

Safeguarding Children in Stockport



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FORWARD

This document sets out how agencies in Stockport will work together in the safeguarding of children and young people in the Borough. The Stockport Safeguarding Partnership described here, is still relatively new, and builds on the work of its predecessor Stockport Safeguarding Children Board.

We fully support that the three statutory partners have equal and joint responsibility for local safeguarding arrangements and we are committed to the principles that support these arrangements. As leaders, we recognise that safeguarding children cannot be achieved in isolation from other partnerships, or our communities. We recognise the excellent work that is undertaken by the workforce across the partnership and want to ensure that we provide an environment where this can be maintained.

Stockport Safeguarding Children Partnership is committed to putting children first, to empowering families to take good care of themselves and their children, and to providing professional, personalised services that recognise each family as unique and listen and respond to their individual circumstances. At the same time, we will challenge one another to do better, to learn and to aspire for more - much as we all do for our own children. We will continue to seek out what works well; what we can do better to support the communities that we serve and ensure that children and young people are safer as a result.

Our Safeguarding Partnership includes all the agencies that provide support to, work with or commission services for children and young people; and includes all statutory and voluntary agencies and faith groups. Whilst agencies will have differing levels of engagement within the partnership we want to ensure that we have an inclusive approach and build on individual agencies strengths to promote and effectively safeguard the children and young people in Stockport.

There can be no greater priority for public services than the protection, safeguarding and improvement of outcomes for children. GMP view the duty placed upon the three key agencies, Police, Local Authority and Clinical Commissioning Groups, as a golden opportunity to review all safeguarding arrangements across Greater Manchester. This must be with the aim of improving effectiveness, efficiency and consistency. These plans are simply the start of the process and GMP looks forward to working closely, with partners to develop the plans and arrangements over the coming months in a constructive and ambitious approach. The professionalism and dedication evident in partners in each of the 10 local authority areas, will be crucial in making Greater Manchester a safer place to live and an area in which the life outcomes of each child are continually improving.

Stockport's ambition continues to be to offer help and support at the earliest point and to enable children, young people and families to have positive outcomes, where they reach their full potential and become independent from additional services. We have a recognised track record of innovation through Stockport Family of delivering this.

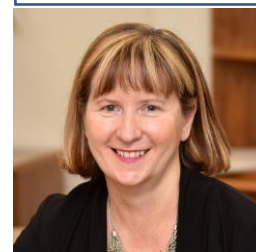
We want to ensure that our arrangements are effective, therefore, towards the end of the first year, we will undertake an independent review of the arrangements. This will allow us to assure ourselves as statutory partners, the wider partnership and the children young people and their families/carers and the communities that they live in, that we have the right systems in place to keep children safe.



Shaun Donnellan
Borough
Commander
GMP



Noreen Dowd
Accountable Officer
Stockport CCG



Pam Smith
Chief Executive
SMBC

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Shaun Donnellan', enclosed in a blue rectangular box.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'N Dowd', enclosed in a blue rectangular box.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'P. Smith', enclosed in a blue rectangular box.

NATIONAL CONTEXT

The Children and Social Work Act (2017) set out provisions, which will replace Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB) with new flexible working arrangements, led by 3 safeguarding partners (local authorities, chief officers of police and clinical commissioning groups). The Act places a duty on those partners to make arrangements to work together with any relevant agencies for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children within the area.

The guidance for the new safeguarding arrangements is set out in Working Together 2018

Under the new legislation, the responsibility for Serious Case reviews (SCRs) has also changed. Responsibility for SCRs will move to a National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel. The Panel will commission and publish reviews of serious child safeguarding cases, which it thinks raise issues that are complex, or of national importance. Local safeguarding partners will still be required to complete local reviews where the partners believe there are lessons to be learned.

This paper sets out the partnership governance arrangements for safeguarding children in Stockport.



