

**Annual Report  
2023/2024**

# Worried about a child

Every child and young person has the right to be safe.

All reports or enquiries concerning the welfare or safety of a child must go straight to the Bridge Partnership, call: 0161 603 4500 or [complete the online referral form on the worried about a child page](#).

The Bridge Partnership is available Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 4:30pm. If you need to speak to someone outside of these times, please contact the **Emergency Duty Team (EDT)** on **0161 794 8888**.

If a child is in immediate danger of being harmed or is home alone, call the **police on 999**.





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# Foreword

Thank you for taking the time to read the Salford Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report. The report provides information about the work and effectiveness of our local safeguarding children arrangements from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024. The report will provide an open, honest view of how partners work together in Salford to keep children safe.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and for services to be effective each citizen, practitioner and organisation should play their part. In Salford, all our partners are committed to working together so that every child is safe, well and able to reach their full potential.

We promote a culture of learning, continuous improvement, support and challenge, as we strive to improve outcomes for children and their families. This culture permeates from the very top of our organisations through to the practitioners whom we so heavily rely upon.

We hope that this annual report highlights the innovative and creative practice that takes place across our partnership and celebrates some of the successes. These successes are only possible through the dedication and diligence of the many professionals working with children, young people and their families across a range of agencies.

As a partnership, we have so much to be proud of in Salford. This report recognises the progress that the Salford Safeguarding Children Partnership has made throughout the year, and sets out our commitment to continue to address the challenges that will remain in 2024/25.



**Tom Stannard**  
Chief Executive  
Salford City Council  
Place Based Lead on  
behalf of NHS ICS



**Mandy Philbin**  
Chief Nurse  
NHS Greater Manchester  
Integrated Care Board



**Anthony Creely**  
Chief Superintendent  
Greater Manchester Police

# Message from the Independent Scrutineer



It has been a privilege to have been the Independent Chair and Scrutineer for the Salford Safeguarding Children's Partnership (SSCP).

My role has involved Chairing the SSCP and as the Independent Scrutineer and 'critical friend', attending key strategic meetings, to provide independent scrutiny, support and respectful challenge. My role also involves providing scrutiny and advice in respect of serious incident notifications, rapid review decision making and case reviews. This includes notifications where the decision is not to progress a child safeguarding practice review.

My Annual Report for 2023 – 2024 sets out significant evidence of robust and highly effective multi agency safeguarding arrangements, with strong leadership and a shared responsibility for the SSCP from the three statutory partners (the Local Authority, the Police and the Integrated Care Board), who are represented on the SSCP.

Safeguarding children requires a whole system, involving all agencies working effectively together. One of SSCPs greatest strengths, is the high degree of commitment and engagement across the partnership. This is evidenced by an embedded culture of openness and reflective learning, where there is shared ownership of the partnership's priorities, with leadership at all levels. For example, chairing and contributing to the SSCP Subgroups, who drive forward the strategic priorities of the SSCP.

Children live in families and in communities and the SSCP strategic priorities are aligned to relevant governance boards. For example, The Salford Adult Safeguarding Board; Salford Health and Wellbeing Board; Salford Community Safety Partnership Board. This ensures a joined up, all age 'Think Family' approach.

During 2023 – 2024 as the Independent Scrutineer, I have undertaken 4 quality assurance thematic case file audits, which have provided strong assurance in respect of Help, Support and Protection and, Decisive Multi Agency Child Protection.

Areas of real strength are the SSCP Training Programme, which provides extensive learning and development opportunities on a variety of subject matters related to safeguarding children. Also reflective, child centred learning from local and national case reviews, which are cascaded across the partnership.

My evaluation is that the Partnership are in a strong position to take forward the new arrangements, as set out in the statutory guidance, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023.

Providing timely and responsive help and support to families at the earliest opportunity, is paramount to improving children's outcomes. Following the refreshed Early Help Partnership Strategy in 2023, encouraging all partners to actively contribute to early help for families through early help assessments remains a priority for 2024 – 2025.

As a highly aspirational partnership, there is the opportunity moving forward, to strengthen further how learning from audits and reviews is leading to a demonstrable impact on practice across the partnership, with demonstrable outcomes for children - evidencing the difference that the Partnership are making.

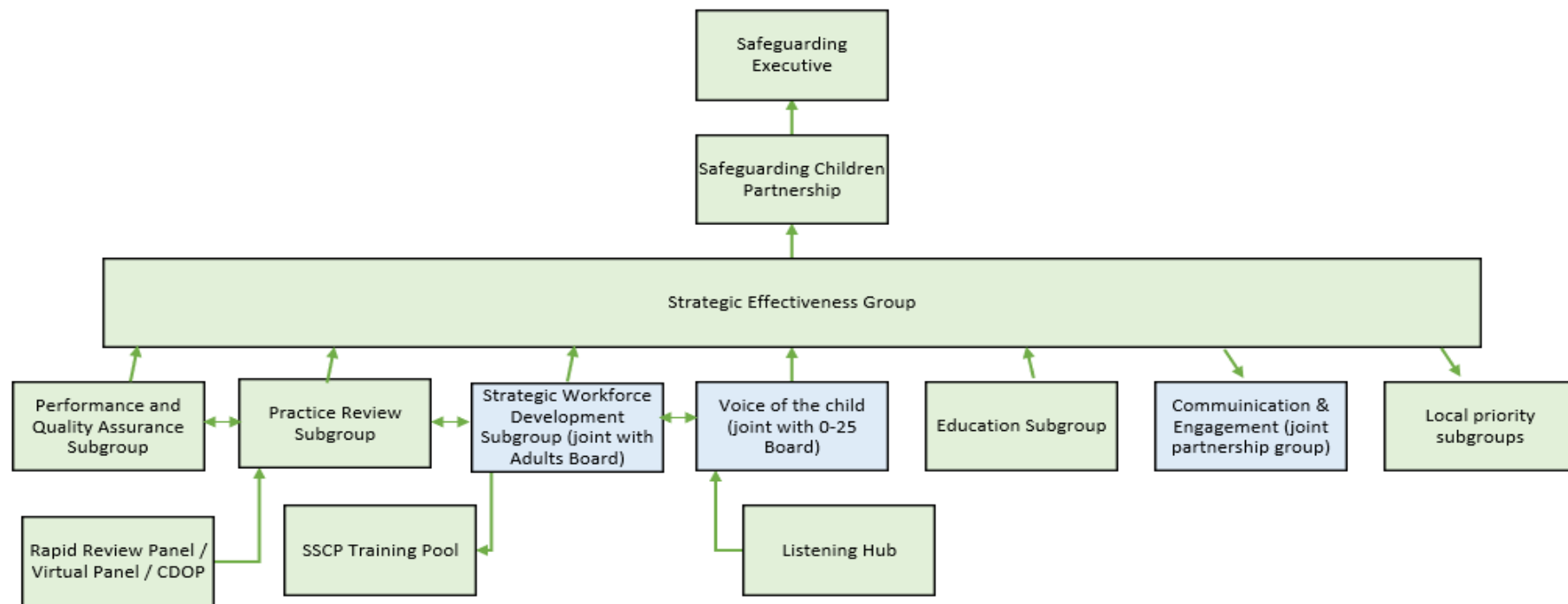
There have been many highlights over the last year, one of which was 'Parents for Positive Change' attending a SSCP meeting. The group have contributed to designing practice tools for Children's Services and have also contributed to Children's Social Work training. Building upon strong practice, co-production and design, inviting and responding to feedback from children and families, ensuring that their voices and experiences directly influence and shape our strategies, priorities and activities, will take the Partnership from strength to strength.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mel John-Ross". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Mel" is written in a larger, more prominent script, followed by "John-Ross" in a slightly smaller, more compact script. The signature is contained within a thin black rectangular border.

Mel John-Ross  
Independent Scrutineer for the Salford Safeguarding Children Partnership

# Partnership Arrangements

The Salford Safeguarding Children Partnership is structured to provide strong collaboration, scrutiny and assurance, and to drive and enable co-ordination of safeguarding activity. Each sub-group has a clear terms of reference and an annual workplan which aligns with the strategic priorities for the partnership. Each work plan demonstrates golden threads to priority areas and impact on the lives of children and young people. Agendas and facilitative discussions at all meetings focus on safeguarding practice, impact and improvement. The Business Unit undertake the management and support function of the partnership. Task and Finish Groups are established as necessary to progress specific safeguarding projects. This model allows partnership meetings to focus on practice and outcomes, rather than administration.



# SSCP Priorities

In July 2022, the Salford Safeguarding Children Partnership came together to agree the strategic priorities for the next 3 years. The SSCP 3 year Strategy 2023-2026 details our key objectives and areas of focus. Our Local priorities have been informed by intelligence from Local and National case review activity, and through consultation with Children, Young People and their families about what matters most to them. Each priority area has a multi-agency sub-group that meets regularly, and a bespoke work plan with clear outcome statements; focussing specifically on what we want to improve for Children and Young People in Salford.





# Neglect

Neglect has been a priority for the Safeguarding Partnership for the past 10 years and we know we need to do more so that children have their needs met by their parents or carers, and support is provided where this is not the case.

We want to ensure that we identify and prevent unmet needs from escalating, so that all children in Salford have the childhood they have a right to. We want all families and children within them to thrive.

The 'Thriving Families Assessment Tool' has continued to be developed over the last 12 months to help professionals and practitioners identify cases of neglect. The tool aids discussions with families, to support early identification of neglect. It's simple and easy to use and feedback from a range of professionals has been positive. A summary document of the tool has also been produced to allow for a quicker assessment of need.

The multi-agency neglect subgroup co-ordinates the partnership approach to tackling neglect and helping families to thrive in Salford. The subgroup aims to improve the recognition of neglect in families and seeks to improve the partnership response to supporting children who experience neglect to improve their outcomes.

