

# Safeguarding Children in Stockport

Annual Report 2019/2020



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# Chair's Introduction

I am pleased to present the 2019-2020 Annual Report on behalf of all the agencies represented on the Safeguarding Children's Partnership. The reports shows that in Stockport we have continued to build on the strong partnership foundation to meet the many challenges facing agencies in ensuring that we are not only keeping children and young people safe, but also improving the outcomes for our most vulnerable children.

In September Stockport moved to the new partnership arrangement in line with Working Together 2018 [Stockport new safeguarding partnership arrangements](#); in which we saw a smaller Executive made up of the 3 statutory partners (GMP, Stockport CCG, Stockport MBC) and a number of advisors replacing the LSCB; along a reduction in the number of subgroups that released capacity in the partnership to focus on practice improvement and quality assurance. You can read ore about the new model and our approach to learning on pages 19/20 of the report.

The continuing challenge will be maintaining the progress of the last few years, through a time of policy change and new national priorities and a completely different way of working and engaging with professionals and families due to the Covid restrictions; without losing sight of what matters – the safeguarding of children in Stockport.

To conclude, I would like to thank members of the Partnership, across the partnership of our voluntary, community and statutory services and all the frontline practitioners and managers for their commitment, hard work and effort in keeping children and young people safe in Stockport. We will continue to seek out what we can do better, to support the community we serve and ensure that children and young people are safer as a result.



*Gill Frame, Independent Chair of SSCP*

**Our vision is 'working in partnership to support and safeguard the people of Stockport to enable them to live safe, healthy and, where possible, independent lives'.**

# Independent Scrutiny

As the Independent Chair, I have a crucial role in making certain that the Partnership operates effectively and can secure an independent voice. As chair I am independent of local agencies and in a position exercise the key role of challenge effectively. The SSCP maintains a discernible independence from the Stockport Family Partnership Board arrangements within Stockport whilst ensuring clear and consistent communication channels between the Boards. I attend the Corporate Safeguarding accountabilities meeting where the Chief Executive, the Leader of the Council, and the Executive member for children and families have the opportunity to hold the SSCP to account. The Head of Safeguarding and Learning has responsibility for both the Children and Adult Safeguarding Boards and the Deputy Chief Executive of SMBC has responsibility for the facilitation of Safer Stockport partnership. Lay members are being sought to support the work of the Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement Partnerships.

In our new partnership arrangement we set out what independent scrutiny would look like for Stockport as we recognise that striving for effective multi-agency arrangements, the role of independent scrutiny would be critical to provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of services to protect children.

Stockport has benefitted in the past from independent scrutiny from effective Lay Members we want to maintain this engagement and to look at the feasibility of Lay Members on the Quality Assurance and Scrutiny Committee and the Practice Improvement Partnership. It has been a challenge to secure a lay member however it is an area we will continue to pursue.

Our approach to independent scrutiny is part of a wider system which includes:

- Independent inspectorates' single assessment of the individual safeguarding partners and the Joint Targeted Area Inspections;
- Independent Authors for Safeguarding Practice Reviews;
- Family/child engagement in Safeguarding Practice Review,
- Multi agency audit;
- Front line practitioner visits;
- Section 11 and Section 175 audits.

As part of the role of Independent Chair, I provide independent scrutiny and challenge to the effectiveness of the new arrangements, along with holding partners to account. I have set out below an overview of the independent scrutiny that has taken.

In January at our annual development day with the Safeguarding Adults Board. At this session we also took the opportunity to reflect on the effectiveness of the partnership and what we need to do to improve. We considered 3 areas:

**How we learnt from case reviews** – areas of strength were identified as Programme of Learning; 7 Minute Briefings.

What we need to do more of measuring the impact of the learning through multi agency auditing and undertake a thematic review of learning.

Our **quality assurance** processes – areas of strength included QA Process & Datasets (Dashboards); Multi-Agency sharing; Multi-Agency Audits; Quality Assurance Partnership.

What we need to do more of – the assurance dataset needs to include data from the wider partnership with more focus on outcome – always asking ourselves the so what question.

**How well we engaged with the wider partnership** – areas of strength included Website; Safeguarding Networks; Workshops; Learning Circles; dedicated Training Officer; Sub Groups; Development Days; quarterly newsletters.

What we need to do more of – partner agency ensuring that the work of the Safeguarding Adults Board is cascaded within their organisation; improve our engagement with the voluntary sector; determine our model for the ‘learning hub approach’; and undertake front line conversations.

During 2019 – 20 we have undertaken several Rapid Reviews into Child Safeguarding Practice. More detail of these can be found on page 25 of the report. We undertook a peer challenge exercise with another local area to look at our processes for Rapid Reviews, the outcome being that we would have a reflective review with our current panel to look at learning from the National Safeguarding Child Practice Review Panel annual report to ensure that we are utilising the flexibilities in relation to undertaking reviews.

Stockport was also part of the Greater Manchester Peer Review programme in relation Complex Safeguarding. The peer reviewers identified a significant number of areas of good practice including:

- The Stockport Family Model has enabled an excellent partnership approach to Complex Safeguarding
- The co-location and culture of Locality Teams and Partners allows for effective working relationships between different parts of the service
- There are clear policies and strategies in place for Complex Safeguarding work streams
- There is an open culture of continuing to learn, develop and seek support
- Risk Assessments demonstrated good analysis which was trauma informed.

There were some areas that needed further attention, and these will be progressed during 2020-21 – these included:

- A review of resourcing for Police for both the Challenger and Phoenix Team (capacity worries)
- Continued development of the joint response to Child Criminal Exploitation
- A review of resourcing for Police for both the Challenger and Phoenix Team (capacity worries)
- Continued development of the joint response to CCE

On the whole Stockport, as a partnership that works together to safeguard and promote the welfare of its children. has strengthened since the Ofsted Inspection in 2017; where the LSCB (now the Safeguarding Partnership) was judged as requiring improvement.

The report recognised that Stockport was on a journey of improvement; and I have seen that journey continue with greater engagement with partners in partnership/subgroups and attendance at training; senior leaders driving the work of the partnership groups; a more robust business unit that underpins the work of the partnership. This was evidenced by the partnership’s response to Covid 19, lockdown, school closures and services who traditionally worked with families having to work remotely.

We saw excellent engagement from our partners in virtual weekly Covid safeguarding meetings that enabled us to ensure that the safeguarding response was co-ordinated. I have to say a big thanks to all our front line workers for their excellent response during such unprecedented times. We will look at the learning from our response and build the positive learning into our structures for the future. Further information on the response to Covid can be found on [page 16](#).

# Purpose of the Report

Working Together 2018, requires the Children's Safeguarding Partnership to publish a report on an annual basis. The purpose of this report is to;

- Bring transparency for children, families and all practitioners about the activity undertaken, the safeguarding partners must publish a report at least once in every 12-month period. The report must set out what they have done as a result of the arrangements, including on child safeguarding practice reviews, and how effective these arrangements have been in practice.

In addition, the report should also include:

- Evidence of the impact of the work of the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies, including training, on outcomes for children and families from early help to looked-after children and care leavers
  - An analysis of any areas where there has been little or no evidence of progress on agreed priorities
  - A record of decisions and actions taken by the partners in the report's period (or planned to be taken) to implement the recommendations of any local and national child safeguarding practice reviews, including any resulting improvements
  - Ways in which the partners have sought and utilised feedback from children and families to inform their work and influence service provision
  - Safeguarding partners should make sure the report is widely available, and the published safeguarding arrangements should set out where the reports will be published.
- A copy of all published reports should be sent to the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and the What Works Centre for Children's Social Care within seven days of being published.
  - The three safeguarding partners should report any updates to the published arrangements in their yearly report and the proposed timescale for implementation.
  - Implementation of a learning model – more detail can be found [here](#).

This document constitutes the Stockport Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP) Annual Report 2019/20 and provides a summary of the effectiveness of services in the town to safeguard children and promote their welfare. The information contained within this document has been provided by partners during 2019/20.



# The Town of Stockport

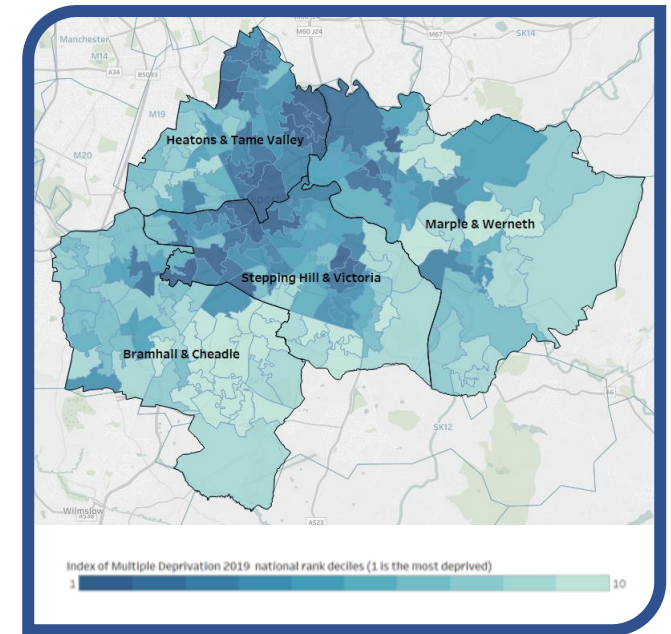
Stockport is very polarised, with pockets of very concentrated deprivation contrasted with large areas where deprivation is relatively low. Out of a population of 291,775, 23.5% (68,567) are aged 0-19. 11.7% of children and young people (8,500) in Stockport are living in low income households (JSNA 2018). In Stockport, there are more areas that rank within 1% most deprived nationally than average, Stockport also have the most deprived electoral ward and GP practice within Greater Manchester. Birth rates have grown most rapidly in deprived areas, and population growth generally has been more rapid in these areas, although this may change with planned large scale housing developments in the less deprived areas, but significant growth is still expected in the town centre.

## There are currently 125 schools in Stockport:

- 84 primary schools
- 13 high schools
- 6 special schools
- 3 pupil referral units
- 10 independent schools
- 9 independent special schools.

Out of a population of 291,775 (in 2018):

0-4	6.1%	17,798
5-9	6.3%	18,382
10-14	5.9%	17,215
14-19	5.2%	15,172

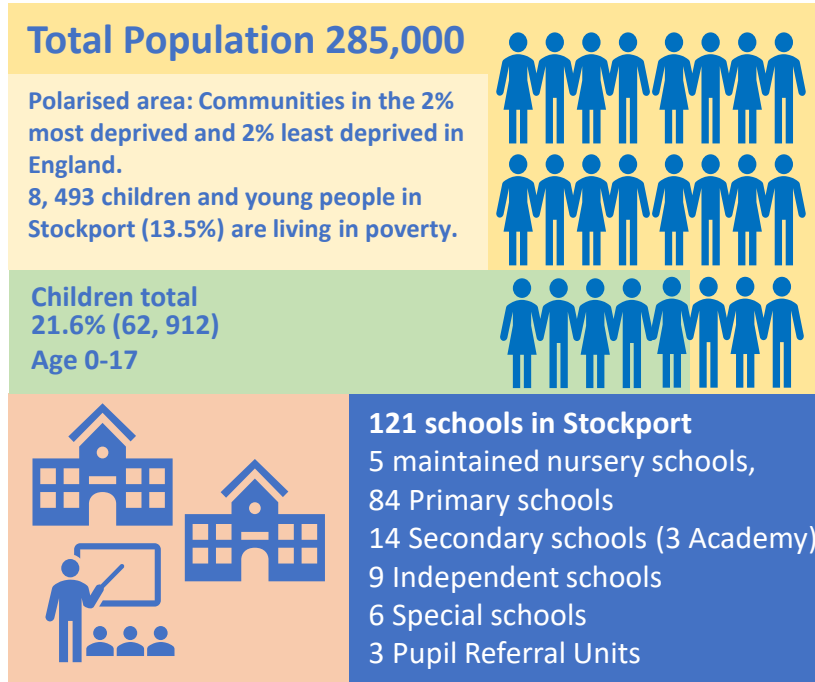


The town also has several charities and voluntary sector organisations offering services for children and young people, to include Together Trust, Seashell Trust, Signpost Young Carers, Stockport Action for Voluntary Youth, Beacon counselling, Stockport Women's Centre, Stockport without Abuse, Disability Stockport, Parents in Partnership, Stockport Action for Voluntary Youth



# The Town of Stockport

GREATER MANCHESTER  
Combined Authority Region



There are **2,233** children with an Education Health and Care plan. (EHCP) **5,481** children are receiving Special Educational Needs and Disabilities support.

