

Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2017-18



Foreword from Independent Chair, Keith Makin



Once again, I am delighted to introduce Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Board's (NSCB) Annual Report for 2017-18. This report provides the Board and partners with the opportunity to reflect on the work undertaken by NSCB, in what has been another busy and challenging year.

NSCB met on a quarterly basis in 2017, but with the pending changes to Working Together 2015 and cessation of the Executive Support Group, Board agreed to meet more regularly from January 2018 to discuss the future direction. Attendance at meetings by statutory partners has been good. Looking back over the last year, NSCB has achieved a great deal and details of achievements can be found in Chapter two.

- Improvements to the data collection process for Child Protection Conferences was achieved.
- NSCB embraced Signs of Safety overarching principles in report templates, using 'what's working well', 'what's not working so well', and 'what improvements need to be made'.
- Following notification in March 2018, NSCB supported the Independent Inquiry Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) Investigation - The Sexual Abuse of Children in Custodial Institutions
- Regular multi-agency case audits (MACA) have continued and the learning shared across the partnership.
- Frequent discussion with partners regarding planning for the forthcoming cessation of Local Safeguarding Children Boards and new Safeguarding Partnership arrangements.

Future Board priorities for 2018-19

- Planning for the new Safeguarding Partnership Arrangements;
- The impact of gangs on young people in the county;
- MASH transformation;
- Elective Home Education;
- The continuing increase in Looked after Children;
- Raising further awareness of private fostering arrangements;
- Seeking reassurance from NCC that potential spending cuts will not have an adverse impact on safeguarding children & young people at risk of exploitation and harm.

As always, NSCB couldn't undertake or oversee the vital work being undertaken *without the help of* our partners, the Sub Group Chairs and group members, and of course the staff in the Integrated Business Office, who all help to safeguard the children in our county. I would like to thank them all for their support during the past year and for the generous role they provide in supporting the Board.

These are very challenging times and there is still much work to do to safeguard the most vulnerable in the county over the coming year.

Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Board

Contents

Page 2	Foreword from the Independent Chair
Page 3	Contents
Page 4 – 5	Chapter One – An Introduction to Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB)
Page 6	Chapter Two – NSCB Achievements
Page 7 – 19	Chapter Three – Safeguarding Children & Young People
Page 20 – 22	Chapter Four – Vulnerable Children
Page 23 – 25	Chapter Five – Clinical Commissioning Groups and Northamptonshire Police
Page 26	Chapter Six – Sub Group Overview
Page 27 – 28	Chapter Seven – Quality Assurance
Page 29 – 30	Chapter Eight – When a Child Dies in the County
Page 31 – 32	Chapter Nine – Learning and Development
Page 33 – 34	Chapter Ten – Serious Case Reviews
Page 35	Appendix One – Board Membership
Page 36	Appendix Two – Finance

Chapter One – Introduction

Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB)

Statutory and Legal Context

All Local Authorities are required to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) in accordance with Section 13 of the Children Act 2004. The Local Safeguarding Children Board's Regulations 2006 further sets out the functions of LSCBs. Further information in relation to the statutory functions of LSCB's can be found by visiting the following links:

- [Children Act 2004, Section 13](#)
- [Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations, Regulation 5](#)

Regulation 5 of the Local Safeguarding Children Board's Regulations 2006 sets out the functions of the LSCB, re relations to the above objectives under Section 14 of the Children Act 2004, as follows:

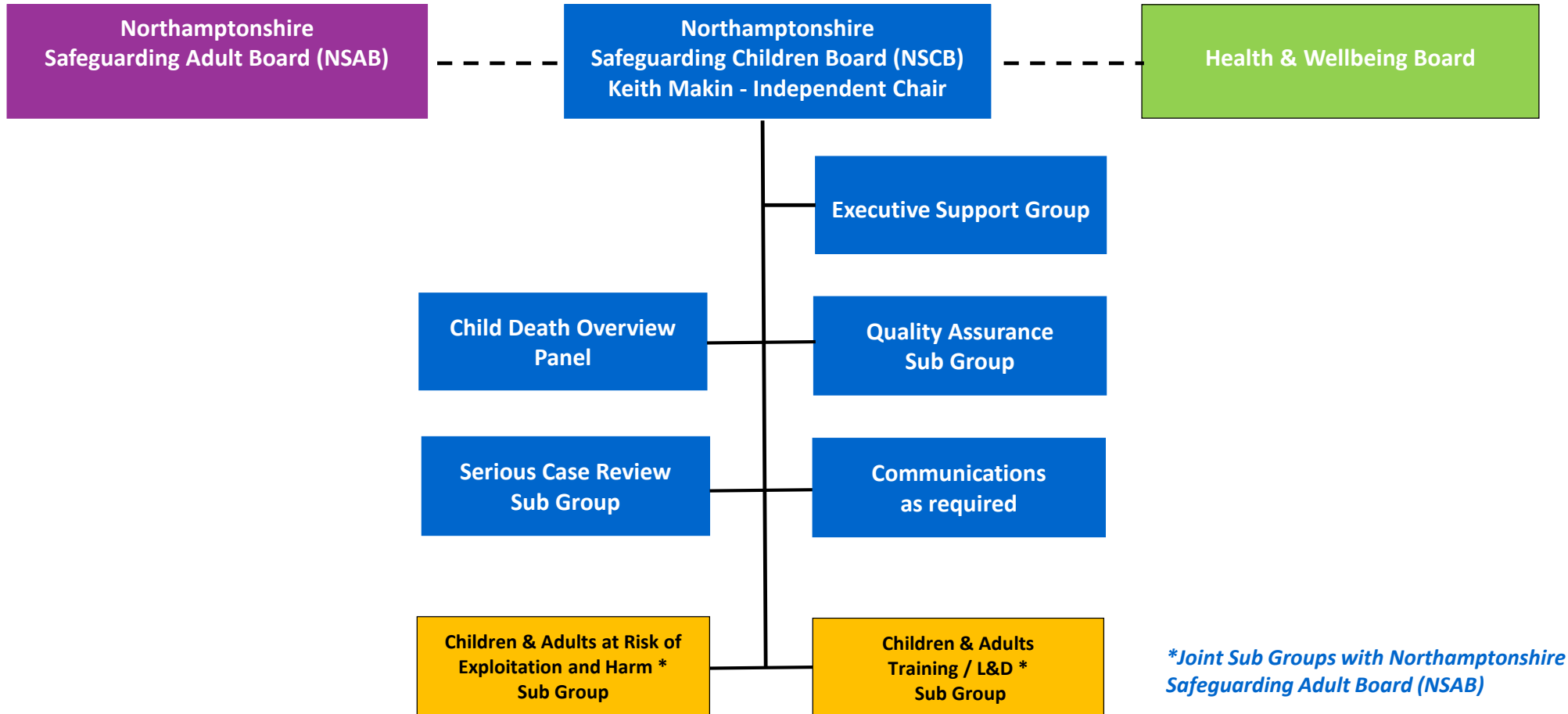
- Developing policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority, including policies and procedures in relations to:
 - The action to be taken where there are concerns about a child's safety or welfare, including thresholds for intervention;
 - Training of persons who work with children or in services affecting the safety and welfare of children;
 - Recruitment and supervision of persons who work with children;
 - Investigation of allegations concerning persons who work with children;
 - Safety and welfare of children who are privately fostered; and
 - Co-operation with neighbouring children's services authorities and their Board partners.

An Overview

The Annual Report 2017-18 provides an overview of the work carried out by Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB) and its partners, in order to fulfil its statutory responsibilities, and covers the period 1st April 2017 – 31st March 2018.

Chapter One

Structure



Chapter Two – Achievements in 2017-18

2017-18 has been an incredibly busy year and has seen greater collaborative working with Northamptonshire Adult Safeguarding Board (NSAB), in order to adopt a Think Family approach to a number of cross-cutting safeguarding issues.

Achievements

The two business office functions of the Children and Adults Safeguarding Boards were integrated in April 2017, the Learning and Development/Training Sub Groups merged and a new joint Children & Adults at Risk of Exploitation Sub Group was formed.

Closer working arrangements with the Adults Board resulted in quarterly joint meetings, however, subsequent reviews of the effectiveness of joined up working identified that both Boards would be moving in different directions (with the publication of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018) and to allow the NSCB to look at transitioning into a safeguarding partnership, discussions took place at the end of 2017, early 2018 to consider separating the functions of both Boards.

A dedicated Task & Finish Group was established to review the Neglect Toolkit to include the Graded Care Profile and will remain ongoing to ensure learning and effective changes in practice take place.

The Child Sexual Exploitation Group rolled out awareness training across District & Borough Councils, and produced guidance on CSE for Community & Voluntary Sector organisations.

The Homelessness Task & Finish group was established to review a number of protocols due to upcoming in the housing laws. Training for our District and Borough Housing colleagues and Social Workers for the Housing Protocol for Care Leavers and a review of the Protocol for Homeless 16/17 year olds will continue.

A countywide campaign to raise awareness of private fostering arrangements was delivered to Schools, GP Practices, Leisure facilities, Voluntary and Community Sector in September 2017.

Section 11/175 activity for education and full partnership was undertaken and followed up with challenge and development sessions with partners.

Findings from S11 challenge and development sessions contributed to an ongoing MASH transformation programme resulting in focused partnership working and an anticipated launch of new thresholds in Winter 2018.

NSCB's Annual Conference was held in September 2017 and focused on on-line safety.

From January 2018, the Executive Support Group ceased to allow more regular Board meetings to discuss strategic priorities and proposed changes to Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015.

Improvements have been made to the recording arrangements for receiving Child Protection Reports and partner attendance.

