

## SSCP (Salford Safeguarding Children Partnership) Meeting Minutes

Salford  
Safeguarding  
Children Partnership

**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022

**Time:** 1pm- 4pm

**Chair:** Chris Packer, Detective Superintendent, Crime and Vulnerability, GMP

**Venue:** Microsoft Teams

### Presentations/Guest Speakers

#### **1. Welcome and apologies Lead: Chair**

##### **a. Attended by:**

Chris Packer (Chair), Detective Superintendent (Cluster Vulnerability), GMP  
Vivienne Bentley (Minutes), Senior Business Support Officer, Salford Safeguarding Children Partnership

Karen Armfield, Head Teacher, Boothstown Methodist Primary  
Deborah Blackburn, Assistant Director: Public Health Nursing, Public Health  
Carole Brooks, Independent Scrutineer  
Julie Craik, Service Manager - Strategy and Homeless Reviews, Salford City Council: Place (Item only)  
Kalpesh Dixit, Designated Doctor (Safeguarding Children), NHS Salford Clinical Commissioning Group  
Zoe Fearon, Assistant Director, Children's Social Care, Salford City Council: People (from item 6)  
Catherine Johnson, Strategic Safeguarding Performance Lead (Observer)  
Clare Kelly, Assistant Director of Nursing – Safeguarding, Salford Royal Foundation Trust (SRFT)  
Diane Kinsella, Designated Nurse: Safeguarding Children & Looked After Children, NHS Salford Clinical Commissioning Group  
Kate Pollard, Head of Business & Impact, Salford Safeguarding Children Partnership  
Charlotte Ramsden, Strategic Director, People, Salford City Council: People  
Jane Slinger, Head of Safeguarding Children, Salford City Council: People  
Elizabeth Walton, Assistant Director: Safeguarding & Quality, NHS Salford Clinical Commissioning Group  
Michelle Warburton, Voice and Influence Manager, Salford Community & Voluntary Services

##### **b. Apologies received from**

Jane Bowmer, Business Manager, Salford Safeguarding Adult Board  
Danielle Buckley, Head of Cluster, HM Prison & Probation Service  
Tim Rumley, Children's Services Senior Manager, Salford City Council: People

##### **c. Invited but did not attend**

Simon Grant, Lay Member, Community

## 2. SSCP Spotlight Theme

### a. Priority Area 1: Neglect Lead: Debbie Blackburn

Ms Blackburn presented the Neglect spotlight report and informed that an updated version is available and will be shared after the meeting. Neglect has been a priority for the last 7 years.

#### **Action: Ms Blackburn will share a copy of the updated Neglect Spotlight report**

The Thriving Families Tool was launched; unfortunately, we are not seeing the numbers of tools being submitted to the bridge, do have assurance that agencies are using it and understand the tool has helped to focus conversations within agencies. The tool was re-launched at an event in March 2022; practitioner feedback at this event indicated that practitioners were completing the tool but did not know they should submit the form to The Bridge.

The tool has been revised; this includes a summary document which is published on the SSCP website and can be submitted to The Bridge.

There is a significant amount of work in place across the partnership to promote the tool and embed its use into practice. Z-Cards are available to be used as prompts for practitioners.

SSCP members were asked for strategic endorsement of the tool, to take ownership and encourage its use in practice and the difference it can make.

Mr Packer thanked Ms Blackburn for the report and asked whether the refreshed tool and practitioner feedback will be included in the comms strategy. Ms Blackburn assured that it is included and informed that the group is linking the feedback to the listening hub and making it real for practitioners.

Dr Dixit commented that the performance report included with the papers for this meeting includes data indicating that the number of TAFs had reduced this quarter, EH referrals are being made and although MFH had reduced, incidents of CSE had increased. There are other emotional and abuse neglect factors in the family that could push individuals to be at risk of CSE, however the Neglect Strategy does not include links with CSE. Ms Blackburn assured that this is included in the tool and agreed to make this more explicit and work with neglect system leaders.

#### **Action: Ms Blackburn will ensure that the neglect strategy explicitly references links with CSE.**

Ms Ramsden acknowledged that rolling out the Thriving Families tool has been a challenge; we committed to the tool to address the challenge about delays and lack of clarity and focus for families with neglect. The tool aimed to be more realistic about areas of strength and vulnerability to be more effective in work practice. Ms Ramsden asked what has happened despite the lack of implementation and would like to see the link with what is happening in practice, cases open at EH and CSC for neglect; link the progress with implementation of the tool and impact on the children. This could be an addition to the spotlight report or supplement the performance report. The tools should be supported by SSCP members as they are there to support effective practice. Ms Blackburn informed that feedback indicates that cases are managed at Early Help and conversations take place with families via the App.

