



**Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership**

**Annual Report 2023-2024**

**(September 2023 – April 2024)**

**Foreword**

I am pleased to introduce the 2023/2024 Annual Report of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership. This report highlights a wide range of important areas delivered by the partnership.

and provides some very good examples of multi agency working.

Since the last report there have been some changes to the statutory guidance that governs the partnership and Lincolnshire was chosen with two other areas in the country to act as a pathfinder to develop and implement new processes. The Partnership has been working with the Department of Education in introducing a new overarching system to establish a system wide ‘families first’ culture. This important piece of work continues and we are seeking to finalise this by the end of March 2025 with the Partnerships new arrangements being published in December 2024.

The Partnership has also been working with a national organisation to develop a new child sexual abuse strategy. Following a successful bid to the Centre of Expertise on child sexual abuse, partners have worked closely with their staff on a new framework to prevent, tackle and respond to all forms of child sexual abuse. The Lincolnshire partners have come together in a shared commitment to improve their identification, response and support for children who experience this type of abuse. In addition, It is vitally important to always embed the voices of these victims and survivors to ensure that the response is timely and effective.

During the early part of this year a joint review was published in conjunction with the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership. This followed a tragic incident in the east of the county where an adult and a child were murdered. Our thoughts remain with Bethany and Darren’s family and friends who are still having to come to terms with this extremely sad and traumatic incident. This review identified some important learning for practitioners and local organisations have already taken action to address these. These steps will improve communication and information sharing between agencies and we hope that this can reduce the likelihood of similar tragedies in the future.

As the Independent Chair I have been providing professional challenge and scrutiny throughout this period and this has been achieved by my broad engagement with the partnership both at operational and strategic levels. It is clear that the partners are open to challenge and I am grateful for their transparency. I am assured that there is a high level of dedication to keeping children and families safe in Lincolnshire and I thank the partners for their commitment.

I also thank Stacey Waller the business manager and her team for the high level of support they provide to ensure that children are protected in this county.

Chris Cook

LSCP Independent Chair

**Introduction**

The purpose of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements is to ensure that, at a local level, organisations and agencies are clear about how they will work together to safeguard children and promote their welfare. This means:

* there is a clear, shared vision for how to improve outcomes for children locally across all levels of need and all types of harm
* when a child is identified as suffering or likely to suffer significant harm there is a prompt, appropriate and effective response to ensure the protection and support of the child
* organisations and agencies are challenged appropriately, effectively holding one another to account
* the voice of children and families combined with the knowledge of experienced practitioners and insights from data, provides a greater understanding of the areas of strength and/or improvement within arrangements and practice
* information is sought, analysed, shared, and broken down by protected characteristics to facilitate more accurate and timely decision-making for children and families, and to understand outcomes for different communities of children
* effective collection, sharing and analysis of data, enables early identification of new safeguarding risks, issues, emerging threats, and joined-up responses across relevant agencies
* senior leaders promote and embed a learning culture which supports local services to become more reflective and implement changes to practice
* senior leaders have a good knowledge and understanding about the quality of local practice and its impact on children and families

(Working Together 2023)

This interim report for September 2023 – April 2024 will showcase the work of the partners and reflect on the impact the arrangements have had for children and families across Lincolnshire. It will also bring LSCP in line with the submission expectations for this report set by the Department of Education.

