



CSAP Annual Report 2023

The Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership
Annual Report for
1st October 2021 to 31st March 2023



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Foreword by the Senior Safeguarding Partners

Having taken up my interim Director of Childrens Service and Education post in November 2023 and being appointed Strategic Director of Childrens Service and Education since April 2023, it has been a privilege to be part of the CSAP executive board since November 2023.

Although new to the Executive Board, I have been a regular member of our Pan Lancashire partnership for several years in my previous Deputy Director role as a serving Headteacher.

I am extremely proud of how practitioners across the Pan Lancashire footprint have adapted to ever changing circumstances, most significantly emerging from the Covid pandemic.

Our ability to safeguard children and vulnerable families has continued and we have been able to continue progressing our priorities and strengthening multi-agency support to families in need.

I look forward to continuing to work with our statutory and wider partners to continue to improve the lives of the children and families we serve.



Jo Siddle
Strategic Director of Children's Services and Education
Blackburn with Darwen Council

The last 18 months has seen a large scale transition for the NHS with the NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB) being formed, after the closing down of the 8 Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), on 1st July 2022.

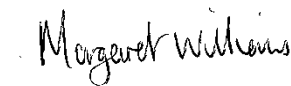
During this time the ICB has continued to focus on NHSE/I national priorities for Safeguarding and the Pan Lancashire CSAP priorities.

Changes in Partnership Executive Board leadership will support to refresh insight and a reinvigorate our drive for change and improvement.

The coming months will see more planned changes to the governance structures in the Pan Lancashire CSAP.

Following the ICB appointment of my Job share Ann Dunne I will be stepping down from the CSAP Executive Board in May 2023, this is to allow me to work more closely with Adult Boards.

I am confident that the partnership will continue to deliver their safeguarding duties effectively.



Margaret Williams
Director of Safeguarding Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board

I have been immensely proud of the work undertaken by Lancashire Constabulary as a statutory partner of the Childrens Safeguarding Assurance Partnership over the last 18 months.

CSAP has continued to work collaboratively to deliver on the challenges we have faced in a post pandemic era.

The safeguarding of children, young people and families continues to receive considerable public scrutiny, both locally and nationally. We are appreciative of the support and challenge offered to us by colleagues and other statutory partners to maintain high standards and enhance our services.

As we approach another 12 months of changes with our governance structures, and we will continue to work together effectively to protect the children and families in our care.



Neil Drummond
Detective Superintendent
Head of Public Protection Unit
Lancashire Constabulary



I joined the CSAP Executive Board in October 2022 and it has been a busy 6 months getting to know my fellow partners and my own local authority area.

I am continuously impressed by the hard work and dedication shown by our front-line colleagues to ensure our children are safeguarded and our families are well supported.

Our recent Ofsted inspection in November 2022 has shown that we have made great strides in our ability to safeguard children and we will continue to work on this mission with our partners to give our families the best support that we can.

Jacqui Old CBE
Executive Director
Education and Children's
Services
Lancashire County
Council

The emergence from the pandemic has shown a fantastic ability of all front-line colleagues to adapt to changing circumstances.

Whilst the pandemic forced meetings to go online, this has continued post pandemic, and these have generally been positive and has enabled more partners to attend than previously.

I am immensely proud of the work of CSAP as we continued to safeguard children and support families in difficult, unprecedented circumstances.

Our recent Ofsted inspection in January 2023 has shown that though we have made improvements there is still a lot of work to do.

I am confident that we will continue to work together to improve services to support children and families in the best way we can.

Vicky Gent
Director of Children's
Services
Blackpool Council

Having recently joined the CSAP Executive Board, the last few months have been spent acquainting myself with the Pan-Lancashire footprint, the challenges and the needs of each individual area.

I am really pleased to see the work undertaken towards ensuring that the focus has remained on strengthening responses to our joint priorities of Contextual Safeguarding, Domestic Abuse and Neglect.

With much change expected in the coming months, I look forward to working with the other Statutory Partners to better the lives of the children and families in the Pan-Lancashire area.

Ann Dunne
Director of Safeguarding
Lancashire and South
Cumbria Integrated Care
Board