A number of tea break guides produced to support professionals in practice <http://www.northamptonshirescb.org.uk/about-northamptonshire-safeguarding-children-board/policies/tea-break-guides/>

Chapter Three – Safeguarding Children & Young People

Children's Services

Children's Social Care safeguard and promote the welfare of Children in Need. Under Section 17(10) of the Children Act 1989, a child is a "Child in Need" if:

- *The child is unlikely to achieve or maintain, or to have the opportunity of achieving or maintaining, a reasonable standard of health or development without the provision for him of services by a local authority*
- *The child's health or development is likely to be significantly impaired or further impaired without the provision for him of such services*
- *The child is disabled*

When a child protection conference identifies that a child or young person is in need, a child protection plan is created. This is a working tool that enables the child's family, and professionals to understand and manage risks, and identify what is required of them and what they can expect of others.

Children who have a Child Protection Plan are considered to be in need of protection from either neglect, physical, sexual or emotional abuse, or a combination of one or more of these. Looked After Children are those looked after by the Local Authority. Only after exploring every possibility of protecting a child at home will the Local Authority seek a parent's consent or a Court decision to move a child away from his or her family. Such decisions, whilst incredibly difficult, are made when it is in the best interest of the child.

Children and Young People in Education

The School's census of January 2018, shows that there were a total of 117,175 children and young people in education in Northamptonshire. A further 439 were listed as missing from education and 821 were electively home educated (EHE). Across all Schools and Academies, there were a total of 2,937 children and young people with Education and Health Care Plans (EHCP), and 11,820 with special needs, including EHCP, statements and Special Educational Needs (SEN) support.

Early Help

- There were 2,583 children supported through Early Help Assessments (EHAs) in 2017/18, compared with 2,823 in 2016/17. 1,493 of these referrals were initiated by schools and other educational settings. NCC teams and other organisations, including Children's Centres, undertook 919, whilst NHFT completed 153 and the two acute hospitals in Northampton and Kettering, 18 between them.
- Where families needed support that could not be provided by the team around the family, the Early Help Support Service sought additional Tier 3 support for 3,420 children through the Access to Support process. This included commissioned services including Action for Children's Family Intervention Programme and their medium intensive support work; domestic abuse support and the NCC 0–19 Early Help service through targeted Children's Centre activities. Provision and availability of Tier 2 and Tier 3 support is becoming more limited as the balance of demand versus availability becomes more challenging.

Chapter Three - Safeguarding Children & Young People

Northamptonshire's population stood at 723,026 as of 2015's mid-year estimate. Of this, 25% were aged between 0 and 19 years. Northamptonshire has a predominantly white ethnic population with 83.2% of children aged 0-19 of White British ethnicity and 95.5% of children aged 3-14 whose first language is English (Office for National Statistics, 2011 Census). The county is a mix of urban and rural populations, with areas of affluence and areas of significant deprivation. 57 areas in Northamptonshire are among the most deprived in the country (Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010).

Children's Safeguarding

Placement Stability

- 72% of looked after children are in foster placements.
- 24% are placed outside of the Northants boundary.
- 11.7% have had 3 or more placements over the year, compared to 12% in 2016/17.

Adoption

63 children were adopted, compared to 72 in 2016/17.

Contacts

20,673 initial contacts were received in Children's Social Care across 2017-18, 1,915 less than in 2016/17.

Referrals

11,369 of these contacts were progressed to referrals, 4,319 less than in 2016/17. 32% of these were repeat referrals.

Assessments

53% of referrals went on to have an assessment within social care, with 75% of single assessments completed within 45 days.

Child Protection

- There were 2,631 child protection enquiries (S47) down from 3,217 last year.
- 68% of child protection conferences were completed within 15 days.
- 19% of children were on a second or subsequent plan compared to 26% in 2016/17

Chapter Three - The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

The co-located Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) team consists of Children's Social Care, Police, Education and Health Professionals. The MASH triages all incoming referrals to Children's Services and shares information to endeavour that children and families will receive a more responsive, proportionate service that enhances the safeguarding of children.

The MASH received 11,093 referrals in 2017-18 compared to 15,688 referrals in the previous year, a 29.3% reduction.

Homeless - Initial Contacts - Aged 16-17

District	15/16	16/17	17/18
Corby	13	11	14
Daventry	20	13	11
East Northants	18	9	10
Kettering	32	28	21
Northampton	71	53	48
South Northants	4	5	3
Wellingborough	38	15	13
No postcode	38	32	26
Grand Total	234	166	146

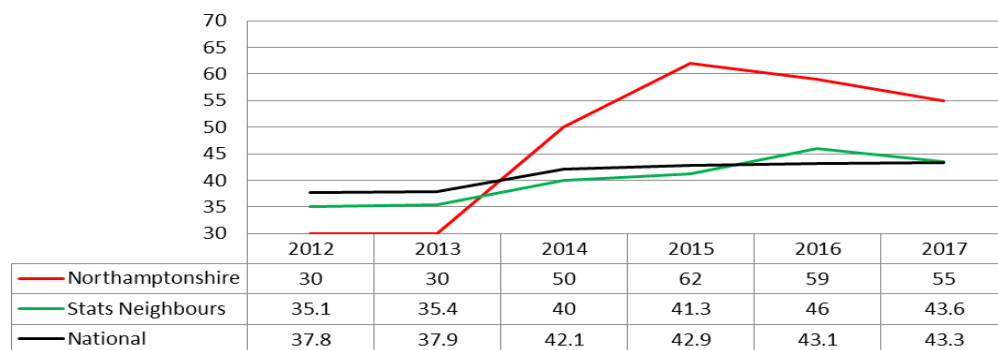
Referrals to Children's Social Care by Agency

Agency	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Anonymous	580	700	340
Domestic Abuse Protocol	0	41	9
Education - Other (Children's Centre, Nursery)	419	445	213
Education - Schools	3372	3484	2389
Family member	840	687	431
Fire and Rescue	3	11	0
Friend/neighbour	91	95	72
Health Services - A&E	569	577	337
Health Services - GP	286	230	260
Health Services - Health Visitor	210	246	178
Health Services - Other Primary Health Services	1318	1461	1119
Health Services - Other Secondary Health Service	398	549	340
Housing (Borough Council or housing association)	268	313	268
LA Services - Other Local Authority	389	452	288
LA Services - NCC	1071	1081	659
Other	980	720	412
Other Legal Agency (court, immigration, CAFCASS, Prison)	249	287	267
Police	4616	3747	3464
Probation	370	348	280
Self Assessment	146	90	29
Third Party	127	124	14
Total	16302	15688	11369

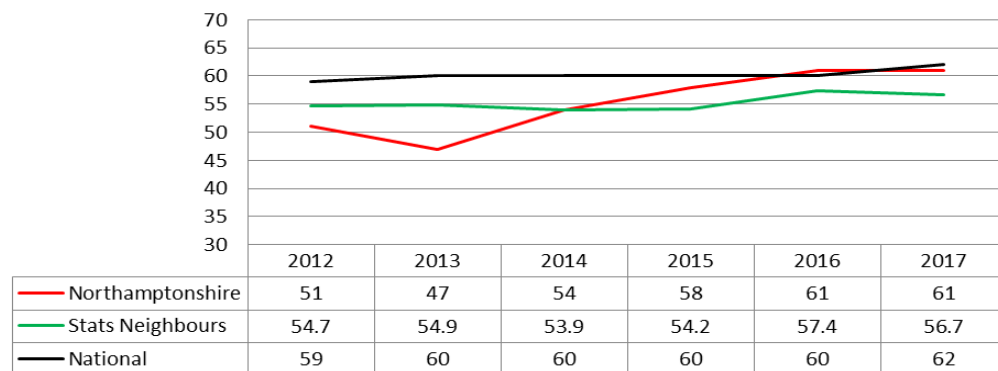
Chapter Three – Child Protection and Children in Care

1,721 child protection conferences were undertaken in 2017/18, a decrease of 100 from the previous year. These were supported by our partner agencies who provide both written and verbal information to the conferences.

Child Protection Plans at Year End - Rates per 10,000



Child in Care at Year End - Rates per 10,000



Health – General Practitioner (GPs) attendance increased to 4% (from 2%) (72 conferences). GP practices provide 61% of reports, and it is understood that it is difficult for GPs to take time out of surgery to attend. Where GPs have attended their input has been extremely useful. Other health colleagues attend with greater regularity, particularly Health Visitors, School Nurses and Midwives. Health Visitor data shows 76% attendance rate with reports received 54% of the time. Their involvement is invaluable as they have consistent child level information from birth to our involvement for pre-school children, and they often have a direct relationship with the parents and a good understanding of family difficulties and strengths, together with the child’s lived experience.

Education – Schools provide a vital understanding of the child and their family dynamics in addition to school attendance data. Schools attend 79% of conferences and provide reports for 42%. School attendance at conference gives a vital understanding of children’s lived experience as they are often in daily contact with parents and friends. Where there are no school holidays, attendance is c. 90%. Education facilities with the lowest number of invitations to conference are also the least likely to attend.

Police – By agreement, Police attend all Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) but do not always provide a report. However, they do provide reports for Review conferences. Police are expected to attend Review Conferences if they have continued or have new involvement with the family. Police attended 33% of conferences and provided reports for 60%. When only ICPCs are counted, Police attendance was over 80% until October 2017, and increased to 90-100% from November 2017.

General – There has been significant effort to synchronise attendance and report data with partner agencies, and ongoing work with partners to ensure that the figures for attendance and reports to conference improve to ensure the best outcomes for our children.

