



Hull Safeguarding Children Partnership

Hull Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report - 2023 - 2024



Foreword – Kay Durrant

During the last 12 months, significant progress has continued to be made across the Hull Safeguarding Children Partnership and it has been a privilege to witness, and be part of, the achievements.

Executive members from the three statutory partners have been joined by our newest member from the learning partnership and this has added so much richness to how we have operated. It is my hope for a lead from the voluntary and community sector to join us in the future, as this sector is integral to achieving all our goals and collectively making sure we focus on reviewing what difference we are making to the lives of children young people and their families.

The HSCP Executive Board have met monthly, and we have continued to drive change at pace. The subgroup chairs and their members have been amazing, and I have seen examples of so much practice that has been reviewed and learning taken forward using methods such as seven-minute learning guides and conferences jointly co-ordinated with the Adults Safeguarding Board and the Community Safety Partnership. I have continued to witness robust challenges and high support for one another and there is a genuine commitment at strategic and operational levels in all statutory and relevant agency organisations that has enabled us to keep making progress.

I want to thank the HSCP Manager, and all the staff in the HSCP Business Unit, for their support, commitment and dedication to safeguarding children. They have worked tirelessly and achieved so much with all our partners.

Front line staff have worked under immense pressure and several Line-of-Sight Reviews have identified good practice and areas for development which has been received positively and we have tracked improvements demonstrating accountability at all levels.

I want to thank all strategic leads, including schools and the voluntary and community sector, for all they have done, and still do, to support us and families in Hull. This includes the strong relationships with other strategic boards and partnerships as we can't achieve positive outcomes to safeguard children alone, we need to keep a strong focus on the connectivity across the system and work collaboratively to achieve our priorities.

I also want to say a heartfelt thank you to all the young people who have engaged with us, and it is my hope that we can do even more next year.



Kay Durrant
Hull Safeguarding
Children Partnership
Independent Chair



Introduction

This is the fourth annual report published by the Hull Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP), detailing activity which has taken place during the financial year of 2023-2024.

Working Together 2023 highlights the need for safeguarding partners to ensure accountability of arrangements through a published yearly report. This report details how Hull Safeguarding Children Partnership have fulfilled statutory responsibilities through co-ordinating, delivering and funding local safeguarding services for children and families.

The progress made, during this reporting period, is testament to the consistent commitment, strong partnership arrangements and collaborative relationships which exist.

In Hull, responsibility for safeguarding children is led by the three statutory safeguarding partners (Hull Local Authority, NHS Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Humberside Police) who form the Hull Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive Board (HSCP Executive Board).

Working Together recommends that Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships have a representative from the education sector present at strategic discussions so that the views of education are articulated at the highest levels of partnership decision making. In Hull, education representation is already evidenced throughout arrangements, at both strategic and operational levels. The Chief Executive Officer for an Academy Trust is a core member of the HSCP Executive Board, consistently attending and having equitable contribution in terms of oversight and decision making.



Pauline Turner
Director of Children,
Young People and Family Services
Hull City Council



Matthew Peach
Chief Superintendent
Humberside Police



Deborah Lowe
Place Nurse Director (Hull)
**Humber and North Yorkshire
Integrated Care Board**



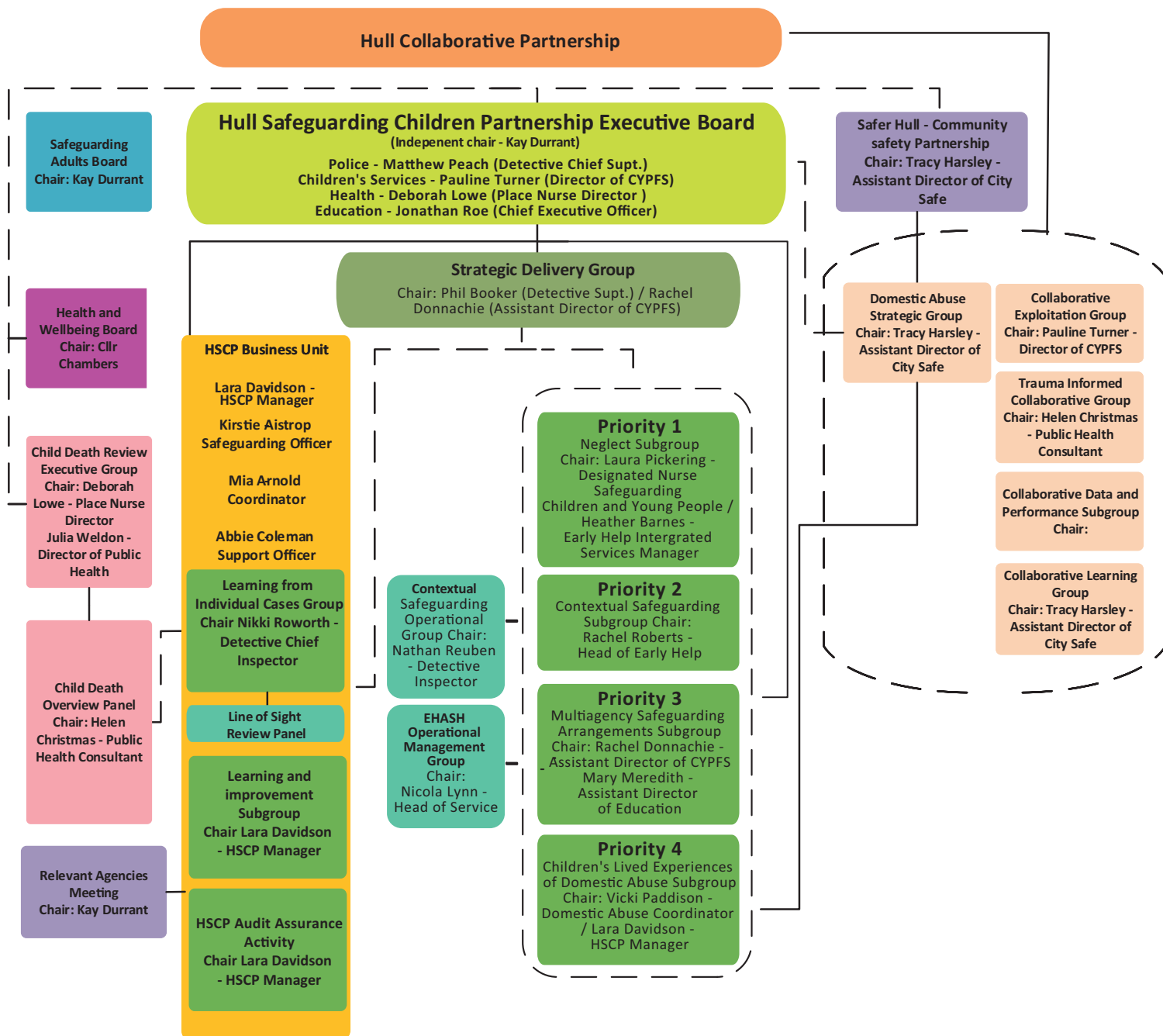
Jonathan Roe
Chief Executive Officer
**Thrive Co-operative
Learning Trust**