Introduction

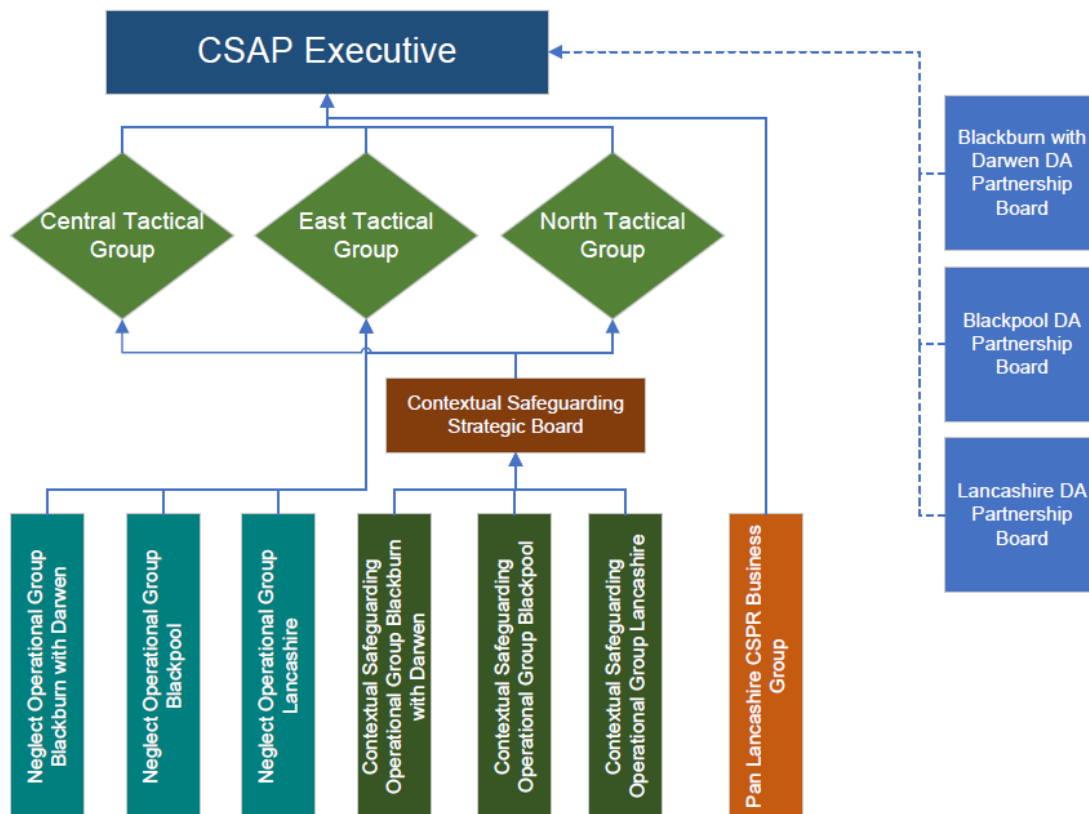
We want to keep children in Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire safe by ensuring everyone understands their safeguarding roles and responsibilities through effective use of local resources, sharing of best practice and learning and development.

This report sets out what we have done to achieve our shared vision for our partnership.

Our Vision

We will continue to champion the right of children to be proactively safeguarded from abuse and neglect and will hold each other and our partner agencies to account for our combined responsibility.

How we provide leadership for effective safeguarding practice



The priority operational groups consist of operational leads from each local area's organisations who deliver services that affect families' and children's lives. These operational groups report into the tactical groups which consist of strategic leads from the same local organisations in the area footprints described in the above diagram. These tactical groups report into the CSAP Executive group.

Our Children



Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire are large and diverse areas with a combined child population of over 320,000. Between 2020 and 2021 the number of children between the ages of 0-18 reduced by 0.42%¹.

By monitoring broader population trends the safeguarding partners can develop an understanding of current and emerging needs, ensuring that help is provided at the earliest possible opportunity, without the need for more invasive safeguarding interventions.

Within the wider child population, a small number will require the involvement of statutory services to ensure that they are kept safe from abuse and neglect. The safeguarding partners seek to monitor and understand this cohort, to ensure interventions are timely and effective throughout the area, with operational groups receiving data relevant to their area of concern.

Data highlights

	Blackburn with Darwen	Blackpool	Lancashire
Early Help	↑ Referrals have increased by 21% in this reporting period.	↑ Referrals have increased by 88% in this reporting period.	↑ Referrals have increased by 16% in this reporting period.
MASH/CADS referrals	↑ 13393 contacts. This is a 10% increase in this reporting period.	↑ 12956 contacts. This is a 3% increase in this reporting period.	↑ 36109 contacts. This is a 40% increase in this reporting period.
Number of children on Child protection plans	↓ 155 at the beginning of this reporting period to 139 now. A 10% decrease.	↑ 310 at the beginning of this reporting period to 356 now. A 14.8% increase.	↑ 452 at the beginning of this reporting period to 738 now. A 63% increase.
Number of children on Child in Need Plans	↑ 348 at the beginning of this reporting period to 369 now. A 6% increase.	↑ 435 at the beginning of this reporting period to 463 now. A 6.4% increase.	↑ 1471 at the beginning of this reporting period to 1546 now. A 6% increase.
Number of children in our care	↓ 390 at the beginning of this reporting period to 355 now. A 9% decrease.	↓ 593 at the beginning of this reporting period to 539 now. A 9.1% decrease.	↓ 1919 at the beginning of this reporting period to 1911 now. A 0.4% decrease.

¹ ONS mid-year estimates 2020 and 2021

Our Safeguarding Priorities

Our partnership has three safeguarding priorities:

1. Contextual Safeguarding

Key Achievements

- A [Contextual Safeguarding strategy](#) was published in November 2022 describing how agencies across the Pan-Lancashire footprint will work together to address concerns relating to Child Sexual Exploitation, Child Criminal Exploitation, Missing children, and Modern Day Slavery with a trauma informed and strength based approach.
- The [Missing from Home Protocol and Trigger Plan](#) was launched in February 2023. The protocol is intended to assist in developing robust responses to children who are at risk of going missing or who are already doing so. Agencies are expected to implement this protocol, regularly review, and audit its implementation. An online launch event was delivered on 14th March with further events planned in April, May, and June.

Looking to the Future

- There are links between children diagnosed with ASD and/or ADHD being at risk of exploitation. We are currently developing a multi-disciplinary model of delivery to strengthen links/speedier access to support for young people where there is a communication/speech and language difficulty.
- Emerging risk of children in our care (CIOC) from out of area being placed in Lancashire provision. Guidance is being developed by multi-agency partners to tackle this emerging threat and due to launch in Summer 2023.
- Child F Child Safeguarding Practice Review highlighted contextual safeguarding concerns. It will be used as a topic for a Learning from Reviews webinar to share learning with multi-agency practitioners.
- The partnership plan to understand the outcome and recommendations of the IICSA independent inquiry and how practice and procedure within partnerships can be improved to safeguard children and young people from sexual abuse. Partaking in any government consultation resulting from this report will be important to shape any future legislation.

