



Southampton Safeguarding Children Partnership

**Annual Report
2021-2022**

Contents

1. Introduction	Foreword	3
	Introduction	4-5
2. Activity & impact of partners working together	Covid 19 impact & response	7-8
	Effectiveness of partnership arrangements	9-11
	Learning from Reviews	12
	HIPS keeping children safe audit	13-14
	Further work to improve safeguarding	15-16
	Training and learning	17-18
	Listening to children and families	19-21
3. City Context	Context for Southampton's children	22-25
	Financial planning	26
	Membership	27
	Structure	28
4. Forward look	Priorities for next year	30

Foreword

Welcome to the Annual Report for the Southampton Safeguarding Children Partnership for 2021/22.

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to be felt throughout the year and as a result we have seen further adjustments to service delivery, balancing 'in-person' contact with online provision where appropriate. The need to maintain effective line of sight to our vulnerable children and families remains of critical importance especially as there has been an increase in demand against a backdrop of pressures on capacity.

Partner agencies have responded to pressures around online abuse, mental ill-health and anxiety, neglect, and a rise in childhood obesity, all of which require a coordinated response if long-term sustainable solutions are to be found.

This Annual Report provides an overview of these and other issues faced, how the SSCP has worked to tackle such challenges and an assessment as to the effectiveness of the response and what difference we made.

There is always more to be done, and services will continue to be shaped by the effects of the pandemic, by economic and social issues and by a finite but committed workforce.

Children are our priority; they are at the heart of what we do and it is essential we listen and respond to them and their families.

The partnership in Southampton remains strong, and we will continue to work to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of our children and young people.



Derek Benson, Independent Chair



Introduction

Nothing is more important than the welfare of children. The Children Act 2004 (amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017) placed duties upon the police, clinical commissioning groups and local authorities to make arrangements to work together, and with wider partners, to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in their area. In Southampton this has created a strong alliance between the three safeguarding partners, working with and wider agencies in the city.

The work of the SSCP is overseen by an Independent Chair, Derek Benson, and supported by the Safeguarding Partnerships Team, hosted within Southampton City Council Children and Learning Services. The three safeguarding partners in Southampton in 2021/2022 are:

- Southampton City Council Children's Services - Rob Henderson, Executive Director for Children's Services & Learning
- Hampshire Constabulary - Simon Dodds, Superintendent & District Commander
- Southampton City Clinical Commissioning Group - Matthew Richardson, Deputy Director of Quality & Nursing - Southampton

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) statutory guidance states that the purpose of local arrangements is to support and enable local organisations and agencies to work together in a system where:

- Children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted
- Partner organisations and agencies collaborate, share and co-own the vision for how to achieve improved outcomes for vulnerable children
- Organisations and agencies challenge appropriately and hold one another to account effectively
- There is early identification and analysis of new safeguarding issues and emerging threats
- Learning is promoted and embedded in a way that local services for children and families can become more reflective and implement changes to practice
- Information is shared effectively to facilitate more accurate and timely decision making for children and families

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined by [Working Together to Safeguard Children \(2018\)](#) as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes



About this Annual Report

This Annual Report captures the work of the SSCP as a result of the safeguarding arrangements in place in Southampton, including learning from reviews, and an analysis of how effective the arrangements have been in improving outcomes for children and families in the city. This report also looks at the impact of partners' working together.

The COVID-19 pandemic has progressed, and in line with the previous Annual Report, this year's begins with a section dedicated to the impact of COVID-19 and the response by services working with children and families as the situation has evolved.

The focus in Southampton is learning and impact, and as such this report the main section of this report examines activity and impact of partners working together, including learning from case reviews, training and improvement. The report then looks at the context for children and young people in Southampton city, and a look towards business planning for 2022/23.



Activity and impact of partners working together

COVID-19 impact on children, young people & families

The impact of Covid-19 on the lived experiences for children and young people has been complex. In terms of safeguarding, for many children there is now increased safety due to the return to school full time, early years settings and health appointments and services are more widely back up, although not all are being offered in person. As the pandemic has progressed, these changes have meant that children are being seen more consistently by safeguarding partner agencies and have safe spaces. There has been significant concerns over the pandemic, especially during lockdowns about the prevalence of hidden harm.

The key themes that have arisen during the pandemic in terms of safeguarding children and the response from partners are shown below:

1. There has been an increase in children with disease or serious health concerns related to obesity. Joint work is ongoing by Children's Services, Health and community resources (eg the Saints Foundation) to strengthen the response to childhood obesity from a multi-agency approach across all levels of concern.
2. There has been an increase in the impact of adult mental health and alcohol misuse on the care and lived experiences of children. This has been shown as a theme in contacts with the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH - now known as the Children's Resource Service - CRS) and subsequent involvement of statutory safeguarding services. In response to this there is new training on understanding, assessing and intervening with parents with mental health. Parental alcohol misuse has featured in the work of the Serious Incident & Learning Group and the SSCP now runs Mental Health Awareness Training (full day) and substance misuse training (half day) for multi-agency practitioners.
3. There has been a general increase in contacts to the MASH (now known as the CRS). There has been an increase in complexity of children's lived experiences, with themes including the impact of poverty and the lack of the previous interventions from partner agencies in family homes, along with children not being seen at school/early years settings which have had an impact on their development. There has been an impact with domestic abuse, alcohol and substance misuse with the stress of job losses, particularly for those on zero hour contracts. The impact of the rise in the cost of living has a similar theme. Neglect and contextual safeguarding concerns have also risen.

