



# **North East Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership**

## **Annual Report 2022-23**

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# 1) Introduction



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Welcome to the third report of the new North East Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NEL SCP), it covers the period from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023.

Across the NEL SCP, we continue to work together to ensure our safeguarding arrangements are robust and effective that children and families receive help and support at the earliest point. By being 'stronger together' we can achieve our vision of 'Our Children Our Future' so that our children:

- are safe from harm and enjoy growing up in loving, caring homes.
- have the best start in life and a happy, healthy, fun childhood.
- start school ready to learn, do well at all levels of learning and have the skills and opportunities they need to enjoy a bright future.
- be part of an inclusive, compassionate, and thriving community be listened to, involved in decisions on their future and respected.

The focus during the last year has been on reviewing and seeking to strengthen all aspects of the functioning and effectiveness of the NEL SCP in meeting its statutory functions. Key activity has included.

- Reviewing and strengthening safeguarding training arrangements and in ensuring training is informed by learning from reviews.
- Effective partnership arrangements for responding to contextual safeguarding, prevent, modern day slavery.
- Effective processes for learning when things go wrong and in identifying required practice improvement.
- Strengthened arrangements for hearing the voice of the child, plans strengthen assessment of the child's lived experience.
- Arrangements for learning from practice including where things go wrong are working well and have led to clear identification of learning and required practice improvement.
- Robust governance arrangements in place that enable the NEL SCP to identify and respond to emerging risks and challenges.
- Relationships are good and mutually supportive, including openness to challenge.

Going forward to 2023/24, the areas of focus will be to:

- Assess the impact of the NEL SCP Governance structure and safeguarding arrangements in meeting the NEL SCP statutory functions, the three NEL SCP priorities and key identified areas of focus.

- Further strengthen the NEL SCP Governance structure in ensuring it has sufficient resources to enable its effective delivery and ensure resources are sufficient to meet the key requirements.
- Further strengthen and embed scrutiny and assurance arrangements including performance analysis and audit activity. Finalise and embed the revised NEL SCP core data set and performance reporting in ensuring all key data is captured and the NEL SCP Board are fully sighted on risks, challenges, opportunities and practice improvement.
- Oversee the embedding and assess the effectiveness and impact of the Early Help, Child Sexual Abuse and Neglect strategies.
- Overseeing the effectiveness/impact of domestic abuse, child exploitation arrangements and the local preparation for adulthood protocol
- We will oversee the implementation and effectiveness of the NEL SCP safeguarding training aligned to the three NEL SCP priorities.
- Assess partnership agencies understanding and application of their roles and responsibilities and expectations of practice within Working Together 2023.
- Overseeing the effectiveness/impact of the local preparation for adulthood protocol

## 2) The Voice and Lived Experience of Children

**The ‘Your Voice Matters’ Voice and Influence Strategy has ensured that the child’s voice and lived experience is at the forefront of practice.** Its purpose is to assure the NEL SCP that services have a process for and are hearing the voice of the child, listening and making improvements to service delivery and practice as a result.

The key actions from the strategy are to:

- ✓ **Promote and deliver a range of opportunities for children and young people to feel and be heard.**
- ✓ **Ensure there is a clear understanding across the partnership of ‘lived experience’ and how to best capture this.**
- ✓ **Ensure that all partners consistently share feedback of the difference made with children and through to strategic boards.**

Some of the things that have contributed to this are:

- Youth Action, the local social action group for young people aged 11-21 years, led on the Your Voice Your Vote consultation of the priority issues for young people in our area. This received 4247 votes and identified the priority issues of 1. More things to do and Places to Go 2. Feeling safe on our streets and 3. Reduce knife and violent crime. Results can be found here [Your Voice, Your Vote: Your Voice, Your Vote: The results are in... | NELC \(nelincs.gov.uk\)](#) Since the vote, the Youth Action have been in discussions with the Young and Safe area of the local authority about ideas for action. The Young and Safe team worked with a group of young women to

create the #AskforHaven project that is being developed with members of the Youth Engagement Alliance so young people have places to go if they feel unsafe with trained staff to help support them. In addition, the Violence Prevention Partnership are planning an event for further listening to young people around these issues called 'Hope Hack' planned for Summer 2023

- Young people have been involved in helping to develop and co-produce the mental health strategic plan alongside adults and services. This has been happening through a listening event in February and more events to follow to create and agree the plan for the future with young people. Workshops have been happening across 31 schools locally around children and young people's mental health and resilience.
- Young Advisors were commissioned by University College London to co-produce and carry out some further research looking into the intergenerational perspectives of growing up in a coastal community. The outcome of the research has been shared locally to help inform development in Grimsby Town Centre and Cleethorpes regeneration as well as nationally. The work has been well received nationally and has prompted expansion of the research to compare with other coastal communities over the coming three years. The report of the finding is here [Intergenerational perspectives on growing up in coastal towns: Report on NEL project - November 2022 \(cpb-eu-w2.wpmucdn.com\)](https://www.cpb-eu-w2.wpmucdn.com)
- The Special Educational Needs Team engage local children and young people as an advisory group linking to the SEND local offer and this team of young people helped plan and deliver their annual awards recognising and celebrating the amazing achievements of the children and young people in our area.
- The children in care council - Our Voice Listen Up continue to work with the Corporate Parenting Board members through regular events to discuss arising issues and review the corporate parenting promise together. They also have regular meetings where they are developing skills around creative subjects and cooking together. This year saw us go around the world with a different country's food and a fun quiz about their traditions once per month. All decisions are made with the group members through their meetings.
- Independent advocacy is now contracted through NYAS and this contract ensures our children and young people in care and subject to child protection plans can have face to face advocacy or virtual if they choose and we have regular visits to children's homes to build relationships, increase awareness of the service and confidence to use this to be heard should they want to. The numbers this year decreased slightly due in the main to the transition to the contract starting and recruitment of advocate for our area.
- Independent visitors (Buddies) continue to support children and young people in care to have a consistent and positive relationship with an adult who is not paid to be there or make assessments of them. This year we have 13 young people matched with 12 buddies.
- The term ***Emotionally Based Barriers to School Attendance or EBBSA*** was developed with the intention of understanding the child or young person and their difficulties with engaging in learning. The terms' development reflects the growing understanding that there are often a variety of factors which affect a child or young person's attendance at school as well as what can make attendance easier or more difficult for them. The ***EBBSA Support System*** is a relational, holistic approach to identifying barriers to education and supports successful engagement with learning. Promoting a culture of awareness, curiosity and responsiveness to attendance difficulties. This is accomplished with the child and their needs at the heart of any approach to support. Feedback includes:
  - "It was the first time I felt really listened to and believed by someone who wasn't family or a friend. They were kind, flexible, took time to get to know my child and didn't judge us." - *Parent of a child in KS4 at a local mainstream setting*

- “I don’t feel like people understand me but they do! They’ve helped me understand myself more and help me share my thoughts with others when I get overwhelmed and can’t speak in meetings.” - *Child in KS4 at a local mainstream setting*

### 3) Impact of Governance Arrangements

#### Safeguarding Children Partnership Board

The Safeguarding Children Partnership Assurance Executive is the key decision-making body and consists of the executive leads of the three statutory partners, the elected member, portfolio holder for safeguarding children, the NEL SCP independent chair and NEL SCP manager. It’s function is to coordinate and assure the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements. This is achieved through oversight of performance analysis, assurance activity, risk, challenge and the voice of the child in delivering the two outcomes. The published arrangements can be found through the link below: [SaferNEL | Safeguarding Children Partnership - SaferNEL](#)

The NEL SCP reviewed it’s governance structure and arrangements in the summer 2022, and a decision was made in December 2022 to move from the two outcomes 1) all children are and feel safe and 2) the safeguarding partnership is effective, to three priorities, neglect, child sexual abuse and early help. The priorities were informed by data analysis and learning from local reviews. An independent NEL SCP chair was appointed in September 2022.

