



Safeguarding Children Partnership Stoke-on-Trent

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter

(October 2025)

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



Stoke-on-Trent City Council News

Director of Children's Social Care, Safeguarding and Early Help

Following the planned recruitment for the permanent Director of Children's Social Care, Safeguarding and Early Help, **Florah Shiringo** will be continuing in this role until January 2027.

This will provide continuity of management for this service and will allow us to implement the Family First Partnership Programme without the disruption of a change of Director, who has been leading on this key transformation project.

Changes to the Integrated Front Door

Dear Colleagues

Notification of changes to the Integrated front door Children's services Stoke-on-Trent

As you are aware, Stoke-on-Trent Integrated front door introduced a Portal system in May 2025 as the main referral route for our partners referring into the local authority. This also led to our local authority exiting the information sharing log (ISL) and introducing a MASH Delegation Portal for information sharing purposes.

We have listened to your views and feedback, and we understand and appreciate that there are several challenges to both portal systems and as a partnership concerns, potential risks and vulnerabilities have been raised and these are acknowledged.

To mitigate against these risks, we have reviewed our current system and would like to take this opportunity to seek your agreement to make some changes. We propose to suspend the use of the MASH Delegation Portal for information sharing purposes and to consider reverting to use of the information sharing log (ISL) as an interim position. We consider this to have the least impact upon our partners and internal staff whilst mitigating against risk in the most speedy and efficient way possible.

We would also like to take this opportunity to obtain your views on the current referral portal system and our proposal to progress to a hybrid model which allows us to have a conversation-based approach for referrals for most of our partners while maintaining the referral portal for some of the referrals and requests. We have taken into consideration the views of partners and internal colleagues and we appreciate the benefit of the portal system for some colleagues such as the Probation Service, 111 services, Ambulance Service and court requests.

The Integrated Front Door will remain the principle point of contact for children's social care and early help services. It is a well embedded service, and we value the benefits of having conversations with our partners and recognise the effectiveness of joint decision making, this is in keeping with our relational practice approach.

We appreciate that changes have been made in the past with limited communication about the proposed changes. We recognise that your engagement in this process has been limited, leading to some of the challenges we see today.

We would therefore seek all partners views on the above proposals in order that we make these changes as soon as possible. Please confirm in writing your views to SoTSCP.Information@stoke.gov.uk by **Wednesday 29 October 2025**.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and collaboration in what we foresee will be a shared journey of change with an agreed partnership arrangement to ultimately meet the needs of children and families.

Yours sincerely

Florah Shiringo
Director of Children Social Care and Early Help

Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children Partnership Website

We are in the process of developing a new website and we would like to hear your thoughts on how we can deliver a website that is both effective and user-friendly.



We would be grateful if you could spare a few minutes to complete the [Have your say - Safeguarding](#) feedback form by **Friday 7 November 2025**.



Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE) 2025

The updated [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) guidance was published on 1 September 2025.

When the Department for Education ran its Safeguarding Children in Schools and Colleges: A Call for Evidence (March–June 2024), the intention was to use that evidence to shape future, more substantive iterations of KCSiE. At the time, the consultation page noted that only technical changes would be made in 2024, with a wider update expected for 2025. However, the 2025 version has once again been limited to technical changes, and does not contain the broader revisions that had been anticipated.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework

There are two statutory EYFS frameworks:

- EYFS statutory framework for childminders
- EYFS statutory framework for group and school-based providers

The EYFS framework:

- sets the standards that all early years providers must meet to ensure children learn and develop well
- ensures children are kept healthy and safe
- ensures children have the knowledge and skills they need to start school



The frameworks that came into force in September 2025, include new requirements on references.

[Early Years Foundation Stage \(EYFS\) statutory framework - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-statutory-framework)



Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Violence Reduction Alliance - Neuro-Verse

Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Violence Reduction Alliance has designed a suite of resources to assist professionals and organisations to become neuro-aware.

[Neuro-Verse - Violence Reduction Alliance](#)

Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse

The CSA Centre has launched an eLearning course, identifying and responding to **intra-familial child sexual abuse**. The course takes just 90 minutes to complete, is entirely free and consists of three engaging modules, with interactive tasks, video explainers and a final assessment.



