



Kirklees Safeguarding Children Partnership

Kirklees Safeguarding Children Partnership

Assurance Report 2020/2021

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Introduction from Executive Safeguarding Partners

Welcome to our second Annual Assurance report as required by Working Together 2018 which is intended to provide an overview of our progress over the 12-month period from April 2020 to March 2021.

Our commitment during this period in Kirklees was to continue working together to enable children, young people and their families to live safe and resilient lives, to support them to build on their strengths and maintain a sense of belonging to the borough .

During this time the emergence of Covid19 has perhaps been the most significant challenge the Partnership has had to face. The pandemic has seen an unparalleled situation for those agencies tasked with the responsibility to keep children safe while continuing to deliver on care, education, protection and health services to our wider community.

The KSCP Executive Group would firstly like to praise the commitment and conscientiousness of all our frontline staff and managers within the Kirklees Borough and whose flexibility , resilience , professionalism and hard work made the difference in helping to safeguard children and young people in Kirklees during this time.

During this time there has been a quick response by the KSCP partners in implementing changes to its arrangements to ensure it was well placed to respond to the active changes in demand and service provision necessary to react to the virus.

These included a partnership commitment to:

- ▶ Continue with our Charing arrangements for the next year across the KSCP.
- ▶ Observe and report on the KSCP and its Relevant Agencies responses to COVID19.
- ▶ Ensure KSCP oversight arrangements allows us to remain abreast of demand on the system.
- ▶ Continue to use the expertise of the Independent Scrutineer across the system (Rapid Reviews, Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, Multi-Agency Audit processes) to assure ourselves through scrutiny opportunities that the processes across the system are effective.
- ▶ Adapt virtual multi-agency training and practice development to meet the current and future restrictions placed on the Partnership.
- ▶ Retain, develop and progress new practices that were identified as effective during multi agency responses to COVID.
- ▶ Maintain a central internet resource for anyone wishing to access and understand more about safeguarding.
- ▶ Ensuring that the workforce have information and policies to follow relating to current issues
- ▶ Adjust our safeguarding arrangements accordingly to ensure we had the right balance between governance and a continuing grip at the operational level as the impact of COVID19 becomes more understood

Mel Meggs

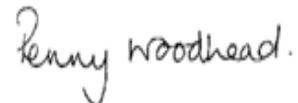
Penny Woodhead

Julie Sykes

Director of Kirklees Children Services

Chief Quality & Nursing Officer Clinical Commissioning Group

Chief Superintendent West Yorkshire Police



About Kirklees: continued focus areas

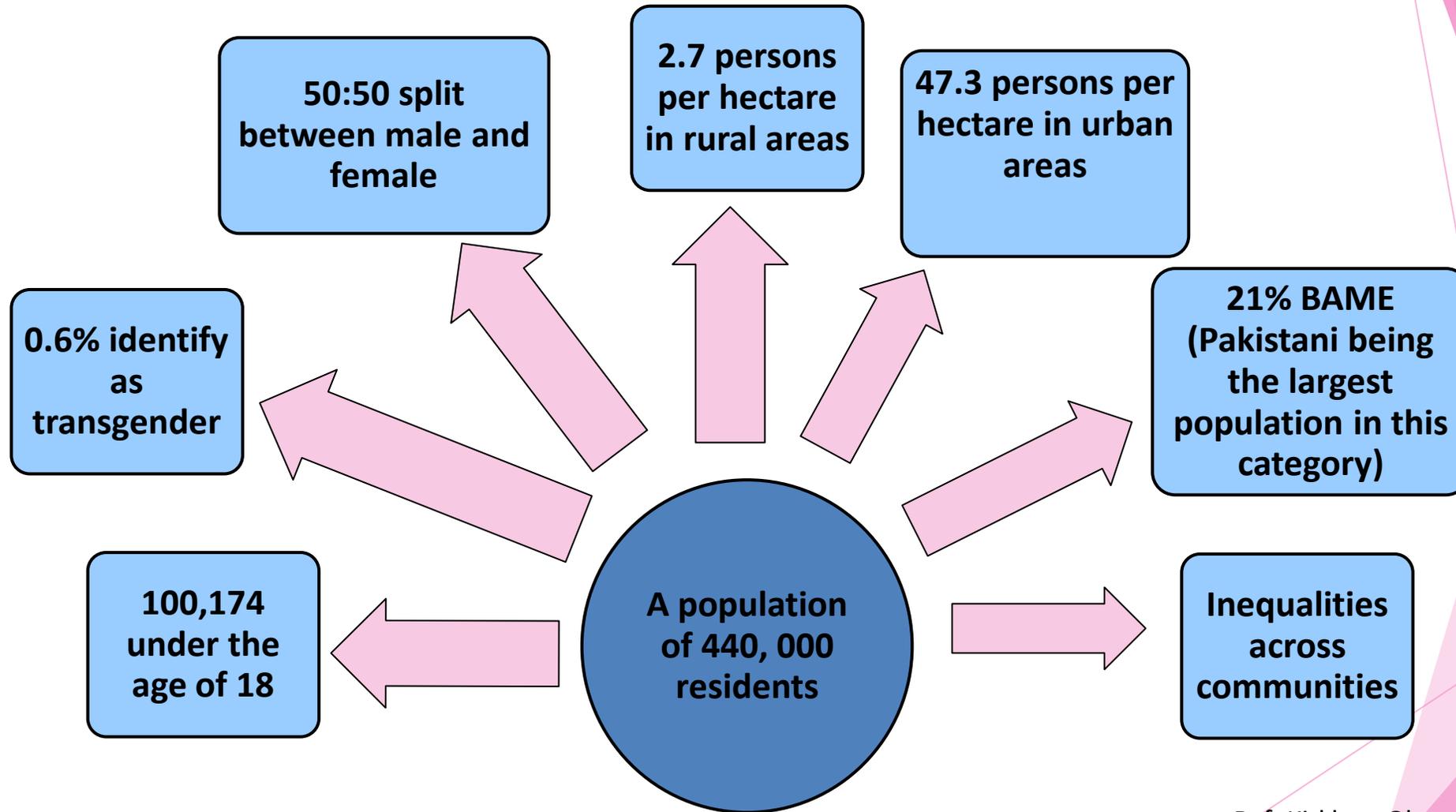
What was obvious when writing this report was that the Kirklees local challenges very much reflect the national picture nationally with concerns emerging in the following:

