



North East Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership

Annual Report 2021-22

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1) Introduction



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Welcome to the second report of the new North East Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NEL SCP), it covers the period from 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021.

Our Partnership's vision is to **“work together to ensure safeguarding arrangements within our place are proactive, robust, effective and clear and for help and support to be offered at the earliest point to enable children, young people and families to have positive outcomes, where they reach their full potential”**

The focus during the last year has been on reviewing and seeking to strengthen all aspects of the functioning and effectiveness of the SCP in meeting its statutory functions. Key activity has included.

- Holding a number of dedicated SCP Executive development sessions, which agreed and undertook a plan to review the SCP statutory functions, priority areas of focus, governance and independent scrutiny arrangements.
- Undertook a review, gap analysis of all areas of functioning of the SCP based on the development sessions, resulting in a clear plan to strengthen arrangements.
- Aligned the SCP key areas of focus to the Children's services Ofsted improvement and transformation plan.
- Commissioned and undertook a partnership review of the SCP core data set Performance reporting arrangements and identified required improvements.
- Appointed an SCP independent chair.
- Continued oversight of local practice through line-of-sight practice process and rapid review process.
- Commissioned Triex to support the SCP revision of the safeguarding procedures which were identified as a risk as not current or reflective of current legislation and practice.
- Undertook practice improvement aligned to learning from local safeguarding reviews including strengthening the local strategy discussion guidance and introduced strategy discussion training.
- Review and revision of the SCP Voice and Influence Strategy in order to better evidence the child's lived experience.
- Continued oversight of Early Help, Children Looked After, Contextual Safeguarding and Domestic Abuse.

Going forward to 22/23, the areas of focus will be on:

- Revision and delivery of the SCP strategy in response to neglect.
- Developing a strategy for responding to familial sexual abuse.
- Revision and delivery of the Early Help Strategy
- Launching and embedding the strengthened SCP procedures
- Oversee the embedding/ impact of the revised SCP training offer.
- Deliver the restructure of SCP governance arrangements.

2) The Voice and Lived Experience of Children

The Voice and Influence Strategy has ensured that the child's voice and lived experience is at the forefront of practice. Its purpose is to assure the NEL SCP that services have a process for and are hearing the voice of the child, listening and making improvements to service delivery and practice as a result.

Key Highlights and successes include

A virtual Voice of the Child Task and Finish Group has been responsible for the implementation of the Voice and Influence strategy action plan and for submitting biannual Voice and Influence reports to the NEL SCP. Activity and impact includes:

- NEL SCP Line of Sight practice audit events, evidence agencies capture the voice of the child well. There is inconsistent practice across agencies in capturing the child's lived experience which has led to the development of practice guidance and continues to be an area of practice improvement.
- The SCP commissioned the Quality Assurance group to review and revise the Voice and Influence Strategy aligned to the three priorities identified by the SCP towards the end of 2022, which were Neglect, Familial Sexual Abuse and Early Help. The revised strategy has a key emphasis on how agencies capture and act on the child's lived experience.
- The NEL SCP have worked with Youth Action to develop a Young Inspectors Program where young people will actively be involved in undertaking inspection visits to agencies as aligned to the NEL SCP Scrutiny and Assurance Framework supported by the Professional Scrutiny Officers. The program commenced in Autumn 2020. The first pilot inspection was of Young Minds Matter (CAHMS) service as mental health being was identified as a top issue within the Make Your Mark consultation of young people for the second year. The audit was completed in November 2022 and identified a number of areas of good practice and areas for development. The process has already demonstrated how this can make a positive difference. For example, due to the covid restrictions young people could not visit the building used by the service in person so they suggested the service provide a video tour for them created by their peer support worker who is still relatively young and has used the service as a young person. This has been developed and is available for young people to view. The CAMHS provision is being re-commissioned and the recommendations in the report are being used by the commissioning team to inform the future service specification and the young inspectors will be sharing their thoughts on a task set for the potential providers in the future.
- Developing the workforce. Child centered Practice workshops were developed and delivered to almost 50 children's social care staff during September and October 2021. These were split into two parts. The first to highlight the child being at the heart of all we do including the context, policy and legislation that frames the importance of the voice of the child in our work, part two focusses on practice development and sharing practice. Each workshop is interactive and gathers feedback from the participants. The feedback from the workshops was shared with senior managers and a practice resource hub has been developed with both online resources and tools and a library of resources to use in direct work gaining the views and lived experiences of children. Child centred practice workshops are set to be delivered 3-4 times per year to allow new and existing staff to access this as part of the workforce development more widely.
- Independent visitors. Buddies are the independent visitors for North East Lincolnshire, volunteers who are matched and regularly meet with children in care to provide them with a consistent and positive adult who is not paid to be there. The feedback below demonstrates the positive impact of the Buddies. In addition to the comments below, we have examples of how our Buddies have helped young people to shop on a budget, apply for jobs and prepare for interviews.

3) Impact of Governance Arrangements

Safeguarding Children Partnership Board

The Safeguarding Children Partnership Assurance Executive is the key decision making body and consists of the executive leads of the three statutory partners, the elected member, portfolio holder for safeguarding children, the SCP independent chair and SCP manager.

Its function is to coordinate and assure the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements. This is achieved through oversight of performance analysis, assurance activity, risk, challenge and the voice of the child in delivering the two outcomes. The published arrangements can be found through the link below or on the website. [Safer NEL](#)

A decision was made by the SCP as part of the review of the effectiveness of SCP arrangements in November 2021 that the professional scrutiny officer role within the police, CSC and the CCG should cease. The role was developed to support the delivery of the SCP Scrutiny and Assurance Framework, however the officers had insufficient capacity in addition to their substantive roles to effectively undertake the level of identified assurance activity. This has informed current plans to increase the resources and capacity of the SCP in respect of both quality assurance and workforce development and training.