2. Neglect

Key Achievements

- The continued roll out of GCP2 has created a common language across multi-agency partners and has improved the quality of referrals.
- The Neglect Scrutiny work showed that the partnership's response to neglect is working well, with recommendations being used to form action plans in each area's operational group.

Looking to the Future

- There will be adaptations to the GCP2 tool developed in the next reporting period in order to make it more user friendly for Health and Education colleagues.
- Medical Neglect pathways are due to be strengthened including the consistent approach to the 'was not brought' policy.

3. Domestic Abuse

Key Achievements

- Operation Provide has been fully rolled out across the Pan Lancashire footprint and will be evaluated by UCLAN to understand the best approach for victims in Lancashire.
- Two independent scrutineers have been commissioned to undertake a thematic scrutiny of Domestic Abuse (DA) to include a multi-agency audit, practitioner and stakeholder focus groups and practitioner training surveys, to provide robust assurance, with a final report due in Autumn 2023.

Looking to the Future

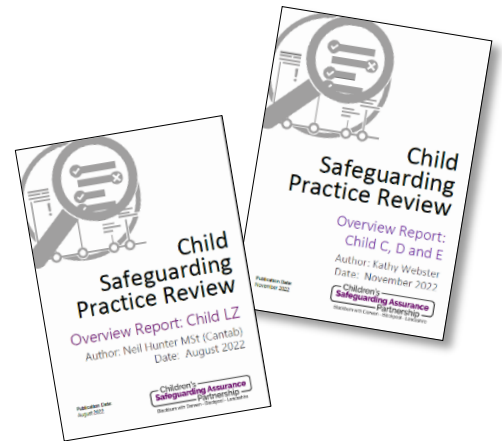
- The DA Scrutiny will enable each of the three areas to develop action plans to strengthen delivery by cementing best practice and addressing any gaps identified in the findings collated by the independent scrutineers.
- DA Masterclass training will be delivered by multi-agency partners and coordinated by the CSAP business unit which will reinforce key messages, share good practice, and provide an opportunity for front line staff to listen to agency experts. Dates are already in the calendar for Non-Fatal Strangulation and Suffocation.

Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 requires the statutory safeguarding partners to make arrangements to review serious child safeguarding cases, and others where there may be learning, to prevent or reduce the risk of recurrence of similar incidents.

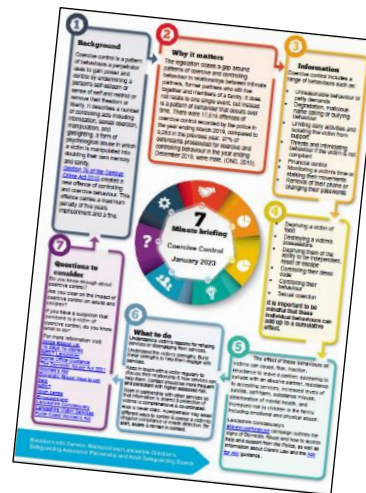
Below is a summary of the reports and notifications received in this reporting period:

Number of published CSPR reports in Blackburn with Darwen	1
Number of published CSPR reports in Blackpool	0
Number of published CSPR reports in Lancashire	5
Number of rapid reviews in Blackburn with Darwen	2
Number of rapid reviews in Blackpool	3
Number of rapid reviews in Lancashire	14



Based on the information available from the initial notification and the rapid review meetings the primary concern(s) that prompted the notifications were Neglect (3), Suicide (3), Child Sexual Exploitation (2), Abusive Head Trauma (2), Non-Accidental Injury (2) and Safer Sleep (1).

As a result of learning from these reviews, CSAP initiated the commencement of a Task and Finish Group to look at children whose medical needs had been neglected and the publication of 7 Minute Briefings including Coercive and Controlling Behaviour.²



Legacy Case Reviews

It was noted in the last CSAP annual report that matters relating to 8 Serious Case Reviews (SCR) were still outstanding from the three former LSCBs. In this reporting period six of these have been published and the remaining two will be concluded in 2023-24.

Key Achievements

- Robust management and oversight of the high number of outstanding actions from historical SCRs and CSPRs has led to the most notable achievement in this reporting period as 115 actions have been reduced to single figures.
- Rapid Reviews are meeting statutory deadlines and there has been an overall positive response and engagement with the National Panel.

Looking to the Future

- A CSPR development day will be held in May 2023 to enable partners to effectively review and discuss matters which will enhance the CSPR process including CSPR and Rapid Review methodology, managing parallel investigations, and improving how CSAP measures and monitors the impact of learning.
- Implementation of the QES Case Management system to manage notifications, rapid reviews and CSPRs will provide a more effective approach to managing processes and providing reports.

