



**Open Report on behalf of Heather Sandy, Executive Director –
Children's Services**

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	20 November 2020
Subject:	Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Performance Update

Summary:

This report is to inform the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee of the performance of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) during 2019-20.

Actions Required:

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is invited to review and comment on the work of the Partnership arrangements in promoting the safety and welfare of children across Lincolnshire.

1. Background

The Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub Group was discontinued at the Council meeting on 26 June 2020 and scrutiny of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership now falls under the remit of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee (CYPSC). This is the first presentation by the LSCP to the CYPSC, and the update today is based on the Annual Report 2019/20 which has just been agreed by our three Safeguarding Partners (Local Authority, Police and Health).

The CYPSC terms of reference relating to the LSCP in the Constitution are:

1. To scrutinise the effectiveness of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership's arrangements for ensuring agencies work together:
 - to protect children from maltreatment and prevent impairment of children's health or development
 - to ensure that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe effective care
 - to promote a community involvement in safeguarding children and promoting their welfare by raising awareness through publicity and training

- to develop and review policies and procedures
 - to have the safest possible practices in relation to the recruitment and selection of all those who work with children in a statutory and voluntary capacity
 - to ensure systems are in place to monitor the implementation of the lessons learnt from serious case reviews
 - to ensure the multi-agency and independent sector workforce is trained to safeguard adults and improve safety
2. To review and scrutinise the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership's strategy, business plan and annual report including any updates on progress with the implementation of the priorities in the business plan.
 3. To review and scrutinise the outcomes of any external inspection or peer review of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership including any action plans arising from the inspection or peer review.

Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP)

The Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) serves the county of Lincolnshire.

All new multi-agency safeguarding children arrangements were required to be published by June 2019 and in place by September 2019.

The passing of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 led to changes in guidance in relation to:

- the replacement of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) with local safeguarding partners,
- replacing serious case reviews with local and national reviews,
- the establishment of a new national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel,
- the transfer of responsibility for child death reviews from LSCBs to new Child Death Review Partners.

The Lincolnshire partnership has been clear in conveying the new arrangements across the county, and the already effective partnership has remained robust and engaged, following the changes.

The year 2019-20 saw the name change to Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership, with new branding being launched that illustrated the change whilst remaining identifiable to the agencies and organisations that make up the Partnership. The Assurance Executive was established as part of Lincolnshire's governance arrangements in 2019-20 and sits above the Strategic Management Group to scrutinise and challenge the work of the LSCP. Membership of the Assurance Executive comprises of the three key safeguarding partners identified in the statutory guidance: Local Authority, Police and Health.

As well as the Strategic Management Group, partners engage fully with the Operational Delivery Group and a number of subgroups including those focused on

Education, Child Exploitation, Policy and Procedures, Serious Incidents and Child Deaths. The LSCP also retains oversight and responsibility for the designing, development and delivery of multi-agency safeguarding training across the County.

The strategic priorities of the LSCP for 2018-21 are:

1. Tackling Child Exploitation
2. Enhancing the Emotional Wellbeing of Children and Young People
3. Promoting Healthy Relationships
4. Working Together to Recognise Risk Making Behaviours
5. To identify and reduce the impact of neglect on children and young people
6. To identify and reduce the impact of Domestic Abuse on children, young people and families.

2. LSCP Activity 2019-20

Engaging with Children and Young People

Following the successful pilot project of the Lincolnshire Junior Online Safety Officers (JOSOs), the scheme has continued into the offer from the LSCP training team. As schools have returned after the lockdown period, the training team have worked with education providers around how, and when, to continue to deliver the JOSO programme. Schools remain enthusiastic and welcoming of the scheme and virtual delivery and training of more Year 5 pupils has now commenced.

Under the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership (SLP), the Stay Safe Partnership (SSP) continues to bring together a number of agencies to deliver Stay Safe Days to schools across Lincolnshire. This has included the continuation of the secondment of the LSCP e-safety officer to the partnership to deliver face to face, interactive sessions, to thousands of children. The Stay Safe Days have focused on e-safety, healthy relationships, crime and anti-social behaviour, alcohol and drug awareness, and road or fire safety, all areas which align to the LSCP's strategic priorities. The content of the courses is regularly reviewed, taking feedback from children and young people. As with the JOSO scheme, schools have welcomed the return of the Stay Safe Days and uptake of face to face delivery is reported to be high.

Work of the Sub Groups

PPET (Policy, Procedures, Education and Training)

Agency impact presentations are fully embedded within the PPET sub group, giving agencies the opportunity to share the impact that the Partnership has on their agency, practice and/or service users, and celebrate and share best practice.

In working towards meeting the priority to *identify and reduce the impact of neglect on children and young people*, the LSCP has published a new chapter on *Responding to abuse and neglect*, agreed the Neglect Strategy and Business Case for the neglect tool (Graded Care Profile²) to be implemented in the forthcoming years.

Section 11 of the Children's Act 2004 introduced the need for identified partners to *make arrangements for ensuring that their functions are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children* (including those functions they commission). The Section 11 audit takes place in Lincolnshire every three years. This was due to commence in March 2020, but due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, it was agreed that the start date would be pushed back to September. This process has now commenced and partners are engaged in the audit and moderation period.

SIRG (Serious Incident Review Group)

During the last year, the LSCP has been managing three Serious Case Reviews, commissioned under *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015*. There have been no new Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews commissioned under *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018*.

