



Sefton Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2022-23



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Introduction by 3 Key Safeguarding Leads

This is the first annual report written under our leadership as the new delegated strategic leaders for the children's safeguarding partnership. Similar to the previous annual report, the SSCP has experienced a significant amount of change and challenges during the year and consequently, we are not where we want to be but are working very hard to get there with some progress made to address the 3 priorities set out by the partnership on Neglect, contextual safeguarding and the integrated front door arrangements. All of the priorities were based on learning from cases, analysis of child protection data including referrals and feedback from the workforce, partners and Ofsted.

We are working collaboratively with representatives from across the wider partnership who are committed to embedding the changes required to improve the outcomes for our children and families across the local area.

On 1st July 2022, Sefton and Southport and Formby Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's) has formed under the new arrangements in health as Cheshire and Merseyside NHS Integrated Care System. This has enabled the partnership to stock take previous revisions to health membership and under the new arrangements health provider leadership has been re-instated onto the safeguarding partnership in order to strengthen membership onto the safeguarding forum and sub groups. This has strengthened a system approach of collaboration.

Sefton Local Authority Children's Services underwent an ILAC Ofsted Inspection that rated the service as inadequate. As a safeguarding partnership we recognise that this rating does not sit solely with Childrens Social Care but reflects on the partnership as a whole in its collective responsibility to support children and families, facilitate change, recognise blockages and support good practice. On this note, we are wholly committed to working collectively together to bring about improvements, and at pace, for the benefit of our children, their families, as well as professionals who work tirelessly to make a difference to the families' lived experiences in Sefton.

Signed by Sefton 3 Key Leads (Safeguarding Children)

Risthardh Hare, Director of Children's Services (Sefton Council)	
Kerrie France, Associate Director (NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB)	
Dawn McNally, Superintendent (Merseyside Police)	

Sefton SCP Partnership Arrangements

Sefton 3 Key Safeguarding Partners

The following representatives form tripartite leadership of Sefton Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP).

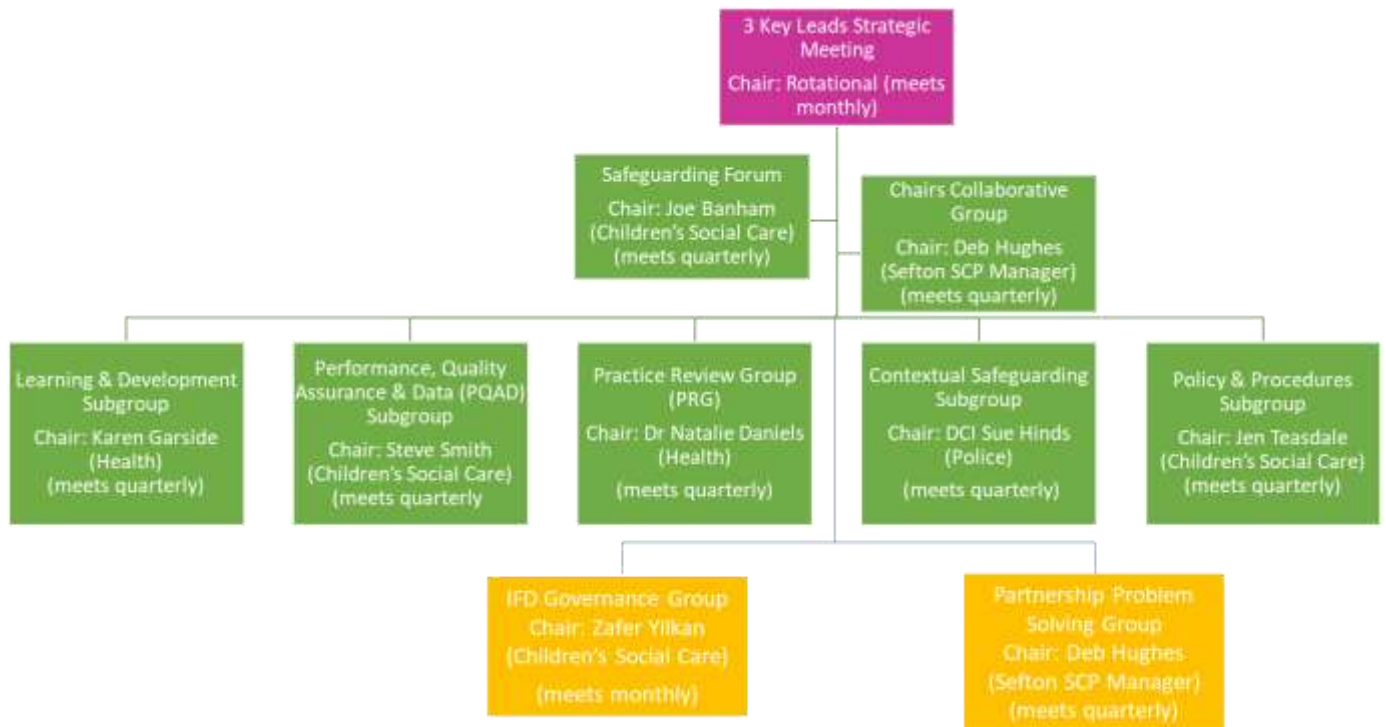
- Sefton Council
- NHS Cheshire Merseyside Integrated Care Board
- Merseyside Police



The Sefton SCP Safeguarding Forum includes representatives from the following organisations and sectors:

- Sefton Council
- NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB
- Merseyside Police
- Education – Schools & Colleges
- Sefton Public Health
- Alder Hey NHS Hospital
- Aintree NHS Hospital
- Liverpool University Foundation Trusts
- Sefton Council for Voluntary Services (CVS)
- Probation Service
- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- Change Grow Live
- Mersey Care NHS Trust

Current Sefton SCP Structure



SSCP Governance Review

During the reporting period, the statutory partners have embraced an opportunity for a ‘critical friend’ review of the effectiveness of the changes made to the safeguarding partnership arrangements in September 2022. This review was undertaken by the Independent Scrutineer at the stage where the revised arrangements had been in place for approximately 12 months and there were 3 new delegated statutory partner representative leads for SSCP who could then move forward by using the findings to inform the leadership approach they will take to harness the collective desire to deliver improvement. The recommendations were grouped under four headings as follows:

Leadership and Culture	Progress made
Deliver a programme of activities over a sustained period to develop the culture of partnership working at an operational and strategic level. Areas to address include common purpose, individual responsibilities, behaviours, accountabilities and celebrating successes.	The 3 Key Leads have worked together to strengthen their communication and commitment to this area of work and have started to embed the values of the partnership and encouraged engagement by strengthening the membership representations. They have led events for partnership members to develop a positive culture of partnership working. Their visibility has also increased at partnership meetings where they wouldn't ordinarily be expected to attend. Anecdotally, members are finding this to be a supportive and positive approach.
The new SLT members to collectively determine the role and functions of SLT and how they will deliver their leadership responsibilities.	The 3 Key Leads now have a stronger shared accountability and have collectively agreed how they will deliver their collective responsibilities. Agreement for funding has been reached for the coming year (see appendix 1).
Hold a cross partnership event to review safeguarding priorities and clarify responsibilities of respective partnerships including performance management arrangements. This event should be informed by Children's Services Improvement Plan and local and national CSPR learning, and consideration should be given as to whether core safeguarding and right help at right time should be local safeguarding priorities.	This event was held by the 3 Key Leads and from this, under consideration of the Childrens Service Improvement Plan and LCSPR learning, the revised priorities for the partnership were created which have included a priority on core safeguarding.

