



Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership

Annual Report 2022 - 2023

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1 Introduction

1.1 The purpose of the Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership is to support and enable organisations and agencies across Derby and Derbyshire to work together so that:

- children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted
- partner organisations and agencies collaborate, share and co-own the vision for how to achieve improved outcomes for vulnerable children
- organisations and agencies challenge appropriately and hold one another to account effectively
- there is early identification, analysis and responsive actions in respect of new safeguarding issues and emerging threats
- learning is promoted and embedded to ensure that local services become more reflective and implement changes to practice identified as positive for children and families
- information is shared effectively to facilitate more accurate and timely decision making for children and families.

1.2 The Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership statutory partners are

- Derby City Council
- Derbyshire County Council
- Derby and Derbyshire Integrated Care Board
- Derbyshire Constabulary

1.3 The Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership delivers its work through the following groups:

- Chief Officer Group
- Executive Board
- Core Business Group
- Quality Assurance subgroup
- Case Review subgroup
- Exploitation and Vulnerable Young People subgroup
- Education subgroups
- District Safeguarding subgroup
- Policies and Procedures subgroup
- Learning and Organisational Development subgroup
- Stakeholders group

1.4 Our governance and terms of reference setting out the roles and responsibilities of each subgroup and its membership is available on the [DDSCP website](#).

1.5 This annual report covers the period between 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

2 Independent Scrutiny of the Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership

2.1 I welcome the opportunity to provide an overall review and scrutiny of the work of the Partnership during 2022/23. This has been facilitated by broad engagement with Partnership meetings at all levels, by regular meetings with senior managers from the four lead agencies, with the two Lead Members, with the Partnership Manager and by participation in a number of strategic groups beyond the DDSCP. I am grateful for the openness and transparency of all with whom I have come into contact and the commitment from all involved in the safeguarding of children in Derby and Derbyshire in providing the best service they can in continuing and ever more difficult circumstances.

2.2 I can confirm that I am assured of the commitment and the achievements of the Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership, as detailed in this Annual Report, recognising and acknowledging the increasingly challenging context and environment in which all partners are operating and that we must never be complacent about the safety of children and young people in Derby and Derbyshire.

2.3 in response to reports I submitted to the Partnership during 2022/23, a Roundtable of Chief Officers and Core Business Group members was planned for late spring 2023 and I look forward to that discussion resulting in further clarity and improvement in the Leadership of the Partnership and a coordinated and effective strategic response to whatever changes are mooted in any consultation on Working Together 2023

2.4 I am encouraged by the robust steps taken (set out in section 4 of this Annual Report) to review the priorities of the Partnership resulting in 'mainstreaming' one, consolidating three and recognising more appropriate lead groups for two others and taking action to ensure effective collaboration with them to ensure that the DDCSP is fully informed of necessary actions and initiatives from a safeguarding perspective.

2.5. I am encouraged also by the increasing efforts to encourage and facilitate the involvement of children decisions which affect them personally, as well as in offering advice on more general and strategic matters, as set out in section 6 of this report. These initiatives are essential, if the Partners are to hear, listen and respond to the voice of the children they serve.

2.6 I welcome the greater emphasis on the vital contributions made by schools and the wider Education Services and fully support greater collaboration with them, building on their unique position in daily engagement with children and young people. I recognise also the significant work of our Health Services locally, not least in relation to Health Visiting, School Nursing and Emotional Health and Well-being. The Police have been much involved in work on violence and domestic abuse, which has been well-received, but there remains much to do in relation to the process of effective referrals of domestic abuse and children. A start has been made, in collaboration with Children's Services, but there is little or no evidence of the

effectiveness of these measures, at the time of writing. It is vitally important that this work is effectively targeted, accelerated and consolidated during 2023/24 for all concerned, not least children and young people. I will be reporting on progress during the year and in the next Annual Report.

Steve Atkinson MA (Oxon), MBA, FIOD, FRSA
Independent Chair and Scrutineer

3 Evidence of the impact of the work of the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies on outcomes for children and families

3.1 Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership supports and enables organisations and agencies across Derby and Derbyshire to work together to safeguard children living in both areas. This section sets out what is known about children living in Derby and in Derbyshire.

What do we know about the experiences of children and young people living in Derby?

3.2 There are 58,633 aged 0-17 living in Derby. 22% of children living in Derby live in deprived households ([Derbyshire Observatory](#)). Wherever possible the needs of children, young people and families are met by universal services.



Early Help

3.3 Early help services are focused on vulnerable families where there is a need for coordinated support from agencies to prevent issues escalating to the point where families may require statutory services from children's social care. In both Derby and Derbyshire, agencies who identify the emerging needs of a child and their family complete an Early Help Assessment.

3.4 In Derby, early help services are integrated with children's social care and there are three locality teams that cover the city from three locality bases.

3.5 Early help services consist of a core children's centre offer of support alongside services that may be provided by multi-agency teams for children aged 8 -18. Early help services can also assist families in accessing services that are more specialist in nature.

Derby has been chosen as one of 75 areas to receive Government funding to launch Family Hubs.

At the end of Quarter 4 2023, there were 1211 Early Help cases open to Derby City Council, with many more supported through Early Help Assessments in universal services.

The initiative will see six of the city's existing Children's Centres transformed into Family Hubs, allowing families to access a range of support services under one roof. The aim is to create a 'one-stop shop' to offer parents and carers the help they may need to establish a firm foundation for their children. Support and advice will be available to families with children and young people up to the age of 19, while young people with special education needs or disabilities (SEND) will be supported until the age of 25. The hubs will bring together services that families may previously have had to find in different places, or found difficult to navigate, making it simple to get help in the right place, at the right time.

Children in Need

3.6 At the end of Quarter 4 2023, **for every 10,000 children living in Derby** there were:

- 319 being supported as a *child in need*: this is in line with national and statistical neighbour comparisons. The most prevalent category for child in need plans is 'abuse or neglect' with 73% of plans.
- 47 children with a child protection plan: whilst this remains slightly higher than national and statistical neighbour comparisons, this has decreased significantly from the previous year. The most prevalent categories for child protection plans are neglect (68%) and emotional abuse (27%).
- 104 children in the care of the local authority: this is higher than both national and statistical neighbours. The most prevalent categories for looked after children are neglect (58%) and absent parenting (18%).

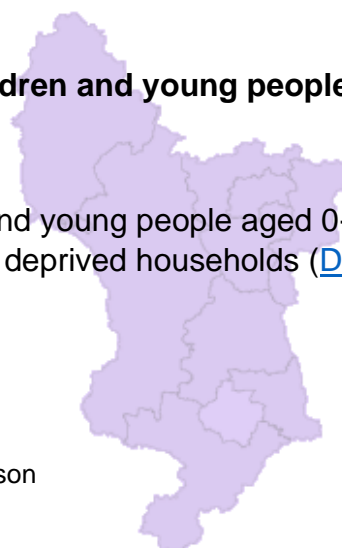
Derby Schools' information

3.7 The majority of children in Derby attend good or outstanding schools. According to the spring census, there were 45731 (44395)¹ school age children in Derby; 173 (171) children were classed as 'missing education' and 581 as 'Electively Home Educated'. There were 6225 (5483) children with special educational needs (SEN) receiving support in school, and 2199 (2013) with an *education health and care plan* (EHCP).

What do we know about the experiences of children and young people living in Derbyshire?

3.8 There are approximately 155,000 children and young people aged 0-17 living in Derbyshire. 15% of children in Derbyshire live in deprived households ([Derbyshire Observatory](#)).