Chapter Three – Children in Care

- The population of children and young people in care increased by over 9%, from 998 to 1,092, with those classed as unaccompanied asylum seekers remaining at around 9%.
- 72% of children and young people resided in foster placements including those with relatives or friends, compared with 74% for England as a whole. The proportion of children and young people in temporary placements under Section 20 of the Children’s Act decreased from 27% in 2016-17 (matching the most recent figure for England as a whole), to 18%. The number of young people defined as care leavers aged 18 or over, stood at 462.
- The Corporate Parenting Board continued to challenge and oversee Northamptonshire services against five desired outcomes:
 1. Children and young people enjoy good health and wellbeing.
 2. Children and young people fulfil their educational potential.
 3. Children and young people placed out of the county are not disadvantaged.
 4. Children and young people have positive, meaningful relationships.
 5. Care leavers gain employment and are suitably accommodated.
- Lead officers reported progress at each Board meeting, and a number of key reports were submitted, including the health of children in care from NHFT, the Virtual School Head’s annual report, and 6-monthly reports from the adoption and fostering panels.
- Children and young people coming into the care of Northamptonshire receive initial health assessments, with the proportion taking place within the 28 day mandatory timescale varying between 50% and 86% across the year. Arranging assessments for children and young people placed outside Northamptonshire remains a challenge. For annual review health assessments, the proportion of those taking place within time remained consistently above 80%.
- The Virtual School continued to develop and promote high quality personal education plans for children and young people, and developed training packages for social workers, schools and other professionals. Nationally, children in care fall behind their peers in educational attainment, and this is reflected in Northamptonshire.
- 24% of children and young people are placed out of county, compared to 26% for statistical neighbours. Block purchasing of placements, improved data tools and a new sufficiency strategy helped to avoid the need for out of county placements and the new Best Match process helps to find the best possible placement for each individual child and young person.
- Young people tell us about the importance of positive relationships in their lives and Northamptonshire is part of a wide-ranging long term project in conjunction with the children’s charity Coram, to achieve a permanent home for children and young people as quickly as possible to improve the stability of their placements. The project included a survey of children in care population using the research-validated Bright Spots methodology. The survey was completed by a third of the target population and found that 97% of respondents trusted the adults they lived with and that 95% trusted their Social Worker.
- The Children in Care and Care Leavers’ Councils met regularly and raised issues on behalf of young people in care and those moving on to independence. The groups regularly attend the Corporate Parenting Board to challenge and help shape services for young people, and they developed posters setting out their expectations of Social Workers and Personal Advisers.
- The Children in Care Ball in May 2017 was a huge success at which the achievements of our children and young people were recognised and celebrated.

Chapter Three – Fostering Service

Fostering Service

- Sufficiency of foster placements remained a major challenge locally and nationally. In February 2018, of 753 Northamptonshire foster placements, 36% were NCC placements, 19% kinship placements and 45% agency placements. With the help of a number of staff dedicated to recruitment, the service has undertaken innovative approaches to attract new foster carers.
- A fostering activity day took place in March 2018 with the aim of identifying long term placements. Children and potential carers took the opportunity to engage in fun activities together, and 8 positive matches were achieved as a result.
- The successful “1000 Pairs of Shoes” promotion utilised shoes donated by foster carers to create an emotive display, highlighting the need for more carers. The display was shared at events across the county and was nominated in eight categories in the UK Public Sector Communications Awards. In 2017, the dedicated recruitment team processed 367 foster carer enquiries, contacted 67 potential carers and took 4 potential carers to the approval panel. A comprehensive review of the Fostering Service has identified key areas of development, such as foster carer retention and data reliability.
- The Northamptonshire Foster Carers Association works closely with the Fostering Service, providing invaluable informal support to foster carers and involvement with recruitment activity. In February 2018, more than 50 foster carers who have cared for almost 600 children and young people were honoured at the annual Northamptonshire Fostering and Family Link Awards. Awards marked 1, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 years’ service, including one couple who have cared for 120 children and young people in their 25 years as foster carers.



“1000 pairs of shoes
Sitting in a row
A little scuffed from where they’ve been
Unsure of where they’ll go

Your chance to change a journey
A challenge for which you could rise
Indeed they are big shoes to fill
But they might be **exactly your size.** ”

1000 children in care. **Be a foster carer with us.**

Get in touch today! Visit: www.fosterme.co.uk
Call: 0300 126 1009 Text: FOSTER to 80010

#1000shoes

Northamptonshire Foster Carers Association logo, Northamptonshire County Council logo, and a small copyright notice (©2018/CC17094) are also visible.

Chapter Three – Adoption Service

Activities in the Adoption Service

- 56 adoption placement orders were granted for our children and young people, and 64 children were adopted. 38 households were approved as adopters.
- Children waited on average 462 days between coming into care and being placed for adoption (a rise from 359 days the previous year). However, this should be read in the context of the significant improvement of 763 average days for 2015-16. Northamptonshire's statistical neighbours stood at 621 and 558 for England. A similar trend was evident in regards the average number of days between placement orders being granted and children being matched. In 2015-16 this figure stood at 310 days, improved dramatically to 108 in 2016-17, and stood at 164 for 2017-18. For statistical neighbours, the figure for 2017-18 stood at 239 and 226 for England. Northamptonshire continues to compare favourably with similar local authorities and England as a whole.
- As per national trends, there is a shortage in Northamptonshire of adopters for older children and those with extra needs, so specific recruitment activity took place to address the shortfall. Successful activity days took place in which children play at a neutral venue and meet with potential adopters. Staff members trained in Life Story work have undertaken life appreciation events, helping young people understand their present in the context of their past, and helping them move forward.
- Through the DfE Adoption Support Fund, a number of staff were trained in specific therapeutic approaches, so specialised support for those children who need it can be delivered in-house rather than commissioned. The Adoption Team continued to evaluate and deliver training such as Moving a Child into Your Home, The Adoption Triangle, Early Permanence, and Family and Friends training. For the future, processes geared to securing early permanence are being combined with adoption tracking to prevent breakdowns and delays for children and adopters.



Chapter Three – Leaving Care Service

Activities in the Leaving Care Service

- The proportion of care leavers classed as living in suitable accommodation rose from 70% to 90%. For care leavers in education, employment or training, the figure rose from 42% to 52%.
- An internal month-long audit of 14 cases in October 2017 revealed positive working relationships between our personal advisers and young people and clear evidence of encouragement to engage with education, employment and training opportunities.
- Prospects remains Northamptonshire’s commissioned service to work intensively with young people who are “Not in Education, Employment or Training” (NEET).
- The Daily Living Programme, based at the Russell House drop-in centre, helped young people to learn independent living skills, such as cooking and money management.
- The service wants all Care Leavers to live in accommodation that not only meets the criteria of ‘suitable accommodation’ but in a place which feels like a proper home. There are 21 supported ‘training flats’ at Belinda Ferrison House currently completed and being made ready for young people to move into. Accommodation has been developed in consultation with young people and will be managed around-the-clock by Homes2Inspire, helping Care Leavers prepare for full independence.
- With the changes to the Children and Social Work Act 2017, and the obligations on local authorities towards young people leaving care, Care Leavers will be entitled to ask for support up to the age of 25. The service is undertaking forecasting exercises and working closely with the National Implementation Adviser for Care Leavers to ensure Northamptonshire is fully equipped to meet the new requirements.
- The new Local Offer to Care Leavers continues to be developed in collaboration with young people and other key colleagues such as housing services, foster carers and the Department for Work and Pensions. The Offer details support available to young people leaving care and will be reviewed and updated as services are developed.
- Northamptonshire has also joined the National Leaving Care Benchmarking Forum, helping us to share good practice with other authorities, to ensure that our young people living out of county receive a good service.

Chapter Three – Designated Officers

Designated Officers received **529** contacts from professionals, organisations and members of the public, and indicates a consistent approach to cases meeting threshold for an investigation by the Designated Officer.

Quarter 1	158	Quarter 3	98
Quarter 2	139	Quarter 4	134

- **34** (7%) have been managed and recorded as Enquiries;
- **174** (33%) have been managed and recorded as Consultations; and
- **315** (60%) have been managed and recorded as Referrals.

- There has been a 75% increase in referrals concerning childminders and the Designated Officers have been liaising with Ofsted and the Early Years Improvement Team, which has helped to build positive relationships when addressing concerns within registration and training of childminders.
- Teachers represented the largest increase in referrals by profession, with referrals increasing by 118%.
- The figures represent an increase of 50 contacts received since 2016/17 and an additional 59 referrals for the same period.
- It is likely that Designated Officer Awareness training has increased knowledge about the role and could have contributed to the increase in contacts. It would indicate that more work is managed at consultation level, which suggests that the threshold for investigation by the Designated Officer is being managed more consistently.

The table below is categorised by occupation and shows the number of referrals that progressed to a Designated Officer Investigation and JEM (Joint Evaluation Meeting).

- The highest number of referrals are by Residential workers, at **109** referrals, and an increase of over 50% for the same period last year. Of the referrals, only 3 involved staff from Northamptonshire County Council Residential Workers.

Referrals by Occupation

OCCUPATION	%	TOTAL	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Child Minder	1.5	8	1	5	0	2
Faith Groups	2	10	0	7	2	1
Foster Carer	9	48	4	17	11	16
Health Assistant	4.5	24	4	5	10	5
Nurse	4.5	24	3	14	4	3
Nursery Officer	2	13	5	3	1	4
Other	9	46	2	18	12	14
Police	1.5	8	2	3	1	2
Residential Worker	21	109	46	43	13	7
School Non-Teaching	4	22	6	4	3	9
Scout Leader	1	6	0	3	1	2
Social Care Staff	6	33	6	6	6	15
Teacher (school)	18	94	13	28	22	31
Teacher (Further Education)	1	1	0	0	1	0
Teaching Assistant	6	32	9	13	3	7
Transport	3	19	5	5	1	8
Volunteer	3	17	12	2	1	2
Not Specified	3	15	0	3	6	6

Chapter Three – Secure Settings and the Use of Restraint

Designated Officers acknowledge the use of restraint within secure settings occurs in practice. In the majority of cases, physical intervention is needed to prevent harm to the young person or those around them. Staff are trained how to manage patients in the least restrictive approach, although this does sometime mean that restraint is used and only for the shortest time possible.