The NEL SCP governance structure supports the delivery of the NEL SCP Strategic Delivery plan and two outcomes (See appendix 2).

Key Performance Data Analysis

The NEL SCP data set was developed to provide interagency data and performance analysis to enable the NEL SCP to understand how well its safeguarding arrangements are delivering and performing against its statutory functions and the two SCP outcomes. The data set was aligned to the two SCP outcomes and the Scrutiny and Assurance Framework and has provided the NEL SCP with baseline data needed over the last year. The PSOs provided a level of analysis of the data, but there was still insufficient data analysis capacity to fully analyse the findings into meaning for practice.

The data whilst across agencies had a particular focus on children's services which is important but data needs to better reflect the wider partners key safeguarding data. The review of capacity and the effectiveness of governance arrangements has identified that current arrangements for analysing the data into meaningful intelligence for the NEL SCP require strengthening in order to provide sufficient oversight and assurance on how effective the arrangements are working. This has informed the revision of the core data set, revision of governance arrangements and the move in late 2022 to priorities rather than the two previous outcomes. Key data analysis for the year includes,

- Children looked after numbers have increased by 3% during 2021-22 to 615 children looked after compared with 595 as at 31st March 2022. This increase is however at a much smaller rate than seen between 2018 and 2020.
- The number of children entering care has increased by 8% from 179 in 2020-2021 to 194 in 2021-22. The number of starts however remains at a lower level to 2019 and 2020.
- Less children are placed out of area in NEL than the England average (39% of our children in care are placed out of area compared to the latest England average of 43%). This is however an increasing trend and is linked to an increase in the use of independent fostering agencies due to numbers of CLA surpassing our in-house fostering capacity. 76% of our children are placed in foster care which is an increase of 2% on 2020-21. This is above the national average of 71%.

- There is a high level of demand in North East Lincolnshire which meets the threshold for statutory involvement. Both the rate of Referrals to children's services and the number of 'children in need' are almost two times higher than the national average (Referrals 935 per 10,000 in 2022 compared to England's 538 per 10,000; CIN 688 per 10,000 children at the end of March 2022 compared with 334 across England). This signifies an opportunity for more community based work to take place to reduce the reliance on statutory services.
- The number of cases re referred to children's services was higher than the national average but has reduced over 2021-22. Re-referrals were 28% compared to the England average of 22%. This indicates that an increasing number of children are having their needs met through the social work intervention and are not requiring further support.
- The number of children's assessments completed within 45 days has fallen to 76% from 86% in 2020-21 and is now below stat neighbor average of 81% and England average of 85%. Increasing demand through the front door seen since October 2021, has put increasing pressure on assessment teams and resulted in reducing assessment timeliness seen towards the last quarter of 2021-22.
- The number of children subject to child protection plans continued to decrease through 2021-22 with 233 CP as at 31st March 2022. This is equivalent to a rate of 68 per 10,000 which remains higher than the national average (42 per 10,000) but was more in line with stat neighbor rate of 63 per 10,000. This represents 34 fewer children subject to child protection procedures than the same time in the previous year.
- There has been an increase in the number of cases of children open to and supported by the Harmful Sexualized Behavior Panel. This indicates the process is embedded and understood by partner agencies which the local Harmful Sexualized Behavior training has supported". "The referrals to the AIM panel are consistent at around 60 per year, training is delivered bi monthly to ensure new starters have access within their induction period"
- The number of young people entering the criminal justice service for the first time remains low. Levels of risk attributed to safety and wellbeing and serious harm of young people as an offending cohort remain high however levels of risk relating to re offending remain lower due to less young people offending and re offending.
- The performance in timeliness of initial health assessments for children becoming looked after reduced further during the year. Receiving notification and the correct consent and paperwork from children's social care within timescales continued to be an ongoing challenge for the health team during and unfortunately the performance in this area deteriorated further. The issue continues to be highlighted through the CCG reporting structure and at the Safeguarding Children Partnership. It is also on the CCG risk register which is reviewed quarterly and on the risk register within NLaG. Corporate Parenting Board are fully cited.
- Numbers of children who are electively home educated continued to rise in the academic year 2021-22. An Inclusion Officer was recruited with the sole remit of quality assuring the education in place for these children, and where appropriate, support a return back to school, or enact legal proceedings. Coffee mornings have been held, with engagement from both parents and their children. Termly newsletters are sent to families advising of the local support available to them for careers, health and wellbeing, and wider activities in the area.

Analysis of Impact of Assurance Activity

Over the last year the SCP have reviewed all elements of well the SCP statutory functions were met. The review concluded that;

- The statutory functions were met in most areas.
- The level and quality of data and performance analysis provided to the SCP required strengthening.
- Key learning had been identified from line of sight reviews but had not been embedded into practice.
- The level of quality assurance activity was not sufficient and the SCP were not fully sighted on all operational issues.
- The two SCP outcomes were achieved in part but did not reflect what the priority areas of focus should be which were Neglect, Early Help and Familial sexual Harm.
- Whilst the SCP commissioned an element of independent scrutiny, this was not assessed as sufficient in terms of the level of oversight and independent challenge required.