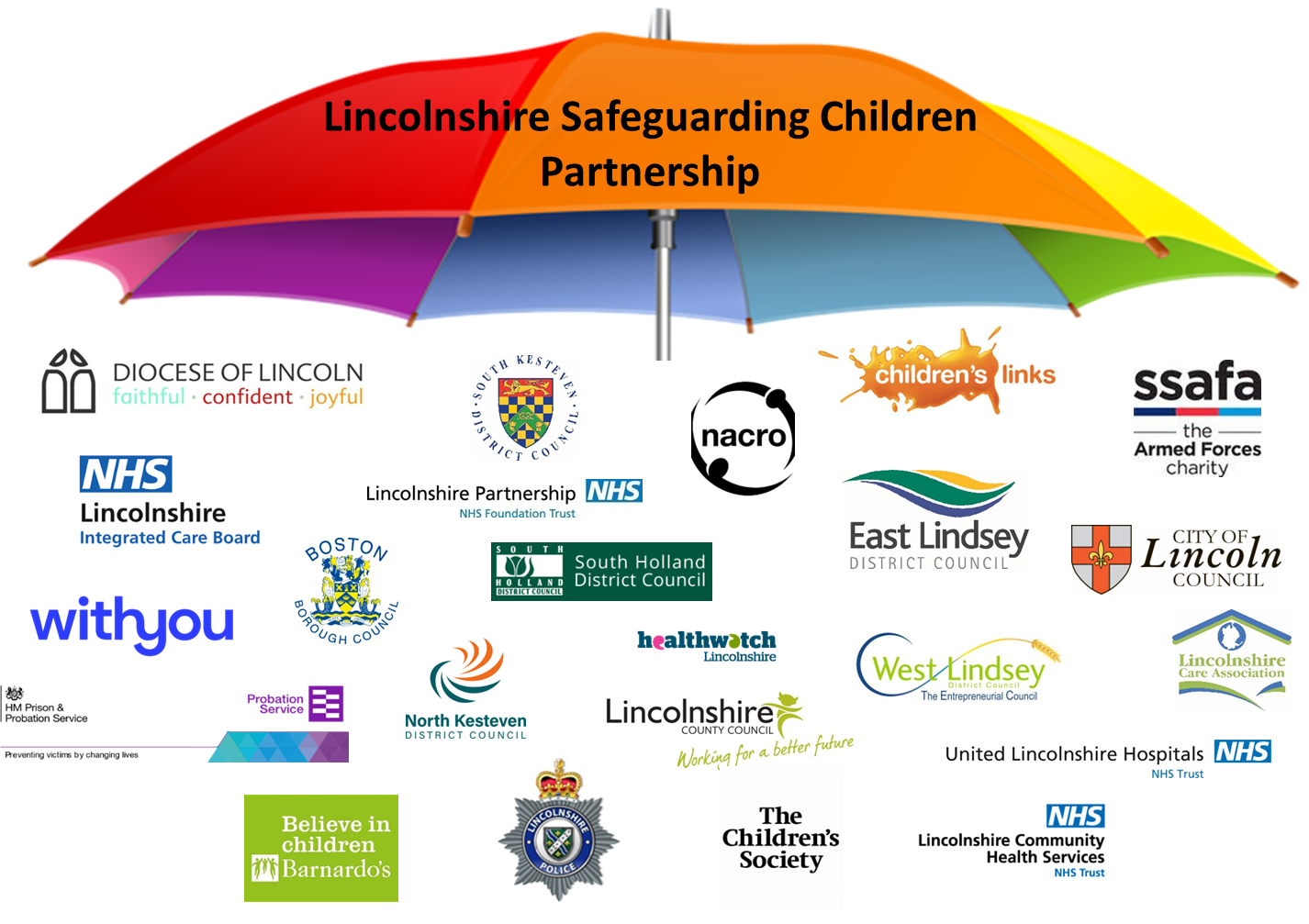
The LSCP Strategic Priorities for 2022-2025 remain as:

1. Tackling Child Exploitation
2. Enhancing the Emotional Wellbeing of Children and Young People
3. Promoting Healthy Relationships
4. To identify and reduce the impact of neglect on children and young people
5. To Identify and reduce the impact of sexual and physical harm

A joint area of assurance has also been agreed between the LSCP and the Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Partnership to ensure that work is co-ordinated

1. Area of Assurance: To identify and reduce the impact of Domestic Abuse on children, young people and their families.

**Our Partners and Partnership**

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Lincolnshire prides itself on the strength of its local Safeguarding Children Partnership to effectively work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children across the county. The LSCP extends beyond the three key statutory partners and welcomes contributions, challenge and support from a wide range of agencies, including faith organisations, charities, and education providers. Partners contribute to an active work plan and deliver across a number of agendas and priorities. This work is co-ordinated and overseen by the LSCP Sub-Groups, Operational Delivery, Strategic Management groups and the Assurance Executive.