LOCAL CONTEXT

SAFEGUARDING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

62,900 Children 0-17 live in Stockport

450

Children subject to an
Initial Child Protection Conference

332

Children subject
to a Child
Protection Plan

445
OLA
LAC

363
Children
in Care

3,442
Referrals to
Children's
Social Care

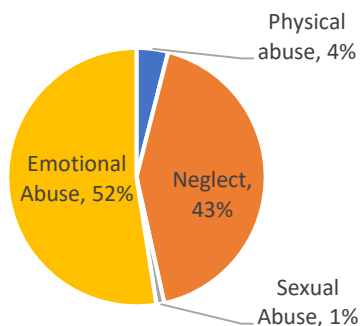
5,908
MASSH Contacts
Received

3,529
Authorised
Children's
Social Work
Assessments

2008
Children
in Need

3 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

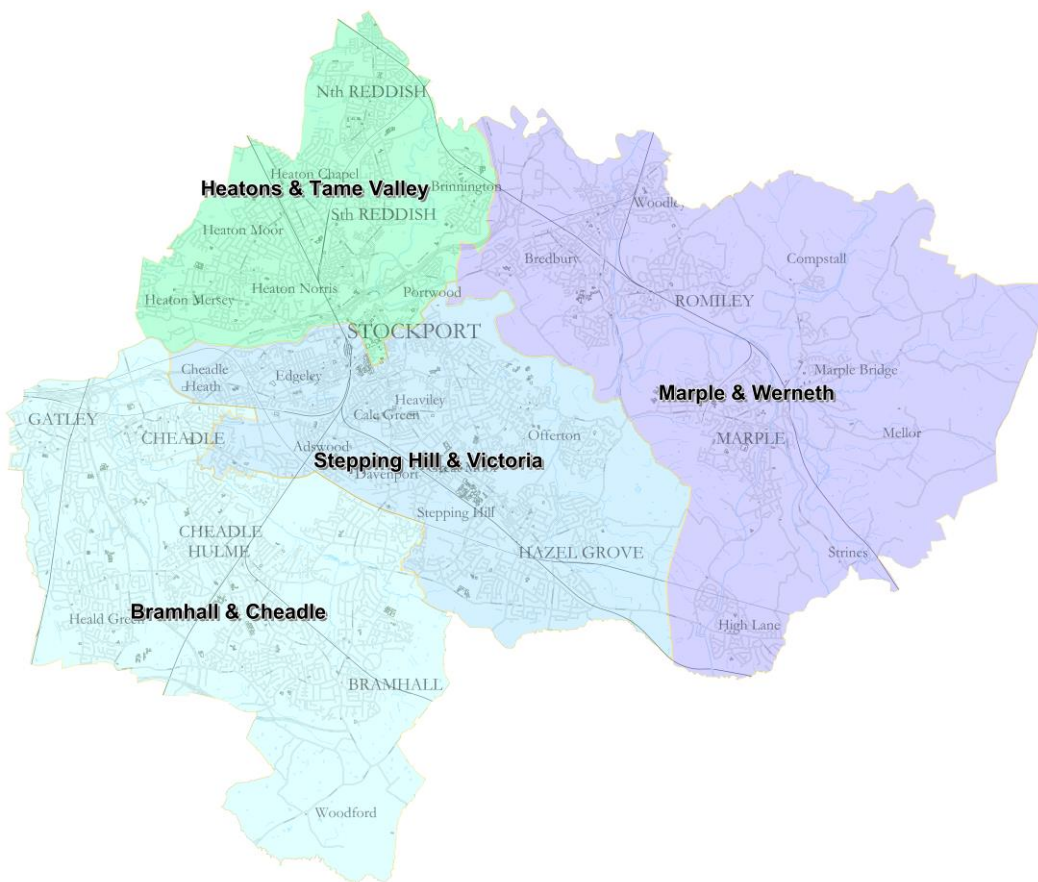
Child Protection Plans



216 referrals to the LADO

10 children are living in a private fostering arrangement

LOCAL CONTEXT



Effective Support – Stockport Early Help Model and Continuum of Need

The Prevention and Early Help Strategy is a statement of Stockport's approach to improving outcomes for children, young people and families. The strategy is guided by the best available evidence about the effectiveness of interventions.

What is Stockport Family?

Stockport Family brings together people who work with children, young people and families to make it easier for Stockport families to get the right support at the right time. Stockport Family was established in April 2016. Restorative practice training has helped change the way we are working with families by providing a set of values and behaviours that the workforce and the families we work with share and understand. Schools are working with us to design the way that services are delivered. Conversations are action and solution based and not hampered by delays. Colocation means true collaborative working, not just working alongside each other.

LOCAL CONTEXT

We are proud of having an engaged and dedicated workforce that is committed to different ways of working with children, young people and families.

The Prevention and Early Help strategy is underpinned by the Multi-Agency Safeguarding and Support Hub (MASSH), which is the borough wide, central means for the identification of need, early in the development of a problem. The Early Help Assessment (EHA) and the Team around the School (TAS) are central to the delivery of effective support in Stockport. The EHA is an approach that links prevention and early intervention to more specialist services and our commitment to the Lead Practitioner model² ensures that services are coordinated around the needs of the child and family.

Our Prevention and Early Help strategy provides the framework to guide the work of all key partners across the children's workforce in Stockport and to provide a policy basis for the commissioning and development of provision and services. The strategy is consistent with the ambition of Stockport Children's Trust.

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The aim of our strategy is to set out:

- Stockport's definition of prevention and early help as well as the expected outcomes;
- The key principles for the prevention and early help offer in Stockport;
- How current prevention and early help services are being delivered and our plans for future development;
- How the impact of prevention and early help provision is currently measured and how we can further develop this.

What do we mean by 'prevention and early help' provision?

Stockport's definition of prevention and early help is underpinned by Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, as well as Stockport's Safeguarding Children Partnership Child Concern Continuum (Levels of Need). These clearly identify the thresholds for making decisions regarding targeted support.

You can read more about our Early Help Strategy - [please click here](#) and our threshold of need document - [please click here](#)



ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SAFEGUARDING PARTNERS TO WORK TOGETHER TO IDENTIFY AND RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN IN THE AREA

The Safeguarding Partnership includes all the agencies that provide support to, work with or commission services for children and young people and includes all statutory and voluntary agencies and faith groups. Whilst agencies will have differing levels of engagement within the partnership we want to ensure that we have an inclusive approach and build on individual agencies strengths to promote and effectively safeguard the children and young people in Stockport.

STATUTORY PARTNERS AS DETERMINED IN WORKING TOGETHER 2018

The three local Safeguarding Partners for the Stockport Partnership are:

- Greater Manchester Police
- Stockport Clinical Commissioning Group
- Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council

It is the responsibility of each safeguarding partner to identify a senior officer in each of their agencies to have responsibility and authority for ensuring full collaboration with these arrangements.

The representatives should be able to:

- Speak with authority for the safeguarding partner they represent
- Commit their organisation on policy and practice matters;
- Hold their own organisation to account and hold others to account;
- Work together to make safeguarding arrangements and review them on an ongoing basis.

All three partners have equal and joint responsibility for local safeguarding arrangements.

The three safeguarding partners will work collaboratively for the Safeguarding Children Partnership and, along with Relevant Agencies, to meet the following principles:

- The rights and interests of children will be at the heart of the arrangements;
- The arrangements will exist to improve outcomes for children and all measures of success should be toward that goal;
- The responsibility for effective safeguarding lies with each partner agency, it does not lie with the Safeguarding Children Partnership. The Safeguarding Children Partnership will responsible for holding each partner individually to account for their safeguarding work, which includes their responsibility for effective multi-agency working;
- Safeguard children by having in place policies, procedures, safe working practices and suitable, trained staff and volunteers;
- Improve the quality of life and opportunities for all children by working together with multi-agency partners to improve outcomes for children in respect of keeping them safe from harm.



ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SAFEGUARDING PARTNERS TO WORK TOGETHER TO IDENTIFY AND RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN IN THE AREA

AIMS OF THE SAFEGUARDING PARTNERSHIP

The Safeguarding Partnership has extended the definition of safeguarding to include prevention and promotion of welfare, and has a remit to promote the safety and welfare of all children in Stockport, in addition to continuing to lead in the well-established area of child protection for those who are vulnerable.

The aims to:

- To develop and agree local policies and procedures for inter-agency work to protect children, within the national framework;
- To audit and evaluate how well local services work together to protect children;
- To put in place objectives and performance indicators;
- To encourage effective working relationships between services and professional groups, based on trust and mutual understanding;
- To ensure agreement across agencies about operational definitions and thresholds;
- To improve local ways of working based on knowledge from national and local experience and research, and to ensure lessons learned are acted upon;
- To undertake case reviews where a child has died or in certain circumstances has been seriously harmed;
- To help improve the quality of child protection work through inter agency training and development;
- To raise awareness within the wider community of the need to safeguard children and promote their welfare.