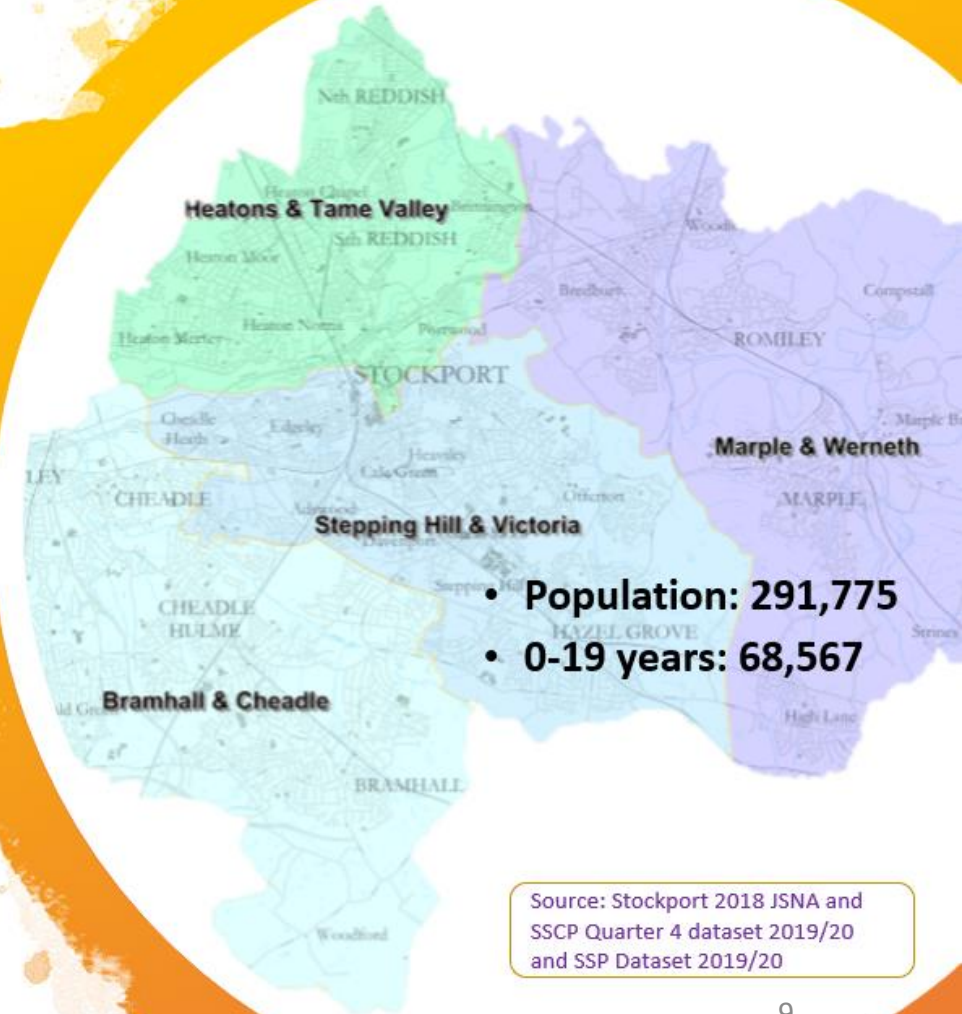
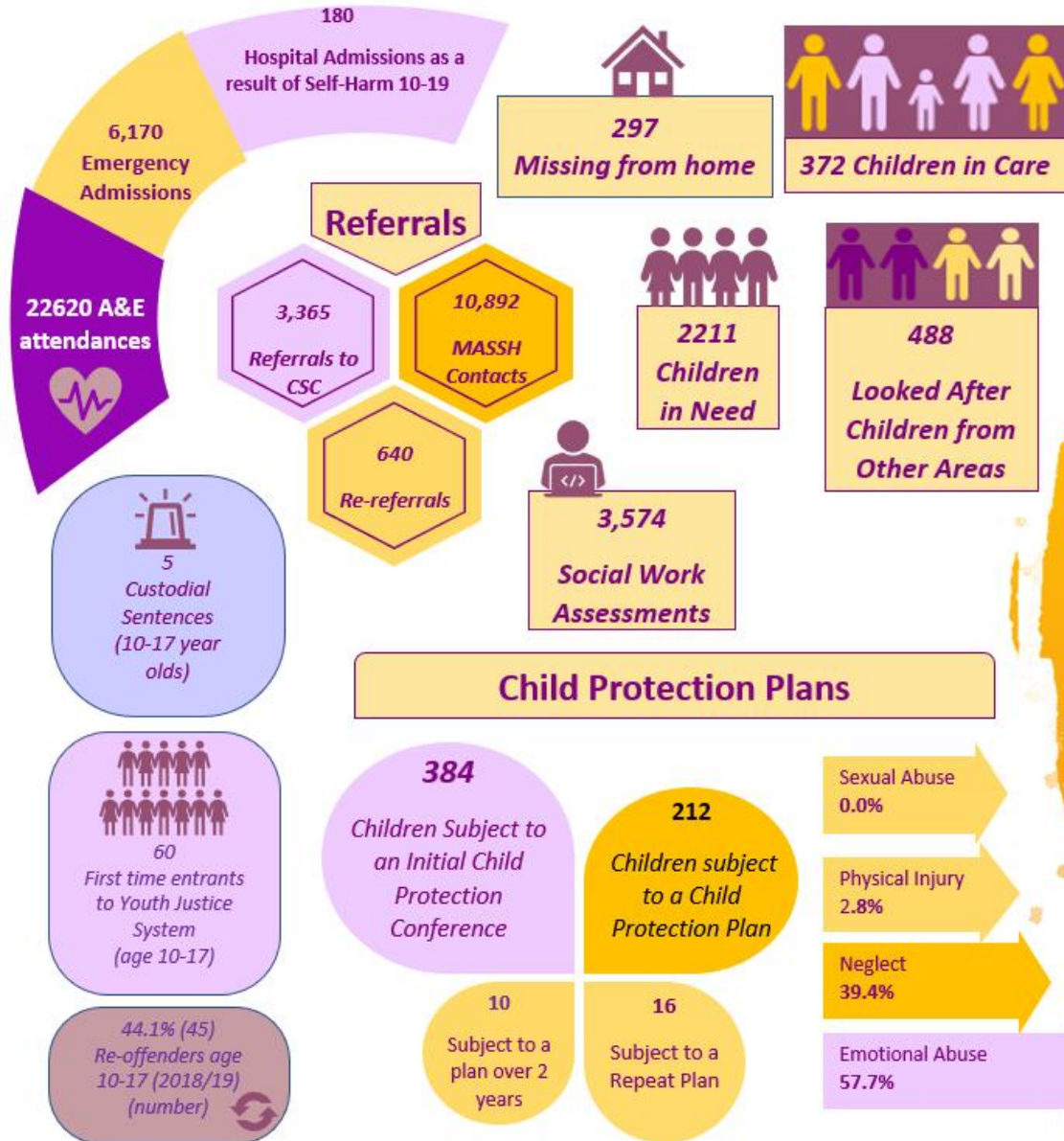
The town also has several charities and voluntary sector organisations offering services for children and young people, including:

Together Trust, Seashell Trust, Signpost Young Carers, Stockport Action for Voluntary Youth, Beacon counselling, Stockport Women's Centre, Stockport without Abuse, Disability Stockport and Parents in Partnership.





# Safeguarding for Young People



Source: Stockport 2018 JSNA and  
SSCP Quarter 4 dataset 2019/20  
and SSP Dataset 2019/20

# Vision, Aims and Values

**Our vision** is 'working in partnership to support and safeguard the people of Stockport to enable them to live safe, healthy and, where possible, independent lives'.

## Our Aims

The Safeguarding Partnership has extended the definition of safeguarding to include prevention and promotion of welfare and has a remit to promote the safety and welfare of all children in Stockport, in addition to continuing to lead in the well-established area of child protection for those who are vulnerable.

### Governance:

- To develop and agree local policies and procedures for inter-agency work to protect children, within the national framework.

### Communication

- To raise awareness within the wider community of the need to safeguard children and promote their welfare.

### Scrutiny, challenge and quality assurance

- To audit and evaluate how well local services work together to protect children
- To put in place objectives and performance indicators
- To encourage effective working relationships between services and professional groups, based on trust and mutual understanding
- To ensure agreement across agencies about operational definitions and thresholds

### Learning and development

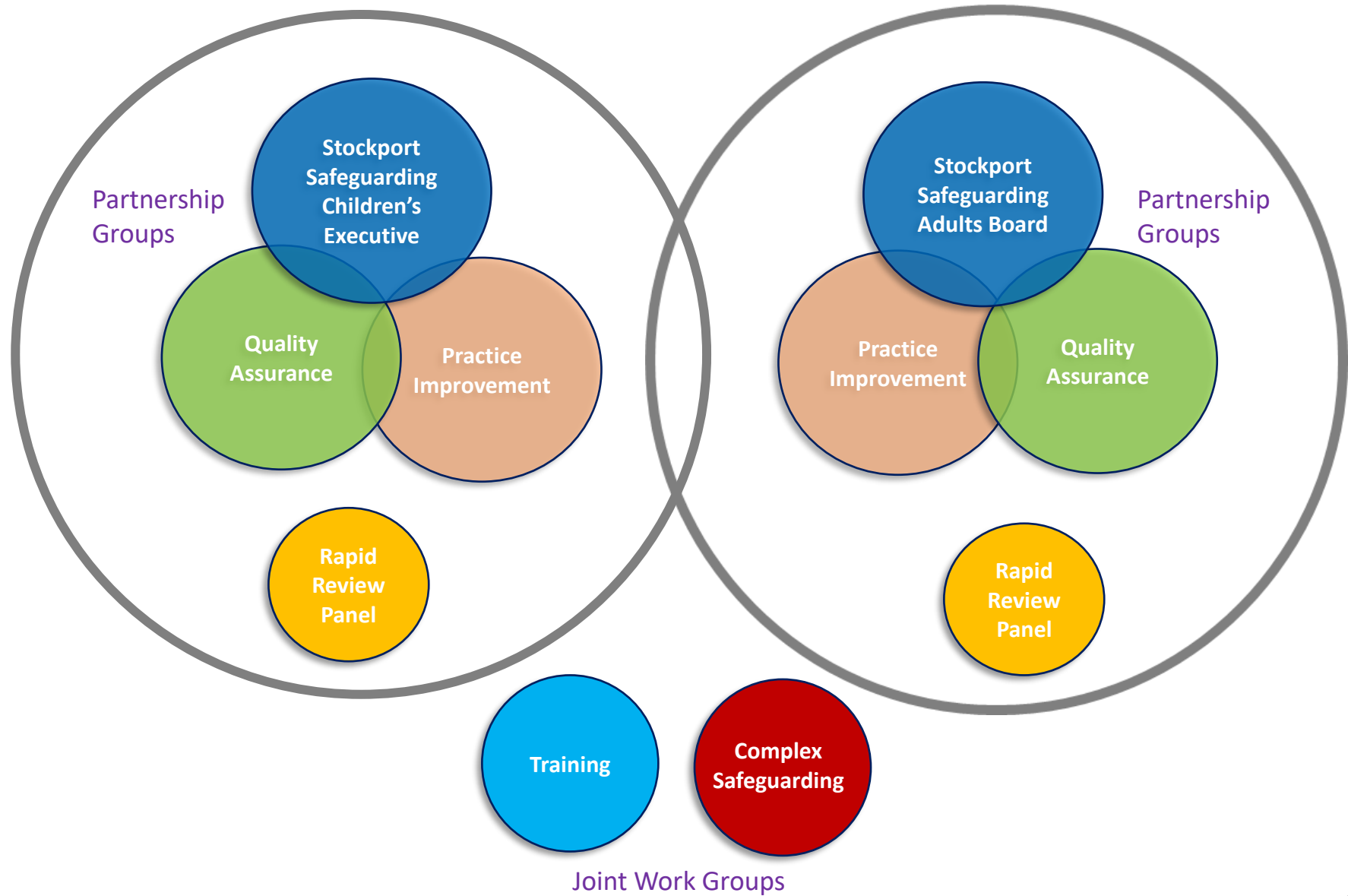
- To improve local ways of working based on knowledge from national and local experience and research, and to ensure lessons learned are acted upon
- To undertake case reviews where a child has died or in certain circumstances has been seriously harmed
- To help improve the quality of child protection work through inter agency training and development

# New Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements

- In September 2019, the Stockport Safeguarding Children Board was replaced by the Stockport Safeguarding Children Partnership, reflecting the guidance set out in Working Together 2018 and in the Children and Social Work Act 2017.
- Details of Stockport's arrangements can be found [here](#).
- This report will capture the ways in which partners have sought and utilised feedback from children and families to inform their work and influence service provision.



# Governance



# Subgroups

The Children and Social Work Act (2017) set out provisions, which will replace Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB) with new flexible working arrangements, led by 3 safeguarding partners (local authorities, chief officers of police and clinical commissioning groups).

The Act places a duty on those partners to make arrangements to work together with any relevant agencies for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children within the area.

The guidance for the new safeguarding arrangements is set out in Working Together 2018

Whilst the Safeguarding Children Partnership will include and relate to all agencies with responsibilities and interests in the safeguarding of children and young people, including for example, Education and those in the Third Sector, the three agencies with statutory responsibilities will together share particular duties with respect to seeing the strategic direction for safeguarding, and for the overall governance of the partnership.

The changes see three key partnership groups and two joint working groups with the Adult Board.

These include. The SCP Executive. The Quality Assurance and Scrutiny Partnership and the Practice Improvement Partnership.

The two joint working groups are. The Complex Safeguarding Group and the Training and Development Group.