The plan resulting from the findings from the review has informed SCP activity greatly during the year. The NEL SCP Scrutiny and Assurance Framework has been integral to the effective delivery of the NEL SCP Strategic Delivery Plan and the two outcome statements in assessing the effectiveness of the safeguarding system and evidencing improvements to practice and children's outcomes. The NEL SCP review of the effectiveness of the Scrutiny and Assurance framework found that it has provided a level of assurance to the NEL SCP on the effectiveness of local arrangements based on analysis of performance and the line-of-sight practice activity. The assurance activity initially identified did not fully reflect what performance and practice learning was highlighting.

The ending of the PSO role has had an impact on the level of assurance activity undertaken. In addition, a decision was also made to replace the Safeguarding and Improvement group (SAIG) with a Quality Assurance Group. The remit of the SAIG was assessed as being too broad and lacked sufficient focus on quality assurance and practice improvement. An audit calendar was developed as part of the Quality Assurance Group however work has primarily focussed on identified areas for practice improvement including strategy discussion guidance and the escalation guidance.

Assurance activity has continued through the Quality Assurance Group with particular areas of focus for the NEL SCP has been on;

- The creation of time limited SCP priority groups, including neglect, familial sexual harm and Early Help. Completion of baseline assessments in each of these areas are a clear plan for strategies.
- The annual education audit which was presented to the SCP in October 2022
- Redevelopment of the SCP core data set
- Completion of line-of-sight reviews leading to clear practice learning.
- Work in developing practice standards, aligned to learning from line of sight.
- Revision and redevelopment of the SCP procedures
- Review and revision of the inter-agency strategy guidance procedure and delivery of strategy guidance training as a direct result from learning from practice
- Review and revision of the local escalation policy
- Monitoring of performance has continued in respect of, on timeliness of initial health assessments, the steady decrease in children subject to CP plans, the increase in numbers of electively home educated children which has seen a rise locally and nationally and the increase in numbers of children looked after and corporate parenting board arrangements.

4) Work of the Safeguarding Children Partnership

Key highlights in relation to the work of the NEL SCP aligned to the strategic delivery plan and two NEL SCP outcomes which indicate our system is making a difference to children and families include:

Key Highlights and successes

Early Help

- The new formed Prevention and Early Help Strategic Board has made good progress and has recently produced a new strategy document. This was created using local data, community insights work and undertaking numerous workshops with partners and stakeholders. The global pandemic has impacted upon children and families in many different ways. The utilisation data and increase in demand were a key consideration when creating the Strategy and priorities.
- There has been focus on a newly formed Team around the Family working towards developing a refreshed and partnership wide 'Team around the Family' strategy. We know there is a need to support professionals in completing Early help assessments and plans to support families at the earliest opportunity, ensuring right support at the right time and reducing the need for statutory interventions and help to prevent problems from re-emerging. One of our longer-term aspirations is that more of our partners take on the lead professional role when working with families to allow our capacity to be used with those children and young people who most need it. All primary and secondary academies are now being supported by TAF link workers who can support the completion of assessments and plans. Alongside this the TAF team are in the process of developing a revised Early help assessment alongside our partners with the aim being for schools and external agencies to support families without the need for locality authority intervention.
- Within the newly formed Team around the family includes 2 Advanced practitioners who will be supporting wider training and development with partners particularly around the signs of safety model, family network meetings and safety planning.
- A focus on performance and demand has continued coupled with development of the Team around the family and increased expectation on partners. This is having marked reduction on the number contacts to the front door as well as the number being referred to Early help services. This change aligned with the transfer of Family support workers from children's social care to early help has created capacity to support all families at levels and removed any waiting lists for services. The changes have also reduced the number of transitions for children and families and increased consistency of workers involved. Any child stepping up or down within the system will retain the same worker until work is completed and the case is closed.

Key Highlights and successes

Contextual safeguarding

- Ensuring an effective multi-agency response to children and young people at risk of Child Exploitation has been a key focus for the local authority and for partner agencies. The response to Child Exploitation is led by the Adolescent Risk Strategy with governance via the Adolescent Risk strategic group.
- There is a clear process in place around exploitation which has been rolled out to partners. This covers those children who are low risk and in need of preventative work through to those children who are at our highest risk of exploitation. This requires a close partnership with the early help localities to ensure that required work around vulnerabilities is available and actioned, when required, with the aim of reducing the prevalence of the concerns. The process includes the discussion of children at a weekly vulnerability screening, OVM (Operational Vulnerability Meeting)

and MACE. MACE is co-chaired by strategic leads within Children's Social Care, Humberside Police and the CCG.

Annual data is now available from April 21/ March 22 which outlines some key success that we have had over this period- to summarise;

- In total 121 children have been discussed through OVM/MACE in this period. At the end of March 2022, 52 children remain open to this pathway for review and discussion. Total reduction in risks and closure for 69 children.
- When comparing data from 20/21 through to 21/22 only 10 children continue to be discussed (8%). Re referrals back into OVM is also very low. This demonstrates that whilst evident reductions in risk can take time for children who are entrenched within exploitation, the impact we have across the local authority is positive and sustainable in keeping children safe. Risk reductions as discussed above are based on the completion of the CEVT (child exploitation vulnerability tracker).
- The GRAFT team (dedicated team for high-risk child exploitation) have continued to demonstrate success with 45 children closing to the team this annual period. The GRAFT team have recently received the last of the funding from the Home Office, Trusted Relationships Fund, positively the local authority have decided to ensure sustainability for the team with the team becoming a permanent fixture.
- The local authority has continued to demonstrate success in relation to the Home Office Devolved Decision Making Pilot – Funding for this pilot has been agreed until March 2023.
- Partnership working continues to strengthen the identification of those children who are at risk of or are currently being exploited. Not only is this resulting in better identification of children at risk, but the significance of this is reflective in our day to day approach in safeguarding children in a more timely and partnership led manner.