Independent Scrutiny	Progress made
Review the extent to which the current model of independent scrutiny enables the scrutineer role to support and challenge the leadership provided by the statutory safeguarding partners.	This has been completed with clearer parameters of scrutiny approaches agreed. This includes the contribution of the scrutineer at the 3 Key Lead meeting.

Governance	Progress made
Implement arrangements for SLT to monitor the delivery of SSCP strategic plan and statutory functions; this should include creation of a SSCP risk register. Consideration to be given to adopting a system whereby individual SLT members sponsor a priority/area of business and introducing arrangements for SSCP Manager to report/escalate to a member of SLT.	This is currently under development.
Secure the permanent appointment of subgroup chairs with sufficient authority and influence to drive work programmes and hold individuals and the system to account.	This has been achieved, subgroup chairs for all of the SSCP structure now in place. The 3 Key Leads have improved the structure of the SSCP to better target our local areas of focus and reintroduced key sub groups that were no longer operating.
Review and refine the membership of the Safeguarding Forum to promote stronger two-way engagement between statutory safeguarding partners and relevant partners.	Revisions have been made to the Forum membership and there is now a wider range of agency representation. The 3 Key Leads have also scheduled in their representation at Forum meetings to provide additional steer and support.

(Review SSCP priorities) and create an outcome focused strategic plan supported by a SMART delivery plan.	Priorities have been refreshed, approach in place for completion of the Strategic Plan but this remains outstanding.
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Accountability	Progress made
Present a copy of this report to Council Chief Executive, Chief Constable, and Chief Nurse, ICB and confirm arrangements as to how they will be appraised of the actions taken in response to the findings/recommendations and their impact.	Governance arrangements are in place within the 3 Key Lead accountability structures for this to be completed. They each have a clear line of accountability to their executive leads and ensure that key safeguarding messages are shared
Provide an overview of the actions taken in response to the findings of this exercise, along with an evaluation of their impact, in the SSCP Annual Report 22-23	Completed.

SSCP Priority Work Progress

1. Neglect

Sefton SSCP has a clear neglect strategy (2020-25) supported by partners regarding Early Help and Intervention. Neglect is an issue that requires a detailed strategic approach to assist partners to be clear on what neglect is. To support practitioners, there was agreement that there would be a launch of the Graded Care profile 2 (GCP2). This is an assessment tool that helps practitioners take a strengths-based approach to measuring the quality of care a child is receiving and supports them to identify neglect. Due to resource limitations, there was no capacity to effectively embed this across the partnership and an executive decision was made to cease in this approach. However, the SSCP's does have a comprehensive neglect screening tool **Neglect Screening Tool**.

This screening tool is intended for use by frontline practitioners within ALL partner agencies to quickly identify areas of concern that may indicate a child or adolescent is being neglected. This is designed to be applicable to all age groups. The tool is not a full assessment of risk and should be used by practitioners alongside the levels of need document. During this reporting period the SSCP has had the screening tool reviewed by a leading expert in neglect with positive feedback.

It is the intention of the SSCP that any contact made to the integrated front door for reasons of neglect should have the accompanying tool completed and attached. There is ongoing work to improve technological systems that can easily pull out this data which will allow the partnership to gain assurance that the process is embedded and having a positive outcome for children. In addition, the SSCP will complete a comprehensive audit on this area of work and respond to the findings.

There has been a concentrated effort on the theme of neglect through the learning and development subgroup. This group has commissioned specialist training through a subject expert and was well attended by practitioners from across the partnership. In addition, there has been the creation of a SWAY briefing to develop awareness raising in practice as well as the development of resources to upskill practitioners. Full resource list is contained on the SSCP website (www.seftonscp.org.uk). The resources have been positively received by the workforce and were created to improve practitioners' knowledge and skills. For the coming year the SSCP will be providing further development opportunities for practitioners to recognise the differences between poverty awareness versus neglect.

For this reporting period there were 455 Child Protection Plans started. Of this 37.6% were for neglect. For the previous reporting year (2021/22) there were 380 Child Protection Plans started of which 41.6% were for neglect.

2. Contextual Safeguarding

The contextual safeguarding subgroup carried out a benchmarking exercise to better understand the gaps in service provision for children and young people. This involved presentations from all departments within the child safeguarding process. This valuable exercise brought to light that:

- 1) The scale of the problem was not fully understood.
- 2) The service provision is not comprehensive.
- 3) The understanding of the subject area by frontline staff needs to be developed.

This exercise then triggered a list of priority work which includes:

- An agreed Terms of Reference for the subgroups scope and purpose.
- A 'True for Us' comparison exercise benchmarked against a neighbouring authorities Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) report.
- Introduction of a CE Dataset although still to be introduced.
- Audit of ETAC and how it sits alongside the Pan Merseyside MACE

- Supporting the transition arrangements that supports children from the Youth Justice Service (YJS) to the National Probation Service (NPS) post 18 years of age.
- Review offender profile to ensure there is a uniformed understanding of how this is interpreted.
- Undertake a mapping exercise to better understand how education providers address exploitation.
- Completion of a service provision analysis to determine where the gaps are and seek support to address them.
- Increased training and development offer for frontline practitioners.

This work is in progress and sub group members have already completed some of the priority tasks identified. This work will carry forward into 2023 under the 'Harm Outside the Home' agreed priority.

During the reporting period Sefton Local Authority Children's Services along with key partner agencies reviewed its processes in relation to children and young people who are missing from home, education and care and are at risk of exploitation. It became apparent that the system was not robust enough to adequately address missing and exploitation. Following the review, new ways of working were implemented to strengthen both the practice and response to missing. As a result, the local authority (with the support of partner agencies) is introducing a new service called My S.P.A.C.E. This will be a multi-agency dedicated service to respond and deliver timely services for children and young people aged 10-18 who have a Social Worker who go missing and/or are exploited or at risk of exploitation. These changes will include the following:

- A dedicated team of practitioners who undertake Return Home Interviews
- Team of intervention workers carrying out intensive work with the children and young people who go missing.
- Daily morning meetings with partners to share intelligence on the children who go missing overnight.
- Partnership Exploitation Screening Tool will be completed by the professionals who are concerned that the child/young person is at risk of exploitation.
- Exploitation Team Around Child (ETAC) meetings are taking place within 72 hours of the child/young person being referred and safety plan formulated for the child/young person.
- ETAC plan is reviewed every 4-6 weeks to monitor progress and review the safety plan.
- Every child has a bespoke safety plan formulated which includes the child and their parents/carers.
- Review Missing procedures, including the recording of episodes and those children are offered a Return Home Interview (RHI).
- Improve the consistency and quality of RHI's and how they are used to inform planning.
- Review MACE processes for children at risk of exploitation including developing a performance data set to ensure there is monitoring and oversight at all levels.
- Quality of MACE risk assessments to be reviewed to include analysis, safety planning and disruption.

