

Safeguarding Children Partnership

Newsletter



NEL Safeguarding Children Partnership Board 17 September 2026



Our latest SCP Board meeting highlighted the continued commitment of partners to working together to safeguard children and improve support for families across North East Lincolnshire. Discussions covered a wide range of partnership activity, including children's voice and engagement, safeguarding performance, domestic abuse, child exploitation, public health nursing, learning from child deaths and support for children in care and care leavers. Members also considered how local arrangements can be strengthened in response to national learning, including the Protecting All Vulnerable Babies Better Review and changes arising through national reforms.

Throughout the meeting, there was a strong focus on learning, improvement and effective partnership working. Members considered how agencies can continue to strengthen early intervention, workforce development, information sharing and collective responses to emerging safeguarding risks.

SCP Performance Dashboard Quarter 1 26-27

The latest SCP Performance Dashboard highlighted several areas for continued partnership focus. The Board considered the reduction in Early Help activity alongside increasing Child Protection activity, with further work planned to understand the wider support being provided to children and families across agencies. Members also discussed increasing sexual harm and the need to strengthen earlier identification and support. Domestic abuse continues to be the most frequent reason for referrals to the Integrated Front Door.

Voice and Engagement

Partnership work is increasingly focused on demonstrating how children and young people's views influence safeguarding activity and service development, rather than solely how their voices are gathered. Children's Services plans further work to understand the experiences of children and parents in relation to Child Exploitation. Humberside Police is reviewing its approach to youth engagement, including consideration of how more meaningful views can be gathered. The Integrated Care Board's "Nothing About Us, Without Us" Youth Board continues to provide a route for young people to identify priorities for promotion and prevention, with these priorities informing project discussions and the mental health transformation strategic plan.

Subgroup Progress

Subgroup chairs reported to the Board, with key highlights including:

Safeguarding Practice Thematic Strategic Group: Neglect and child sexual abuse remain priorities, with work focused on strengthening data, guidance, training and earlier, consistent responses.

Safeguarding Performance Practice Assurance Group (SPPAG): Ongoing scrutiny focuses on prolonged child protection planning, sexual abuse, domestic abuse, substance use and children not receiving full-time education.

Child Exploitation Strategic Group: The 2026/27 delivery plan is progressing, with a focus on intelligence sharing, emerging exploitation risks and strengthening partnership work with schools.

Safeguarding Practice Learning and Development (SPLAD) Group : Recent activity has focused on learning from Child Exploitation practice, training assurance and strengthening multi-agency, relationship-based practice informed by children's experiences.

Early Help Strategic Group : Work continues to strengthen partner-led early help, with increasing Team Around the Family activity. Current areas of focus include improving early help activity across agencies, strengthening support around domestic abuse and developing early intervention approaches

Scrutiny and Assurance

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

Integrated Care Board Update

The ICB continues to develop its new structure, with deputies and named GPs being appointed. The Board was asked to consider learning from the [Thirlwall Inquiry](#) and what this may mean for partner agencies.

Child Death Annual Report 2024/25

The Board considered learning from the Child Death Annual Report, highlighting the continued impact of deprivation, premature birth and wider health factors on children. Key learning included strengthening maternity and neonatal care, alongside support for children with life-limiting conditions and end-of-life care. Road safety and water safety also remain areas for consideration. The Board discussed the importance of embedding learning within services and strengthening assurance that improvements are being sustained, alongside plans to improve the timeliness of future reporting so that learning can be shared earlier.

Public Health Nursing: Assurance report

Assurance was received on the refreshed [Healthy Child Programme](#), including clearer processes and new staff joining the service. Health visitor caseloads remain high, and the importance of ensuring sufficient workforce capacity to support children and families was highlighted.

Learning from Care Leaver Deaths

The Board considered local and [national learning](#) relating to deaths of care leavers, highlighting themes including isolation, changes in support and multiple vulnerabilities. Local learning also identified domestic abuse, neglect and care instability. Further focus is needed on emotional wellbeing, transitional safeguarding and multi-agency oversight. Next steps include developing a care leaver death notification protocol, reflecting the existing notification process and [recommendations from the national review](#).

