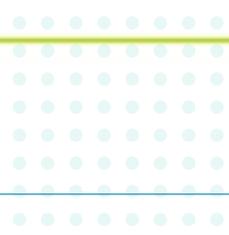




Welcome to the Early Years DSL Network 26th February 2025



Welcome!



NOTTINGHAM CITY
Safeguarding
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PARTNERSHIP

Catherine Smith

Programmes Manager



Nottingham



Agenda

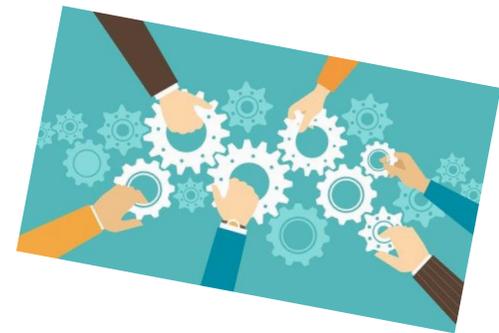
Time	Agenda Item	Presenter
9:30am – 9:40am	Welcome and Introductions	Catherine Smith Ben Osifo
9:40am – 10:20am	NCSCP: Local & National Updates	Ben Osifo
10:20am- 10:40am	Nottingham Early Help Partnership	Julia Bramble
10:40am: Comfort Break 5 mns		
10:45am	Role of LADO	Claire Wakeman & Kathryn McGovern
11.15am	Questions and close	Catherine Smith

DSL Network Aims and Purpose

- To promote connectivity with the Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership, other key local authority departments and Designated Safeguarding Leads across the city
- Act as a conduit for policy updates
- A network which demonstrates professional behaviours and mutual support
- Sharing of pertinent local and national updates focusing on safeguarding priorities and emerging trends across the city of Nottingham

Today's objective:

To raise awareness and understanding of.....



NCSCP Safeguarding Updates

Ben Osifo
Business Manager NCSCP

[@NottinghamCSCP](#)

[Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership -
YouTube](#)





TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

NCSCP Updates



[Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel's annual report 2023/24](#) - A summary of patterns in practice and key messages from serious incidents, rapid reviews, local child safeguarding practice reviews, national reviews, thematic analysis and reports in England. See also : [caspar-briefing-panels-annual-report-23-24.pdf](#)

Coram launching a [free Family Harmony Toolkit](#) for professionals working with families to reduce the impact of harmful conflict on children's mental health. The toolkit offers a framework to help practitioners support families experiencing difficulties in communication and additional pressures on family life such as transitions and supporting a child with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) which may exacerbate conflict.

[Survivors of sexual abuse to be empowered in closed case reviews - GOV.UK](#) - Survivors and victims will be able to ask for their closed cases to be reviewed by an independent criminal justice review panel where their previous investigations were not taken forward to prosecution by the police or Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).

[Health protection in children and young people settings, including education](#) - The UK Health Security Agency, has published a practical guide for staff on managing cases of infectious diseases in children and young people settings, including education.

New cross authority [Conflict Resolution and Professional Disagreement Policy](#) (Escalation Policy)

[New Partnership Working Arrangements](#)

NHS - decommissioned the NHS Safeguarding App. This has now been replaced with the newly named NHS Safeguarding Agile Guide, which is located on the NHS England website. [NHS Safeguarding Agile Guide 2024](#)

National Panel published report on Child Sexual Abuse

[“I wanted them all to notice”](#) - This report was commissioned by the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (the Panel) to explore the challenges in identifying, assessing and responding to **child sexual abuse within the family environment**. It was published in Dec 2024.

- 193 children in 136 incidents of intrafamilial harm
- 75% of children were girls
 - 73% of children were White British, while 27% were from Black or minoritised ethnic communities
 - 29% of reviews featured a child under 6 years old, 46% featured a child aged between 6 and 12, and 25% featured a child aged between 13 and 17
 - 29% of reviews featured the abuse of a child who had a disability or whose disability was in the process of being formally diagnosed
- in most cases, the children were sexually abused by their father, stepfather or mother’s partner.
- 10 Children became pregnant
- 7 had died by suicide
- 14 had talked about or attempted suicide (one was aged 7)