## Role of the Chair and Vice Chair

The SCP Executive is chaired by an Independent Chair, who is appointed by the Chief Executive of Stockport Council. The Chair appointment will be reviewed 2 yearly, appraisals taking place annually during this period. The Chair works closely with the Director of Children's Services and the Head of Safeguarding and Learning and with all SCP Safeguarding Partners and Relevant agencies.

The role of the Chair is to provide independent scrutiny and challenge across the partnership.

The Vice Chair will be nominated and appointed by the SCP bi-annually to stand in for the Chair when required to do so. The Vice Chair will be one of the 3 Statutory Safeguarding Partners.





# Values – How we work Together



# Working with other Strategic Boards in Stockport



# The Strategic Plan (2017-2020)

The vision of the SSCP is translated into action through the three year Strategic Plan and this is underpinned by a more detailed Business Plan which is reviewed and refreshed annually. The current Strategic Plan (2017-20) is based on four priorities:

- Transitions
- Neglect
- Domestic Abuse
- Complex Safeguarding

The next slides demonstrate the progress made within the above priorities.



# Transitions – Progress to date

## Achievements

- Over the last two years there has been significant focus on looked after children transitioning to adult services. New transition social workers have been employed in adult social care and planning now starts at 15. The Multi Agency Adults at Risk Panel has been refreshed and supports cases where vulnerable young people present chaotic lifestyles and are not eligible for adult social care support by developing a multi agency plan.

## How do we know we've made an impact

- There has been a significant drop in presentations to the Multi Agency Adults at Risk panel with just 8 presentations in 2019/2020 compared to 26 in 2017/2018. (Down 69%.)

## Challenges remaining

- Ofsted inspected Stockport's special education needs and disability services in September 2018. Whilst, many good things were identified there were also areas of weakness. A Written Statement of Action has been prepared and the challenge is to deliver against this in 2019/2020/2021.



# Neglect – Progress to date

## Neglect – Achievements

- An all age Neglect Strategy has been developed based on learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews and Serious Case Reviews.
- Graded Care Profile 2 has been purchased as our Neglect tool and has been rolled out to all relevant staff with training well almost complete.

## How do we know we've made an impact.

- Child Protection Plans due to neglect have reduced from 41% in 2018/2019 to 36%

## Neglect – Challenges

- The action plan for neglect needs to be completed. An audit of child protection plans for neglect is planned for 2020/2021.
- Implement the updated version of the evidenced based tool to assess parenting and its impact on neglect of children. In 2019/20 GCP 2 training has continued and 133 of the multi-agency workforce have attended the training.. A desk top audit

took place in Q3 and this showed for those children with CCP plans for Neglect 32% had a GCP2 in place.

- However there were issues in identifying this as there has been the difficulty in creating an embedded form in Liquid Logic, which enables data counting; this has now been remedied.
- A further desk top audit is due to take place in September 2020.





# Domestic Violence and Abuse

## Achievements

- There has been considerable activity around domestic violence and abuse in the last 12 months.
- Most significantly, a bid to the home office for funding was successful and as a result, we have been able to increase capacity with our Complex Safeguarding Team and employ a maternity and a young person's Independent Domestic Violence Advocate.
- System wide training was launched in 2019/2020 and specialist training was delivered to police officers in Stockport.
- A new perpetrator programme was piloted, offering reflective skills, behavior change and a framework for fathers to improve their relationship with their children, and understand the impact of their harmful behaviour.
- A new GP-IDVA pilot started in two demographically different areas of Stockport, directly engaging the community in response to domestic abuse incidents.

## How we know we've made an impact

- We offered Domestic Abuse training and DASH-RIC training to more than 120 professionals, and we had the highest number of identifying domestic abuse incidents and referral for multi-professional and multi-agency support. (Leading to Increased DA referrals.)
- Data produced by GMP demonstrated an increase of referral by primary care, acute care and mental health services to Multi Agency Risk Management Conference.
- The coordinated specialism and key skill for engaging young people to disclose domestic abuse, supported young people who were victims of DA, to engage in services, seek safety advice and discuss DA with peers through various school forums. The findings of this service informed the development of a clear and simple referral pathway and facilitated timely identification and referrals.
- Schools, colleges, GPs and Leaving care teams became more aware of identifying

signs of domestic abuse in younger people and seeking advice from the specialist service.

- GP IDVA demonstrated between 48% and 100% increase of DA disclosure to the GPs and almost 70% of the patients stated they have never disclosed DA and they would not have sought support, if the IDVA GP service was not available. GP IDVA had 100% engagement from two areas that historically had very little engagement history with DA services

## Challenges

- Young Person DA service highlighted the importance of targeted early interventions for prevention, as 70.8% of the young victims and young perpetrators, were known to the services due to parental domestic abuse.
- Engaging men in accessing help and support. All the fathers who participated in caring dads, had adverse childhood experiences, current mental health needs and didn't fully engage with services prior to this programme.
- GP IDVA demonstrated the need for community navigators, named practitioners and flexibility in execution of service delivery in different areas to improve engagement, which could pose a challenge to develop and sustain.
- The dynamics of coercive control in older people appears to be an area requiring more focus, training and better awareness.
- Engaging Black, Asian, Ethnic Minority groups in Stockport in DA safeguarding conversations, and increasing to reduce disparity in outcomes and engagement



# Complex Safeguarding – Progress to date

## Complex Safeguarding – Achievement

- An all age complex safeguarding group is well established and has developed a strategy and action plan. Innovation funded social workers are delivering the GM specialist support – Achieving Change Together.
- A missing hub, providing a multi agency response to missing children has seen reductions in missing children.
- Stockport's response to complex safeguarding for children and families is led by the Aspire service bringing together social workers and Child Sexual Exploitation police officers, an emotional health and wellbeing team, an ACT (achieving change together) social worker, clinical psychologist, school nurse, YOS officer, business support officer, young person's Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) and adult's IDVA. The service is co-located in the multi-agency support and safeguarding hub (MASSH), where the Challenger (serious and organised crime) police team are also based.
- The service provides a holistic approach to identify and support children, young people and families who are at risk of, or victims of: female genital mutilation (FGM), radicalisation, serious organised crime, criminal and sexual exploitation, domestic abuse and forced marriage, modern day slavery and human trafficking.

- Stockport has imported the Achieving Change Together (ACT) model through the scale and spread of GM innovation. ACT social workers work with children who are at risk of, or experiencing, exploitation and placement instability and work therapeutically and flexibly around the young person's needs and timeframes.

## How we know we've made an impact

- 18 children or young people were closed to the complex safeguarding service.
- All were signposted to other services for ongoing support.
- 83% (15) formed at least one positive trusted relationship whilst working with the team
- 72% (13) were deemed to have engaged in positive activities
- At least one of their goals was achieved in almost every case, where they had been agreed or discussed in most cases (94%; 17).

## Complex Safeguarding – Challenges

- An audit of impact needs to be undertaken.



# How the SSCP Delivers the Plan

The Partnership is supported by the SSCP Partnership Team. This includes, a Performance and Development Manager. A Training Manager who oversees our multi-agency training schedule and two Quality Assurance officers. One of whom also works for the Adults board.

The partnership is financed by contributions from partners in Stockport

Contributions received	2019/2020
CAFCASS	£550
Stockport NHS Foundation Trust	£4,000
GM Police	£13,800
Probation	£2,664
NHS CCG	£32,000
Adult board	£17,000
Sub-total	£70,014
Local Authority Contribution	£95,000
LA Reserves for Reviews	£15,477
Sub-total	£110,477
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£180,491</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Staffing costs	£130,511
Independent Chair	£9,250
Sub-total	£139,761
Other costs	
SCR / MALR	£19,500
Sundries	£5,054
Conference venues and refreshments	£3,676
CDOP	£12,500
Sub-total	£40,730
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£180,491</b>

The Safeguarding Unit facilitates and develops the work of the SSCP through partnerships and Task and Finish Groups.

- The core Partnerships meet on a regular basis to monitor and progress their components of the business plan. Established groups meet at least quarterly, with additional sessions arranged as required.
- Reports of work undertaken, decisions made and annual summaries are provided to the Executive partnership for consideration.
- These groups are chaired by representatives that sit on the Executive partnership and are responsible for driving the work of the partnership, as well as highlighting areas of safeguarding that needs a more strategic multi-agency response.



# Response to Covid-19

Due to the Corona Virus pandemic, the UK Government imposed lockdown restrictions on the evening of Monday 23rd March 2020.

The SSCPs functions continued to operate by virtual meetings, with some areas of the business temporarily stepping down. Face-to-face training was suspended until further notice, with a caveat in place to provide virtual sessions over the forthcoming months. Online training and resources were also available via Stockport's learning pool for the workforce to access until easements had begun to relax.

During the unprecedented time, we increased our publicity and developed a [Covid -19 safeguarding website](#) providing key safeguarding information, specific to Covid-19. Additionally, weekly bulletins were produced and disseminated to partners with highlights of service updates, along with guidance and useful resources for supporting and working with adults at risk during these times.

Key messages were also tweeted via our Social Media platforms and we expanded our reach to inform twitter users of the resources and services available within the local area, and at a national level too.

Emergency operating guidance was developed for a range of areas; domestic abuse, independent reviewing officers, schools and Stockport Family workers.

A weekly data set was produced which allowed close scrutiny of trends and for any action necessary to be identified. Guidance for home visits was developed and shared with front line workers.

Risk assessments were undertaken for more than 5000 vulnerable children.

Communication was vital throughout such uncertain times. We introduced safeguarding weekly check in meetings aligned with colleagues from Stockport Adult Safeguarding Board. The purpose of the meetings was to look at emerging themes and to share what was working well with partners. To support this a weekly dataset was created and shared. The meetings were received from the partnership and was an opportunity for partners to share and support good examples of practice.

We developed a Covid-19 risk response and assurance register where partner agencies contributed by sharing their respective top 5 risks to the SSCP for assurances. The SSCP maintained oversight of the register and agencies self assessments helped to inform the Covid-19 risk register, and to assist to escalate any new/emerging risks.

# Learning Model

After discussions at the development day in January 2020 the following were found as key areas of focus for our local partnership model:

- The SO WHAT? question – ensuring our activity impacts upon practice in the required way.
- Think Family – implementing joined up learning for the children and adult's workforce.
- Embedding learning to affect upon practice – ensuring an effective feedback cycle.
- Building upon the evidence and lessons from our multi-agency audit schedule.
- Being priority based to be able to progress the priorities of the Joint strategic plan.
- Priority rather than geographically based.

## Model agreed to be implemented in 2020/2021

Frontline practitioners will offer insight and be champions to cascade learning & change.

The model will build in features of service user feedback as seen in the Bexley Model.

This approach will also involve adult partners so that we take a joint approach to multi-agency learning.

This model most closely reflects the aspirations identified when the new partnership arrangements were developed.

Through feeding directly to frontline team leaders, the messages for

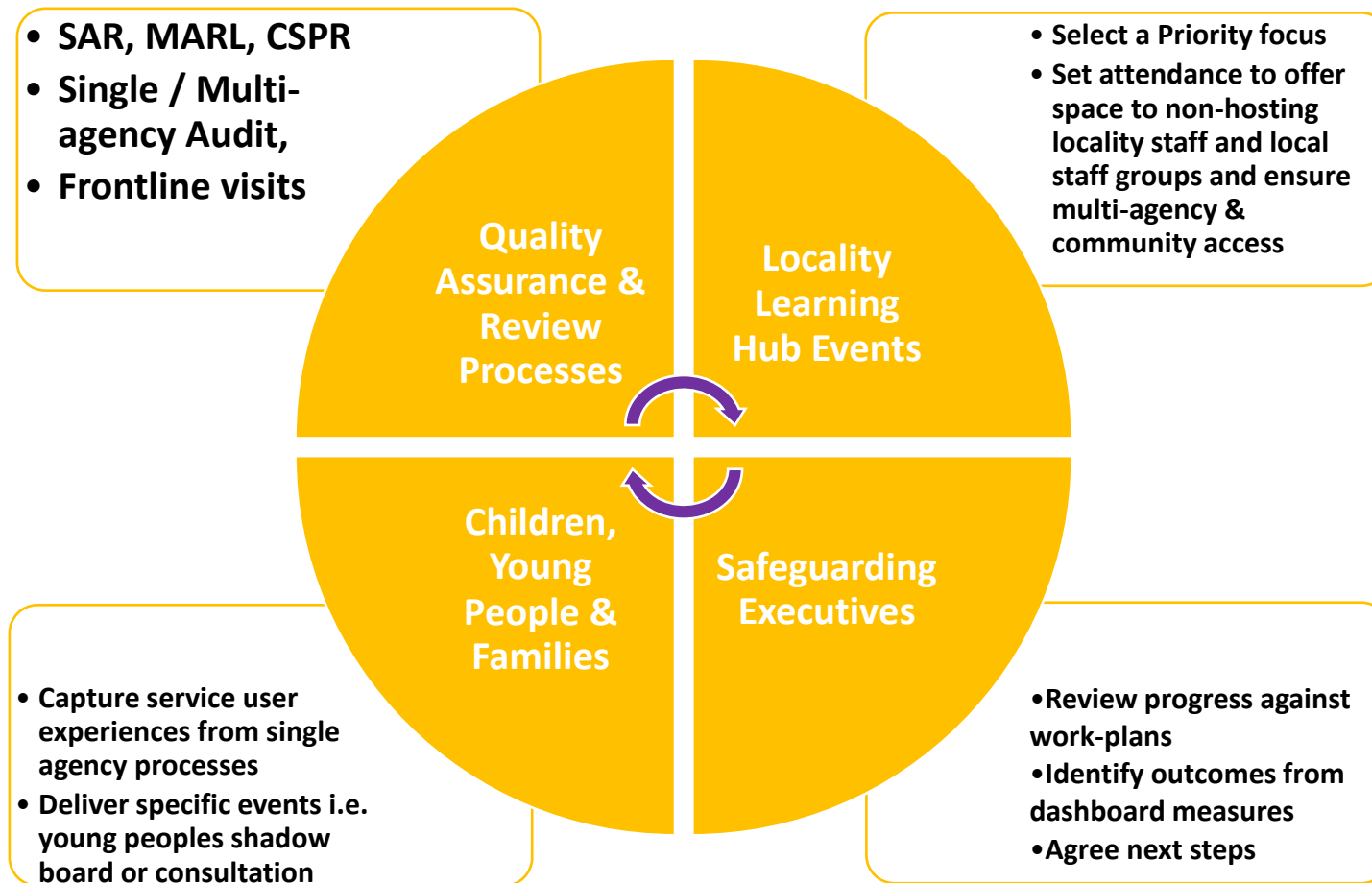
change and reasons, the aim is to capture how these can be implemented in practice from the frontline. This feedback can then inform quality assurance approaches such as audit or visits which can then test if that change and knowledge is in place. To support exploration of “so what” we will also triangulate data and frontline feedback with the views of those experiencing practice. This format of a cycle of learning & change can also inform the direction of travel of the partnerships priorities with feedback informing the priorities moving forward in future years.