#### **Action: Ms Blackburn agreed to include the link between what is happening in practice and the impact on children to the updated Neglect Spotlight Report.**

Ms Brooks commented that the impact and how this relates to data can be seen from the how are we doing report, there has been a reduction in CP plans for neglect, we need to understand if this a result of work on neglect. Neglect links with everything, exclusions, school attendance as well as CSE. Pleased to see the report and the amount of ongoing activity, it is good to see the increase in welfare involvement, families will be under more pressure as holidays start. It is important that system and practice factors are stronger to balance the societal factors. It would be helpful if the report reflected on the 5 outcomes in strategy, so that it reflects on what we said we would do and how we are doing with that.

Action: Ms Blackburn will incorporate Ms Brooks' suggestions in the revised version of the Neglect Spotlight report.

Ms Packer commented that online abuse of children is recognise and asked how this is reflected in terms of parental neglect and what they allow their children to look at online. Ms Blackburn responded that there is a lot of advice given.

SSCP members accepted the report and noted it is a good piece of work, still a lot to do in this area.

#### **b. Strategic Housing Partnership Board Lead: Julie Craik**

Ms Craik attended to present this item and explained that the Strategic Housing Partnership Board is non-statutory. The Board supports joint working with housing providers and the city council; many of the housing providers work across several local authorities.

To inform this report, housing providers were asked to comment on all SSCP assurance and priority areas; many provided their feedback as one response across all the priority areas.

All registered providers do have policies and procedures in place to respond to safeguarding matters and are able to demonstrate good partnership working. Safeguarding training is made available to all appropriate staff, lead officers are in place in key areas of work that can lead on these areas. There are dedicated teams and systems that enable concerns to be reported and responded to in a timely way.

The report identified a need to ensure providers are linked into and represented on SSCP sub-groups. Housing providers could support the Thriving Families agenda and drive the culture shift on neglect. Working with the subgroups would help housing providers to better categorise what is anti-social behaviour and what may be exploitation. A GMP representative attended the last Housing Partnership meeting to discuss exploitation.

Housing providers are not currently represented at SSCP meetings and members were asked to consider whether they should be invited to join SSCP.

Thriving families and neglect is standing item on the Housing Safeguarding forum.

Ms Ramsden commented that there is strong progress regarding partnership working with housing providers and the role they play in safeguarding children is recognised. It is important to ensure housing are included in CiN arrangements where housing is part of the family vulnerabilities. Work is ongoing for families at risk of homelessness, there is housing support at The Bridge and connections with Welfare Rights and Debt Advice. Housing is part of the multi-agency system at operational and strategic levels. When we revised SSCP partnership, housing was removed from the membership, we need to decide where they fit into the partnership.

**Action: Ms Pollard will review housing representation at each of the SSCP subgroups**

Ms Brooks reflected on the report and commented that it is positive to see the summary of housing providers and how they work together, it feels as if communication involvement in training and events is critical. Ensuring links to safeguarding housing forum is important as well as how providers relate to CSP and CSRTs. Some providers work with other local authorities, they may get confused with different systems, we should listen to the providers and ask what works for them.

Dr Dixit agreed we are looking at assurance from all housing providers; he also highlighted that we are not only seeking assurance regarding the identification of safeguarding, but also that as landlords they are providing safe housing. We are looking at ways to improve air quality in housing, reduce mold and improve the health of children. We need to have assurance that landlords will follow recommendations in the spotlight report and understand how SSCP ensure landlords review this all the time. Ms Craik assured that there is an action in the housing strategy action plan regarding mold, in response to that, this year's action plan received feedback from providers that they are committed to address this, and the action plan is in place for feedback from providers on how they are addressing this issue.

Mr Packer informed that he chairs the exploitation subgroup and highlighted that housing representatives on this group have been crucial to the work of this group particularly regarding cuckooing and criminal exploitation.

Ms Ramsden noted that private landlords as well as housing providers are also important; there is a lot of work happening around being a quality landlord as a private landlord. We need to ensure we also connect with the work done with private landlords.

