



Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership

Annual Report 2021-2022

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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 Clinical Commissioning Group
- Tameside and Glossop Clinical Commissioning Group
- 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 subgroups¹
- Exploitation and Vulnerable Young People subgroups²
- Education subgroups
- District Safeguarding subgroup
- Policies and Procedures subgroup
- Learning and Organisational Development subgroup
- Stakeholders group

¹ The two case review subgroups were merged into one group in November 2021

² The two exploitation and vulnerable young people subgroups were merged into one group in May 2021

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

This annual report covers the period between 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

2 Independent Scrutiny of the Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership

2.1 I have welcomed the opportunity to review and scrutinise the work of the Partnership during 2022/23, not just on the content of this report, but by participating in at least one meeting of each (now joint) subgroup, by regular meetings with senior managers from the four lead agencies, the two Lead Members, the Partnership Manager and by participation in a number of strategic groups. I am grateful for the openness and transparency of all with whom I have come into contact.

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. There is one caveat to this assurance, which I outline below (2.5).

2.3 Arising from my participation in the subgroup meetings in the final quarter of 2021/22, I prepared a paper of observations – mostly very positive – which I shared with Senior Managers of the Lead Agencies and the subgroup chairs. The initial responses have been constructive and a roundtable discussion on the paper and its implications for leadership and further improvements to the operation of the Partnership is scheduled for the autumn of 2022.

2.4 I am encouraged by the in-depth review of the priorities, undertaken during the year (in which I was invited to participate), which agreed the ‘mainstreaming’ of some of those priorities, whilst retaining a specific focus on exploitation, early help (see 2.5 below); domestic abuse/family conflict and improving the safety and welfare of babies as the priorities for 2022/23.

2.5 In my review and scrutiny of the first Annual Report of the DDSCP (September 2019 to March 2021), I raised three concerns, two of which are addressed in this Annual Report, the positive responses on which I acknowledge.

- *CAMHS Waiting Times*: Whilst there has been no full resolution, I acknowledge the challenges and the achievements secured, especially the development and dissemination of the Mental Health Pathways for schools. This momentum must be maintained in 2022/23 and I am assured that the Executive Board will monitor that further progress.
- *Initial Health Assessments*: I have been furnished with data relating to both Derby City and Derbyshire County, which provides robust evidence of a clear upward trend in the number of IHAs being completed within the required timescales. Again, there is still work to be done to secure further improvement, but the foundations are in place and the positive impact is clear.

- However, I am far less assured about the progress to address my third concern: *Early Help (Priority 4a)*: Thresholds and their observance – the consequences for service demand at the front doors and the impact on the children involved – that has not been resolved at this point, despite the genuine commitments from all partners to reach a resolution by September 2021. I am aware of the financial and people resource challenges faced by the partners, and that the ramifications of the pandemic remain, but have to express my great disappointment that this work, ongoing for at least two years, has not led to evidenced improvements in the effectiveness of responses by all agencies *at first contact*. This must be given priority during 2022/23.

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 58,724 aged 0-17 living in Derby. 22% of children living in Derby live in deprived households. Wherever possible the needs of children, young people and families are met by universal services.

The [Derby Children and Young People's plan 2020-22](#) sets out what the local authority and partners want to achieve to address the needs of all children and young people, their families and carers.

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, such as multi-systemic therapy (MST), and other evidence-based programmes. There is also a *Staying Together Team* working with families in a focused way to improve family resilience and support children at risk of coming into care to stay within the family home.

At the end of Quarter 4 2022, there were 1274 Early Help cases open to Derby City Council, with many more supported through Early Help Assessments in universal services.

Children in Need

3.6 At the end of Quarter 4 2022, **for every 10,000 children living in Derby** there were:

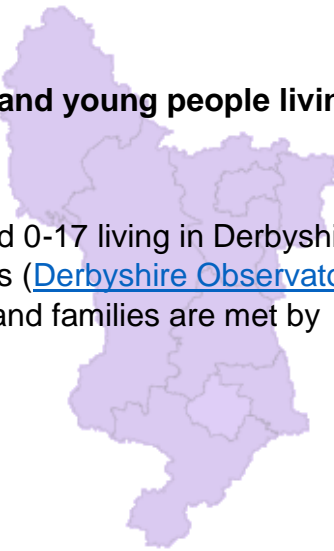
- 356 being supported as a *child in need*: this is in line with national and statistical neighbour comparisons. The most prevalent category for child in need plans is 'abuse or neglect' with 71% of plans.
- 66 children with a child protection plan: whilst this is higher than both national and statistical neighbour local authority area comparisons there has been a steady decrease in numbers which is drawing the figures closer to statistical neighbours. The most prevalent categories for child protection plans are neglect (76%) and emotional abuse (14%).
- 105 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 most prevalent categories for looked after children are neglect (68%) and emotional abuse (24%).

Derby Schools' information

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

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

3.8 There are 154747 children and young people aged 0-17 living in Derbyshire. 15% of children in Derbyshire live in deprived households ([Derbyshire Observatory](#)). Wherever possible the needs of children, young people and families are met by universal services.



Early Help

3.9 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.

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 2022, there were 986 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 2022, **for every 10,000 children living in Derbyshire** there were:

- 303 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 48% of plans.
- 52 children with a child protection plan: this is higher than both national and statistical neighbours, however the downward trajectory over the last 2 years is bringing this more in line with these figures. The most prevalent categories for child protection plans are neglect (72%) and emotional abuse (18%).
- 59 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 neglect (45%).

Derbyshire Schools' information

3.12 The majority of children in Derbyshire attend good or outstanding schools. According to the Spring Census, there were 107124 school age children in Derbyshire; 7,253 were not currently attending school, including children who were not on roll, electively home educated or missing education. There were 14387 children with special educational needs (SEN) receiving SEN support in school, and 2929 with an *education health and care plan* (EHCP).

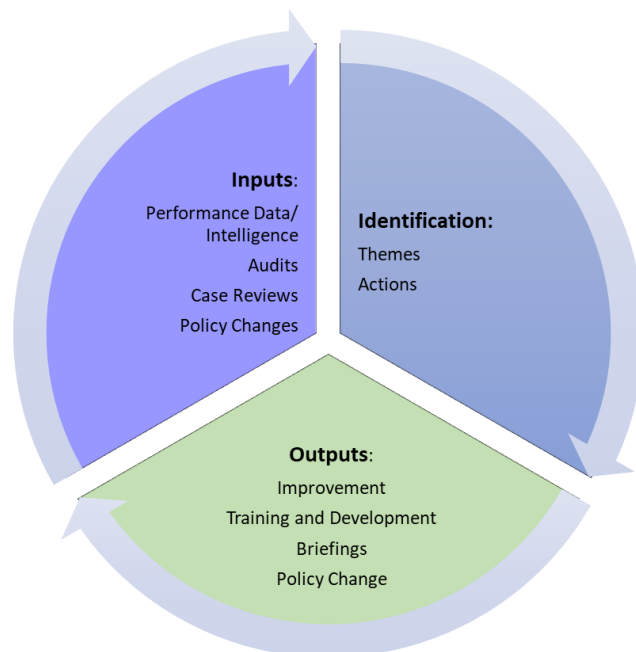
Assurance of our safeguarding arrangements across Derby and Derbyshire

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

We have used our quality assurance strategy to drive forward outcomes for children and families. Examples below provide an illustration of where we have obtained assurance or identified that our arrangements need to be further strengthened. We also draw on information that identifies emerging vulnerabilities for children and young people from our different subgroups.



