



Halton Children and Young People Safeguarding Partnership

Business Plan: 2022-2024

The remit of the Safeguarding Children's Partnership

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 Halton.

Statutory Partners as Determined in Working Together 2018

The three local Safeguarding Partners for Halton are:

- Cheshire Constabulary
- Halton Borough Council
- Cheshire and Merseyside ICB (Halton PLACE)

Our collective vision

Halton's ambition is to build stronger, safer more resilient communities that are able to support the development and learning of children and young people so they grow up feeling, safe, secure, happy and healthy; ready to be Halton's future.

The core functions of the Safeguarding Children Partnership are to:

- Undertake scrutiny and challenge of multi-agency safeguarding performance.
- Direct the multi-agency audit process.
- Devise and monitor action plans for service improvement following audit.
- Collate single agency audit information.
- Co-ordinate s11/175/157 Audits.
- Ensure quality assurance and audit mechanisms are robust and are aligned to priorities.

- Coordinate frontline practitioner visits to get the views of practitioners.
- Coordinate the voice of child activity; triangulate the views of children with audit findings.
- Commission child safeguarding practice reviews in line with Working Together 2018.
- Oversee and endorse recommendations from these reviews and agree the actions to be taken to improve front line practice.
- To improve the quality of safeguarding work through the provision and measuring the impact of multi-agency training.
- Moderate completed action plans from case reviews to provide scrutiny of the evidence provided and factor in any ongoing assurance into the partnership audit programme and/or performance dashboard.
- Take an overview of single agency inspections to get 'early warning' regarding any weaknesses in the effectiveness of the Safeguarding Childrens Partnership.

Our Priorities

The business plan was developed collectively in January 2022 and outlines the strategic objectives that will inform the work of the Partnership in the 2022 to 2024. The following information was considered when we met to agree these priorities:

- The HCYPSP Annual Report – 2019/2020
- The Wood Report: Review of New Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements – 2021
- The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel Annual Report – 2020
- Recommendations from inspections and other reviews
- Priorities identified from the HCYSP performance management data and local quality assurance audits.
- Outcomes of case reviews and audit – including national serious case reviews and local reports.

As a result of the above three strategic priorities were agreed. These are:

Priority 1: The partnership will have a clear strategically driven, multi-agency response to childhood neglect, with well embedded, effective multi-agency strategy and assessment framework which supports awareness, understanding and recognition, leading to a reduction in children and young people experiencing long standing neglect.

Priority 2: The partnership will improve the quality and effectiveness of front line practice ensuring that the multi-agency workforce recognise the early and emerging signs of future risks for young people and respond with preventative interventions.

Priority 3: The partnership will collaborate with Halton Adult Safeguarding Board and Halton Community Safety to develop a local all age Contextual Safeguarding Strategy, that will include effective responses and procedures to safeguard, protect, and prevent children and young people from exploitation.

Priority 1: Halton will have a clear strategically driven, multi-agency response to children experiencing neglect, with well embedded, effective multi-agency strategy and assessment framework which supports awareness, understanding and recognition, leading to a reduction in children and young people experiencing long standing neglect.

What we want to achieve	How we will achieve it	When	Indicator of success
Strategic commitment across all agencies to effectively tackle neglect	Hold partner agencies to account for the performance and quality of their interventions in regard to neglect.	Quarterly	Partner agencies report on activity undertaken in their organisation to embed the strategy.
	Develop a more robust neglect dataset to enable the partnership to better monitor the impact of our work.	April 2022	High quality partnership working is evidenced through single and multi-agency audits.
	Carry out regular multi-agency auditing of practice, to inform the Partnership about the effectiveness of the strategy.	Annually	Dataset is in place to establish baseline. Partners actively provide data on a quarterly basis; this is then used to inform further activity.
	Seek inclusion of the strategy in the priorities and or action plans of all partnership boards so that they can support us to meet the aims of the strategy.	Annually	All partners are able to evidence inclusion of the assessment tools within their procedures and practice standards.