The Hub events themselves will be informed by learning from quality assurance, so will feature key themes from reviews and audit with materials to support cascade. Each time they will be tailored to what has been learnt and changes for practice with a view to sending attendees out to cascade further and supply feedback on current challenges, what works and what they need from the partnership. There will be supporting materials to help this within single agency existing processes such as team meetings, safeguarding sites, bulletins, or training.

Sessions will be aimed at the whole workforce not just adult or children. This will help shared understanding and support more joined up focuses as we progress. Where there is a specific child or adult focus, we will acknowledge these but aim to balance a learning events focus to meet the needs of both workforces. For example, introducing GCP2 alongside self-neglect materials.



# Learning Model



### Practice Improvement Partnership

The work of this partnership group will be underpinned by a Learning and Improvement Framework, to build on the experience, knowledge and skills that staff require for working with children and families. It will include a series of multi-agency safeguarding learning and development opportunities.

It will be responsible for overseeing case reviews; initiating, reviewing and endorsing policy and practice guidance/standards; ensuring communication, including practitioner bulletins and seven minute guides across the partnership, identifying best practice; learning from published inspections, case reviews and research to continuously improve the quality of services and outcomes for children.

### Joint Partnership Working Groups

These groups will support the delivery of the Children and Adult Safeguarding Partnership Business Plan; and will be made up of Children and Adult representation across the partnership. They will report to the Children Safeguarding Partnership and the Adult Safeguarding Board. The Partnership Working Groups will change as the work is completed and embedded into the work of the subgroups; and as the priorities of the partnership are reviewed.

### Complex Safeguarding

A priority area for the Safeguarding Partnership is Complex Safeguarding there is a Joint Adults and Children's Complex Safeguarding Strategy 2018-2020 in place. Our vision is to provide a strong partnership response across

### Quality Assurance and Scrutiny Partnership

Scrutiny and challenge will be provided by a Quality Assurance Partnership which will report to the Executive Partnership. This will include identifying risks to improving outcomes across the partnership that will be added to the partnerships risk register where they will be monitored and challenged until progress is made.

The work of this subgroup is underpinned by a Quality Assurance Framework and will scrutinize all relevant agencies in relation to the indicators within the performance dashboard, oversee audit schedules

Multi agency and single agency, Section 11/175 audits and ensure that the voice of the front line practitioner and the child and family is influencing service redesign. This subgroup will be responsible for the moderation of all completed action plans for case reviews that have been overseen by the Practice Improvement Partnership – in order to scrutinize the evidence provided and to include ongoing assurance through the multi-agency audit programmer and performance

### Training and Development

The working group will take responsibility for identifying training needs across the partnership and developing a training plan. Stockport Safeguarding Partnership has a commitment to developing safeguarding in delivery the services for children and their families within Stockport.

This has driven a culture of collaboration, challenge, learning and improvement across all organizations which work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The learning style within Stockport and across the children's workforce should follow some basic

## Practice Improvement Partnership (PIP)

### The PIP have:

- Overseen a Safe Sleep Task and Finish Group to produce 7 minute briefings in relation to [Vulnerable babies](#) and [babies](#)
- Supported the development of a 7 minute briefing for [Neglect and the Older Child](#)
- Supported learning processes for 3 multi agency learning reviews leading to a number of learning circle events for local professionals
- Overseen the progress of a Serious Case Review soon to be published
- Developed the local Rapid Review process and associated policy documents that can be accessed [here](#)
- Worked with the National Panel to explore Sudden and Unexpected Deaths in Infants
- Explored a Learning Hub model approach for Stockport and piloted an event to promote the new arrangements and cascade learning from the priority area work

## Quality Assurance and Scrutiny Partnership (QAP)

### The QAP have:

- Developed a local data and intelligence dashboard to guide QAP focuses and provide assurance to the partners of the effectiveness of local practice
- Piloted a multi-agency audit methodology to ensure frontline professionals are at the center of learning
- Undertaken section 11 processes and sought assurances through single agency audit and annual reporting around: Female Genital Mutilation, Knife Crime, Young peoples mental health presentations in Emergency Departments, GP engagement in Child Protection Conferences, Child Protection Plans, Health needs of home schooled children, SEND
- Overseen the implementation plan for the Graded care Profile neglect assessment tool and progress against the areas Neglect plan
- Undertaken multi-agency audits in relation to Child Sexual Abuse and Mental Health

## Complex Safeguarding

### The Joint Adult and Children's Complex Safeguarding group have:

- Developed a local [Honour Based Violence/Abuse and Forced Marriage Strategy](#)
- Supported development of the Aspire complex safeguarding service
- Delivered a week of action to raise awareness around Complex Safeguarding
- Overseen the delivery of ACT – Achieving Change Together model of practice leading to real improvements in at risk children's risk levels, education goals & achievements and reductions in offending behaviour
- Developed a local Complex safeguard

## Training and Development

### The Joint Safeguarding Children and Adult working group have led on:

- The New all Age Domestic Abuse Awareness training as a train the trainer model leading to 168 trained professionals since its introduction in November 2019
- Implementation of Graded Care Profile assessment tool 2 roll out
- A multi-agency safeguarding Training matrix and timetable of training to 568 staff
- Website improvements and alignment for SAB and SSCP
- Early Help Assessment (EHA) training returning to the [training timetable](#) with a dedicated pool of trainers.
- Commissioning of new courses in relation to: FGM awareness, GM Understanding Exploitation, and Mental Capacity Act consent & decision making
- e-learning programmes including Domestic abuse, all age basic safeguarding course, coercion and control
- Facilitation of a number of Conferences: Complex safeguarding conference March 2019, Children Affected by [Domestic Abuse Conference](#) March 2020, Joint [Safeguarding Conference](#) October 2019

# Quality Assurance and Inspection

## Multi-Agency Audit

A multi-agency audit using a pilot methodology on the theme of Children's Mental Health Age 10-17 was conducted in November 2019. The theme reflects that of the JTAI but is extended in age range to capture transitions. The action plan arising from this audit is currently being competed to ensure that the audit process itself is robust and that learning identified is embedded into practice.

A multi-agency audit methodology has been written which includes changes made from the learning during the pilot. For 2020/21 there are 3 audits are planned, one of which will be conducted jointly with the SSAB on the theme of transitions looking specifically at MAARS.

## Quality Assurance Framework

The Quality Assurance Framework is in place and sets out expectations for the Partnership and its partner agencies.



## Revised Data Set

The data set has been reviewed and a revised dataset was produced for Q3 and Q4 to more closely reflect the thematic priorities. This has led to reduction in the number of measures being presented to the Partnership, since those which were not informing the priorities have been removed, with other new measures being added to allow for greater scrutiny of the 4 themes. In addition core business measures are reported upon, as well as an infographic giving a snapshot picture of Stockport as a whole. The approach has allowed the partnership clearer critical oversight of the priorities which are currently in place. The dataset will be reviewed annually to ensure it is providing the key information required. Additionally should partner agencies notice a trend which needs to be reported to the partnership there are mechanisms in place to facilitate this.

## As a result of learning from quality assurance we have...

1. Produced information and guidance for young people, parents and carers in relation to preparing for adulthood and transitions as a result of recognising the potential for gaps between adult and children's services
2. We have linked our Safeguarding Children and Adult Partnership websites to ensure that the public and professionals can easily access resources from both partnerships
3. Delivered learning circles to adult and children services to develop a better understanding of SEND and transitions
4. Strengthened representation of adult and children's services at Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences
5. Developed & Circulated a 7 minute briefing following on from the multi-agency audit of mental health in young people to highlight the importance of good multi-agency information sharing to ensure good engagement and outcomes
6. A directory of mental health services was created to support appropriate referrals by professionals into effective interventions

# Learning from Serious Case Reviews

There were three serious case reviews undertaken in 2018/19. One of which is ongoing.

## Serious Case Reviews

### Child E – Published

- Lack of focus on the birth father
- Over optimism on parents being able to separate and how realistic permanent separation was.
- The impact of domestic abuse as a longstanding factor in parent's relationship and the importance to fully assess and understand the risks presented in domestic abuse relationships.
- Difficulties around managing an outside area mother and baby placement, over reliance on daily observations, the role of the foster carer in mother and baby placements and how concerns could be escalated
- Cross border information sharing. Both parents spent time in different geographical areas and practitioners should consider the importance of how we share information across geographical borders.
- Practitioners should aim to have one single multi agency plan rather than individual plans.

### Baby M – Published

- The impact of alcohol, substance use and smoking on safe sleep for infants.
- Information Sharing and discharge planning
- The impact of having a poorly child on a family
- The use of Early Help Services / Assessments as a means of supporting families who present with a child who has complex health needs.

## Rapid Reviews

- Working Together 2018 identifies that where a case is a "serious child safeguarding case then partners must make arrangements to identify, commission and oversee arrangements for the review process.
- There have been seven rapid review referrals in 2019/2020. The Ethnicity of these cases was White British and the outcome was;
  - 1 ongoing CSPR
  - 2 did not indicate a need for multi-agency practice learning events and so did not progress from screening
  - 2 led to a thematic review of serious youth crime
  - 2 required action by a single agency to address a learning point identified
- These children's experiences have identified the following learning:
  - A lack of a coordinated plan for service delivery
  - A lack of understanding of the impact of trauma on children and their families.
  - Not fully understanding the mental health needs of the child
  - Learning in relation to the recording of unidentified marks on an immobile baby and how these should be followed up.
  - Evidence of strong multi-agency working once fabricated or induced illness was identified.

## National Review Visit

- Following a previous rapid review, the National Review on Sudden Unexpected Deaths in Children (SUDC) visited Stockport on the 25 November. Emerging themes from this visit were that
- Practitioners were a credit to the partnership
- There was a clear purposeful partnership response to the issues of SUDI and safe sleep.
- There was a strong focus on doing the best for children and families.
- That the Stockport Family and restorative approaches, come through and that practitioners were optimistic, positive and reflective.
- A further task and finish group will take place in the New Year around the tasks and learning that have been identified through this process



# Involving Children and Families

## **Children in Care Council (CiCC)**

The group meets once a week and the young people take part in a variety of activities. Some of these activities concentrate on issues that are directly relevant to being a looked-after young person; some of the issues are relevant to all young people. The young people are encouraged to think about the issues through discussion, practical activities and by meeting with people who represent organizations relevant to particular issues. The young people are also encouraged to talk about what is going on in their lives and to get support from the other young people who are in a similar position.

There are also opportunities to take part in social activities organized by the Youth Worker.

Every six weeks the young people have the opportunity to meet with senior managers and elected members to report on what they have been doing and to ask questions of these decision makers.

The young people are also encouraged to be involved in a regional network of CiCC that meets three times per year in the North West. The Youth Worker supports them to attend this.

During Covid-19 The Children in Care Council members met via virtual meetings.



## **Stockport Youth Council**

The group meets once a week, is led by the young people and the young people work on 'campaigns' that focus on issues that they have identified as being of importance to young people locally. The young people may choose to learn about a particular issue or they sometimes decide to produce a resource that highlights a particular issue or organize an event to promote the issue.

The young people are given a level of freedom to work on their 'campaigns' and the Youth Worker is available to advise them and to find resources and support that they may need.