COVID-19 impact on children, young people & families

4. There has been an increase of reports of domestic abuse. The SSCP has worked with partners in the Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA) team and colleagues in Children's services to offer Safe & Together training to multi-agency partners in mid-2022. This training will improve practitioners understanding, skills and confidence to enable partnership working with victims of domestic abuse to keep children safe in the family network, perpetrators are held accountable for their behaviour, and direct work achieves change.
5. There has also been an increase in children at risk outside of the home (contextual safeguarding). The Children's Service improvement programme, Destination 22, has seen the development of the Young Persons service to build on the services already in place within the Missing, Exploited and Team, Youth Justice Service, the Inclusion and Diversion team and the joint working with the police and education. This service continues to seek more targeted approaches to reduce the risks to young people and children outside of the home, including youth work led intensive interventions with families and a current review of how the Child Protection Process can be enhanced to better address and plan for these concerns.

Partnership response

The Safeguarding Partners and Independent Chair have come together on a monthly basis to consider risk factors, including the ways that Government restrictions and lockdown affected the children and families and the settings/services supporting them. These regular allowed for information sharing, strategic problem solving and collaboration. The SSCP were able to respond to some of concerns and challenges raised in this meeting, for example sending information to partners and practitioners about various areas of safeguarding practice, including Neglect, Domestic Abuse, Child Exploitation, Abusive Head Trauma and Safer Sleep.

Partnership Board meetings moved to virtual which has generally viewed as positive and is likely to remain at least partly virtual. Across partner agencies there has been learning regarding virtual working; where this adds value and where it does not. This has resulted in a more flexible offer to children, young people and families. There is a clear view that not all multi-agency working should be virtual and there is the benefit of face-to-face working that can allow for deeper exploration of areas, increased awareness of risk factors and is beneficial in relationship building. We know that work with children and families clearly must have a component of face-to-face work in order to effectively safeguard children.

As we have progressed throughout the year services have returned as far as possible to business as usual delivery, however pressure on services remains in terms of volume of referrals and complexity of need.

The effectiveness of partnership arrangements (SPIG)

The Safeguarding Practice Improvement Group (SPIG) ensures that that learning from reviews and audits results in practice development and improvements that are embedded in services and result in improved services for children. The group also focusses on priority themes agreed by the SSCP at the start of each financial year. This year the priority themes and progress against them was as follows:

Priority	Success Measure	Progress
1. Focus on safeguarding practice improvements in priority areas for the SSCP, Neglect, Child Exploitation and Contextual Safeguarding, Child Sexual Abuse, Strengthening Families, Domestic Abuse, Sexual Abuse in Schools and Colleges and safeguarding babies and young children.	Neglect Strategy and evidence-informed Toolkit to enable practitioners to better identify and responds to neglect.	The Neglect Strategy and Toolkit are now refreshed and available for practitioners on the SSCP website here . The SSCP is now leading further work to develop the toolkit specifically for use with children who live with disabilities and children living in poverty. Workshops to promote the Strategy & Toolkit with practitioners are underway throughout 2021 and 2022.
	Delivery of SSCP Child Exploitation Delivery Plan aligning with Destination 22 (Children & Learning Services Transformation Programme and development of a Young Person’s Service and Hampshire Constabulary Child-Centred Policing Strategy.	In March 2022, Southampton Children and Learning Service used a well attended Contextual Safeguarding Conference to successfully launched its Young People’s Service. This is a firm foundation to support an effective partnership response to the risks some young people face outside of the home and Southampton are working with HIPS partners to develop the new HIPS Child Exploitation Strategy 2023-26.
	Development of a HIPS-wide Child Sexual Abuse Strategy to incorporate the work led by the Children & Learning Service on CSA within the Family Environment.	The HIPS CSA Strategy is underway and will be presented to the Partnership Board in December 2022. The SSCP implementation plan will follow in January 2023. Multi agency training continues to be delivered by Children Service quarterly, and health have developed a bespoke health training for use within their setting. The Child Sexual Abuse within the Family Environment framework is now well established within Children Services.

The effectiveness of partnership arrangements (SPIG)

Priority	Success Measure	Progress
<p>2. Ensuring learning, recommendations & actions from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Thematic Audits are implemented and embedded.</p>	<p>Learning & Development Framework to be revised and published.</p> <p>SSCP e-learning and tutorials delivered as part of a blended training offer, specifically post-publication of reviews and deep-dive thematic audits to share learning.</p> <p>SPIG to undertake two deep-dive audits around domestic abuse and child exploitation.</p>	<p>The new Learning & Development Framework has been completed and is published here. The Framework provides all agencies with an understanding of what works well to improve outcomes for children and families. Conversely, when things have gone wrong the learning will be shared to enable service improvement to reduce the risk of future harm to children. The framework applies to all safeguarding partners and relevant agencies in their delivery and monitoring of workforce development activities and informs single agency frameworks to ensure connectivity and compatibility.</p> <p>E-learning has been designed to be interactive and engaging for practitioners, sharing up to date knowledge and skills. E-learning can be found under relevant subject headings (eg Working with Resistant Families, Modern Slavery, and Unidentified Adults on the SSCP website, plus work will be ongoing with new reviews and audits.</p> <p>Deep-dive audits into domestic abuse and child exploitation have been completed with learning gained via staff workshops, staff and manager surveys, and self-audits. Learning shared with practitioners and actions taken forward by managers and practitioners. Southampton Children and Learning Service are also working with a number of parents whose children have been subject to child protection plans to develop training for a staff to make local processes more collaborative, in line with Southampton's practice framework.</p>

The effectiveness of partnership arrangements (SPIG)

Priority	Success Measure	Progress
3. Review and refresh assurance mechanisms of the Partnership, ensuring correlation with Partnership priorities, including the safeguarding impacts of the pandemic.	Review of assurance reporting to the SSCP for practice areas.	This is complete, and a new template has been created to ensure continuity of recording in minutes.
	Review of MET Op Group membership and terms of reference to ensure it remains fit for purpose as Young Persons Service comes into operation.	This is complete, with the relevant members now attending MET Operational meetings with the development of the new Young Persons Service.
	Review of monitoring and assurance of Child Safeguarding Practice Review and Serious Case Review recommendations and actions.	This is complete, and is now being monitored by Serious Incident & Learning Group.
	Review and refresh of data set and reporting.	This is underway and once complete will be monitored by the SPIG.

