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| **Solihull Safeguarding Children Partnership and Safeguarding Adults Board Safeguarding Learning Forum: Record of session held 25/01/2023, 14:00 until 16:00** | | | |
| **Trainer names and guest presenters.** | | **Representing** |  |
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| Kirti Mistry (KM) (Presenting) | | Solihull Safeguarding Adults Board. |  |
| Jordan Cassidy (Presenting) | | Housing Options and Homelessness Officer-Solihull Community Housing |  |
| Sadia Qasim (Presenting) | | Housing Options and Homelessness Officer Solihull Community Housing |  |
| Denise Lewis (DL) (Presenting) | | Training and Development Officer – Solihull Safeguarding Children Partnership |  |
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| **Item** | **Update** | | |
| **1. Welcome, introductions** | Denise Lewis (DL) introduced herself and welcomed everyone to the Learning forum. She asked if attendees could leave their contact details so that any notes from the forum can be emailed to them. Kirti Mistry (KL) introduced herself from the Solihull Safeguarding Adults Board. DL ran through the agenda and reminded the group she would like the forum to be an open discussion and reminded attendees that they can pass on any comments after the meeting through the SSCP training email and SSAB email. | | |
| **2. SSCP Updates** | * DL shared the partnership’s new branding, logo and values and explained the name of the partnership has now changed from the Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) to the Solihull Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP). * The new thresholds [‘right help, right time, right response’](https://www.safeguardingsolihull.org.uk/lscp/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2022/12/Thresholds_Guidance_25Nov22-003.pdf) document was launched in December. DL asked if practitioners could avoid printing the document as it works best online with the links to various documents. * In the coming weeks there will be links to the new guidance on what to do when parents are in prison which is to be signed off at the SSCP Executive Group Meeting on 31.1.23. The new assessment guidance will also be linked to the document on the SSCP website as soon as this has been signed off. * The SSCP have recently launched the new [Neglect Strategy](https://www.safeguardingsolihull.org.uk/lscp/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2022/12/Neglect_Strategy_Dec22.pdf) including [Neglect Toolkit](https://www.safeguardingsolihull.org.uk/lscp/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2022/12/6.-Neglect_Toolkit_update-DEC-2022.pdf). Within this, Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2) has been adopted by Solihull and has been communicated out to partners at the same time as the Neglect Strategy. The SSCP have asked for Neglect Champions from each partner organisation to take the lead on this as part of the new Neglect Strategy. DL played a short video on Graded Care Profile 2. * The SSCP are offering training on GCP2 but it is essential Module 6 (Neglect) is completed before attendees can be accepted onto the course. New dates for module 6 will be added to the SSCP Training programme shortly. * DL explained there is no [training](https://training.solihulllscp.co.uk/Learning-and-Development.aspx) currently advertised after March as a training needs analysis is currently being undertaken by the partnership. These dates will be added in the coming weeks. | | |
| **3. SAB Updates** | * KM gave an update on the Safeguarding Adults Boards (SAB) recent work and reminded people the quarterly newsletter will be published shortly. * KM briefly outlined the training offer from SAB and the types of training they offer, such as self-neglect, domestic abuse, and LGBT 101. The SAB are considering a new training offer for 23/24 and would be happy to hear feedback from practitioners on what is needed when working with Adults. * Shared resources are available on the SAB website for partners <https://www.safeguardingsolihull.org.uk/ssab/policies-procedures-resources/> and recently updated Safeguarding information leaflets are available for practitioners to take out to the people they support. * The updated Safeguarding Risk Screening tool is in draft form now. It gives a guide as to what meets a section 42 enquiry supporting decision making and provides guidance as to what good practice looks like. This guidance has recently been updated, it ensures practitioners keep the person at the centre of the process – the document is soon to be made available on the website and Kirti will share the link after the update via email and will also be available in the SSAB Newsletter. | | |