- ▶ For the early support of children and families
- ▶ Pre-birth and non-mobile babies
- ▶ Domestic abuse and the impact on children, and
- ▶ Risks relating to child exploitation for adolescents and their safe transition to adult services.

These are key areas that will remain a focus for the KSCP in 2021/2022



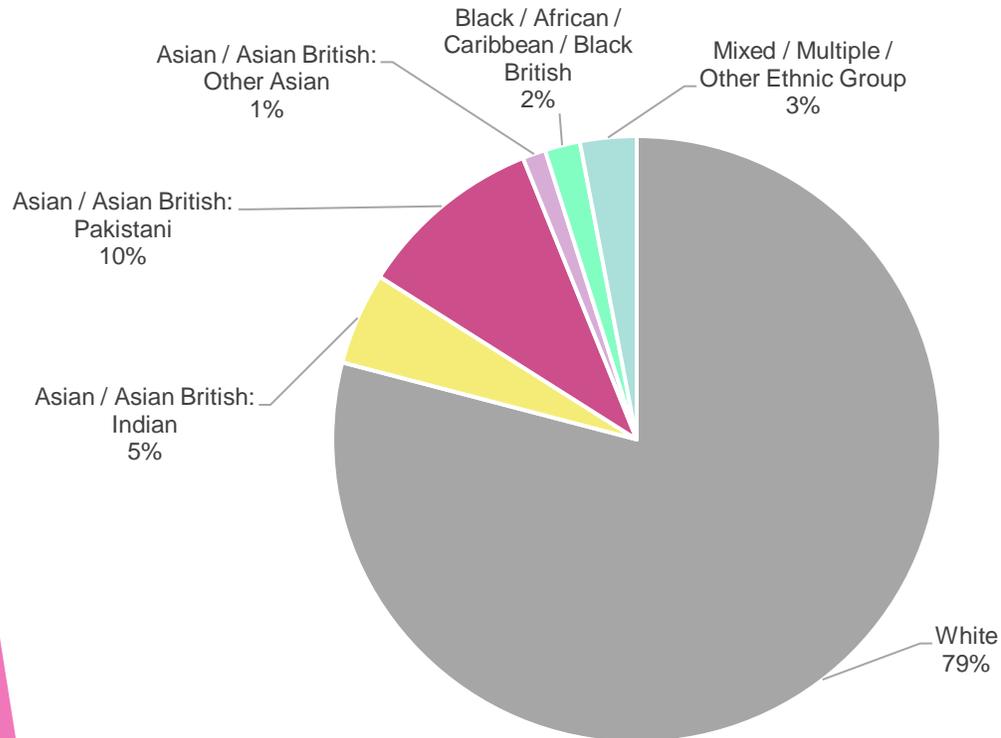
About Kirklees: Population factors



About Kirklees: Population breakdown

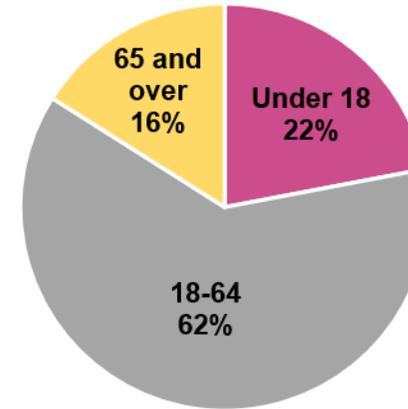


Around 440,000 people live in Kirklees Metropolitan Borough. Across the 4 borough localities: Batley and Spen, Dewsbury and Mirfield, Huddersfield and Kirklees Rural (mirroring the locality police teams)