## Key Achievements 2023/2024

- Multi agency workshops held to promote the use of the Thriving Families Tool as well as 2 Neglect conferences which were well attended with positive feedback around the learning opportunities.
- Increase in the use of the Thriving Families Tool in Children's Social Care. New recording of Thriving Families Tools was introduced in May 2023. Since introduction 98 Thriving Families Tools completed by Children's Social Care up to 19/03/2024 (39 completed 01/01/2024 – 19/03/2024). There were a further 167 tools open at 19/03/2024.
- Successful completion of Thriving Families Tool by Housing Officers
- who tested out a new approach and engagement with families. This approach will be piloted across the partnership to encourage the use and uptake.
- Educational neglect training has been delivered by the Education Safeguarding Lead amongst the Orthodox Jewish Community.
- Neglect Systems Leaders group continues to drive forward the strategic objectives across the partnership.
- GP's have received safeguarding training about neglect.
- Good multi- disciplinary attendance and contribution at the Neglect Sub Group



### What difference has it made?

- Reduction in the proportion of children subject to a Child Protection Plan under the category of neglect. (On 19/03/2023 there were 450 children subject to a child protection plan, of which 175 (39%) had a category of neglect).
- Evidence of improved recognition and response to neglect from multi agency audit activity.
- Increase in the use of the Thriving Families Assessment Tool resulting in more children receiving the right response at the right time.
- Improved application of the THINK family approach in response to learning from case reviews. There is now an adults representative on the sub group and information has been shared with the children's workforce about Self Neglect in adults.
- A new system is being developed to allow an integrated approach to information sharing in response to learning from case reviews.
- The use of the Neglect Z cards by GMP in Salford has led to increased awareness around recognising and responding to neglect by officers resulting in an increase in referrals.

### Key Challenges

- Completion of the use of Thriving Families tool remains low by key partners particularly across the 0-19 service where Health Visitors and Community Midwives could use the opportunity during home visits to evidence indicators of neglect.
- Rapid reviews both locally and nationally continue to show that neglect is prevalent amongst children. 53% of Rapid Review that were completed nationally noted that the child had experienced neglect prior to the incident and in Salford 45% of Rapid Review completed over the last 12 months were due to neglect.
- Families continue to struggle due to the cost-of-living crisis, poor housing and temporary housing. This makes it difficult for to identify and recognise neglectful parenting and the risk of harm to children affected.

### Priorities for 2024/2025

- To increase the use of the Thriving Families tool by continued promotion training through the support of the System Leads. This will be evidenced through contacts made at the front door with an expected 20% increase by March 2025.
- Consultation with children and young people on their experiences of neglect and follow up on the publication of the Hands of Need to ensure children's daily lived experience is clearly understood and this informs future training and learning.
- Multi- agency audits will evidence journey travelled and will be shared with key partners to bring about further change in recognising and responding to neglect.
- Neglect training will continue to be delivered jointly with adults and key partners and we will work to understand the longer term impact of training on practice.
- Learning from Rapid Reviews will continue to be examined and shared to promote and strengthen early identification of risks, including educational neglect.

# Exploitation

The Salford Exploitation Subgroup provides strategic oversight for the SSCP, the SSAB (Adults Board) and the CSP (Community Safety Partnership).

The subgroup has strategic oversight of the activities of the Connect Team, formally known as the Complex Safeguarding Hub. This is a co-located multi-agency team that investigates and safeguards children and adults where evidence indicates that they are being exploited. This team has been operational since January 2019 and focuses on Sexual Exploitation, Criminal Exploitation, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking.

## Key Achievements 2023/2024

- There is a joint “all age” work plan in place which is aligned with the strategic priorities for the SSCP/ SSAB. The sub group meets regularly and has good representation from partners working with children and adults.
- A needs analysis has been commissioned and is currently ongoing in relation to cuckooing in Salford. This will provide themes, profiles, and gaps in service provision.
- The development of the ‘Serious Offence Review’ pathway as a methodology which supports oversight and learning of statutory and non-statutory reviews in response to an increase in youth knife crime. This has been recognised as a good practice example, in the Joint Thematic Inspection of work with children subject to remand in youth detention, that was undertaken in Salford.
- Strengthened partnership activity and review of the Urban Street Gang (USG) mapping to identify children on the cusp of criminality.
- Contributions from the SSCP to the national escalation about the effectiveness of the National Referral Mechanism (NRM).



- Salford have shared local learning with other Greater Manchester Authorities in respect of cuckooing. GMP Salford officers have presented to several Police Forces about the partnership approach in Salford.
- The CONNECT team continue to build trusted relationships with children and young people affected by exploitation.
- “Out of the shadows” training has been rolled out.
- Exploitation week of action in March 2024, which delivered training to all hotels in Salford around identifying signs of Exploitation under “Operation Makesafe”. Lots of Partnership activity conducted over the week around Prevent, Protect and Pursue.
- Development of the Referral Pathway for Salford children where the Police are considering remand.
- A GMP day of action was completed in April 2024 which saw training delivered to 500+ school children.
- Regular multi-agency audits and deep dives undertaken.
- The sub group have reviewed the offer of support available to victims of exploitation and provided assurance to the respective boards

### What difference has it made?

- Targeted disruption activity in the Eccles area has meant that children have engaged with Services and we have observed a reduction in incidents.
- The Ofsted Inspection into Salford Children's Services highlighted the work around Exploitation at Salford noting that "Children at risk of exploitation are identified and responded to effectively".
- Risks to children in care related to exploitation and being missing from home are quickly recognised. Accurate and timely risk assessments lead to effective intervention and support, as evidenced in audit activity.
- The Referral Pathway for Salford children who the Police are considering for remand, prompts a meeting involving Heads of Service for Youth Justice, Children's Services and GMP. This allows for sharing of information and consideration of partner views to inform holistic decision making.
- A Peer Review was conducted in 2023 in which the joint working was highlighted and the benefits of Trusted Relationships.
- Increase in CAWNS (Child Abduction Warning Notice) issued.
- S11 Practitioner survey indicates 91% of respondents are confident that they can recognise signs of criminal exploitation in children / young people and take appropriate action (up from 81% in 2021)
- Audits have evidenced an increase in children and young people accessing education.

### Key Challenges

- Problem identification. Professional curiosity is required to identify complexities associated with exploitation.
- Language is confusing. Terminology used by professionals (e.g. cuckooing) may not be universally understood across communities.
- Cross border issues in respect of re-housing.

### Priorities for 2024/ 2025

- On-going work to develop a meaningful dataset.
- Targeted communications activity to raise awareness of exploitation across the partnership and the public.
- Escalation in respect of re-housing challenges across GM and strengthening the partnership offer across Greater Manchester.

# Child Sexual Abuse

The SSCP CSA subgroup is now well established and has consistently met to deliver the SSCP CSA implementation plan. The subgroup membership is made up of key strategic leads from across the partnership. Agencies represented at the group include Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board, NHS health providers, Local Authority, Education and Voluntary Sector colleagues. The key priorities for the group are:

- Development of CSA implementation plan to deliver the CSA strategy
- Increase awareness of Child Sexual Abuse for Salford's workforce and families.
- Understand safeguarding practice in relation to CSA across the partnership.
- Upskilling the workforce across the partnership to recognise and respond to CSA.
- Implement the new Harmful Sexual Behaviour Pathway.

## Key Achievements 2023/2024

- Training analysis has led to an improved partnership training offer. All agencies promote the use of Free webinar series - CSA Centre advertised on the [Child Sexual Abuse](#) webpage - this includes Spotting the signs and indicators of child sexual abuse, speaking to children about sexual abuse and tools and resources.
- Multi-agency practice week held in November 2023.
- Youth Justice Service, Children's Social Care and Police commissioned single agency training for ABE and HSB training.
- Children services have developed an 'Analytical Writing' training package for staff to improve practice in this area.
- Innovation project funding for a train the trainer model to improve access to contraception and sexual health.
- CSA Audit undertaken to develop an understanding of the quality of safeguarding practice when dealing with CSA. The audit provided a snapshot in time to benchmark the findings against the Independent Inquiry into CSA and identify whether learning from statutory reviews was embedded in practice.
- The chair of the subgroup attended national CSA conference to contribute to national discussions around family engagement in reducing CSA.
- Children disclosing sexual abuse are supported through SARC and have access to forensic and therapeutic support.
- YJS offer additional support for children who have experienced sexual abuse or go on to display harmful sexual behaviours.
- Greater Manchester Police support their detectives to maintain 16 hours of CPD each year which includes trauma informed practice and dynamics of adolescence.
- GMP officers and investigators have access to CSA general and specialist training depending on their area of work and are able to refer directly to specialist agencies such as Barnardo's.
- A sample of Salford children and young people's evaluations of RSE and PHSE lessons highlight the effectiveness of work in schools around relationships and sex education.
- Using the PANTS programme (NSPCC) and Heads-up Kids ([pajes.org.uk](https://pajes.org.uk)) schools provided assurance through age-appropriate feedback mechanisms that young children understood the PANTS rule and



healthy relationships and that older children learn the meaning of consent and healthy relationships.

- The survey highlighted that children between the ages of 12-16 were able to articulate what they have covered in PHSE relating to sexist bullying, consent, healthy relationships and sexual violence and sexual harassment (SVSH) in school.
- Views and voices heard from the listening hub Positive relationship representatives who stated young people need to

- know what a positive relationship looks like to protect themselves and feel safe in all relationships.
- They told us they feel judged by adults and professionals when disclosing abuse. They want us to include humour when discussing serious topics and to seek views of their experiences with services.

### What difference has it made?

- The SSCP Section 11 practitioner survey highlights practitioners are using the SSCP CSA webpage to access additional training resources such as links to the CSA Centre of Excellence, Childline and the NSPCC underpants rule and Barnardo's Real Love Rocks programmes.
- CSA Assurance tools have been developed so agencies can provide assurance around the work they complete to prevent and protect against CSA
- Sample of Salford Children and young people's evaluations of RSE and PHSE lessons Jan 2024 highlights the effectiveness of these lessons and identify future topics young people would like to see in these sessions.

The completed Training Needs Analysis contributed to CSA training proposals for Salford

- SSCP Section 11 practitioner survey summary report 2023 highlights that 86% of respondents were confident they can recognise signs of sexual abuse in children and take appropriate action (up from 78% in 2021).
- CSA assurance reports are received which highlights trauma informed practice across agencies when working with children and families in the context of healthy relationships and child sexual abuse

### Key Challenges

- Traction on the development of Harmful Sexual Behaviours due to new commissioning intentions for supporting young people affected.
- Children's Social Care data recording system for Child Sexual Abuse is generic and non-specific which does not allow the system to see different types of CSA
- Understanding the therapeutic offer for victims to recover from CSA due to how wellbeing services are commissioned and record data.

### Priorities for 2024/2025

- True to us exercise utilising the CSA audit and other relevant areas to provide a window on practice into CSA in Salford.
- Review public facing webpage to support parents and carers more effectively when requesting support.
- The SSCP to review training packages for CSA including 'safe and healthy relationships', professional curiosity through a CSA lens.
- Influence and shape future local RSE/PD curriculum for 24-25 as highlighted in the survey.
- Oversight of the Harmful Sexual Behaviour pathway development – due to launch 2024-25.