¹ Numbers in brackets denote 2022-2023 figures for comparison



Early Help

3.9 Wherever possible the needs of children, young people and families will be met by universal services. However, as soon as any practitioner is aware that a child or their family may have additional needs they will talk with them to offer advice and support in order to meet that need. Where needs are emerging or low level, individual services and universal services may be able to meet these needs, take swift action and prevent those needs escalating. Agencies who identify the emerging needs of a child and their family complete the early help assessment. The early help teams work in partnership with schools, health and other universal support teams who can offer information, advice and practical support before the involvement of children's services. Derbyshire has also started publishing locality based community information for partner agencies and communities to support children and their families to access the right support at the right time

3.10 Where a more targeted service is required, the targeted early help offer is available to vulnerable children and families. Requests are triaged, and the locality early help teams work with local partners to provide the most appropriate level of support. The targeted early help offer includes:

- 0 to 5 and children's centres teams, working closely with health visitors and early years providers, support with speech and language development, healthy eating, parenting and school readiness
- parenting groups, youth groups and individual family focussed support including parenting routines and family relationships, reducing conflict, healthy lifestyle choices and reducing risks of exploitation

At the end of Quarter 4 2023, there were 1088 Early Help cases open to Derbyshire County Council, with many more supported through Early Help Assessments in universal services.

They also support in circumstances where children and young people are not in education, training or employment after the age of 16, at risk of exploitation or are carers for other family members.

Children in Need

3.11 At the end of March 2023, **for every 10,000 children living in Derbyshire** there were:

- 336 being supported as a *child in need*: this is in line with national and statistical neighbour local authority area comparisons. The most prevalent category for child in need plans is 'abuse or neglect' with 50% of plans.
- 52 children with a child protection plan: this is higher than both national and statistical neighbours. The most prevalent categories for child protection plans are neglect (73%) and emotional abuse (17%).

- 66 children in the care of the local authority: this is lower than both national and local authority areas that have similar numbers of children in their area and levels of need including deprivation. The rate of children in care in Derbyshire has increased and this is in comparison to increases nationally during the same time period. The most prevalent category for looked after children is abuse or neglect (56%).

Derbyshire Schools' information

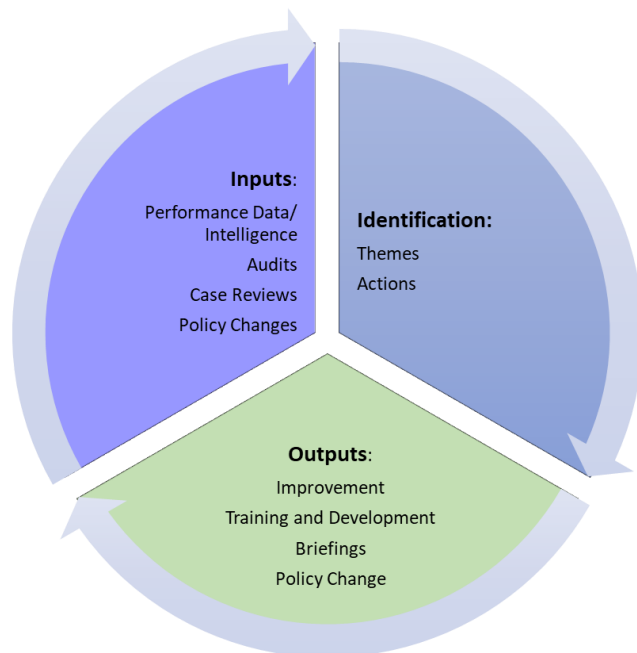
3.12 The majority of children in Derbyshire attend good or outstanding schools. According to the Spring Census, there were 107, 843 (107124)² school age children in Derbyshire; 7578 (7253) were not currently attending school, including children who were not on roll, electively home educated or missing education. There were 15,636 (14,387) children with special educational needs (SEN) receiving SEN support in school, and 3157 (2929) with an *education health and care plan* (EHCP). There has been an increase of both children with SEN support and EHCPs.

Assurance of our safeguarding arrangements across Derby and Derbyshire

3.13 The Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership is committed to ensuring we have a good understanding of the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements that safeguard and promote the welfare of children. In 2021 we published our *Quality Assurance Strategy* that sets out how we understand the effectiveness and impact of multi-agency working to support vulnerable children and families, through a range of data and qualitative sources.

3.14 Our strategy sets out the processes for ongoing and specific activity to obtain robust assurance that local arrangements

- meet statutory and local standards
- are effective at both keeping children and young people safe
- improve outcomes for children and young people in need of help and protection and their families



² Numbers in brackets denote 2022-2023 figures for comparison

Multi-agency Audit

3.15 In 2022-23 the quality assurance subgroup carried out two multi-agency audit activities exploring (1) the multi-agency response to domestic abuse and (2) Children and young people at risk of or experiencing exploitation.

3.16 The multi-agency audit to determine how well the partnership identifies and responds to children and families experiencing domestic abuse was undertaken in response to a number of case reviews where domestic abuse was a feature of the child's lived experience. It was also in response to several recent changes both nationally and locally to improve the response to domestic abuse including the Domestic Abuse Act and the introduction of new perpetrator programmes locally. In addition, performance data shows that domestic abuse referrals make up a significant proportion of referrals to children's services in both local authorities, and previous audits identified domestic abuse as a common theme.

3.17 The audit also provided assurances that routine enquiry was happening in midwifery and health visiting services at appropriate frequencies, which was an action arising from the *Keeping Babies Safe* audit (from last year). The findings of the audit are provided in greater detail in paragraph 4.30.

3.18 The multi-agency audit to determine how well the partnership identifies and responds to children and young people at risk of or experiencing exploitation was undertaken in response to rising concerns both locally and nationally around the number of children and young people at risk of exploitation. The audit showed that across both local areas information sharing was a strength and plans were effective at reducing risk. In some cases, earlier identification and better analysis of the young person's identity or history would facilitate more informed and therapeutic interventions around factors that increase the risk of exploitation.

3.19 In addition, the subgroup obtained assurance of a number of actions from the *Keeping Babies safe* audit around routine reporting and 'think family', and from the neglect audit around completion of the graded care profile and response to dental neglect.

Assurance of our arrangements from the subgroups

3.20 The Quality Assurance subgroup also receives routine updates on the quality assurance workplan and quality assurance activity of key agencies across the partnership. In 2022 - 2023 this included assurances of:

- arrangements of young people transitioning to adult care following an audit conducted by Derbyshire Safeguarding Adult Board (DSAB).
- the number of child protection medicals (following concerns that numbers were low following COVID restrictions).

- the quality of referrals to the local authorities made by community and acute health services.
- internal training programmes and the progress made by Derbyshire police to address their internal action plan arising from regulatory inspection.
- arrangements in both local authorities that ensure appropriate action is taken following the concern alleged about a volunteer or member of staff who works with children. In the coming year we will be extending scrutiny of responses to allegations further with additional reports being requested from health providers and the police.
- arrangements to safeguard children and unborn babies from Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Derby. In the coming year this will be extended to include assurance of arrangements in Derbyshire. In addition to this assurance, letters were sent to all schools reminding them of the vulnerability of children to FGM, Forced Marriage and so called “honour based violence”.
- local authority annual analysis of the reporting of concerns and allegations by individual agencies about the suitability of volunteers or members of staff to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).
- the “front door” services of the two local authorities that receive contacts and safeguarding referrals (Starting Point in Derbyshire and the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub in Derby)

3.21 The Exploitation and Vulnerable Young People subgroup carried out a comprehensive review of the way in which we consider the inter-related vulnerabilities of children and young people. A thematic approach was introduced to run over the course of a 12-month period with agreed broad themes: *My Health and Wellbeing; My Education and Learning Needs; My Community and Friendships and My Home and Care*. This has enabled us to consider complex vulnerabilities more effectively and in greater detail and has helped us to have a more strategic focus on the impact the partnership makes to improving outcomes against the themes.

