

**WSCP
Annual
Report
2024-25**

**01 April 24 -
31 March 25**

Wakefield Safeguarding Children Partnership

Annual Report 2024-25

01 April 24 - 31 March 25



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Introduction

This report summarises, reflects on, and presents the work of Wakefield Safeguarding Children Partnership (WSCP) between 01 April 2024 and 31 March 2025. This covers the fifth full financial year of operation by WSCP since it replaced the previous Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) in September 2019. All details about the work the partnership produces is available on the WSCP website at www.wakefieldscp.org.uk.

The partnership is led by an Executive and supported by an Independent Scrutineer. The Executive is led by three statutory partners Wakefield District Metropolitan Council, NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board and West Yorkshire Police, each represented by a Delegated Safeguarding Partner. It is also contributed to by a small number of representatives: lead officers from key services in all three statutory partners, headteachers from primary, secondary, and special educational needs schools, the voluntary sector, and Public Health. WSCP is funded by the three statutory partners. Further details as to how the partnership operates can be viewed within the [Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements document](#).

This report focuses largely on the impact the partnership has achieved, analysing the work undertaken by the partnership’s Executive and five sub-groups, highlighting areas of strength and areas the partnership needs to focus on developing within the next year.

Lead Safeguarding Partners:



Tony Reeves

Chief Executive
Wakefield Metropolitan District Council



John Robins QPM DL

Chief Constable
West Yorkshire Police



Rob Webster

Chief Executive
West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board

Delegated Safeguarding Partners:



Vicky Schofield

Corporate Director
Children and Young People's Services
Wakefield Metropolitan District Council



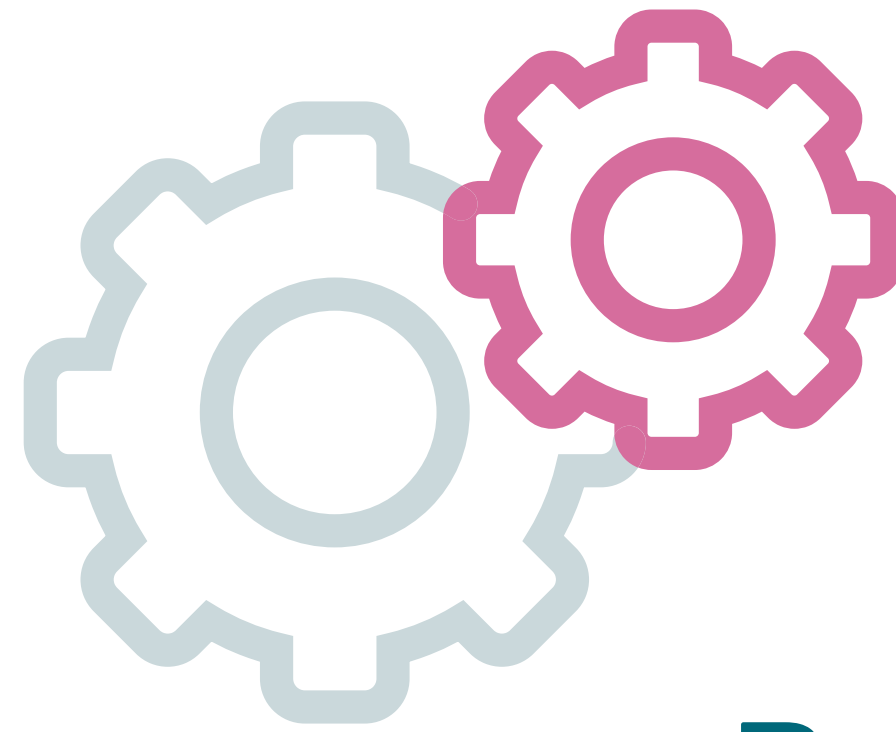
Stuart Bainbridge

Chief Superintendent
Wakefield District Commander
West Yorkshire Police



Penny McSorley

Director of Nursing and Quality
Wakefield District Health & Care Partnership
West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board



Partnership Structure and Governance

The partnership has an established structure which comprises of an Executive and five sub-groups. The sub-groups are the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Group (CSPRG), Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP), Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) Group, Learning and Development (L&D) Groups (split into a Strategic and Delivery Group), and the Safeguarding Effectiveness Group (SEG). The function of the Executive is to provide strategic oversight, scrutiny, and assurance of the work the partnership undertakes to ensure multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in Wakefield are effective. Each sub-group has specific responsibilities and identifies, discusses, develops, and delivers a range of multi-agency safeguarding information, resources, assurance, and learning opportunities which are as described within Figure 1 – Structure of WSCP.

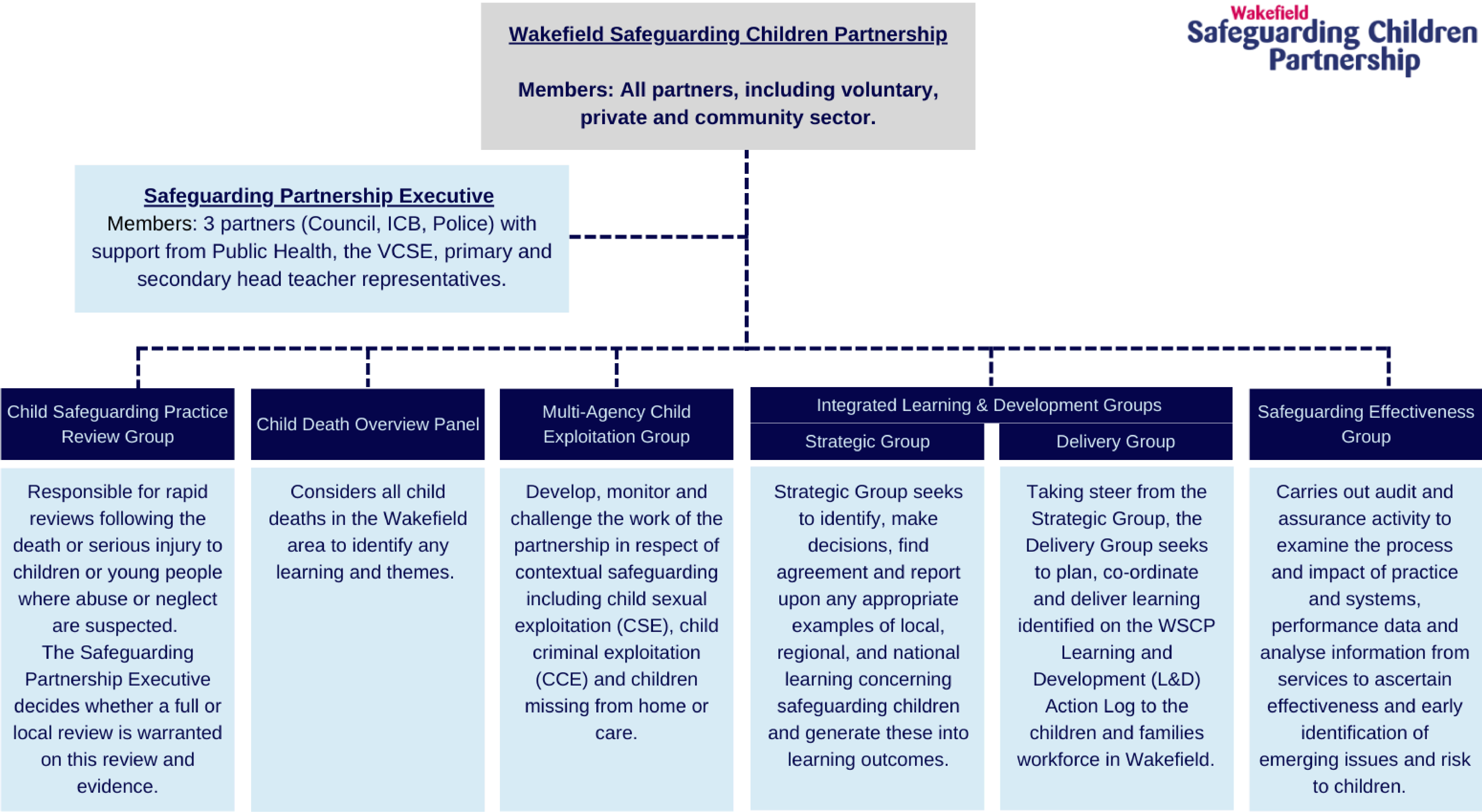
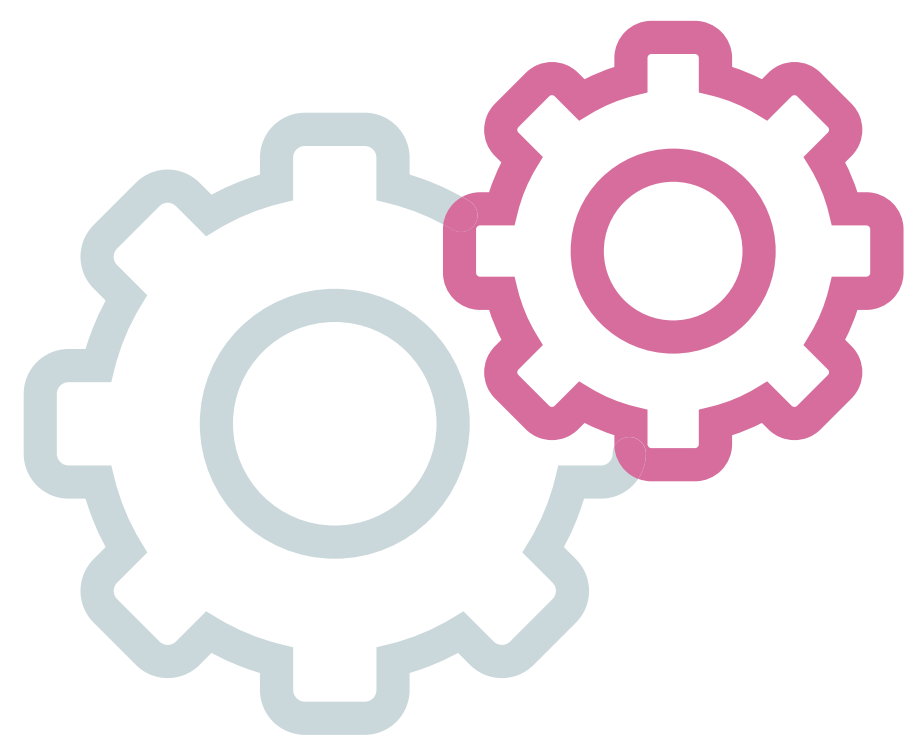


Figure 1 – Structure of WSCP



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WSCP is aligned to the wider system in the district and continues to contribute to the strategies and priorities from other strategic partnership and boards such as:

