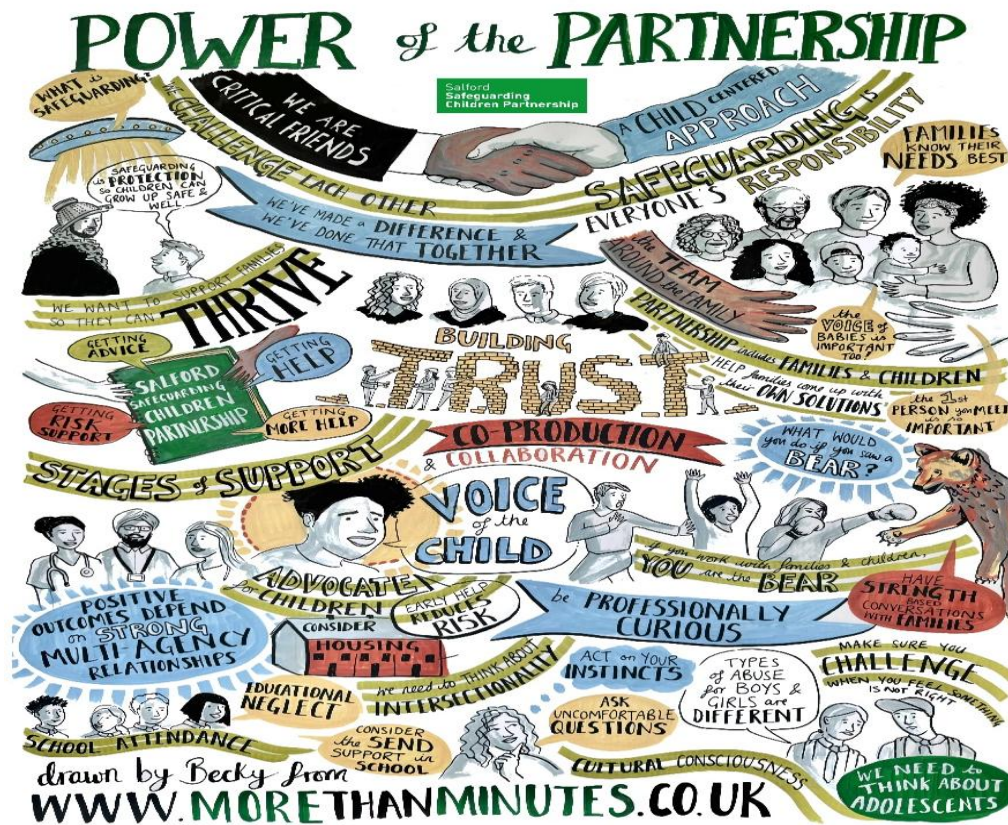


Salford Safeguarding Annual Report 2024/25

Executive Summary



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Introduction

The full annual report for the Salford Safeguarding Partnership provides detailed information about Salford multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. This Executive Summary document covers a reporting period 01/04/2024-31/03/2025 and presents headline achievements against local strategic priorities.



Message from the Delegated Safeguarding Partners

The report reflects a strong commitment from Salford's statutory safeguarding partners to work collaboratively to protect children. It highlights a culture of learning, continuous improvement, and shared responsibility across agencies. The partnership has embraced the changes from Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 and is actively implementing wider children's social care reforms.

Message from the Independent Scrutineer

The Independent Scrutineer provides assurance of the effectiveness of Salford's multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. There is a well-embedded culture of openness and reflection, with an aspiration to innovate, learn and continuously improve. There are strong and highly effective children's safeguarding arrangements in Salford, with a high level of commitment from strategic leaders, partners, the wider children's safeguarding workforce and the subgroups, who drive forward the strategic priorities and work of the SSCP.

