



**Hull  
Safeguarding  
Children  
Partnership**

# Hull Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report -

1 April 2022 - 31 March 2023



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# 1. Foreword of the HSCP Independent Chair

**This is the second annual report since I have taken on the role of independent chair of the HSCP and I have witnessed, and been part of, significant progress that has been made in the last 12 months.**



The executive members from the three statutory partners have met monthly, and we have continued to drive change at pace. The subgroup chairs and their members have been so committed to making sure that we always keep children and young people at the heart of improvements. I have continued to witness robust challenges and high support for one another and there is a genuine commitment at strategic and operational levels in all statutory and relevant agency organisations. All of this could not have been achieved without the dedication and professionalism of the HSCP Manager, supported by staff in the HSCP Business Support Unit, which has been positively acknowledged by all partners.

I can say with certainty that we now know ourselves better and have grown in maturity and this report outlines all the hard work that has got us to where we are now. That does not mean we don't have more to do as we must always continue to identify areas for further work.

Front line staff have worked under immense pressure once again during the cost-of-living crisis and I genuinely appreciate them all for the work they have done and continue to do.

I want to thank all strategic leads, including schools and the voluntary and community sector, for all they have done, and still do, to support us and families in Hull. The Hull Collaborative Partnership that I chair has continued to drive wider system leadership and we have looked across our business areas and focused on making a real difference in Hull for families and communities.

A heartfelt thank you to all the young people who have taken on roles to support and challenge us in our endeavour to improve. Once again, my hope is that over the next 12 months, we can engage with more of you in many ways and really listen to your feedback and ideas. My ambition is for us to really understand what positive difference we are making to children and young people and to tackle any areas of improvement together.



**Kay Durrant**  
Hull Safeguarding Children  
Partnership Independent Chair

# Introduction

**This is the third annual report published by the Hull Safeguarding Children Partnership, detailing activity which has taken place during the financial year of 2022/2023. The report describes arrangements in Hull which exist to enable safeguarding partners to effectively work together to keep children safe.**

We are proud of the work which has taken place within Hull during the period of this annual report. We also recognise the context of challenges, both locally and nationally, including the pressures on children and families due to the current cost of living pressures which have been impounded by the struggles to recover from COVID-19. Resources can often be stretched, with recruitment and retention challenges impacting on all agencies.

The HSCP is responsible for ensuring that children and young people receive the earliest possible timely and appropriate response to their safeguarding needs to ensure that they feel safe and that we make a positive difference to their lives.

Working Together 2018 places an annual responsibility on local safeguarding partnerships to produce and publish a report to provide an account of what has been achieved under local child safeguarding arrangements. This includes progress in relation to learning and how effectively plans have been implemented.

During the past year, all relevant safeguarding agencies have continued to demonstrate a clear and tangible investment in wanting to improve our responses to children and young people in Hull. Effective partnership working is critical to achieving our commitment to protecting and promoting the welfare of all children and young people. We are proud that relationships between safeguarding agencies have continually grown and strengthened. The ethos of working in collaboration, with a positive culture of healthy professional challenge and discussion, has assisted in shaping effective arrangements through multi-disciplinary discussions and learning from one another.



**Pauline Turner**  
Director of Children,  
Young People and Family Services  
Hull City Council



**Matthew Peach**  
Chief Superintendent  
Humberside Police



**Deborah Lowe**  
Place Nurse Director (Hull)  
Humber and North Yorkshire  
Integrated Care Board



**Estelle Macdonald**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hull Collaborative Trust

## 2. HSCP Multi-agency Governance Arrangements

**From September 2019, responsibility for safeguarding children has been led by designated safeguarding partners, as identified in Chapter 3 of the Children and Social Work Act (2017).**

In Hull, the three statutory safeguarding partners (Hull Local Authority, NHS Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Humberside Police) combine to form the HSCP Executive Board. HSCP also include education as a relevant agency with a representative from the Hull Collaborative Academy Trust, who are invited to the HSCP Executive Board meetings which have been routinely held on a monthly basis. The Executive Board is chaired by the HSCP Independent Chair.

Subgroups exist under the current arrangements which drive forward the work of the HSCP. Statutory safeguarding partners take a shared responsibility in chairing the subgroup meetings which maximise the opportunities for joint working on shared priorities. This arrangement has remained consistent and stable during 2022/2023. It is important to us that we have in place strong and effective arrangements to lead the work of sub-groups.

All subgroups have excellent representation from across the partnership, including the voluntary and community sectors, housing, police, probation, children's social care, health and education

representation. Agencies who attend these have demonstrated that they are very engaged with the work taking place and have consistently committed to attending, and actively contributing to, activity which takes place. Chairs report into the HSCP Executive Board on a quarterly basis to support progress and to enable any barriers to be quickly resolved.

All subgroups have worked towards achieving the priorities detailed within the 2021/2023 HSCP Business Plan.

### [HSCP Business Plan - 2021-2023](#)

Operational groups support front-line developments and implementation of actions. The Operational Management Group reports to the EHASH Subgroup, the Performance and Quality Assurance Audit Group reports into the Performance and Quality Assurance Subgroup and an Operational Contextual Safeguarding Subgroup supports operational activity agreed via the Strategic Contextual Safeguarding Subgroup. This enables practitioners to drive forward areas identified for improvement, including the co-ordination of training and dissemination of learning.

An excellent interface also exists with other boards in Hull, for example the Health and Wellbeing Board, Adults Safeguarding Board and the Community Safety Partnership strategic boards. Co-located arrangements now exist which have resulted in collaborative working across all systems.



The governance arrangements (as illustrated below), provide clear lines of accountability, reporting and

assurance and are accepted within the wider governance of the statutory partner organisations.

## GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE CHART





## Independence, scrutiny and assurance

**The HSCP Independent Chair has been the consistent chair for the HSCP since commencing her role in December 2020, chairing the HSCP Executive Board since January 2021.**

This has ensured the continued presence of strong leadership and professional challenge to drive forward priorities. Significant progress continues to be made in enhancing key working relationships with executive leads, the local authority, Chief Executive, and with the strategic leads of the 'relevant agencies', including the voluntary and community sector. Lead members also have regular oversight of activity, with Members of the Commission being updated in relation to the work of the Hull Safeguarding Children Partnership, on a quarterly basis.

In order to further enhance relationships, Partner Relevant Agencies Meetings (PRAM) commenced in March 2021 and continue to be convened on a quarterly basis. These provide an opportunity for agencies to engage with partners to share updates relating to safeguarding activity across the partnership and to facilitate open discussion around what is working well and how to further improve engagement and progress. Feedback from agencies cite continued improved joint working and partners feeling that they are valued and integral to work across the partnership.

There continues to be an independent scrutineer appointed to the HSCP. Within the scope of this annual report, the independent scrutineer has finalised a review of partnership arrangements in relation to a new front door system called PITSTOP. This was introduced into Hull in January 2022 by Humberside Police with a view to improving early identification and understanding of need, harm, and risk to ensure appropriate support and intervention is accessed at the earliest opportunity. PITSTOP sits alongside EHASH (Early Help and Safeguarding Hub) within an array of services provided by partner agencies for children and their families; from early help to statutory interventions. It was agreed by the Executive Board that a review of partnership arrangements in relation to PITSTOP would be helpful following the recent implementation, and also in light of national learning following the Joint Targeted Area Inspection of Solihull. The scrutiny findings were shared in June 2023 and have contributed to work which has taken place to continually improve initial agency responses to children in a timely manner.