- Wakefield District Community Safety Partnership
- Health and Well-being Board
- Children and Young People’s Partnership Board

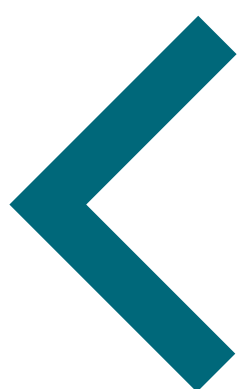
WSCP’s Delivery Plan, is aligned to the district wide Children and Young People’s Plan, 2022-25. The delivery plan contains 13 overarching priorities which the partnership has continued to focus on this year whilst accommodating any emerging areas of development. The 13 priorities are as follows:

1. Ensure enhanced recognition and response to neglect across the partnership is in place
2. Babies and infants are protected from sudden death due to unsafe sleep
3. Children are protected from non-accidental injury
4. Children who are at risk from self-harm including thoughts of suicide can be identified and offered timely support. This excludes children who have self-injurious behaviours in relation to neurodevelopmental needs
5. WSCP has robust scrupulous arrangements in place
6. Services who work with children have a proactive approach in identifying, preventing, disrupting, and stopping child exploitation
7. Children experiencing and/or displaying harmful sexual behaviour are supported by services who have the knowledge and expertise to provide support
8. Children have a lead role in shaping and contributing to a safeguarding agenda
9. Children who experience bullying feel able to report it and are supported by services
10. Safeguarding thresholds are well understood across the partnership workforce
11. High quality safeguarding learning and development offer is in place for frontline workforce across the partnership
12. Safeguarding information, resources and guidance is accessible for all services who work with children and families
13. Develop shared understanding and culture of trauma awareness across the partnership

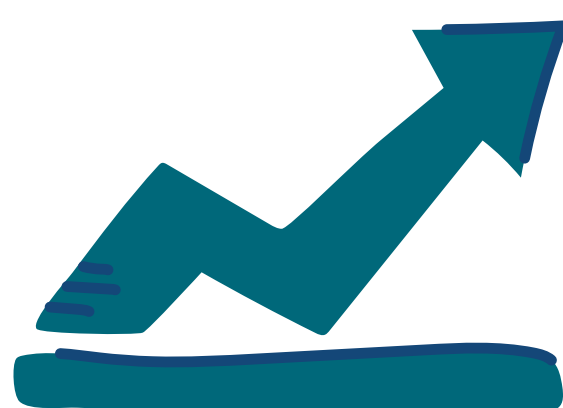
The progress made this year against the ‘Key Areas of Focus for 23-24’ as laid out in the [partnership’s previous Annual Report](#) is summarised below. Throughout the report further detail is provided on the overall work the partnership has undertaken during 2024-25.



Key Areas of Development
identified in 2023-24



Progress made in 2024-25



Ensure enhanced recognition and response
to neglect across the partnership is in place.

- The partnership’s [multi-agency neglect training](#) and [online neglect toolkit](#) is now fully embedded. Building on previous years, during 2024/25 there were 97 practitioners across four sessions who attended the training, along with the neglect toolkit being accessed over 3,900 times by over 500 people. Similarly to last year, this is highest attendance seen on training for recurring courses, and the highest viewed pages on the WSCP website for the reporting year
- Since the training and toolkit were rolled out in February 2023, there appears to have been positive impact in respect of enhancing the early recognition and response to neglect. Impact evaluation with the workforce (104 respondents) show:
 - 90% are aware of the neglect toolkit and 93% are aware or have attended the neglect training
 - Over 60% report to use the toolkit very frequently, frequently or occasionally
 - 96% shared feeling more informed and confident in identifying and responding to neglect by using the toolkit and having attended the training
 - Specific examples were provided as to how the toolkit was being used which included engaging parents to make positive changes, supporting a referral, giving advice and support as part of supervision, evidencing worries
- Whilst periods of acuity in respect of neglect remain, data within the reporting period shows a continued increase in children and families accessing earlier points of support in relation to neglect through Team Around a School, Family and Youth Hubs and Targeted Early Help

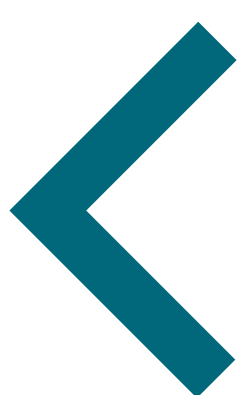
Babies and infants are protected from
sudden death due to unsafe sleep.

- The partnership has continued to invest significantly into the prevention of sudden deaths of babies due to unsafe sleep. This has included:
 - Further roll out of the Every Sleep is a Safer Sleep training across services and organisations who work and volunteer with children and their families
 - Reviewed several cases where there was use of unsafe sleeping equipment and notified the Coroner’s Office and the National Child Mortality Database (NCMD). This has led to the NCMD incorporating this into a national training, safety and engagement programme, coproducing a video with the Lullaby Trust and Royal College of Midwifery to be used in training with midwives to further support conversations with families about creating a safer sleep environment
 - Commissioned additional training on sudden death and unsafe sleep for anybody who works or volunteers with children and families via the [Lullaby Trust](#)
 - Continued to embed the [Wakefield Safer Sleep Standard](#)
 - Promotion of the [safeguarding babies and infants on the WSCP website](#)
- This work continues to have impact with there being no death of a baby suspected to have been caused by unsafe sleep since early 2022

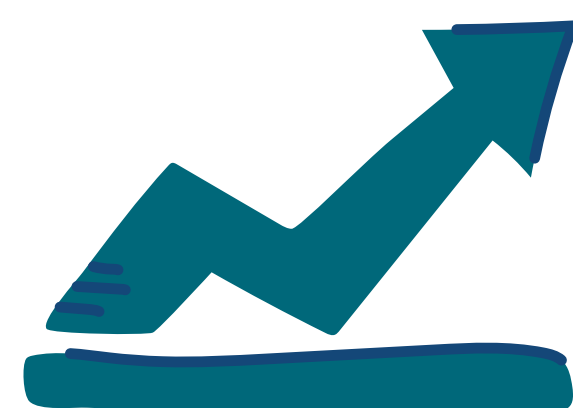
Children have a lead role in shaping and
contributing to a safeguarding agenda

- Taken a lead role in helping to produce the next Children and Young People’s District Plan for 2025-28. As part of the engagement phase over 400 young people’s views were captured on what it is like to live in the district, which included what being safe means to them and where further improvements can be made
- Sought to increase presence on social media to provide a platform to share safeguarding campaigns and information directly to children, this has included content on mental health, water safety and where to go to get help
- Inclusion of the voice of the child in serious youth violence and child exploitation multi-agency audits undertaken this year has been key and provided a valuable perspective as to how support provided from services has made a difference. Where there have been limitations in systems and practice highlighted in respect of the child’s voice, this has led to the partnership implementing recommendations which have arisen. Such as understanding a child’s lived experience and how this impacts on the take up of support and what adoptions to provision is required to enable better access
- Reported on the work WSCP is progressing in respect of its delivery plan which is directed from the ‘Our Safety’ priority within the Children and Young People’s District Plan to Build Our Futures. Through participating in Build Our Future Summits and West Yorkshire Youth Commission Events, along with attending the Youth Voice & Participation Steering Group, this has helped to raise the profile of the work WSCP has been undertaking. Furthermore, having a presence at these events has enabled relationships to be formed with children who make up those groups, providing opportunities for the work of the partnership to be appraised and opens up direct communication

Key Areas of Development identified in 2023-24



Progress made in 2024-25



Services who work with children have a proactive approach in identifying, preventing and disrupting child exploitation

- Further enhanced the [Speak Up, Stand Up, Stop Exploitation section on the WSCP website](#) by launching a dedicated section for local communities and business to help prevent identify, disrupt and stop child exploitation
- [The resource pack](#) provides guidance for banks, delivery drivers, hotels and caravan parks, public transport, retail, taxis and private hire vehicles and fast-food restaurants
- The Speak Up, Stand Up, Stop Exploitation resource was shortlisted by the Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Workforce award in recognition of how it has creatively supported frontline practitioners in making a difference to children and their families
- Key findings from the Impact Evaluation on the resource since it launched have shown:
 - 70% have accessed the hub since its launch
 - 52% use it very frequently or frequently, with 44% using it occasionally
 - 94% feel more confident in identifying child exploitation because of using the hub
 - 40% reported an increase in levels of knowledge of child exploitation after using the hub
 - 84% are very likely to recommend to others, with 16% likely to do so
- Wider developments in respect of the activity in preventing, identifying, disrupting and stopping child exploitation can be viewed under the MACE Group section on page 21

Safeguarding thresholds are well understood across the partnership workforce.

- There has been considerable work undertaken to target key referrers to the Integrated Front Door (IFD)/ Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) to support improved understanding of thresholds and alternative routes for information and advice. This has included:
 - Changes in how information requests are managed, so the number of safeguarding contacts can be seen more clearly
 - Triage work undertaken by West Yorkshire Police to increase the quality of police notifications which has resulted in a significant reduction in those contacts being No Further Actioned (NFA)
 - Regular audit activity has shown that where contacts are NFA they are done so appropriately and are screened for support to be provided at earlier points in the system
- In conjunction with this reduction, there has been a significant increase in children and families accessing support at earlier stages which has included support at Family and Youth Hubs across the district, children discussed at Team Around a School (TAS) meetings and children receiving Targeted Early Help support

High quality safeguarding learning and development offer is place for the frontline workforce across the partnership.

- During this reporting year, the partnership's learning and development offer has been able to evidence the sustained impact it has made across a range of examples. Amongst others, these include the multi-agency training offer in respect of neglect which has continued to be rolled out to the workforce across the partnership, alongside a number of bespoke child exploitation virtual learning exchanges, safeguarding and supporting children who are LGBTQIA+ and safeguarding in sport briefings. Some of the direct quotes as to the difference it has made to practitioners practice are included below:
 - "Further enhanced confidence and knowledge levels of staff in school to identify child exploitation at the earliest stage"
 - "The suggested questions, what to look out for, listen and check out have been really helpful and easy to apply in my role, especially when completing assessments with children and families and where progress has been limited"
 - "To further develop my skills of enquiry, using the prompts under the different sections when working with children and families"
 - "Used the guide as part of multi-agency work when trying to challenge disguised compliance with a parent"
- Quality assurance activity undertaken by services and partnership safeguarding reviews has been able to demonstrate aspects of the learning offers being seen within practice such as an increase in the use of the neglect toolkit and robustness in the use of professional curiosity and challenge

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Independent Scrutineer Yearly Summary

I have provided the statutory ‘Independent Scrutiny’ function for Wakefield Safeguarding Children Partnership since September 2019. This was the date at which the former LSCB (Local Safeguarding Children’s Board) was replaced by the current Partnership under ‘Working Together’ guidelines. This is my final annual report summary for the year April 2024–March 2025.

