



Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership

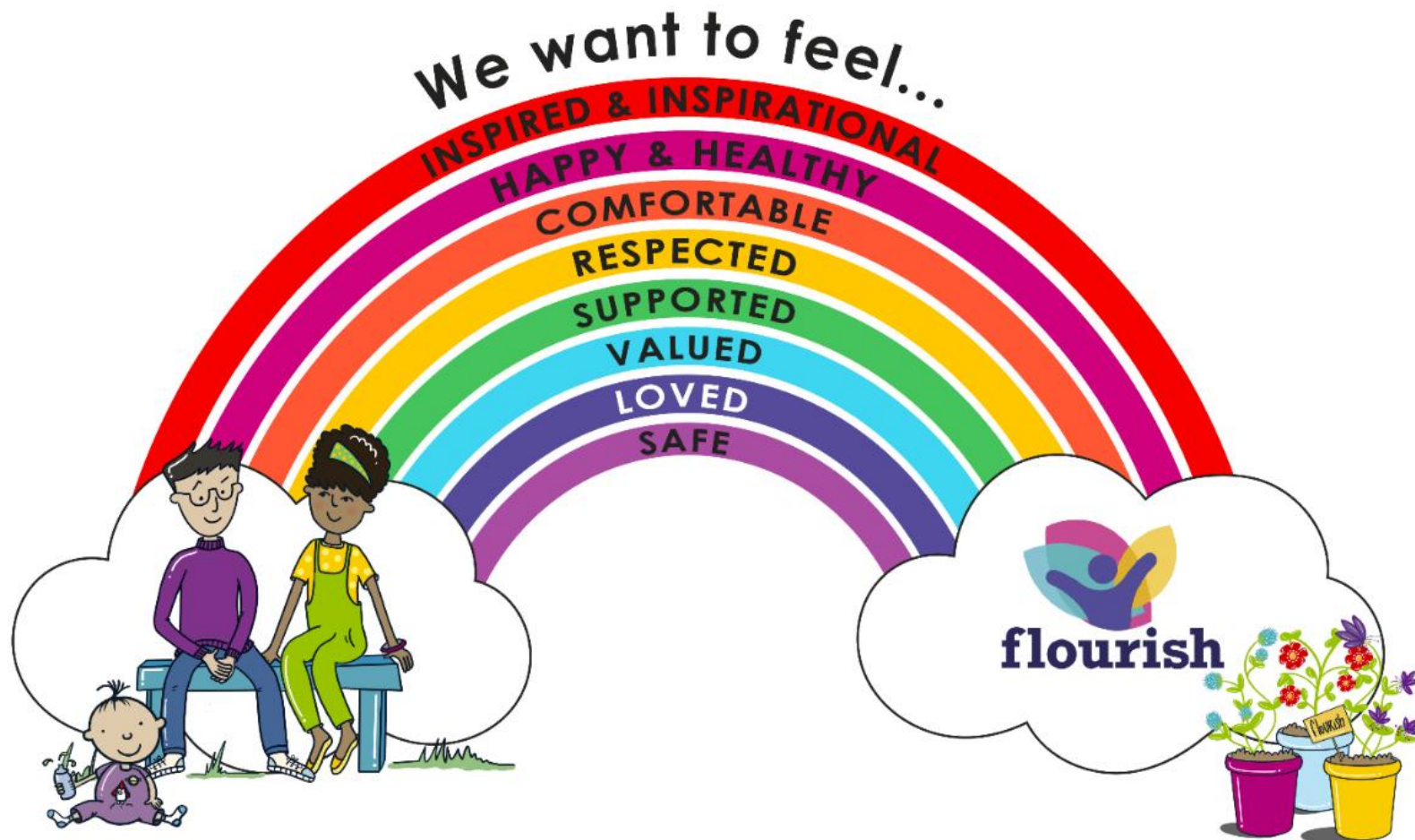
NSCP Annual Report

July 2021 – June 2022

Presentation to
Health & Wellbeing Board

9 November 2022

Chris Robson, NSCP Chair
Nathan Adams, Young Person



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



1. Governance: Role of statutory partners

Changes to note: Introduction of Integrated Care Board with new Chief Executive Officer, Tracey Bleakley



JUST LISTEN!

