

## SSCP Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024

**Time:** 1pm- 4pm

**Chair:** Melissa Caslake, Executive Director – Children’s Services, Salford City Council

**Minutes:** Debbie Hulme, Senior Business Support Officer, SSCP

**Venue:** MS Teams

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

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made and apologies recorded.

Documentation pertaining to today’s meeting has been shared in advance.

#### a. In attendance

**Melissa Caslake, Executive Director of Children’s Services, Salford City Council: People**

**Debbie Hulme, Senior Business Support Officer, Salford Safeguarding Children Partnership**

**Kate Pollard, Head of Business & Impact, Salford Safeguarding Children Partnership**

**Sayma Khan, Director of Children’s Social Care, Salford City Council: People**

**Karen Armfield, Head Teacher, Boothstown Methodist Primary**

**Debbie Blackburn, Director: Public Health Nursing and Wellbeing, Public Health**

**Danielle Buckley, Head of Probation Delivery Unit, Salford Probation**

**Yanica Weir (on behalf of Simon Moyles), Detective Chief Inspector -Partnerships, GMP**

**Diane Kinsella, Designated Nurse: Safeguarding Children & Looked After Children, NHS Greater Manchester**

**Audrey McCoy, Acting Assistant Director, Northern Care Alliance**

**David Thorpe, Director of Nursing, Northern Care Alliance**

**Elizabeth Walton, Assistant Director: Safeguarding & Quality, NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care**

**Michelle Williamson, Associate Director Nursing Quality and Safety, Integrated Care**

**Melanie John-Ross, Independent Scrutineer, Salford Safeguarding Children Partnership**

**Zeashan Nasim, District Superintendent, Greater Manchester Police (attended for item 4)**

**Claire Baddley, Domestic Abuse Operational Lead, Salford City Council: People (attended for item 7)**

#### b. Apologies received from:

Rebecca Bibby, Director of Early Help & School Readiness, Salford City Council: People

Jane Slinger, Head of Safeguarding Children, Salford City Council: People

Tim Rumley, Children’s Services Senior Manager, Salford City Council: People

Simon Moyles, Detective Superintendent (Cluster Vulnerability), GMP

Elaine Burfitt, Designated Doctor (Safeguarding Children), NHS GM Integrated Care

### **1. Minutes of previous meeting Lead: Chair**

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting held 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

### **2. Action Tracker Lead: Chair**

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

### **3. Right Care Right Person – Implementation Update: Zeashan Nasim**

An update was provided and the speaker reported that the implementation of the Right Care Right Person approach has been delayed and will be launched 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

An overview of the process was given and it was reported that call handlers will be the first point of contact when a concern for welfare is reported, GMP will assess the nature of the concern and if not appropriate for a response from GMP they will signpost to the most appropriate agency

Questions/comments were invited from SSCP members:

Concerns were raised, which comprised of:

- Protocols for children missing from foster care or the family home
- Will consideration be taken into account for middle aged children who may have additional needs e.g. neuro-diversity, disability, SEND. Can assurance be given that these responses will be appropriate?
- The focus is on children missing from care
- Will 16-17 year old young people with mental health issues be appropriately triaged?
- Anxiety in respect of varying views of level of risk
- Will children/young people subject to CP Plan and YP plan remain a priority? It was established that there are markers on the GM systems which will alert call handlers to this cohort.
- Has an audit been undertaken within police authorities where the RCRP has been implemented and has there been any risk suffered due to the triage process? It was noted that this data would be beneficial to ascertain learning for Greater Manchester colleagues
- Assurance that GMP will respond in an appropriate and timely manner to missing from home episodes
- Quality of information sharing, language used, determination of risk and how the Partnership can be assured that all professionals and the community are able to articulate risk. It was suggested that a multi-agency training package be developed
- Anxiety that too many vulnerabilities for children may be missed and the risk of harm this may cause

Assurance was given by the speaker that statutory obligations to a child under 18 years of age will remain the same and where there is a concern in respect of a child/young person the response standard will be maintained. Calls will be scrutinised on an individual basis and responses will differentiate depending on the age and needs of each child/young person. It was suggested that a sentence be added to the protocol to make this very clear. Children will also be reviewed by appropriate district sergeants.

The group discussed the protocol for children missing from a care home and the expectation that care staff should, in the first instance, conduct their own enquiries. It was noted that Local Authority care home staff are extremely skilled in understanding the needs and risks of children/young people in their care. Staff do follow the local missing from care protocol and do not contact the police unless absolutely necessary.