Key Achievements 2024/2025

- System change to enable wider multi-agency partners to identify and act upon neglect. Training delivered across the system to upskill partners and case management systems developed to enable wider recording where neglect is considered a factor.
- Section 11 Practitioner survey evidences multi-agency workforce is confident in recognising signs of exploitation and takes action to address.
- Peer Review highlighted positive trusted relationships are developed with young people at risk of and involved in exploitation.
- Young people scrutinized the work of the Child Sexual Exploitation Subgroup and made recommendations for strategic workplans.
- 26 *Safe and Together* Domestic Abuse Champions have been trained across services. This practice model places responsibility and accountability on perpetrators of domestic abuse to change and reduce risk to non-offending parent and children.
- Enhanced voice of the child through Youth Summits and participation groups.
- Enhanced lived experience engagement and influence through Parents4PositiveChange.
- Quality training offer – in line and in person. 149 multi-agency practitioners from across adult and children's workforce attended a Think Family Event resulting in revised 7 Minute Briefings and new practice guidance.

What Difference Has It Made?

- Improved early help responses and reduced repeat child protection plans.
- Increased practitioner confidence and use of trauma-informed approaches.
- Youth voice has influenced safeguarding priorities and service design.
- Effective multi-agency working has led to measurable improvements in outcomes for children and families.

- Multi Agency audits with an overall judgement of Good have increased from 20% in 2020 to 83% in 2024.
- Impact of neglect multi-agency strategies and practice resulting in 39% reduction in neglect-related child protection plans between 2020-2024.
- 28% reduction in repeat domestic abuse cases heard at Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC).

Key Challenges

- Promoting consistent use of assessment tools like the Thriving Families Tool.
- Ensuring engagement from all sectors, including adult-focused services.
- Measuring long-term impact of training and learning from reviews.
- Addressing resource constraints and increasing demand on services.
- Limited alignment of datasets presents a challenge to benchmarking regionally and sub-regionally.
- Capturing the voices of younger children- focus tends to be on secondary level upwards.
- Increased numbers of children attending Alternative Provision and ensuring there is robust safeguarding understanding and practice in place.
- Increased attendance from adult focused agencies.
- Promote the opportunity for Seriously Good Outcomes to learn from what went well. The SSCP does not receive any of these referrals.
- Too many children are living in households where domestic abuse is a factor. Over 70% of victims referred to domestic abuse services had children.
- Child Sexual Abuse remains an area of sensitivity for practitioners and parents navigating a complex area.

Priorities for 2025/2026

- Relaunch and co-production of the Thriving Families Tool.
- Continued multi-agency training and neglect awareness campaigns.
- Strengthen practitioner confidence in responding to exploitation and Child Sexual Abuse.
- Support Salford securing Child Friendly City initiative.
- Improve data analysis and alignment across partnerships linking in with the North West Safeguarding Hub.
- Expand meaningful lived experience co-production and participation capturing good practice as part of the Listening Hub and Feedback Loops.

What people tell us about safeguarding Salford children across multi-agencies

- *“We want to improve the information provided to parents, carers and the wider public about Exploitation, so that key adults are empowered with the advice and tools they need to identify risk and keep children and adults safe.”*
- *“I feel I have more tools in the box to provide the best available support and service to our children and families”*
- *“Good to hear from someone with lived experience about how they feel when they meet the right person to support them”*
- *“Reminds me of the importance of asking the question and creating a safe space”
“Deepened my knowledge and understanding of how trauma-experienced children and adults may present and how each person may be affected differently”*
- *“We want to work together to protect young people and adults from the risk of exploitation. The Salford Safeguarding Children Partnership and Salford Safeguarding Adult Board will strive to ensure that all professionals have the skills and information that they need to recognise and respond appropriately to all forms of exploitation. We will refresh ‘Problem Profiles’ to ensure the identification of individuals or groups at risk, locations and patterns to enable partners to target professional responses to reduce youth violence, online grooming and abuse. We will ensure responses to children missing from home, care and education are robust. This will link to our ‘adolescent offer’”.*
- *“We want to listen to and engage with young people and adults to ensure that we understand what matters to them. We want to use this information to inform our services, and we want to feed back to give them some assurance”.*
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