

Safeguarding Children Partnership

NEWSLETTER



Safeguarding Children Partnership Board 19/03/2026



Our most recent Board meeting highlighted the wide range of activity taking place across the partnership to deliver the SCP priorities and core functions, reflecting the ongoing commitment of agencies working together to improve outcomes for children and families. The meeting also provided an opportunity to pause and recognise the great work across the partnership, including the official launch of the SCP Achievement Award, celebrating exceptional practice and its positive impact on children and families. Board members were also provided with briefings on key publications, including **Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026** further information is shared within this newsletter.

NELC SCP Performance Dashboard

The Board reviewed the latest SCP performance data, providing ongoing insight into what is working well and where further attention is required. The data shows a positive reduction in referrals, strategy discussions and in numbers of children in need, children in our care and those subject to child protection alongside an increase in children assessed at risk of neglect and child sexual and criminal exploitation informed by awareness raising. Domestic Abuse continues to be a high area of demand, and there is an amplified focus on this with the pending refresh of the domestic abuse needs assessment. Further development of the dashboard is underway to strengthen analysis, align to the national and future reforms and support learning, assurance and priority delivery across the partnership.

Voice and Engagement

Voice and engagement and the impact remains a key focus across the partnership, with progress reported by Children's Services in improving language, increasing access to advocacy, and plans to develop resources with schools in relation to child exploitation. Young people's feedback continues to shape priorities, including communication, access to support, waiting times and challenging stereotypes. The ICB worked with children who identified they wanted to increase communication and available resources, a working group is taking the work forward

Subgroup Progress:

Subgroup chairs reported into the board, key highlights included:

Safeguarding Practice Thematic Strategic Group: Partnership analysis continues to strengthen understanding of neglect and child sexual abuse, with learning from practice and system data informing ongoing improvement and including the more consistent use of the Neglect Toolkit

Safeguarding Performance Practice Assurance Group (SPPAG): Strong and effective partnership oversight continues, with shared data helping to build understanding of workforce capacity pressures, vulnerabilities for children not in education, and the impact of parental drug and alcohol use, in informing practice

Child Exploitation Strategic Group: The partnership continues to strengthen its response to child exploitation, including sexual and criminal exploitation, with a revised strategic delivery plan and with a focus on improving intelligence submissions alongside positive practice through youth engagement initiatives and partnership-led training

Safeguarding Practice Learning and Development (SPLAD) Group : Learning activity continues to inform and strengthen safeguarding practice across the partnership, including of Enhanced Risk Analysis Meeting guidance which will be embedded into practice

Early Help Strategic Group : Preparations are underway for a new 2026/27 delivery plan aligned to national reforms, building on progress while responding to rising demand and increasing complexity of need

Scrutiny and Assurance

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

Electively Home Education

Assurance was provided to the SCP that local arrangements are identifying risk and maintaining appropriate safeguarding oversight, with lower growth than the national picture and a recent reduction in overall numbers. The update highlighted the positive impact of improved school practice and partner working, alongside further work to strengthen reporting, address health inequalities and support early engagement with families, aligned to national reforms and the Families First Partnership.

Children's Public Health Nursing Update

An update highlighted the refreshed Healthy Child Programme and the role of public health services in universal identification and early intervention of need, supporting children's developmental needs and giving all children the best start in life. It also reflected sustained recruitment challenges and workforce gaps, with work underway to strengthen sustainability and capacity.

Children with Disabilities and Complex Health Needs

Further assurance was provided on arrangements for children with disabilities and complex health needs placed out of area, with continued oversight through corporate parenting and work underway to strengthen joint health and children's services oversight.

SCP Subgroup Attendance Audit

An analysis of subgroup attendance by partners over 12 months showed generally strong and improving engagement, in delivering the SCP local arrangements, with actions underway to address membership and invite inconsistencies, strengthen deputy arrangements, and improve monitoring to support consistent representation and assurance.

Practice Learning Line of Sight Events

A thematic Practice Learning Line of Sight event focused on Child Sexual Abuse took place alongside two case-specific events. Seven-minute briefings from thematic events will be shared and published on the SCP website, while case-specific briefings will be shared with attendees only. Identified learning and actions will progress through SCP governance.

Integrated Care Board Update

The Integrated Care Board (ICB) provided reassurance that safeguarding leadership and oversight are being maintained as new arrangements are embedded, with updates due to be shared as appropriate.