## 3. Children and Young People in Hull

If there were only  
**100 children**  
 and young people in the city, then:



**19** would have special education needs, 5 of which would have an education, health and care plan

**33** would be eligible for a free school meal

**25** would be of non-white British ethnic heritage

**18** would speak English as an additional language

**57** would achieve the expected standard in all of reading writing and mathematics as they left primary school

**1** would have a child protection plan or a child in need plan

**8** would be referred to children's social care

**1** would be looked after

**44** would leave secondary school with a strong pass in both English and mathematics

**7** would be either not in education, employment or training or of unknown whereabouts after leaving secondary school.

### People

Director of Children's Services  
 Pauline Turner

Chief Executive  
 Matt Jukes

Lead member for Children  
 Councillor Linda Tock

Council Leader  
 Councillor Mike Ross

Young Mayor  
 Amelia Franczak

Chair of Hull Safeguarding  
 Children Partnership  
 Kay Durrant



## Population of Hull

Compact and highly urbanised, Hull is the most densely populated local authority in the Yorkshire and Humber region. 57,600 children and young people aged 0 to 17 account for 22 per cent of the city's overall population (267,100).

## Health and Wellbeing

People's health in the Yorkshire and Humber region is generally poorer than the England average; health inequalities are closely linked to deprivation. Children's health in the city is generally poorer than the England average.

## Deprivation and Poverty

The unemployment claim count in the city is at its highest rate in the last 25 years, with Hull being the 4th most deprived local authority area (out of 317) (IMD 2019). More than a third (38%) of children and young people live in income deprived households.

## Schools and Vulnerable Groups

The school population is 42,800, with 7,895 children and young people identified as having special education needs. 91% of schools are rated by Ofsted

as good or outstanding. Ethnic minority pupils account for 22% (9,200) of the school population. For 7,100 (17%) of pupils, English is not their first language; 122 languages are spoken across 98 schools in the city. 31 per cent of pupils are eligible for free school meals (England 23 per cent). 393 children are electively home educated. 312 young people are not in education, training, or employment.

## Safeguarding

Children's social care services are broadly structured by way of a front door, assessment teams, three localities in the east, west and north of the city, and permanence and leaving care teams. The practice model, implemented early in 2021 is Signs of Safety (Sofs). In 31 March 2023, there were 3,425 children and young people open to children's social care, 775 children looked after and 423 on child protection plans. There were 101 open cases in Hull's Youth Justice Service. A specialist social work team and Leisure and Freetime Service (LAFSS) provides support for 24 children with disabilities. 306 care leavers are supported by a dedicated and co-located leaving care service and specialist Refugee and Asylum-Seeking Team (RAST). Hull's fostering service is responsible for 159 mainstream permanent carers, 82 connected carers, 7 support carers and 26 supported lodging providers. Following significant investment, 39 children live in 14 local authority managed children's homes.



## 4. HSCP strategic priorities and principles

The work of HSCP is driven by our vision that it is the right of every child and young person to enjoy a healthy and happy childhood, grow up feeling

safe from abuse or neglect and thrive in an environment that enables them to fulfil their potential.

### Principles underpinning our work

We will ensure that children and their families are fully engaged and listened to so that their voices and lived experiences are integral to the development and delivery of services within Hull.

We are committed to working together with all partner agencies, organisations and communities who have a role to play in safeguarding, to ensure that children in Hull are safe, well and able to reach their full potential. This will ensure that children are protected from harm by robust and co-ordinated multi-agency intervention and support at the earliest opportunity.

We will continually measure the impact of work undertaken through HSCP to ensure that there is accountability and transparency in safeguarding practice with a focus on continual learning and improved outcomes for children.

### Our Strategic Priorities for 2021 - 2023

Neglect  
Child Exploitation  
Domestic Abuse  
Learning and Improvement  
COVID-19 Recovery



## Learning and Improvement

**“The Hull Safeguarding Partnership will work together with partner agencies to keep children and young people safe from harm and to achieve greater learning and shared knowledge across multi-agencies”**

Having a culture of continuous learning, reflection and development has remained a central focus, and is key to all the work undertaken across the HSCP. This is further enhanced by the collaborative learning activity which takes place between the HSCP, the Hull Safeguarding Adults board and the Hull Community Safety Partnership. Good practice is also identified through audit activity and learning reviews so that this can be shared in order to improve services for children in Hull.

Ensuring that the views and feedback of children are heard is integral to the work which we undertake. There are strong links with the Hull Children's Voice and Influence Group, who are attendees at HSCP meetings and events, and provide regular feedback from children and young people. This provides a good interface and connection between the HSCP and the work which is already underway in Hull to enable children and families to talk about their experiences to ensure that these are acted upon and understood in a meaningful way.

*“We have been reflecting in supervision about what a good example of multi-agency working the pre-birth work has been. This is right from the creation of the pre-birth panel through to the partnership guidance and training. In our organisation we are feeling the positive impact of the work, examples of this would be timely information sharing, quick updates on progression of contact/assessment and birth plans being available prior to the birth. This is just to name a few of the effects of the changes.”*

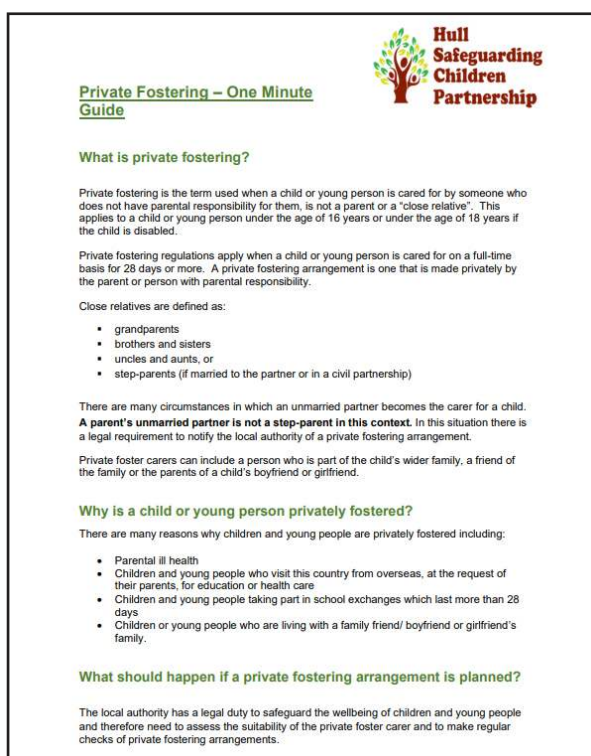
*(Feedback from HUTH – NHS Trust)*



Under the HSCP arrangements, all subgroups contribute to sharing knowledge and continually reviewing practice. The multi-agency HSCP Learning and Improvement Subgroup meeting takes place on a bi-monthly basis and has attendance from across the partnership which contributes towards improving practice to safeguard children by adopting a culture of continuous learning and development of best practice. This is achieved by working together with partner agencies to keep children and young people safe from harm and to achieve greater learning and shared knowledge across multi agencies. There has been a wealth of activity which has taken place which has contributed to keeping children safe from harm.

In addition to subgroup meetings, task and finish groups are also held to focus on specific pieces of work. Examples include work in relation to the pre-birth pathway, female genital mutilation, private fostering and neglect.