It is designed for professionals at all stages of their career; for those new to safeguarding, or as a helpful refresher.

[Free Intra-familial child sexual abuse eLearning](#)



Understanding and Responding to AI Generated Child Sexual Abuse Material

The Internet Watch Foundation has developed a guide for professionals in response to the increasing amount of AI generated content being produced (up 400% in 2025). The concern is that it may be inevitable that full length AI generated child sexual abuse films will be produced – and these synthetic videos will become indistinguishable from real footage. Due to the ever-increasing challenges with tackling CSA, it is hoped that this guidance will be of benefit.

[AI CSAM Guides for Professionals | IWF & NCA](#)

Domestic Abuse Awareness Month October 2025



Every October, communities around the world unite to shine a light on the devastating impact of domestic abuse, to support survivors and to call for collective action to end abuse.

Domestic abuse is not only widespread but deeply damaging to individuals, families, and communities. According to the Office of National Statistics:

- In the year ending March 2024, **4.8% of adults aged 16+ (around 2.3 million people)** reported experiencing domestic abuse in England and Wales.
- Police in England and Wales recorded **1.35 million domestic abuse-related incidents and crimes**, with 851,062 flagged as domestic abuse crimes, representing **15.8% of all recorded crime**.
- Around **72.5% of recorded victims are women**, though men are also significantly affected.

Over a lifetime, an estimated **9.9 million adults (20.5%)** in England and Wales have experienced domestic abuse.

DOMESTIC ABUSE SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS

Staffordshire-wide support for victims and their families

New Era Victim Service 24/7 confidential helpline - 0330 303 3778 24/7 live chat facility - https://www.new-era.uk	Staffordshire Women's Aid 24/7 confidential helpline - 0300 330 5959 https://staffordshirewomensaid.org/
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Localised support for victims and their families

Glow (North Staffordshire) Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm - 0330 094 5559 https://findtheglow.org.uk/	Pathway (Lichfield & Tamworth) 24/7 confidential helpline - 01543 676 800 https://www.pathway-project.co.uk/
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Staffordshire-wide support for perpetrators

New Era Behaviour Change Service Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm Helpline - 0300 373 5772 https://www.new-era.uk/

New Era

The New Era Domestic Abuse service provides free, confidential support for all those affected by domestic abuse including adults, children and families.

New Era's Victim Service

Free confidential support is available for victims of domestic abuse, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by phone or live webchat. The service also has dedicated specialist advisors working with LGBTQ+; Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Refugee (BAMER) communities; male victims and older victims, as well as those with a disability. Specialist support is available for both adults and children.

New Era Behaviour Change Service

New Era's Behaviour Change service provides help to anyone who is displaying unhealthy or abusive behaviour within their relationship and wants to change this. Specialist support is available for both adults and children.



Helplines Insight Briefing: young people's experiences of suicidal thoughts and feelings

NSPCC Learning has published a Helplines Insight Briefing using insights from **18,981** Childline counselling sessions in 2024/25 on young people's experiences of suicidal thoughts and feelings. In **80%** of these, young people were seeking support outside a crisis. Themes include when thoughts/feelings occur, attempts at help-seeking, unhelpful responses, and different coping mechanisms. Professionals can use these insights to reflect on how they respond and support young people who talk about thoughts and feelings like this.

[Read the briefing: Young people's experiences of suicidal thoughts and feelings](#)



[Childline posters](#) - download and display to encourage children to contact Childline if they need to talk. **Free** to download and versions for **both primary and secondary age** groups.



[Adult Helpline posters](#) - our series of display posters to encourage adults to contact us if they are worried about a child.



Schools can find support from our wide range of **teaching resources**. We encourage primary settings to sign-up to deliver the [Speak out Stay safe](#) programme for the coming autumn term, and secondary settings can find support for delivering inclusive sex and relationships education with our [Talk Relationships](#) service.