# Children affected by Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse is an area of concern for the city of Salford and has been a key priority for the SSCP since 2020. Massive developments have occurred in the commissioned provision available to victims, children and people who harm, ensuring families are offered the best intervention possible with the core aim to keep families safer and children to be identified as victims within their own right.

The Domestic Abuse (DA) subgroup, works hard to dedicate time to prevent, protect and safeguard children affected by domestic abuse. The group captures feedback and engages along the way with children impacted by domestic abuse, and uses effective communications to spread messages across the partnership in response to new learning and developments in service provision.

## Key Achievements 2023/2024

- Salford have significantly developed their domestic abuse provision and quality of multi-agency practice
- Through participation with Research In Practice, Salford has been identified to be completing excellent work internally and externally when responding to cases of domestic abuse, this continues to happen.
- Salford has managed to secure excellent feedback from the national commission on its service offer across children's. Salford has recently submitted to the 'DA and young people's commission survey 2024
- DA joint commissioning strategy implemented inclusive of support for victims, children, perpetrators, and extended family. 5-year contract established. This continues to develop and key performance indicators (KPI) are now agreed.
- The permanent specialist services for children who experience DA within a lead provider model is unique and placed forward for an award and additional CADA funds continues for early years 0–5-year-olds impacted by domestic abuse and pregnant females.
- Additional funds (CADA - Children affected by domestic abuse) continues to increase the children's DA provision offer allowing employment of more trauma informed workers, young people who harm workers and more counselling provision.
- There is an established use of DA tools to support evidence-based assessments and multi-agency planning. Recent audit of 20 cases found only 1 working agreement with a victim of abuse.
- There is increased understanding of impact in practice – this was reinforced via the findings from the OFSTED inspection in 2023.
- There is clear learning from case reviews being pro-actively addressed through good partnership working on repeat child protection cases and male victims who are fathers.
- Deep Dive review of Operation Encompass- this is happening across Greater Manchester and currently we are awaiting joint findings.
- There is a clearer integrated approach to commissioning DA services which is now nationally being recognised to be a good model of delivery by the national DA commissioner. The early developments of MATAC (multi agency tasking and coordination) which continues learning from the DRIVE (approach to engaging with high risk perpetrators) panel
- Introduction of CARA (caution and relationship abuse) across GM
- Introduction of DAPO (domestic abuse protection order)- October 2024.
- We have good attendance at the DA forum to engage CVS (community and voluntary services) in opportunity to meet need specific to DA within the city and now have representatives across our subgroups and the Tackling Domestic Abuse Board (TDAB) from

the voluntary sector to ensure we capture more enriched data and voice of survivors

- We have an robust action plan and children's DA strategy via the DA subgroup which is now need specific and good accountability through the SSCP and TDAB We continue to implement DA champions across the LA expanding on specialist practitioners in this field.
- 'Safe and together' now being explored within Salford and funding is secure- awaiting delivery dates
- Additional funding was given from the new burden fund via housing to support the deliverables of the commission service – £270K

- Commission of Lotus Hub- 'by and for' service commissioned across GM supporting to support the BAME (Black Asian minority ethnic) community impacted by DA- 2 year contract. Salford is growing and continues to change whilst becoming more ethnically and culturally diverse, and so it is important that our services continue to understand our communities so that we can continue to be inclusive by responding to different needs and experiences

### What difference has it made?

Over the past 12 month we have noticed a decrease in repeat DA cases involving children that are being heard at MARAC (multi agency risk assessment conference) by 26%. This is a massive achievement for Salford, demonstrating the effectiveness of the work being offered to families with children impacted by DA at high risk thresholds.

DA funding has enabled services to embed and users of the service to grow more confident in its presence and ability to support them. This is evidenced through a massive increase in self-referrals into the service this year.

Match funding and joint funding has been secured and new initiatives have been placed within the city of Salford to address DA due to the growing confidence from our partnerships agencies, GM local authorities and grant holders that Salford is an effective local authority with a commitment to address DA and invest wisely in provision that is person centred, diverse, holistic and supportive from a whole family approach.

### Key Challenges

- Slight increase in Domestic Abuse across the city means increase in demand on the commissioned service and local authority with over 70% of victims referred to service having children.
- Introduction of new initiatives DAPO/CARA and MATAAC and impact on demand
- Establishing an agreed school DA healthy relationships provision –this can only be an advisory and all schools are doing something different.

### Priorities for 2024/2025

- Evaluation of Operation encompass and its effectiveness
- Guardian Angels – campaign to encourage reporting DA incidents within the community
- Understanding repeat Domestic Abuse referrals with children
- Young females and IPV & sexual health.
- Reduction in waiting times for commissioned service

# Safeguarding Babies

The Salford Safeguarding Children Partnership acknowledge that babies are vulnerable by virtue of their age, as they are completely reliant upon their parents and carers to meet their needs. Risks to babies often occur in the family home. Babies are not frequently seen by agencies, who rely on parental engagement and access to seeing the child face to face in their living environment. Babies appear disproportionately in case reviews. Contextual modifiable factors in the family such as domestic abuse, parental ill health and parental substance misuse significantly increases the risk of harm or abuse. In March 2022, the SSCP established a multi- agency Safeguarding Babies sub group. The group sought to co-ordinate a whole system approach to keeping babies safe. This included progressing learning identified from local case review activity and promoting the sharing of Public Health messages.

## Key Achievements 2023/2024

- Raised local awareness and facilitated professional engagement about specific risks to babies aligned with key national campaigns for Water Safety, ICON and Safer Sleep.
- Liaised with the Neglect subgroup to ensure the Thriving Families tool includes a section on safer sleep, ICON and appropriate supervision around the home and water safety.
- Developed enhanced ICON training offer led by the 0-19 service and Early Help
- Early help service delivered “Me, You and Baby Too” programme.
- Engaging fathers in safety messages for ICON and Safer Sleep - Dads Matters group.
- Developed a safer sleep risk stratification tool that supports practitioners in providing the right information at the right time for families based on need.
- Developed online tools for medical records in Primary Care to support safety messages at babies 6–8-week examination.
- Developed a 7-minute briefing in relation to water safety for babies and young children.
- Promoted Public Health Training in relation to Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and shared training opportunities across the partnership.
- Safety messages and posters present in our children’s ED i.e., PANDA.
- Reviewed and contributed to the GM non-therapeutic male circumcision policy
- Influenced the inclusion of safety messages in the Essential Parenting app now in use by Salford 0-19 teams and early help- this app provides online support and information for parents/users.
- Collectively reviewed and updated the local pre-birth assessment process.
- Featured within the SSCP annual learning event where 105 delegates attended and participated in discussions and menti questions that enabled reflection of parental and practitioner relationships when keeping babies safe from harm. Delegates highlighted a need for further awareness training around parental neurodiversity and the impact on parenting capacity.
- Ensured that there is an effective pre-birth assessment framework, that considers the holistic needs for babies and their families, as well as the previous experiences (the impact of any trauma or adversity) of parents and caregivers to understand the impact on their parenting capacity.
- Ensured practitioners are skilled in assessing and understanding the lived experience of babies under 1 when considering child’s voice in safeguarding assessments – including confidence in assessing parent/child attachment and child development.
- We have participated in wider campaigns, produced 7 Minute Briefings and featured on the annual Practitioner Learning Event that was attended by 105 professionals.

- We worked closely with the 0-25 board and aligned our priorities and promoted the work of the Salford Young Fathers Project and the Dad Matters work to ensure that it is standard practice across all agencies to engage with both parents, and all caregivers of babies who come into contact with services in Salford.
- Children's Services focussed on improving social workers skills in understanding and delivering key safety messages. These are now embedded within training packages and are mandatory fields for consideration on the children's ICS system for Child Protection and Child in Need plans. Social Workers are prompted to click if there is a child under 13 months in the household, once confirmed a pop-up prompt appears to confirm the safety messages around ICON, Safer Sleep and Water Safety have been discussed. The prompt also includes a link to the SSCP safeguarding babies webpage for

resources. This demonstrates workforce development across social workers working with families to ensure holistic safety messages are delivered, even when these are not the primary concern with a family.

- Salford Care Organisation delivered training around ICON to provide a skilled workforce including adult facing staff. Essential parenting app, collaborative working between 0-19 teams and Early Help services. Safety messages included in safeguarding supervision and record keeping audits, poster within PANDA for Safe Sleep and ICON.
- GMMH included safety messages for babies in mandatory training for all their staff.
- Developed the [Safeguarding Babies | Salford Safeguarding Children Partnership](#) webpage.

### What difference has it made?

- Primary Care completed an audit in September 2023 around the delivery of key messages for safeguarding babies at the 6-8 week postnatal check. This followed the implementation of a tool designed for the medical record to prompt GPs in the delivery of these messages. The audit highlighted an improved use of the tool and assurance that GPs were delivering ICON, Safer sleep and Water Safety messages.
- Partners were proactive in reviewing existing safeguarding processes and procedures and making changes to drive continuous improvement.
- Proactive action can be taken by practitioners before harm occurs due the shared training opportunities across the partnership to upskill the workforce in relation risks affecting babies (including FASD, ICON and safer sleep). This enables specific risk factors relating to babies being identified, explored and captured during any assessment process.
- Universal and Early help services all providing consistent safety messages for babies and their families utilising the essential parenting app for families to share these messages with wider family members.
- Delegates at the annual event found it impactful and enlightening and highlighted how they would change their practice when working with families and babies.
- Effective communication and information sharing is key in safeguarding babies from harm. Section 11 Practitioner Survey highlighted that 100% of practitioners are confident to share information with other professionals if they have a safeguarding concern about a child (up from 99% in 2021).
- Ensuring that our local messages align with national recommendations promotes consistency of approach to safeguarding babies. We have worked to ensure that learning identified from case reviews has been shared across the partnership and used to drive practice improvements.
- The group has strengthened the whole system approach to safeguarding babies from the risk of serious harm. The group has worked collectively to review the current local approach to keeping babies safe, and has sought assurance that this is robust, and taken action to address any gaps and strengthen provision where necessary.



# Safeguarding Adolescents

The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel's Annual Report published in March 2020, concluded that from cases they reviewed, teenagers were more likely to be at a risk of serious harm, typically from people outside of their family relationships and home environment, and often with a link to criminality.

Salford had already produced an adolescent directory of services however, in response to findings from several local practice reviews featuring adolescents, it was acknowledged that an adolescent strategy was required to set out the clear priorities for children and young people in Salford. A multi-agency working group was established in May 2022.