Regular newsletters and updates are cascaded by HSCP to voluntary and statutory agencies via a range of platforms. Recent analysis of the HSCP Twitter account has shown that the footfall of activity has significantly increased over the year. Sharing information by a range of different communication channels has assisted in continually strengthening communication and ensures that regular updates are provided in relation to work which is taking place across the partnership. Information shared is well received and disseminated further by relevant agencies. Regular safeguarding updates are also mutually shared with the HSCP by professionals for wider distribution. This includes information around resources to support safeguarding work, campaigns events, training, and national and local learning.



[Link to HSCP Newsletter December 2022](#)

[HSCP Newsletter December 2022](#)

A new collaborative website has been developed by HSCP, Hull Community Safety Partnership and the Hull Adults Safeguarding Board. This is due to be launched during 2023 and will provide an improved platform for practitioners and members of the public to access information relating to child safeguarding.

During the last year, learning, briefings, and training have taken place to ensure that delivery is accessible to a wide audience and that our offer and approach is as flexible as possible. Bespoke learning has been provided to individual agencies, webinars have been delivered (with subject areas including neglect, national learning, domestic abuse and contextual safeguarding) and easy to read guides have been shared, for example in relation to private fostering.

The Signs of Safety model is the practice framework implemented by the Local Authority as the practice model for working with children, young people, and families across Hull. Work has continued to ensure that this is adopted as a 'whole system' model which is designed to develop a common language and approach. A Signs of Safety leaflet for professionals has been widely shared and includes information relating to links and tools which can be accessed by all practitioners. Signs of Safety partnership briefings have also been held to introduce the practice model

to everyone working with children in Hull. During the last year, 294 partner agency practitioners have attended the two-day SOS training and additional practitioners have attended briefing sessions which have included 'question and answer sessions' being undertaken by Hull Social Work Academy with Designated Safeguarding Leads.

[Link to Signs of Safety leaflet for professionals](#)

[Signs of Safety leaflet for professionals](#)

Examples of our response to national and local learning includes three webinars delivered in relation to the identification, and our response to, neglect (facilitated by Humberside Police, Early Help Integrated Service Manager and the HSCP Manager). Additional virtual and classroom-based training has



also been provided across the partnership which has been delivered in conjunction with the Hull Social Work Academy.



*“Excellent presentation and provides further learning for the future of practice of all in safeguarding children.”*

*(Feedback from educational setting)*

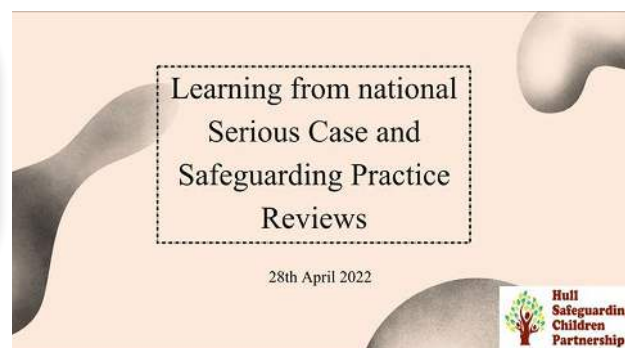
The HSCP Training and Development Officers, and partner agencies, have delivered the HSCP Training Programme (April 2022 – April 2023) providing a broad range of learning around key safeguarding topics. 2779 people who work with children in Hull have attended the ‘Safeguarding Children; a shared responsibility’ training between 1st April 2022 and 31st March 2023. This is classroom-based training and feedback from attendees has been positive in relation to the benefits of learning directly alongside other safeguarding agencies.

Following learning and audit activity, it was recognised that ABE training for social workers within Hull was required at the earliest opportunity. This was also a need identified by the three neighbouring authorities to Hull. Humber-wide colleagues agreed a training programme was which was developed with qualified trainers from the Crime Training Department of Humberside Police.

The course provides an overview of current legislation (including ABE/ S47 enquiry) and the process relating to child protection investigation, points to prove within an investigation, investigative mind-set and questioning skills. During the last year 53 social workers from Hull have completed this training.

All officers within the Protecting Vulnerable People Unit were also provided with refresher training in relation to ABE and Detective Sergeants were asked to provide feedback in relation to current practice to highlight any further training needs.

During 2022 the HSCP Manager & Education Safeguarding Manager delivered webinars attended by over 250 colleagues from across the partnership on national learning (the six key learning themes from the National Panel), with a link to local learning. Presentations have also been shared with the children’s safeguarding wider leadership team and strategic leads across the partnership.



## Learning reviews

**Safeguarding professionals make balanced judgements on a daily basis and learning reviews provide an opportunity to reflectively discuss good practice and areas for improvement which will ultimately make a positive difference to the way we support children and young people.**

The HSCP Learning from Individual Cases subgroup (LFICG) forms part of Hull’s framework for learning and improvement and is held monthly with multi-agency representation. This subgroup oversees all open learning reviews through HSCP and actively develops, and ensures the progress of, action plans. The terms of reference include a clear referral pathway for agencies to refer cases to HSCP when it is identified that a multi-agency review may be helpful to respond to wider partnership learning.

*“We’ve already met as a team to discuss the 6 key themes from the national safeguarding panel, it’s been a really helpful tool for us to consider how we apply our practice at school. Points such as understanding the child’s daily life has focused our thinking past the school gates and really got us to think about what a day in the life of our children actually looks like. We really benefited from the virtual briefing, its been invaluable.”*

*(Feedback from Designated Safeguarding Lead)*

Our arrangements for local learning about multi-agency practice have been strengthened through 'Line of Sight' meetings which are now a regular feature of assurance activity. Practitioners and managers come together to

learn about practice where there have been missed opportunities or poor outcomes for children. This process is proving to be agile and responsive and is directly involving practitioners in the learning process.

## Example of an HSCP 7-minute briefing

### 1. Background and reason for HSCP reviews

Two thematic line of sight meetings have been held where the children had experienced neglect. During both reviews, information was shared by agencies relating to concerns over several years.

Concerns related to historical and current parental drug use and distribution, maternal mental health, parental adverse childhood experiences, domestic abuse, and parental learning difficulties.

Significant concerns noted by agencies at home addresses in relation to children within the properties being in neglectful states. Parents were deemed unable to care for their children.

Parents were caring for a large sibling group and were young parents.

There was very limited support from either the family network or through friends.

### 2. Key lines of enquiry – thematic learning event in relation to neglect

Was the appropriate level support and invention provided by all relevant agencies in a timely way?

Was the appropriate threshold applied when work was undertaken with the family?

Was there sufficient professional curiosity in relation to the children's needs and risk, particularly when support was declined by parents?

### 3. Why is the early identification and support in relation to neglect important?

Nationally, neglect remains the most common reason for child safeguarding actions being taken. It features in most safeguarding practice reviews as it is consistently a factor in the lives of children who die or who are seriously harmed because of child maltreatment.

Neglect is nationally and locally consistently the most common initial category of abuse for children on a child protection plan. Neglect is often linked to other forms of abuse.

Research shows that neglect significantly impacts on children and young people throughout their childhood. Early identification of neglect and provision of support leads to better outcomes for children and into adulthood.

