



**Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board**



# **Annual Report 2017-2018**

# Kirklees Safeguarding Snapshot 2017-2018 (figures end March 2018)

## CSE, MISSING, LAC, YOS

19 young people remanded in custody

2394 missing episodes

674 young people in the care of the LA

98% of Initial Health assessments of LAC on time

100% of development checks on pre 5 LAC completed

## Supporting Families

10000, domestic incidents

2538 children in receipt of Early support

1200 families receiving support

25 young people receiving specialist support from Brunswick centre

17,789 Enquiries through the front door

4510 Referrals re safeguarding or concern

2255 open cases to Children's social care

358 Children with Child Protection plans

621 Initial case conferences

## Training and workforce

25 CSE courses delivered to 448 delegates

975 delegates benefited from online CSE training

2833 delegates attended some form of safeguarding training

## Ethnicity, Schools

100% schools have a designated safeguarding lead

60% achieve 5+GCSE

5838 receive SEN support

1769 EHCP plans

1 in 12 pupils have a caring responsibility

## Chair's foreword

As I write this report, the new Working Together has been published and that means this will be the last Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report. What will follow is a report from the Safeguarding Partnership in its new form.

What this report does is aim to set out a review of 'where we are now', with a view to supporting effective transition into any new arrangements. Discussion about 'what next' is underway and there are some exciting and innovative ideas being discussed in Kirklees about how agencies work together to make sure our system safeguards children effectively. Whilst there are local challenges, those exciting ideas are only possible because of the good work already done and the willingness of partners to get together and tackle the big issues we all face. This has been a year of improvement, focusing on getting the basic right, doing more together and driving sustainable change.

There are more examples of good practice in working with young people on safeguarding issues relevant to them and the board, new developments around how we make good decisions, early support, neglect and child sexual exploitation. These issues are all so closely interwoven, we recognise we will need holistic thinking to keep vulnerable children and adults safe, we are building this into our discussions around future partnership arrangements and developing our partnership is a key strand of the improvement work.

What is required in a strong system is rigorous multi-agency, outcome focussed scrutiny – professionals need to be willing to ask and be asked the difficult questions, and to use evidence and learning to improve practice. This has been an area of focus this year and partners have worked closely to ensure we develop a system of high challenge and high support. The restorative approaches we have developed in work with families, we have taken into our professional approach. As we construct our new partnership arrangements, safeguarding partners will want to ensure that those arrangements maintain and increase the quality of scrutiny and challenge evident locally.

I am grateful to all those who gave up their time to contribute to the various sub-groups the Board supports. I recognise that they do this even when operational demands have been considerable. I especially would like to say thank you to all the young people who helped us understand better what safeguarding means to them in their communities in Kirklees.

Work to change the culture in which safeguarding operates has been a strong partnership focus this year, developing and agreeing the values and principles by which we do business, agreeing a restorative approach to work with families and translating this to how we operate together has been an important piece of work in developing a sustainable system. This report has a spotlight on that area of practise and the difference it has made. This includes the impact both to young people and the practitioners who work with them and to the Boards understanding of the challenges young people across the District face.

I am grateful to the Kirklees Safeguarding Business Unit for their work in supporting the Board and helping the Board to be effective.

**Sheila Lock, KSCB Independent Chair**

## Executive Summary

### This year, we have:

- ✓ Re structured our Board arrangements
- ✓ Developed a new Framework for making 'Good' Decisions in safeguarding
- ✓ Agreed a restorative approach to practice across the partnership
- ✓ Supported work with young people on 'Being Safe' in Kirklees
- ✓ Acted upon the learning from serious cases nationally and from our own learning reviews
- ✓ Supported the development of an Early Support Strategy that builds on the work around schools and in communities
- ✓ Developed an improved approach to understanding performance across the system
- ✓ Improved the scrutiny of performance arrangements, to better understand the journey of the child, challenge improvements and celebrate success
- ✓ Spent some time with front line practitioners in the Front Door arrangements , a special school , A &E , the child protection and Review service
- ✓ Implemented operation Encompass and developed work around Domestic Abuse
- ✓ Undertaken some work to understand the outcomes for vulnerable groupings , including those who are caught up in criminal behaviour , and Children and Young people in the Looked After system
- ✓ Undertaken briefing sessions for all councillors on safeguarding responsibilities
- ✓ Commenced recruitment of new lay members
- ✓ Developed a multi-agency audit plan
- ✓ Supported the development of work on risk and vulnerability
- ✓ Organised discussion with all care providers in the independent sector on safeguarding expectations particularly in relation to missing
- ✓ Developed a resource pack for providers of care
- ✓ Contributed to the consultation on Working Together 2018 and worked with authorities regionally to support cross border working where this brings better outcomes.
- ✓ Supported the development of new arrangements to consider child deaths
- ✓ Supported discussion with Housing on the challenges of housing across the District and the impact for children to understand better the mobility of vulnerable children
- ✓ Developed a new Training Strategy to give all workers the skills to be knowledgeable in safeguarding practice
- ✓ Developed the understanding of CSE and missing and worked with care providers.

**Last year we said we would:**

- ✓ **Work to ensure children and young people are safe from harm in the home, outside the home and online.** – This year we have focused on ensuring that we have the right plans in place across the workforce to guide our practitioners on the impact we expect them to make in the interventions with families. The development of an approach to supporting families early to avoid the onset of more challenging and entrenched difficulties, the development of a strategy and toolkit to support early identification of neglect alongside training and development of the workforce are key partnership strands. Alongside this work with local providers in relation to missing episodes has meant improvements to outcomes for children and young people. Work has also focused on refreshing the CSE strategy and supported smarter commissioning to support those young people identified as potentially at risk. There has been a review of domestic violence procedures and actions implemented and additional police resources identified in this area. The DRAMM has provided an opportunity to assess Domestic Abuse cases involving children in a timely and effective manner. In addition we have implemented Operation Encompass
- ✓ **Ensure Children and young people had access to the right service in the right place at the right time.**- The development of a Framework for making good decisions around safeguarding matters and the developing work around Early support is supporting improved decision making , less children are escalating into statutory interventions , our performance data tells us this . Alongside this work at the Front Door has supported a reduction in referrals safely and the weekly monitoring meeting to review cases has provided assurance that this is being achieved safely. Health partners have invested in provision for the most vulnerable groups to support interventions that are flexible and meet the needs of Looked After children. The Board has supported the development of the multi -agency team embedded within Social care teams to support improvements to emotional well -being and mental health. Policing colleagues have put additional resources into addressing concerns around children who go missing. The Board has worked with practitioners and managers to better understand the response to neglect.
- ✓ **Develop effective partnership working and accountability to improve safeguarding outcomes for children, young people and their families.** – The restructuring of Board arrangements has facilitated decision making with pace and urgency. Alongside the improvements to performance management and a multi-agency data set, the board is more alive to areas of strength, areas of concern and is able to be agile in response. Alongside the development of a restorative approach, which has been the subject of training across the partnership there is evidence that this is supporting improved partnership conversations both operationally and strategically. The work with partners in developing and strengthening local ‘hub’ arrangements is supporting better multi-agency working in localities, serving local families better. A revised approach to pre- birth and assessments is providing more timely interventions based on a sound partnership view of risk. A focus on developing a shared view around issues such as CSE, neglect, missing has enhanced the partnership strategic framework.

## The next generation – a local picture

Measured in population terms Kirklees is one of the larger local authority areas in England and Wales, ranking 11<sup>th</sup> out of 348 districts. The District serves a number of towns and rural areas and these are broken down into localities serviced by District Committee's: Batley and Spend, Dewsbury and Mirfield, Huddersfield, and Kirklees Rural. These are also the local policing areas in Kirklees. These facts are taken from the Kirklees Factsheets 2017 – intelligence hub accessible via the council website. The data is based on ONS mid-year estimates.