Population by ethnic group - Kirklees 2011 Census

Population by age



There are approximately 70,000 schoolchildren in Kirklees



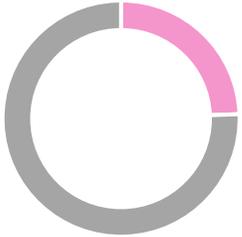
One in four primary school pupils has a first language other than English

Ref: Kirklees Observatory

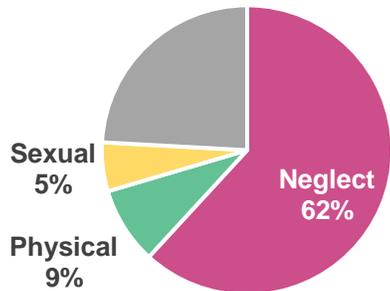
About Kirklees: Safeguarding Activity

15.9

Percentage of re-referrals to children's social care within 12 months of the previous referral, in Kirklees (2020)



Child Protection Plans starting in 2020 by Category of Abuse



399

Number of children who are the subject of a Child Protection Plan in Kirklees (2020)

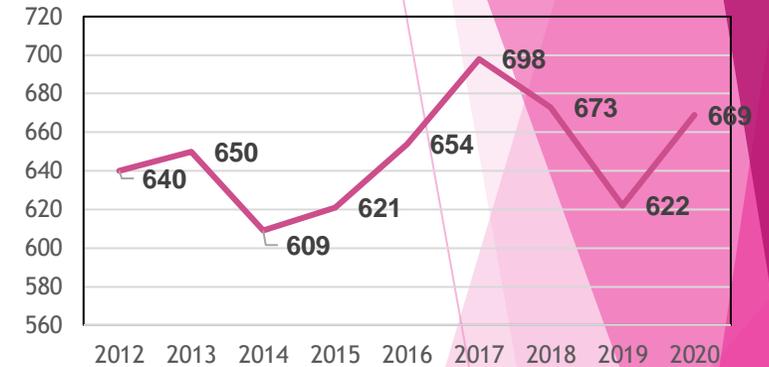


574 Early Help Assessments completed (2020)



14,026 Number of Initial Contacts to Front Door for families (2020)

Number of Looked After Children in Kirklees



Ref: KSCP Performance Data ⁸

Number of Serious Incident Notifications during reporting period (April 2020 – Mar 2021)

No. of SINS notified to KSCP Business Unit	No. of SIN progressed by LA to National Panel	No of Rapid Reviews Completed	No. of Local Safeguarding Practice Reviews initiated	No. of Local Learning Reviews
One	None	None	None	One

Analysis of above data: This case did not meet the criteria for a SPR. However, the Partnership undertook a Local Learning Review as an opportunity to explore learning, produce a report and identify recommendations for agencies and across the wider system.

Future areas of focus:

A review of CSPR processes to ensure timescales are managed appropriately and are clear across the Partnership. Further changes to hospital trusts restraint policy (Restrictive physical interventions involving children and young people) were instigated.

Reflection of this case was undertaken with consideration of the six National themes.

KSCP Business Priorities 2020-2021: Demonstrating the impact...How did we do?

“The KSCP wants children and young people to be supported at the right time and place in their journey”

To understand better the Child's Lived experience: not just to talk about participation or voice

Multi-agency case audit tool for capturing of the child's lived experience was developed to assist with our audit activity for domestic Abuse. This tool can be adapted for future audits and ensure the child's experience is central to practice. To support and empower children and young people and [young people's voice](#) was developed on the KSCP website and informs young people's views and ensures as a partnership we are listening.

Embedding the new safeguarding arrangements for Kirklees

Development of briefing for new Safeguarding arrangements covering [MASA](#)

Enhancing the partnership's role in challenge and scrutiny through improved understanding of performance and Effectiveness

Development of a greater understanding across all agencies of "[what good looks like](#)"

Exploitation - Continuing to develop work around Child exploitation including, and to include arrangements to engage communities in developing the response

Development of an Exploitation strategy in collaboration with university of Bedfordshire and the National Working group ensured a wider understanding of the risks associated with Exploitation and therefore known and communicated across the partnership to enable targeted future work to be planned.

Early Support- Embedding Early Support across all agencies and making it work to deliver tangible outcomes to families and the 'system

For a better understanding of how to identify and support families who may require early intervention the Early Support Multi Agency Panel, framework for making decisions and TAF framework was progressed with recognition of future work streams for Family Group conferencing and Family Support Hubs.

Understanding the impact of trauma on children and young people

The understanding of the effects of trauma and the development of trauma informed tools (Neglect Toolkit) has enabled more effective support for children's emotional wellbeing. The training covering Adverse childhood experiences has provided a base line understanding across the partnership. A future area of focus now on transitions from child to adult services will further enhance a trauma informed approach.



Governance, Assurance and Oversight

During the reporting period the KSCP Executive Group met on a monthly basis throughout the Covid Pandemic to assure themselves that the Partners continue to deliver against the priorities of the Business plan.