3.15 In 2021-22 the quality assurance subgroup carried out two multi-agency audit activities; one focusing on the arrangements to safeguard vulnerable babies and a second focusing on children at risk of neglect as these were priorities for DDSCP. (and more detail is included in section 4 below)

3.16 In 2022 an audit was carried out where women had presented as being pregnant and had been subjected to female genital mutilation. This joint agency audit was reported to the quality assurance subgroup by the University Hospital of Derby and Burton. It was positive to find that the previous audit recommendation for strategy meetings to be held for all female babies had been achieved leading to

improved assessment of their individual circumstances and safety. We still need to improve how children's social care are informed of the gender of babies following their birth and will include this in audit arrangements for both hospitals in our area jointly in the coming year.

3.17 The DDSCP received thematic reports from individual agencies focussing on our programme of topics that consider the inter-related vulnerabilities of children and young people. Some examples of the conclusions of the assurance reporting of our local arrangements include:

- Both local authorities and the police continue to report robust arrangements for identifying and responding to risks associated with children who are exploited. Trend figures emerging initially from the group of children who are vulnerable to exploitation indicated that children and young people with a SEND need or who have additional needs with neurodiverse conditions, such as autism, are over-represented within the figures. Whilst research shows that children with disabilities are three times more likely to be abused than children without a disability, consideration across our partnership was given to the increased frequency that this group of children became vulnerable. As a result of this we have decided to hold a multi-agency stakeholders conference in the coming year to raise awareness of the vulnerabilities impacting on children with neurodiverse conditions.
- Catch 22 and Safe and Sound continue to adapt and undertake targeted and impactful work with young people at risk of exploitation and their families
- Both local authorities reported extensively on the preventative measures in place to try and promote children's access to education and reduce the numbers of children who are either missing from education, those who are on part time timetables and those who are electively home educated. Notwithstanding the limited role of the local authority for children who are electively home educated, there are sound arrangements in place across the city and county which have recently been reviewed
- Both local authorities and the police continue to report arrangements for identifying and responding to risks associated with children who go missing. There is considerable evidence of intelligence sharing amongst partner agencies and a shared drive to work together and help strengthen response and reduce vulnerabilities associated with missing children and young people within our communities. Further multi-agency quality assurance activity has been commissioned for later in 2022 to consider how we can further strengthen our strategic response to children who go missing in order to reduce both the number of missing episodes and risks to children
- During the winter months of 2021 and beginning of 2022 Derbyshire police used intelligence to identify hotspot areas for knife and violent crime and involved multi-agency approaches to tackling the root causes of the issue. The effectiveness of this activity is being evaluated and will be fed back to the partnership in the coming year so that we understand the impact and learning to be shared across the partnership, including schools.

- The Derby and Derbyshire Modern Slavery Partnership reported on progress made to establish a comprehensive training programme for professionals and partner agencies including e-learning packages and training to foster carers. There is evidence of an extensive number of partners completing the training that has been available.
- Locally, analytical teams are developing a problem profile of serious violence in Derby and Derbyshire, which will evolve into a strategic needs assessment over the course of 2022 and presented. Derbyshire's *Serious Violence Strategy* will relate to both young people and adults and feature as a topic at the DDSCP exploited and vulnerable young people subgroup in the coming year.

3.18 The school sector has continued to keep the partnership up to date about the impact on pupils of the COVID pandemic and how it has affected them at different times depending on a range of factors. We have had good engagement from the education subgroups who have provided feedback on key issues that have emerged including, for example, increased demand for emotional wellbeing support.

3.19 Action was taken during the pandemic to ensure that different online communication methods were used to enable schools to participate in strategy meetings and child protection conferences. Evidence and feedback from schools following the pandemic set out how their participation in critical multi-agency discussions about pupils was improved using online meetings. As a result, as we start to implement our future model for child protection conferencing in both local areas, the DDSCP will continue to engage schools and other agencies in this manner to ensure the best representation possible is achieved.

3.20 Reflecting on our engagement with the education sector enabled us to identify the benefits of the designated safeguarding lead forum meetings held on a termly basis across Derbyshire. The forums enable discussion and promotion of safeguarding on a wider basis with all schools in the area and key strategic engagement by the local authority. A similar designated safeguarding lead forum was successfully launched in Derby during the year. These forums sit alongside the work of the education subgroups and enable a greater engagement with the education sector, for example:

- Concerns were raised by some schools about the use of Edibles (drugs in the form of confectionery and other foods and drinks). In response the Derbyshire Drug Alert group published an *Edibles and Vaping* briefing note with the aim of providing information and guidance to schools which helps keep pupils safer.
- Responding to concerns about the ongoing risks to children online the UK Safer Internet Centre facilitated three online safety briefings for schools and other professionals working with children.
- We were alerted to difficulties arising for professionals in carrying out safeguarding related visits to a small number of schools. We re-issued

guidance to all schools so that children can receive visits from social care and healthcare professionals without delay.

3.21 The DDSCP has worked with the District and Borough councils to successfully achieve and improved self-evaluation of their safeguarding arrangements with greater levels of assurance (S11 Children Act). As a result of sharing briefings and practice developments with the subgroup there was an improved understanding of arrangements covering a range of topics, for example:

- Covid 19 safeguarding briefings
- Responding to self-harm and psychological first aid digital training
- Prevention of serious fires in the home
- A homeless protocol
- Modern slavery practice guidance
- Keeping babies safe.

3.22 Following engagement work by the Locality Children's Partnerships across Derbyshire, children and young people gave clear feedback that they wanted to be able to access more "safe spaces" within their local communities. Action is being taken to identify more spaces for children and reduce placed based risk by joining up the work of the safeguarding leads in district and borough councils with the locality children's partnerships. This has already resulted in the opening up of some additional safe spaces for children.

3.23 The DDSCP has continued throughout the year 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.

3.24 An audit was carried out to identify how individual agencies could illustrate the impact of the implementation of four key areas of procedure and guidance that had been identified from reviews:

- Injury to Babies
- The lived experience of children
- Threshold and Routine Enquiry
- Resolving differences of professional opinion

Individual agencies provided assurance as to the use of key documents and, where needed, evidence of measures being taken to strengthen awareness arising from the assurance exercise or the learning from the reviews.