- The population is around 440,000, with 217,000 males and 221, 000 females.
- 31% are aged under 24
- 69 % are aged over 24
- 18% are aged 65 and over
- The Population has increased by 8.4% since 2002
- Kirklees is identified in the Index of Deprivation Data produced by DCLG as one of the most deprived 50 districts in England for both the income and employment summary measures
- Kirklees contains areas of high and low deprivation, with regions of highest deprivation found in some of the more densely populated urban areas to the north and east (including parts of Huddersfield, Dewsbury and Batley), and lower levels of deprivation found in the more sparsely populated rural areas to the south and west (including the Colne and Holme Valleys, Denby Dale and Kirkburton).
- Over three quarters of the population are of White British Ethnicity, ethnic minority groupings tend to be younger and have more children.
- Ethnic groupings are not uniformly spread across Kirklees
- Life expectancy continues to increase , however there is a clear social gradient for life expectancy , the difference between the most to the least deprived is 6.8 years for males and 5.3 years for females
- Asylum seekers and European Economic migrants are contributing to the emergence of new communities in Kirklees, 711 asylum seekers of which 131 are to be housed through the Syrian resettlement programme
- Demand for suitable and affordable accommodation outstrips supply
- Over half of the District's poverty is found in working households

### For children

- 68, 395 children are of school age , of those 5838 receive SEN support , 1769 have an ECHP in place
- English is not the first language for 1 in 4 primary aged children
- Infant Mortality rates have almost halved in the past 10 years but are still amongst the highest in the region
- 17% of children under 16 are living in low income families [2015, HM Revenue and Customs, taken from PHE Fingertips tool [here](#)]
- In comparisons with the rest of the region on key indicators of health and well -being , children in Kirklees are more likely to have lower birth weights , experience tooth decay before age 5
- Rates of low birth weights are twice as high for south Asian mothers as for white British mothers
- 2 in 5 children experience family breakdown (at least half of which occurs before age 3)
- School readiness , pupil absence and numbers of NEET are all improved factors, in line with England averages
- 1 in 12 children are carers
- In Yorkshire and the Humber 14.4%of children are in households that are workless.

In the last [Kirklees Children and Young People's Health related Behaviour survey](#) the views of 5397 children from 25 schools were captured. This survey is being repeated in 2018. The Board has contributed to the questions on a range of subjects and chapters on safety, risky behaviours, citizenship and emotional health which are of particular interest to the KSCB. The survey results indicated that:

- Overall, Kirklees children feel safe at home and the majority at school.
- 74% said they were satisfied with their local area as a place to live
- 45% of children and young people children reported that their school dealt with bullying well, 14% said they experienced bullying regularly in the preceding two months ,
- 64% of pupils reported that generally they were satisfied and happy with life
- 86 % s reported that they knew who to go to if something was concerning or worrying them.
- 32% Said they lived with a smoker at home, but this rises from 19% in the least deprived wards to 41% in the most deprived.
- 11% of those taking part reported having sexual intercourse, 35% of those reported having sex for the first time age 13 or younger.
- 28% said they had lost sleep at least once a week over worries.
- The survey highlighted a differences in emotional wellbeing for children compared to that of adults with children scoring less on the Warwick Edinburgh mental well –being scale .However children in Kirklees still scored above the national benchmark.
- Various key indicators show a decline in emotional and mental wellbeing after children have left primary school and enter the secondary phase. This reaches a low point in Year 10 (aged 14 and 15 years) and then recovers slightly by Year 12 (aged 16 and 17).

## Partnership working – The Kirklees Context

Partnership working in Kirklees, has been through a testing time. On the back of the Ofsted report that was so critical of the service to the District's most vulnerable children, Kirklees has determined as a system to do more. Success and change in children's services needs and relies on strong and effective partnership working. There is a recognition that children and their families need joined up working between local services and that services need to be shaped and funded collectively if they are to succeed. Kirklees reflects entire system commitment to and prioritisation of improved outcomes for our children and families.

There is a "golden partnership thread" throughout the District, running through the Improvement Plan, the Business plan of the Board and into the associated structures. There is close working arrangement with the Adult Safeguarding Board, supporting the system to recognise that adult family members and carers often have unmet needs and with the Community Safety partnership.

Across the network priorities for action, deliverables and outcomes directly contribute to the agreed partnerships priorities and local change and improvement plans. The Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2014-20 is the partnership strategy for meeting the needs of the Kirklees local population, as identified in the Joint Strategic Need Assessment (JSNA). Partners include Kirklees Council, the Clinical Commissioning Group, Community Partnerships, Health providers and Health Watch. The strategy has been developed within a local, regional and national context. It is informed by, and closely aligns with, the broader strategic priorities of Kirklees Council and CCG, as well as the NHS, and Public Health. The strategy identifies key strategic priorities for action that we believe will make a real impact upon the lives of the Kirklees population.

Over the last year there has been a strong focus on ensuring that the system wide approach involves identifying, involving, engaging with communities and building community assets. This links closely to the work in developing a strengths based approach to safeguarding and restorative approaches. Building collective responsibility across the system and encouraging high support and high challenge is central to the approach. This system leadership and the recognition of the links between individuals, communities and place puts Kirklees in a strong position to respond to the challenges of safeguarding. The link has enabled the connection between young people, the places they live and go to school and socialise to be a part of the assessment of risk, expanding the thinking of the Kirklees System to recognise that young people are vulnerable to abuse in a range of social contexts.

The VCS are represented on all Partnership Boards and work as a key partner to secure improvements in the wellbeing of all Kirklees residents.

Young people are regarded as a key partner in the work of the Safeguarding Board, the work with a group of young people is an exemplar of how the voice of young people is increasingly being used to shape and develop planning and practice. There is a recognition that Young people can provide a mirror to the Board on the realities of life for young people in the District.

There is a robust Performance culture and the Board has a clear data set from which to monitor trends, highlight concern and celebrate success. This prompts wider discussion in the context of a culture which is high challenge and high support.

Performance data is shared openly across the partnership. Data is supplemented with further enquiry with actions taken to address concerns for example, missing data contributed to further work with. Actions are effectively followed through to completion.

## How are services to children and families organised

This section of the report describes the way services are delivered along a continuum of need, the outcomes that this delivers for children is dealt with separately.

### Supporting Children Early

At the beginning of the Kirklees and Leeds partnership it was identified that there were a number of issues within the existing 'early intervention and targeted support service'. These followed from a review of the service and included some trends evident across children's social care as whole, morale, , HR issues , lack of a shared vision and concerns regarding the role of partners . Over the last year this has been an area of focus, the service has been rebranded, has a new Head of service and a new approach. Sessions with partners have developed a shared partnership strategy and a revised framework in which it will operate, maximising the potential created by work with schools as community hubs and the opportunity to draw together strands of existing locality working.

Within community hubs they are using a restorative, whole family approach to identify families who are not receiving early support, where families are struggling to make progress, or where schools are already working with families but may not be well connected to other agencies who could contribute to support packages.

The approach is based on the Think Family approach, which evidence suggests is the most effective way of improving outcomes for families with multiple needs. This can be achieved by sharing information across agencies, offering wider support through a network of practitioners who work in a number of services across Kirklees, delivering training and sharing good practice.

Early evaluation suggests that it is having impact upon the ability of Schools to support the needs of young people and their families.

The primary focus of the work on a strategy for early support has been around strengthening the early support partnership through a number of consultation sessions. These sessions also formed the basis for revised thinking about how children and young people move through the Kirklees system and how we make decisions. These sessions included discussing and agreeing values and principles around early support and the shared understanding that early support is not a single council service but that it is everyone's responsibility. The engagement events discussed the importance of shared language and as part of this it was agreed that the partnership preferred the use of the work 'support' rather than 'help' as it was felt to be more positive and restorative, this was reflected in the strategy document and the approach is now known in Kirklees as 'Early Support'.

The approach is based on relationships and emphasises the importance of conversations and working together to achieve positive outcomes for children, young people and families across the District. The strategy reinforces that early support is a partnership responsibility and therefore the best person to be 'lead professional' is often the person who has the built up the relationship with the family and not always a council officer.

#### The priorities moving forwards are;

- **Consolidating and embedding an effective partnership approach to providing early support across the four localities.**
- **Developing an outcome framework that allows us to see what is working**
- **Ensuring that there is a joined up and well defined local offer for families which includes Health, Kirklees Community Hubs and the council's Family Support Service**
- **Families, partners and agencies having a shared, clear understanding of how to access support & advice as part of the local offer**
- **Improved links with the Social Work teams as teams move to being locality based**

## Getting the Front Door working well

The Front door for social work services plays a crucial role in the safeguarding system in Kirklees, this is the place where local people and services can access robust and well informed advice support and where decisions about risk can be made. Getting this right is vital for ensuring that every child gets the right help and protection at the right time. The Ofsted report and data highlighted significant problems with the Front door in Kirklees, growing referral numbers lack of clarity about roles and responsibilities, limits to partnership working and large rises in the number of referrals and assessments leading to no further action. These were all the subject of commentary in last year's Annual report.