#### Key Performance Data Analysis

The NEL SCP data set was developed to provide interagency data and performance analysis to enable the NEL SCP to understand how well its safeguarding arrangements are delivering and performing against its statutory functions and the two NEL SCP outcomes, “Children are and feel safe” and “Safeguarding arrangements are effective”. The data set was aligned to the two NEL SCP outcomes and the Scrutiny and Assurance Framework and has provided the NEL SCP with baseline data needed over the last year. The Professional Scrutiny Officers provided a level of analysis of the data, but there was still insufficient data analysis capacity to fully analyse the findings into meaning for practice.

The data whilst across agencies had a particular focus on children’s services which is important but data needs to better reflect the wider partners key safeguarding data. The review of capacity and the effectiveness of governance arrangements has identified that current arrangements for analysing the data into meaningful intelligence for the NEL SCP require strengthening in order to provide sufficient oversight and assurance on how effective the arrangements are working. This has informed the revision of the core data set, revision of governance arrangements and the move in late 2022 to priorities rather than the two previous outcomes. Key data analysis for the year includes:

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- Children looked after numbers have decreased by 7%
- 575 children were looked after as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 compared with 615 as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. This is the first decrease in Children Looked After numbers for over 10 years and brings us in line with numbers of Children Looked After seen in 2020 in NEL.

- 21% decrease in the number of children becoming looked during 2022-23
- 153 children entered care during 2022-23 compared with 194 in 2021-22
- 46% of children were placed in our own provision at year end compared with 60% in 2022.
- This continues the reducing trend seen since 2020 when 75% of Children Looked After were placed in the local authority's own provision. This is linked to an increase in the use of independent fostering agencies due to numbers of Children Looked After surpassing our in-house fostering capacity. 2022-23 saw a 23% reduction in the number of children placed with in-house foster carers since the previous year. The number of children placed with connected carers has also decreased for a second year with a 24% reduction in numbers over the last year. Children placed with independent foster carers has however continued to rise with a 15% increase over 2022-23
- As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, 27% of children were placed outside of the LA boundary and more than 20 miles from their home. This has increased from 23% in 2022 and continues the increasing trend moving away from comparators (England average of 16% and Stat neighbor average of 11%)
- 2022-23 continued to see a high level of demand coming into North East Lincolnshire
- There continues to be a high level of demand in North East Lincolnshire which meets the threshold for statutory involvement. 3101 referrals were received in 2022-23 which is slightly lower than the 3222 received in 2021-22. Numbers of referrals were very high in the first 6 months with 1975 referrals received compared with 1120 in the last 6 months of the year. This equates to 43% decrease in the number of referrals received in the last 6 months compared with the first 6 months of the 2022-23. This is as a result to changes made in the Front Door in November 2023
- 23% reduction in the number of open cases as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023
- There were 1829 cases open to social care as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. This is a 23% reduction on the 2369 cases open as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. This equates to a rate of 554 per 10,000 which although reduced is still significantly higher than comparators (SN 399 and England 343 per 10,000)
- The number of cases re referred to children's services has increased from 28% in 2021-22 to 30% in 2022-23. The first 6 months of 2022-23 saw high levels of demand coming in to the service. This combined with instability in the workforce and the recruitment of some relatively inexperienced staff meant safety planning wasn't always robust and sometimes led to cases being referred back into the service. High levels of domestic abuse also contribute to the higher than average re-referral rate.
- The number of children's assessments completed within 45 days has fallen to 72% from 76% in 2021-22 and remains below stat neighbor average of 81% and England average of 82%. Increasing demand through the first 6 months of the year and instability of the workforce has resulted in continuing reduced assessment timeliness.
- The number of children subject to child protection plans increased during 2022-23 to 282 from 233 at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. This is equivalent to a rate of 85 per 10,000 which is significantly higher than the national average (54 per 10,000) and stat neighbor (63 per 10,000).
- There has been an increase in the number of cases of children open to and supported by the Harmful Sexualized Behavior Panel. This indicates the process is embedded and understood by partner agencies which the local Harmful Sexualized Behavior training has supported". "The referrals to the Assessment, intervention and Moving on (AIM) panel are consistent at around

60 per year, training is delivered bi monthly to ensure new starters have access within their induction period.”

- The number of young people entering the criminal justice service for the first time remains low. Levels of risk attributed to safety and wellbeing and serious harm of young people as an offending cohort remain high however levels of risk relating to re offending remain lower due to less young people offending and re offending.
- The performance in timeliness of initial health assessments for children becoming looked after reduced further during the year. Receiving notification and the correct consent and paperwork from children’s social care within timescales continued to be an ongoing challenge for the health team during and unfortunately the performance in this area deteriorated further. The issue continues to be highlighted through the Integrated Care Board (ICB) reporting structure and at the Safeguarding Children Partnership. It is also on the CCG risk register which is reviewed quarterly and on the risk register within Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Trust (NLaG). Corporate Parenting Board are fully cited.
- Numbers of children who are electively home educated continued to rise in the academic year 2022-23. An Inclusion Officer was recruited with the sole remit of quality assuring the education in place for these children, and where appropriate, support a return back to school, or enact legal proceedings. Coffee mornings have been held, with engagement from both parents and their children. Termly newsletters are sent to families advising of the local support available to them for careers, health and wellbeing, and wider activities in the area.

### **Analysis of Impact of Assurance Activity**

The NEL SCP review of governance arrangements and the effectiveness of safeguarding concluded that;

- The capacity of partner agencies and resources available to the NEL SCP team was identified as an area that required additional support.
- The level and quality of data and performance analysis provided to the NEL SCP required strengthening.
- Key learning had been identified from line-of-sight reviews but had not been embedded into practice.
- The level of quality assurance activity was not sufficient, and the NEL SCP were not fully sighted on all operational issues.
- The two NEL SCP outcomes were achieved in part but did not reflect what the priority areas of focus should be which are now neglect, early help and familial sexual harm.
- Whilst the NEL SCP commissioned an element of independent scrutiny, this was not assessed as sufficient in terms of the level of oversight and independent challenge required.
- The line of sight process and the local rapid reviews undertaken identified clear learning required to strengthen practice.

The new NEL SCP governance structure was launched in April 2023 and supports the delivery of the NEL SCP priorities and statutory functions. (See appendix 2). The arrangements have enabled strategic oversight of operational practice through the NEL SCP subgroups, operational delivery group, strategic management group and assurance executive.

