

Welcome to the Solihull Safeguarding Children Partnership Newsletter. This newsletter will include information on a survey on multi-agency learning and training, learning for professionals and upcoming training dates.

## Introduction to our Independent Scrutineer

Hello, I am Beate Wagner, and I joined the SCCP as its independent scrutineer in April. I have now retired from full time employment, but my career spanned 37 years in children's services in a number of roles, starting as a social worker and then in management positions at various levels. Over the last 15 years or so I worked at senior level and closely with partners on the safeguarding agenda, largely in authorities on significant improvement journeys. My last post was in Wakefield as the Director of Children's Services, where I led the team which turned round an inadequate rated children's service to become rated good by Ofsted with outstanding leadership within just over 3 years.



I am delighted to be joining Solihull and hope that my experience and expertise will support the partnership in the rapid improvements to safeguarding children it is aspiring to. I have the privilege of being able to take an overview of all the partnership safeguarding activities and to challenge and support as critical friend and have found a great commitment to learning and development with senior leaders passionate to make a difference.

I have already had the opportunity to speak to some front-line staff directly and want to do more of this over the coming months, as well as finding more opportunities to connect the partnership with the voice of children and their families. Please feel free to invite me to come and have a discussion with your team by contacting the SSCP Support Hub at [sscp@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:sscp@solihull.gov.uk).

## SSCP Training and Learning Questionnaire 2023

The SSCP have developed a survey to assist in shaping the future development of multi-agency learning and training in Solihull. The Partnership would like to have as many responses as possible and would greatly appreciate professionals taking the time to complete this survey. We realise your time is valuable so have ensured the questionnaire is not complicated and should take no more than 7 minutes to complete. The survey can be accessed by clicking on the 'take survey' button on the right.

**TAKE SURVEY**



## SSCP Yearly Report 2022/23

This week, the Partnership have published their yearly report for 22/23. The report, which can be found [here](#), demonstrates the improvements we have made throughout 22/23 and recognises the challenges to come. We have also produced a summary of the yearly report which can be found [here](#).



Yearly Report  
April 2022 – March 2023

## Early Help Strategy Launch Event

The SSCP have worked on developing an Early Help Strategy which outlines Solihull's approach to effective early help that can offer children and young people the support needed, when they need it, to reach their full potential. We are holding a launch event on the 27<sup>th</sup> of November 2023 from 9:30 – 11:30 for practitioners to learn more about the strategy as well as hear learning from a recent Solihull CSPR. For more information and how to book please click [here](#).



### MULTI-AGENCY EARLY HELP STRATEGY LAUNCH

including learning from a recent Solihull CSPR

#### Aim:

To raise awareness of the new SSCP multi-agency early help strategy and learning from a recent child safeguarding practice review.

27th November 2023  
09:30-11:30  
MS Teams

## Learning from Multi-Agency Audits

Throughout Q1 23/24 the SSCP Audit Group completed an audit on the theme of Neglect. The audit identified some good practice as well as areas for multi-agency learning. A summary of the findings from this audit along with any other audit findings can be found on our 'Learning from Multi-Agency Audits' page on our website. You can access this [here](#). On this page you will also find any briefings or other resources we think may be helpful following the learning we have identified from our audits. Most recently, the Partnership have developed briefings on [Impact Chronologies or timelines of involvement](#) and [A guide to multi-agency meetings relating to safeguarding Children and Young People](#).

### Neglect

#### Background:

In June 2023, a deep dive audit was undertaken to look at the multi-agency response to 7 children for whom there were concerns of neglect. This included looking at 2 children who were in receipt of early help, 2 children who had Child in Need Plans and 3 children who had Child Protection Plans.

#### Good Practice

- For the most part, referrals were of a good quality
- Strategy meetings have been undertaken where necessary
- The voice of the child was captured for a number of the children we looked at
- Good multi-agency input in assessments
- All reviews took place within timescales
- Good multi-agency contribution to review the plan



#### SSCP Neglect Training

Module 6: Neglect: Impact on Child Development  
Module 6c: Neglect: The Graded Care Profile

#### The audit findings remind us to:

**Information sharing** – ensure information is shared at the earliest opportunity around neglect concerns, particularly with agencies who have regular contact with the child such as Education

**Chronologies (timeline of involvement)** – ensure timelines of involvement are routinely kept up to date. Any new information should always be included to help practitioners to identify patterns of risk, harm, and protective factors and how they have occurred over time. They also help plan next steps for assessment and intervention.

