



Safeguarding Children Partnership Stoke-on-Trent

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter.

(May 2024)

Welcome to the next edition of the quarterly Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children Partnership (SOTSCP) newsletter. Here you will find details of upcoming events, training opportunities, safeguarding news, policy and procedure updates and much more.

Please don't forget to send us your safeguarding news and updates to share across our multi-agency partners, submissions to sscp.information@stoke.gov.uk. We are particularly interested in case studies, lessons learnt and best practice



Meet the Team



Welcome to Sue Kirkley as the interim Business Manager for the Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children Partnership. Sue is a registered Social Worker and has a background in Children's Social Care and partnership working.

If you would like to contact Sue you can email her at sue.kirkley@stoke.gov.uk

Festival of Practice

Monday 10 to Friday 14 June 2024

Here at the **Children and Family Services Learning & Development Academy**, we're about empowering you with the tools and insights you need to thrive. Dive into our Festival of Practice Week for Children and Family Services, Adult Social Care and the Safeguarding Children Partnership where learning takes centre stage!

Explore a diverse range of workshops led by industry experts, covering topics from writing Childrens records to contextual safeguarding. Gain invaluable skills and perspectives that will supercharge your work and impact.

The week provides free high-level learning and training sessions for our practitioners and multi-agency partners as part of their continuous professional development. Together, we can create a brighter future for children and families everywhere.

Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to learn, grow, and make a difference. **Book your sessions now and join us for a week of inspiration, discovery, and transformation!**

[Link to external only Festival of Practice Guide](#)

Please share this email with relevant students and colleagues to take advantage of this fantastic week of opportunities 👍



Contextual Safeguarding



There are dedicated child exploitation teams now in place in the city and county each comprising of:

1 Detective Inspector, 3 Detective Sergeants and 7 Detective Constables.

The team sit under the governance of the Child Public Protection directorate and report to a DCI.

Overarching priorities:

- Safeguard children at risk or subject to child exploitation utilising a multi-agency approach.
- Reduce opportunities for perpetrators to exploit children in Staffordshire
- Proactively target, disrupt and prosecute perpetrators of exploitation

- Identify patterns, themes and trends of exploitation and pursue a problem-solving approach to tackling these alongside partners

What we are trying to achieve:

- Reduce and eliminate exploitation of children in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.
 - Bring offenders to justice.
 - Make Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent a hostile environment for those who would seek to exploit children.
 - Improve our organisational response to recognising and investigating exploitation.
 - Ensure safe and confident communities.
 - Ensure joint up working across regions and organisations.
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Graded Care Profile (GCP2)

The GCP2 is an evidence-based assessment tool, developed and licenced by the NSPCC, to help identify and measure the risk of neglect. It helps practitioners to measure the quality of care provided by a parent or carer in meeting their child's needs, especially when there are concerns around neglect.

In April 2021, the former joint Stoke-on-Trent/Staffordshire Safeguarding Board commissioned the GCP2 and agreed its multi-agency implementation across both areas as part of a jointly held neglect policy. Since this time practitioners across Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire have been encouraged to become licenced to use the GCP2 and it forms a core part of our toolkit in understanding and assessing neglect and the risk of neglect.

As multi-agency practitioners, the GCP2 gives us an effective assessment framework to support our interventions with families and carers to focus on the elements of care which are having the most negative impact on their children, enabling us to avoid drift and delay and work in a SMART way. It also provides us with shared language in respect of neglect when we are navigating thresholds to ensure we are able to provide the right support to families at the right time. Most importantly, the GCP2 places the child at the centre of our work and highlights what the child is experiencing in respect of the care they are provided and neglect they are experiencing.

Following the positive implementation of the GCP2 at Stoke-on-Trent City Council, in January we successfully bid to become one of six Phase 2 test sites nationally for the much anticipated GCP2A, an extension of the original tool to assess and work with Neglect in the antenatal period. Partnering with the NSPCC during this test phase will allow our practitioners early use of the GCP2A working with families across the city where there are concerns about the impact of Neglect on unborn children, enabling us to work more effectively with families where Neglect is suspected or known.

Anyone can be licenced to use the GCP2 and free training is available through the Staffordshire Safeguarding Board

DfE Early Years Foundation Stage Government Consultation

The DfE has launched a consultation and are seeking views on proposed changes to safeguarding requirements in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework.

The consultation is in relation to proposals to strengthen the EYFS safeguarding requirements and make them more comprehensive for early years providers. This is to ensure that all children are kept as safe as possible in early years settings.