3.22 Some examples of the assurance and trends reported to the Exploitation and Vulnerable Young People subgroup this year, and the impact of strengthening local arrangements include:

- An overall reduction in referrals in the city and county about children at risk of exploitation has been observed. Referrals about children at risk of exploitation who have Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) or who have Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) remain high, illustrating the additional vulnerability being seen for this cohort. CARES (a programme delivered by Catch 22 provides services for children at risk of exploitation) are working with increasing numbers of children with SEND and mental health needs and have adapted their services/resources to meet need. We are continuing to monitor the number and profile of children and young people who are excluded and on part-time timetables as this is evidently leading to greater exposure to the risk of exploitation.

- A baseline survey was reported about the licensing arrangements across the area through the Derby and Derbyshire Licensing Group, focusing on themes such as licensing, gambling, regulatory premises, and taxis. There was a good level of assurance from the survey across all the areas reviewed; for example, the risk of exploitation of children is addressed through training and communications with licensed premises, safeguarding is included in licensed premises pack and checks are carried out in conjunction with the Police Licensing Team. The Derby and Derbyshire Licensing Group will be taking forward recommendations arising from the assurance work and reporting progress in the coming year. Areas for strengthening include examples such as: the sharing of information in one area regarding licence holders (convictions, arrests); promoting a more joined up way of working between local authority licensing teams and SEND transport; and harmonisation of county wide initiatives (for example the “*Who's taking you home*” campaign).
- There are increasing challenges across both Council areas of looked after children being placed in unregulated/unlawful settings due to the lack of appropriate settings in the wider care market. In order to address this most effectively a significant amount of strategic commissioning activity has been taking place across Derby, Derbyshire along with Nottingham and Nottinghamshire (referred to as D2N2) with care providers to tackle the challenges locally. Children’s social care, health and the police work together so that child-focused planning and decisions can be made particularly outside of working hours. There has been strong support for the need of a shared strategic commitment to avoid placing children out of area and/or in secure accommodation unless necessary for the safety and well-being of that child.
- A [Child on Child Abuse Strategy](#) has been developed and has been informed by a comprehensive survey completed by [i-vengers](#) on child on child abuse from the perspective of young people and their parents. The main findings from the survey report were as follows:
 - ❖ There are notable differences between what children and parents were reporting about what children are doing and seeing online, and the measures taken at home to protect children.
 - ❖ Children reported they didn’t talk to their parents about online concerns because they reported fear of getting into trouble including their device being taken away from them.
 - ❖ Feedback from 100 local secondary age young people:
 - 26% of girls reporting they had been subject to sexual touching which they had not consented to.
 - 57% had received abusive online sexual messages.
 - 47% knew someone or had themselves been sexually assaulted; only 20% of these had been reported.

The messages from the surveys are powerful and we are promoting them across the partnership. To ensure that children, parents and all practitioners working with children and their families are aware and know how to respond we are promoting the key message:

“If you have any concerns about what you or someone you know is doing or seeing on online, it’s safe to tell a trusted adult about it. They know how to support and protect children without punishing them by removing their access to devices.”

- Assurance was received from both local authorities about the arrangements to monitor elective home education, part-time timetables and exclusions. Both local authorities have reviewed and updated their arrangements in response to government implementation of attendance monitoring. Alongside this, evidence has been provided of the strengthening of local arrangements to manage elective home education as part of a child safeguarding practice review where a child was removed to be home educated.
- Our arrangements to address the needs of children missing education and children missing from home or care continue to be reviewed at the exploitation and vulnerable young people subgroup. We are receiving feedback from partner agencies that we have a better understanding of the experiences of children and case studies are demonstrating the positive impact of reducing risks to children who are missing.

3.24 The police have made good progress developing a profile of serious youth violence which informed the development of a strategy and action plan, ahead of a full strategic needs assessment which is now underway. This is all within the context of new statutory duties introduced because of the Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act. Derbyshire police working with partner agencies on a programme developed by the Home Office called *Clear, Hold, Build* have established a pilot initiative within the County, that is yielding positive interventions and disruptions of criminality through a partnership approach. This model of multi-agency work with the police will be used to address serious and organised criminality to reduce serious and organised threat and crime levels in high harm areas and build community resilience in a sustainable way.

3.25 The multi-agency Serious and Organised Crime and Exploitation (SocEx) partnership arrangements were implemented following the last inspection of Derbyshire Constabulary to provide more consistent strategic, tactical and operational oversight of exploitation and serious crime. This has led to more detailed understanding of the risks and experiences of children and young people in Derby and Derbyshire. We have continued to observe that children and young people who have additional needs arising from neurodiverse conditions, such as autism, are over-represented within figures for those at risk of exploitation.

3.26 We routinely ask partner agencies about the pressures impacting on safeguarding arrangements within their organisations and the actions being taken to mitigate pressures. The situation is considerably more complex for education providers as there are 569 settings across the partnership area. To enable partners to understand the pressures experienced by the education sector and the actions

being taken to mitigate these, we carried out the annual review of feedback from members of the two Education subgroups at their meetings in March and April 2023.

3.27 We obtained extremely important feedback across the sector from the following questions and considered the responses at the Executive Board in June 2023 (that cover the time period for 2022-2023):

- What school-based safeguarding arrangements are working well?
- What safeguarding arrangements are working well when working with external agencies?
- What are the key pressures impacting on safeguarding arrangements within your school and college?
- What have you done to mitigate these pressures?
- What are the key pressures impact on safeguarding arrangements with any partnership working?
- What have you done to mitigate these pressures?

3.28 Feedback illustrates the increasing pressures over the year, and post pandemic, on schools and colleges to consider both early help, preventing increased difficulties within families alongside their safeguarding activity. This is placing an increased challenge upon schools and reflects in turn, increased pressures across many partner agencies. Whilst there is good evidence of actions being taken to mitigate challenges there remains further action that will need to be taken by the partnership. We will need to continue to clarify and strengthen our application of thresholds of need so that the right services are accessed at the right time.

3.29 During the year, the Derby Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL's) network meetings were established with twice yearly meetings arranged by the Derby Learning, Inclusion and Skills team. These network meetings have been very well received and are being increased to three times per year in 2023-2024. Planning for the Derby DSL network and Derbyshire DSL forum is undertaken jointly to enable consistency across the partnership footprint with a strong safeguarding input. Staffing changes in Derbyshire temporarily reduced the delivery of the DSL forum and we are actively supporting the local authority as new arrangements are put in place to support Derbyshire schools.

3.30 The new joint safeguarding/child protection template policy and safeguarding audit tool were published for schools, and we have continued to provide safeguarding updates to all schools and partner agencies on at least a monthly basis throughout the year.

3.31 Derby and Derbyshire Education Providers Domestic Abuse Notifications - Stopping Domestic Abuse Together (SDAT) Guidance has been published along with additional briefing notes from the police for schools. Three multi-agency events were held during the year to support the education sector understand the updated

arrangements led by the police to notify schools of domestic abuse incidents (*Stopping Domestic Abuse Together (SDAT) is our local version of "Operation Encompass"*). We also carried out assurance and identified that a small number of schools had not received notifications of incidents, and action is being taken to ensure that every school has a dedicated safeguarding email address that can be used by the police and the two local authorities.

3.32 The Youth Engagement Officer at Derbyshire police has continued to attend both subgroup meetings to share relevant information. As a result of a recent survey with young people, resources are under development about the exploitation of young people and their involvement in "county lines" (misuse of drugs). Schools have been invited to help contribute to this development. The DDSCP has consulted with partners and published guidance for all agencies and with particular relevance to schools to avoid the use of "scare or shock" tactics in the education and prevention of harm.

3.33 The online safety initiative [i-vengers](#) for primary and special schools has received funding for a further two years. The programme has been adjusted to reflect the learning from the child and parents' surveys undertaken in 2022, including better home/school links. Findings from these surveys and a commissioned survey about online safety incidents within the education sector have been shared with both education and EVYP subgroups as well as the Online Harms group.

