



SSCP Yearly Report 2022 - 2023

In Brief

Drivers for change in 2022 - 2023



The Partnership's Priorities for 2022-23

- 1 Neglect
- 2 Exploitation
- 3 Improvement

1

Neglect

What needed to change and why

The Partnership lacked a collective focus on neglect

Neglect was not being identified sufficiently in threshold decisions taken at the 'front door'

Information on neglect was held by individual agencies but wasn't gathered across agencies to form an overall picture

Not enough was understood about the negative and long-lasting effects of neglect by practitioners across services

What the SSCP did in response

Created a multi-agency Neglect Strategy and Pathway to co-ordinate the support available to families
[Neglect Strategy - Solihull Safeguarding Children Partnership \(safeguardingsolihull.org.uk\)](https://safeguardingsolihull.org.uk)

Revised the multi-agency thresholds guidance to take account of neglect in its' many forms
[Thresholds Guidance 25Nov22-003.pdf \(safeguardingsolihull.org.uk\)](https://safeguardingsolihull.org.uk)

Created a suite of key neglect indicators based on child and family assessment outcomes and child protection plans

Awareness has been raised in the multi-agency workforce by the provision of neglect-focused training modules: training.solihullscp.co.uk/Learning-and-Development.aspx

2

Exploitation

What needed to change and why

Multi-Agency workshops identified a weakness associated with the interval between triage meetings

When children who were regularly reported missing reached the age of 18, their cases would no longer be considered by the multi-agency triage group

Awareness of the Exploitation Reduction Strategy needed to be increased across the partnerships

The quality of data on exploitation was limited

What the SSCP did in response

Established a daily triage process which to ensure that urgent actions are taken and ensure that MAACE meetings are more effective

Children's missing triage meetings now continue to consider those aged 18 - 25 where missing is an identified risk factor

Several webinars have been delivered focussing on the all-age, partnership approach to exploitation reduction. Sharing experiences, perspectives of different professionals and engaging in training together aims to build relationships between agencies and to ensure consistent information is being shared and delivered

[All Age Exploitation - Solihull Safeguarding Adult and Children \(safeguardingsolihull.org.uk\)](https://safeguardingsolihull.org.uk)

The Exploitation Reduction Board and Exploitation Reduction Delivery Group receive quarterly summaries of relevant data to inform planning, including equality-related data through analysis of the Vulnerability Tracker

3

Improvement

What needed to change and why

The Partnership lacked a Practitioner Forum to address the challenges of multi-agency work locally

Not all relevant agencies were represented sufficiently in the multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH)

Performance data did not enable the SSCP to identify areas of practice for further attention

Arrangements for the dissemination of learning from significant incidents and practice reviews across the partnership were not clear

The capacity of the SSCP's Business Unit to support the partnership in its core statutory business was in doubt

What the SSCP did in response

The Practitioner Forum was reformed in September 2022 under refreshed terms of reference [Safeguarding Practice Learning Forum - Solihull Safeguarding Adult and Children \(safeguardingsolihull.org.uk\)](https://safeguardingsolihull.org.uk)

Staffing levels were increased, and specialist posts created to support the MASH function effectively

A dataset of performance measures across several agencies is collated on a quarterly basis and informs the work of the Assurance & Review subgroup

Formalised the dissemination arrangements by updating the Learning & Improvement Framework [SSCP Learning and Improvement Framework](#)

The SSCP's Business Unit arrangements were reviewed by SMBC's Business Transformation Team and permanent posts recruited to.

3

Improvement - Governance

What needed to change and why

The Partnership governance arrangements required strengthening, with clear accountability for the partnership held at Chief Executive level.

The SSCP Subgroup structure required a review to enable the SSCP to fulfil its statutory duties.

The Independent Scrutiny function needed to be filled by someone with the responsibility, authority and credibility to support, advise and challenge the Lead and Delegated Safeguarding Partners

What the Safeguarding Partners did in response

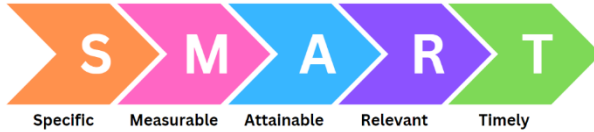
The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) have been reviewed and revised. The new document embeds clear lines of accountability and responsibility, and expectations at all levels of strategic management.

[Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements in Solihull \(safeguardingsolihull.org.uk\)](https://safeguardingsolihull.org.uk)

The SSCP subgroups and their terms of reference have been reviewed to ensure the right agencies are represented in the range of the SSCP activities.

The remit of the role of the Independent Scrutineer for the SSCP was revised to focus purely on scrutiny with no expectation to Chair meetings. The post has been appointed to by someone with a wealth of experience in challenging and successfully improving safeguarding systems.

