



Safeguarding Children Strategic Plan

2020-2021

Introduction

The Surrey Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP) works to ensure that local services work knowledgeably and effectively in a coordinated way, to secure the highest quality in the multi-agency work to safeguard children and young people and to support their parents. The SSCP Safeguarding Children Strategic plan identifies the key priorities for the continuing improvements to safeguard Surrey's children and young people and ensure that they are seen, safe and heard. The Plan covers the period 2020 to 2021.

In developing its priorities, the Safeguarding Children Strategic Plan seeks to demonstrate its commitment to continuous improvement by ensuring that the plan builds on the work achieved in Surrey to date. The priorities identified in this strategic plan identifies the critical areas to which the SSCP will give conspicuous oversight ensuring that each priority identifies the key actions to be taken by each agency in the SSCP. The Strategic Plan also identifies the Sub-Group who will oversee this activity, the services and agencies which will contribute to the progress of each action. The Strategic Plan will also identify success indicators, as well as the intended impact of this activity on the well-being of children and young people.

The Safeguarding Children Strategic Plan is monitored by the Executive Group, with exceptions being presented for review and resolution at each meeting of the Business Group. The Safeguarding Children Strategic Plan is aligned to the SSCP's Multi-Agency Quality Assurance Framework and its performance indicators. This ensures that there is clear line of sight between the priorities of the Partnership and the work of each Sub-Group.

This Safeguarding Children Strategic Plan was developed in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic and the SSCP's response to the pandemic and its impact is highlighted within each priority as appropriate.

Core (Business as Usual) Functions

The Core Functions (business as usual) of the SSCP are not detailed in this Strategic Plan as these activities represent the core business of the Partnership. These business as usual activities are outlined as follows:

- 1. To coordinate local work to safeguard children and promote their welfare including:**
 - Developing policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, including
 - Acting where there are concerns including thresholds
 - Recruitment and supervision

- Investigation of allegations
 - Cooperation with neighbouring authorities
 - Participating in the planning of services for children in the local authority area
 - Communicating the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
 - Ensuring that procedures are in place to ensure a coordinated response to unexpected child deaths (with the CCG)
- 2. To ensure the effectiveness of that work**
- Monitoring effectiveness of what is done to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
 - Undertaking multi-agency audits and multi-agency audits (based on case review findings)
 - Undertaking Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews including ensuring the consolidation of case review learning and evidence that practice has changed
 - Collecting and analysing information about child deaths
 - Section 11/175 audits
 - Performance framework –and if you tracked the agendas of Partnership you will see that there has not yet been a performance report which represents a real risk despite work going on in the background
 - Evaluation of safeguarding training
 - Policy and procedures
 - Communications work stream including things like newsletter/website and the engagement work with families and practitioners

The Surrey Safeguarding Children Strategic plan is a live document which is subject to continuous review and amendment.

Thresholds – to ensure that there is a clear understanding of thresholds for different levels of intervention.

Priority 1	What we will do	Lead Sub-Group/Person	Timescales	What difference has it made, or will it make
	<p>We will seek assurance that thresholds are understood; are consistently and robustly applied, and that threshold guidance is implemented collaboratively.</p> <p>We will seek assurance regarding evidence that the understanding and application of thresholds is helping to keep children safe.</p> <p>Ensuring that the C-SPA is responding to referrals effectively during the COVID 19 crisis.</p> <p>We will seek to learn from Serious Case Reviews and Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews which highlight circumstances where conventional application of thresholds may not be appropriate.</p> <p>We will conduct a multi-agency audit on the quality of decision-making at referral and key stages in multi-agency intervention’.</p>	<p>Learning from Practice Sub-Group</p>	<p>March 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is evidence of improving engagement work with children and young people at threshold, with a renewed focus on ensuring action is taken to address issues that matter to young people and their lived experiences. <p>Greater clarity about decision-making about thresholds (throughout the system) and use of the multi-agency the threshold guidance?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are able to see from a greater scrutiny of performance information & intelligence, audit and quality assurance findings to ensure services are operating consistently across all parts of the county, that practice in relation to neglect is improving.

