

Safeguarding Children Partnership

Newsletter



Safeguarding Children Partnership Board 18/06/2026

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. Members received assurance on progress across safeguarding performance, voice and engagement, child-centred policing, safer schools, and local responses to exploitation, neglect and domestic abuse. The Board also took the opportunity to recognise the significant achievements across the partnership, reflecting the dedication, innovation and impact of professionals working together to safeguard and support children, young people and families.



Special tribute was shared to Nikki Alcock on her retirement, recognising her outstanding leadership, dedication and lasting impact on safeguarding practice and partnership learning across North East Lincolnshire. The Board also welcomed Phoebe Bond to the partnership, in her role as Child Exploitation and Development Co-ordinator, and looked forward to the positive contribution she will bring to child exploitation and safeguarding work across North East Lincolnshire.

NELC SCP Performance Dashboard

The Board reviewed the latest SCP performance data, providing insight into emerging trends and areas requiring continued focus. Positive progress was noted in reducing re-referrals and strengthening early help through Team Around the Family arrangements. The data also showed increased identification of neglect and child sexual and criminal exploitation, reflecting improved awareness and recognition of risk. While domestic abuse reduced during Quarter 4, it remains a significant feature in referrals. Ongoing workforce development continues to support practice improvement, with strong training engagement and the introduction of new SCP e-learning opportunities.

Voice and Engagement

Children and young people's feedback continues to shape partnership priorities and service development across North East Lincolnshire. Children's Services continue to strengthen opportunities for children and young people to influence their own plans, and services, through advocacy, creative conversations and the development of the NEL Youth Strategy. Feedback from young people on feeling safe is informing partnership action around community safety, crime and violence. Humberside Police reported progress in strengthening child-centred policing approaches and using children's experiences to inform service improvement, while the Integrated Care Board (ICB) continues to respond to priorities identified by young people, including developing resources relating to mental health, neurodiversity and eating disorders.

Subgroup Progress:

Subgroup chairs reported into the board, key highlights included:

Safeguarding Practice Thematic Strategic Group: Progress continues to strengthen the partnership response to neglect and child sexual abuse, with refreshed delivery plans in development, enhanced workforce development and learning from data and assurance activity improving awareness of signs and indicators, strengthening responses and supporting harm prevention

Safeguarding Performance Practice Assurance Group (SPPAG): Strong partnership oversight continues, with enhanced performance analysis, multi-agency challenge and audit activity strengthening understanding of neglect, exploitation and long-term child protection planning, helping to improve practice and outcomes for children

Child Exploitation Strategic Group: Partnership arrangements continue to strengthen the identification and management of child exploitation, with strong partner engagement and improved multi-agency oversight. Work is underway to enhance disruption activity and workforce development, supporting vulnerable children and addressing emerging risks

Safeguarding Practice Learning and Development (SPLAD) Group : Workforce development and practice learning continue to support safeguarding improvement across the partnership, with new e-learning resources and learning from audits and Line of Sight events informing service improvement and embedding learning into practice

Early Help Strategic Group : Partners continue to strengthen early help arrangements through the development of a new 2026/27 delivery plan, with a focus on wellbeing, hidden harm, harm outside the home and national reforms, supported by strong multi-agency collaboration

Scrutiny and Assurance

The Board received several updates and reports providing assurance on partnership activity, safeguarding practice and the effectiveness of local arrangements, including:

Safer Schools

An update was provided to the Board on Safer School Police Officers and their role in strengthening safeguarding, early intervention and partnership working within schools through building trusted relationships with children and young people. Key highlights included work to improve awareness of exploitation, online safety, school attendance and responses to vulnerability, while promoting professionals to follow child-centred, anti-discriminatory and trauma-informed practice. Free resources, including lesson plans, assemblies and educational materials, are available through the Pol-Ed programme to support schools in delivering key safeguarding messages. For more information, visit the **Pol-Ed** website via [Pol-Ed](#)

Drug and Alcohol Strategy 2026 - 2036

The Board received an update on the new **Northern Lincolnshire Drug and Alcohol Strategy 2026–2036**, which sets out a shared long-term vision to reduce harm, promote recovery and improve outcomes for children, families and communities. The strategy adopts a whole-system approach focused on prevention, early intervention, treatment and recovery, with a strong emphasis on supporting children affected by parental substance use, strengthening resilience and improving access to support. Next steps include establishing partnership action plans and working groups to drive delivery, embed the strategy into practice and monitor progress and impact across Northern Lincolnshire.