### 7. Further information – links

Threshold of Need - [https://hullscb.proceduresonline.com/files/thresh\\_needs.pdf](https://hullscb.proceduresonline.com/files/thresh_needs.pdf)

HSCP neglect tool kit - [www.hullscb.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Hull-Neglect-Toolkit.docx](http://www.hullscb.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Hull-Neglect-Toolkit.docx)

Line of Sight process - [www.hullscb.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Appendix-C-Line-of-Sight-Process.docx](http://www.hullscb.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Appendix-C-Line-of-Sight-Process.docx)

Myth of invisible men - [www.hullscb.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/The\\_myth\\_of\\_invisible\\_men\\_safeguarding\\_children\\_under\\_1\\_from\\_non-accidental\\_injury\\_caused\\_by\\_male\\_carers.pdf](http://www.hullscb.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/The_myth_of_invisible_men_safeguarding_children_under_1_from_non-accidental_injury_caused_by_male_carers.pdf)

Analysis and critical thinking in assessment: Literature review (2014) | Research in Practice - <https://www.researchinpractice.org.uk/children/publications/2014/july/analysis-and-critical-thinking-in-assessment-literature-review-2014/>

[www.nspcc.org.uk/services-and-resources/research-and-resources/2015/thriving-communities-framework-neglect/](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/services-and-resources/research-and-resources/2015/thriving-communities-framework-neglect/)

### 6. Next steps

This 7-minute guide will be shared across the partnership to compliment discussions, training and learning in relation to safeguarding children and young people from neglect within individual agencies.

The 'key learning' has been incorporated into the recently revised HSCP neglect tool kit and practice guidance. This includes a tool for practitioners to use when considering neglect to enable children's lives to be understood to ensure an appropriate response at the earliest possible opportunity. The tool has been shared through HSCP briefings to raise awareness in relation to neglect. A recording of a briefing is accessible on the HSCP website.

Training to support practitioners with key learning points is available through the HSCP Learning Programme 2022/ 2023 and attached links (detailed above).

HSCP will deliver a webinar to support practitioners with learning linked to the 'Myth of Invisible men'.

Auditing activity will take place through the HSCP Quality Assurance subgroup in November 2022 to consider the impact on children and young people following work undertaken in relation to neglect across the partnership.

### 4. Good Practice

When strategy meetings were held, good partnership attendance was noted which enabled the effective sharing of multi-agency information.

There was evidence of some good multi-agency engagement at an early help stage – i.e., communication between education, midwifery and 0-19. Evidence of some good information sharing at some transition points and during ongoing work with the children.

Some good evidence was seen of direct work undertaken with children and young people which assisted in building a trusting relationship with them.

Evidence of tenacity and persistence of practitioners working with the families in striving to make positive change for the children.



### 5. Key Learning

**Working with families where engagement is reluctant and sporadic** – the reviews highlighted a history of failed appointments and home visits. Parents often appeared to avoid engagement with agencies including attendance at children's health appointments, mental health services and availability for visits with children's social care. There is a need to understand underlying issues which may impact on engagement i.e., parental adverse childhood experiences, learning difficulties and challenges in engaging with multiple professionals and appointments. Links to be made with adult services, when required.

**Professional curiosity** – it is important for all practitioners to gather information from a range of sources to inform an assessment of what is happening in a child's life on a day-to-day basis. Individual direct work with children to understand what life is like for them is vital and information relating to all children in the household needs to be correlated. Whilst it is imperative to work with families to improve the lives of children, practitioners should be professionally curious and not be solely reliant on parents/ carers accounts to avoid disguised compliance. Reflections during line of sights meetings were that information had been shared with agencies in relation to drug use within the family home, domestic abuse, hazardous home conditions and concerns in relation to children's dietary requirements not being met. These areas required exploration to understand more thoroughly the impact on the child.

**Information sharing** - Effective gathering of information from all key agencies is imperative during involvement with a child and young person. This includes ensuring that agencies working with parents/ carers are linked with the plans for children and young people at both early help and safeguarding stages. Information needs to be triangulated and considered alongside historical chronologies to prevent focus just being on a single event. Where neglect is identified, support needs to be provided at the earliest possible opportunity.

**All household members / relevant others to be considered** – during work with children and families, the focus can often be on the ability of mothers to protect and risk assessments and plans based on their engagement with agencies. It is important to ensure that fathers, and others who are significant to the child and young person, are an integral part of progressing plans to make positive changes and informing assessments.

Key learning, which has been identified through individual agency pre-analysis and impact chronologies, is presented at the LoS meeting. Reflective discussions then take place to agree specific learning needs and actions. These are disseminated in the form of a 7-minute guide and briefings to share widely across the partnership. Actions identified are then tracked through the LFIC subgroup to consider impact and effective implementation. The impact of these reviews has strengthened agency responses to children by assisting with highlighting key learning themes and providing accessible research and resources to support changes in practice. Areas identified following reviews include the need for increased professional curiosity, effective multi-agency sharing of information and the need to always adopt a whole family approach. All of these themes are included in training and learning which takes place through HSCP.

#### **Link to Line of Sight 7-Minute-Guide**

##### **Line of Sight - 7 Minute Guide**

Thematic local reviews which have taken place during the scope of this report include themes centred around neglect and contextual safeguarding. Learning from these Line-of-Sight meetings has contributed to informing the HSCP focus of work for both these areas (as reflected within this report).

Within the annual reports reporting timeframes, there have been no new notifications made to the Panel in relation to the death or serious injury of any child where abuse or neglect is known or suspected. One previous serious case review has been published during this period with an action plan demonstrating how learning has subsequently been used to improve future practice. An example of this includes increased awareness of the impact on children of neglect and domestic abuse, the introduction of the Signs of Safety practice model in Hull and improved management oversight and supervision across all statutory safeguarding agencies.

Joint working across the collaborative partnership is in place with the aim of delivering change for children and adults in Hull by collectively integrating and aligning the work of the four constituent strategic partnerships. This has led to a more strengthened and holistic approach for children in Hull as we have share learning in relation to local learning reviews, domestic homicide reviews, and adult reviews

to identify themes which can be strengthened. Examples include joint learning identified in relation to professional curiosity.

## **Audits**

**A multi-agency programme of auditing has been in situ during the scoping period for this report. This has followed a cycle of auditing based on the HSCP priorities and any identified emerging need/risk.**

