

SSCP Meeting Minutes

Date: 20th March 2023

Time: 1pm- 4pm

Chair: Melanie John- Ross- Independent Chair/ Scrutineer

Venue: Microsoft teams

1. Welcome and Apologies Lead: Chair

Melanie John-Ross welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

a. In attendance

Melanie John-Ross, SSCP Independent Chair and Scrutineer
Karen Armfield, Head Teacher, Boothstown Methodist Primary
Kate Pollard, Head of Business & Impact, Salford Safeguarding Children Partnership
Lee Matthews, Head of Youth Justice Service, Salford City Council: People
Deborah Blackburn, Assistant Director: Public Health Nursing and Wellbeing, Public Health
Jane Slinger, Head of Safeguarding Children, Salford City Council: People
Danielle Buckley, Head of Cluster, HM Prison & Probation Service
Melissa Armfield, Interim Executive Director of Childrens Services
Elaine Burfitt, Designated Doctor (Safeguarding Children), NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care
Tim Rumley, Children's Services Senior Manager, Salford City Council: People
Elizabeth Walton, Assistant Director: Safeguarding & Quality, NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care
Yanica Weir, Detective Chief Inspector -Partnerships, GMP
Clare Baddley, Domestic Abuse Operational Lead, Children's Safeguarding Unit
Clare Kelly, Assistant Director of Nursing – Safeguarding, Salford Royal Foundation Trust (SRFT)
Simon Westwood, GM Alliance
Debbie Elsheikh, Service Manager Social Work Improvement Workforce Development
James Quinn, Practice Manager for Quality Assurance and Social Work Improvement

b. Apologies received from:

Zoe Fearon, Assistant Director, Children's Social Care, Salford City Council: People
Michelle Warburton, Voice and Influence Manager, Salford Community & Voluntary Services
Diane Kinsella, Designated Nurse: Safeguarding Children & Looked After Children, NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care
Jane Bowmer, Business Manager, Salford Safeguarding Adult Board
Grainne Quinlan, Senior Business Support Officer, Salford Safeguarding Children Partnership

2. Minutes of previous meeting Lead: Chair

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the SSCP meeting on 12th December.

3. Action Tracker Lead: Chair

The action tracker was reviewed and updated at the meeting. All closed actions will be transferred to the closed action tracker after the meeting.

Dr Elaine Burfitt summarised the progress for actions 1 and 2 which are on-going; the action log has been updated.

4. SSCP Business Manager Report Lead: Kate Pollard (Report)

KP summarised the key headlines:

- On-going work to progress the three-year strategy for the partnership. Kate has met with all strategic leads to update individual work plans. The strategy will be published in April.
- Greater alignment with the adult partnership – joint priorities across the adult safeguarding board and children’s partnership.
- A number of development sessions arranged through the practice review sub-group, neglect sub-group and exploitation to reflect on the journey travelled.
- The business plan has now been developed; partners will be cited on this at each partnership meeting.
- The multi-agency safeguarding arrangements document has been updated and circulated.
- Safeguarding Alliance, the Greater Manchester Alliance Arrangements – Evaluation of the proof-of-concept phase that’s currently being undertaken by an independent evaluator. Three community and practice events that took place during the proof-of-concept phase which helped to add value to current practice approaches across the northwest.
- Funding arrangements remain on the agenda, this has been escalated to the Executive. Melanie has asked for this to be on the agenda at the next Greater Manchester chairs and business managers meeting.
- Annual learning event. Planning in progress for 20th April. The events will summarise and share the key learning from case review activity.
- Section 11 audit is completed.

Members asked to email Kate any feedback in relation to the GMCA that they wish to contribute as part of the evaluation by 23rd March 2023.

KP raised Salford’s position in terms of reflection and peer supervision around complex cases. This has been highlighted in the action plan as a result of a recent CSPR. Some discussion as part of the review in terms of lower-level concerns or cases that don’t meet the threshold for statutory intervention; how partners can discuss collectively, before concerns escalate and have reflective discussions. Kate asked if there is a need for a local pathway or guidance to support practitioners on how to identify complex risk and have multi-agency reflective discussions on how to respond. Kate has met with Early Help to look at what is currently available.