	<p>We will seek assurance from all agencies that practitioners are alert to the increased risks of neglect during the COVID 19 pandemic and that plans are in place to respond effectively</p> <p>We will audit multi-agency practice in relation to neglect</p> <p>We will seek assurance that there is a common recognition of neglect throughout the partnership at a practice level.</p> <p>We will work closely with Public Health and the Health and Well-Being Board to promote awareness of neglect as a Public Health issue.</p>	Surrey Health and Well-Being Board		
<p><i>Domestic abuse</i> – the Partnership is determined to improve practice in safeguarding children in families where domestic abuse takes place.</p>				
Priority 3	What we will do	Lead Sub-Group/Person	Timescales	What difference has it made, or will it make
	<p>There is a clear, agreed multi-agency approach to dealing domestic abuse that safeguards children, supports victims/survivors and holds perpetrators to account</p> <p>Review our policy and procedural framework and our learning offer.</p>	<p>Case Review Panel with Learning from Practice Sub-group</p> <p>Surrey Health and Well-Being Board to</p>	<p>March 2021</p>	<p>Children are safeguarded from the trauma of witnessing DA</p> <p>Survivors are supported to keep themselves and their children safe</p> <p>Perpetrators are held to account for their actions</p>

	<p>We will support the commissioning of services in respect of domestic abuse.</p> <p>There is an effective offer of early help and preventative support that is aligned to the Family Well-Being Model.</p> <p>Throughout the COVID 19 Pandemic we will work closely with Surrey Police to Monitor Incidence of Domestic Abuse; where children are present, we will work with partners to ensure that there is a timely and effective safeguarding response.</p> <p>We will work with partners to ensure that there are appropriate plans in place to support children and families who have experienced domestic abuse during and immediately after the COVID 19 Pandemic.</p> <p>We will ensure that the Partnership is sighted on the effectiveness of Surrey's MARAC arrangements in ensuring that children and victim are safeguarded from Domestic Abuse.</p> <p>We will work with colleagues in Public health to ensure that there is awareness of coercive control and Clare's Law.</p>	<p>ensure that there is strategic alignment in our response to Domestic Abuse across Children's and Adult services</p>		<p>There is a reduction in the number of children entering care where DA is a factor</p> <p>Children report that they no longer witnessing domestic in their home</p> <p>Perpetrators are being managed to change their behaviour and are being held to account</p> <p>The numbers of cases where domestic abuse is a factor is monitored on each quarter</p> <p>The Partnership has assurance that learning is shared across all agencies in SCRs Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews where DA is a significant factor.</p>
--	--	--	--	--

Contextual safeguarding – the Partnership will increase the focus on contextual safeguarding, including serious youth violence and knife crime and all forms of child exploitation.

Priority	What we will do	Lead Sub-Group/Person	Timescales	What difference has it made, or will it make
4	<p>We will work to increase our understanding of these risks across all agencies. We will develop a strategic, multi-agency response to adolescent safeguarding to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research and Data analysis Better understand the risk profiles of children and of those who exploit them within the extra-familial context. Integration and closer working Reduce the amount of silo across services and share understanding on the most vulnerable and risky adolescents. Safeguarding Review <i>'It Was Hard to Escape 2020'</i> cites local learning points and critical moments for intervention. Disruption and enforcement To ensure all agencies work together to enable disruption to work effectively and to minimise the impact of harmful custodial disposals on the child. A multi-agency approach to disrupting and managing offenders which considers 	<p>Progress in relation to this priority is to be monitored by the SSCP Business Group</p> <p>Surrey Police</p> <p>Youth Justice Team</p> <p>Schools and Education Safeguarding Forum to include Surrey Schools and</p>	March 2021	<p>There is a joined up and coordinated response to a range of adolescent risks including exploitation, serious youth violence, knife crime, peer on peer abuse, harmful sexual behaviour and online forms of harm.</p> <p>Dedicated SSCP funded role – CE and Hidden Crime Coordinator committed to working together to achieve the above and to ensure greater join up of performance information & intelligence, audit and quality assurance findings to ensure services are operating consistently and working together countywide.</p> <p>Dedicated CE & hidden crime coordinator role has capacity to work with internal SCC and external partners to engage and drive forward priority to integrate and renew focus on ensuring action is taken to address issues that matter to young people and their lived experiences.</p> <p>Working with the partnership to support the commissioning of services in respect of</p>