The partnership has worked on a three-year strategic planning cycle and the 2022-25 cycle is nearing conclusion. Thus, this is a timely moment for me to stand down as Independent Scrutineer, enabling my replacement to commence with their oversight and scrutiny of the forthcoming 2025–2028 refreshed delivery plan.

The partnership’s 2022–2025 delivery plan has been based on 13 priorities comprising of 44 actions. The fifth in the list of these priorities was:

“ Wakefield Safeguarding Children Partnership has robust scrupulous arrangements in place”

In my opinion the arrangements have become increasingly robust and scrupulous throughout my six year association with the partnership, and this is particularly the case in this 2024-25 year. Both the Executive and the five sub-groups have consistently maintained a strict record of agreed actions, each action log being transparently monitored through to completion in subsequent meetings.

I have attended the majority of sub- group and executive group meetings and read through the minutes of all meetings throughout and have been impressed with the conscientious tracking of each priority and its associated actions. It is no surprise therefore to note that these are now largely recorded as complete. In addition, the key statutory duties and influential activities required of all partnerships have been assiduously attended to as required and this final 2024–25 year is similarly consistent. These functions include:

- Section 11 audit
- School Health Survey
- Multi agency audit programme
- Single agency reports shared
- Rapid Reviews and Learning Circles as required
- Monitoring and maintenance of agreed core data set.

These functions form the basis of the partnership’s consistent good practice.

For all Safeguarding Partnership’s and their individual partners, the maintenance and management of the ‘threshold’ is an ongoing task. The partnership’s learning and Development offer continually refreshes and promotes understanding of the Children’s Social Care threshold enabling effective management of risk, promoting early help and ensuring that optimal use is made of officer assessment time. 2024-25 saw continued maintenance of this key function. The core data set reported throughout the year on the management of referrals, re-referrals, and no further actions (NFA). The growth of Early Help support and intervention in the District is in part due to the effectiveness of the threshold management.

A strong example of this was the work by the Police in 2024/25 to triage their own management of risk (Police Protection Notices) and reduce their contribution to unnecessary NFA outcomes. This work itself also represents a good example of individual agency audit that is transparently reported to the wider partnership via the Safeguarding Effectiveness Sub-group. NHS and voluntary organisations were also prepared to share their individual agency audits throughout the year.

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Although there are a range of safeguarding challenges for all partnerships that significantly impact a small number of children and young people by far the largest group of vulnerable children are those who experience neglect. Neglect is not a simple consistent challenge, many children experience a roller-coaster of poor parenting, followed by temporary periods of improvement and then are re-traumatised by subsequent deterioration. Neglect is often linked to domestic abuse, drug/alcohol misuse and or mental health issues amongst parents/carers. These all provide support services with significant challenges. Throughout this final year of the 2022 – 2025 plan the Partnership has maintained a determined focus on Neglect. There has been continual development of the Neglect Toolkit, increasing numbers of Neglect Champions across a range of agencies alongside comprehensive training and advice.

Measuring impact precisely is almost impossible but the core data set shows that increasing numbers of children and families experiencing neglect are identified at an earlier stage and are able to access early intervention services. Increasing success throughout 2024-2025 shows this area to be a strength of the partnership resulting from consistent and determined focus.

Throughout the year in the Scrutineer role I have attempted to maintain my challenge towards the most difficult aspects of children’s safeguarding. My focus has been directed towards the work where co-ordination of appropriate actions and verifying evidence of impact is most challenging. For example, encouraging professional challenge and curiosity, focusing on criminal and sexual exploitation, exploring non accidental injury and encouraging the voice and participation of children and young people. Action logs show sustained focus on all these most challenging areas across the subgroups.

During the year there were some concerns expressed in relation to staff confidence when supporting young people who were questioning their gender and the partnership responded sensitively providing targeted training and awareness through with a suitably experienced partner in Spectrum delivering the training. This is now embedded in the Learning and Development offer.

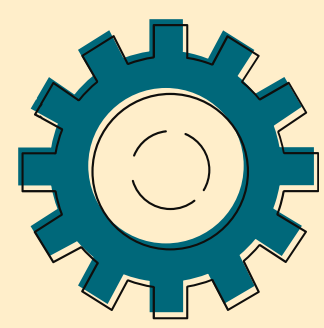
Similarly, the partnership responded to a safeguarding review with a proposal to introduce multi agency supervision in particularly complex cases, this proved a challenge and the partnership’s business unit continues to support agencies to adopt this approach via pilot activity.

Areas for future development have been prioritised by the executive using the intelligence it receives from all subgroups on a regular basis alongside recommendations from national reports. Examples include continual encouragement and engagement with GPs in safeguarding information sharing, maintained focus on children’s mental health, intra familial sexual abuse, educational neglect and transition to adulthood for vulnerable young people. The partnership plans to have a stronger focus on a smaller number of priorities for the 2025-28 plan and I have no doubt that these will be pursued as vigorously and successfully as the challenges of 2024-25 have been.



Stuart Smith O.B.E

Independent Scrutineer



Function of the
Executive

Has strategic oversight for all the work WSCP undertakes, having responsibility for driving the business and the development of the partnership forward through a delivery plan, ensuring compliance in having effective multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in place.

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Key Areas of Development



1

Overseen significant progress of the WSCP Delivery Plan 2022-25

1.1

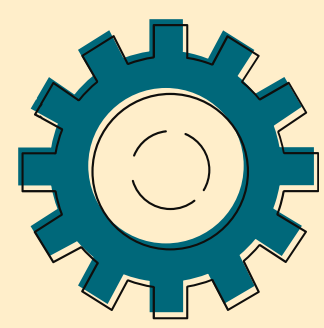
What impact has this made?



The work WSCP undertakes through this delivery plan is now nearing completion, with a further evidenced base being built as to the difference the partnership makes to the lives of children and families. Across the 13 priorities, there are 44 individual actions to which the majority (37) have a completed status and are either implementing or fully sustained in everyday practice. The remaining actions (seven) are ongoing. Key highlights which have been progressed via the delivery plan within this reporting year include:

- Roll out of ICON training programme to VCSE colleagues via Young Lives Consortium, which normalises infant crying in seeking to contribute to the reduction in abusive head trauma in babies. Since the launch of the ICON initiative in late 2020 there has been no serious incident notifications concerning Abusive Head Trauma. The continued education and awareness raising with services and the public, together with consistent messages given to new parents at the various ‘touchpoints’ has helped see the successful impact of this work
- Development and roll out of a safeguarding in sport offer, in conjunction with Yorkshire Sport Foundation has begun to strengthen relationships with local sports organisations and the partnership by providing a bespoke offer of support for those organisations in relation to the arrangements they need in place to promote children’s well-being
- Seen a reduction in the number of contacts to the Integrated Front Door which are No Further Action (NFA). In conjunction with this reduction, there has been a significant increase in children and families accessing support at earlier stages which has included support at Family and Youth Hubs across the district, children discussed at Team Around a School (TAS) meetings and children receiving Targeted Early Help support
- Proactive quality assurance in relation to Child Exploitation was undertaken to understand across a 6-month period if the partnership arrangements in place are effective in identifying risk at the earliest stage. The audit found:
 - The volume of children identified appears to be at the levels expected, with some need to undertake identification work with individual service areas
 - The systems in place to de-escalate risk generally appear to be effective
 - Some required strengthening as to how children who are assessed as low risk are monitored, and this being visible within records
 - The partnership needs to further enhance the data it receives in respect of exploitation, so it can provide more scrutiny in seeking assurance the arrangements in place are as effective as they can be
- The recommendations from the report continue to be overseen by the Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) Group with quarterly reporting to the Executive for assurance on progress





Function of the Executive

Has strategic oversight for all the work WSCP undertakes, having responsibility for driving the business and the development of the partnership forward through a delivery plan, ensuring compliance in having effective multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in place.

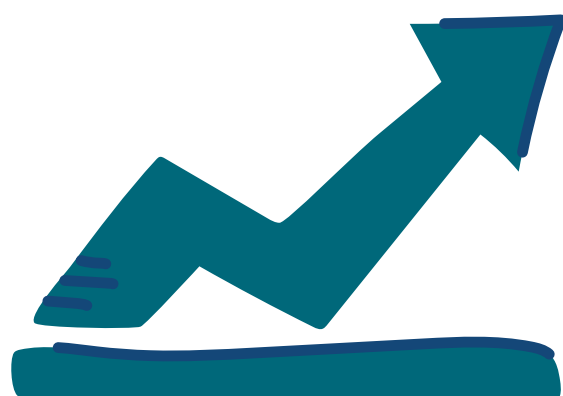
KEY STEPS
for 2025-26



Key Areas of Development



What impact has this made?



2

Reviewed and implemented updated multi-agency safeguarding arrangements as prescribed within Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023

2.1

Reviewed and published the partnership’s [Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements document](#).

2.2

Developed new arrangements to strengthen the linkage and visibility of WSCP to Chief Executives of the Local Authority and Integrated Care Board respectively, along with the Chief Constable of West Yorkshire Police via a yearly West Yorkshire Lead Safeguarding Partners meeting.

2.3

Strengthen the strategic link to education through appointing a Multi-Academy Trust Chief Executive Officer to the Executive with close working taking place with a wider Education & Inclusion Executive which consists of the additional trust leaders.

3

Continued to produce a multi-agency safeguarding data set which provides an overview of the vital signs of the child safeguarding system, generating analysis, and informing action for system and practice development

3.1

To help enable the Executive to determine if the safeguarding system is working well and to identify any issues at an early stage, the Partnership receives a performance report with a range of key performance of indicators (KPIs) some of which have targets linked to them. An analysis from each report is presented highlighting where targets have been achieved evidencing good performance, where there has been a change in data compared with previous months and any targets that have not been achieved against KPIs. Following discussion of performance, the Safeguarding Effectiveness Group is tasked to consider further action. Below is a summary of performance seen in 2024-2025.