Attendance at the KSCP Executive comprises of the three key partners from Children's Services, West Yorkshire Police and the Kirklees Clinical Commissioning Group and also includes representation from Education, Public Health and the Independent Scrutineer.

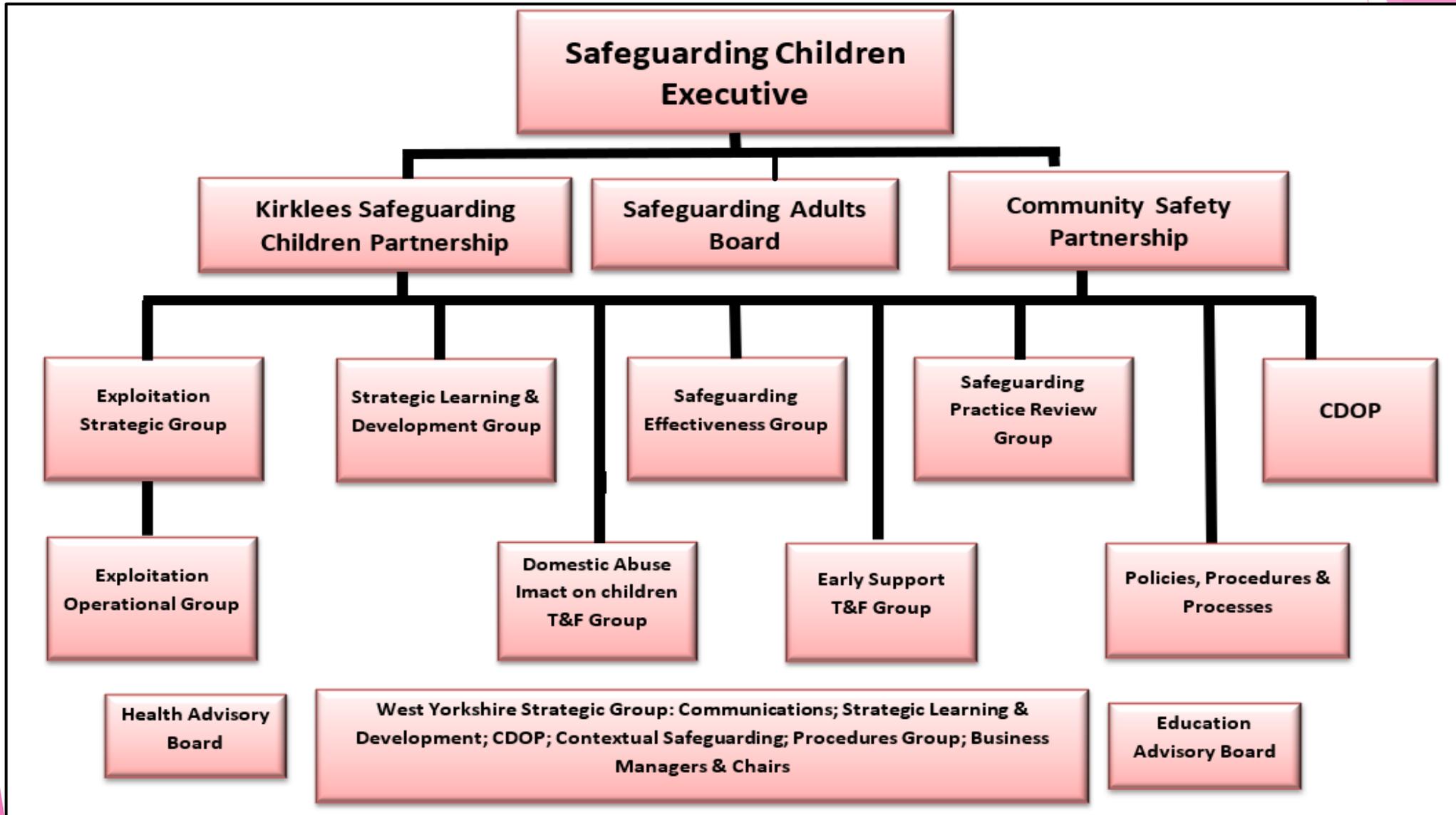
Partners give significant input of time, commitment and resources.

The KSCP Business Manager and Secretariat supports the work of the KSCP to help coordinate the sub groups who deliver against the priorities for the KSCP Executive.

The role of the KSCP over this reporting period has been to:

- Jointly identify safeguarding priorities for Kirklees and to monitor against the Safeguarding Children Business Plan.
- Receive reports from the Executive Group and other partners in respect of the delivery of the Business Plan.
- Consider reports on relevant learning and development activity
- Receive reports from Independent Scrutiny activity.
- Receive reports on activity and the viewpoints of children and young people.
- Act as a reference group for the Safeguarding Partners.
- Identify and take action on new and emerging issues in the Borough in respect of children's safeguarding.
- Ensure effective linkages with other relevant partnerships and governance structures.

