



Safeguarding Children Partnership Stoke-on-Trent

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter.

(Autumn 2024)

Welcome to the Autumn 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.

Change in opening hours for the Children Advice and Duty Service (ChAD)

Changes are being made to the opening hours for Stoke-on-Trent's Front Door also known as the Children Advice and Duty Service (ChAD) - 01782 235100.

The service will now run from Monday to Thursday from 8.30am to 5pm and on a Friday from 8.30am to 4.30pm. We are looking to implement the changes from Monday 28 October 2024. During these times, the ChAD consultation will be open to both professionals and the general public. The consultation line is an integral component of Stoke-on-Trent's Front Door. Outside these hours, you can contact our Emergency Duty Team if there is an emergency and/or if you have significant concerns regarding a child that cannot wait until the next day.

Our overarching objective remains that we are ensuring that children and families receive the right support at the right time, when they need it. The primary function of the professional consultation line is to provide support and guidance to our partner agencies regarding the level of need and identification of the subsequent steps through meaningful and high-quality discussions. The change of opening hours means that we would be able to continue achieving this more effectively.

Learning Conference 2024

The Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children Partnership hosted a Learning Conference on Wednesday 9 October 2024 in the Jubilee Hall with over 100 attendees, to share the learning from two Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.

There was shared learning with relation to understanding and working with neglect, multi-agency working at a universal and early help level, support for children with additional needs, unconsidered men and their role in the family and whole family approach.

The **Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews** are available to read on the Partnership website, along with summary report and learning brief, please share these resources with colleagues to support learning and development:

- [LCSPR Child B and Siblings](#)
- [LCSPR Siblings Child C and D](#)

7-minute Guide to Professional Challenge

Professional Challenge is an integral part of safeguarding.

It is a positive activity, good professional practice and effective multi-agency working.

It leads to better outcomes for children and their families.

Please click on the following link:

<https://safeguardingchildren.stoke.gov.uk/resources/briefings>



Pre-birth Pathway responding to concerns about unborn children

The new Pre-birth Pathway is now available to download from the Resources page of the Safeguarding Children Partnership website, please use the following link

<https://safeguardingchildren.stoke.gov.uk/>

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024 (KCSIE)

The DfE has now published the latest version of [Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2024](#). The previous government said that KCSIE 2024 would contain a limited number of changes, prior to wider changes next year following a call for evidence .

Schools and colleges and their staff are an important part of the wider safeguarding system for children. This system is described in the statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. 'Children' includes everyone under the age of 18. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play. In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all practitioners should make



sure their approach is child centred. This means that they should consider, at all times, what is in the best interests of the child.

No single practitioner can have a full picture of a child's needs and circumstances. If children and families are to receive the right help at the right time, everyone who comes into contact with them has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined for the purposes of the guidance as:

- providing help and support to meet the needs of children as soon as problems emerge
- protecting children from maltreatment, whether that is within or outside the home, including online
- preventing the impairment of children's mental and physical health or development
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

School and college staff are particularly important, as they are in a position to identify concerns early, provide help for children, promote children's welfare and prevent concerns from escalating.

All staff have a responsibility to provide a safe environment in which children can learn

All staff should be prepared to identify children who may benefit from early help.

Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges at any point in a child's life, from the foundation years through to the teenage years.

Any staff member who has any concerns about a child's welfare should follow the processes set out in paragraphs 49-55 of the document. Staff should expect to support social workers and other agencies following any referral.

Every school and college should have a designated safeguarding lead who will provide support to staff to carry out their safeguarding duties and who will liaise closely with other services such as local authority children's social care.

The designated safeguarding lead (and any deputies) are most likely to have a complete safeguarding picture and be the most appropriate person to advise on the response to safeguarding concerns.

The Teachers' Standards 2012 state that teachers (which includes headteachers) should safeguard children's wellbeing and maintain public trust in the teaching profession as part of their professional duties.



Pocket-Guide - Dangerous Dogs

Staffordshire Police have produced a pocket-guide around Dangerous Dogs.

This can be found on the Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children Partnership website, [Briefings](#) page.

Voluntary Sector Children's Safeguarding Group (VSCSG)

Working closely with statutory partners, the VSCSG exists to ensure local Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations are aware of and fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities and ensure that people who use their services or who are involved in their activities are kept safe and not harmed. There are approximately 40-member

organisations associated with the group which meets quarterly in a hybrid basis via MS teams and at Honeycomb Groups Head Office 308 London Road, Stoke.

The VSCSG met in February and May of this year with a further meeting scheduled in October. As well as receiving regular updates on the Safeguarding Children Partnership relating to quality assurance and learning and development, the group discussed revisions to 'Working Together' and what this means for the voluntary sector, a presentation on the NSPCC 'Together for Childhood' was also received. Recently established links with Stoke's Youth Council have helped to identify areas where members can support the councils' priorities such as supporting the homeless. Members also discussed Level 1 Safeguarding Children training and shared views on how this could be improved.

A presentation on Safer Recruitment by John Hanlon the Local Authority Designated Officer was received in May. Building on recent work of Honeycomb Group the VSCSG are also looking at ways in which members can promote safeguarding (adults and children and young people) to customers within their organisations. Finally, the group are looking at how it can promote safeguarding self-assessment by voluntary sector organisations with a view to developing a simple checklist or other streamlined tool. The checklist or tool when developed can be used to audit child protection and safeguarding arrangements and identify areas for improvements or where support may be required.