Assurance activity has continued through the Quality Assurance Group and wider NEL SCP subgroups, particular areas of focus for the NEL SCP has been on;



- Developing the Early Help Strategy, Child Sexual Abuse Strategy and redeveloping the Neglect Strategy
- The annual education audit which was completed and presented to the NEL SCP in October 2022 which provided assurance in the effectiveness of arrangements.
- Redevelopment of the NEL SCP core data set aligned to the three NEL SCP priorities and key areas of focus.
- Completion of line-of-sight reviews leading to clear practice learning.
- Revision and redevelopment of the NEL SCP procedures
- Review and revision of the inter-agency strategy guidance procedure and delivery of strategy guidance training as a direct result from learning from practice
- Review and revision of the local escalation policy
- Monitoring of performance has continued in respect of, on timeliness of initial health assessments, the steady decrease in children subject to CP plans, the increase in numbers of electively home educated children which has seen a rise locally and nationally and the increase in numbers of children looked after and Corporate Parenting Board arrangements.

## 4) Work of the Safeguarding Children Partnership

Key highlights in relation to the work of the NEL SCP aligned to the strategic delivery plan and two NEL SCP outcomes which indicate our system is making a difference to children and families include:

### Key highlights and successes

#### Early help – Team Around the Family

The development of Team Around the Family has been identified as a key priority of the NEL SCP. This is due to the number of children who are currently open to social care, the number of contacts to our 'Integrated Front Door' and recognising that in North East Lincolnshire there is significant support being offered to families at a lower level, which historically we weren't monitoring or supporting.

It was agreed that to meet our aim we could develop a Team Around the Family and Early Help Strategy to look at how all professionals in North East Lincolnshire can contribute to improving children's outcomes. This has included developing with our partners (both statutory and voluntary), the strategy, the commitment to doing things differently and creating an assessment and plan.

The revised early help assessment and the revised Early Help Strategy have now been signed off by the board and this has been launched following several sessions delivered to partners on the launch of the revised early help assessment and strategy and revised referral process into children's social care. These launch sessions have been co-delivered with the service manager of the integrated front door.

The Early Help Strategy, early help assessment, Team Around the Family guidance handbook and Team Around the Family leaflet as well as the review and closure paperwork are now all available on SAFERNEL for partners to access.

Following the launch there has been a timetable of workshops sent to partners to support practice this includes 'what a good assessment looks like', 'Professional curiosity', 'Worry statements/safety goals' and 'Safety planning'.

A Team Around the Family guidance handbook has been developed to support partners as well as Team Around the Family leaflet for parents and carers to help understand the process. Systems and

informatics have been looked at and we are now able to report on the number of early help assessments held by education, health, and the voluntary sector. We are working closely with the integrated front door and tracking all the referrals which have not met threshold for support from the Local Authority and offering support to the education settings regarding Team Around the Family.

## Key highlights and successes

### Contextual safeguarding

- Ensuring an effective multi-agency response to children and young people at risk of child exploitation has been a key focus for the local authority and for partner agencies. The response to child exploitation is led by the Adolescent Risk Strategy with governance via the Adolescent Risk Strategic Group
- There is a clear process in place around exploitation which has been rolled out to partners. This covers those children who are low risk and in need of preventative work through to those children who are at our highest risk of exploitation. This requires a close partnership with the early help localities to ensure that required work around vulnerabilities is available and actioned, when required, with the aim of reducing the prevalence of the concerns. The process includes the discussion of children at a weekly vulnerability screening, OVM (Operational Vulnerability Meeting) and MACE. MACE is co-chaired by strategic leads within Children's Services and Humberside Police

Annual data is now available from April 2022/ March 23 which outlines some key points to address over this period- to summarise:

- In total 189 children have been discussed through OVM/MACE in this period. This is an increase of 56% of the 2021/22 figure which was 121 children. This is a notable increase and with no increased staffing has placed additional pressure and demand on the system. This has however continued to be responded to effectively, as will be outlined later.
- It is believed the increase in children discussed at OVM/MACE has been due to an increase in awareness raising/ training that the exploitation team have completed within Children's Services and with partner agencies. Collectively across the local authority it does appear that we are now, due to increased training, identifying areas of harm which may ordinarily have gone hidden.
- Of the 189 children discussed by March 2022, 52 children remained open to this pathway for review and discussion. This is a static figure in comparison to 2021/22, but given increased quantities discussed this has resulted in a reduction in risks and closure for 137 children.
- When comparing data from 2021/22 through to 2022/23 only 12 children continue to be discussed (6.3%). This is a 1.7% decrease on the last annual data, again evidencing that despite a substantial increase in numbers into the pathway this has continued to manage risk effectively. Re referrals back into OVM are also very low. This demonstrates that whilst evident reductions in risk can take time for children who are entrenched within exploitation, the impact we have across the local authority is positive and sustainable in keeping children safe. Risk reductions as discussed above are based on the completion of the CEVT (child exploitation vulnerability tracker)
- The GRAFT team (dedicated team for high-risk child exploitation) have continued to demonstrate success, with 48 children closing to the team this annual period. The team continue to make a significant difference to the children that they support, with support continuing post 18.

- The local authority has continued to demonstrate success in relation to the Home Office Devolved Decision Making Pilot. Funding for this pilot has been agreed until March 2024. 13 referrals for child criminal exploitation and 5 for child sexual exploitation.
- Partnership working continues to strengthen the identification of those children who are at risk of or are currently being exploited. Not only is this resulting in better identification of children at risk, but the significance of this is reflective in our day-to-day approach in safeguarding children in a more timely and partnership led manner.

### Key highlights and successes

#### Education and Schools Subgroup and Child Protection Co-ordinators Forum

- The function and remit of the Child Protection Co-Ordinator's Forum has been reviewed over the last year, and a refreshed format enables key messages, as well as practice development to take place where themes are highlighted through referrals received, changes to legislation, and requests from designated leads. A 30 minute 'meet the professional' slot held every other half term is enabling education settings to start meeting and understanding the broad range of professionals across early help and children's social care. Following these meetings, a 90-minute workshop is offered to CP Co-Ordinator's to expand on the information discussed in the meet the professionals meeting.
- 2022/23 saw the annual schools' safeguarding audit go out to settings in the Spring term. This work was initiated by the subgroup and the audit was adapted to make the process more streamlined and therefore the results from the 2022/23 audit cannot be compared to the previous year's results. Disappointingly, only 52/73 settings returned their audit, which is an 11% reduction on the previous year. 98% of establishments who completed the audit answered yes to over 70% of questions which shows that most institutions are compliant with the majority of safeguarding criteria. The two main areas highlighted as requiring improvement are; lack of supervision and training needs. These issues will be raised in the education subgroup, along with the reduction in responses.
- North East Lincolnshire initially saw a large increase in children becoming electively home educated (EHE), particularly rising over the Covid 19 period. In response to the rise in numbers, the Elective Home Education team appointed an Inclusion Officer with a direct remit to quality assure the education being delivered in the home. In 2022/23 there were 165 referrals for EHE, this is a reduction from 2021/22 which was 184.