The group also gave consideration to wider work around adolescents taking place across Greater Manchester and the GMCA Adolescent Safeguarding Review, to ensure that it aligned with the SSCP vision and priorities. The key priorities are; to help children and young people to thrive; to prevent harm from abuse and crime; to listen and respond to views and voice; and to understand and support key adolescent transitions.

## Key Achievements 2023/2024

- Adolescent Strategy 23-26 and priorities have been launched (at the SSCP Annual Learning Event) April 23.
- A one page Adolescent Strategy poster has been designed and printed to raise awareness of the Strategy. These have been displayed around Council Buildings including Gateways.
- Refined our priorities to focus on transitional safeguarding.
- Mapping exercise to understand the local transitional safeguarding offer.
- Information such as the Tricky friends video has been shared with young people at Youth groups and the Next Steps reference group for feedback.
- Robust information sharing across agencies in respect of emerging threats and risks for adolescents, and any learning from case reviews.
- Review of membership to strengthen the contributions from education and colleagues from Adult Services which is important when thinking about transitional safeguarding.
- Established and strengthened links with the wider work taking place across Greater Manchester.

## What difference has it made?

- There is a wider understanding of safeguarding adolescents as a result of the strategy being launched. This also published within Council buildings on a one page poster.
- We have strengthened the group membership to include adults as we are currently exploring what is meant by transitional safeguarding.
- From a workforce development perspective, there are more training opportunities for staff e.g. following a Serious offence review training has been delivered in respect of Cultural Competency has been added to the training schedule.

- We have seen an increase in the number of children and young people accessing prevention services across Salford.
- School attendance – we have seen an increase in respect of school attendance compared to last year.
- One of the impact measures was for more data and information generated and fed into the Listening Hub.
- Throughout 2023-2024 average attendance of multi-agency practitioners remained the same at around 10 attendees per meetings, with some members having left and new members joining. The meetings continue to provide a forum for rich discussion on views and voices and an opportunity for collaborative working. Examples of engagement activity brought to the hub includes:
  - GM youth inspectors overview (Commissioning, July 2023)
  - Audit on capturing the voice of the child (Childrens Services, September 2023)
  - Mind of My Own update (Youth Services, September 2023)
  - Web content consultation (Advocacy focus, September 2023)
  - Wishing Tree Exhibition (The Lowry & CVS, September 2023)
  - Transitions project for Community Parenting Panel (Childrens

Services, November 2023)

- Nerd club vaping video (Childrens Services, November 2023)
- GM youth inspectors review of EMERGE (Commissioning, November 2023).
- Between Jan and April 2024 information related to mental health services was specifically sought. Significant contributions were made by: SCC Commissioning, Gaddum, Advocacy Focus, Early Help, and 42nd Street. This information is currently awaiting publication on the SSCP website.
- A further impact measure was in respect of an increase in children accessing youth service provision. In respect of Youth Service intervention 240 young people receiving 1-1 interventions delivered in 2023/4. Overall figure for children and young people receiving Early Help Targeted support is 3,346 from either Youth Service or Early help.
- The Youth Service do a national Make Your Mark Survey that young people report on their priority concerns – this year 2024 the priorities for the young people were health services and respond to youth crime, (in 2023 the priorities were safety of the street, cost of living and mental health)

## Key Challenges

- The SSCP is an ambitious partnership. However sometimes capacity of members to progress actions has been a challenge. There is a need to ensure that actions are not duplicated by other work streams in Salford and across Greater Manchester.

## Priorities for 2024/2025

- Positively, since establishing the sub group, work across Greater Manchester to safeguard adolescents has developed.
- Locally, the focus will be on strengthening the understanding of what is meant by Transitional Safeguarding and what support is available across Salford to support children and young people. Children and young people will experience seamless transitions between services and from one stage of adolescence to another.
- Professionals will report a greater understanding and response to supporting key transitions
- Children and young people will feedback how they experienced their transition and share how this could have been improved.

# Learning from Practice Reviews

Salford has a strong culture of wanting to improve practice approaches. This is evidenced through our local approach of using every opportunity to learn and sharing learning, to influence and strengthen frontline practice. This includes undertaking 'True to Us' exercises following the publication of National Reviews into tragic cases where children have died or suffered harm, in order that we can seek assurance that safeguarding practice is as effective as possible in Salford.

Locally the Practice Review Sub Group (PRSG) coordinates and maintains oversight of the outcomes of all types of case reviews, both statutory and non-statutory, and provides scrutiny of action plans where learning has identified that frontline practice could be strengthened. The work of the PRSG is aligned with the SSCP strategic priorities.

During the reporting period, 14 Referrals were received from a range of agencies including Police, Children's Social Care, Early Help and Health agencies, which demonstrates the commitment to learning and safeguarding effectiveness by statutory partners. 8 met the threshold of serious harm, as determined by criteria outlined in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023), resulting in a statutory Rapid Review taking place. The SSCP has commissioned 1 joint safeguarding Adult/ Child practice review (SAR/CSPR).

## Key Achievements 2023/2024

- **True to Us Exercise** completed in response to the National Review following the murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes & Star Hobson in 2020. This led to an updated Child Protection Medical Pathway to improve practice.
- **S11 practitioner survey- 79%** agree that they are helped to understand learning that comes from local case reviews by their manager or organisation (up from 78% in 2021)
- **7 Minute briefings** developed following case reviews. 7-minute briefings was the most visited page on the SSCP website during 2023-24 with 5,083 page views via a total of 2,622 users.
- **Practice guidance** is developed, updated, and strengthened because of learning from reviews.
- **Quarterly Bitesize Briefings** developed to share key messages with 297 attendees from across the partnership.
- Learning Event following CSPR attended by 150 professionals from across the partnership.
- Case reviews focus on child's voice and lived experience.
- The Independent Scrutineer acknowledged in the annual report that areas of real strength are reflective, child centred learning from local and national case reviews that are cascaded across the partnership. This is strong evidence of a collaborative partnership and a learning culture.
- The Independent Scrutineer noted that our Rapid Reviews are completed to an "exceptionally high standard, evidencing open, transparent and reflective discussions" and that "Case reviews evidence well, a relational, strengths based, child centred approach".
- There is strong evidence of the integration of timely learning from case reviews into training, policy and practice for safeguarding children.

## What difference has it made?

- The SSCP has taken action to address recurrent themes from case reviews, developing practice guidance and delivering briefings to professionals to raise awareness (this includes but is not limited to, THINK family, Cultural Consciousness, Professional Escalations and Professional Curiosity).
- The development of the 'Serious Offence Review' as a methodology which supports oversight and learning of statutory and non-statutory reviews in response to an increase in youth knife crime has been recognised as a good practice example, in the Joint Thematic Inspection of work with children subject to remand in youth detention, that was undertaken in Salford.
- Activity of PRSG has been triangulated with other workstreams and has resulted in:
  - The PRSG chair delivering an overview of case review activity and learning from reviews at 2 x multiagency Neglect development session.
  - The SSCP Neglect, Domestic Abuse Children and the CSA Subgroups have all been tasked with completion of a multiagency audit where thematic issues stemming from case review activity could inform audit aims and objectives.
  - Findings from case reviews have been shared where relevant with workstream leads to inform their work plan
- Quarterly learning briefings commenced during 2023-24, developed and delivered by PRSG members. These are the most well attended of all the training delivered by the SSCP with a total of 297 participants in attendance overall during 2023-24.
- Scrutiny of action plans by the Practice Review Sub Group ensures that action is taken to improve the safeguarding system in response to learning from case reviews.

## Key Challenges

- Demonstrating measurable impact of case review and assurance activity remains a challenge. Sometimes it takes time to evidence impact and journey travelled.
- Gaps in the information or evidence provided to support statutory reviews impacts safeguarding effectiveness.
- Gaps in the PRSG toolkit & review process have led to uncertainty when undertaking a Child Safeguarding Practice Review
- The Escalation Procedures have been reviewed and promoted, i.e. by the SSCP Head of Business and Impact Lead and Independent Scrutineer, in Bite Size Briefings. It is reassuring that the SSCP Business Unit has been notified of escalations. However this continues to be a theme from local reviews and requires on-going action to strengthen and embed its use.

## Priorities for 2024/ 2025

- Strengthening the relationship between PRSG and Performance & Quality Assurance subgroup to promote improved effectiveness around scheduled auditing of issues that have stemmed from learning from reviews.
- Full review of the PRSG toolkit and SSCP website including development of information sharing guidance and escalation processes into the case review process including governance arrangements.
- Consider how learning from practice reviews is leading to improved outcomes for children, strengthened practice and a shared understanding of what this looks like for children and their families.

# Workforce Development

The Strategic Workforce Development Group is a sub-group of the SSCP and the SSAB. The vision is to help create and develop an effective, confident, and skilled workforce across Salford, through the provision of learning and development opportunities. It has a strategic overview of training and workforce development activity relating to all aspects of safeguarding and aims to embed learning identified from case reviews.

The SSCP Training Programme provides extensive learning and development opportunities on a variety of subject matters related to safeguarding children. There are a variety of training opportunities facilitated through taught courses, E-learning, bitesize briefing sessions, practitioner forums and published 7 minute briefings, accessible on the SSCP website. Joint thematic areas of focus for the group during this reporting period include; embedding learning from case reviews, domestic abuse, trauma informed and responsive practice, Think Family approaches and Cultural Consciousness.

## Key Achievements 2023/2024

- The workforce development group has taken action to address gaps in training provision and improved the local offer in relation to local priority areas.
- **Domestic Abuse** – Training through the Safe in Salford commissioned service includes an introduction to Domestic Abuse, MARAC & DASH training, Domestic Abuse and Children & Young People as a one off course and a Domestic Abuse and older adults training will be delivered in summer in response to a Safeguarding Adult Review.
- **Neglect** – Bi-annual conference in respect of “Recognising and Responding to Neglect” delivered in person and aimed at raising awareness to the different types of neglect across the 0-18 years age spectrum, and promote the use of the Thriving Families Tool. In addition, there is a dedicated operational Thriving Families briefing session delivered and this will be repeated 2/3 times per year.
- **Child Sexual Abuse (CSA)** – A CSA Practice Week took place in November 2023 aiming to raise professional awareness and response to CSA. A new dedicated page was created and is regularly updated with resources, training opportunities and up to date information for professionals, parents/carers and children and young people.
- External training and resources which have also been offered by partner organisations to supplement the programme on a range of topics including safe sleep, mental health, trauma, exploitation, neurodiversity and substance misuse.
- Between April 2023 to March 2024, the SSCP hosted **140 training courses/events over 40 subject areas, with a total of 2786 people attending from across 20 agencies**. The core safeguarding courses were the most well attended courses. These include Learning from Case Reviews, Working Together to Safeguard Children, Refresher and Neglect.
- The Working Together to Safeguarding Children and the Safeguarding Refresher course have placed a greater focus on threading messages on professional curiosity, cultural consciousness and views and voices of children and their families through the inclusion of messages from research, reviews and the [Listening Standards](#). In course evaluations completed, delegates have responded stating they are going to consider the voices and lived experience more going forward in their practice.
- Along with the core safeguarding training offer, specialist courses were included in the programme, in response to local learning, including Exploitation, Cared for Children Reviews, Threats to Life, Managing Allegations, FII, Strategy meetings and Section 47 investigations and Restorative Conferencing.