Structure and Governance



COVID 19 - the impact across the system

- ▶ The Coronavirus Pandemic increased pressure across Kirklees communities and services.
- ▶ It caused significant change to the daily lives of children and families which presented heightened levels of risk for some children and young people; the Safeguarding Partnership worked closely together to ensure that children and young people continued to receive the services and support they needed as agencies across the partnership faced challenges to deliver the full range of services. Child protection and safeguarding maintained a priority.

The challenges identified for families:

- ▶ Families were being asked to stay at home, there was increasing financial pressure on many families and understandable anxiety.
- ▶ Families were becoming increasingly isolated and, despite an offer of a school place, some children identified as vulnerable were not taking up these places.

KSCP identified the following potential emerging risks:

- ▶ Potential for an increase in intrafamilial child abuse including neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse and emotional abuse as vulnerable children would be isolated at home with parents under increasing stress.
- ▶ Increases in cases of Domestic Abuse and Parental Conflict.
- ▶ Potential for increased online grooming with children spending more time unsupervised online, leading to greater vulnerability to exploitation from perpetrators.
- ▶ An increase in children experiencing emotional and mental health difficulties.
- ▶ An increase in substance and alcohol misuse.

COVID 19 – The response across the system included:

- Instigation of a system wide collaborative response
- Fortnightly KSCP assurance meetings: to identify and mitigate pressures in the system, respond to and protect vulnerable children and families across Kirklees
- Creation of a Covid -19 webpage to communicate key information to professionals.
- Training briefings and Practice Guidance developed and communicated across the Partnership
- E learning opportunities continued.

Independent Scrutineer

The KSCP has designed and set out a proposed model for developing effective and enhanced scrutiny within the Multi-agency safeguarding children arrangements. The intention being to clearly outline the Kirklees position on scrutiny as a tool for driving improvement, to articulate the vital and important role that the workforce, parents/ carers and children and young people play in challenging services and in shaping service responses. The development of our scrutiny model has been informed by good practice and research.

We have therefore:

- ✓ Endorsed an approach and scrutiny plan.
- ✓ Formally signed up as a partnership to the formal principles as adapted locally for the Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) .
- ✓ Committed to supporting a multi -agency response to look at system wide issues within the safeguarding system.
- ✓ Supported a widening of scrutiny activity beyond a single individual, and agreed that the named scrutineer 'holds the ring' in pulling scrutiny activity together in a meaningful way to support the Partnership Executive.

The purpose and expected impact of scrutiny:

The University of Bedfordshire developed a report and toolkit to support the development of local approaches to scrutiny activity. That report and the six steps it outlines have been the basis for scrutiny activity conducted by KSCP and the Independent Scrutineer to date and will continue to form a golden thread running through the scrutiny activity plan set out below. Namely all scrutiny activity will link to

1. The strategic planning and policy implications for the three statutory partners
2. The engagement of the wider safeguarding partners
3. The involvement of children and young people in safeguarding plans at an individual and service level
4. The quality assurance processes to measure how much? And how well? Alongside impact
5. The clear link to national and local learning from serious cases
6. The planned programme of workforce development

In Kirklees we are seeking to take independent scrutiny from a process driven event to an enhanced approach that includes regular constructive dialogue with those who use our services.

Scrutiny engagement across the system:

1. **Practitioners and workforce:** We have been able to use virtual means to engage with the workforce on critical service issues and serious cases, we use the same format to engage with a workforce group on the themes identified for scrutiny.
2. **Children and Young people:** There are a number of existing forums to assist us to engage with young people that provide a valuable insight into their perception of services. These include:
 - The Children in Care councils
 - The Our Voice group
 - The Youth offer group
 - The LGBT group facilitated by the Brunswick centre
 - The Youth parliament
 - School /College councils