- There were four key findings :
 - Finding 1 - Hearing children’s voices and understanding their needs.
 - Finding 2 - Understanding parents’ and carers’ needs and contexts
 - Finding 3 - Identifying signs, understanding risk and raising concerns
 - Finding 4: Responding to concerns of intrafamilial sexual abuse

Changes to Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) safeguarding requirements: September 2025



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Changes to the EYFS safeguarding requirements from September 2025



From September 2025 the EYFS safeguarding requirements will be strengthened. Below are some of the changes you need to be aware of for your settings:

- Amendments to promote **safer recruitment**, including: new expectations to provide references, requirements to obtain references and a requirement for safeguarding policies to include procedures to help ensure that only suitable individuals are recruited.
- New requirements for providers to follow up if a **child is absent** for a prolonged period of time and amendments to ensure providers hold additional emergency contact details.
- New requirements to ensure **safer eating**.
- Creation of a **safeguarding training** criteria annex and a requirement for safeguarding policies to include details of how safeguarding training is delivered, including how practitioners are supported to put it into place.
- Amendments to ensure that early years students and trainees are required to have **paediatric first aid (PFA) training** in order for them to be included in ratios at the level below their level of study.
- New requirements to support **whistleblowing**.
- Amendments to ensure that **children's privacy** during nappy changing and toileting is considered and balanced with safeguarding considerations.
- A small number of **other minor changes** to the structure and wording of the safeguarding requirements to improve clarity.

To find out more visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/early-years-foundation-stage-eyfs-safeguarding>



Changes to the EYFS safeguarding requirements from September 2025

If you work in a setting required to follow the EYFS, there are changes happening from September 2025 that you need to be aware of.

The changes will ensure that early years educators have the knowledge and support they need to keep children as safe as possible.

To find out more visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/early-years-foundation-stage-eyfs-safeguarding>



Key Reviews



The Competition and Markets Authority study into Children's Social Care Placements

March 2022



National Review into the murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson

May 2022



Safeguarding Children with Complex Health Needs in residential Settings.

April 2023



The Independent Review of Children's Social Care

May 2022



The Report of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse

October 2022

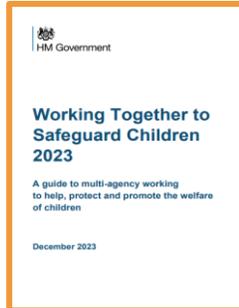


National Review of child sexual abuse within the family environment

November 2024

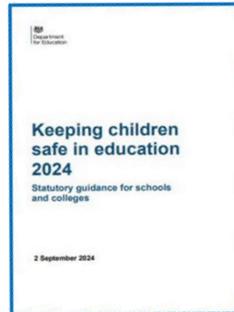


Guidance, policy and legislation

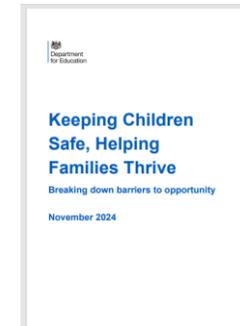


Working Together to Safeguard Children

Dec 2023

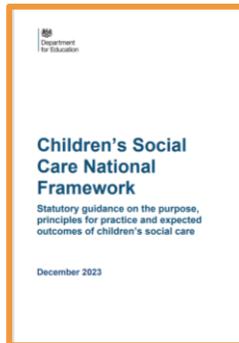


Keeping children safe in education 2024



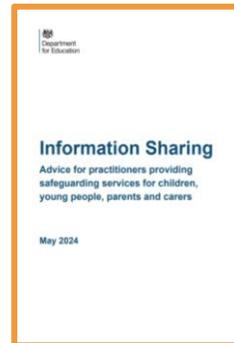
Keeping Children Safe, Helping Families Thrive

Nov 2024



Children's Social Care National Framework

Dec 2023



Information Sharing: Advice for practitioners

May 2024



Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill

Dec 2024

Keeping Children Safe, Helping Families Thrive

‘...the time is right to reset the children’s social care system. We are delivering a whole-system and child-centred approach to reform....all of our actions will be guided by 4 key reform principles:’ Bridget Phillipson (Secretary of State for Education)



Keeping Children Safe, Helping Families Thrive

Breaking down barriers to opportunity

November 2024



1. Wherever possible children should remain with their families and be safely prevented from entering care in the first place.