3.34 The education sector locally has reported on-going difficulties engaging with parents about online safety, with many parents regarding schools as being responsible for sorting out online issues. The feedback from children's surveys consistently tells us that parents do not generally have an up to date understanding of their child's online activity. Whilst it is therefore not clear whether parental lack of confidence or knowledge are key factors in an expectation that "school will sort out online issues", we have continued to share all available resources for parents. Through schools we aim to promote and strengthen a joint approach to learning online safety with parents at primary and into secondary school. The DDSCP has, in addition, published advice for schools and other agencies on Harmful Online Challenges and Hoaxes. This has helped reduce inappropriate "scare" stories being circulated without authentication and verification.

3.35 Schools are being encouraged to use the free [360 degrees safe](#) online safety audit tool to support and help improve their whole school response to online safety. [Project Evolve](#) is also being highlighted as a key tool for all schools offering free resources on a range of different online safety subjects and linked to [Education for a Connected World](#).

3.36 We have continued to complete a programme of updates and developments of the suite of policies, procedures, and guidance. These updates are informed and

prioritised by the need to ensure that learning from local case reviews drives forward the guidance provided to practitioners and their managers.

3.37 The Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership has an effective and far-reaching [suite of learning and development courses and activities](#) in place. 17 different safeguarding related topics were available and were delivered during the year on a total of 74 occasions. We have continued to be responsive to emerging learning needs identified by local case reviews and our partner agencies. We routinely evaluate the delivery and content of our learning resources and most importantly the impact that occurs upon the practice of practitioners and managers. An updated training strategy will be published in the coming year.

3.38 The Learning and Organisational Development Annual Report 2022-2023 reported that there were 11,750 registered users on the DDSCP learning management system and of these, 3368 delegates registered for the virtual courses and 3247 delegates registered for e-learning courses during the last year.

3.39 The completion rate for e-learning courses (number of professionals fully completing the courses) is 95% (increased from last year) with attendance rate for virtual courses averaging 80% (slightly down from last year and monitored at the learning and organisational development group). We have seen an encouraging take up of our new e-learning courses to promote a better understanding of *Brain Development and Adverse Childhood Experiences* with 248 delegates completing the course.

3.40 Our evaluation system is based on the Kilpatrick's Four Levels of Training Evaluation Model to evaluate the efficacy of the training. Stage 2 evaluations are designed to gather data from delegates to reflect the impact of training on practice and demonstrate the increase in confidence knowledge and skills. Thematic analysis reports have been provided for Keeping Babies Safe and form part of a larger impact report. Smaller reports have been prepared in other areas as requested. The subgroup evaluation of the impact of training and development includes detailed consideration of the difference it has made to practice and the welfare of children. The model used for evaluating our work includes explicit requirements for attendees to show how the learning has made a difference and this is included in the subgroup routine reporting on a quarterly basis.

3.41 The learning and improvement cycle for our priority areas is reported on annually along with other key areas showing not only attendance and completion rates, but also the impact of learning activity on practice. The police have supported more officers to participate in multi-agency training which has demonstrably shown an improvement from the previous year.

Assurance arising from Inspection

3.42 The Derby and Derbyshire quality assurance strategy ensures that external assurance of our local safeguarding arrangements inform our understanding of what works effectively and where development is needed.

3.43 Derbyshire County Council were subject to an [Ofsted focussed visit in September 2022](#). Inspectors concluded that children in need and children who are subject of a protection plan in Derbyshire now benefit from a stronger and more consistent service response. Children and their families are well supported by committed social workers and managers who know them well, have a sound understanding of their needs and what should happen to improve their lives ensuring that the right support and services are made available. As a result, many families have been empowered to make positive changes and adjustments, enabling their children to make good progress with action needed to improve caseloads and the accuracy and clarity of performance data.

3.44 Derbyshire Constabulary were subject to re-inspection [latest reinspection](#) in May and October 2022 by HMICFRS, following the Child Protection Inspection carried out in 2021. Since the inspection the force has restructured its operating model to introduce dedicated capacity and capability across various child protection functions, including child exploitation and missing persons. As a result of changes the force has made strong progress and continues to do so against the recommendations. The force is currently subject to further inspection which shall assess these improvements to ensure changes are embedded and sustained.

4 An analysis of evidence of progress on agreed priorities

Safeguard children at risk of exploitation reflecting additional features such as placed based risk (contextual safeguarding) and our understanding of emerging vulnerabilities

❖ Why we chose this priority

4.1 We continue to be alert to the complex nature of some of the interconnected vulnerabilities affecting young people in their communities and the risks to them of exploitation. There has been additional national research drawing our attention to the continued vulnerability of young people who are not in school. We have continued to make sure we understand our local risks and that they are being addressed effectively.

❖ What we have done and evidence of impact

4.2 The DDSCP identified and shared learning from a rapid review promoting awareness of the vulnerability of teenagers who are exploited and at risk from extremist ideologies along with the need to ensure that children continue to receive appropriate health services whilst subject of criminal investigations. A multi-agency briefing was published raising awareness of these issues along with the impact of neurodiversity.

4.3 Promoting attendance at schools and the vulnerability of children not in school continues to be a local and national issue. The DDSCP has sought assurance on progress by the two local authorities about the implementation of arrangements to meet the DfE guidance *Working Together to promote school attendance* and will continue to work across the two education subgroups to ensure that this remains a priority. During the year the DDSCP published the guidance [Vulnerability of children not in school](#) following learning from a local child safeguarding practice review. The guidance provides key information, guidance and legislation used when considering the welfare of children not in school.

4.4 The DDSCP EVYP subgroup receives routine reports to obtain assurance and analysis of arrangements to keep children safe from exploitation and those who were missing education, excluded from school, electively home educated and missing from home or care (including the completion of return interviews).

4.5 Performance information captures what we know locally so that we have good oversight to check that children at risk of exploitation are being identified, their individual risk is being assessed and individually appropriate responses are being made. To provide a more in depth understanding of their experiences we carried out multi-agency audits in spring 2023. A summary of the findings has been included in this report.

4.6 The DDSCP will be engaging with the Mental Health, Autism and Learning Disability Delivery Board to assist in raising awareness and strengthening local arrangements to address specific concerns about children with neurodiverse conditions. This is due to our findings that this group of children are over-represented as children at risk of exploitation, radicalisation, mental health interventions and exclusion from school or electively home educated.

4.7 The multi-agency arrangements for reviewing high risk cases of children who are missing have continued to coordinate action taken to reduce the number of incidents and individuals who are missing. Throughout the last 18 months, there was a steady increase in the number of children/young people going missing from home or care, with a related increase in the number of missing episodes. This trend in the figures has started to slow down and local arrangements ensure that trigger plans are put in place for the small number of children who are reported missing frequently so that any specific safeguarding concerns are addressed by agencies involved in the child's life. For some children in care, placement sufficiency (where there is a

lack of available placements close to their home community) is having an impact on missing episodes and children gravitating back to birth family or friends. There is a notable correlation between children who are missing from care and / or home and those same children who are not in education. Locally this is being addressed through measures put in place to strengthen return interviews to try and capture key areas that need further multi-agency action to support the child.

4.8 The DDSCP updated and implemented a new multi-agency virtual course *Understanding Child Exploitation* that enables professionals with key roles to have confidence to safeguard young people; 43 delegates have completed the new course. The series of four DDSCP foundation e-learning courses covering *Child Criminal Exploitation; Child Sexual Exploitation; Risks in the Community;* and *Modern Slavery and Trafficking* has been extended during the year with the addition of a further course covering *Disruption and Safety Planning*. A total of 830 delegates have now completed courses from this thematic series.

4.9 We have seen a high learning gain result for these courses. Delegates have reported that they understand the risks more, the importance of sharing information and understanding the role of other agencies in supporting children at risk of exploitation. Delegates are recognising where professional curiosity and challenge needs to be applied in the management of cases where direct work is being undertaken with children with EHCPs or other SEND needs, as well as giving weight to these considerations as part of the early help process.