Service Delivery and Leadership

Service Delivery Framework

The HSCP governance arrangements are illustrated below.

The service delivery framework provides clear lines of accountability in terms of driving forward priorities for children and families, and ensures an effective system for reporting and assurance. The arrangements are accepted and adhered to within the wider governance of the statutory partner organisations and link with the Hull Community Plan.



Strategic Oversight

Throughout 2023-2024, quorate HSCP Executive Board meetings have been consistently held, demonstrating a shared and sustained level of commitment and investment to safeguarding children across Hull.

Monthly meetings were held during 2023, moving to bi-monthly from January 2024, with additional 'in person' meetings held for strategic planning, all chaired by the HSCP Independent Chair.

Under the current arrangements, subgroups are in place which drive forward the work of the HSCP. Statutory safeguarding partners take a shared responsibility in chairing the subgroup meetings which enables joint working and ownership in relation to priorities. Strong and effective leadership is important to lead the work taking place within the subgroups and chairing arrangements have remained consistent and stable during the reporting period.

During 2023-2024 a neglect subgroup commenced, evidencing the commitment across the partnership for a multi-agency approach to robustly identifying and responding to neglect. The previous EHASH Subgroup and Education Subgroup combined to form the Multi-Agency Arrangements Subgroup which is co-chaired by the Assistant Director for Education, Learning and Skills, and the Assistant Director for Safeguarding Children. This has further strengthened education being fully integrated into partnership arrangements.

Within all subgroups there is excellent representation and engagement from across the partnership, including the voluntary and community sectors, housing, police, probation, children's social care, health colleagues and education. Attendance is consistently good, and all agencies actively contribute and demonstrate tangible investment in progressing forward activity to improve outcomes for children. Bi-monthly Strategic Delivery Groups are now held providing an opportunity for chairs to regularly meet, ensuring a consistent approach and a forum for any emerging themes to be progressed.

Subgroup chairs provide a written report and attend the HSCP Executive Board on a quarterly basis in order to provide assurance in relation to activity taking place and to enable a quick resolution for any potential barriers.

Operational groups form part of the infrastructure, reporting into strategic subgroups. Arrangements include the Front-door Operational Management Group reporting into the Multi-agency Arrangements Subgroup and the

Operational Contextual Safeguarding Group supporting the Strategic Contextual Safeguarding Subgroup. The operational groups are attended by practitioners who support with developing and driving forward identified areas to support practice, including co-ordinating training and tools to support practitioners, and contributing to audit activity.

54+ HSCP strategic subgroups and operational groups held during 2023/2024 – all with good multi-agency attendance.

130+ additional multiagency meetings attended by HSCP Manager and HSCP Senior Safeguarding Officer outside of the immediate HSCP governance structure to support a whole family approach to safeguarding i.e. Thrive Board, Hull Modern Slavery Strategic Board, First 1001 Days Steering Group Meeting, Trauma Informed Hull, Serious Violence Prevention Group, Hull Multi-Agency PREVENT Board, Hull Domestic Abuse Board, VAWG IAG and forums.

As detailed within the service delivery graphic, excellent interface also exists between other boards with co-located arrangements in place to enable collaborative working across all systems. Examples of this include collaborative subgroups and joint working between Hull Safeguarding Children Partnership, Hull Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board and the Hull Community Safety Partnership.

Arrangements for this reporting period have been financed by the three statutory agencies. The core income has totalled £283,000. Hull City Council Local Authority contributions equate to 61% of the total input, ICB contribute 30% and Humberside Police 9%. The contributions have primarily financed staffing costs (HSCP Manager, HSCP Senior Safeguarding Officer, HSCP Business Support Co-ordinator, HSCP Service Support Officer and two HSCP Training Officers, HSCP Independent Chair and independent scrutineer activity) and learning events.

Current arrangements ensure that each safeguarding partner contributes to the structure of the multi-agency arrangements in terms of staffing resources to enable the functioning of the Hull Safeguarding Children Partnership subgroup activity.

Independence, Scrutiny and Assurance

During 2023/ 2024 the HSCP Independent Chair has continued as the consistent chair for the HSCP. This arrangement has been in place since the independent chair commenced her role in December 2020, chairing the HSCP Executive Board since January 2021.

The arrangement has enabled statutory partners to have equitable input, and be fully engaged in discussions, including individual agency risks. The independent chair arrangement has ensured the continued presence of strong leadership and professional challenge to drive forward priorities and provided continued scrutiny and assurance.

The HSCP Independent Chair works closely with the HSCP Manager to support the functioning of the HSCP Executive Board and associated governance arrangements, including providing independent oversight to support with resolutions when potential professional differences may arise and providing a scrutiny function in terms of local learning reviews.

Lead members also have regular oversight of activity, with Members of the Commission being updated in relation to key priority areas of the Hull Safeguarding Children Partnership, for example briefings provided in relation to neglect and domestic abuse.

To further enhance relationships and accountability, Partner Relevant Agency Meetings (PRAM) continue to be convened on a quarterly basis. These provide an opportunity for agencies to engage with partners to share updates relating to safeguarding activity across the partnership and to facilitate open discussion around what is working well and how to further improve engagement and progress. Feedback from agencies demonstrates improved joint working, and partners feeling that they are valued and integral to the work taking place across the partnership. An example of this includes a multi-agency in-person workshop held with relevant agencies during August 2023, where discussions were facilitated to views to be shared to inform the consultation relating

to Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023. These views were collated and shared with DfE during the consultation period.