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	Review and refresh of data set and reporting.	This is underway and once complete will be monitored by the SPIG.

Learning from Reviews – Safeguarding Practice Improvement Group

In line with the requirements of [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018](#), the SSCP commissions and publishes Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs). All new referrals are discussed, decisions on the nature of the review taken, and monitoring against recommendations carried out by the Safeguarding Practice Improvement Group, Chaired by Dr Mike Roe, Designated Doctor. CSPRs are a key method of learning, combining analysis of how services worked to support the child and family, the voice of family members, and recommendations, brought together by an independent reviewer. The recommendations drive action to address the areas where services could have done things differently, and ensure that services improve in future. Recommendations are monitored by the Serious Incident Learning Group on behalf of the Safeguarding Children Partnership. This year two reviews were published; one Serious Case Review (under the former safeguarding arrangements); Non-Accidental injury, and one CSPR; Liam.

Non-Accidental Injury Thematic Review

This thematic review examined the death of one baby and the serious injuries of two others. The review considered support offered to young parents, assessment of parenting skills and risk to unborn babies, the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), substance misuse, homelessness, anger management and domestic abuse, the decision making process, evidence of the child's lived experience in the family, over-optimism on the part of professionals, and the involvement of the police and criminal justice system.

The review recommended that services should:

- Provide training to ensure that professionals working with young parents recognise that in the first instance parents under 18 years of age are children themselves
- Document the history of fathers, including their own experiences of parenting
- Review as a matter of urgency the appropriateness and safety of the service provided to young parents and babies living in supported housing accommodation
- Provide training on the risk of parental substance misuse (especially cannabis) to young babies, and the potential impact on them
- Review the Threshold Assessment Framework so that cannabis/substance use is included and when undertaking any assessment, take into account cannabis/substance use by a parent

The full report, 6 step briefing and Partnership response are available [here](#).

Liam

This review followed the death of Liam at 17 years of age, as a result of stab wounds inflicted by a 15 year old boy. Liam was a child looked after who had a significant history of involvement with the local authority and police for violence, drugs and criminality. The review examined issues of serious street violence, gangs and County Lines, the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences in Liam's life, management of ADHD, the importance of professionals acting on 'critical points' and professional curiosity.

The review recommended that services should:

- Recognise, identify and understand the impact of ACEs and provide a trauma informed response
- Intervene, identify and act on critical or reachable moments
- Always complete Missing Return Home interviews
- Review placements away from the home area and prevent school exclusions.
- Expedite time for criminal investigations
- Improve knowledge of the National Referral Mechanism
- Understand and follow the HIPS Child Exploitation strategy
- Ensure all statutory Looked after Children reviews take place in a timely manner

The full report, 7 point briefing and Partnership response are available [here](#).

HIPS Keeping Children Safe Section 11 Audit

The Section 11 audit (an audit of agencies against [S11 of the Children Act 2004](#)) requires agencies to scrutinise and reflect on their own safeguarding governance, process and practice and identify areas to improved. It allows agencies to scrutinise and reflect on safeguarding governance, process and practice and identify areas to improve. All agencies received feedback on their submissions.

The findings from the audit in 2021/22 were:

Strengths

- The Section 11 process was well planned, with all self assessments reviewed across HIPS and Southampton.
- All agencies will receive individual feedback on their submission.
- The SSCP Safeguarding Practice Improvement Group moderated the review of Southampton agencies submissions.
- For Southampton there was overall confidence and evidence within standard 3 (a clear line of accountability within the organisation for work on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children) and Standard 7 (allegations management).

Strengths identified within individual agency audits included:

- The Housing Service runs safeguarding drop-in sessions for all staff to enable practitioners to discuss any concerns.
- Cultural Services are facilitating participation for disabled children in the development and improvement of services.
- The Libraries Service recording and assuring safeguarding training to ensure that practitioners' learning is quality assured.
- The Youth Offending Service is providing training around the vulnerabilities a child with communication difficulties face, including the use of Speech & Language Therapists.



HIPS Keeping Children Safe Section 11 Audit

Southampton themes that correlated with HIPS agency findings

- MASH was evidenced as a well established referrals process.
- There was a lack of assurance around knowledge of HIPS procedures and toolkits, including the Family Approach.
- There was a need to improve understanding of early help across the workforce
- There was a need to promote the new threshold document in development across the partnership
- Some agencies submissions were detailed and well evidenced, and some need to improve upon this as evidence of the standard is required.
- Some agencies did not provide a completed action plan - this will be needed for year 2 of the cycle.

Areas that will be developed in Southampton following the Audit

- A staff member has now been identified to support workers with early help processes across the organisation.
- Organisation appraisal process to include a review of each worker's skills, competencies and knowledge around safeguarding, children protection and early help practice to ensure awareness of early help and delivery of the relevant services for families.
- Awareness and training to be provided of additional vulnerabilities for children with communication difficulties.
- Specific training will be available for practitioners who work with/have contact with disabled children and their families.

In conclusion

There were low returns, possibly as a consequence of pressures from COVID-19. This means that results cannot widely be used to triangulate agency self-assessment returns.

There was however acknowledgement across agencies of a rise in needs in for example mental ill health, domestic abuse, child to parent violence, neglect, and responses around what some agencies have done in response to this. It was also evident that some agencies quality assurance processes had been impacted alongside mitigation.

Following the audit, each agency received a letter from the SSCP Independent Chair detailing their individual feedback, highlighting strengths, areas for development, and providing a commentary on the quality of the audit return.

The end of 2021 saw a return to more usual timescales for year 2. Monitoring of action plans will be led through the Safeguarding Practice Improvement Group (SPIG) for Southampton agencies and the Safeguarding Children Partnership Managers for HIPS areas.

