

Update to the Stockport Family Partnership Board in regard to the work of the Safeguarding Childrens Partnership.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Stockport Family Partnership Board on the work and priority areas for the Childrens Safeguarding Partnership (SCP).

Introduction

In September 2019 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.

There was a greater emphasis on independent scrutiny that went beyond the role of the independent chair. 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. Part of our plan for independent scrutiny was to engage with another local area and arrange a peer review. With the ongoing challenges in relation to Covid this has not been possible to date, however, we will progress this once the challenges of the pandemic have eased. 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.

In January 2020 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 Partnership 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. Since the development day we have endorsed our model for the Learning Hub and conversations are being undertaken with front line practitioners – albeit virtually.

We have continued to work closely with colleagues from the Adults Safeguarding Partnership; aligning work programmes were feasible and appropriate; and we have moved since September 2020 to have joint partnership sessions to consider common business and focus on a themed area – to date we have considered Complex Safeguarding and Mental Health; Domestic violence will be our focus for March.

Safeguarding Childrens Partnership Response to the Covid Pandemic

At the initial start of the Pandemic the SCP stepped down a number of its functions in order to release capacity to support the front line.

Weekly Covid check - in meetings were put in place across the partnership from the beginning of April. The purpose of the meetings have been to share:

- Any Potential or Emerging Gaps
- Sharing what is working well;
- Key Safeguarding Information that has been circulated
- Information on the Website – any additions
- Any data that is being collected to measure impact
- Safeguarding Newsflash – key information that the partnership needs to be aware of.

This was the opportunity for the wider partnership to keep abreast of changes to services due to the Covid restrictions; and it provides the partnership with assurance that risk and impact were being consider when service changes were being made. It was through these meetings that the Covid dataset was developed.

The weekly check-ins have been extremely well attended and contributed to by all members of the partnership and have been beneficial to keep informed about the changes that are being made. Safeguarding vulnerable adults, childrens and families have been considered at the same meeting.

The Independent Chair of the SSAB and SSCP has chaired the meetings to add an additional level of independent scrutiny.

Minutes are produced after each meeting and a Covid 19 E-bulletin is published setting out any changes; resources that are available and highlighting areas of good practice.

All training and meetings were moved to on-line.

The SCP website has dedicated Covid 19 pages that contain a wide range of information; resources and links for both practitioners, front line staff, community and voluntary organisations and communities/public to access.

<http://www.safeguardingchildreninstockport.org.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Over the summer months the weekly meetings were moved to monthly and stepped down in September 2020, as we started to put the core functions through the partnership groups back in place. However, in light of the current restrictions the SCP has stepped down the partnership groups and have reinstated the Covid Check-in meetings until March 2021.

The SCP does have a recovery plan in place considers the current position, learning from the Covid experience and actions for recovery.

Strategic Plan for 2020-23

The SCP Strategic Plan is a joint plan with the Safeguarding Adults Board. It was developed at the Joint SCP/SAB Development Day in 2000. Below sets out the Shared Strategic Priorities and what we aim to achieve in the 5 thematic areas.

Shared Strategic Priorities

- 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.

<u>Transitions</u>	<u>Implementation of Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS)</u>	<u>Neglect/Self-Neglect</u>	<u>Safe Sleep</u>	<u>Homelessness</u>
<p>We will: Ensure the pathway from children aged 16 – 18 years old moving from child to adulthood is inclusive, flexible and consider the individuals needs holistically.</p> <p>Focus on transitions within education settings (e.g. Nursery to Primary, Schools, Primary to Secondary, Mid-term transfer and from Secondary to employment).</p> <p>Measure the effectiveness of the transition pathway for vulnerable young adults.</p> <p>Changes we will see: Families and young people will be educated and empowered to make informed choices.</p> <p>Increased understanding of legislation and practice.</p> <p>Strengthened links between Children and Adult Services, which will improve outcomes for young people as they reach adulthood.</p>	<p>We will: Increase knowledge and confidence of the application of Mental Capacity Act 2005.</p> <p>Implement LPS and measure its effectiveness, with receipt of assurance, challenge and scrutiny against new guidance.</p> <p>All Partners will develop a robust system around LPS and adhere to MCA Principles within practice.</p> <p>Consider 16- and 17-year olds under LPS</p> <p>Changes we will see: Increase knowledge and confidence of MCA principles within the workforce.</p> <p>Comprehensive capacity assessments will be completed detailing the risks and human rights of vulnerable individuals.</p>	<p>We will: Ensure the all-age strategy is consistently applied within the Partnership.</p> <p>Ensure any Greater Manchester developments, including learning from Place Based Initiative, are embedded within practice.</p> <p>Continue to work in partnership with our Partners and local communities to prevent, detect and report neglect.</p> <p>Embed and measure the effectiveness of the GCP2</p> <p>Changes we will see: Less prevalence of Neglect/Self-Neglect across children, families and adults within Stockport.</p> <p>Reduction in children on CP Plans due to Neglect.</p> <p>Less Adult Referrals due to Neglect/Self-Neglect.</p>	<p>We will: Ensure that all Stockport Parents/ Practitioners/ Families have access to information and resources around good practice and this is promoted within Stockport.</p> <p>We will implement and embed the learning from serious case reviews and the learning from national reviews.</p> <p>Changes we will see: Frontline practitioners and parents will have access to information about good practice.</p> <p>We will measure the effectiveness of our safe sleep practice guidance, and ascertain the views of parents</p>	<p>We will: Develop more effective practice and bring in wider partners, and where possible, people with lived experience of homelessness.</p> <p>Join together an increasingly co-ordinated approach that is embedded both in everyday practice and strategic decision-making.</p> <p>Measure the effectiveness of day to day practice against the Stockport Homelessness Strategy.</p> <p>Changes we will see: Strengthen the Strategic Partnership working model.</p> <p>Better understanding of each agency's position.</p> <p>Early and effective timely responses.</p>

Annual Report

The SCP is required to still publish an annual report. This report sets the achievements and challenges that the Partnership has faced during 2019 -2020 and the full report can be found at <http://www.safeguardingchildreninstockport.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/SSCP-Annual-Report-2019-to-2020.pdf>

Gill Frame

Independent Chair Stockport Safeguarding Children Partnership

Jan 2021