## SSCP Business

### **3. SSCP Minutes (21<sup>st</sup> March 2022) Lead: Chair Paper/Presentation: Paper**

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the SSCP meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

### **4. SSCP Action Log (21<sup>st</sup> March 2022) Lead: Chair Paper/Presentation: Paper**

The action log was updated at the meeting.

Ms Brooks noted that some of the actions in the action log were over a year old, SSCP members need to consider any actions that are over 6 months old and understand what is being done differently.

### **5. SSCP Business Manager Report Lead: Kate Pollard Paper/Presentation: Paper**

Ms Pollard presented her business manager report and highlighted the activity in place across the system and highlighted that the aim is to continuously improve efficiencies across the system. The process to agree priority areas has been reviewed, current process is to agree priorities annually, a proposal went to the Executive in April to develop a 3 year strategy. There is a Strategic Planning Event on 13<sup>th</sup> July with strategic leads; during this session leads will be asked to contribute to the 3 year plan and revisit SSCP arrangements. This session is an opportunity to look at strengths and areas for improvement and confirmation of attendance was requested.

Since the last partnership meeting, the first Strategic Effectiveness Group (SEG) meeting has taken place; this group is an amalgamation of the previous Safeguarding Operational Group (SOG) and Safeguarding Effectiveness Group (SEG). The first meeting went well, there was a busy agenda and as a result there has been a lot of activity since the meeting including ongoing work to review the effectiveness of the score card and multi-agency contributions to this.

A risk register has been developed, this was included with the papers for this meeting and summarises the findings from SEG. Some of risks on the register were also included in the Independent Scrutineer report action plan also included in the papers for this meeting. The risk register was shared at the meeting and Ms Pollard provided updates on the progress made with the identified risks.

- Point 4: Ms Blackburn updated that conversations with GMMH have taken place, there is funding to support the post, GMMH will decide if this will be one person or a rota. The proposal has been shared.
- Point 10: Ms Pollard suggested establishing a working group to understand what Information Governance means in Salford.

Ms Brooks noted that this is a good report and provides a good overview. Ms Brooks agreed with point 8 and recommended undertaking this audit 6 months after ICS/ICB is in place.

Ms Pollard informed that regarding the Information Governance; she had reviewed what we have currently, an unsigned information sharing agreement which was put in place when SSCB transitioned to SSCP. Ms Brooks informed that this agreement was signed and SSCP also had a data transfer agreement. We should consider an inter board information governance arrangement; all the statutory boards and partnerships have the same partners and organisations. There are other GM partnerships that are also starting on a piece of work around information governance and suggested discussing this issue at the GM Chairs and Business Managers meeting in July to ascertain whether there is an appetite for agreement on a GM basis. It was also noted that we would need to ask each agency's Information Governance Officer (IGO) to lead on this work.

**Action: Ms Pollard will enquire who the relevant IGOs are for each organisation and will update on the progress at SEG and SSCP meetings.**

#### **6. How are we doing update from SEG/Risk Register Q1 2022/23 Lead: Zoe Fearon Paper/Presentation: Paper**

Ms Fearon had not joined the meeting at this point; Ms Pollard presented this item.

Ms Walton highlighted that although the data in the dashboard is held by the local authority; we need to remember that some of this data is submitted by multi-agencies. The data does need to be enhanced with supplementary information from agencies. We need to consider how we triangulate the data across the partnerships.

Ms Brooks noted that during periods of change, processes are important, however we need to understand how we are doing and why we are doing it that way. The how are we doing report should include more about the impact of our work and what it means to families.

Ms Fearon would welcome a conversation with Ms Brooks outside this meeting to understand her reflections. The Neglect report was presented to SEG and asked for the impact of work to be included when the report was brought to this meeting. Ms Fearon requested feedback on her presentation using PowerPoint and explained that this format was used to compliment Ms Pollard's business report which includes more detail. Ms Brooks noted that a strong point of the how are we doing report is that it is circulated to all subgroups to communicate across the partnership on how we are doing.

Dr Dixit agreed that the key points made are important and triangulation of information is key to the so what factor, however we need to be mindful there are other facets that effect families in the wider sense and unless we sort everything out at the same time, life for the family may not change. We need to persist with families, even when there is no engagement, this will work for at least some cases, and we can then say we have made a difference.

Ms Pollard agreed with Dr Dixit and noted that as we improve systems and processes, we need to refresh statements and outcome measures then we can look at how we present information.