Zeashan confirmed that parent/carers are not expected to conduct their own investigation but to perform basic checks before contacting the police.

It was noted that there are 6 Local Authority Care Homes plus commissioned/private homes and the group considered protocols in place for commissioned services. It was confirmed that the local authority are informed of any incidents and this is stipulated in all commissioned contracts. It was recognised that there are further private homes in Salford that are not currently commissioned, however work is progressing to develop networks.

Concerns have been expressed by GMMH and Pennine Care Trust in respect of the new RCRP approach. It was confirmed that these issues are being addressed and this is the reason for the launch delay.

It was noted that GM Leads have also raised concerns at various GM forums however appropriate assurance has not been received.

It was recognised that all agencies are invested in ensuring that RCRP approach is effective to safeguard children and young people and there is good partnership working.

Following further discussion it was agreed that Melissa will write a formal letter to GMP raising the concerns addressed at today's meeting.

She will also provide Zeashan Nasim with a summary of the above matters and Zeashan in turn will take this to the GMP team who have developed the protocol and the concerns will be considered.

**Action: Melissa Caslake to write a formal letter to GMP raising the concerns addressed at today's meeting**

**Action: Melissa Caslake to provide a summary of questions for Zeashan Nasim, Zeashan in turn will take this to the appropriate team for consideration and response**

## **5. Early Help Annual Report: Rebecca Bibby**

Rebecca Bibby has sent apologies today, this item to be deferred until the next meeting.

## **6. Update: Family Help Pilot: Sayma Khan**

As part of the Social Care Reforms Salford have developed a Family Help Model.

Salford receive a large number of re-referrals to the Bridge where no further social care action is required, the 3 main reasons are:

- Domestic Abuse
- Adult Mental Health
- Adult Substance Misuse

This is a strength based model which will empower families to consider their own strengths, the family networks, be in control of their own journey, identify self-help strategies (when appropriate) and will include intense support packages.

The family help practitioners will lead a multi-agency response which will include support from a wide range of services. The team will ensure a whole-family approach and will be co-located within the social work teams.

The team will consist of:

- Family Help Practice Manager
- Family Help Practitioners
- Key workers
- Youth workers
- Domestic Abuse leads
- Mental Health professionals
- Substance misuse professionals

The model will continue to be led by the Early Help Service and this new approach will prevent escalation to children's social care (where appropriate), ensure that families are supported at the earliest opportunity and will have robust wrap around care packages.

All SSCP members agreed to the above pilot and this will be implemented.

## **7. Update: Safer Together Model: Claire Baddley**

The dates have been arranged and the sessions will be held 2nd, 3rd, 9th and 10th September 2024. Relevant professionals have been invited and there are approximately 4 places per partnership (depending on demand).

An overview day will also be held 16th September 2024 and this will be open to multi-agency partners. Claire Baddley and Yasmin Sadiq will attend the training with a view to facilitating further multi-agency courses going forward.

Please can partners promote the training dates within their own organisation and encourage professionals to apply where appropriate.

If members require any further clarification in respect of who should attend/be targeted please contact [Claire.baddley@salford.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.baddley@salford.gov.uk) directly.

## **8. SSCP Business Managers Update/ Risk Register: Kate Pollard**

The highlights pertaining to the last quarter were provided:

- There are 4 risks cited on the Risk Register which remain current
- The future funding landscape remains uncertain
- Funding contributions for the SSCP have been confirmed by the three Statutory partners
- Efficiencies for SSCP 2024/1015 are required and further efficiencies will be required for 2025/2026, this will be discussed in more detail at the June Exec meeting
- The SSCP Business Lead has submitted the return to the DfE which details how the one off grant will be used to implement the WT reforms
- The SSCP have undertaken a self-assessment with subgroup chairs which was led by the Independent scrutineer. Following the session the Independent Scrutineer has developed a report of findings and this will be discussed in more detail under item 10 and will also be taken to the June Exec meeting for more in-depth discussion
- The Independent Scrutineer has written the annual report – this will be discussed in further detail under item 11
- The Peer Review with Warrington LSCP has been postponed as Warrington have had notification of their Ofsted Inspection
- At the Working Together time limited subgroup priority areas were identified alongside areas that require strengthening. Further meetings will be held to progress on activity, including a meeting with the DfE National Facilitator for Education
- A meeting has been held with representatives from VCSE to strengthen their role/contributions within the partnership arrangements. This was a positive meeting which identified forward plans.
- A request from the WT subgroup is for all partners to consider the following:
  - Agencies should review their own policies and procedures to ensure the four principles of the Children’s Social Care National Framework, for working with parents/carers are appropriately embedded

- The SSCP and single agencies to review all materials provided to children, parents/carers and families to ensure jargon free, developmentally appropriate and in a format that is understood. Material should also be made accessible and translated into their first language if necessary
- Power of the Partnership event will be held October 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024 at Buile Hill Hall. The event will showcase/celebrate the collective work of the Partnership over the last 12 months
- The annual report is scheduled to be published September 2024

Questions/comments were invited from members:

The Chair stated that there is a risk in respect of the general funding position for the ICB and the potential impact on safeguarding children.