In October 2017 researcher-consultants from Thorpe Ltd. Commissioned by the Board, undertook a comprehensive qualitative and quantitative study of the ways in which information about children in adversity was received and processed by Kirklees Council Children's Services. The research – which featured both statistical and textual analysis as well as video ethnography – suggested that encouraging partner professionals to telephone and discuss their concerns with social workers rather than send information by email would enhance the ways in which children's services dealt with information about children in adversity. This was implemented as an urgent reform.

A number of other actions were put in place over the autumn and spring of 17/18, these included:

- Creating a substantive leadership team to strengthen arrangements and provide operational stability
- Providing training to social workers and Business Support Officers in new telephone call answering procedures and call/caller-interaction analysis, the aim being to improve both their analytical/reasoning capacities as well as telephone conversational skills.
- Implementing and embedding the Framework for 'good' decision making in safeguarding
- Completing a multi- agency review of Domestic Abuse procedures
- Work to improve the quality of multi- agency meetings , including minute taking , action planning and strategy discussions
- Supporting discussions around consent to clarify arrangements and expectations when there is known risk
- Provided restorative training to all staff and to partner organisations
- Developed and implemented weekly review meetings to provide assurance and oversight that decision making is of consistent quality
- Consolidated the DRAMM to ensure a timely response to children in DA cases
- Enhanced the social care missing team by collocating a police missing person co-ordinator.

## Summary of changes at 26 weeks

During the 26 weeks following the introduction of new practices in the Duty and Advice team in Kirklees Children's Services, significant reductions have taken place in:

- The numbers of Referrals
- Conversion rates of Contact to Referral
- The numbers of Assessments
- The numbers of Strategy Meetings
- The numbers of Section 47 enquiries
- The numbers of cases with No Further Action as a recorded outcome.

The Board has committed resources to the work at the Front Door, delivering training to the Front Door staff which bought in the partner perspective and their experiences of making referrals. This training covered the pressures partner agencies faced, what issues they may bring to the referral other than the concerns for the child, clarifying issues around consent and skills in productive conversations. Appropriate parts of this training will be reproduced in the multi-agency training programme.

## The Priorities moving forward are:

- **Continued analysis of data from the Front door to observe longer term trends, this links**

- closely to the development of a performance data set t**
- **The weekly referral review meeting will continue to meet to look at trends and themes and link to the development of quality discussions across the partnership and the multi -agency audit programme.**
  - **A Duty and Advice Strategic Group has also recently reconvened and will be looking at how to tackle some of the wider issues in relation to consistency, consent and agency knowledge of referral making.**
  - **The Board will attend the weekly review meeting to support the multi -agency understanding of performance**
  - **The KSCB will develop new training materials using video recordings of telephone duty work with a special emphasis on the question of consent. Suitably edited recordings of calls presenting dilemmas on the question of consent will be used in training programmes.**
  - **The KSCB will conduct a limited survey of partner professionals and their managers about their experiences of conveying information by telephone.**

### **Children in Need and Safeguarding**

The work following the Ofsted inspection and the improvement plan has focused on improving the services to children and their families through supporting them earlier , making decisions based on risk and need in a timely way and through improvements to engaging them in finding solutions. The Annual report last year highlighted the impact of the lack of a coherent approach to early support, on caseloads and children becoming subject to statutory intervention.

A number of factors and service changes have impacted on numbers of statutory intervention over the span of this report.

- The development of a shared approach to decision making , restorative practice training, training on shared children in need and child protection processes , improvements to assessment
- Clear processes for management decision making and clear routes for escalation across the partnership.
- Improved staffing
- Improvements at the front door
- Strengthened leadership and management

These factors together have seen a reduction in the contact to referral rate which in turn has led to a reduction in cases going through to assessment and intervention teams. The move of social work teams into a locality structure – to be completed later in 2018, will further enhance the ability to offer a strong partnership response to support children earlier and reduce the need for statutory interventions unless necessary to safeguard children.

Improvements to staffing and increasing stability in the workforce has supported reductions in caseloads and allows the same case worker to deliver both assessments and care planning thereby assisting staff to develop meaningful and trusting relationships with children and their families.

There is a positive working relationship between Police and Social Workers in responding to the safeguarding of children and where necessary the use of Police Powers or emergency orders through the court are appropriately used to safeguard children.

Strategy meetings take place where the risk is complex and there is a focus on young people at risk of CSE and missing.

There is effective partnership working between the Police Missing Team and front-line staff to address children reported missing. Performance reporting allows managers to closely track missing children. There have been strong partnership developments this year around pre-birth and the delivery of pre-birth assessments, social workers working closely with Health and midwifery services are producing improved assessments in a more timely way. This supports better interventions to children and their families that are well planned and appropriate.

Through the quality assurance process and audit, we know that Child in Need practice has sound procedures and management oversight including review processes and of decisions regarding the ending of plans. There is improved partner agency participation to review the continued need for a CIN plan.

There have also been developments during the year to focus and direct support in cases of specific vulnerability. A neglect Toolkit has been introduced, improving the focus in assessing neglect and allowing parents to see what needs to be different to improve family circumstances and make the outcomes for children better.

In recognition of the increasing complexities of working with adolescents at risk, work is underway around Contextual Safeguarding - tasked with developing an appropriate framework to enable practitioners to work in a new way with vulnerable adolescents. This has a strong partnership focus and has a range of professionals from Children's Social Care, Police, Education, Youth Justice Service, Safer Communities and CAMHS.

## Vulnerable Groups

The improvement work and the increased scrutiny of the Board has facilitated an increased focus on the way services are organised to support children and young people and to deliver better outcomes for the most vulnerable groupings. There are some common themes:

- Improved and stable leadership
- Recruitment of appropriately experienced staff
- The development of advanced practitioner roles to provide additional support
- Implementation of robust management

There are also some specifics worth reporting:

**Children Looked After** - Last year's Annual Report highlighted a number of challenges that Ofsted had raised regarding the quality of services to children in the care of the local authority. The Board has had some oversight of the way services are delivered particularly in terms of the outcomes and the quality of decision making. There are a number of achievements that are worth highlighting

- **There are improved decision making gateways, for entry into the Looked after system and for adoption and permanency**
- **The use of residential care has reduced, meaning that the quality of care in the homes has improved**
- **All placement with parents orders have been reviewed and where it is safe orders have been discharged**
- **The improvements in performance data has improved scrutiny and oversight**
- **The voice of children has been strengthened**

**Children in the Criminal Justice system** - The Board has considered the experience of children in the criminal justice system on a number of occasions in the last year. Of particular importance to the Board was understanding the experience of Young people in Wetherby YOI, which was subject to an inspection in March 17 and which was found inadequate. The Youth Justice Service undertook a review of Kirklees Young people placed in Wetherby and in addition strengthened both oversight and exit questionnaires. The Board was assured that young people reported feeling safe in Wetherby during their time there. However the YOS is not complacent and will continue to contribute to ongoing service improvements at Wetherby and to continue to support any young person placed there by the courts. In addition the Board has undertaken a focused discussion regarding Children who are Looked After who are involved in criminal activity, this drew in some expertise from Leeds to consider how young people can be better supported and

how agencies can collaborate to avoid young people being drawn into the criminal justice system when it can be avoided.

There are a number of issues worth noting

- **There has been an increase in young people receiving custodial sentences to 19 in 17/18 from 12 previous year. While this is a worrying increase it is still low historically, there were 70 young people sentenced to custody in 2010/11.**
- **There has also been a significant increase in young people remanded to youth detention accommodation prior to sentence.**
- **The YOT is working closely with other local agencies to address issues of gangs and organised crime. This will tie in with the Boards work on contextual safeguarding**

**Young people who are LGBT** – The Brunswick centre, which is funded through the Big Lottery, plays an active part in the work of the safeguarding Board and is a strong advocate in ensuring young people's voices are heard. The CSE group has engaged specifically around ensuring that young people who are LGBT are supported appropriately around risk prevention. This has linked closely to the work the centre does around Staying safe, sexual health, homelessness and risky behaviours, with the intention of supporting young people to make informed choices. It is important to note:

- **The project is delivering a core weekly LGBT youth group with an average of 25 LGBT young people attending each week. Additional group work is delivered in partnership with one local school and two local colleges.**
- **A monthly support group for young Trans people and their parents/carers was established in early 2018 with an average of 10 parents and 10 young Trans people attending. One parent of a Trans young person feedback: 'Our monthly group visits provide us all with the support we need. Tonight's meeting was excellent. Thanks (May 2018)'.**
- **The project yOUTH worker has worked with 3 schools/colleges to support them with their anti-bullying policies and to challenge identified Homophobia, Biphobia and/or transphobia.**

**Disabled Children**–The Board has welcomed and supported the restructuring to move line management of the Children with Disability Team back to Children's services rather than it remain in an All Age Disability service. This provides a level of oversight and adherence to the policy and procedural framework that is to be welcomed.

