

Welcome to the Solihull Safeguarding Children Partnership Newsletter. This newsletter will include information on recent changes for the partnership, details of training and learning for professionals.

Updates from the Delegated Safeguarding Partners

In recent weeks Sir Alan Wood completed his review of children's social care and the safeguarding partnership and the report can be seen [here](#). After completing the report Sir Alan has remained involved as commissioner for Solihull, and he has supported us to navigate and progress some of the changes we refer to below.

Independent Scrutineer – we are delighted to announce that we have appointed Beate Wagner as our Independent Scrutineer. Beate is an experienced former Director of Children's Services and also delivers the scrutiny role in Manchester. This is a significant and crucial role around challenge and scrutiny

Business Manager – we have recently appointed Esther Blake to the role of Business Manager for the safeguarding children partnership. Esther currently works for a safeguarding partnership in Berkshire, and hopes to join us in July. In the interim we have Brindha Emmanuel covering this role.

The Partnership Improvement Plan has recently been refreshed and will receive considerable focus during 2023. We recognise the urgent need to improve services for children in Solihull, and working effectively as a partnership will help us to achieve things that working alone never could. The improvement plan will feature in all our meetings, and we are confident that through this plan we will embed best practice and hold one another to account.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the staff who have supported the partnership during this period of change. Recent years have been particularly testing for all of our services, which has made achieving a partnership approach even more challenging. Nevertheless, we would like to thank Susan Haddon for her hard work as Business Manager and wish her well as she leaves the service at the end of this March, and also to Karen Perry who has now moved to her new role in another part of the Council.

We would also like to take the opportunity to thank Ricarda Norris and Ian Mills in the council's business improvement team who have provided support, challenge and 'change expertise' as we seek to create a partnership which responds to and effectively meets the challenges we face in leading safeguarding services in Solihull.

Thank you for your commitment and service to the partnership, and we hope you share our enthusiasm and confidence for the year ahead.

Spotlight on our Delegated Safeguarding Partners

Director of Solihull Children's Services, Pete Campbell

"My name is Pete and I joined Solihull as the Director of Children's Services in October 2022. I am a social worker and have enjoyed working in a range of teams across statutory services since the 1990's. I first became involved in social care as a residential social worker and then working with street homeless people in central London. Issues around housing and care leavers continue to be a key interest for me. My career to date has typically been fairly close to the M4! – Bristol, Swindon, Bath and more recently West Berkshire. So, this is the first time I have come and worked in the West Midlands. People told me it was a good place to come with strong partnerships and regional working. I'm looking forward to enabling children's social care to help deliver the best services we can for children and families here in Solihull."



Pete sits on the SSCP Executive Group as the Delegated Safeguarding Partner representing Solihull Council. In the next issue of our newsletter, we will introduce you to one of our other Delegated Safeguarding Partners representing Health or Police.

Learning from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews in Solihull

On 22nd May Solihull Safeguarding Children Partnership will be hosting a webinar on teams to raise awareness of headline learning from recent child safeguarding practice reviews and show what has been done in response to the recommendations. For more information and how to book click [here](#).

Guidance to support children and young people who have a parent/carer/ significant person from their lives in prison

New multi-agency guidance has been developed to support children and young people who have a parent/carer/significant person from their lives in prison - this guidance is aimed to support professionals, parents, carers and families. The guidance can be viewed on the Solihull pages in the [West Midlands Safeguarding Procedures website](#) or by clicking [here](#).

Multi-agency guidance on completing assessments

New multi-agency guidance has been developed for professionals on completing assessments. This guidance is to ensure that there is a consistent approach by all professionals who are involved with assessing the needs of a child or an adult and their family. Regardless of who completes the assessment, each professional should always consider a child's needs. The guidance can be viewed on the Solihull pages in the [West Midlands Safeguarding Procedures website](#) or by clicking [here](#).

NEW SSCP Multi-Agency Training

There is a new course that has been developed by Solihull Safeguarding Children Partnership to enhance understanding of contextual safeguarding starting in May. In addition, the Domestic Abuse Board have commissioned a new training course to be offered by Solihull Safeguarding Children Partnership.

Module 5.3 – Including Contextual Safeguarding in Individual Assessments

The aim of this course is to enable practitioners to consider how children and young people experience the environments they navigate in their daily lives and the risks they may face in these contexts. For more information on Module 5.3 please click [here](#).