Pitstop Audit

The SCP received an assurance update on Pitstop arrangements, noting increased multi-agency engagement and a growing focus on early intervention. The audit identified areas for improvement around consistency of early help input, joint decision-making, and strengthening assurance over outcomes and action completion to reduce repeat presentations. Actions are being taken to clarify roles, reinforce shared accountability across agencies, and improve preparation and information-sharing ahead of discussions.

Domestic Abuse Update

Progress was reported across MARAC arrangements, including completion of the Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment and strengthened oversight through Operation Terrestrial. Key priorities focus on improving coordination, capacity and partnership engagement to inform the developing domestic abuse strategy.

Training no show, cancellation audit and proposal

The audit was undertaken due to an increase in cancellation and no shows at SCP training. Assurance was provided on general attendance, with 1,500 participants engaged. The SCP agreed that the proposal will strengthen accountability, reduce non-attendance and provide clearer assurance on the impact of training on safeguarding practice.

Strategy Discussion Thematic

The thematic was undertaken due to an increase in strategy discussions. Progress was reported in effective and proportionate strategy discussions, with refreshed multi-agency training recognised as essential to strengthening confidence, consistency and the quality of decision-making across the partnership. Training can be accessed via the [SCP training and education programme](#).

Communication and Stakeholder Engagement

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

Launch of SCP Achievement Award

Across the partnership, there are many examples of exceptional safeguarding practice that make a real difference to children, young people and families. The SCP Achievement Award has been introduced to recognise and celebrate this outstanding work across the multi-agency partnership. Marking the launch of the award, successful nominations were formally recognised at the March SCP Board, with recipients presented with a specially designed celebratory badge, a certificate, and a personal letter of thanks from the three Delegated Safeguarding Partners: Humber and North Yorkshire ICB, Humberside Police, and North East Lincolnshire Council.

Congratulations to all the award winners from across the partnership:

Nirvana Ghandour, Caine Wild, David Cave, Jo Boswell, Elizabeth Wright, Natasha Dookun, Caroline Douse, Lisa Drake, Pat Campbell, Zoe Grindle, Katie Barraclough, Kal Alcock – Murtagh, Samantha Crompton, Kris Collins, Chloe Cooke, Natasha Redmile, Ellis Powell, Sophie Allen, Darren Gardiner, Tracey Weller, Hayley Whitney Smith, Bryony Lockyer, Kerry Lancaster, Sophie Follan, Vicky Hambling and Danielle Melhuish.

Nominations can be made via the SCP Achievement Award form: [North East Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Achievement Award](#)



'Making It Real' Networking Event

The 'Making It Real' Networking Event took place at Immingham Civic Centre, bringing together professionals from children's and adult services alongside the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector. The event provided a valuable space to share ideas, build relationships and highlight the importance and impact of collaboration across sectors.

A further event will be held later this year, please keep an eye out for future updates.



SCP Training and Education Arrangements

The SCP training and education plan aligns to the four SCP priorities and key areas of focus, supporting practitioners to build awareness, understanding and effective safeguarding practice.

Key learning and development opportunities include:

Online Learning

A range of online learning is now available, including SCP Introduction to Safeguarding Children and other safeguarding-related courses such as Working with Children with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities, Attachment Theory and Awareness of Trauma. Further details are available via the [SCP Training and Education Programme](#).

Early Help Assessments and Team Around the Family Workshop

This 2-hour workshop is aimed at the education sector, voluntary and community organisations, and independent providers. It covers the Team Around the Family process, completing Early Help Assessments, and using professional curiosity and risk analysis to support practice. The workshop also highlights the importance of identifying concerns at the earliest opportunity and following these processes effectively in practice.

Multi-Agency Perinatal and Infant Mental Health Awareness

Learn about perinatal and infant mental health, the underpinning policy and research, what this is and why it matters. Explore mental health conditions in the perinatal period; signs, symptoms and impact on the family, assessment, management of risk and child protection.

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.

How to book onto training

To book a place on SCP training or view the full range of available courses, please visit the [SCP Training and Education Programme](#). External organisations can book via the Children and Families Learning Zone. NELC staff are asked to book via the SCP Training Programme on the intranet.

LADO Workshop – Managing Allegations Against People Who Work With Children

Learn about the role of the Local Authority Designated Officer and the process for managing allegations against people who work with children and young people. Find out more about your role within the process, including when and how to make a referral.