4.10 The [*Children at Risk of Exploitation*](#) section of the DDSCP Safeguarding Children Procedures were extensively re-written in July 2022 and includes a fully revised *Risk Assessment* to enable practitioners to assess a child's level of risk to all forms of exploitation in a quick and consistent manner. The risk assessment is a "live" document that is updated regularly and considers the uniqueness of the child's circumstances and the changes that may occur for them over time; taking account of each child's individuality, culture, identity and beliefs.

4.11 During the year, the multi-agency Serious and Organised Crime and Exploitation (SocEx) partnership arrangements were put in place. Online harms remain a national and local issue of concern and the two Community Safety Boards have now formalised an Online Harms Group. Likewise, the Serious Violence Partnership Board has been established to meet national requirements arising from relevant duties.

4.12 The Exploitation and Vulnerable Young People's Group and other DDSCP subgroups started the process of reviewing the way in which its priorities are interconnected with those workstreams that come under the governance of the Derbyshire Safer Communities Board and the Safer Derby Board. Similarly, the process has started to establish clarity in respect of the interconnected responsibilities of the Integrated Care Board, Mental health, Learning Disability and Autism Partnership arrangements and the DDSCP.

4.13 The intended outcome is that the different workstreams are better joined up leading to a more effective response from all the different organisations involved. It is hoped that in broad terms strategic need assessments, commissioning and assurance arrangements are better coordinated so that children experience a “whole system” approach from both children’s and adults’ services.

4.14 The Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire has Safeguarding and Victims as one of the key priorities in her Police and Crime Plan and has committed a substantial amount of funding to ensure that there are quality services for children and young victims of crime, including specialist services such as Sexual Abuse, domestic abuse and exploitation. This has been achieved through the management of substantial government funding awarded directly to the Commissioner, which has allowed key outcomes to be met through healthy collaboration and co commissioning with strategic and voluntary partners. Examples of this collaborative work are: the requirement under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 to provide support to children and young people as victims in their own right, the Serious Violence Duty Funding, the I-Vengers online safety programme. Healthy partnership working across the DDSCP, both internally and externally, has become even more crucial as agencies face increasing challenges to deliver quality outcomes with shrinking budgets.

4.15 During the coming year the DDSCP aims to ensure that partnership work is effective and includes robust arrangements across Derby and Derbyshire to safeguard children alongside strategic work that safeguards adults and impacts across communities.

4.16 The safeguarding audit tool for Derby and Derbyshire schools was developed and circulated by the two education subgroups and DDSCP team. Audit completion continues to be good in Derby schools and there has been a notable increase in completion and feedback from Derbyshire schools. This is helping us to understand those critical features that are working well and need improving from professionals who are seeing school age children every day in term time. The 2022-2023 school safeguarding audit has sought assurance from schools about how they are ensuring that pupils are feeling safer at school as part of the child on child abuse strategy. We are also seeking to find out what steps are being taken to identify areas in school where children feel unsafe and action taken to make these areas safer.

4.17 The DDSCP continues to circulate links to a significant range of resources and updates to all schools, and other sectors, in order to safeguard children from exploitation and abuse. A DDSCP briefing note has been published to help services respond effectively to [Harmful Online Challenges and Hoaxes](#). Relevant online safety guidance, information and resources have been shared, with education providers being encouraged to use *Project Evolve* to identify age-appropriate resources and undertake 360 degrees online safety audit to support and help improve their whole school response to online safety.

4.18 The findings of local surveys (i-vengers) have helped inform work being taken forward by Online Harms task and finish group. The complexities and cross cutting nature of online harms across a range of safeguarding themes (exploitation,

extremism, emotional well-being/mental health etc) is yet to be fully understood across the partnership footprint and work is being undertaken to support partnership awareness and the promotion of effective responses, which includes addressing victim blaming behaviours and language.

4.19 The *Cyber Choices* initiative for young people who may be at risk of becoming involved in cyber-dependent crime, is facilitating briefing events to launch a Cyber Choices toolkit. There is ongoing work across the footprint in areas such as *Relationship, Health and Sex Education* where there is a need to consider online harms as an inherent issue to be addressed.

4.20 Whilst progress is evident, we recognise that we need to obtain assurance of the sustained impact of local changes to our arrangements to safeguard children at risk of exploitation. We will retain this priority for the coming year.

Promote and obtain assurance of Early Help arrangements (including responding to neglect) and response to requests for services

❖ Why we chose this priority

4.21 We continue to have a strong commitment to promoting early help arrangements and wanted to make sure that children and families experience responsive coordinated services wherever possible at the earliest possible time. We recognise that there have been increased resource challenges for different partner agencies in response to greater demand to support children at an early stage.

❖ What we have done and evidence of impact

4.22 In three of the four rapid reviews carried out during the year, the use of an early help assessment was not appropriate given the circumstances of the cases. An early help assessment was completed for one child subject of a rapid review and appropriately used to explore early vulnerability.

4.23 Early Help is considered as a routine element of multi-agency audit work and plans are in place to complete a multi-agency thematic audit specifically of early help cases in the autumn of 2023.

4.24 Throughout the last year, the number of Early Help cases in both local authorities increased consistently. In Derbyshire, routine internal case audit show that there are challenges around capacity which has been impacted by reductions in service throughout COVID and has not returned to pre-COVID levels particularly in rural localities. The impact will be further explored as part of the early help multi-agency audit later this year.

4.25 Early Help continues to remain a golden strand within DDSCP courses. There are eight *Working Together* courses currently available (essential courses that are the foundation for multi-agency practice and include early help), and this may increase following improved uptake from police officers in key roles. 295 delegates attended *Working Together* courses and 112 delegates attended *Neglect and the Graded Care Profile* courses last year. Evaluations completed by delegates evidence improved outcomes for children they are working with. For example, “*the completion of an early help assessment following training which led to the family receiving (appropriate) care support for the child in the home*”; “*professional challenge leading to escalation and a successful outcome*”; “*Confidence during a strategy discussion to support a decision for a case to meet threshold for a child in need plan*”; and “*use of the Graded Care Profile to evidence neglect and support a referral to social care. Threshold was met and the family are now working with social care and health to improve outcomes for the child.*”

4.26 A range of DDSCP guidance, policies and procedures all contribute to enabling better identification of early help needs and the following progress has been made during the year:

- [Childhood Obesity Health, Wellbeing and Safeguarding guidance for practitioners](#). This is a multiagency document to support practitioners who are working with children, young people and families where concerns are emerging or have been raised regarding childhood obesity and was launched in May. The DDSCP intention is for the *Childhood Obesity: Health, Wellbeing and Safeguarding guidance* provides practitioners clear guidance on steps and levels of intervention to follow to enable children living in Derby and Derbyshire achieve and maintain a healthy weight, by supporting children and families to live a healthy life and make healthy choices.
- The [DDSCP Threshold Document](#) was reviewed and updated in September and now specifically includes bruising in non-mobile babies in specific circumstances and has been updated to address recent developments such as obesity, children missing education, liberty protects safeguards, public law reform, and local findings from audits including *Threshold Not Met* and *Neglect*
- The [Children and young people Missing from Home and Care \(MFHC\) Protocol](#) was updated and launched in May
- The guidance “[Was Not Brought](#)” has been updated to help practitioners consider early identification of vulnerability as a result of children not being taken to attend key appointments.
- The following sections of the DDSCP Safeguarding Children Procedures were updated during the year: [Working with Parents who are Misusing Substances](#) and [Female Genital Mutilation](#).

4.27 We need to continue to obtain assurance of how local services are responding to challenges and sustaining our arrangements to promote Early Help arrangements. Whilst we have evidence of the delivery of early help that involves local authority services, we need to expand our assurance of early help that is delivered by universal services working together, including schools. This will retain this priority and review the impact of our arrangements as part of the completion of the early help audit in the coming year.