Examples of feedback included –

“Great afternoon, time well spent considering the proposed draft” (Head of Service – Children’s Social Care)

“A productive afternoon which enabled some beneficial networking and conversations. Thank you” (Hull Community Safety Partnership)

“Excellent facilitation and discussion” (Assistant Director for Learning and Skills)

There continues to be an Independent Scrutineer appointed to the HSCP. Within the scope of this annual report, the Independent Scrutineer has undertaken scrutiny work relating to children who have been the subject of repeat child protection planning. Recommendations were progressed through a task and finish group, with wide representation from across the partnership including the Local Authority, domestic abuse services, VCSE, health colleagues, police colleagues and drug and alcohol services.

Findings from the scrutiny activity included identifying that 43% of Child Protection Plans were in place due to domestic abuse. As discussed within this report, significant activity has taken place in Hull to support practitioners working with families and children who experience domestic abuse. This has included the provision of bespoke training, ensuring practitioners have an improved understanding of coercive control.

As a result of this work, there is evidence to show that practitioners are increasingly effectively engaging with perpetrators to support them to address their behaviours.

The impact from the multi-agency work in relation to child protection has included a reduction in children being subject to a plan for the second time within a 24-month period (from 24.6% to 15.1%). There has also been a noticeable increase in the voices of children and families directly informing plans.

Professionals have been pro-actively working to ensure that the right agencies are attending Child Protection Conferences so that plans are multi-agency and fully informed. This has included increased attendance from drug, alcohol, mental health and domestic abuse services. Multi-agency sustainability planning has also been a key focus.

HSCP Delivery Plan

The 2023/2025 HSCP Business Plan describes the activities and outcomes which the HSCP will achieve in delivering against our identified priorities.

The plan includes clear timescales and measures of success and progress, including how updates from Working Together 2023 will be considered and embedded in Hull. Under revised governance arrangements for this reporting period there is a dedicated subgroup for each priority area to deliver identified objectives. HSCP priorities were collectively decided and agreed by HSCP Executive leads, demonstrating shared accountability and vision. Actions within the HSCP Business Plan are referenced in quarterly subgroup chair reports to ensure progress is consistently reviewed by the HSCP Executive Board.

[HSCP Business Plan - 2023 - 2025](#)



HSCP Strategic Priorities and Principles

The following priorities were agreed collaboratively by executive leads as being key areas of focus for the Hull Safeguarding Children Partnership during 2023/2024.

All the work which takes place through the Hull Safeguarding Children Partnership is underpinned by the vision that it is the right of every child to enjoy a healthy and happy childhood, growing up feeling safe from abuse or neglect and thriving in an environment which enables them to fulfil their potential.



Key principles underpinning our work include –

- Ensuring that the voices of children and their families are at the heart of all activity, embracing the ethos that their experiences inform the development and delivery of services within Hull.
- Strong multi-agency and multi-disciplinary working is vital to ensure children are safeguarded and protected. Activity undertaken through the HSCP is in collaboration with all partner agencies, communities and organisations who have a role to play in safeguarding, to ensure that children and their family networks are supported at the earliest opportunity to keep children safe.
- We will continually evaluate progress and emerging risks to ensure work undertaken has a tangible impact. HSCP will ensure continued transparency and accountability in safeguarding practices, with a focus on continual learning to improve outcomes for children.

Children and Young People in Hull

If there were only
100 children
 and young people in the city, then:



20 would have special education needs, 5 of which would have an education, health and care plan

34 would be eligible for a free school meal

26 would be of non-white British ethnic heritage

18 would speak English as an additional language

61 would achieve the expected standard in all of reading writing and mathematics as they left primary school

2 would have a child protection plan or a child in need plan

8 would be referred to children's social care

1 would be looked after

39 would leave secondary school with a strong pass in both English and mathematics

7 would be either not in education, employment or training or of unknown whereabouts after leaving secondary school.

- People**
- Director of Children's Services
Pauline Turner
 - Chief Executive of Hull City Council
Matt Jukes
 - Chief Superintendent
Matthew Peach
 - Hull PLACE Director
Deborah Lowe
 - Chief Executive Officer of Thrive Co-operative Learning Trust
Jonathan Roe
 - Lead member for Children
Councillor Linda Tock
 - Council Leader
Councillor Mike Ross
 - Young Mayor
Amelia Franczak
 - Chair of Hull Safeguarding Children Partnership
Kay Durrant

Learning and Improvement

The HSCP continues to be committed to ensuring that a culture of continuous learning, reflection and development exists, and there is a combined recognition that learning is key to all the work undertaken across the Hull Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP).

Opportunities for learning have been further enhanced by the collaborative activity which takes place between the HSCP, Hull Safeguarding Adults Partnership and the Hull Community Safety Partnership.

A new 'Collaborative Website' has been jointly developed and launched, providing an accessible platform for members of the public and professionals to access safeguarding information.



[Hull Collaborative Partnership \(www.hullcollaborativepartnership.org.uk\)](http://www.hullcollaborativepartnership.org.uk)

To ensure key local and national updates are widely shared across the HSCP, regular newsletters and virtual updates (including helpful resources and events to support safeguarding work, national key messages, campaigns, tools and learning) are shared through HSCP, reaching a wide audience across voluntary and statutory agencies.

[hscp-newsletter-march-2024](#)
hullcollaborativepartnership.org.uk

Followers to the HSCP 'X' (twitter) account have increased by over a 1000 in the last year, evidencing that communication and the audience reach is continually strengthening.

HSCP have participated in community events to strengthen connections, including spending time at a local Mosque to support safeguarding activity and supporting local events arranged through the Humber All Nations Alliance and Thrive (range of emotional and mental health provision in Hull).

Learning reviews

Safeguarding professionals make balanced judgements on a daily basis, and learning reviews provide an opportunity to reflectively discuss good practice and areas for improvement which will ultimately make a positive difference to the way we support children and young people.

The HSCP Learning from Individual Cases subgroup (LFICG) forms part of the HSCP's framework for learning and improvement and is held bi-monthly with consistently good multi-agency representation and engagement. This subgroup oversees all open HSCP learning reviews and actively develops, and ensures the progress of, action plans.