- 7 minute briefings have been developed in response to local learning including, water safety, team around the family, recurrent themes from case reviews, positive fatherhood, homelessness and cultural consciousness.
- In response to an identified gap in the training programme, a new Communicating with Children course was developed and successfully delivered and evaluated positively. The Partnership have agreed to increase the number of courses delivered to 3 courses per year to increase the reach and impact of the new course.
- The Partnership takes a targeted approach to ensure there is varied representation of agencies on courses. Sub group members communicate key messages and promote development opportunities within their individual agencies.
- As a result of learning identified from local case reviews particularly around taking a Think Family approach, relationships between the Partnership and the SSAB have been strengthened and has resulted in greater working together and hosting joint learning events.
- Pilot project taking place between October 2023 and February 2024 to consider the long term impact of training including promoting the involvement of managers to understand the impact of training upon practice. This will be repeated in relation to Neglect.
- The model used to deliver such a large training programme (72 trainers) and the positive financial impact due to the commitment and support of the Training Pool and training associates is hugely significant and has resulted in a saving of between £66,540 to £103,940 based upon venue and trainer costs for the output of training courses delivered between April 2023 to March 2024.

### What difference has it made?

- Greater alignment between the SSCP and SSAB with shared priorities to ensure a robust Think Family Approach to safeguarding training.
- The long term impact from training pilot has provided evidence which demonstrates the value and impact of training.
- Changes in practice approaches. There is evidence of an increase in the use of assessment tools and practice guidance.
- Improved contributions from partner agencies in identifying resources available to meet multi-agency needs leading to a wider workforce development offer e.g. CSP funds for exploitation training; Challenger training offer; FNP courses, Safe Sleep training provided by ICB and delivered by Lullaby Trust.
- Greater links to GM networks gives a wider offer of training, resources, information and sharing resources and learning across the wider GM footprint
- Partner commitment into the training pool and general increase in people joining the training pool has ensured the comprehensive training programme was deliverable.
- Qualitative feedback obtained through the Long Term Impact Pilot suggests that training has supported practitioners to improve their practice approaches.

*"I am able to offer a more rounded approach to the families and safely built good relationships. This has enabled them to be more honest and transparent about their situations, thus getting them the correct help/services needed".*

*"The learning gave clarity regarding when to complete early help assessments and when to refer to the BRIDGE."*

*"I have been more mindful to share information quickly with professionals where appropriate. I have also taken care not to discount or dismiss pieces of information as irrelevant or unimportant and to have more of a mindset of thinking the unthinkable."*

## Key Challenges

- Resourcing a longer term impact research project remains a challenge. This is currently undertaken by the part time Training Officer. A project of this kind can be labour intensive when attempting to re-engage past participants to be involved in training evaluation 3, 6 or 12 months post training.
- Involvement of managers remains a challenge in terms of training transfer – help is needed from single agencies to share with the Partnership the impact of training on children/families.
- Ensuring that there is equity across the partnership in accessing the training offer.

## Priorities for 2024/25

- Work to embed Think Family Approaches, Professional Curiosity and Cultural Consciousness.
- Increase the number of Communicating with Children training sessions with the aim of strengthening how we capture and consider the voice of the child/young person as a golden thread.
- To further develop the long term impact project particularly around the priority area of neglect. This will support us to evaluate the impact and positive outcomes of the training around neglect and the use of the Thriving Families Tool.
- Planning underway to commission training with “Lads Like Us” that is delivered by adults with lived experience of trauma, CSA and exploitation and is very impactful as a result of hearing the voice and the lived experience of those involved.
- To host a joint learning event with the SSAB to promote the Think Family approach.
- A further roll out of Family Partnership Model from Childrens Services to the wider multi-agency workforce and to work with the Listening Hub and Parenting Panel to gain feedback on the impact of the model.
- To work with the Exploitation subgroup to plan and develop a workforce development Practice Week similar to model used for the CSA Practice Week.
- To seek assurance through the Section 11 audit around the single agency mandatory training offer which will allow the group to see areas of strengths and any gaps.
- To work with the Communications and Engagement subgroup to explore other methods to disseminate workforce development activity / learning e.g. short videos, recorded briefings, podcasts.
- To increase opportunities to promote Listening Standards and capture the voice of children, young people and families to inform workforce development.
- To consider expanding the Domestic Abuse offer to include harmful cultural practices and how people with lived experiences could support this plan.

# Education

The Education Sub-group mainly consists of headteacher representatives from across the city in various sectors. The main aim is to enable education settings to understand and inform the work of the SSCP and to provide assurance on local safeguarding priorities.

This year work has progressed to strengthen the engagement of Education with the local safeguarding children arrangements. This is a key priority for the SSCP in response to the recently published updated Statutory Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023) guidance. The SSCP is keen to strengthen links with Education colleagues, to capitalise on the wealth of experience of education professionals and to use this asset to improve our local multi agency safeguarding approach to improving outcomes for children.



## Key Achievements 2023/2024

- Contributed to Early Help developments and understanding challenges and impact
- We have greater representation from education across aspects of the SSCP and mechanisms exist to ensure effective communication to share messages both from and into the partnership.
- Membership reflects a variety of sectors including primary, secondary, special, further and independent education and Early Years.
- We provide a forum for other sub-groups to access the views and advice of colleagues working strategically within the education sector to inform their next steps and vision planning.
- Membership extends beyond schools to support efficiency and joined up thinking – Safeguarding in schools’ advisor, work force development team, early help and there is connection with other sub-group chairs.
- The group continues to support and influence the implementation of the Salford School Partnership (SSP) model.
- Education is a key partner in the Salford Family Help and Education trailblazer and the committee is a conduit to facilitating this support to help understand what enabling conditions and approaches are needed to surface, grow and sustain peer and community based Early Family Help
- Chair of the committee, along with the Local Authority education leads are supporting the development of the partnership in relation to strengthening the role of Education.
- There is an identified education lead at each of the thematic priority sub groups.

## What difference has it made?

- Greater representation across education sectors, has increased the capacity to disseminate key safeguarding information from the SSCP.
- Education professionals have added a valuable contributions to the local priority sub groups.
- We provide a forum for other sub-groups to access the views and advice of colleagues working strategically within the education sector. This has enabled others to make informed decisions and connect directly with children.
- The Listening Hub has sought feedback on how a presentation to heads from the Youth Council made a difference on behaviour policies in relation to mental health.
- Supported the completion of the listening loop. Leading to further engagements with youth councils in schools.
- Locality based engagement analysis has been shared, allowing us to secure increased engagement and understand any continued barriers.
- Feedback from schools has prompted consideration of agencies to be present. Common themes and support are highlighted.
- The initial engagement has allowed us to begin to identify the scope and key enquiry lines we want to understand about how the Salford Schools Partnership and Family Help model is currently operating across schools. One such example being a need for the Alignment of Early Help offers in schools.
- There is confidence in capacity and commitment to engage in upcoming opportunities, such as DfE workshops to learn from best practice and understand what opportunities exist, within Salford, to strengthen the role of education

## Key Challenges

- Even though we have greater representation, regular attendance of all members at each of the sub-group meetings is a challenge, given the current staffing climate. This can impact on the effectiveness of dissemination to other settings.
- The inclusion of 0-5 provision
- Capacity of current chair to liaise with other chairs of committees and be the point of contact.
- Ensuring that the development of the SSP model is aligned with the trailblaze and identifying schools to support with the test of change.
- Supporting schools to overcome the barriers for engagement with SSP

### What, if any, are the barriers to initial or regular attendance for you as a school?

No cases to discuss	Capacity to attend regularly	Time out of class	Lack of organisation expecting schools to attend halfway through school year
Capacity within school	Needs of our families	Timing of meetings (over lunch)	The amount of other Safeguarding meetings that schools need to attend e.g., Police Strategy and CP meetings

### Priorities for 2024/2025

- Supporting the review of local multi agency safeguarding arrangements with the enhancement of education as a vital partner
- The sub-group needs to support the Salford School Partnership and Early Family Help Trailblaze in its next phase of data and impact analysis and future design review and adaptations.
- Continue to develop the communication between, and contribution to, the various other sub-groups of the SSCP
- Securing a deputy chair of the sub-group
- Ensuring dissemination of information from the attendees to the settings they represent.
- Capturing the views of the children we represent

# Secure Care in Salford

Barton Moss Secure Care Centre can accommodate up to 24 young people (males), aged between 12 – 18 years, who have been remanded or sentenced by the criminal courts in England and Wales.

The SSCP annually considers the use of physical restraints on the young people placed at Barton Moss Secure Care Centre. Barton Moss has a Restraint Minimisation Policy which is reviewed annually. All staff are required to complete a three-day accredited Physical Restraint Practice accredited course when they commence employment at the Centre and an annual one-day refresher course. This is delivered by Good Sense, Conflict Management & Physical Intervention trainers. All restraints are reviewed on CCTV by a service manager, who also quality assures and countersigns the associated documentation.

The LADO attends the Centre when a restraint has taken place, to view the CCTV footage and associated documents. They confirm if the restraint was a proportionate response to an incident (to ensure the safety of the young person, their peers, and staff and/or to prevent damage to property), has been applied appropriately and recorded in line with our policy. Positive feedback is given to staff and areas for development or concern are addressed and can result in a formal referral being made to the LADO.

All young people involved in a restraint are seen by the nurse and by a member of our Interventions Team, who assist them to complete and sign a 'My Thinking' report. This captures their views of the circumstances leading to the restraint, a reflection on their behaviour and the sanction imposed. If there are any discrepancies these are followed up with their head of home and mediation is offered to resolve any differing views.