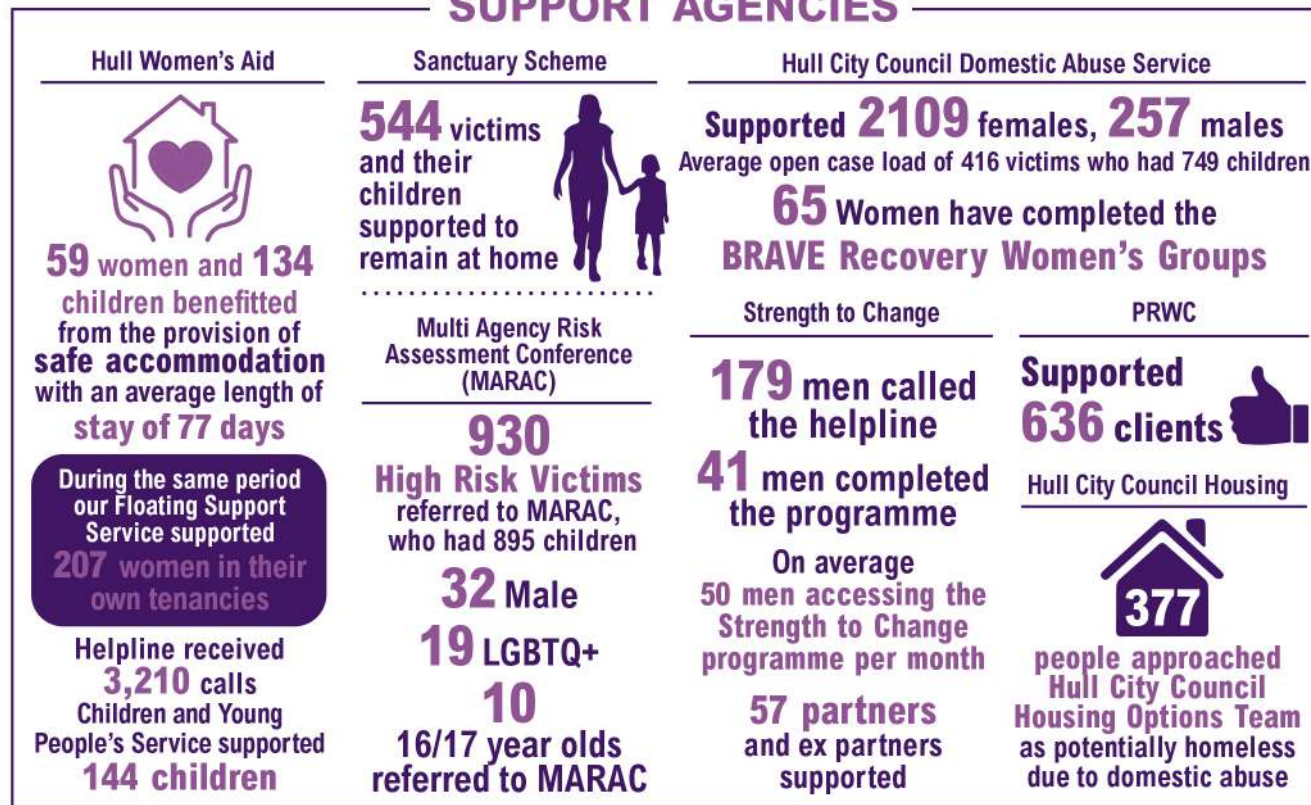
The Hull Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP) Quality Assurance and Performance subgroup has been a key element of the governance HSCP structure. Part of the remit of this group has been to have oversight of the partnership quality assurance and auditing activity which takes place through the HSCP. Auditing is part of the assurance work under the HSCP and has taken varying forms, including in person multi-agency in depth case reviews and dip-sampling activity. Key findings of audits, and an action plan to progress, are presented to the HSCP Executive Board on a quarterly basis.

Activity undertaken has included audits focusing on children where neglect has been a feature, reviewing safeguarding partnership responses to children experiencing domestic abuse and reviewing children who have been discussed at Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) meetings to consider the effectiveness of existing safeguarding children structures where contextual safeguarding risks exist, including the impact of the new Devolved Decision-Making Pilot for National Referral Mechanism (NRM).

Examples of practice changes which have taken place for children, as a result of auditing activity, includes collectively strengthening our response in relation to the timeliness of information being shared with EHASH and tracking safeguarding information to ensure that it is shared in a timely way when criteria is met for MARAC. Work to strengthen systems and processes linked to CP-IS (health system) has resulted in improved information sharing when children are subject to child protection plans. As detailed within this report, learning opportunities in relation to neglect, domestic abuse and contextual safeguarding have been varied and wide-reaching to enhance the response and support children and families receive.



## SUPPORT AGENCIES



## Domestic abuse

**“The Hull Safeguarding Partnership will work closely with Safer Hull (Community Safety Partnership), and other agencies, to ensure that effective protection and support is provided to children and their families who experience domestic abuse. The HSCP will also work with partners to support ongoing early intervention and preventative work to raise awareness of domestic abuse to prevent this occurring.”**

The recent report published by National Panel highlights the increasing national prevalence of domestic abuse and the significant impact that this has on children, both during early years and into adulthood.

The current arrangements in place to support children and their families in Hull who are impacted by abuse, demonstrate a creative and collaborative response to this. Strong professional relationships have strengthened the work undertaken to support an approach where all forms of domestic abuse are

recognised at the earliest opportunity and an effective response is provided to children and young people (including those in an intimate relationship) who have been harmed, or are likely to suffer harm, as a result of this.

The Hull Domestic Abuse Strategy for 2021-2024 details the commitments that all agencies make to contribute to ensuring that our approach in Hull is one where domestic abuse is not tolerated and one where the impact on children and young people living with domestic abuse is fully recognised and responded to. The Domestic Abuse Delivery Plan was developed through task and finish groups, which included the HSCP and was co-produced with those with lived experience. The plan includes details of support in relation to the prevention of domestic abuse through early identification and intervention, the provision of high-quality services for victims of abuse and our response to safeguarding children and young people (including those in an intimate relationship) who experience domestic abuse. HSCP Independent Scrutineer activity supported identified areas of focus in relation to children.

**Link to Hull domestic abuse strategy 2021 - 2024**

[Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021 to 2024](#)



KINGSTON-UPON-HULL

# Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021-2024

As part of this group, feedback from young people is central to informing priorities. Examples of this include work undertaken to create an accessible child friendly version of the Hull Domestic Abuse Strategy. Feedback from young people who had experienced domestic abuse was collated to inform the strategy and delivery plan.

“More work is needed with younger people so they are aware of healthy and unhealthy relationships so they know what to look for and to help them”  
– *aged 13 years*

“People who are violent need to get help  
- my brother used to be violent and didn’t  
get help, he is now in prison”  
- ***aged 14 years***

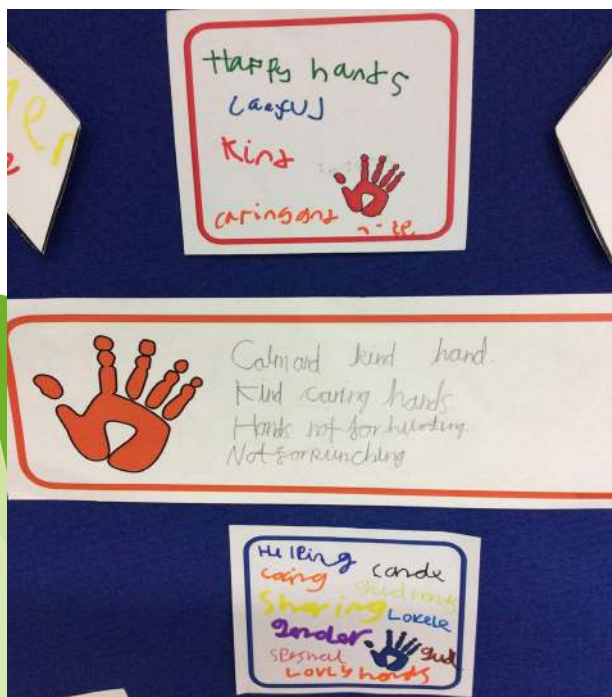
**“More advice and information to be *given*  
to young people in schools”  
– *aged 12 years***

“People need to be able to access services – I wanted help for a long time for my Mum, and now they we both have help but feel all children and young people should be able to get help and know who to go to for help”

**- aged 13 years**

HSCP are actively involved in the work relating to Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) and attend relevant work streams, including the VAWG IAG which is chaired and informed by members of the public. Early intervention and education are key to progress and HSCP have signed a statement of intent to work alongside agencies to tackle VAWG.

The Hull Safeguarding Children Partnership Learning Programme (2022/2023) provided classroom and virtual training which included providing tools to support recognising and responding to domestic abuse and safety planning and enhancing understanding around the effects and impact of domestic abuse for the adult victim and their children. 132 practitioners attended the HSCP learning programme courses during the scope of this reporting period.