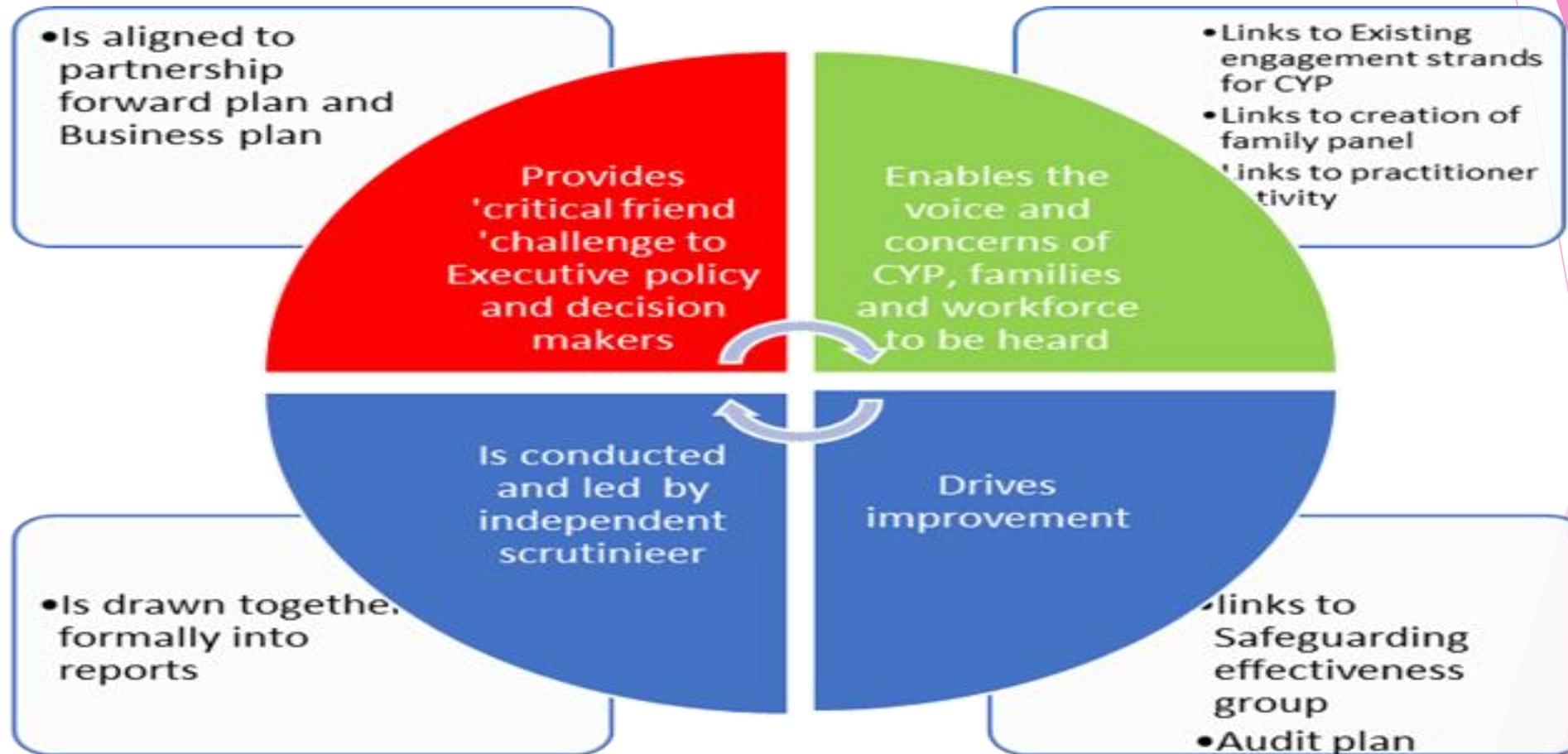
See examples on page 19

Examples and impact of Scrutiny Activity in Kirklees 20-21



“Engagement with children, young people and the wider workforce will continue to be a focus” (please see full Challenge event report in appendices)

Why Scrutiny is a priority for Kirklees:



Safeguarding and Effectiveness Sub group

Influenced the following factors:

- ▶ System Indicators – Review and update has taken place
- ▶ Development of a new Partner agency quarterly template to communicate key developments , risks and management of risk , Performance assurance processes across the Partnership to give a system wide view on safeguarding arrangements.
- ▶ Key Partner Annual Reports

Future work planned for 21 – 22:

- ▶ **Multi-Agency Audits** - ensure there is more of a direct link to other subgroups to ensure safeguarding effectiveness, performance monitoring and workforce development.
- ▶ **Qualitative information** - continued receipt of qualitative information obtained through audits from case reviews and other methods

Section 11 Self Assessment Audit

Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places duties on a range of organisations and individuals to ensure their functions, and any services that they contract out to others, are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Kirklees SCP utilises the Enable Audit tool for the Section 11 Audit which includes Senior management commitment for

- Statement of responsibility
- Service development
- Safer recruitment
- Information sharing
- Monitoring and inspection arrangements
- Clear lines of accountability
- Staff training
- Effective inter agency working
- Working with individual children

Due to unforeseen capacity issues caused by the pandemic the Section 11 updating and reporting process was delayed to alleviate pressure on partners.

From the findings most agencies assessed themselves as compliant against the eleven assessment areas containing 66 questions relating to safeguarding for the Section 11 Audit.

Of those agencies who provided answers that were not compliant it is agreed that the KSCP will undertake a focused challenge and assurance panel event to address areas of non compliance and feedback the assurance obtained to the Partnership.

Future area of focus

- Progress of a new website is being developed to host a new West Yorkshire Section 11
- Future Section 11 regional peer challenge event in development.
- Local Challenge event in development.

Learning and Development Sub group

Influenced the following factors:

- Offer for virtual core training reviewed and continued and included Working together to Safeguard Children Working Together to Safeguard Children refresher, Making positive Contribution to Child Protection Conferences and Core Groups, Introduction to Child Neglect, Harmful Sexual Behaviour, Improving Assessments in Child Safeguarding.
- Bitesize presentations and guidance developed for Elective home education, Sudden infant Death, Voice of the child , Victim blaming language, Domestic abuse and Learning disability and parental capacity.