Further roll out reforms to family help and child protection, working in step with partners. There is lots of learning to draw from, e.g. Supporting Families, Families First for Children Pathfinder programme, Strengthening families, protecting children (SFPC) programme, youth offending teams and other multiagency approaches

2. Support children to live with kinship or foster carers rather than residential care via the use of family-based decision making, rolling out kinship reforms and recruiting more foster carers.

3. Fix the broken care market via a range of measures to improve competition, regulation and commissioning as well as shining a light on the levels of profit being made.

4. A focus on key enablers including better data and information sharing, spreading evidence-based programmes and the workforce.

Strengthening the role of education within multi-agency safeguarding arrangements



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Plans are to ensure that

- all education settings , including schools, colleges, early years and childcare settings, and alternative provision, are named as relevant agencies by default so that they are automatically included in safeguarding arrangements in a local area;
- local safeguarding arrangements include representation from education as an agency at both operational and strategic decision-making levels.
- There will be an update to statutory guidance such as Working Together, to set expectations of safeguarding partners and education based on models known to be working in local areas that involve education effectively in their arrangements.

Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill – Some Highlights



- New duty for **schools and councils to co-operate on admissions**
- The **presumption that new schools must be academies will be ended**
- **All councils must have ‘children not in school’ registers**, with a duty to support parents on their registers.
- **Some parents will need council consent to home education their child.** LAs can also compel home educated children on protection orders to attend school.
- **New powers for Ofsted to enter suspected illegal schools** and “search” rather than just inspect.
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- **State-funded schools to ensure all children on roll in reception to year 6 have access to a free, at least 30-minute-long breakfast club** before school.
- **Duty for safeguarding partners to set up multi-agency child protection teams.** Will include a person “with education experience”.
- **A single unique identifier to be introduced** for each child across multiple data sets, with a new duty to share information for welfare and safeguarding purposes.



- Serious Incident Notifications (SINs) are made by local authorities to the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, Department for Education and Ofsted when a child has died or is seriously harmed, and abuse or neglect is known or suspected. Local authorities are also required to submit a SIN where a child looked after has died, whether or not abuse or neglect is known or suspected.
- Rapid reviews are conducted for each notification. These reviews are undertaken by local safeguarding partners, with the written report to be submitted to the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel within 15 working days of the incident notification. The purpose of the rapid review is for partners to identify, collate and reflect on the facts of the case as quickly as possible to establish whether any immediate action is needed to ensure a child's safety and to identify potential practice learning. This includes deciding whether to undertake a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review.
- Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPRs) are undertaken to provide learning to improve safeguarding practice at both local and national levels and to prevent similar incidents from occurring in the future. When safeguarding partnerships decide to proceed with a local review, there is an expectation that these reviews are completed, submitted and published within six months of the rapid review.

LEARNING REVIEW: Case Summary & Learning Points



Learning Reviews - Learning Reviews offer an opportunity to further explore cases that might identify practice and procedural issues across more than one agency that do not meet the threshold for a serious incident notification and Rapid Review.

Two siblings subject of a Child Protection Plan with concerns of high-risk domestic violence. The home environment also gave cause for concern due to a lack of protection and nurturing care from the parents. The children were living in an environment that posed a significant risk of physical and emotional harm and abuse. The female sibling was taken to hospital via the Emergency Department in September 2024 and was admitted to the High Dependency Unit of the PCCU (Paediatric Critical Care Unit). She had been brought to ED reportedly for constipation, but it was noted by staff that she appeared to be very unwell and having significant breathing problems. She was noted to have extensive bruises and the consultant for the critical care unit was concerned to the point of contacting social care and produced a written summary of concern. It also transpired that the male sibling had disclosed that the children are being physically harmed by both parents,

Summary of concerns highlighted in the review:

- Domestic abuse and assault including when children were present (allegation and counter-allegation between adults)
- References to potential adult factors such as drug/alcohol, mental health, police contact
- High risk actions such as strangulation, threat to life, indication of weapons being present
- Report of intentional physical harm to both children (including direct from child)
- Failure to act to protect children and prioritise their needs
- Neglect (household, presentation, supervision, routines, poor quality diet)
- Lack of warmth, response, attachment or concern from adults
- Minimisation of harm or risk
- Understanding of cultural competency
- Addressing practice when a new concern is raised when a case is already open to social care.
- Disguised compliance by parents
- Childs Voice. Non verbal child.