Early Years Safeguarding Audit: Findings

The audit highlighted positive practice alongside areas for further development. Next steps focus on maintaining clear safeguarding pathways for schools and early years settings, strengthening communication during national reforms, and continuing partnership engagement through Early Years Network meetings.

Domestic Abuse update including Operation Terrestrial

An update was provided on [domestic abuse](#) arrangements, including progress on the delivery plan and development of new support programmes. Operation Terrestrial has contributed to changes in MARAC arrangements, alongside a reduction in repeat cases. Further work is underway to strengthen MARAC participation, develop performance data and review support arrangements. Health has also commissioned trauma-informed support for parents and children through

Repeat Strategy Discussions: Deep Dive Findings

The deep dive considered whether repeat Section 47 strategy discussions could be managed differently. The Board agreed that current arrangements remain appropriate and in line with [Working Together to Safeguard Children \(2026\)](#), with no changes required at this stage.

Protecting All Vulnerable Babies Better

A local benchmarking exercise against the [national review](#) has been completed, identifying next steps to develop current arrangements. This includes reviewing and updating current procedures and considering re-establishing the Pre-Birth Panel to further strengthen multi-agency working, information sharing and oversight for babies and very young children.

Southport Inquiry

The [Southport Inquiry](#) examined the circumstances leading up to the July 2024 attack, identifying learning around multi-agency ownership of risk, information sharing and responses to concerning behaviour. The SCP will consider the findings and implications for local safeguarding arrangements.

Practice Learning Thematic Event: Child Exploitation

A thematic Practice Learning event explored multi-agency responses to child exploitation. Learning highlighted opportunities to strengthen understanding of children's lived experiences, assessment of risk and need, and effective multi-agency communication and working. The learning will inform ongoing practice and workforce development across the partnership. The associated [7-Minute Briefing](#) is available in the [Learning from Practice](#) section on the SCP website.

Communication and Stakeholder Engagement

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

Celebrating Partnership Practice

At the September SCP Board, the SCP Achievement Award was presented to **Claire McHugh, Sarah Harrison and Elene Karaolides** following a nomination by Joe White, Deputy Service Director for Inclusion. The award recognised their meaningful multi-agency partnership working, tenacity and relational practice.

The award provides an opportunity to recognise and celebrate professionals who demonstrate positive partnership working to support children, young people and families across North East Lincolnshire.



Do you know an individual or team whose safeguarding practice deserves recognition?

Consider putting them forward for a future SCP Achievement Award and help us celebrate the positive work taking place across our partnership. Nominations can be submitted via this link [North East Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Achievement Award](#) or by scanning the QR code.

Child Exploitation Housing event

Partners Unite to Tackle Child Exploitation

A fantastic multi-agency event held on 22 September 2026 brought together professionals from across accommodation, housing, property, voluntary, legal and statutory services to strengthen the local response to child exploitation. Delivered in partnership with Humberside Police, the session increased awareness of exploitation indicators, reporting pathways and intelligence sharing. Feedback was exceptionally positive, with every respondent reporting improved confidence and finding the event valuable to their role. The event demonstrated the power of partnership working and a collective commitment to keeping children and young people safe.



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.

Making it Real

The Making it Real event took place on Monday 14 September and brought together professionals and organisations from across North East Lincolnshire to network, share information and learn more about the support available locally. Presentations focused on domestic abuse and substance use support, alongside updates on local services and community provision. Organisations represented included Women's Aid, Blue Door, Modern Matriarchs, Recovery Partnership, Community Cohesion, Horizon Youth Zone, The Trin Centre, Centre4 Youth, Oasis Hub South and Citizens Advice NEL.

What attendees valued:

Speakers were fantastic

Networking with organisations I haven't heard of

The variety of speakers

Connecting with others

Agency Spotlight

With services and teams continuing to evolve, our **new** Agency Spotlight aims to raise awareness of the support available across North East Lincolnshire. If you would like your agency featuring in our next edition, please contact the SCP Team.