**Action: Ms Pollard will meet with strategic leads to review impact measures, so they are clear what we are working towards. Ms Fearon asked for strategic leads to also consider the Salford Great 8 priorities and reference them in their outcomes.**

## **7. SSCP Independent Scrutineer Report Action Plan Lead: Kate Pollard Paper/Presentation: Paper**

This action plan was developed following the independent scrutiny report submitted by Simon Westwood; many of the risks identified were included in the SEG risk register discussed earlier.

- Point 2: strengthen engagement with community groups via CVS. Ms Warburton informed that there is a vocal Children and Families forum, ordinarily CVS would seek representation from that forum onto partnership subgroups. Recently CVS had noted a lack of engagement from this forum; not all representatives are attending meetings and feeding back to the forum. CVS are in the process of reviewing membership and activity to get better engagement with partnerships; during this process it has been identified that several groups are no longer in existence. Once this work is completed CVS will target groups to represent the forum at various SSCP subgroups.
- Point 7: Data – refreshing outcome statements. Ms Pollard will link with strategic leads after this meeting; Ms Fearon suggested asking agencies to think of 3 key measures they can report on. Catherine Johnson helping to get meaningful data streams; this links to the development day and the how are we doing report.
- Point 9.2 – This audit will start 6 months from implementation of ICS.

### **a. Financial Contributions to Safeguarding Partnerships**

Ms Pollard noted that financial contributions to SSCP features in the Independent Scrutineer action plan and the SSCP risk register. There is work ongoing across GM to consider this issue and establish a more equitable funding base for Safeguarding Children Partnerships. The funding in Salford is currently 60% LA, 36% CCG and 4% GMP.

Ms Ramsden suggested adding this issue to the Executive agenda and asking the Executive to write to Stephen Watson, Chief Constable. Previously it was agreed that GMP would offer the same amount of money to each of the 10 partnerships and provide funding to the GM Alliance; it was recognised this was not an equitably shared responsibility. It is timely to revisit this, we now have a more stable system than was in place when the current funding arrangements were set up; and funding would need to be raised collectively across all 10 SCPs.

Ms Walton asked whether if we ask for equity across GM for GMP we are setting a precedent for ICBs. Ms Pollard informed that this was also discussed at the regional Business Managers meeting, contributions to Safeguarding Partnerships across GM were included in papers. The figures show that the GMP contribution is not consistent across all 10 authorities.

Mr Packer asked if there is a funding formula in place; Ms Pollard informed that the paper does not explain the background it just provides the current contributions as a percentage.

Ms Ramsden informed that the original aspiration was to have a three-way split and noted that the difference in percentage contributions may be due to additional local funding. CCG contributions reflect the priorities given to children and we may have a similar situation where ICB sets the minimum contribution but money in local funds can be used to address local priorities.

Mr Packer asked if this has already featured at ACC level, he has a meeting with ACC Sarah Jackson; Ms Pollard was unsure, it was her understanding that it is currently at scoping phase with a view to approaching collectively as GM SCPs.

**Action: Ms Pollard will add partnership funding to the agenda for the Executive agenda set meeting.**

#### **8. Draft SSCP Annual Report Lead: Kate Pollard Paper/Presentation: Paper**

Ms Pollard informed that the SSCP Annual Report 2021-22 was discussed at SEG and had been circulated for final comments; all comments received were included in the version shared today.

Ms Warburton noted that the report references VCS and CVS incorrectly at several points.

**Action: Ms Warburton will add track changes to the annual report to ensure VCSE and CVS are used correctly with in the annual report.**

Ms Pollard informed that Comms are working on a 1-page summary with key highlights to be published alongside the annual report.

Ms Walton asked if there are plans to produce an easy read version of the annual report; Ms Pollard agreed to work with the Comms team on this. Ms Walton suggested using a PowerPoint template to produce the report in future; this helps to frame the report in an easy read format and prevents the author including the level of detail. Ms Fearon informed that this format has worked for the local authority self-assessment and will share the template Ofsted gave them which has helped to make the information more succinct with Ms Pollard for future reports.

**Agreed: SSCP approved the report and agreed it should go to Exec for ratification and agreement to publish.**

#### **9. Update on Safeguarding Elements of ICS Lead: Liz Walton Paper/Presentation: Paper**

Ms Walton presented the update on safeguarding elements of ICS and informed that the final structure had not yet been confirmed and not all recruitments have been completed.

The draft ICB structure was shared; the final structure has not been confirmed yet. The structure will help to strengthen health responsibilities to safeguarding and should assist with responsibilities to SSAB and SSCP.