If you are interested in hearing more about the VSCSG or want to become a member contact lucy.willis@honeycombgroup.org.uk and/or vicki.gwynne@middleportmatters.org.uk

News from the Child Death Overview Panel



Child Death Prevention
Newsletter



October 2024

Signs of group B Strep infection in babies

Tragically a number of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent babies have died from Group B Strep. Be aware of the signs...

Early-onset 0-6 days

Early-onset group B strep infection occurs in the first six days of life. Most of these infections show signs within 12 – 24 hours of birth.

Early-onset group B strep infection in babies usually presents as sepsis, pneumonia and meningitis

Typical signs include:

- Grunting, noisy breathing, moaning, seems to be working hard to breathe when you look at the chest or tummy, or not breathing at all
- Being very sleepy and/or unresponsive
- Inconsolable crying
- Being unusually floppy
- Not feeding well or not keeping milk down
- A high or low temperature (if parents have a thermometer), and/or hot or cold to the touch
- Changes in their skin colour (including blotchy skin)
- An abnormally fast or slow heart rate or breathing rate
- Low blood pressure*
- Low blood sugar*
- * Identified by tests done in hospital

Early treatment saves lives. If your baby shows signs consistent with group B Strep infection, **seek urgent medical advice.**

Late-onset 7-90 days

Late-onset group B Strep infection occurs after a baby's first six days of life, is uncommon after a month and very rare after three months.

Late-onset group B Strep infection in babies usually presents as meningitis and sepsis.

Typical signs are similar to those of early-onset infection and may include signs associated with meningitis such as:

- Being irritable with a high pitched or whimpering cry, or moaning
- Blank, staring or trance-like expression
- Floppy, may dislike being handled, be fretful
- Tense or bulging fontanelle (soft spot on babies' heads)
- Turning away from bright light
- Involuntary stiff body or jerking movements
- Pale, blotchy skin

Early treatment saves lives If your baby shows signs consistent with group B Strep infection, **seek urgent medical advice.**



Group B Strep Support

www.gbss.org.uk tel: 0350 120 0796

Find us on social media:

#GBSaware

Registered charity number: 112065 | Registered company number: 5587535
Date published: April 2022 to be reviewed: April 2025



Child Death Prevention Newsletter



This newsletter is designed to raise awareness of the work of the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Child Death Overview Panel (CDDOP) and to bring news on our ongoing campaigns.

After the crash. Road Safety Week
Every road victim counts

Tragically a number of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent children have died on our roads as pedestrians, cyclists, drivers and passengers in cars.

17-23 November 2024

#RoadSafetyWeek

What is Road Safety Week?

Road Safety Week is Brake's biggest road safety campaign. Every year, thousands of schools, organisations and communities get involved to share important road safety messages, remember people affected by road death and injury, and raise funds to help Brake care for more road victims and campaign for safe roads for everyone.



Here are a few road safety reminders

Young children

- Hold your child's hand
- Use footpaths, and lead by example
- Start introducing the Green Cross Code

- The age that children can start to walk to school alone depends on their confidence, the environment and distance
- Practice the route together before they walk it alone, stick to safe pavements
- Discuss safe places to cross
- Sign up for cycling proficiency courses and wear a helmet

Learning independence

Road Safety Winter 2024



Hot Water Bottle Safety: Preventing burns and scalds

Doctors and nurses across the UK are urging us to use hot water bottles correctly as they cause serious burns.

The Children's Burns Trust is issuing an urgent appeal to parents and carers following a worrying 55% increase in hot water bottle burns to children. New data from the International Burn Injury Database (iBID), shows that burn and scalds to children in the first eight months of 2024 increased by 55% compared with the same period in 2023 and are urging families to avoid using hot water bottles for children.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA) advises that hot water bottles should be replaced every two years after being manufactured.

Please check your hot water bottle regularly for signs of wear and tear. The flower symbol, found on hot water bottles, indicates exactly when it was made. The number in the middle is the year of manufacture and the flower segments represent the 12 months of the year.

- The Lullaby Trust advises never putting a hot water bottle in a baby's sleep space as they can overheat.
- Remind older children not to sit or lie on hot water bottles.
- Never put a hot water bottle directly on your skin, use a cover.

For more information, click on the following link <https://capt.org.uk/hot-water-bottle-safety/>



New Training Course eLearning: Level 1 Safeguarding Children

A Level 1 Safeguarding Children eLearning course has been launched which enables learners to complete the mandatory training at their own pace, at a time to suit them.

Level 1 Safeguarding Children training must be refreshed every three years, regardless of attending any other Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children Partnership training course.

Please note: this course is **not** for City Council employees, who must book Level 1 training through the Council's internal Learner Management System.

[Please click here to book a place](#)



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 training events on offer until the end of March 2025 or to book a place on any session, please click on the below link.

Training taking place October - December 2024

- FREE Outcome Star training (Oct and Dec)
- FREE Counter Terrorism West Midlands Police Prevent Overview (Nov)
- Level 3 Learning from Local and National Reviews (Nov)
- FREE Restorative Practice training (Nov)
- FREE Threshold Framework 'accessing the right help at the right time' (Dec)
- Level 4 Designated Safeguarding Lead Officer training (Nov and Dec)
- FREE Prevent training (Dec)

[SOTSCP Training](#)