### **Oversight by Inspectorates.**

**Ofsted** – During the course of the year Ofsted have undertaken a number of monitoring visits in line with the arrangements for authorities who are judged inadequate. These took place on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2017, 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2018. It was encouraging to note that while earlier letters noted the slow pace of change, the letter reporting on the March visit recognised that no children were left in situations of unassessed risk. Copies of letters can be found on the Ofsted website at <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk>.

### **HMIC inspection into Safeguarding at Wetherby YOI**

The Wetherby YOI was inspected in March 17, but the report was not available at the time of writing the Annual report last year. Overall the centre was graded as inadequate for its overall effectiveness and inadequate for the safety of young people. As a consequence of this the Board sought assurance regarding young people placed at Wetherby who were Kirklees young people and known to the youth offending service. The Board received two assurance reports relating to measures put in place to ensure that young people were appropriately supported, that any safeguarding issues were addressed and that the youth offending service was appropriately working with the STC governance structure to support improvement.

## Providing Assurance

### How does the Board provide assurance the local system is working for children and young people?

The KSCB has strengthened its scrutiny of safeguarding arrangements to better understand the journey of the child through the Kirklees system

The Performance, Intelligence and Policy sub group (PIP) is key to driving this activity and the KSCB's ability "to ensure the effectiveness of what is done". It continues to focus on interrogating multi-agency data and challenging partners to improve practice when shortfalls are identified. In addition, the group has been made aware of single agency audit activity and has coordinated some multi agency audit activity and in particular the issues that have been identified and how they will be addressed. Membership of this sub group has been reviewed and the size of the group reduced to strengthen engagement and participation of key members. Improvement has been noted in year from a very low starting base, there is now a performance booklet and clear narratives that tell the Board the story behind data, but there remains more to do.

Last year we set out an ambition to become much sharper about performance - to change the way in which we considered multi agency data, and how we used the outcome of performance conversations alongside learning when there are points of learning. Progress against some of the issues we identified is set out below:

Issue	Progress
Develop the Quality Assurance Framework to ensure that data, audit and other information can be collated and analysed.	This has been developed and discussed by the KSCB PIP sub group and presented to Business group. We have a clear data set to test out how the multi-agency partnership and the <i>system</i> is working. The focus is on considering how we are managing need and risk and ensuring, above all else, that children and young people are being kept safe. The approach works on a basis of high support and high challenge with a clear process for escalation to encourage a culture of case resolution and confidence across the workforce, to have challenging conversations.
Identify areas for more intensive multi-agency quality assurance work to either check the robustness of arrangements and processes or to investigate a problem area.	Multi-agency audit has not developed as much as we would like over the last year, mainly due to capacity within organisations. Particularly given the single agency focus in CSC as part of addressing social care quality. There has been some multi-agency audit around CSE, and some front line practice visits to conduct 'live audits' this included visits to A&E, a special school and to the CSE hub. Further work is underway to develop a comprehensive joint agency audit programme.
Ensure that learning from SCR are disseminated quickly	A strong briefing culture across the Board and its partners to disseminate information quickly arising from serious cases and Learning reviews. This year work has developed around Learning Reviews in order to engage practitioners and managers in reviews, quickly after an event in order to maximise learning.

Section 11 process.	A comprehensive section 11 process was completed this year with all agencies asked to develop action plans to take forward any learning. This was followed up with assurance statements to the Board.
---------------------	---

Alongside this, there are a number of other actions to provide assurance regarding the effectiveness of the system.

- The Chair meets regularly with the Director of Children’s services and with the Assistant Director for Social Care.
- The Chair meets regularly representatives of health organisations and with the police.
- The Chair meets with the Local Authority Chief Executive
- The Chair meets regularly with the DFE appointed commissioner and attends the improvement Board.

In the course of this year there have been a number of challenges to organisations regarding areas of concern. This has included challenge to Children’s Social care regarding the improvement programme and interaction with partners, Challenge to the police regarding attendance at case conferences and challenges regarding issues raised in performance and audit processes. In all instances assurance was provided by senior agency colleagues in respect of the issues raised.

The Board has received progress updates on the improvement plan, policing updates and work within the CCG and public health on commissioning activity. The Business group will continue to monitor evidence of impact alongside the work of the performance sub group.

The redesigned dataset is now smaller, more focused and more relevant. It is presented more clearly, providing a contextual narrative showing trend data from across the multi-agency child protection system. A dashboard and dashboard summary provide a visual alert for areas of concern to be focussed on. Areas highlighted this year include:

- Consideration of CIN and CP figures, particularly around reductions – are we effectively supporting children?
- Case conference attendance
- Missing episodes
- Attendance at A &E
- Reregistration of children on CP plans
- Home education and escalations of concerns

- Police data and local performance
- CAMHS and thresholds of need
- Oversight of Early Help support

Where concerns have continued or assurance has not been sufficient, issues have been escalated to the agencies concerned and included in the quarterly report to the Business group.

Further reports on Initial and Review Health Assessments for Looked after Children have been received to better understand the challenges and work to improve this continues. The Board also received assurance reports in relation to the Management of Allegations against professionals, school nursing, Youth Justice and private fostering.

Over the last year the Chair has encouraged conversations with staff, children and young people and organisations around safeguarding. The Staying Safe consultation was designed to bring into focus the lived experience of Kirklees Children in the system. The Chair and members of the Board administration have also visited front line practitioners and reflected their views into the Boards development. The Board is committed to encouraging more visits to the front line, intended to provide intelligence to the KSCB about what is working and what is not working in terms of safeguarding arrangements across the District at the front-line. This can then be triangulated against other information gained through audit and other activity as part of the assurance process.

## How well are children and young people safeguarded in Kirklees?

### Children in Schools and Early Years Settings

The work of the councils learning service provides a strong level of assurance which is reinforced by the Section 175 Safeguarding Audit.

100% of schools are reported to meet the following requirements:

- A nominated governor (or equivalent) for safeguarding is in post and robust governance arrangements are in place.
- Safer recruitment. At least one person on any appointment panel has undertaken safer recruitment training and selection processes,
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is part of the senior leadership team and can influence policy and practice. The DSL and any deputy DSL has made provisions to update their knowledge and skills updated at least annually
- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL). Every school/college has a DDSL in place.
- Appropriate induction, training and annual updates for staff.
- Staff and relevant governors are aware of established Child Protection procedures and the procedures for responding to and managing allegations against staff.
- Procedures are in place to prevent and respond to bullying. Children are taught about how to stay safe, including online safety.

The Education sector has provided good representation within the safeguarding partnership. In addition Designated Safeguarding Leads in schools have benefitted from Safeguarding Update Bulletins and Networks provided and supported by the KSCB and Learning Service.

This year the Board worked to implement operation Encompass into schools. This is a police and education early information sharing partnership enabling schools to offer immediate support for children and young people experiencing household Domestic Abuse. There is a recognition that Domestic Abuse is an adverse childhood experience that can seriously affect children's emotional and physical health, this early warning system can enable immediate support to be given.

### Early Support

Work over the last year has focused on developing an Early support offer across the partnership. The refresh of data as part of the Joint strategic needs assessment estimated that around 2,538 children were in receipt of Early support at any one time. It was also suggested that this encompassed around 1200 families, and included those families where children's lives were affected by a range of parental issues. Work is underway in developing an outcomes framework across the partnership to understand this better and to assess whether intervention in the form of support prevents both escalation and reoccurrence of prevailing problems. The implementation of the Kirklees Future in mind transformation plan to improve children and young people's mental Health and well- being has provided a strong framework to support the development of a collaborative partnership. The THRIVE model has been embedded into the Kirklees approach to working with families and forms the backbone to the Early support work and the Framework to making good decisions. Detail on the impact of the model and the quarterly monitoring reports can be found at: <https://www.kirklees.gov.uk>. The ethos behind the approach is to provide consistent and practical early intervention approaches to build resilience and to support well -being, it also creates the climate for practitioners to be successful in what they do. This ethos is firmly embedded now into the Kirklees way of doing things and is a strong feature of work with children and their families

## Children's Social Care

During 2017-18 the overall numbers of enquiries recorded by the Front Door was 17,789 of these 4510 were converted to referrals. This is a considerable reduction on previous year's figures and links closely to the improvement plan work. This is encouraging as it shows a developing understanding and appropriate assessment of need and risk at the early support stage. The percentage of re-referrals to social care has steadily improved moving towards being in line with the Statistical Neighbours average but better than the England average.