During the reporting period the SSCP has not received the necessary data in relation to this area of safeguarding which has resulted in the SSCP not being in a position to understand the scale and scope of the problem. This in itself is an area of risk.

Whilst My S.P.A.C.E. has been in development this has taken over priority of Sefton's agreed contribution to the PAN Merseyside MACE Protocol. Sefton is signed up to the [PAN Merseyside Multi-Agency Child Exploitation Protocol](#) (last reviewed in January 2023).

This Protocol provides a set of multi-agency principles for tackling Child Exploitation across Merseyside. Each borough is required to report quarterly into Pan Merseyside Strategic MACE:

- 1) Number of CE assessment proceeded to MACE
- 2) How many children in MACE (may be or being exploited)?
- 3) How many children were closed off MACE (assessed as low)
- 4) How many children were closed as agencies have been unable to engage
- 5) How many re-referrals back into MACE within six months?
- 6) No. of children assessed as high risk for over six months and findings

7) No. of escalations have been made by MACE chairs and outcome

8) No. of NRM submitted and where they completed as part of a Multi-Agency forum?

It will be expected that Sefton now redirect efforts to actively, and consistently, support the agreed protocol alongside any new local service initiatives.

3. Remodelling of Sefton's 'Front Door' arrangements

The Integrated Front door (IFD)

During the reporting period there has been the creation of an Integrated Front Door system to receive and make decisions on all of the contact coming into both early help and children social care. This has brought about the alignment of Early Help Service practitioners into Children's Social Care developed to support the right response for children is given by the appropriate professional at the right time. Changes have included the introduction of an:

Early Help Hub:

This is now a specific team within the IFD which deals solely with the referrals from Early Help. This consists of a team manager, assistant team manager, senior early help worker and 4 early help researchers. This allows for a consistent oversight of Early Help contacts received a focussed response.

This has been trailed for a period and data is pending regarding this.

and a:

Threshold Clinic

The Threshold Clinic is seeking to provide an enhanced Quality Assurance dimension to social work practice by creating a consistent and transparent approach to the application of Sefton's Level of Need.

The Threshold Clinic will form part of the auditing framework which sets out to ensure that improving outcomes for children is being achieved and reflection on the impact of our practice on the families we work with is understood. This consists of a weekly meeting with a service manager, team manager from IFD and Team Manager from the Assessment service. Threshold Clinic promotes, reflection, conversations and critical challenge on recent decisions made.

The Threshold Clinic will therefore help to answer the following questions: -

- Are we applying threshold in all aspects of our work?
- What difference is this making?
- What could we do differently?

This has been trailed for a period and data is pending regarding this.

Through multi-agency consultation, the Level of Need guidance was refreshed and strengthened to support this and launched in January 2023. This has included a robust training offer from the SSCP.

At present work is still underway to introduce a mature and clear dataset that will support the partnership to understand and address activity taking place at the front door which includes:

- Thorough analysis of conversion rates and evidence of a reduction in conversion rate from contact to referrals.
- Thorough analysis of 'alteration' rates to better understand what cases are referred in at, (by Level of Need category) to what they are concluded to be and where/if there is a difference.
- Understanding the provision of advice and information being given to allow a targeted response of support.

- Requests for information and missing children and how these are being managed.
- Timeliness of decision making in line with 'Working Together'.
- Evidence of reduction or increase in re-referrals and the reasons why.
- Evidence of reduction or increase in re-contacts and the reasons why.
- Fewer contacts are being 'no further actioned'(NFA'd)

The Integrated Front Door Governance group remains under development but is working at pace to strengthen its governance arrangements including both an agreed multi-agency dataset and a refreshed information sharing agreement. The SSCP is dependent on this group to provide information, data analysis, challenges, risks and evidence of positive outcomes for children and families to understand and act upon any safeguarding issues that need addressing.

Moving forward the priorities of the SSCP will be changed from:

1. Neglect
2. Integrated Front Door
3. Contextual Safeguarding

to:

1. Leadership and culture
2. Core safeguarding
3. Harm outside the home.

The new priorities provide a stronger framework for the partnership to focus on a wider range of safeguarding risks and influences beyond (but including) neglect and the integrated front door, such as mental health, domestic abuse, exploitation in all its forms along with neglect that are all significant factors impacting on young children's lives. The SSCP strategic plan will be framed accordingly to ensure that we capture the ongoing work and any new commissioned/tasked work covering all key areas along with ensuring that we have effective review structures in place to identify and capture learning for the partnership.

Learning from Practice Reviews

During the reporting year Sefton published one Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review. This review heard of the death of a 12-week-old baby where co-sleeping and domestic abuse were key features.

Multi-agency training and staff development activities based on learning from this, and previous local reviews, as well as national reviews, has taken place throughout the year. This has included:

- SERIOUS Training (Self Harm & Suicide Prevention)
- Children with Mental Health Training (including strategies to support children and young people with mental health difficulties) delivered by Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)
- Bereavement Training
- Briefings on ‘Understanding the role of the Rainbow Centre and Sexual Abuse Referral Centre (SARC)’ by Alder Hey Hospital
- Briefings on ‘Sexual Health Service in Sefton’ to provide knowledge to support to all professionals.
- Promotion of key messages across the partnership in relation to ‘consent’ and use of Gillick Competency and Fraser Guidelines
- Identifying alcohol risks and supported referrals
- Domestic abuse training
- Safe sleep promotional work
- Pre-birth Protocol re-circulation
- Revised Level of Need Guidance to refresh and include further descriptors in relation to contextual safeguarding.
- Large multi-agency workforce event (Power of the Partnership) to promote the benefits for children and families to improve their outcomes when professionals work well together. This event was also used to reinforce the importance of engaging fathers in family work.
- The development and delivery of digital SWAY briefings in relation to the following themes:
 - Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB)
 - Peer on Peer Abuse
 - SEXTING
 - Bullying