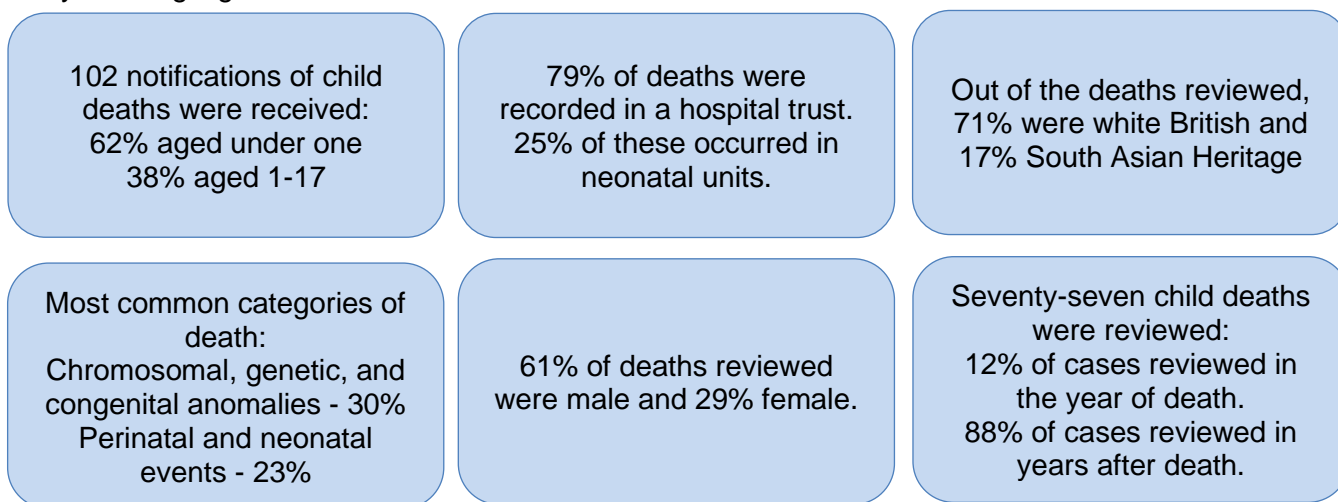
² [Coercive Control 7MB](#)

Child Death Overview Panel

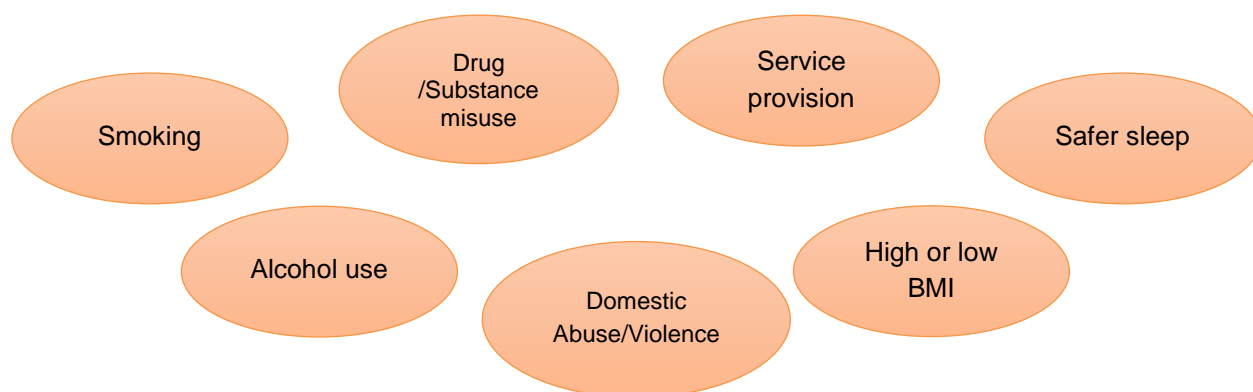
For the Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire region, in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, the responsibility for ensuring the review of child deaths is conducted is held by child death review partners, who are the three Local Authorities and the Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board.

The deaths of all children under the age of eighteen are reviewed by the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) which is administered through the CSAP. The Panel are not given any names and the details are dealt with anonymously, with the main purpose being to identify lessons and prevent future child deaths.

Key data highlights for 2021/22 include:



For all deaths reviewed between April 2015 and March 2022, the most common modifiable factors identified were:



A copy of the CDOP Annual report for 2020/21 can be found here:

[Child Death Overview Panel - Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership \(safeguardingpartnership.org.uk\)](https://safeguardingpartnership.org.uk)

The 2021 / 22 report will be published in Autumn 2023.



Learning and Development

CSAP continues to offer e-learning through the MeLearning platform which is hosted by Blackburn with Darwen Council and is available to practitioners across the County. This includes Level 1 and Level 2 Safeguarding Children training, courses in respect of each CSAP priority area and other specific areas of safeguarding practice.

This offer enables staff in statutory, voluntary and community settings to easily access free resources which provides them with high quality training and learning opportunities to ensure they maintain good knowledge and awareness of national and local standards and approaches regarding all manner of safeguarding practice.

In this reporting period, a mixture of face to face and online training was offered on Domestic Abuse, Contextual Safeguarding and GCP2 (Graded Care Profile). These have been delivered by multi-agency partners with the support of the business unit.

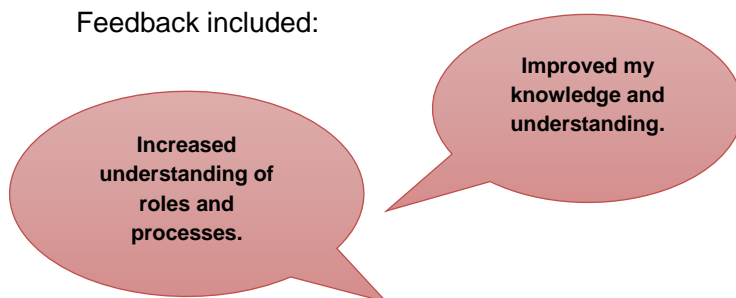
The long term aim of CSAP is to continue to deliver training on each priority area with additional courses covering more specialist aspects. This will begin in Summer 2023 with a series of Masterclass sessions relating to Domestic Abuse in collaboration with the DA boards and partners.