The consultation is now open to the public and in particular they invite responses from anybody with an interest in childcare. This includes:

- childminders
- childminder agencies
- early education and childcare providers
- early years and childcare practitioners
- nurseries, preschools and schools
- parents and carers, and organisations representing them
- charities
- local authorities
- early years and childcare sector organisations
- Ofsted
- colleges, universities and suppliers of qualifications

The consultation period started on 22nd April and will close on 17th June 2024.

The electronic link below will navigate you to the main consultation page:

[Early Years Foundation Stage Government Consultation - Department for Education - Citizen Space](#)



Watch out in Water

**Child Safety Week
Monday 3 to Sunday 9 June 2024**

"This has highlighted the dangers posed when a child is left unsupervised for a short period of time and even in the shallowest of water." **Coroner's report, bath seat drown of a 7-month-old.**

Drowning happens silently. A drowning child can't speak or control their arms. They slip quietly under the water. It's only in the movies they splash about and cry for help.

Babies and small children: Get everything you need ready before bath time. Stay with your baby or child all the time they are in the bath. Don't rely on siblings to keep an eye on each other, they are too young to understand the danger.

- Teach older children to choose safe places to swim like public pools and beaches with lifeguards.
- Explain the dangers of swimming in open water, including strong currents, deep, cold water and things under the surface they can't see.
- Turn a pond into a sandpit, or fence it in or cover it while your children are little.
- Make sure your child can't get to the neighbours pond.
- Be alert to ponds, pools or hot tubs when visiting other people's homes.

It can be hard knowing how best to teach your child to stay safe. Go to [Child Safety Week | Child Accident Prevention Trust \(capt.org.uk\)](#)

Wellbeing Portal from Combined Health

The All Age Wellbeing Portal empowers and enables the self-management of mental wellbeing for its users, whilst providing relevant information, guidance and support from the Trust and other partner organisations. It can be accessed by anyone, and they do not need to be service users of the Trust.

“We have previously launched and embedded a successful Portal for CAMHS (Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services) at Combined Healthcare, which transformed children’s services from traditional clinical referrals to a self-empowered model where children, families and professionals are able to access advice, materials and support.

“The All Age Wellbeing Portal follows this model, and is full of advice and support on a range of topics including: Coping Skills; Reducing Alcohol Intake; Gaming and Gambling; Hearing and Seeing Things Others Don’t; How Physical Health Impacts on Mental Health and Wellbeing; Eating Problems; Sleep Health; Body Image, and much more.

“This is designed to be accessible, user friendly and offer signposting to the right services at the right time, all in one place.”

An electronic referral option is already available for Children and Young People, and is now in development for adults and people with learning disabilities in North Staffordshire, coming later this year.

To access the All Age Wellbeing Portal, please visit <https://combinedwellbeing.org.uk/>



Private Fostering

Private fostering is the term used when someone who is not a parent or a 'close relative' (e.g. great aunt, cousin, mum's friend or a neighbour) is looking after a child or young person under the age of 16 (under 18 if they are disabled) for 28 days or more in their own home. It also covers children who stay at a residential school for more than two weeks of the school holidays.

If you know someone that is privately fostering you will need to refer that individual to Children's Advice and Duty Service (CHaD) on 01782 235100 for an assessment.

[Private Fostering \(stoke.gov.uk\)](http://stoke.gov.uk)

To understand more about Private Fostering, [please watch our short animated video](#)



Stoke-on-Trent SCP Training



Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children Partnership provides a series of multi-agency learning and development opportunities, which includes core safeguarding training, a variety of subject specific courses and topic based briefing sessions.

To view what is currently on offer or to book a place on any training event, please click on the button below.

SCP Training

FREE Lunchtime Learning: Fabricated Induced Illness and Perplexing Presentations [Thursday 6 June 2024](#), 1pm - 2pm, MS Teams

Level 3 Safeguarding Children and Parental Mental Health
[Monday 17 June 2024](#), 9.30am - 1pm at Bentilee Neighbourhood Centre

FREE Lunchtime Learning: Developing Professional Curiosity and Hypothesis
[Wednesday 19 June 2024](#), 12pm - 1pm, MS Teams

FREE Outcome Star Training
[Monday 24 June 2024](#), 9.30am - 4.30pm at Tunstall Family Hub

Level 3 Modern Day Slavery and Human Trafficking
[Wednesday 26 June 2024](#), 9.30am - 12.30pm at The Bridge Centre

Level 3 Safeguarding Children and Domestic Abuse
[Thursday 27 June 2024](#), 9.30am - 4pm, Zoom

JULY COURSES INCLUDE:

- Level 3 Learning from Local and National Reviews
- FREE Early Help
- Level 3 Safeguarding Children and Parental Substance Misuse
- FREE Non-accidental and Unintentional Injuries in Children Under the Age of Five



Stay connected...

If you enjoyed reading this update, why not check out the other updates and newsletters we offer by [clicking here](#).
