

**Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Board /
Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children
Partnership**

Business Plan 2023-25

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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) has now been in place for over two years and this Business Plan reflects on the work and structure of the partnership over that period, and identifies themes based on local data that links with the findings from the recent Ofsted Inspection of Children's Services in the Autumn of 2022.

Business Plan outlines the key priorities for 2023-25 and is in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 (published June 2018).

The framework for the four local safeguarding partners (North Northants Council, West Northants Council, Integrated Care Board and Northamptonshire Police), along with Northamptonshire Children's Trust, 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;
4. Embrace equality and diversity in everything we do; and
5. Constructive and mutual challenge between partners to keep children safe.

The Safeguarding Partnership arrangements are overseen by the Strategic Leads Group and supported by the following operational groups that meet on a bi-monthly basis:

- Early Help Sub Group
- Child Exploitation Sub Group
- Quality & Governance Sub Group
- Local Learning Review Sub Group
- Neglect Sub Group
- Training & Development Sub Group

Updates on partnership activity are reported to the Strategic Assurance Board three times per annum, with a Full Partnership meeting twice per annum to reflect on the work already undertaken and focus on future direction and priorities.

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 2023-25

There are three agreed priority themes:

Key Priority Themes for 2023-25	
1.	Neglect: Taking positive action early enough to protect children and young people
2.	Exploitation: Ensure those children, young people and families who are most at risk are supported through robust multi-agency co-ordination, assessment support
3.	Domestic Abuse: Promote and implement a joined up multi-agency approach to protecting children and young people at risk of domestic abuse and violence

The expectation from the safeguarding children partnership is that each sub group will report twice yearly to the Strategic Leads Group providing updates on the progress of work against each of the above priorities and provide assurances that:

1. There is a robust multi-agency approach to reduce exploitation and harm to children and young people in the county, and that information is shared across the partnership to ensure the earliest intervention is undertaken to support those at most risk;
2. That partners ensure feedback from children, young people and their families is sought in influencing all areas of work, whilst the voices of children and young people are at the heart of all we do;
3. That partners make the best use of the data available to include demographics, locality, patterns and trends;
4. 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.
5. That partners provide information on all services being provided to those most at risk;
6. That partners are accountable to evidence the positive outcomes achieved for those children, young people and their families identified from the data provided.
7. That partners are responsible for the dissemination of learning from reviews to all their staff, and
8. That partners seek to provide evidence of change and improvement to children, young people and their families through service intervention and change in practice.

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. Thematic reviews; and
 - iii. Single and multi-agency practice reviews.

Neglect: Taking positive action early enough to protect children and young people	
1.	Review and refresh the NSCP Neglect Strategy to be considered and signed off by Strategic Leads by September 2023.
2.	Develop a robust action plan linked to the Neglect Strategy with a 3-year comprehensive programme of improvement to be presented to Strategic Leads on a six-monthly basis for

	oversight and analysis of progress from September 2023
3.	Promote and encourage the rollout of GCP2 through training and monitoring quality of referrals. Uptake to be reviewed by Strategic Leads in November 2023, along with data analysis of referrals.
4.	Develop and undertake a public facing campaign to raise awareness around neglect in 2023-24. Campaign objectives to be agreed by Strategic Leads and outcomes to be scrutinised by Strategic Leads.
What evidence of impact is required	
a.	Feedback by children and young people through what mechanism
b.	Improved quality of referrals with neglect as a theme, accompanied by a comprehensive completed GCP2 toolkit.
c.	A decrease in the number of referrals, with neglect as a theme, with NFA as an outcome.
d.	Something around Family Hubs??
e.	Enhanced public awareness as an outcome of Comms campaign
f.	Strategic Leads to receive good practice case studies, where GCP2 has improved an outcome for a child / young person, twice per annum

Exploitation: Ensure those children, young people and families who are most at risk are supported through robust multi-agency co-ordination, assessment support	
1.	Revise the structure of the Child Exploitation Sub Group to reflect specific targeted areas of exploitation.
2.	Proactively progress the Action Plan associated with the Child Exploitation Strategy to be presented to Strategic Leads on a six-monthly basis for oversight and analysis of progress from April 2023.
3.	Develop and undertake a 12-month public facing campaign around the risks and identification of exploitation. Strategic Leads to review progress and oversee outcomes for assurance of improved outcomes for children, young people and their families
4.	Create specific multi-agency training to develop and enhance practitioners' knowledge around the elements of child exploitation. Evaluations of training will be sought with dip sampling of individual practitioners for specific examples of how the outcomes for children, young people and families have been improved as a result of enhanced practitioner knowledge.
5.	Promote the risks, factors and signs of exploitation to families through an appropriate mechanism to schools in 2024-25. Strategic Leads and Education leads to agree and champion proposal for schools up take.
What evidence of impact is required	
a.	Feedback by children and young people – through what mechanism?
b.	Specific examples of improved outcomes for children and young people from training evaluation dip sampling and feedback of specific cases
c.	Review of partnership data in 12 months to show
d.	Good uptake to the school's awareness campaign through evaluation and feedback
e.	Enhanced public awareness as an outcome of the Comms campaign
f.	Strategic Leads to receive feedback twice yearly from different schools on the feedback from the children, young people and family's campaign in schools

Domestic Abuse: Promote and implement a joined up multi-agency approach to protecting children and young people at risk of domestic abuse and violence	
1.	Develop strong links with Community Safety Partnership Boards in addressing Domestic Abuse through a joined-up Children and Young People Working Group.

2.	Ensure the priorities and work plans to address domestic abuse are aligned with the work of both North and West Community Safety Partnership Boards and their associated Domestic Abuse Boards. Strategic Leads, who sit on Community Safety Partnership Boards, to provide six-monthly feedback on their work around domestic abuse.
3.	Education leads to provide analysis of Domestic Abuse Notifications Scheme in terms of being able to provide enhanced support to students once per annum in June 2023 and June 2024.
4.	Review training offer to enable practitioners to be able to provide a domestic-abuse informed response, supported through reflective supervision.
5.	Review and promote shared agency response to domestic abuse across the county, to include MASH and specialist domestic abuse services.
What evidence of impact is required	
a.	Feedback by children and young people – through what mechanism?
b.	Demonstrate robust link with Domestic Abuse Boards and work of their Children and Young People in Education Working Group.
c.	Decrease in the number of referrals where domestic abuse is a theme and NFA is the outcome.
d.	Improved early intervention and outcome through audit activity and evaluation feedback and dip sampling for training identifying specific cases.
e.	Strategic Leads to receive annual analysis of Domestic Abuse Notifications Scheme demonstrating improved responses to children, young people and their families to include specific case feedback.