Future work planned for 21 – 22:

- Review of return to classroom and hybrid arrangements alongside continued virtual training.
- Development of a Multi agency partner training pool to deliver bespoke training.
- Quality assurance of current training offer.
- Strengthening links with other KSCP Subgroups

Voice of our training delegates

Presenters made the most of the virtual training with use of breakout rooms into smaller groups making it possible to discuss topics more closely to then share with the larger group. Well organised and flowed well.

Amazing course, loved the break out rooms and really good!

I liked that it was online and we were able to discuss things still in groups using the "break out" rooms

There was a lot of information to cover but the day was broken up well with the small group activities, informal discussions and videos to make the information feel less bulky

A very thorough well led training course that provided numerous opportunities to discuss key issues surrounding safeguarding. The time went so quickly due to the pace and engaging activities.

Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) Sub group

Key factors for this sub-group during this reporting period:

- ▶ Group convened 5 times and was quorate on 5 occasions
- ▶ Published 1 Local Learning Review

Key themes of local learning reviews included:

- ▶ Voice of the child
- ▶ Professional curiosity
- ▶ Supervision
- ▶ ACE`s
- ▶ Recognising risk

See slide 9 for further detailed activity 25

Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) Sub group

Influenced the following factors:

- ▶ Development of a Matrix to capture case details, activity, status of cases, audit trail of SIN, Rapid Review and National Panel communications, the oversight of local themes and the 6 nationally identified themes
- ▶ Additional training delivered for improving assessments in child safeguarding
- ▶ Recognition for future audit activity
- ▶ Recognise the importance of establishing stronger links to Safeguarding Effectiveness and Learning Development group

Future work planned for 21 – 22:

- ▶ Enhance the Matrix information
- ▶ Review of processes: to enhance achievement of timescales
- ▶ Consider more National cases for Local reflection
- ▶ Learning opportunities to be recognised and disseminated across the system at the earliest point in reviewing the case

Child Death Overview Panel:

Our Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) works across two health footprints which include the Mid Yorkshire Hospital Trust and the Calderdale and Huddersfield Foundation Trust.

During this reporting period we have developed a quarterly report to identify and analyse any changes that we can make or actions we can take that might help to prevent similar deaths in the future.

We have shared this learning with colleagues regionally and nationally so that the findings have a wider impact.

We have analysed trends and made targeted interventions in response to these. For example recommending access to swimming lessons if there were deaths from drowning or road calming measures for road traffic accidents in particular areas.

Specific areas of work undertaken during the year include:

Collaborative launch of ICON across Kirklees, extensive advertising: The ICON programme delivers four simple messages before birth and in the first few months of a baby's life:

- I** – Infant crying is normal
- C** – Comforting methods can help
- O** – It's OK to walk away
- N** – Never, ever shake a baby.



A working group commenced across West Yorkshire and Harrogate to explore safe sleeping

Child Death Overview Panel Annual report

Exploitation Strategic and Operational Sub group 20-21



Exploitation Strategic and Operational Sub

Influenced the following factors:

- New ways of working for contextual safeguarding for adolescence
- Bespoke support project for a) use of risk assessment tools, b) disruption toolkits and c) the use of data in relation to child exploitation across the wider footprint of West Yorkshire
- Diversion and prevention to support children away from prosecution
- Local reflection based upon a Ministerial letter relating to injuries with a knife or sharp object
- Work undertaken to review and respond to the COVID pandemic that considered Protecting children from a distance.

Future work planned for 21 – 22:

- Enhanced Local Problem Profile
- Transfer of Chairing arrangements to the Police for future subgroups
- Development of the Trauma Navigator post
- Education and Inclusion

Policies, Procedures and Guidance Sub Group

The Kirklees Safeguarding Children's Partnership co-ordinates the development of policies, procedures and practice guidance for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people in Kirklees. The group analyses the implications of national multi-agency policies, procedures, practice guidance or research findings in terms of the need to develop any additional local policy, procedures or practice guidance.

Updated Procedures during reporting period

- Referral, Investigation and Assessment
- Single Assessment

Children in Specific Circumstances:

- Child Exploitation: Policy, Procedures and Guidance
- Children from Abroad, including Victims of Modern Slavery, Trafficking and Exploitation
- Interpersonal Violence and Abuse (IPVA) Young People's Relationships West Yorkshire Practice Guidance

Protocols:

- Accumulation of Minor Injuries Protocol (Kirklees only)
- Harmful Sexual Behaviour

Safeguarding Partnership Arrangements:

- Professional Disagreements and Escalation
- Victim blaming language guidance

Domestic Abuse impact on Children task and finish group:

1) Key Support:

A action plan was developed to enable the group to map existing and foreseeable gaps in service provision. Scoping document was developed for all agencies to contribute their gaps in service.

We recognised:

Domestic abuse has a devastating impact on children and young people that can last into adulthood. Domestic abuse services can offer specialist emotional and practical support for children and young people that have been affected. This Task and Finish Group was undertaken to drive a robust multi-agency action plan.