OUR PARTNERSHIP VISION FOR THE CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES OF STOCKPORT

Working in partnership to support and safeguard the people of Stockport to enable them to live safe, healthy and, where possible, independent lives.

OUR VALUES THAT UNDERPIN THE VISION

- Be excellent
- Be of service and accountable
- Be honest and open
- Learn from experience
- Respect and value everyone
- Be kind and work together



ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SAFEGUARDING PARTNERS TO WORK TOGETHER TO IDENTIFY AND RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN IN THE AREA

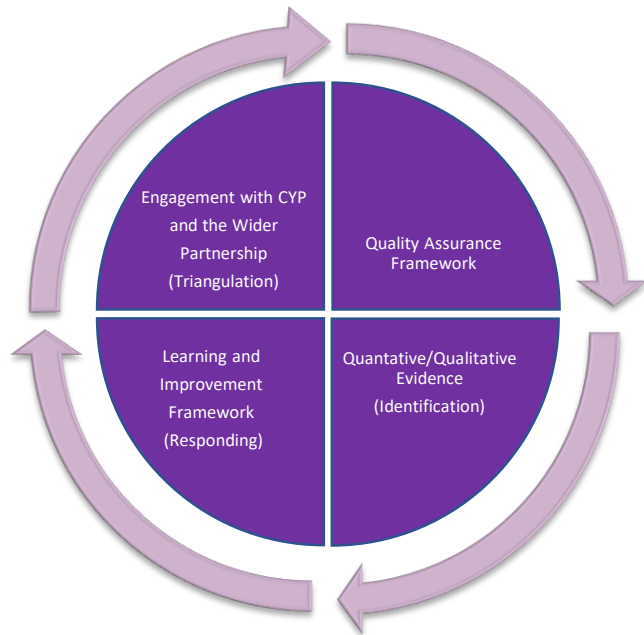


ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SAFEGUARDING PARTNERS TO WORK TOGETHER TO IDENTIFY AND RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN IN THE AREA

STOCKPORT SAFEGUARDING PARTNERSHIP QUALITY ASSURANCE MODEL

The model below sets out our tripartite approach to quality assurance. The 3 elements are:

- Quantitative and Qualitative Evidence – **Identification**;
- Learning and Improvement – **Responding**;
- Engagement with Children and Young People, front line practice and the wider partnership – **Triangulation**



Quantitative and Qualitative Evidence (Identification) will include:

- Monitoring and evaluation of the quality, performance and outcomes for children. There will be a Scorecard with a range of measures from all partners aligned with the areas of focus for the partnership.
- Audits conduct on multi and single agency basis with a year plan for partnership audit including methodology, and ensure the findings are reported. To sign off completed actions and verify the impact through re-audit.
- Inspections
- Peer reviews
- Visits to front line practitioners
- Research and collate examples of good practice to be shared with partner agencies
- Ensure there is a good understanding of the capacity, demand for and effectiveness services, making sure that this informs commissioning and planning.
- Through capturing the Voice of the Child

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SAFEGUARDING PARTNERS TO WORK TOGETHER TO IDENTIFY AND RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN IN THE AREA

A Learning and Improvement Framework (Responding) will include:

- Ensure there is sufficient, high quality learning and development to meet the needs of frontline practitioners and their managers
- Identify learning and improvement responses for Stockport to national and local developments, findings from audits, internal and external challenge and scrutiny
- Ensure the co-ordination and provision of inter-agency training which complements the professional development activities available to staff in single agency or professional settings.
- Development/review of policies/practice guidance
- Ensure that partner agencies are kept abreast of developing safeguarding agendas and opportunities for learning and improvement.
- Ensure that the learning Improvement Framework is monitored and maintained as an effective tool

Engaging with Children and Young People (Triangulation)

The partnership in Stockport already has an established mechanism for engaging with children and young people, and the intention with the new arrangement is to build on this and not duplicate.

There are a number of forums which ensure that the voice of the child is heard. There are two forums that are supported by a local authority Participation Officer.

Stockport Children in Care Council is open to any young person who is cared for by Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council or who lives in Stockport but is in the care of another local authority.

The Youth Partnership is for young people aged 11 – 21 who live, work or are educated in the borough. The young people campaign on issues that affect young people and act as a 'critical friend' to the local authority and the wider partnership.



ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SAFEGUARDING PARTNERS TO WORK TOGETHER TO IDENTIFY AND RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN IN THE AREA

Engaging with Children and Young People (Triangulation)

Members of both these groups are able to access regional activities such as the Greater Manchester Youth Combined Authority and national activities such as the U.K. Youth Parliament, where they can continue to have their views heard.

In Stockport, young people can also join Stockport Action Youth Speakers (SAYS), which is a forum for young disabled people. This group is supported by Seashell Trust and Stockport Parents in Partnership.

Young people who are in the process of leaving the care system can become a part of the Care Leavers Forum which is supported by the charity Pure Insight.

There is also a forum for young people who access Healthy Young Minds which is run by the service itself. And the NHS Youth Forum.

In addition we will seek to do the following:

- Ask our relevant agencies and other partners how they ensure they have captured the voice of the child, young person and families in their work as well as identifying innovative ways they gather this feedback through the partnership.
- Where relevant we will involve families in learning reviews and events.
- The participation team will support our work and advise how best to link in with existing forums for children and young people in Stockport.



ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SAFEGUARDING PARTNERS TO WORK TOGETHER TO IDENTIFY AND RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN IN THE AREA

Annual Report

In order to bring transparency the safeguarding partners will continue to publish an annual report. The report will provide an analysis on the effectiveness of our local arrangements, including progress against key priorities, and linkages across other key strategic partnerships in Stockport and the difference that we as a partnership to the lives and experiences of our most vulnerable children.

We will provide details on any safeguarding practice reviews; multi agency audits and any thematic reviews that we have undertaken include learning that was identified and what we have done to embed the learning into front line practice.

The report will capture the ways in which partners have sought and utilised feedback from children and families to inform their work and influence service provision. We will continue to make our report widely available and will be published on the Stockport Safeguarding Children Partnership website along with being formally received through statutory partner's governance processes; Health and Wellbeing Board and across the wider partnership.

Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

Stockport is part of an established tripartite arrangement for reviewing child deaths with Trafford and Tameside. There has been agreement that this arrangement will continue; with the Health and Wellbeing Board taking accountability for overseeing the work of the CDOP.

