

Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership

Business Plan 2019-21

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Reviewed by	Strategic Leads	

NSCP Mission Statement

For the children and young people of Northamptonshire
to be as safe as they can be
from harm, exploitation and neglect.

1. Introduction

The Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) Business Plan outlines the key priorities for 2019-2021 and is an interim plan in line with the transition to new local safeguarding arrangements and child death review arrangements set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 (published June 2018).

On 31st October 2018, the Business Office functions between the NSCP and Northamptonshire Safeguarding Adults Board (NSAB) split to allow the NSCP to prioritise structuring the new safeguarding partnership arrangements to ensure children and young people in the county continue to be safeguarded and supported by all agencies.

The transition to the new safeguarding arrangements will be published by June 2019 and embedded by the end of September 2019. Once agreed, Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Board will cease to exist and the new safeguarding arrangements will be known as Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership.

The framework for the three local safeguarding partners (Northamptonshire County Council, Nene and Corby Clinical Commissioning Groups and Northamptonshire Police) will set out arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children including identifying and responding to their needs.

The purpose of these local arrangements is to support and enable local agencies to work together in a system where:

- **Excellent practice is the norm**
- **Partner agencies hold one another to account effectively**
- **There is early identification of “new” safeguarding issues**
- **Learning is promoted and embedded**
- **Information is shared effectively**
- **The public can feel confident that children are protected from harm**

In addition, the Safeguarding Partnership’s values are:

1. A child centred approach to safeguarding ensuring their voice is heard and understood;
2. Effective ways to identify and support children and families who would benefit from early help;
3. A culture of continuous review and learning; and
4. Constructive and mutual challenge between partners to keep children safe.

The Safeguarding Partnership arrangements are supported by the following operational groups that meet on a bi-monthly or quarterly basis:

- Early Help Sub Group (to monitor key priority 1)
- Child Exploitation Sub Group (to monitor key priority 2)
- Quality & Governance Sub Group* (to monitor key priority 3)
- Local Learning Review Sub Group

**The Quality & Governance Sub Group will also convene a Learning & Development Working Group to consider additional training when a need is identified and convene a Policy & Procedures Sub Group when required.*

2. Statutory Objectives

Local authorities, working with partner organisations and agencies, have specific duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in their area. The Children Act 2004, as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017, strengthens these arrangements by placing new duties on key agencies in a local area. Specifically the police, clinical commissioning groups and local authority are under a duty to make arrangements to work together, and with other partners locally, to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in their area.

3. Priorities for 2019-21

For 2019-21 there are three agreed priority areas:

Key Priorities for 2019-21	
1.	Taking positive action early enough to protect children.
2.	To support children, young people and families who are at risk of exploitation.
3.	To work effectively as a partnership and support our staff.

The expectation from the safeguarding children partnership is that leads for each of these priorities areas will report to Board quarterly to highlight the work being undertaken across the partnership and provide assurance that:

1. There is a multi-agency approach to reduce exploitation and harm to children and young people across these key areas, and that information is shared across the partnership to ensure the earliest intervention is undertaken to support those at most risk;
2. That partners make the best use of the data available to include demographics, locality, patterns and trends;
3. That partners clearly identify:
 - a. what has worked well;
 - b. what has not worked so well;
 - c. what has not worked so well; and
 - d. how can this be improved including gaps and barriers.
4. That partners provide information on all services being provided to those most at risk;
5. That partners are accountable to evidence the positive outcomes achieved for those children, young people and their families identified from the data provided; and
6. That partners are responsible for the dissemination of learning from reviews to all their staff.

The Learning and Improvement Framework will continue to be adopted by the partnership to support the quality of safeguarding practice and will include:

- a. A continuous programme of priority training and e-learning opportunities for practitioners.
- b. Analysis of training returns to inform the future planning of the training programme.
- c. A multi-agency approach to learning from case audits and reviews will be disseminated and embedded across all local organisations and will include learning from:
 - i. Local learning reviews;
 - ii. Case mapping; and
 - iii. Single and multi-agency case reviews.
- d. In line with Working Together 2018 guidance, a thorough audit programme will be undertaken with consideration for a specific focus on the Voluntary Community Sector (VCS) and Faith Groups.

Taking positive action early enough to protect children	
1.	Ensure a greater understanding and consistent application of Thresholds cross the partnership with a particular focus on T2.
2.	Revise current Thresholds and Pathways document to reflect Signs of Safety approach.

3.	Ensure Thresholds training is available across the partnership.
4.	Support the development of a multi-agency Early Help Hub within MASH.
5.	Strengthen the partnership response in implementing an information process for young people caught up in Domestic Abuse at an earlier stage (within 72 working hours).

To support children, young people and families who are at risk of exploitation	
1.	Support the partnership to develop an Integrated Adolescent offer and develop a process to scrutinise the offer.
2.	Promote and encourage a roll out of appropriate gang training across all schools.
3.	Commission a review of the partnership response to Child Sexual Exploitation.
4.	Support and promote intervention to prevent young people from joining gangs.
5.	Proactively support initiatives to reduce harm to children and young people caused by knife crime.

To work effectively as a partnership and support our staff	
1.	Promote the work of the NSCP.
2.	Clarify and strengthen how different partnership groups work together and relate to one another.
3.	Strengthen and encourage in-kind training across the partnership.
4.	Support staff to know how to escalate issues effectively and promote the NSCP Escalation Policy.
5.	Employ an Independent Scrutineer who will Chair the Quality & Governance Sub Group.
6.	Hold every Strategic Lead meeting in a different school and include the School Council to hear and listen to the voice of young people.
7.	Promote examples where agencies have effectively worked together for a positive outcome.
8.	Promote and facilitate Learning from Serious Case Reviews.

Key priorities are set out in the 2019-2021 Business Plan Action Plan.