CEM (Child Exploitation and Missing)

In 2019-20, a multi-agency Child Exploitation audit was undertaken with agreed recommendations for improvement. This has led to a further review of the Multi-Agency Child Exploitation Meeting (MACE), a new screening tool with accompanying guidance being agreed and published, and provided the basis for the review of Lincolnshire's Child Exploitation policies, procedures and guidance.

The taxi driver Child Sexual Exploitation e-learning module continues to receive high take-up by those in the majority of District Council areas, as taxi drivers need to complete the e-learning in order to renew their taxi license.

The LSCP has made a commitment to the Contextual Safeguarding approach, in order to understand the impact of the environments children and young people spend their time. The impact of this work will be evidenced through the West Lindsey Project, led by West Lindsey District Council and the multi-agency work across the local areas of Lincolnshire.

The focus on the need for analysis to drive the Child Exploitation agenda has been taken into 2020-21 ensuring that all work under the strategic priority *tackling child exploitation* will be delivered.

ESG (Education Sub Group)

2019-20 saw the implementation of the *Schools Safeguarding Assurance*. This work was led by the ESG to ensure the LSCP was able to evidence that all schools are meeting the required safeguarding standards. 77% of schools provided positive assurance; and none declared safeguarding standards were not met. The LSCP has again sought assurance from all schools but in an online format this year and returns are currently being collated.

In this year, the ESG oversaw the development of the *Keeping Safe Online* survey. This was circulated to all secondary schools for the first time at the end of 2019, and the results have fed into the review of the online safety training delivered

through the Stay Safe Partnership. Due to the small sample size, this will be run annually to better understand how safe Lincolnshire children feel online.

CDOP (Child Death Overview Panel)

As well as fulfilling their statutory duties, other activities resulting from the CDOP process are working groups to review local policy or local awareness raising campaigns, which are coordinated with the support of the Safeguarding Children Partnership, expert groups, national charities and frontline children's health and care services in the area.

The number of child deaths in Lincolnshire notified to CDOP between 1st April 2019 and 31st March 2020 was 28, compared to 30 the previous year. Lincolnshire CDOP has completed 28 child death reviews during this period. None of these deaths have been attributed to deliberately inflicted injury, abuse or neglect with the most common causes of death being acute medical or surgical condition or chromosomal, genetic and congenital anomalies.

Recommendations from CDOP have resulted in the establishment of the LSCP Task and Finish Group to produce Safe Sleep Guidance for Lincolnshire. This is in response to a continuing number of child deaths where unsafe sleeping conditions have been noted as a modifiable factor (co-sleeping with parent, bedroom temperature etc).

13 out of the 28 (46%) deaths reviewed in 2019/20 had modifiable factors identified, compared to 24% in 2018/19. The proportion where modifiable factors were found is higher than the England average of approximately 30%.

Training

Course Title	Number of courses				Number of Learners that completed			
	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
Inter-Agency Safeguarding Children and Young People (2 day)	47	44	49	42	941	874	1045	844
Child Exploitation	14	11	16	15	219	176	207	303
Recognise disguised compliance and disengagement within families	7	7	8	13	102	100	150	238
Supporting Children with Mental Health in Lincolnshire	5	4	7	7	88	60	110	129

Safer Workforce (Recruitment)	4	6	4	8	70	96	91	131
Online Safety	6	4	4	4	44	67	60	68

Additional courses offered through the LSCP in 2019-20 included:

- The Unrecognised Power of Language
- Drug and Alcohol Awareness
- Child Home Injury Prevention (CHIP) Train the Trainer
- Child Home Injury Prevention (CHIP)
- Child to Parent/Carer Abuse Training

Face to face training was withdrawn on the 17 March 2020 following government guidance. It was recognised immediately that the e-learning courses and six year pathway would support the multi-agency practitioners in continuing to ensure their safeguarding training was up to date. It was recorded that the number of completed e-learning significantly increased at this point, demonstrating our partners valued the e-learning provision within the pathway. Since then the training team has worked hard to translate the Child Exploitation and the 2 day face to face Inter-Agency Safeguarding Children and Young People events into accessible online courses using a blended format of eLearning and virtual workshops. This has ensured that the core offer to partners has been maintained during this period.

Communications and Campaigns

Along with linking into national campaigns and the findings of Serious Case Reviews, in 2019-20, the Partnership reviewed the approach to campaigns, and planned a *Healthy Relationships* campaign for the summer term of 2020. This had the voice of the child at the very heart of the key messages produced and the same approach is planned for the *Promoting Positive Body Image* campaign for 2020-21.

Subject/Theme	Month
Self-Harm Awareness	May 2019
Child Safety Week	June 2019
Safer Feeding	June 2019
Private Fostering	July 2019
World Suicide Prevention Day	September 2019
Online Safety at Christmas	December 2019
Online Safety (Safer Internet Day)	February 2020
Child Exploitation National CSE awareness Day	March 2020

3. Conclusion

The new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements have proven to further strengthen the Lincolnshire Partnership; with all sub-groups, operational and strategic management groups, well attended with full participation and professional challenge. The partnership is assured that the requirements listed in the statutory guidance (*Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018*), are robustly met, and this has served Lincolnshire well to manage the risks and issues presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

Not applicable

5. Background Papers

The following background papers as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 were relied upon in the writing of this report.

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
LSCP Business Plan 2018 - 2021	https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/safeguarding/lscp

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