This is based on the last nationally published data for 2016/17. In August 2018 this stood at 21.4% compared to 30.9% in September 2017. Data for the whole of 2017/18 as reported for the CIN Census return, shows performance at 23.8%.

The work around the front door, including the redesign and the work with David Thorpe is demonstrating improvements to partnership working around thresholds and decision making, as evidenced by referral reductions and NFA figures showing a downwards trend. What we believe this tells us as a partnership is that staff across the partnership are beginning to have better conversations about risk and need, they beginning to refer the right things at the right time and share a commitment to supporting families earlier. There is also a knock on impact in terms of Assessment and intervention teams seeing less work being referred through. This will inevitable impact on timeliness and quality of practice.

What we have seen though is increasing complexity to the referrals, with presenting cases having more challenging and multiple problems identified at an early stage. The presentation of cases where Domestic Abuse is a feature is also a concern.

Kirklees CSC completes around 300 single assessments each month with significant improvements to timeliness being reported, at the end of March 2018, 69.8 % were completed within 45 working days. The average time taken is around 59 days, but this is a steadily improving picture and is much improved on last year.

At the end of March there were 2255 (2420) open cases - without Disabled Children's Teams, 2498 (2802) cases open to Children's Social Care (including the Disabled Children's Teams). This illustrates the significant demands and the impact on caseloads

The number of Children subject to statutory interventions saw a steady reduction over the year. Children in Need plans fell to their lowest number in March 2018 and there has been a steady reduction in Child Protection plans. At the end of March 2018, 358 **children** were subject to a plan, this is a month on month reduction from March 2017, the preceding month, as an illustration saw 397 Children and Young People subject to a Child Protection Plan. This is illustrative of improvements to planning, timeliness of decision making and robust managerial oversight.

Of the section 47 Enquiries that took place, 621 proceeded to an initial case conference, the number that occurred within 15 days, of the strategy discussion was 273. This is an area that requires further improvement work, but there are clear plans in place to provide additional capacity and to ensure adherence to timescales, this includes addressing the timeliness of notifications to the review unit.

Provisionally, as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018, there were 674 Looked after children in Kirklees and each child has an allocated Social Worker. This represented a position that over preceding months had shown a steady downwards trend. The review process has demonstrated improvements with 89% of children having a review of their plan in line with timescales. In addition health and dental checks have improved over the year, with 98% of children having their health checks on time. This is more than the average for the rest of England. Alongside this all children aged under 5 have had an up to date developmental assessment in the course of the year, which is considerably better than the 83% average for England as a whole.

The Number 11 Centre (Kirklees dedicated one stop shop for its LAC and Care Leavers) provides additional support for care leavers. The Virtual school also delivers services for young people at half terms and school holidays which are open to children both within and out of district. Health partners have also invested in provision for the most vulnerable groups to provide support and interventions that are flexible and meet the needs of Looked after children and care leavers – this includes a multi - agency approach to support emotional health and wellbeing.

A number of key strands of improvement have been put in place to further drive improvement and deliver better outcomes. This includes improvements to the legal gateway process, work on planning to avoid placement disruption and improve placement stability and focused with independent reviewing officers to improve levels of challenge and drive improved outcomes.

This is supported by a Corporate Parent Board focused on improving oversight and challenge. More recently alongside work to develop the Children in Care council and Care Leavers Forum has enabled the Board to harness the views of young people, to influence the focus and work plan of the Board. The Council has a strong vision for its children looked after and provides challenge, support and guidance to deliver improved services and ambitious outcomes for our children and young people. What requires more development is a join up of all of the strands of activity for children so that these ambitions can be realised.

## Children affected by Domestic Abuse, mental health and substance misuse

Domestic Abuse has been an area of some attention during this last year and will be an area of focus in the year to come. In the past 12 months Kirklees recorded just over 10,000 domestic incidents. This represents a 15% increase compared to the previous 12 months and a 37% increase compared to two years ago. The incidents in Kirklees are higher than in west Yorkshire generally which has reported a 13% increase over 12 months and a 26% increase.

An initial deep dive suggests that factors such as confidence in reporting, improved awareness and identification and improved recording systems play a part. The development of the front door and the presence of the DRAMM has provided an opportunity to assess Domestic Abuse cases where children are present in a more timely and focused way.

There will be further developments over the year to come, particularly as learning and training from serious incidents becomes embedded. These include

- **Further work with the community safety and Adults Boards to understand Domestic Abuse and its prevalence better**
- **Some focused work with BME groups to provide targeted advice**
- **Focused training based on learning from serious incidents**

The early support, which will work on a locality basis provides an opportunity to families to access a non-stigmatising offer where families, children and young people feel comfortable to seek help and receive a holistic response to their needs.

In December 2017 Kirklees Future in Mind Transformation Plan, to improve Children and Young Peoples Mental Health, was agreed by the Health and Well Being Board. The Plan was based on a refresh of the data set within the JSNA and includes a range of activity to support children and ensure that emotional health and wellbeing is addressed early. A detailed summary of data and reports on progress are available at [www.kirklees.gov.uk/futureinmind](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/futureinmind). A range of presenting issues are also summarised here, with relationship issues, low self-esteem, anxiety and behaviour featuring highly. The average length of intervention has increased over the last year from 62.1 days to 83.8 days.

The services have established strong links with all schools in the district and provide advice and guidance to teachers and run workshops for young people in schools to raise awareness and promote prevention.

## Children who are Privately Fostered

Despite ongoing publicity campaigns, private fostering arrangement notifications remain low with only 5 children as at the end of March 2018 receiving a service. There are rigorous assessments on the suitability of such arrangements where notice is received. Regular visits and direct work is undertaken with young people as means of ensuring any trauma or life experiences are sensitively talked through with children and their carers. Further work is underway updating information leaflets and developing an e-learning programme to further promote awareness raising and understanding of Private Fostering arrangements. This work will be coming to the KSCB for awareness, discussion and challenge.

## Children who are missing

Children who go missing are at greater risk of exploitation and abuse and therefore this area continues to be a high priority. This has been an area of significant focus in the last year. At the time of the last report this area was a significant concern across the partnership. Kirklees has many providers of care and therefore a significant number of children placed in the District from other areas. In the last year a number of things have happened

- A revised data set has sought to obtain improved data on missing episodes
- A provider Forum has been established
- The Board Chair and DCS collaborated in writing to all Local Authorities reminding them of the statutory responsibilities they hold for children placed out of area
- A resource pack has been developed offering advice, guidance and key contact points for all providers.

Analysis of the data shows that there is a discrepancy between the numbers of people reported missing and the number of Return Home Interviews completed. As a result, practice has been reviewed and updated to ensure effective data capture and more effective support for the young people affected. In the year there were 2394 incidents of missing reported of these 855 were episodes involving children in the care system.

## FGM

The number of children meeting Ealing Children's Services with FGM and Trafficking have been relatively low in recent years. In 2017/18, there were 8 where an FGM concern was identified, this was thirteen less than previous year, but this did not include any child victims.

## Prevent Programme

Key staff across all agencies have all received training in the governments PREVENT strategy incorporating CHANNEL and safeguarding young people to ensure there is an appropriate response and dialogue for young people drawn towards the ideology of terrorism. In addition, the safeguarding of young people prevents them from being drawn into terrorism through appropriate advice and guidance provided to them at an early stage by staff or through referrals to the CHANNEL programme.

All staff attend mandatory training through the KSCB /community safety or their constituent agencies Radicalisation is considered a risk with young people displaying other elevated risk factors; gangs, missing and through conversations and social media. Where any young person is identified as a possible risk, then an initial referral is made to the Front door and then to the Prevent Team who will facilitate a referral to CHANNEL for the information to be reviewed.

Young people who attend youth clubs are encouraged to debate and discuss the risks of radicalisation with senior youth workers and each other, and through this approach any young person identified have further conversations with youth workers and where appropriate referred to CHANNEL.

Young people in the Youth Justice Service on a Court order who request permission to travel to a high-risk location have an in-depth conversation with their workers to explore the reasons, the risks before any authority to travel is considered. The requests are referred to the Prevent Team for their

input on the location of the visit and any further information. Young people who are identified as a risk are refused travel and risky locations for travel are also declined.