| **4. Domestic Abuse Updates** | * DL gave an update on the Domestic Abuse Bill. She shared the DA Board document which shows the structure of the governance, the processes of the subgroups and the challenges faced. * The number of cases going into MARAC has increased rapidly. The planned work moving forward is to put a plan in place to review things already happening such as Operation Encompass. * The DA Board are looking at a behaviour change programme. We know we need to improve practice on working with perpetrators of domestic abuse. DL touched on the work being done on the reduction of violence against women and girls which is part of regional work. * The boards are linked together with the Solihull Sexual Abuse board. Work is in progress to ask anyone who is involved in or helps people with these issues to provide information on the services they provide so that we can map the service currently provided in Solihull. * Local Self Assessments- There will soon be a self-assessment for domestic abuse sent to organisations, this is being prioritised as it is part of the response to the national review, it will be followed by the Section 11 & Care Act compliance self-assessments, all age exploitation self-assessment & later in the year a sexual abuse self-assessment * More information about both boards can be found on the SMBC website. [Domestic abuse strategy](https://eservices.solihull.gov.uk/mginternet/documents/s96952/2022%20Domestic_Abuse_Strategy_Solihull_final.pdf) [sexual abuse and assault](https://www.solihull.gov.uk/communities-and-safety/sexual-assault-and-abuse) | | |
| **5. Key Findings from all age exploitation audits** | DL ran through the key findings from the All-age exploitation audit.   * It was found that agencies need to take more responsibility for completing the screening tool prior to making a referral. It has come to light that there aren’t enough screening tools coming through with referrals for exploitation. DL asked for feedback from practitioners as to whether they have experienced any barriers to using the screening, she asked if they could pass on the comments to her. * Another key finding was that stereotypes were applied to individuals, and there was variable practice in considering individual differences and tailoring interventions accordingly. Many children and adults were coming through as having learning difficulties such as ADHD and Autism. DL shared specific examples of when the process had gone wrong, and opportunities had been missed for best practice when it comes to responding appropriately to individual needs based on their learning difficulties. * The audit found we are not recognising young Black men and women as victims of exploitation, and they are being seen as criminals or they are not being recognised as victims of rape. * The subject of care leavers during their transitional period from a child to an adult was discussed and that they are in an extremely vulnerable position at that point in their lives. An example was provided from an adult’s social worker that demonstrated this point and the importance of responding in a way suitable to their individual needs. * Very little evidence of timely early help or early intervention, was another key finding. The audit highlighted that Early Help is not happening and is not co-ordinated. * Some professionals are beginning to think about context, as opposed to focusing on what is just happening within families. However, further work needs to be done around contextual safeguarding. DL explained adolescent development and that young people will seek to be accepted by their peers. Lots of people do not think of the development stage that young people are seeking this in. We need to think about the whole context both within and external to the family including the online world. * There is a lack of trauma informed practice in Solihull. More understanding is needed in terms of young people living in trauma which has an affect on the way they respond to services day by day. This was also the case with parents and carers vicariously living through the trauma. We need to pick up on this and react accordingly. * West Midlands Police Force Intelligence Bureau (FIB) forms are only being submitted some of the time. It is essential that as the person who holds the intelligence, you need to be the one that submits the FIB form, you won’t necessarily know what happens to the information, but the evidence will help shape the picture of what’s happening. * DL advised there is a power point on the website that explains exactly how the form is used. It is important that more people use the FIB forms. * Although supervision is taking place for people, we cannot see that it was effective in promoting reflection on specific cases. It is essential for all case workers to have access to reflective supervision. * MAACE meetings need to be engaging children and parents. It is important to make sure the right people are there and arrange the meeting for a time when all necessary people are available if needed rather than going ahead with a meeting without parents/ young people – which would be less effective. We need to be mindful about advocates for people. Any children can use NYAS, adults can use family or an independent advocate such as SATA.   An update was given by the training lead for The Autism Trust in Solihull, part of Specialist Inclusion Support Service SISS. SISS offers training for everyone about autism and other learning needs and disabilities. Each term they run training for foster carers etc. and they can tailor the training to any group. Basic autism training given to many practitioners only covers the bare minimum. Their training is very good and teaches how autism affects children.  