- A high level of performance was sustained or improved across a range of KPIs:
- Rate of contacts which do not meet threshold for Children’s Social Care fell below the maximum target
 - Rate of referrals to Children’s Social Care remained below the maximum target
 - Referral decision making timeliness by Integrated Front Door
 - Re-referrals to Children’s Social Care
 - LADO allegation meetings and discussions held in timescale

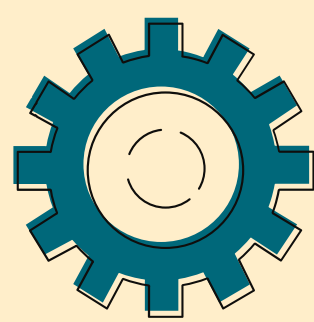
For the following KPIs there was generally good performance although the target was not achieved every month and for some performance fluctuated:

- Re-referrals to Children’s Social Care
- Completion of Section 47 Investigations within timescale
- Attendance at Strategy Discussion meetings by partners
- Initial Child Protection Conferences held in timescale
-

Observations / development still required across the following KPIs:

- Engagement of children in return home interviews

- Review the ongoing areas of the 2022-25 delivery plan, in preparation for launching a new partnership’s delivery plan for 2025-28
- Embed new arrangements based on the Families First Partnership Programme, whilst maintaining what is already working effectively locally



Function of the
CSPRG

Considers serious safeguarding incidents concerning children where abuse and/or neglect has been suspected to have caused or contributed to the incident, with a view to undertaking reviews to identify multi-agency learning to develop safeguarding systems and practice.

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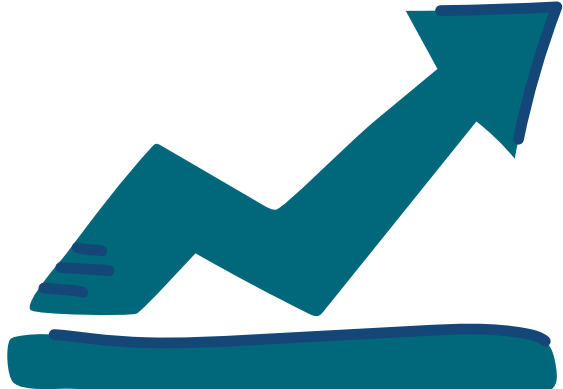
Key Areas of Focus for 2025-26

Key Areas of Development

- 1
- Undertaken one learning circle concerning children who were victims of domestic abuse in order to identify learning for multi-agency system and practice

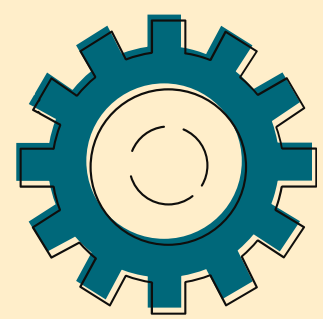


What impact has this made?



- 1.1
- The review concerned siblings who were victims of parental domestic abuse, along with being exposed to parental alcohol use and parental mental-ill health. The findings from the review identified specific learning for services along with wider action the partnership needs to take which is being implemented by WSCP through its sub-groups. Some of the actions remain in progress, with some being implemented. In summary these include:
- Across all domestic abuse training which services provide for their workforce, ensure it is explicit that parental separation is not to be viewed as a protective factor in reducing the risk of domestic abuse **(in progress)**
 - Refer to [the professional curiosity and challenge resources on the WSCP website](#) and consider the use of these within learning offers for respective workforces, with specific emphasis on the requirement to triangulate what is being shared by parents with at least two other services where possible **(in progress)**
 - Ensure workforces are aware of the [professional disagreement guidance and procedure](#) as a means to challenge decisions where there is disagreement **(implemented)**
 - Remind workforces on the need to include Vico Homes (previously Wakefield District Housing) in multi-agency assessment, planning and intervention **(implemented)**
 - Assurance from IFD that all previous contacts are considered within decision making rationale when a new contact is made into the service **(implemented)**
 - Seek assurance where domestic abuse between parents is present within a household, the lived experience of the children is understood effectively, and parent(s) who are perpetrating the abuse are appropriately challenged as to how their behaviour is impacting on the children **(in progress)**
 - When offers of non-statutory support is not consented to or consent is withdrawn by parents, ensure any risks posed to the children are reassessed to determine if there is a need to escalate support to statutory intervention **(in progress)**
 - Consider if strengthening can be undertaken to information management systems GP's use to communicate to each other where records require updating when the care for family is provided by more than one Practice **(implemented)**
 - Ensure the findings are considered as part of the ongoing development in supporting services with being creative and seeking to exhaust all options when attempting to engage with families where this is challenging **(in progress)**
 - Consider if there needs to be any multi-agency learning developed in respect of toxic trio (also known as trio of vulnerabilities) – where there is a co-presentation of domestic abuse, parental mental-ill health and parental substance and/or alcohol use within a household **(in progress)**





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Function of the CSPRG

Considers serious safeguarding incidents concerning children where abuse and/or neglect has been suspected to have caused or contributed to the incident, with a view to undertaking reviews to identify multi-agency learning to develop safeguarding systems and practice.

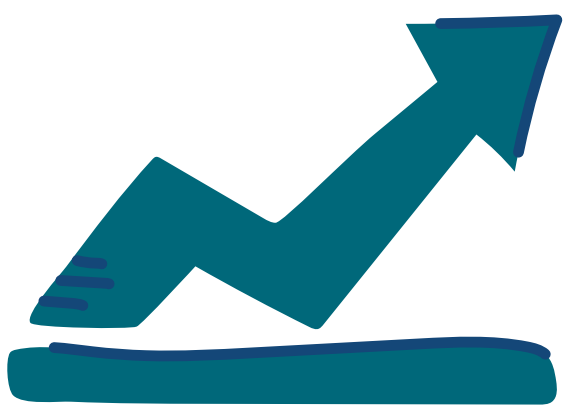
KEY STEPS for 2025-26



Key Areas of Development



What impact has this made?



2

Completed the implementation of the recommendations from two action plans generated from previous safeguarding reviews

2.1

In addition to the learning implemented from the review undertaken as listed above, further system and practice development has been achieved as a result of the completion of actions from previous safeguarding reviews which took place prior to this year, this includes:

- Holding strategy meetings at hospitals concerning non-accidental injury when it is determined to be appropriate to do so
- Partnership briefing on the different health services Mid Yorkshire Teaching Trust (MYTT) provide
- Strengthened safety plan communication between partners where family members are required to not attend a hospital ward
- Shared the findings of the review as a case study to emphasise the importance in using the assessment of non-mobile babies with injuries including bruises, burns and scalds protocol to counter any initial confirmation bias
- Developed a multi-agency learning offer in respect of recognising and responding to safeguarding need to children who have complex health needs
- Developed multi-agency group supervision to enable practitioners to jointly reflect on practice, on situations which feel complex and how services are working together to effect change

3

Reviewed and initiated local action in response to national thematic reports from the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (CSPRP)

3.1

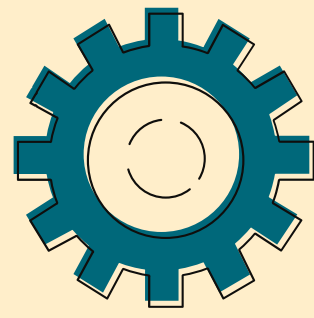
During the reporting year, on behalf of the partnership, the CSPRG has reviewed and ensured action has been initiated in response to the national reviews into child sexual abuse within the family environment and race, racism and safeguarding children respectively.

3.2

The work of the CSPRG has led to the Safeguarding Effectiveness Group (SEG) and Learning & Development Group to formulate action plans to undertake self-assessment, quality assurance activity, review culture, systems, policy, procedure, practice and assess whether gaps are present within workforce development offers. The work in respect of these two areas is ongoing through task and finish groups and will conclude in 2025-26.



- Maintain the oversight of learning identified from safeguarding practice reviews and ensure recommendations are implemented across safeguarding systems and practices
- Continue to respond accordingly to national safeguarding reviews and identify where local action is best placed to be undertaken from within

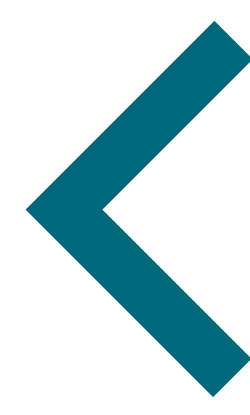


Function of the CDOP

Considers all child deaths in the district, reviewing information to analyse the circumstances, confirm cause of death, determine any contributing factors and identify learning arising which may prevent future child deaths.

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Key Areas of Development



1

Maintained a well-established CDOP

2

Using findings from CDOP to inform key campaigns and awareness

What impact has this made?



1.1

15 deaths of children (deaths occurred between 2018 to 2023) within the district were reviewed, with 14 reviews being closed across three respective CDOP meetings. It was determined in one death further information was required, pending the conclusion of a Health & Safety Executive (HSE) investigation into an industrial incident.

Of the 14 reviews which were closed (deaths occurred between 2018 to 2023), seven (50%) had one or more modifiable factors identified (deaths can have multiple modifiable factors). These included:

- Parental smoking, including in pregnancy (4)
- Parental substance misuse (4)
- Parental alcohol use (2)
- Housing needs issue (1)
- Vaping (1)
- Obesity (1)
- Non-accidental head injury (1)
- IV antibiotics not being administered timely enough after first being advised (1)
- Missed opportunity to identify possible non-accidental fracture (1)
- Non-attendance to an antenatal appointment (1)

1.2

Of the 14 reviews closed, 6 were unexpected and all the categories were:

- Perinatal / neonatal event (4)
- Acute medical or surgical condition (3)
- Chromosomal, genetic, and congenital anomalies (3)
- Chronic Medical Condition (1)
- Deliberately inflicted injury, abuse or neglect (1)
- Infection (1)
- Malignancy (1)

1.3

Identifying modifiable factors from a breadth of cases has enabled developments to be undertaken which is informed by need. Throughout the reporting year, CDOP undertook specific developments, which included recurring water safety and safer sleep campaigns respectively.

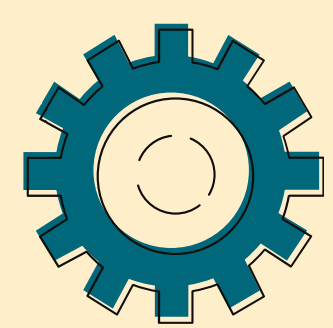
1.4

The median number of days between a child death and the CDOP review is currently 551 (was 565 in 23/24 and 555 in 2022/23). This has decreased slightly from last year; the national average has remained the same at 411 days (was 335 in 2022/23). CDOP continues to review five deaths per meeting, preferably in date order, however, some reviews remain for prolonged periods pending the conclusions of specific investigations.

2.1

The focus on water safety has continued throughout the reporting year, with regular promotion of safety information and awareness raising on the dangers of children entering open water. Given the pattern the district was experiencing in deaths occurring of children each year between 2019 – 2022, it is pleasing to report there have been no further open water related deaths of children since the launch of the Be Water Wise campaign and supporting resources available on the [WSCP Water Safety Page](#).