Practice Learning Line of Sight Event: Neglect

A thematic Practice Learning Line of Sight event explored multi-agency responses to child neglect across a range of children's cases. Positive practice included strong partnership working, trusted relationships with children and effective support to families. Learning identified opportunities to strengthen information sharing, professional curiosity, analytical practice and the consistent use of neglect tools, genograms and chronologies to support assessment and planning. Key learning will continue to inform workforce development and practice improvement across the partnership, with 7 minute briefings from Thematic events being published onto the SCP website <https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/scp/learning-from-practice/>

Integrated Care Board Update

The ICB provided reassurance that safeguarding leadership and oversight are being maintained as new arrangements are embedded. Key safeguarding functions, including Integrated Front Door provision, remain in place to support continued service delivery for children and families.

Police PEEL Inspection

An update was shared on progress against areas for improvement identified through the HMICFRS Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy (PEEL) inspection which was published in April 2026. Enhanced governance and oversight arrangements have been introduced, including daily monitoring of disclosure schemes and safeguarding activity, supported by senior leadership review. A review of Section 47 arrangements has been completed, with multi-agency learning exercises planned to support further development. While safeguarding performance remains strong in many areas, work continues to strengthen governance, compliance, recording practices and multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in response to the findings and new inspection framework expectations. Partners wishing to read the full inspection report can access it via the HMICFRS via [PEEL 2025-2027: An inspection of Humberside Police - His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue](#)

SCP Subgroup Observation

Safeguarding Lead Agency representatives undertook subgroup observations to provide assurance on the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements. Strengths included strong multi-agency engagement and oversight, while opportunities were identified to improve attendance, strengthen the voice of children and families, and enhance strategic challenge. Agreed actions will support greater consistency, accountability and partnership impact.

SCP Governance Reporting

An update was provided that the SCP Annual Report 2025/26 and Local Arrangements Plan have been completed and are currently undergoing final quality assurance checks. Once approved, the documents will be published and shared with partners, providing assurance on the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements and progress against partnership priorities. Independent Scrutiny findings were positive and highlighted clear evidence that actions arising from previous recommendations had been implemented and embedded within partnership arrangements.

Communication and Stakeholder Engagement

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

Child Exploitation Partnership Conference

On 10 June, Partners from across North East Lincolnshire came together for the Child Exploitation Partnership Conference to share learning, strengthen partnership working and improve responses to child exploitation.

The event opened with a welcome from Craig Nicholson, who set a clear focus on partnership, shared responsibility and safeguarding children and young people.

An insightful session from Dez Holmes, Director of Research in Practice, explored extra-familial harm and reinforced the value of a whole-system, contextual safeguarding approach.

Local speakers from across the Partnership shared learning on disruption activity, Safer Schools partnerships and the local child exploitation picture, helping to translate national guidance into local practice.

The event demonstrated the collective commitment of partners to working together to identify risks earlier, disrupt exploitation and improve outcomes for children and young people.

Key Resources

Partners may find the following guidance and tools useful:

Tackling Child Exploitation Practice Principles

- 👉 [Access the Practice Principles and resources hub](#)
- 👉 [Download the 2026 Practice Principles research summary \(PDF\)](#)

Home Office Child Exploitation Disruption Toolkit

- 👉 [View the GOV.UK guidance page](#)
- 👉 [Download the disruption toolkit \(PDF\)](#)

Children's Society – Disrupting Exploitation Guidance

- 👉 [Overview page](#)
- 👉 [Download "Disrupting Exploitation: Best Practice Guidance" \(PDF\)](#)

Safer Schools Partnerships

- 👉 [Get in touch with Humberside's Safer Schools Partnership here](#)



Looking Ahead

The conference celebrated progress while recognising there is more to do to strengthen the partnership response to child exploitation. Key priorities include improving the consistent use of disruption tools, strengthening intelligence sharing, embedding a whole-partnership approach to contextual safeguarding, and continuing to develop workforce confidence and skills.

Sharing Intelligence – Everyone Has a Role

Intelligence sharing plays a vital role in identifying risks, building a clearer picture of exploitation and supporting disruption activity. Partners are encouraged to use the [Humberside Police Community Partnership Intelligence Form \(CPIF\)](#) to share non-urgent concerns. Even small pieces of information can help safeguard children and disrupt exploitation.