The core agenda includes sectors providing updates, and highlighting relevant emerging themes, to inform planning for safeguarding children across the system. Examples include six monthly presentations delivered by LADO to highlight general thematic findings and case specific practice to support wider practice improvement, the Hull Suicide Prevention Lead attending to support with learning, following the analysis of national and local suicides and Humberside Police providing updates in terms of the 'Right Care, Right Person' initiative.

There is a clear referral pathway for agencies to refer cases to HSCP when it is identified that a multi-agency review may be helpful to respond to wider partnership learning linked to child safeguarding. Learning from Individual Cases Panel Meetings are held on a monthly basis, with representation from statutory agencies. The panel considers all referrals made to HSCP for learning reviews, and referrers attend the meeting to ensure a collaborative and reflective approach as to how to progress learning most effectively. A case specific, nuanced approach is taken, with outcomes including reflective learning events or agency specific audits with key learning actions then shared within the wider subgroup.

When a case does not meet criteria for a potential Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review, our arrangements for local multi-agency learning have been strengthened through 'Line of Sight' meetings. These are now a regular feature of assurance activity and are equitable to a 'deep dive audit' (through individual agency pre-analysis and impact chronologies), followed by multi-agency reflective

discussion and shared identification of learning, research and resources to support future practice. Key messages are disseminated widely across the partnerships, through 7-minute guides and short briefings in the form of a Power-Point. These are all accessible through the HSCP website and shared through presentations delivered at subgroups and other partnership forums.

Actions identified are then tracked through subgroups to consider impact and effective implementation.

During this reporting period five 'Line of Sight' meetings have been held, with themes including bruising and injury to non-mobile infants, achieving best evidence for children during criminal investigations, and multi-agency responses to children's emotional wellbeing and mental health needs.

Identified learning has included the need for increased professional curiosity, improved multi-agency sharing of information and the need to always adopt a whole family approach. All of these themes are included in training and learning which takes place through HSCP and have informed conferences which have been facilitated by HSCP (as reflected throughout this report).

The 'Line of Sight' process is proving to be agile and responsive, and directly involves practitioners in the learning process. Feedback from partners across the partnership has been very positive in terms of practitioners and agencies feeling that this is a supportive and impactful process for learning, which has positively impacted on practice.

Quote from Consultant Paediatrician (Hull Royal Infirmary) –

“Not only has the Line-of-Sight meeting provided a great opportunity for multi-agency reflection, facilitated in a supportive and engaging way, it has also resulted in rich learning and actions which will help to improve practice in the future”.

This model has now been recognised as good practice across Hull and has been emulated across other partnerships, including the Safeguarding Adults Board.



Positive feedback has been received from agencies across the partnership in terms of the positive impact reviews have had on strengthening agency responses to safeguarding children by highlighting key learning themes and providing relevant research and resources to support changes in practice.

An example of impact to practice includes a multi-agency audit demonstrating that learning from a previous review, in relation to injury to pre-mobile babies, had been disseminated, the guidance had been followed and positive practice was noted as a result. A recent learning review has also noted improvements in the voice of the child being considered in relation to domestic incidents attended by Humberside Police.

Where a case meets the potential requirement for notification to National Panel, HSCP Executive Board representatives are notified and sighted on the details within 24 hours for oversight, and to endorse decision making. In terms of good practice, all three statutory agencies are involved in the decision making for cases which may require a safeguarding practice review.

Within the reporting timeframes for this annual report, there has been one new notification made to the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel in relation to the death or serious injury of a child where abuse or neglect was known or suspected. An in-depth Rapid Review was undertaken relating to a non-fatal injury to a baby, who has subsequently made a positive recovery. Some of the areas for learning identified during the review correlated with those highlighted within the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel Annual Reports, and subsequent

"I like the ease of the presentations and 7-minute guides, they are brilliant, they capture all the learning succinctly"

Detective Chief Inspector
- Humberside Police

"It is good that we are able to utilise them (Power-Points and 7-minutes guides) within our group supervisions and team meetings to share learning"

Named Nurse – Safeguarding Children
– City Health Care Partnership

themes from national reviews. National publications have been widely used to support practice and learning across the Hull Safeguarding Children Partnership and were helpful in supporting the review and subsequent plans. Examples of identified learning included the need to consider responses to non-mobile babies who present with bruising, working with families where the engagement is reluctant and sporadic, and continued professional curiosity, critical thinking and challenge. Understanding the lived experiences of children who are living in households where domestic abuse occurs was a theme also highlighted during the review. A multi-agency learning event has been planned for 2024 to revisit the plan and to ensure the learning has been impactful to practice.

"We thought that the review was comprehensive and identified relevant points of learning which we were pleased to see presented alongside an action plan for implementation".

Feedback from National Child Practice Review Panel relating to a learning review.

Work continues to strengthen learning across the collaborative partnership by working to integrate, align and share learning where there are cross-cutting themes, including through the Collaborative Learning Group. Examples of this include shared learning from LeDeR reviews, Safeguarding Adult Reviews, Child Death Reviews and Domestic Homicide Reviews.

An example of a successful collaborative learning approach, which has positively impacted on practice, includes a joint conference held focusing on supporting professionals across the safeguarding system to be 'professionally curious' due to this topic having been identified as a learning theme from reviews across the partnership. Learning from local and national reviews was shared, with guest speakers encouraging exploration as to how barriers which impact on this can be overcome.

Feedback included –

“Fabulous speakers who really spoke with passion and honesty which enabled reflection and deep thinking in both areas of how I can now live this into my day-to-day practice”.

“Thanks to the organisers it was such an inspiring day making me proud of all Hull are doing with all Partners”.

“A really remarkable day. A rollercoaster of emotions and a reminder of why I became a nurse”

Training and Development

The HSCP has continued to deliver a portfolio of training, consisting of classroom-based face to face training, in person online training and e-learning. Training delivered has incorporated both local and national learning.

400+ partners have attended webinars and on-line workshops delivered by HSCP with subject areas including Working Together 2023, Female Genital Mutilation, Honor Based Abuse and Bruising and Injury to Non-Mobile Babies.

8900+ partners have attended HSCP training (classroom, virtual and eLearning) with subject areas including Private Fostering, Parental Substance Misuse, Safeguarding Adults and Children, Channel and PREVENT awareness, and Signs of Safety Training.