Visit **NSPCC Learning** to listen to the recently added '[Safeguarding in a multi-academy trust](#)' **podcast**. Learn more about how the role of a regional DSL can enhance safeguarding practices in a multi-academy trust. You'll hear from the NSPCC's Karen Squillino along with Jill and Habib from Lift Schools.



Free [Online safety webinars](#) for schools. A series of free training webinars **to help you keep children safe online**, supported by Vodafone. Short 60-minute sessions keeping you up to date with the latest guidance.



Navigating puberty: Resources for parents and carers of children and young people who have learning disabilities. There is advice, guidance, practical tips and a series of symbolised books. These resources have been created by Together for Childhood Stoke in collaboration with key local partners.



(un)comfortable conversations: A guide to help Muslim parents have important discussions with their children - whether it's puberty, relationships, boundaries or something completely different.

[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)



Help keep families safe this Diwali, Halloween and Bonfire Night

With Diwali, Halloween and Bonfire Night all quickly approaching this is one of the most exciting times of the year for children. But it can also be one of the most dangerous.

Did you know that sparklers burn 16 times hotter than a kettle? Or that powerful rockets unsuited to family back gardens are on sale to parents online?

Help the families you work with keep safety in mind by reading and sharing safety advice from the Child Accident Prevention Trust:

- [Stay safe this Diwali poster with four top tips](#)
- [Child-friendly safety tips from Fireman Sam](#)
- [Safety messages and activity ideas for early years settings](#)
- [Fireworks buying guide](#)
- [Top tips for safe fireworks at home](#)
- [What to do in an emergency](#)
- [How to keep children safe this Halloween](#)

Free road safety education programme for primary schools launched

CPAT have partnered with AXA Retail to promote safer driving habits through schools. The new road safety education programme, Backseat Boss, is designed to equip primary school children with the knowledge and confidence to talk about safer driving behaviours.

[Backseat Boss – a safer driving initiative](#)

News from the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

The latest CDOP newsletter raises awareness about the serious risks associated with button batteries and magnets.

In recent years, Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent have tragically recorded two child deaths linked to these items, along with a high number of emergency department visits due to suspected ingestion.



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 (CDOP) and to bring news on our ongoing campaigns.



Staffordshire
Safeguarding
Children Partnership

Magnets and Button Battery Awareness 2025

Be aware!

Magnets and Button Batteries

Magnets and button batteries are in everyday objects like car key fobs, remotes and children's toys. But did you know that if they are swallowed they can badly injure, or even kill a child?

Batteries react with saliva and if a child swallows a button battery it can burn holes and cause internal bleeding, or even death.

Magnets can rip through a child's gut if they swallow them, causing life-threatening injuries, or even death.

Tragically, two young children in Staffordshire have died from ingesting a button battery, and a magnet.

- Symptoms may not be obvious.
- Your child might be coughing, gagging or drooling, or pointing to their throat or tummy.
- Unclear or fluctuating symptoms mean it is important to be vigilant.
- Trust your instincts and act fast even if there are no symptoms.

They can be fatal if swallowed.

If you think your child has swallowed a battery or a magnet, take them straight to the nearest A&E department or call 999 for an ambulance



For further information visit: [Magnets safety](#) | [Top tips to keep children safe](#)
[Button Battery Safety](#) | [Child Accident Prevention Trust](#)

What's On

- 10 - 14 November 2025: [Anti-Bullying Week and Friendship Friday](#)
- 20 November 2025: [World Children's Day](#)
- 17 - 23 November 2025: [Children's Grief Awareness Week](#)

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.



FREE Learning Conference 2025

Date: Wednesday 10 December 2025

Time: 9.30am (registration from 9am) - 3.30pm

Venue: Jubilee Hall, Stoke Town Hall

What is it about?

- Introduction to the Serious Incident Notification process.
- To share the learning from two Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, which focus on the lived experiences of **Child E** and **Child F**.
- Consider how these findings can support **systems and practice** across the multi-agency partnership.
- Reflect on how the partnership can support the **emotional well-being** of its workforce.
- Gain understanding about the **Families First Partnership Programme** and how it supports multi-agency practice.

To book a place, please [click here](#)

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](#)