Further work to improve safeguarding

Schools audit & attendance

The SSCP Partnership meeting of June 2022 received a report on absence and safeguarding in schools. An audit of safeguarding in schools took in 2020/21 noted the following:

Engagement between the LA and maintained, academy and free schools remains strong. Engagement is more inconsistent with the independent sector. Engagement has included a range of CPD around training, monthly DSL drop ins, two safeguarding reviews, equality training, regular updates with Heads and DSLs (9 per year) which includes key information, update from Police, Council, Health and third sector, plus annual self-evaluation of safeguarding.

The analysis of the schools submitted annual safeguarding self-evaluations (2020/21 - 2021/22) indicated these priorities:

- Use of the Prevent toolkit audit (which has improved with now only 11% of settings outstanding).
- Governors awareness of pupil/parent/staff views of safeguarding remains a priority.
- Staff awareness of how to refer to Early Help - this was a priority for 85% of schools, now lowered to 22%
- Behaviour policies ACE aware / trauma informed - this remains a priority for 16%, was a priority for 88%
- Training for teaching of safeguarding issues - this was a priority for 54% last year, now priority for 7%
- Use of 360 online toolkit- this remains a priority for 47%.

As a result, engagement with schools for 2022/23 will now focus on:

- Training for governors will be reviewed and expanded, including some face-to-face training to include exploring first-hand monitoring, example questions and themed surveys available to support.
- The promotion and development of regular supervision for DSLs, with development work required around understanding of the purpose of supervision, priorities and training.

- Further work is required to address child on child abuse and a task and finish group across the three phases will take place, also linking to HIPS work. Pupil confidence and "in the moment response" will be explored and strengthened.
- Online safety remains a priority and the 360 self-assessment toolkit (or a suitable alternative should be) in use in all schools over the coming year.
- The recovery from COVID continues, with a focus particularly on improving attendance as a preventative measure.

Southampton has benefited from a Department for Education Consultant visit to examine issues around attendance. The feedback from this visit was that overall, there is a high level of knowledge, expertise and skill within the LA and a high commitment strategically and operationally to the delivery of high-quality attendance work to improve outcomes and safeguard children. The current strategy and development work should be continued to deliver against the new guidance. There were also a number of areas for development agreed from the current action plan around improving attendance. The areas were:

- Further forensic deep dives into illness absence (which is high -and particularly so post pandemic). Support may need to be provided to schools on how to manage this.
- Working group needs to restart to move the agenda forward (particularly in the light of the new guidance and the associated responsibilities for LAs). Working relationships will be crucial.
- Team Around the School to be further developed
- Enhancing the wider joint working relationships around attendance -includes Police, Health, Public Health and Community Sector with a plan to roll out attendance training
- Data training to be rolled out for all schools
- Early Help - pathway will need to be very clear in the light of the new guidance and more guidance issued to schools around their own responsibilities in this area.
- There is the potential for development around schools communications (authority wide).

The Partnership formally approved the establishment of an education sub group. The work to establish this group is underway as is the work to address the priorities identified.

Further work to improve safeguarding

Training

Training has been further developed to address issues arising from case reviews and improve services. This is explored in more detail on the following page.

Practitioner Guidance - Working with Resistant Families

In response to issues that arose in one of the CSPRs, guidance has been developed on working with resistant families or those using disguised compliance to keep practitioners at a distance. The guidance provides definitions of resistant families and disguised compliance, discusses challenges practitioners may face, offers strategies to overcome barriers, strategies to engage families, support with how to deal with hostility and violence and identifies best practice. It can be viewed on the SSCP website [here](#).

Neglect Toolkit and Strategy Refresh

The Neglect Toolkit and Strategy has been refreshed to provide an updated framework for good practice to identify neglect. There is also new Neglect Toolkit e-learning available for practitioners and all of these can be found on the SSCP website [here](#).

National Referral Mechanism (NRM) Guidance

As part of the work of the HIPS Child Exploitation Group, new NRM Guidance has been developed for practitioners across the HIPS areas where there are concerns that a child has been trafficked. The Guidance and One Minute Guide are available on the SSCP website [here](#).

Prevent

Prevent is about safeguarding individuals and communities from the threat of terrorism. It puts in place processes to help people who are identified as being potentially vulnerable to radicalisation or extremism, and this can include children or adults. The Channel Panel is chaired by the local authority as part of Prevent, and works with multi-agency partners to collectively assess the risk to an individual and decide whether an intervention is necessary. If a Channel intervention is required, the Panel works with local partners to develop an appropriate tailored support package. More information about Prevent can be found on the City Council website [here](#), plus the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) referral form and pathways for children and adults and information about Modern Slavery.



Training & Learning

The SSCP maintained the online format of its training offer during 2021/22 and this has made training easily accessible with less time and travel requirements for multi-agency attendees. This section shows the training that has taken place in order to positively impact services for children and families, and includes feedback from attendees and an analysis of areas for improvement next year. Courses run during this year were as below: More information about what these training sessions cover can be found at the SSCP training page [here](#).