Quality Assurance Activity

Quality assurance activity is a core function of the HSCP to ensure that we are monitoring the quality of work undertaken to safeguard children, and to understand how effective this work has been in improving outcomes to keep children safe from harm. In addition to the 'deep dive' auditing activity undertaken to inform Line of Sight Reviews, additional auditing activity has also been facilitated through the HSCP with examples including a focus on responses to children experiencing domestic abuse and the effectiveness of multi-agency responses when S47 enquiries commence (including when children are interviewed in accordance with achieving best evidence).

Additional examples of quality assurance activity undertaken during this reporting period has included task and finish groups being in place to ensure policies and procedures are current and updated through a multi-agency approach. This ensures consistency through all agencies working to the same guidance and promotes the ethos of 'working together'. An updated 'HSCP Resolution and Escalation Procedure' is now in place, with this also having been developed alongside a neighbouring local safeguarding children partnership to ensure a consistent approach for children and families, cross area boundaries. Webinars and workshops have been facilitated to support updated procedures becoming widely embedded in practice, with examples including updated guidance in relation to 'Bruising and Injury to pre-mobile infants' and neglect.

Priority 1 – Neglect

“HSCP will ensure that there is a clearly embedded multi-agency response to children experiencing neglect. Practitioners across all agencies will be supported to identify neglect, understand the impact on children and respond to this at the earliest opportunity”.

Support for children and families who experience neglect has remained a Hull Safeguarding Children Partnership priority. There is a commitment from all agencies to prevent children experiencing the detrimental impact of neglect, through a specific focus on early identification, support and prevention. Practitioners across Hull are encouraged to take the time to understand individual lived experiences to ensure the right support, at the right time. The Signs of Safety Model, which has been adopted by Hull Children’s Services, has assisted with this.

Under revised HSCP governance arrangements for 2023/24, a new neglect subgroup was introduced to progress work in relation to neglect across Hull. The subgroup membership has good representation, including statutory agencies, VCSE and education colleagues. The sub-group is co-chaired by the Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children (ICB) and the Hull Early Help integrated Services Manager. Links are also made with other forums to enable a collaborative response to neglect, including the Hull Safeguarding Adults Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Subgroup activity has included sharing key data sets to support practice improvement and discussing learning from audits. Areas of good practice which have resulted in positive change for children and families have also been shared.

The HSCP Neglect Guidance has been updated and includes the HSCP Neglect Tool which was developed in partnership with agencies to consistently support the early identification of neglect. Multi-agency feedback is showing that the HSCP Neglect Tool is now becoming widely recognised by all agencies and work continues

to ensure that this is consistently used across the partnership. Examples include the neglect tool being a core part of induction training across agencies (for example within the Hull Local Authority and many voluntary sectors).

[HSCP Neglect Toolkit \(hullcollaborativepartnership.org.uk\)](https://hullcollaborativepartnership.org.uk)

[HSCP Neglect Practice Guidance \(hullcollaborativepartnership.org.uk\)](https://hullcollaborativepartnership.org.uk)

Support has been provided to families across Hull to assist with pressures associated with the cost of living, including ensuring families know how to ask for help. Information has been widely cascaded across Hull, both internally within the Local Authority and in public spaces, with translations into languages commonly spoken locally. The Hull City Council Housing Safeguarding Lead has also led on briefings and videos detailing learning and support about condensation, damp and mould which have been widely shared across the HSCP to support families living in conditions which may pose a health risk.

[hscp-newsletter-october-2023 \(hullcollaborativepartnership.org.uk\)](https://hullcollaborativepartnership.org.uk)

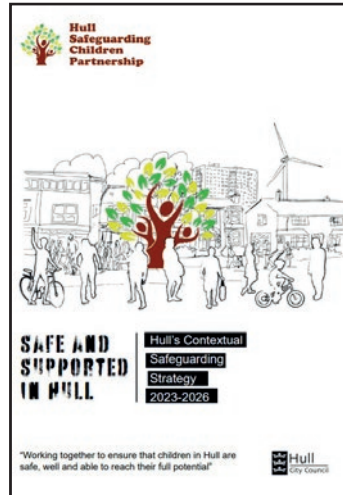
Briefings and learning events have been consistently held during the past 12 months, to assist with the identification of neglect and agency responses to this. During 2023-2024 over 300 practitioners have attended training with a focus on neglect, delivered through the HSCP.

Additional learning from reviews, and research around neglect, have been widely shared across the partnership to over 1000 practitioners, at both a strategic and operational level. Audiences have included Humberside Police during development days, Designated Safeguarding Leads during Safeguarding Education Meetings and to social care leaders and practitioners.

A highlight during December 2023 was the HSCP Neglect Conference, co-hosted with East Riding Safeguarding Children’s Partnership, and attended by over 200 safeguarding practitioners.

Priority 2 - Contextual Safeguarding

“The HSCP will work with all partner agencies to identify and reduce the number of children affected by exploitation. The focus will be on ensuring a good understanding across the partnership of the complex and inter-related issues associated with child exploitation to enable support and intervention to take place at the earliest opportunity to reduce risk.”



The Hull Safeguarding Children Partnership Contextual Safeguarding Strategy clearly states our collaborative approach, and this has been updated during the reporting period. Strong multi-agency working remains central to our work, with collective recognition that an integrated partnership response is required to support children and tackle issues connected to exploitation.

[Contextual Safeguarding Strategy 2023 - 2026 \(hullcollaborativepartnership.org.uk\)](https://hullcollaborativepartnership.org.uk)

The Contextual Safeguarding Strategic Sub-Group has continued to consistently drive forward our response to tackling child exploitation in Hull, co-chaired by the Hull City Council Head of Early Help and Prevention and the Head of Hull and East Riding Probation Delivery Unit. This has ensured accountability across all partners, a transparent approach and is supporting the ongoing development of the system wide response to vulnerable children who are experiencing extra-familial harm.

The sub-group includes representation from education, a number of partners from the voluntary and community sector, parks and leisure services, housing and statutory agencies. There remains a high level of motivation and commitment by all agencies to make a difference to children experiencing exploitation, which is evidenced by the continued engagement and attendance, at both a strategic and operational level. A multi-agency operational group supports the work of the sub-group, chaired by Humberside Police and Safer Hull, with a particular focus on training and community engagement. Strong links also exist into all relevant multi-agency partnership arrangements, for example the Humber Violence Prevention Partnership and Youth Justice agendas.