Inspiring Futures is North East Lincolnshire's dedicated service for young people who would like to make a positive change around their drug or alcohol use.

Our specialist team offer 1-1 support, targeted workshops in local schools and colleges and signposting to other local support services. We can answer any alcohol or drug-related questions and give factual and up-to-date harm reduction information to enable a better understanding of the risks and how to stay safe.

The service is free and confidential, and we will support young people wherever they feel most comfortable on an outreach basis. This could be at home, school or a community venue of their choice.

Substance Cards

The cards have been written by our expert teams and shaped by those with lived experience, meaning it's advice you can trust. Click [here](#) for a digital version.



To make a referral into Inspiring Futures please visit their website:

www.recoverypartnership.co.uk/inspiringfutures

Contact details to speak to a member of the team:

☎ 01472 806890

✉ nelincs.yp@recoverypartnership.co.uk

SCP Training and Education Arrangements

Our New Learning Platform, Academy NEL has now Launched!

Academy NEL replaces the previous Children and Families Learning Zone. It provides a simpler, more personalised way for partners, professionals and external learners to access learning, training courses and development opportunities.

You will now need to register for an Academy NEL account here: [Sign in - SPARK NELC](#) and use the Branch Code **EXT1026**

The registration process is quick and straightforward and will allow you to access learning relevant to your role and organisation. Take a look at the video guide and step by step instructions here: [Safeguarding children education and training | NELC](#) to support you with this.

What you'll find on Academy NEL

Academy NEL has been designed to make learning more accessible, engaging and relevant, bringing together learning opportunities in one easy to use platform.

You'll be able to:

-  Access tailored learning pathways relevant to your role and professional responsibilities
-  Complete e-learning modules at a time and place that suits you
-  Book workshops, webinars and classroom-based learning events
-  Enjoy a personalised learning experience without navigating large course catalogues
-  Track your learning progress and access certificates

Whether you're a partner organisation, commissioned provider, volunteer, foster carer, school professional or member of our wider learning community, Academy NEL has been designed around your learning needs.

Already booked onto training?

If you are currently booked onto a course, programme or event taking place from **Monday 12 October 2026 onwards**, you will need to:

- Register for an Academy NEL account as instructed above
- Log in to the new platform
- Re-book onto your training course/session to confirm your place. **Unconfirmed places cannot be held.**

This is required to ensure your booking is transferred correctly and remains active on our new system.

If you have any queries, please contact our team via academynel@nelincs.gov.uk

National resources

Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel

Visit the [Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel](#) website for its Learning Hub, learning from safeguarding reviews, information about the Panel, legislation and guidance, publications and FAQs.

Recently published resources include:

[Persistent themes in safeguarding reviews](#), bringing together national learning across ten recurring themes, including the child's lived experience, information sharing and triangulation, and naming and understanding harm.

NSPCC Learning

[NSPCC Learning](#) provides safeguarding and child protection guidance, resources, research to support your practice and help protect children from harm

