation awareness training
- ✓ Think family and early help for adult focused services
- ✓ Pause programme

The subgroup continues to ensure that the learning from reviews and audit is incorporated into training materials, published 5-minute briefings, developed learning guides, and delivered sessions at district practitioner forums.

5-minute briefings include;

- ✓ CSCP Child Safeguarding Practice Review Publication: Leiland-James Michael Corkill
- ✓ NWG Disrupting Exploitation Webinar
- ✓ Signs of Safety Liquid Logic Solution
- ✓ Family Matters Cumbria : Reducing Family Conflict Awareness Sessions June 2022
- ✓ Cumbria Multi-Agency Threshold Guidance Launch Events
- ✓ CSCP Practitioner Survey
- ✓ Family Matters Cumbria : Reducing Family Conflict
- ✓ Anti-Slavery Day 2022
- ✓ Professional Curiosity - Practitioner Guidance
- ✓ ICON Week 26-30 September 2022
- ✓ Safer Sleep Week 13-19 March 2023
- ✓ Messages from the Triennial Review of Serious Case Reviews 2017-19
- ✓ Safer Internet Day
- ✓ Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review - Ivy
- ✓ CSAB & CSCP 5 Minute Briefing - NWG Mind Your Language: Exploitation and Victim Blaming Webinars

A key achievement for Learning and Improvement was the collaborative programme of work around Professional Curiosity that was undertaken with Adults Safeguarding Board In response to the SAR (safeguarding adults review) Kate. The programme included development of guidance and resources along with training and learning sessions.



What we will do

- Review the findings of the S.11 and S.175 audit and undertake quality assurance of agency responses
- Undertake an audit via the Safe Sleep T&F Group of the implementation of Safe Sleep and ICON materials and guidance
- Continue to disseminate the learning from audit and reviews
- Further develop collaborative working with SAB (Safeguarding Adults Board)
- Further develop a programme of events and resources for practitioners to take place throughout 2023/24 to increase practitioner knowledge of child safeguarding, any emerging threats / themes and learn about contemporary approaches and provide opportunities for reflective practice.
- Develop and enhance the voice of children and young people in driving learning and improvement and scrutiny activity.

Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSRs)

In Cumbria the Case Review subgroup is chaired by the Head of Probation. The group has the responsibility for overseeing the commissioning of Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews for cases that meet the criteria set out in Chapter 4 of Working Together 2018.

During 2021/2022, several Rapid Review Meetings were held to consider if individual cases met the criteria for an LSCR and highlighted any learning. As a consequence of those meetings the decision was taken to commission an LSCR in one case, Child Leo. The report has not been published during 2022/2023 due to parallel criminal proceedings. It is anticipated that they will be published during 2023/2024 reporting period.

Reviews published in 2022/23

LSCR Leiland-James Corkill

The partnership published Leiland-James' review on 28 July 2022. Leiland-James tragically died on 7 January 2021, he was one year old and had been living in his adoptive placement in Barrow-in-Furness for 5 months at the time of his death. A criminal trial has since found one of his prospective adopters guilty of his murder. She was sentenced to life in prison in June 2022.

The full findings of the LSCR are set out in the overview report which has been published on the CSCP website. The learning the report identifies is based on the following key findings from the review:

- The medical assessments of potential adopters require a thorough consideration of their medical records and include information from specialists and providers of mental health support. The system would be more robust if these assessments were updated at the point of matching and before an adoption order is made
- Improvements are required regarding seeking, sharing, and considering any adult vulnerabilities that could be a risk to children
- Adoption systems and practice must ensure that there is improved consideration of the lived experience of other children in an adoptive household

- When it is apparent that there are issues with prospective adopters bonding with a child placed with them, a robust and timely professional response is required that recognises the emotional impact on the child and the pressure on carers.

The work to implement the recommendations and to monitor their impact on practice will become part of the long-term work of the CSCP and member agencies. The CSCP will be seeking evidence and testing via its new Quality Assurance and Scrutiny Framework that the learning from this review is sufficiently embedded and driving practice improvement.

Dissemination of Learning

Sharing learning from practice reviews in order to improve safeguarding practice is vital. We use the learning and recommendations from reviews to improve safeguarding of children & young people.

