

# Safeguarding Children in Stockport

Annual Report 2018/2019



Our vision is 'working in partnership to support and safeguard the people of Stockport to enable them to live safe, healthy and, where possible, independent lives'.

# Chair's Introduction

I am pleased to present the 2018/19 Annual Report on behalf of all the agencies represented on the Stockport Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB). The reports shows that, in Stockport, we have continued to build on the strong partnership foundation to meet the many challenges facing agencies in ensuring that we are not only keeping children and young people safe, but also improving the outcomes for our most vulnerable children.

I hope that you will find that the report helps you to better understand how organisations and people work together and the contribution the Safeguarding Board has made to this. It sets out how these arrangements can continue to improve on the basis of the Safeguarding Board and partners being able to objectively and critically learn from what works well and act to improve what may not work as well as was intended.

This report covers 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019, and highlights the activity, progress and challenges faced by Stockport SCB with a particular focus on the journey of the child. We have set out the achievements made in 2018/19 and the areas where we need to continue to make improvements.

As you read through the pages of this report, you will gain an insight into the work of the Board, how we audit, review, learn and invest in partnerships with the ultimate aim of improving the lives of our children. There is no doubt that there is much to celebrate in our work, but much more that we can do. One of the areas we need to strength is our approach to multi agency auditing. We recognise that in 2018/19 there have been challenges to implement a full audit schedule, however, with additional quality assurance capacity we should be in a position to improve this.

During this year we have undertaken three Serious Case Reviews, one of these being a joint review with the Safeguarding Adults Board. The reviews were completed within timescales and the learning and the changes that we have made can be found on page 26 of the report.

One of the areas that was challenged in the 2016 Ofsted inspection, was the strength of the partnership, from the commitment of funding to support the work of the Board and also partner's contribution and attendance at subgroups to drive the work of the Board. Over the last couple of years, I have seen improvements in both these areas and confident now that we have a strong partnership to continue to drive improvements.

In January 2019, we had our annual development/planning day where we reviewed the progress against the 2017/20 Business Plan; and agreed the areas of focus for the last year of the plan. Page 8 sets out the achievements against that plan.

We also took the opportunity at this session to consider all the feedback we had received as a partnership regarding our proposal for the future arrangement in line with Working Together 2018; and to consider how we could continue to align our work with that of the Safeguarding Adults Board; in order to reduce duplication and take a whole family approach. We also did some work on the vision for the new partnership and the values that underpin that vision.



# Purpose of the Report

This document constitutes the Stockport Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) Annual Report 2018/19 and provides a summary of the effectiveness of services in the city to safeguard children and promote their welfare. The information contained within this document has been provided by partners during 2018/19.

Working Together (2015) requires each Local Safeguarding Children Board to produce and publish an annual report evaluating the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area. The report is submitted to the Chief Executive and Leader of the Local Authority, reflecting that overall accountability for the safety and welfare of children and young people must be led by them. It is also sent to the local Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chair of the Health and Well Being Board. There is also a local agreement to submit it to Leeds City Council Scrutiny Board for Children and Families and to the governance bodies of all partner organisations to support their governance of safeguarding practice in Leeds.

The guidance states that the annual report 'should provide a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services. It should identify areas of weakness, the causes of those weaknesses and the action being taken to address them as well as other proposals for action'.

The report should:

- Recognise achievements and progress made as well as identifying challenges.
- Demonstrate the extent to which the functions of the SSCB are being effectively discharged.

- Include an account of progress made in implementing actions from Serious Case Reviews (SCR).
- Provide robust challenge to the work of the Stockport Family Partnership Board (SFPB).
- The SSCB works closely with the SFPB, which is specifically accountable in Stockport for overseeing the development and delivery of the Children & Young People's Plan (CYPP). This report identifies challenges for both the SSCB, the SFPB and other key strategic bodies. The SFPB should consider the report in preparing and refreshing the CYPP. The Health and Well-being Board (HWB) is required to consider the report in completing the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. The SSCB holds both those bodies accountable for their delivery of good safeguarding practice.
- This report reflects work undertaken in 2018/2019 and provides both quantitative and qualitative information about safeguarding activity in Stockport to enable a holistic analysis to be developed. The following framework identifies and summarises key issues for consideration and evaluates the partnership's ability to continue to drive change and improvement.



# Vision, Aims and Values

Our vision is 'working in partnership to support and safeguard the people of Stockport to enable them to live safe, healthy and, where possible, independent lives'.

## Our values that underpin the vision

- Be excellent
- Be of service and accountable
- Be honest and open
- Learn from experience
- Respect and value everyone
- Be kind and work together

## Aims of the safeguarding partnership

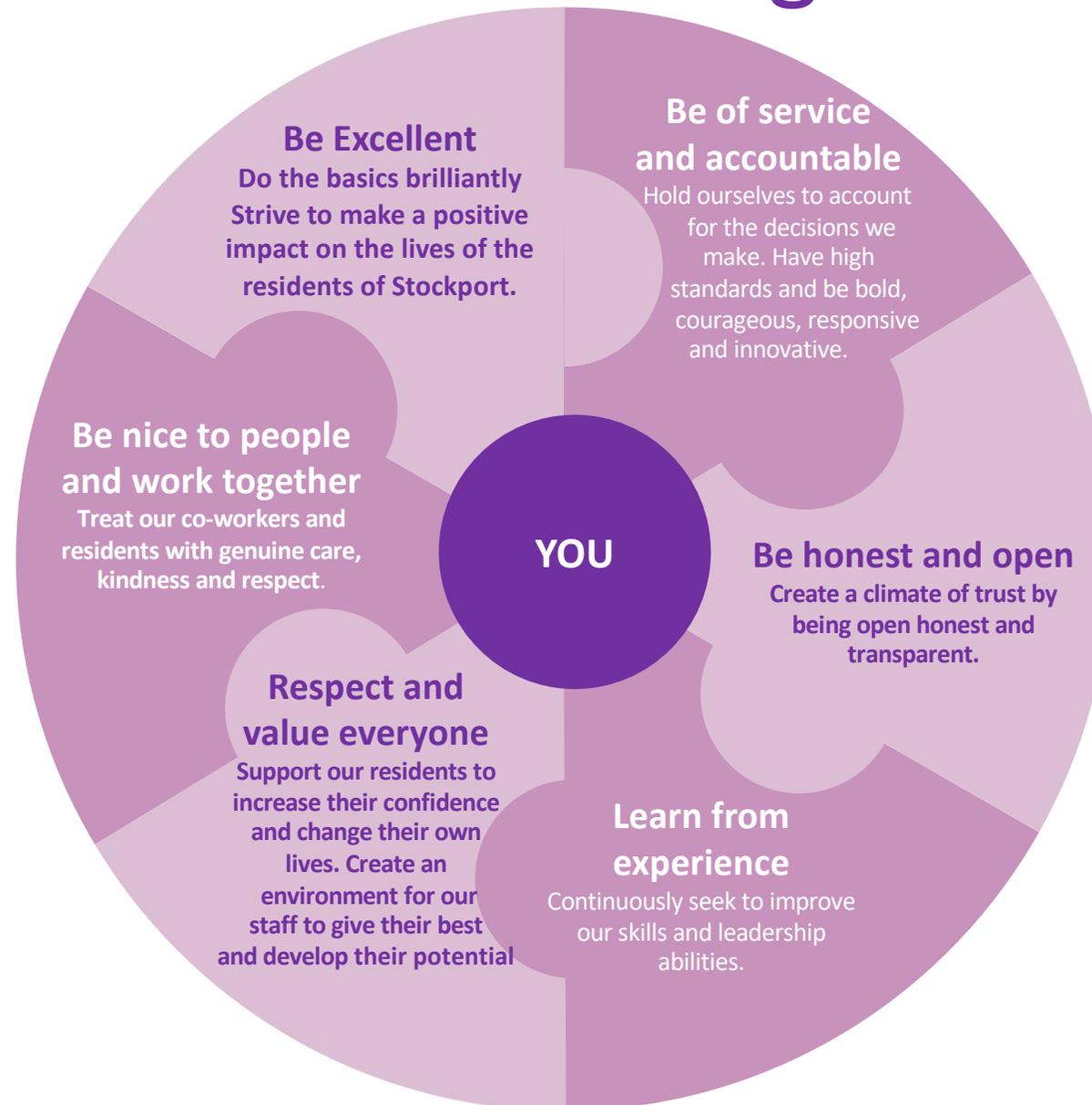
The Safeguarding Partnership has extended the definition of safeguarding to include prevention and promotion of welfare, and has a remit to promote the safety and welfare of all children in Stockport, in addition to continuing to lead in the well-established area of child protection for those who are vulnerable. The aims to:

- To develop and agree local policies and procedures for inter-agency work to protect children, within the national framework;
- To audit and evaluate how well local services work together to protect children;

- To put in place objectives and performance indicators;
- To encourage effective working relationships between services and professional groups, based on trust and mutual understanding;
- To ensure agreement across agencies about operational definitions and thresholds;
- To improve local ways of working based on knowledge from national and local experience and research, and to ensure lessons learned are acted upon;
- To undertake case reviews where a child has died or in certain circumstances has been seriously harmed;
- To help improve the quality of child protection work through inter agency training and development;
- To raise awareness within the wider community of the need to safeguard children and promote their welfare.



# Values – How we work together



# Objectives

**Governance:** Refresh, improve and strengthen the governance around the safeguarding architecture including Stockport Safeguarding Children board, Stockport Adult Board and Safer Stockport Partnership to ensure clear lines of accountability and reporting. Ensure that appropriate strategies are in place to support the priorities of the board.

**Scrutiny, challenge and quality assurance:** from a safeguarding perspective for the quality, transformation of services including the development of Stockport family, Stockport Together and all age Multi-Agency Support and Safeguarding Hub. Develop a standardised approach to assessing and evaluating the work of the boards in relation to partners engaged in safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults.

**Learning and development:** Ensure development of a confident committed and competent workforce operating consistently and effectively across partnerships to safeguard children young people and adults.

**Communication:** To promote the work of each Board to the population of Stockport to raise awareness of safeguarding.



# The Strategic Plan

The vision of the SSCB is translated into action through the three year Strategic Plan and this is underpinned by a more detailed Business Plan which is reviewed and refreshed annually. The current Strategic Plan (2017-20) is based on four priorities:

- Transitions
- Neglect
- Domestic Abuse
- Complex Safeguarding

Appendix A demonstrates the progress against the strategic plan two years in to delivery.