3.25 The Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership has an effective and far-reaching [suite of learning and development courses and activities](#) in place. We have been responsive to emerging learning needs identified by local case reviews and our partner agencies. As a result, we have in place an increasingly

comprehensive suite of e-learning and virtual courses developed following training needs analysis. The DDSCP routinely evaluate the delivery and content of our learning resources and most importantly the impact that occurs upon the practice of practitioners and managers.

3.26 By the end June 2022, there were 8350 registered users on the DDSCP learning management system and of these 3245 delegates had registered for training during the last year.

3.27 The completion rate for e-learning courses (number of professionals fully completing the courses) is 92.5% with attendance rate for virtual courses averaging 85%. This helps to demonstrate that the courses have been developed with effective content that is meeting the learning need of delegates.

3.28 The learning and improvement cycle for the DDSCP 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.

Assurance arising from Inspection

3.29 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.

3.30 At the [full inspection in March 2022](#), Derby City Council Children's services were judged as 'Outstanding'. The inspection highlighted:

- An 'impressive and committed' leadership team that has established a 'clear and tangible service culture that places children at its centre'
- Senior leaders have a clear line of sight on the quality of frontline practice through an 'extensive quality assurance framework and comprehensive performance information'
- Implementation of the new strengths based social work model was a particular strength

'Children who need help and protection in Derby receive a consistently high-quality service. They receive a prompt and effective response when this is appropriate and when needs are identified.'

Ofsted 2022

3.31 In May 2021 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services carried out an inspection of [Derbyshire Police](#). The inspectorate identified concerns about Derbyshire Constabulary's child protection arrangements, including that there was:

- little evidence of effective multi-agency activity to safeguard children, with examples of poor risk assessments and therefore inconsistent information sharing with other organisations

- a disjointed approach to protecting vulnerable children at risk of being exploited by county lines gangs; and
- a confused response to missing children, such as not recording when children go missing from care homes as 'missing', instead using the term 'No apparent risk', and, therefore, not looking for them.

3.32 The Chief Constable provided urgent assurance to the DDSCP Chief Officers Group about immediate action taken to address the concerns arising from the inspection including:

- A re-focus on force governance with regards to vulnerability, safeguarding and performance.
- Training and communication to ensure wider understanding across the organisation of staff responsibility for safeguarding and recognising and responding to vulnerability.
- A review on operating procedures and realignment of resources.
- Force leads held accountable for delivery improvements.

3.33 A comprehensive action plan has been put in place and progress reported to the Executive Board during the year. Some significant developments have included the realignment of resources to key areas to improve safeguarding arrangements such as:

- Implementation of a new *Safeguarding Coordination Hub* which has been allocated an additional Detective Inspector, three supervisors and twelve staff. This team have all received additional training, including the use of thresholds to help decision making to keep children safe delivered by the partnership.
- Implementation of the *Domestic Abuse Review Team*. The team review all cases of domestic abuse, including consideration of accumulative risk, where there has been more than one incident over a period of time. This ensures each and every child has been identified, risk reviewed and referred, where appropriate, to the partnership and had their voice heard.
- The child exploitation team has had enhanced staffing with a dedicated command structure to ensure all forms of exploitation, including children exploited by county lines gangs, are dealt with consistently and in partnership with other agencies.
- A centralised force missing team has been established to coordinate and investigate reports of missing persons. This team are improving the response to missing persons and ensuring that protocols to safeguard children and adults in care are followed. The work of the team has succeeded in the removal of the use of 'no apparent risk' to describe a missing person and ensure that a suitable level of risk is identified for individuals.
- To ensure safeguarding children was the key focus of the online investigation activity, the *Protecting Children Online Team (PCOT)* has received a significant investment in staff to ensure back-logs are processed quickly ensuring hidden risk is identified early.
- The force has realigned its whole detective resource under a crime directorate, making it easier to realign resources to areas of greater harm, risk

and threat. This realigning of resources has allowed the organisation to increase resources across all child functions including additional resources within the Child Investigations Team, to deal with the increased demands.

3.34 Derbyshire police will be subject of further inspection to evidence progress in May 2022 and will continue to provide evidence of progress to the partnership.

3.35 Services for children with special educational needs and disabilities in Derby were last inspected by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in [October 2021](#). The inspection concluded that all areas marked for improvement in the 2019 SEND inspection have significantly developed:

- a change in culture resulting in stronger working relationships
- parents and carers are now more involved in making decisions
- a clear strategy for improving provision and outcomes
- professionals working in education, health and social care are committed, ambitious and willing to improve
- more EHC plans are now completed within the 20-week timescale.

3.36 A [focussed inspection in October 2021](#) of Derbyshire County Council Children's Services focussed on the services and support for care leavers, concluded that the determined focus on the provision of services for care leavers including bringing the service in-house, has resulted in significant improvements.

Feedback from service users:

"I always feel at ease with you (child protection manager) and you help me be included in all the meetings. I really appreciate the calls before the meetings to check out with us and reassure us that no surprises are coming."

"I have nothing bad to say, the agencies have all been great. (Social worker) has been open and honest with me and I have grown as a person thanks to Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) and the Social Worker. They have never made me feel judged because I am a young parent. Often I feel it is easy to judge young parents, but this has not been the case."

'My dad and step mum love us all and want me to be happy and safe. I am now back in school and its much better, people get me, I am not under pressure. Don't feel like I want to hurt myself anymore'.

'The social worker has helped us so much, she has never given up on me and supported me all the time. I really like her'

4 An analysis of evidence of progress on agreed priorities

Promote emotional health and wellbeing and reduce the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

❖ Why we chose this priority

4.1 National and local feedback from schools, young people and emotional health and wellbeing services have highlighted the long-term harmful impact of poor mental health and the additional adverse impact caused by adverse childhood experiences. We wanted to make sure that the importance of these features was understood, and the right services were being developed to address these needs.

❖ What we have done and evidence of impact

4.2 DDSCP identified and shared learning from two child safeguarding practice reviews carried out during the year emphasising the importance of the emotional health and wellbeing of school age children. A safeguarding briefing for practitioners working with school age children was produced that included additional learning from the lived experience of children in two other families. The briefing was launched as part of a stakeholders' conference on safeguarding school age children.

4.3 The education subgroups have continued to report concerns about the services available to address the emotional wellbeing and mental health needs of school age children. As a result of this feedback, DDSCP requested the development of clear *Mental Health Service Pathways* and these were published in February 2022 to promote access to the right level of service for individual children. Initial reports from schools at the Executive Board in June provided anecdotal feedback that the mental health service pathways had made a positive difference as school staff become increasingly aware and use them to get the right service at an early stage.

