



SSP Website being updated

As you may have seen the SSP website is in the process of being updated to reflect the new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements. The website redesign is now live and the work to review and update the content is ongoing. This will be completed by June 2021. Whilst every effort is being taken to minimise disruption, some maintenance work in February, may affect the location of some links. Therefore, if there are particular forms and/or policies that you regularly access from the website we suggest you download and save a copy.

We welcome any feedback and suggestions so please do contact us safeguardingpartnership@swindon.gov.uk



Practitioner Forum – Frontline Practitioners Needed!

We are creating a Practitioners Forum for colleagues who are frontline practitioners working with children, young people, adults with care and support needs and their parents/families/unpaid carers. The forum members will represent children’s and adult social care, health, education and the voluntary sector.

The purpose of the Practitioners Forum is to ensure the voice of frontline work and experiences of safeguarding systems are used to shape the work of the SSP. We will meet virtually once every 3 months. If you are interested in sharing your experiences of working directly with children / young people / families using safeguarding services and an opportunity to shape policy, practice and training in Swindon please contact Helen Rankin, Development Manager email: hrankin@swindon.gov.uk



Publication of two Safeguarding Adult Reviews

The SSP has published two SAR’s on 09/02/21 on the SSP website. The reviews produced learning for partners and improvements have already been made. [Reports & Learning briefs are available here](#) We encourage all teams to share the learning in their teams.

SAR Terry died in hospital in June 2019 aged 71 from liver cirrhosis accompanied by Hepatitis C. Terry experienced self-neglect, financial abuse, neglect by informal carers and alcohol misuse in the years leading up to his death.

SAR - Kieran died at his home in January 2019 following a period of illness. Kieran was diagnosed with mild learning disabilities around the age of 18 and first had contact with mental health services following his father’s death 3 years later. He experienced self – neglect, hoarding, mental illness and exploitation in the years leading up to his death

Ofsted Focused Inspection of Swindon Children’s Services



Recently Ofsted carried out a focussed inspection of the Children’s Services Department and their response during the pandemic. The report has now been received and can be viewed [here](#). It provides some positive feedback, highlighting the great work being done and two areas for improvement.

**and
Harbour Project Survey Report
Published**

In 2019 bids were invited from non-profit organisations in Swindon to undertake a survey with their contacts/members. These were likely to be people from whom we otherwise did not hear. Between July and December 2020 - 50 surveys were completed online by people involved with The Harbour Project. The key findings identified were:

- “Language and interpretation has to be the number one issue”.
- “Navigation of health services is a challenge for people new to the country”.
- Organisations like The Harbour Project are essential as part of the support system.

To access the report [click here](#).

Domestic Abuse Codeword Scheme



The Home Office has launched a [domestic abuse codeword scheme](#) in pharmacies across the UK. Ask for ANI codeword scheme allows those at risk or suffering from domestic abuse to discreetly signal to pharmacy staff that they need help accessing support. A trained pharmacy worker will offer a private space where they can understand if the victim needs to speak to the police or would like help to access support services, such as a national or local domestic abuse helpline. There are digital posters/social media posts on the [Home Office resource page](#) that can be shared. For further information also visit the [Government website](#) or email: AskforANI@homeoffice.gov.uk.

Information about vaccines developed for people with learning disabilities and/or autistic people



A [short film](#) from NHS England and NHS Improvement which explains what a vaccine is, how vaccines are made, why you should get a vaccine, whether a vaccine make you ill and how to decide whether to have a vaccine or not.

**Department for Work and Pensions
Safeguarding Leader covering Swindon**



Hamish Robertson is the South West Group Senior Safeguarding Leader with the Department for Work and Pensions covering Swindon. Please contact Hamish about any client safeguarding concerns. Email: HAMISH.ROBERTSON@dwp.gov.uk Mobile 07920 360902.

Below are some other services/resources for professionals working with children/adults and families.

Loan sharks queries for professionals: Wendy Loades - Liaise Officer (South West), National Illegal Money Lending Team(England) Email: wendy.loades@birmingham.gov.uk

Telephone: 07557203145

National Trading Standards – Scams Team: [website](#)

Christians Against Poverty: offer money advice services for more information visit their [website](#). Those struggling with debt can contact - Telephone: 0800 328 0006.

Frontline Debt Advice: [website](#)

Benefits advice and Help to Claim: [Citizens Advice website](#)

Claiming Universal Credit: if you do not have digital access - Universal Credit helpline, Telephone: 0800 328 5644

Together we can tackle child abuse

The Department of Education ‘Together we can tackle child abuse’ campaign aims to strengthen public knowledge and confidence in the ‘signs to look out for’ with the five different types of abuse:

- ✓ neglect,
- ✓ physical abuse,
- ✓ emotional abuse,
- ✓ sexual abuse and
- ✓ online abuse.



COVID-19 has increased the risk of abuse and neglect of children and young people. Although school is a protective factor for those who are able to attend the lockdown measures have highlighted the risk of hidden harms such as those to babies and younger children. Agencies are encouraged to use the messages from the campaign on social media channels and incorporate into training materials. For further information and access to resources [click here](#).