# Progress to date

## **Transitions -Achievements**

Over the last two years there has been significant focus on looked after children transitioning to adult services. New transition social workers have been employed in adult social care and planning now starts at 15. The Multi Agency Adults at Risk Panel has been refreshed and supports cases where vulnerable young people present chaotic lifestyles and are not eligible for adult social care support by developing a multi agency plan.

## **Transitions - Challenges remaining**

Ofsted inspected Stockport's special education needs and disability services in September 2018. Whilst, many good things were identified there were also areas of weakness. A Written Statement of Action has been prepared and the challenge is to deliver against this in 2019/2020.

## **Neglect – Achievements**

An all age Neglect Strategy has been developed based on learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews and Serious Case Reviews. Graded Care Profile 2 has been purchased as our Neglect tool and is being rolled out to all relevant staff with training well under way.

## **Neglect – Challenges**

An action plan for neglect needs to be completed. An audit of impact needs to be undertaken.

## **Domestic Violence and Abuse – Achievements**

There has been considerable activity around domestic violence and abuse in the last 12 months. Most significantly, a bid to the home office for funding was successful and as a result, we have been able to increase capacity with our Complex Safeguarding Team and employ a maternity and a schools Independent domestic violence advocate. System wide training is being planned for 2019/2020 and specialist training will be delivered to police officers in Stockport.

## **Domestic Violence and Abuse – Challenges**

The challenge will be to sustain the improvements in service delivery when the funding ceases in March 2020. A plan for sustainability is in place.

## **Complex Safeguarding – Achievement**

A well attended all age complex safeguarding group is well established and has developed a strategy and action plan. Innovation funded social workers are delivering the GM specialist support – Achieving Change Together. A well received complex safeguarding conference was held in Autumn 2018. Plans are well advanced in developing an all age complex safeguarding service. A missing hub, providing a multi agency response to missing children has seen reductions in missing children.

## **Complex Safeguarding – Challenges**

An audit of impact needs to be undertaken.

# How the LSCB delivers the plan

The Board is supported by a business manager, a training manager and a quality assurance officer.

The board is financed by contributions from partners in Stockport.

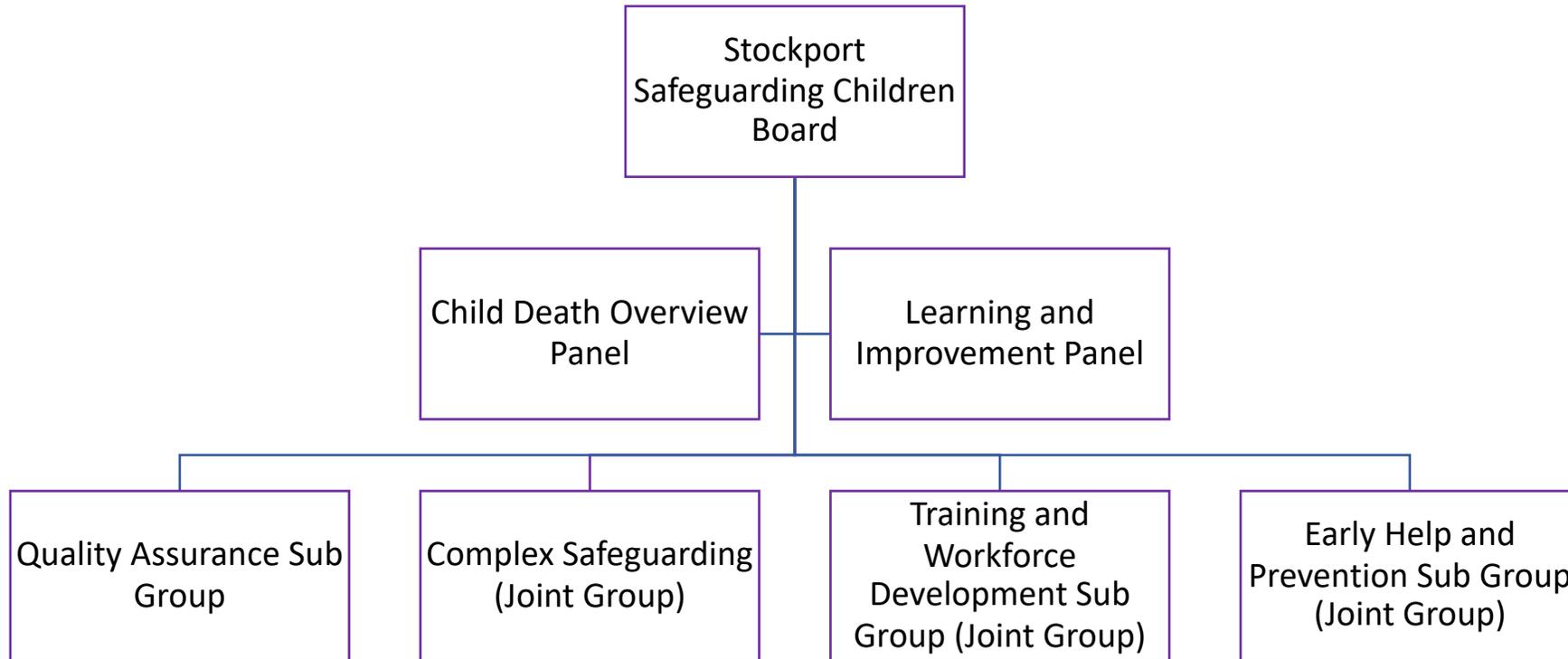
Contributions received	2018/2019
CAFCASS	£550
Stockport NHS Foundation Trust	£4,000
GM Police	£13,800
Probation	£2,664
NHS CCG	£32,000
Adult board	£17,000
Sub-total	£70,014
Income from training	£4,000
Local Authority Contribution	£95,000
LA Reserves for Reviews	
Sub-total	£99,000
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£169,014</b>
Expenditure	
Staffing costs	£90,000
Independent Chair	£12,000
Sub-total	£102,000
Other costs	
SCR / MALR	£24,000
Sundries	£8,000
Conference venues and refreshments	£7,000
CDOP	£12,500
Sub-total	£51,500
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£153,500</b>

The Safeguarding Unit facilitates and develops the work of the SSCB through Sub Groups and Task and Finish Groups.

- The groups meet on a regular basis to monitor and progress their components of the business plan. Established sub groups meet at least quarterly, with additional sessions arranged as required.
- Reports of work undertaken, decisions made and annual summaries are provided to the Board for consideration.
- These groups are chaired by representatives that sit on the Board and are responsible for driving the work of the Board, as well as highlighting areas of safeguarding that needs a more strategic multi-agency response from the Board.



# Governance



# Sub Groups

## Quality Assurance

Chaired by the CCG Designated Safeguarding Nurse

Receives and analyses performance data from agencies in relation to the safeguarding agenda. It monitors progress on LSCB priorities and ensures a programme is in place to audit and evaluate multi- agency safeguarding practice.

## Complex Safeguarding

Co Chaired by the Practice Leader, Stockport Family and the Principle Social Worker, Adult Services. Stockport Council

Develops, implements and monitors the SSCB Complex Safeguarding Strategy and Action Plan to ensure there is a co-ordinated multi-agency response to Child Sexual Exploitation, Missing Children, Modern Day Slavery/Trafficking, Female Genital Mutilation, and Honour Based Violence/Forced Marriage.

## Training and Workforce Development

Chaired by the Service Manager for People and Organisational Development, Stockport Council

Responsible for ensuring that high-quality, up to date, effective, child-focused and all age multi-agency training is provided alongside single-agency safeguarding training.

## Early Help and Prevention

Chaired by the Head of Service, Safeguarding and Learning, Stockport Council

Develops, implements and monitors areas such as Transition, Self Neglect and Vulnerable adults which the aim of supporting the development of early intervention strategies.

## Learning and Improvement

Chaired by the Head of Service, Safeguarding and Learning, Stockport Council

Considers serious childcare incidents and the potential for multi-agency learning through statutory Serious Case Reviews (SCR) or other non-statutory processes such as Multi Agency Learning Reviews (MALRs).

## Child Death Overview Panel

Chaired by an Independent Chair

Aims to understand better how and why children in Stockport die and use the findings to take action to prevent other deaths and improve the health, well- being and safety of children and young people.



# New Safeguarding Arrangements

The Children and Social Work Act (2017) set out provisions, which will replace Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB) with new flexible working arrangements, led by 3 safeguarding partners (local authorities, chief officers of police and clinical commissioning groups).

The Act places a duty on those partners to make arrangements to work together with any relevant agencies for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children within the area.

The guidance for the new safeguarding arrangements is set out in Working Together 2018

Whilst the Safeguarding Children Partnership will include and relate to all agencies with responsibilities and interests in the safeguarding of children and young people, including for example, Education and those in the Third Sector, the three agencies with statutory responsibilities will together share particular duties with respect to seeing the strategic direction for safeguarding, and for the overall governance of the partnership.

Following consultations undertaken in 2017 through the SSCB, agreement has been reached to establish a Safeguarding Children Partnership and lay out the way the partnership will work during its transitional first year. The new arrangements are published on our web site.

The changes see a three key partnership groups and two joint working groups with the Adult Board.

## Stockport Safeguarding Children Partnership Groups

**Executive Partnership** – drives the work of the board and holds other Partnership groups to account.

**Quality assurance partnership** - receives and analyses performance data from agencies in relation to the safeguarding agenda.

**Practice Improvement Group** – oversees the development of policy and procedures and oversees and moderates Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Local Learning review.

## Stockport Safeguarding Children and Adults Joint Working Groups.

**Training and Workforce Development** - ensuring that high-quality, up to date, effective, child-focused and all age multi-agency training is provided.