The Stockport Safeguarding Partnership Executive will continue to receive the CDOP annual report and expect the panel to escalate any areas of concern relating to the safeguarding of children in Stockport to the Partnership Executive for action.



ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SAFEGUARDING PARTNERS TO WORK TOGETHER TO IDENTIFY AND RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN IN THE AREA

Engaging with Front Line Practice

In 2017/2018, Stockport Safeguarding Children Board introduced annual visits to front line practice. Members undertook visits to agencies that they were not familiar with.

These visits were well received by practitioners and board members. They gave front line practitioners the opportunity know about, and challenge the work of the board and for members to understand what practice is like at the front line in a different agency.

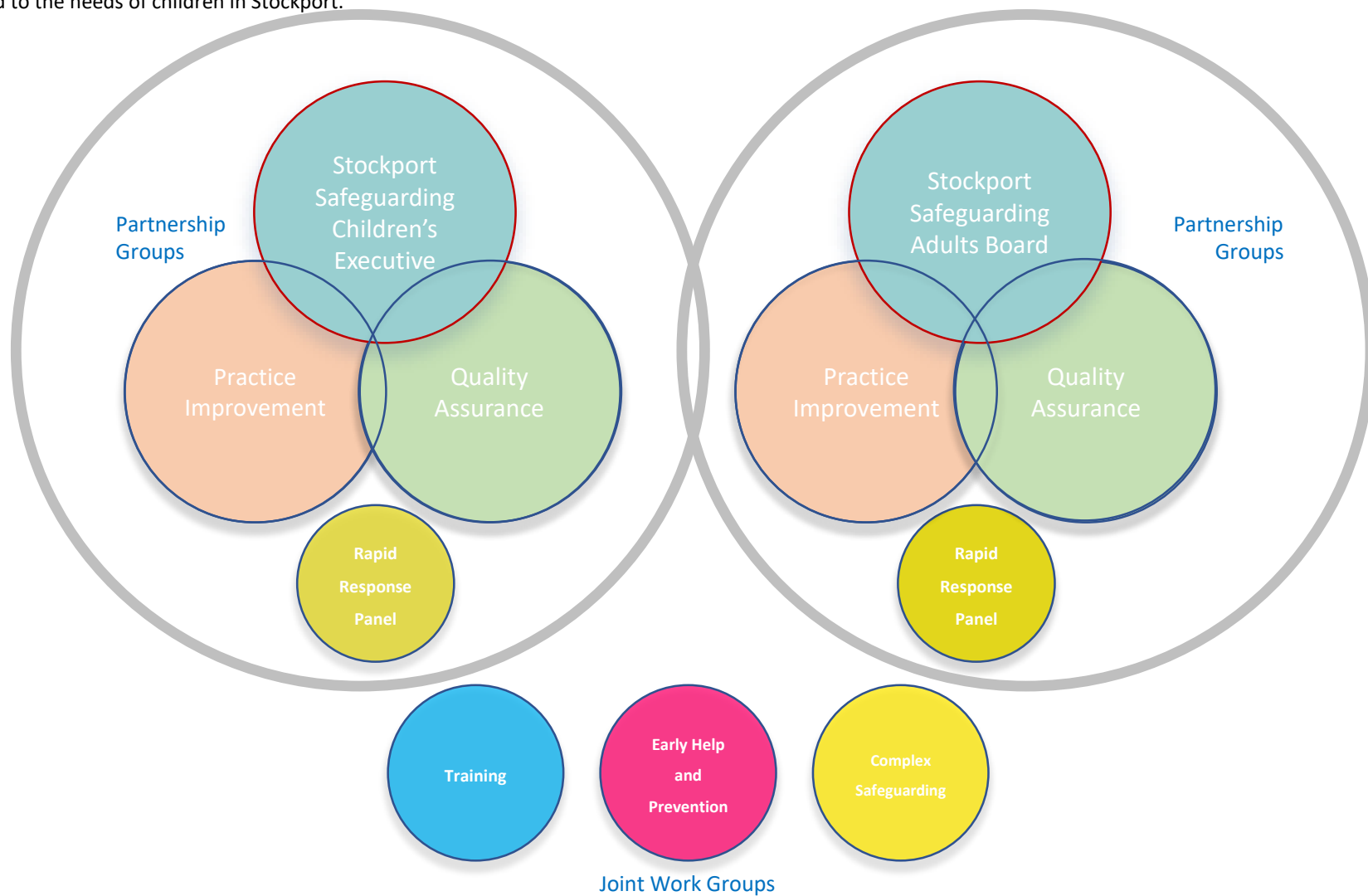
The visits were able to test a number of lines of enquiry related to learning from Serious Case Reviews and issues that the board had been addressing. It is the intention of the new Safeguarding Partnership to continue this approach.

Stockport Family undertook a 'practice week', where service leads spent the week on the front line observing front line practitioners. It is intended that this model will continue on an annual basis and we would be looking for other agency to consider this as a way to keep sighted on what it means to be a practitioner in Stockport.



GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The safeguarding partnership will operate within the following governance arrangements to identify and respond to the needs of children in Stockport.



GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The Executive of the Stockport Safeguarding Children Partnership

The purpose of the Executive is to be the decision making body that oversees the multi-agency plan to protect children and safeguard their welfare. It will review what is working well; what needs to be improved. It will be in an informed position to determine what actions need to be taken through the work of the partnership groups, feedback from front line practice and feedback from children, young people and their families.

Local partners are responsible for the effectiveness of their arrangements for safeguarding within their individual agency. The Executive is responsible for ensure that the partnership is working effectively to safeguard children.

The Executive will carry out the primary function of holding each other and all relevant partners to account, and for developing the local arrangements which make clear the shared vision and objectives for Stockport children. It will be constituted to include key agency senior leads who will receive information, assurance and learning from the partnership groups and take decisions on areas for improvement, further scrutiny and challenge and learning and improvement. The proposal is that this group meet four times a year. The wider partnership will be involved at the start the year through a development day, to agree areas for focus, and a mid-year review, to receive progress against the priority areas.

Membership of these will consist of the three statutory partners and two core members. The Partnership will also be supported by a number of advisors who will bring the operational expertise and advice to the partnership.