WSCP was invited by the National Child Mortality Database (NCMD) to provide an overview of the work that has been undertaken at a national Preventing Future Death Through Shared Learning Event in November 2024. In addition, this information was developed into an overview which was presented at the November 2024 Association of the Directors of Public Health Yorkshire and Humber Sector Led Improvement Day.



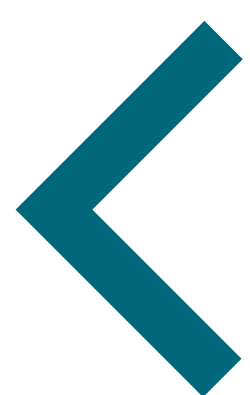
Function of the CDOP

Considers all child deaths in the district, reviewing information to analyse the circumstances, confirm cause of death, determine any contributing factors and identify learning arising which may prevent future child deaths.

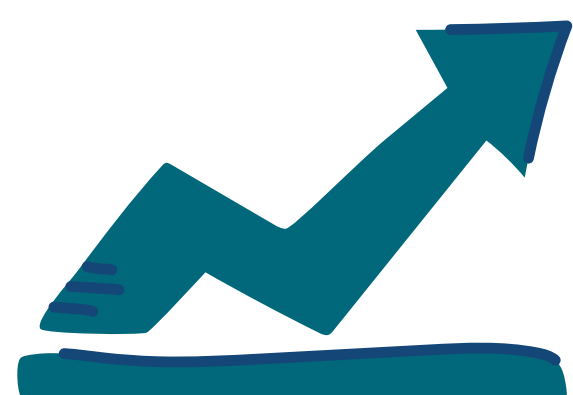
KEY STEPS
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Key Areas of Development



What impact has this made?



2.2

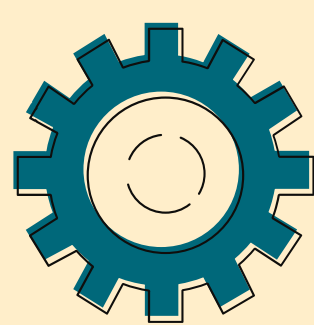
Key links were made during the year to improve and understand safety information. This information has been shared across the district, which has included correspondence with the British Cycling Association.

2.3

Consideration has been given at CDOP meetings to the impact on panel members health and wellbeing and how this can be further supported moving forward. This has led to the production of several documents being produced to confirm roles and responsibilities, in addition a review of the invitation and attendance list has been undertaken with a clear rational as to the membership. Panel members have reported that the information provided has been beneficial to support their understanding. Going forward this documentation will be shared with any new members joining the CDOP. It has been confirmed that most panel members have specialist support available from within their own organisations to support emotional health and wellbeing. Public Health teams are exploring what support can be made available to Public Health colleagues working across CDOP, Domestic Homicide, Suicide and Drug and Alcohol to reduce the impact of vicarious trauma.



- Multi-agency learning from child deaths to continue to be adopted on actions plans and where appropriate stepped across to the WSCP Learning & Development sub-group to action
- Continue to monitor the work CDOP has driven in respect of safer sleep and water safety to ascertain the impact achieved
- Continue to review all deaths which have an open status to CDOP to ensure there is no undue delay in progressing to panel
- Enhance standalone CDOP Annual Report by providing a greater data analysis across a broader period to identify trends
- CDOP Development Day to support system and workforce wide development



Function of the MACE Group

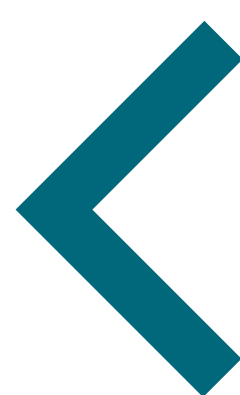
Develops, implements, and monitors the Wakefield MACE Action Plan to ensure there is a co-ordinated multi-agency response to child exploitation and assessment of risk posed outside the home.

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Key Areas of Development

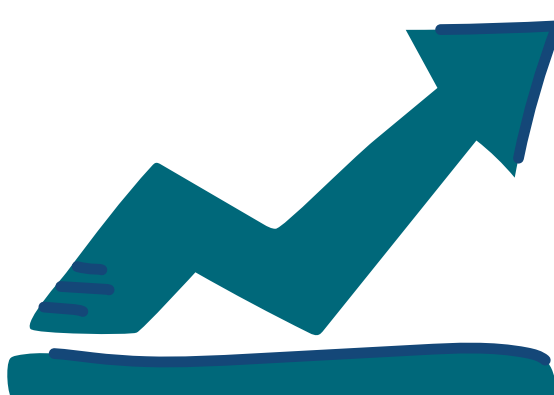


1 Created a series of bite sized multi-agency Learning Exchange offers in respect of different types and areas associated with exploitation

2 Facilitated by the Children’s Society, undertook a reflective self-assessment of its current practice and arrangements in respect of the disruption of child exploitation

3 Roll out of The Vulnerability Action Tracker (VAT) to partner organisations

What impact has this made?



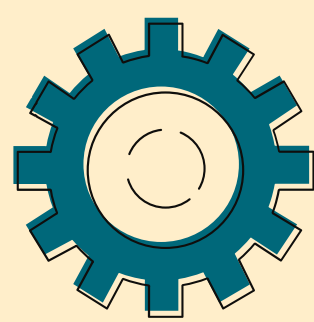
- 1.1 The learning exchanges delivered since launching in June 2024 included respective virtual sessions on [Serious Youth Violence](#), the [National Referral Mechanism, Intelligence Sharing](#), Financially Motivated Sexual Extortion, and a conference on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking.
- 1.2 Collectively the sessions have seen over 470 practitioners access the learning, and evaluation from the sessions have shown:
- **Serious Youth Violence Learning Exchange** was given an overall average score of 92% for the session, 98% said it met expectations with positive feedback for the case studies and lived experience sections as well as the array of excellent speakers in the session.
 - **Information to Intelligence Learning Exchange** when asked what their knowledge was before the session, 51.4% of attendees said they scored 6 or less out of 10. 97.4% scored their knowledge at 7 or more out of 10 AFTER the session, 47.8% of which had scored themselves at 9 out of 10
 - **Financially Motivated Sexual Extortion Learning Exchange** 85% said they felt confident that they could implement learning from the session into practice. 92% said they then intended to make necessary changes to their practice to reflect the learning from the session

For individual evaluations for the sessions please see the breakdowns [here](#).

- 2.1 The self-assessment led to the MACE initiating a Disrupting Exploitation Working Group which has undertaken the following:
- Reviewed the findings of the disruption self-assessment and identify priority areas of focus and outputs
 - Developed an action plan focussing on key areas of focus from the assessment under training and knowledge, expertise and support, recording and monitoring and continuous improvement and review
 - Undertaken a survey across the partnership to identify the current levels of knowledge and understanding in respect of disruption activity and available tactics
 - Identified gaps in knowledge and identified appropriate training on disruption to ensure the partnership workforce is suitably informed and equipped to respond

- 3.1 The roll out of the Vulnerability Action Tracker (VAT) across partner organisations has enabled direct access to current information, intelligence and analysis to identify trends to inform proactive responses to individual children, perpetrators and areas within the district.

- Continue with the schedule of bite-sized multi-agency Learning Exchange offers in respect of the different types and areas associated with child exploitation
- Enhance the child exploitation data set to measure the impact of intervention delivered in preventing, identifying, disrupting and stopping child exploitation
- Continue to run regular quality assurance on the effectiveness of child exploitation arrangements in order keep pace to respond to the ever-changing ways children face risk and vulnerability
- Create new sections of the Speak Up, Stand Up, Stop Exploitation for parents and carers, and children respectively



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Key Areas of Focus for 2025-26

Function of the Strategic and Delivery L&D Group

Responsible for responding to the multi-agency safeguarding learning and development of needs of the children and families workforce by developing, coordinating and delivering learning opportunities such as multi-agency training, conferences, masterclasses and safeguarding resources.

Key Areas of Development



1

Delivered a wide range of multi-agency learning and development for the workforce across the partnership

1.1

Across the year, over 900 practitioners from the workforce across the partnership accessed a range of learning which included:

- Working Together to Safeguarding Children – A Shared Responsibility training
- Managing Allegations Against Those Who Work or Volunteer with Children training
- Multi-Agency Neglect training
- UK Safer Internet Centre Online Safety Live 2025
- Young Gamers and Gamblers Education Trust (YGAM) – Gaming and Gambling Harms training
- National Centre for Domestic Abuse (NCDV) – Civil Orders training
- Every Sleep is a Safer Sleep training
- Reducing Parental Conflict training
- Safeguarding Week Masterclass – Serious Youth Violence
- Impact of Parental Illness on Children
- Supporting and Safeguarding Children who are LGBTQIA+
- Safeguarding in Sport Information session
- Safeguarding Welfare in Sport session
- Child Exploitation Learning Exchanges on National Referral Mechanism, Intelligence Sharing, Financially Motivated Sexual Extortion, and Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

Evaluation feedback drew parallels with the previous year in reporting most attendees highly rated the quality and relevance of learning with over 90% of saying their skills and knowledge had improved as a result of the training they received.

- Some of the more specific evaluation reports can be found on the links below:
- [Safeguarding Week – Serious Youth Violence 2024 evaluation](#)
 - [Multi-Agency Neglect training 2024 evaluation](#)
 - [Professional Curiosity & Challenge Learning Briefing](#)
 - [Information to Intelligence Learning Exchange](#)
 - [Financially Motivated Sexual Extortion Learning Exchange](#)

2

Progressed the development of new multi-agency learning and development offers

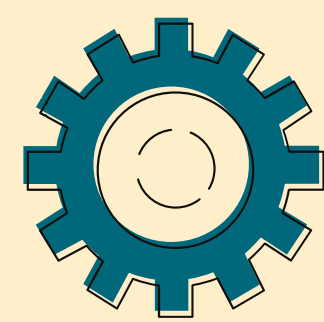
2.1

Given the work undertaken in previous years in establishing and embedding multi-agency learning offers in respect of neglect, professional curiosity, child exploitation and safer sleep, during this reporting period focus was applied to broadening the wider offer. Learning offers developed this year, some of which continue to be in progress include:

- **Best Practice in Building Trusting Relationships within Children & Families:** Research in Practice delivered a one-day workshop to 16 multi agency practitioners within the Wakefield District. 86% rated the session as either good or very good and further work has since continued to distribute learning from the session via a task and finish group
- **Focus on Working with Men:** Research in Practice delivered a one-day workshop to 18 multi agency practitioners within the Wakefield District.100% rated this session as very good. This workshop was proceeded with a task a finish group which was set up to determine how to best disseminate the learning from the session. This task and finish group amalgamated with an existing group run by Public Health and has since developed bespoke face to face training which is due to be delivered throughout this next year



What impact has this made?