### Key highlights and successes

#### Domestic Abuse

- During 2022/23 the domestic abuse governance arrangements were reviewed. A Domestic Abuse Strategic Board has been established, combining the functions of the former NEL Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board and strategic elements of the former Domestic Abuse Strategy Delivery Group (DASDG). Its remit is to provide strategic direction for the domestic abuse agenda across the Borough and facilitate the delivery of the Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022/24 and Safe Accommodation Strategy 2022. Membership represents all major partner agencies. The DASDG has become the Domestic Abuse Operational Group, with a remit covering the Domestic Abuse Delivery Plan, progress relating to the new duty, and communications and marketing. The MARAC

and MARAC Steering Group and the Domestic Abuse Practitioners Group all remain in place. Overall governance and will continue to be via the Tri-Board Arrangements.

- Preparatory work on the annual refresh of the statutory NEL Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment commenced with completion anticipated by the end of 2023.
- A joint commissioning approach in partnership with the Integrated Care Board was agreed, with commissioning of domestic abuse service provision informed by the Needs Assessment. Proposed Commissioning Activities were approved by Cabinet on 18 January 2023. A working group was formed to commence commissioning activities, with work ongoing to develop the specifications and performance measures developed and circulated for final approval. Pre-market consultation documents were finalised in readiness for the event scheduled for 03/04/2023. The new arrangements will aim to deliver new and enhances services which will address many of the gaps identified through the Needs Assessment and provide individuals seeking support for domestic abuse with more choice and control over the type of service they receive.
- Humberside Police implemented a new software system at the beginning of 2022/23 which impacted on the domestic abuse data being received, both in terms of the types of data being received and its quality/reliability. Work is ongoing to resolve identified issues, however data on Operation Encompass is not currently available.
- Robust Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) arrangements have continued to ensure all necessary safety measures around high-risk victims and their families (children) were in place through a structured multi-agency process. A total of 758 cases were heard at MARAC in 2022/23 which is a slight reduction on the 803 heard in 2020/21.
- SafeLives were instructed to facilitate a review / assessment of MARAC and the wider domestic abuse arrangements on behalf of the partnership. Work is ongoing and will continue into 2023/24.
- The Healthy Relationships Campaign developed via Together for Childhood and in consultation with a range of children and young people entered phase 2 of delivery around the previously developed live play and workshop. A tour pack brochure has also been created to go out to schools. Roll out of the 'I Am Enough' book has continued and there are plans to promote the PANTS resources (new early years and teaching resources) across the borough.
- Practitioners in early help have received training to work safely with (non-convicted) perpetrators of domestic abuse and the wider family. This voluntary intervention is aimed at lower risk cases of domestic abuse, with a focus around early identification to prevent the risk escalating.
- A 10-month pilot programme to support children and young people up to the age of 18 (25 if they have additional needs) experiencing domestic abuse within their own intimate relationships commenced in January 23. This post is co-located within early help.
- In May 2022 a task and finish group were set up to undertake a refresh of the domestic abuse framework/core data set. The new framework was signed off at final meeting which took place on 22 February 2023. Work then commenced on identifying data that could be easily accessed in preparation for an enhanced scorecard to be developed for Quarter 1 in 2023/24.

## Key highlights and successes

### Prevent and Protect

Prevent and Channel form part of the Government's CONTEST Strategy. It aims to safeguard and support those vulnerable to radicalisation to prevent them being drawn into terrorism. Prevent exists in the pre-criminal space and uses early intervention to support vulnerable individuals susceptible to radicalisation. The North East Lincolnshire Prevent, Protect & Prepare Strategy builds on previous work of engaging with communities and local stakeholders, acknowledging that cohesive and empowered communities are better equipped to reject extremist ideologies.

A multi-agency Prevent Partnership Board co-ordinated by the local authority continues to oversee the delivery of the Prevent element of the Strategy. Wider oversight and support continue to be provided by Humberside Police and Regional Counter Terrorism Advisors. An annual Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) provides an assessment of national, regional, and local risk with any recommendations incorporated into the local delivery plan. A Protect & Prepare Group has also been established to consider other strands of the Government's CONTEST strategy.

### The local strategy focuses on the following objectives:

1. Governance and leadership
2. Raising awareness
3. Challenging the ideology
4. Supporting and protecting vulnerable individuals
5. Ensuring effective partnerships
6. To provide a joined-up approach
7. To enhance and support protective security.

### What we achieved from April 2022-March 2023:

- Undertaken an assurance exercise against the 10 national benchmarks as part of the Annual Home Office assessment review.
- Reviewed our Channel arrangements as part of the Home Office Annual Assurance process.
- Hosted our Second Prevent Conference which included presentations from regional Prevent and Counter Terrorism representatives, Educate Against Hate and two Intervention Providers
- Continued a programme of online communication campaigns including awareness raising around the dangers of on-line radicalisation and part two of our "Tom" campaign which focused on a young man who was being drawn into radicalisation and the impact this was having on those close to him.
- Successfully applied and received home Office funding to roll out several training events to raise awareness of the dangers of young people being drawn into online radicalisation. This was delivered to both practitioners and parents/carers.
- Further increased the number of Prevent Champions who act as a point of contact and a conduit to share information within their organisation.
- Established A Protect & Prepare Group to consider wider duties contained within the Government's CONTEST strategy.

### What difference we made:

- The Home Office assessment feedback identified that overall NEL is exceeding the requirements of the Prevent Duty in most areas. Areas for improvement have been incorporated into the 2023/24 delivery plan.
- The Home Office Channel review provided assurance that NEL was compliant in all areas. Channel continues to be scheduled monthly to support vulnerable individuals.

- The Local Prevent Conference was attended by over 200 delegates and received positive feedback. The conference enabled wider awareness raising of the Prevent agenda and information around our local response. A third annual conference is planned for September 2023
- The online communications program had a significant reach of 190,000 with 10,500 engagements.
- In total over 300 practitioners, parents/carers attended the online radicalization training.
- There is now a total of 74 Prevent Champions across a range of agencies.
- The Protect & Prepare Group has assessed five geographical zones across NEL and undertaken *Days of Action* in each area to raise awareness of the Government's *Run Hide Tell* message, the *Protect UK* website and the *ACT e-learning* platform. In total 350 businesses were visited and provided with information. Wider face-to-face training was also attended by 95 people.

## Key highlights and successes

### Modern Slavery

The North East Lincolnshire Modern Slavery Partnership has been established to prevent and disrupt modern slavery and human trafficking, and engage with communities, other agencies and local businesses to raise awareness. Someone is in slavery if they are forced to work through mental or physical threat; owned or controlled by an 'employer' usually through mental or physical abuse or the threat of abuse; dehumanised, treated as a commodity or bought and sold as 'property'; or are physically constrained or have restrictions placed on their freedom.

The North East Lincolnshire Modern Slavery Partnership Strategy centres around Pursue, Prevent, Protect & Prepare and has the following focus:

- Governance and Leadership
- Community awareness raising & engagement.
- Effective communications
- Training and development of our combined workforce
- Greater intelligence gathering to enable disruption and enforcement activity.
- Strengthening safeguards and support

### What did we achieve from April 2022-March 2023?

- The multi-agency Modern Slavery Operational group took part in Operation Aidant which is coordinated by the National Crime Agency and undertakes activity over the year to tackle and raise awareness around Modern Slavery
- Online communication campaigns were undertaken to raise awareness of exploitation taking place at nail bars and car washes. Wider awareness raising was undertaken around sexual exploitation.
- Two Events were held for our Modern Slavery Champions
- Children's Services continued to develop the local National Referral Mechanism (NRM) process for young people.