WHAT DO WE WANT TO DO DIFFERENTLY FOR OUR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN SOLIHULL?



SMART Plans

Our plans need to be multi-agency and drawn up with the family and key professionals involved. Actions need to be clear on what work needs to be done, by whom and when this needs to be completed, as well as considering contingency planning.

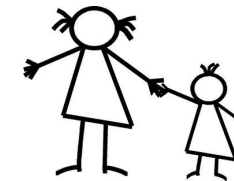


Individual differences and intersectionality

We need to consider a Child's individual differences (ethnicity, disability etc.) more when understanding their lived experiences.

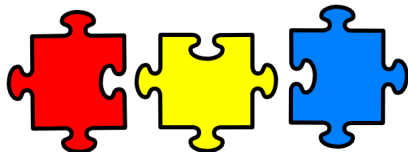
Consideration of siblings

We are not always considering all children living in the household and any children in contact with the family concerned where risk of harm or actual harm has been identified.



Strategy meetings

We need to ensure that the standard of strategy meetings is consistent across both those held in the MASH and outside of the MASH particularly in relation to the timeliness and the quality of recording.



Chronologies (timeline of involvement)

We have found that our timelines of involvement are not routinely kept up to date. Any new information should always be included.



Sharing of minutes, assessments, and plans

We are seeing consistently throughout our audits that minutes of meetings, assessments and plans are not being shared with all relevant agencies. This needs to improve going forward.

Assessments

Our multi-agency assessments could be improved by ensuring all relevant agencies are aware of the assessment and their information is used to inform the assessment. We also need to ensure that the outcomes of assessments are shared with all relevant agencies.

HOW ARE WE RESPONDING TO THE LEARNING FROM OUR MULTI-AGENCY AUDITS?



Learning briefings, guidance and signposting professionals

- We have produced a [learning briefing](#) from the Domestic Abuse audit signposting professionals to the [SSCP Step Up, Step Down Guidance](#) and [SMART and SMARTER Planning Guidance](#)
- We have developed a good practice guide around [strategy meetings](#)
- We are signposting professionals to [NSPCC resources](#) around considering a Child's individual differences and their intersectionality
- We have promoted the [Birmingham/Solihull Child Protection Medical Assessment Pathway](#) through our website and local procedures
- We are developing guidance around participation at multi-agency meetings
- We are developing multi-agency guidance around timelines of involvement
- We have included learning from our audits in the new [Multi-Agency Guidance for carrying out assessments](#)

Implementing changes

- Liquid logic will now be able to record the date the decision was made to hold a strategy meeting and when it was actually held to monitor timeliness
- Children's Services and Police are meeting regularly around the timeliness of strategy meetings which occur outside of the MASH
- Core forms are being launched in liquid logic which will aid in capturing invitations, attendance and reports at multi-agency meetings

Further assurance activity

- We have developed a Domestic Abuse Assurance Tool for the wider partnership in conjunction with SSAB & DAPB
- A further dip sample of strategy meetings is part of the 23/24 SSCP Audit Schedule to measure improvements

SSCP commitment to ongoing improvement:

2023-2024 will see further improvements in the work to support and protect children and families by the multi agency partnership:

- The identification of 'Neglect Champions' – subject leads in organisations to advocate for the neglect strategy
- More training to embed the use of the Graded Care Profile tool in frontline practice, to identify neglect earlier
- More engagement with the community and voluntary sector to enable them to provide earlier help and support to those vulnerable to exploitation
- Improved collation and analysis of multi-agency data to identify current and potential emerging areas of risk and supports partnership working and planning
- Improving how we hear the voice of children, young people and their families in the work of the partnership
- This work is captured in the Integrated Partnership Business Plan, which can be found on the SSCP website [SSCP Website: Integrated Partnership Business Plan \(July 2023\)](#) and will be actively monitored by the Lead and Delegated Safeguarding Partners

Further Information



- SSCP website for a wide range of useful information: [Home - Solihull Safeguarding Children Partnership \(safeguardingsolihull.org.uk\)](https://safeguardingsolihull.org.uk)
- SSCP newsletters – Sign up to our regular newsletter by clicking the link above and scrolling to the bottom of the page. Or our previous newsletters are available here: [Newsletters - Solihull Safeguarding Children Partnership \(safeguardingsolihull.org.uk\)](https://safeguardingsolihull.org.uk)
- Regional and Local Procedures can be found here: [Welcome | West Midlands Safeguarding Children Group \(procedures.org.uk\)](https://procedures.org.uk)
- Contact the SSCP Support Hub: sscp@solihull.gov.uk