	<p>interventions that seek to address offending behaviour</p> <p>Ensure all agencies recognise and intervene ‘teachable moments’ (point of arrests/A&E/edge of school exclusion/family group conferencing)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early intervention & Safeguarding Focus on the risks in the community or context (including Online) exposing multiple children to risk and harm not just one child or family. <p>Ensure all partners understand and promote referral pathway for children involved in Child Criminal /Sexual Exploitation</p> <p>To support children to understand they are being exploited and help provide exit strategies and ensure safeguarding measures are in place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication & Education Workforce learning and development and integrated training across safeguarding adolescent work. Trauma – informed work recognising ACE and lived experience. 	<p>Education Institutions</p>	<p>safeguarding adolescents that meets the needs at an early stage.</p> <p>There is an effective offer of early help and preventative support that is aligned to the Family Well-Being Model. CE coordinator working with the Police and around an intervention pilot.</p> <p>Introduction of the Engage model at point of arrest for young people in contact with the justice system.</p> <p>Continue to develop community engagement programmes – Operation Makesafe, Safeguarding in Sport, Bystander Initiatives.</p> <p>Join up could be further improved with dedicated analytical support to identify, track, map and provide outcomes data for the partnership.</p>
--	--	-------------------------------	---

Emotional well-being and child and adolescent mental health services – the Partnership’s priorities are to improve children and young people’s access to services and the quality of these services. .

Priority	What do we want to do	Lead Sub-Group/Person	Timescales	What difference has it made, or will it make
5	<p>To work with Partners in the development of a new CAMHs strategy.</p> <p>To inform and influence the recommissioning of EW&CAMH services.</p> <p>Undertake a Thematic Review of Suicide in Surrey and ensure that the recommendations are implemented.</p> <p>The Partnership will seek assurance from all relevant agencies that they have an effective agency response to adolescent mental health, self-harm and suicide prevention.</p> <p>Develop of a self-harm protocol and contribute to the children’s section in the suicide strategy which is due for review in 2021. See also ¹</p>	<p>Case Review Panel</p> <p>Surrey Health and Well- Being Board and Public Health lead on suicide prevention</p> <p>CAMHS</p> <p>Community Health Services and CCG</p> <p>British Transport Police</p>	<p>March 2021</p>	<p>The CAMHs is accessible to children at the point of need</p> <p>Referral and support pathways are relevant and responsive; this is understood by practitioners and families.</p> <p>We will seek assurance regarding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Ensuring that CYP CURRENTLY in greatest need have access to support •There is a realistic strategic understanding of need to support commissioning intentions •There is confidence that increased funding can generate local provider capacity of consistent quality •Arrangements for sustainability <p>The Strategy includes a Children and Young People’s Charter, developed by young people in Surrey, which sets out what is important to children and young people and should guide</p>

1

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/585411/PHE_local_suicide_prevention_planning_practice_resource.pdf

	<p>To explore the possibility of Mental Health First Aiders in schools.</p> <p>We will work toward a Zero Suicide Approach / Policy ²</p> <p>We will seek assurance from all agencies that there is increasing practitioner understanding of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Trauma Informed responses.</p> <p>Ensure that there is a package of support to children and young people whose emotional and mental health have been adversely affected by COVID-19.</p>	<p>Surrey Schools and Education Forum</p>		<p>development of all Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Services.</p>
--	---	---	--	---

² <https://www.england.nhs.uk/blog/david-fearnley/>

<i>Children with SEN and Disabilities – we will ensure that the heightened to risk to children with SEN and Disabilities is understood and addressed in assessments and planning.</i>				
Priority 6	What we will do	Lead Sub-Group/Person	Timescales	What difference has it made, or will it make
	Our concern is that we are not confident about capacity, access, timeliness and consistent quality of opportunity We will review the whole pathway for Children with SEN and Disabilities to ensure that the child’s welfare and safeguarding is incorporated at all levels of needs.	Learning from Practice Sub-group	March 2021	The risks to children with SEND are understood; their needs are reflected in strategic plans and priorities.
<i>Historical Abuse – the Partnership will seek to ensure full cooperation across agencies and that relevant records are made available to investigators and that support is provided, sensitively and openly, to those individuals who may be affected</i>				
Priority 7	What do we want to do	Lead Sub-Group/Person	Timescales	What difference has it made, or will it make
	When the findings and recommendations of the review of historical abuse cases are published the SSCP will develop an action plan to disseminate the lessons and implement and monitor the agreed recommendations.	Police Case Review Panel	March 2021	The SSCP is cooperating with investigations and key lessons are shared, with improvements in practice. The SSCP is appraised of the outcomes of the review.

				<p>The SSCP has considered the learning and the recommendations.</p> <p>The SSCP is overseeing a multi-agency action plan and its implementation.</p> <p>Partners working with key agencies on a comprehensive comms Strategy in response to this review.</p>
--	--	--	--	---