4.4 In order to have an up to date understanding of how we address increasing pressures for emotional wellbeing targeted services, we received updates on demand and waiting lists for providers such as:

- The 24/7 mental health helpline and support service
- Build Sound Minds (provided by Action for Children)
- Changing Lives (a service that provides a blended offer of face to face and digital interventions)
- Kooth (a universal digital service that is increasingly being taken up).

This has helped the partnership understand the sufficiency of service provision and steps being taken to address emotional wellbeing at an early stage and prevent, where possible, a deterioration in mental wellbeing.

4.5 DDSCP sought assurance from the Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group and Health Providers about the action being taken to reduce waiting times for children who require services from the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). Derby and Derbyshire services have seen a rise in the number of referrals, and also a rise in the number of complex and high risk, acute cases. The Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group is working towards one Derbyshire wide service specification which emphasises more community and home treatment delivery including family support and therapy. Recruitment to additional posts is yet to be fully successful, reflecting a regional and national shortage of suitable applicants. Close monitoring of the action being taken to increase service provision for CAMHS continues with further assurance reports expected in September 2022.

4.6 The multi-agency audits of vulnerable babies and children affected by neglect, which were undertaken this year, identified examples of curiosity and analysis by professionals of parental adverse childhood experiences, and their effect on the parent's ability to care for their children. Similar to national research, adverse childhood experiences had affected the ability of some parents to deliver adequate care and engage with professionals to achieve sustained improvement.

4.7 The DDSCP online learning and virtual courses have been reviewed to ensure that emotional health and wellbeing and the impact of adverse childhood experiences are core elements embedded throughout activity delivered by the professionals. A specific e-learning course is available that explains the impact of adverse childhood experiences on brain development.

4.8 The Learning and Organisational Development subgroup obtained assurance from partner agencies that professionals in key roles received awareness raising and training to understand the impact of adverse childhood experiences. We received evidence setting out how this training was included for professionals in their development specific to their role working with the child or family.

4.9 The DDSCP has multi-agency guidance in place to promote effective responses to self-harm. The DDSCP safeguarding children procedures include reference to the impact of adverse childhood experiences on parenting that helps safeguard children and make effective judgement about what action to take when their needs are not being met.

4.10 In summary, the DDSCP recognises that progress has been made to obtain a clearer understanding of the impact of emotional wellbeing and mental ill health on children. We are beginning to receive feedback that better access to some services is being achieved for children at an early stage. The action being taken to reduce waiting list for CAMHS is yet to be fully achieved and the DDSCP has agreed to keep focus on this as part of business carried out at the Executive Board. Action has been taken to ensure that the impact of adverse childhood experiences is considered by professionals. We have agreed that actions being taken to promote emotional health and wellbeing and reduce the impact of adverse childhood experiences will continue as a golden thread for inclusion in our ongoing work programmes rather than as a specific priority.

Safeguard children at risk of exploitation reflecting additional features such as placed based risk (contextual safeguarding) and our understanding of emerging vulnerabilities; Reduce the vulnerability of Electively Home Educated Children (EHE), Children excluded from school and Children who are Missing (From home, school and care).

❖ Why we chose this priority

4.11 A better understanding has emerged about the complex nature of some of the interconnected vulnerabilities affecting young people in their communities and the risks to them of exploitation. National and local research identifies additional vulnerability if young people are not in school. We wanted to make sure we understood our local risks and that they were being addressed effectively.

❖ What we have done and evidence of impact

4.12 The DDSCP identified and shared learning from a rapid review, completed by a neighbouring safeguarding partnership about a young person who previously lived in our area, concerning the risks of criminal exploitation. We are currently following this up to check how agencies have put this learning in place and made a difference to their internal arrangements.

4.13 The DDSCP identified learning from one child safeguarding practice review about the need to promote awareness of the vulnerabilities associated with children missing school. We included this in our school safeguarding briefing and conference on safeguarding school age children. Further guidance for education settings is under development to promote awareness and systemic approaches to the assessment of the welfare needs of children missing education.

4.14 The DDSCP receives routine reports to obtain assurance and analysis of arrangements to keep children safe who were missing education, excluded from school, electively home educated and missing from home or care (including the completion of return interviews). The multi-agency arrangements for reviewing high risk cases of children who are missing were updated to improve the coordination of action taken to reduce the number of incidents and individuals who are missing.

4.15 The DDSCP routinely receives performance information confirming that children at risk of exploitation are being identified, their individual risk is being assessed and individually appropriate responses are being made. This has ensured that we have good oversight of both the ongoing experiences of children and emerging or changing ways in which they experience exploitation and abuse. In order to maintain our focus on the quality of the services children experience to safeguard them from exploitation we have agreed to carry out multi-agency audits in autumn 2022 to obtain updated assurance of local arrangements across the partnership.

4.16 Performance measures have helped identify specific concerns about children with neurodiverse conditions who are over-represented as children at risk of exploitation, radicalisation, mental health interventions and exclusion from school or electively home educated. We considered a report from the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) that identified an over representation of children with neurodiverse conditions who had died as a result of suicide. As a result of this emerging picture of the experience and range of vulnerabilities of children with neurodiverse conditions, we will be delivering a stakeholders conference to raise awareness and strengthen local arrangements during 2022.

4.17 The DDSCP has received considerable detailed assurance from the local authorities in Derby and Derbyshire of their increased scrutiny of children missing from education and plans are in place and under development to scrutinise the circumstances of children on part time school timetables and those who have been excluded from school. Both authorities are awaiting further guidance arising from the review carried out by HM Government of Elective Home Education and action that will be required to establish an EHE register locally.

4.18 The DDSCP delivers multi-agency virtual courses *Children at Risk of Exploitation* and *CRE: First Responder* training that enables professionals with key roles to have confidence to safeguard these young people in the context of some very complex situations.

4.19 In June 2022, we are implementing a series of four foundation e learning courses covering *Child Criminal Exploitation; Child Sexual Exploitation; Risks in the Community;* and *Modern Slavery and Trafficking*.

4.20 The *Children at Risk of Exploitation: risk assessment toolkit* has been further developed to include assessment tools for criminal and sexual exploitation separately. A *Child on Child Abuse Strategy* has been developed to help coordinate action across the partnership along with action being taken by the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategic Board and the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership.

4.21 The DDSCP wrote to all schools and colleges to emphasise learning arising about child-on-child abuse from the Ofsted national report on sexual harm in schools. The *Child on Child Abuse Strategy* will further ensure that priority actions are taken forward to raise awareness of children whilst they are at school and enable joined up approaches to be taken to respond to their concerns. During the year we identified and shared over five hundred national and local resources in our safeguarding updates for schools, including, for example, resources to be used directly with pupils to help keep them safe. It is of note that 67 resource topics were designed to help keep children safe online and 86 were linked to helping promote the emotional wellbeing of pupils.