Financial contributions 2023/2024:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Partner | Contribution |
| Lincolnshire County Council | £162, 435 |
| Office of Police and Crime Commissioner | £74,933 |
| Integrated Care Board | £103,031 |
| Districts Councils (combined) | £28,070 |
| Probation Service | £3595 |
| Total core contributions | £372,064 |

Assurance Executive

(Local Authority, Police, Integrated Care Board)

Chaired by LSCP Independent Chair

Independent Scrutiny

and Accountability

Strategic Management Group

Chaired by LSCP Independent Chair

Operational Delivery Group

Chaired by LSCP Independent Chair

Education Sub Group (ESG – School Chair)

Significant Incident Review Group (SIRG – LCC Education Chair)

Policy, Procedure, Education and Training (PPET – Police Chair)

Child Exploitation and Missing (CEM – Police Chair)

Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP – ICB Designate Chair)

**Scrutiny and accountability**

All partners in Lincolnshire are held accountable for their statutory duties through mutual challenge and the scrutiny offered by our Independent Chair. Through effective and robust relationships, our Chair is able to identify opportunities for the partnership as well as ensure that partners continue to collaborate to ensure that children are best protected and safeguarded in Lincolnshire. By chairing key strategic meetings, the Independent Chair keeps abreast of partnership activity and provides objective challenge of our assurance activities to ensure co-ordinated and effective multi agency working in our County.

As a result of the changes brought in by Working Together 2023, the LSCP is preparing to remove the role of an Independent Chair and replace the role with an Independent Scrutineer. Our new Multi- Agency Safeguarding Arrangements reflecting this, and other changes, are due to be published in December 2024.

**Multi-Agency Audit**

In Lincolnshire, the partnership seeks assurance from statutory partners and relevant agencies that they are compliant with their duties under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004. Through a self assessment audit, they are required to ensure that their functions, and any services that they contract out to others, are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The LSCP completes this on a three yearly cycle and the section 11 audit was launched again across the partnership in autumn 2023. We engage in a rigorous process of peer moderation to strengthen the assurance process and will report on the outcomes of this in the next annual report.

In March 2024, we also launched the multi agency audit on exploitation. The programme of quality assurance will involve case file audits, observations of MACE (Multi-Agency Child Exploitation) meetings, interviews with practitioners, key stakeholders, children and families. The findings from the audit will inform future developments and will be reported to the Strategic Management Group in October 2024.

Future Audit activity for 2024 and 2025 include a focus on Child Sexual Abuse and Neglect.

**Significant Incident Review Group (SIRG) – (Input from John O'Connor, Head of Service for Education Support, Lincolnshire County Council and Chair of SIRG)**

**Within Lincolnshire Reviews**

Following on from a previous rapid review it was decided to complete a joint domestic homicide review (DHR) and local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR) about Bethany and Darren, working alongside a mental health homicide review (commissioned by NHS England). The LCSPR component was the first one undertaken in Lincolnshire since the new safeguarding arrangements were published. The report was completed and submitted to the Home Office in October and, following feedback, was [published in March 2024](https://www.lincolnshirescp.org.uk/lscp-safeguarding/child-safeguarding-practice-reviews).

Two rapid reviews were completed in this period, both of which resulted in action plans to improve local practice and learning bulletins for professionals. One resulted in no further need to review in more detail with one that did progress to a LCSPR which is currently in progress and due for completion in mid-summer this year (2024).

Two other cases did not meet the criteria for a rapid review but did have the potential for significant learning so a multi-agency practice (MAP) review was completed. Each had an action plan and learning bulletin completed.

**Outside of Lincolnshire Reviews**

We have contributed to three case reviews undertaken by other local authority areas where children and families have either resided in Lincolnshire for some of their time or have made use of services provided within Lincolnshire. Such areas included Peterborough & Cambridgeshire, West Sussex and Essex. Any learning for Lincolnshire from those reviews is tracked through Lincolnshire’s SIRG.

Other work

* Key representatives from the partnership met with one of the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel members in a regional annual keep in touch meeting. This provides valuable exchange of messages to and from the National Panel on emerging themes or any national reviews to be undertaken in the near future.
* In response to the publication of the [sudden and unexplained deaths in infants and children thematic report](https://www.ncmd.info/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/SUDIC-Thematic-report_FINAL.pdf) based on the national child mortality database publication, SIRG reviewed the 10 recommendations of which the first 4 were most relevant to Lincolnshire. An action was completed with respect to housing criteria and recognition in cases of neglect of children and safer sleeping advice for babies, including exploring the adoption of a Safer Sleep Assessment Tool.