Key Highlights and successes

Education and schools sub group and child protection coordinators forum

- The function and remit of the Child Protection Co-Ordinator's meeting has been reviewed over the last year, and a refreshed format enables key messages, as well as practice development to take place where themes are highlighted through referrals received, changes to legislation, and requests from designated leads. A 30 minute 'meet the professional' slot held every other half term is enabling education settings to start meeting and understanding the broad range of professionals across Early Help and Children's Social Care. Following these meetings, a 90-minute workshop is offered to CP Co-Ordinator's to expand on the information discussed in the meet the professionals meeting.
- 2021-212 saw the annual schools' safeguarding audit go out to settings in the spring term, rather than the usual autumn term, again due to disruption caused across personnel and schools from COVID 19. The audit included sections reflective of the current remote learning and COVID 19 requirements settings were expected to implement whilst closed. This work was initiated by the subgroup, with the results yet to be analysed however no settings reported that safeguarding standards were not met. Disappointingly, only 60/703 settings returned their audit findings. Those settings who did not return their audit were contacted, and feedback shared included that the SCP audit duplicated their own Trust audit, was overly burdensome, and repetitive. The sub-group have been task with the refining of the audit for 2022-23 as a response to this feedback.

- North East Lincolnshire initially saw a large increase in children becoming electively home educated, particularly rising over the Covid 19 period. In response to the rise in numbers, the Elective Home Education team appointed an Inclusion Officer with a direct remit to quality assure the education being delivered in the home.

Key Highlights and successes

Domestic Abuse

- The review of the NEL Domestic Abuse Strategy, which commenced in early 2020, was completed with the final Domestic Abuse Strategy 22-24 published in May 2021. This refreshed 3-year strategy aims to strengthen the current arrangements with a stronger emphasis on support for children and families. It is being embedded through a comprehensive Delivery Plan, overseen and monitored by the Domestic Abuse Delivery Group, which continues to co-ordinate an extensive range of partnership activity.
- Work on a NEL Safer Accommodation Strategy to incorporate the requirements of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 was completed, with the Strategy published in January 22. This Strategy, designed to be implemented in conjunction with the wider Domestic Abuse Strategy, was developed based on the findings of a local area needs assessment.
- A comprehensive domestic abuse local area needs assessment was undertaken in 21/22 to give a clearer picture of the status of domestic abuse in NEL by identifying prevalence, current good practice and also issues, concerns, and gaps in current service provision. This will be used to inform future commissioning activities.
- Preparatory work for the commissioning/re-commissioning of domestic abuse service provision, based on the key findings of the needs assessment began, and will continue throughout 22/23 with new services expected to be in place by late 2023. This will include the commissioning of specialist provision for children affected by domestic abuse, something not previously available on a universal level in NEL.
- Operation Encompass has remained in place across all schools throughout the borough both during the pandemic and beyond. A total of 1749 Operation Encompass notifications were made to schools in 21/22 which enabled appropriate support to be provided to children.
- Robust Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) arrangements have continued to ensure all necessary safety measures around high-risk victims and their families (children) were in place through a structured multi-agency process. A total of 803 cases were heard at MARAC in 21/22.
- The Healthy Relationships Campaign developed via Together for Childhood and in consultation with a range of children and young people. Elements included a script and live play written/performed by York University, development of the 'Give It to Get It' branding and assets, and the locally written and illustrate 'I Am Enough' book for younger cohorts. This culminated in a well-received child-facing event hosted by GTFC held in March 22. A professional facing event is being planned for late 2022 and there are longer terms plans for wider roll out of the play to all secondary schools in NEL.
- Funding was secured to procure training for staff within Early Help and wider Children's Services on how to work safely with perpetrators of domestic abuse where they remain with the victim/children. Once all training is a complete a 1-1 programme will be developed to work with a small number of families where the DA is at the lower end, focussing on early identification and preventing escalation of risk.

Key Highlights and successes

Prevent

- The NEL Prevent & Protect Strategy builds on our previous work of engaging with communities and local stakeholders as we acknowledge that cohesive and empowered communities are better equipped to reject extremist ideologies. As the threat from extremists evolves, we must also evolve and ensure our approach locally mitigates potential risks and continues to support those most vulnerable to radicalisation.
- Local Agencies remained engaged in the agenda with high levels of awareness and training in place to ensure those vulnerable to radicalisation are identified early and offered support where appropriate. Social media communication results also indicate that campaigns and communications are developing wider awareness with people who access online applications which in turn increases the likelihood of them understanding the warning signs and reporting concerns.

Key Highlights and successes

Modern Day Slavery

- The NEL SCP were a key partner in the development of the NEL Modern Slavery Partnership alongside the Safeguarding Adult Board and Community Safety Partnership. The North East Lincolnshire Modern Slavery Partnership has been established to prevent and disrupt modern slavery and human trafficking, and engage with communities, other agencies and local businesses to raise awareness. Activity has included:
 - Developed a wide range of online communications and campaigns.
 - Community Consultation undertaken.
 - Developed a Modern Slavery resources document.
 - Recruited and developed a network of over 50 Modern Slavery Champions.
 - Established a local National Referral Mechanism Panel (NRM) who can make conclusive grounds decisions in relation to children and young people
- It is evident that a wide range of activity has contributed to an increased awareness of Modern Slavery. Those victims identified can now be assured of an effective pathway of support into the NRM process. More people are aware of the signs of modern slavery and a greater number of practitioners are now trained to identify assess and refer potential victims.

5) Learning and Improvement

Key highlights in relation to learning and improvement activity which is a core element of the NEL SCP Scrutiny and Assurance Framework.