Our key messages for leadership:

KEY MESSAGES



“ We need to feel listened to. We need clear explanations & a chance to respond. You can use tools and language to help us calm down so we can stay engaged & included. We value adults who communicate with us clearly. ”

“ Understand our anxiety & trauma in more depth to support our emotional health & well being – this allows us to feel nurtured & build attachment which is what we need. ”

“ Find a way to make care leavers feel more supported so we don't feel as if we are left on our own – appreciate our independence but also support & nurture us at the same time. ”

“ I want adults to help me to make good choices & to have a better life in the future. ”

“ Consistency & stability is important to us. Sometimes we are worried about what happens next, & if you help us build resilience, we will be better at managing change when it happens. ”

“ It is important that the people who are in charge of services & can make the big decisions pay attention & listen to what we have to say. ”

“ We want to say thank you to everyone who has helped us, or even tried to. Some of us aren't used to being loved so it can be difficult to remember to say thank you, but it feels good when we do. Professionals who give support to others need praise & respect. ”

1. Governance: Links to Other Boards

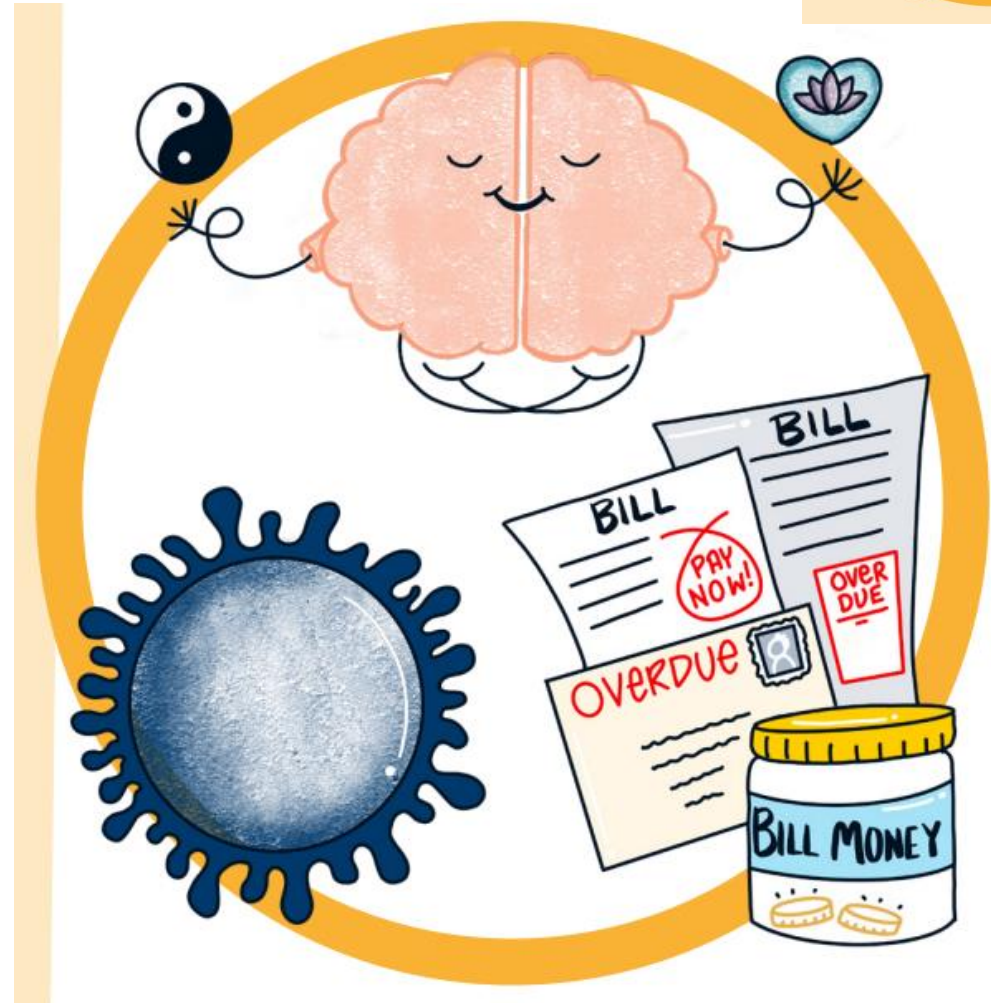
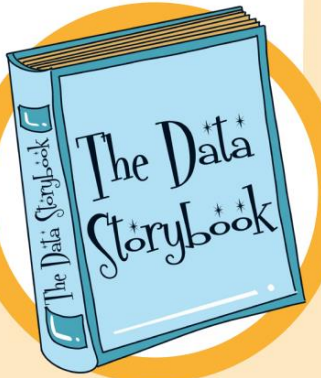
- Acknowledging the other Partnership Boards involved with children and/or safeguarding: focus on supporting the Children & Young People's Strategic Alliance FLOURISH agenda and the pledges made.