Following the publication of each report and development of associated action plans the CSCP completes a series of tasks to ensure the learning is widely available:

- Training materials are reviewed to ensure the lessons are included.
- Policies and procedures are reviewed to ensure the lessons are included
- The website is updated to reflect the lessons from reviews.
- A specific newsletter is published to cover the lessons from all published LSCPRs
- The CSCP conducted a number of workshops via our practitioner forums to raise the profile of the lessons from the CSPRs.
- Assurance is sought from all agencies that the lessons from CSPRs are being utilised.

Child Death Review and the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

Child Death Review partners, the Local Authorities and Integrated Care Boards for Cumbria now hold responsibility for the delivery of the Child Death Review Process as set out in the Children Act 2004, as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017. The CDOP is multiagency with differing areas of professional expertise. This process is undertaken locally for all children who are normally resident in Cumbria. The governance for CDOP in Cumbria is via the CSCP. Our child death review arrangements can be accessed [here](#)

The purpose of the Child Death Review Process is to try to ascertain why children die and put in place interventions to protect other children and prevent future deaths wherever possible. The process intends to:

- Document, analyse and review information in relation to each child that dies in order to confirm the cause of death, determine any contributing factors and to identify learning arising from the process that may prevent future child deaths
- To make recommendations to all relevant organisations where actions have been identified which may prevent future deaths or promote the health, safety and wellbeing of children
- To produce an annual report on local patterns and trends in child death, any lessons learnt and actions taken, and the effectiveness of the wider Child Death Review Process
- To contribute to local, regional and national initiatives to improve learning from Child Death Reviews.

The Child Death Review information in this report covers the 2021/22 reporting year as the 2022/23 report had not been signed off at the time of this reports publication.

2021/22

- A total number of 26 children residing in Cumbria died in 2021/22. During this time a total of 10 cases were reviewed and signed off for that year. It should be noted that a further 15 cases were reviewed and signed off in this year, however, those deaths occurred in the previous year. Delays were due to both challenges in accessing adequate information and other statutory processes. Post-Mortem results are taking some time to be completed. This is an issue nationally, not just locally.
- 6 CDOP meetings were held during this period and the cases were reviewed by the panel, to see if there were actions that could be taken to prevent other deaths.
- In 2021-22 the highest number of deaths notified were for 15-17 years closely followed by 0-27 days. This is a change from previous years and is due to a number of tragic circumstances.
- 58% were boys and 42% were girls.
- The categories of death are set out in the table below:

Category	2017/ 2018	2018/ 2019	2019/ 2020	2020/ 2021	2021/ 2022
1. Deliberately inflicted injury, abuse or neglect – this includes numerous physical injuries, which may be related to homicide as well as deaths from war, terrorism or other mass violence. It also includes severe neglect leading to death	0	1	0	0	0
2. Suicide or deliberate self-inflicted harm – this includes any action intentionally to cause one’s own death. It will usually apply to adolescents rather than younger children.	2	2	0	1	1

3. Trauma and other external factors – this relates to unintentional physical injuries caused by external factors. It does not include any deliberately inflicted injury, abuse or neglect.	2	0	1	2	2
4. Malignancy – this includes cancer and cancer like conditions such as solid tumours, leukaemia and lymphomas and other malignant proliferative conditions, even if the final event leading to death was infection haemorrhage, etc.	1	2	0	3	2
5. Acute medical or surgical condition – a brief sudden onset of illness which resulted in the death of a child.	4	0	3	1	0
6. Chronic medical condition – a medical condition which has lasted a long time or was recurrent and resulted in the death of child.	1	1	2	3	1
7. Chromosomal, genetic and congenital anomalies – medical conditions resulting from anomalies in genes or chromosomes as well as a defect that is present at birth.	2	4	8	2	1
8. Perinatal/neonatal event – the of a child as a result of extreme prematurity, adverse outcomes of the birthing process, intrauterine procedures or within the first four weeks of life.	6	10	7	6	1
9. Infection – this can be any primary infection, ie not a complication of one of the above categories, arising after the first postnatal week, 0or after discharge of a preterm baby.	2	0	1	0	0
10. Sudden unexpected or unexplained death – this is where pathological diagnosis is either Sudden infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) or 'unascertained' at any age.	0	0	1	4	0

CDOP Priorities for 2022/2023

- Continue work around embedding safer sleep messages, work led via safer sleep task & finish group and will include a review of the protocol.
- Review of the links between child death and poverty, work led by Public Health.
- Review of bereavement provision and materials to support parents.
- Undertake review of CDOP self-assessment against Child Death Review standards

Summary and Priorities for 2022/23

The Safeguarding Partnership has played an important role in bringing agencies together to debate issues and to provide challenge and assurance through audit activity and multi-agency training, so that partners are fully sighted on the risks to children and young people and are working together effectively to support their families and to safeguard children from harm.

