

Safeguarding *Children*

Partnership

NEWSLETTER



Safeguarding Children Partnership Board

06/01/2026

It was another fully packed agenda which reflected the level and pace of partnership activity since the last Board in October 2025. It was also an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the fantastic work by the partnership in delivering against the Safeguarding Children Partnership (SCP) priorities and core functions over the last year in improving outcomes for our children.

The SCP welcomed Jade Clarke as the SCP Business Support Specialist, a fantastic addition to the SCP Team.

Key areas for discussion and consideration are summarised below.

NELC SCP Performance Dashboard

The Board considered the latest dashboard which supports the SCP to understand the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements. The dashboard is greatly informing the work of the Safeguarding Practice Learning and Development Group and the Safeguarding Performance Practice Assurance Group and SCP priority delivery groups. An example of how data is informing practice is the number of children subject to a child protection plan for neglect has doubled in 2025/2026 compared to 2024/25 which is related to the roll out of SCP neglect training and the development and use of the neglect screening tool.

Lead and Designated Safeguarding Lead Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSPs) and Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSPs) took place on 10/11/26. The LSPs retrospectively signed off the 2023/24 SCP Annual Report and acknowledged the progress within the SCP Annual Report 2024/25. They felt the SCP priorities were right and were in full agreement to the Local Arrangements 2025/26 and for to the need to further develop child exploitation arrangements. The LSPs were updated on the SCP response to the recommendations from the Louise Casey National group-based audit on child sexual exploitation and abuse and on exploration of transitional safeguarding.

Voice and Engagement

Voice and engagement activities and impact is a standing agenda item at each meeting of the SCP. Children's Services advised of the development of core questions to ask children to help understand their experiences. There was an update on the NEL independent advocacy service for children which is now delivered as part of the Children's Assurance Partnership and Evaluation Service (having previously been provided by an external organisation). The Integrated Care Board provided an update on the feedback from over 400 children as part of the co-production strategy and the plan to prioritise the recommendations in taking forward voice and engagement.

Subgroup Progress

Subgroup chairs reported into the board, key highlights included:

- The Safeguarding Practice Thematic Strategic group continue to deliver the neglect, and child sexual abuse strategic delivery plans for 2025/26 and work is underway to develop refreshed ones for 2026/27
- The SCP agreed with the Early Help Strategic Groups' proposal to close down a number of completed actions within the 2024/26 Early Help strategic delivery plan and for a new delivery plan to be developed in April 2026 aligned to the local development of the Families First reforms
- The Child Exploitation Strategic Group are reviewing the child exploitation strategic delivery plan informed by the experiences of child exploitation of local children. The chair of the group has changed from Nicole Elliot to Jim Clough. A child exploitation toolkit is being developed along with child exploitation e-learning training
- The Safeguarding Performance Practice Assurance Group identified exceptions to be reported to the SCP Board based on the analysis of the quarterly SCP Dashboard Report. The group received agency assurance reports which provide assurance how agencies are contributing to the delivery of the SCP priorities, the impact of voice and influence arrangements and any operating issues
- The Safeguarding Practice Learning and Development Group presented a proposal to the SCP on holding a multi-agency session on cultural competency and anti-racist practice to inform practice in this area. The SCP signed off the Pretrial Therapeutic Support protocol which has been updated and relaunched on the SCP website. Pre-Trial-Therapeutic-Support-Protocol-December-2025-Final.docx

Scrutiny and Assurance

A number of reports were received which provide assurance to the SCP which include:

MARAC Review

Children's Public Health provided an assurance briefing on the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process in respect of domestic abuse. Operational Terrestrial has been launched by the Police in NEL, and the intended outcomes are to reduce the current high referrals, provide an improved service to victims of high-risk domestic abuse and ensure a consistent and multi-agency approach. The domestic abuse needs assessment and domestic abuse strategy are being reviewed and will be presented at a future SCP Board for information and assurance.