Training and awareness raising are priority areas of work. Offers include training delivered directly through the Hull Safeguarding Children Partnership. During 2023/2024, around 650 practitioners have accessed on-line and 'in person' exploitation training. The courses focus on online safety and exploitation, child sexual exploitation and child criminal exploitation.

An example of work undertaken includes a commitment to safeguard children, young people and adults at risk when they visit Hull's open spaces, with work taking place to provide a safer environment through landscape improvements. The Hull Head of Service for Open Spaces has described positive work which has taken place during this reporting period, working alongside Safer Hull, to ensure that parks, shopping centres and the Hull Interchange are more child and young person friendly.

Prevention and early intervention are at the forefront of our approach, with a strong early help and youth offer providing diversionary activities and support for young people in the community. Examples include the successful Hull Local Authority Healthy Holidays Programme (which has been very well received by children and families during 2023) and youth workers engaging with young people through outreach work and youth centres. The Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector (VCSE) play a key role in supporting young people through organisations including the Warren and Cornerhouse who work flexibly to respond to, and engage with, young people across Hull. Humberside Police, Safer Hull and VEMT (Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing Team) also work closely together to identify and support young people and encourage engagement with activities within the local community.

A Prevention and Diversion Network Event was held during June 2023 which brought together all relevant agencies to focus on our shared vision for diversion and prevention, including a focus on embedding trauma informed care into practice; recognising that trauma and adverse childhood experiences are often key factors for individuals experiencing risk.



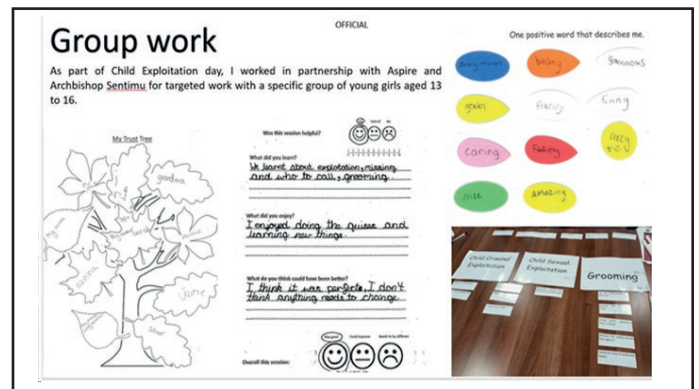
The Vulnerable, Missing, Exploited and Trafficked Team (VEMT) work closely with Humberside Police, the Locate Team (missing children) and Neighbourhood Policing Teams. VEMT staff are instrumental in undertaking assessments of risk, either through completing Return Home Interviews (RHI's) or via any direct work with children and young people who go missing and/or are considered at risk of exploitation. This has included targeted sessions taking place within schools to educate children around the risks of extra-familial harm and to ensure support is accessible. Impact has particularly been evidenced through the 'Missing No More Programme' which is an exercise undertaken with young people following their first missing episodes. Following the success of this work, a request has been made for this to be shared nationally through the National Working Group for Exploitation. Training has also been offered to all secondary schools in Hull, relating to identification of extra-familial harm and links with children who are reported as missing.

Daily meetings in relation to missing children are held between VEMT, Humberside Police and East Riding's 'Making a Change' Team, to consider children who are missing, share information, identify areas of concern, and agree actions to increase safety. This approach has proven successful in recognising 'cross border' associations, concerns and promoting collaboration to manage risk to children.

Weekly locality exploitation risk meetings in Hull (LERM's) also provide the opportunity to discuss young people more frequently which provides a prompter response to addressing risk.

During this reporting period Hull have extended discussions at MACE (Multi-Agency Child Exploitation meeting) to include 18–25-year-olds, recognising the need for a supported transition into adulthood. This includes two pathways: 17-year-olds transitioning into adults and our 18+ Care Leavers. Support to enable young people 18+ who are working with the Leaving Care Service to attend the MACE panel has been strengthened which enables inclusive multi-agency planning for continued support.

From 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024 there were a total of 75 young people discussed at LERM's, 41 of whom were escalated to MACE. All of these young people were successfully stepped down from MACE processes due to risk having been reduced through multi-agency planning. During 2022, a national Home Office NRM (National Referral Mechanism) pilot was implemented in Hull, resulting in significant reductions in delays for decisions when compared to those undertaken by the Home Office Single Competent Authority (SCA). The positive impact of this is that young people are identified as victims much earlier and benefit from their needs being understood and responded to in a timely manner. There is continued work with the NRM Modern Day Slavery Police in relation to the consideration and progression of Slavery and Trafficking Prevention Orders and Slavery and Trafficking Risk Orders to actively disrupt exploitation where it is identified. This has proved positive with a specific group of young people, and risk has been reduced by partners working together to share information and seek appropriate disruption methods.



Humberside Police have led on ensuring a continued focus on identifying, disrupting and pursuing those who seek to harm and exploit children. The Organised Crime Silver Group (multi-agency partnership meeting led by Humberside Police) has continued to strengthen, with key themes and updates then presented to the HSCP Contextual Safeguarding Sub-Group.

The monthly meetings share intelligence relating to areas of concern relating to drugs (including County Lines), organised and acquisitive crime and adult/ child exploitation. The meeting focus includes ensuring that appropriate safeguarding actions are planned for any child who is identified as being potentially impacted by the work of organised crime groups.

Local prevention campaigns, led by the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner have also provided a wealth of resources to support young people, families and practitioners. Examples include videos led by young people, describing their lived experiences and tools which are available to support responses.

[Link: https://notinourcommunity.org/](https://notinourcommunity.org/)

Priority 3 - Multi-agency arrangements

“The Hull Safeguarding Children Partnership will work with all agencies to ensure that there are effective safeguarding arrangements across the system which offer effective intervention and support for children, young people and their families.”

During this reporting period, a Multi-Agency Arrangements Subgroup (MAAS) has been established, co-chaired by the Hull City Council Assistant Director for Learning & Skills and the Hull City Council Assistant Director for Children’s Safeguarding. This has enabled a collaborative approach, ensuring that the role of education and learning is fully integrated within safeguarding.