### What difference have we made?

- As part of Operation Aidant, the Operational group visited local car washes providing advice around employment rights which helped to raise awareness that local agencies will act upon intelligence and undertake enforcement activity where necessary. In addition, there was also a focus on sexual exploitation, with visits to properties of concern in partnership with local sexual health outreach workers. The visits enabled safeguarding and trust building to take place and details were given regarding sexual health services locally and where to go for additional support.

- The online communications campaigns continued to be received positively. It had an online reach of over 220,000 with over 13,500 engagements.
- The Modern Slavery Champions events were received positively with a focus around the Modern Slavery Helpline, Mental Health support, victim support, and the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse authority. There are currently around 40 modern slavery champions across a range of agencies.
- The local Child NRM Panel continued to receive referrals and made a number of conclusive grounds decisions enabling swifter support for children.

### **Statistics**

- From April 2022 – March 2023 there were 22 intelligence submissions for North East Lincolnshire
- From April 2022- March 2023 there were 41 offences/investigations recorded in North East Lincolnshire
- There was a total of 33 National Referral Mechanism (NRM) referrals between April 2022 and March 2023

### **Key highlights and successes**

#### **Child Sexual Abuse**

Child sexual abuse was identified as a priority by the NEL SCP, a CSA task and finish group was established in December 2022. The strategy incorporates familial sexual abuse, harmful sexualised behaviour, child sexual exploitation and online sexual abuse. There are clear arrangements in place for responding to HSB and CSA however arrangements for responding to familiar sexual abuse in and outside the home need strengthening.

The group understood a gap analysis which has informed the 6 P Delivery Plan. As a result, practice guidance has been developed and published and the child sexual abuse pathway for responding to the children. The next steps are to undertake analysis of the local and national data and to embed the CSA strategy, and to commission child sexual abuse training in raising awareness across the children's workforce.

### **Key highlights and successes**

#### **Neglect**

Neglect is evidently a significant issue for the locality and has been identified as a priority action by the NEL SCP through practice reviews and line of sight evidence. The development of a strategy aims to improve multi agency early identification and response to neglect in North East Lincolnshire.

Scoping and stakeholder engagement commenced in December 2022. This involved a review of multi-agency data, local Safeguarding Practice Reviews, Line of Sights with the comparison against national data and research. Research has acknowledged the local demographics of deprivation, local JSNA and the current cost of living crisis. There is an emphasis that although NEL is an area of deprivation and is acknowledged as an additional stress factor for families this does not mean that poverty is a cause of neglect. A NEL multi agency neglect survey was created to scope knowledge base and current practice within the NEL SCP. This received 250 responses from a range of agencies providing valuable insight. A vast majority of respondents identified that they had a responsibility to recognise and respond to neglect however, individual agencies identified practical challenges in the borough with regards to deprivation, understanding of thresholds and identification of resource to support families. Individual agencies were able to provide examples of local bespoke initiatives to support vulnerable families which triggered wider workstreams to map local resource.

Between December 2022- March 2023 4 multi-agency strategic steering groups were held to drive the strategy development and providing influence from key leaders in the borough. Running alongside were 4 Multi-agency Neglect Toolkit Task and Finish Group meetings. The focus from the group included scoping current neglect tools and practice nationally, critiquing and developing a draft screening tool. Both groups ensured the workstreams complimented other key NEL SCP priorities by maintaining clear communication streams and representation on interacting sub groups.

A draft strategy (now signed off by the NEL SCP) was completed March 2023 with the development requiring strong leadership and collaborative multi-agency working. The strategy will focus on 8 objectives which aim to prevent escalation of neglect cases and overall reduction in chronic neglect in the locality ultimately improving the life chances of children in North East Lincolnshire.

Moving forward for 2023/24, the strategy will be supported by a robust delivery plan which will include priority areas of focus such as a neglect toolkit and the development of a practitioner training package.

## 5) Learning and Improvement

Key highlights in relation to learning and improvement activity which is a core element of the NEL SCP Scrutiny and Assurance Framework.

### Training

In 2022/23, the NEL SCP training programme moved away from full virtual delivery of training, as was needed during the Covid 19 pandemic and face to face delivery re-commenced, alongside some virtual delivery. Use of our suite of safeguarding e-learning training at an awareness level continued to be an important part of our offer, allowing flexibility of delivery and a blended approach to learning, particularly for those who were not able to attend training in core hours. Please see all training activity below:

Total Number of Training Events Held	68
Total Number of People Attending NEL SCP Safeguarding Training either Online via Teams or face to face	1350
Number of Safeguarding E-Learning Courses Completed	1086
Total Trained from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023	<b>2436</b>

Whilst there was a 9% decrease in the number of courses held this year, face to face/virtual training delivery remained at a similar level to that of 2021/22. Increased popularity of e-learning meant that all licences purchased were utilised, providing value for money. Despite the reduction in the number of courses held, there was a 16% increase in the number of people trained this year, compared to that of 2021/22.

An interim measure was implemented to ensure our core training at levels 1 and 2 could be delivered, to meet demand and remove waiting lists, by increasing the number of learners who could attend each course and by allocating trainers from the 3 main agencies, to co-facilitate the NEL SCP training. This resulted in the start of a more equitable model of delivery, across agencies, which has been of benefit to learners and trainers alike.

Learning and Development remained on the NEL SCP Risk Register, as longer-term resourcing issues continued. A decision was made in December 2022 to appoint a dedicated trainer to build capacity to



deliver our NEL SCP training, to make this programme more sustainable and to reduce reliance on trainers from all agencies. Work continued to determine how this role could be resourced.

The NEL SCP Learning and Development Group and the NEL SCP Training Task and Finish Group provided a formal structure surrounding workforce development and became well established this year. Both groups provided a greater oversight of NEL SCP learning and development, with multi-agency input in reviewing training materials, identifying any gaps and focussing on how to resolve resource issues. These issues continued to be highlighted through the governance structure of both groups, through to the NEL SCP Assurance Executive.

Significant development activity was undertaken to implement the Children and Families Learning Zone, a new self-service booking system for online and face to face training, accessible to all agencies. This was a positive development in enabling all agencies to manage their own training bookings without the need for significant business support activity. Discussions also commenced on how to develop our own e-learning content through this system.

#### Line of Sight to Practice

The annual Safeguarding in Education audit of Primary, Secondary Schools and Colleges 2022/23 was commenced in the spring term and will report to the NEL SCP, the initial findings were positive, there was a slight dip in the number of returns due to some schools having their own audit processes, which will be explored within the analysis and which will inform recommendations to the NEL SCP.

A local Line of Sight process was developed by the NEL SCP in November 2020, with the purpose of identifying specific safeguarding themes and potential practice issues and good practice. Cases were identified where there were specific themes and through referral by designated safeguarding agency leads where there were potential practice issues and interagency learning but where the serious harm criteria is not met. The process is now embedded and has identified areas that are working well including capturing the voice of the child and has identified areas for development and improvement as evidenced below. Action plans are developed for each case and a seven-minute briefing developed and shared with partner agencies in order to embed the wider learning and improve practice. Areas of identified practice improvement will inform the 2022/23 NEL SCP Strategic Delivery Plan.