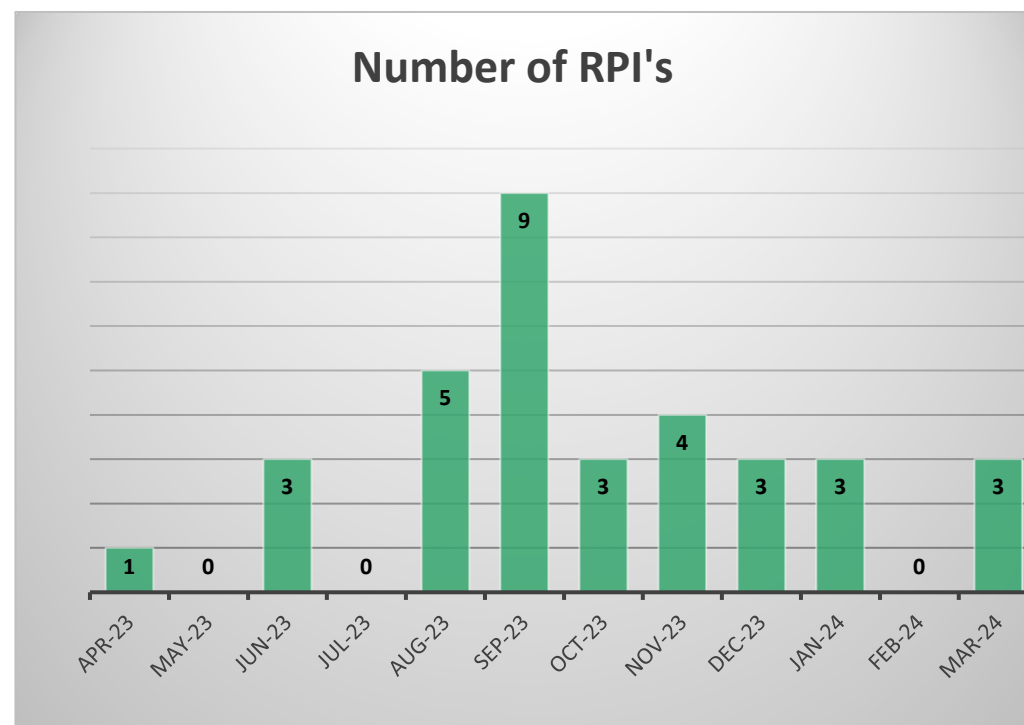
Each month the Centre's Independent Visitor, who completes the statutory Regulation 44 Report, views a sample of CCTV physical restraint footage, associated documentation and talks to the young people, their parents/carers, community professionals and staff. A copy of these monthly reports are forwarded to Ofsted, to confirm the Centre is compliant with the Children Homes Regulations. Data on the use of restraints is submitted to the Youth Custody Service, who commission all the beds at Barton Moss SCC. Each quarter this data is published along with comparison data of other Secure Children Homes and Young Offenders. Barton Moss SCC has a consistent lower percentage of restraints compared to the other Secure Children Homes and Young Offenders Institutions in England and Wales.

All young people have 24-hour phone access to the Barnardo's Helpline and Children Commissioners team on a personal phone in their bedroom. Permission is not required from staff to access these services. An Independent Advocate from Barnardo's attends the Centre weekly and meets with all children individually and leads a monthly Boys meeting. In their induction packs/film, young people, their parents/ carers, and community professionals are informed of the Salford City Council complaints procedure.



## Review of the Use of Physical Restraint

- We believe the low number of physical restraints at Barton Moss is due to the delivery of trauma-informed care which is formulation-driven, evidenced based and takes a wholistic approach to support young people. All the staff at the Centre have a critical role in maintaining an environment in which positive relationships can develop. Subsequently, the management of risk and the promotion of positive behaviour is achieved through pro-social role modelling and positive relationships.
- The Centre believes that young people's behaviour will not change until a relationship of trust has been established with staff and to achieve this, all practitioners have an integrated approach to working together with the child.
- A review of the RPI data confirms most of the incidents take place on our admission units when young people are new to the Centre. This is challenging time following their detention by the Court ,when relationships are forming with staff along with orientation to a new environment away from their families/carers.



## Key Achievements 2023/2024

- Strong multi-disciplinary approach to the care of young people which supports the low number of physical restraints compared to other Secure Children Homes and Young Offenders Institutions.
- Robust external/independent overview of our practice – LADO, Independent Visitor, Barnardo's Advocacy Service, access to 24 phone lines help lines, Salford City Council complaints service and oversight by our Governance Board.
- GOOD Ofsted grading in February 2024, who confirmed - *"Physical restraints used are low level and for very short periods of time. The use of restraint is proportionate and is only used as a last resort. This helps children to feel safe and to keep safe. The well-established links between managers and the local authority designated officer continue to provide regular good-quality external oversight of restraint practice. The low level of restraints over recent months is also indicative of how settled children are and the quality of the relationships that they have with staff across the home"*.
- No referrals have been made to the LADO in this reporting period due to the inappropriate use of a restraint by a staff member.

# Communication and Engagement

## The Listening Hub



The Listening Hub is Salford's central structure to support and promote participation and engagement. The Listening Hub feeds into the Voice of the Child Sub Group. The 'Listening Hub' is a virtual hub that works with a wide range of partnership agencies to promote listening to children, young people and families, and take action to improve services to meet concerns and needs. We want to see the positive changes that enable children and adults to thrive and flourish. The overarching remit of the multi-agency 'Listening Hub Squad', remains the same: to develop shared standards of listening, to build upon good practice, and collectively make improvements to our response and services in Salford. The current membership, as of April 2024, consists of 29 multi-agency practitioners and average attendance at each meeting is 10 members, including the Chair (SSCP Participation Lead).

## Key Achievements

- The insights shared by members are received by a multi-agency audience and can be disseminated across agencies, to inform practice and reduce potential duplication of consultation activity.
- Members can collaborate on activity that cuts across multiple agencies.
- The squad can support SSCP subgroup activity.
- The squad can support the Voice of the Child subgroup in closing the loop on consultation and engagement activity.
- The group provides support, monitoring and accountability for project completion.
- The meetings can provide a platform for sharing learning relevant to participation and engagement work.
- Specific project work around mental health saw contributions from Salford Commissioning Team, Advocacy Focus, Gaddum and 42nd Street providing significant information to be shared with young people on the current situation with regard to mental health services and the continuous work being done to improve services and waiting times. This information was shared at the Youth Council in March 2024 and has also been useful to share ad hoc in other relevant multi-agency forums.

Parents 4 Positive Change (P4PC) have achieved the following:

- Training for social workers: Over 3 meetings P4PC worked on content for a course designed to support social workers in building trust and partnership with parents. The feedback was excellent from both the parents and the social workers. One social worker shared that it was “the best training she had been on” because she loved hearing directly from parents. Further dates and the possibility of offering this to a multi-agency audience are under consideration.
- Advocacy training: A number of the P4PC members successfully completed an accredited training course in advocacy and received their certificates in March/April 2024. The Course was funded and organised through the Broughton Trust.
- In January 2024 P4PC were asked by the Children's Services Domestic Abuse Lead to support with the development of a campaign to encourage neighbours to call the Police. The group are currently working on the content of this campaign with support from a member of the Local Authority communications

### What difference has it made?

- Young people, parents, and professionals will be reassured that services have listened to their concerns and are actively looking to make improvements and to meet need.
- That relevant local mental health support services are being promoted across a wider audience.
- That young people feel the SSCP is listening to their concerns relating to mental health support.
- Training for social workers: The impact of this training is to help social workers to reflect on their partnership and help the parents to be reminded that social workers are people trying to do a hard job. Due to the success of this training a second course was delivered in early 2024.
- Advocacy training: The impact of accessing this course has been to empower parents to be able to continue to share their views and support others to do the same. This in turn helps better equip group members to contribute to training, events and project work.

### Priorities for 2024/2025

- Listening Hub Squad to publish the outcome of the mental health project including feedback from services and support the Youth Council 'Totes Emosh' campaign through communications activity. Relevant squad members to build on this work by exploring some of the underlying issues relating to young people's mental health concerns, including single agency audit findings to be shared at the squad meetings.
- To increase the involvement of the Youth Council, including the two 'positive relationships' representatives, in providing feedback on the priorities of the SSCP and critically reviewing some of its work.
- To continue to be responsive to the Voice of the Child subgroup, helping to close the loop on consultation and engagement activities.
- To support the SSCP subgroups in evidencing impact of considering and capturing views and voices, in their work plans.
- P4PC to complete the Domestic Abuse Campaign project and to have increased engagement and visibility across the Partnership.
- Participation Lead to continue to build links across Greater Manchester, increasing collaboration, sharing learning, and showcasing the work in Salford.
- Participation pages of the website to be reviewed and updated, with a feature each month in the SSCP news.
- Communicating with Children training to be reviewed, updated and delivered.

## Communications Activity

The Safeguarding Children Partnership has continued with a range of communication activity throughout the year. This includes, the SSCP newsletter, maintaining the SSCP website, social media accounts, the production of 7 minute briefings.

The SSCP has a joint Communications Sub group, with attendees from across the core four partnerships. The group seek to identify cross cutting themes, and target and co-ordinate communications activity to maximise reach and impact.

## Key Achievements

- A joint communication and engagement strategy has been developed
- A communications request has been developed to enable sub groups to identify what they want to communicate to the system
- The 7MB has been updated to reflect the process for requesting campaigns
- Work has commenced on a proposal for a public facing campaign to promote the approach to supporting thriving families
- SSCP: Drowning prevention week promoted on SSCP website/bulletin in line with work of Babies subgroup.
- Messages about what is important to young people reinforced through publication of the Adolescent strategy and the Make you Mark survey (April 23).
- SSCP – news published on a monthly basis and associated bulletin sent out.
- Adult and youth version of tricky friend's video commissioned for Salford along with Hidden Harms Domestic Abuse video.
- SSCP published water safety thematic 7MB June 2023.
- SSCP P4PC involved in training for social workers – key messages to be brought to group for review for internal comms

## What difference has it made?

The aim of the group is to coordinate campaigns for maximum effect and to seek support from each other when needed. From 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024 the SSCP pages had 59,370 views across 14, 929 users. The news home page had 920 views over 365 users.

## Priorities for 2024/25

- Produce and approve a scope for a public facing engagement campaign and engage experts by experience in creating the voiceovers and monitor impact.