Ms Walton highlighted identified risks; ensuring the focus on resource of safeguarding team remained and around funding. The statutory responsibility will transfer to ICB. Ms Walton informed that she would continue to update SSCP.

Mr Packer thanked Ms Walton for this update and noted that it was recognised that ICB is in a transition period and awaiting recruitment to key roles.

#### **10. Feedback to (Items to evidence impact, challenge, and good practice?):**

##### **a. SSCP Subgroups**

- Actions identified for SEG around performance and reporting

##### **b. SSCP Safeguarding Executive**

- Financial contributions to SSCP

- Annual report
- ICB update

**c. Other Local Boards/Partnerships**

- Action regarding the relationship around organised crime and exploitation for discussion at interboard chairs meeting.

**d. Regional Meetings**

**e. Children, Professionals & Communities**

Ms Ramsden asked how much young people have been asked about the impact of the work on neglect?  
Ms Blackburn informed that there is a focused session on impact at neglect system leaders meetings.

**Action: Ms Blackburn will feedback on how young people have been asked about the impact of the work on neglect following discussion at Neglect System Leaders.**

- Ms Fearon asked how we get feedback from young people for our three key priority areas. Children's services are currently auditing on voice of child, when multi-agency audits are established, this could be a key theme. Ms Pollard informed that the Listening Hub Lead, Jo Horton links across several subgroups particularly the adolescent work stream to understand what matters to young people. Close the loop meetings have been set up, to feedback to groups on the progress made following feedback received, core subgroup leads meet quarterly to look at learning identified and to ensure the workforce development plan is relevant and feedback to young people on activity of SSCP and ensure it is right for young people.
- Ms Armfield informed that the Salford schools pilot includes speaking to professionals to get feedback on the process
- Ms Pollard is meeting with the SSCP lay member; he has not attended many meetings recently and will feedback to ensure we have a lay member at future meetings.

**11. Any other business**

**a. Chris Packer**

Ms Ramsden highlighted that this would be Mr Packer's last SSCP meeting before his retirement and expressed huge thanks for his joint chairing of the SSCP and strategic leadership for safeguarding children from a police perspective. Mr Packer will be hugely missed, he has been integral to work across the Salford safeguarding system for a long time. Mr Packer thanked everyone for their well wishes; he is proud of the work involved to develop the complex safeguarding hub and enjoyed leading the subgroup.

**b. CDOP**

Ms Kinsella raised a risk identified around CDOP and statutory functions, not being met due to administrative delays. In Salford 39 child deaths not closed, 19 are neonates, who follow a different process, 2-3 are open due to ongoing coroner investigations. The issue has arisen due to the long term sickness of the CDOP Administrator; in their absence no-one else has access to full cases because of the way the admin support has been commissioned. Authorities may have completed processes, but admin support is not in place to coordinate the process and submit to panel. It was thought that CDOP needed to have an independent chair with adequate admin support, this may need more financial support from the three Safeguarding Children Partnerships.



**Key Information: Items Circulated for Information**

- 12. SSCP Scorecard Contact details: [sscp@salford.gov.uk](mailto:sscp@salford.gov.uk)
- 13. SSCP Executive Minutes 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022 Contact details: [sscp@salford.gov.uk](mailto:sscp@salford.gov.uk)
- 14. Education Listening Hub Impact Report Lead: Karen Armfield Paper
- 15. Listening Hub Impact Report Lead: Sharn Begum Paper

**Dates and themes of future SSCP meetings**

Date	Reports expected	Leads
<b>26/09/2022</b>	Priority 2-Child Sexual Abuse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth Justice Board</li> <li>• Barton Moss</li> </ul>	Diane Kinsella <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lee Matthews</li> <li>• Kay Davidson</li> </ul>
<b>12/12/2022</b>	Priority 3-Exploitation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0-25 Board</li> </ul>	Chris Packer/ Gareth Jenkins <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clare Hopton</li> </ul>
<b>27/03/2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skills and Work</li> </ul> Spotlight theme will focus on all assurance priority areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adolescents</li> <li>• Safeguarding babies</li> <li>• Children affected by Domestic Abuse</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alison Burnett</li> </ul> Spotlight theme Leads: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lee Matthews</li> <li>• Diane Kinsella</li> <li>• Claire Baddley</li> </ul>

Minutes approved by: Chris Packer, Detective Superintendent, Crime and Vulnerability, GMP  
 Minutes approved on: 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022