Understanding and Responding to Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse

This training event considers the range of typologies of domestic abuse and violence. The identification of the primary perpetrator relies on assessment of dynamic. This day seeks to provide a framework for assessment of typology of abuse and additionally both safe and unsafe interventions. This is an interactive day which provides space for professionals to consider the challenges when working with perpetrators and additionally looks to highlight approaches to dealing with denial and shame whilst also placing responsibility on the perpetrator of abuse whilst avoiding collusion. For more information on this training event please click [here](#).

Please note – delegates must complete Module 6b prior to attending this course.

West Midlands Regional Procedures Updates

Abuse linked to faith or belief

This procedure looks at both breast ironing and belief in spirit possession. The procedure is intended to help raise awareness of abuse linked to faith or belief and to encourage practical steps to be taken to prevent it. The West Midlands Regional Procedures Group updated this in February 2023 so please could you ensure you familiarise yourselves with this updated version [here](#).

If you would like to ensure you are made aware of updates or changes to our regional procedures, you can sign up for updates on the website [here](#).



**REGIONAL
CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES
FOR WEST MIDLANDS**

Graded Care Profile 2 Elephant Practitioner Awards

Gina Godwin & Sue Evans from Wise Owls Nursery in North Solihull have been recognised again for their work in promoting the use of GCP2 by the NSPCC.

On Thursday 26 January Gina and Sue received GCP2 Elephant Practitioner Awards from the NSPCC in recognition of the continuation of the work they are doing to promote the use of GCP2. In addition to sitting on the Solihull Neglect Steering Group, they have both been involved in speaking at the launch events for the Right Help, Right Time, Right Response (thresholds) guidance and the launch of the Neglect Strategy 2022-24. They have also been sharing their experience within the UK by joining NSPCC network events and speaking at the launch of Durham's Neglect Strategy.

Gina and Sue were previously recognised for their work in promoting GCP2 in 2019 having helped the NSPCC to produce this [film](#)

The Solihull Safeguarding Children Partnership Training Officer also received an award in 2021 for helping to develop and provide materials for GCP2 training to take place virtually during the pandemic.

No Excuse For Abuse

No Excuse For Abuse - a website specifically for the West Midlands, has been launched. This central hub provides guidance for victims of abuse of any kind, directing them towards vital information and the support services available in their area. It will continue to be updated regularly with useful resources and further information about campaigns, such as 'Stop Right Now' and 'It Was Only A Kiss', to help people across the region to explore ways of engaging with the important work being done. The website can be accessed [here](#).



West Midlands Regional Section 11 and Care Act Compliance Audit Tool

We highlighted in our last newsletter that the Partnership will be launching a new Regional Audit Tool which covers both the Section 11 Audit and Care Act Compliance requirements. This audit was set live on 27th February 2023 and the deadline for completion is 12th May 2023. For further information on this tool or for any advice on accessing and completing the tool please contact Chloe Tyrer chloe.tyrer@solihull.gov.uk who is providing regional support to this project.

The Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse – webinars, resources, and eLearning



Free webinars

The Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse is delivering a series of free one-hour webinars to introduce professionals to its suite of resources and how they can be used in practice. There are three new dates for their session on 'Spotting the signs and indicators of child sexual abuse' and three dates on 'Speaking to children about child sexual abuse'. The webinars have dates scheduled from April 2023 through to September 2023. For more information, including how to book, please click [here](#).

Education resources

The CSA Centre has also produced a range of resources specifically for the education sector around Safety Planning in Education, Communicating with Children and Communicating with Parents and Carers. The resources can be found [here](#).

Free eLearning

The CSA Centre has created and launched a short, introductory eLearning course to help those in social work, policing, education, healthcare and beyond to understand what intra-familial child sexual abuse is, provide guidance on how to identify concerns and build knowledge and confidence in how to respond to support both children and their wider family.

The course takes just 90 minutes to complete and consists of three engaging modules, with interactive tasks, video explainers and a final assessment, with a certificate at the end. It's designed for professionals at all stages of their career; for those new to safeguarding, or as a helpful refresher. The eLearning course can be accessed [here](#).