From the reviews undertaken some common learning themes have come through:

• An understanding of the risks to children by services that predominantly work with adults – whilst these services were assessing the risks to children they were not articulating those risks to key professionals in a way that they could be understood and managed

• Transfer of cases to new professionals – cases transferred to a new professional often continued as previously assessed and planned, whereas a transfer offers the new professional the opportunity to review it with a fresh pair of eyes, doing so could enhance practice by ensuring a sound and robust understanding of the child and family.

• As mentioned in several local and national reviews the systematic grading of neglect through an objective assessment tool was not in place in Lincolnshire across the partnership. This theme has been mentioned previously with no current resolution. This has been addressed by the Assurance Executive who have tasked a Steering Group to progress the work.

• Hoarding and its impact on children – the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board Clutter and Hoarding Joint Protocol was not being used systematically and the lack of knowledge around the clutter scale meant no objective description of clutter was being used in cases making it hard to see if home conditions were getting better or worse over time. The current protocol also does not describe the impact of a lack of space on children’s needs e.g. room for a cot, or space to play or crawl about.

**Impact of our work**

**Safety plans**

Extensive work across the partnership has resulted in training (joint Children’s Services and Probation away day) and understanding on the purpose and ownership of a safety plan when a case is closed to Children’s Services. Police have identified how they can place a critical registration marker on an address where a child at that address has a safety plan to help inform attending officers. Training has been updated to include what makes a good safety plan and discussions are underway to consider renaming it a ‘closure plan’ when a case is closed to social care. The learning bulletin has emphasised the issue of who owns a safety plan when social care is no longer involved and how identified risks and worries about children should be shared by different services. Closure letters make it clear about the role and limitations of a safety/closure plan.

**Information sharing**

As a result of the revised DfE publication on [information sharing](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66320b06c084007696fca731/Info_sharing_advice_content_May_2024.pdf) the partnership’s training has been updated which includes an exercise on disguised compliance and the limitations of making decisions on only parts of a picture. This enables participants to consider the impact of decision making, assessment and planning when not all the information is known.

**TAC consultants**

The interagency training module now has within it a myth busting section on the role of the TAC consultants to promote their role to all lead professionals.

**Professional resolution & escalation policy**

A single side of A4, as a flow-chart, has been produced to make the process easier to follow and also to promote its use as a positive professional tool to seek resolution rather than an adversarial process. This has also been strengthened in the multi-agency training on safeguarding. This policy has been identified for the multi-agency policy impact assessment for 2024 so we will be able to capture the impact of the changes and new focus.

**Neglect**

The LSCP Steering Group has been set up to escalate the creation of a tool to help measure neglect objectively and to produce a set of resources to support practice.

As a result of the work completed by SIRG over the past six months, the partnerships is assured of local practice when comparing Lincolnshire’s practice with national reviews and that opportunities for further development have been identified and are being supported through robust action plans.

**Policy, Procedure, Education and Training Subgroup (PPET) (DI Nick Waters, Lincolnshire Police and Chair of PPET)**

During this period, 14 policies have been reviewed and agreed by the PPET group.

After feedback from the LCC Children’s and Young People Scrutiny Committee, it was agreed that the Policy Impact Presentation scope would be widened for agencies to also include impact of training. This allows the LSCP to understand a wider impact of the work undertaken in this group. In the next Annual Report we will be able to provide some of the evidence that has come from this widening of scope.

**Impact of our Work**

In November 2023, a representative of Children’s Links presented the impact of the policy ‘Managing Allegations of Abuse Made Against Persons who Work with Children and Young People’. After an agency self-assessment, it was recognised that this was an area that they wanted to focus on. Children’s Links used the LSCP policy to review their own internal procedures, ensuring that this was mirrored in their own policies. The agency then focused on training staff to understand the policy and how to respond appropriately. In reflection on the impact of the LSCP policy, it was felt that it supported the transparent culture aimed for within the agency as well as improving induction procedures. Visibility of safeguarding contacts have increased and the agency felt that, through all of this work, it ensured that a recent safeguarding incident was dealt with in a more timely and efficient manner than it may have done previously.