SSCP training

- Safeguarding Level 3 day courses and half day refreshers
- The Role of the LADO in dealing with allegations against staff or volunteers
- Fabricated and Induced Illness
- Missing, Exploited & Trafficked Children - Victim Blaming
- Bruising Protocol
- Completing DASH Risk Assessments (Domestic Abuse)
- Online Safety, Your Digital Footprint

Learning from Reviews training

These SSCP sessions share learning from specific case reviews:

- Learning from the Non-Accidental Thematic Review
- Safeguarding Children with Complex Health Needs

HIPS training

These sessions are run by Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership but open to practitioners across the HIPS partnership:

- Introduction to the new CERAF
- Harmful cultural practices - introduction to FGM
- Harmful cultural practices - introduction to FGM
- Harmful cultural practices - introduction to Child Abuse linked to Faith & Belief (Witchcraft)

The multi agency format remains popular as it is free of charge to access and allows multi-agency colleagues to come together, share learning and experience, and 'put faces to names.' A snapshot of feedback from this year is:

It went really well. I liked going into breakout groups as it was good to interact. I also liked the fact there were lots of different job roles represented on the call.
Online Safety, Your Digital Footprint attendee

I thought this was an excellent course. I had no knowledge of this practice prior to the training.
Introduction to Breast Ironing attendee

Lizzy was really relaxed - excellent. Really good knowledge and understanding. Made everything easy to grasp and I liked the use of personally known examples for context.
MET Victim Blaming attendee

Love Sue & Laura as co-trainers. A wealth of knowledge between them. The training was in great depth, offering opportunities to share practice and to discuss in small groups.
Child Sexual Abuse in the Family Environment attendee

I think using Zoom is a good way to do training. Right level of interaction.
Safeguarding Level 3 Refresher attendee

Training & Learning

Areas for improvement

The shift to virtual training has brought positive and negative impacts. Bookings have increased as practitioners have found it easy to access training; less time consuming in a busy schedule and without the inconvenience of travel and parking etc. There have however been an increased number of 'no shows', presumably through pressure of work, unexpected priorities, or perhaps the ease of simply not logging into a session. Trainers have occasionally fed back that there has been a lack of participation, possibly due to cameras being switched off. 'No shows' have been an issue for some years, and the SSCP team have considered invoicing service areas where attendees have not taken part. It was felt that this was not a viable option due to the finance commitment and lack of ability to enforce of people simply chose not to pay. Non-attendance prevents other interested participants from attending, and trainers have expressed disappointment at running a session for an unexpectedly small audience. Where some trainers give their time at no cost, this can be quite detrimental for future sessions. Lack of participation can be improved by asking attendees to keep their cameras on (both via the SSCP and the trainer). The SSCP have linked with HIPS colleagues to discuss these issues and found that different techniques used by trainers can encourage participation where it is lacking, so this is more nuanced issue than it may first appear.

As expected, trainers themselves have found that online training has worked well, and have become much more confident in using technology to deliver. Support requested of the SSCP team to log in and run sessions is now almost zero.

The team however remain key in maintaining the calendar of events, securing new trainers, advertising and taking bookings for each session. The training offer is substantially bigger than in past years. In addition to local training, HIPS training is also now available for Southampton practitioners. This is largely delivered by Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership and administrated for Southampton practitioners by the SSCP team. The HIPS offer means that practitioners from all four HIPS areas can learn together regarding 'cross boarder' issues such as the guide to the new CERAF.

Gaining evaluation feedback from attendees remains a challenge. The SSCP team aim to circulate a training feedback survey the day after training, as requesting trainers to do this within the session has not worked universally well as trainers often overlook this, along with taking a register, due to their intent on running the session itself. Completion of feedback is very low, with a typical number of just 2-5 completions from a session for 20 participants. The survey itself is extremely short, at only 4 questions. This remains an issue under consideration.

Looking to the future year, the training offer will be blended, i.e. some sessions will be face to face, but the majority will remain online as the format has in general worked well. The SSCP is keeping a watching brief and gauging feedback (where it is received) regarding duration of training, as some participants express a wish for more information and more time dedicated, whereas others favour shorter learning sessions as they fit in with busy schedules.

Listening to Children and Families

The voices of young people are paramount in all services that work to support them, and particularly safeguarding. It is only through seeking and acting upon the views of young people that we can tailor services to adequately support them in a way that works. The SSCP partners are proactive in seeking young people's input and co-production where possible. Here we show some of the work to involve children and families in 2021/22.

Development of the Transitional Safeguarding Framework

The SSCP were keen to consult with young people in the development of a new HIPS/4LSAB Transitional Safeguarding Framework. In November 2021 members of the team met with Youth Commissioners (appointed by the Police & Crime Commissioner) to gain their views on the Framework document, and whether it answered the questions they had, and supported them with useful information. They also looked over an 'accessible' version of the Framework. The Youth Commissioners felt that the Framework and the 'accessible' version were good in that they used repeated language to help reinforce points, eg the term 'vulnerable young person' was used throughout, and explained.

The Youth Commissioners felt that the full Framework was very overwhelming to read and suggested a more accessible format, using boxes, colour, bullet points and images. The Youth Commissioners also felt strongly that a 'middle ground' leaflet would be useful for young people, providing more detail than the 'accessible' version, and using bright colours and an appealing format. They felt that reassurance in each document was important because young people might be worried about the consequences of sharing information and worried about getting into trouble. As a result of this feedback, the Transitional Safeguarding document has been reformatted so it is more visually appealing, and a new leaflet is currently under consideration as a further format for the document. The Youth Commissioners are happy to review future versions of the documents so the SSCP will be keeping in touch.



Listening to Children & Families

Solent NHS Trust Sexual Health Service bespoke walk in clinics for young people and community-based priority slots in conjunction with No Limits



Young people fed back that it was difficult for them to access sexual health services during normal service hours because they needed to be at school or college. Solent NHS Trust have specific walk-in and wait to be seen clinics across the service which are designed to fit around school and college commitments. The result has been that numbers of young people being supported with sexual health concerns is increasing and news is spreading about the more flexible service on offer.

Sexual health support is also being run in partnership with No Limits, the young people's support charity, and appointments have also been altered to fit in with young people there. There is now a sexual health nurse clinic run at No Limits on a weekly basis to ensure Sexual Health needs can be met of those young people already connected with No Limits or able to attend for an appointment there if they are under 25.

Solent NHS will be seeking further feedback from young people about accessing services in September 2022.