**Complex Safeguarding** - develops, implements and monitors the SSCB Complex Safeguarding Strategy and Action Plan

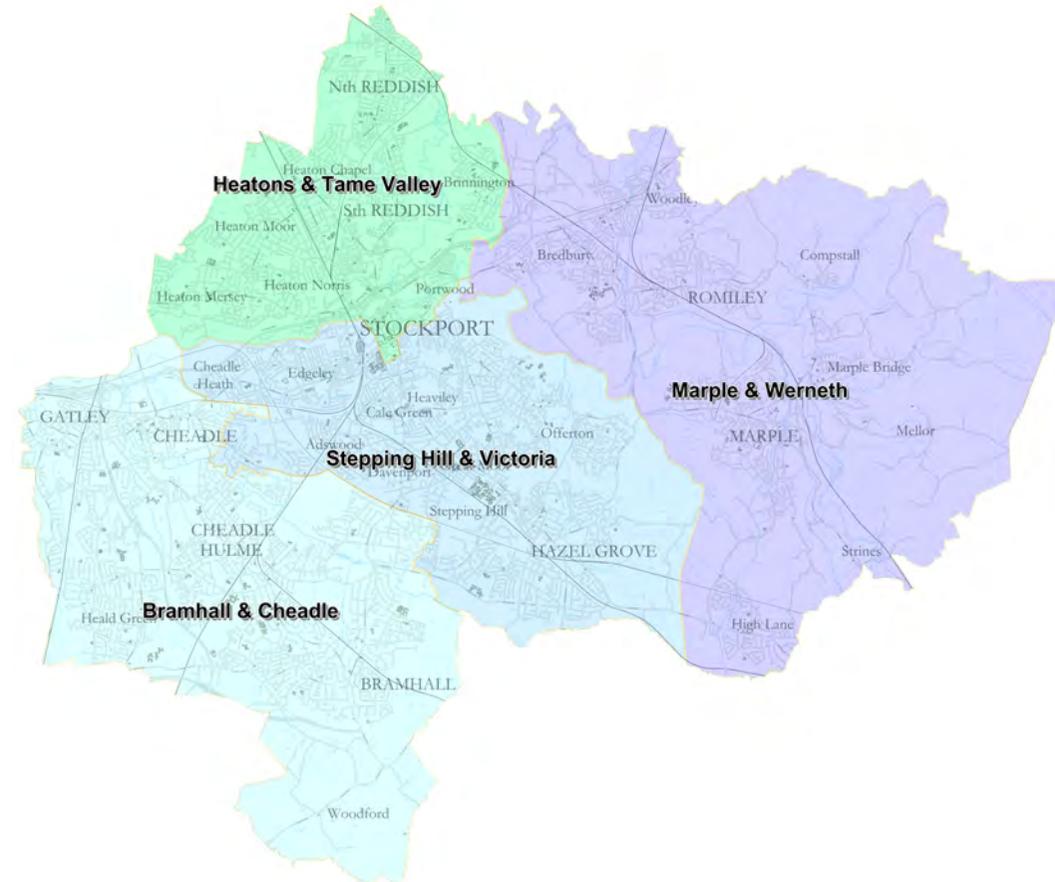


# The Town of Stockport

The Stockport Borough is a very polarised area, with areas of significant poverty and areas that are very affluent. Out of a population of 285,000, 21.6% (62,900) are aged 0-17. 13.5% of children and young people in Stockport are living in poverty (JSNA 2017). In Stockport, there are small areas that rank within the 2% most and 2% least deprived in England.

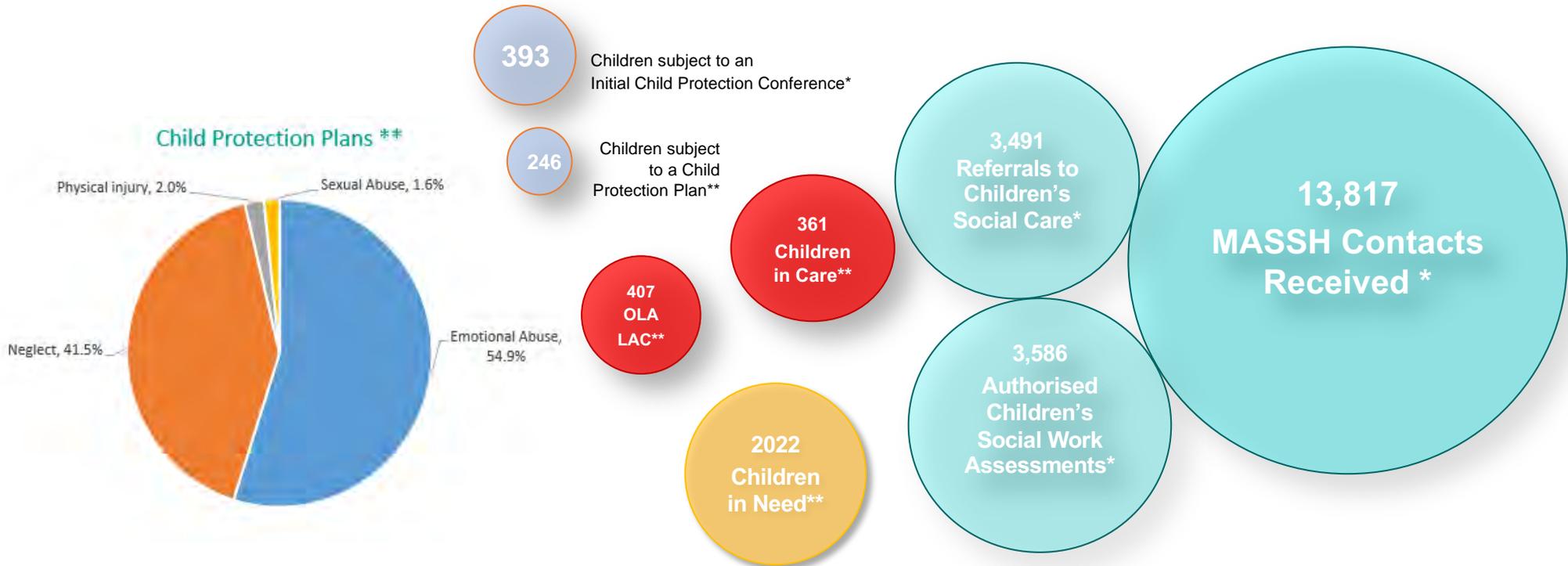
There are 121 schools in Stockport: 5 maintained nurse schools, 84 Primary, 14 Secondary, 9 Independent Schools, 6 Special Schools and 3 Pupil Referral Units. There are currently 3 secondary schools which are academies in Stockport.

The town also has several charities and voluntary sector organisations offering services for children and young people, to include Together Trust, Seashell Trust, Signpost Young Carers, Stockport Action for Voluntary Youth, Beacon counselling, Stockport Women's Centre, Stockport without Abuse, Disability Stockport, Parents in Partnership, Stockport Action for Voluntary Youth.



# Safeguarding for Young People

62,912 Children 0-17 live in Stockport\*\*\*



?? referrals to the LADO

2 children living in a private fostering arrangement\*\*

2 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children\*\*

\* 12 months ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019

\*\* As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019

\*\*\* ONS 2017 Mid Year Estimate

# Health

Partners have focused on addressing some key issues during 2018/2019

## Obesity

Healthy Weight Pathway – A working group involving public health colleagues has progressed the guidance for health and early years practitioners. This covers the spectrum from antenatal women with a BMI over 35 to underweight children and very over weight children and it clarifies referral pathways and safeguarding guidance.

## Dentistry

Dentists are extremely well placed to recognise and respond to abuse. The Designated Nurse delivered a training session to 60 dental practice staff around their responsibilities and linked them in with the specialist school nurse Stockport Family

## ED attendances and hospital admissions

Stockport NHS FT have focused on responding to 16 and 17 year olds who attend ED working closely with mental health colleagues around the needs of children and young persons in the context of their vulnerability, mental ill health and/or learning disability.

## Safe Sleep

A Safe Sleep Task Group has been established, initially to review health practitioners current level of knowledge about factors affecting infant mortality and then to plan training and skills updates.

An external training provider The Lullaby Trust has delivered 2 workshops to a wide range of staff. A 7 minute briefing on Vulnerable Babies and Safe Sleep has been prepared for wider dissemination across the services covered by the Safeguarding Partnership.

## Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

A refresh of the JSNA is underway and will underpin a new Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

## Governance

The Health and Wellbeing Board oversees the delivery of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. (JHWS)

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 introduced equal and joint duties for Local Authorities and CCGs, through their local Health and Wellbeing Boards, to prepare Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies (JHWSs).

The JHWSs should translate the JSNA finding into clear outcomes the board wants to achieve. The importance of JHWSs lies in how they are used locally to drive improvements in health and reductions in inequalities.

JSNAs and JHWSs should form the basis of CCG and local authority commissioning plans, across all local health, social care, public health and children's services.



# Health - Trends

The health of the children of Stockport is generally good, with high levels of vaccination and low levels of low birthrate babies; however overall rates mask significant inequalities in health between different areas in Stockport.

Latest measures for **child obesity** show that while Stockport benchmarks well against the national average at year 6 (17.6% obese, 31.8% overweight or obese) and as average for reception (8.6% obese, 22.2% overweight or obese, rates are increasing over time. The rate of overweight and obesity are significantly higher for children in the most deprived communities (see figures to right).

**Oral health** trends are similar, with Stockport experiencing average levels of decayed missing and filled teeth (on average 27% of 5 year olds have a least one decayed, missing or filled teeth), but with these rates are far higher in the most deprived wards (over 50%).

There were 24,855 **A&E attendances** made by children and young people aged 0-19 in 2016/17, a rate lower than the nation average.

Children and young people aged 0-19 made 4,341 **planned hospital admissions** and 6,437 **emergency hospital admissions** over the same period, both rates significantly higher than the national average. Stockport benchmarks poorly for admissions made for asthma, alcohol related harm and injuries.

Recent trends show that while the rate of **school readiness** in Stockport has increased, performance is beginning to level out and rates are slipping behind the national average.