4.22 Online harms remain a national and local issue of concern. A multi-agency *Cybercrime and Online Safety Group* considers online harms, and a multi-agency *Resources into Schools Group* helps coordinate the effective commissioning of and availability of safeguarding resources into schools. As a result of concerns raised by schools, the DDSCP produced a briefing on *harmful online challenges and hoaxes* and continued to promote UK Safer Internet centre online safety briefings.

4.23 The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner has a key strategic role in the commissioning of services and providing grant programmes where children's organisations are the main beneficiaries. This has been focussed on improving the safety of both vulnerable victims and their families, as well as programmes to address perpetrator interventions. Safeguarding is a key priority in the Police and Crime Plan and the work carried out to safeguard children has benefitted from the engagement of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The voice of the child and parents helping to improve safeguarding

The i-vengers programme, funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire Police and Derbyshire County Council, is a peer-led Digital Leader programme which celebrates the positive use of technology and aims to educate children, parents, carers and professionals around the safe use of the online environment, whilst learning about the legalities of online activities and risks that can be faced online and how to deal with these.

The i-vengers school survey was run between March 1st and May 31st 2022, and was open to any primary school that was part of year 2 of the i-vengers programme. The whole school survey was designed to find out what our learners are doing online, if they have faced risk or harm online and if parents and carers are playing a proactive role in keeping their children safe while using the online environment at home. Where parents are putting controls in place, we wanted to understand how effective these controls are.

5919 responses were recorded on the survey and a total of 63 schools across Derby and Derbyshire took part. Each participant was able to answer the survey anonymously so that they would feel more comfortable in answering the questions. School and year group information was collected so that any safeguarding concerns could be passed back to the school in question for further investigation.

There were fewer significant safeguarding concerns that arose this year, including the concerns that arose included viewing of pornography, inappropriate contact with unknown individuals and being told 'you should die/kill yourself'. All safeguarding concerns were raised with the Designated Safeguarding Lead for the school and were dealt with appropriately. This year we also included a survey for parents which has attracted around 1800 responses relating to 3000 children.

All schools that took part in the survey have been given their own results, including raw data and a report detailing where they should focus their attention, based on the findings.

4.24 The DDSCP are promoting awareness of place-based risk (contextual safeguarding), its impact and vulnerabilities for children so that professionals understand how the people the young person hang out with, and the spaces they inhabit, might be unsafe outside the home (including online). Both local areas have

put in place arrangements to identify place-based risk, although performance reporting and impact reporting are currently under-developed in relation to the aims of the partnership. A conference to raise awareness was held in Derby. Constructive discussion has been held with the District and Borough Councils to raise the awareness of place-based risk and their role in helping to create safe spaces for young people. The police have identified the potential development of performance data linked to individual education settings that will enable the DDSCP to draw together analysis of risks within local communities and enable targeted support where needed.

4.25 Some progress has been made to identify and put in place multi-agency arrangements to address place-based risk such as multi-agency sharing of information that has led to identification of exploitation and placed-based risk which enabled effective disruption strategies to be deployed. Further assurance will be sought of the impact of arrangements in the coming year to demonstrate that these are making a difference and that children are safer. Safeguarding children at risk of exploitation reflecting additional features such as placed-based risk (contextual safeguarding) and our understanding of emerging vulnerabilities, will remain a priority area.

4.26 The DDSCP routinely receives reports that help us to have oversight of the arrangements for monitoring trends concerning children who are missing, and specific education focussed reporting is being provided by each local authority. These reports have demonstrated that there is robust oversight and scrutiny of children who are missing from school. The DDSCP has additionally made representation to the DfE in respect of concerns about arrangements for monitoring children who are electively home educated.

4.27 In summary, the DDSCP has agreed that actions being taken to reduce the vulnerability of children missing from school and home will continue as part of the ongoing work programmes rather than as a specific priority.

(C) Reduce the adverse impact of Parental Substance Misuse and Parental Mental Health

❖ Why we chose this priority

4.28 The adverse impact on parental capacity of parental substance misuse and/or parental mental ill health has been a feature of learning arising from local case reviews and in some cases features in cases where domestic abuse is occurring. Local multi-agency audit has identified that, for some individuals, substance misuse and / or mental ill health may be connected to parental experiences of adverse childhood experiences. We wanted to make sure that sufficient learning and awareness was in place to reflect the influence of these difficulties for parents and the impact it has on children.

❖ What we have done and evidence of impact

4.29 Parental substance misuse and mental ill health was a feature arising for some of the parents involved in rapid reviews and child safeguarding practice reviews. Learning arising from these reviews was incorporated within safeguarding briefings for working with babies and school age children and a feature of both Stakeholder conferences held during the year on these topics.

4.30 Performance measures that help us understand the impact on children of parental substance misuse or parental mental ill health are not available to us and, therefore, we draw upon individual case reviews and audit to inform our overall analysis of local arrangements. Anecdotal feedback from the local education sector has indicated that there have been changes to family substance misuse during the pandemic, with this occurring inside the family home more frequently, although it is not yet clear as to long term implications of this or the easing of pandemic restrictions as we move forward.

4.31 The multi-agency audits of vulnerable babies did not identify parental substance misuse as a feature within the cases (randomly selected). Parental mental ill health was a feature linked to emerging concerns in one case. These features were more evident in the multi-agency neglect audit.

4.32 Findings from the neglect audit indicate that parental substance misuse featured in 73% of cases and parental mental ill health in 82% of the cases. Often in these cases this was a feature that parents disguised or concealed from professionals carrying out the assessment. We are continuing to promote the need to identify and address factors that lead to long term neglect and poor outcomes for children.

4.33 Parental substance misuse and parental mental ill health are key features included in current e-learning and virtual training courses including *Keeping Babies Safe* and the *Domestic Abuse* courses. The virtual *Parental Substance Misuse* course was delayed due to local agency resource pressures on specialist co-trainers and has been confirmed for delivery in autumn 2022.

4.34 As a result of the delay and findings from reviews we took action and obtained assurance from partner agencies that professionals in key roles receive training to understand the vulnerability of adults who abuse alcohol (or other substances) and the impact on children, and how to interpret the risk to children.

4.35 Parental substance misuse and parental mental ill health are key features included in our current training, policy and guidance and updated as local and national learning is identified from audit and case reviews.

4.36 In summary, the DDSCP is continuing to promote awareness of the potential adverse impact of parental substance misuse and parental mental ill health through training and briefing materials. Multi-agency audit has provided current assurance of progress to embed the identification and assessment of these features. It is planned that continued scrutiny of the effectiveness of arrangements where these parental issues feature as part of their children's lived experience are incorporated within our ongoing work programmes rather than as a specific priority.

(4a) Promote and obtain assurance of Early Help arrangements (including responding to neglect) and response to requests for services

❖ Why we chose this priority

4.37 Harm and serious harm can be prevented if children receive the right help at the right time. We have a strong commitment to promoting early help arrangements and wanted to make sure that children and families experience responsive coordinated services wherever possible. We wanted to make sure that where situations have become more complex, early help has been put in place where it was needed before referrals were made to the local authorities for specialist services.