Listening to Children & Families

The Hope Box Project - giving hope and minimising trauma

University Hospitals Trust midwifery team have worked with mothers who have had their babies removed at birth and co-produced the HOPE box project, to be piloted in the city.

The HOPE Boxes project has been designed by women and builds on learning from charities and midwives already innovating in this field of practice. The intervention is designed to minimise the trauma experienced by the mother and baby by supporting them in different ways and at different points through their journey from the postnatal ward through care proceedings and beyond.

Specifically, they aim to support professionals to help mothers prepare for the separation and undertake 'memory-making/capturing' activities, provide a vehicle for keeping the connection between mother and baby following separation whilst awaiting decisions regarding the long-term plan for the baby and support loss, grief and identity integration work with the mother and child if a long-term separation is the final outcome.

The HOPE Boxes consist of two boxes, one to stay with the mother and one for the child in their placement with kin or foster carers.

University Hospitals Trust will be evaluating the HOPE Box project locally.



University Hospital Southampton
NHS Foundation Trust



City Context

Context for Southampton's children

Southampton is a diverse city with a young demographic, situated on the South Coast of England. Southampton's young people live in the following context:

Population

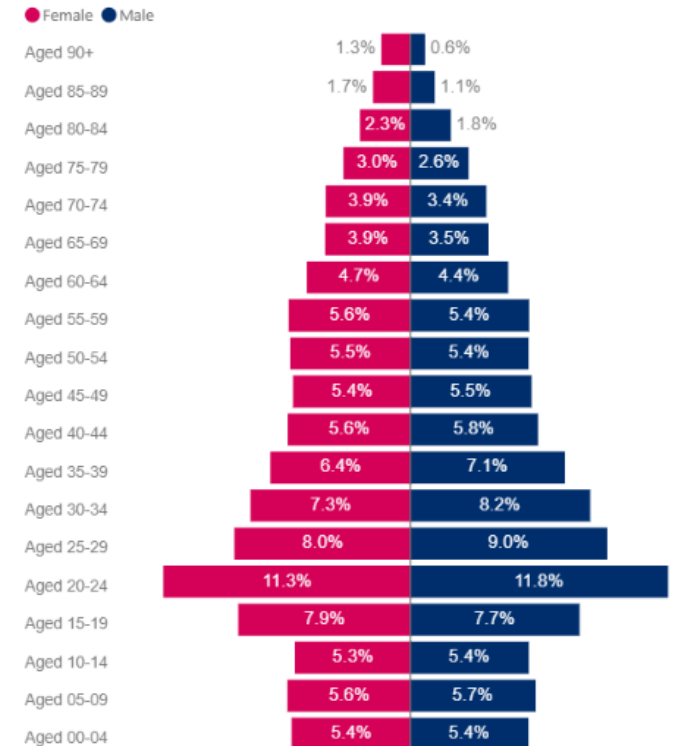
The 2021 Census¹ showed that Southampton is the second most densely populated of the South East's 64 local authority areas. The city continues to have a younger than average population, with the greatest number of males and females being between 20 and 24. In 2021:

- The resident population of Southampton was estimated to be 261,729, of which 128,372 (49.0%) were female and 133,357 (51.0%) were male.
- Children between the ages 0 to 5 make up 6.5% (17,008) of the population, which is similar to the national average of 6.9%
- 18.4% (48,216) of Southampton's resident population is aged between 16 and 24 years compared to just 10.5% nationally. This is largely due to Southampton being a university city and home to approximately 43,000 students.
- 14.6% of the population are aged over 65 (38,169 people) which is lower than the national average of 18.5%.

Since the last census in 2011:

- The number of children under 5 has decreased by 10.4%
- The number of children between 5-15 years has increased by 20.5%
- Young people 15-24 years have decreased by 9.1%¹
- Life expectancy at birth for males is 78.3 years which is significantly lower than the England average of 79.6. For females this is 82.5 which is significantly lower than the national average of 83.1².

Percentage of population by gender for Southampton 2021



¹ [Southampton Data Observatory - Census 2021](#)

² [Life expectancy \(southampton.gov.uk\)](#)

Deprivation

The most recent Index of Multiple Deprivation (2019)¹ shows that

- Of the 317 Local Authorities in England, Southampton is ranked 55th (previously 54th) most deprived based on average rank of LSOAs and 61st (previously 67th) most deprived based on average score of LSOAs.
- The fact that Southampton appears to be more deprived based on the average rank measure (55th nationally and 2nd amongst comparators), illustrates how Southampton is more uniformly deprived rather than being highly polarised (i.e. extremes of deprivation)
- Southampton has 19 LSOAs within the 10% most deprived in England (same as in 2015) and one LSOA in the 10% least deprived in England (previously zero in 2015)
- Around 12% of Southampton's population live in neighbourhoods within the 10% most deprived nationally; this rises to 18% for the under 18 population, suggesting deprivation disproportionately impacts upon young people in the city
- Over 45% of Southampton's population live in neighbourhoods within the 30% most deprived nationally (around 117,000 people)
- At neighbourhood level, approximately half of the LSOAs in Southampton have become more deprived (77/148; 52%) since 2015, whilst half have become less deprived
- Southampton is ranked 3rd worst in the country for crime deprivation and is in the worst 20% of local authorities for 5 other deprivation domains

It should be noted that the above position is likely to have been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic and ongoing cost of living increases.

