

1 Background

North East Lincolnshire's Safeguarding Children Partnership (SCP) holds Practice Learning Line of Sight events each year as part of our [Scrutiny and Assurance Framework](#). Each event focuses on a specific theme and considers a small number of children's cases across early help, child in need, child protection and children in care/leaving care.

Prior to the event, those involved or recently involved with the child/ren and their family are requested to complete a single agency case audit report, with completed reports shared with an Independent Scrutiny Officer (ISO), who will chair the event alongside panel members which consist of safeguarding partner representatives.

During the event, agencies attend to discuss their practice with the child/ren and family, and as a collective explore areas of good practice, learning and opportunities for improvement in multi-agency work and consider actions.

2 Why it Matters

This event enabled the ISO and panel members to explore how effectively agencies are working together in relation to **child sexual abuse** and to gain assurance that safeguarding responsibilities are being met. It also provided space to highlight good practice, identify learning, and consider where further improvement could strengthen the help, support and protection of children and families.

4 Key Learning

Several themes emerged across the three cases, highlighting opportunities to strengthen partnership practice.

- Professional curiosity and exploring the full family context are essential to ensure children are seen and treated as children
- Early and effective information sharing is critical, including from other local authority areas when children and families move into our area
- A strong understanding of sexual harm and the risk indicators is vital, with specialist guidance informing timely and effective risk assessment and analysis
- The consistent use of available safeguarding tools is important, including the Neglect Toolkit, sexual harm resources and escalation procedures, to strengthen assessment and planning
- Workforce stability plays a key role in reducing drift, with consistent social workers supporting timely progress for children

7 Further information

[NEL SCP Procedures and Guidance](#)
[Neglect including Toolkit](#)
[Child Sexual Abuse and Harmful Sexual Behaviour Resources](#)
[Professional Resolution and Escalation Procedure](#)
[Trauma-informed practice materials](#)

3 Good practice

Across the three children considered, the following was identified:

- Strong multi-agency working, with effective information sharing and key insights provided by Housing
- Child-centred practice, with children's voices actively sought and used to inform decisions
- Relational practice by practitioners with children and their parents was evident across all children considered
- Schools provided stability and continuity, responding promptly to disclosures through effective safeguarding, risk assessment and support for the child
- Effective use of specialist services, with high-quality, trauma-informed support received from The Blue Door and strengthened planning through collaborative working with services including Probation and Management of Sexual or Violent Offenders (MOSOVO)

5 Next Steps

After each event, an overview is presented at the Safeguarding Practice Learning and Development (SPLAD) Group meeting, with key themes being reported to the SCP Board. Actions are monitored until completion and signed off by the board.

6 Reflect on learning

To support your practice you can:

- Use supervision to reflect on how professional curiosity and challenge are applied in your day-to-day work with children and families
- Consider how the child's lived experience is evidenced in your assessments and decision-making
- Reflect on when specialist advice is necessary to inform and support risk assessment and analysis
- Revisit key SCP guidance and tools, and consider how confidently and consistently they are applied in your practice
- Look out for the forthcoming SCP Intra-Familial Child Sexual Abuse training