The group have provided significant support and action around training non-attendance. There has been an ongoing issue with non-attendance at virtual and face to face training events delivered by LSCP. When non-attendance occurs, and the place isn’t cancelled, this impacts on our waiting lists, the management of courses and demand, the quality of delivery to smaller groups and reputational impact on the partnership.

The group has supported with implementing a structured response to staff who do not attend training events, which has included:

• Supporting the implementation of a direct email from LSCP to staff after an instance of non-attendance (where attendance at the event wasn’t cancelled)

• Acting on monthly training reports where non-attendees are identified as ‘absent’ and asking managers to discuss non-attendance directly with their staff member.

• Supporting and sharing updated training guidance to ensure all staff are aware of the training policy and cancellation process.

Since these steps have been added we have seen a notable difference in non-attendance figures. It has been agreed that we continue to monitor these numbers and follow this new process in the next 6 months to gain a wider picture of whether these steps make a difference over a longer period. The group have also supported us to consider the charging policy more in-depth and are open to further solutions, such as charging, should we see no improvement.

**Outcomes**

Safeguarding Children in the Presence of Dogs was the focus of this year's Policy Impact Assessment. LSCP received nine positive returns, highlighting the impact of the policy review for their organisations. The returns showed clear evidence that the policy review impacted several key areas within partner organisations, with the largest impact on internal policy and procedures and internal training. Across the returns, the policy review showed a positive impact on professionals with comments showing an increased confidence in engaging in discussions about dogs as well as a greater understanding of where to report concerns. Case studies provided by partners showed staff reported an increased confidence in challenging the explanation of a child's injury due to sharing of the reviewed policy. Further to the confidence in safeguarding processes, several comments were provided about the breadth of resources provided and how useful they were for professionals to share with families.

**LCC – Children’s Health**: The policy is very clear in the expectation that no dog should be left unattended with babies/children, and it is good that the emphasis has been taken away from “dangerous dog” breeds and underlines that any dog has the capacity to attack and cause harm. The policy makes a clear link to abuse to dogs and the link to potential violence in the home.

**United Lincolnshire Hospital Trust:** An A&E Sister contacted the safeguarding team following the attendance of a child who had received a dog bite from an unknown dog. The A&E sister queried if she needed to consider a referral to children’s services due to the dog not living in the home address. The safeguarding team informed the Sister of the recent updates to the LSCP policy (including the rationale) and sent her a direct link. The safeguarding team discussed the criteria for considering a safeguarding referral including the one which would relate most to ULHT ‘The child/young person is under 18 years of age and the injuries have required acute medical intervention such as attendance at A&E, UTC or through a GP’.

**Training Report September 2022-2023 (Rachael Hunt, LSCP Training and Development Officer) Full report in Appendix A**

The LSCP multi-agency training is a key way of bringing together professionals from different agencies to gain a better understanding of each other’s roles and responsibilities for safeguarding and how this can make a positive difference to frontline practice. This training continues to be delivered via a range of methods, including face-to-face, virtual workshops and online. Within this reporting period we have increased our face-to-face offer with a course focusing on the Impact of drug and alcohol use on families and we have extended some of our virtual workshops in response to feedback.

The Learning System, Enable, provides multi-agency access to all Children and Adult Safeguarding and Domestic Abuse courses. All partners continue to encourage staff and volunteers to access the training. There are now 67,677 learners registered, which is an increase of 4,496 from the last report.

45,297 eLearning courses have been completed in the 6 months reported, which is almost at the total 12-month figure (58,304) from the last annual report. If uptake continues to follow the rising pattern we have seen in our monthly reports, we will likely see an increase in this figure in the full 12-month period.

The Voluntary Sector Briefings continue to be delivered jointly with the Adult Safeguarding Board and are an excellent opportunity for us to promote the training courses available to this sector. Three briefings have been delivered on the topics, Child Sexual Abuse, Domestic Abuse and Diversity and Neurodiversity. Across these three sessions 101 people attended from 44 different organisations. There are now 10,932 Volunteers registered and completing a range of training, an increase of 2,536 from the previous year.