With Thanks

Thank you to all attendees, speakers and partners who supported the event. Special thanks to Phoebe Bond, Child Exploitation and Development Co-ordinator, for delivering an insightful presentation just 10 days after joining the team and making such a positive contribution to the event.



SCP Training and Education Arrangements

The SCP Training and Education Programme aligns to the four SCP priorities and key areas of focus, supporting practitioners to develop their knowledge, skills and confidence in safeguarding practice.

Upcoming learning and development opportunities include:

[SCP Introduction to Safeguarding Children \(E-Learning\)](#)

This introductory e-learning course provides an overview of the signs and indicators of abuse, how to respond to safeguarding concerns, and the importance of multi-agency working. The course is a prerequisite for SCP Intermediate Safeguarding Children Training.

[SCP Intermediate Safeguarding Children Training \(Face to Face\)](#)

Designed for practitioners with safeguarding responsibilities, this course explores current safeguarding issues, multi-agency working, local priorities and professional accountability. It is particularly relevant for Designated Safeguarding Leads, Deputies and practitioners who regularly work with children, families and safeguarding processes. Refresher attendance is encouraged.

[SCP Introduction to Intrafamilial Child Sexual Abuse – Taking a Multi-Agency Approach](#)

This one-day introductory course is designed for those who work in collaboration with other agencies, to provide an overview of the key issues to support them in identifying and responding to cases of intra-familial child sexual abuse.

[SCP Understanding Child Sexual and Criminal Exploitation \(E-Learning\) – New course!](#)

Learn how to recognise the signs of child sexual and criminal exploitation, understand the risks to children, and strengthen your confidence in responding to concerns and preventing harm.

[SCP Child Exploitation Training \(Face to Face\)](#)

Gain a deeper understanding of child sexual and criminal exploitation and how to recognise when children and young people are being harmed. This course explores vulnerabilities, indicators of exploitation, grooming processes, County Lines, modern slavery and trafficking, alongside the safeguarding approaches, screening tools and assessments available to support effective intervention and protection.

[SCP Heads Up: Substance Use and Minimising Harm to Children and Young People](#)

Explore the approaches/attitudes to substance use, learn all about the different drug categories and trends in North East Lincolnshire and discuss how to manage a young person if they are under the influence.

[Bridging the Gap: Transitional Safeguarding and Exploitation](#)

📅 29 September | 🕒 9.30am–1.00pm | 💻 Online

Professionals across Yorkshire and Humber are invited to this free multi-agency learning event exploring how a Transitional Safeguarding approach can strengthen responses to exploitation. Young people affected by exploitation often continue to experience significant risks beyond their 18th birthday. Support, services and safeguarding responsibilities can change considerably during this period, creating challenges for young people, families and professionals alike. The session will examine the experiences of young people moving into adulthood, highlight emerging research and local practice, and consider how children's and adults' services can work more effectively together. For more information and to register for your free place please visit [YHMAST Conference](#), please scan the QR code.

[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.

[Coming Soon](#)

Neglect training will be available soon, aligned to the NEL SCP Child Sexual Abuse Strategy and the Neglect Strategy. Dates and details will follow.



What next?

Learning from audits, events and partnership activity will continue to inform improvement across North East Lincolnshire. Partners are encouraged to share the key messages, resources and learning from this newsletter to support safeguarding practice and delivery of the SCP priorities.

Key messages



CE Conference Materials and Feedback

If you were unable to attend, or would like to revisit the content for reflection or practice development, **conference slides are available on request**. You can also contact us to share feedback or suggestions for future partnership events.

To request the slides, please email the NEL Safeguarding Children Partnership: NEL.SCPEnquiries@nelincs.gov.uk



Date for the Diary: NEL SCP Local Arrangements Event

📅 07 December 2026 | 🕒 PM | 📍 Centre4

Save the date for the annual SCP Local Arrangements Event, bringing partners together to reflect on progress, learning and future priorities across the partnership. Further details will be shared soon.

Threshold Document Refresh

The SCP Threshold Document has been updated to align with the Families First Partnership Programme Guidance. Due to the requirement for the document to be refreshed by 30 June 2026, consultation was undertaken over a shortened virtual period. Partners are encouraged to review the updated document and share any comments or feedback, which will be considered as part of ongoing development. The revised document can be accessed via [Threshold Document 2024/28](#)



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