Training

In 2021/22, the Safeguarding Children Partnership training programme started to develop further following the significant effects of the Covid 19 pandemic. Delivery of our programme continued to be delivered virtually on Microsoft Teams due to the ongoing effects of the pandemic. Our suite of safeguarding e-learning training at an awareness level was an important part of our offer, allowing flexibility of delivery and a blended approach to learning. Please see all training activity below:

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Total Number of Training Events Held | 103 |
| Total Number of People Attending NEL SCP Safeguarding Training either Online via Teams or face to face | 1287 |
| Number of Safeguarding E–Learning Courses Completed | 808 |
| Total Trained from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 | 2095 |

Learning and Development remained on the NEL SCP Risk Register during this year and as part of the partnership review of safeguarding training and workforce development, an SCP Learning and Development Group and SCP Task and Finish Group was established. This was to provide a greater oversight of learning and development by the NEL SCP, to review and consider delivery of core safeguarding training, identify any gaps and to focus on how to resolve long standing resourcing issues, availability of trainers and insufficient business support. This work has also been informed by the results of the training audit conducted earlier in 2021.

Significant activity took place the year through the Learning and Development and Task and Finish Groups on how to properly resource the SCP training programme in terms of availability of trainers across the 3 main partner agencies in order to enable the offer to be sustainable. Good progress was made around ensuring our training was fit for purpose and in working towards our revised training offer for 22/23. Level 1 and 2 training was developed to ensure it was current and reflects learning from local and national safeguarding reviews.

Line of Sight to Practice

The annual Safeguarding in Education audit of Primary, Secondary Schools and Colleges 20/21 was commenced in the spring term and reported to the NEL SCP in the autumn 2022. The findings were positive and provided assurance of effective safeguarding processes. There was a slight dip in the number of returns due to some schools having their own audit processes, which will be explored within the next audit.

- A local Line of Sight process was developed and launched in November 2020, with the purpose of identifying specific safeguarding themes and potential practice issues and good practice. Cases were identified where there were specific themes and through referral by designated safeguarding agency leads where there were potential practice issues and interagency learning but where the serious harm criteria is not met. The process is now embedded and has identified areas that are working well including capturing the voice of the child and has identified areas for development and improvement as evidenced below. Action plans are developed for each case and a seven-minute briefing developed and shared with partner agencies in order to embed the wider learning and improve practice. Areas of identified practice improvement will inform the 2022/2 O23NEL SCP Strategic Delivery plan. Three cases were reviewed in 21/22, the learning has creating impacted the work of the Quality Assurance Group and the current redevelopment of the Neglect Strategy, early Help Strategy and development of a strategy for responding to sexual abuse within the home.

| Themes | Findings |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Mental Health/ Mental Capacity Act | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding consent to care/ treatment in respect of Gillick competence • Understanding of mechanisms for and application of imposing restrictions/ detention under the mental health/ mental capacity act |
| Childs voice/ lived experience | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples of parent’s voice being given more weight than the child’s • Good examples of the voice of the child being captured. • The child’s lived experience did not fully inform the child and family assessment |
| Escalation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inconsistent use of the escalation policy resulting in matters not being resolved |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Communication/ information sharing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of effective information sharing between agencies leading to leading to decision making based on self reporting. |
| Public law processes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drift and delay in the use of the public law process |
| Consent | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre birth pathway not referred due to lack of consent. • Lack of understanding of consent in the context of local thresholds |
| Areas of good practice | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective use of operation encompass. • National referral mechanism used based in assessed risk |

Rapid reviews/ Practice reviews

The process and procedure for undertaking rapid reviews and consideration of practice reviews following identification of cases meeting the serious harm criteria is embedded and effective.

There were three serious incident notifications to the NEL SCP Partners and to the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel during the year. Rapid Reviews were undertaken in respect of all three cases, in the first the NEL SCP felt that sufficient learning had been identified in order to inform practice. In the second case the NEL SCP recommended that a local practice review be undertaken to identify further learning. In the third case a recommendation was made that sufficient learning had been identified to inform practice. The National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel endorsed the decisions made by the NEL SCP. The practice review is complete and was published following the completion of parallel processes.

The Safeguarding Review Group is responsible for undertaking rapid reviews where the serious incident criteria is met and for overseeing practice reviews on behalf of the NEL SCP and for the implementation and embedding of learning. Learning from all reviews undertaken is shared within the multi-agency arena to develop and inform working practices and improve services to children, young people and their families who need support. Key learning has included:

- Keeping a focus on individual children within larger sibling groups in collating direct testimony about their lived experiences
- The importance of chronology and holistic assessments; no single assessment model is a substitute for thorough assessments that provide sophisticated analysis that takes account of the development needs of individual children, family and environmental factors.
- GP practices need to be involved in enquiries, assessments and shared information about children subject to CPC and CPP; the role of other health services such as dentistry as potentially important partners in identifying concerns about children.
- People working with children subject to CPP need access to effective systems of consultation that are linked to procedures for escalating concerns about children through internal systems and these are linked with local statutory partnership escalation pathways.
- The importance of having a clear strategy for responding to neglect that is owned and understood by all the respective organisations.

Child Death Review process

The local arrangements for the Child Death Review process are based on the geographical footprint for North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire local authority areas. This corresponds with that of North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Groups' (CCG) footprint. A review of the effectiveness of the current Child Death Overview Panel arrangements has taken place which has established it is meeting its remit. The Keyworker offers a robust system for capturing feedback from bereaved families as to how they felt the child death review process has been delivered. The NEL SCP received the 2020/21 CDOP Annual Report in September 2021.