Additionally, the 'We Can Talk about Domestic Abuse' project had developed and implemented a bespoke specialist training offer for the social care workforce which was launched in March 2023 to enhance awareness when working with children, young people and their families. Topics covered include coercive and controlling behaviour and tools to assist with safety planning. Training has also been delivered to front line response officers within Humberside Police ('Domestic Abuse Matters Training'). Domestic Abuse is a core element of mandatory training in health for both safeguarding children and adults and staff are required to complete training at different levels as outlined in the Intercollegiate documents commensurate with roles.

The White Ribbon '16 Days of Action' commenced on 25th November 2022 with a range of activities taking place across Hull to support the 'International Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls' (VAWG). Schools across Hull joined in with activities to raise awareness with the theme of 'Hands are not for Hurting' with children enjoying visits from Humberside Police and Fire and Rescue Services, including spending time with K9 Fire Investigation dogs!. The Hull Community Safety Partnership has driven forward work to enable Hull to be recredited as a White Ribbon city for a further 3 years. The HSCP manager is a 'White Ribbon Champion' and is part of the activity relating to this in Hull.

Under the new Domestic Abuse Act 2021 children and young people are a victim of domestic abuse where they see, hear or experience the effects of domestic abuse. In response to this the new burdens funding was utilised to enhance the support to children and young people and the DA strategic Board commissioned a 50% increase in support and a new for children and young people provided through 'Time to Listen' in Hull who is providing specialist support to victims, and their children.

This also includes rebuilding attachment and relationships post abuse and where child to parent abuse is evident.

Furthermore, funding received from the Police and Crime Commissioner was utilised to increase the support for child to parent abuse which included training partnership staff to deliver the Who's in Charge Programme, the purchase of bespoke books and materials for practitioners to use and online interactive sessions. The HSCP has been included in the interviewing and commissioning of resources and posts to support children and families experiencing domestic abuse.

Through the Mental Health and Wellbeing leads individual support and community activities have been provided to children who have experienced domestic abuse. This has included supporting young people who are experiencing anxiety and mental health issues which require support to be provided through a specialist educational setting.

Humber Wide DA learning events were held throughout 2022 and have commenced again in 2023. These were co-ordinated through a working group led by the Strategic Domestic Abuse Services Manager and attended by HSCP manager and representatives across the Humber regions. The events promoted the Hull Domestic Abuse Strategy and raised awareness in relation to key learning

from Domestic Homicide Reviews and Serious Child Review and domestic abuse. The events included an emotive session led by Ryan and Luke Hart who shared their personal story around coercive control during their childhood which cumulated in the heart-breaking murder of their mother, Claire and sister Charlotte. A performance was also presented through the Certain Curtain Theatre Company who use theatre to raise awareness around domestic abuse.

*"The event provided valuable insight around how agencies and practitioners can collectively support children and families experiencing domestic abuse. 1,679 people attended these events"*

*"More aware of domestic abuse and specifically coercive control. I now feel more comfortable to approach this topic and feel it is something I look out for more within my practice."*

*"Thank you for such an informative and powerful session. This will stay with me and definitely influence how I view domestic abuse and the implications on others and children."*



*"Fantastic training afternoon from all involved. Very powerful and educational from all the speakers. Production was great too."*



## Neglect

**“HSCP will ensure that there is a clearly embedded multi-agency response to children experiencing neglect. Practitioners across all agencies will be supported to identify neglect, understand the impact on children and respond to this at the earliest opportunity”**

Hull Safeguarding Children Partnership are committed to preventing children and young people experiencing neglect and advocate support being provided at the earliest possible opportunity to reduce any detrimental impact. Our response to neglect, with a specific focus on prevention, has remained a strategic priority during this reporting period.

Nationally and locally, neglect has been identified as increasing in prevalence during the last two years. When children experience neglect, this impacts on their development and can negatively affect their future life chances. Covid-19 contributed to increased risk factors associated with neglect including poverty, reduced support networks and isolation. Particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic, concerns increased in relation to the potential ‘hidden harm’ for vulnerable children and young people. This was exacerbated by a series of national lockdowns which resulted in children’s contact with professionals becoming reduced. The current cost of living crisis has also had a significant impact on families across the country, including Hull.

Whilst poverty in itself does not necessarily result in children being neglected, it can be a contributory factor and support is required to mitigate the impact

of poverty on children’s outcomes. Practitioners across Hull have been encouraged to take the time to understand families’ individual lived experiences to ensure that the right support and intervention is offered at the earliest opportunity and at the right level. The Signs of Safety model, which has been adopted by Hull Children’s Services, has assisted with this.

Neglect has remained a standing agenda item within the HSCP Learning and Improvement subgroup. Links have also been made with other relevant forums across Hull for a shared approach, for example presentations delivered at the Health and Wellbeing Board. The aim has been to support practitioners across all agencies to identify neglect, understand the impact on children and respond to this at the earliest opportunity. Learning has also focused on supported relevant agencies and practitioners to have an understanding of the correlation between neglect and adult carer issues and how these impact on children - including domestic abuse, parental mental health and substance misuse.

Multi-agency learning events have taken place during 2022/ 2023, which have included in person training delivered by HSCP trainers and briefings co-delivered by safeguarding representatives (Humberside Police, HSCP manager, Early Help Managers). These have been attended by in excess of 200 practitioners across the HSCP. A recorded briefing was also utilised by agencies (i.e., housing) to share within team meetings, demonstrating an agile approach to widening learning opportunities. HSCP have also co-delivered additional briefings with the Hull Social Work academy, who have also provided interactive workshops for social workers to support increased awareness.

The HSCP tool kit and HSCP neglect guidance



(updated 2022 in partnership with relevant agencies in Hull) has been created for all safeguarding practitioners to use. Analysis so far has shown that the HSCP tool and learning has been well received and is starting to be used by practitioners across the partnership. Feedback is requested from agencies in relation to how individual organisations are embedding, and using, the HSCP neglect toolkit. This includes briefings shared at DSL education meetings, housing gathering feedback in relation to how the toolkit is being used and the Hull Social Work Academy delivering monthly workshops to social workers and practitioners. Following recent neglect audit work, HSCP have attended the Hull Children's Services Wider Leadership meeting to share presentations to support neglect tool kit being used to inform planning at all thresholds of intervention with children. It is recognised that continued work is required to ensure a consistent approach to neglect across Hull influences practice more widely. By continuing to ensure that the tool is widely used to support practice, and by continuing to develop a shared understanding of neglect, this will ultimately lead to children and young people receiving the right support at the right time when they are experiencing neglect. This will also ensure that early help and support can be provided before problems and impact become chronic and will reduce the need for a safeguarding response.

*"Before I had no friends, and I was too embarrassed to ask anyone to come to my house because of how it was. Things are now different as I feel happy, and it is all much better."*

*Aged 13 years (HSCP tool used to support the family to make positive changes)*

*"The HSCP neglect toolkit is really good, I think that even those who have little experience in this area can complete the document and it will help them understand if a child is being neglected. This can also be used with the parent/carer to help them understand neglect better."*

*(Neighbourhoods and Housing)*

*"Having used a number of tools I prefer this (HSCP neglect tool) as it is more user friendly. It is very relevant for community practitioners who will visit the family home."*

*(NHS)*



**Link to HSCP Neglect Guidance**

[HSCP Neglect Guidance and Toolkit](#)

**Link to Hull Neglect Toolkit**

[Hull Neglect Toolkit](#)

Messages and learning in relation to neglect, and the wider support which is available in Hull for families, has been shared through HSCP social media and newsletters.

