

The Parent/Carer and Young Person's Guide to the Solihull Safeguarding Children Partnership 2023



Solihull
Safeguarding
Children Partnership

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What is Solihull Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP)?

Local organisations and agencies that work with children and families play a significant and often legal role when it comes to safeguarding children. The way in which these organisations and agencies work together is known as multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

In Solihull this is called Solihull Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP).

Why do we have it?

Each local authority area is required by government to ensure that organisations who have the responsibility to safeguard the welfare of children, work together to make sure this happens well. This includes making sure that the people from those organisations talk to each other if they have a concern, that they are trained to identify when a child may be at risk of harm, and that they follow rules and regulations to keep children safe from harm.

The Government Statutory Guidance that the SSCP adheres to is called Working Together to Safeguard Children. Information on this can be found here: [Working together to safeguard children - www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

Who are the organisations that make up SSCP?

There are three lead organisations with responsibility for SSCP. They are Solihull Council, Birmingham & Solihull Integrated Care Board (NHS) and West Midlands Police. However, all organisations who work with children are included in the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, such as hospitals, schools, GPs, nurseries/pre-schools, voluntary, community and faith groups and others.



Welcome from the lead safeguarding partners

The three organisations with responsibility for ensuring effective multi-agency safeguarding arrangements have a named lead officer. These are:



**Paul Johnson -
Chief Executive,
Solihull Council**



**Craig Guildford -
Chief Constable,
West Midlands Police**



**David Melbourne -
Chief Executive Officer,
NHS Birmingham & Solihull
Integrated Care Board**

As the lead safeguarding partners, we recognise the additional challenges that face the residents of Solihull during this time of economic hardship, particularly the effect on more vulnerable households and the resulting increase in demand for services. The provision of effective and appropriately resourced services that work together is a crucial element of our role as a safeguarding partnership.

Through the evidence we gather from data, reviewing cases and from what you have told us, we identify particular areas of focus for the partnership each year. In 2022-23 this included improving our identification and response to children and young people who may be at risk of neglect or exploitation.

This report includes highlight information on the progress we have made as a partnership, but we recognise that there is more to do. We want to assure you that all members of SSCP, from us as the lead safeguarding partners to front-line practitioners, are working hard to provide a safe, reliable and effective safeguarding system for the children, young people and their families in Solihull.

We continue to strive towards high-quality practice, but we know that there will always be new learning to identify and areas we need to keep improving in.

Our message to children and families in Solihull is that we are committed to learning, from both local and national practice. We will work together and work with you, to improve safeguarding outcomes for children in Solihull and we will enable and support all partners to achieve this.

What is SSCP responsible for?

The role of SSCP is to ensure that organisations and agencies are clear on how to work together to safeguard children and promote their welfare. This means:

- When a child is identified as suffering or likely to suffer significant harm there is a quick, appropriate and effective response to ensure the protection and support of the child.
- There is a clear, shared plan to improve outcomes for children locally.
- Organisations and agencies are challenged appropriately, effectively holding one another to account.
- Senior leaders have a good knowledge and understanding about the quality of local practice and its impact on children and families.
- Organisations listen to children and families to understand what it is like to live and grow up in Solihull and their experience of services; they respond to feedback to ensure children from different communities and groups can access the help and protection they need.
- Senior leaders promote learning through the provision of appropriate multi-agency safeguarding professional development and training, to support local services to become more reflective and implement changes to practice.
- Putting in place effective information-sharing arrangements between agencies, within data regulations, but supporting the safeguarding of children.
- When a serious incident is identified, organisations come together to review the case and make changes to practice and procedures as appropriate.

Priorities for 2022-23

Our priorities for this year were:

1. Neglect
2. Exploitation
3. Improvement

Neglect

We identified that the partnership lacked a collective focus on neglect and that professionals needed to better understand and increasing impact of neglect over time. Information was often held by individual organisations but wasn't always shared among others to form an overall picture of what life was like for the child and family.

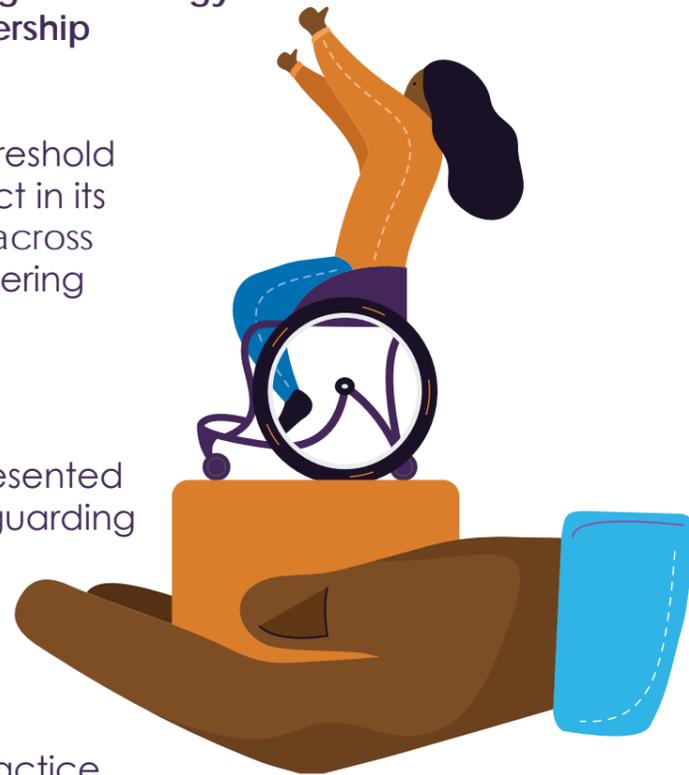
In response, we created a multi-agency Neglect Strategy to help coordinate the support available to families: **Neglect Strategy - Solihull Safeguarding Children Partnership** (safeguardingsolihull.org.uk)

We also revised the multi-agency threshold guidance to take account of neglect in its many forms, and raised awareness across the multi-agency workforce by delivering neglect-focused training.

Improvement

Not all relevant agencies were represented sufficiently in the multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH), so we have increased staffing levels and created specialist posts to support the MASH to function effectively. In addition, our performance data did not enable us to identify areas of practice for further attention. As a result, we have developed ways of measuring performance to be used across the partnership, which can be collected.

We have also completely redeveloped our governance structure to make sure that it firmly embeds responsibility for the safeguarding of children with the Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSPs). This promotes active discussion of safeguarding issues at the highest level of accountability in our local area and enables strategic ownership of actions to support resolutions.



Ongoing improvement

We are committed to ensuring we continue to make improvements to SSCP.

Some of our improvement work includes:

- The identification and development of 'neglect champions' – subject leads in organisations to advocate for the neglect strategy and support colleagues.
- More training to embed the use of the Graded Care Profile 2 and other neglect tools in frontline practice, to identify neglect earlier.
- More engagement with the community and voluntary sector to enable them to provide earlier help and support to those vulnerable to exploitation.
- Improved collation and analysis of multi-agency data to identify current and potential emerging areas of risk, which supports partnership working and planning.
- Improving how we hear the voice of children, young people and their families in the work of the partnership.

This work is captured in the Integrated Partnership Business Plan, which can be found on the SSCP website: **Integrated Partnership Business Plan (July 2023)**

The Plan is regularly monitored by the lead safeguarding partners and their delegated representatives.

Find out more



General information
about SSCP



Information for
parents and carers



Information for
children and
young people



Contact us



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