



Safeguarding Children Partnership Stoke-on-Trent

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter

(January 2026)

Welcome to the winter 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 SoTSCP.Information@stoke.gov.uk. We are particularly interested in case studies, lessons learnt and best practice.



Meet Sue Spencer

Hello, my name is Sue Spencer and I am the Effective Practice Co-ordinator (EPCO) for Practice Development and Partnerships working within the Early Help landscape in Supporting Families and am new to the SoTSCP Learning and Development Subgroup.

I have been working with children and families for over 20 years running nurseries to working the last 10 years in social care.

I have a daughter and son, plus pets, Loopy Luna the Border Collie and Archie the drama cat, both rescues and each of them keeping me on my toes!

I have a passion for Early Help and support and am delighted to be able to be part of the Family Hub programme across Stoke-on-Trent.

Our Family Hubs vision is to have the following:

- A joined up network of services for families delivered in the community and complimented by a digital offer.

- Family Hubs are available to all and support families with children of all ages, from all backgrounds, with a range of needs.
- Collaboration and co-production at the heart of our Family Hub model.
- A gold standard Start for Life offer, complimented by universal and targeted services based on need.
- An accessible and flexible offer to meet the changing needs of families.

We have a number of Hubs across the city, including Chell Heath, Bentilee, Tunstall, Shelton, Normacot, Blurton, Hanley Market, Stoke Library and the newest satellite Hub at Abbey Hulton, which opened on the 21st November.

You can find out all the information you need including where to find us, through our digital Family Hub site. This site provides links to health, education, advice, guidance, Early Help, child development as well as parenting support, groups, drop-in sessions, online free training and useful apps to download. The following link can take you straight to the page for more information [Digital family hub - Family Hub](#)

Joint Targeted Area Inspections (JTAI)

The Safeguarding Children Partnership are anticipating that a JTAI will take place in the near future. A JTAI is an inspection framework for evaluating the services of vulnerable children and young people. It is conducted jointly by children's social care and education inspectors including Ofsted, CQC, HMIC and HMIP.

Please click on the button below to find more information on the JTAI and how you can prepare.

[7 Point Briefing - Joint Targeted Area Inspections \(JTAI\)](#)

Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day 2026 will take place on **Tuesday 10 February 2026** with the theme 'Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI' This year's campaign highlights an issue that has rapidly become a global discussion, how can we use artificial intelligence safely and responsibly? To access free education resources, read the top tips and practical advice, please click on this link: [Safer Internet Day 2026 - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)



Families First Partnership Programme



The **Families First Partnership Programme** is a major government initiative to transform how children and families receive support in England. Our main goal is to help more families stay together safely and help children thrive. We do this by providing early, joined-up, and family-focused support to prevent crises and improve long-term outcomes.

We want to build a system where professionals from social work, police, health, and education work together as one team. This means families get consistent, holistic support that adapts to their changing needs.

We will do this by having an integrated Front Door: A single referral route for all family help, including multi-agency triage and proportionate response.

Family Help Teams with Family Help Lead Practitioners that are qualified social workers and differently qualified professionals supporting families and children end to end with one single assessment;

Family Group Decision Making (FGDM): Empowering families, who know themselves best, to contribute to their own solutions.

Multi-Agency Child Protection Teams (MACPT): Co-located teams providing expertise, reflection and practice support to significant harm, with shared accountability.

Jane Stuart, is the new Families First Programme Lead for children's services. Contact her at jane.stuart@stoke.gov.uk.

Upcoming Q&A Drop-in Sessions: Join us on Teams for our next Q&A sessions, 1pm–2pm taking place on 6th February, 20th February, and 6th March. Please email familiesfirst@stoke.gov.uk for details.