We are all acutely aware of the current cost of living crisis and the significant impact that this is having on families across Hull. Hull City Council have launched a package of measures, called 'Hull Together', to ensure that people understand how to ask for help and advice. Webinars have also been delivered through the early help partnership for practitioners across Hull regarding the support available. Information around how to access support has been advertised on posters, leaflets, online, and in public spaces, including translations into languages commonly spoken locally.

## Contextual safeguarding

**“The HSCP will work with all partner agencies to identify and reduce the number of children affected by exploitation. The focus will be on ensuring that there is a good understanding across the partnership of the complex and inter-related risks associated with child exploitation to enable support and intervention to take place at the earliest opportunity to reduce this.”**

The response to tackling child exploitation in Hull has continued to be co-ordinated through the HSCP contextual safeguarding subgroup which is co-chaired by Hull City Council Head of Early Help and Prevention and the Head of Hull and East Riding Probation Delivery Unit. The membership of the group includes representation from across the partnership which enables strong joint working in progressing priorities in relation to contextual safeguarding within Hull. There is a continued high level of motivation and commitment by all agencies to make a difference to children experiencing exploitation, and this is evidenced by the continued engagement and attendance across the partnership, at both a strategic and operational level.

There are well embedded local partnership and joint work arrangements, for example, the Safer Hull Integrated Partnership (SHIP), local tasking meetings and the key role of Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs) and identified Safer Schools Officers.

The Vulnerable, Missing, Exploited and Trafficked Team (VEMT) works closely with Humberside Police, the Locate Team (missing children) and Neighbourhood Policing Teams. VEMT staff are instrumental in undertaking assessments of risk, either through completing Return Home Interviews (RHI's) or via any direct work with children and young people who go missing and/or are considered at risk of exploitation. Daily meetings in relation to missing children are held with Police and East Riding's 'Making a Change' Team, to consider children who are missing, share information, identify areas of concern, and agree actions to increase safety. This approach has proven highly successful in recognising 'cross border' associations, concerns and promoting collaboration to manage risk to children. Weekly locality exploitation risk meetings in Hull (LERM's) provides the opportunity to discuss young people more frequently which provides a prompter response to addressing risk.

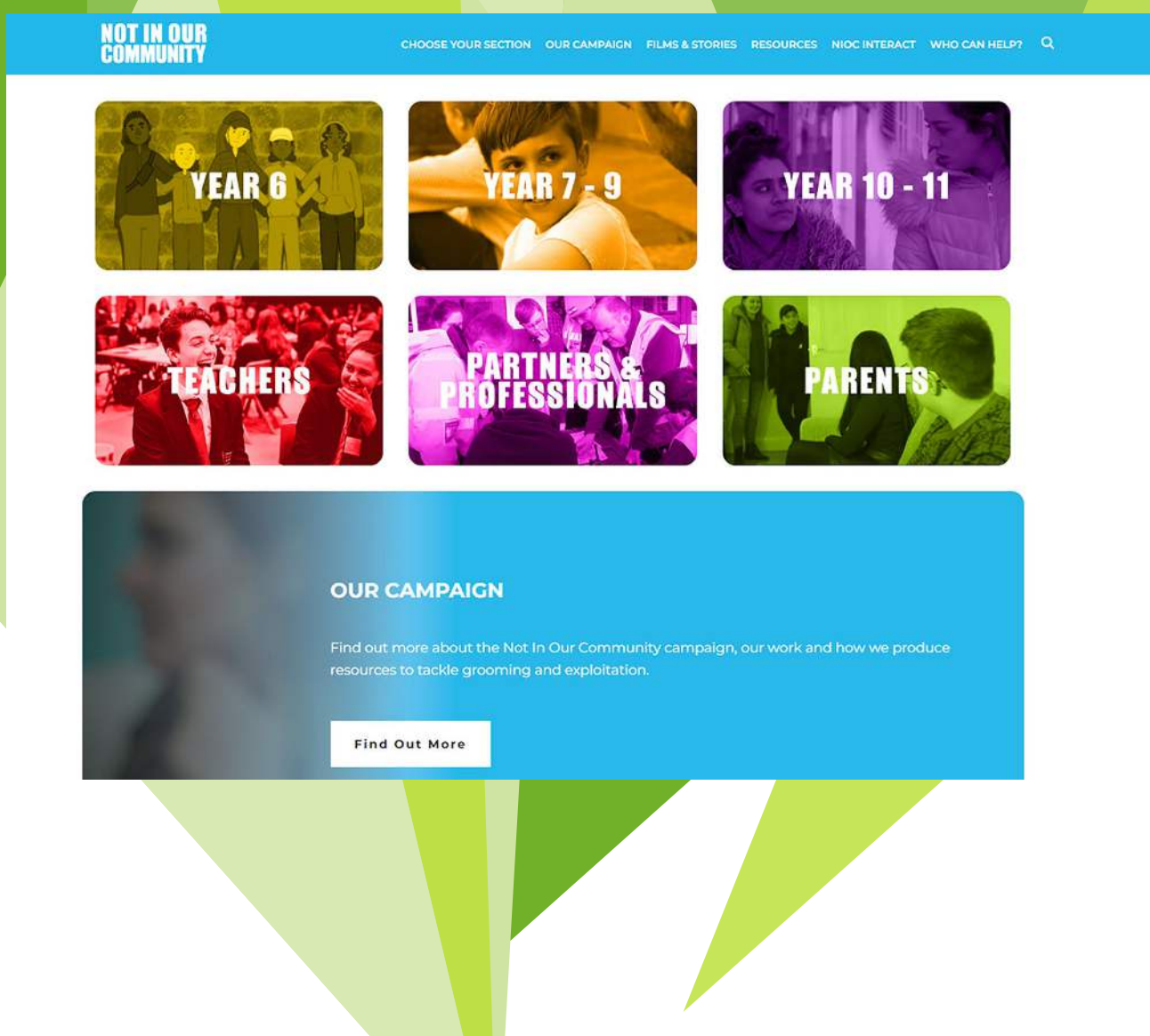
*The contextual Safeguarding Operational Group reports into the strategic group. This is chaired by Humberside Police with the purpose being:*

*“To lead the HSCPs operational approach to contextual safeguarding, ensuring all key agencies and services work together effectively and deliver support and interventions in a coordinated manner to improve outcomes for all children and young people at risk. Partners will work together to focus on prevention, engagement and disruption of CSE/CCE and missing events.”*

In Hull a national Home Office NRM (National Referral Mechanism) pilot has been implemented, where NRM decision making is devolved to a local safeguarding partnership group. This has resulted in significant reductions in delays for decisions when compared to those undertaken by the Home Office Single Competent Authority (SCA). The positive impact of this is that young people are identified as victims much earlier and benefit from their needs being understood and responded to in a timely manner.

The OCG Silver Group is a multi-agency partnership meeting led by Humberside Police. The monthly meetings share intelligence relating to areas of concern relating to drugs (including County Lines), organised and acquisitive crime and adult/ child exploitation. The meeting focus includes ensuring that appropriate safeguarding actions are planned for any child who is identified as being potentially impacted by the work of the OCG.