Reduce the adverse impact of Domestic Abuse and family conflict

❖ Why we chose this priority

4.28 Domestic abuse has a harmful impact on the lives of significant numbers of children and adults living in our area. We wanted to ensure that we have good oversight and influence the arrangements in place that safeguard people from domestic abuse and different forms of harm to children.

❖ What we have done and evidence of impact

4.29 Of the four rapid reviews commissioned during the year, domestic abuse was a significant feature in one case and a child safeguarding practice review has been commissioned. The DDSCP is participating in an ongoing domestic homicide review that included the deaths of children. In both circumstances the concerns of family members were not known by organisations involved with the family.

4.30 Responses to domestic abuse continue to be an important element within the DDSCP performance framework. The number of public protection notices (PPNs) completed by police officers as a result of domestic abuse (where children are living in the household) continued to increase throughout the last year. The number of contacts to both local authorities relating to domestic abuse similarly increased. Derbyshire police report there has been a reduction in domestic abuse calls for service. The introduction of the police *Domestic Abuse Review Team* has had a marked improvement in data integrity since the team was implemented 12 months ago. During the year the police and two local authorities worked together to strengthen processes following these changes. Referral and requests for service trends to the local authorities are considered by the multi-agency MASH Board (Derby) and Starting Point Board (Derbyshire). They are reporting on the impact of these changes so that we can be assured that progress is being made and domestic abuse referrals are appropriate to their level of seriousness.

4.31 A multi-agency domestic abuse audit was completed and provide assurance of local practice with the following key points noted:

- In around half of the cases reviewed the current referral arose following an attendance at an incident by Derbyshire police.

- Routine enquiry was seen to be addressed in most appropriate cases. This is an improvement from previous audits but there is still a need to ensure routine enquiry is revisited where, for example, other family members are present and routine enquiry is not possible. It's also important to note that in most of these cases routine enquiry was negative despite ongoing issues, which further highlights the need for robust and supportive professional curiosity.
- There was good practice in several cases that recognised the impact of domestic abuse and how it limited engagement from adults with professionals. There was also recognition of how to support improved engagement and understanding from parents.
- In many cases, domestic abuse was a feature of previous relationships and/or childhood experiences and this further emphasised the need to support work promoting healthy relationships and breaking the generational cycles of domestic abuse.
- The voice of the child was well considered in assessments and direct work although it was felt that this could be more consistently represented in plans and measuring outcomes. There was a sense in several audits that the monitoring of actions in plans tended to be focused on parent's progress and less around the impact on the children which may support parents' understanding around this area.
- Several cases that showed good practice where professionals had helped parents and carers to recognise how their behaviour and communication impacted on the emotional wellbeing of the children. There was a need to promote and strengthen this practice to be more consistently applied.

A [briefing paper](#) was produced and shared to promote the learning from the multi-agency audit of local practice.

4.32 As a key priority, eight courses were provided this year and will be updated during the year to reflect changes to use of assessment tools. 201 delegates have attended Level 3 training during the year and 92 delegates have completed a Level 1 e-learning course. Delegates have reported an increase in confidence in responding to domestic abuse, making the appropriate referrals, and working with other agencies to support children.

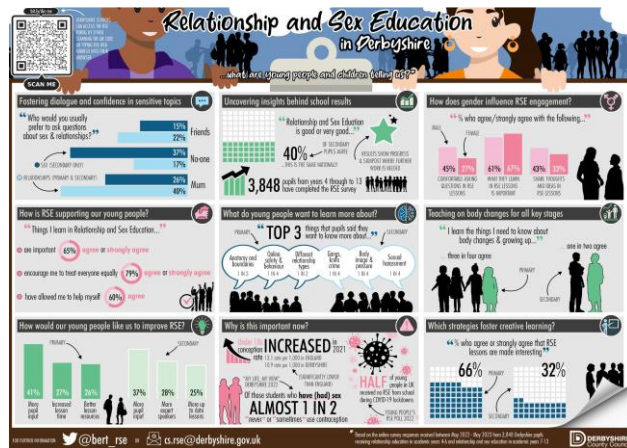
4.33 The Domestic Abuse and Sexual Abuse Partnership Board is currently evaluating how best to implement the Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment (DARA) tool used by police forces nationally to replace the current use of the Domestic Abuse, Stalking, Harassment and Honour based violence Assessment Tool (DASH) form. The DDSCP will ensure that developments to strengthen our local arrangements will be shared with adult services through the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Abuse Partnership Board.

4.34 During the year there has been progress to strengthen arrangements across the education sector. The local arrangements to notify schools that the police have attended a domestic abuse incident in a household where a (school age) child lives, *Stopping Domestic Abuse Together (SDAT)*, were improved with the relaunch and

publication of guidance for schools. 307 delegates attended SDAT briefings during the year.

4.35 *Find the Glow* is a programme that engages directly with children about domestic abuse. 20 programmes have been funded across city and county schools in academic year 2022-2023.

4.36 The multi-agency *Relationship and Sex Education implementation group* promotes effective RSE education across the partnership footprint to support schools in delivering positive messages that help children and young people keep themselves safe. In Derbyshire this includes the Building Effective Relationships Together (BERT) award programme. This is increasingly being taken up by schools to develop their Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) provision in line with statutory requirements the OFSTED Framework.



4.37 We recognise that we need to obtain assurance of the sustained impact of local changes to our arrangements to reduce the adverse impact of Domestic Abuse and family conflict. This will remain a priority for the coming year.

Promote and improve the safety and welfare of babies

❖ Why we chose this priority

4.38 Local and national reviews have illustrated the vulnerability of babies. We wanted to make sure that the changes to our local safeguarding arrangements were effective in the lead up to and following the birth of children, especially in circumstances where there were known vulnerabilities in the family.

❖ What we have done and evidence of impact

4.39 During the year we published a child safeguarding practice review that looked into the lives of babies who lived in three separate families. This enabled us to consider thematically how we could improve our local arrangements and implement the crucial aspects of learning for professionals working with vulnerable babies. Of the four rapid reviews completed this year, one was completed in respect of the serious harm to a baby, and one was completed in respect of the death of a baby. In both cases their circumstances were considered carefully and in detail. Both cases are subject of criminal investigations.

4.40 DDSCP partner agencies worked together effectively to support the *Keeping Babies Safe* multi-agency steering group to implement a suite of resources developed and updated following the child safeguarding practice review. Additionally, the role of *Keeping Babies Safe Champion* has continued to provide a successful model across the multi-agency partnership that both promotes awareness and provides support to colleagues. Over 100 champions have been trained and are providing support in different settings and teams.

4.41 The *Keeping Babies Safe* steering group receives the findings from audits of a range of cases so that assurance is obtained that the vulnerability of babies has been considered through different thematic audit work. For example, different audits have drawn out observations on practice such as:

- Good examples of professional curiosity were practitioners working with older siblings observing the lived experience of infants in the household and made recommendations on safe sleep and other key areas of safety.
- Practitioners reflecting on the impact of a new baby in the family, particularly in families where there is a concern about domestic abuse.

4.42 The *Keeping Babies Safe* strategic lead will be providing a comprehensive assurance report to the DDSCP Executive Board in Summer 2023. This report will bring together assurance obtained over the last year of the changes arising from the work and its impact across the partnership to improve arrangements to keep all babies safe. The report will include updates on practice improvements that can be evidenced through practice and feedback from parents / carers; key practice developments including the effectiveness of the role of the champions; the impact of learning and development activity and future recommendations for the partnership.

4.43 Level 3 *Keeping Babies Safe* training is delivered virtually eight times a year and 225 delegates have completed the course this year (204 last year). Level 2 *Protecting Babies from Harm* e-learning course has been available for a year and 258 delegates have completed and passed the course (198 last year). Practitioners continue to report an increased confidence and awareness of implementing the *Keeping Babies Safe Strategy* and embedding this within their practice.