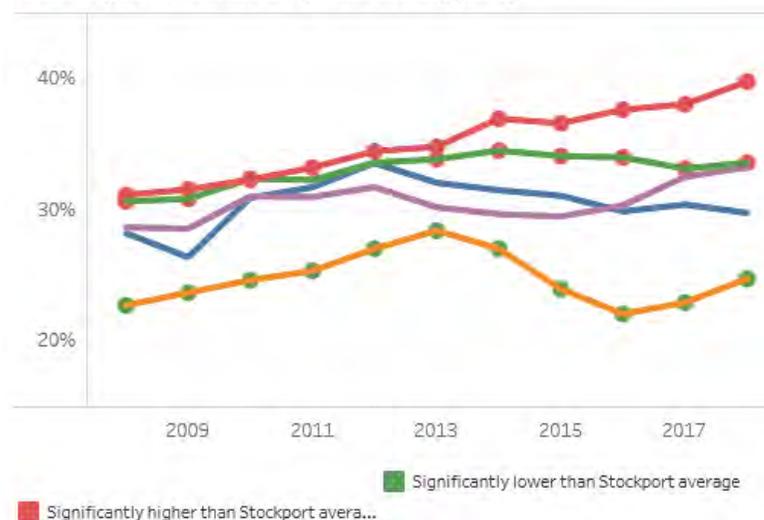
School Readiness: the percentage of children achieving a good level of development at the end of reception



Reception: 3 year trend in overweight and obese (by IMD)



Year 6: 3 year trend in overweight and obese (by IMD)



# Health - services

## Services

Specialist and universal services available include General Practice, Midwifery, Health Visitors, Family Nurse Partnership, School Nurses, and Children and Family Acute services ensuring that children and their families receive the mandated early years checks and key preventative interventions throughout early life. Most of these services are delivered by Stockport NHS Foundation Trust as part of Stockport Family, working together to ensure children get the best possible start in life.

## Intelligence

Stockport JSNA <http://www.stockportjsna.org.uk/> is regularly updated with new analysis. In the last year an in depth assessment of the needs of Stockport's [SEND \(Special Educational Needs and Disability\)](#) has been produced, joining reports about [Autism](#) and [Early Years Health](#), amongst others.

## Governance

Stockport's [Health and Wellbeing \(HWB\) board](#) brings together representatives of commissioners and providers of health and care services in Stockport, and is responsible for ensuring that these services are effective and meet the needs of Stockport people. The HWB Board receives regular reports about Safeguarding and annually reviews evidence from the CDOP (Child Death Overview Panel) and the LeDeR (Learning Disability Mortality Review) to ensure lessons learned are acted on effectively.

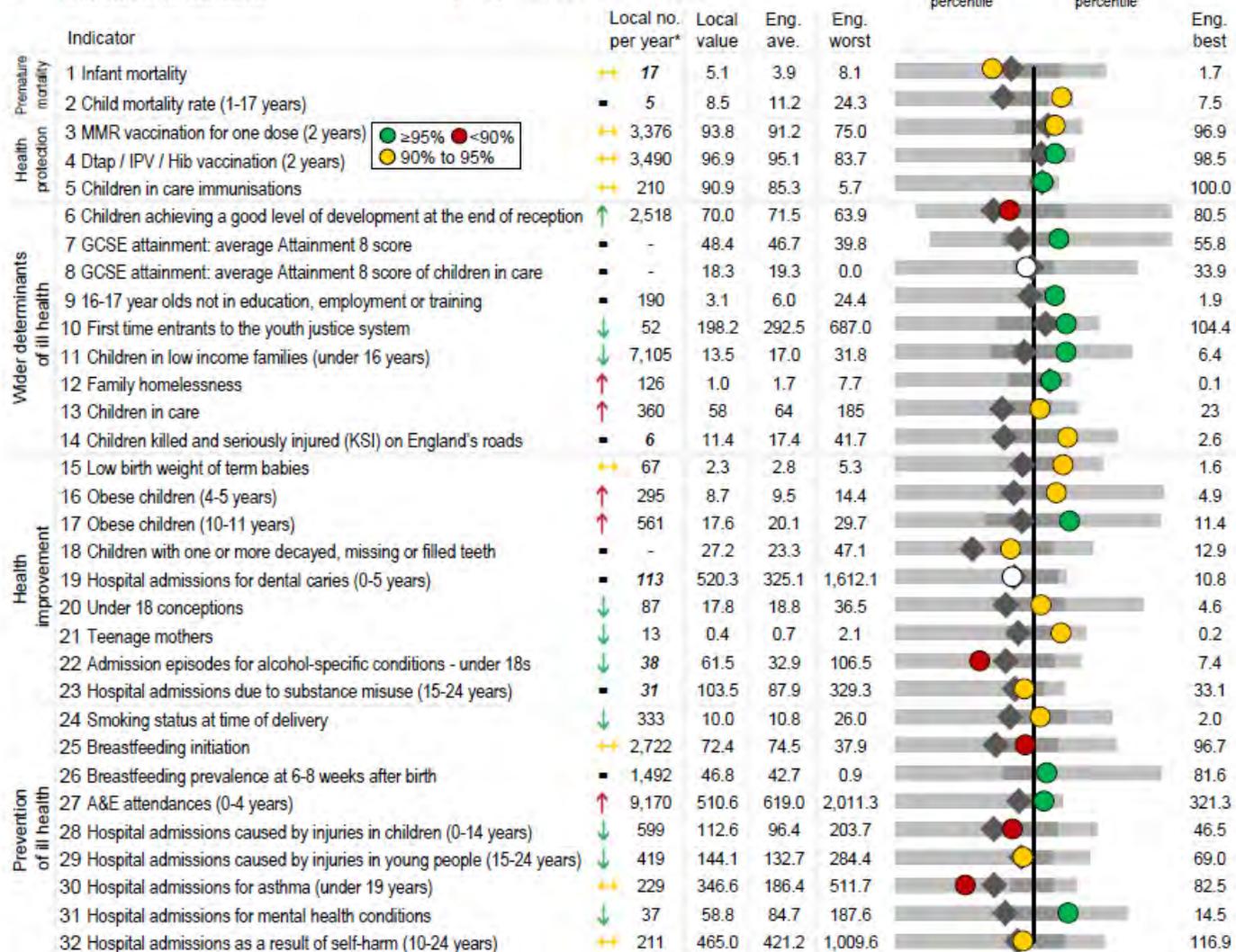


# Stockport Child Health Profile

March 2019

The chart below shows how children's health and wellbeing in this area compares with the rest of England. The local result for each indicator is shown as a circle, against the range of results for England shown as a grey bar. The line at the centre of the chart shows the England average.

- ↕ No significant change
- ↑↓ Increasing / decreasing and getting better
- ↓↑ Increasing / decreasing and getting worse
- Trend cannot be calculated
- Not significantly different from the England average
- Significantly better than England average
- Significantly worse than England average
- Significance cannot be tested



# Neglect

A task and finish group worked together to consider the system wide response to recognising and responding to neglect with a particular focus on recognising neglect in the older child

In December 2018, Stockport bought the licence and training package from the NSPCC that would enable us to begin to deliver and implement the updated version of the evidenced based tool to assess parenting and its impact on neglect of children.

The aim for the coming 12-24 months is to encourage the tool to become embedded and to evidence the impact via auditing and data collection around child protection, TAC and EHA plans where neglect is a feature.



**Graded Care Profile 2**  
Measuring Care. Helping Families

## Awareness session

- *Why do we need it?*
- *What is it?*
- *How can it help in assessment of neglect?*

Dawn Hodson

**NSPCC**

EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR



# Early Years

The Start Well and School Readiness Plan has been developed and launched in March 2019. The model of integrated working in the health and early years teams within Stockport Family is well established. There is a clear focus is on improving outcomes for disadvantaged children such as those eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) and improving the transition from preschool to school. The addition of the Start Well Coordinator role in the past years has made a positive contribution to the Start Well Teams and enhanced the coordination and planning of early help with children and families. The further development of the Team Around the Early Years (TAEY) model has enhanced the communication and information sharing with EY providers.

## Support for Early Years providers

There is an annual safeguarding training offer from a designated early years safeguarding trainer, access to information on a designated EY area on the safeguarding board website, access to and use of “What to do “ guidance cards. Access to learning Leads learning platform.

Support from Start Well teams and Early Years Improvement and project teams, including visits, forums and conferences and Team Around the Early Years.

## Quality of Early Years providers (Ofsted)

95% of Stockport childminders are rated Good or Outstanding and 97% for Childcare on on-domestic premises.

(Ofsted statistical release 18th of June 2019. Figures at 31st of March 2019.)

## Number of Early Years providers.

Stockport has 320 childminders and 138 childcare settings on non domestic premises (including day nursery, preschool, independent schools and out of school holiday clubs).

## Governance

Early years providers are registered and inspected by Ofsted and must comply with the requirements in the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation stage (2017) (EYFS)



# Safeguarding in Education

There are currently 125 schools in Stockport.

- 84 primary schools
- 13 high schools
- 6 special schools
- 3 pupil referral units
- 10 independent schools
- 9 independent special schools.

Engagement with the Safeguarding in Education offer continues to be strong. Colleagues from maintained, free, independent and academy settings have been present at events across the year.

They continue to seek information, advice, guidance and training. Schools and colleges continue to secure positive feedback in respect of Ofsted Inspections, with no schools or colleges having been flagged as having weaknesses.

The Safeguarding Education offer includes:

- Whole school/setting training for staff to support settings in raising awareness of issues, themes and ways to respond.
- A range of training opportunities (intelligence led) for designated safeguarding leads and pastoral support staff to support them in leading the safeguarding agenda, and promote their own development and awareness, which are well accessed across the year.
- Bespoke training and support packages on request, to help

address locality or setting based issues.

- Access to accredited safer recruitment training and follow on support.
- Access to home Office training in respect of the prevent agenda, delivered by Home office accredited facilitators. Co-ordinated direct work with Counter Terrorism Colleagues.
- Engagement in and contribution to local learning reviews, giving a voice to colleagues from education in the safeguarding learning arena.
- Support with policy and guidance for settings, helping colleagues to remain up-to-date in their knowledge and delivery. These include a template safeguarding policy, staff code of conduct, template single central record, self-assessment tools and direct audits.
- Regular briefings to school governors on best practice and policy guidance.
- Access to consultation and support through the Multi-agency Safeguarding and Support Hub (MASSH) and the Safeguarding Children Unit- including the Senior Adviser for Safeguarding in Education and the Local Authority Designated Officer
- Support in respect of managing allegations against staff, critical incidents, media strategies and community impact.