❖ What we have done and evidence of impact

4.38 In three rapid reviews, an early help assessment was not identified as the appropriate response given the circumstances of the cases. The use of an early help assessment might have helped identify a lack of progress and the need for more specialist services at an earlier stage in one rapid review. Providing effective early help and the assessment of neglect were key learning areas in child safeguarding practice reviews we carried out for three school age children. Learning arising from the child safeguarding practice reviews was incorporated within safeguarding briefings for working with babies and school age children.

4.39 The DDSCP considered data about early help cases where local authority early help services are the lead agency, but we are currently unable to access performance data about early help where it has not involved local authorities. Performance measures have been scrutinised by the quality assurance group and predicting demand group. This has led to action taken to improve awareness of the effective use of early help assessments to reduce inappropriate requests for services from the local authorities. We have been taking coordinated action so that each local authority receives sufficient and appropriate information, so that children who require specialist safeguarding responses are effectively identified.

4.40 The multi-agency audits of vulnerable babies did not identify concerns about the use of early help assessments in the cases that were randomly selected. However, findings from the neglect audit indicate that whilst early help had been successful in the short term, sustained change had not been achieved. The cases were randomly selected from a group of children who were children in need and

some with child protection plans. Therefore, it is important that the complexities of this group of families is noted and that early help arrangements may not have been able to effect necessary change in all these cases.

4.41 The findings of the neglect audit identified that the use of the graded care profile (an assessment tool for use in cases of neglect) was not sufficiently embedded within professional practice. We have been promoting the use of the graded care profile as a means by which professionals can identify the unmet needs of a child, monitor progress to make improvements by the carers and use the information gathered in case management processes to improve the lives of children experiencing neglect.

4.42 The audit identified that we still need to have a relentless focus on the timescales for achieving improvements to avoid children living with ongoing neglect. We have also identified that we need to promote good management oversight of decisions to close cases where parents do not want to work alongside professionals. Any decision to “step back” from involvement with a family must be consistent with progress being made and in the interests of the child.

4.43 Understanding the use of effective early help is a golden strand within our courses and assurance was obtained from individual agencies to make sure that the use of early help assessments was included within internal training. We have a specific multi-agency course focussing on *neglect*, and there is a specific course module on the use of the *graded care profile* that is included in a range of courses.

4.44 Early help features within our range of guidance documents and is a key element of the local *thresholds document*.

4.45 In summary, progress has been made to establish a suite of training and guidance to strengthen our early help arrangements and the use of the graded care profile to take action to identify and reduce the impact of neglect. Currently the emerging evidence from multi-agency audit and child safeguarding practice reviews indicates that we are yet to achieve sufficiently consistent approaches to reducing the impact of neglect. We wish to improve the use of the graded care profile, and the use of supervision and management oversight to address drift and delay. Promoting and obtaining assurance of the effectiveness of early help arrangements (including responding to neglect) will remain a priority area.

(5a) Reduce the adverse impact of Domestic Abuse and family conflict

❖ Why we chose this priority

4.46 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 the link between domestic abuse and different forms of harm to children was well understood and acted upon effectively.

❖ What we have done and evidence of impact

4.47 Domestic abuse had occurred in two families where rapid reviews were carried out and was a feature in three child safeguarding practice reviews. Learning arising from the child safeguarding practice reviews was incorporated within safeguarding briefings for working with babies and school age children.

4.48 Domestic abuse is an important feature within our performance framework. During the year, the police changed the way in which they review cases and have put in place a specific *Domestic Abuse Review Team* so that a more consistent approach is taken to make sure that good quality information is included in the referrals to the two local authorities.

4.49 Domestic abuse was a factor in over half of the cases reviewed within the multi-agency audits of vulnerable babies, with incidents identified within 25% of cases during pregnancy or the postnatal period. Routine enquiry about domestic abuse, whilst occurring in every case, could be further strengthened along with a greater focus across the partnership. This will ensure that critical, evidence-based analysis identifying the risks and strengths within the family are well understood and evidenced, including a focus on evidence-based practice in supervision. The multi-agency neglect audit findings indicated that domestic abuse had occurred in 82% of the cases and in just over half of these cases, both parental substance misuse and parental mental ill health were evident.

4.50 In order to maintain a strong focus on the impact of domestic abuse, we have reviewed and updated our e-learning and virtual training resources and ensure that domestic abuse is a core feature of many of our learning and development resources.

4.51 Since the e-learning course was implemented at the end of 2020, 384 professionals have completed the course with 99% reporting that it had provided them with improved knowledge or understanding of domestic abuse to use in their practice. Since September 2020, 416 professionals completed the virtual online learning course. Stage one feedback has been obtained about the quality of the course with 94% of participants considering the course good or excellent. A rolling programme of follow up evaluations is in place to review the impact of the training on practice and improved outcomes for children. A fifth of professionals who have responded so far, have reported discussions they have had with their managers about the training and how this applies to their work. Overall, they describe how their knowledge, skills and confidence have increased and provide examples of how they have shared the learning with colleagues. Alongside evaluating our multi-agency learning and development, we have obtained assurance from individual agencies to make sure internal training programs address domestic abuse and have received evidence of progress being made.

4.52 A multi-agency audit of cases of domestic abuse is scheduled for June 2022 and we will be using the findings to help us update our domestic abuse procedures and the framework that we use to help professionals assess the complexities and way in which domestic abuse impacts on the children and victim adults in a family.

4.53 When the police attend a domestic abuse incident and a school age child lives in the household, in addition to following safeguarding processes, the officer will routinely notify the school where the child attends. Schools provided us with feedback about the *Stopping Domestic Abuse Together* notification process which led to changes and improvements being put in place. Schools have told us that the additional information in the notification has helped them understand what happened, think about the lived experience of the child and how best to support them. Briefings by the police and children's social care to designated safeguarding leads in all schools in Derby and Derbyshire will be delivered in the summer term to emphasise the updated processes and new guidance.

4.54 The Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership understands the significant impact and complexities arising from domestic abuse on children and adults in our community. We recognise that the effectiveness of our work to safeguard children affected by domestic abuse cannot be driven forward in isolation and that strong links are needed with the work of the two Safeguarding Adult Boards in our area and the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Abuse Governance Board.

4.55 The DDSCP therefore established a strategic lead for domestic abuse to ensure that the partnership achieves the effective coordination of arrangements to safeguard children. The strategic lead began reporting to the Executive Board in March 2022 demonstrating the key activity being carried out within our subgroups, the join up between our work and other strategic boards and the impact that coordinated activity is making.