The core members of the Executive will be the Director of Education to maintain the focus and engagement with the schools through the school's forums and to provide advice and support to the Executive, along with a schools representative (drawn from existing head teachers forums to give professional advise); and the Director of Public Health. A key role of the Safeguarding Children Executive will be to identify any new or emerging issues relating to safeguarding. We see a key role of the Director of Public Health to raise any new/emerging issues from a population wide perspective and to keep the Executive informed as to any changes within the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and to support the partnership in undertaking analysis of emerging national issues and what that means for Stockport.

The advisors to the Partnership Executive will provide the professional/clinical/operational expertise and will come from the 3 statutory partners and a schools representative.



GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The Safeguarding Children Partnership will also work via the Greater Manchester Standards Board and Children's Board to identify any priority areas for action to and explore opportunities for joint responses.

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN EXECUTIVE

Statutory Members

Executive Nurse, Stockport Clinical Commissioning Group

Director of Children's Services, SMBC

Chief Officer for the local area, Greater Manchester Police

Core Members

Director of Education

Director of Public Health

Advisors to the Executive

Designated Nurse or Doctor, Stockport Clinical Commissioning Group

Head of Service, Safeguarding and Learning, SMBC

Safeguarding Partnership Business Manager, SMBC

Director of Operations, Stockport Family

School representative (2) Primary and Secondary Heads

The Stockport Safeguarding Children Partnership will be underpinned by three standing groups

- Executive
- Practice Improvement Partnership
- Quality Assurance Partnership

Along with three Joint Adults and Children's Partnership Working Groups

- Complex Safeguarding
- Early Help and Prevention
- Training and Development



GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Partnership Groups

The chair and membership will consist of senior representative from statutory and relevant agencies who are in a position to make decisions on behalf of their organisation.

Accountability and Delegated Authority

These committees are accountable to the Executive and will provide a quarterly report to the Executive. In order to effectively function the committees will have the following delegated responsibility:

- Agree a work plan at the start of the year with the Executive, and work towards delivery of the plan with reporting on a quarterly basis.
- Maintain a Risk Register and manage risk under 12, any risks above 12 to the Executive for inclusion in the partnership risk register.

Practice Improvement Partnership

The work of this subgroup will be underpinned by a Learning and Improvement Framework, to build on the experience, knowledge and skills that staff require for working with children and families. It will include a series of multi-agency safeguarding learning and development opportunities.

It will be responsible for overseeing case reviews; initiating, reviewing and endorsing policy and practice guidance/standards; ensuring communication, including practitioner bulletins and seven minute guides across the partnership, identifying best practice; learning from published inspections, case reviews and research to continuously improve the quality of services and outcomes for children.

Rapid Review Panel

The Rapid Review Panel will be convened, as and when required, to receive and consider whether notifiable incidents meet the criteria for a local or national child safeguarding practice review. The aim of this rapid review is to enable safeguarding partners to:

- Gather the facts about the case, as far as they can be readily established at the time.
- Determine whether there is any immediate action needed to ensure children's safety and share any learning appropriately.
- Consider the potential for identifying improvements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- Determine the steps the Stockport Safeguarding Children Partnership should take next, including whether or not to undertake a child safeguarding practice review.

All recommendations will be shared with the Child Safeguarding Review Panel, Department for Education and OFSTED. The Rapid Review Panel will feed into the Practice Improvement Partnership



GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Partnerships Groups

Quality Assurance and Scrutiny Partnership

Scrutiny and challenge will be provided by a Quality Assurance Partnership which will report to the Executive Partnership. This will include identifying risks to improving outcomes across the partnership that will be added to the partnerships risk register where they will be monitored and challenged until progress is made.

The work of this subgroup is underpinned by a Quality Assurance Framework and will scrutinise all relevant agencies in relation to the indicators within the performance dashboard, oversee audit schedules – multi agency and single agency, Section 11/175 audits and ensure that the voice of the front line practitioner and the child and family is influencing service redesign. This subgroup will be responsible for the moderation of all completed action plans for case reviews that have been overseen by the Practice Improvement Partnership – in order to scrutinise the evidence provided and to include ongoing assurance through the multi-agency audit programme and performance dashboard.

The Statement of Commitment can be found on our website.

Joint Partnership Working Groups

These groups will support the delivery of the Children and Adult Safeguarding Partnership Business Plan; and will be made up of Children and Adult representation across the partnership. They will report to the Children Safeguarding Partnership and the Adult Safeguarding Board. The Partnership Working Groups will change as the work is completed and embedded into the work of the subgroups; and as the priorities of the partnership are reviewed.

Complex Safeguarding

A priority area for the Safeguarding Partnership is Complex Safeguarding there is a Joint Adults and Children's Complex Safeguarding Strategy 2018-2020 in place.

Our vision is to provide a strong partnership response across both children's and adult's services to the areas of complex safeguarding. We will raise awareness, develop a training strategy and provide/co-ordinate training to our workforce and communities and ensure that they know how to identify when a child, adult or family are at risk of exploitation or abuse from complex safeguarding issues and what to do to secure their safety.

This working group will take responsibility for overseeing the delivery of the strategy.



GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Joint Partnership Working Groups

Early Help and Prevention

The role of the Early Help and Prevention Sub Group is to agree, implement and review an annual work programme across all partner agencies that meet the objectives of the Board's Business Plan.

- Providing a forum to focus on preventing escalation of issues relating to working age adults who may be struggling to live independently and resiliently;
- To have a key role in changing culture with the widest workforce concerning self-neglect, including alignment with the development of place based practice and integrated health and social care localities.
- Transitions – to ensure a better approach to supporting young people make the transition from service for Young People to adulthood through joint working, appropriate information sharing and aligned structures between children's and adults to prevent duplication and increase engagement.
- Promote networking and the sharing of ideas and information in relation to transitions, self-neglect and working age adults requiring support (Live Well) across the Borough.
- Review Multi Agency Adults at Risk in light of self-neglect recommendations to improve pathways and collaboration between agencies

Training and Development

The working group will take responsibility for identifying training needs across the partnership and developing a training plan.

Stockport Safeguarding Partnership has a commitment to developing safeguarding in delivery the services for children and their families within Stockport. This has driven a culture of collaboration, challenge, learning and improvement across all organisations which work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The learning style within Stockport and across the children's workforce should follow some basic ideals.



GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Wider Partnership Engagement

Alongside the quarterly Stockport Safeguarding Children Executive arrangements, there will be a number of wider partnership forums. One of these will be for senior leaders within the partnership and will take the form of a development day to look back on the previous year and reflect what has been achieved; consider priorities and strategies for the following year. In the first year, we will have a six monthly review of the progress of the partnership that will include senior leaders from across the wider partnership. This will be undertaken in conjunction with the Adults Safeguarding Board.