Groups were encouraged to discuss the findings  Feedback from groups   * Group 1 asked for clarification around FIB forms. They asked if a parent calls the professional who is the first person who receives the information are they the right person to complete the FIB form. DL answered yes, that is correct. Someone from this group mentioned when working with teams of people the cuckooing one-minute guide is very helpful. DL advised against the use of the word cuckooing; this is police terminology which can desensitise people to what is actually happening- the Solihull document is called ‘[Is your home being invaded](https://www.safeguardingsolihull.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Is-Your-Home-Being-Invaded-Exploitation.pdf)?’ this is the preferred terminology as it demonstrates the severity of the situation. There is also an [easy read](https://www.safeguardingsolihull.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Is-My-Home-Being-Invaded-Easy-to-Read.pdf) version which is available on the Solihull Safeguarding website; [exploitation resources.](https://www.safeguardingsolihull.org.uk/exploitation-communications/) * Group 2 raised the issue of the effort needed to gather the multi-agency response, and the need to identify a lead safeguarding practitioner, which no one wants to volunteer for, and asked if there are guidelines on who should be the lead professional. DL answered that usually the family decide who will be the lead practitioner and there are no set rules on who leads. There have been instances where other family members have been the lead. Children’s services are looking at the possibility of expanding the family group conferences offer, where the family take responsibility for developing and delivering a plan. * Group 3 spoke about the importance of serious case reviews and that a lack of multi-agency working and response has been identified many times, but it doesn’t seem to be getting better. They identified a specific concern about information sharing. DL confirmed that the national review had highlighted the need to not only share what you know, but also to proactively seek information from other organisations. Communication works best when it is a two- way channel of communication, where people can be clear about what is being shared, understood & the outcome needed from this exchange. * Group 4 wanted to raise the issue of the recent Ofsted report in Children’s Services and asked what the partnership is going to do as the services are on their knees from an education perspective. There is one safeguarding person doing about 5 roles in schools. This group said representatives had recently made a request for CIN minutes to be simplified during the meeting, so attendees can leave the meeting with the minutes and not wait months for them to come through. DL thanks the group for being solution focused and encouraged all to share any ideas to improve the way we work together. * Group 5 wanted to raise a serious issue around the theme of communication. When going to initial child protection conferences they are finding that an abundance of information is being shared with them for the first time at that meeting. There is a lot of information being held back unnecessarily; they have had contact with services prior to the conference, but information isn’t being shared until they get there. One Health Visitor reported she can be emailing a social worker with concerns about a child, and she is not getting any reply for several weeks. DL advised emailing is not the best form of communication, as emails can be left unopened if a social worker is away from the office or away from work. Health said they have tried calling, but are not given social workers direct numbers, and if they call the office they are advised the worker/ manager are not available and requests for call backs are not received, so they are then only left with the option to email. They said unfortunately that emails have also now become a way of evidencing the number of times they are trying to make contact to try and help a child. A Primary School DSL in the group reported they have the same issue, and other people in the room also agreed they were experiencing the same thing; some education staff shared that they had just become aware there is a CIN Team group email which has been useful to have as staff turnover has been high. * A Housing representative from Group 6 raised an issue regarding inconsistent communication from the front door of Children’s Services which they felt had changed in the last 6 months; prior to this they had been able to call to check if a family was known to children’s services, and now they are told this information cannot be shared. If they are told by a family, there is a social worker they are often uncontactable. The concerns for people in SCH Houses are escalated as soon as possible by Housing staff but isn’t responded to quickly enough which is their frustration. Housing staff did identify though, the