DB highlighted the current triangulation meetings and the Assure app which was developed during the pandemic because of concerns for children. This pulls information from Education, Health, CSC and Early Help to bring cases together where there are multi-agency concerns. Weekly triangulation meetings take place with Early Help and the 0-19 service. KP has discussed this with Katie Kelleher and the need for comms activity to raise awareness of these forums and some practice guidance to support professionals.

CK stated it was positive that the triangulation work still takes place; however, in cases such as in a recent CSPR which was a very complex case, he was not going to school, so in terms of access to other services he was hidden. Multi-agency supervision would be beneficial, but all partners would need to equally sign up. In this case health professionals were involved; however, the development and escalation into other services for support was a problem and everyone understanding the level of risk.

CK also questioned the use of the SSCP/Safeguarding Unit to mediate which is beneficial in cases where there is professional disagreement around thresholds; this role and escalation to the SSCP does not seem to feature in a lot of cases anymore across the areas covered. Melanie John-Ross explained that she with Jane and Kate have been reviewing the escalation protocol with a view to making some amendments as it's not been used. If there is a concern that professionals can't locally resolve, then it can be escalated to the safeguarding partnership for support. This needs communicating to all practitioners. Kate and Mel are delivering quarterly bitesize briefings to raise awareness about the escalation process.

MC discussed the need to bring Early Help, the Attendance Team and the Front Door of Children's Social Care (CSC) together, to work through the pathways. Consistent communication is needed.

Action:

Kate Pollard to convene a meeting as suggested by MC.

Action:

SSCP annual report and request for contributions to be sent to KP by 14th April 2023. It will then be shared at the next partnership meeting.

5. How are we doing update from SEG/Risk Register Q3 2022/23 Lead: Zoe Fearon (Report)

KP presented the key points of the SEG report on behalf of ZF.

- Work is ongoing to develop the scorecard into a multi-agency data set. This was escalated at the last Executive meeting in January and some progress has been made.
- Health colleagues have agreed to provide GP's child protection data; data on child protection medicals, including the numbers that have been completed and the theme. The number of allegations against staff specific to working directly with children and children safeguarding training data.
- GMP information provided CAWNs (Child Abduction Warning Notices); CSDs (Child Sexual Disclosures); number of Police Protection's; Strategy meetings, separated into the Bridge, Connect, ASU, miscellaneous and case conference data; police checks data; the number of ongoing investigations and positive outcomes. At the next SEG in May it is anticipated that there will be a more robust multi-agency scorecard to consider.
- During quarter 3 discussed at the last SEG, the scorecard timescales for MASH episodes was showing that performance continued to improve in this quarter with 92% completed within timescale.
- The convening of initial child protection conferences in timescale was 91% in quarter 3 and the rate of children on a child protection plan had declined since 2020 and continues to drop, is slightly above the NW average.
- The number of children on child protection plans lasting for more than 2 years had increased significantly, but this also included children subject to young person's plans which may involve a longer period of intervention due to risk.
- The percentage of children subject to a second or subsequent child protection plan remained at around 28%. At the next SEG meeting Vicki Hollingworth will give some context around the figures to reassure SEG.

- Increase in number of unaccompanied children accommodated in Salford.
- No data available around children subject to child in need plans. At the next SEG a request has been made for a review of child in need planning.
- Early Help assessments. Number of children subject to early help assessments had dropped by 20% during the previous quarter.
- 91% of Early Help assessments are completed by the local authority Early Help services. A request was made for partners help in completing some of these assessments.
- Education data. Attendance levels reduced during the pandemic and remains lower than the NW levels, with persistent absence levels remaining high.
- The number of suspensions increased post pandemic but there have been no permanent exclusions for 5 years for cared for children.
- Ongoing work to focus on vulnerable learners and how partners can support increased attendance.
- Update at the last SEG in relation to the missing from home service, voice of the child and comms sub-group leads.
- There are a number of task and finish groups ongoing which are due to provide assurance to SEG in May.

The group discussed and agreed that there is a lot of useful data overall but was it answering the right questions; does it evidence strong multi-agency practice. How does it evidence impact, effectiveness and the quality of practice?

Action: KP and MJR to discuss with ZF.

6. GM Alliance Update Domestic Abuse: Simon Westwood (Report)

The update report of the Greater Manchester Alliance and in respect of domestic abuse have been circulated and the recommendations have been considered by the Domestic Abuse sub-group and included in the work plan.