**Impact of neglect** – give more consideration to understanding the short- and long-term impact of all forms of neglect in relation to a child's needs for example, self-esteem and forming relationships. Understanding the impact of neglect on a child and family is imperative to ensure interventions are effective.



### A guide to Multi-Agency Meetings relating to Safeguarding Children and Young People



"Everyone who works with children has a responsibility for keeping them safe. No single practitioner can have a full picture of a child's needs and circumstances and, if children and families are to receive the right help at the right time, everyone who comes into contact with them has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information, and taking prompt action." – Working Together 2018

The purpose of the meeting	Preparing for the meeting	Participation at the meeting	Multi-Agency Plans	After the meeting
Share key knowledge and information regarding the child and/or their circumstances, environment (parent(s) or carer(s) / harm outside the home). Produce a plan to reduce the worries and concerns for the child/young person and family. Be transparent	Ensure relevant agencies are invited to attend. Clarify the voice of the child to ensure the meeting is focused around them. Be aware of the type of meeting you are attending – know what multi-agency procedures you are following. Familiarise yourself with information you/your agency hold on the child/young person, their parents/carers, and their circumstances	Listen to opinions, even if you don't agree with them – you have a right to challenge in a respectful way. Focus on outcomes. Be accountable and take responsibility for your role in safeguarding children and young people. Consider the information shared by others, not just from your own agency. A parent/ carer should not be hearing something about their child for the first time in a multi-agency meeting.	Draw up a clear plan of action with timescales and who is responsible, with SMART actions and contingency plans if change is not sustained. In the event that there is disagreement between agencies, consider how this might be resolved, possibly outside the meeting or using the <a href="#">Dispute Resolution Procedures</a> .	Take responsibility for chasing for a summary of the meeting or plan if this has not been received in a timely way. Ensure any actions for your agency are completed within the agreed timescales. It is everyone's responsibility to raise concerns if the plan is not working.

## Safeguarding Practice Learning Forum

On 26<sup>th</sup> September, the SSCP and SSAB held a Safeguarding Practice Learning Forum with a theme around poverty and financial abuse. The forum was attended by 33 professionals and included presentation from Trading Standards on scams, the Household Support Fund & Citizens Advice. The presentation can be found [here](#).

The next Safeguarding Practice Learning Forum is on Wednesday 24th January 2024 at Sans Souci from 2-4pm, more information will be available closer to the time.

## West Midlands Regional Procedures Updates

As a region, we are always aiming to ensure our procedures include the latest guidance and are useful to professionals. Procedures are updated at various points throughout the year and our procedures site has an amendments page to ensure you don't miss anything. The amendments page will also tell you whether a procedure has been reviewed in its entirety or if there are just a small number of updates. You can also sign up for updates on the website [here](#).

Please look out for our updated PPRC procedure which will be live soon as well as some amendments to our Forced Marriage procedure from the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act.

In addition to our shared regional procedures, we also have Solihull specific tools and pathways. You can find all of our local procedures by going to our [procedures website](#) and selecting Solihull.



## REGIONAL CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES FOR WEST MIDLANDS

### **Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review – Baby JS**

In September, the SSCP published a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR), known as JS. This is a sad case of the death of a 4-month-old baby and for those that attended the CSPR learning event in May, you will already be familiar with some of the details. The LCSPR report can be found via this link: [Learning from Local CSPRs - Solihull Safeguarding Children Partnership \(safeguardingsolihull.org.uk\)](#)

We have also produced a [learning briefing](#) for practitioners which looks at co-sleeping and the impact of alcohol consumption on parenting. The briefing also highlights the 'Who's in Charge?' campaign developed by Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership. There are a series of videos and posters available to promote this messaging. These resources are located at: <https://www.bhamcommunity.nhs.uk/whos-in-charge>





## **Joint Learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews, Safeguarding Adult Reviews and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews**

A series of quick guides have been produced on a range of topics identified from the reviews we have undertaken in Solihull. These quick guides identify case examples of these themes in practice, key messages, and best practice advice. Professionals and practitioners are encouraged to take time and read these to reflect and learn, or they may be useful to encourage group reflection & learning in a team meeting. These guides can be found [here](#). Most recently, the [quick guide on Coercive Control](#) has been updated to include the NSPCC insight briefing on [the impact of coercive control on children and young people](#).