# Safeguarding Training in Education

Type of Training	Early Years, Schools & Colleges	Other (bespoke, traded, support)
Basic Awareness	63	
DSL	4	4
DSL Refresher	4	
Safer Recruitment	3	4
Safer Recruitment Refresher	2	
Head Teacher Induction	2	
Prevent & Counter Terrorism	19	
Allegation Management	1	
Operation Encompass	4	
E-safety	1	9
Harmful Sexual Behaviour	2	
Holding Difficult Conversations	1	
Other		6

This represent well over 3000 attendances.

# Training

Training is provided through a dedicated training manager and a pool of trainers from partner agencies. Additionally, where appropriate the Board will commission external training.

The training programme has been reviewed and updated during the year with a number of new courses being delivered. During 2018/2019, the focus has been on transitioning training to All Age training.

The highlights of the year include:

- The roll out of Graded Care Profile 2
- An all age Basic Safeguarding Awareness Course
- MCA, capacity and consent decisions making
- New substance misuse course developed by MOSAIC

Two very successful conferences were held in the year. A Joint Safeguarding Conference in October 2018 and a Complex Safeguarding Conference in March 2019. Feedback from delegates for both conferences was excellent.

Course name	Number of sessions	Number of attendees
Basic Safeguarding	7	121
Fabricated Illness Workshop	1	16
Safeguarding Children Online	2	28
Multi-agency approach to child protection (CP process).	1	17
Safeguarding children where there are communication difficulties (T)	1	12
Safeguarding Children where there are parental mental health concerns (N)	1	28
Safeguarding Children: Allegations Management	2	14
Safeguarding Children: Sexual Abuse	1	16
Safeguarding Children: Child Sexual Exploitation (CS)	2	34
Safeguarding children: Disguised Compliance	1	19
Safeguarding children: emotional abuse (N)	1	12
Safeguarding Children: Hidden men	1	20
Safeguarding Children: Impact of domestic abuse (DA)	2	31
Safeguarding Children: Neglect GCP1 (N)	2	37
Safeguarding Children: Working with teenage vulnerability (T)	1	16
Safeguarding the unborn child	2	35
<b>Totals</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>456</b>

# Training

During 2018 / 2019, there were courses on 16 different topics and 28 sessions run by a mixture of facilitators from the multi-agency training pool, the safeguarding training manager or commissioned external providers.

A total of 456 delegates attended these training sessions from a range of professions and from both adults and children's services.

In addition to this there were two conferences held. A joint adults and children's [Safeguarding Conference](#) in October 2018, and a joint Complex Safeguarding conference held in March 2019.

In October 2018, the Stockport Safeguarding Children's Board (SSCB) and the Stockport Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) hosted a conference for practitioners from different agencies throughout the borough, from both children's and adult services. Two hundred people attended the conference. Two external speakers also joined us:

- Steven Richards from Edge Training and Consultancy limited, who presented on the understanding of Mental Capacity Act 2005, from the age of 16 plus.
- A parent of a child diagnosed with Autism and Learning Disabilities who shared the views of a parent and young person on transition from child to adult services.

Participants were also able to watch AFTA Thought, who are a drama-based theatre company made up of writers, actors and facilitators who brought topics of domestic violence, mate crime and self-neglect to life.

## [Complex Safeguarding Conference](#)

The conference delegates were made up of members of the children's and adults workforce within the Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council area, comprising approximately 175 in total. There were a range of speakers and facilitators covering elements of the Stockport Local Safeguarding Children's and Adults boards shared strategic plan 2017-2020. There was a focus on interactive sessions and on sharing information, support and good practice with colleagues on the day.

## [Learning from Reviews](#)

The Safeguarding Training Manager and the Adult Boards Business Manager facilitated briefings on Stockport's first joint SCR/SAR and on 3 SAR's during 2019.

The SCR/SAR focused on learning around joined up working between adults and children's, self-neglect, impact of neglect on the older child, and capacity assessments under MCA.

As part of the response to these issues the authority have produced an all age neglect strategy, a 7 minute guide on the review and commissioned training into self-neglect and hoarding and capacity, consent and decision making amongst teenagers.

The briefings on the SAR's reflected some adult focused themes around care needs, medical needs, consent and capacity and whilst they were all cases involving adults, they were attended by some members of the children's workforce, reflecting the focus on "Think Family".

In all the 5 sessions were attended by 190 staff members.

# Quality Assurance and Inspection

**Multi Agency Audit:** following a JTAI methodology a CSAFE (Child Sexual Abuse in the Family Environment) multi agency audit has taken place in 2018/19.

**Developing Data Set:** there has been agreement for a task and finish group to review the dataset to ensure it is providing a robust picture of Safeguarding within Stockport. This will include potentially including direction of travel and tolerances for data. This work will be completed in 2019/20.

**Quality Assurance Framework:** in line with the change from a Board to a Partnership, a new Quality Assurance Framework has been produced to set out expectations for the Partnership and its partner agencies.

**Ofsted Focused Visit:** took place over two days in February 2019, it was not a full Ofsted inspection but was a follow-up to the last full visit from inspectors in July 2017 – where Stockport was judged to be good, and it's adoption services judged to be outstanding. The two-day visit included case discussions with social workers and other staff from the multi-agency support and safeguarding hub (MASSH). The Council's performance management, quality assurance information and children's case records were also evaluated. The focussed visit found areas of strength including:

- A tightly organised and well-functioning missing from home system
- A well managed First Response service
- Social workers' are sensitive and give a thorough analysis of each family and child's situation
- Senior leaders have a well-developed and varied approach to data analysis, audits, staff consultation, dip sampling and practice weeks
- A strong and well-understood early help offer

## OFSTED

*Stockport children's services were last inspected by Ofsted in July 2017. All areas were judged to be good, with adoption judged to be outstanding. Since the last inspection, the local authority has further strengthened services for children who need help and protection, including more robust arrangements in the MASSH.*



# Learning from Serious Case Reviews

There were three serious case reviews undertaken in 2017/2018. One of these was a joint review with adult services.

## SCR 1

### Circumstances

The death of a baby whilst co-sleeping with mother.

### Learning

- Parents with babies who spend a time in a neonatal unit might need additional support when they leave hospital.
- Information, both current and historic, should be sought / shared with all hospital and community services.
- An Early Help Assessment could be considered as a way of ensuring appropriate multi agency support is in place.
- Practitioners should understand the impact of adverse childhood experiences.

## SCR 2

### Circumstances

A baby, placed with her mother in mother and baby foster care, with injuries due to being shaken.

### Learning

- Robust processes and practices should be followed for mother and baby foster placements.

- All practitioners should be aware of how to escalate issues – including foster carers.
- Practitioners should aim to have one single multi agency plan rather than individual plans.
- Learning from serious case reviews and learning adults review should be disseminated to adult practitioners, in order for all services to 'Think Family'.

## SCR 3 / SAR

### Circumstances

The death of an adult from self neglect and the associated neglect of a teenager.

### Learning

- Practitioners need support and guidance around balancing parental refusal of consent for access to services against a child or young person's needs.
- Practitioners need support / training in conducting honest and respectfully challenging conversations.
- The need to hear the voice of the child and young person should be embedded in all practice.
- Practitioners should be supported to gain a greater understanding of self neglect and the impact of this on families.

# Involving Children and Families

## Children in Care Council

The group meets once a week and the young people take part in a variety of activities. Some of these activities concentrate on issues that are directly relevant to being a looked-after young person; some of the issues are relevant to all young people. The young people are encouraged to think about the issues through discussion, practical activities and by meeting with people who represent organisations relevant to particular issues. The young people are also encouraged to talk about what is going on in their lives and to get support from the other young people who are in a similar position.

There are also opportunities to take part in social activities organised by the Youth Worker.

Every six weeks the young people have the opportunity to meet with senior managers and elected members to report on what they have been doing and to ask questions of these decision makers.

The young people are also encouraged to be involved in a regional network of CiCC that meets three times per year in the North West. The Youth Worker supports them to attend this.

## Stockport Youth Council

The group meets once a week, is led by the young people and the young people work on 'campaigns' that focus on issues that they have identified as being of importance to young people locally. The young people may choose to learn about a particular issue or they sometimes decide to produce a resource that highlights a particular issue or organise an event to promote the issue.

The young people are given a level of freedom to work on their 'campaigns' and the Youth Worker is available to advise them and to find resources and support that they may need.

Several members of the youth council are Stockport's representatives at regional and national organisations such as the UK Youth Parliament and the Greater Manchester Youth Combined Authority. Youth Councillors also attend a regional event called Youthforia, where they can build relationships with other young people who are involved in other youth councils in the North West.

# Practice Week

Two Practice Weeks were held in 18/19. The first involving children's social care only and the second involving all agencies within Stockport Family. As part of the exercise, reviewers are asked to seek feedback from children and families where appropriate. Feedback was obtained from 19 children and families. The feedback was overwhelmingly favourable Here's a flavour of what they told us:

I get on really well with my social worker. She's been my social worker for ages and understands me, I can speak to her about things. She knows sister and other family members and we all know and respect her and can talk to her about anything Everything is great and there's nothing she could do differently. I really like her. *(15 year old looked after child)*

I am just really pleased – really pleased with his report and everything *(Grandma of a 10 year old looked after boy at his PEP review).*

I get a lot of support from the YOS. *(Young person)*

Working with MOSAIC has been fantastic. *(Parent)*

I've not known this social worker all that long – if I ring him he always calls back *(foster carer).*

Foster carer feels she has a great working relationship with SSW, he is always available when needed, visits around 6 weekly which is an opportunity to discuss the children on short

breaks placements, explore her training needs and any new referrals.

SW has taken the time to listen to me *(parent).*

FSW has helped as she has enabled the contacts to be natural. She has enabled me to have control of the contact and also what we do i.e. cooks meals, play, have tea. FSW is there but respectful and doesn't intrude or undermine me. Contacts have been better as structured which gives me better time with my children.

MOSAIC worker has helped me during my pregnancy and after to stop smoking cannabis. He has been supportive. It has made a big difference, I feel much better. *(Young person).*

Since School Age+ worker is back involved it feels like things have moved forward. Nothing seemed to be progressing till she came back. She is supportive and there if I need her. *(Parent)*

Mosaic is a really good service. They have helped me from being 14 years old with my drug use. I have felt involved in the decision-making and the plan. Detox really helped too. *(Young person)*

Couldn't have got through all this without School Age+ worker. She's fantastic. She has always involved us. *(Parent)*

# Partnership Engagement

There is a clear commitment to protecting children and young people and promoting their welfare. Strong relationships between partners support the development of a revitalised and stronger board. These trusted relationships allow partners to provide challenge and support to each other.