Improved awareness understanding and recognition of neglect.	Launch a neglect campaign, with awareness raising material to ensure that the strategy is well publicised and neglect has a high profile. Ensure publicity material takes into account cultural and language differences and is produced in the top 3 languages that feature in our schools.	February 2022	Community and partners are actively aware of the key messages around neglect and they know how to respond and where to locate key information Voice of the child influences future planning. Feedback evidences an increase in practitioner confidence in effectively, tackling neglect. Reduced incidences of cases where practice is judged inadequate or requiring improvement.
	Gather the thoughts and feelings of young people who have experienced neglect to test impact of this strategy.	Quarterly	
	Develop a neglect assessment framework to support awareness, understanding and recognition of neglect	February 2022	
	Update websites and promote all assessment tools through training and awareness raising.	April 2022	
Prevent neglect through early help	Embed the Neglect Screening, Home Conditions and Neglect assessment tools to equip practitioners to identify factors that make a child vulnerable to neglect.	Quarterly monitoring	Audit and dataset provide evidence of the use of tools to inform decision making and planning. Feedback evidences an increase in practitioner confidence in effectively, tackling neglect.
	Support the review of all neglect training, both single and multi-agency, to ensure that it promotes use of the Neglect screening tool, Home Conditions Tool and Neglect assessment tool.	April 2022	
	Collect evidence from iCART that the neglect tools are being used to support all contacts and referrals when neglect is suspected.	Quarterly monitoring	

	Develop case studies identifying good practice and how we have prevented neglect through early help.	Quarterly	There is a shared understanding across the partnership about what good looks like.
	Embed the use of appreciative enquiry in the step down process so that we can learn from good practice.	Quarterly monitoring from July 2022	
Improve effectiveness of interventions and reduce the impact of neglect	Revise the level of needs document to ensure that neglect is identified at the earliest opportunity.	March 2022	Increase of assessments where neglect is identified as the presenting issue
	Review policies and procedures around specific target groups, e.g., children with disabilities and families where English is not the first language to ensure that they are in line with the neglect strategy and ensure the use of qualified interpreters when dealing with families who don't have English as a first language.	Annually	Key messages are inclusive across changing communities Whole family approach is undertaken and this is evidenced through single and multi agency audits.
	Embed the use of multi-agency chronologies to evidence neglect, the effectiveness of interventions for individual children and to support assessment of parent's ability to make sustained change.	Quarterly monitoring from September 2022	There is a reduction in the number of lengthy interventions with individual children due to neglect
	Identify and focus intervention on underlying issues for parents that contribute to child neglect such as understanding and responding effectively to parental mental ill health,	Quarterly monitoring of from January 2022	
	Support practitioners to be clear about the cumulative effects of neglect and to have the confidence to undertake timely and effective	Quarterly monitoring	

	challenge/escalation for a child who is being neglected.		
	Develop IT reporting so that we can collect evidence that assessment framework is being used effectively in step up and step down decisions in MAP, Child in Need and Child Protection	April 2022	
Priority 2: The partnership will improve the quality and effectiveness of front line practice ensuring that the multi-agency workforce recognise the early and emerging signs of future risks for young people and respond with preventative interventions.			
Ensure a consistent understanding and application of the levels of need across the partnership.	Develop a robust multi agency dataset, to enable the partnership to understand safeguarding activity in Halton, and monitor the impact of our work.	June 2022	Practitioners will be explicit about consent. There will be a consistent application of thresholds across the partnership.
	Revise the levels of need document and launch across the partnership.	May 2022	
	Review and relaunch the multi-agency assessment tool kit and embed the use of these as reflective tools used to inform supervision, assessment and direct work with children and their families.	September 2022	
Improve how we work together with families before and after birth to safeguard young children and babies.	Share the learning from Local Safeguarding Practice Reviews with frontline practitioners across the children's workforce and implement practice improvements to support us to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work more inclusively with fathers and partners. 	June 2022	The risk of injury to young children aged under 4 years will reduce. Interpreters and translation services will be used effectively and confidently by practitioners.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work effectively and sensitively with BAME families, particularly those whose first language is not English. - Support the ICON message and delivery across the workforce and within families. - Ensure the workforce understands and implements the ALTE procedures when required. 		<p>Non accidental injury will be considered at the earliest opportunity; increasing the safeguarding of individual children and their siblings.</p>
<p>Improve the quality of multi-agency risk assessment and planning</p>	<p>Support practitioners to understand the safeguarding roles and responsibilities of all agencies across the children’s partnership as well as adults and community services so that children are supported by co-ordinated plans delivered by the right people, at the right time.</p>		<p>Long term sustainable outcomes will be achieved for children and their families</p>
	<p>Task and finish group to be established to lead the work on improving multi agency assessment that emphasises the importance of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Professional curiosity -multi agency information and chronologies - the child’s voice and their lived experience -translating assessment in to a bespoke plan 		