- There have been of 77 cases that relate specifically to the restraining of children and young people, with the majority of these referrals from Rainsbrook Secure Training Centre, St Andrew’s Healthcare and Educational establishments. An early observation into concerns relating to restraints would be the inconsistency of regulatory bodies rolling out training and learning as a result of restraint activity.
- With regard to St. Andrew’s Healthcare, the number of concerns relating to inappropriate force used during a restraint decreased to 10 contacts, 3 of these received an outcome of substantiated. This is believed to be due to CCTV being used more widely to aid investigations into complaints, and inappropriate referrals can be screened at the early stages so that an unnecessary referral is made.

Categories of Concern

OUTCOME	NUMBER					%			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Child Sexual Abuse	6	6	0	1	13	5%	3%	0%	1%
Emotional Abuse	16	9	15	18	58	14%	5%	15%	13%
Neglect	18	26	4	11	59	15%	15%	4%	8%
Non Reporting of CP Concerns	0	3	0	2	5	0%	2%	0%	1%
Non Specific	7	34	20	26	87	6%	19%	20%	19%
Online	8	12	2	5	27	7%	7%	2%	4%
Physical Abuse Non Restraint	35	50	18	25	128	30%	28%	18%	19%
Restraint Concern	13	24	20	20	77	11%	13%	20%	15%
Sexual Abuse non CSE	15	15	5	10	45	13%	8%	5%	7%
Not specified	0	0	14	16	30	0%	0%	14%	12%
Total	118	179	98	134	529				

Chapter Three – Private Fostering

Parents sometimes may make their own arrangements for their children to live away from home due to family issues / relationship breakdown, illness, or working abroad. Children may also come to the UK from abroad for the purpose of education and stay with a host family.

The Local Authority must be notified of any child under the age of 16 (or under 18 if disabled) that is being cared for by someone that is not a close family member for more than 28 days, and where the arrangements are made privately between the parents and the carer. This is known as being Privately Fostered.

- The Local Authority were aware of 5 Privately Fostered children/young people in 2017-18. This figure is lower than the year before and is considered low in comparison to our population figures for Northamptonshire.
- To help raise awareness, a campaign was undertaken by NSCB and Children First Northamptonshire, involving local media coverage, the use of social media and posters being distributed to community groups, GP surgeries, Health settings, Schools, Libraries and other facilities which the general public may access. The intention of the campaign was to raise awareness in the hope that the general public and professionals would alert us to these arrangements.
- Work is being planned with Child Protection leads in schools to raise their awareness of Private Fostering and their responsibility to report these arrangement to Children First Northamptonshire.



Chapter Three – Safeguarding in Education - Learning, Skills and Education

In July 2017, a new appointment was made to the vacant post of Lead for Safeguarding in Education and an action plan of priority engagement work with schools (in conjunction with the Education and Inclusion Partnership team) commenced. A series of Designated Safeguarding Lead forums for 396 delegates have been delivered covering Child Sexual Exploitation, the Children First Transformation Programme, Signs of Safety, update on Serious Case Reviews and the use of the Neglect Toolkit including the Graded Care Profile.

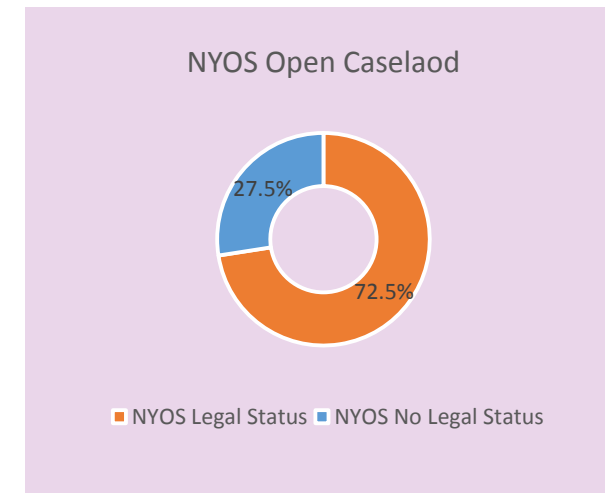
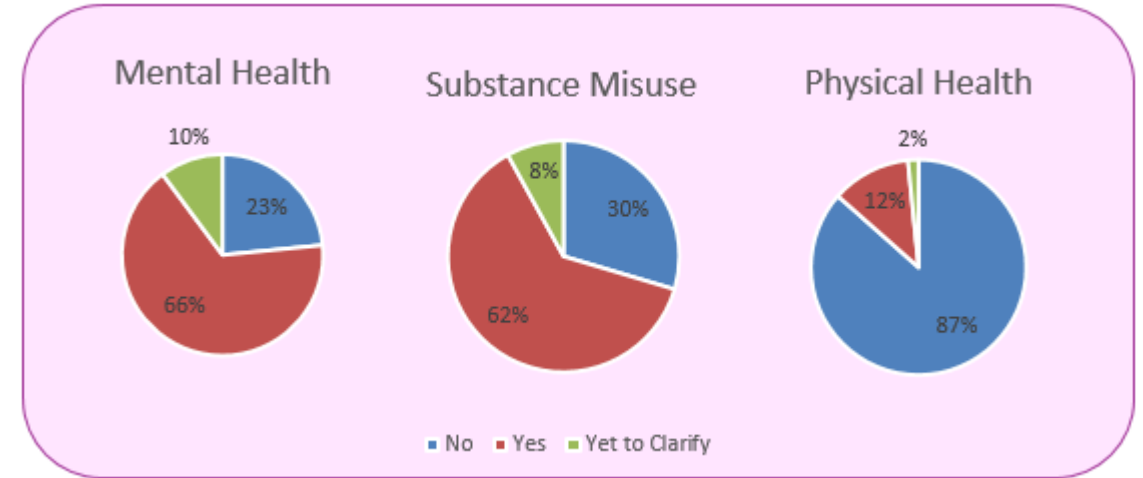
Communication and Consultation took place with all DSL's through the DSL Network email and schools weekly Friday Bulletin and through a DSL practice Reference Group. Priorities completed have included:

- Roll out of Prevent Workshops in schools targeting multi agency localities;
- Development of Anti Bullying and LGBT awareness resource group;
- Completion of 111 investigations into Ofsted notifications resulting from parental complaints about schools;
- Review of Domestic Abuse Notifications to school scheme;
- Ensuring school/college information is fed in to the Serious Case Review and Multi Agency Case Audit process;
- Reviewed and updated the NCC Model Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy for schools;
- Worked jointly with POLIT and schools to develop a Countywide school uniform database to enable quicker identification of potential victims of abuse;
- Worked jointly with Public Health and Schools to roll out a pupil wellbeing survey to inform future health needs commissioning;
- Supported an Independent Schools Safeguarding Group; and
- Reviewed the Section 195 Schools return to the Safeguarding Board to identify priority areas for development.



Chapter Three – Youth Offending Service

- Children and young people aged 10 to 17 are referred into Northamptonshire Youth Offending Service by either the Police or the Courts. They will all have either admitted or been convicted of criminal offences. They usually have complex needs and require significant levels of support in the community and in custody. Many of them have experienced multiple Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and present high levels of safety & wellbeing concerns alongside their likelihood of re-offending and the risk of causing serious harm to others.
- Over time, the number of children and young people being referred through the Courts has reduced, but the numbers of referrals from the Police related to Out of Court Disposals has increased as the emphasis has shifted to intervening earlier within the Criminal Justice System. Those children and young people referred through the 'pre-Court' route do not display significantly lower levels of need than those in the Court system. The now smaller Court population consists mainly of young people with the most complex and entrenched difficulties.
- The YOS continues to work with high proportions of children and young people who are currently open to Children's Social Care, a significant majority of whom are Looked-After Children or those with Leaving Care entitlements. Work is ongoing in partnership with colleagues in the Police and Children's Social Care seeking to aid early identification of children and young people engaged in gang related activity, those who evidence experience of multiple ACEs and those who may be disproportionately represented in or treated by the system.



Chapter Four – Vulnerable Children

Reducing Incidents of Sexual Exploitation (RISE)

The Reducing Incidents of Sexual Exploitation (RISE) Team produce a bi-monthly activity report and presented to the Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Missing Working Group. The report is also shared with other stakeholders and groups including the Corporate Parenting Board. The report contains sections dedicated to Looked After Children and key activities that the team have undertaken in the preceding period.

- Referrals into RISE have averaged 12 per month, and a rise in referrals which do not meet threshold noted. The increase generally related to other forms of child exploitation, for which there are no, or limited, alternative services to refer to (young people involved in gang activity or young people who display sexually harmful behaviours).
- The number of young people open to the service fluctuated between 45 and 55. During the early part of the year the team were not able to allocate a worker to young people accepted by the service immediately due to resource issues. Of the five full time equivalent posts, maternity leave, social work placement, and other staff changes, this reduced staff capacity from 5 FTE to 3. The changes provided opportunities for the RISE team to reflect and give a fresh consideration of current practice and future direction.
- A key aspect of RISE is the ongoing work to raise awareness of CSE and educate the public and professionals, and the team delivered sessions to professionals including Social Workers, trainee Police Officers, and colleagues working within health and education.
- The team used data in the bi-monthly report to understand the locality demographics and identify particular areas to target and raise awareness

- Three schools were identified as having a number of young people open to RISE and meetings took place/were being arranged to provide support and training to Head Teachers and Designated Safeguarding Leads in these particular schools. The team also identified the need to intervene at an earlier stage with young people at medium risk of CSE, and also identified potential children to provide awareness sessions to. From experience, children who regularly go missing are at an increased risk of CSE. Additional resources are needed to be able to enable this development.
- The team embedded the Signs of Safety methodology by redesigning the CareFirst Forms and the Risk Management Planning.