³ [English indices of deprivation \(2019\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019)



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

The English Indices of Deprivation 2019 (IoD2019)

About this release:

- This release updates the English Indices of Deprivation 2015
- The English Indices of Deprivation measure relative levels of deprivation in 32,844 small areas or neighbourhoods, called Lower-layer Super Output Areas, in England
- The data indicators used to construct the IoD2019 are based on the most up-to-date information available

Key findings:

- Overall, 88 per cent of neighbourhoods that are in the most deprived decile according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 (IMD2019) were also the most deprived according to the IMD2015
- Deprivation is dispersed across England. 61 per cent of local authority districts contain at least one of the most deprived neighbourhoods in England
- Middlesbrough, Liverpool, Knowsley, Kingston upon Hull and Manchester are the local authorities with the highest proportions of neighbourhoods among the most deprived in England. This is largely unchanged from the IMD2015
- Many London Boroughs have seen a reduction in the proportions of their neighbourhoods that are highly deprived from the IMD2015
- Seven of the 10 local authority districts with the highest levels of income deprivation among older people are in London – this is unchanged from the IMD2015
- Middlesbrough and Blackpool rank as the most deprived districts regarding income deprivation among children



Statistical Release

26 September 2019

Introduction	2
Small Area Deprivation	5
Area Summaries – Local Authority Districts	9
Income Deprivation and Employment Deprivation	17
Area Summary Case Study – London	20
Accompanying Tables, Reports and Resources	21
Technical Notes	25

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Education¹

Outcomes

In response to the Coronavirus pandemic the DfE cancelled the collection of KS1 outcomes in 2020 and 2021. The latest available data is therefore from 2019 which shows that:

- At the end of Key Stage 1 pupils in Southampton were below the expected national standard in all three areas of reading, writing and maths.
- At the end of Key Stage 2 pupils in Southampton were below the national standard for reading, and writing, but above it for maths.
- For Key Stage 4 the most recent data available is from 2020, which shows that the Attainment 8 score for Southampton pupils was below the national average, although figures had improved from 2019. In maths and English Southampton pupils achieved below the national average.
- The number of Southampton pupils who entered the English Baccalaureate was below the national average.
- The most recent data available for Key Stage 5 is for 2020. At this point the average point score per entry for all A-Level students was below the national average with Southampton ranking 137 out of 149 Local Authorities.

Absence

In response to the Coronavirus pandemic the DfE introduced additional absence codes to understand the impact of the pandemic.

A full year of absence data for 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 has not yet been published by the DfE. Southampton's overall primary absence in 2018/19 rated the city in the worst 10 local authorities nationally (145 out of 151).

Persistent absence placed Southampton again in the worst 10 local authorities (144 out of 151).

Overall secondary absence was also above the national average, placing Southampton in joint national rank of 134 out of 151.

Permanent exclusions and suspensions

The most recent data available is from 2019/20. Southampton was below the national average and rated 68th out of 150 local authorities for exclusions.

There were however more suspensions than the national average with Southampton rated 87th out of 149 local authorities.

Please see the section 'Further Work to Improve Safeguarding' for information on the Education Audit and attendance work.

¹ [Southampton Data Observatory - Education Outcomes](#)

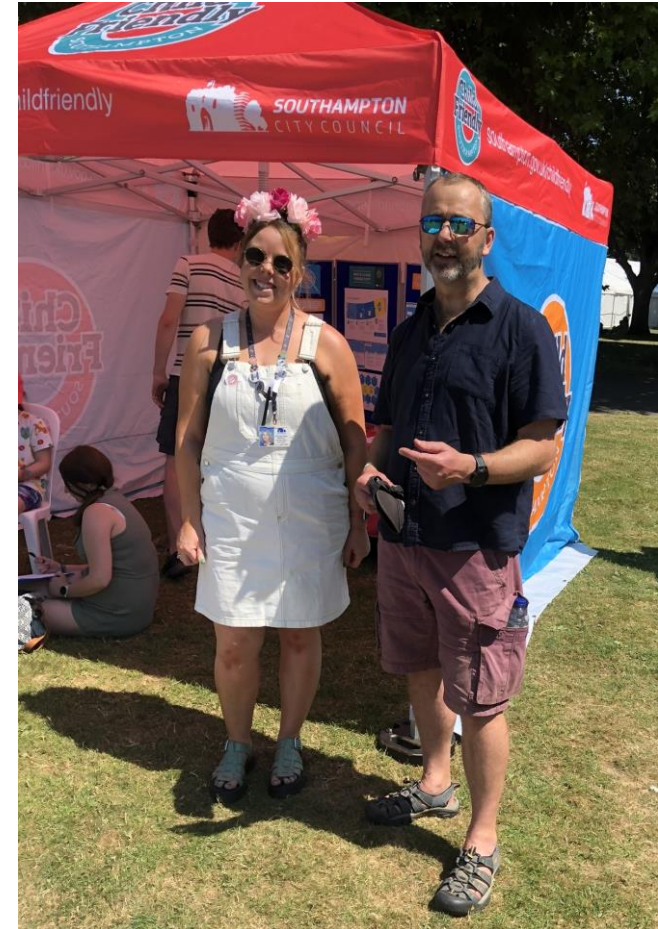
Child Friendly City



Southampton has joined UNICEF UK's [Child Friendly Cities and Communities programme](#). The ambition is for Southampton to be recognised as a [Child Friendly City \(CFC\)](#); with all children and young people in Southampton having a good start to life, being safe, happy and healthy and having successful opportunities in adulthood.

All Southampton children, whether they are living in care, using a children's centre, or simply visiting their local library, will have a meaningful say and benefit from local decisions, services and spaces that shape their lives.

Work on the Child Friendly City is on-going and more information can be found at Southampton Data Observatory [here](#).