THE CHILD SAFEGUARDING
PRACTICE REVIEW PANEL

NSPCC
Learning

Guidance updates

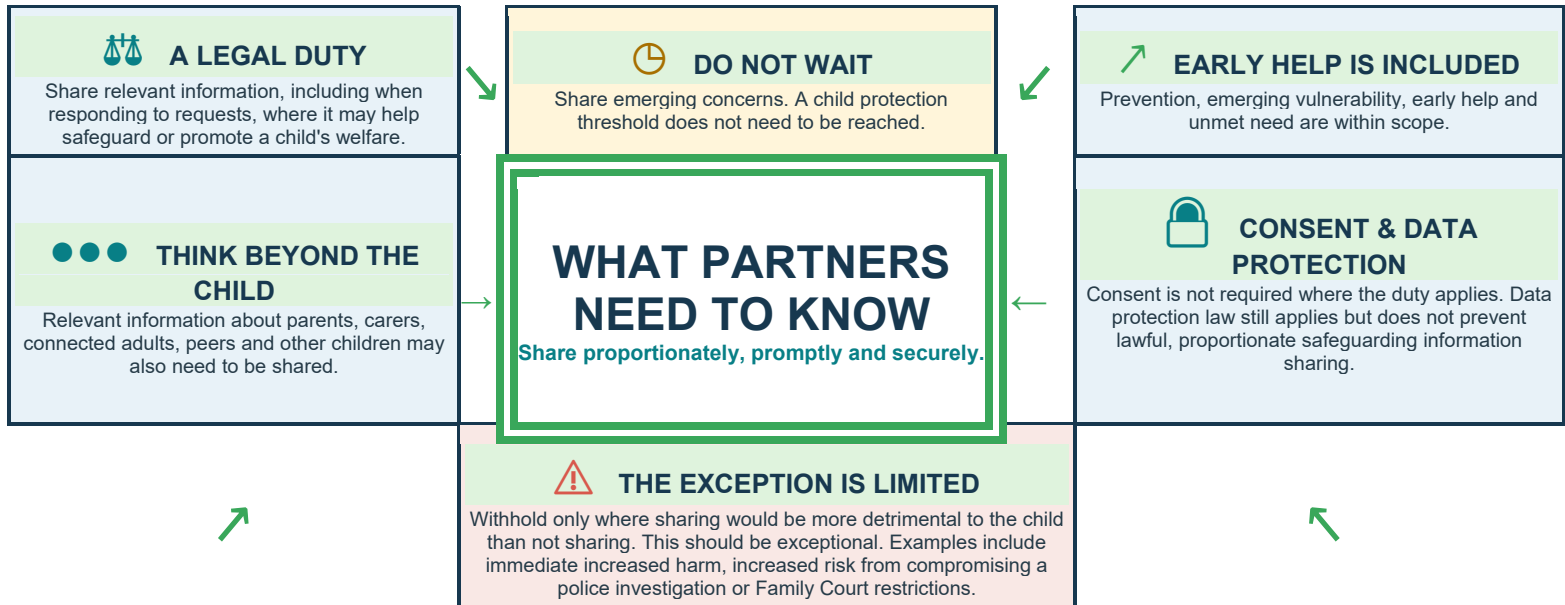
**NEW
LEGAL
DUTY**

INFORMATION SHARING DUTY

**SHARE
EARLY**

What safeguarding partners need to know | From 30 September 2026

Relevant information must be shared when it may help another organisation assess need or risk, make a decision, provide support or take action to safeguard or promote a child's welfare.



HOW DO I DECIDE WHETHER TO SHARE?

Use these three questions when considering information sharing:

<u>Is it relevant?</u>	<u>Could sharing help?</u>	<u>Could sharing cause greater harm?</u>
Does the information relate to safeguarding or promoting the child's welfare?	Could it help the recipient assess need or risk, make a decision, provide support or take action?	Would sharing be more detrimental to the child than not sharing, and could any potential impact be mitigated?

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR PARTNERS?

1 UNDERSTAND Do staff understand the new duty?	2 ACT Would practitioners feel confident sharing appropriately?	3 REVIEW Are policies, agreements, pathways and training up to date?	4 ASSURE How will organisations know the duty is being applied in practice?
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SHARE EARLY. RECORD YOUR RATIONALE. KEEP THE CHILD'S WELFARE AT THE CENTRE.

Date for the Diary

NEL SCP Local Arrangements Event

📅 07 December 2026 | ⌚ 1:00 – 4:30PM | 📍 Centre4

Join us for our annual SCP Local Arrangements Event to celebrate what we've achieved together, reflect on our progress and connect with colleagues from across the partnership as we look ahead to strengthening safeguarding arrangements in 2026/27.

Book your place: [NEL Safeguarding Children Partnership Local Arrangement Event 2026/27 Tickets.](#)

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