Website Launch & Survey: Our new Families First website is now live! Please visit for updates, resources, and to feedback. Please do start visiting it regularly as we will be adding more information as things move forward. The feedback is for you to tell us what you want or need. Do also use the parents / carers and children feedback to ask them what they need and support their voice being heard. [Families First Partnership \(FFP\) programme | Support for children and families in Stoke-on-Trent – Stoke-on-Trent Children and Family Services](#)

NSPCC Learning

A new report examines the technologies available to combat online grooming, and the role the UK government, Ofcom and tech platforms can play to protect children. The report looks at how existing tools and interventions can be applied to private communication, as well as emerging technologies that could address harm in end-to-end encrypted environments.

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/2025/tools-combat-online-harm-private-messaging>



Primary schools can find support from our free [Speak out Stay safe](#) programme which includes an assembly video for KS1 and KS2, along with supporting lesson packs for teachers. We can also offer in-person workshops in some areas of the region.

Secondary schools can enhance RSE provision with our free [Talk Relationships Programme](#). This includes guidance on developing an effective and inclusive whole-school approach to RSE with free e-learning, lesson plans and a youth voice toolkit.



The service is also holding a free webinar on involving young people in the delivery of RSE. The webinar will cover the importance of youth voice as part of a whole-school approach and practical information on implementing youth voice in secondary settings. The webinar will take place online on **12 February at 4pm**. [Register here](#)



NSPCC Learning Podcasts: Browse through [episodes](#) on safeguarding and protecting children. The latest episode covers [Protecting boys from financially motivated sexual extortion](#) where CEOP education's Marie Smith and Childline's Danielle Harris discuss the different ways criminals are using online sexual extortion to target boys and young males.

Childline's [Race to a Milli campaign](#) is helping children and young people find the answers and support they need to look after their mental health when using social media. We're calling on professionals to help us reach even more children and young people. Watch the film and spread the message.



The Childline logo consists of the word "childline" in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.

Childline is accessible for children and young people who are d/Deaf or hard of hearing, with the option to chat or sign to a counsellor. Users can have a 1-2-1 chat, send an email or use SignVideo. [Childline Deaf Zone](#) also has lots of advice and support in English and British Sign Language

[Subscribe](#) to the **NSPCC safeguarding child protection newsletter** for free weekly email alerts to keep up to date with the latest safeguarding and child protection news.

News from the Child Accident Prevention Trust (CPAT)



Winter safety tips for families

As the weather gets colder, there are extra hazards to watch out for. A new winter safety guide has been created with top tips for keeping children safe from serious accidents this season. [Take a look](#)

Safety alert issued: Baby sleep pillows can be deadly for under 1s

Parents and carers are being warned not to use baby sleep pillows for babies under one.

These soft pillows and cushions are often marketed for baby sleep or as somewhere for a baby to be left unsupervised. But this can cause suffocation or overheating and may even cause death. [Learn more](#)

Are you using your hot water bottle wrong?

Did you know that using boiling water, overfilling it and even storing it incorrectly can damage a hot water bottle and increase the risk of burns? Please follow the instructions on your hot water bottle and remember to regularly check it for signs of wear and tear. [More top tips](#)

Teach children not to go on the ice

Frozen lakes, ponds, canals and reservoirs can be beautiful to visit during the winter months, but they can also be treacherous. In the UK, ice is unlikely to freeze to a suitable depth to safely walk on.

Please teach children not to risk walking on ice and regularly remind children and teens who go out on their own about the risks.

Visit [Royal Life Saving Society UK](#) to learn more

Electric scooters, hoverboards and e-bikes

Emergency doctors are worried about the increasing number of children they are seeing with devastating injuries from e-scooter accidents. Their high speed, coupled

with zero protection for children, are causing life-altering head injuries and event death.

Plus, the lithium-ion batteries that power electric scooters, hoverboards and e-bikes can start explosive fires that spread quickly and are difficult to put out.

[Learn more about the dangers and how to reduce the fire risk](#)

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.



You must have an account registered in your name on the Learner Management System prior to booking.

Also, please remember to check that your account is up-to-date, for example, current job role, line manager details, etc.

[To view the SoTSCP training offer, please click here](#)



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