Four cases were reviewed in 2022/23, the learning has greatly impacted the work of the Quality Assurance Group and the current redevelopment of the Neglect Strategy, Early Help Strategy and development of a strategy for responding to sexual abuse within the home. In addition, practice guidance and a tool to support professional curiosity was developed, the professional escalation and resolution procedure was also greatly revised and simplified which has meant that agencies are clearer how to raise professional issues.

Themes	Findings
Mental Health/ Mental Capacity Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding consent to care/ treatment in respect of Gillick competence</li> <li>• Ensuring residential placements are supported, equipped to enforce any deprivations of liberty.</li> </ul>

Childs voice/ lived experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good examples of the voice of the child being captured.</li> <li>• Focus on young people’s behaviors not the drivers for these behaviors in terms of developmental trauma.</li> <li>• Young person not feeling listened to, advocacy not considered by agencies.</li> <li>• Understanding needed by agencies of the young persons lived experience and the impact of loss and grief</li> </ul>
Escalation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inconsistent use of the escalation policy resulting in matters not being resolved</li> </ul>
Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No one agency had an understanding of mother’s history or story.</li> <li>• No assessment by GP, health visitor of reason for failed medical appointments</li> </ul>
Professional curiosity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The need for agencies to adopt a professionally curious approach to think family, to explore family history including adverse childhood experiences, family dynamics, to seek evidence and clarification where there is self-reporting in order to support the assessment of need</li> </ul>
Pre birth pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agency understanding and application of the local pre-birth pathway. The pre-birth pathway was not initiated as mother did not give consent to a referral to children’s social care</li> </ul>
Consent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of understanding around consent, and what mothers lack of consent to a referral to children’s social care meant in respect of assessed need, thresholds and safeguarding procedures.</li> <li>• Lack of understanding of consent in the context of local thresholds</li> </ul>
Areas of good practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Referral Mechanism submitted based on assessed risk.</li> <li>• Evidence of follow up following A &amp; E attendance by Children Looked After health team and liaison safeguarding nurse.</li> <li>• Good pastoral support by school, children’s voices heard and acted upon</li> <li>• Good understanding by the police of the concern when young people went missing, graded as high risk due to health needs.</li> <li>• Extensive work by GRAFT in supporting young people re exploitation</li> </ul>

#### Rapid reviews/ Practice reviews

The process and procedure for undertaking rapid reviews and consideration of practice reviews following identification of cases meeting the serious harm criteria is embedded and effective.

There was one serious incident notifications to the NEL SCP Partners and to the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel during the year. A Rapid Review was undertaken, a decision was made by the NEL SCP to commission an independent thematic review of neglect, which incorporated learning from all local line of sight and practice reviews featuring neglect. This was in order to further understand the presenting issues, to inform the neglect strategy and out local approach to responding to neglect.

The Safeguarding Review Group is responsible for undertaking rapid reviews where the serious incident criteria is met and for overseeing practice reviews on behalf of the NEL SCP and for the implementation and embedding of learning. Learning from all reviews undertaken is shared within the multi-agency arena to develop and inform working practices and improve services to children, young people and their families who need support. Key learning from the rapid review included:

- Ensuring robust planning as part of step down from statutory services, including contingency for any further deterioration

- Ensure the monitoring of neglect is undertaken at the appropriate level, monitoring was undertaken at Child In Need when this should have been maintained at Child Protection
- Consideration of the impact of a new baby was not given as part of the Child In Need closure
- Where there is chronic neglect, improvements must be sustained for longer periods of time to demonstrate real positive change.

### Child Death Review process

The local arrangements for the Child Death Review process are based on the geographical footprint for North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire local authority areas. This corresponds with that of North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) footprint. A review of the effectiveness of the current Child Death Overview Panel arrangements has taken place which has established it is meeting its remit. The Keyworker offers a robust system for capturing feedback from bereaved families as to how they felt the child death review process has been delivered.

### **Key Learning**

Eight CDOP's were completed during the period of 1st April 2022 to the 31 March 2023. A total of 11 cases were discussed at the CDOP's, 4 were from North East Lincolnshire and 7 from North Lincolnshire and all cases were signed off. This includes 2 cases where the child died prior to 2022/23. The delay between date of death and presentation at CDOP were due to coronial inquest.

The top two categories of death for all deaths reviewed across Northern Lincolnshire between 2012/13 and 2021/22 were: 1. Perinatal/neonatal event and 2. chromosomal, genetic and congenital abnormalities. None of the North East Lincolnshire cases reviewed at CDOP in the year 2022 to 2023 had safeguarding concerns. However, one North East Lincolnshire case, with the death occurring during 2022/23 was escalated to the Safeguarding Children Partnership due to safeguarding concerns. At the time of the report, no Child Death Review Meeting (CDRM) has been arranged due to ongoing investigations.

Of the reviews completed at CDOP, 54.4% of cases were overall found to have modifiable factors. This equated to 6 cases where modifiable factors were listed, had 20 modifiable factors between them. These were:

- Extreme prematurity
- Mental health condition in a parent/carer
- Maternal smoking during pregnancy
- Low birth weight

Recommendations and actions from 2021/22 updates:

- 1. Local data demonstrates a link with Deprivation and child mortality, and this echoes information from the recent NCMD report that finds a clear link between the risk of child death and the level of deprivation (for all categories of death except cancer). [https://www.ncmd.info/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/NCMD-Child-Mortality-and-Social-Deprivation-report\\_20210513.pdf](https://www.ncmd.info/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/NCMD-Child-Mortality-and-Social-Deprivation-report_20210513.pdf)**

During 2022-2023, the Northern Lincolnshire CDOP continued to monitor data and themes of all deaths and social deprivation locally. Deprivation as a factor is explored in all child deaths which are heard at the Child Death Overview Panel for Northern Lincolnshire.

- 2. Implementation of the recommendations from the review of the effectiveness of the CDOP arrangements.**

During 2021/22 there was a change of Chair for the Child Death Overview Panel. The previous review and recommendations were discussed, and the new Chair is reviewing the operation of CDOP in line with the guidance to improve the Child Death Overview Panel moving forward. Review of other CDOP panels and arrangements have taken place during the financial year with appropriate changes made to local processes as appropriate. This has brought further assurance to the process which is evidenced as part of the CDOP meetings.

**3. Evaluation of the CDR arrangements progress any identified improvements and actions accordingly.**

As part of the CDR workshop program in place, ongoing evaluation of the arrangements continued to be undertaken with professionals supporting the arrangements. Any improvements and actions identified as part of these workshops are now incorporated within the CDR transformation program, which is led by the CDR Operational Group with exception reports provided to the CDR Executive Group.

**4. Operational group to continue to build on the role of the keyworker. To develop a comprehensive training package for every individual who undertakes this difficult role and ensure a robust support and debrief system is established.**

There have been further enhancements to the CDR keyworker arrangements during 2022-2023. Work continues to develop bespoke resources for CDR keyworkers including available support for families which is part of the transformational program in place.

## **6) How well we delivered against the NEL SCP outcomes / priority areas**

### **Analysis and impact**

The NEL SCP review over the last year concluded the two NEL SCP outcomes and outcome measures were not fully met or embedded. A decision was made in late 2022 to move from the two NEL SCP outcomes to Three priorities were identified through performance analysis and learning from local safeguarding reviews. The priorities are:

- Neglect
- Familial sexual harm
- Early help

Achievements against the outcomes include and current NEL SCP priorities include.