Looking forward to 2023/24 the Partnership will continue the delivery of its strategic priorities to safeguard children, a review of the partnership priorities will be undertaken in September 2023 and a new partnership business plan developed.

It will strengthen the scrutiny of safeguarding effectiveness across the partnership and with the introduction of the Independent Scrutineer role, will review the Partnership arrangements and processes to ensure that children's outcomes are improved by effective joint working on safeguarding.



Appendix A – CSCP Board Membership

AGENCY	Role
Cumbria County Council, Directorate of People	Assistant Director – Children and Young People
Cumbria County Council, Directorate of People	Assistant Director – Integration and Partnership
Cumbria County Council, Directorate of People	Assistant Director – Education and Skills
North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board	Safeguarding Designated Nurse Children, Adults & Children Looked After
Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board	Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children and Children Looked After
University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay	Director of Nursing
North Cumbria Integrated Care	Interim Executive Chief Nurse
Lancashire & South Cumbria Foundation Trust	Head of Safeguarding
CNTW Foundation Trust	Group Nurse Director
Public Health	Director – Public Health
Cumbria Constabulary	Chief Superintendent
PHA Representative	Vacant
CASH Representative	Head, Caldew School
Cumbria District/Borough Councils	Head of Housing and Inclusion
Cumbria Probation Service	Head of Probation Service Cumbria
Voluntary Sector Representative	Joint Chair Voluntary Sector Reference Group/ Chief Officer Cumbria Family Support
CAFCASS, Cumbria	Service Manager
Board Support	
Cumbria County Council, Directorate of People	Partnership & Improvement Manager

Appendix B – Financial Arrangements

Budget Contributions for 2020/21

Agency	Budget Contribution
LA (45.5%)	£84,741
Police (9.5%)	£17,693
Health (45%)	£83,810
	NENC ICB £51,886 (61.91%)
	LSC ICB £31,923 (38.09%)
Total	£186,244

Appendix C – CSCP Business Plan Delivery Plan – update as at 31/03/2023

Priority	Outcome	Action	Timescale	Group, agency or individual responsible	Update	RAG
Safeguarding Adolescents from risks and harms outside the home	All partners can demonstrate how they recognise, respond and evaluate the risks in relation to child exploitation and other forms of extra-familial abuse and evidence effective collaborative ways of working to reduce risk.	1. Development of work plan to support the delivery of the Child Exploitation Strategy 2021-24	January 2022	Missing, Exploited and Trafficked Children Strategic Group	Completed	B
		2. Review of the MET Strategic Group, including reviewing membership and its connectivity to other key strategic partnerships	April 2022		Group undertook review of membership. Group now includes probation rep. Chair of MET now sits on Safer Cumbria Community Safety Group to improve connectivity. Further strengthening of links across partnerships to be developed via SAR Kate T&F Group which is looking at Transitional safeguarding arrangements	G
		3. Ensure individual agency action plans are in place to support any necessary improvements	April 2023			G
		4. Develop and embed the partnerships approach to transitional safeguarding	June 2022		Ongoing via Kate SAR T&F, first meeting of this group was November 2022. Report due to July CSCP Board from Group. Ongoing in terms of implementing pathway	A
		5. Embedding of the CERAR risk assessment process	September 2022		CERAR process in place and embedded in practice. The process is now being further developed with the implementation of complex safeguarding teams	G
Related work: Policies and Procedures; Learning & Improvement						

Measuring impact: Undertake a multi-agency scrutiny of practice with vulnerable adolescents following launch of the new strategy; Local Government Association Contextual Safeguarding Peer Review