Several members of the youth council are Stockport's representatives at regional and national organizations such as the UK Youth Parliament and the Greater Manchester Youth Combined Authority. Youth Councilors also attend a regional event called Youthforia, where they can build relationships with other young people who are involved in other youth councils in the North West.

During Covid-19 Stockport Youth Council met online every Wednesday. They were involved in producing a weekly newsletter that is sent to the Stockport Family teams. The young people have also produced artwork that offers thanks to key workers

Members of the youth council have also been involved in online meetings with the Greater Manchester Youth Combined Authority (including with a question and answer slot with the GM Mayor), Bee Heard (a group looking at issues relating to young people's mental health), the Environment Working Group and the Coop Foundation Young People Reference Group.

## **Next Steps**

A participation task and finish group is to be set up in September. To look at how we can more effectively involve families in the work of the partnership. 29

# Practice Week

Two Practice Weeks were held in 19/20. The first involving children's social care only and the second involving all agencies within Stockport Family. As part of the exercise, reviewers are asked to seek feedback from children and families where appropriate. Feedback was obtained from 19 children and families. The feedback was overwhelmingly favourable. Here's a flavour of what they told us:

I get on really well with my social worker. She's been my social worker for ages and understands me, I can speak to her about things. She knows sister and other family members and we all know and respect her and can talk to her about anything (Child)

Foster carer feels she has a great working relationship with SSW, he is always available when needed, visits around 6 weekly which is an opportunity to discuss the children on shortbreaks placements, explore her training needs and any new referrals.

I am just really pleased – really pleased with his report and everything (Grandma of a 10 year old looked after boy at his PEP review).

I get a lot of support from the YOS. (Young person) Working with MOSAIC has been fantastic. (Parent)

I've not known this social worker all that long – if I ring him he always calls back (Foster carer).

SW has taken the time to listen to me (Parent).

FSW has helped as she has enabled the contacts to be natural. She has enabled me to have control of the contact and also what we do i.e. cooks meals, play, have tea. FSW is there but respectful and doesn't intrude or undermine me. Contacts have been better as structured which gives me better time with my children. (Parent)

MOSAIC worker has helped me during my pregnancy and after to stop smoking cannabis. He has been supportive. It has made a big difference; I feel much better. (Young person).

Since School Age+ worker is back involved it feels like things have moved forward. Nothing seemed to be progressing till she came back. She is supportive and there if I need her. (Parent)

Couldn't have got through all this without School Age+ worker. She's fantastic. She has always involved us. (Parent)

Mosaic is a really good service. They have helped me from being 14 years old with my drug use. I have felt involved in the decision-making and the plan. Detox really helped too. (Young person)



# Child Death Overview Panel

Under the new safeguarding arrangements laid out in the Children and Social Work Act 2017, Child Death Overview Panels (CDOPs) are no longer part of the Local Safeguarding Partnership (LSP) arrangements. Locally, the CDOP reporting arrangements changed from October 2019. The Health and Wellbeing Boards are now responsible for local CDOP arrangements.

The Stockport, Tameside and Trafford Child Death Overview Panel (STT CDOP) undertakes a review of all child deaths (excluding both those babies who are still born and planned terminations of pregnancy carried out within the law) up to the age of 18 years normally resident in one of the three boroughs, and if they consider it appropriate any non-resident child who has died in their area.

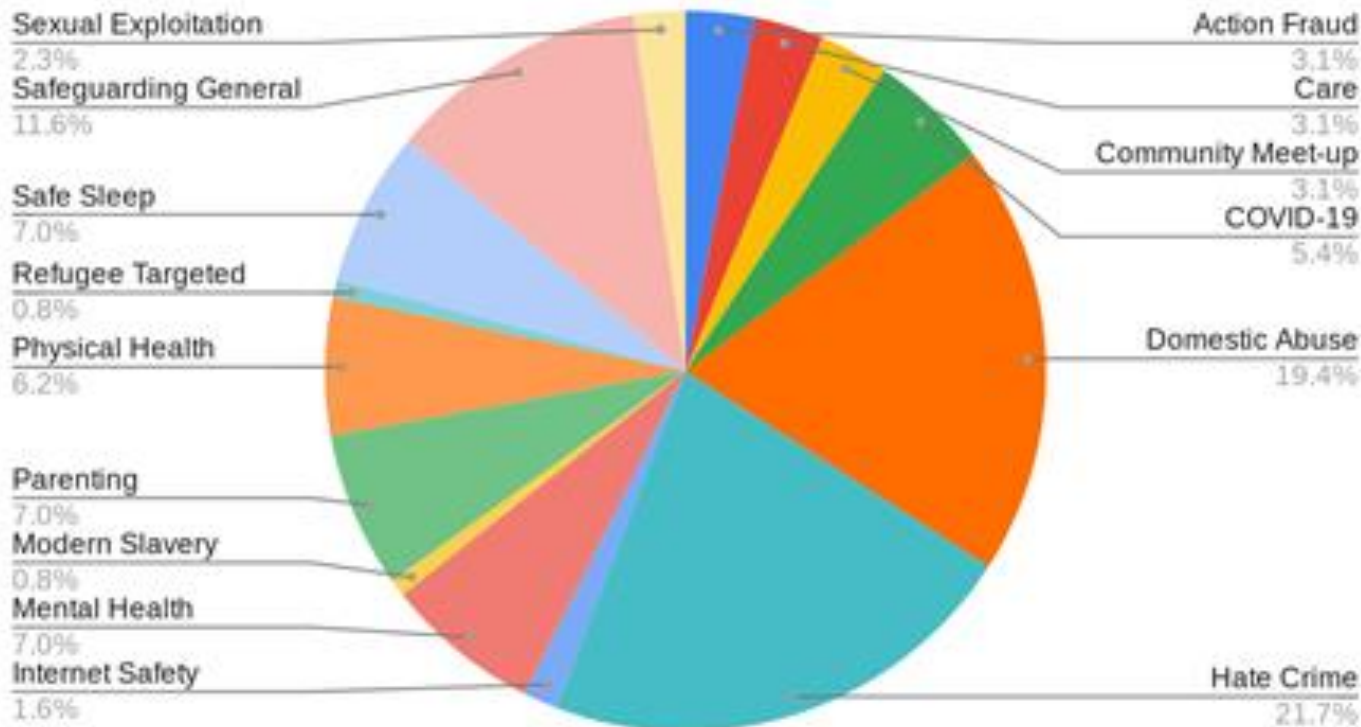
STT CDOP Independent Chair publishes an annual report in September each year, which will be available on the Partnerships website.

In Greater Manchester, CDOP accountability and reporting will be to the Health and Wellbeing Boards (H&WB) across Greater Manchester who will scrutinise the process and receive information such as the annual report and emerging trends in child deaths across the region.

Locally, our partners support the CDOP operational processes and the Partnership receives assurances and key lessons learnt via the governance structure noted in page 15.

# Social Media

Count of Theme



- We have highlighted a service 103 times (79% of our tweets)
- We have advertised an event or conference 8 times (6% of our tweets)
- We have encouraged participation through offering views and consultation 7 times (5.54% of our tweets)
- We have signposted e-learning 3 times (just 2% of our tweets)

# Our shared strategic priorities 2020-23

In January both Children and Adults Safeguarding Partnerships came together to attend a joint development day. The event was well attended and the purpose of the day was to develop the Safeguarding Partnerships three year strategic plan 2020-23.

Feedback was collated from both front line workers who attended the Annual Safeguarding Conference in October 2019, along with Executive colleagues at the development day in January 2020. Overall, feedback obtained from both events were similar and our strategic plan was developed, expressing our priorities for the next 3 years.

Our priorities are articulated further within the [SSCP/SSAB - Shared Strategic Plan 2020-2023](#), a copy of which can be found in the Stockport Safeguarding Children Partnership Website.



The thematic areas of focus will be:

- Transitions
  - Implementation of Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS)
  - Neglect/Self-Neglect
  - Safe Sleep
  - Homelessness
- 
- To improve frontline practice.
  - Receive assurance that Safeguarding arrangements are embedded in all agencies commissioning strategies and service specifications.
  - Keep the focus on our most vulnerable children and adults.
  - Effectively engage with our frontline Practitioners, Service Users, families and/or their representatives.

# SSCP Priorities for 2020-21

Stockport Safeguarding Children's Partnership is dynamic and is currently working against the three year strategic business plan that will see the next 12 months being transformational in how the partnership performs its functions for the children, families and adults at risk in Stockport.

The partnership has agreed its key priorities to drive its work for the next three years.  
Here is some of what we need to do more of in 2020-21:

Continue to rise to the challenge of leading the safeguarding children's culture in Stockport and to make sure that our collective vision, values and aims translate into our frontline practice.

Improve frontline practice which we will apply through auditing and completing front line practice visits within localities.

Continue to work with Stockport Safeguarding Adult Partnership and continue to develop all age strategies and policies in order to join up working between children and adult services.

Concentrate on our most vulnerable children and adults and engage effectively with our frontline Practitioners, Service Users, Families and/or their Representatives.

Receive assurance that Safeguarding arrangements are embedded in all agencies commissioning strategies and service specifications.

Continue to commission Safeguarding Practice Reviews, ensuring that learning is actioned and implemented as a result of any learning review. Alongside, we will Identify learning from themed reviews and ensure that partners action this swiftly.



# HOW TO REPORT A CONCERN ABOUT A CHILD

The Multi-Agency Safeguarding and Support Hub (MASSH) is the single point of contact for all professionals to report concerns, request advice and share information about a child and or family

## Members of the public

If you are a member of the public who has a concern about a child, you should call

**0161 217 6028.**

If a child is at immediate risk of harm call the Police on **999**.

## Professionals

If you are a professional you should decide on the level of need detailed below and use the following online process. Levels of need are used to determine the kind of support a child or family requires.

### Level 1 – Universal services

- children who make good overall progress through appropriate universal services
- there are no additional unmet needs or there is a single need identified that can be met by universal services

### Level 2 – Additional needs

- children whose needs require additional support from targeted, as well as universal, services due to evidence their family may be struggling
- the needs of child may be unmet or unclear
- an Early Help Assessment is required to assess need and plan support

### Level 3 – Increasing concerns

- children with an increasing level of unmet need
- needs are deemed to be complex
- an assessment is required to determine the need and plan for support. This can be coordinated by a lead professional from a range of services including children's social care

### Level 4 – Safeguarding concerns

- children who have experienced significant harm and are in need of protection (Section 47) and includes children where there are significant welfare concerns (section 17)
- a single assessment coordinated by a social worker is required to determine the level of support or intervention

When you have determined the right level of need contact us by using the form on our website.

<https://www.stockport.gov.uk/contacting-the-massh>



# Appendix 1

## Health

# Health

Partners have focused on addressing some key issues during 2019/20

## **Start Well: Early childhood development of communication and language**

Health visitors, early years professionals and speech and language therapists have worked to implement a Greater Manchester Pathways to Talking project and identified key learning to enhance services. A Speech therapist embedded in the Start Well team undertaking more home visits has reduced wasted clinic appointments and helped to improve the home learning environment. The use of a more sensitive assessment tool is being rolled out in order to identify needs early.

## **Family Nurse Partnership ( FNP) and Social Work**

The FNP programme is very positively received by young parents and there are high levels of engagement and learning within the antenatal period to prepare young people for parenthood. Some young parents more have complex needs and benefit from social work support and assessment. A new initiative has been supported by Stockport Family for a social worker to work with the team to provide additional consultation and support; this is to be further developed, as part of a wider plan to enhance pre birth planning and assessment

## **The Comma Project**

The work of this project, aimed at preventing recurrent care proceedings and enhancing the outcomes for vulnerable women, has been externally evaluated by University of Essex and shown to deliver a cost effective intervention focused on health and personal development as well as reducing unplanned future pregnancies.

## **ICON: Babies cry, you can cope.**

ICON is a National Abusive Head Trauma prevention programme. In March 2020 Stockport Family made plans to urgently launch the first touch point of the programme in response to Covid-19 pandemic to help protect babies during this difficult time.

The full programme is delivered in the first 6 - 8 weeks after a baby is born to help parents to use coping strategies when their babies are crying; the peak age where babies cry the most is between 6 - 8 weeks. Evidence from similar programmes shows a reduction of serious injury by up to 70%. The implementation plan will continue in 2020/21



# Children and Young People's Mental Health Transformation Plan

**Future in Mind:** promoting, protecting and improving children and young people's mental health and wellbeing', was published by the Department of Health and NHSE England in 2015. This set out a national vision for improving children and young people's mental health. 'Future in Mind', required all areas to develop a Local Transformation Plan. Stockport published its first plan in early 2016. The plan set out a number of priorities based on 'Future in Mind'. These were as follows:

- Promoting resilience, prevention and early intervention
- Improving access to effective support
- Care for the most vulnerable
- Eating disorders
- Developing the workforce
- Accountability and transparency.

The draft 2020 refresh of the Children and Young People's Mental Health Transformation Plan has been presented to the CCGs Executive, Stockport Safeguarding Children Executive and the Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Partnership. The plan is currently being finalised and it will then be progressed to the Health and Wellbeing Board. Once the Refreshed Plan is finalised we will develop an implementation plan. The Refreshed plan and the implementation plan will be monitored by the Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Partnership.