The report was commissioned by the GM Safeguarding Alliance; it is part of a trial period to test if the model could work across GM. There is a separate piece of work to evaluate the three practice community events and processes, for the GM Alliance to decide if they want to continue this approach, as part of a wider piece of work.

The report was presented to the Alliance in November, and they have approved the recommendations. SW fed back on 1st March to the GM leadership group and on 29th March it will be presented to the Family Justice Board in GM. Going forward, a feedback report will be completed by the support team at GM Alliance.

By meeting with other partnerships, there is an opportunity for a greater focus on children affected by domestic abuse and making sure there is a greater focus on children, early help and identification of risk. National funding from the police and crime commissioner's bids submitted in Manchester and there is a national evaluation.

It is important to feed into the national evaluation; how things can develop, extending the model to other professionals, in particular primary care and mental health, who are keen to do this. The earlier risks are identified for children the better.

DB states it is a really helpful report and will be presented at the domestic abuse commissioners conference next week.

The new trauma response practitioner will start to look at how they can influence some work around this in schools; raising awareness and providing support to settings, to ensure there is a comprehensive system.

Schools are working with TR around voice of children and how to get their views; that resources are more available, and discussions are taking place in the Education sub-group.

CB offered reassurance that all issues identified in the report are being worked on; some areas progressing already. This includes the housing strategy and how it supports young people.

A lot of work is going on in Salford at the moment, particular within the education sector. The Early Years Operation Encompass model, which has been piloted and continues to run in Salford, is positive, with a lot of learning and which is being supported with further funding.

SW's is meeting with the Family Justice Board on 29th March which will focus on where there is a difference in opinion in court. SW will receive an update on how it's been implemented and monitored.

JS agreed to discuss this with the Principal Social Worker, to identify if this is an issue locally. JS and CB looking at the implementation of the Safer Together model, including work with the judiciary around family time directed by judges.

The Housing Strategy: the decision was made that it was not possible to do justice to housing issues but important to recognise the issues and prepare a strategy. DB is raising this at the gender-based violence executive group.

MC reported that there has been a recent refresh of the Homelessness Strategy and planning is in place for next year across the whole council, making sure that there is a stronger focus on children, with some clear actions.

SSCP Business

7. Spotlight Report Children Affected by Domestic Abuse: Claire Baddley

CB presented the DA Spotlight Report 2023 and provided an overview of progress from last year and developments. 20 champions were implemented, and training was provided. They have looked at the workforce development offer moving forward; further training has now been developed for the whole workforce.

The achievements and growths; Successful in joining the joint commission 'Safe in Salford' in March, ensuring a permanency of funding until March 27.

Key developments for the sub-group:

- Want to align priorities with SSCP.
- Working towards developing a strategy
- Involving voice of the child

What works well. CB shared the highlights from the Harbour report:

- Steady increase in referrals into the service – 17% above target
- Decrease in repeat referrals into the service - 11%
- No waiting list to access support
- Reduction in risk; over 23% of cases that were supported via the specialist DV children's service provision resulted in a reduction from CP to CIN whilst being open in the last quarter.

Salford has been successful in receiving extended match funding from the home office in relation to perpetration provision, offering support for female and male perpetration, BME, LGBTQ and young people who harm.

The current concerns were highlighted:

- Lack of 'by and far' services for marginalised children impacted by DA.
- Capturing voice of the child across the partnership
- No structured school education offer
- No support for family who remain in a relationship and have children.
- More clarity needed on post separation on abuse and the impact on children.

Action plan includes:

- 1 year action plan
- Sub-group look to align priorities.
- Looking at education package for young people impacted by DV.
- Voice of the child
- Deep dive audit will be completed.

The meeting found this to be a helpful presentation which highlighted areas of concern; however, the right professionals are involved who will progress the action plan. Training has been set up. CB contacted the national commissioners to share some good examples and learning from other areas. The next report will be more case study focussed.

8. Spotlight Report Safeguarding Adolescents: Lee Matthews

LM provided the key points from the Safeguarding Adolescent report.