A “Safeguarding Learning Hub” is proposed to engage with staff locally on a multi-agency basis by holding events on a locality basis at least twice a year. We will develop this approach in year one and build on what is already in place to cascade learning. The events will focus on key developments within the safeguarding arrangements to ensure information and learning is disseminated widely to front line staff across agencies.

In all of these learning areas, wherever possible, the impact on and feedback from children and families will be included. The learning areas will not be restricted to the above and may also include feedback from inspections, key speakers on specific issues, information stalls etc.

Relevant Agencies

As agreed by the 3 safeguarding partners the relevant agencies who will be involved in the wider partnership events and fully involved at senior level within the subgroups and joint working groups are listed overleaf.



WIDER PARTNERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

Agency	Involvement/Engagement
Stockport NHS Foundation Trust	Sub group and wider partnership events
Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust	Sub group and wider partnership events
Local Authority Strategic Housing	Sub group and wider partnership events
Stockport Homes	Sub group and wider partnership events
National Probation Service – North West	Sub group and wider partnership events
Cheshire and Greater Manchester Community Rehabilitation Service	Sub group and wider partnership events
Safeguarding Children in Education	Sub group and wider partnership events
Education Settings	Sub groups and wider Partnership Events
Community and Voluntary Services	Sub group and wider partnership events
Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue	Wider Partnership Events
Early Years Settings	Wider Partnership Events
CAFCAS	Wider Partnership Events
Youth Offending Service	Sub group and wider partnership events
General Practice – Primary Care	Wider Partnership Events
NHS Independent Contractors (Dentist, Optometrist, Pharmacist)	Wider Partnership Events
The Priory Group	Sub group and wider partnership events

WIDER PARTNERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

The Partnership Offer Across All the Relevant Agencies

In order to ensure that the workforce is appropriately skilled to safeguard children in Stockport; the safeguarding partnership will offer across all relevant agencies:

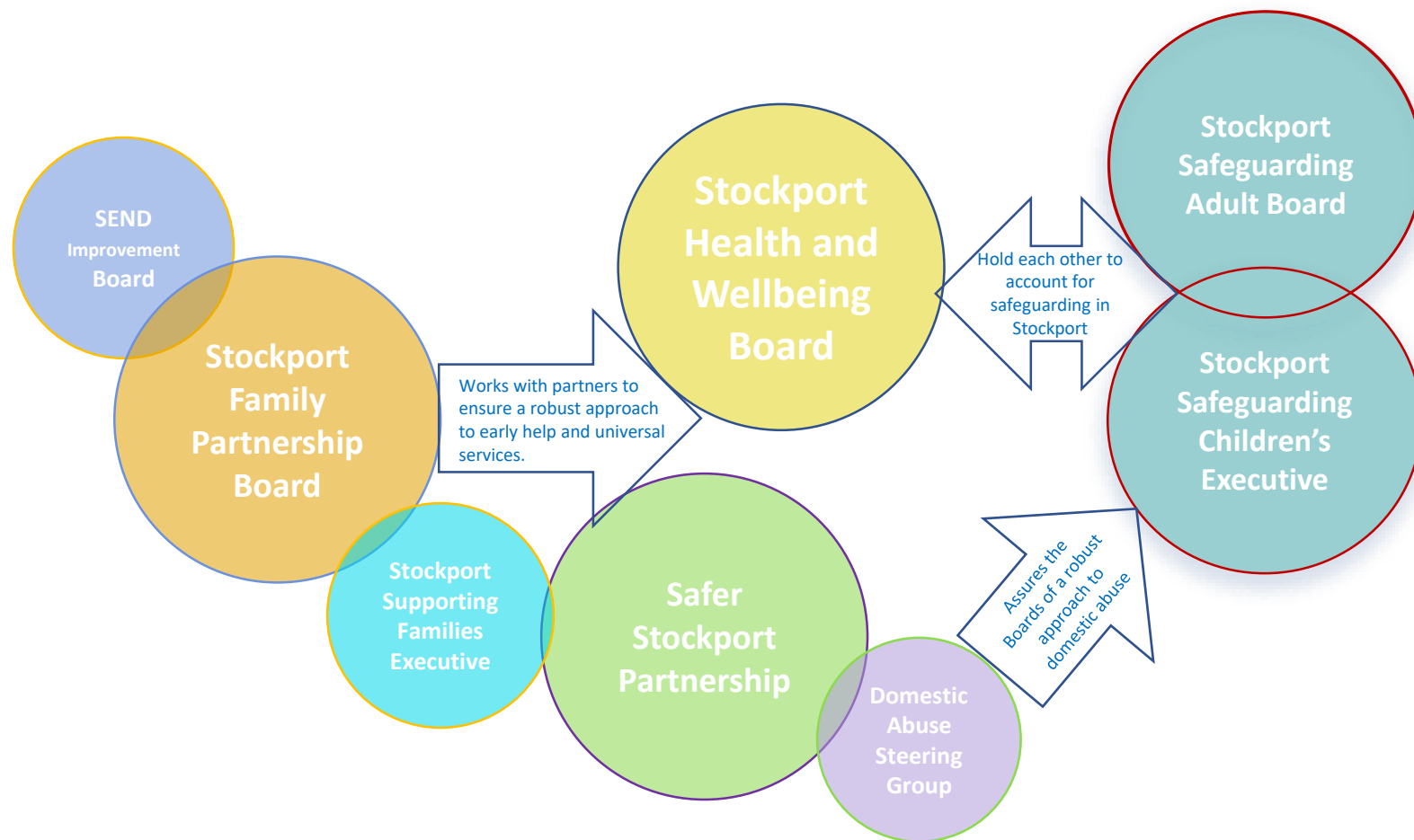
- Multi-agency policies that set out the required standards for practice. [Our policies can be found here](#)
- Access to a range of multi-agency assessment tools that support decision making.
- Multi agency training with a range from core training through to specialist link to training offer [which can be found here.](#)
- Access to learning from audits, case reviews.