Child Sexual and Child Criminal Exploitation

Assurance was provided to the SCP Board on the local response to national reviews in respect of child exploitation. There will be an independent enquiry on child sexual exploitation into grooming gangs and failure to protect, chaired by Baroness Anne Longfield, which is in response to a key recommendation from Baroness Louise Casey's national audit on group-based child sexual exploitation and abuse. The SCP have implemented a local action plan in response to the national audit recommendations. The experiences of child exploitation of local children will inform the child exploitation strategic delivery plan.

Children with disabilities and complex health needs living out of area

The SCP received the third assurance report on arrangements for children with disabilities and complex health needs placed out of area based on the National Safeguarding Practice Review Panel report findings. Further assurance will be provided on the collective understanding of children with disabilities and complex health needs placed out of area children and joint working and visiting.



Childrens Public Health Nursing Review

Children's Public Health Nursing provided detail of the public health nursing strategy developed to ensure a sustainable model of delivery for the mandated Healthy Child programme and to further strengthen safeguarding practices. There is a long-term plan to achieve this and to address recruitment issues including grow your own.

Integrated Care Board Update

The Integrated Care Board (ICB) provided an update in respect of the ongoing changes as part of the ICB Blueprint which sets out the core functions and strategic role of ICBs. The final structure is being finalised, and the new model will be in place from 01/04/2026. The ICB will remain the lead for safeguarding.

Communication and Stakeholder Engagement

The following activity has taken place as part of the SCP communication and engagement arrangements

Child Sexual Exploitation Partnership Development Session

A partnership event was held on the 25 November 2026 to share the views and experiences of some local children who had experienced child exploitation, along with learning from national research in practice. The event was very thought provoking and led to a number of key actions that will inform the SCP child exploitation strategy and local arrangements in responding to child exploitation.

SCP Local Arrangements Event 15 January 2026

Over 80 people from across the whole partnership attended the event, which celebrated the level and pace of progress and impact made by the partnership in delivering the four SCP priorities, Early Help, Child Exploitation, Neglect and Child Sexual Abuse, through the Local Arrangements and outlined within the Annual Report. [NEL-SCP-Annual-Report-2024-to-25-Final.pdf](#). In particular:

- The embedding and consistent use of the Threshold Document leading to an increase in cases held at early help and increase in safeguarding referrals
- Learning from rapid reviews has informed practice through the dissemination of key learning across the partnership
- The SCP Governance structure is actively delivering the SCP priorities
- Independent scrutiny arrangements have provided assurance on the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements



Focus on hidden harm of children being sexually and criminally exploited

There was also a key focus on child exploitation from both a national and a local context and in particular the experiences of local children and how this is informing the SCP Child Exploitation Strategic Delivery Plan. Key messages included:

- Understanding the child's experiences and the signs and symptoms of sexual and criminal exploitation
- The need to avoid victim blaming language, which is any language that implies a child is responsible for the abuse they have experienced. Click on the YouTube logo to view a video



- What we need to do as agencies and as practitioners, including, following the SCP exploitation practice guidance, completion of the exploitation risk assessment tool and completion of SCP child exploitation training and [Child exploitation | NELC](#)
- The importance of agencies reporting any intelligence which may be an indicator a child is at risk of/ or being exploited. This enables the police to piece the intelligence together across the community. All intelligence must be shared with Humberside Police

SHARE INTELEGENCE WITH HUMBERSIDE POLICE BY CLICKING THE IMAGE BELOW OR ANNONYMOUSLY VIA CRIMESTOPPERS



Focus on the national children's reforms and Families First Partnership Programme

As part of the local arrangement event there was further partner engagement and an update on progress against the local development of the Families First Reforms and the three pillars, Family Help, Multi Agency Child Protection Teams and Family Group Decision Making.

