



1 Background

North East Lincolnshire's Safeguarding Children Partnership (SCP) holds Practice Learning thematic 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 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 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 organisation 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 to 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 exploitation** 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

The discussion of the three children highlighted several themes for learning and reflection across partnership practice:

- Stronger contextual safeguarding approaches are needed to understand risks beyond the family home, including peer groups, adults of concern, locations and community influences
- Professional curiosity remains critical to identifying exploitation, understanding children's lived experiences and recognising emerging risks at the earliest opportunity
- Timely information sharing, intelligence gathering and multi-agency analysis are essential to effective safeguarding and disruption activity
- Trusted relationships with children and families are key to engagement, risk reduction and positive outcomes
- Education, emotional wellbeing, family networks and other protective factors should be consistently considered within assessment, planning direct work and reviewing

7 Further information

[The Principles of Contextual Safeguarding](#)
[Disrupting Exploitation Briefing by NWG and TCS](#)
[Capturing Intelligence | The Children's Society](#)
[#LookCloser: Building positive relationships](#)
[Multi-agency Practice Principles for responding to child exploitation and extra-familial harm](#)
[Behaviour management and school exclusions: Voice of the next generation report](#)
[SCP Child Exploitation](#)
[SCP Training and Education Programme](#) [SCP Procedures and Guidance](#)

3 Good practice

Across the three children considered, the following areas of good practice were identified:

- Co-ordinated multi-agency working supported effective safeguarding, information sharing and risk management
- Strong relationship-based practice helped build trusted relationships with children, young people and their families
- Child-centred approaches ensured children's voices, experiences and needs informed intervention and planning
- Positive engagement with families and wider support networks strengthened protective factors and safeguarding arrangements
- Effective oversight through Child Protection, Family Help and multi-agency meetings supported timely intervention and coordinated planning

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:

- Reflect on how effectively contextual safeguarding is considered, including peer groups, adults of concern, locations and wider community influences
- Consider how professional curiosity is applied to understand children's vulnerabilities, lived experiences, relationships and aspirations
- Review how information, intelligence and safeguarding concerns are recorded, analysed and shared across agencies
- Reflect on whether risk assessments and plans sufficiently capture risks occurring outside the family home
- Consider how education, emotional wellbeing, family networks and other protective factors are identified and strengthened within your practice