The Safeguarding Children Partnership expects its relevant agencies to:

- Be an active and effective partner in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.
- Put outcomes for children and young people at the centre of all decision making.
- Contribute to the Partnership financially and by providing staff for particular tasks including multi-agency audit work.
- Collate and provide management information as required by Partnership and contribute to quality assurance arrangements
- Share information to safeguard children in line with Partnership and Government guidance on information sharing arrangements.
- Identify and support staff to participate in the interagency activities of the Partnership such as policy development, scrutiny of practice, and training, case reviews and practice development.
- Ensure that the work of the Partnership and Greater Manchester policies and procedures are disseminated in an effective way within their own organisations and acted upon
- Represent the Partnership and its activities within their own organisation
- Report any difficulties, risks, issues or revisions to structures and resources within their own organisation and between organisations to the Partnership to find effective safeguarding solutions.



WORKING WITH OTHER STRATEGIC BOARDS IN STOCKPORT



WORKING WITH OTHER STRATEGIC BOARDS IN STOCKPORT

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets out the expectations of the relationship and collaborative working arrangements between Safer Stockport Partnership (SSP), Stockport Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP), Stockport Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB), Health and Wellbeing Board and Stockport Family Partnership.

The MOU covers their respective roles and functions, accountability and governance arrangements, lead board responsibilities, membership of the boards, arrangements for challenge, oversight and scrutiny, performance management and reporting.

A core principle underlying this memorandum is that safeguarding is everybody's business.

1. The two safeguarding /executives boards have the responsibility to scrutinise and challenge the other boards on their safeguarding arrangements.
2. The Safer Stockport Partnership has responsibility to understand the nature and extent of crime and disorder issues including offending and substance misuse issues and to set out a plan to address them.
3. The Stockport Family Partnership has a responsibility to ensure there are early intervention and prevention services available for the children and young people and that they are consulted on the design of those services.

4. It is proposed that there is a meeting between the chairs of Partnership Boards with a safeguarding remit for vulnerable children and adults that operate across Stockport. This will promote effective communication and engagement and ensures not only that "safeguarding is everybody's business" but also synergy of work programmes.

Alignment with the Adult Safeguarding Board

Over the past 18 months, considerable work has been put in to aligning the work of the Stockport Safeguarding Children Board and the Stockport Safeguarding Adults Board. A shared strategy has been created underpinned by a joint work plan. Both Boards share the same four priorities; neglect, transitions, domestic abuse and complex safeguarding.

Additionally, there are three joint working groups; complex safeguarding, early help and prevention and training.

In moving forward to the new safeguarding arrangements for children, it is considered important not to lose this alignment and the ambition for all age safeguarding. Plans are to review the Adult Safeguarding Board in the light of the changes to the Children's Board



LOCAL CHILD SAFEGUARDING PRACTICE REVIEWS

The Practice Improvement Partnership will oversee all serious incident cases and their corresponding actions plans, and consider examples of good practice. The purpose of the function being undertaken by this group is the alignment to workforce development, development of practice standards and policies.

The group will be responsible for ensuring that actions are completed in a timely manner; evidence of completion of actions is submitted; and that key learning points (7 minute briefs) are cascaded across the partnership. The Quality Assurance and Scrutiny subgroup will be responsible for providing moderation of all case review action plans and make recommendations to the Safeguarding Executive when an action plan is completed.

With this oversight it will enable to Quality Assurance and Scrutiny subgroup to build into the performance score card and audit programmes how it will improvements have been embedded into practice across the partnership.

Reporting Serious Incidents

Ofsted published guidance on how local authorities should report a serious incident of child abuse or neglect, or the death of a child who is looked after. From 29th June 2018 in England must notify the National Safeguarding Practice Review Panel within 5 working days of becoming aware of a serious incident; and a review of the case has to be undertaken with 15 working days of the Local Authority and its partners being made aware of the incident. In order to comply with this requirement Stockport has reviewed its process for notification and consideration of serious incidents.

The revised pathway can be found on our website.



ARRANGEMENTS FOR INDEPENDENT SCRUTINY

In striving for effective multi-agency arrangements, the role of independent scrutiny is critical to provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of services to protect children.

The Stockport Safeguarding Children Executive will set up our arrangements to create an environment conducive to robust scrutiny and constructive challenge and will ensure there is independent scrutiny of the effectiveness of the arrangements.

Stockport is part of the **Greater Manchester Standards Board** arrangements. The GM Standards Board is set up to provide support and challenge to the primacy of the partnership working on the ground and local authority level. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) will be in place between the Safeguarding Executive and the Standards Board.

Independent Scrutiny will be provided through the development of the Greater Manchester (GM) Standards Board which will fulfil this function for the ten sets of local safeguarding arrangements in the sub-region.

The GM Standards Board will be independently chaired, and have a Children's Advocate, as well as representatives from each of the safeguarding partners and from the ten local authority areas. The GM Standards Board will provide scrutiny of quarterly data analysis based upon a dataset derived from four LSCBs currently judged Outstanding.

In addition the GM Standards Board will develop a program of review, as well as meeting the requirements of Working Together to scrutinise the local safeguarding arrangements themselves and their annual reports.

During the Transition period (1-2 years) of the new arrangements being in place; they will maintain the role of the **Independent Chair** to provide an additional level of scrutiny and act as a mediator for any disputes/escalations.

Stockport has benefitted in the past from independent scrutiny from effective **Lay Members** we want to maintain this engagement and to look at the feasibility of Lay Members on the Quality Assurance and Scrutiny Committee and the Practice Improvement Partnership

This independent scrutiny will be part of a wider system which includes:

- Independent inspectorates' single assessment of the individual safeguarding partners and the Joint Targeted Area Inspections
- Independent Authors for Safeguarding Practice Reviews
- Family/child engagement in Safeguarding Practice Review
- Multi agency audit
- Front line practitioner visits
- Section 11 and Section 175 audits



HOW ALL EARLY YEARS SETTINGS, SCHOOLS (INCLUDING INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS, ACADEMIES AND FREE SCHOOLS) AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS

All Educational settings are part of the wider partnership and all are relevant agencies. The Director of Education is a core member of the Partnership Executive, along with a Head Teacher representative. This will enable a direct feed through from the Partnership Executive to the already established schools forum within Stockport. We will look at ways to engage our educational settings through the work of the subgroups and the joint working groups. The Safeguarding Children in Education team also have a role within the schools. The Senior Advisor for Safeguarding in Education (SASE) offers tailored training, development and support to Heads, Designated Safeguarding Leads, pastoral staff and school and college Governors. This is done in a variety of ways and including;

- Written reports
- The production of template policy and procedure documentation
- Newsletters
- Quality assurance visits
- High quality CPD sessions including
 - Statutory training session such as initial and refresher sessions for DSLs
 - Safer recruitment and quarterly network meetings

Learning from local and serious case reviews is shared and polices are amended through the aforementioned routes to ensure timeliness in learning and practice changes. The SASE also delivers training, engages with and updates Heads via their induction programme and Primary and Secondary Headteacher Consortium meetings.