- Re-development of the NEL SCP core data set, aligned to the three NEL SCP priorities.
- The sub groups have ensured that the NEL SCP core functions continue to be met, with a particular focus on strengthening practice through incorporating learning from review into training.
- Development of a revised NEL SCP governance structure aligned to the three new NEL SCP priorities.
- Appointment of a NEL SCP independent chair who contributed greatly to the review of the NEL SCP priorities.

- The establishment in late 2022 of time limited priority subgroups including neglect, familial sexual harm and early help. Quarterly NEL SCP chairs meetings with the NEL SCP chair in monitoring progress
- Development of 6 P Delivery Plans for each of the NEL SCP sub groups aligned to the three priorities.
- Effective partnership arrangements for responding to contextual safeguarding.
- Effective arrangements for responding to prevent, modern-day slavery.
- Revision and re launch of the NEL SCP Voice and influence strategy, in order to strengthen arrangements for hearing the voice of the child, however, and in assessing and the child's lived experience.
- Arrangements for learning from practice including where things go wrong are working well and have led to clear identification of learning and required practice improvement.
- Focus on practice improvement informed by learning from local Line of Sight audits, including revision and strengthening of the local escalation policy and in respect of the strategy guidance.
- There are robust governance arrangements in place that enable the NEL SCP to identify and respond to emerging risks and challenges
- Review and revision of the NEL SCP safeguarding training arrangements, including re-establishing face to face training post Covid 19
- Revision of the NEL SCP safeguarding procedures which reflect national research and practice.
- The NEL SCP has continued to receive reports and seek assurance in respect of the progress and impact of the children's services transformation plan

**Further work is required in fully embedding the SCP priorities and key areas of focus which will inform the Strategic Delivery Plan for 2023/24**

- Ensuring the NEL SCP has sufficient resources to meet its core statutory functions and priorities.
- Further strengthen the NEL SCP Assurance Framework and Governance structure in ensuring it has sufficient resources to enable its effective delivery. This will include developing and embedding the Subgroups 6 P governance Plans.
- Signing of and embedding the revised NEL SCP core data set aligned to the three NEL SCP priorities.
- Identification of additional resources to support the activity of the NEL SCP in meeting its functions.
- To further strengthen current arrangements for undertaking and evidencing the impact of practice improvement activity.
- Embedding into practice of the Neglect Strategy and Early Help Strategy and Child Sexual Abuse Strategy
- Review of local arrangements to respond to risk outside of the home.
- Embedding the revised NEL SCP safeguarding children's procedures into practice across the partnership.
- Embedding the Voice and Influence Strategy. Youth Action members have created a proposed structure for the future Youth Action inspections, in addition other youth voice work will be commissioned from trained young people called Young Advisors. The plan is this will be in place by April 2024
- Review the effectiveness of the current arrangement to commission Triex to support the updating and maintenance of the SCPO policies and procedures.

**Progress against identified areas for assurance and monitoring 2022/23**

The following areas were identified through performance, analysis, and assurance activity as the key areas where assurance was required.

### Domestic Abuse

The NEL SCP has continued to oversee the impact of the Domestic Abuse Strategy through the One System Domestic Abuse Group and the NEL SCP performance reporting.

- Practitioners in early help have received training to work safely with (non-convicted) perpetrators of domestic abuse and the wider family. This voluntary intervention is aimed at lower risk cases of domestic abuse, with a focus around early identification to prevent the risk escalating.
- A 10-month pilot programme to support Children and Young People up to the age of 18 (25 if they have additional needs) experiencing domestic abuse within their own intimate relationships commenced in January 23. This post is co-located within early help.

### Transition

- The multi-agency Preparing for Adulthood (PfA) Protocol was updated with stakeholders to provide an agreed robust local framework. Key performance indicators have been agreed and it has been endorsed in principle by the SEND Executive Board, which will also provide governance and link to the Place Board.
- Reference to the CC/SE Protocol has been incorporated in to the Preparing for Adulthood Protocol (PfA) Protocol.
- The SEND and other key decision-making panels have been reviewed and membership updated to include representatives from adults' services.

### Child Exploitation

Child exploitation has continued to be a key area of focus for the NEL SCP, and we have established a child exploitation group outside of the home. The Adolescent Risk Strategy and exploitation guidance will be reviewed during the next year in order to further strengthen practice in this area.

## **7) Conclusion**

The NEL SCP Partnership have made progress in a number of areas, have undertaken developments, have identified areas which work well and areas for practice improvement and identification of current gaps. All of which has been evidenced throughout this report and in the summary below and which has informed the recommendations which will form the 2023/24 Strategic Delivery Plan.

### **Achievements**

- Appointed a NEL SCP independent chair which has impacted on the level of scrutiny and challenge.
- Review of governance arrangements and functioning leading to development of strengthened NEL SCP structure and governance arrangements
- Establishment of priority area time limited groups aligned to the three NEL SCP priorities.
- Effective partnership arrangements for responding to contextual safeguarding.
- Effective arrangements for responding to Prevent and Modern Day Slavery
- Effective processes for learning when things go wrong and in identifying required practice improvement.
- Strengthened arrangements for hearing the voice of the child, and further work identified in respect of assessing and the child's lived experience.
- Arrangements for learning from practice including where things go wrong are working well and have led to clear identification of learning and required practice improvement.
- There are robust governance arrangements in place that enable the NEL SCP to identify and respond to emerging risks and challenges
- Relationships are good and mutually supportive, including openness to challenge.

### Areas for improvement/ monitoring

- The need to finalise and embed the revised NEL SCP core data set and performance reporting in ensuring all key data is captured and the NEL SCP Board are fully sighted on risks, challenges, opportunities and practice improvement
- Strengthened reporting and oversight of activity and monitoring in respect of children in care and care leavers in year.
- The need to further strengthen and embed scrutiny and assurance arrangements including performance analysis and audit activity
- The need to further strengthen current arrangements for undertaking and evidencing the impact of practice improvement activity.
- Ensuring practitioners fully understand their roles and responsibilities in respect of Working Together to Safeguard Children statutory guidance.
- Overseeing the effectiveness of domestic abuse, child exploitation arrangements and the local preparation for adulthood protocol.

### Risks and Gaps

Agreed areas of risk are captured within the NEL SCP risk register which is overseen by the strategic risk management group in ensuring controls and measures are in place.

- Additional resources are required to support the effective functioning of the NEL SCP, a plan to achieve this is in place.
- A dedicated trainer is required to deliver the NEL SCP safeguarding training program and support the development of training to meet identified gaps including sexual abuse and neglect.
- Need for key focus on the effectiveness of local arrangements in responding to and safeguarding children in respect of familial sexual abuse.
- The focus during 2023/24 will be on embedding the neglect strategy, the Early Help Strategy and sexual abuse in the family home strategy. The NEL SCP will have close oversight of plans to strengthen local practice in these areas and on the impact.
- The NEL SCP quality assurance arrangements as part of the quality assurance group need to be fully embedded so there is sufficient oversight and assurance in respect of the quality of practice across the partnership.
- The impact of practice improvement activity related to the learning from local line of sight and practice review needs to remain a key area of focus.