**Evaluations and Impact**

We continue to measure the immediate impact of our courses once completed through online evaluations. This evaluation has been adapted to ensure consistency across all courses, this includes asking practitioners to identify their knowledge before and after completing the course. As an example, this is taken from our Inter-Agency training course and demonstrates the learners’ understanding of the whole course from the start to finish of the e-learning, virtual workshops, and face-to-face sessions. This shows a marked improvement in knowledge from all those who have completed the course.

As part our strategic priority on identifying and reducing the impact of sexual and physical harm, we launched a programme of three new eLearning modules on child sexual abuse in September 2023. An early piece of impact evaluation was completed in January 2024 which showed that 244 practitioners had completed all three modules. They were asked to scale their knowledge on child sexual abuse prior and after completing the course, with 0 being the least amount of knowledge and 10 the greatest. Again, the feedback showed a significant increase in knowledge gained.

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Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, comments from practitioners have included:

* *“Refreshes knowledge and the support for practitioners is an excellent addition and should be on more courses.”*
* *“I feel more confident in my approach to tackle sexual abuse.”*
* *“Good to see Processes when the child goes to hospital.”*
* *“Knowing the pathway to follow and also the agencies involved in supporting victims was not something I was previously aware or other than the basics of social services and police involvement.”*
* *“More awareness on the barriers to children disclosing.”*
* *“The course was delivered well, I like that it was split into modules and had a variety of presentation such as videos and case studies”*
* *“Knowing where the resources are and who to contact should a child or young person disclose abuse.”*
* *“More confidence due to the information gained.”*
* *“I know where to go for support if disclosures are made in my line of work.”*

We have also introduced an impact evaluation assessment process which follows up on this immediate evaluation 6 months after the completion of a course. This evaluation asks practitioners how the training has impacted on their practice and asks for examples of how it has improved outcomes for children and families. As an example, below are quotes taken from the Impact Evaluation for the face-to-face Child Exploitation course.

*“I am working with a child at the moment who is not really communicating about the difficulties he is having at home and how they are impacting him. It has given me the opportunity to keep reframing the questions to ensure that he has the opportunity to share what is happening.”*

*“Due to having a better understanding of MACE, staff were able to provide advice and guidance to a family as they went through the process.”*

Attending the course has helped me to *“highlight signs that a child was vulnerable to exploitation, and this was a possibility”*

*“I have started to take the time to ask more questions. To be more inquisitive about my families in general so that if I have concerns, the relationship is already a positive one.”*

In addition to this impact evaluation work, we have also adapted the Policy Impact Assessment presentations which are delivered by partners at PPET to include a training aspect. Partners can now deliver a presentation demonstrating the impact that either a policy or training course has had on their work. In January, LDAP delivered a presentation focusing on the impact that the ‘Introduction to Safeguarding Everyone’ course has had in the Community Safety Team. In the main, the team do not work directly with the public, however the presentation was able to demonstrate how this course has encouraged staff to be aware of safeguarding and to understand that it is everyone’s responsibility. A direct quote from one of the team highlights how the training has impacted on development of policy and procedures within this organisation:

“*The training was very informative and whilst my role isn’t public facing it does help to inform countywide Policies and Procedures developed through the Core Priority Group.”*

**Child Exploitation and Missing Subgroup (Input from DCI Rachael Cox, Lincolnshire Police and Chair of CEM)**

The CEM Subgroup has continued to strengthen its links with those responsible for the disruption of County Lines. The group receive briefings ahead of and after the County Lines Intensification weeks which see a significant and co-ordinated targeting of specific areas of concern to disrupt the operation of these across the County. During the week in autumn 2023, Police and Trading Standards seized quantities of drugs and imitation firearms and brought 37 charges against a number of individuals. As well the disruptive measures, there is also an offer of prevention with 600 children and young people receiving interactive sessions, focusing on County Lines, Knife Crime, gang recruitment and hate crime.

In November 2023, the LSCP hosted an event concentrating on increasing the use of disruptive tools and strategies to support our MACE (Multi-agency Child Exploitation) arrangements. Held at Grantham Police Station, almost 50 attendees from local, regional and national agencies with powers to disrupt exploitation were invited to contribute and share their knowledge in a developmental session to raise the profile of the powers available. The impact of this event is now being tracked through allocated actions from MACE and we hope to report on an increase in disruption during the Child Exploitation Audit which is due to conclude in October 2024.