4.44 The *Keeping Babies Safe* steering group has been integral to the work across partner agencies to produce a suite of resources [published on the website](#); These include:

- The Pre-birth Protocol (reviewed and updated)
- Multi-agency Safer Sleep Quality Conversations Guidance and Co-sleeping/Bed Sharing Assessment Tool.
- *Every Baby Matters – Identifying Vulnerability* There is a specific tool for use with families at the early help stage or within more in depth assessments with families. The resources include:
 - Every Baby Matters Vulnerability Tool
 - Every Baby Matters Guidance Document

- Every Baby Matters Awareness Poster
- Parent Education Programme (re-launched with an updated video and leaflet). The video [Keeping Babies Safe – Never Ever Shake your Baby](#) is used by the four main health providers who have direct access with video subtitles that can be automatically translated into different languages.
- Keeping Babies Safe and the 6-8 week baby assessment in General Practice promotes the Keeping Babies Safe messages at a baby's 6-8 week check and immunisations in General Practice.

All practitioners who support families with babies are delivering safer sleep messages clearly and on more than one occasion to families with additional vulnerabilities.

4.45 We have seen evidence of the improvement through our audit processes such as routine enquiry domestic abuse being more frequently carried out. Evidence from other audits has shown that practitioners are aware of “baby safety” even when their primary role is working with another family member. We have seen evidence of practitioners challenging the appropriateness of safe sleep arrangements and concerns identified about babies being left to be fed with a bottle propped up (and without adult interaction or supervision). We have seen action being taken to address the impact of older siblings and adult behaviours on the development and needs of infants.

4.46 It was agreed that there had been notable improvements to local arrangements and that, following the full evaluation and impact report to be provided in June 2023, ongoing work to keep babies safe will be reviewed on an annual basis across the partnership area.

DDSCP Priorities for 2023 - 2024

4.47 The Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership has agreed the following priorities for 2023 - 2024

- Safeguard children at risk of exploitation reflecting additional features such as placed based risk (contextual safeguarding) and our understanding of emerging vulnerabilities.
- Promote and obtain assurance of Early Help arrangements (including responding to neglect) and response to requests for services.
- Reduce the adverse impact of Domestic Abuse and family conflict.

4.48 In addition to these priorities, the Executive Board has agreed that the following actions will be taken in respect of safeguarding arrangements for children and young people.

Emotional wellbeing and mental health

4.49 In June 2020 concerns were identified about the vulnerability of children as a result of unmet needs in respect of their emotional wellbeing and the impact of

waiting lists for Tier 4 CAMHS. In September 2022, following reports presented to the Exploitation and Vulnerable Young People subgroup, it was agreed that sufficient progress had been made at that point to provide access to services for emotional wellbeing at an early stage and plan to increase services provision for CAMH services.

4.50 In March 2023 further discussion was held at the Executive Board about the further impact of waiting lists for tier 4 services. Service provision is overseen and monitored by the Children's Delivery Board (who have three groups monitoring different workstreams) and the Mental Health, Learning Disability and Autism Board.

4.51 The Children's Delivery Board has agreed to provide a written update to the DDSCP in December 2023 to demonstrate whether sufficient progress has been established.

Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and children who are subject of refugee resettlement and the asylum dispersal scheme

4.52 Since June 2020, the Executive Board has noted concerns about the arrangements to safeguard children placed in the local area for children who are subject of refugee resettlement and the asylum dispersal scheme. Representation has been made to the Home Office and the changing arrangements across the area such as the number of contingency hotels are reported upon at the Executive Board.

4.53 The Resettlement, Cohesion and Integration Partnership Board has been requested to provide a local update on the arrangements to provide services and their effectiveness (under the Governance of the Derbyshire Safer Communities Board and the Safer Derby Board) to the DDSCP Executive Board.

5 A record of decisions and actions taken by the partners (or planned to be taken) to implement the recommendations of any local and national child safeguarding practice reviews

5.1 The DDSCP has continued to drive forward learning from reviews, completing the following during the last year:

- Three child safeguarding practice reviews have been [published](#) on the partnership website along with an update setting out the progress made to complete the multi-agency action plan.
- Four rapid reviews were completed and received positive feedback from the national panel about the quality and detail included by the DDSCP.

5.2 We have taken forward the learning from these and other reviews and produced briefings that were shared across the partnership. We delivered key learning to a multi-agency conference for the Local Family Justice Board promoting learning from local reviews, the vulnerabilities of babies and the impact of the *Keeping Babies Safe* strategic work.

5.3 Practitioners, managers and family members have continued to provide contributions to the case reviews being completed by the partnership. Learning events have been held to draw out key features of frontline practice. Parents, foster carers and young people continue to be invited to engage directly with independent overview authors and contribute to reviews.

5.4 The DDSCP has used the learning from reviews to identify key themes where improvement is needed to strengthen practice and our safeguarding processes. These themes, such as the effectiveness of identifying and responding to concerns about domestic abuse, have been included in our quality assurance programme to help us “close the loop” on learning and focus our assurance activity on our priorities as well as themes arising from reviews and previous audit.

5.5 A joint action planning subgroup has coordinated the completion of case review action plans, ensures that associated activity to drive forward learning is effective across partnership subgroups and reports on progress to the Executive Board. We will be reviewing whether to bring together the action planning subgroup with the review subgroup in May 2023. We have made good progress completing the actions arising from reviews over the last three years and it is timely that we review the benefits of having a joint meeting. We will continue to report on the impact on practice and outcomes for children when we publish the individual case review reports.

5.6 The (national) *Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and Foundations – What Works Centre for Children and Families*, published a briefing paper during the year that explored current practice and the evidence base relating to [Working with male carers to reduce non-accidental injury to infants under 1 year old](#). The aim of this briefing was to support safeguarding partners in reviewing their policies on working with male carers, and to make recommendations on how the evidence base and national guidelines can be further developed. Good practice from the *Keeping Babies Safe* strategic work carried out locally was included in the national briefing.

6 Ways in which the partners have sought and utilised feedback from children and families to inform their work and influence service provision

6.1 Two lay members continue to represent local communities and actively participate within the work of the partnership attending the Executive Board and one is able to support the work of the Education and Policies and Procedure subgroup.

6.3 We continue to use feedback which children and young people provide across the partnership to ensure that a meaningful difference is being made to improve our collective arrangements. For example: the Derby City Partnership has a set of 5 participation standards to help embed the voice of children and young people in local decision-making processes: engagement, planning, delivery, evaluation and feedback. Each service also identifies a Participation Champion to promote, support

and embed participation in the service, although some services are yet to identify a champion. Many services were involved in a wide variation of participation activities, and for the Participation Annual Report workers were asked to provide a sample of evidence on how they had involved children and young people in decision making. In addition, many services capture the voice of the child as part of the Single Assessment which was also analysed for the annual report.

6.4 The main themes where children and young people have expressed their views in decision making has been **education, emotional health and wellbeing, activities and interests.**

- **Education** – they are worried about falling behind and exams, classrooms being too big/noisy, access to school placement, not getting the right support, bullying, getting to school on time.
- **Emotional Health and Wellbeing** – they commented about not eating, not sleeping, anxiety, no friends, loneliness, abuse/trauma, self-harm, struggling with child's behaviour, mental health days, worried about - school, safety, conflict with parent/s.
- **Activities and Interests** – they commented about more youth group support, accessible and safe facilities, lack of opportunities to socialise/ extra-curricular activities, fun activities that give opportunities to also learn new skills, activities stopped doing and want to pick back up again.

6.5 Out of the 3416 Single Assessments analysed:

- The main themes where CYP wanted support were 'Relationships Family', 'Family Life' and 'Home Life'.
- The main outcomes for support were 'Action Plan or Care Plan Offered', 'Provide Advice or Guidance' and 'Other'.