## 8) Priorities/ areas focus/ recommendations for 2023/24

Recommendations	
Areas for Priority focus	
<b>Governance</b>	Assess the impact of the NEL SCP Governance structure and safeguarding arrangements in meeting the NEL SCP statutory functions, the three NEL SCP priorities and key identified areas of focus. Further strengthen the NEL SCP Governance structure in ensuring it has sufficient resources to enable its effective delivery and ensure resources are sufficient to meet the key requirements. Further strengthen and embed scrutiny and assurance arrangements including

	performance analysis and audit activity. Finalise and embed the revised NEL SCP core data set and performance reporting in ensuring all key data is captured and the NEL SCP Board are fully sighted on risks, challenges, opportunities and practice improvement.
<b>Early help</b>	Oversee the embedding and assess the effectiveness and impact of the Early Help Strategy for NEL, which clearly the roles and responsibilities of all system partners and stakeholders, in terms of identification, assessment and support for families at the earliest opportunity.
<b>Neglect</b>	Oversee the embedding and assess the effectiveness and impact of the NEL SCP neglect strategy, informed by the findings from the local thematic review. Neglect continues to be the second highest stated issue and needs to be recognised and responded to at the earliest opportunity.
<b>Familial Sexual Abuse</b>	Oversee the embedding and assess the effectiveness and impact of the NEL SCP child sexual abuse strategy. Historically there have been low figures in respect of referrals and children subject to familial sexual harm.
<b>Areas for Assurance</b>	
<b>Domestic abuse</b>	Reducing the harm for children who live in households where there is domestic abuse remains a priority area of focus for the NEL SCP due to its impact and potential to cause lasting harm for children and families across the community. The NEL SCP will continue to work with the Safeguarding Adult Board and Community Safety Partnership to oversee the impact of the Domestic Abuse Strategy and One System Domestic Abuse group in delivering this.
<b>Child Exploitation</b>	Tackling child exploitation and ensuring multi-agency arrangements are effective in recognising children and young people at risk will continue to be a key area of focus the NEL SCP. This will include reviewing and revising the Adolescent Risk Strategy and effectiveness of local arrangements.
<b>Training</b>	We will oversee the implementation and effectiveness of the NEL SCP safeguarding training aligned to the three NEL SCP priorities in ensuring it equips practitioners with the necessary knowledge and skills to recognise and respond to risk and need. The plan is to have a dedicated trainer to deliver the NEL SCP safeguarding training.
<b>Working Together</b>	As part of its work plan the NEL SCP will assess partnership agencies understanding and application of their roles and responsibilities and expectations of practice within Working Together 2018/2023. This will include thresholds, strategy discussion, core groups, information sharing etc and will be informed by the learning from local line of sight and rapid reviews.
<b>Transition</b>	Oversee the embedding and impact of the revised local transition protocol in supporting and preparing young people for adulthood and independence.



## 9) Appendices

### Appendix 1: The Annual Income and Expenditure of the Board (Financial Year 2022/23)

#### **CORE INCOME**

Made up of contributions from	
Humberside Police	£23,425
Clinical Commissioning Group	£31,400
NEL Council	£93,916
CRC/Probation Service	£2,184
NEL SCP Ear Marked Reserve Drawdown	£4,891
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£ 155,816</b>

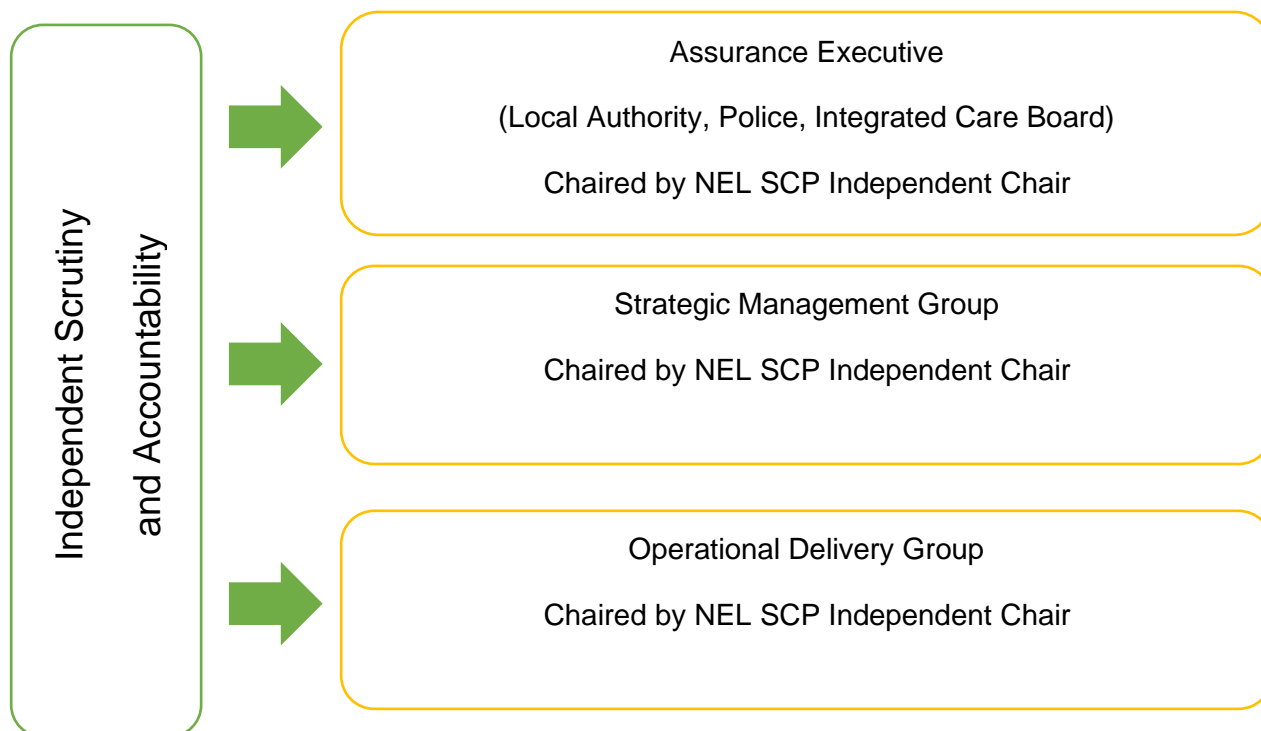
#### **STAFFING**

NEL SCP Board Manager	£57,610
NEL SCP Administrator	£28,905
50% Strategic Safeguarding Manager, Children's and Adults	£20,000
<b>TOTAL STAFFING</b>	<b>£106,515</b>

#### **OVERHEADS AND MANAGEMENT ON-COSTS:**

Accommodation, IT, Running Costs	£30,600
Independent scrutiny	£11,792
Other expenses (policies, subscriptions)	£6,909
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£155,816</b>

## Appendix 2: Governance Structure



Additional meetings/groups which are more time specific:

- Child Sexual Abuse Task and Finish Group
- Neglect Task and Finish Group
- Team Around the Family Task and Finish Group



**NHS**  
**North East Lincolnshire**  
Clinical Commissioning Group



[www.safernel.co.uk/nelsafeguarding-children-partnership](http://www.safernel.co.uk/nelsafeguarding-children-partnership)