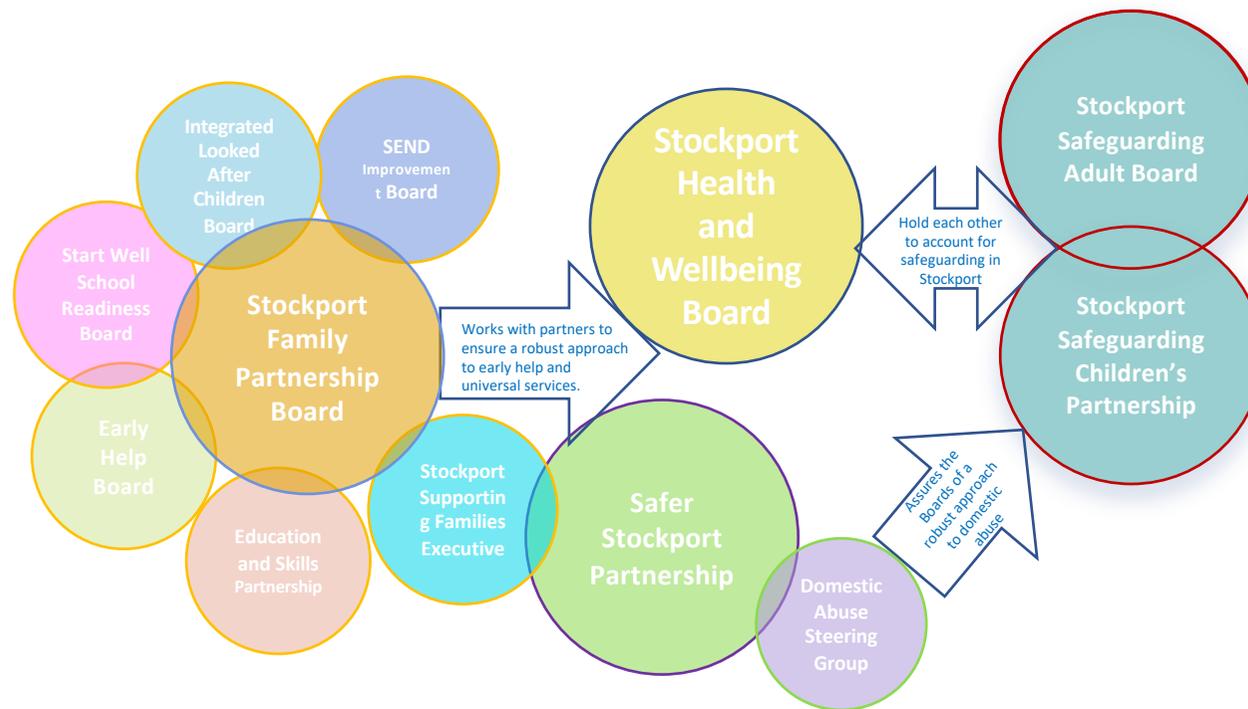
There is strong political support for the Board and elected members in Stockport ensure that children and families are a high priority.

Attendance at Board evidences the commitment to the Board and on the whole, sub groups are well attended and the work of the board is positively driven forward.

The new accountable agencies, Police, CCG and the Local Authority have worked positively together to develop the new Partnership Safeguarding Arrangements in response to the Wood Report and the Children and Social Care Act 2017.



# Working with other strategic boards in Stockport



# Children and Families who require support

# Early Help and the MASSH



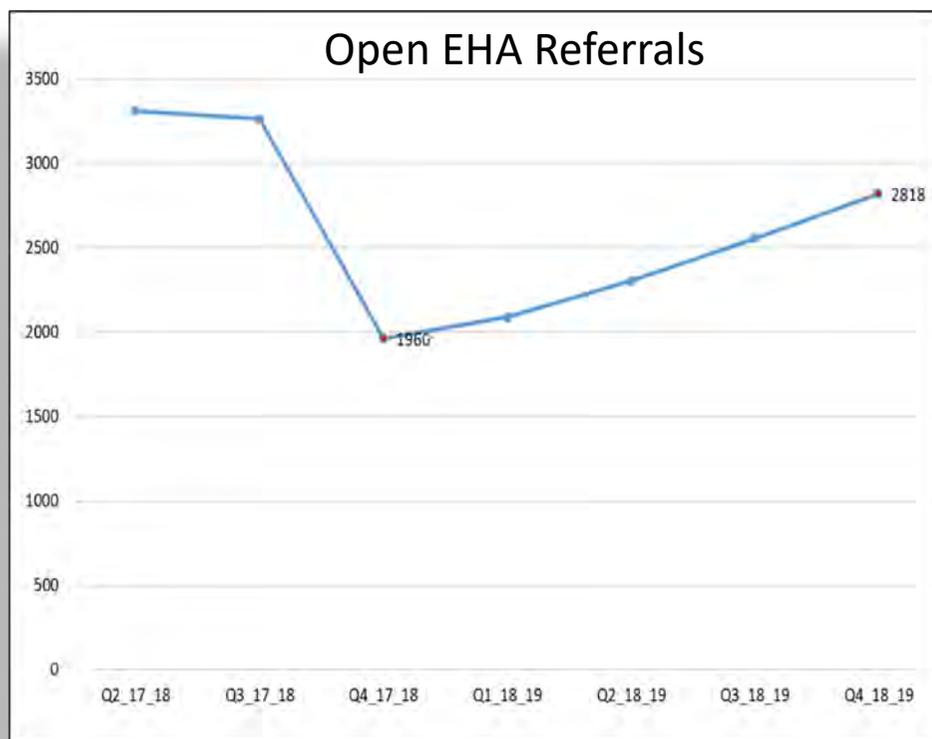
The Early Help Hub provides a framework that supports swift allocation of children and families who do not need a social work service. The Early Help Hub supports effective communication between early help, Children's Social Care (CSC), the MASSH and additional agencies that may be requesting support from Stockport Family. The Start Well Coordinators (SWC) have a key role in supporting the use of EHA and Team Around the Child (TAC) processes to prevent families from escalating into statutory services.

The Stockport Multi Agency Safeguarding and Support Hub (MASSH) is the 'front door' or entry point for referral to Stockport Family Services. **In 2018/19 there were 5,339 contacts into Early Help, and 65% of these (3,476) proceeded to social care.** The number of contacts we are receiving is in line with national figures and slightly lower than our north west neighbours. This is a 10% decrease in the number of referrals received since last year, but a 1% rise in those that proceeded to social care. This reflects training given to universal services to reduce inappropriate referrals and improve triaging at the front door. To further support triaging, an Aspire social worker is based within the MASSH to support with complex safeguarding contacts and referrals.

In 2018/19, 2,553 Early Help Assessments were completed, an increase on 2017/18 (20%), this increase has also been experienced by peers within the Northwest, however the number that remained open at the end of the year, 2,818, was the same as 2017/18. Of the 3,476 cases that proceeded to social care, 95% proceeded to a social work assessment, which demonstrates the effectiveness of the triage process.

In addition, 24.2% of all referrals are repeat referrals. This places Stockport slightly higher than National and North West Figures. Work conducted in 2018, following a spike in repeat referrals, looking at a small number of cases, identified some themes – primarily domestic abuse was the presenting issue and assessments could be focused on isolated incidents resulting in social care assessment as opposed to an analysis of a cumulative history. There was a strong sense from this audit that reason to re-enter social work intervention was the right decision.

# Early Help



There were 2,818 open EHA referrals on the system as at 30<sup>th</sup> March 2019. A data cleanse in preparation for a new database for recording information is expected to see our open EHA referrals fall by around 700. This will place us in a similar position to where we were in Q1 2018 (2088).

Although practitioners have been encouraged to ensure that EHA episodes are closed in timely manner, this is something that has to be data cleansed routinely, and therefore that is where we see the reduction in numbers of open assessments in the data.

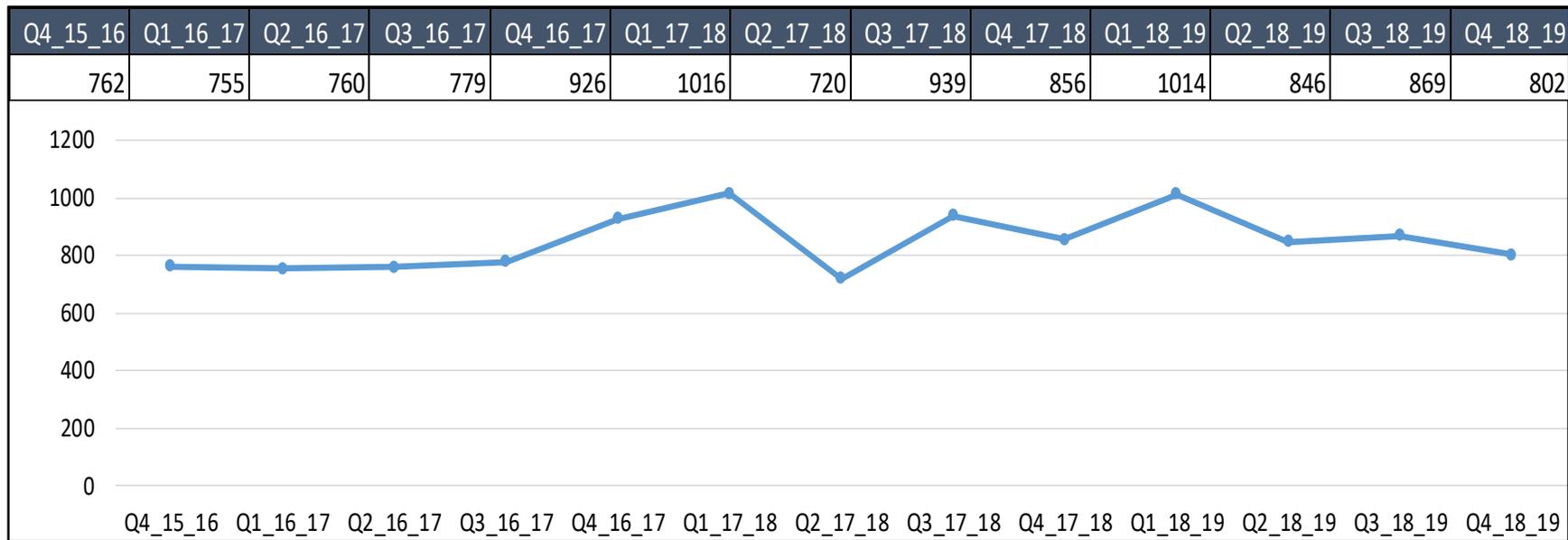
With the introduction of a new case management system in July 2019, we should see the assessment element of the EHA episode will be measured separately and ongoing activity will be measured within the Team Around the Child/Family process. This will change how this dataset presents.