Training and awareness raising are keys areas of progress which have taken place across the partnership, for professionals and community services. Local prevention campaigns, in response to exploitation, have taken place. Examples include the work undertaken through 'Not in Our Community' where videos describing young people's own lived experiences and tools have been made available to support responses and to raise awareness of exploitation.



Diversionary activities in the community have assisted in responding to local issues, via our local youth offer. This includes specific projects such as 'Reachout' which is a team of outreach youth workers, led by Cornerhouse and the Warren, who work flexibly to respond to youth issues which arise in the evenings across the city. Work takes place collaboratively with Humberside Police, Hull Neighbourhood Nuisance Team and VEMT to identify and support young people in the community to provide advice, guidance, a listening ear and to help them to engage with other activities in their local community.

The role of schools is key, and the co-ordinated offer of support, such as presentations at assemblies to specific year groups and training to education providers has continued. In January 2023 a Young Women and Girls worker was recruited into VEMT

(Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing and Trafficked) team as a result of the Home Office Programme, the "Young Women and Girls (YWAG) fund, to provide specialist support for women and girls affected by gang exploitation. Between January and March 23, 19 girls and young women were supported through direct work. This resulted in a reduction in risk and an increase in safety networks for 14 young people. This was evidenced by reduced missing episodes, increased support through services and relationships with identified trusted adults. Presentations on safety were also delivered to 5 primary schools in Hull reaching an audience of 183 girls.

The newly developed collaborative website (between HSCP, adults safeguarding board, community safety partnership) will provide a central point of access for members of the public and professionals to access information in relation to exploitation.



*"Amazing day and well put together. Gavin was inspirational and gave a very powerful speech, definitely will inform my practice."*

*"I will be able to share resources with vulnerable families I work with".*

**Contextual Safeguarding Conference  
Analysis Report**

<https://www.hullscp.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Contextual-Safeguarding-Conference-report.pdf>



*"Lived experience talk was extremely inspiring and consolidated importance of why we were all here."*

In March 2023, the Hull Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP) had the privilege to host the Contextual Safeguarding Conference, in conjunction with the East Riding Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner. This provided an excellent opportunity for reflection and learning around our approach to child exploitation. This was a large-scale event, with around 350 attendees from across the partnerships, including police, health, education providers, Local Authority, probation services and the voluntary and community sector.

The event provided an opportunity for reflections and learning around our approach to tackling child exploitation and brought key partners together to shape the delivery of local priorities. Informative workshops were delivered which included topics such as sextortion, how to ensure the voices of children are always central to practice and the critical role of voluntary agencies. Highlights also included Dr Kate Richardson (OBE) talking about the work of the National Crime Agency and Gavin McKenna delivering an emotive and impactful session around his own lived experiences of exploitation. Gavin's messages reminded us all to

'see the person not the behaviour' and evidenced the importance of supporting young people to reach their full potential by providing opportunities in the community.





## 5. Conclusion – including next steps

**Through strong attention being given to the culture of learning, and a collaborative approach, we have continued to improve our safeguarding response to children in Hull. Whilst it is recognised that there are many challenges, a shared and innovative approach has resulted in safeguarding partners and relevant agencies working and learning together to strive to make a lasting difference to children and their families.**



We will continually need to evaluate the work of the Hull Safeguarding Children Partnership to consider what impact this is having and remain ambitious to achieving the best possible outcomes for children. This will be predominantly achieved through sub-group activity focusing on progressing the HSCP Business Plan for 2023-2024 which is informed by the agreed future strategic priorities (neglect, contextual safeguarding, responses to children experiencing domestic abuse, multi-agency arrangements and learning). Progress will be driven both under the governance structure of HSCP and through the continuation of embedding collaborative work. The HSCP will continue to strengthen and evidence its own effectiveness through continual evaluation, scrutiny and rigorous constructive challenge.

Partnership wide learning and quality assurance will continue to be led by HSCP to further develop a growing culture and commitment to continuous improvement, achieved through high support and

challenge. This includes providing assurance in relation to learning and improvement activity.

During April 2023 a 'time out session' was held with HSCP executive leads and the HSCP manager to discuss future priorities and to agree a refreshed structure for 2023-2024. This includes a neglect subgroup having been introduced under the new arrangements which will assist in driving forward a shared multi-agency response to neglect. We plan to hold a neglect conference in November 23 to share learning to contribute towards ensuring plans developed by all agencies are based on individual needs and circumstances so that change is lasting and sustained.

In relation to contextual safeguarding, a pathway is currently being strengthened for young people who are suffering or at risk of suffering exploitation. This will enhance transitions from child to adult services to support safeguarding needs into adulthood, particularly where many children's services end at age 18. The working group progressing this activity is led by health and local authority colleagues and there is a multi-agency membership to ensure co-ordinated responses across child and adult safeguarding services.

Listening to, and hearing, the voices of children and young people will always remain at the centre of all our work. Their views and ideas are instrumental in continually developing and influencing services for children and young people across Hull. During the next year we will focus on how this can be further developed to make continued positive transformations in the way we work with children and young people.

**Lara Davidson**  
Hull Safeguarding Children  
Partnership Manager

## 6. Useful links and resources

The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel-  
Multi-agency safeguarding and domestic abuse  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1107448/14.149\\_DFE\\_Child\\_safeguarding\\_Domestic\\_PB2\\_v4a.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1107448/14.149_DFE_Child_safeguarding_Domestic_PB2_v4a.pdf)

Kingston Upon Hull Domestic  
Abuse Strategy 2022-2024  
<https://www.hull.gov.uk/downloads/file/1267/domestic-abuse-strategy-2021-2024>

Hull Safeguarding Children Partnership  
Neglect Guidance  
<https://www.hullscp.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/HSCP-Neglect-Guidance-and-Toolkit.pdf>

Hull Safeguarding Children  
Partnership Neglect Toolkit  
<https://www.hullscp.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Hull-Neglect-Toolkit.docx>

Hull Early Help and Prevention Strategy 2021-25  
[https://hullchserv.proceduresonline.com/files/early\\_help\\_priority\\_fam.pdf](https://hullchserv.proceduresonline.com/files/early_help_priority_fam.pdf)

Hull Safeguarding Children Partnership Learning  
Programme 2022-2023  
<https://www.hullscp.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/HSCP-Learning-Programme-2022-2023.pdf>

MAPPA Humberside Annual report 2021-2022  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1114134/Humberside-mappa-ar-21-22.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1114134/Humberside-mappa-ar-21-22.pdf)

Child Protection in England – National review into  
the murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star  
Hobson Child Protection in England - May 2022  
(publishing.service.gov.uk)  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1078488/ALH\\_SH\\_National\\_Review\\_26-5-22.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1078488/ALH_SH_National_Review_26-5-22.pdf)

The Independent Review of Children's Social Care  
[https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20230308122535mp\\_/https://childrensocialcare.independent-review.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/The-independent-review-of-childrens-social-care-Final-report.pdf](https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20230308122535mp_/https://childrensocialcare.independent-review.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/The-independent-review-of-childrens-social-care-Final-report.pdf)

In My Pockets 'Dream On'- an award winning  
animation about care-  
Voice and Influence (5 mins)  
<https://mypockets.co.uk/dream-on>

HSCP Contextual Safeguarding Strategy  
<https://www.hullscp.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Contextual-safeguarding-Strategy-2023-V2-P3.pdf>

HSCP Procedures Manual  
<https://hullscp.trixonline.co.uk/>







1 April 2022-31 March 2023