2) Gap Analysis:

A master scoping document was developed pulling out the key areas of each agencies gaps. 3 key questions were analysed for each agency which were 1) what is working well 2) whole service gaps & risks 3) next steps.

3) SWOT:

A process mapping exercise was developed and then undertaken amalgamating all information from the scoping, wider multi-agency discussions and 3 key questions pulling out the themes in a SWOT process.

4) Impact and Outcomes:

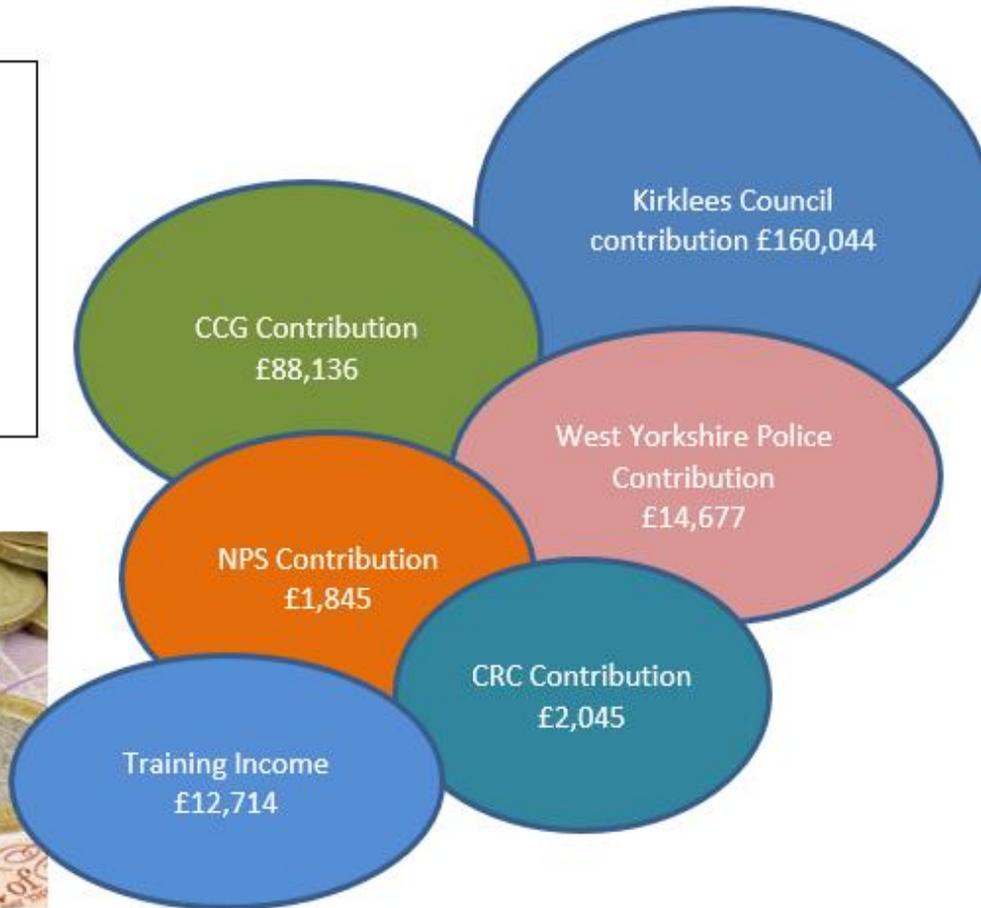
Therapeutic intervention services for children and young people affected by domestic abuse are being commissioned. Scoping work is being undertaken to support robust information feeding into risk assessments for both Adults and Children (DRAMM/MARAC). Domestic Abuse Strategy will be strengthened.

Updates from Partner Agencies & Organisations



Budget

Income from Partners:	279,461
Staffing	230,616
Independent Scrutineer	23,942
SPR's	4,469
Website/software	30,842
Training	10,293
Supplies & Services	7,419



Glossary

CAFCASS	Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service	FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service	HWB	Health and Wellbeing Board
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group	IPVA	Interpersonal Violence and Abuse
CIN	Children in Need	KSCP	Kirklees Safeguarding Children Partnership
CPP	Child Protection Plan	LA	Local Authority
CSA	Child Sexual Abuse	LAC	Looked After Child(ren)
CSC	Children's Social Care	MARAC	Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation	NPS	National Probation Service
CSP	Community Safety Partnership	PCSO	Police Community Support Officer
CWD	Children with Disabilities	PRU	Pupil Referral Unit
DA	Domestic Abuse	SPR	Safeguarding Practice Review
DAIC	Domestic Abuse Impact on Children	SEN	Special Educational Needs
DHR	Domestic Homicide Review	SUDI	Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy
EHE	Elective Home Education	WYP	West Yorkshire Police
ES	Early Support	YPP	Young Person's Plan

Partner Agency Documents

[South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust](#)

[Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust](#)

[North Kirklees Clinical Commissioning Group](#)

[Brunswick Centre](#)

[National Annual Review of CSPR`s](#)

[CDOP Annual Report](#)

[COVID Assurance](#)