Prevent continues to support local community groups and this year the Board received detailed information around the work within the Faith sector to discuss safeguarding and risk... Key issues and themes being worked through include understanding referral processes, risk and thresholds as well as interventions, including consent. The engagement has resulted in groups cascading information to residents and service users who have misinformation about the role of social care resulting in an improving image about social care services.

### **CSE and Trafficking**

There is a growing understanding of how young people who are exploited through gangs and CSE are often trafficked domestically which means looking at using the legislation around Trafficking to target those that are exploiting them. During the course of this year a number of police investigations have been underway, looking at allegations of CSE where complainants have recently come forward to make complaints as adults. As a Board we will want to monitor this situation as the proceedings conclude and initiate learning as is appropriate. This will be the subject of multi-agency agreement through the Board structures and will engage the national panel as appropriate.

Partnership working demonstrates that there is a good level of understanding of CSE across the teams and partner agencies.

Kirklees is reviewing its response to issues of Child Sexual Exploitation, Gangs, Missing and Trafficking and is developing a Contextual Safeguarding approach to address these concerns which often overlap for individuals and for the district as a whole. We plan to develop a new Risk and vulnerability strategy during 2018/19.

### **Allegations against professionals**

The Board received the LADO annual report as part of the governance arrangements, recognising this was an area where we wanted to improve practice. A number of key improvements have taken place this year

- ✓ The LADO referral form has been updated to be more specific, operational flowcharts have been developed to support consistent processing of contacts and referrals and Kirklees 'Guide for Professionals' has been updated.
- ✓ A system is now in place for all referrals to be captured .A review date is included for cases requiring follow up where there are external investigations or organisations needing to confirm actions have been carried out.
- ✓ An outcome letter template to the referrer has also been developed. These will support the good practice of referrers receiving a suitable formal response following a LADO enquiry.
- ✓ As part of ensuring that standards and expectations are well understood across our partners, there is ongoing programme of training and briefing sessions with nurseries and schools, health partners,

faith organisations and the voluntary sector. This complements the work already done through the KSCB.

- ✓ Similarly, there are sessions carried out for staff to ensure that LADO standards are embedded across the system.

## A spotlight on practice

This is a new section for the Annual Report intended to focus on how we make a difference to children and young people.

The focus is on the work of to change the culture in which effective safeguarding can occur. At the time of the last report a number of factors were affecting the ability of agencies to work collaboratively to support effective safeguarding. In summary

- High turnover of staff at all levels in social care
- Poor partnership dialogue and weaknesses in governance
- Weaknesses in the policy and procedural framework
- A lack of shared values
- Breakdown in trust and poor communication

Success and change in children's services needs and relies upon strong and effective partnership working. Children and their families need services to work together in a service that is shaped and funded collectively and where partners share governance and accountability

A number of leadership activities have driven improvement. . It is the way this has been actioned and the impact it is having that is important. The improvement work identified that for success the effectiveness of the partnership required attention.

There are a number of key achievements that need to be noted

- Shared culture , values and vision have been established
- A revised approach to making decisions based on risk and need , that involve practitioners having good quality conversations , has been agreed
- Senior officers have committed to attendance at key meetings

What this has enabled are improvements to partnership arrangements that are facilitating service changes that will lead to improved safeguarding outcomes.

The development work on Early Support is one such area that is now aligned across all agencies, there is agreement about how it will operate, the role that all partners will play and the locality focus it will offer. There is agreement that Early Support is a collaborative approach not a provision. The Early support strategy enables a join up to the primary prevention model *thrive* which has been the basis for commissioning services in Kirklees, and allows the development of a common narrative across the partnership as to the approach in working with families. Getting Advice, Getting Help, Getting more Help, Getting Risk Support, is now the common strand of the partnership approach to working with Families, it underpins the framework for making decisions and key strategies that guide work.

Central to the approach is the notion of strengths based work with families, a restorative way of

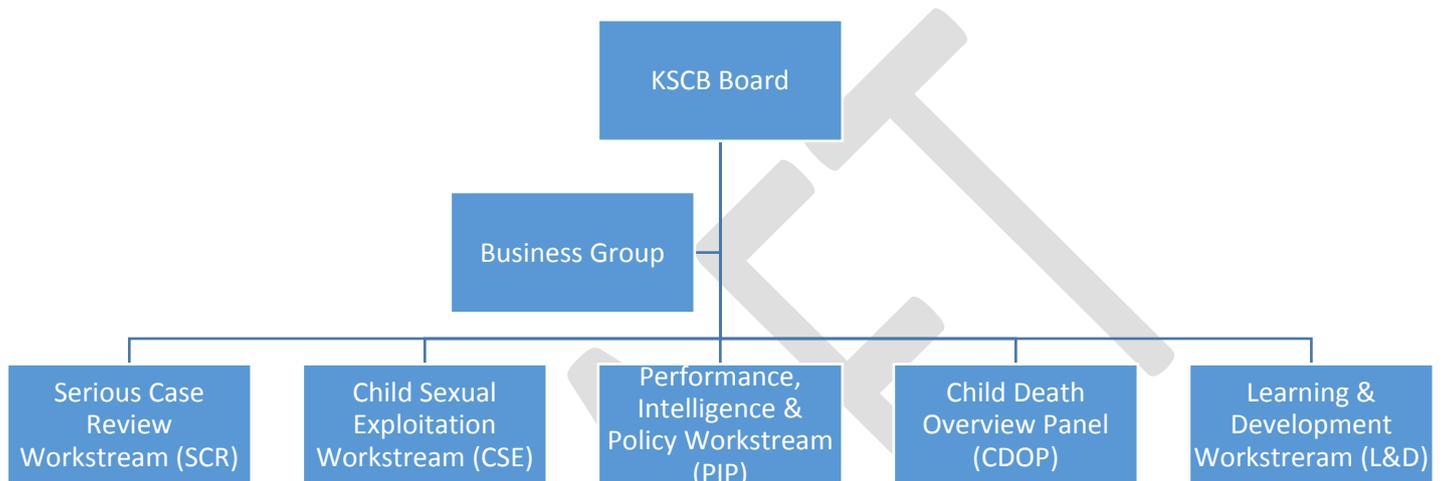
working that has also shaped the partnership activity. This starting point has enabled a clarity of what each partner brings to the table and has supported a rebuilding of trust.

A restorative approach is one whereby all individuals are willing to provide and accept support but also willing to accept and to be challenged.

DRAFT

## How does the Board work?

The structure of the Board was revised in 2017/18 and will be revised during 2018/19 as the Board responds to the development of the new Safeguarding arrangements. The current structure is shown below.



What follows are the key achievements of sub groups over 2017/18

### The performance, intelligence and policy work stream

The KSCB has developed a new KSCB Performance Booklet. This drives a discussion around performance at each sub group meeting and is shared with the Business group. The importance of performance monitoring has been promoted which has raised questions and driven positive discussions around key performance indicators. The KSCB Performance Booklet covers a wide range of multi-agency safeguarding areas and is grouped into the three priorities to focus partner's efforts. The development of highlight report is produced for every meeting to accompany and simplify the Performance Booklet. This report outlines areas that are improving and areas that are showing signs of concern in the system. The KSCB now uses its Performance Booklet to build a picture of the effectiveness of services to children and young people. The Performance Booklet also adds to the development of work plans for other subgroups and helps direct the Business Plan. Challenge to practice is more rigorous

### Learning and development work stream (L&D)

During 2017/18, The Learning & Development strategy has been developed and approved for a 2 year period to bring it in line with the Safeguarding Board business plan.

There have been 3 new courses included in the 2018-19 training plan around –

- Child Trafficking
- Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children
- Sexual Harmful Behaviour

The group identified vulnerable children champions to give healthy challenge and support on the training plan/strategy and the quality assurance of courses. This was identified through the Ofsted Inspection Improvement Plan. There has been a focus in increasing resilience of the multi-agency training pool.

An evaluation of the Voice of the Child in Training courses was completed by a volunteer with the KSCB who went through all the Safeguarding courses and mapped them against the framework to what extent the voice of the child was present in training.

### **Child Sexual Exploitation work stream**

This year the focus has been to improve a number of areas

- The need for a comprehensive CSE data profile to provide information of CSE in Kirklees and enable professionals to more effectively target interventions.
- Training for Front line practitioners and Advanced practitioners.
- Support and recovery pathways for all victims of CSE.
- Structure and process in place for responding appropriately to all CSE cases.

