

Health & Wellbeing Board

29 September 2021





Norfolk Safeguarding
Children Partnership

Annual Report 2020 - 21
29 Sept 2021

Chris Robson
NSCP Chair



Background and Context

Under Working Together 2018, Local Safeguarding Partnerships are required to report on local arrangements covering:

- Evidence of the impact of the work (including training) of the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies, on outcomes for children and families from early help to looked-after children and care leavers.
- An analysis of any areas where there has been little or no evidence of progress on agreed priorities.
- A record of decisions and actions taken by the partners in the report's period (or planned to be taken) to implement the recommendations of any local and national child safeguarding practice reviews, including any resulting improvements.
- Ways in which the partners have sought and utilised feedback from children and families to inform their work and influence service provision.
- Response to learning from child safeguarding practice reviews, Rapid Reviews and child death.

The scope of this annual report runs from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.

Two versions of the report

- Version 1: detailed report – circulated with HWB papers.
- Version 2: Children & Young People's annual report = Executive Summary – illustrated and co-produced with members of Norfolk In Care Council – tabled.
- Focus today on CYP version.

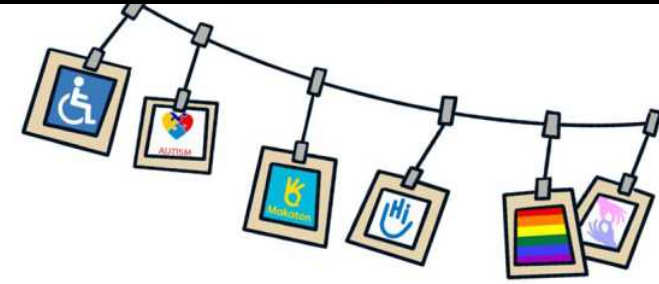


Why a CYP version?

Commitment to hearing the voice of the child.
Making the report inclusive and accessible.

What is important to them:

- Colourful images
- Diversity
- Using their words



1. Governance: Role of statutory partners

"We can put faces to the names."

It is really important to us that leaders are available and approachable."





1. Governance: Messages to Leadership

“Children and young people need to feel loved and cared for (where possible, pets can help!)”

“We need to know there are people who can help if something goes wrong in our lives.”

“Adults need to listen! If you are asking us questions because you are curious about our experience, that is fine so long as you don't make us just keep repeating ourselves.”

Show that you care about what we have to say and are willing to do something about it. Adults need to pay attention and believe it when children are telling them they are having a hard time. Sometimes they might not have the words.”

“Communication is so important and if people are making changes that affect us we need to understand what they are and why decisions have been made. It is really important that children know who they can talk to, who to trust and how to contact the people who will help keep them safe.”

“We need to know we can trust the people that work with us. It is hard if people keep changing jobs, particularly social workers, because we need stability.”

1. Governance: Links to Other Boards

- Acknowledging the other Partnership Boards involved with children and/or safeguarding.
- Supporting the Children & Young People's Strategic Alliance FLOURISH agenda.

“FLOURISH not only means to grow well, but each letter stands for something that makes the lives of children, young people and their families better. This includes: Family and Friends; Learning; Opportunities; Understood; Resilience; Individual; Safe and Secure; and Healthy.”



2. Covid: Strange Times!

Comms campaigns



“We really liked the positive messages because there was such a lot of bad news and we needed something to keep us going.”



2. Covid, cont.

- Schools and other partners also got better about talking about mental health as many people felt anxious as we have never lived through a pandemic before.

“We know if you don’t talk about how you’re feeling when things are tough, those feelings can slowly eat away at you.”

- Building Back Better: Research in Practice commissioned report looking at trauma informed and resilience oriented leadership and practice.

“To us, trauma means getting stuck in a bad head space and needing help to understand and accept scary experiences so we can start to feel safe and get over it. Resilience is about never giving up, on yourself or other people. It requires determination, ambition, staying hopeful and wanting the best for yourself. We can only make positive change if we are resilient and this is true for the adults who work with us. We need adults to be confident so they can get things done for us.”