2. Data: Numbers we can count on!

- Quantifying need: an average day providing services to children
- Emerging Themes: concerns around mental health, the impact of Covid and cost of living

“Data is now being used to tell us the story behind Norfolk’s safeguarding and child protection activity. This has been an exciting development and it will help the partners plan and make decisions on how to spend money.”



3. Independent Scrutiny

“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.

Norfolk is lucky because the NSCP invests a lot in scrutiny and we have three independent people called scrutineers working to look at safeguarding and tell us what is good and bad. These three people are Chris Robson, Sian Griffiths and Natasha Rennolds and they keep an eye on different parts of the system. They are independent because they do not work directly for any of the partners so they can be fair and, if necessary, critical. They can also help to explain why things aren't going well and suggest solutions.”

Independent Scrutiny Team



Chris Robson



Sian Griffiths



Natasha Rennolds



4. NSCP Priorities

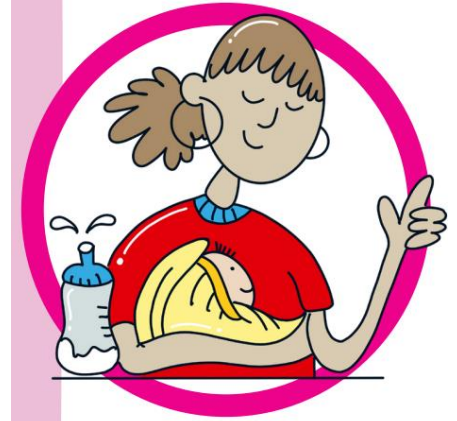
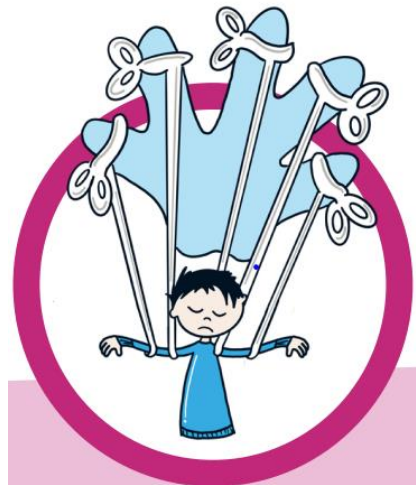


NEGLECT

The NSCP has been working to develop tools to help both parents/carers and professionals to focus on ensuring neglected children are better loved and looked after. For example, there are some animations now that remind people why prioritising their child's needs is the best thing for the family.

EXPLOITATION

Being exploited usually happens to teenagers who are looking for love outside of the family home. The NSCP has done a lot of work to make sure we know who these vulnerable young people are [...] More work needs to be done to better understand the child or young person's history



PROTECTING BABIES

Babies are some of the most vulnerable people in society because they can't articulate in words what is wrong [...] A lot of work has been done to make sure that babies don't suffer injuries caused by parents who can't handle the stress. This is true of mothers and fathers and we need to understand more about fathers and men who take care of children.

“

These are the right priorities as they cover all ages. Whatever the focus, trust is really important, it can take time but it's really important. Be consistent with us and help us to understand what's happening.