Risk Analysis Framework

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.

SCP DASH and How to Assess Risk

This session explores how to use the Domestic Abuse Stalking and Harassment (DASH) form and the questions as part of a risk assessment and considers how to embed the use of this tool in practice.

Participants must have completed SCP Domestic Abuse Part 1 – *What is Domestic Abuse?* and SCP Domestic Abuse Part 2 – *Practitioner* before booking onto this training.



Key National and Local Publications and Policy Drivers

There have been a number of updates and key safeguarding children publications this quarter, which partner agencies are required to consider and share across their organisations.

National Reforms

Progress continues with co-designing and delivering the children's social care reforms, with work underway to strengthen early help, develop family-led approaches, and enhance multi-agency child protection arrangements, supported by workforce development and partnership engagement.

For further information or general enquiries about the reforms, please contact childrensreforms@nelincs.gov.uk.

Children's Social Care National Framework March 2026

The updated Children's Social Care National Framework sets out strengthened expectations for early help and family help as a joined-up offer, children's lived experiences, family networks and multi-agency working, aligned with Working Together 2026 to support improved outcomes for children and families. The full framework can be accessed via [Children's social care national framework](#)

Protecting all vulnerable babies better

The national review highlights the need for stronger pre-birth safeguarding, improved responses to non-engagement, better support following child removal, and closer multi-agency working. The SCP will undertake local benchmarking, develop an action plan, and provide ongoing oversight through governance arrangements. The full review can be found via [Protecting all vulnerable babies better – National review](#)

Growing Stronger Together

The Growing Stronger Together strategic framework, to be shared at an event and subsequently rolled out in April 2026, brings together key strategic approaches across the partnership. Reflecting system changes and more mature partnership working, the framework resets our collaborative approach to working together to achieve better outcomes for children, young people and families. As part of this, it is set within the context of 6P's, in that it clarifies our **promise** (our vision and ambition), our **principles**, our **priorities**, the **people** and **place** we serve, and the **proof** (how we know we are making a difference). The framework also rearticulates our 'unified approach' which is focussed on us being relational, strengths based, solution focussed, child first and trauma aware, underpinned by key place based initiatives and workstreams.

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026

The 2026 update strengthens safeguarding through Family Help as the core model, clearer leadership and accountability, stronger scrutiny, a focus on equality and extra-familial harm, and greater use of data and learning to improve outcomes. The full guidance and accompanying documents can be found via [Working together to safeguard children - GOV.UK](#)

Youth Violence 4P Plan

The Serious Youth Violence 4P Plan is North East Lincolnshire's local response to the national [Serious Violence Duty](#). It sets out a clear partnership approach to prevent harm, safeguard children and reduce risk through early intervention, targeted action and strengthened multi-agency working.

What next?

Learning from audits, events and updates will continue to inform practice and improvement through SCP governance. Partner agencies are encouraged to share the SCP newsletter and key messages across their services, including updated policies, guidance and training opportunities, to support shared understanding of expectations, learning, practice development and collective delivery of the SCP priorities.

Upcoming Events/Reminders

SCP Child Exploitation Conference

An upcoming SCP Child Exploitation Conference will take place on 10 June, bringing partners together to strengthen understanding of child exploitation, share learning, and support effective multi-agency responses. Electronic holds have been shared across the partnership and are encouraged to be cascaded where appropriate. Further details, including the agenda, will be shared in due course.

SCP Safeguarding Resources Questionnaire

The SCP is seeking agency responses to the multi-agency resources mapping questionnaire covering **Neglect**, **Child Sexual Abuse (CSA)**, and **Child Exploitation (CE)**, including **Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)** and **Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)**. Partners are encouraged to complete the questionnaire and share it more widely where relevant, to support a broad understanding of current safeguarding resources and practice across the partnership. The questionnaire can be accessed via [NEL Safeguarding Children Partnership \(SCP\) Multi-Agency Resources Mapping Questionnaire – Fill in form](#). The closing date for responses is **Friday 8 May 2026**.

Training attendance

Where attendance is no longer possible, attendees are asked to cancel training places at the earliest opportunity to reduce non-attendance and support equitable access to learning.

Contact us

If you have any queries about the SCP Board, local safeguarding arrangements, or ideas for future newsletter content, please contact nel.scpenquiries@nelincs.gov.uk