Learning from Reviews

Learning from reviews sessions were launched in this reporting period with the inaugural session being delivered by the business unit in February 2023.

This initial session introduced the Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership, the Joint Partnership Business Unit, Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Child Death Overview Panel.

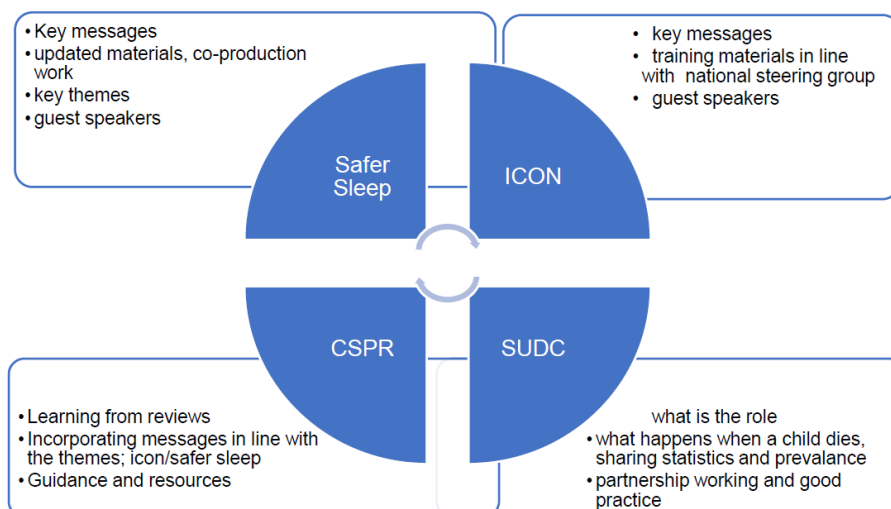
Feedback included:



Conference: Learning from case reviews and child death

In July 2022, a multi-agency conference was held, aimed at front line practitioners who worked with children, families and within the wider community in Lancashire.

The four areas of focus for the day were Safer Sleep, CSPR, ICON and SUDC. Attendees heard from guest speakers, were updated on recent guidance, and learning from published reviews.



Impact of the conference on attendees:

17.9% of respondents had no knowledge of abusive head trauma prior to the event. Post event, 40% of respondents were confident to speak to others about it.

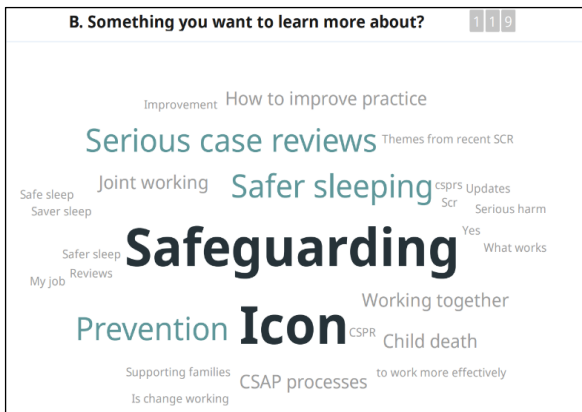
Confidence to speak to others about Safer Sleep doubled to 52% post event.

There was a 38% increase in confidence of respondents speaking to others about CSPRs following the conference.

There was a 41.5% increase in the number of respondents who were confident to speak with others about SUDC, with a 17.5% increase in confidence to lead on this area.

Those who use the information to lead within their organisations had an increase in confidence across all areas from 1.3% pre-event to 30% post-event.

Feedback from the conference included:



I really enjoyed this conference a networking with other professionals

fabulous conference -we need more -and we don't need actors to present the scenarios -just take lived experience peers -there are enough out there.

Incredible conference and so well put together. A highlight was 'Afta thought' wow what an impact that had. All professionals delivering offered another piece of information which helps build the safeguarding picture in Lancashire, thank you.

Key Achievements

- The Launch of Learning from Review events has gained positive feedback from practitioners.
- 7 Minute Briefings have been published for coercive and controlling behaviour, Non-Fatal Strangulation and Suffocation, Missing from Home protocol and the Contextual Safeguarding Strategy.
- In July 2022 CSAP hosted a Learning from Child Death Case Reviews conference aimed at front line practitioners who work with children and families. It was attended by 180 delegates.

Looking to the Future

- Learning from review events are planned for the next reporting period covering topics such as Contextual Safeguarding and Safer Sleep.
- Domestic Abuse Masterclasses are being planned in the next reporting period, with three dates already confirmed for Non-Fatal Strangulation and Suffocation Training.
- The Business Unit will be linking in with the Lancashire Domestic Abuse Forum to facilitate other DA training to front line practitioners.