Key themes from local & national learning reviews	Partnership response
1 Neglect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSCP commissioned independent subject expert to deliver neglect training and review the quality of the SSCP Neglect Screening Tool. • Designed new virtual briefing for quality completion of the neglect screening tool. • Increased neglect focused activity within multi-agency Working Together to Safeguard Children training. • Level of Need Guidance refresh strengthening descriptors to reflect escalating concerns of neglect. • Developed a new SWAY Briefing on neglect.
2 Contextual/Risks outside the home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioned independent subject expert to deliver bespoke workshops on managing contextual risks to a group of schools. • Commissioned independent subject expert to deliver training on harmful sexual behaviour and child on child abuse across the partnership. • Promoted materials and resources on Contextual Safeguarding across the partnership. • Introduced new SWAY Briefings on contextual safeguarding themes.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivered virtual briefings to introduce new team MYSPACE (CE and Missing Team) Briefings delivered by Merseyside Police on: Cyber Crime and Protecting Children from Exploitation Increased contextual safeguarding activities within Working Together to Safeguard Children training.
3 Pre-Birth Vulnerabilities of Unborn/Babies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoted a 7-minute briefing containing learning from a local review linked to safe sleep messages. Promoted the ICON campaign (coping with a crying baby) Safe sleep pathway promoted in Sefton. Developed a SWAY briefing on 'pre-birth' protocol. Pan Mersey policies refreshed and incorporated unborn addendum within refreshed Level of Need Guidance. Active support of Merseyside & IOM Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) campaigns
4 Hidden Male	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large scale SSCP Partnership Event held in January 2023 highlighting working with whole families, identifying hidden males and including known males in family work. Delivered virtual briefings on the learning from the national review into the deaths of Arthur & Star. Multi layered approach within all SSCP training events focusing on the hidden male theme. Delivered specialised training on Domestic Abuse – prevalence and impact.

Child Death Overview Panel Focus

There remains clear professional synergy with the SSCP and the Pan Mersey and Isle of Mann Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP). There is a clear referral mechanism for CDOP to request the review of any child death case where partnership learning is evident in the case for further exploration. During the period Sefton SSCP did not receive any referrals from CDOP under these circumstances.

However, CDOP developed a Safer Sleep Conversation tool in response to the reoccurring issues with safe sleep environments as a modifiable factor and also linked to Sefton's Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review 'Delilah'. Alongside this, CDOP supported the roll out of training for frontline professionals by the Lullaby Trust which also addresses the issues around safer sleep environments.



SSCP Quality Assurance and Audit Activity

The Performance, Quality Assurance and Data sub was not operating as it should have been due to the absence of an identified Chair and the deletion of the SSCP QA Officer post. This has had a significant impact on the partnership's ability to:

- get an informed intelligence grip on the system through a bespoke data set.
- provide challenge where it was required to support improvements.
- undertake scheduled and reactive audits where required.

These will be addressed and resolved as a priority by the Performance, Quality Assurance and Data sub group.

Through the identification of a Chair, this group has only been re-established since February 2023 and therefore, up to that point, little has been achieved. However, the partnership did commission an independent auditor to undertake the Section 11 which was completed in November 2022 and the subgroup will now introduce a process by which the information shared from partner agencies can be further assured through a challenge panel approach.

Section 175 was incomplete during this year as the quality of the data became unreliable as we switched from one online provider to another. The design of the improved new audit tool will include new and additional information in response to all legislative changes and will go live in November 2023. Our education providers continue to work tirelessly to have robust safeguarding policies and practices in place. It is to be noted that within the year there have been 29 schools inspected by Ofsted, all of which have been judged to have effective safeguarding arrangements in place.

Education colleagues have continued to support the work of the SSCP and are proactive representatives within the partnership structure. Designated Safeguarding Lead training has been maintained throughout the year with a consistent high rate of attendance. There is a continued focus across schools to improve effective joint working with wider partnership agencies.

'Tell us your truth survey' (2023)

Sefton SCP conducted a multi-agency staff survey asking 2 questions.

- 1) What are your top 3 safeguarding concerns for young people
- 2) What are your top 3 multi-agency partnership working concerns/barriers.

Top concerns were identified as:

- Mental Health Difficulties in YP (45%)
- Neglect (34%)
- Child Exploitation (33%)

Barriers were identified as:

- Quality of information sharing (53%)
- Case communication (40%)
- Not being notified of a change of worker (36%)

In response, the SSCP will use the refreshed SSCP Strategic Plan to inform future Performance and quality assurance activity. To support, the partnership delivered additional training for multi-agency professionals in all 3 identified areas of safeguarding concerns. In regard to the barriers identified within multi-agency collaboration we will further promote research and evidence to support improved professional practice and curiosity.

It is recognised that there remains a gap in the SSCP actively seeking the contributions of children and families in the work undertaken which includes audit activity. This will be addressed in the coming year with clear expectations communicated of increasing their contributions to hear their voices, along with gathering evidence that service responses have altered where appropriate to meet the needs of children and families.

Sefton SCP Workforce Development (Engagement and Attendance at Training)

Sefton SCP Learning and Development offer has provided the multi-agency children’s workforce with opportunities to influence and impact upon their safeguarding children practice and responsibilities.

Collaboration for SSCP Learning and Development offer is informed by SSCP Business Priorities, national learning and local need and concentrates on areas identified from previous reporting year e.g., April 2022-March 2023. This has included:

- Design and deliver an enhanced training programme specific to the partnership safeguarding priorities.
- Launch the revised Level of Need Guidance across the partnership.
- Provide training offers in response to audit activity across the system.
- Deliver briefings for the partnership on national reviews and safeguarding research.
- Be responsive to training needs that are highlighted in Ofsted Inspections.

All the areas of work identified from the previous year’s annual report have been achieved. The SSCP have also strengthened the reporting arrangements through the SSCP structure to ensure there is oversight at all levels on training applications and attendance across the multi-agency partnership. Moving forward, attendance and engagement will be a standing item at all Learning and Development subgroups. This will be included in the subgroup Chairs report to be presented to the Safeguarding Forum which in turn will be reported up to the 3 Key Leads for their oversight.





During the period April 2022-March 2023 **48** courses offered (virtual and face to face model) with **1395** professionals attending

Forward planning for SCP Partnership for 2023/24 is as follows:

- Respond and offer training programme reflecting SSCP Priorities and embed and sustain current offer to ensure all agencies access the learning and development offer .
- SSCP Learning and Development Subgroup to develop a work plan that falls from the SSCP Strategic Plan.
- Contextual Safeguarding -Sustain and embed opportunities for childrens workforce to understand Harmful Sexual Behaviours.
- Identify tools to support and identify Harmful Sexual Behaviours practice e.g Brook Traffic Light Tool and develop a model to cascade across Partership.
- Further embed SERIOUS Self Harm and Suicide training.
- Further training on Levels of Need. Out of the two briefings undertaken only 79 professionals attended.
- Develop Sexual Health Briefing in Partnership with Sefton Sexual Health Service
- Deliver 30 minute briefing on Neglect Screening Tool
- Training to be delivered
- Design SWAY Briefings on Harmful Practices
- Devise Briefings for Neglect Screening Tool and Revised level of Need
- Respond to learning from National Reviews
- Hold sessions on the revised Working Together Guidance when updated.
- Support Children Social care Improvement Plan and develop Private Fostering Briefing and Newsletter.