Priority 3: The partnership will collaborate with Halton Adult Safeguarding Board and Halton Community Safety to develop a local all age Contextual Safeguarding Strategy and Operational Model, that will include effective responses and procedures to safeguard, protect, and prevent children and young people from exploitation.

Identify, understand and respond to the changing and emerging profile of child exploitation in Halton.	Develop a robust multi agency dataset, to enable the partnership to better understand child exploitation in Halton, and monitor the impact of our work.	April 22 Quarterly monitoring	Partners understand the changing and emerging profile of exploitation in their role and this informs strategic planning as well as single and multi-agency training and development Multi-agency responses are informed by an effective operational model informed by local data and learning The entire workforce is able to identify and manage risk from exploitation, and understand their role in tackling this.
	Quarterly reporting from the Contextual Safeguarding Operational Group will support effective strategic planning through the provision of information on themes, patterns and trends including, exploiters and perpetrators, and the effectiveness of interventions in reducing the risk of harm.	Quarterly reporting	
	Identify all relevant local community boards, panels and partnerships and establish a nominated contextual safeguarding representative from each to champion, develop and embed contextual safeguarding knowledge and practice.	Quarterly reporting	
	Carry out regular multi-agency auditing of practice, to inform the Partnership about the effectiveness of our interventions and responses.	Annually	

<p>Deliver our multi-agency operational model to ensure that it provides the support that individual children and young people need alongside a plan to reduce risk that addresses the context that is causing them harm; this includes taking action to disrupt and detain the perpetrators who exploit and abuse them.</p>	<p>Develop a local risk management model built on shared ownership and accountability to reduce risk and vulnerability for individual children and young people, with an emphasis on supporting them to remain local to their family, friends and education provision.</p>	<p>December 2022</p>	<p>The workforce is able to identify and manage risk from exploitation and uses the appropriate pathway to manage risk</p> <p>Multi-agency responses are informed by an effective operational model informed by local data and learning</p>
	<p>Review, evaluate and strengthen the terms of reference for the Contextual Safeguarding Operational Group and the agenda to ensure that the group is responsive to the risks to individual children as well as understanding local themes and patterns and targeting those who seek to exploit children and young people.</p>	<p>May 2022</p>	<p>Risk management plans focus on extra-familial harm and has parents/carers and young people as equal partners</p>
	<p>Multi agency and single agency training and awareness sessions to be reviewed to promote a common language about child exploitation and an understanding and acceptance of the child/young person as a victim, not an agent of their own exploitation.</p>	<p>September 2022</p>	<p>Plans focus on disruption and targeting of individuals, settings and networks and support to the young person and family</p>
	<p>We will actively seek feedback from children, young people and their families who have experienced exploitation to improve and develop our services.</p>	<p>Quarterly</p>	
<p>Support the development of an all age approach which supports young people at transition at 18</p>	<p>Support the development of the Pan Cheshire All Age strategy, and use this to inform local development work on shared approaches to be undertaken between the children's partnership, and the equivalent adults and community services.</p>	<p>September 2022</p>	<p>All partners have a shared understanding and commitment to the approach and the impact of the different legislative</p>

where risks remain and also includes modern slavery, forced marriage and FGM.			frameworks and opportunities to develop good practice Transitional arrangements for ongoing management of risk for vulnerable young people post 18 are in place and support reduction in risk and vulnerability
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