- Last year the sub-group met on a number of occasions. 3 focused groups looked at what the strategy would be.
- As a group they considered what the context was for adolescents in Salford; they looked at what the key principles were for working with adolescents, which have been aligned with the GM adolescent framework.
- It was key to capture the feedback from children and young people in shaping the strategy, as one of the priorities is capturing the voice of the children.
- There were lots of priorities for adolescents across the board; not everything can be captured within the strategy. It needs to be clear, with 4 key agreed priorities.
- As part of the working group, members were aware of other areas of good practice. Liverpool had a model which was a child centred, clear, short and a to the point strategy, which is a basis for what was developed in Salford.
- Feedback was captured from 564 children across Salford, primarily from children in schools across different localities.
- The feedback showed as a professional partnership network, Salford understands children, with the priorities consistent to what children were saying and what they wanted to be the priorities.
- The strategy will be launched on 1st April, alongside the SSCP business priorities which the strategy is aligned to.
- There are 4 priorities and within each priority there is also an outcome statement:
 1. Helping children and young people to thrive
 2. Preventing harm from abuse and crime
 3. Listening and responding to the voice of children and young people
 4. Understanding and supporting key adolescent transitions

Feedback has been positive; the Adolescent Strategy sub-group is meeting every quarter. However, consistent attendance and representation is required.

9. Spotlight Report Safeguarding Babies: Diane Kinsella

KP presents key headlines for the safeguarding babies report on behalf of DK.

The Safeguarding Babies sub-group aims to coordinate the multi-agency response to any learning that has been identified, locally and nationally from case review activity and, to share and analyse the impact of public health messages.

- The work of the group is also triangulated with other sub-groups across the partnership; domestic abuse and neglect.
- There is good communication across the partnership with the strategic leads and supported by the business unit to make sure work plans are streamlined so there is no duplication.
- The key priorities for the Safeguarding Babies sub-group are:
 1. Reviewing how agencies work together to safeguard babies under 1 in Salford.
 2. Coordinating the multi-agency response to the learning that has been identified both locally and nationally.
 3. Scanning for any emerging threats and risks that younger child face – family approach to safeguarding younger children.
- Performance wise there is good multi-agency representation across the partnership at the sub-group and the work plan has been aligned with the SSCP priorities.
- In relation to prevention activity for babies under 1, a 7-minute briefing was developed in relation to water safety which was considered at the last exec meeting.
- An audit from primary care to understand the practice of GPs in providing information at the 6–8-week baby check in relation to safer sleep and water safety.
- Enhanced training offer across the partnership for ICON which is led by 0-19 and early help services. Free online training available for Salford parents by early help and online support available.
- The group has supported water safety messages with the partnership comms lead for world drowning prevention day. Children social care training has been updated with safety messages.
- The NHS England commissioned free safer sleep training for all frontline professionals across the northwest, key messages on partnership website.
- The group has supported work to review and input into the male circumcision policy.
- The Safeguarding Babies' group have developed a risk stratification tool for safer sleep which is embedded within the spotlight report. The tool has been designed to support practitioners in decision making around the level of support and the advice that is needed to be given to families and to keep children safe while they are sleeping.
- There is good engagement across the partnership, the group has evolved and its increased momentum with work streams and is now developing a complete strategy and implementation plan, there is still work to do.

DK is going to be working on the strategy with the group and the implementation plan, so that its clear what to focus on and what the key priorities are. Further work is required, to engage the IROs and Child Protection Coordinators around the safety of unborn babies and babies under 1. There are opportunities to improve safety messages from all professionals and linking that with care for children reviews, child protection and child in need plan reviews. There is a need to ensure that the strategy includes fathers and the role of other adults with care responsibilities for babies under 1, in line with the learning from the national review of 'The myth of the invisible men'.

The group discussed the risk stratification tool for safer sleep and if it could be incorporated within existing tools or guidance documents. Could it be aligned with IT systems to make sure not to duplicate work. KP highlighted there is an annual learning event day where there is a slot on safeguarding babies, where practitioners can give feedback on the tool.

10. Section 11 Report and Action Plan Assurance: Kate Pollard

Jane Maguire prepared the report and action plan.