The SSCP Business Manager responded that this can be captured in item 1 of the risk register and it was agreed that the wording will be expanded for clear clarification . Kate will forward the risk register to Michelle Williamson who in turn will consider the wording.

The Independent Scrutineer asked whether the partnership is cited when children go missing from private children's homes and suggested that this be included in the risk register. It was noted that the virtual school and health colleagues have a responsibility to these children however the partnership are not fully assured on this matter.

The Chair raised concerns in respect of Health and Safety issues for staff and the formal reporting of instances from a partnership perspective.

It was noted that there are 2 reporting systems for SCC Children's Services and there is no consistent reporting across services; this has been raised as a risk within Salford City Council.

Members discussed their own agency reporting systems and it was recognised that these are dealt with within their own organisations and there is no mechanism to follow partnership processes.

It was acknowledged that robust processes are required to ensure that there is a partnership approach as children/young people are supported by multi-agency professionals.

**Action: Kate Pollard to forward the Risk Register to Michelle Williamson**

**Action: Michelle Williamson to consider the wording under item 1 of the risk register in respect of the general funding position for the ICB and potential impact on safeguarding children**

**Action: Melissa Caslake and Sayma Khan will contact the SCC HR Department to raise and discuss future partnership processes in respect of health and safety**

## **9. Performance Update - How are we Doing: Sayma Khan**

An update was provided for the last quarter (January – March 2024)

The Moving Forward Meeting and Pathway processes have been reviewed. The aim of this process is ensure children are only subject to a Child protection plan for as long as necessary.

Initially Service managers will review children who have been subject to a CP plan for 9 months using the Family Partnership Model to consider barriers to progress, options available and next steps. Heads of Service will scrutinise plans when children remain on CP plans for 12 months.

At the May SEG meeting clarification was sought regarding partners being invited to these meetings. It was agreed that this will be considered on a case by case basis as there are conferences/core groups in between where partners can raise their views.

The CP Team will give an update on progress at a future SEG meeting.

The Listening Hub activity during the last 12 months has been positive. Work will be progressed on further activity. There is a lot of activity across the city in respect of capturing the voice of children/young people however the partnership are not always cited on progress, this requires strengthening to shape systems going forward.

The SSCP Business Lead provided more detail in respect of positive working being undertaken by the Listening Hub:

- Jo Horton (Listening Hub Chair) and Tim Rumley (Voice of the Child Chair) will develop/deliver briefings in respect of existing activity/consultation for strategic leads
- Work has been undertaken to 'close the loop' which considered feedback from children/young people (e.g what matters to them, what their concerns are) and the partnership response 'you said, we did'
- Strong links with the Voice of the Child Subgroup and Youth Council. Two youth parliament workers will host a young council session which will focus on safeguarding issues
- The relationship with the Parents for Positive Change and co-production work that is being progressed. This was acknowledged as a real strength
- Completion of themed project on young people's mental health which will inform service provision. Young people reported that they wanted to access to early intervention support. The listening loop information has been escalated to the CAMHS service for a response.

The Police Powers assurance report is positive. This piece of work was instigated in response to an increase of Police Powers of Protection being enforced. The data determined there are 23 children subject to PPP which included large sibling groups.

The Child Protection medical process has been reviewed and strengthened and the updated CP pathway will be launched using various communication methods including briefings.

Elective Home Education procedures are progressing and dedicated teams are ensuring that processes are in place to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of children who are educated at home.

Multi-agency Family Partnership Model training sessions have been held and will continue to be promoted by the Salford Safeguarding Children Partnership.

Sayma informed members that there is lots of activity across the SSCP Subgroups and there will be a focus on strengthening the voice of child/young person within the subgroups to consider co-production with children and families to enable to evaluate impact on practice and measure outcomes.

It was reported that learning is shared from case reviews however evidence is required to measure the impact on practice and to demonstrate the outcomes.