“IT IS ALSO REALLY IMPORTANT TO BE KIND AND, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, TO HAVE FUN. FOR EXAMPLE, IF A SOCIAL WORKER IS KIND AND FUN, THEN WE CAN FEEL MORE OPEN WITH THEM.”



3. Independent Scrutiny

Independent Scrutiny Team



Chris
Robson



Sian Griffiths



Natasha
Rennolds

“Independent scrutiny means that the NSCP can check how well the partnership is doing to keep children safe. Scrutiny is a tool to help people to improve as it is a way to understand what the problems are.”



3. Independent Scrutiny, cont.

Scrutiny Activity included:

- Independent Scrutiny Team looked at adolescent neglect, Safeguarding Practice Review processes and impact of training.
- Multi-agency audit: response to Covid and neglect.
- Section 11 Safeguarding Self Assessment.



“

We can also contribute to scrutiny as there are children in Norfolk who have been trained as young inspectors. Ask us and we can help. This also helps us to understand what good looks like and is great for our own personal development as we learn new skills.

”

4. NSCP Priorities



PROTECTING BABIES



NEGLECT



CHILD EXPLOITATION

All priorities have published strategies and dedicated webpages on NSCP website with resources available to support best practice.

“ We think these are the right priorities and that young people could help in promoting the issues as well as finding the solutions. We go back to the points about communication and trust so we always know who to talk to if we are facing these issues or see them happening to someone we care about. ”



5. Rapid Reviews/Safeguarding Practice Reviews



Between July 2020 and June 2021, the NSCP:

- Completed 4 Rapid Reviews
- Published 4 Safeguarding Practice Reviews (some of these were called Serious Case Reviews)
- Completed another Safeguarding Practice Review and are waiting to publish it
- Looked at another 6 cases that were worrying



“One of the things we are interested in is how people learn from when things go well. The metaphor we used was thinking about footballers: if you managed a football club and had a young talented player, you wouldn’t teach him or her by just showing videos of when players get sent off with a red card. You would also want them to study teamwork, football skills, good communication and what it looks like when you get the ball into the back of the net. These are positive messages and keep you focused on achieving your goal – in our case, keeping children safe and making sure they are loved and looked after. This helps with building confidence in the safeguarding system.”