Communication & Engagement

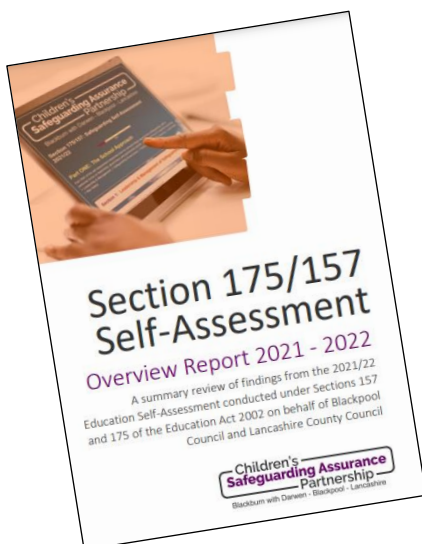
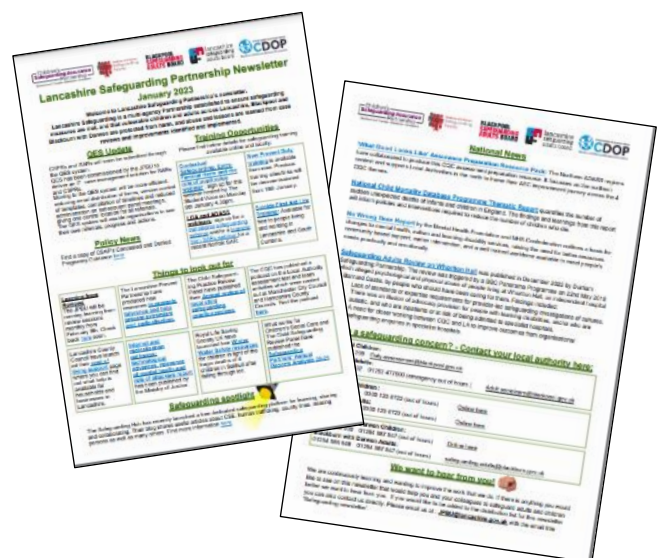
In this reporting period the Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership website was launched, replacing the previous LSCB websites. On the website, practitioners can access:

- information about CDOP
- published CSPRs
- learning and development including training courses and 7-minute briefings
- policies and procedures
- the safeguarding newsletter
- news and events

Engagement information from the website shows 47,380 page views, with the top accessed area being Learning and Development.

During this reporting period the partnership launched a monthly safeguarding newsletter for Children and Adults which provides information about recently published safeguarding reviews, policies, local and national findings training, key articles on safeguarding matters, updates in legislation etc.

Positive feedback has been received from social workers and GP practices on the benefits of the resource which they say has provided them with an efficient and practical way of updating staff on key items to do with all forms of safeguarding. The newsletter is also available on the partnership website.



Findings from the S.175 audit and a local CSPR showed there was a lack of knowledge of the role of CSAP by schools.

In response, CSAP produced a one-off school safeguarding newsletter to introduce the partnership and the work they do. This newsletter also included recommendations and learning from CSPRs specifically for schools.

This had a positive impact on their understanding of the work of the partnership and increased awareness of CSAP priorities and their role in seeking assurance of the delivery of safeguarding practice. Further discussions are taking place to build on existing engagement with schools and the work of CSAP

Communication and engagement remain a priority for CSAP as we endeavour to continue to find innovative ways to engage with front line practitioners to enable them to continue to successfully safeguard children and families by maintaining appropriate levels of knowledge and awareness.

Audit and Assurance

During this reporting period a substantial amount of audit work has been undertaken:

- Neglect Scrutiny
- Section 11
- Section 175
- Domestic Abuse Scrutiny

Neglect Scrutiny

The independent scrutineer undertook a scrutiny of the Neglect priority by reviewing evidence gained from partners, undertaking a survey with key stakeholders, a multi-agency thematic audit and focus group with parents who had children categorised as suffering from neglect. Some of the key findings from the scrutiny include:

Development of a common data set which includes data from health and police.

Training for front line staff needs to be focussed on lessons from reviews.

The Board needs to consider ways in which it can better promote strategies, toolkits, and neglect principles to front line staff.

Separate neglect strategies for each area are a positive as this provides local focus in a diverse county.

The neglect operational groups need to provide more leadership in terms of delivering on agreed action plans and provide the lead on training needs.

These findings were shared with the CSAP Executive Board. The Operational Neglect groups then formed workplans to address the findings. The implementation of these plans and the impact on front line practice will be reviewed by CSAP in Summer 2023 to enable CSAP to assure themselves of the improvement being made and the positive influence on safeguarding children, young people and families.

Section 11³

Following the challenges of agencies responding to COVID-19 and returning to operating post COVID-19, the undertaking of Section 11 Self-assessment was prioritised.

A multi-agency task and finish group was convened with representation from agencies including Local authority, Police and Health to agree a template for the Section 11 self-assessment audit which would be undertaken with agencies in Lancashire. Health partners submitted their completed S-CAT and SAF forms as an equivalent of the Sec 11.

The feedback section allowed for agencies to submit areas of good practice and reflect on areas which may have exceeded the minimum requirement. All 31 agencies submitted responses which were analysed and highlighted recommendations from which agencies drew up action plans detailing how they plan to improve areas they had identified.

³ [Section 11 Update](#)

The main findings were:

Training was the area in which most agencies felt they required improvement.

Overall, agencies felt that their approach to multi-agency working was compliant.

Most agencies felt they were able to identify and tackle CSAP priorities adequately.

90% of submissions recorded that their agency's approach to multi-agency working was fully compliant. Only 10% felt that there were areas of development.

81% felt their organisation had policies and procedures in place in respect of being able to escalate safeguarding concerns effectively whilst 19% felt there was room for improvement.

Agencies found the organisation and collaboration between partners to complete this audit to be effective and feedback was positive regarding the whole process. Further assurance will be sought in the next reporting period, with a practitioner survey being carried out to further reflect on the returns from this reporting period, ascertain progress against action plans and evidence impact on agency safeguarding practice.

Schools Safeguarding (S.175) Audit⁴

Between January and April 2022, CSAP completed its audit of the safeguarding arrangements within primary and secondary schools in Blackpool and Lancashire. Blackburn with Darwen made their own arrangements for this audit.

The audit enabled CSAP to be assured on the appropriateness of safeguarding arrangements within all schools and identify any areas for development. The main findings were:



To raise awareness and support a co-ordinated approach, School Advisor colleagues should be updated on the findings in the respective Local Authority School Improvement Teams.