An overview of the scorecard was provided:

### **Positive outcomes**

- Excellent timescales maintained in the Bridge
- A 7-minute briefing on how to make a good referral will be developed
- CP medicals are within timescales
- Improved submission of ICPC Primary Care reports (96%)
- Processes are in place for safeguarding children who are Electively Home Educated

### **Challenges**

- Monitor CP plans which last over 2 years
- ICPC timescales
- Access to GP records
- Co-production to influence the partnership

Key recommendations for the SEG group were highlighted

- Voice of the child
- Co-production
- Learning from case reviews

Group members were invited to ask questions and provide comments

Danielle informed the group that there may be an increase in referrals to Children's Social Care from the Probation service. This is due to prisoners being released 70 days earlier; it was reported that this will increase pressure on probation officers to turn releases around quickly. This may have an impact on children's social care as checks will be required before offenders are released.

Q: Can a rationale be provided for the decrease in ICPC being convened in timescales and what is being done to mitigate this?

A: This could be due to various reasons, however there is a process in place where relevant heads of service will directly raise/escalate.



It was noted that the ICPC should be convened 15 days after the Initial Strategy meeting; this makes it difficult to arrange the meeting in this timeframe due to the complexities of co-ordinating a multi-agency event to ensure that all relevant parties are available to attend.

The Chair stated that this is an unhelpful metric as cases can be complex and it is vital that all information is reviewed to determine whether a case conference should be convened.

Q: Is there a backlog of CP medicals?

A: Salford has very robust and streamlined processes and no issues have been raised in respect of timelines for CP medicals. There is some disparity in relation to out of hours advice for Panda Unit staff and this will be considered by Diane and Audrey.

Q: How are all partners driving forward early help across universal services? How can the partnership encourage early help engagement across Salford?

A: It was noted that there are different levels of early help and particular services/professionals do provide early help intervention in an informal way, however there is no multi-agency system to capture this data and provide assurance to the partnership. The Early Help Annual report will be presented at the next Partnership meeting when a more in-depth discussion will be held.

#### **10. MASA Review – Phase 1 report & Peer Review Update: Melanie John Ross**

The DfE have produced a health check assessment tool for LSPPs to assess their readiness for Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023. The health check includes 5 core elements and 6 cross cutting themes.

All SSCP Subgroup Chairs were asked to complete the tool and consider their contributions to the cross cutting themes.

A Self-Assessment Development session was held 13th May 2024 with all subgroup chairs; Melanie reported that it was a productive session which included discussion and reflection. There was opportunity to enhance further ways to evidence impact, demonstrate outcomes for children and the difference Salford Safeguarding Children Partnership are making. It was agreed that Chairs will progress on future aspirations and development areas.

Members agreed that the SSCP is a mature partnership and this review is an opportunity to strengthen the arrangements further.

#### **11. Independent Scrutineer Annual Report: Melanie John Ross**

The Annual Report for April 2023 – March 2024 was been developed; Key findings were provided:

- Strong effective partnership with strong leadership and governance arrangements
- Highly motivated workforce across the partnership
- Strong evidence of dissemination of learning from case reviews; strengthen evidence how learning from audits and case reviews has led to improved outcomes for children

- Strong voice of the child arrangements; strengthen the co-production and evidence how young people have influenced the SSCP priorities and strategies
- An extensive SSCP Training programme which provides learning and development opportunities
- Salford to work their way to becoming a UNICEF Child Friendly City. The Chair informed members that this in the very early stages and this is a long term strategy across the whole of the council with partners and further stakeholders. It was noted that the city mayor has been re-elected and this has been cited in his manifesto and will be a priority. An update will be provided at the autumn Partnership meeting.

The report concludes that there are strong and effective children’s safeguarding arrangements in Salford with a high level of commitment from strategic leads, partners, the wider children’s safeguarding workforce and subgroups.

The chair gave an overview of recommendations which were endorsed by SSCP members.

**12. AOB: Chair**

**a. HMICFRS National Child Protection Inspection**

GMP have been notified of an HMICFRS Inspection (22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024). This is a whole force inspection which will cover all areas and will last approximately 3 weeks. It was noted that HMC Inspectors may contact Salford partners for their contributions.

The Baird enquiry is due to be published and it was agreed that this will be an agenda item for the September Partnership meeting.

Date	Reports expected	Leads

<b>Minutes Approved by:</b>	Melissa Caslake, Executive Director - Children’s Services, Salford City Council
<b>Date:</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> June 2024