COERCIVE CONTROL	COMPLEX NEEDS	CROSS BOUNDARY ISSUES
<div><div>1. What is 'Coercive Control'?</div><p>Coercive control is a term used to describe a pattern of behaviour that takes place over time. It covers a range of behaviours that a perpetrator uses to gain control and make their victim feel isolated, dependent and frightened.</p><p>Coercive control is a key factor in domestic abuse, child and adult safeguarding, exploitation and modern day slavery.</p></div> <div><div>2. Key Messages</div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Coercive control often starts through grooming. Perpetrators will target adults or children they consider vulnerable, usually offering support &amp; care, as a way to gain trust.</li><li>The types of coercive control being used will often have links to wider &amp; contemporary risk, often via a combination of tactics, taking advantage of any weaknesses or vulnerabilities in the victim, including social isolation.</li><li>Being subjected to coercive control reduces a person's ability to make decisions &amp; limits their independence &amp; can cause dependency, which makes it very hard for them to escape their situation.</li><li>Coercive &amp; controlling behaviour is the strongest indicator of risk. But it is often</li></ul></div>	<div><div>1. What is 'Complex Needs'?</div><p>Everyone is unique and shaped by their experiences.</p><p>People have a variety of needs and it's the interaction of these multiple needs that leads to complexity.</p></div> <div><div>2. Key Messages</div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>We can only understand and meet needs if we consider the cumulative impact of complex experiences, rather than focus on one need at a time.</li><li>Assess the needs of all those involved and consider the impact.</li><li>Dynamic and changing circumstances means that you need to be continually open to re-assessment.</li><li>Consider how the vulnerabilities and needs of those in the close network impact on the wellbeing of the person you are working with.</li><li>Acknowledge all the needs you</li></ul></div>	<div><div>1. What is Meant by 'Cross Boundary Issues'?</div><p>A border is a dividing line, marking the boundary of an area. Due to differences in administrative arrangements, organisations will have geographical and/or service boundaries. It is important for all those working together to be clear on their own boundaries, to ensure they are not crossed without agreement.</p><p>Many people don't think about the local boundaries they cross on a daily basis, but are aware when they cross the boundary of a country, as this often requires them to produce their passport to 'get in or out'.</p><p>Solihull is a Metropolitan Borough Council area of the West Midlands, situated in the middle of one of the regions larger city conurbations, Birmingham &amp; Coventry. It is also bordered by Staffordshire.</p></div> <div><div>2. Key Messages</div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>We must not allow organisational boundaries to get in the way of working with our partners. This may be because they are not from a different service, but because they have recently moved into the region.</li><li>When assessing a need across boundaries, it is essential to consider the boundaries of the services and the nature of their involvement and input.</li><li>All involved agencies should ensure that they are aware of and understand the boundaries of their own and their partners in other areas.</li><li>Cooperation should always be given to the service being accessed by the community &amp; groups in living it, for their safety and wellbeing, ensuring they are not being 'passed' to other services and services that are not directly involved in their safety and wellbeing.</li><li>Working across boundaries is not an objective, but a means to ensure that the best possible outcomes are achieved for the people we are working with.</li></ul></div>
Coercive Control	Complex Needs	Cross Boundary Issues



### **Trauma Informed Practice**

The West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership has launched the new Trauma Informed section of the website which includes access to FREE ONLINE WEBINARS. These webinars offer training in Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Trauma-Informed Practice. We urge all colleagues to take the time to complete the trauma informed practice online training. <https://westmidlands-vrp.org/modules/trauma-informed-practice/>.

### **Government Campaigns**

**End-to-end encryption** calls on Meta to reconsider plans on detecting child sexual abuse. There are two key campaign resources: the campaign films can be accessed [here](#) (short edit) and [here](#) (long edit) and the parent guide can be accessed [here](#).

**ENOUGH** aims to challenge perpetrators and raise awareness of what we can all do to safely call out abuse. Please find attached a partner pack which includes more information on the campaign, and materials which you can share on your channels.

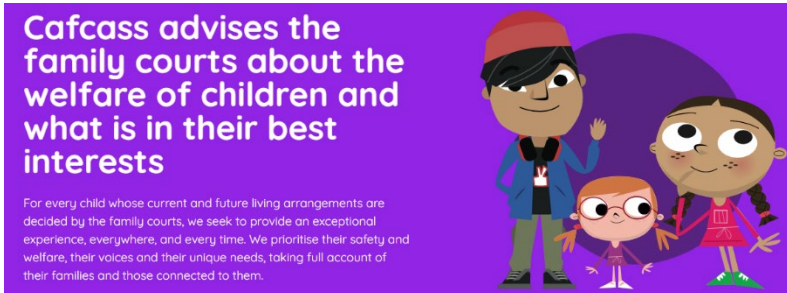
**Stop Abuse Together** aims to empower parents and carers to take steps to help keep the children in their life safe. All children have a right to be safe from sexual abuse, and we all have a role to play in keeping them safe. Let's #StopAbuseTogether

**Parentwise** is designed to build parents and carers' understanding of the range of harms their child could be exposed to.