The subgroup focus has included considering the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding responses to concerns and referrals submitted through EHASH (Early Help and Safeguarding Hub – front door), examples being the application of thresholds, strategy discussions and transfer arrangements. Audit activity has continued to show that there is an appropriate and swift multi-agency response for children who are identified as being at risk of immediate harm and that thresholds are generally appropriately applied, for example when holding a strategy discussion. Data from March 2024 indicated a reduction in re-referrals, suggesting families were receiving an appropriate initial response from agencies. Domestic abuse is the highest reason for contacts and referrals being made through EHASH.

PITSTOP was introduced into Hull in January 2022 by Humberside Police with a view to improving early identification and understanding of need, harm, and risk to ensure appropriate support and intervention could be accessed at the earliest opportunity. PITSTOP continues to be an integral part of the ‘front door’ system and regular updates have been provided through the Multi-Agency Arrangements Subgroup in terms of place based and regional outcomes. Contacts made to police are triaged through the Humberside Police Vulnerability Hub. Daily multi-agency PITSTOP meetings are held to consider the most appropriate agency early response to support children and families where there is no identified immediate risk.

Regular updates have been provided to the Multi-Agency Arrangements Subgroup members in terms of Working Together 2023, and the associated guidance, including Information Sharing for Practitioners (2024). A separate task and finish group has been established to drive forward the HSCP response to Working Together which will be detailed within the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements published during December 2024. The HSCP Manager has attended over 22 meetings and briefings with individual partner agencies to deliver relevant presentations in relation to Working Together 2023 and to listen to views as to how we can ensure this leads to the best possible outcomes for children and families in Hull.

There continue to be close links with the Safeguarding Education Manager. Regular ‘Designated Safeguarding Lead’ meetings are held with approximately 125 attendees at each session. This has proved to be an effective way to provide updates on current local and national issues and an opportunity to listen to the views of education colleagues. Agenda items have been delivered by a range of partners including Public Health input on ACEs and trauma; the role of Trusted Adult, from MIND; changes to the Prevent Duty from Hull’s Prevent Lead; information about child protection medicals, learning from Line of Sight Reviews; the NSPCC ‘Speak Out, Stay Safe’ programme and input relating to Child Death Reviews.

A priority focus has also been our multi-agency response to supporting attendance and reducing fixed term and permanent exclusions. Examples of work undertaken to achieve this include a partnership approach to the launch of the ATTEND framework, which is a holistic assessment tool supporting multi-agency planning around attendance. Link workers are in place across Hull, working closely with the Senior Education Welfare Officer.

‘Tea and chat’ sessions are now in place to informally support parents with attendance through informed advice provided by early help services, health and education. This has been welcomed by families and is being expanded to provide support where children are electively home educated.

Priority 4 - Domestic Abuse

“The Hull Safeguarding Children Partnership will work closely with Safer Hull (Domestic Abuse Strategic Group) to ensure that effective support and protection is provided to children, young people and their families who experience domestic abuse. The Hull Safeguarding Children Partnership will also work with partners to support ongoing early intervention and preventative work to raise awareness of domestic abuse.”

As highlighted within national guidance and publications, domestic abuse continues to have a significant impact on children and families. The prevalence of domestic abuse in Hull continues to be an area of risk for children and their family networks.

Strong and cohesive partnership links are evident in Hull, and it is recognised that a joint strategic approach to domestic abuse is key to reduce risk to children and to support a preventative approach to reduce the prevalence of children experiencing domestic abuse.

The domestic abuse arrangements for Hull are strategically driven through the Hull Domestic Abuse Strategic Board, co-ordinated through Safer Hull arrangements, with agendas informed by the Hull Domestic Abuse Strategy. HSCP work closely with the Community Safety Partnership to increase the effectiveness and sustained impact of services supporting families who experience domestic abuse with the aim of preventing repeat incidents of harm. The board is chaired by the Assistant Director for

Community Safety, with good multi-agency attendance and participation by all relevant agencies. There has been strengthened attendance by HSCP at the meetings, including the HSCP Manager, Assistant Director for Children’s Services and the HSCP Independent Chair, with planning for children clearly evidenced.

Safer Hull are regular attendees at HSCP meetings to enable a collective response for children who experience domestic abuse, including attending the HSCP subgroups to support preventative work and training needs and contributing to auditing activity. A co-chairing arrangement is in place for the ‘Children and Young People Living with Domestic Abuse’ workstream (HSCP and Safer Hull). This is an active multi-agency group coordinating activity to support agencies who work with children and young people who experience domestic abuse. Membership includes the Domestic Abuse Partnership, specialist DA commissioned providers (i.e., Women’s Aid, Purple House, Time to Listen) health colleagues, children’s social care, VCSE and many other agencies who provide support for children and young people who are impacted by domestic abuse.

Developments to date have included the cascading of learning in relation to domestic abuse, supporting families who experience violence from young people and events held across the Humber Region, with a strengthened focus on children. Humber Wider Domestic Abuse Learning Events were held during 2023, co-ordinated through a working group led by the Strategic Domestic Abuse Services Manager and attended by the HSCP manager and partner representation from across the Humber Region. The events were attended by over 1000 practitioners, with a focus on economic abuse, supporting migrant survivors/ victims of abuse, and recognising coercive and controlling behaviour.

Welcome to the Humber-wide Domestic Abuse Learning event



Please leave your cameras and microphones switched off at all times.

Please use the chat facility to ask questions

GDPR Strictly no Recording

9.30am	Economic abuse and the impact on victims & survivors
9.50am	Rachel Williams will share her lived experience of domestic abuse and the impact of coercive & controlling behaviour. Distressing Content plea
10.40am	Safety before Status – Rights and Routes for Migrant Survivors / Victims
11.05am	Break
11.20am	Destitute Domestic Violence Concession (DDV)
11.40am	Certain Curtain Theatre Company – “Life sentence”
12.45pm	Close

Today's event is emotive and we urge you to take care of yourself throughout the session, details of support services are provided in the chat



Domestic Abuse Locality Practitioners (DALPs) are now in place to support social workers in their work with both victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse. Family practitioners have also been working with colleagues in the domestic abuse service to further develop their skills.