Function of the
Strategic and
Delivery L&D Group

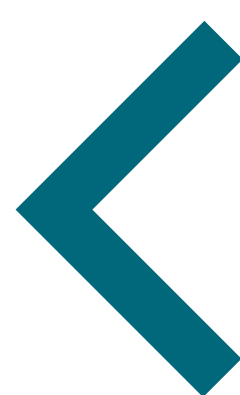
Responsible for responding to the multi-agency safeguarding learning and development of needs of the children and families workforce by developing, coordinating and delivering learning opportunities such as multi-agency training, conferences, masterclasses and safeguarding resources.

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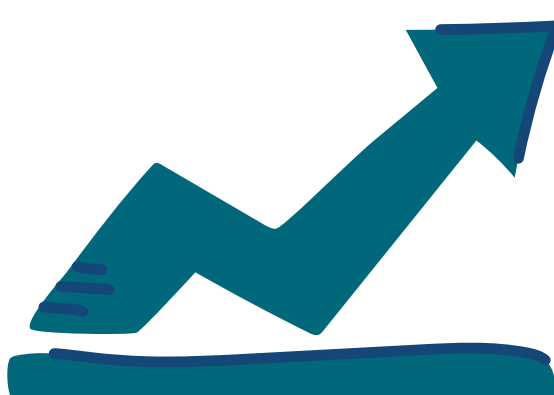
Strategic and
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Key Areas of Development



What impact has this made?



- **Supporting and Safeguarding Children who are LGBTQIA+:** WSCP worked alongside Spectrum Health to provide a single point of access for supporting and safeguarding children who are LGBTQIA+ through developing a dedicated resource for practitioners via the [WSCP website LGBTQIA+ page](#). Spectrum have delivered a training offer via a series of multi-agency workshops for practitioners in supporting their practice when working or volunteering with children who are LGBTQIA+ which have been recorded and continues to be accessed by practitioners.

3

Continued to publish a range of safeguarding resources including One Minute Guides, 7-Point Briefings, videos providing easy to access information across a variety of safeguarding topics

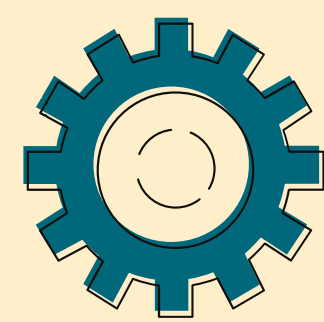
3.1

Across the year, activity regarding the partnership’s learning resources has continued to progress strongly, in seeking to make safeguarding inclusive and accessible for all.

One Minutes Guides in 24/25 have been published on alcohol, illicit drug use, safeguarding in sport, SMART safety plan, sudden unexpected death in childhood.

7-Point Briefings have provided key headlines on two safeguarding reviews concerning a child with complex health needs and siblings respectively. The key information detailed within the briefings enables findings in relation to learning to be disseminated to frontline practitioners in a more concise and proportionate manner as opposed to lengthy reports.





Function of the
Strategic and
Delivery L&D Group

Responsible for responding to the multi-agency safeguarding learning and development of needs of the children and families workforce by developing, coordinating and delivering learning opportunities such as multi-agency training, conferences, masterclasses and safeguarding resources.

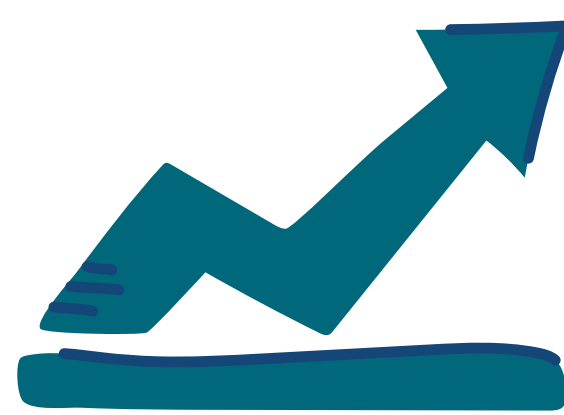
KEY STEPS
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What impact has this made?



4

Rolled out Impact Evaluation schedule across multi-agency learning and development offers to help articulate the difference being made.

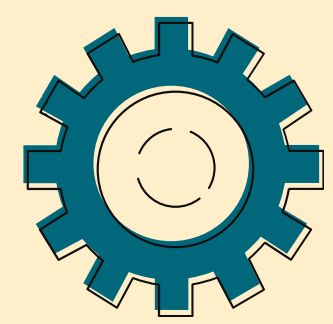
4.1

The partnership has continued to focus on the work it produces is making a difference, which has included seeking how it can measure the medium to longer term impact of its learning and development offers. Impact Evaluation via Microsoft Forms has provided a means to understand from practitioners how the learning they've accessed has been sustained within their practice in the following 3 – 12 months.

4.2

- Impact evaluations during this reporting year have included:
- **Multi-agency neglect training / Neglect Toolkit (104 respondents):**
 - 90% are aware of the neglect toolkit and 93% are aware or have attended the neglect training
 - Over 60% report to use the toolkit very frequently, frequently or occasionally
 - 96% shared feeling more informed and confident in identifying and responding to neglect by using the toolkit and having attended the training
 - Specific examples were provided as to how the toolkit was being used which included engaging parents to make positive changes, supporting a referral, giving advice and support as part of supervision, evidencing worries
 - **Professional Curiosity & Challenge Learning Briefing and Video (63 respondents):**
 - 82% use the learning briefing and video on a frequent or occasional basis
 - 91% reported a significant or slight improvement of knowledge on professional curiosity after using the using resources
 - The learning briefing, video and supporting resources have been accessed over 1,400 times by 400 practitioners
 - The use of the learning briefing and video have been evidenced within multi-agency auditing
 - **Speak Up, Stand Up, Stop Exploitation Knowledge Hub Section / Child Exploitation Learning Exchanges (90 respondents):**
 - 70% have accessed the hub since its launch
 - 52% use it very frequently or frequently, with 44% using it occasionally
 - 94% feel more confident in identifying child exploitation because of using the hub
 - 40% reported an increase in levels of knowledge of child exploitation after using the hub
 - 84% are very likely to recommend to others, with 16% likely to do so

- Continue to develop offers and resources of bite sized learning alongside face-to-face training, which are needs led and primarily informed by multi-agency quality assurance and safeguarding review activity
- Implement ongoing learning offers in respect of Best Practice in Building Trusting Relationships within Children & Families and Focus on Working with Men
- Develop a range of resources on the WSCP website to complement a new multi-agency training offer on safeguarding children with SEND



Function of the SEG

Oversees the multi-agency effectiveness of the partnership and individual services work in relation to safeguarding children through data analysis, assurance activity and procedure.

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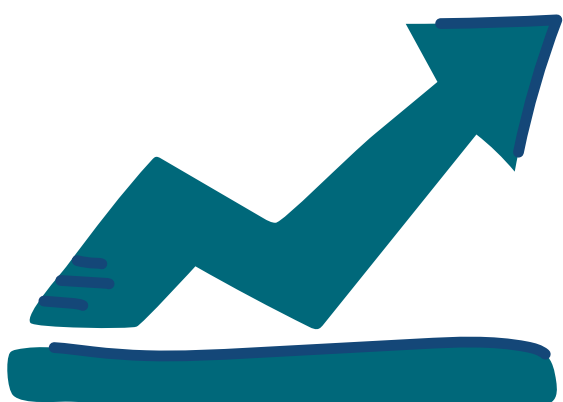


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Key Areas of Development



What impact has this made?



1

Undertook multi-agency assurance activity in relation to Serious Youth Violence.

1.1

Learning identified as result of the multi-agency audit which is overseen by the Safeguarding Effectiveness Group includes:

- Ensuring a strong multi-agency response where a child is a victim or suspected of being involved in a serious violent offence and captured within strategy meetings
- Strengthening engagement with GPs at an early stage and proactive tasking of information relating to children involved in serious youth violence to provide effective support around their health and wellbeing
- Recognition and effective response to likely early childhood trauma for children who commit a serious violent offence and ensuring staff are equipped to respond in a trauma informed way
- Improved information sharing in respect of police bail conditions with education settings for a child to allow for appropriate support and management of risk
- Continued promotion of best practice and approaches in respect of working effectively with fathers and male carers

2

Overseen development and piloting of a Multi-Agency Supervision Guidance and Process for implementation across the partnership.

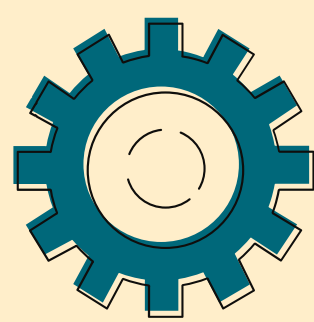
2.1

The development of a Multi-Agency Supervision guidance has provided a framework and an approach for multi-agency partners to come together to reflect in a safe space for learning and to fully analyse all information about a child and family where there may be complexities.

The pilot session enabled the partnership to formulate and agree the criteria and process for undertaking a multi-agency supervision session and test the effectiveness of this prior to full roll out in 2025-26.



- Continued assurance activity to include the current JTAI theme on Domestic Abuse and upcoming theme Child Sexual Abuse
- Once finalised, roll out the faith-based safeguarding guidance and self-assessment tool for Faith Based organisations
- Undertake the biennial Section 11 audit
- Update the assessment of non-mobile babies with injuries including bruises, burns and scalds protocol, with a view to extending this beyond non-mobile babies to include all children in the context of accumulation of injury



Function of the
Safeguarding Advisor
for Education

Provides safeguarding
advice, support, and training
to all schools and colleges in
the Wakefield district.