Key Learning

Seven CDOP's were completed during the period of 1st April 2021 to the 31 March 2022. A total of 18 cases were discussed at the CDOP's, 7 were from North East Lincolnshire and 5 from North Lincolnshire and all cases were signed off. This includes 1 case where the child died during 2020-2021.

The top two categories of death for all deaths reviewed across Northern Lincolnshire between 2012/13 and 2021/22 were: 1. Perinatal/neonatal event and 2. chromosomal, genetic and congenital abnormalities. None of the North East Lincolnshire cases reviewed in the year 2021/22 had current safeguarding concerns. None of the North East Lincolnshire cases were assessed as having a Modifiable factor, however, four cases for North Lincolnshire identified a Modifiable factor as:

- Mothers' obesity during pregnancy
- Mother's current (or historic) smoking during pregnancy
- Extreme prematurity, and
- Not following safe sleeping advice provided by professionals.

Areas for development in 2022-2023 include:

- The Designated Doctor and the Chair of CDOP need to consider effective partnership working arrangements with the implementation of the new Integrated Care Systems (ICS) coming into service for the Humber, Coast and Vale. Shared learning and Themed review meetings across the region will need to be established.
- Local data demonstrates a link with Deprivation and child mortality and this echoes information from the recent NCMD report that finds a clear link between the risk of child death and the level of deprivation. (The Northern Lincolnshire CDOP will continue to monitor data and themes of all deaths and social deprivation locally.
- Improved communication with Tertiary centres to discuss how PMRT's and hospital reviews can be taken forward to ensure they are effective for the review process to be completed at the local CDOP.
- Due to the lugubrious nature of the CDR process, the CDR Operational group will examine how we ensure staff welfare and how best to provide every panel member the opportunity to debrief effectively.
- The CDR Operational group to continue to build on the role of the keyworker. To develop a comprehensive training package for every individual who undertakes this difficult role and ensure a robust support and debrief system is established.

6) How well we delivered against the NEL SCP outcomes/ priority areas

NEL SCP Outcomes

The NEL SCP undertook a full review of the NEL SCP statutory functions and requirements was undertaken which led to the development of the Scrutiny and Assurance Framework and identification of two outcomes in April 2020.

The NEL SCP two outcomes and focused outcome statements that it aimed to achieve during 2020/2021 are:

- **The safeguarding partnership is robust and effective**
 - We understand the needs of the population and act to deliver on unmet need.
 - Practitioners tell us they are confident in local processes and understand what is out there to support children and their families.
 - Agencies and individuals understand their respective roles, thresholds and collective responsibilities.
 - We learn when things go wrong and embed changes to improve practice across the system.
 - There is a high level of support and challenge in the multi-agency system.

- **Children are and feel safe.**
 - Children in NEL receive services that are designed to ensure timely, safe and effective care and support.
 - The Children's Safeguarding Partnership is apprised of significant events.
 - Children tell us they feel safe.

Analysis and impact

The SCP review over the last year concluded the two SCP outcomes and outcome measures were not fully met or embedded. A decision was made in late 2022 to move from the two SCP outcomes to Three priorities were identified through performance analysis and learning from local safeguarding reviews.

Achievements against the outcomes include and current SCP priorities include.

- Development of a revised SCP governance structure aligned to the three new SCP priorities.
- Appointment of an SCP independent chair who contributed greatly to the review of the SCP priorities.
- The establishment in late 2022 of time limited priority subgroups including neglect, familial sexual harm and early help. Quarterly SCP chairs meetings with the SCP chair in monitoring progress
- Effective partnership arrangements for responding to contextual safeguarding.
- Effective arrangements for responding to prevent, modern-day slavery.
- Section 11 audit activity evidences partner agencies have robust safeguarding arrangements in place.
- Effective processes for learning when things go wrong and in identifying required practice improvement.
- Strengthened arrangements for hearing the voice of the child, however, work identified in respect of assessing and the child's lived experience.
- Arrangements for learning from practice including where things go wrong are working well and have led to clear identification of learning and required practice improvement.
- There are robust governance arrangements in place that enable the NEL SCP to identify and respond to emerging risks and challenges.
- Revision of the SCP safeguarding procedures

Further work is required in fully embedding the outcomes which will inform the Strategic Delivery Plan for 2022/2023.

- Further strengthen the SCP Assurance Framework and Governance structure in ensuring it has sufficient resources to enable its effective delivery. This will include developing and embedding the Subgroups 6 P governance Plans.
- Signing of and embedding the revised SCP core data set aligned to the three SCP priorities.
- Identification of additional resources to support the activity of the SCP in meeting its functions.
- To further strengthen current arrangements for undertaking and evidencing the impact of practice improvement activity.
- Revision and embedding into practice of the neglect strategy and early help strategy and development of a local strategy in responding to sexual abuse within the home.
- Review of local arrangements to respond to risk outside of the home.
- Embedding the revised SCP safeguarding children procedures into practice across the partnership

Progress against identified areas for assurance and monitoring 21/22

The following areas were identified through performance, analysis and assurance activity as the key areas where assurance was required during 2019/20.

Domestic Abuse

The NEL SCP has continued to oversee the impact of the Domestic Abuse Strategy through the One System Domestic Abuse Group and the NEL SCP performance reporting.

- A total of 1749 Operation Encompass notifications were made to schools in 21/22 which enabled appropriate support to be provided to children.
- A comprehensive domestic abuse local area needs assessment was undertaken in 21/22 to give a clearer picture of the status of domestic abuse in NEL by identifying prevalence, current good practice and also issues, concerns, and gaps in current service provision.
- Preparatory work for the commissioning/re-commissioning of domestic abuse service provision, based on the key findings of the needs assessment began, and will continue throughout 22/23 with new services expected to be in place by late 2023.