Sefton SCP Communications

 <p>5 Sefton SCP Newsletters published in 2022-23</p>	 <p>3 - 7 Minute Briefings published in 2022-23</p>
 <p>6 SWAY Briefings published in 2022-23</p>	 <p>1 Pan Merseyside SWAY Briefing published on Emerging Themes: Practice Learning Reviews</p>
 <p>1 multi-agency workforce survey on priorities 'Tell Us Your Truth'</p>	 <p>1 Largescale Partnership Event 'Power of the Partnership' held January 2023 and attended by over 400 practitioners.</p>
 <p>Launch of the revised Sefton Level of Need Guidance (January 2023) to the children's multi-agency workforce in Sefton.</p>	 <p>www.seftonscp.org.uk website has received over 75,000 views in the past 12 month period. The most viewed section was Sefton's Level of Need Guidance receiving over 4,700 views</p>
 <p>Sefton SCP has over 740+ followers on Twitter X @seftonscp</p>	

Legislative Guidance shared across the whole of Sefton's Children's Workforce:

- Independent Review of Children's Social Care
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (2022)
- Prevent Duty Self-Assessment Tool for Schools
- Stable Homes: Built on Love
- Marriage and Civil Partnership Act 2022
- Domestic Abuse Act
- Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel Reviews: Child Protection in England (National Review into the murders of Arthur & Star), Safeguarding children with disabilities in residential settings and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews



Sefton Local Authority Delegated Officer (LADO) Overview

A total of 325 referrals were received from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023, this is a 41% increase on the previous year. This is partly due to an increase in contacts – 27 across 2021-22 compared with 54 across 2022-23. We have also seen a post-COVID impact whereby sectors of the children’s workforce, such as residential care, early years and education are finding it more difficult to recruit experienced staff. This has led to vacancies being covered by supply staff or recruitment of staff with no previous experience in working with children. Further analysis of the contact and referral data will be included in the LADO Annual Report where the data will be compared with that from LADOs across the North West.

Ofsted

The LADO met with Ofsted inspectors on 2nd November as part of the first monitoring visit following February’s inspection of the Local Authority. Ofsted viewed the LADO tracker and scrutinised four cases. Feedback was positive. A further amendment has been made to the LADO tracker with the date LADO attended children’s strategy meetings following discussion with inspectors.

Training

In 2022-23 the LADO delivered three online briefings on managing allegations to multi-agency staff on behalf of Sefton Safeguarding Children Partnership and four briefings to Sefton Local Authority Foster Carers as part of the Allegations and Safer Care training. Two bespoke sessions on managing allegations were delivered to residential staff. This was as a result of a high proportion of referrals to LADO by these organisations. A further bespoke session was delivered to ASYE social workers at Sefton MBC’s Social Work Academy. This was to ensure that newly qualified social workers understand the role of LADO and to highlight the need to invite the LADO to children’s strategy meetings where a parent/carer is employed in the children’s workforce or harm may have been caused to the child by a member of the children’s workforce.

The LADO is an accredited trainer delivering the Safer Recruitment Consortium’s courses. The LADO has delivered three Safer Recruitment in Education courses on behalf of Governor Services. These were delivered virtually over two half day sessions. The LADO also delivered two half day Refresher virtual sessions for staff in education who had previously completed the full day’s training.

The LADO is also a member of the National LADO Network Training Group. This group arranged the annual LADO conference which was delivered as a virtual event on 19th October 2022. The conference focussed upon practice needs for LADOs via peer led discussions on a range of topics; the LADO led one of the discussion groups. Feedback has been positive and is being used to inform development of a national LADO handbook with the DfE which is expected to be included as an annex to the revised Working Together to Safeguard Children guidance.

Referrals that did not result in an open case (closed as contacts)	Allegations Opened	Total Number Referrals
54	271	325
Contacts EMPLOYMENT Sector	Allegations Opened EMPLOYMENT Sector	
13 - EDUCATION	106 - EDUCATION	
2 – FOSTERING (LA)	18 – FOSTERING (LA)	
	11 - FOSTERING (IFA)	
6 - RESIDENTIAL	65 - RESIDENTIAL	
2 – EARLY YEARS	34 - EARLY YEARS	
8 - HEALTH	5 - HEALTH	
5 – SOCIAL CARE	11 - SOCIAL CARE	
4 -POLICE	0 - POLICE	
5 - TRANSPORT	6 - TRANSPORT	
4 - VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION	8 - VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION	
1 - SPORT	5 - SPORT	

3 - OTHER	2 - OTHER	
1 - UNKNOWN		
Contacts REFERRING Agency	Allegations Opened REFERRING Agency	
8- EDUCATION	94 - EDUCATION	
17 - SOCIAL CARE	47 - SOCIAL CARE	
	9 – FOSTERING (LA)	
	8 – FOSTERING (IFA)	
3 - RESIDENTIAL	43 - RESIDENTIAL	
1 – EARLY YEARS	27 - EARLY YEARS	
7 - POLICE	2 - POLICE	
3 - HEALTH	4 - HEALTH	
2 - OFSTED	3 - OFSTED	
9 - OTHER	22 - OTHER	
3 - VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION	7 - VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION	
1 - MILITARY CADETS	3- NSPCC	
	1 - SPORT	
	1 - PROBATION	
Contacts Category of Abuse	Allegations Opened Category of Abuse	
4 - EMOTIONAL	26 - EMOTIONAL	
12 - PHYSICAL	98 - PHYSICAL	
12 - SEXUAL	27 - SEXUAL	
9 - NEGLECT	81 - NEGLECT	
17 - OTHER	44 - OTHER	
Allegations Management Strategy Meetings Chaired by LADO	Child Strategy meetings attended	
178	16	

Outcome of Cases Concluded During 2022-23:

This data includes cases from 2019-20 and 2021-22 which were concluded in 2022-23. This may be because the referral came towards the end of the previous year, or for those cases taking 12 months or more to conclude, due to ongoing criminal investigations and court cases. In one case this was due to an ongoing case in the family courts regarding a finding of fact.

<u>Outcome of Cases</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage of Allegations</u>
<u>Threshold Not Met</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>24%</u>
<u>Substantiated</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>22%</u>
<u>Unsubstantiated</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>23%</u>
<u>Unfounded</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>24%</u>
<u>Malicious</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3%</u>
<u>False (this outcome is only used in education settings)</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>4%</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>232</u>	

In addition to the above one case from 2021-22 concluded as a contact.

Timescale for Conclusion:

It is the role of the LADO to ensure that the allegations management process is concluded without undue delay. 92% of allegations were dealt with in less than three months which was a significant improvement on previous years. It is anticipated that this percentage will decrease next year as there are cases which have been going through the criminal justice process which are due to conclude after more than 12 months since referral.