Department for Education – Open Consultation

The Department for Education (DfE) has set out its long-term plans for the reform of children's social care in England. It is seeking feedback on its implementation strategy, a new national framework for children's social care and new rules on employing agency workers. Consultation on all three documents will run until 11 May and is open to all those who receive and provide children's social care services in England, and those who have an interest in it. The government's response following the consultation will be expected in September. You can access it [here](#).

Solihull Parenting Team – Being a Parent Groups

The Solihull Parenting Team are delivering both face-to-face and virtual 'Being a Parent' groups. For more information, there is a leaflet [here](#) with further details. Please feel free to share this with any interested parents and carers.

Multi-agency Practice Principles for responding to child exploitation and extra-familial harm

The multi-agency Practice Principles for responding to child exploitation and extra-familial harm are designed to support effective partnership working across different local contexts; providing a common language and framework to better respond to child exploitation and extra-familial harm to inform local and national responses to child exploitation and extra-familial harm. The Principles are non-statutory guidance commissioned by the Department for Education, and have cross-government support from the Home Office, the Department for Health and Social Care, and the Ministry of Justice. Click the picture on the right for more information.



Solihull Safeguarding Children Partnership Training

UPDATE: MULTI-AGENCY SAFEGUARDING TRAINING FOR 2023-24

Please forward plan your attendance on multi-agency safeguarding training for 2023-2024.

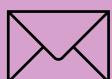
Through September - December 2023 we will not have access to a ground floor space to deliver safeguarding training and the space we have is only available via stairs, there is no lift.

We will ensure that all our courses are available on a termly basis and therefore request that if you have any difficulty climbing stairs you plan to attend multi-agency safeguarding training between April-July 2023 or January -March 2024. Dates for our April-July 2023 training can be found below however, more will be added in due course.

The courses we are currently offering are detailed below. If there is a course you are interested in that does not have a date displayed, register your interest on the website & you will automatically be notified when a date is added. You can register your interest or book onto a course on the Partnership training portal <https://training.solihullscp.co.uk/Learning-and-Development.aspx>

<u>Course</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Module 1 – Early Help (Virtual)	13.6.23 09:30 – 12:30
Module 1b Early Help – Recognising and supporting parents in parental conflict (Face to face)	11.5.23 9:30-16:30
	5.7.23 9:30-16:30
Module 2 – Child Protection: An introduction to multi-agency working (Face to face)	23.5.23 09:30-16:30
	27.6.23 09:30-16:30
Module 3 – Child Protection: The challenges of multi-agency working (Face to face)	2.5.23 9:30-16:30
	6.7.23 9:30-16:30
Module 4 – Child Protection: Analysis, judgement and leadership in partnership working (Face to Face)	TBC
Module 5 – All Age Exploitation Awareness (Virtual)	20.4.23 09:30–12:30
Module 5.1 – An introduction to contextual safeguarding (Virtual)	3.5.23 9:30-12:30
Module 5.2 – Parents as partners in tackling child exploitation (CE): Working with and supporting parents affected by CE (Virtual)	TBC
NEW! Module 5.3 – Including contextual safeguarding in individual assessments (Face to face)	9.5.23 9:30-13:00
Missing - Welfare Return Interviews (Virtual)	TBC
Module 6 - Neglect: Impact on child development (Face to face)	6.6.23 9:30-16:30

Module 6(b) - Neglect: Domestic Abuse (Face to face)	18.7.23 9:30-16:30
Module 6(c) – Neglect: The Graded Care Profile 2 (Face to face)	16.5.23 9:30-16:30
NEW! Understanding and Responding to Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse (Face to face)	14.6.23 09:30-16:00
Module 7 - Physical Abuse: Impact on child development (Face to face)	28.6.23 9:30-12:30
Module 8 - Emotional Abuse: Impact on child development (Face to face)	25.5.23 9:30-12:30
Module 9 - Sexual Abuse: Impact on child development (Face to face)	TBC
Managing Allegations against Staff (Face to Face)	TBC
An introduction to safeguarding for Voluntary and Community Organisations (Virtual)	20.6.23 13:00-16:00



sscp@solihull.gov.uk



safeguardingsolihull.org.uk



**Listening, Learning and
Improving Outcomes for
Children and Young People**

RESPECTFUL CHALLENGE • ACCOUNTABILITY • LISTENING • LEARNING • INCLUSION