exploitation screening tool needed more focus in their team meetings, they would like to make a lot better use of it. * It was noted the reflective supervision information is helpful, but in Schools it is not happening so often. DL advised there are a range of models of reflective supervision in the new [reflective supervision standards document](https://westmidlands.procedures.org.uk/assets/clients/6/Reflective%20supervision%20logo%20update%20Dec%2022.pdf). KM advised there can be peer supervision and reflection and it doesn’t always have to be with the line manager. * The Online Group asked if the partnership would be holding any Trauma informed practice training as this would be very interesting and beneficial. DL advised that currently there is [free training](https://westmidlands-vrp.org/modules/trauma-informed-practice/) from The Violence Reduction Board which can be accessed via the SSCP training section of the website. * DL advised she will take all the comments from the groups to the Partnership Learning and Development Group for further consideration for Childrens and KM will inform their boards Learning & Improvement subcommittee. * The learning from the exploitation audit has been included in a [briefing page](https://www.safeguardingsolihull.org.uk/lscp/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2022/12/Exploitation-audit-learning-briefing-3.pdf) that people can share in their work places | | |
| **6. Housing Update** | Jordan Crawford (JC) from Solihull Community Housing introduced herself and Sadia Qasim (SQ) from the Housing Options and Homelessness Team. JC explained that:   * Housing Options run a legal service and ran through the legalities they adhere to. * The focus of the service is to prevent homelessness, roughly 200 approaches are made to the service each month. * In January there has been a spike in domestic abuse and parental exclusion. * There is a high demand for temporary accommodation. There are around 40 families in hotels and there are more in self-contained units for singles. * SCH run the sanctuary scheme which aims to protect victims of domestic abuse so they can stay safety in their own homes where the perpetrator no longer resides. There is a DA Pathway to enable people to come into the service. There are measures for the protection of the customer. * There is a referral form on the SCH website for any practitioners who recognise that people are likely to become homeless. * If there is an immediate concern for someone who is immediately homeless, they can call directly. * JC explained they have specialist information and services for male victims of domestic abuse the best service to refer them to is Panahghar Safehouse.   Sadia Qasim explained her role as the MARAC lead for SCH. She explained the MARAC meeting days take place monthly. These meetings have recently increased to twice a month as the number of cases coming through have increased. The Sanctuary Scheme is also run in the same way by Birmingham.   * Health visitors raised an issue about the SCH temporary hotel accommodation placements all being outside of Solihull’s borders. The problem with this is children and families receiving health visitor checks have to be passed over to new health workers in the new area for just 6 weeks. Although there would usually only be one visit in 6 weeks, it could be a vital visit. * Health visitors asked if there is any way that under 5s can get priority of accommodation within Solihull to avoid them having to switch health visitors. If the children or parents have needs then they will need to have familiarity with the local service. * Other attendees also identified difficulties with people being housed temporarily out of the area- for example a child waiting for an EHC plan or who has been referred for specialist SEND provision, may well be then refused because at the time they are contacted they are housed out of the area. Adults receiving support from SIAS or mental health services may also be aske dto transfer, even when they are only temporarily house out of area. SCH said they work very hard to ensure this is for no longer than 6 weeks when there are children in the family; DL agreed to raise this to the L & D group & KM to adults equivalent.   DL asked if there is another service provider who would like to do a spotlight presentation on their service in the June meeting.   * Faith Harris from The Youth Justice Service offered to do a joint presentation with Police on Early Help at the next forum   which would include transitions.  A suggestion was made that a theme on teenagers and young adults safeguarding would be helpful including neuro-developmental risks with exploitation, the service Red Thread would be ideal to come and explain their work and look at that as a focus.     * There are findings from the Domestic Abuse multi-agency audit & there is currently an SSCP physical abuse audit being undertaken and a sexual abuse audit coming up soon. Findings from these could be discussed at future learning forum. * There will be quarterly learning updates coming through from the SSCP soon. | | |
|  | **Date of next meeting: 13th June 2023 2pm.** | | |