3. Training: It's All in the Skill!



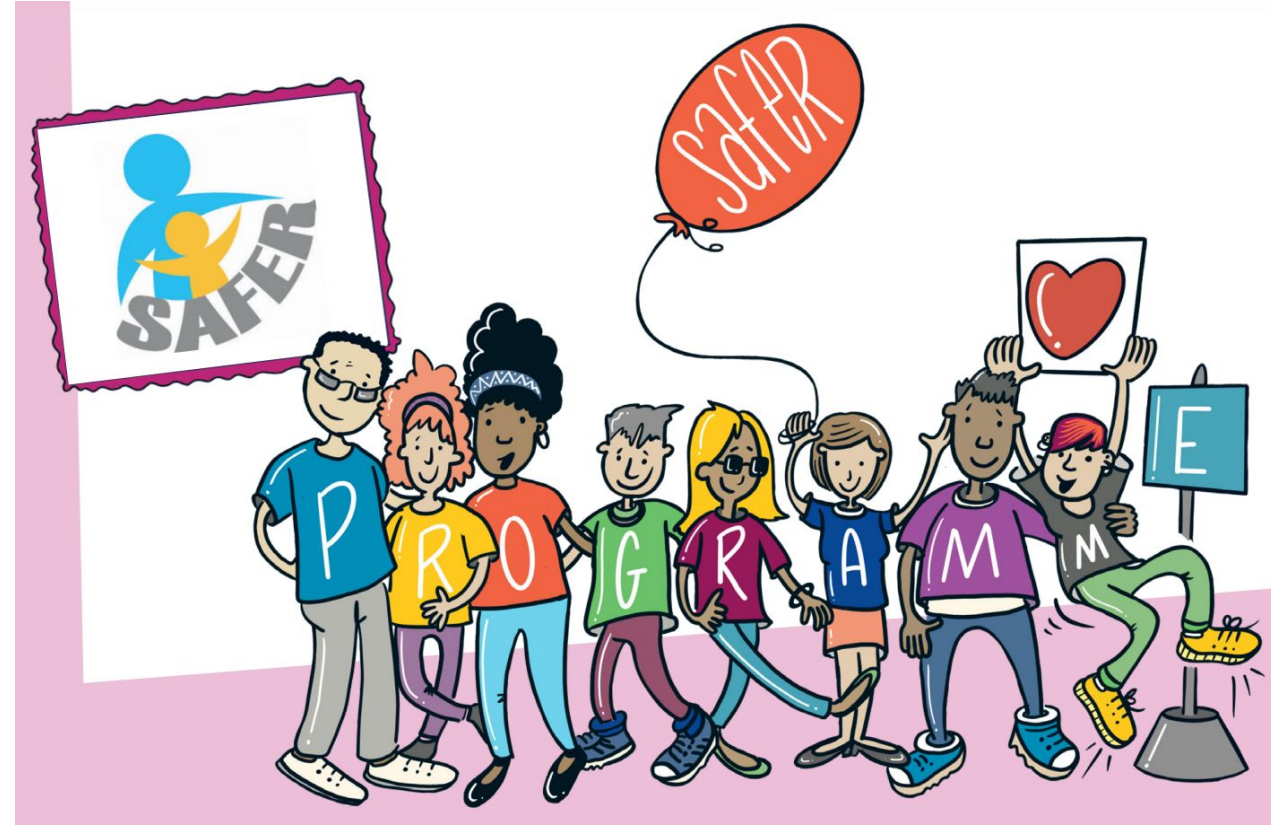
- Overseen by Multi-Agency Workforce Development Group.
- 66 multi-agency training courses offered.
- 1064 places taken.
- 173 'did not shows' - a worry!
- Best Practice events, SPR roadshows and Train the Trainer events.
- Impact evident in terms of reaction and learning but need to improve monitoring changes to behaviour in practice.

“We think one way the NSCP could measure impact is by talking to children directly after one of their workers has been on a training course...”

3. Training: Safer Programme

The NSCP is pretty special because in addition to the training the Business Unit provides, there is also a Safer programme, which helps the voluntary sector and other partners develop their skills. Safer also helps them make sure their policies and safeguarding guidance is up to date.

Safer has 492 members and is looking for more so they can help people from all the smaller organisations get better at keeping children safe.



Conclusions

We hope that you have noticed all the great things the NSCP has done this year and that it has achieved a lot. With safeguarding there is always a lot more to be done as children grow up and society changes. We don't know what lies ahead of us, particularly after this last year of Covid, but there are certain things that the NSCP wants to get better at. This includes:

- Continuing to develop a truly trauma informed safeguarding system from leadership to frontline and the communities they serve
- Independently scrutinising the mental health and emotional wellbeing of Norfolk's children and young people
- Evidencing impact and outcome against our priority areas with clear measures, performance intelligence, data and qualitative feedback
- Developing mechanisms for monitoring the impact of training on practice
- Reviewing the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements
- Working directly with the children, young people and families to ensure that their voices are heard and they contribute directly to strengthening the safeguarding system
- Promoting equality and inclusion and celebrating diversity in Norfolk.

“

We hope that we, the children and young people of Norfolk, are fully involved in supporting the NSCP achieve its future goals.”

”



Final word goes to the In Care Council...

The children involved could not present this in person due to both school commitments and Covid restrictions to in person meetings.

They have seen the final report and would like you to know:

***We would like
to be involved
in more
projects like
this in the
future***

***We are really proud of
the report that we have
produced. We think it
came out amazing!***

***What has been
included in the
report is really
informative.***

***We had an amazing day
working on the report,
talking about lots of
interesting things, having
good food and seeing
people in person. The
tubing was pretty good too!***

NB: The published version will have signposting at the end for children and families.

Any questions or comments?

Both versions of the report will be available on the NSCP website
from 30 September 2021.

www.norfolkscb.org



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