Further communications will follow and further details will be provided on how all partners can contribute through the Reforms Working Group communications. Should you have any questions or wish to share your thoughts, please email childrensreforms@nelincs.gov.uk



SCP Training and Education Arrangements

The SCP training and education plan is aligned to the four SCP priorities and key areas of focus, in order to equip practitioners with awareness and understanding to further support and develop practice. Highlights of key learning and development opportunities include:

SCP Heads Up: Substance Use and Minimising Harm to Children and Young People:

Places are still available on this awareness raising training on 9 February and 25 March 2026. Learn more about different types of drugs, the local picture and how to minimise harm to a child or young person you are working with in a paid or voluntary capacity.

SCP Risk Analysis Framework:

New dates are now available! Learn how to use the Risk Analysis Framework in your work with children and young people to assess, analyse and manage risk to children and young people you are working with. Places are available on 16 February and 14 April 2026.

Online Learning:

We are pleased to advise that we will be launching our suite of online learning in February 2026, so please look out for further communications about this. This will include access to our SCP Introduction to Safeguarding Children training and several other courses.

SCP Strategy Discussions:

Suitable for managers and practitioners who attend or are likely to attend strategy discussions, you will learn about the purpose of a strategy discussion and your role within this. Places are available on our courses on 11 March and 2 July 2026.

SCP Harmful Sexual Behaviour Awareness:

Learn how to identify and respond to harmful sexual behaviour. New dates are now available! 3 March and 4 June 2026 dates are ready for bookings.

Coming Soon:

Introduction to Intra Familial Child Sexual Abuse training, and neglect training, will be available shortly, aligned to the NEL SCP Child Sexual Abuse Strategy and the neglect Strategy, dates and details will follow.

Navigating the Legal Landscape of Domestic Abuse, hosted by Ringrose Law
Thursday 5 March 2026: 10.00 am - 12.30 pm - please click [here](#):

<https://my.nelincs.gov.uk/s/event?id=a0dP300000Gw1vN>

Thursday 5 March 2026: 1.30 pm - 4.00 pm - please click [here](#):

<https://my.nelincs.gov.uk/s/event?id=a0dP300000Gvr83>

How can I find out more about this training and book my place?

Go the SCP website by clicking on the image to the right and scroll down to the SCP Education and Training Brochure. You will be able to find out more information about the training and book your place. Booking is via the Children and Families Learning Zone.

NELC staff: please book via the SCP Training Brochure on the intranet.



Education and Training

- **Partner agencies should** share the SCP newsletter and key messages across their services and work force in ensuring expectations and development in practice are understood and we are collectively contributing to the SCP priorities
- A further **Networking Event** will be held on the **March 2026**, 9.30 - 2pm at Immingham Civic Centre. The event will be in Immingham and will be jointly held between the SCP, Adult Services and the VCSE sector. The event will be another fantastic opportunity to network and to learn more about the remit and role of wider partner agencies. Please click on the image to see the details:



making it real

- **SCP Website (click on the image below):** Leaders, managers and practitioners across the partnership workforce should take the opportunity to access the SCP website which provides key resources including guidance, tools, learning from reviews and detail of education and training opportunities which all support multi agency practice North East Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership.



- **SCP Achievement Award**, please let us know where individuals, groups, or teams within your service or the wider partnership have stood out in terms practice which:

- Exceeds expectations
- Demonstrates creativity and innovation
- Improves outcomes for children and young people in North East Lincolnshire

Nominations can be made by completing our submission form:

https://lnkd.in/ed_Bw3j3

Successful nominations will be invited and formally recognised by the SCP Board.



We'd love to hear from you!

To help us improve how we support professionals across North East Lincolnshire, we're inviting you to share your thoughts on the SCP. Your feedback will help us strengthen communication, improve access to resources, and ensure our website and materials are helpful and relevant to your safeguarding work.

Contact us: If you have any queries around the SCP Board, or local arrangements, or if you have any ideas as to what you'd like to see in the newsletter, please contact: NEL.SCPEnquiries@nelincs.gov.uk