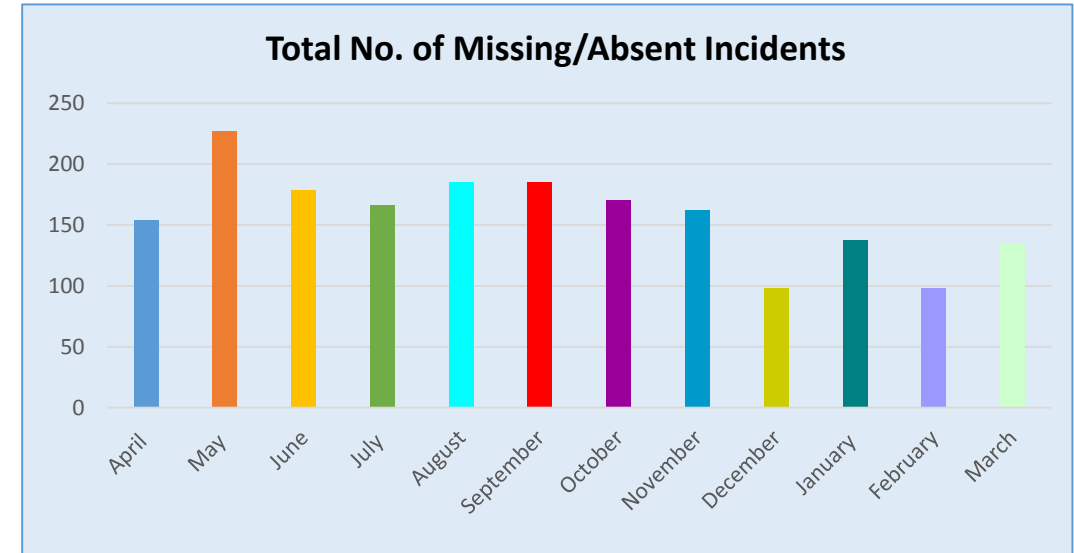
2017/18	Total No. of Missing/Absent Incidents	No. of Absent Incidents	No. of Missing Incidents	IRI's assigned	IRI's engaged with and completed	IRI's successfully completed within 72 hrs	% of completed IRI's conducted within 72 hrs	% of assigned IRI's completed within 72 hrs
April	154	79	75	43	29	19	66%	44%
May	227	123	104	77	50	33	66%	43%
June	179	98	81	91	36	28	78%	31%
July	166	99	67	73	53	38	72%	52%
August	185	119	66	100	70	42	60%	42%
September	185	79	106	83	51	45	88%	54%
October	170	35	135	88	44	41	93%	47%
November	162	9	153	99	57	46	81%	46%
December	98	1	97	61	33	28	85%	46%
January	138	7	131	95	66	56	85%	59%
February	98	1	97	76	42	42	100%	55%
March	134	3	131	97	57	57	100%	59%
Total	1896	653	1243	983	588	475	81%	48%

Source: Rise monthly reports

Chapter Four – Vulnerable Children

CSE & Missing Children

- The Missing Children Team consists of 3 engagement workers who complete Independent Return Interviews (IRI's) with children and young people from Northamptonshire and children in care who live in neighbouring local authorities reported to be missing. The definition of missing and absent has been changed by the College of Policing and the definitions adopted by Northamptonshire Police. The category of 'absent' has been removed and replaced with a spectrum of risk from 'missing – no apparent risk' (formally absent) to high risk. IRI's are not offered for 'missing – no apparent risk' classifications.
- The team has remained relatively stable, but have had a new Team Manager and a new Practice Manager in December 2017 and January 2018 respectively.
- In early 2018, work started on altering the assessment forms used on CareFirst to record 'missing and found episodes' and to detail IRI's. This process is ongoing, but will ensure the process is simplified and evidences each missing episode.
- To meet Improvement Plan requirements, recruitment started to appoint a further engagement worker specifically to conduct IRI's for children in care who are placed in counties not adjacent to Northamptonshire.
- In February 2018, the 'Think Missing' Factsheet was amended and sent to CFN to highlight requirements of all staff for recording missing episodes for children in our care, including those placed out-of-county, to ensure their chronology of missing episodes is accurately recorded. It has taken time to embed this practice across the service and will be supported further when the new out-of-county engagement worker is in post (July 2018).
- In early 2018, the theme of gang culture became increasingly evident in IRI return interviews across Northamptonshire. This has been shared and echoed by other services, leading to plans to include further activity in relation to gangs through the CSE & Missing Group.



- A comprehensive 2 year CSE communications plan is in place. Work already taken place includes: a social media campaign to support CSE awareness day, investigations leading to charges and criminal proceedings publicised throughout the year and launch of a media campaign on links between CSE and gangs.
- Guidance booklets have been designed to support members of the Night Time Economy to recognise the signs of CSE and included Licensed Premises, Hotels, Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles. To support this, targeted CSE training took place with members of the Night Time Economy and the Voluntary Sector throughout 2017/18.
- Focused CSE questions were included in the 2017/18 schools audit, and these were analysed to identify support needed by schools in addressing this topic.

Chapter Four – Vulnerable Children

PREVENT

The Government's counter-terrorism strategy (CONTEST), has four areas of work:

- **Pursue:** to stop terrorist attacks;
- **Prevent:** to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism;
- **Protect:** to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack; and
- **Prepare:** to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack.

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on certain bodies in their duties to have 'due regard' to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. In Northamptonshire, there are different ways the concerns of radicalisation and extremism are addressed:

Local Resilience Forum & CONTEST Board - The Local Resilience Forum (LRF) is a statutory partnership that looks at all matters relating to resilience and preparedness across the county in terms of 'prepare' and 'protect'. The CONTEST Board aligns PREVENT work with other counties to provide a strategic lead in addressing threat, risks and vulnerabilities in relation to counter-terrorism. The Board encompasses all four elements of the CONTEST strategy.

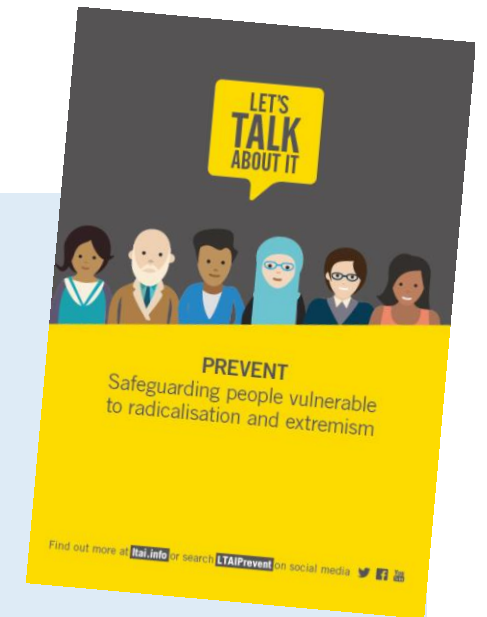
PREVENT Steering Group - A multi-agency PREVENT Steering Group (PSG) provides leadership and direction on preventing radicalisation and violent extremism within the county. A Partnership Strategy and action plan is under development.

Safeguarding Referrals: Channel and Prevent Case Management - Northamptonshire Channel Panel (covering adults and children) meets monthly to discuss cases in line with the Counter Terrorism and Security Act legislation. During the year there were 81 referrals made to PREVENT, which remains static in comparison to previous year's (80 referrals 2016-17). 11% of these referrals were for females, and an increase on last year's data. Of the 81 referrals received, 34 had a mental health vulnerability. 6 of the referrals adopted into Channel had MH issues, 5 males and 1 female with ages ranging from 14 to 35.

Counter-Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) - A CTLP report is produced annually and is an essential part of engaging partners in PREVENT, to help target activities and resources as effectively as possible. It provides information of the current threat status in the county and can support partners to target resources, strategies appropriately.

PREVENT Training - The e-learning package available via NSCB (accessed via virtual college) will be replaced next year with the Home Office E-learning package, and will be promoted with a monitoring plan put in place to ensure staff have completed it. A communications plan is currently being developed to ensure a clear message is sent out.

PREVENT SPOCS (Single Points of Contact) - A SPOCs group was established to support individuals who have been identified to lead on completing risk assessments for their service. Their roles and responsibilities include supporting how highly confidential information is used and disseminated by the Local Authority and providing advice and guidance to staff.



Chapter Five – Clinical Commissioning Groups

A key function of NHS Nene and NHS Corby Clinical Commissioning Group's (CCGs) statutory responsibility is to deliver the safeguarding agenda by ensuring that the services it commissions have the systems, processes, policies and procedures necessary to effectively protect and safeguard children and young people.

The CCGs continued to work in partnership with all agencies across the Health Economy and provided strategic direction and safeguarding clinical expertise through Designated Professionals. They have ensured that all health providers in Northamptonshire understand their role in supporting the health and wellbeing of children and young people. The CCGs also have specific responsibilities for Looked After Children and they support the Child Death Overview process.

Currently the effectiveness of the children and young people safeguarding system is assured and regulated in a number of ways and includes:

- Safeguarding standards forming part of quality schedules within provider contracts;
- Monitoring of safeguarding referrals and serious incidents;
- Arranged or unannounced visits to wards /departments within provider organisations;
- Strategic Health Forum, executive leads in attendance;
- Attendance at provider safeguarding committees;
- Annual report from providers;
- Attendance at NSCB, Corporate Parenting Board and Sub Groups;
- Supervision/peer supervision with Named Nurses in provider organisations; and
- Relevant policies and protocols underpinning Practice.