Priority	Outcome	Action	Timescale	Group, agency or individual responsible	Update	RAG
Improving responses to Neglect	Practitioners across the partnership can collectively identify, assess and intervene early to prevent the harmful impact of neglect on children and young people.	6. Continue to embed the agreed assessment tools across the Partnership agencies and evaluate their impact in improving practice in working with neglect.	Ongoing	Area Safeguarding Groups/ CSCP Scrutineer	The GCP2 neglect tool is being rolled out across the partnership. This was evaluated as part of the neglect scrutiny work which identified lack of use. Being taken forward via scrutiny action plan. To be replaced with a new action following scrutiny work.	B
		7. Undertake neglect scrutiny challenge work to evaluate current practice, determine the impact of the former LSCB Neglect Strategy and identify next steps	March 2022		Neglect scrutiny undertaken and action plan formulated from the recommendations. Group in place to take forward.	B
		8. Re-establish the Neglect T&F Group to respond to the scrutiny findings	April 2022		Complete (Group await direction regarding Chair and decision re GCP2)	B
		9. Develop a Neglect Impact Framework and ensure key neglect indicators are built into the Partnership's revised performance dataset to allow the monitoring of impact and progress	January 2023		Agreement to develop Neglect Strategy in place of impact framework. This will be launched in September 2023	A
		10. Provide a session at Safeguarding Week focusing on Best Practice in working with Neglect	March 2022		Complete	B

Related work: Learning & Improvement

Measuring impact: <i>Undertake a multi-agency scrutiny of practice with children who have experienced neglect.</i>						
Priority	Outcome	Action	Timescale	Group, agency or individual responsible		
Embedding learning	The CSCP has effective systems in place which means learning and practice improvements highlighted by the CSCPs work is effectively disseminated and embedded in CSCP agencies and is having a demonstrable impact for children and their families.	11. Develop a Quality Assurance & scrutiny framework that allows the Board to review the effectiveness of multi-agency practice and measures the impact of the Board's work on children and their families. Including the effectiveness of the Board.	March 2022	Business Group	Complete	B
		12. Recruit a pool of young scrutineers to support the Scrutiny process and to ensure scrutiny retains a focus on outcomes for children and young people	March 2023	Business Group	Role profile in place for young scrutineer. Recruitment of 3 young people taking place. Will be part of learning from practice scrutiny.	G
		13. Undertake a review of performance dataset to ensure they identify risks and strengths in multi-agency safeguarding practice and inform any necessary improvement activity	March 2022	Business Group	Completed. Reviewed quarterly by Business Group and highlights/exceptions reporting to Board. Scorecard indicators to be reviewed annually (next review June 2023)	G
		14. Ensure each sub-group has an agreed impact focused work plan with clear timescales that outlines delivery against the business priorities	April 2022	Business Group	Subgroup work plans in place, reviewed by IS via sub-group scrutiny. Progress reported to business group on quarterly basis. Challenge around KCSIE work plan, review underway.	G

		15. Review current groups chairing, membership and clarity of TOR's, to support focus on key deliverables and ensure adequate chairing arrangements are in place	May 2022	All Sub-Group Chairs and CSCP Support Officer	Complete	B
		16. Develop a clear communication strategy of how the partnership will engage effectively with key stakeholders to ensure that the "safeguarding is everyone's business" message is understood and leading to better recognition of and response to all types of abuse and that core initiatives and key information is dissemination to professionals.	June 2022	All Sub-Group Chairs and CSCP Support Officer	Comms channels in place and embedded. Regular newsletters and briefings are in place. Sub groups identify key comms messages and report in to Business Group. CSCP do not have a comms strategy, Board to consider if required. Possible impact of LGR around partnership comms support, currently led by experienced officer in CCC.	G
		17. CSCP member agencies to incorporate learning from CSCP activity into messages and policy for their workforce and report on the impact to the CSCP.	Annually	Business Group, CSCP Support Officer, Agency comms	Process for assurance around cascade and embedding of learning now developed and in place from April 2023. <i>Action to be refreshed to reflect new agreed process.</i>	G
		18. Undertake a review of our process for learning from practice	May 2022	Case Review/ L&I Sub Group	Agreement that Case Review will lead on overview of CSCR action plan. L&I lead on implementation of learning. New process agreed and in place.	G
		19. Delivery of annual practice week to support embedding learning and evaluate effectiveness through practitioners and managers feedback	March 2022	L&I Sub Group	Complete	B



		20. Work to ensure thresholds are well embedded, understood and CYP are getting the help they require at the earliest point	March 2023	L&I Sub Group	Threshold launch events were well attended. Briefing sessions have taken place. Training has been updated to incorporate the new thresholds doc.	G
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Related work: Learning and Improvement, Case Review group
Measuring impact: *Undertake a multi-agency scrutiny of practice of practice based on the summary of key themes from practice.*