# The Front Door

## Referrals to Children's Social Care

It can be seen that the number of referrals is stabilising around the 800 mark having spiked at the start of the year. The rate of referrals in Stockport mirrors the national average, and is slightly below that for the North West. For Quarter 4, 95% of referrals continue to social work assessment, a further 2.6% requiring no further action.

Duty Action	0.0%
NFA	2.6%
Private Fostering	0.1%
Proceed to EHA	0.0%
Social Work Assessment	95.0%
Provision of information & advice	0.9%
Refer to other agency	0.4%



# The Front Door

Referrals where DV is presenting an issue (rate per 10,000)



A increasing trend can be seen between Q1 and Q3 2018/19, however the figure for Q4 is in fact lower than that for Q3 17/18.

Feedback from GMP considers that the increase in domestic abuse crimes within the Stockport locality has come from two aspects.

Firstly, changes in recording standards and governance of domestic abuse incidents are having an impact on the numbers. Officers and supervisors are alive to what constitutes an incident of domestic abuse more than they ever were before, thus more crimes are recorded as domestic abuse.

Secondly, we are seeing an increase in domestic abuse referrals from partner agencies due to closer working ties and clearer lines of effective

communication.

In terms of longer term trends, whilst the data above shows that the number of referrals where domestic abuse is a presenting issues is increasing in comparison to historic trends, this is not due to a spike in behavior, rather it is as a result of being better at identifying what domestic abuse is. For instance, we now recognise that controlling and coercive behaviour is domestic abuse.

There is still work to do, however the community is more open to reporting domestic abuse today than ever before as they have support from GPs, Independent Domestic Violence Advocate's and other professionals.

# Children in Need

There were 1,998 children and young people identified as Children in Need in the year. This is nearly identical to 2017/18 when the figure was 2003. 13.5% of Stockport's Children in Need have a disability, this places Stockport between Statistical Neighbours (14.5%) and National (12.9%) figures.



# Children on Plans

2018/2019 saw a 1% decrease in Section 47 enquiries compared to 2017/18. However, longer term trends show an increase; there has been a rise in s.47 Enquiries nationally, and Stockport's s.47 activity is consistent with the national average.

The rise in Stockport's activity is particularly steep when compared with the national picture, which shows a steadier climb. Furthermore, there has been a decline in the s.47 activity of Stockport's statistical neighbours, with fewer s.47s taking place in these local authorities. Additionally, in 2017/18, in Stockport, 107 children's s.47s lead to an Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC) with 64% of all s.47s completed not resulting in an ICPC.

This means that children and parents are having to go through a process, which ultimately does not lead to a child protection plan. Audit work is underway to look further at this with a single agency audit to be undertaken in the first instance; and consideration to be given to multi-agency audit activity once this has been completed.

OFSTED also recognised during their focused visit to Stockport children's services on 14 and 15 February 2019 that "Multi-agency strategy meetings are held promptly, but some children are subject to repeated strategy meetings when other information-sharing mechanisms would suffice without invoking section 47 procedures." This triangulates and confirms our findings from our data above.

A child on a child protection plan is a child with a plan put together at a child protection case conference detailing the ways in which the child is to be kept safe, how their health and development is to be promoted and any ways in which professionals can support the child's family in promoting the child's welfare, if this is in the child's best interests.

At the end of March 2019, there were 247 children subject to a child protection plan, a decrease of 26% from the previous year. Audits to ensure consistency of thresholds have taken place, and when the Service Lead, Safeguarding Unit is looking at individual cases she is satisfied that the thresholds are appropriate. The highest number of plans are made as a result of emotional abuse which is usually related to domestic abuse, recognising the high levels of emotional abuse that are inflicted on children as a result of domestic abuse between parents and partners. This is followed closely by neglect.

Neglect can be intentional or inadvertent, and there are many reasons why child neglect happens. The primary causes of child neglect are often poverty, substance abuse, depression, a lack of support, poor social skills and unloving relationships, former abuse, and misunderstandings about child development.

Proportion of children subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time year to end of quarter 4 2018/19 is 21.5%. This is in line with the National and Northwest averages which sits around 20%.

The categories under which children were made subject to a plan at the end of the financial year March 2019 are as follows:

	17/18	18/19
Emotional Abuse	233	195
Neglect	186	113
Physical Abuse	16	14
Sexual Abuse	2	9
Total	437	331

# Complex Safeguarding

## Child Sexual Exploitation

The work around child sexual abuse continues to have a comprehensive multi agency approach. In 2018/19, there were 574 incidents reported by the Greater Manchester Police to have potential links to child sexual exploitation, compared to 889 the previous year. This is a 42% reduction since 2016/17, and evidences the excellent work of the Aspire Complex Safeguarding Team. Greater Manchester Police also recorded that 20 young people identified at high risk of exploitation in Stockport, a decrease of nearly 50% on last years figure.

This levelling of incidents linked to CSE, may reflect the steady reduction in the numbers of missing young people and missing episodes, which are often flagged within the police system as being linked to CSE.

Furthermore, the reduction in the number of young people assessed as high risk of CSE using the Phoenix measurement tool may be as a result of the ability of social workers to now utilise greater professional judgement when finalising the risk level.

An example of activities to promote the safety of children in relation to CSE, is the full week of partnership activities took place during the Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) week of action in June 2018. The focus of the week was on parents keeping children safe online and being aware of the dangers of online grooming under the strap line "Switched On". The Complex Safeguarding Practitioners Forum worked in partnership with a number of businesses across Stockport to raise awareness in the community and across both Adults and Children's services.

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
CSE Incidents	984	889	574
High Risk Children and Young People	39	39	20

# Complex Safeguarding

## Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse continues to be a significant safeguarding issue for children and young people in Stockport, who are harmed through exposure to parent/carer abuse, directly hurt by the same perpetrator and / or develop teenage relationships which are abusive. The impacts on their safety, health, wellbeing and achievement are multiple and can be long lasting.

Domestic abuse is often linked to substance misuse and mental ill health resulting in a degree of complexity and interrelated harm which makes safeguarding and co-ordination both challenging and vital across a range of agencies and boards. The Domestic Abuse Steering group is chaired by the Police. The strategic responsibility for this work sits under Safer Stockport Partnership with reporting in to Stockport Safeguarding Children Board to maintain assurance in relation to the children perspective of this work. Operation Encompass, which was supported by this group, has been implemented this financial year, the operations focusing on sharing Police information regarding Domestic Abuse Incidents with Designated Safeguarding leads in schools and allows school to provide appropriate support for parent and child.

It can be seen that DA incidents have increased, however all types of police incidents have seen an increase year on year. This is

suggested to be due to the availability of mobile phones and increased awareness around domestic violence. In terms of incidents, these mirror GM, although Stockport is consistently below GM figures for both types of incident in the table below.

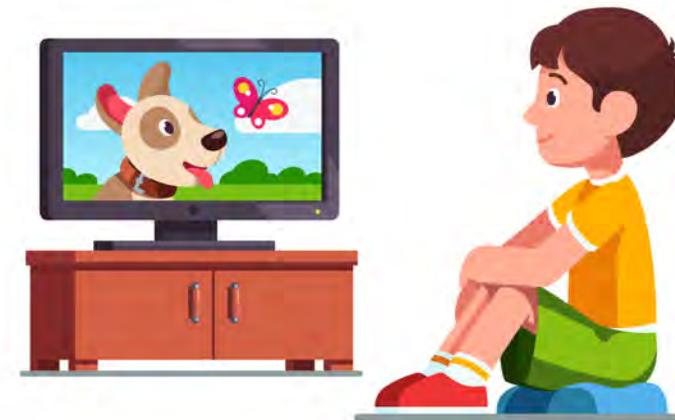
	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Domestic Incident where a person under 18 is present, in close proximity or ordinarily reside not and is not directly involved.	1818	1858	1932
Domestic Incident where a person under 16 is directly involved.	183	223	235
Number of MARAC cases featuring children.	294	313	198
Children subject of a domestic abuse referral to the MASSH	2193	2135	2494

# Complex Safeguarding

**Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Honour Based Violence (HBV), Forced Marriage (FM), Modern Slavery (MS):**

Police Data from the Child Safeguarding Tool shows us that these categories of abuse are not high frequency within the Stockport area. However note that the tool does not include any reference to Modern Slavery. However to raise awareness of these issues, training has taken place at the Complex Safeguarding Conference which was attended by professionals from across Stockport to learn more about the issues within complex safeguarding from experts within those areas of work.

OPUS PPI data - Extracted from the Child Safeguarding Tool	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Female Genital Mutilation (now using Child concern filter)	1	1	0	1	3
Forced Marriage (now using Child concern filter)	1	0	0	1	2
Honour Based Violence (now using Child concern filter)	0	1	0	0	1



# SMBC: Children Looked After



The total number of LAC from Stockport has increased year on year. There are currently 362 children being looked from Stockport.

Part of the rise is attributable to due to a small number of unaccompanied child refugees, and additionally, since April 2018, there has been an increase in children with a full care order.

For those children placed outside Stockport a review of 92 placements in Q2 revealed for those out of area almost two-thirds of LAC who live outside the borough are placed with private providers, 9.8% are placed with Parents or other person with parental responsibility.