Mental Health Services for Children and Young People – The number of children admitted to Accident and Emergency with self-harm and mental health presentations continued to rise. Building on achievements last year, an Integrated Mental Health Pathway was developed by the CCGs, Northamptonshire Healthcare Foundation Trust, Kettering General Hospital and Northampton General Hospital, to ensure the mental health needs of children and young people were met in a timely way. As a result, the need to admit to an acute hospital ward was reduced. This will be monitored and reviewed to ensure the pathway continues to meet the needs of children and young people.

GP Training – A great deal of work was carried out to increase safeguarding training within General Practice. The safeguarding leads for Primary Care supported practices to engage in the safeguarding agenda and a safeguarding website was designed by the Safeguarding Team to support General Practice. The site includes safeguarding resources and presentations can be used for protected learning time and links to the NSCB website. A number of safeguarding training days have also been held which have been well attended and evaluated.

Gang Awareness Training – Health professionals identified that they were coming into contact with children and young people who may be involved in gang activity, and in response and in partnership with the Police, a training resource was developed and delivered to health professionals. This was well received and oversubscribed and will continue during the coming year.

Integrated Looked After Children's Service – NHFT Looked After Children's Service continued to deliver a joined up physical and mental health service for looked after and adopted children from Northamptonshire. 2017-18 saw the introduction of a bespoke training package delivered to Foster Carers. This has been well received and will continue to be offered next year.

Chapter Five – Clinical Commissioning Groups & Northamptonshire Police

Clinical Commissioning Groups - Key Achievements 2017-18

- Responding to the findings of the Ofsted inspection alongside multi-agency partners;
- Continuing to support the work of the Safeguarding Board;
- Section 11 audits undertaken across the health economy including GP out of hours service and independent hospitals;
- Playing a full role in safeguarding;
- Increasing awareness of gang activity across the Health economy;
- Continuing to support the development of a safeguarding assurance tool with NHS England;
- Supporting the transition of the front door and MASH;
- Implementation of CP-IS (Child Protection Information System) across the health economy in Northampton; and
- Launch of CAMHS live.

Northamptonshire Police

- Northamptonshire Police adopted Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) as a strategic priority until 2021, with the force investing in improving processes including Early Intervention and Identification, prevention activity, investigation and detection, victim support and bringing offenders to justice.
- There are encouraging multi-agency working arrangements established that focus on child abuse and exploitation, and strong working relations with partners. The realignment for RISE/POLIT/ MPU teams to be co-located with JCPT and MASH has been a positive move enabling a more impactful and flexible approach. The number of missing and absent children reported in the last quarter has continued to show a decreasing trend over the last 12 months but the repeat rate for missing children showing higher volumes. Further investment has been approved to triple the missing person supervisory function to support a whole force approach. Sexual offences against children has increased over the last 12 months, specifically recorded CSE and CSA. A proportion of this is attributed to changes to the recording process which is a positive step.
- Northamptonshire Police Early Intervention Partnership Hub in Northampton North East is recognised nationally within both Government and the public sector as being a critical partnership activity for reducing levels of late intervention. This is a dedicated and trained police resource comprising 5 PCSOs, 1 PCs and a sergeant who work alongside professionals from other spheres; social care, housing, fire, health and domestic abuse – to catch issues early, as they manifest themselves in changed behaviour in the classroom. The Hub is working with 47 schools within the pilot area, including schools for pupils with special educational needs. A bespoke case assessment and action plan is used to identify specific problematic issues and levels of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

Chapter Five – Statutory Partners

Northamptonshire Police

- Northamptonshire Police worked alongside Service Six to deliver the “Aspiring to a Better Future” programme at all Secondary Schools in Wellingborough. This Early Intervention Programme supported students experiencing emerging problems which were having a significant impact on their achievements and expected outcomes. The programme was run over 8 weeks with a strong focus on presenting group and individual issues/needs, including: gangs, danger of drugs, CSE (including online), anger, bullying, healthy relationships, barriers to Learning, communication, crime & law & careers.
- The force experienced an increase in gang related activity over the past year with safeguarding continuing to be the golden thread. There has been a focus on awareness raising and education, intervention and diversion and supportive implementation of trafficking legislation for vulnerable young people who have been exploited by these groups. Operation Viper was launched as a comprehensive force-wide programme of work to respond to this, led by senior officers and supported by a significant injection of resource. However, gang related activity continues to rise significantly and will require continued focus and resource next year.
- Other initiatives included the interactive workshop run by HMP Manchester in Kettering Primary and Secondary Schools, which focused on the actions and consequences of anti-social behaviour, social media, bullying and the sending of sexual imagery.
- The Young Citizen Scheme is organised and run by Daventry & South Northants Community Safety Partnership and Northants Police for Year 6 pupils in the South Northants and Daventry area. The community based workshop has been running successfully since 2014 and focuses on a variety of topics run by a number of partner agencies. Each workshop provided key messages for children to consider as they move towards secondary age and helps them understand what being a good citizen is in their communities for example; Solve It – solvent abuse, Fire Service – safety advice around water and fire.
- Bertie the Blue Butterfly Project has been highly successful across Northamptonshire once again. The scheme takes its name from ‘butterflies in the tummy,’ the sensation children experience when they are scared. The aim is to help children recognise the emotions they might experience if something isn’t right, and has proven to be an effective way to engage with children, with Officers reporting disclosures of violence in the home from children who attended a session. The project is non-discriminatory and reaches out to all ages, gender, disabilities, race and religions. Schools continue to be positive about the project and are supportive of the Police visiting to deliver this as part of community safety. The Project has reached in excess of 14,000 children aged 4-11 years across county and is ever increasing.

Chapter Six - Sub Group Overview

Executive Support Group (ESG)

Chaired by Keith Makin, Independent Chair

Comprised of senior representatives from key partners, the Executive Support Group (ESG) met monthly until February 2018, when the group disbanded as the Board agreed to meet on a monthly basis. During the 10 months that ESG met, the group monitored the operational activities of the NSCB against strategic plans and maintained oversight of safeguarding progress and outcomes for children and young people.

Child Death Review Sub Group

Chaired by Michelle Dominic, Consultant Community Paediatrician/Named Doctor for Safeguarding Children and Designated Doctor for Looked After Children and Child Deaths, Northampton General Hospital

Also known as the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP), the Child Death Review Sub Group met bi-monthly to review deaths, both expected and unexpected, of all children and young people normally resident in the county.

Learning and Development Sub Group

Chaired by Maureen Campling, Head of Safeguarding and Quality, Northamptonshire County Council

The Learning & Development Sub Group merged with the Training Sub Group of NSAB with the first meeting held in July 2017. The Sub Group had the task of overseeing NSCB's training provision, both E-Learning and Face to Face, evaluating impact of training, approving Level 1 & 2 'Introduction to Safeguarding' courses and carrying out the annual NSCB Training Return, In addition, a Training Needs Analysis was undertaken for both NSCB and NSAB resulting in a revised training offer.

Quality Assurance Sub Group

Chaired by Sharon Muldoon, Assistant Director Quality & Performance, Northamptonshire County Council

The Quality Assurance Sub Group is responsible for meeting NSCB's statutory function in monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of single-agency and multi-agency safeguarding processes across the partnership and assessing the effectiveness of help being provided to children and families including Early Help. The Group are also responsible for an annual programme of Multi-Agency Case Audits (MACA), and overseeing findings of Section 11 audits. In addition, the NSCB Dashboard and Scorecard are reviewed by the Group each quarter.

Serious Case Review Sub Group

Chaired by Julie Ashby-Ellis, Designated Nurse for Children's Safeguarding and LAC, NHS Nene and NHS Corby Clinical Commissioning Groups

Operating in accordance with the regulations set out in Working Together 2015, the Sub Group reviews any case where:

- (a) abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected and*
- (b) Either (i) the child has died;*
 - (ii) the child has been seriously harmed and there is cause for concern as to the way in which the authority, their Board partners or other relevant persons have worked together to safeguard the child."*

Whilst cases may be recommended for Serious Case Review, a range of other options are utilised under the Group's supervision, such as Case Mapping Exercises and Single Agency Audits.

Chapter Seven – Quality Assurance

Multi Agency Case Audit and Learning & Improvement

Working Together (2015) page 67 states the following in relation to quality assurance: *In order to fulfil its statutory functions under regulation 5 the LSCB should use data and, as a minimum, should: “Quality assure practice, including through joint audits of case files involving practitioners and identifying lessons to be learned”*

The role of quality assuring the work of the NSCB falls principally, although not exclusively, with the Quality Assurance (QA) Sub Group.

The Sub Group conducted the following multi-agency case audits (MACA) for the period:

Multi-Agency Case Audit	Date	Number of cases	Findings
Out of County Looked After Children	16 th May 2017	6 cases	http://www.northamptonshirescb.org.uk/about-northamptonshire-safeguarding-children-board/publications/learning-summaries/
Neglect 2	21 st August 2017	5 cases	
Care Leavers	11 th November 2017	3 cases	Available from Business Office
<i>Extra-ordinary MACA – 61 cases</i>	<i>April 2018</i>	<i>61 cases</i>	Replaced the scheduled Toxic Trio MACA scheduled for March 2018

Multi-Agency Case Audit (MACA) now follows the Signs of Safety model in respect of answering three focused questions; ‘what has worked well?’, ‘what could be improved?’, and ‘recommendations and actions needed to improve practice’.

Following each MACA, Learning Summaries and 6 Step Briefings are produced and published on the NSCB website and these are distributed across the partnership to enable practitioner learning from the audits analysed. The QA Sub Group are assured that these briefings are discussed at team meetings/briefings/training events across the partnership.