Where available, a summary overview of the findings should be communicated to Local Authority Designated Safeguarding Lead networks across Blackpool and Lancashire.

In partnership with school colleagues, the Local Authorities should consider identifying discrete areas of LA activity that will support schools and improve outcomes in those aspects most assessed as requiring development.

Consideration should be given to the planning and arrangements for future Section 175/157 self-assessments, including their frequency (e.g., Annual or Bi-annual) and timing (e.g., Spring, Summer, or Autumn Term).

In support of improving safeguarding outcomes, Local Authority colleagues should review the dataset to identify areas of potential concern and schools who may need additional safeguarding support as part of a Local Authority Section 175 Action Plan development.

In line with recommendations from Ofsted and the Children's Commissioner, consideration should be given to formalising the involvement of education in future arrangements relating to the Safeguarding Partnership which will enhance engagement with this sector and lead to improved outcomes.

⁴ [S175 Overview Report](#)

Schools found the S175 audit to be informative and were positive about their experience of completing their returns. The impact was CSAP are now assured of the level of safeguarding in schools with the additional impact of raising awareness of standards and good practice.

The findings from the audit gave CSAP and schools tangible action plans to improve safeguarding activity. These were shared with Local Authority Education leads to enable them to consider and implement activity that would further support schools to strengthen safeguarding practice.

In future CSAP arrangements, which will be finalised in the next reporting period, Education will have greater engagement across the partnership through membership of Boards and subgroups. There will also be a greater emphasis on using data from schools, including SEND and inclusion data, which will improve outcomes for children and their families.

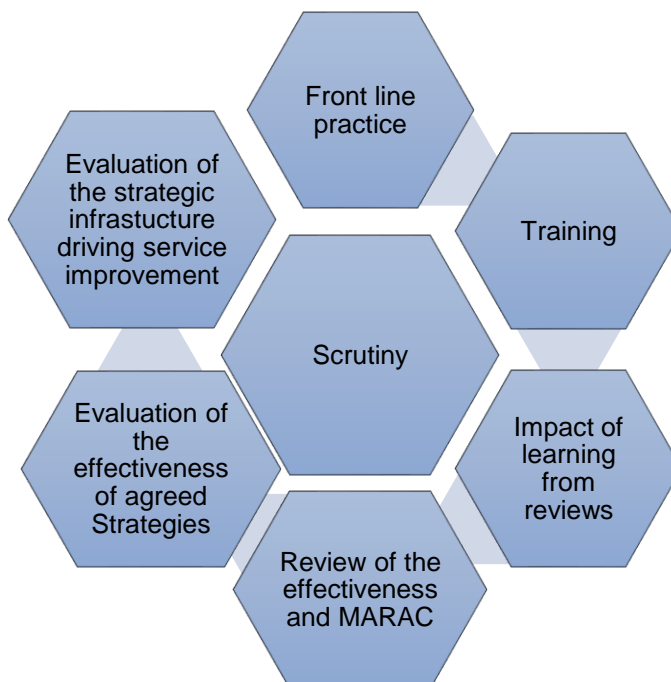
Domestic Abuse Scrutiny

In January 2023, two independent scrutineers were commissioned to undertake a scrutiny of the Domestic Abuse business priority in relation to the support and interventions for children and their families.

A strength-based approach would be taken to focus on six key areas to ensure there is robust, triangulated, evidenced based scrutiny which evaluates the effectiveness and impact of strategic and frontline services for children, young people and their families who have been exposed to Domestic Abuse

Terms of reference were agreed by CSAP. The work would include focus group meetings with practitioners and key stakeholders, a multi-agency audit, a practitioner training survey, a DSL survey, analysis of Operation Encompass and other key information.

It is due to be completed in Autumn 2023 and will provide CSAP with assurance on areas of good practice and actions to address areas of development.



Looking to the future

Audit and assurance will continue to be a priority over the next reporting period with audit and assurance methods being evaluated and the introduction of Performance, Assurance and Impact subgroups within the governance structures.

Other Key Achievements: Education

Lancashire

Mental Health Support



The emotional wellbeing and mental health of children and young people has continued to be a key issue, with increasing demand for services, and resultant pressures in waiting times in parts of Lancashire.

Additional investment has secured new Mental Health in Schools Support Teams, meaning that all Districts in Lancashire now have some access to teams of Mental Health Practitioners, working closely with schools.

Similarly, investment in workforce development, through national and local funding sources, is helping professionals to better support children and young people before they reach crisis. For children with more complex needs, NHS Risk Support Workers are increasingly linked to children's social care teams, to help ensure a multi-agency approach to risk management, alongside proposals to strengthen outreach services and support to children living in residential children's homes.

Exclusions and Children Missing in Education

This year has seen a strategic approach to exclusions in support of the Education Strategy 2022 – 2025 and the Lancashire 2050 education priorities. This has included:

- recruiting two behaviour consultants to lead on training and support for school staff,
- a change in process whereby a child permanently excluded has the opportunity to attend mainstream school if appropriate.
- greater challenge to schools who permanently exclude without having asked for support from Lancashire County Council.

The behaviour quality mark was launched with a second cohort starting this year. This is an audit tool for schools with a behaviour mentor to improve their policies and practice towards behaviour in their schools.

The children's champions have worked with 671 children over the course of their 2 years and have been successful in avoiding 96% of permanent exclusions with children who were at risk.



The specialist teaching service has been expanded to include free inclusion and engagement support with more schools reaching out for this support to avoid exclusions.