At the end of 2023, the LSCP surveyed practitioners and managers across the partnership around their knowledge and awareness of processes, policy and procedures linked to exploitation. The findings showed some variety in the level of understanding across the workforce which has led to a focusing of work by the CEM Subgroup. The survey will be re-run in 2024 to compare progress made in specific areas and will be reported on in the next Annual Report.

Key Performance Indicators have been agreed and reviewed by the group in relation to the timeliness of MACE discussions and acceptable tolerances on any delays. The KPIs are monitored regularly and reported on by exception to ensure that practitioners and children get the multi-agency input, advice and guidance in a timely manner. Improved mechanisms for tracking actions has also meant that actions are being discharged more timely.

The policies and procedures that support and underpin the response to exploitation across the partnership have all been reviewed and streamlined to make them more succinct and accessible. Clear roles, responsibilities and expectations of participation in MACE have been agreed as well as the terms of reference for the meetings being reviewed.

Lincolnshire Police have also strengthened their resource in relation to targeting and identifying potential vulnerable victims. Through the recruitment of two Vulnerability co-ordinators within the safeguarding hub, they hope to achieve a data led approach to identifying the most vulnerable individuals within Lincolnshire and ensure the most appropriate response to these.

**Education Subgroup (ESG) – (Input from Kathryn Creaser, Director of Safeguarding for the Priory Trust and Chair of ESG)**

This year ESG took on responsibility for the assurance oversight of Operation Encompass[[1]](#footnote-2). In November 2023, the first set of Operation Encompass data was brought to ESG members. Working with the LSCP’s Data Analyst, Operation Encompass data was presented to members to analyse, discuss and feedback. Members were able to learn about the systems and procedures in place as part of Operation Encompass and, as a result, identify exactly what data was needed in order to be able to quality assure the process. The recommendations from ESG are now being addressed by the Police.

Reviewing Operation Encompass data has also led to an exploration by members of how the data can be used. The Early Years & Childcare Support Team have presented to members that they are using the data in innovative and forward-thinking ways. As a result of this, members are now considering in their own sectors how this good practice can be applied. For example, introducing targeted staff training in areas where domestic abuse incidents are higher.

Whilst looking into the national expectations for Operation Encompass, a need was identified for the LCC training in this area to be reviewed and updated. A number of ESG members are now part of a Task & Finish Group responsible for developing this training.

The Education Lead from the Families First for Children Pathfinder Core Programme Team joined ESG allowing members to further develop their understanding of Pathfinder, and the role ESG will play in the work being undertaken moving forward.

ESG continues to be a forum in which members can support other professionals and provide a forum for discussion and debate. In recent meetings members have supported with identifying ways to disseminate information relating to attendance campaigns and foster carer recruitment.

In September 2023 members of ESG worked with the LSCP to support the research work for the emotional wellbeing campaign, providing the LSCP with access to their settings and their learners. The result of this was an incredibly powerful set of qualitative data which will be used in the forthcoming LSCP campaign.

**Impact**

In November 2023 the LSCP published guidance titled ‘Police in Schools’. This guidance came from discussions at ESG where members identified a need for education settings to have a better understanding of how they managed situations when the police needed to come into their setting, and how they could best support children and young people. Feedback from education staff was very positive following the release of this guidance, with many stating that it helped them to feel more confident managing such situations, as well as helping to maintain positive relationships between education staff and the police.

In January 2024 it was identified through ESG that for college safeguarding leads their access to safeguarding updates through the Local Authority was restricted due to not having access to a particular platform. This was raised with the relevant agencies, and as a result practice has now changed and college staff should have the same information shared with them. This was hugely positive for college staff, who had previously had restricted access.

Whilst the work on Operation Encompass is still very much in its infancy, the work ESG has done with the LSCP’s Data Analyst has meant that there has already been significant impact. A greater understanding of how the data is collated has led to a request not only for a larger range of data from the police but also some key changes as to how the data is recorded, which has already been actioned and is underway. This will provide ESG members with data that best enables them to quality assure the Operation Encompass process.