The Learning and Improvement Framework was reviewed and refreshed to cover the period up to 31st March 2020, with all reports to Board to include the following:

1. A summary of why the subject is important;
2. The story explaining the information – the analysis; and
3. Actions to achieve improvements.

Chapter Seven – Quality Assurance

Section 11 & 175 Activity

Section 11 / 175 activity was undertaken with Schools and partner organisations. A revised process focusing on self-assessment to empower Schools and partners to take responsibility for compliance was developed, with the audit form creating an automated improvement areas action plan. All but one school returned the Section 175 audit. The results of the audit can be found [here](#) on the NSCB website. The audit recognises a number of positive pieces of work taking place and Board were reassured that safeguarding responsibilities are being undertaken. The findings identified a number of areas requiring support from NSCB and its partners to help Schools ensure children and young people in our county are kept safe from harm including:

- Plans to identify and develop learning resources to help schools teach young people about the dangers of gang activity alongside the NSCB ‘Safeguarding Children and Young People at Risk of Gang Involvement Practice Guidance and Risk Assessment’, due to be published in July 2018;
- Revised CSE Toolkit and updated schools chapter to be developed alongside further promotion of Kayleigh’s Love Story. As a result of the audit, the film has been shown in almost all Secondary Schools and evidenced through the Child Exploitation Sub Group;
- Promotion of the Neglect Tools via the NSCB newsletter and LSE bulletin, amendments to the Neglect Screening Tools and Guidance to take into account the needs of Schools;
- The audit resulted in a large number of Schools using the self-registration form to sign up for the NSCB Newsletter as evidenced through the Communications Annual Report. Schools now have the highest newsletter readership;
- Learning from reviews and audits are a standing item at Schools DSLs forums; and
- Schools continue to enhance learning by undertaking the highest number of e-learning courses offered by NSCB.

School engagement with the NSCB offer continues to be positive with anecdotal evidence that they are using the support materials including Officers seeing NSCB ‘tea-break’ guides/NSCB newsletter/posters being displayed in staff rooms.

Section 11 Partnership Audit

All statutory partners completed and returned the Section 11 audit self-assessment by the end of October 2017. The follow-up stage took three different formats:

1. Key partners including County Council directorates, Health agencies and Police were invited to a challenge and development session where the returns were analysed and feedback requested on a number of areas. This included a detailed analysis of any N/A responses and progress against the developed Action Plan. The panel consisted of the Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Children Board, the Business Manager and other key partners.
2. A focused session for District and Borough Council colleagues took place to share learning and respond to concerns relating to the following four key areas: Leisure Services; Parks & Recreation areas; and Licensing and Housing.
3. Remaining partners were asked to pay attention to any N/A responses they submitted.

Following the development and development sessions, safeguarding concerns were raised by Health partners in relation to MASH. These concerns were raised immediately by the Independent Chair to the Director of Children’s Services, resulting in action at NSCB Board in January regarding MASH Transformation.

A final report on the partnership audit is to be presented to the QA Sub Group and Board and will be available from the Business Office in due course.

Further audit activity will include the Voluntary and Community Sector and is scheduled for Autumn 2018.

Chapter Eight – When a Child Dies in the County

Since 1st April 2008, Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) in England have a statutory responsibility for the Child Death Review process, with relevant legislation contained within the Children Act 2004. The Child Death Review process fulfils the recommendations of the Kennedy Report (2004), and is outlined within ‘Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015: Chapter 5 Child Death Review processes’. Following a nationwide consultation, the statutory guidance underpinning this area of work is being modified and due for publication June 2018.

Child Death Review processes

The review of child deaths consists of two inter-related processes:

- A rapid response following sudden and unexpected deaths. This is undertaken by a Group of professionals who come together for the purpose of enquiring into and evaluating each unexpected death of a child. Any immediate issues that require action by partner agencies and support services such as bereavement care for the families are addressed by this process; and
- An overview of all child deaths up to the age of 18 years occurring in the NSCB area are undertaken by the panel. This takes place at bi-monthly Child Death Overview Panel meetings. This is a paper exercise, based on information available from those who were involved in the care of the child, both before and immediately after the death including, perhaps, the Coroner. This provides a further opportunity for challenge.

Definitions adopted by Child Death Overview Panel Sub Group

- A **Child** is defined as anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday;
- An **unexpected death** is defined as the death of a child that was not anticipated as a significant possibility 24 hours before the death, or where there was a similarly unexpected collapse leading to or precipitating the events that led to the death; and
- **Preventable Child deaths** are those in which modifiable factors may have contributed to the death. These factors are defined as those which, by nationally or locally achievable interventions, could reduce the risk of future child deaths.

Activity and progress report

Northamptonshire has a child population of 171,200 children and young people under the age of 19 years. This constitutes approximately 25% of the population of Northamptonshire. The Child Death Overview Panel met bi-monthly to review child deaths in the county. Activities included:

- 10 Early Professional meetings following unexpected child deaths and 6 Final Review Professional meetings held;
- 7 Joint meetings between the Police, Lead Paediatrician and families held to discuss issues arising from post mortem reports;
- 29 reviews were completed and 19 from the preceding reporting year;
- 2 cases was referred for serious case reviews, serious incident reviews, case mapping exercises;
- The majority of deaths were due to medical causes, but there were also 2 road traffic accidents, 1 hanging and 1 murder.

Child deaths in the county 2017-18	51
Total identified as unexpected	10

Modifiable factors were identified in 5 of the deaths reviewed and included:

- Hidden child;
- Management of bodies;
- Ongoing impact of trauma to families and communities;
- Use of travel cots; and
- Conveying children to hospital in the safest way possible.

Chapter Eight – When a Child Dies in the County

Outcomes and achievements

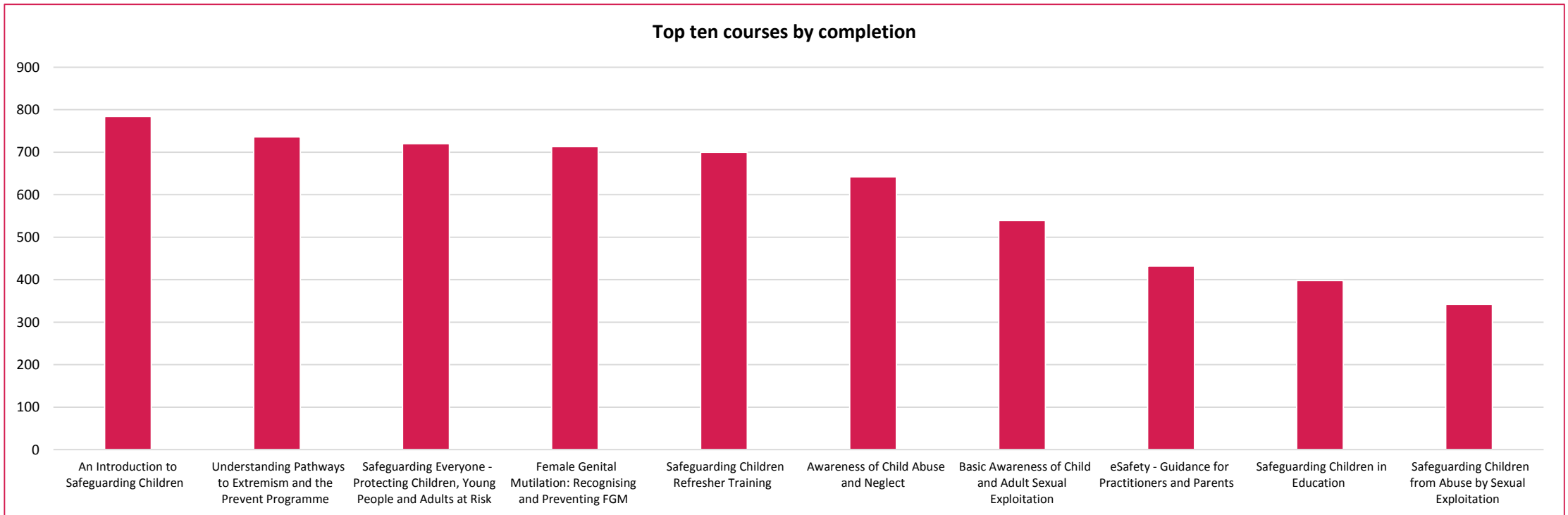
- Children were transferred to tertiary health facilities for variable lengths of time to receive care, and the same pattern was noted with regards to hospice care;
- Peer support was provided to colleagues in an informal manner with time allocated at the end of every meeting for supportive interactions. This was well received by members of the panel.
- The majority of actions set out in the Overview Panels action plan, based on the NSCB Business Plan Priorities for 2017 - 2018, were achieved;
- There is a good link with other Sub Groups, particularly the Serious Case Review Sub Group;
- Learning events are recommended as appropriate such as case mapping exercises, dissemination of learning to health and education colleagues in bulletins and presentations;
- The Project Officer is part of a national network of Child Death Co-ordinators to learn and share good practice. Alerts are disseminated effectively through this Group;
- CDOP undertakes health checks to review the group's membership, Terms of Reference, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats;
- Consistent multi-agency attendance and commitment continued ensuring robust and informed discussion when reviewing child deaths;
- The Chair of the Sub Group has remained consistent throughout the year and there is an active Vice Chair in place ensuring all scheduled meetings occur;
- Input from Primary Care continues through attendance and participation of the Named GP for Safeguarding;
- Following release of the post mortem report, all families who requested it have had a meeting jointly with the Lead Paediatrician and Police in a mutually agreed environment away from the child's home. This process has enabled families to raise issues of particular importance to them and are within the final review meetings and actions monitored; and
- Bereavement support continues to be actively provided both for neonatal and child deaths.