”



5. Projects, Developments and Awards!

Inclusive Fathers Project



Looking after babies and children is difficult and fathers need support as well as mothers. Good dads need to love and be loved and this includes spending more time with children for the children's benefit and their own.

We know that talking to and about dads can be very difficult – more difficult than talking to or about mums, but we also know we need to get better at this. For this reason, the NSCP started a project in April 2022 and will be spending the next three years trying to improve in this area.

5. Projects, Developments and Awards, cont.

Joint Agency Group Supervision: JAGS

Earlier in this report we mentioned how difficult it is for us if professionals disagree. It is confusing, can lead to arguments and sometimes it means we have to keep telling our story because people are so busy talking to each other they are not listening to us!

JAGS have been put in place to give professionals an opportunity to think about how they feel about our cases and what help they need to work together better to meet our needs. We feel happy and settled when people who look after us work together. Professionals need to communicate properly to keep us safe and it makes us sad if they don't.



5. Projects, Developments and Awards, cont.



Award Winning Communication Campaign!

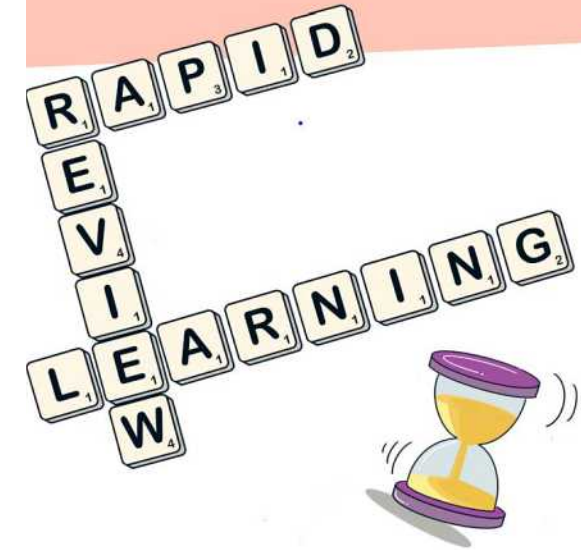
In last year's annual report we talked about the different campaigns launched during Covid to help children and families get through the pandemic. Some of these campaigns won national awards!

The NSCP is keeping up the momentum and now has a dedicated communications officer working on campaigns linked to the priorities

5. Rapid Reviews/Safeguarding Practice Reviews

Between July 2021 and June 2022, the NSCP:

- Published 1 Safeguarding Practice Review
- Completed 4 Rapid Reviews
- Started two more Safeguarding Practice Reviews
- Looked at another 4 cases that were worrying



“This review process is a really useful way to learn about why things went wrong and they are used to protect children in similar situations from harm in the future.”

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

“It’s important that professionals from different backgrounds have opportunities to train together. This is called multi-agency training and is useful because they can get a better understanding of other people’s perspectives, their jobs and how they can work together. They learn from each other and training provides clear messages about the different roles people have, whether they are teachers, social workers, police officers, health professionals or any of the other jobs people have when they come in contact with children.”

- 131 learning opportunities offered
- 559 training places taken over 35 courses, but...
- 114 ‘did not shows’ - a worry!
- Best Practice and Train the Trainer events



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 581 members – 81 more than last year!

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

Conclusions

- Independent scrutiny on initial assessment of need and risk to children as well as local initiatives, such as our approach to Family Networking.
- Utilising the performance intelligence, data and qualitative feedback to ensure we are targeting our resources correctly and addressing any gaps.
- Developing our learning offer and measuring the impact of training on practice.
- Continuing to promote and support the FLOURISH agenda.
Increasing the number of multi-agency audits completed.
- Reviewing our Threshold Guide and ensuring all multi-agency policies adhere to national policy change.
- Disseminating and implementing learning from local and national Safeguarding Practice Reviews.
- Working directly with the children, young people and families of Norfolk 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. ”

Any questions or comments?



Both versions of the annual report are available on the NSCP website

www.norfolkscb.org



Norfolk Safeguarding
Children Partnership