## **Additional information, and external training**

### **CAFCASS New Website**

For every child whose current & future living arrangements are decided by the family court, Cafcass has the role of advising the family courts about the welfare of children and what is in their best interest. They have launched a [new website](#) this week which has been designed with the needs of children and families in mind.



### **After-school clubs, community activities and tuition: safeguarding guidance for providers**

The Department for Education (DfE) has updated its non-statutory guidance on keeping children safe in out-of-school settings in England. The guidance can be found [here](#).

### **Online Safety Bill**

The Online Safety Bill has been signed off by Parliament and will become law soon. The legislation will require technology companies to ensure their websites are safe for children and protect them from sexual abuse and harmful material. The UK Safer Internet Centre's Professionals Online Safety Helpline has introduced new guidance to aid educators and professionals working with young people. The guidance can be accessed [here](#).

### **Anti-Slavery Training**

To mark Anti-Slavery day this year, the West Midlands OPCC and VRP have put together a \*FREE\* anti-slavery awareness training schedule. Sessions will take place between 30<sup>th</sup> October and 3<sup>rd</sup> November. For more information and how to book, please click [here](#).



### **Panahghar Training Offer**

Panahghar are offering two training courses to Solihull professionals around Forced Marriage and Honour Based Abuse and Domestic Abuse in BAME Communities. For more information click [here](#).



**Panahghar**

## Solihull Safeguarding Children Partnership Training

### **REMINDER: MULTI-AGENCY SAFEGUARDING TRAINING FOR 2023-24**

Through September - December 2023 we will not have access to a ground floor space to deliver safeguarding training and the space we have is only available via stairs, there is no lift.

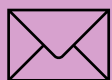
We will ensure that all of our courses are available on a termly basis and therefore request that if you have any difficulty climbing stairs that you book on multi-agency safeguarding training from January 2024 onwards.

The courses we are currently offering are detailed below however, we routinely add new course dates. You can register your interest or book onto a course on the Partnership training portal [here](#).

In Solihull we should take a Think Family Approach meaning practitioners and volunteers should consider the safeguarding needs of adults and children regardless of who they primarily work with. Solihull Safeguarding Adults Board also offer a range of training which can be found [here](#).

<u>Course</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Module 1 – Early Help (Virtual)	24/10/23 13:00 – 16:00
	05/12/23 13:00 – 16:00
Module 1b Early Help – Recognising and supporting parents in parental conflict (Face to face)	06/12/23 09:15 – 16:15
Module 3 – Child Protection: The challenges of multi-agency working (Face to face)	13/12/23 09:15 – 16:15
Module 5 - All Age Exploitation Awareness (Virtual)	16/11/23 09:30 – 12:30
Module 5.1 - An introduction to contextual safeguarding (Virtual)	21/11/23 09:30 – 12:30
Module 5.2 - Parents as partners in tackling child exploitation (CE): Working with and supporting parents affected by CE (Virtual)	19/10/23 09:30 – 12:30
	30/11/23 09:30 – 12:30
Module 6 - Neglect: Impact on child development (Face to face)	22/11/23 09:15 – 16:15

	07/12/22 09:15 - 16:15
Module 6(c) – Neglect: The Graded Care Profile 2 (Face to face)	12/12/23 09:15 – 16:15
Module 6 (d) - Substance misuse (Face to Face)	29/11/23 12:30 – 15:30
Module 6.4 - Understanding and Responding to Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse (Face to face)	28/11/23 09:15 – 16:15
Module 7 - Physical Abuse: Impact on child development (Face to face)	14/11/23 09:30 – 12:30
Module 8 – Emotional Abuse: Impact of child development (Face to face)	14/11/23 13:30 – 16:30
An introduction to safeguarding for voluntary & community sector organisations (Virtual)	24/10/23 13:00 – 16:00
	05/12/23 13:00 – 16:00
Missing- Welfare Return Interviews (Virtual)	19/10/23 13:30 – 15:30
	30/11/23 13:30 - 15:30



[sscp@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:sscp@solihull.gov.uk)



[safeguardingsolihull.org.uk](http://safeguardingsolihull.org.uk)



**Solihull**  
**Safeguarding**  
Children Partnership

**Listening, Learning and  
Improving Outcomes for  
Children and Young People**

RESPECTFUL CHALLENGE • ACCOUNTABILITY • LISTENING • LEARNING • INCLUSION