4.56 In summary, early indications are that there is better quality oversight of the assessment of domestic abuse incidents by the police of serious and repeat cases. Schools are now able to immediately understand who has been involved in an incident in a child's home and have a better context to review how that child is in school. Whilst progress is evident, we wish to obtain an evaluation of the sustained impact of local changes to our arrangements to reduce the adverse impact of Domestic Abuse and family conflict and will retain this priority for the coming year.

(6a) Promote and improve the safety and welfare of babies

❖ Why we chose this priority

4.57 Local and national reviews have illustrated the vulnerability of babies. We wanted to make sure that the 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

4.58 During the year we carried out three rapid reviews to look into serious harm or the death of a baby as a result of abuse or neglect. In two of the cases there had been a failure to follow the *DDSCP guidance on bruising in babies*. A child safeguarding practice review was completed that looked into the lives of babies who lived in three separate families, so that we could scrutinise thematically what were the crucial aspects of learning for professionals working with vulnerable babies.

4.59 Learning arising from the child safeguarding practice review was incorporated within a safeguarding briefing for working with babies and a stakeholders' conference was held in July 2021 to promote the learning from the review and launch the *Keeping Babies Safe Strategy*.

4.60 The *Keeping Babies Safe Strategy*, supported by a strategic lead and a dedicated steering group, was put in place to bring together key learning from local reviews alongside learning from the Derbyshire Child Death Overview Panel themed report, reviewing sudden unexpected death in infancy to drive forward an action plan.

4.61 The strategic lead began reporting to the Executive Board in June 2021 demonstrating the key activity being carried out within our subgroups, the join up between our work, and the Keeping Babies Safe Steering Group and the impact that coordinated activity is making.

4.62 The *Keeping Babies Safe Strategy – Three Steps for Baby Safety* was published during the year as a foundation and blueprint for effective working across the partnership. Over 100 *Keeping Babies Safe Champions* have been trained across Derby and Derbyshire to act as a focal point for driving forward awareness of the vulnerability of babies in their organisations and teams. The champions meet for a network event twice a year and provide invaluable support to colleagues in many different settings and organisations.

4.63 The *Keeping Babies Safe Steering Group* has a comprehensive action plan taking forward improvements arising from the multi-agency case reviews, single agency audit and learning opportunities identified by the champions.

4.64 A new assessment tool for co-sleeping/bed sharing will be launched in October 2022 with families to enable quality conversations to be held about safer sleep and co-sleeping/bed sharing. This will encourage consistent messaging and allow practitioners and families to consider the risks for their babies. The child safeguarding practice review identified the need for an improved multi-agency approach to understanding vulnerability factors within families before and after the birth of a child.

4.65 The Keeping Babies Safe Steering Group has taken forward the development of an innovative framework for identifying risks and stressors within families alongside their strengths and support networks. The new toolkit is called *Every Baby Matters* and will incorporate a method for identifying vulnerabilities alongside guidance for professionals. The toolkit is planned to be tested with parents who will provide crucial feedback during the summer and is due for publication in the autumn of 2022.

4.66 Multi-agency audits of support for vulnerable babies were completed during the year to obtain assurance and measure progress. Learning from these audits was fed back to the Keeping Babies Safe Steering Group and further developments included in the action plan.

4.67 The DDSCP launched an e-learning course, *Protecting Babies from Harm*, in 2021 and 268 professionals have completed the course with consistent positive evaluations of the content. Feedback of the impact of the course has been of note from the Early Years sector. Professionals have reported an improved understanding of areas of concern (red flags) that they are now aware of, having improved confidence to talk to parents and obtain the information they need to identify vulnerabilities or concerns and consideration of what else may be occurring within the household - a “think family” approach.

4.68 Since April 2021, 165 professionals completed the virtual online learning course *Keeping Babies Safe*. Stage one feedback has been obtained about the quality of the course, with all of the participants considering the course good or excellent.

4.69 The DDSCP has made good progress completing nearly all the actions arising from the *Keeping Babies Safe Strategy* and updates on the different aspects of the strategy have been specifically reported to the Executive Board since June 2021. It has been particularly encouraging to have over 100 staff come forward to be trained as champions and the feedback from our training has begun to illustrate the impact on practice of the measures taken to emphasise the vulnerability of babies.

4.70 In summary, the DDSCP has yet to achieve full assurance regarding the consistent application of key practice guidance that sets out what action is to be taken if there are concerns about a suspicious mark on a non-mobile baby. Additional measures are being put in place to drive forward and obtain assurance that all key professionals and their managers are applying relevant learning and guidance. We will continue, therefore, to promote and improve the safety and welfare of babies as a priority in the coming year.

Additional areas of focus during 2021 – 2022

4.71 During the year the DDSCP wanted to strengthen our ability to review the effectiveness of our referral processes and assure the partnership that contacts to each local authority were appropriate and good quality. We held individual

workshops in each local authority area to review some example referral cases with partner agencies. Whilst this enabled some learning to be taken back focussing on individual cases, each local authority has continued to experience high levels of contacts that when looked into, did not always lead to action being taken as initially indicated. Examination of the cases and other audit information confirmed that appropriate threshold decisions were being routinely taken.

4.72 To improve our analysis, it has been agreed that each local authority will put in place a way of identifying a judgement about a contact that more clearly shows “no role for children’s services”. It is anticipated that this will enable us to be able to capture systemically the contacts that would be better directed to a more appropriate service. Feedback to the referrer will in turn support partner agencies to review the contacts they are making and drive further improvement. By reducing the overall volume of contacts and ensuring that those which are made are good quality and appropriate, local authorities will be supported to focus their capacity on progressing contacts where action is more appropriately needed.

DDSCP Priorities for 2022-2023

4.73 The Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership has agreed the following priorities for 2022-2023

- 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
- Promote and improve the safety and welfare of babies

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 out learning from reviews, completing the following during the last year:

- One serious case review has been published on the partnership website along with an update setting out the progress made to complete the multi-agency action plan. The publication of one review has been delayed due to Court proceedings
- Three child safeguarding practice reviews have been completed and will be published during 2022 following the conclusion of Court proceedings
- Two non-statutory learning reviews have been concluded.

5.2 We have taken forward the learning from these and other reviews and produced briefings that were shared alongside two stakeholder conferences held during the year, *Keeping Babies Safe* and *Safeguarding School Age Children*. A total

of 350 practitioners and managers, including designated safeguarding leads in schools, attended the stakeholder conferences.

5.3 The DDSCP has provided briefings for all schools on learning from reviews at the Designated Safeguarding Leads Forum meetings and this has helped us achieve direct communication with each school.

5.4 Practitioners, managers and family members have continued to provide key 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 have provided feedback directly to independent overview authors.

5.5 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 have been included in our quality assurance programme to help us “close the loop” on learning and focus our assurance activity on our key priorities as well as themes arising from reviews and previous audit.

5.6 A joint action planning subgroup coordinates the completion of case review action plans and ensures that associated activity to drive forward learning is effective across partnership subgroups. The DDSCP ensures that we continue to report on the good progress which has been made to obtain evidence of the impact on practice and outcomes for children when we publish the individual case review reports.