Key points to note:

- Section 11 audit is undertaken bi-annually and is coordinated by the partnership business unit.
- There is also a report in terms of overall assurance.
- An action log is progressing, and final assurance will come back to the partnership in June.
- The self-assessment summary document provides the partnership with an overview of the self-assessment submissions, and it includes areas with further learning and improvement and examples of good practice.
- In September 2022 the template was sent to partners and included questions around the following themes over 3 sections:
 - 1 The culture of safeguarding within the organisation
 - 2 A safe organisation
 - 3 Voice of the child parents and staff
- There is an additional section within the template which focused specifically on Salford thematic areas, in relation to neglect and complex safeguarding, professional challenge and escalation and also learning from case reviews.
- Partners were asked to self-assess and provide a rag rating to highlight where standards had been fully met. If standards are partially met or not met at all. those actions then go on the action plan to oversee and track progress.
- 23 self-assessments completed across the partnership, 2 returned from CAFCASS and Transport Police. No responses received from the ambulance service, public health or public health commissioning services. Liberty House and Salford Foyer completed individual assessments.
- The education returns summarized 110 school self-assessments and over all their actions were green, but some identified actions that were incorporated in the action log.

JM provided a summary of the ratings across each 4 sections:

The highest number of green responses was 96% across the partnership regarding a clear line of accountability and a culture of listening to staff. Positive indications of recognising the importance of accountability for safeguarding within the organisation.

Agencies have identified areas for learning and development in relation to the specific priority areas; their responses indicated that there is further work required across the partnership to support professionals to recognise and understand the impact of neglect and complex safeguarding.

Melanie John-Ross chaired the challenge panel on 8th December and was supported by key strategic leads across the partnership. 5 agencies chose to present their self-assessment and highlight any areas of strength and areas for development. Greater Manchester Police, NHS Salford and the LA Children's Social Care were amongst those who presented their self-assessment returns.

Reflections from the panel meeting were that agencies in Salford know themselves well; they are reflective rather than defensive and are open to respectful challenge and scrutiny.

There was evidence of shared learning across the partnership and a desire to continue to be better. Themes around training and supervision and how it is evidenced at a senior management level across the partnership could be strengthened.

The chair made a number of recommendations which informed the Section 11 action plan. This will come back to the partnership in June.

Feedback from the Section 11 process:

- Agencies welcomed the simplified Section 11 audit form.
- The process encouraged respectful inter agency challenge and prompted reflection amongst partners to review and update their internal procedures and processes where necessary.

To feed into the overall assurance for the partnership, they will now undertake a Section 11 frontline practitioner survey in June 23 to triangulate findings and evidence progress.

JS highlighted that it was a really good experience for the agencies who attended the challenge panel. It was a reflective event and the partners who attended welcomed feedback.

Action:

Kate Pollard to share the specific points with the strategic leads for the Neglect and Exploitation sub-group and Practice Review strategic lead.

11. Private Fostering Report: James Quinn

The report period was 14 months, the headline findings during the period included:

There were 8 children privately fostered in Salford; 4 currently closed and 4 are open.

For the 4 children that are closed, 2 became cared for children and 2 returned back to parents. One remained a child in need and 1 closed to universal services.

For the 4 children that are open, 2 are open because of family circumstances and 2 are open for education purposes, which appears in line with regional and national neighbours.

Promoting the awareness of private fostering across the partnership and the community, as well as updating information, which has not been updated for a number of years.

In terms of standard 3, safeguarding and the need to make sure that DBS checks are regularly updated and that they are regularly reviewed and noted on the child's file.

Standard 4, advice and support, what information is provided to social workers, to parents and to the community.

Standard 6 monitoring of compliance; this has not been up to date. The annual report is the first one in a few years.

Case files have been reviewed and it is positive that children are happy and stable. There are ongoing discussions with education providers and health partners, which is positive.

Area's that need to be strengthened include:

Ensuring that there is regular communication with parents and that this is understood and on the child's file. Where children have been in placement for a number of years, DBS checks need to continue to be reviewed. Provide more meaningful information to communities, partners and the wider children's workforce. Need to explore better training for those who are privately fostering.

The meeting discussed that this was a really important report and if there was an inspection, this would be one of the reports requested by Ofsted.

Children who are privately fostered are a vulnerable group of children.

Mel John-Ross asked the SSCP if they are confident that in their organisation, staff and practitioners would recognise private fostering arrangements and refer to CSC?