<u>Timescale</u>	<u>2019-20</u>	<u>2020-21</u>	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23 cases only</u>
<u>Less than one month</u>	<u>60%</u>	<u>62%</u>	<u>58%</u>	<u>84%</u>
<u>Less than three months</u>	<u>18%</u>	<u>11%</u>	<u>26%</u>	<u>8%</u>
<u>Less than 12 months</u>	<u>15%</u>	<u>19%</u>	<u>16%</u>	<u>8%</u>
<u>More than 12 months</u>	<u>7%</u>	<u>8%</u>	<u>0.5%</u>	<u>0.4%</u>

Additional Narrative:

- Two bespoke sessions on managing allegations were delivered to residential staff. This was as a result of a high proportion of referrals to LADO by these organisations. Since the training to those providers, referrals from them to LADO have reduced.
- The LADO has raised concerns about safeguarding practice in residential provision with Sefton’s Commissioning Team and Ofsted, as well as sharing concerns regarding early years provision with Sefton’s Quality Improvement Team and Ofsted.
- There has been a significant increase in the number of referrals to LADO in relation to unregulated placements. Although Sefton’s plan to reduce the number of our cared for children in such placements will reduce the risk of harm to especially vulnerable children, other local authorities continue to place their children with unregulated providers without contacting the LADO beforehand. (My recommendation would be for the DCS to write to DCSs about this, or for the NW DCSs to do this jointly as other LAs are seeing the same issues arising).

The LADO challenges schools around their safer recruitment practices when it is identified that they have not been followed in relation to cases.

Sefton SCP Independent Scrutineer Observations and Activities

The role of the Independent Scrutineer is to carry out the independent scrutiny function as set out in Working Together to Safeguarding Children 2018. The Independent Scrutineer will provide the critical challenge and appraisal of the multi-agency safeguarding partnership arrangements in relation to children and young people.

Statutory guidance requires the three safeguarding partners (which for the period covered by this report are Local Authority Chief Executive, Chief Constable of the local Police Force and Accountable Officer, Clinical Commissioning Group superseded by Chief Nurse, Integrated Care Board (with effect from July 2022) or their delegated representative) to make arrangements for independent scrutiny of the yearly report they are required to publish. Their yearly report should address:

- what they have done as a result of the arrangements, including on child safeguarding practice reviews, and how effective these arrangements have been in practice.
- evidence of the impact of the work of the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies, including training, 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.

I took up the role of Independent Scrutineer in early 2022 and so just prior to the period covered by this report. The statutory partners had determined that they wished to use independent scrutiny to complete discrete pieces of scrutiny activity, and, in the period covered by this report I was commissioned to complete a review of the SSCP's governance structure and to consider:

- How effectively do the safeguarding partnership arrangements enable the identification and delivery of locally agreed priorities and safeguarding partnership statutory functions.
- The extent to which the safeguarding partnership arrangements create a culture of shared accountability for identifying and delivery of locally agreed priorities and safeguarding partnership statutory functions.

The other activity that I undertook during 2022-23 was:

- 1:1 meeting with Police, Integrated Care Board and Local Authority delegated representatives for SSCP (during quarter 4)
- Attendance at Safeguarding Forum (January 23)
- Attendance at MASH strategic group (February 23)
- Joined the Children's Services Improvement Board, with effect from December 2022.

The findings from the governance review were reported in October 2022 and the recommendations are set out at pages 5-6 of this report along with the progress made at the time of writing this report i.e. October 2023. The statutory partners recognise that there has been delay in acting on these recommendations and it was following a progress report that I presented to the Children's Services Improvement Board in early April 23 that more meaningful work to progress these recommendations commenced. That report also allowed me to challenge how the partners had determined they wished to use independent scrutiny in their arrangements and with effect from June 2023, I joined the membership of the 3 key safeguarding leads (3KSLs) meeting. Positively, and since this date, I have observed a strong desire from the statutory partners to develop the safeguarding partnership arrangements and to engage with me so that critical friend support and challenge can improve their shared endeavour.

The openness of the 3KSLs in their introductory remarks about the safeguarding partnership arrangements is reflective of my own evaluation that effective safeguarding partnership arrangements, compliant with the requirements of statutory guidance, are not yet operating in Sefton. My critical friend evaluation of the content of

this annual report, against the requirements of statutory guidance, is set out below and is intended to support lead and delegated statutory safeguarding partners in the next phase of the development of their partnership arrangements:

- A systemic approach is required to act on the findings of the SSCP governance review; this will require a relentless focus on developing the culture of partnership working including core purpose and values, ways of working and behaviours that should underpin partnership culture.
- A stronger line of sight is needed on front line practice and the experiences of children and families. The limitations of the Partnerships' performance and quality assurance arrangements significantly impedes the ability of the 3KSLs to perform their duties. Of note, it is only the Local Authority who has provided performance data for this Safeguarding Partnership yearly report.
- Leadership and governance arrangements need to ensure that statutory functions are delivered and intended actions are completed; the report describes much work as being in progress or being carried over and this was also the case in the previous yearly report. This should include the learning from local and national child safeguarding practice reviews.
- In addition to ensuring completion of intended actions, a focus on the impact of actions taken to improve the safety and wellbeing of Sefton's children is needed. Feedback from children, families and practitioners should inform this evaluation.
- Learning from the National Panel evidences the importance of leadership in creating the conditions for good safeguarding practice to flourish; a central tenant of such leadership is an approach that focuses on implementation and embedding learning rather than reliance on the development of guidance and/or dissemination of learning and training. Reflective supervision and support to frontline staff will promote learning to become embedded.
- In June 2023, revised priorities were agreed which are evidence informed and consistent with the Children's Services improvement plan priorities. The statutory partners are currently working to produce a strategic plan that will set out the actions to be taken to implement these priorities. It is understood this will include external support to assist the development of the partnership arrangements. Timely procurement of this support would be evidence of the strong desire of the 3 KSLs to develop the partnership arrangements that I refer to above being translated into action. This support should be targeted at the various layers of the partnership and its infrastructure.
- A final reflection is that the lead safeguarding partners (as named in my introductory paragraph) should review how they collectively maintain oversight of the delivery of their statutory responsibilities that they have delegated to the 3KSLs. This will also enable consideration and readiness for the forthcoming revisions to Working Together guidance.

Closing Summary

This coming year will be concentrated to a large extent on the further strengthening of our governance arrangements to improve our grip on the safeguarding system. This will include:

- Ratifying the SSCP Risk Register.
- Leading the conversations for agreement on the future priorities of the partnership.
- Refreshing the Strategic Plan to reflect the new priorities and ways of working.
- Strengthening governance and communication with other relevant boards and partnerships.
- Evaluating the impact of the progress made for the next annual report.
- Embedding greater efficiency and less duplication.

We welcome this next year and the opportunities we will create to lead the partnership in their work to:

- Mould our services in response to feedback from children and families
- Support our children and families to be the best that they can be.
- Give them the right service at the right time.
- Help and protect them in a proportionate way.
- Recognise and celebrate positive steps.
- Support transitional arrangements for those children and young people who approach a new phase of their lives and require appropriate services and resources to do this safely and effectively.