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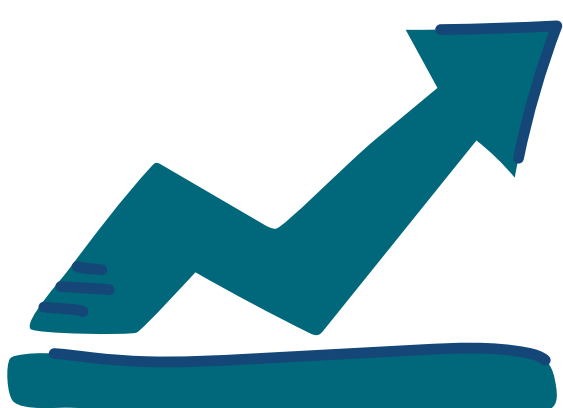
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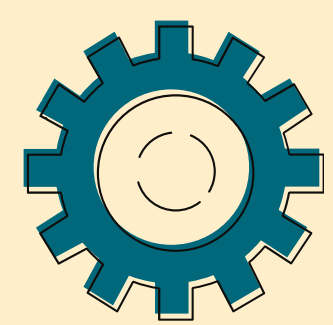
- 1
- Maintained delivery of an extensive range of high-quality safeguarding education training in schools and colleges:
- Safeguarding Basic Awareness Refresher – 35 schools
 - Safer Working Practice – 50 schools
 - Strategic Governor – 12 sessions
 - Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) – 23 sessions
 - Internal DSL – 2 sessions
 - Headteacher induction to Safeguarding in Wakefield District

- 2
- Continued to deliver a wider safeguarding support offer for all schools and colleges in the districts, which includes stand alone [safeguarding school and college section on the WSCP website](#), free to access safeguarding template policy, school and college safeguarding audit and key policy updates with a focus on Harmful Sexual Behaviour

What impact has this made?



- 1.1
- Regular feedback of the training has been extremely positive, this has included ... “ The training is extremely useful and beneficial. Whenever a DSL attends updates are shared and staff feel the training is excellent” ...“ The training is always so comprehensive, helpful and provides DSLs with the tools and knowledge to work effectively as a team”...“ Has really helped us handle sexualised behaviour more effectively”.
- 1.2
- Further demonstrating the quality of the training and support provided to schools and settings in the district, has been the continued requests for out of area delivery.
- 1.3
- Evaluations 3 to 6 months post training delivery demonstrated the impact the training has had. 92% of attendees stated the training was extremely useful to their roles. In many examples, as a result of the DSL training, staff were checking policies, updating procedures and adding current topics and questions to the safeguarding assurance compliance tests they have in place for all staff. One commented that the training increased their confidence in dealing with exploitation cases, another commented that concerns about supply staff could be quickly and correctly managed as a result of the knowledge acquired on training.
- 2.1
- Schools and colleges accessed an updated safeguarding policy and templates ensuring consistency in the quality of guidance schools and colleges follow in respect of safeguarding children and local service information for Wakefield.
- 2.2
- All schools and colleges in the district completed the school safeguarding audit. Schools commented on the value in being able to self-assess themselves against the audit, which draws from national and local guidance, to ensure they have all appropriate arrangements in place to safeguard children. Once submitted schools and colleges received feedback from the Safeguarding Education Advisor and appropriate guidance on how to develop areas requiring strengthening. Assurance has been further sought during the year in undertaking follow up visits with selected schools where evidence has been provided as to how they have self-assessed themselves against the compliance factors.
- 2.3
- Delivered six half termly DSL Forums, which continued to provide a range of safeguarding topic tops ups from local and national experts, including annual UK Safer Internet Centre session, NSPCC, Papyrus and Zarach bed poverty support. Followed by a DSL opinion form sent to all schools every half term which collects general themes of what’s working well and what can be improved.
- 2.4
- Delivered six face to face DSL peer support meetings for DSLs in secondary schools, colleges and independent schools in the district.
- 2.5
- Provided a Governor podcast talking to the role of Governors in strategically overseeing safeguarding within their schools.



**Function of the
Safeguarding Advisor
for Education**

Provides safeguarding
advice, support, and training
to all schools and colleges in
the Wakefield district.

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**Safeguarding
Advisor for
Education**

- Communication and Engagement
- Key Areas of Focus for 2025-26

- 2.4
- Supported schools and colleges in multi-agency audit activity, and provided representation of education on WSCP sub-groups feeding back to schools via the DSL Forums so ensure two-way communication is effectively maintained.
- 2.5
- Involvement in multi-agency quality assurance and safeguarding review activity with direct feedback to schools and education settings where required, alongside representation at multi-agency sub-groups helping to ensure the link with the partnership and education is strong. Created a specific template for schools when contributing to safeguarding reviews which has led to better quality information and analysis being received.



- Continue to support schools in line with changing national and local guidance for education
- Continue to engage effectively and at scale with all DSLs, local and national experts via the DSL Forums and peer support face to face meetings
- Serious incident planning for Education event to cover lockdown, invacuation, knife crime, Martyn’s Law and cybersecurity
- Further develop relationship with new Safeguarding Advisor for Education for Maintained schools, which will provide additional operational capacity to support maintained schools

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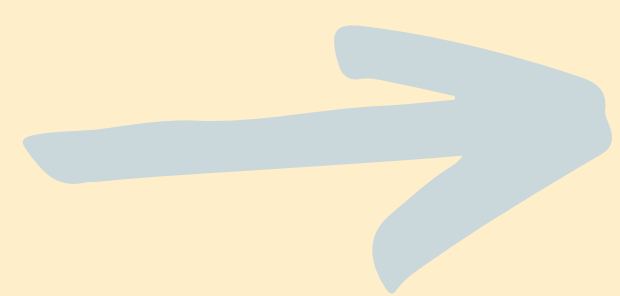
Communication and Engagement

Key Areas of Focus for 2025-26



WSCP WEBSITE

WSCP has continued to effectively communicate the work the partnership undertakes. This year seen several key developments in the partnership’s communication and engagement



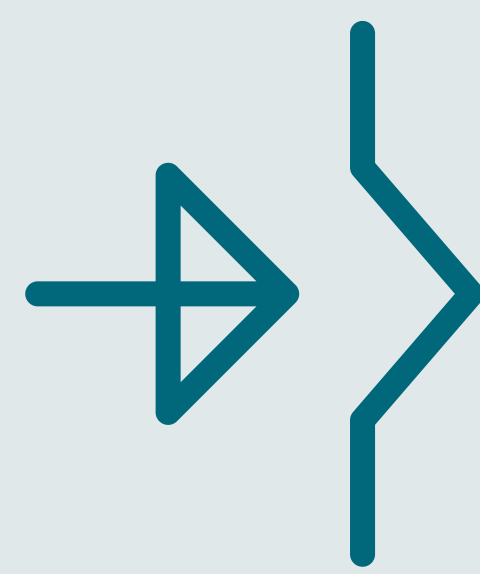
Overview of what has been achieved

During 2024/25 the [WSCP website](#) has continued to be the primary function as to how the partnership communicates all of the work it produces and where those who work or volunteer with children and families visit to access safeguarding children resource, training and information.

A key undertaking this year has the development of the local communities and business pages and resources as part of the [Speak Up, Stand Up, Stop Exploitation section on the WSCP Knowledge Hub](#).

During the year other pages have been added, including:

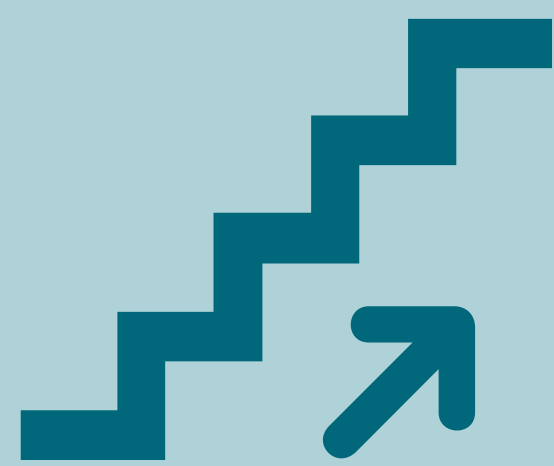
- [Safeguarding in Sport – Sports Clubs / Organisations](#)
- [Safeguarding in Sport – Parents & Carers](#)
- Reviewed and created new bite-sized resource pages including:
 - [Adversity, Trauma & Resilience](#)
 - [Domestic Abuse](#)
 - [LGBTQIA+ children](#)
 - [Neglect](#)
 - [Relationships Matter](#)
 - [Safeguarding Babies and Infants](#)
 - [Safeguarding in Sport](#)
 - [Understanding Sexual Behaviours](#)
 - [Water Safety](#)
- [New Starter Toolkit](#)
- [WSCP Evaluation Reports](#)



The impact of the website

From the website analytics overall user engagement has remained strong. Below is a summary breakdown:

- 78,630 total amount of page views across the year, by 7,546 people, nearly 75% of those were returning visitors, with 25% being recorded as people who have first visited the site
- Similar to last year, the home page (26%), training section (24%), worried about a child (10%), resources section (6%) and schools section (7%) were the top five pages visited. The remaining 27% was in the main made up of visits to safeguarding topic pages which consisted of the neglect toolkit, Speak Up, Stand Up, Stop Exploitation, water safety, and understanding sexual behaviours



Key steps for 2025-26

- Create new sections of the Speak Up, Stand Up, Stop Exploitation section on the WSCP Knowledge Hub for parents and carers, and children respectively
- Review the current content, with a view to continuing reindexing some sections and pages to ensure despite the volume of information, the website remains easy to access and navigate

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Communication and Engagement

Key Areas of Focus for 2025-26



WSCP Social Media



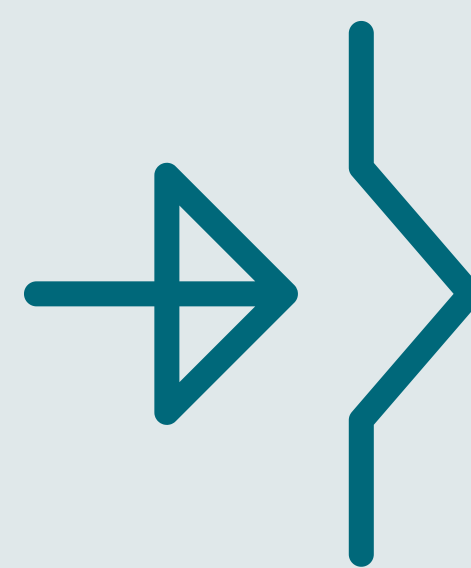
Overview of what has been achieved

WSCP’s X (formerly Twitter) account - [@Wakefield_scp](#) provides regular safeguarding children updates on local and national developments, resources, initiatives, policy, and guidance.

The account is nearing 650 followers (increase of 43 followers since last year) and continues to grow. Followers predominately consist of practitioners and services who work or volunteer with children and families. WSCP’s feed is used to provide important information such as updates to policies and procedures, promotion of learning events and links to new safeguarding information and resources.

WSCP’s Instagram account - [@_keepyamatesafe_](#) has continued to build a presence focusing on sharing awareness raising of safeguarding topics direct to children as part of the partnership’s campaign. It currently has 89 followers, which is a steady increase on last year’s figure.