MJR asked the SSCP to ensure that information is cascaded across their agencies.

JQ advised that the information sharing on the system isn't as up to date as needed, a working group may be needed to improve this.

We need to support the refresh of comms in relation to private fostering and ensure that support tools and resources are available, that could be promoted across the SSCP to raise some awareness.

12. National Review Children with Disabilities Assurance: Jane Slinger – Verbal update

In October 2022 a Phase 1 report was published and this was a review of children with disabilities and complex needs in residential settings. The review set out recommendations and findings in respect of the safeguarding arrangements and some of the abuse that these children had suffered. These children were being placed in settings and suffered abuse including physical abuse, neglect and also sexual harm.

The child safeguarding practice review panel asked for each local authority to assure themselves of the safeguarding arrangements concerning disabled children and young people, who were placed in residential and school settings.

Salford conducted their own local review and looked at all arrangements for those children and young people placed in residential settings. There were 3 children and one who had turned 18 at the time. Overall findings were satisfactory and good in terms of the experience of these young people. Feedback was also sought from parents, to make sure that their views were considered.

A multi-agency partnership approach was taken, which involved the Quality Assurance Team within the Safeguarding Unit, as well as Independent Reviewing Officers.

Salford looked at some specific actions: –

Regulation 44 visits and how those reports reach the lead professionals; a piece of work has started with the commissioning team, to make sure we are sighted of the outcomes of regulation 44 visits, which should be shared with social workers and to ensure we are aware of any difficulties with potential providers early on and to address those.

Also, to undertake a report for children placed at a distance. The IRO Service is currently undertaking a progress report for those young people who are placed at distance, beyond 25 miles and outside GM. They will review the care plan for those young people, the arrangements, the family time to be assured that placements are robust and regularly reviewed.

The third action is to examine the effectiveness of Liberty Protection Orders and safeguarding children in Salford. The Lead, Martin Sexton has already started doing lots of work around this in preparation for LP training with practitioners, communication and task and finish groups.

Communicating with children and those with complex needs. A local review identified that practitioners didn't always feel confident in communication with disabled children and those with complex needs. SSCP are developing a training course.

Once the recommendations are published from Phase 2 of the report, these will be reviewed and considered, particularly the role of LADO. The recommendations are expected to come out in the spring from the Phase 2 report.

Key Information: Items Circulated for Information/ Approval

13. Updated MASA Document (Kate Pollard) – For approval

Approved

14. Communications and Media Strategy (Debbie Blackburn) – For approval

Deferred to the June meeting.

7-minute briefing has taken place.

The Strategy is going to be updated as it is part of the Safeguarding Adult Board and Community Safety Partnership to ensure an overarching approach.

15. CSA Strategy (Diane Kinsella) - For approval

The spotlight report from Diane was not actually due at this partnership meeting, but the reason for a progress report was because there were some concerns raised at a previous partnership meeting in terms of progress of the work stream. The report is a summary of activity and provides an update to the partnership for assurance.

Some discussion in terms of all the strategies and having shorter accessible versions. Ensuring consistency of approach across the sub-groups, with an underlying strategy and implementation plan that details the direction that the group is going in.

It's been a year since a strategic development session that looked at strategy has taken place.

Therefore, another one might be worth organising, to consider the impact of the work undertaken so far.

16. Adolescent strategy (Lee Matthews) - For approval

Full support of the partnership for approval of the strategy.

17. SSCP Executive minutes 23.01.23 – For approval

No comments

18. SSCP Business plan 2022-23 – For information

No comments

19. Any other business

Karen Armfield sent an email with the Salford School Partnership Handbook; this is just a draft at this time.

Melanie John-Ross highlighted that CSC have completed some work looking at evaluating escalations that have been made to the service. If any such work is going on across partner Organisations, please

share with JS. This is a quarterly overview from Jane Slinger on escalations.

Key Information: Items Circulated for Information

SSCP Scorecard Contact details: sscp@salford.gov.uk

SSCP Executive Minutes 1st November 2022 Contact details: sscp@salford.gov.uk

SEG Risk register

Dates and themes of future SSCP meetings

Date	Reports expected	Leads
19 th June 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report and updated action plan assurance• Communications and media strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jane Maguire/Kate Pollard• Debbie Blackburn