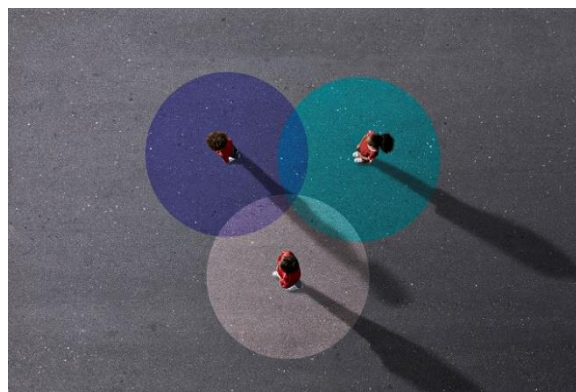
165 schools have taken part in the Violence Reduction Network funded trauma informed practice work and a Serious Violence Education Co-ordinator has been recruited to support Pan-Lancashire delivery of work for the Serious Violence Duty.

Children Missing in Education processes continue to be robust. The work of the team has been improved by greater capacity within the team although work still needs to be done to ensure children are out of education for the shortest amount of time.

Governance Review

In December 2022, the CSAP Executive Board commenced with an effectiveness review of the CSAP Partnership Governance arrangements. Some of the contributory factors underpinning this decision were:

- Tactical group locality footprints required change.
- Education was not well represented within the arrangements.
- Legislation changes i.e. the Domestic Abuse Act and Health and Care Act provided a springboard for a review of arrangements.
- Turnover of Executive Board members brought fresh eyes to the partnership.
- NHS reform and the changes in Health, moving from CCGs to the ICB.



During the review, it was agreed the Pan-Lancashire CSAP Partnership would move to three place-based partnership models based on the Local Authority boundaries of Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire.

The aim was for each place-based partnership to uphold best practice outcomes, deliver statute requirements, organisational duties and locally led decision making, galvanising strong leadership at all levels.

The new place based CSAP Boards will:

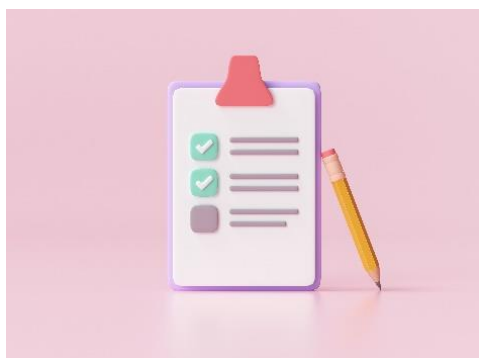
- Provide an opportunity to review and strengthen the interface with key partnerships across the system, including the place-based SEND partnerships and the Children and Young People's Mental Health Delivery Group of the Integrated Care Board.
- Enhance partnership ability to influence and understand front line practice, support workforce development and improve outcomes for children, young people and families.
- Connect with communities and early help preventative services to drive service transformation.
- Direct improvement through local oversight and quality improvement.

Interim arrangements are currently in place with work continuing on the current CSAP priorities.

The outcomes of the Domestic Abuse Scrutiny, CSPR Development Day and CDOP Development Day will shape the direction of future governance arrangements. Workshops and development days are scheduled to take place in 2023/2024 to develop strategic plans, workstreams etc. It is anticipated that the new arrangements will go live in September 2023.

Priorities for 2023/24

As previously stated in this report, the forthcoming year will be a period of change for the partnership, moving from Pan-Lancashire arrangements to place-based models.



The priorities for 2023/24 will initially remain the same: Contextual Safeguarding, Neglect and Domestic Abuse however these will be discussed further by each place-based partnership as part of the development of their new governance arrangements.

There will be increased focus on quality in the next reporting period with more robust plans to measure the impact of learning from CSPRs and Rapid Reviews through the development and implementation of an assurance process.

Each place-based board will establish a subgroup focusing on performance, scrutiny and assurance measuring safeguarding effectiveness through agreed data dashboards and a schedule of audit and assurance activity.

Development days are scheduled for CSPR and CDOP business groups to develop their work programme for the next 12 months.

Representatives from the statutory partners as well as wider stakeholders will agree priorities and review policies, processes, and guidance.



A scoping exercise will be undertaken to ascertain the level of training currently being offered across single agencies to enable CSAP to assess the need and nature of multi-agency training requirements for front line practitioners to enable CSAP to maintain good practice, share learning and improve safeguarding practice.

Conclusion

The last 18 months have continued to be challenging for partners as the system has started to return to business as usual, post pandemic, albeit with the benefits of a more hybrid working model.

There have been significant changes with the health sector establishing Integrated Care Boards to replace Clinical Commissioning Groups, turnover of lead members of the Childrens Safeguarding Assurance Partnership Executive Board and the scrutineer moving on. Children and Adult Executive members have seen it as an opportune time to commence an effectiveness review of the partnership arrangements which will conclude in 2023/24.

The priorities remain consistent going into the next year with focus on Contextual Safeguarding, Neglect and Domestic Abuse. Audit and assurance activity has taken place for two of these priorities with a thematic review of Domestic Abuse to be completed by an independent scrutineer in Autumn 2023.

This is complemented with CSAP facilitating multi-agency section 175 and section 11 audits as well as using single agency inspections to monitor the effectiveness of organisational and system activity. Plans are being progressed to monitor the impact of shared learning and dissemination of learning briefs more robustly.

A great deal of work has been undertaken with the commitment and leadership of all stakeholders and will continue irrespective of the future arrangements.



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