**Outcomes**

Education staff benefited from guidance (Police in Schools) being produced as a result of ESG members highlighting a need. Children and young people also benefit from this type of work because they receive consistent and supportive practice from education staff in terms of their response to this type of situation.

Organisations, professionals, parents/carers and young people will benefit from the work of ESG on Operation Encompass. Examples of work undertaken so far, i.e. targeted training, has already seen benefits for professionals and the families they support. Once the training for Operation Encompass is updated, professionals will benefit from professional development that is relevant to their work and to the county in which they work. As a result of this, practice should be strengthened ultimately benefitting children and their families.

By providing a forum in which education staff can bring any areas for discussion, whether positive or negative, ESG is able to support professionals and help to progress areas where needed to ensure ongoing development and improvement.

**Engagement in campaigns**

In September 2023 members of ESG worked with the LSCP to support the research work for the emotional wellbeing campaign, providing the LSCP with access to their settings and their learners. The result of this was an incredibly powerful set of qualitative data which will be used in the forthcoming LSCP campaign.

The Emotional Wellbeing project continued during the period the annual report covers. Children shared that they were excited to be heard with one group of Year 5s saying that they wished they had more time to share their thoughts on topics like this. Additionally, a sixteen year old saying 'I can't remember the last time someone asked me if I was ok-  I'm glad you asked'. Across the full range of children spoken to, common themes focused on children wishing their parents discussed mental health more frequently or that children did not feel understood by the adults in their lives. Recommendations have been agreed by partners and will be launched in September 2024 in line with the new academic year. These include a creation of an animated YouTube video with the children's artwork and quotes and a training video to be shared with parents via business engagement.

**Schools Safeguarding Assurance**

There is no update in this report on the return rates for the Schools Safeguarding Assurance as the current window for responses remains open. Due to the changes in the reporting schedules for the LSCP Annual Report, the data from the academic year 2023/24 will be reported in the next report, due to be published in 2025.

**Review of use of restraint – Lincolnshire Secure Unit**

In July 2024, a review of the use of restraint in the Lincolnshire Secure Unit was presented to the LSCP Strategic Management Group. SMG were assured by the report and the findings.

During the 8-month period, LADO has undertaken 3 reviews, on 03/10/23, 23/01/24 and 29/04/24. Since the last report provided, the LSU has gone through a significant change, transitioning to a new physical intervention system, named Minimising and Managing Physical Restraint (MMPR). The significantly reduced numbers for physical interventions demonstrate that the staff remain focused on minimising the need for such measures, and that restraints are taken lightly.

The vast majority of physical interventions are done on grounds of risk of harm, that is clearly identified in the recordings. The review was reassured that the interventions were done with genuine intention to keep the young person and the staff safe.

*“The feedback provided to the LADO in February 2024 by the Head of Restraint/Use of force from YCS was very positive, commending the staff’s confidence, the treatment of the young people with respect and the governance processes in place.”*

The physical interventions are done proportionately and are employed only as long as this is necessary. The effective use of MMPR had a positive impact, lowering the single separations numbers as well.

The LSU has had full Ofsted inspection visit in December 2023, and was judged as Good under the ‘How well children and young people are helped and protected’ and ‘The effectiveness of leaders and managers’ categories. The Ofsted report concurred with the findings made during the Reviews:

*“The use of physical restraint is proportionate and appropriate. This ensures that children are kept safe, and that their dignity and self-worth are valued and respected. The use of physical restraint is scrutinised by managers from the home as well as external professionals. This means that practice is transparent, reflected upon and, if required, learning points are implemented in the best interests of children.”*

The LSU seeks advice from the LADOs where appropriate and readily invites open discussion on matters concerning the safeguarding and welfare of the young people who reside there.

Considering all the information checked during the Reviews, information from Regulation 44 visits and the insight provided by the LSU deputy manager during each review visit, there are no concerns about the culture and the practice related to restraints within the LSU.

**Child Death Overview Panel Report**

Previous Annual Reports have included the full CDOP Annual Report however due to the timescales around the release of national data from the National Child Mortality database, the Annual Report is not available at this time so there is no further update from the previous full LSCP Annual Report.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **A** | **LSCP Annual Training Report** |  |

**Appendices**

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1. Notification process from Police direct to schools after an incident of Domestic Abuse they may have experienced. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)