Transition

- The multi-agency Preparing for Adulthood (PfA) Protocol was updated with stakeholders to provide an agreed robust local framework. Key performance indicators have been agreed and it has been endorsed in principle by the SEND Executive Board, which will also provide governance and link to the Place Board..
- A PfA Workshop was jointly delivered by children's and adults' services to raise awareness and launch the protocol in November 2021.
- A Communication Plan has been created and is underway to collectively raise awareness of PfA, roll out training and briefings with all stakeholders and ensure all involved are aware of it and can use it effectively to facilitate key expectations such as early notification, joint working, information sharing, signposting, support, and where necessary timely referrals to adults' services.
- Reference to the CC/SE Protocol has been incorporated to the PfA Protocol.
- The SEND and other key decision-making panels have been reviewed and membership updated to include representatives from adults' services.

Child Exploitation

Child exploitation has continued to be a key area of focus for the NEL SCP, the board receiving quarterly reports in respect of the Adolescent Risk Strategy development and effectiveness of the multi-agency child exploitation arrangements. The SCP are in the process of establishing a child exploitation group outside of the home.

7) Conclusion

The NEL SCP Partnership have made progress in a number of areas, have undertaken developments, have identified areas which work well and areas for practice improvement and identification of current gaps. All of which has been evidenced throughout this report and in the summary below and which has informed the recommendations which will form the 2022 /3S strategic Delivery Plan.

Achievements

- Appointed an SCP independent chair which has impacted on the level of scrutiny and challenge.
- Review of governance arrangements and functioning leading to development of strengthened SCP structure and governance arrangements.
- Establishment of priority area time limited groups aligned to the three SCP priorities.
- Effective partnership arrangements for responding to contextual safeguarding.
- Effective arrangements for responding to prevent, modern day slavery.
- Section 11 audit activity evidences partner agencies have robust safeguarding arrangements in place.
- Effective processes for learning when things go wrong and in identifying required practice improvement.
- Strengthened arrangements for hearing the voice of the child, however further work identified in respect of assessing and the child's lived experience.
- Arrangements for learning from practice including where things go wrong are working well and have led to clear identification of learning and required practice improvement.
- There are robust governance arrangements in place that enable the NEL SCP to identify and respond to emerging risks and challenges.
- Relationships are good and mutually supportive, including openness to challenge.

Areas for improvement/ monitoring

- The need to finalise and embed the revised NEL SCP core data set and performance reporting in ensuring all key data is captured and the NEL SCP Board are fully sighted on risks, challenges, opportunities and practice improvement.
- The need to further strengthen and embed scrutiny and assurance arrangements including performance analysis and audit activity.
- The need to further strengthen current arrangements for undertaking and evidencing the impact of practice improvement activity.
- Ensuring practitioners fully understand their roles and responsibilities in respect of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 statutory guidance.
- Overseeing the effectiveness of domestic abuse, child exploitation arrangements and the local preparation for adulthood protocol

Risks and Gaps

Agreed areas of risk are captured within the SCP risk register which is overseen by the strategic risk management group in ensuring controls and measures are in place.

- Additional resources are required to support the effective functioning of the SCP, a plan to achieve this is in place.
- A dedicated trainer is required to deliver the SCP safeguarding training program and support the development of training to meet identified gaps including sexual abuse and neglect.
- Need for key focus on the effectiveness of local arrangements in responding to and safeguarding children in respect of familial sexual abuse.
- Work has commenced in respect of the redevelopment of the neglect and the early help strategy and the development of the sexual abuse in the family home strategy. The SCP will have close oversight of plans to strengthen local practice in these areas and on the impact.

8) Priorities/ areas focus/ recommendations for 2022/23

| Recommendations | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Areas for Priority focus | |
| Governance | Embed the revised SCP Governance structure in meeting the three SCP priorities and key identified areas of focus |
| Early help | The need to develop, in collaboration and partnership, an overarching Early Help strategy for NEL that sets out clearly the roles and responsibilities of all system partners and stakeholders, in terms of identification, assessment and support for families at the earliest opportunity. <i>Strategic lead identified and Task and Finish Group established</i> |
| Neglect | Neglect continues to be the second highest stated issue and needs to be recognised and responded to at the earliest opportunity. A review of the effectiveness and impact of the local approach to neglect will be undertaken. <i>Strategic Lead identified to lead on this work, and a Task and Finish Group established</i> |
| Familial Sexual Abuse | Historically there have been low figures in respect of referrals and children subject to familial sexual harm. A review of the local response to familial sexual harm, including pathways, process and practice will be undertaken in order to identify any gaps and to strengthen current arrangements including work force development. <i>Strategic Lead is identified to lead on this work, and a Task and Finish Group established</i> |
| Areas for Assurance | |
| Domestic abuse | Reducing the harm for children who live in households where there is domestic abuse remains a priority area of focus for the NEL SCP due to its impact and potential to cause lasting harm for children and families across the community. The NEL SCP will continue to work with the Safeguarding Adult Board and Community Safety Partnership to oversee the impact of the Domestic Abuse Strategy and One System Domestic Abuse group in delivering this. |
| Child Exploitation | Tackling child exploitation and ensuring multi-agency arrangements are effective in recognising children and young people at risk will continue to be a key area of focus the NEL SCP. This will include reviewing and revising the Adolescent Risk Strategy and effectiveness of local arrangements. |
| Training | We will oversee the implementation and effectiveness of the NEL SCP safeguarding training aligned to the three SCP priorities in ensuring it equips practitioners with the necessary knowledge and skills to recognise and respond to risk and need. The plan is to have a dedicated trainer to deliver the SCP safeguarding training. |
| Working Together | As part of its work plan the NEL SCP will assess partnership agencies understanding and application of their roles and responsibilities and expectations of practice within Working Together 2018. This will include thresholds, strategy discussion, core groups, information sharing etc and will be informed by the learning from local line of sight and rapid reviews. |
| Transition | Oversee the embedding and impact of the revised local transition protocol in supporting and preparing young people for adulthood and independence. |