# Health - Trends

The health of the children of Stockport is generally good, with high levels of vaccination and low levels of low birthrate babies; however overall rates mask significant inequalities in health between different areas in Stockport.

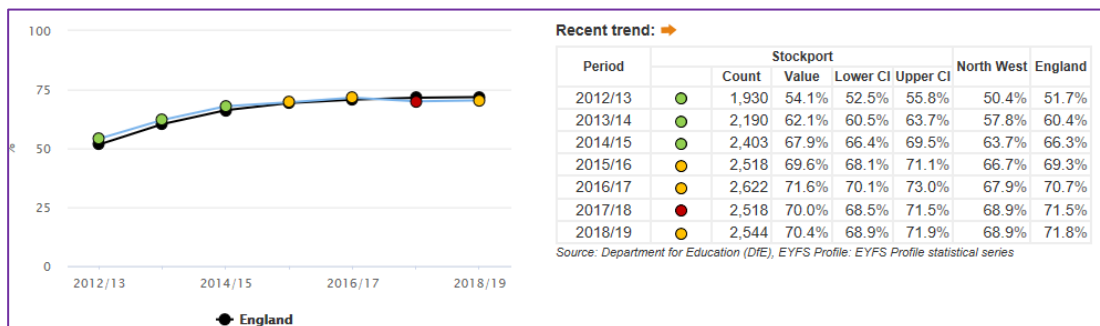
Latest measures for **child obesity** show that Stockport benchmarks well against the national average at year 6 (17.9% obese) and as average for reception (9.3% obese), the trend shows stability.

**Oral health** show Stockport experiencing above national levels of decayed missing and filled teeth (on average 27.2% of children have a least one decayed, missing or filled teeth, compared to 23.3% in England and 33.9% in the Northwest region).

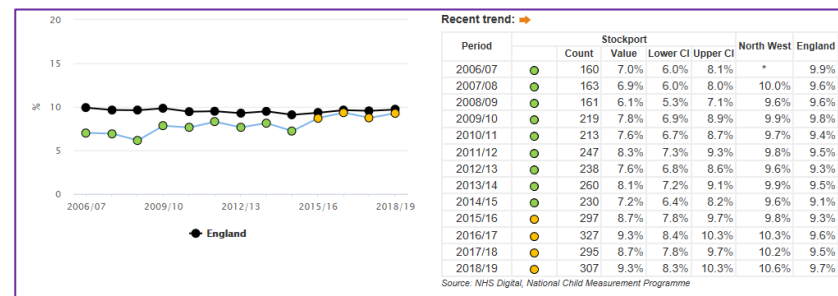
There were 22,620 **A&E attendances** made by children and young people aged 0- 18 in 2018/19, or 358/1000 which is a rate lower than the national average.

Children and young people aged 0-18 made 6,170 **emergency hospital admissions** over the same period, significantly higher than the national average. Stockport benchmarks poorly for admissions made for asthma, alcohol specific conditions and unintentional and deliberate harm and injuries.

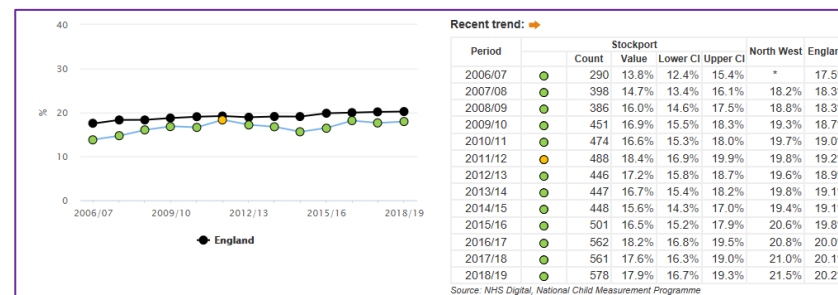
Recent trends show that while the rate of **school readiness** in Stockport has increased, performance is beginning to level out and whilst above the North West average, rates are not yet reaching the national average. Stockport has recognised the need to focus the work to improve school readiness on those children in vulnerable groups and the GM Pathways to Talking project is part of the response to that need.



## Obesity – Reception



## Obesity – Y6



# Health - Services

## Services

Specialist and universal services available include General Practice, Midwifery, Health Visitors, Family Nurse Partnership, School Nurses, Mental Health Services and Children and Family Acute services ensuring that children and their families receive the mandated early years checks and key preventative interventions throughout early life. Most of these services are delivered by Stockport NHS Foundation Trust as part of Stockport Family, working together to ensure children get the best possible start in life.

## Intelligence

Stockport JSNA <http://www.stockportjsna.org.uk/> is regularly updated with new analysis. In the last year an in depth assessment of the needs of Stockport's SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) has been produced, joining reports about Autism and Early Years Health amongst others.

## Governance

Stockport's Health and Wellbeing (HWB) board brings together representatives of commissioners and providers of health and care services in Stockport, and is responsible for ensuring that these services are effective and meet the needs of Stockport people. The HWB Board receives regular reports about Safeguarding and annually reviews evidence from the CDOP (Child Death Overview Panel) and the LeDeR (Learning Disability Mortality Review) to ensure lessons learned are acted on effectively.





# Appendix 2

## Early Years

# Appendix 2 - Early Years

The Start Well and School Readiness Plan has been developed and launched in March 2019. The model of integrated working in the health and early years teams within Stockport Family is well established. There is a clear focus is on improving outcomes for disadvantaged children such as those eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) and improving the transition from preschool to school. The addition of the Start Well Coordinator role in the past years has made a positive contribution to the Start Well Teams and enhanced the coordination and planning of early help with children and families. The further development of the Team Around the Early Years (TAEY) model has enhanced the communication and information sharing with EY providers.

## Support for Early Years providers

There is an annual safeguarding training offer from a designated early years safeguarding trainer, access to information on a designated EY area on the safeguarding partnership website, access to and use of "What to do" guidance cards. Access to learning Leads learning platform.

Support from Start Well teams and Early Years Improvement and project teams, including visits, forums and conferences and Team Around the Early Years.

## Quality of Early Years providers (Ofsted)

95% of Stockport childminders are rated Good or Outstanding and 97% for Childcare on on-domestic premises.

(Ofsted statistical release 18th of June 2019. Figures at 31st of March 2019.)

## Number of Early Years providers.

Stockport has 320 childminders and 138 childcare settings on non domestic premises (including day nursery, preschool, independent schools and out of school holiday clubs).

## Governance

Early years providers are registered and inspected by Ofsted and must comply with the requirements in the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation stage (2017) (EYFS)



# Appendix 3

## Safeguarding In Education

# Appendix 3 - Safeguarding in Education

There are currently 125 schools in Stockport:

- 84 primary schools
- 13 high schools
- 6 special schools
- 3 pupil referral units
- 10 independent schools
- 9 independent special schools.

Safeguarding in Education Services continue to support education settings with their safeguarding needs and requirements. The training offer remains a popular choice with both schools, early years and the independent sector and is a fundamental foundation to the partnerships we engage in.

Network events continue to be extremely popular in this academic year we have covered hate crime, radicalization, county lines, children who go missing from home and education, knife crime, working with the MASSH forced marriage, Domestic abuse and violence, learning from serious case reviews, neglect, adverse childhood experiences. LGBT+ inclusion and peer on peer abuse. Some of our contributors include Dean Cody – Urban Pure solutions, GMP, YOS, MASSH, The Samaritans, Aim project, The Peace Foundation and The Proud Trust.

Operation encompass has been introduced across the borough in a phased way. Maintained, academy and independent schools have attended training and signed up to the Encompass model. Feedback from schools has been positive and schools have shared with us the way they have approached reports and supported children in a proactive way.

Some schools have benefitted from additional support and guidance to help them address areas raised through local work or Ofsted inspections and this has been led by the Senior Advisor for Safeguarding in Education

The Safeguarding in Education Services offer includes:

- Training including Basic Awareness, Designated Safeguarding Lead, Safer recruitment, Safer Working and Allegation Management, Bespoke packages, CEOP and Argus facilitation
- Policy development and support
- Audit and self assessment
- Ofsted complaints, concerns and compliance support
- Safeguarding complaints
- Allegation management support
- Governor training advice and support
- Police liaison/incident support
- Work with School ICT Services for Prevent compliance and broader safeguarding support
- Safer working practice guidance
- Network and learning review events
- Engagement in strategic MAPPA
- Dissemination of information

# Safeguarding Training in Education

Type of Training	Early Years, Schools & Colleges	Other (bespoke, traded, support)
Basic Awareness	54	8
DSL	9	4
DSL Refresher	4	2
Safer Recruitment	3	4
Safer Recruitment Refresher	2	
Head Teacher Induction	2	1
Prevent & Counter Terrorism	19	
Allegation Management	1	
Operation Encompass	3	
E-safety	1	9
Networks	4	1
Argus	1	
Governor training	4	
Other Bespoke		12

This represents in excess of 4000 attendees



# Appendix 4

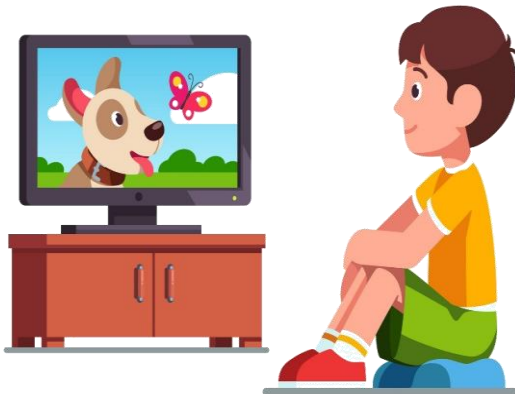
# Training



# Training – Introduction and Training Pool

## Introduction

Stockport multi-agency safeguarding training is co-ordinated by the Safeguarding Training Manager who has been in post since August 2018. The new partnership arrangements, created because of the Children and Social Work act 2017, have now come into existence and the Stockport Safeguarding Children's Partnership (SSCP) has now replaced the previous LSCB. The SSCP appointed a Business Manager in August 2019, along with an additional quality assurance officer and a co-ordinator as part of the Children Affected by Domestic Abuse (CADA) project. As part of this, there is a focus on the creation of a learning hub approach to development currently in development.



## Training Pool

The multi-agency training programme uses a combination of members of a training pool and external facilitators both free and commissioned. The multi-agency training pool membership comprises a range of experienced practitioners from a variety of partner agencies. The pools support and commitment in maintaining the program is vital and appreciated by both the partnership and by delegates attending sessions. There are representatives from:

- Health
- Educational psychology
- Social Care
- Education support and LADO
- Independent Reviewing Officers
- Mosaic drug and alcohol services
- Youth Offending Service
- Early Help services
- Mental Health
- Adult Social care
- Workforce development

There have been some new additions to the pool over the year. This has been in part to the creation of two new group of practitioners who have come together to develop and run the new All Age Domestic Abuse basic awareness course, developed in conjunction with the Children Affected by Domestic Abuse (CADA) project. The Early Help Assessment (EHA) training has returned to the auspices of the multi-agency safeguarding training and this has its own dedicated pool of trainers mainly from Stockport Family and health. The Graded Care profile 2 (GCP2) also has its own dedicated pool of trainers following Stockport SSCP purchasing the licence and rolling out training sessions from June 2019.

# Training Programme

The program is advertised over an academic year, as multi-agency safeguarding training does not run through the August summer holiday period.

During the year, there were courses on **13 topics** run by a mixture of facilitators from the multi-agency training pool, the safeguarding training manager or commissioned external providers. A total of **568 delegates** attended the training sessions from a range of partner agencies and from both adults and children's services. The new All Age Domestic Abuse basic Awareness course has seen attendance figures of 168 since its introduction in November 2019.

In addition to this, the SSCP and SAB facilitated **2 conferences**; the Joint Safeguarding Conference in October 2019 and the Children Affected by Domestic Abuse (CADA) conference in March 2020. These featured a range of presenters covering the SSCP priority areas and the four project areas of the CADA bid. Undoubtedly, one of the highlights was from the safeguarding conference, which saw an introductory speech and reading from poet and author Lemn Sissay, who drew upon his own experiences of the care system to inspire the audience to think about the importance of the voice of the child.

In December 2019, following the implementation of the new safeguarding arrangements and the formation of the SSCP, changes to the child death overview panel and switch to the new rapid review process, a leaning hub event was facilitated involving key partner agency and members of the workforce (photo right). This is the first of future learning hub events under the SSCP arrangements and involved feedback session around the audit process, recent rapid reviews, safe sleep guidance and an overview of training.

Where possible the training programme has attempted to offer something to address the four priority areas within the SSCP and SSAB joint strategic plan 2017-2020.