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 representing local communities are actively involved 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. Three young people have participated in the Exploitation and Vulnerable Young People subgroup meetings and during the year moved onto university and further their careers.

6.2 A *Participation Strategy* was developed during the year and will focus on driving forward change. A key element will be building on and joining up feedback children and young people provide across the partnership to ensure that a meaningful difference is made. For example, feedback from the i-vengers programme has told us about the experiences and views of children in primary schools about their safety online and the awareness of their parents. The annual survey of secondary schools in Derbyshire “My life, My View” has provided additional feedback about online safety. The feedback has helped contribute to the development of the *Child on Child Abuse Strategy*. Action will be taken over the coming year in participation with the education sector to promote awareness of what children and young people are telling us and make sure that measures are in place

so that there is good awareness of acceptable behaviour and confidence in being able to seek support.

6.3 During the previous year, children and young people had been telling their teachers and other school staff of the difficulties they were experiencing with their emotional wellbeing. The education sector identified difficulties they experienced finding the services that fitted for their individual pupils. The DDSCP has worked with our commissioners to put in place an emotional wellbeing and mental health pathway so that school-based staff could identify the most appropriate service at the right time. The pathway was launched at the beginning of 2022 with anecdotal feedback from schools indicating that this is working well, and a range of services used at an early stage of difficulty for the young person.

6.4 Case review activity over the year has included the participation of young people wherever possible. This has helped us provide a briefing about key issues across the education sector to strengthen arrangements for children who are missing school. Further guidance is being developed for implementation during 2022.

6.5 The DDSCP draws on available external assurance of local safeguarding arrangements. 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.

6.6 In March 2022, Ofsted carried out an inspection of Derby local authority children's services. Inspectors noted that children living in Derby City receive a consistently good and often outstanding response from services. This ensures that children have the right help and support when they need it. Inspectors noted that children's assessments are comprehensive and capture children's views and wishes and use family history to help identify risks and children's needs. Care leavers told inspectors that they value these relationships, and they described workers who have invested in getting to know them well and are responsive to their needs.

6.7 In Derby children's directorate, each service area has an identified a *Participation Champion*, who received one to one participation training from the Children and Young People's Participation Officer. The report *Evidence for Engaging Children, Young People and Parents/Carers in Decision Making* highlights an improvement in the number of instances of participation both within services and during consultation. 24 service areas submitted 206 pieces of evidence of children's participation, an improvement on previous years highlighting an increase in embedding participation across the council.

6.8 The children's directorate quality assurance team collates feedback from children, young people and parents who have attended children in need meetings. This feedback highlights

- most young people were spoken to before the meeting
- 87% of young people felt that they were able to talk in the meeting, and that they were listened to.
- two thirds of children reported knowing what happened after their meeting.

One young person reflected

"I feel happy because I was allowed to tell how I was feeling"

Feedback from service users:

"I would like to say what excellent work you have done with this family to achieve the outcome that has been reached. You have communicated brilliantly with all parties involved; you have kept me informed throughout. You have been very clear and thorough with the plans for these children every step of the way."

"Professionals highlighted the strong communication and effective network led by xxx throughout and praised her as a very strong Social Worker who has kept everyone in the loop. Parents also feedback their positive experience of working with the worker by them and by their children."

"I wanted to share the feedback from this review held recently. Parent of the children feedback how positive it has been to work with the worker and how he has helped their family, and this is recognized by the children as well."

6.9 Following their inspection in May 2021, Derbyshire police have 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. The force is currently recruiting four vulnerability trainers to support the ongoing delivery of vulnerability training across the organisation. Child neglect, safeguarding, exploitation and Voice of the Child are all key themes.

6.10 In October 2021 the Derbyshire Leaving Care Service was inspected. Inspectors have praised Derbyshire County Council's 'passionate and skilled' workforce for showing 'ambition and determination to secure the best outcomes' for young people leaving its care. An important part of the development of the service, since the council brought it back in-house in 2019, has been asking young people what they thought to help shape an effective service. In their report the Ofsted inspectors noted that:

- Young people leaving the council's care value the service and said workers are caring and supportive and they felt they could contact their worker when necessary
- Care leavers understand what the council is offering and the choices available to them
- Effective partnerships are improving health provision for young people including the possibility of free prescriptions and access to local and specialist services

- Accommodation needs are carefully considered so young people feel secure and their wishes around location are respected so they can maintain relationships with people who are important to them
- There is a clear focus on education, employment and training designed to help young people of all abilities choose the appropriate route to make the most of their opportunities when they leave care
- There has been a significant increase in successful apprenticeships and young people going to university since the council's last inspection
- The council's culture is 'not giving up on a young person' and this is embedded across the service

6.11 In October 2021, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission revisited Derby to carry out a joint area Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) inspection. Inspectors noted positive progress had been made with joint commissioning decision-making involving parents, carers and professionals working in education, health and social care. Further positive examples of joint commissioning include the Changing Lives service and mental health support teams in schools, as well as the Sensory Bus in the Park for families with children and young people with SEND who are electively home educated. This means that these children and young people and their families benefit from the availability and accessibility of services to better meet their holistic needs.

6.12 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. In addition, the My Life, My View survey enabled Derbyshire to identify geographical areas where more support might be required and those students who felt they experienced poorer outcomes, such as students with a disability or long-term illness, those who are young carers and students who identified themselves as LGBT.

61% of students in the 'My Life My View' survey responded that they are happy with their life as a whole.

6.13 Young people with SEND have co-produced the updated *Local Offer* website so that they and their families can find accessible information which is important to them and illustrate if their needs are being met where services are joint commissioned.

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. A joint child safeguarding practice review subgroup commenced meetings in November 2021 and this has provided improved joint oversight of learning from reviews and better challenge to drive forward improvement. This has enabled a strong evidence base supporting the development of the Keeping Babies Safe Strategy along with

scrutiny of the impact of practice. We have been able to further identify measures needed to achieve improvement where previous actions had not made the anticipated progress.

7.2 In May 2022 we will review the effectiveness of the joint Exploitation and Vulnerable Young People subgroup so that we are assured that the changes put in place last year are leading to improved arrangements.

7.3 In July 2022 Tameside and Glossop Clinical Commissioning Group will withdraw their involvement in the partnership and the Derby and Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group will take forward the development of the Derbyshire Integrated Care Board. The DDSCP governance document will be refreshed to take on board these changes and will explain the development of the Integrated Care System and the NHS Integrated Care Board as Derby and Derby Clinical Commissioning Group will cease to exist from the 1st July 2022.

Note

There is no secure establishment provision in Derby or Derbyshire.

A copy of the DDSCP Annual Report was submitted 20/10/2022 to the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and the What Works Centre for Children's Social Care and published on the DDSCP website.