9) Appendices

Appendix 1: The Annual Income and Expenditure of the Board (Financial Year 2021/22)

CORE INCOME

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Made up of contributions from | |
| Humberside Police | £15,000 |
| Clinical Commissioning Group | £31,400 |
| NEL Council | £87,500 |
| CRC/Probation Service | £1,400 |
| NEL SCP Ear Marked Reserve Drawdown | £5,700 |
| DFE Grant | £40,000 |
| TOTAL INCOME | £ 181,000 |

STAFFING

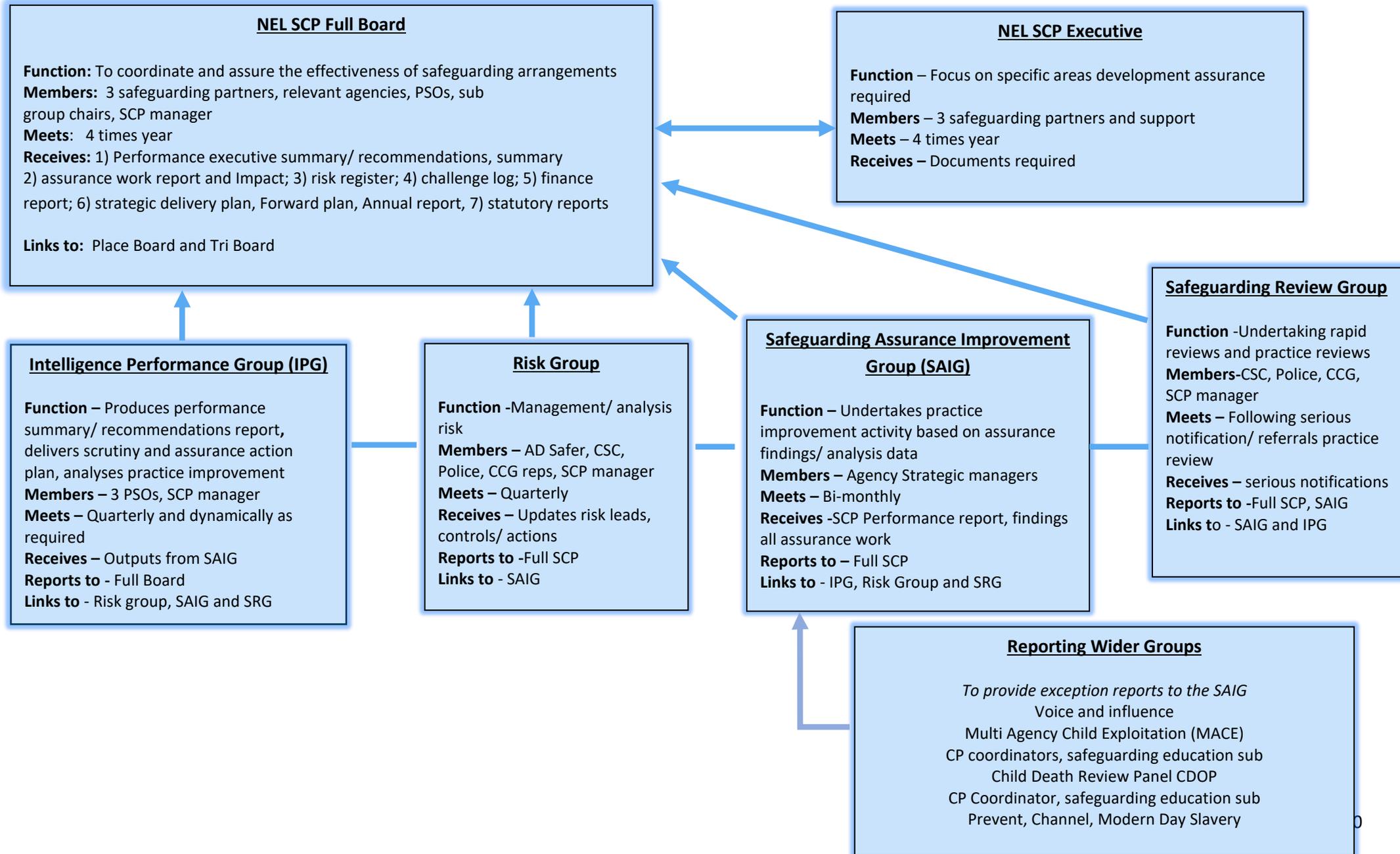
| | |
|---|--|
| NEL SCP Board Manager | |
| NEL SCP Administrator | |
| 50% Strategic Safeguarding Manager, Children's and Adults | |

TOTAL STAFFING **£99, 300**

OVERHEADS AND MANAGEMENT ON-COSTS:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Accommodation, IT, Running Costs | £30,700 |
| DFE Grant | £40,000 |
| Independent scrutiny | £7,400 |
| Other expenses | £2,100 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | £178,500 |

Appendix 2: Governance Structure





NHS
North East Lincolnshire
Clinical Commissioning Group



www.safernel.co.uk/nelsafeguarding-children-partnership