New courses commissioned in 2019/20 or developed for the coming year are:

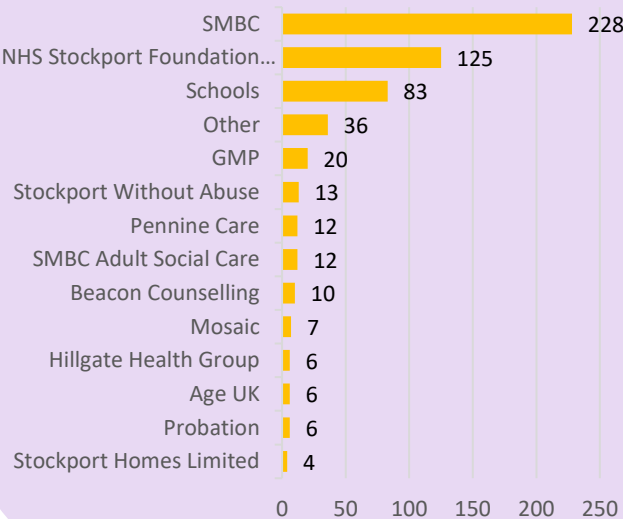
- Parental substance misuse course changed from 2 days to 1 day and new course developed with Mosaic.
- HBV and FM sessions delivered by External providers Project Choice
- FGM awareness courses delivered and planned for next year by external provider and expert in the field, Peggy Mulongo
- The new GM Complex Safeguarding Hub "Understanding Exploitation" course
- New basic awareness domestic abuse course planned for the coming year
- Graded Care Profile 2 course
- All age Basic Awareness course
- MCA, capacity consent and decision making run by EDGE care
- EHA training to return to the multi-agency programme in 2019/2020

Due to the Corona Virus epidemic, the subsequent "lockdown" and central government guidelines, face-to-face training was suspended from 17<sup>th</sup> March until further notice. The impact of this is training sessions were cancelled for some of this year and part of next financial years, leading to an overall drop in attendance figures. There are current plans in place to run some virtual sessions over the coming months and in the interim, information was provided for the workforce to access online training and resources via learning pool and external providers.

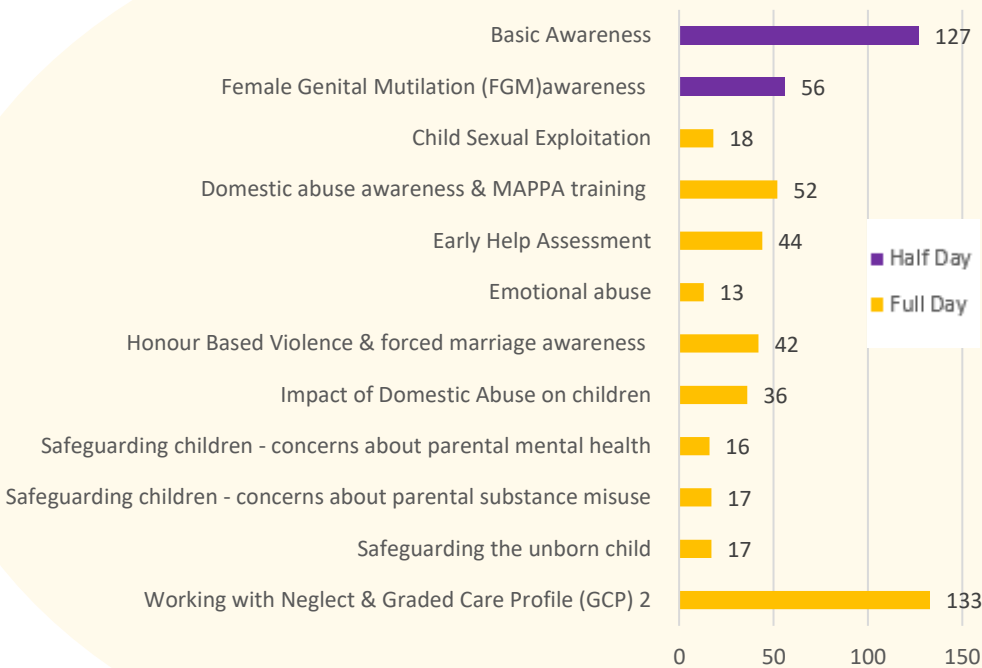


# Training Data

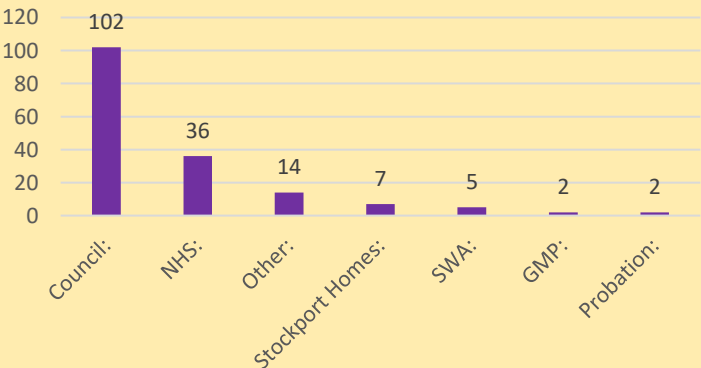
Attendees by Agency (Excluding DA Basic Awareness) – Total 568



Number of attendees by course - Total 571



Number of Attendees - All Age Domestic Abuse Basic Awareness Training – Total 168



# Course Evaluations

## Feedback from course evaluations

Feedback is completed online after the training session which enables the figures to be securely stored and collated. The difficulty with this is that lower numbers of participants respond. There were 254 evaluation returns for Safeguarding Children Courses over the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019-31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. Graded Care profile 2 has a separate evaluation form from the other courses due to the reporting requirements of the NSPCC who issue the licence for training the workforce in the use of the tool.

## GCP2 course feedback

The table below represents the responses from the first of six questions asking delegates to rate the overall quality of the training. The complete responses are available if required.

Course title	Quality of training Number rated 6 "excellent"	Quality of training Number rated 5 "very good"	Quality of training Number rated 4 "good"	Total responses
Working with neglect and GCP 2	25	20	3	48

## Feedback from all the multi-agency safeguarding training sessions 2019-2020

The table below represents the responses from the combined responses for all multi-agency training sessions. I have used responses to the first of five questions which asks delegates to rate the sessions. The complete responses are available if required. The blank responses indicate that the question was either not answered or the data was not available due to the way the system gathers responses. For example, some of the delegates placed a numerical score in the section they used to make comments. This system error needs amending for the coming year.

Course title	How would you rate this session? Number rated 3=Good	How would you rate this session? Number rated 4= Excellent	How would you rate this session? Gave a comment but no score	Total responses
All multi-agency safeguarding	12	54	140	206

# Training Conclusion

The year has seen the development and implementation of **two new courses**, which have fitted into the SSCP priority areas; domestic abuse and complex safeguarding. The roll out of the new domestic abuse course has been a real success and the numbers trained in a relatively short space of time is testament to the hard work of the training pool and those that developed the course. The new “Understanding Exploitation course” has been developed alongside ASPIRE following train the trainer sessions run by the Greater Manchester Complex Safeguarding hub. The course gives an overview of complex safeguarding and exploitation in its various forms. Unfortunately, the lockdown situation due to COVID-19 meant that the course was postponed.

The **GCP 2 training has continued** and 133 of the multi-agency workforce have attended the training. One of the main issues has been the difficulty in creating an embed form which enables data counting. This form has recently been completed and should be ready for use over the coming weeks. A planned multi-agency audit in September has been derailed due to lockdown, however a desk top exercise is underway and will be completed over summer.

The multi-agency training charging policy, which has been in place for several years, still stands. This will need a review over the coming months, especially in respect of **the disruption to face-to face training**. The policy for charging for non-attendance remains problematic as not all costs have been recouped and some delegates still do not adhere to the requirements in respect of cancelling. Changes to business support have also made recouping the charges for non-attendance difficult. Currently those that are charged are done so after the course date, meaning business support have to chase other agencies or individuals for cost codes. The full breakdown of non-attendees is available if required and further discussion on this issue are ongoing.

The situation in respect of lockdown has meant that several courses in this financial year had to be postponed including the commissioned course on the Mental Capacity Act and young people. This will be rearranged and falls in line with the new joint SSCP and SAB business plan priority around the Liberty Protection Safeguards guidance (replacing Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards - DoLS). The challenge over the coming months will be **adapting training** in line with recommendations about returning to face to face sessions and the provision of a safe training offer using virtual methods.

Highlights	Areas to focus on
<b>Numbers trained and Implementation of GCP 2</b>	Embedding the use of the tool and evaluation its effectiveness using data sets and audits.
<b>Creation of training pool with ASPIRE and developing programme of “Understanding Exploitation”</b>	Roll out and targeting the appropriate audience
<b>Joint work between the SSCP and the SAB</b>	There remains a small cohort of crossover between adults and children’s training sessions. This needs further evaluation to consider of the right people are attending
<b>Creation of a new Domestic Abuse basic awareness course as part of the CADA bid. Numbers trained. Program in place to train Police response officers.</b>	Evaluation process has begun but requires completion
<b>Links made with the PVI sector through PPVI forum, Sector Connector and EPEC parents training plan.</b>	Develop and embed a PVI guidance framework. Increase involvement from faith and community groups in training.
<b>Creation of a SSCP “team”</b>	Use data, research and local learning to inform training programme and embed learning hub process.
<b>Improvements made to both SSCP and SAB webpages</b>	To get members of SSCP and SAB trained to administer the webpages.

# Appendix 5

# Partnership Engagement



# Partnership Engagement

There is a clear commitment to protecting children and young people and promoting their welfare. Strong relationships between partners support the development of a revitalized and stronger partnership. These trusted relationships allow partners to provide challenge and support to each other.

There is strong political support for the Partnership and elected members in Stockport ensure that children and families are a high priority.

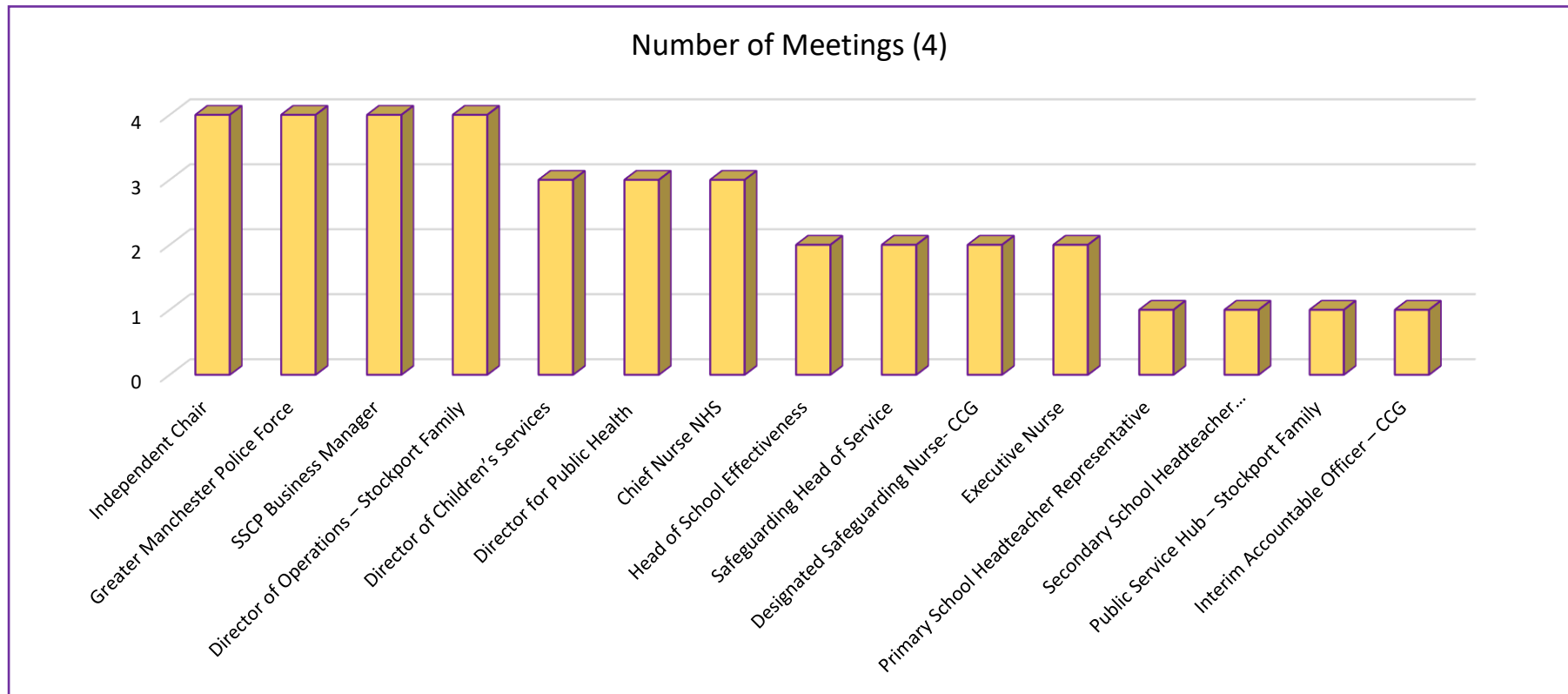
Attendance at the partnership executive, evidences partners commitment – as shown on the next slide. On the whole, sub groups are well attended and the work of the partnership is positively driven forward.

The new accountable agencies, Police, CCG and the Local Authority have worked positively together to develop the new Partnership Safeguarding Arrangements in response to the Wood Report and the Children and Social Care Act 2017.



# Partnership Attendance

Attendance at Stockport Safeguarding Children Partnership and Sub-groups is monitored. The table below demonstrates the attendance of four Executive meetings with colleagues from the Safeguarding Children partnership. The Independent Chair is committed to seeking explanations from members where attendance is not up to expectation.