Good progress has been made in a number of areas

- Development of revised CSE Strategy action plan for 2017/2019.
- Delivery of CSE awareness programmes within different Faith and Community groups.
- Expansion of the training pathway to include offer to night-time and other economies, including taxi drivers, bus drivers, food outlets and hotels.
- Expansion of members of the CSE Hub which now includes representation from substance misuse service CGL and also YOT.
- Increase in the number of agencies using a flagging system to identify victims of CSE.
- Closer links with the LGBTQ community through close liaison with the Brunswick centre who are also included for attendance at the monthly MACSE. This agency has also developed a Youth project which will offer support and wellbeing services to a number of children and young people across Kirklees.
- Regular proactive operations targeting locations, individuals and in addition raising awareness with community members.
- Multi-agency case file audit for CSE cases.

Kirklees KSCB also accepted an offer from Sheffield Futures Alexi project to deliver CSE training to safeguarding professionals. The KSCB promoted the training widely and the take-up was good. Attendees included those from health, youth services, social care, police, education and the voluntary sector. The evaluations were extremely positive with high ratings for increased understanding and confidence regarding attendees' knowledge of CSE

In 2017-2018 the KSCB ran 25 courses relating to CSE from a practitioner level through to Advanced practitioner and accredited courses with a total of 448 delegates attending the training. CSE E learning training was undertaken by a further 975 delegates.

### **The SCR work stream**

The SCR Sub Group met on six occasions with a focus on clearing a number of cases that had been commenced in previous years. All cases are now on track, one case is awaiting the conclusion of parallel proceedings before being finalised.

Practitioner Learning Events have been held in relation to composite learning from cases concluded and each agency has been asked for assurance that learning has been disseminated in organisations. In addition the Board has circulated a number of nationally published SCRs. There are a number of key Themes arising from reviews these have led to some policy and practice developments summarised below.

### **Key themes emerging from Reviews in 2017 /18**

- Quality of assessments, planning and reviews
- Information sharing within and between agencies; clarity of roles and processes
- Systems / processes not robust enough or unclear to other agencies
- Historical information about family / parental capacity / involvement of fathers
- Working with parents with learning disabilities
- Limited focus on child's experience in processes that address adult / parent issues

### **Key pieces of work undertaken by KSCB in response to reviews going forward 2018/2019**

- Neglect Strategy
- Guidance on working with parents with learning disabilities
- Guidance on teen to parent violence
- Harmful Sexual Behaviour Task and Finish Group set up
- Harmful Sexual Behaviour multi-agency training course
- Accumulation of minor injuries protocol (currently out for consultation to be adopted west Yorkshire wide)
- Production of concise Learning Summaries for each published review to ensure wide dissemination of learning

### **Child Death overview work stream**

The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) enables the KSCB to carry out its statutory function in relation to reviewing all child deaths to understand why children die. This process can help us to identify factors relating to the safety and welfare of children and this can then be used to inform local strategic planning and interventions to prevent future deaths on a local and national level. This is a joint panel with Calderdale. A full copy of the Annual report for the CDOP panel is available on the Safeguarding Board

website

As part of its current functions, the CDOP is required to categorise the preventability of a death by considering whether any factors may have contributed to the death of the child and if so, whether these could be 'modified' to reduce the risk of future child deaths.

- Recognition that families living across more than one household can lead to missed opportunities for the health visitor to provide appropriate advice and support.
- Families can experience financial hardship following the death of a child benefits and child maintenance support are stopped and the parents may be unable to work for a period of time.
- Importance of easy access to counselling for staff responding to a child death
- Importance of recognising non-compliance with treatment for chronic health conditions such as asthma.
- Importance of public awareness that if a child requires their Salbutamol inhaler more often than 3-4 hourly medical attention should be sought as they might need additional treatment.
- Identification of learning for rapid response teams to ensure that schools are notified promptly, and through official channels, when a child dies.
- CDOP saw evidence this year of good information sharing enabling staff to manage deliveries appropriately and sensitively.
- Importance of involving parents at every step of discussions and balancing parental wishes against futility and extending suffering of infant.
- Difficulties in flows of information when families move into the area from another region
- Review of child suicides this year had reinforced the importance of emotional health and well-being for young people along with the importance of friends being able to flag concerns in school to appropriate adults. CDOP noted that PSHE lessons will be compulsory from 2019

## **Communication and Campaigns – Safeguarding week**

The KSCB worked in partnership with the Kirklees Safeguarding Adults Board and Safer Kirklees to deliver a week of concentrated Safeguarding activity to increase awareness in October 2017.

The KSCB organised three events on their designated day which included:

### **1) What is a Serious Case Review? Decision Process and Learning**

This session aimed to increase awareness of what an SCR is and the process from start to completion. The session also covered local and national lessons from SCRs

51 practitioners and managers attended this session.

### **2) Voice of the Child Workshop**

Safeguarding Schools Officer, Steve Barnes, delivered a workshop using an exemplar case which emphasised the importance of listening to the voice of the child and how effective co-ordinated work by a number of professionals can have a huge impact on the child's life.

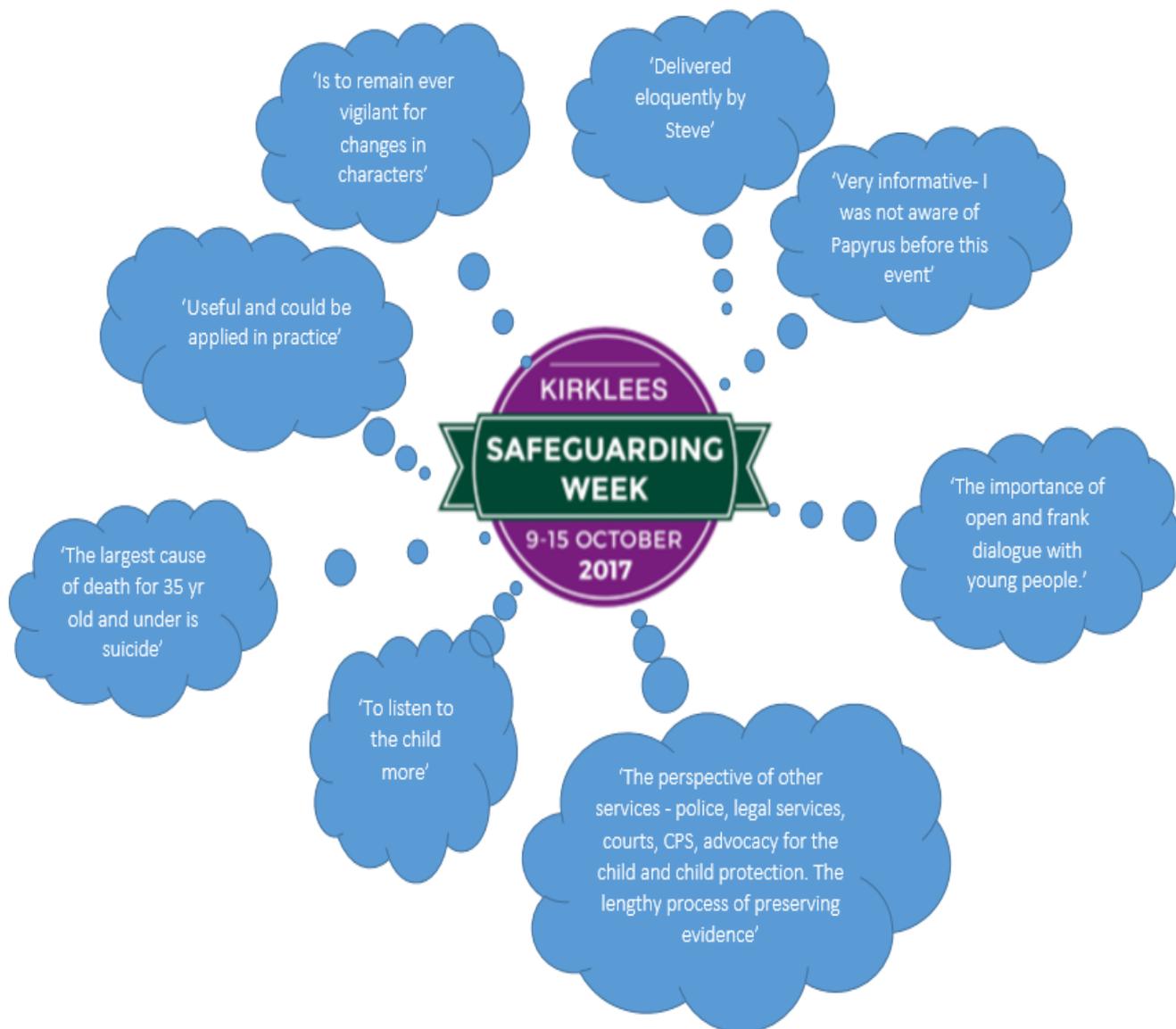
95 practitioners and managers attended this workshop.