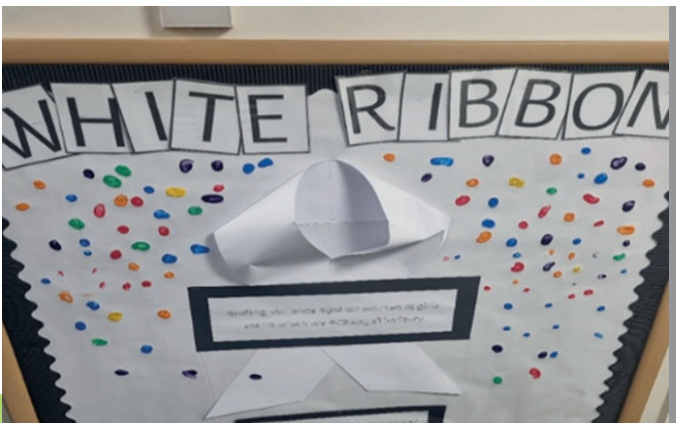
Following training and development sessions, the number of consultations between DALPs and social workers continues to increase, with over 270 initial consultations held during 2023. This approach has improved practice and resulted in increased MARAC referrals and increased domestic abuse risk assessments on children's records which helps to inform plans to support children to remain safely at home.



HSCP are actively involved in the work relating to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and attend relevant work streams, including the VAWG Strategic Delivery Group and the VAWG Independent Advisory Group, which is chaired and informed by members of the public. Early intervention and education are key to progress and HSCP have signed a statement of intent to work alongside agencies to tackle VAWG. The VAWG strategic workstream will be key to ensuring that activity in relation to VAWG is coordinated and responsive to need.

The network of domestic abuse champions and ambassadors has grown. Young people are continuing to be recruited and provided with training to become White Ribbon Young People Ambassadors in order to share key messages with other children across Hull. The number of adult champions for domestic abuse also continues to grow. Hull currently has white ribbon young people ambassadors and domestic abuse adult champions.

During November 2023, the White Ribbon '16 days of action' commenced with at least 2321 children participating in activity taking place across schools in Hull. Schools prioritised were those who had received the highest number of Operation Encompass notifications. Activities undertaken had an impact on hundreds of children across Hull by increasing awareness around the importance of healthy relationships.



Feedback around the impact of White Ribbon Activity from Hull schools included -

- *“Links well to PSHCE curriculum. A lot of our children witness domestic abuse at home and white ribbon sessions gave them additional support around who to speak to if they are worried about things”.*
- *“Children enjoyed the activity, and the visit was something our Year 6 children mentioned in their exit questionnaire, so it had clearly stuck with them”.*
- *“In reception we had a lot of children hitting out at other pupils, but this has decreased since the white ribbon day.”*
- *“For one of our parents it became clear that she had to leave the relationship she was in when her son came home and was telling her about the activities they had been doing. She said ‘It was a light bulb moment for me, I felt like he was telling me about his day, but also letting me know he knew what was happening. This shook me into action, I told my family and with their support, I ended the relationship, and we were able to move on to a happier life.”*

“A girl and a boy spent their lunch creating this power-point about domestic abuse with no support. They are in Year 5 (aged 9) and they read it to the whole school during assembly”.

Feedback from a
Hull School

OFFICIAL

What to do if you see this

If you see this going on adult or child you need to tell someone trusted as this is not ok or report it to the police.

OFFICIAL



Conclusion – including next steps

The dedication and commitment of everyone involved with the Hull Safeguarding Children Partnership, has resulted in a tangible difference being made to improve our safeguarding response to children and families, during this reported period.

Through sharing knowledge and experiences, we have continued to embed a culture of continuous learning and healthy professional challenge, whilst acknowledging the pressures faced on a daily basis by agencies and professionals working hard to ensure a lasting difference is made for children.

We will continually evaluate the work of the Hull Safeguarding Children Partnership to always remain ambitious to achieve the very best for children and families in Hull.

Listening to, and hearing, the voices of children and young people, will always remain at the centre of our work as their views are instrumental in continuing to develop and influence services. During 2024/ 2025 it is our hope to further strengthen the inclusion of children and families through ensuring their views inform learning developed through Line-of-Sight Reviews and exploring the potential for young scrutineers to support and shape the work of the HSCP.

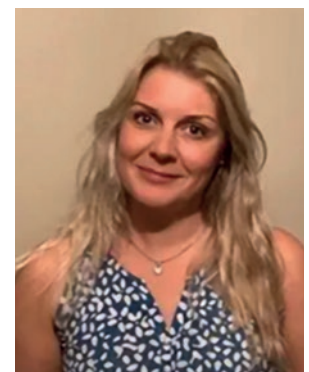
Collective attention is currently focused on ensuring the reforms and enhancements to partnership working, and safeguarding practices enshrined in the new Working Together 2023 guidance, are realised in Hull. We are delighted that we will have VCSE representation (Deputy Chief Officer Forum CIO/ Chief Officer Forum CIO) as part of the HSCP Executive Board during the subsequent reporting period.

Lead Safeguarding Partners and Delegated Safeguarding Partners are committed to strong and shared leadership of child safeguarding arrangements in Hull, with joint meetings having been held to agree the strategic direction and culture of local safeguarding arrangements. Plans have been implemented to ensure joint governance and accountability, including 'in person' meetings being held during 2025 to enable effective reporting and scrutiny of arrangements. This will provide an opportunity to review and endorse key partnership documents, review budgeting arrangements and have shared oversight of learning from reviews and independent scrutiny. A key focus will also be considering how we can integrate further our collective data sets to support the work of the HSCP.

Within Hull there is also a shared vision to further strengthen the alignment between the Hull Safeguarding Children Partnership and Hull Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board to enhance the strategic interface and connectivity across the system, enabling an enhanced family focused approach.

HSCP are committed to continuing to demonstrate an agile and responsive approach to learning, with continued reflection as to how we can maximise, and evidence, the impact that our work is having on improving the lives of children and their families. This will remain a key agenda item on all HSCP strategic subgroups. Opportunities will be further enhanced to share learning from reviews when cross cutting themes across adult and child safeguarding reviews are evident, to support a whole family approach to safeguarding.

Lara Davidson
**Hull Safeguarding Children
Partnership Manager**







Hull Safeguarding Children Partnership