# Voice of the Child

Listening and responding to the views and voices of children and young people is a golden thread that runs throughout our Safeguarding Children Partnership arrangements. The Voice of the Child (VoC) is sub group of SSCP and 0-25 advisory board. The Voice of the Child is a youth led meeting supported by youth workers and youth work managers. Other professionals are invited into the meeting to discuss issues and consult with young people. Currently the voice of the child group is delivered as part of Salford Youth Council's meetings. The Youth Council group is made up of young people from different schools & colleges, with representatives from Fight for Change Council (FFCC), and young people who identify as having additional needs (representing SEND), LGBTQ & non-binary, BAME & young carers.

The Listening Hub works in partnership with the Voice of the Child subgroup, to avoid duplication and ensure that views and voices are captured from young people, families and practitioners. The parents group Parent 4 Positive Change (P4PC) who meet monthly, is now facilitated by the Listening Hub, with support of social work improvement.

The Youth Council group also responds to the 'Deep Dive' topics from the 0-25 Partnership Board, giving a young people's perspective on these topics. The Mind of My Own (MOMO) application enables young people to have their voices heard.

The Youth Council work on campaigns and decide on a programme of events throughout the year. In the period of this report young people have shaped the Youth Day events in August and have contributed to various campaigns arising from the results of the Make Your Mark ballot. Candidates for the Youth Mayor and Member of Youth Parliament elections were selected for the campaigns on their manifestos.

## Key Achievements

- The Youth Council membership is becoming more representative by schools being asked to select a minimum of 2 representatives. Other groups encouraged to attend include home educated young people.
- Youth Day 2023 in August was an opportunity for young people across Salford to have a voice. Young people decided the theme for this year's celebrations should be about celebrating DIVERSITY in Salford.
- 20 events & projects were delivered during the week of Youth Day 2023. Many of these events were delivered as part of HAF programmes. Youth Council members visited different events during the week to see how the theme of DIVERSITY was being delivered. Young people, support workers & city leaders were encouraged to share their favourite food on social media to create a diverse dinner, to celebrate diversity of culture using social media platforms.
- Fight For Change – recruitment and engagement of cared for children and young people, In April 2023 Salford Youth Service took over delivery of the Fight For change Council FFCC, Salford's Children In Care council. The handover included a small number of young people and the youth worker responsible for the FFCC has been working with colleagues in the Residential Units, the Cared For Childrens Team, the Fostering team, the Virtual school and out of Salford placement teams to identify and recruit young people for the group. Some young people not wanting to attend are being consulted outside this group. Events to promote engagement have included a regular event for Foster Carers and their children at Deans Centre,

visits to residential homes and to schools to meet designated safeguarding leads and cared for children in school. The Youth worker has developed the project to become Wow Wednesdays, a regular evening session at the Beacon Centre for cared for children and at last count, 19 different young people have attended. The FFCC has been working with the Principal Social worker on a number of initiatives and a representative stood for a Member of Youth Parliament position and was successful in the ballot. His campaign was about improving young people's engagement in their communities and being more vocal by joining youth voice groups.

- The chair of the VoC sub group met with all other sub group leads to stimulate ideas for how they could involve young people's voices and views in their sub group, e.g. young people's voices in the training content for workforce development sub group, or young people encouraged by schools to participate in the Make Your Mark ballot in the education sub group.
- Year 2 of Mind of My own – embedded now up to 100 statements per month from young people
- Representatives of the Youth Council and VoC group attended the Holocaust Memorial Day
- The Make Your Mark Ballot had around 1550 votes and young people priorities were Health & wellbeing / Crime & safety
- The election for the Member of Youth Parliament, and of the two successful candidates one was a young person new to the UK from Zimbabwe and one a Cared for child. The Youth Mayor, Deputy Youth Mayor and the Members of Youth Parliament met with Tom Stannard to outline their campaigns.

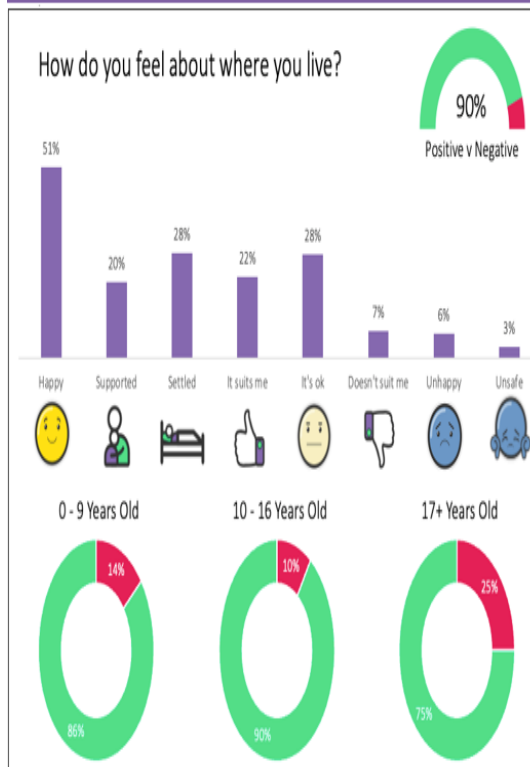
- The Youth Council have created specific roles for members to ensure there were representatives linking with: Health; Sports, Media and culture; Public transport; Positive relationships (Safeguarding); SACRE (Diversity); GMYCA reps; Inspection Team.
- The Youth Council worked with Salford CVS to support the facilitation of the Seldom Heard event where youth groups presented to City Leaders on key issues like young women's safety & trans inclusivity in school.
- Young people from the Youth Council met with colleagues from Culture and Sport to explore how young people could be encouraged to be more active.
- Young people from the Youth Council worked with Salford University on how they like medical staff to speak to them. Leading to nursing and midwifery students becoming more aware of young people's issues & preferred communication.
- Members of the Youth Council worked with Educational Psychologist colleagues to present at the Secondary Head Teachers meeting about the impact of behaviour policies, and the need for positive relationships with specific staff; and how this has a stronger impact than isolation.
- Presented at the SACRE meeting (3 from VoC group ) 'What good RS looks like' - means young people influence the content of the religious education being taught and its relevance to young people.
- Supported the Mocking Bird teams interviews with young people creating questions for candidates, identifying what is important for young people in care.



## What Difference has it made?

- Mind of My Own ensures young people have a voice and the safety link was used by young people see graph – this is where young people report they feel unsafe or unhappy and provides an opportunity for them to express their concerns and fears and get a response.
- Since the beginning of 2023, we have seen a steady increase in statements submitted through the MOMO app month by month. MOMO is now more embedded in practice across Salford. The record use was in October 2023 with a total of 187 statements.
- Met the Director for Education to share reasons why they thought school attendance in Salford was poor. The information provided by young people was shared at the Attendance Conference for school leaders and was widely accepted as true to a lot of those present and it informed the attendance improvement work. Young people influenced the social media posts shared on the topic of attendance to make them more impactful for young people.
- Met with Walkden and Little Hulton Councillors to respond to the ban on young people using the Walkden shopping centre. Key actions followed this meeting to seek to work with the shopping centre to remove the ban and how it was affecting some young people.
- Met with Bee Well Survey colleagues from Greater Manchester resulted in the members encouraging young people across Salford to complete the survey to get a more representative view of issues in Salford around wellbeing.
- Were involved in the Holiday and Food Programme inspection team visiting the providers and having input to the quality of delivery talking to young people attending and designing the questions.

## DATA TRENDS – What are children saying?



90% of young people in Salford have identified as feeling positive when asked "How do you feel about where you live?".

However, 7% said it doesn't suit them, 6% identified that they felt "unhappy" and 3% disclosed that they felt "unsafe"

Would those young people have been able to articulate this without access to Mind Of My Own?

The more young people that are introduced to Mind Of My Own – the richer the data we are able to produce

## Key Challenges

- Striking the balance between a young people led meeting where professionals attend and they seek the views of young people.
- Gaining responses to the consultations from young people in a timely manner. Change can take a long time in comparison to the time young people are of the age for Youth Council membership.

## Priorities for 2024/ 25

- Increasing the engagement and recruitment of the FFCC further, building on the work delivered and closing the Loop and feed-back to Children and Young People.

# Safeguarding Effectiveness

Whilst every sub- group is expected to understand performance and assurance within its own remit, detailed multi- agency performance scrutiny across the system takes place within the Strategic Effectiveness Group (SEG). The group brings together a range of evidence outlined in the Safeguarding Effectiveness Framework, oversees S11 audits and reports by exception to the partnership. The Group is chaired by the Director of Childrens Social Care with occasional observation and critical feedback from the Independent scrutineer.

Following a review of the function and effectiveness of SEG, in October 2023 a separate Performance & Quality Assurance (PQA) quarterly subgroup was convened to allow for sufficient time to scrutinise the multi-agency dataset and findings from audits. The PQA subgroup oversees the Section 11 process, the SSCP QA Panel, and the Quarterly Performance Scorecard. The group reports directly into SEG.

In Salford, we recognise and accept that safeguarding is never perfect and constant scrutiny is required to ensure that there is continuous improvement evidenced across the system. We adopt a proportionate approach, and recognise that single agencies hold their own accountability and a range of evidence is required at a single and multi- agency basis to offer reassurance that all parts of the system are working effectively, both individually and collectively, to safeguard children.

Measures of outcomes for children are clearly the most important ones to assess but measuring the effectiveness of the system also requires a focus on inputs and outputs as well as outcomes.

Our ethos of “how can we do it better, together” helps us to develop our workforce into a learning, not blame culture, and we use the evidence available to us to ensure that we recognise and act when things are not going well, but also that things are not always perfect.

## Our Evidence Base:



## Summary of Activity

During the reporting period the SEG has considered thematic reports from across the partnership to gain assurance in relation to the following areas:

- SSCP Business Manager Report and Risk Register
- SSCP SEG multi-agency scorecard
- Children subject to CP plan over 2 years
- Bridge (MASH) Oversight Group report
- S11 Practitioner Survey findings
- Listening Hub Progress report
- Strategic Workforce Development Group Spotlight report
- Voice of the Child subgroup Spotlight report
- Restorative Child Protection Conferencing evaluation
- Housing - Safeguarding Workstreams update
- S11 Practitioner Survey Action Plan Assurance
- Practice Review Subgroup Spotlight report
- Missing from Home Spotlight report
- Assurance report re CP plans over 2 years
- Briefing report re statutory changes to working Together 2023
- Ofsted Inspection outcome
- Moving Forward meeting update and pathway
- Listening Hub Impact Report
- Police Powers Assurance report
- CP Medical Task and Finish Group report
- Electively Home Educated Children report
- Family Partnership Model update

During the reporting period, the Performance and Quality Assurance sub group have considered the following multi agency audits:

- Working With Fathers
- Childhood Obesity
- Strategy Meetings (Repeat)
- Re-referrals (undertaken by the Independent Scrutineer)
- Referrals resulting in No Further Action (undertaken by the Independent Scrutineer)
- Children with Disabilities (undertaken by the Independent Scrutineer)
- Child in Need (Repeat)

A quarterly “How are we Doing?” report has been provided to the SSCP for on-going oversight, scrutiny and assurance in relation to the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements for children in Salford. The SEG maintains a formal risk register which tracks the progress of areas of uncertainty for the partnership. Where necessary, risks are escalated to the SSCP and Safeguarding Executive to support resolution in a timely manner. The Risk register is updated on a quarterly basis. This ensures that there is transparency across the partnership and a commitment to continuous improvement. This also supports the partnership to target improvement activity based upon a local needs analysis.