6.6 In Derbyshire, the participation team have had a busy and successful year. They have supported 176 young people to have independent advocates to support them. This year has seen an increase in the number of young people being supported with age assessments and support for young people with SEND around education, health and care plans.

6.7 All young people reported that their advocate was excellent or good at getting their point across and getting others to listen to what they were saying and that having an advocate had made a difference. For example "*My advocate makes people listen and things happen faster when she is involved*" (Young person aged 14).

6.8 Young people from Hope College in Derbyshire have been actively involved in designing and testing the Derbyshire Local Offer website for young people with SEND with support from the participation team. They have re-named the front tiles on the website to make them easier to understand. The young people test the website and suggest changes and let the working group know of any issues that they have found and make suggestions for changes.

6.9 Children and young people in care and care experienced young people have a strong input into the corporate parenting board. Representatives (in Derbyshire) from the First Generation (children in care council) and Next Generation (care experienced council) tell board members the work that they have been doing, ask questions, challenge decisions and share issues on behalf of young people. They take responses back to the councils and provide updates on ongoing projects. This year they are looking at training for foster carers, protected characteristics for care experienced young people and free prescriptions. The young people are co-producing the offer for young people from the corporate parenting board and designing a take-over day in November 2023. Young people are able to have a real influence in planning and strategic decisions by being part of the board.

6.10 This year Derbyshire County Council have launched a children's services feedback survey which allows young people, professionals and parent carers to tell us their experiences of services that they have used. Services receive this feedback directly and are able to respond and answer any queries. The survey is designed so that the feedback can influence service planning and strategy to improve the service for those who use it. The response to this has been really positive, the survey is accessible and easy and quick to be completed, there is a QR code available to make it as easy as possible.

6.11 Young people have been actively involved in commissioning a participation app for young people in Derbyshire which will be being rolled out over the Summer/Autumn 2023. Young people have taken part in trial sessions and given their feedback which has been included in the app specification. Young people will be involved in the launch, promotion and monitoring of the app.

6.12 External inspection provides particularly important contributions to our assurance of how the voice of children and families is acted upon to safeguard them and promote their welfare.

6.13 Following their inspection in May 2021, Derbyshire police provided further training to front line resources on the use of the Voice of the Child and all staff in the Contact management Centre (CCMC) have received additional risk assessment training that includes a specific focus on vulnerability including voice of the child. The reinspection in October 2022 highlighted that, overall, the workforce was much more attuned to vulnerability including in records where they saw the [voice of the child \(VoC\)](#) recorded and acted upon, including instances where control room staff telling responding officers about [warning markers](#) for vulnerable children and prompting them to use [body-worn video \(BWV\)](#) to record incidents and children's circumstances. Officers were then asked to record the children's views and demeanours on PPNs so children and their families could get the help they need to be safe. Derbyshire police have improved the capturing of the voice of the child from 26% in 2021 to 78% in 2023 (Total) and in excess of 90% when the child is present.

6.14 In addition the police have developed a strategy for engaging with children in collaboration with the DDSCP with the following aims:

- proactively seek out the views of children and their families; and
- ensure the individual and collective voice of children in decision-making, planning and review processes across the partnership to help drive forward how we all work together to keep children safe from abuse and neglect.

6.15 During the Ofsted focused to Derbyshire County Council in September 2022, inspectors highlighted that social workers know their children well and recognise their strengths. Visits to children are regular, and recordings capture the whole sense of the visit and include a conversation with each child. The summary, written directly to the child about their presentation, wishes and feelings, helps to bring the focus back to the child and provides a clear future record for them.

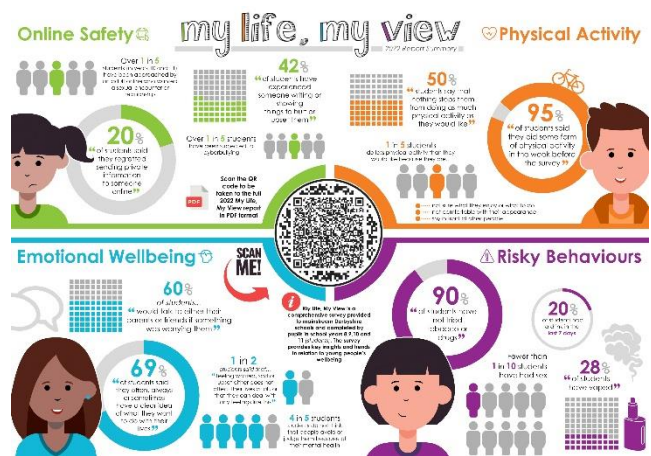
6.16 Derbyshire Community Health Service 0-19 Children's Service have also submitted examples for this year's report on how voice of the child/young person has influenced service delivery as well as individual case outcomes:

- developed some lessons around vaping for secondary schools and a separate lesson for year 6. The feedback from young people is being used to shape how the 0-19 Children's Service move forwards with public health topics and to also influence future service delivery.
- Public Health Event: Sexual Health – Planning for the Future, Derby and Derbyshire Populations. DCHS took along 2 young people to be part of this day. They listened to: Thinking about partnership working (values/ behaviours) and the findings of the Sexual Health Needs Assessment and participated in the focus groups which looked at the needs assessment findings and recommendations and setting local priorities regarding sexual health.
- The Integrated Sexual Health Service commissioned a report called Sexual Health Action Research Report (SHARP); a piece of engagement work that spoke to all different service users/non service users (young people and adults) about ISHS services and accessibility. They used focus groups, interviews, questionnaires for tools of engagement. The aims were: 1.To find out about sexual health needs, and barriers to accessing sexual health services, especially amongst those people who have poorer sexual health outcomes, and 2.To involve local people, staff and stakeholders and in how we find out about those needs and barriers, in addition to Unique Improvements researchers. It is expected that the report will be published in September.
- The DCHS 0-19 Children's Service worked with Sky National News to share the experiences of children, young people and families regarding the cost of living crisis.

6.17 The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) in south Derbyshire have fortnightly groups with the service users, where they are able to provide feedback and discuss as "experts" their views of the services that they are receiving. This provides a space for them to share their thoughts about the service. For the families and / or carers there are specific peer parent/carers support workers who provide regular groups with parents and offer them peer support. They have a space to come together and talk about their experiences and have space to listen to

other parents and families. The parent/carer support workers also offer individual meetings with parents who would like more individualised support rather than a group setting.

6.18 The Derbyshire Youth Network is a county wide provision that links together schools, special schools, community groups and specialist provisions to hear young people's views and ideas about issues that are important to them, which is then included in decision making about services. This year the Derbyshire Youth Network has been involved in supporting National Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) week in schools (including special schools) across Derbyshire. The focus this year was kindness, and the full report will be available later in the year.



6.19 School Nursing teams in Derby use the Lancaster model to obtain the views of school age pupils on a range of topics including emotional health (including topics such as bullying and how they feel about their body image) and their physical health. Vaping is emerging as a concern both in the feedback from children as well as agencies and schools. This is being raised with the Substance Misuse and Alcohol Partnership Board and progress will be reviewed in the coming year.

7 Updates to the published arrangements

7.1 The Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership has continued to review the effectiveness of local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

7.2 In July 2022 due to the development of Integrated Care System and Integrated Care Boards and the changes with the geographical footprint that these systems cover Tameside and Glossop Clinical Commissioning Group withdrew their involvement in the partnership and the Derby and Derbyshire Integrated Care Board were formally incorporated into local arrangements from the 1st July. The DDSCP governance document was refreshed to take on board these changes and the Inter Agency Agreement setting out the legal arrangements of the partnership was updated.

Note

There is no secure establishment provision in Derby or Derbyshire.

A copy of the DDSCP Annual Report was submitted to the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and the What Works Centre for Children's Social Care and published on the DDSCP website.