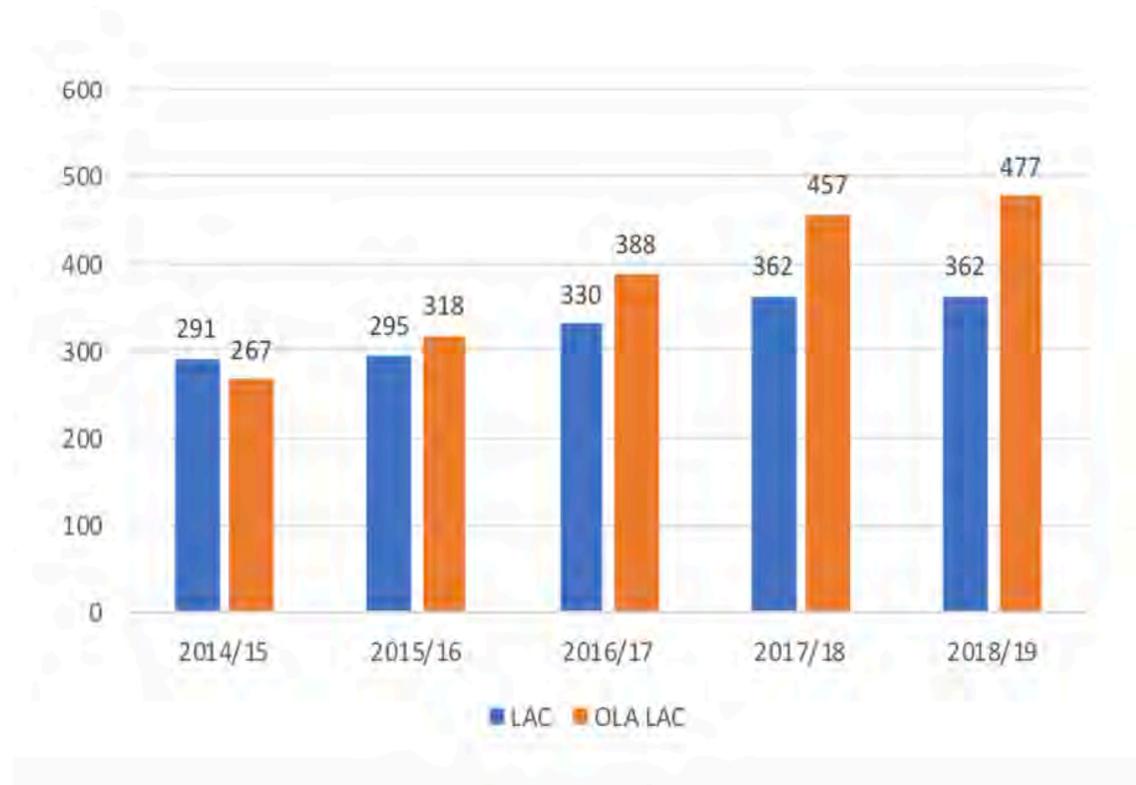


# Children Looked After: Living in Stockport

The total number of LAC within Stockport has increased year on year. Consistently, over 50% of these are from out of area.

Factors contributing to the increase of LAC from out of area include an increase in homes opening within Stockport, and IVA placements. The impact on Stockport children and the financial impact on the area, means we need to seek to reduce the number of children who are placed within our locality from out of area.

The LAC sufficiency strategy is currently being finalised and should be completed in the Q3 2019/2020, a market position statement document will then be produced and distributed to providers.



# Special Education Needs and Disabilities

The ambition in Stockport is to provide the best possible support for all children and families at the right time to ensure that the best possible outcomes are achieved. The litmus test of success will be how well the most vulnerable in the population is supported.

In September 2018, Ofsted inspected services in Stockport for SEND and whilst many good practices were found, there were also some areas for improvement. Stockport produced a Written Statement of Action (WSOA).

This outlines Stockport's plan of action through its SEND Improvement Programme, to address the areas of weakness outlined in the inspection:

- To develop an effective approach to jointly plan and commission the services that meet the needs of those that have SEN
- To assess and meet children and young people's social care needs in conjunction with Education, Health and Care (EHC) needs assessments and plans.
- To involve children, young people and their families in the meaningful, effective co-production of the services, resources and support they need.
- To develop a shared understanding by local area leaders of the needs of these children and young people and their education, care and health outcomes.
- To strengthen the assessment of the effectiveness of the local area in improving outcomes for children and young people

## Delivery strategy and key points for implementation

The above identified improvement areas have been grouped into three thematic areas and work streams have been set up for each of these themed areas (SEN Support and EHC plans; Co-production, Information and the Local Offer and Joint Commissioning). These work streams meet monthly and report in to the SEND Improvement Board evidencing progress against the Written Statement of Action and any risks or delays in delivery. Membership includes Local Authority and Clinical Commissioning Group staff, representatives from schools such as Headteachers and Special Educational Needs Coordinators, the voluntary sector including Parents in Partnership and most importantly parents and carers.

## Key measure of success

For all Stockport pupils at SEN support or with an Education Health and Care (EHC) plan, reduce the difference in Progress 8 score, the number of fixed and permanent exclusions, persistent absence rates and increase the overall attendance at school. To decrease the number of young people with an EHC plan that are not in employment, education or training and to increase the numbers of young adults (18-25years) with Learning Disabilities that are in settled accommodation or paid employment. These are detailed at Appendix 1 of the Written Statement of Action and can be found [here](#).

# Priority - SEND

## Why is this a priority

The ambition in Stockport is to provide the best possible support for all children and families at the right time to ensure that the best possible outcomes are achieved. The litmus test of success will be how well the most vulnerable in the population is supported.

## Changes we will make

The local area's Written Statement of Action (WSOA) outlines Stockport's plan of action through its SEND Improvement Programme, to address the areas of weakness outlined in the inspection:

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- To assess and meet children and young people's social care needs in conjunction with Education, Health and Care (EHC) needs assessments and plans.
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## Future state

Through a strategic and co-ordinated approach, to promote outstanding educational, employment and health and well-being outcomes for all of Stockport's children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities, so that all maximise their potential and make a successful transition to adult life (SEND Plan 2017-19)."

## Key measure of success

For all Stockport pupils at SEN support or with an Education Health and Care (EHC) plan, reduce the difference in Progress 8 score, the number of fixed and permanent exclusions, persistent absence rates and increase the overall attendance at school. To decrease the number of young people with an EHC plan that are not in employment, education or training and to increase the numbers of young adults (18-25years) with Learning Disabilities that are in settled accommodation or paid employment. These are detailed at Appendix 1 of the Written Statement of Action and can be found [here](#).

# Campaigns and Awareness Raising

Throughout the year safeguarding partners have taken part in a wide range of safeguarding activities. Alongside this, there are regular tweets around key safeguarding issues.

- Yellow Sofa - sitting right with you
- Hate Crime
- Spotting the signs of child abuse
- Refugee week
- Sleep well
- Health eating
- CSE
- Autism Awareness Month
- Neglect - spotting the signs
- Safer Internet day
- Private fostering
- Safeguarding in sports



# Child Death Overview Panel

Since 2008, in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children guidance, there has been a statutory requirement for Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB) to ensure that the deaths of all children under the age of 18 years (excluding stillbirths and legal terminations of pregnancy) are reviewed. The purpose of a review is to identify any matters relating to the death that are relevant to the welfare of children or to public health and safety, and to consider whether action should be taken in relation to any matters identified. If Child Death Overview Panels (CDOPs) find action should be taken by a person or organisation, they must inform them. In addition, CDOPs: must, at such times as they consider appropriate, prepare and publish reports on:

- what they have done as a result of the child death review arrangements in their area, and
- how effective the arrangements have been in practice;
- may request information from a person or organisation for the purposes of enabling or assisting the review and/or analysis process - the person or organisation must comply with the request, and if they do not, the CDOP (Child Death Review Partners) may take legal action to seek enforcement.

Stockport has a tripartite arrangement with Trafford and Tameside with panel chaired by and independent chair. The Chair publishes an annual report in September each year, which will be available on the Partnerships website.

Under the new safeguarding arrangements laid out in the Children and Social Work Act 2017, CDOPs will no longer be part of the revised Local Safeguarding Partnership (LSP) arrangements and as of October 2018, national lines of accountability were transferred from the Department for Education (DfE) to the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC).

In Greater Manchester, CDOP accountability and reporting will be to the Health and Wellbeing Boards (H&WB) across Greater Manchester who will scrutinise the process and receive information such as the annual report and emerging trends in child deaths across the region.

# Towards 2019/2020

This next year will see the implementation of the new safeguarding arrangements outlined on page 12. The focus will be on ensuring an effective transition to the Children's Safeguarding Partnership and understanding/ evidencing the positive impact of them.

The Partnership will retain its close links with the Adult Safeguarding Board and continue to develop all age strategies and policies in order to join up working between children and adult services.

The second annual joint safeguarding conference will take place in October 2019 with a focus on self neglect and hoarding, hate crime and dementia. There will also be an update on the Liberty Protection Safeguards.

In early 2020, the partnership will review its strategic plan. This review will include a consideration of the impact of the 2017/2020 plan and developing a plan for 2020 / 2023.



# HOW TO REPORT A CONCERN ABOUT A CHILD

The Multi-Agency Safeguarding and Support Hub (MASSH) is the single point of contact for all professionals to report concerns, request advice and share information about a child and or family.

## Members of the public

If you are a member of the public who has a concern about a child, you should call

**0161 217 6028.**

If a child is at immediate risk of harm call the Police on **999.**

## Professionals

If you're a professional you should decide on the level of need detailed below and use the following online process. Levels of need are used to determine the kind of support a child or family requires.

### Level 1 – Universal services

- children who make good overall progress through appropriate universal services
- there are no additional unmet needs or there is a single need identified that can be met by universal services

### Level 2 – Additional needs

- children whose needs require additional support from targeted, as well as universal, services due to evidence their family may be struggling
- the needs of child may be unmet or unclear
- an Early Help Assessment is required to assess need and plan support

### Level 3 – Increasing concerns

- children with an increasing level of unmet need
- needs are deemed to be complex
- an assessment is required to determine the need and plan for support. This can be coordinated by a lead professional from a range of services including children's social care

### Level 4 – Safeguarding concerns

- children who have experienced significant harm and are in need of protection (Section 47) and includes children where there are significant welfare concerns (section 17)
- a single assessment coordinated by a social worker is required to determine the level of support or intervention

When you have determined the right level of need contact us by using the form on our website.

<https://www.stockport.gov.uk/contacting-the-massh>