Next Steps:

Following the Learning Review the recommendations will be turned into an action plan and a learning briefing will be created and shared with the partnership.

Learning from Audits: Exploitation (CCE & CSE)

Cross authority Exploitation audit 2024 looked at partnership responses to exploitation for ten children. These were selected from a cohort of children assessed as being at high-risk of criminal or sexual exploitation by social workers. All had been considered at a specialist multi-agency panel in July 2023.

Areas of strength were identified as follows:

- **Child focussed work:** Good examples of the voice of the child being captured and utilised to inform the safeguarding response
- **Language:** Language used by professionals was noted to be, on the whole, strength-based, trauma informed and not victim blaming.
- **Strong multi-agency working:** There was evidence throughout all audited cases of strong partnership relationships, working effectively to problem solve.
- **Good communication:** communication between organisations was effective. This is a consequence of the strong network of relationships established between professionals dedicated to exploitation.



Learning from Audits: Exploitation (CCE & CSE) ctd.

Areas Of Learning identified

- **Professional curiosity:** Was found lacking in some cases.
- **Information Sharing:** There were multiple examples of failings to share information between organisations.
- **Quality of risk assessment:** Significant detail was missing from Risk Assessments
- **Language:** Language was not recognised as a significant issue. However, some victim blaming language was still found to exist.
- **Proactive approach:** Opportunities to proactively develop information/intelligence could be improved to better assess the risk and identify avenues for disruption.



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Learning from Audits: Strategy Discussions

This was the fourth audit undertaken in line with the cross-partnership auditing agreement. It was a retrospective, qualitative audit, the purpose being to understand the effectiveness of multi-agency working in response to situations requiring a strategy discussion. This features in both the Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership (NCSCP) and the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) business plans.

Areas of strength were identified as follows:

- **Good identification of risk and timely response:** The risk was identified, and a timely strategy discussion took place for 9 of the 10 children identified within the sample cases
- **Information Sharing:** Of the 44 audits returned 30 auditors felt able to grade the quality of information shared in the strategy discussion. Of those graded, 70% identified information shared in the meetings as either good or outstanding.



Learning from Audits: Strategy Discussions ctd.

Areas Of Learning identified

- **Communication across the partnership:** Challenges with communication across the partnership was a reoccurring theme throughout the audit sample.
- **Recording:** A particular challenge identified in the Nottingham City cohort was an inability to be able to account for whether minutes from strategy discussions had been shared.
- **Being more child/ young person centred:** The need to include children in their safety planning was a theme which was identified during the audit process
- **The need to 'Think Family':** The audit sample identified a need to improve performance in respect of the consideration of the family within strategy discussions. Three of the audits identified development opportunities in relation to the consideration and engagement of fathers.
- **The need to consider the role of the PIPOT (People In Position Of Trust):** Strategy discussion did not adequately consider that child's father who was considered a risk worked with vulnerable adults and as such did not consider what action was required in relation to this.

Website update

There are two main websites held by the local authority that will be key to supporting the role of the DSL-

1- Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership-
www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/ncscp

2- [Early Years - Nottingham City Council](#)

Contact us



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Telephone



0115 876 4762



Early Help Partnership

Julia Bramble

Service Manager Early Help



Comfort Break – 5 mns



Role of LADO

**Claire Wakeman
Principle Manager
and
Kathryn McGovern
Child Protection Chair**

Training Dates

Course	Date	Time	Venue	Fee
Safer Recruitment	Friday 4 th April 2025	9.30-12.30pm	Loxley House	£30
Prevent Duty	Wednesday 7 th May 2025	10.00-11.30am	Online	Free of charge for City providers
Designated Safeguarding Leads Training	Wednesday 30 th June 2025	9.15am- 12.30pm	Castle Cavendish	£30

Evaluation and DSL Questionnaire

<https://forms.office.com/e/qSWF6DqxxY?origin=lprLink>



Questions



Next DSL network :

Wednesday 11th June 2025

Start time 9:30am

Online