



Safeguarding Children Partnership Stoke-on-Trent

Safeguarding Children Partnership Newsletter: August 2023

Welcome to the Summer edition of the 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.



Francine Salem - Strategic Manager Safeguarding and Quality

Summer is a time to spend time with family and friends to relax and reconnect, however families are not always easy to navigate, so I just wanted to take this opportunity to raise awareness of children and young people who are “Privately Fostered”, a group of children who often go unnoticed, but it is important that everyone working with children and young people is able to recognise a private fostering arrangement so that we can keep those children safe.

In 2003, Lord Laming completed a report following the death of seven year old Victoria Climbié who had been sent to Britain by her parents to stay with her Great Aunt and Partner, this was an example of private fostering. Tragically Victoria died with 128 injuries to her body at the hands of her carers. Victoria's death led to changes in legislation and imposed a duty on all of us to identify private fostering arrangements so that appropriate safeguards can be put in place.

A child is privately fostered if they are under the age of 16 (18 years if the young person has a disability) and move to live with a person who is not a close relative, and that arrangement lasts for over 28 days. [We have developed a quick and easy to watch guide here to provide more detailed information](#), It was developed locally in Stoke on Trent and will only take a couple of minutes to watch.

Francine Salem
Strategic Manager Safeguarding & Quality

Multi-Agency Audits

Following on from our last newsletter where we told you about Joint Targeted Area Inspections (JTAI), we wanted to share some updates...

In preparation for a JTAI, we have started to undertake Multi-Agency Auditing across the partnership. This will allow us to self-evaluate how well local agencies work together to protect children.

The audit looks at the Child's voice and lived experience, partnership with parents, assessment, planning and intervention across agencies, and over all the collaborative practice to achieve better outcomes for children and young people in Stoke-On-Trent.

The aim of these audits is to assure ourselves that families are receiving the right help at the right time, Children and their families benefit from evidence-based approaches that reduce risks and meet their needs as well as the quality and timeliness of help and support prevent children's needs and risks from escalating.

The first set of Audits have recently been completed and the learning from these will be shared via the Quality Assurance Group to inform areas of practice improvement required and how we can collectively achieve this.



Staffordshire Police Public Protection Unit

Staffordshire Police are investing resources into the new Public Protection Unit. This includes an investment of 90 additional staff into the Public Protection Unit and a North and South Child Exploitation team. This will be led by Chief Superintendent who will be the Public protection

Lead.

Staffordshire Police are also moving towards building a Stoke Multi-Disciplinary Team that is co-located to help safeguard children that are at risk of exploitation and bring to justice those that are exploiting them.

- The Child safeguarding lead will be Supt. Nicky Furlong.
- The Adult safeguarding lead will be Supt. Victoria Lee.
- The Stoke-on-Trent Child Protection and Safeguarding Lead will be DCI Rob Taylor

Meet the Team!

Each quarter, we will ask a lead colleague from an agency within the partnership to introduce their self.

Hi! My name is Ayaz Vantra, and I have recently joined the Community Paediatric team at the Staffordshire Children's Hospital at the Royal Stoke, as a consultant in September 2022. I was previously a paediatric trainee in the West Midlands. I am passionate about safeguarding (as well as Liverpool FC!), and am looking forward to the challenge of filling in the big shoes left by the previous named doctor, Dr Jackie Kilding, who sadly retired in November 2022. I have enjoyed joining in the various meetings and subgroups for both Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire, and getting to know everybody. I love training and teaching, and have been enjoying delivering safeguarding training both within my trust and at Keele Medical School over the past 9 months.



I work as part of a team, with 2 named nurses (Gemma Shawis and Charlotte Tongue), as well as a named midwife (Mandy Stenson). Our roles include supporting colleagues needing advice regarding child protection matters, chairing peer review meetings, attending various trust and local authority meetings. We use audit to ensure good practice, and regularly review our training packages in response to themes from CSPR and rapid reviews.

I am always happy to hear your ideas about how we can improve the service we provide for children and how we can better work with our multi-agency partners. I am happy to be contacted via my email: ayaz.vantra@uhnm.nhs.uk



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](#)

Outcome STAR Training

Stoke-on-Trent's Supporting Families Team are delivering a number of Outcome Star training sessions. This training is for those staff who work predominantly with children and families in Stoke-on-Trent and who potentially contribute to assessing, planning, intervening and evaluating the needs of children.

Click on the dates below to book:

- [Friday 15 September 2023](#)
- [Friday 22 September 2023](#)
- [Monday 9 October 2023](#)
- [Thursday 26 October 2023](#)
- [Monday 22 January 2024](#)
- [Friday 9 February 2024](#)
- **Venue for all sessions:** Hazel Trees, 135 Duke Street, Fenton, ST4 3NR
- **Time for all sessions:** 9.30am – 4.30pm