### **3) Preventing Young Person Suicide presented by Papyrus**

This session aimed to increase awareness of the facts, the indicators, and contributing factors to young person's suicide.

89 practitioners and managers attended this session.

There was representation from across the whole partnership for these events. Feedback from those attending was positive



The Board has also developed a Twitter account as a way of keeping followers and partners up to date there are 600 followers and in 17/18 tweets were viewed 59, 500 times.

## KSCB Training

The KSCB continues to provide a multi-agency training programme to support front-line staff in their work with children and young people who are vulnerable, at risk and suffering significant harm. In 2017/18 the KSCB has delivered safeguarding training to 2833 people, from a range of partner agencies Training is delivered in a flexible and accessible way and can be delivered at different levels: This has been developed to recognise work patterns and organisational demands. It includes

- Full and Half day training
- Safeguarding Briefings

- Single Agency bespoke training
- Briefings on new processes / launches
- Masterclasses
- Messages from Serious Case Reviews
- Train the trainers
- Board development training

## From evaluations 92% are rated as Good or Excellent

The Board also has an e learning package that includes a comprehensive offer, in 2017/18 – completions of modules totalled 9016. The breakdown between the e-learning courses is as follows:

- Awareness of Child Abuse and Neglect Course 7098
- Child Accident Prevention 347
- Child Development 311
- Child Sexual Exploitation 979
- Court Skills 68
- Domestic Abuse 136
- Private Fostering 77

## Conclusion

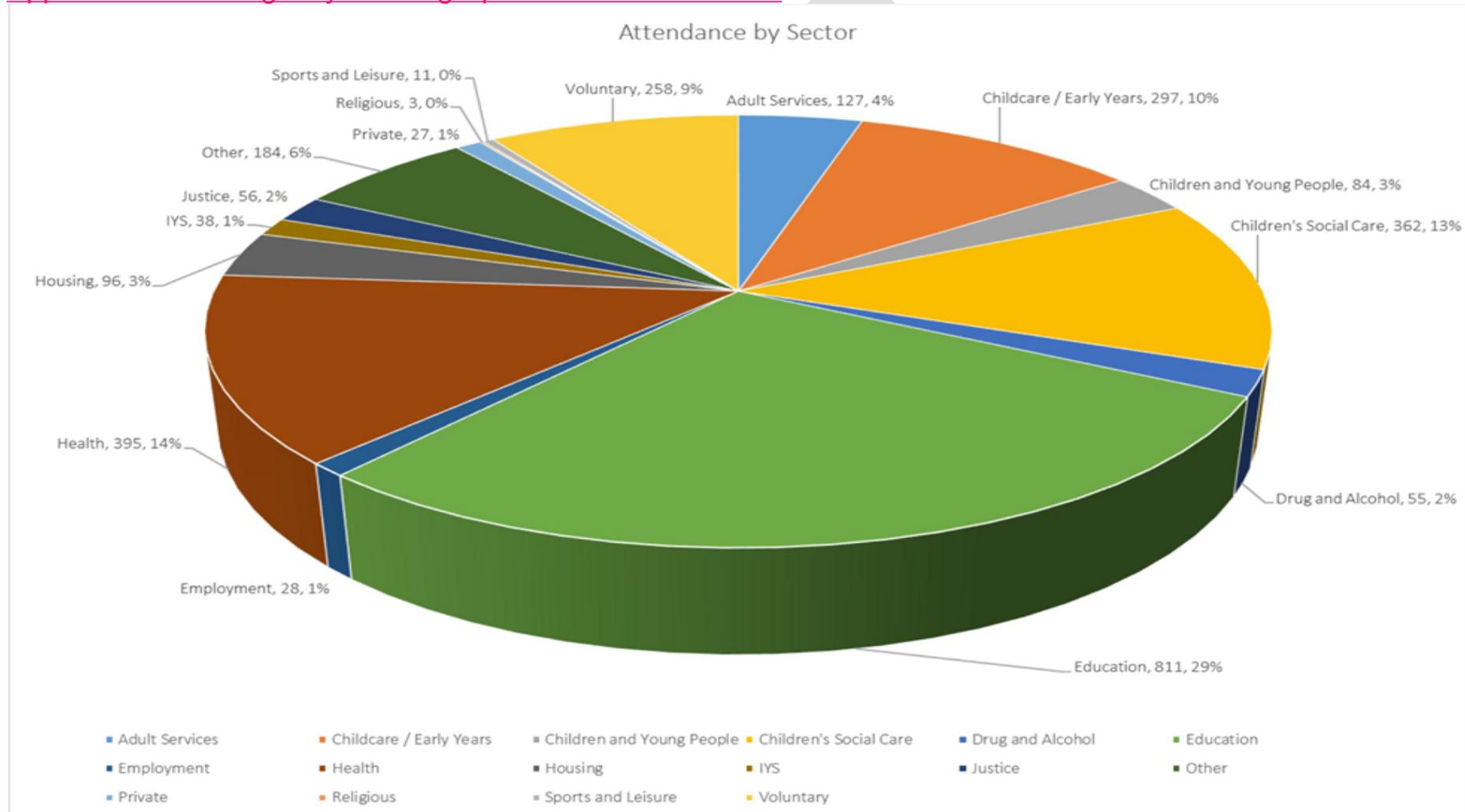
2017/18 has seen the continued development of the KSCB. As a result of the activity of the partner agencies and of the Board there is assurance that children are safe and that they are in receipt of an improved service. Agencies are working in close partnership to ensure children get the right help and support at the right time,

The priorities and focus of next year are of course governed by a differing set of arrangements as the Board transitions into a new safeguarding partnership. The work undertaken to date places the Board in a strong position to manage that transition efficiently and effectively. The priorities developed last year are still relevant but it is appropriate to strengthen the business plan to include

- Continuing to develop work around risk and vulnerability including CSE
- Effectively responding to contextual safeguarding,
- A continued focus on domestic abuse, which remains a significant feature in referrals and a significant concern for schools and health professionals
- Continued close work to embed the voice of children and young people
- Continued enhancement of performance , particularly focusing on the impact of new strategies such as Early support
- Delivering an effective transition into the new safeguarding partnership

## Appendices

### Appendix 1: Multi-Agency Training April 2017 – March 2018



Appendix 2: updated procedures

Updated Chapters	
Chapter Name	Updated Details
Resolving Multi Agency Professional Disagreements and Escalation	This protocol, which sets out the steps to be taken to resolve Multi Agency Professional Disagreements when working with children and families, has been reviewed and updated throughout. The process it describes should be followed whenever there is a disagreement between professionals / agencies regarding the best course of action to safeguard a child.
Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)	A new Appendix 1: Local FGM Pathways has been added containing links to Local FGM Protocols, Pathways and Strategies.
Trafficked Children	This guidance has been updated to include links to the following: Care of Unaccompanied Migrant Children Child Victims of Modern Slavery: Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities (DfE, 2017); Modern Slavery Duty to Notify - Factsheet and posters that explain what you need to do if you think someone has been a victim of modern slavery.

Bullying	This guidance has been reviewed throughout and updated as required.
Child Abuse and Information Communication Technology	This guidance has been updated to include a reference to Outcome 21 which can be used by the Police in situations where young people are voluntarily sending/sharing sexual images or content with one another. Outcome 21 records that a crime has been committed but that it is not considered to be in the public interest to take criminal action against the people involved. Thereby reducing stigma and distress for children and helping to minimise the long term impact of the situation.
Safeguarding Children and Young People from Child Sexual Exploitation: Policy, Procedures and Guidance	The definition of Child Sexual Exploitation contained in this guidance has been updated to reflect the 2017 Department for Education publication Child Sexual Exploitation: Definition and Guide for Practitioners.
Safeguarding Children Affected by Gang Activity and Youth Violence	This guidance has been reviewed and updated throughout as required.
Safeguarding Children and Young people against	Section 4, Protection and Action to be Taken, has been updated to include a link to information for use by practitioners in Calderdale when

Radicalisation  
and Violent  
Extremism

referring concerns about an individual  
who may be at risk of radicalisation or  
violent extremism.

DRAFT