Practice Briefing for Sharing Learning and Improving Practice

Learning from – SSP Multi-Agency Mental Health Audit



A multi-agency review of 8 cases relating to children aged between 7 and 17 years and focused on the following:

- ✓ Decision making and timeliness of decision making
- ✓ Risk assessment and identification and response to child’s mental health needs
- ✓ Quality of assessment and care planning
- ✓ Participation of the child and family
- ✓ Addressing individual needs
- ✓ Multi agency working

This resource explores the areas of positive practice highlighted and some areas for development. Some recommendations and themes related to agencies/services but several were relevant to practitioners across the partnership and are the focus of this resource.

Themes identified included:

- ✓ Effective Information Sharing and Consent
- ✓ Advocating a joint agency approach to mental health in young people and promoting a multi-disciplinary approach to risk assessments and support for professionals.
- ✓ Capturing the Voice of the Child in Records

These are themes, which are consistently highlighted in local and national learning reviews and audits. The resource pack includes some top tips and signposting to resources for practitioners.

To access the [resource click here](#). Please share this resource pack widely and use it in team meetings, as part of group/individual supervision or for your own development.

We are always keen to hear from you and if the resources assist you. Please contact us with your comments/feedback.

New SSP Adult Safeguarding Documents



The [Adults Escalation Policy Swindon](#) for the resolution of multi-agency professional differences has been updated and can be accessed on the adult safeguarding page of the SSP website.

Also the [Adult Threshold E-Guidance](#) this is a live document and incorporates the online referral form. Please familiarise yourselves with these documents.



Coronavirus safeguarding briefings: NSPCC have collated the latest government guidance from across the UK to provide answers about safeguarding during the pandemic. **Read the updated briefings** for [schools](#), [social workers](#) and [early years providers](#).

Safeguarding and continence: NSPCC Learning has published content to help professionals recognise and respond to continence issues that may affect the children and young people they work with. **Read the content:** [Safeguarding and continence](#).

	<p>NSPCC Library: reading lists: The NSPCC Library has created reading lists to mark Children's Mental Health Week (1-7 February) and Sexual abuse and sexual violence awareness week (1-7 February). View the reading lists: Children's Mental Health Week 2021, Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Awareness Week 2021, Further information: Children's Mental Health Week 2021 Sexual Abuse & Sexual Violence Awareness Week 2021 NSPCC Learning: Child mental health, Protecting children from sexual abuse Coronavirus: children's social care referrals: The Children's Commissioner for England has published a report looking at referrals to children's social services in England during the coronavirus crisis. The Children's Commissioner is calling for all local areas to urgently and proactively work to identify vulnerable children who are not coming to the attention of services as they would usually do. Read the report: Too many at-risk children are still invisible to social care Coronavirus: children and young people's mental health: The Children's Commissioner for England has published an annual report on the state of children's mental health services. Read the report: The state of children's mental health services 2020/21 (PDF) Children and young people's mental health: The Education Policy Institute (EPI) and The Prince's Trust have published a report on the mental health and wellbeing of young people. Read the report: Young people's mental and emotional health: trajectories and drivers in childhood and adolescence (PDF) NSPCC Learning: Child mental health</p>
<div data-bbox="236 1285 469 1348" style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;">SSP</div> <div data-bbox="217 1391 531 1429" style="color: #0056b3; text-decoration: underline;">Virtual Classroom</div>	<p>Please keep checking the SSP website for the on-line and virtual learning available. Visit the virtual courses & eLearning page of the SSP website.</p> <p>Spaces are available for a new course.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Domestic Abuse: Impact on Children and Young People – 17/3/21 <p>For information: The training offer for 2021-22 is currently being revised and updated so please bear with us. There will be some changes to the existing programme and further details will be released in due course.</p> <p>All training for 2021- 22 will be delivered virtually owing to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions.</p>
<div data-bbox="121 1715 628 1787" style="text-align: center;"> <p>Virtual College Personal Wellbeing and Development</p> </div> <div data-bbox="240 1839 504 2007" style="text-align: center;"> </div>	<p>Free learning opportunities for you. Virtual College is supporting the new Department for Education initiative #AnHourtoSkill aimed at boosting the nation's skills and job prospects by inspiring people to set aside just one hour a week to complete a free course from The Skills Toolkit. There are more than 70 courses for further details visit The Skills Toolkit website here.</p> <p>There is also a Mental Health Awareness Course aimed at anyone who wishes to improve their mental health. Access Here FREE Work-Life Balance Assessment: This 2-in-1 questionnaire and activity planner helps you understand how to improve your work-life balance. Download Here</p>
<div data-bbox="323 2078 427 2181" style="text-align: center;"> </div>	<p>If you have any information that can be included within the fortnightly SSP newsletter please send the information to the safeguardingpartnership@swindon.gov.uk</p>

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🌐 safeguardingpartnership.swindon.gov.uk

 [Swindonsafegua1](https://twitter.com/Swindonsafegua1)

Although we are still not able to put on any face-to-face training we are expanding the range of topics for which we have on-line learning available through our website: safeguardingpartnership.swindon.gov.uk/training