Sallie White, Child Friendly Project Officer and Mike Harris, City Council Chief Executive, promoting Child Friendly City at Southampton Mela Festival

Financial Planning

Financial contributions to the SSCP in 2021/2022:

Agency	2021/22 Contributions
Southampton City Council	£132,265
Southampton Clinical Commissioning Group*	£55,466
Hampshire Constabulary	£21,333
National Probation Service (NPS)**	£1,555
Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC)**	£1,674
Total	£212,293

* Southampton City Clinical Commissioning Group is now part of the Integrated Care Board and known as the ICB

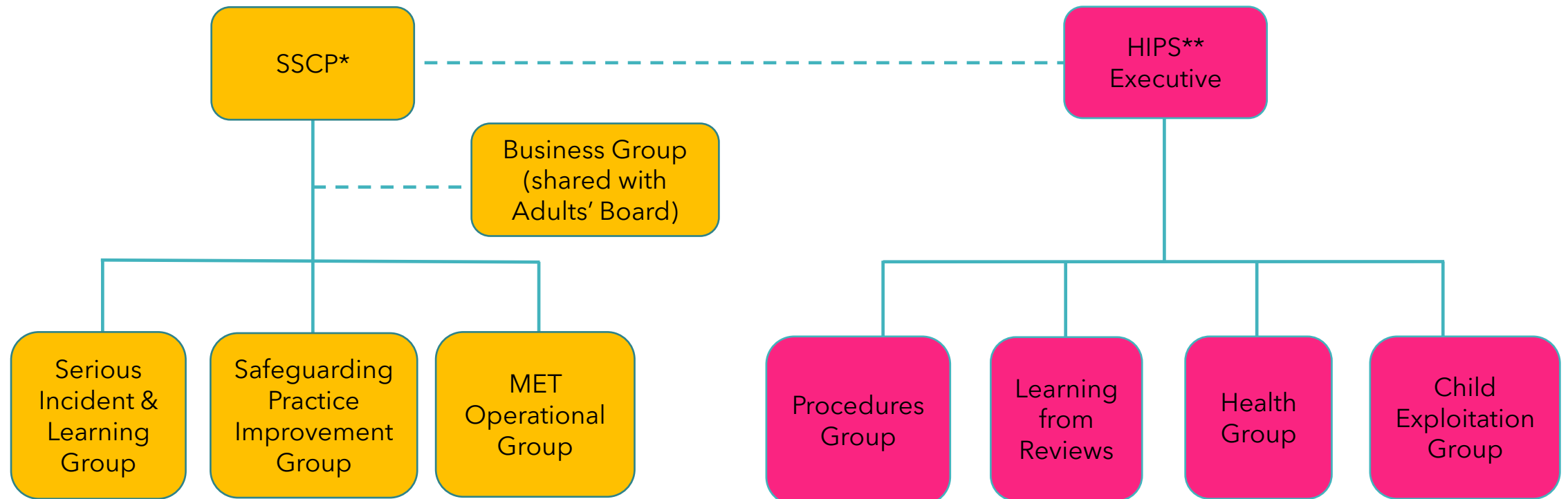
** NPS and CRC have now merged

Membership

The SSCP Board is made up of members from the following organisations:

Agency	Position
SSCP Independent Chair	Independent Chair
Children's Services, Southampton City Council	Executive Director of Wellbeing (Children & Learning)
Hampshire Constabulary	Superintendent and District Commander
Hampshire Probation	Director of Portsmouth/Southampton
Hampshire, Southampton and Isle of Wight CCG (now HIOW ICB)	Deputy Director of Quality & Nursing - Southampton
NHS England (Wessex)	Director of Nursing
University Hospitals Southampton NHS Foundation Trust	Director of Nursing and Organisational Development
Solent NHS Trust	Operations Director (Children's Services)
Southern Health Foundation Trust	Director of Children and Families Division & Safeguarding Lead
South Central Ambulance Service	Assistant Director of Quality
CAFCASS	Senior Service Manager
Voluntary & Community Sector	Southampton Voluntary Services
Legal Services	Solicitor (Child Care)
Health providers	Designated Nurse & Designated Doctor
Principal Social Worker	Principal Social Worker
Public Health	Director of Public Health
Cabinet Member for Children's Services	Lead Elected Member
Children & Learning Services	Cross Phase Advisor
SSCP Business Unit	Partnership Manager
SSCP Lay Member	Lay Member

Structure



*SSCP - Southampton Safeguarding Children Partnership

**HIPS - Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth & Southampton Safeguarding Children Partnerships



Forward look

Priorities for 2022/2023

1. Focus	2. Learning	3. Assurance
<p>What? The SSCP will focus on safeguarding practice improvements in priority areas for the SSCP, Neglect, Child Exploitation and Contextual Safeguarding, Child Sexual Abuse, Strengthening Families, Domestic Abuse, Sexual Abuse in Schools and Colleges and safeguarding babies and young children.</p>	<p>The SSCP will ensure that learning, <u>recommendations and actions from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, Serious Case Reviews and thematic audits are implemented and embedded.</u></p>	<p>The SSCP will focus on assurance mechanisms and arrangements; ensuring correlation with Partnership priorities, including the safeguarding impacts of the pandemic.</p>
<p>How? The SSCP will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop a new Neglect Toolkit & Strategy with future work on children with special needs and disabilities • Deliver a Child Exploitation Delivery Plan • Deliver an Adolescent Safeguarding Framework • Support d Hampshire Constabulary Child Centred Policing Strategy, • Support the development of a HIPS-wide Child Sexual Abuse Strategy, • Support the roll-out of Safe & Together domestic abuse training. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Safeguarding Practice Improvement Group will continue to review activity and actions required through deep dive thematic auditing and undertaking two deep dive audits (Multi Agency Response to Initial Risk and Need and Early Help) • The Serious Incident Learning Group will continue to monitor activity in relation to learning and recommendations from Rapid Reviews, Serious Case Reviews and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews. • Learning and Development activity will focus on learning from reviews and auditing, a Keeping Children Safe (Section 11) audit and good practice. 	<p>The SSCP will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify learning and assurance from national reviews and reports including national Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Joint Targeted Area Inspection findings, • Overhaul the data set and reporting • Complete a Keeping Children Safe (Section 11) audit will t • Set up an Education Subgroup, following the Wood Review (2021).



Thank you for reading this Annual Report

If you have any questions or comments please contact safeguarding.partnershipsteam@southampton.gov.uk