# Appendix 6

## Performance Data

# Early Help and the MASSH

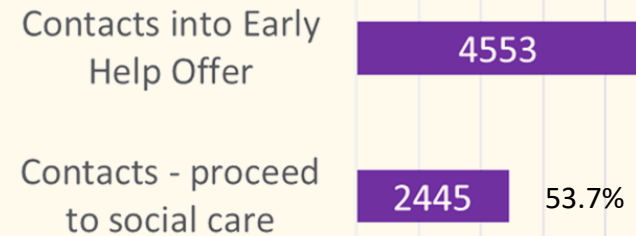
The Early Help Hub provides a framework that supports swift allocation of children and families who do not need a social work service. The Early Help Hub supports effective communication between early help, Children's Social Care (CSC), the MASSH and additional agencies that may be requesting support from Stockport Family. The Start Well Coordinators (SWC) have a key role in supporting the use of EHA and Team Around the Child (TAC) processes to prevent families from escalating into statutory services.

The Stockport Multi Agency Safeguarding and Support Hub (MASSH) is the 'front door' or entry point for referral to Stockport Family Services.

In 2019/20 1483 Early Help Assessments were started, and the number of open at the end of the year was 2,149. Of the cases that proceeded to social care, 88.6% proceeded to a social work assessment, which whilst lower than last year demonstrates the effectiveness of the triage process.

In addition, 21.4% of all referrals are repeat referrals.

## Contacts into the MASSH 2019/20

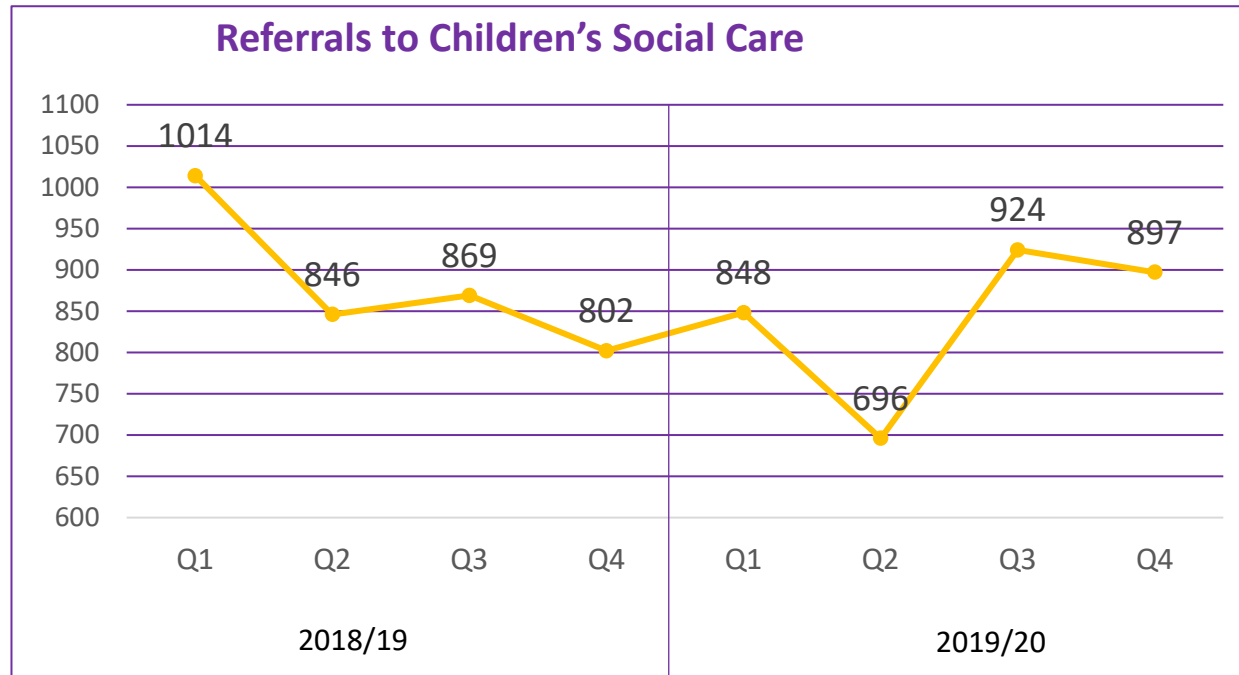


### Outcome from Contacts (July 2019\* - March 2020)

MASSH Episode	4,804
Contact - Provision of Information and Advice	1,386
Step Up to Children's Social Care	883
Early Help Hub	525
Universal Services	60
Null	9
Missing from School Referral	2
Transfer to Adults Social Care	2

\* New Case management system introduced July 2019 - prior data not comparable over time.

# Referrals to Children's Social Care



It can be seen that the number of referrals dipped in Quarter 2 before rising again later in the year.

For Quarter 4:

- 88.6% of referrals continue to social work assessment.
- 21.4% are repeat referrals within 12 months. An audit into the reasons for re-referral confirmed that the decision to reenter was the correct one.

# Children in Need

There were 2,211 children and young people identified as Children in Need in the year. This is compared to 2018/19 when the figure was 2,022. 13.7% of Stockport's Children in Need have a disability.





# Children on Plans

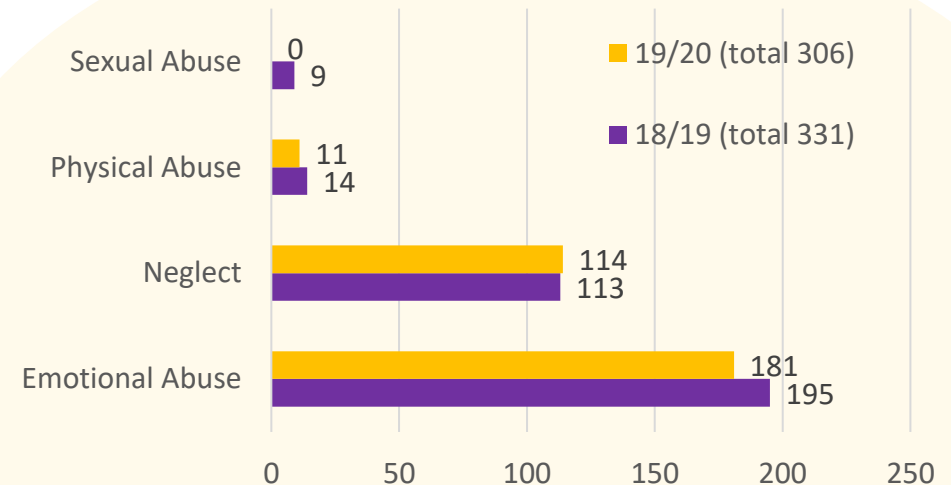
In 2019/20 there were 727 Section 47 enquiries compared to 996 in 2018/19.

Additionally, in 2019/20, in Stockport, 381 children's s.47s lead to an Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC) with 52% of all s.47s completed not resulting in an ICPC.

At the end of March 2020, there were 212 children subject to a child protection plan, a decrease of 14% from the previous year. The highest number of plans are made as a result of emotional abuse which is usually related to domestic abuse, recognising the high levels of emotional abuse that are inflicted on children as a result of domestic abuse between parents and partners. This is followed closely by neglect. Neglect can be intentional or inadvertent, and there are many reasons why child neglect happens. The primary causes of child neglect are often poverty, substance abuse, depression, a lack of support, poor social skills and unloving relationships, former abuse, and misunderstandings about child development.

The proportion of children subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time year to end of quarter 4 2019/20 is 23.5%, this places us just above national average. Some of this number were large sibling groups. However some plans are coming back quite quickly suggesting the decision to step down may have been taken prematurely. Additionally Domestic Abuse featured in the case that were audited so there is a need to look at the appropriateness of the plans to ensure pro-activity in approach.

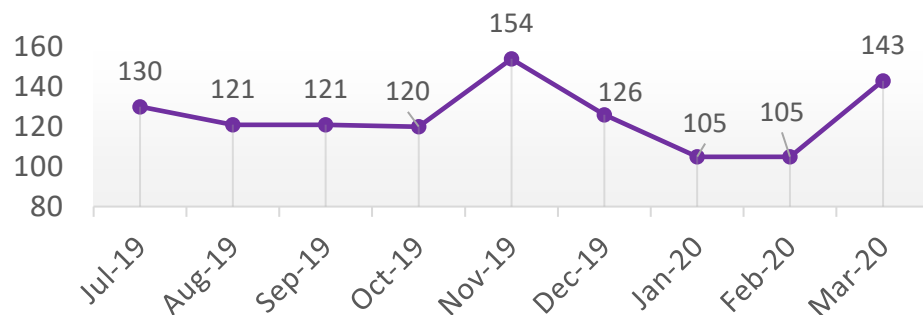
The categories under which children were made subject to a plan are as follows:



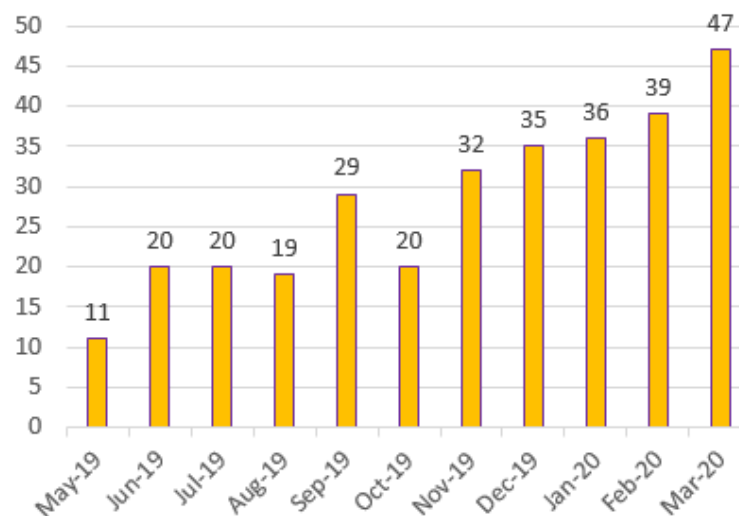
# Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse continues to be a significant safeguarding issue for children and young people in Stockport, who are harmed through exposure to parent/carer abuse, directly hurt by the same perpetrator and / or develop teenage relationships which are abusive. The impacts on their safety, health, wellbeing and achievement are multiple and can be long lasting.

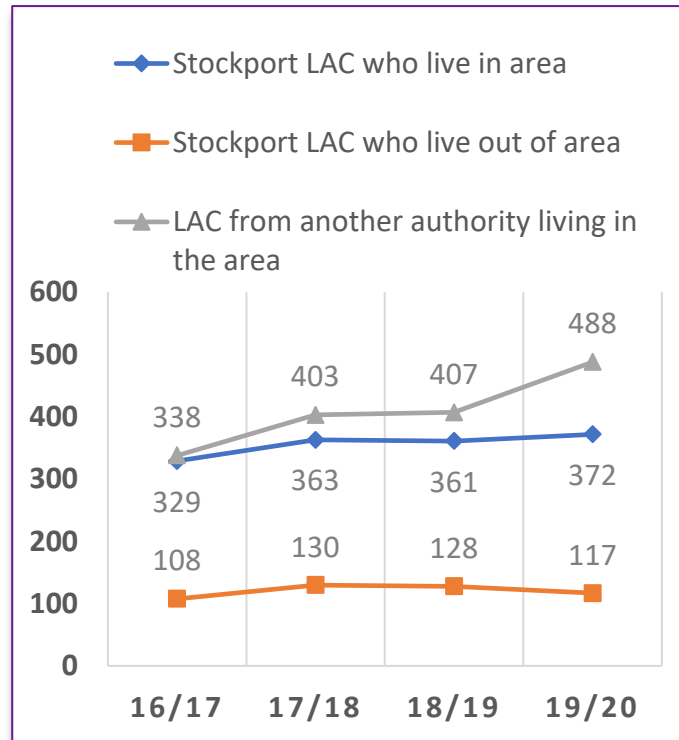
Domestic abuse is often linked to substance misuse and mental ill health resulting in a degree of complexity and interrelated harm which makes safeguarding and co-ordination both challenging and vital across a range of agencies and boards. The Domestic Abuse Steering group is chaired by the Police. The strategic responsibility for this work sits under Safer Stockport Partnership with reporting in to Stockport Safeguarding Children Partnership to maintain assurance in relation to the children perspective of this work. In Addition the CADA steering group has also been formed which has a focus on Children Affected by Domestic Abuse. Daily risk meetings also focus on Domestic Abuse and allow professionals to coordinate their multi-agency response. The graph below shows MASSH contacts with a presenting issue of Domestic Abuse. Data is not shown prior to July since this is when the new Liquid Logic System was implemented.



Operation Encompass, now underway focuses on sharing Police information regarding Domestic Abuse Incidents with Designated Safeguarding leads in schools and allows school to provide appropriate support for parent and child. Months cannot be compared like for like due to the phased nature of the roll out.



# SMBC: Children Looked After



The total number of LAC within Stockport has increased year on year as the graph opposite shows. Consistently over 50% of the LAC within Stockport are from out of area. The word cloud below demonstrates which authorities these children are from.