APPENDIX 1

Sefton SCP Funding

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) states:

Working in partnership means organisations and agencies should collaborate on how they will fund their arrangements. The three safeguarding partners and relevant agencies for the local authority area should make payments towards expenditure incurred in conjunction with local multi-agency arrangements for safeguarding and promoting welfare of children.

The safeguarding partners should agree the level of funding secured from each partner, which should be equitable and proportionate, and any contributions from each relevant agency, to support the local arrangements. The funding should be transparent to children and families in the area, and sufficient to cover all elements of the arrangements, including the cost of local child safeguarding practice reviews.

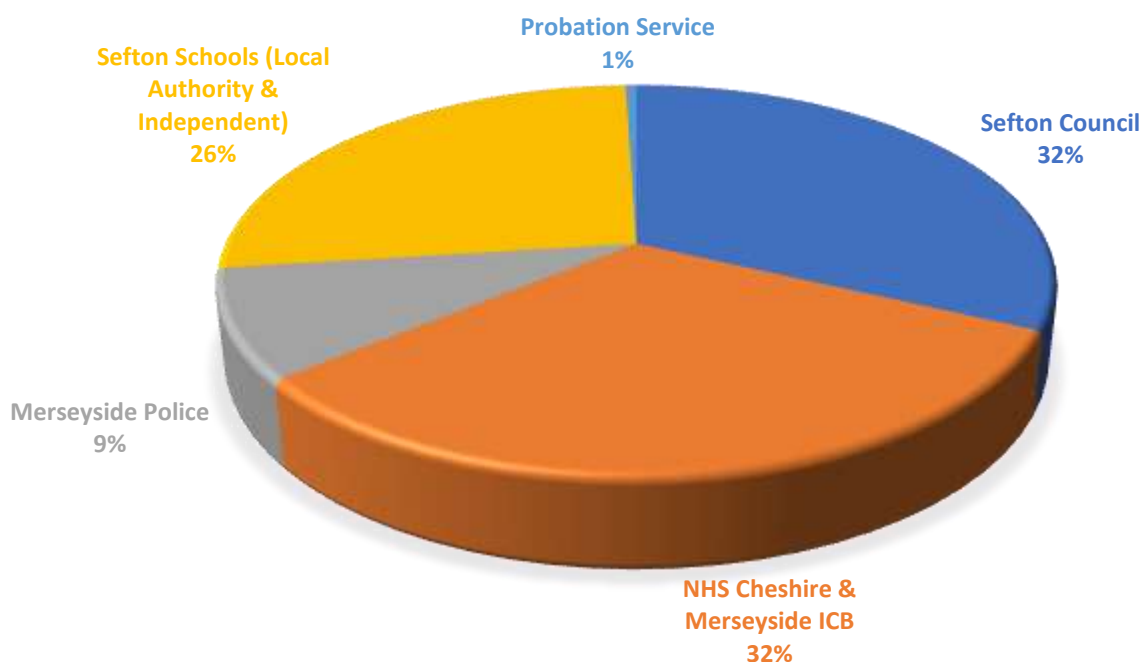
It is recognised that there are significant financial challenges across the multi-agency partnership where difficult decisions are made regularly on how to prioritise scarce resources. Given this reality, the safeguarding children partnership continues to receive financial support, without uplift, from the 3 key agencies. These monies in the main, only cover the staffing costs for four members of staff. This is agreed on a year-by-year basis which restricts the partnerships' ability to agree a long-term plan of approach for identified improvements. Sefton SCP underspend over the last several years, due to staffing vacancies, has been able to fund any identified commissioned services required throughout the year.

Sefton SCP is funded by:

- Sefton Council
- NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB
- Merseyside Police
- Sefton Schools & FE Colleges (Local Authority & Independent)
- National Probation Service

It is important to note that the generous contribution of work in kind from wider partner colleagues in support of the work plan of the safeguarding partnership has been gratefully received. This has included learning and development session delivery and subgroup attendance and activity.

Sefton SCP funding is illustrated below:



APPENDIX 2

Children Social Care

This narrative covers key activity into Children's Social Care for the reporting period 22/23. where available data is compared to statistical or regional averages.

During the period a total of 13490 contacts were received by the integrated front door, an average of 1124 per month. This rate was not consistent throughout the period with the first 6 months seeing an average of 1013 contacts per month compared to an average of 1234 for the second half of the period.

The main sources of contacts were:

- Police 34%
- Schools 21%
- Health 11%

Of these 13490 contacts, 4390 of them were converted into referrals into Children's Social Care, a conversion rate of 33%. This means that roughly one in every three contacts to the Front Door resulted in an intervention by Social Care. This number is significant and provides a clear illustration of one of the key features of the intervention offered to families during the period, namely that there was a significant chance of a contact resulting in a high tariff intervention. Regional conversion rates for the period are not available, but it is of note for the period 23/24 they are approx. 20%, both across the region and in Sefton. Based on the contact numbers for the period this difference equates to approx. 100 referrals per month.

The source of referrals roughly reflected the source of contacts:

- Police 34%
- Schools 20%
- Health 13%

These figures suggest that the conversion rate for all sources of contact was roughly similar, and no one source of contact was more likely to present information resulting in a referral than another.

For the period covered by the report the average rate of referral into social care was 789 per 10k (the standard unit of measurement). The rate for statistical neighbours during this period was 579, another illustration of the significant level of interventions with families at the 'social care' level with Sefton families.

This pattern in continued in the rate of 547 enquiries carried out during the period, a number which climbed from 249 per 10k at the start of the period to 373 by its end. For comparison the average rate for the period across statistical neighbours was 207 per 10k.

These high rates of 547 enquiries are reflected somewhat in the high rates of Social Care assessments undertaken with families in respect of children. Over the period this figure averaged 926 assessments per 10K, a figure considerably higher than the statistical neighbour figure of 622.

A notable feature of this high rate of assessment completion is the number of them that conclude with 'No further action'. Throughout the reporting period approximately 50% of assessments concluded with No further action, supporting a hypothesis that a number of them need not have commenced, or possibly could have been shut down at an earlier stage.

This high level of assessments that did not lead to ongoing social care intervention is perhaps one explanation for the relative lack of impact the high level of activity at the 'front end' of the service had on the cohort of children subject to Child in Need and Child protection Plans.

Child in need Plans fell from a high of 916 open plans at the start of the period to 767 at its end, whilst child protection plans peaked at a high of 415 in July 2022, with 332 at the end of the period. During the period categories of child protection registration were as follows:

- Emotional Harm 51.6%
- Neglect 37.6%
- Physical harm 6.2%
- Sexual abuse 4.6%

Cared for children numbers remained relatively static throughout the period, beginning on 603 and ending on 611, a figure that translates to 113 per 10,000. This figure exceeds the statistical neighbour rate of 89 per 10,000 by some distance.