Chapter Nine – Learning and Development

Training is a key component in ensuring staff within agencies are suitably qualified to fulfil their role. Many agencies across Northamptonshire provide their own in-house training on a variety of specialist subjects and whilst single agency training is important, staff also need to have a shared common understanding of multi-agency safeguarding practice and procedures irrespective of which agency they work for. To support this, NSCB currently provides free of charge multi-agency training across a variety of platforms is provided on a variety of subjects and levels.

The number of learning opportunities offered in 2017-18 was 975, and delivered by a combination of commissioned partners for face to face training, including Barnardo's and members of the partnership via in-kind contributions. Take up of face to face training was 79% (769), which is below NSCB expectations, but non-attendance has fallen dramatically during the year to just 34; unfortunately, last minute cancellations do not allow the opportunity to re-fill spaces.

While classroom and conference training are key methods of training delivery, E-learning has become a key development in the way NSCB offers training. The success of NSCB E-learning courses during 2017-18 was significant, with 8,912 course completions across 32 courses, a 17% (7,622) increase on the previous year. The graph shows the top ten courses by course completion. The following sectors continue to have significant take up of E-learning and continue to embrace this method of training from NSCB; Early Years and Out of School Provision 38% (3,358), Schools 24% (2,114), and Voluntary Sector 10% (853).



Chapter Nine – Learning and Development

Impact of Training

NSCB worked hard to understand the impact the training offer has on practice. As well as initial post course evaluations, E-Learning and face to face courses have an impact evaluation that is requested 3 months after course completion. 2,497 e-learning impact evaluations were received and 77 face to face impact evaluations showing the following results:

- 7,421 would recommend the course to others;
- 6,191 were very satisfied/satisfied that the course provided the information needed;
- 1,949 felt participation in the e-learning course supported them to make measurable improvements to their practice;
- There was a marked improvement in knowledge, skills and confidence after attending a course;
- 79% of learners who completed an e-learning impact evaluation agreed or strongly agreed the course they had taken had a positive impact on practice an increase of 3% (76%) in 2016/17;
- When rating improvements in knowledge, skills and confidence, all aspects recorded that 85% of learners felt there had been an increase, again improvements on the scores recorded in 2016/17;
- 77% of people completing a face to face impact evaluation agree or strongly agree they have made changes to regular practice;
- 85% of people completing a face to face impact evaluation agree or strongly agree the course has increased confidence; and
- 77% have shared learning from a face to face course with colleagues.

Chapter Ten – Serious Case Reviews

A serious case is where:

- Abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected;
- The child has died; or
- The child has been seriously harmed and there is cause for concern as to the way in which the authority, their Board partners or other relevant persons have worked together to safeguard the child.

Local Safeguarding Children Boards must undertake a review of these cases. These cases are called Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) and the purpose is to establish whether there are lessons to be learnt from the case about the way in which local professionals and organisations work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. NSCB is committed to undertaking smaller scale reviews called Case Mapping Exercises, where the case does not meet the criteria for a Serious Case Review but it is considered that there are lessons to be learnt for multi-agency working.

SCR Sub Group considered 13 referrals	
No further action required	6
Single Agency Review	0
Case Mapping Exercise	4
Serious Case Review	3* **
Reviews requiring further information / Domestic Homicide Review	
Requiring further information	1
Referral led to a Domestic Homicide Review	1

**A review started as a Serious Case Review and was downgraded to a Case Mapping exercise.*

*** A referral was received for a Serious Case Review and a Domestic Homicide Review is being undertaken that takes into account the children involved.*

Whilst no Serious Case Reviews were published in 2017-18, two cases continued to be processed and a new Serious Case Review was commissioned.

Chapter Ten – Serious Case Reviews

Four Case Mapping Exercises were completed during the period. Each review had a concise 6 Step Briefing developed to identify learning from the process, evidence of changes to practice and identification of good practice from partners. The briefings were widely disseminated across the partnership and are designed to encourage team discussion and feedback. All 6 Step Briefings are available on the NSCB website and are promoted through the bi-monthly NSCB newsletter. See link for further details: <http://www.northamptonshirescb.org.uk/about-northamptonshire-safeguarding-children-board/publications/learning-summaries/>

Positive Feedback from learning sessions include:

- GP safeguarding Forums have found them a very useful way to share the learning in Primary Care.
- NHS England has complimented Northamptonshire on 6 Step briefings as an excellent way to share the learning.

Three 'Learning from Serious Case Reviews' multi-agency training events were provided by members of the SCR Sub Group. With the wealth of knowledge and input on local Serious Case Reviews, it is anticipated that SCR Sub Group members will continue to facilitate these training events and continue to support the learning with professionals throughout the partnership as evidenced below.

- *'The trainer was brilliant! And I was impressed with all the course resources that were provided and how well everything was explained. The trainer was honest and up front about how uncomfortable some of the cases may be and was brilliant in answering any questions that I or anyone else may have had.'*
- *'It was informative and the trainer was experienced and interesting to listen to. Thank you - it is always beneficial to discuss safeguarding concerns with colleagues in other services.'*
- *'Very happy in all respects. The trainer was very knowledgeable and able to skilfully direct the broad discussion, generated by the course content, back onto topic without hindering group conversation.'*
- *'Very impressed with the knowledge of the trainer. The content was enough to understand the training without being too much. The materials were good but there could have been more audio/visual. As tough as the material on this training was to hear I thought it was handled really well and I found a lot of information that I hadn't heard before.'*
- *'The course heightened awareness. Showed mistakes which could have been avoided especially communication. It was an informative and valuable course.'*

The SCR Sub Group completed its priorities set out in the previous year's annual report.

Appendix One – Membership

James Andronov Assistant Chief Constable Northamptonshire Police	Simon Edens Chief Constable Northamptonshire Police	Stuart Jessup Director Rainsbrook Secure Training Centre	Zoe Rogers Fox Head of Safeguarding East Midlands Ambulance Service
Ann Bodsworth Chief Executive Northampton Women's Aid	Liz Elliot Chief Executive Borough Council of Wellingborough	Tracy Keats Head of Safeguarding & Dementia Northampton General Hospital	Darin Seiger GP Chair Nene Clinical Commissioning Group
Paula Bright Senior Executive Prospects	Carolyn Fox Director of Nursing Midwifery & Patient Services Northampton General Hospital	Keith Makin Independent Chair Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Board	Julie Shepherd Director of Nursing Northamptonshire Healthcare Foundation Trust
Cathy Chaplin Lay Member	Cllr Matt Golby Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education Northamptonshire County Council	Walter McCulloch Assistant Director, Early Help, Safeguarding & Children's Services Northamptonshire County Council	Alison Shipley Assistant Director, Learning, Skills & Education, Northamptonshire County Council
Jamie Clarke Head Teacher Sponne School	Leanne Hackshall Director of Nursing and Quality Kettering General Hospital	Kate Meynell Detective Chief Superintendent Crime Command Northamptonshire Police	Helen Statham Board Member Healthwatch Northamptonshire
Laura Clarke Head Teacher Rowan Gate School	Lesley Hagger Director, Children, Families & Education Northamptonshire County Council	Denise Meylan Head of National Probation Service Northamptonshire	Janice Straker Service Manager CAFCASS
Matthew Davies Executive Lead for Safeguarding Nene Clinical Commissioning Group	Jen Helm Detective Superintendent, Head of Crime and Safeguarding Northamptonshire Police	Stephen Mold Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner	Tina Swain Assistant Director for Safeguarding Nene & Corby Clinical Commissioning Group
Carole Deghani Chief Executive Corby Clinical Commissioning Group	Angela Hillery Chief Executive Northamptonshire Healthcare Foundation Trust	Sharon Muldoon Assistant Director, Quality & Performance Northamptonshire County Council	Lucy Wightman Director of Public Health Northamptonshire County Council
Darren Dovey Chief Fire Officer Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue	Mike Hodgson Head of Service Northamptonshire Youth Offending Service	Jamie Nairn Head Teacher, Wootton Primary School	
Anna Earnshaw Director of Adult Social Care Services Northamptonshire County Council	Dean Howells Executive Director of Nursing & Safety St Andrew's Healthcare	Marie Prior Deputy Director Northamptonshire Local Delivery Unit, BeNCH	

Appendix Two - Finance

Board partners contribute to NSCB's budget as well as providing 'in kind' resources, such as meeting venues, and of course, their officer's valuable time and expertise. Partnership contributions for 2017-18 were £190,257, and together with a carry forward of £122,000 (underspend on Serious Case Reviews and unfilled Business Office vacancies), the total income available to the Board was £312,257. The income ensured the overall cost of running NSCB was met.

For the year ahead, the Board is actively considering the financial plan and contributions required for the future partnership arrangements, seeking to secure value for money.

Income (Partner Contributions)	2017-18 £
BeNCH CRC	709
CAFCASS	303
Corby CCG	4,785
Nene CCG	43,064
Further Education Colleges	283
Northamptonshire County Council	47,849
Northamptonshire Police	23,393
Northamptonshire Probation Services	709
Public Health & Wellbeing	18,053
Rainsbrook Secure Training Centre	886
Schools Consultative Forum (DSG)	39,449
St Andrews Healthcare	2,268
Corby Borough Council	808
Daventry District Council	892
East Northamptonshire Council	1,043
Kettering Borough Council	1,147
Northampton Borough Council	2,687
South Northamptonshire Council	1,008
Borough Council of Wellingborough	921
Sub Total	190,257
Brought forward 2016-17	122,000
Total funding available	312,257

NSCB Expenditure	2017-18 £
Staffing costs (includes contribution from NSAB)	126,790
Independent Chair	19,900
IT software	7,960
Learning & Development provision	18,800
Serious Case Reviews	27,869
Other professional fees	4,010
Website hosting and support	1,500
Annual conference and room hire	3,998
Design, print and marketing costs	1,098
Office costs	37
Total	211,962