A culture of high support high challenge has been supported to develop with key professionals making observations and suggestions on where and how assurances are given, this has led to several short term task and finish groups who focus on areas where additional assurances are required.

## Key Achievements

- The SEG has maintained a forward plan for scrutiny and assurance during the reporting period which has been aligned with other boards.
- The SEG has maintained consistent attendance from across the partnership.
- The SEG has scrutinised a range of evidence and has challenged and sought assurance on safeguarding activity. Areas for concern have been escalated effectively to the SSCP and Executive to achieve resolution.
- There has been focus on continuous improvement and evidencing impact.
- The SEG has continued to horizon scan for emerging themes in safeguarding practice and established task and finish groups where appropriate.
- The SEG has maintained a risk register and escalated any areas of concern to the delegated and lead safeguarding partners where necessary.
- The Performance and QA group is now well established with excellent representation from statutory and relevant agencies.
- Work has been undertaken to strengthen the multi-agency dataset (scorecard) and partners are improving their skills in critical reflection, scrutiny and challenge.
- The SSCP now have an established forward plan for Multi Agency Audit activity, including a schedule for repeat audits to evidence impact and progress.
- The SSCP have an established bi-annual QA panel. During this reporting period, two panels have taken place on the themes of Homelessness and Working with Fathers.
- S11 practitioner survey received 243 responses from across the partnership.
- The Independent Scrutineers annual report concludes that “there are strong and highly effective children’s safeguarding arrangements in Salford”.
- “Multi-agency working with children is highly effective and leads to improvements in children’s lives” (OFSTED ILACS Inspection of Children’s Services, November 2023).

## What difference has it made?

- SSCP partners are assured about the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements in Salford and can act on the recommendations made by the Strategic Effectiveness group to further enhance communication and multi-agency working in order to safeguard children and young people.
- True to Us Exercise completed in response to the National Review following the murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes & Star Hobson in 2020. This led to an updated Child Protection Medical Pathway to improve practice.
- A simple way to evidence impact has come from a recent thematic audit of the Voice of the child, following the listening hub and the launch of the Mind of my own app, 75% of children’s files evidenced clearly the VOC.
- Working with Fathers Quality Assurance Panel learning – noted that awareness raising for working with fathers has made an impact.
- Obesity Audit research - highlighted that many of the extremely obese children in Salford are affected by Autism, Learning Difficulties and domestic abuse. The research is in its early stages and actions were identified around recording and understanding of why there was inconsistency in the services that were supporting the child and family.
- Repeat audit relating to strategy meetings - evidenced that the work undertaken across the partnership since the previous audit had been impactful, with strategy meetings found to be effective. Noted success has been the routine introduction in the induction training for social care as well as the SSCP annual training programme.

- The Independent Scrutineer undertook an audit into re-referrals – findings were that thresholds were understood across the partnership and response to re-referrals was appropriate and proportionate.
- Children with Disabilities audit – undertaken by the Independent Scrutineer – evidenced SMART planning, excellent direct work and voice of the child in some cases.
- A repeat audit of Child in Need cases evidenced that the distribution of new CIN guidance across the workforce resulted in improved consistency of approach, including SMART planning, multi-agency attendance at meetings and a reduction in unnecessary social work intervention

Findings from the S11 Practitioner survey demonstrate an improvement in professional confidence around SSCP Thematic areas including:

- **100%** of practitioners are confident to share information with other professionals if they have a safeguarding concern about a child (up from 99% in 2021).
- **98%** know where to find their own organisation's safeguarding policies (up from 97% in 2021).
- **98%** feel confident to raise safeguarding concerns and are supported in their safeguarding role (up from 95% in 2021).
- **97%** would know exactly what to do about a safeguarding allegation against a colleague (up from 92% in 2021)
- **97%** of practitioners are confident in recognising signs of Neglect and taking appropriate action (up from 90% in 2021).
- **91%** are confident that they can recognise signs of criminal exploitation in children / young people and take appropriate action (up from 81% in 2021)
- **86%** are confident they can recognise signs of sexual abuse in children and take appropriate action (up from 78% in 2021)
- **68%** are familiar with the Professional Challenge and Escalation Policy and confident to use it (up from 59% in 2021)

## Key Challenges

The scrutiny of performance information has not yet been a significant factor of the work of the PQA group and as a result it has been agreed that the length of the meeting be extended to support this as well as changing the order of the agenda at least twice a year to focus more on the performance information than the quality assurance.

## Priorities for 2024/2025

- There is much for the SSCP to pause and celebrate.
- Salford is a highly ambitious council and partnership. There is strong evidence to support and drive forward the ambition to become a UNICEF Child Friendly City.
- To strengthen the analysis of SSCP data and audit activity to develop a shared understanding and narrative of safeguarding effectiveness.
- The SSCP Head of Business and Impact Lead has produced an implementation plan, with a multi-agency Task & Finish Group established, to be chaired by the Independent Scrutineer, to track progress in respect of the implementation of new arrangements. An opportunity will be to review and strengthen even further, the role and contribution of relevant agencies, for example Early Years, Schools, Education Providers and the CVCS.
- Given the strength and effectiveness of the partnership arrangements, the revised statutory guidance offers the opportunity to really focus on the aspirations of the partnership and the 'even better'. For example, agreeing as a partnership the role of the Lead Practitioner in supporting children and their families under CA 1989 Section 17, a cultural and practice shift that could really make a difference to children and families.

# Local Response to National Reforms

During the reporting period, the government published revised and new statutory guidance:

- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023: A guide to multi-agency working to help, protect and promote the welfare of children (December 2023).
- New statutory guidance, Children's Social Care National Framework: Statutory guidance on the purpose, principles for practice and expected outcomes of children's social care (December 2023).

In response, the SSCP have established a dedicated multi agency sub group, led by the Independent Scrutineer to co-ordinate local activity. So far, the partnership have taken action and worked together to:

- Appoint the Executive Director for Children's Services as the Partnership Chair and clarified and strengthened existing local governance for safeguarding children
- Strengthen the role of Education in the Local Safeguarding arrangements, working with the DfE Education Facilitator. We have ensured that Early Years are now represented on the Education Sub group. The Terms of Reference for the Early Years Safeguarding Monthly Network meetings will be updated to reflect a two-way dialogue between information sharing from SSCP and the voice of the Early Years sector in influencing and shaping priorities in the Education Subgroup and SSCP. A briefing session will be delivered to the Early Years Safeguarding Monthly Network meeting on the role of the Early Years sector and SSCP
- Strengthen the role of the VCSE sector in the Local Safeguarding Arrangements by engaging with GM Moving and Salford City Leisure and the VCSE Vocal groups to explore suitable representation on and engagement with the partnership
- Consider the role of the lead practitioner under S17 (Children Act, 2004) and establish an agreed local process
- Undertake a self-assessment which was facilitated by our Independent Scrutineer. There was much to celebrate as part of this session and it was agreed by the Lead Safeguarding Partners at the Safeguarding Executive on 18.06.24 that the SSCP is a "Mature" partnership
- Strengthen opportunities for engagement and co-production with children, young people and their families. Two positive relationship links have now been established with Youth Council members. A summit has been arranged for September 2024 with the Youth Council. This will focus on reflections around the SSCP priorities, including, Neglect, CSA, Exploitation and DA. Chairs of the relevant sub groups will be invited to attend and feed back to young people about current SSCP activity. Young people will be asked to vote on how well they think the group is tackling the subject matter. There will be a chance for the presenter to ask the young people questions and vice versa. Information will be captured and shared at the "Power of the Partnership" event later in the year. Young people will be invited to co present during the session. Feedback will be used to inform our MASA review and local safeguarding priorities
- Update training packages to embed the Multi Agency Child Protection Expectations and principles of the Children's Social Care national framework. The Head of Safeguarding has delivered a presentation to lead and delegated safeguarding partners, and relevant agencies on what the National framework means for multi-agency practice
- Plan for a "Power of the Partnership" event which will take place later in the year. The event will be structured around the updated Working Together statutory guidance and will bring professionals together from various sectors to raise awareness of the work undertaken by the SSCP, share best practices and will be used to consult on future priorities in advance of publishing our updated Multi Agency Safeguarding arrangements in December 2024.



# Costs to Deliver the SSCP Arrangements

Income 2023-2024	£	Expenditure 2023-2024	£
Salford City Council	198,825	<b>Staffing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SSCP Head of Business &amp; Impact Lead</li> <li>SSCP Workforce Development and Business Support Manager</li> <li>SSCP Participation Lead</li> <li>SSCP Performance &amp; QA Co-Ordinator</li> <li>Training Officer</li> <li>Senior Business Support Officers</li> </ul>	319,769
Health	120,243	Training	2,188
GMP	13,500	Office Expenses	3,256
Salford Schools contribution	22,400	Professional Fees (includes child death reviews, case reviews and independent scrutiny)	15,161
National Probation Service	3,600	Other staff related costs	352
<b>Total</b>	<b>358,568</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>340,726</b>
Balance B/fwd from 2023/24	111,659	Balance C/fwd into 2024/25	129,501

The SSCP currently has a healthy surplus balance. We started the year with a surplus of £111k and we have ended with £129k, an in year surplus of £18k.

The in year surplus is due to savings on professional fees and reduced office costs, travel, and training due to hybrid working.

The future funding landscape for the SSCP remains uncertain and it has recently been confirmed that there will be a reduction of £50k in contributions from partners in 2024/2025.

The surplus funds will be used to ensure that the local multi agency safeguarding arrangements in Salford are robust and effective, whilst opportunities to secure future efficiencies are explored and considered.

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**#safeinsalford**

**#makingadifference**