It is clear from the data illustrated above that ongoing exploration of the key challenges within the safeguarding system to ensure that there is a proportionate and timely response to safeguarding concerns remains. In place to achieve this, there are robust action plans to address areas of practice across the partnership that raises questions or concerns that are closely monitored by the SSCP and the Local Authority's Children's Improvement Board.

Early Help

As of 31st March 2023, Sefton's Early Help team had 1,218 open episodes for children and young people (ages ranged from unborn to 22 years of age); a rate of 18 per 1,000 of 0–22 year olds residing in the Borough. (Source ONS Census 2021 age 0-22 = 65,546)

There has been a 22.5% reduction compared to 2022 (31st March 2022 = 1,573).

Between April 2022 and March 2023 Sefton's Early Help team had 4,036 episodes started, relating to 1,768 households across Sefton. This is a reduction of 11% in the number of episodes compared to 2021/22 (4,544).

3,978 episodes were ended in 2022/23 (relating to 1,777 families), a reduction of 14% in ended episodes compared to 2021/22 (4,615).

Of the closed episodes in 2022/23, 21% had an outcome of no further action, the number of episodes ended due to this has increased considerably over the last five years (from 77 in 2015/16 to 813 in 2022/23). A further 40% of episodes had their aim achieved.

Early Help Episodes Ended Reason (2022/23)

Episode End Reason Count Percent

Aim Achieved 1,614 (40%)

Unable to Engage 760 (19%)

Further Action Required 791 (20%)

No Further Action 813 (21%)

Total 3,978 (100%)

The decline in open Early Help episodes is of concern, particularly given the continued and growing pressures within Statutory Services. However, the timescale of the data collection period does capture system changes through the development of a Targeted Family Support team from the existing Sefton Early Help resource, which may be responsible for some of this reduction, as a proportion of their work was with Children in Need rather than Early Help. Yet the 22% reduction is also potentially due to families no longer being able to self-refer and instead having to go through the integrated front door – which we know anecdotally has prevented many families accessing a service. This will be reviewed by an independent diagnostic exercise of the Integrated Front Door and any findings will be addressed to maximise service improvements. Despite the reduction in open cases, it is re-assuring to know that considerably more families have aims achieved and there is a reduction in those unable to engage.

Over the past 6 months the Early Hep Partnership have worked on fully mapping the extent of the Early Help offer, so going forward families can be signposted to the most appropriate service or indeed find support themselves without the need to access Early Help services. In addition to this a pilot Team Around the School is due to launch in September 2023 where the focus is on a multi-agency team working together to meet need, at the earliest opportunity. To align with this, we are exploring the development of a single agency level 2 Pathway for Change assessment which it is hoped will capture more of the work of the partnership which often goes unrecorded within the data collected.

Education

- 40,596 children and young people aged 2-18 years are educated in 102 Sefton state-funded, maintained nursery, primary, secondary, sixth form, academies, special schools and pupil referral units (PRUs).
- 8 of the 74 Primary schools have converted to an Academy.
- Of the 18 Secondary schools in Sefton, 14 have converted to Academy.
- All 3 state-funded maintained Nursery schools in Sefton are rated by Ofsted as Good (67%) or Outstanding (33%).
- Most of all state-funded maintained Primary schools in Sefton are rated by Ofsted as Good (72%) or Outstanding (12%).
- None of the eighteen secondary schools are rated by Ofsted as outstanding (0%). Ten secondary schools are rated as Good (56%). One of the state-funded maintained secondary schools in Sefton are rated by Ofsted as requiring improvement (25%) and none are inadequate.
- All state-funded maintained Special schools in Sefton are rated by Ofsted as Good (60%) or Outstanding (40%).
- 24.5% of children and young people in Sefton schools are classed under Pupil Premium.
- 23.4% of pupils attending maintained schools are eligible for Free School Meals.
- 6.9% of pupils educated in Sefton have English as an additional language.
- 111 young people in total deemed to be NEET in Sefton as of 6th March 2023.

Sefton Youth Justice Service (YJS) Offences and Incidents 2022/23

YJS Statutory - Offences 2022/23

Total number of Offences	134
Total number of children	51

Offence Types	No.	%
Arson	2	1.5%
Breach Of Bail	1	0.7%
Breach Of Conditional Discharge	1	0.7%
Breach Of Statutory Order	2	1.5%
Criminal Damage	6	4.5%
Domestic Burglary	4	3.0%
Drugs	23	17.2%
Fraud And Forgery	1	0.7%
Motoring Offences	13	9.7%
Other	5	3.7%
Public Order	15	11.2%
Racially Aggravated	1	0.7%
Robbery	5	3.7%
Theft And Handling Stolen Goods	14	10.4%
Vehicle Theft / Unauthorised Taking	4	3.0%
Violence Against The Person	37	27.6%

Offence by Gender	No.	%
Female	7	14%
Male	44	86%
Total children	51	

Offence by Age	No.	%
10	0	0.0%
11	0	0.0%
12	3	5.9%
13	4	7.8%
14	6	11.8%
15	10	19.6%
16	14	27.5%
17	14	27.5%
18	0	0.0%
19	0	0.0%
Total children	51	

*data is taken from Child View a live database

YJS OOC - Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) Incidents 2022/23

Total number of Incidents	114
Total number of children	98

Incident Types	No.	%
ASB - Knives Involved	8	7.0%
ASB - Violent Behaviour	27	23.7%
ASB - Drugs Involved	50	43.9%
ASB - Varied	29	25.4%

Incident by Gender	No.	%
Female	28	29%
Male	70	71%
Total children	98	

Incident by Age	No.	%
10	0	0.0%
11	0	0.0%
12	0	0.0%
13	3	3.1%
14	13	13.3%
15	19	19.4%
16	23	23.5%
17	24	24.5%
18	15	15.3%
19	1	1.0%
Total children	98	

During 2022/23 there were a total of 114 **incidents** carried out by 98 children that resulted in involvement from Sefton YJS for specific interventions to address their offending behaviour. Most incidents were for anti-social behaviour with drugs involved 44% (50). Of the cohort 71% (70) were male and 29% (28) were female. Most of the cohort were 17-year-old males with 24% 24.

During 2022/23 there were a total of 134 **offences** carried out by 51 children that resulted in involvement from Sefton YJS for specific interventions to address their offending behaviour. Most offences were for Violence Against Person 27.6% (37). Of the cohort 86% (44) were male and 14% (7) were female. Most of the cohort were 16- and 17-year-old males with 27.5% (14).

There were 248 offences and incidents during 2022/23 committed by 147 children, most offences and incidents committed were for drugs and violence.

The latest profile (May 22) highlights that violence remains the top offence followed by drug related offences. 48% of children were involved with Children Social Care, 52% of the children live in the top 30% of the most deprived areas nationally. Approximately 46% of children had issues with their mental health. Clearly these figures fluctuate as the cohort changes which is tracked biannually.