The SASE also leads on the design, circulation and collation of the content of S.175/157 audits and other work areas and audits such as the Prevent Duty. This allows the partnership to ensure that statutory functions are being met and discharged as required.

With regard to supporting and developing strong and effective working partnerships the SASE works with a range of partners to strengthen relationships through support and challenge with a view to improving experiences and outcomes for those in or working in education at a local level.

The wider partnership events will be an opportunity at locality level for the schools to have additional engagement.



HOW ANY YOUTH CUSTODY AND RESIDENTIAL HOMES FOR CHILDREN WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS

Stockport has no Youth Custody Facilities within the Local Authority Area. It does have a well-established Youth Offending Service Partnership Board chaired by the Director of Children's Services with responsibility for the oversight and governance of youth justice services within our local authority area. The YOS Partnership Boards also receives custody updates. The Safeguarding Children Partnership would expect to be alerted to any safeguarding issues relating to secure facilities where Stockport children are placed.

The Youth Justice & Targeted Youth Support Service (YOS) is well integrated within the partnership as a member of Stockport Family. Staff from the service are represented across a range of agencies and forums, including Aspire Complex safeguarding, the Missing Hub, Children's Social Care, Schools, Mental Health and SEND services.

As a multi-agency partnership the YOS have strong working relationships with the police in particular and this has been further developed through the Targeted Youth Support (TYS) strategy which has ensured that children and young people at risk are identified early and diverted from criminal and civil proceedings. Third sector agencies have been integral to the roll out of YYS and a range of services are commissioned from local providers to focus on bespoke youth activities. The YOS is also responsible for delivering the 'Respect' Domestic Abuse family-based programme across Stockport Family.

Provider Forum

Stockport has a high number of children looked after that live in the local area who are the responsibility of other local areas.

Previously known as the Residential Homes Forum, this group has now changed its name to the Providers Forum as Independent Fostering Agencies are now invited. The aim of the quarterly meetings is to provide information and support around safeguarding issues such as missing children and sexual exploitation, to improve communication and therefore enhance outcomes for children. The meetings have been well attended and have run as "speed-dating" tables where delegates spend 15 minutes at four different tables, gathering information.



ESCALATION AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

All agencies within Stockport remain subject to the Greater Manchester Escalation Policy. This policy sets out the general principles of resolution as well as specific procedures to be followed. There will be no substantive differences to this policy and the role of the LSCB detailed in the policy will be taken up by the Safeguarding Children Partnership.

Whistleblowing policies provide an additional important route for staff to raise concerns. The Safeguarding Children Partnership will promote effective whistleblowing Policies within each agency across the local area. Scrutiny of the effectiveness of escalation processes will be undertaken as part of the Section 11 audits.

When a disagreement arises between members of the Stockport Safeguarding Partners, then the general principles of resolution will still apply:

- Where the disagreement is between 2 agencies then should seek to meet and find a satisfactory solution;
- Where disagreement cannot be resolved, or involves a more complex set of partner agencies it will be the full Stockport Safeguarding Partnership to seek a resolution;
- Where necessary the Executive Partnership, the three statutory safeguarding partners have primacy in determining the resolution to a disagreement;
- The Independent Chair will provide mediation where disputes cannot be resolved;
- Where there is disagreement between the statutory safeguarding partners this may need to be escalated to the Leader/CE of the council, the Chair/Accountable Officer of the CCG and to Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police.



INFORMATION SHARING AND HOSTING ARRANGEMENTS

Safeguarding partnership will adhere to relevant legislation in using data and intelligence. Greater Manchester Information Sharing Procedures provide the overarching framework for information sharing, and local inter-board developments during 2019 will ensure there is consistency for all professionals and organisations within Stockport.

As the partnership business support unit is hosted within the local authority, they are designated data controllers on behalf of the partnership. A data transfer agreement for the new Partnership, which includes dealing with archiving historical information and Freedom of Information requests will be in place and documents such as the information sharing agreement updated.

Each statutory partner will need to respond individually to any information requests and consider exemption under current legislation.

A formal Memorandum of Understanding will be developed between the 3 statutory partners.

HOW THE ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE FUNDED

The work of the safeguarding partnership will be funded through a shared arrangement that enables the 'pooling' of contributions from partners and any underspend to be carried forward.

The current income is made up of contributions from Health (CCG and Stockport FT), Greater Manchester Police; Probation, Schools, Adults Board (supports funding of the QA post) and Local Authority. The Local Authority contribute the highest amount by far and also picks up the costs for the serious case reviews.

The Safeguarding Partnership have agreed to maintain the current level of funding for 2019/2020 and will review this in year.



HOW TO REPORT A CONCERN ABOUT A CHILD

The Multi-Agency Safeguarding and Support Hub (MASSH) is the single point of contact for all professionals to report concerns, request advice and share information about a child and or family.

Members of the public

If you are a member of the public who has a concern about a child, you should call

0161 217 6028.

If a child is at immediate risk of harm call the Police on

999.

Professionals

If you're a professional you should decide on the level of need detailed below and use the following online process. Levels of need are used to determine the kind of support a child or family requires.

Level 1 – Universal services

- children who make good overall progress through appropriate universal services
- there are no additional unmet needs or there is a single need identified that can be met by universal services

Level 2 – Additional needs

- children whose needs require additional support from targeted, as well as universal, services due to evidence their family may be struggling
- the needs of child may be unmet or unclear
- an Early Help Assessment is required to assess need and plan support

Level 3 – Increasing concerns

- children with an increasing level of unmet need
- needs are deemed to be complex
- an assessment is required to determine the need and plan for support. This can be coordinated by a lead professional from a range of services including children's social care

Level 4 – Safeguarding concerns

- children who have experienced significant harm and are in need of protection (Section 47) and includes children where there are significant welfare concerns (section 17)
- a single assessment coordinated by a social worker is required to determine the level of support or intervention

When you have determined the right level of need contact us by using the form on our website.

<https://www.stockport.gov.uk/contacting-the-massh>