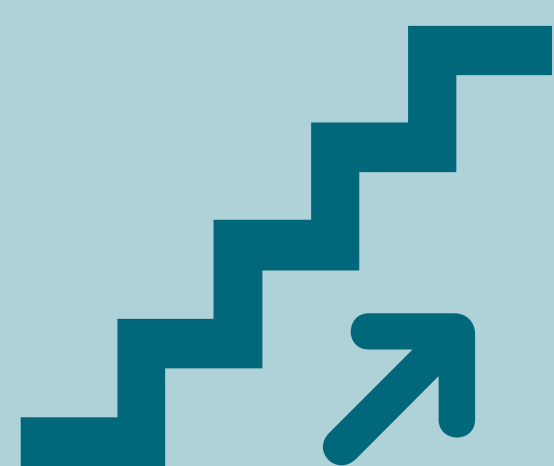
This year a [WSCP LinkedIn account](#) was launched and has been well received, having a following of 205 and 198 connections. Similarly to X, LinkedIn has provided an additional medium to share information directly with those who work or volunteer with children and families.



The impact of social media activity

Changes to the way in which analytics can be accessed on X and Instagram have limited the information which can be understood given there is a requirement to have paid accounts. Highlights of the posts made have included:

- Children’s Mental Health Week
- Promotion of a range of multi-agency learning and development offers, such as the suite of child exploitation learning exchanges and Safeguarding Week 2024
- Water Safety and Drowning Prevention Week
- Keeping Your Child Safe in Sport Week
- Child accident prevention information
- Launch of local communities and business pages on the Speak Up, Stand Up, Stop Exploitation section of the WSCP Knowledge Hub
- Monthly e-bulletins



Key steps for 2025-26

- Further establish WSCP presence on existing social media platforms
- Continue to consider establishing a presence on other social media platforms to extend reach to members of the public
- Explore new approaches in creating online content which is interactive to highlight the work WSCP does and awareness on safeguarding topics

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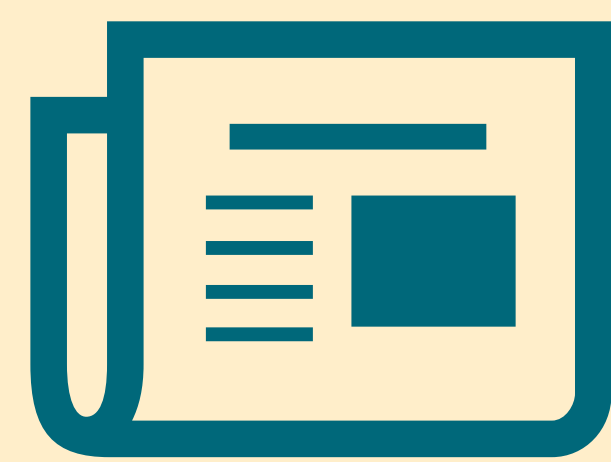
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WSCP
e-bulletin

To subscribe to the e-bulletin and view previous editions, visit the [WSCP e-bulletin page](#) on the WSCP website.



Overview of what has been
achieved

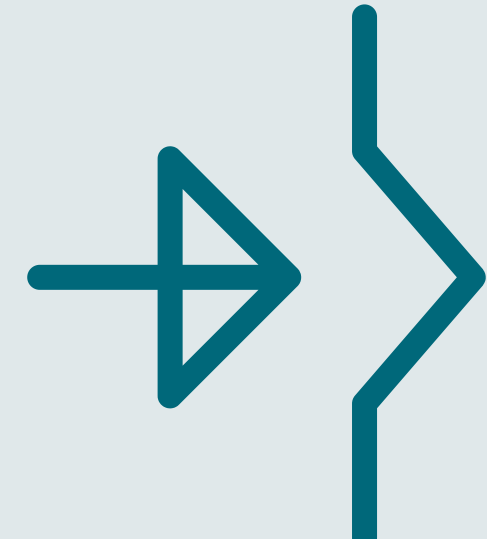
WSCP’s [free monthly e-bulletin](#) continues to be a key approach in communicating all the latest local and national safeguarding resources, training, information and developments to provide anybody who subscribes (currently - 1,349 subscribers which is an increase of 58 since last year).

In total 12 editions were produced and disseminated throughout the year monthly.

Subscriber lists were cleansed and all bounce back email addresses were removed to help ensure accuracy in being able to analyse how information is being received and engaged with, hence below there may appear to be reductions in subscriber rates by service area. Since 23/24 there has been an increase in subscribers from Early Years, VCS and what is classed as other (where the subscriber has not stated their service area on the sign-up form).

A breakdown on subscribers can be viewed below:

- Education (493 increase from 430 in 23/24)
- Children and Young People Services (266 decrease from 352 in 23/24)
- Early Years (153 increase from 147 in 23/24)
- Health (103 decrease from 104 in 23/24)
- Other (249 increase from 110 in 23/24)
- Public Health (14 decrease from 17 in 23/24)
- Adult Services (11 decrease from 13 in 23/24)
- Probation (9 decrease from 12 in 23/24)
- Police (15 decrease from 17 in 23/24)
- Voluntary and Community Sector (28 increase from 14 in 23/24)
- Youth Justice (3 decrease from 5 in 23/24)
- Housing (4 decrease from 5 in 23/24)
- Fire Service (1 no change from 23/24)



The impact of the e-Bulletin

The e-bulletin has become a key component in how WSCP directly communicates to a wide audience. The steady increase and retention of subscribers month-on-month highlights how valuable the content is that is produced.

In October 2024 the partnership circulated a survey, seeking feedback on the ebulletin, 92 responses were received. Overall feedback continued to be positive with over 80% of the respondents reporting they found the content of the e-bulletin either very useful or useful. This feedback is consistent with the findings from 23/24.

The e-bulletin consists of a range of information relevant to children’s safeguarding, health, and wellbeing, this can include:

- WSCP training opportunities and that of partner agencies relating to a range of safeguarding areas
- Policy and procedure updates & developments, both locally and nationally
- Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews along with key recommendations identified
- Safety advice and safeguarding campaigns such as water safety advice, online safety, safer sleep advice, button battery dangers, child exploitation and neglect
- Activities for children and families taking place within the local district
- Mental Health support for children

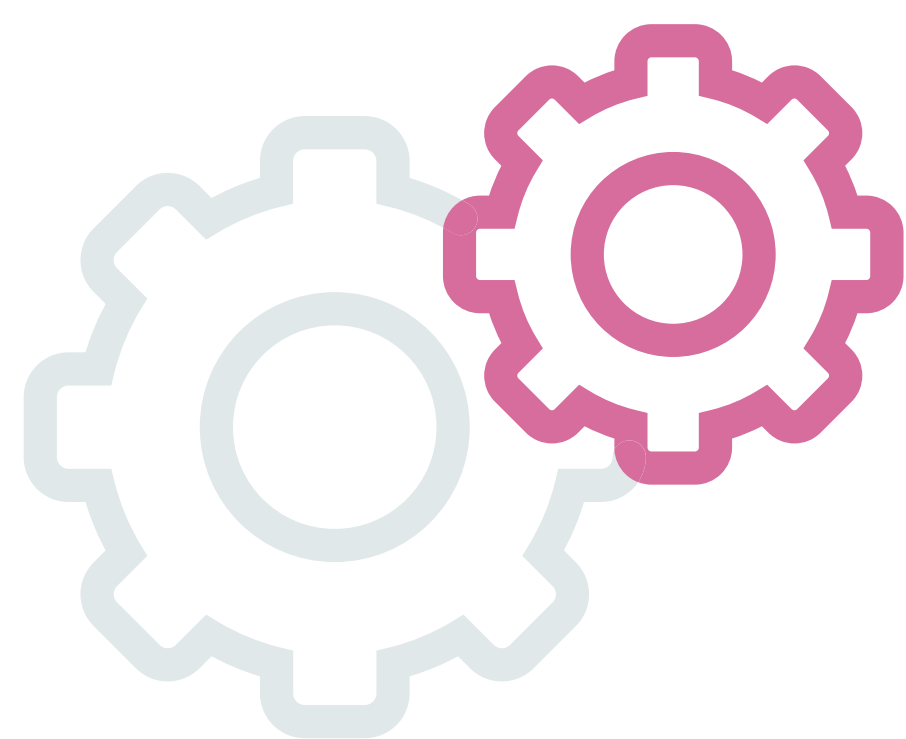
In response to incidents of drowning of children in open water in the district in recent years, the ebulletin has committed to having a strong and consistent focus on water safety to constantly raise awareness. In 23/24 April 2023 – March 2024 articles have featured in 11 editions highlighting key water safety messages specific to winter, summer and the home environment, and detailing what resources are available to share with children and young people.

A key feature of the e-bulletin is that as it is an online tool which enables the partnership to respond timely to any safeguarding developments and concerns in disseminating information promptly. An example of this was being able to share information about contaminated vapes which had resulted in a child needing hospital care. Education staff make up the largest portion of the ebulletin audience, so this was a useful method to share this information with schools who could then discuss with pupils and highlight the risks.

The analytics for the e-bulletin averaged a reader rate of 25.5% for the year, which despite how low this may initially be viewed, is classed as a good rate based on the gradings of the council’s corporate communication team.

Key steps for 2025-26

- Undertake a follow up survey in 25/26 with subscribers to ensure they are receiving the e-bulletin when it is disseminated, and enquire if there are any suggestions, they can make for what they would to see included/ways to improve it
- Continue to target service areas who have a low subscription rate to increase numbers, in particular GPs and sports clubs
- Create a brief monthly video to accompany the ebulletin summarising the content of that month’s edition
- Re-share the ebulletin in the middle of the month to re-promote it, in case it was missed and overlooked when first released, with a view to further increasing readership



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Key Areas of Focus for 2025-26

Key Areas of Focus for 2025-26

The partnership has continued to make significant progress across a range of multi-agency safeguarding areas. Alongside the next steps already identified throughout this report under respective groups and areas, the partnership’s current 2022-25 delivery plan will run to completion during the early part of next year, focusing on the 13 priority areas as referenced on page 3. Planning has already commenced in capturing the achievements and assessing the areas where the partnership needs to invest efforts for 2025-28. Subject to the new delivery plan being further developed and finalised, it is anticipated these will include:

- Educational neglect is identified and responded to effectively
- Children who are victims of domestic abuse receive effective support
- Risks posed outside of the home are well understood, identified and responded to effectively
- Strong arrangements are in place to protect and support children who are victims of intra familial child sexual abuse
- Children on the cusp of adulthood who require continued support in relation to their risk and vulnerability, experience good transition to services who support adults

