



Calderdale
Safeguarding
Children
Partnership

12 Month Report 2019

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Introduction

The Calderdale Safeguarding Children Partnership (CSCP) was established in April 2019, following the Sir Alan Wood National Review and the revised Working Together to Safeguard Children (WTSC 2018). It replaced the Calderdale Safeguarding Children Board (CSCB) and this report reflects a year of transition from CSCB to CSCP.

Calderdale became an Early Adopter of the new safeguarding arrangements, which still facilitates policies, procedures, safeguarding training, learning from case reviews and audits and seeks assurance about safeguarding practice. The changes offered opportunity to build on the strong system working we have in Calderdale, to try new approaches and ensure we drive a learning culture.

Three key partners (from the Local Authority, Police, Calderdale Clinical Commissioning Group) and the Independent Scrutineer work in partnership with all relevant agencies (Appendix 1), with children and young people and with local communities to promote the welfare of all Calderdale children and to ensure that children and young people are effectively safeguarded.

In 2019, the CSCP developed principles and aims to achieve this by implementing WTSC 2018) effectively and imaginatively. The following principles have guided the CSCP over this transition:

- Maintain a high quality of safeguarding across the borough
- Develop an effective form of independent scrutiny
- Creatively engage with and seek the voice of young people
- Creatively engage with the wider community
- Ensure that all relevant agencies continue to be involved in CSCP activities
- Develop regional activity where they are consistent with our vision

The three key partners are accountable and open to challenge and have worked with the Independent Scrutineer to robustly and independently examine the function and delivery of the CSCP, its subgroups and work streams. The Independent Scrutineer has ensured that safeguarding arrangements are fit for purpose, are consistent with WTSC 2018 and that learning, evidence, research and community engagement inform policy and practice.

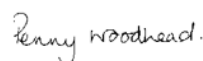
This report describes some of the work that has been undertaken over the past year, and highlights learning for partner agencies and activities undertaken to improve service delivery and joint working in Calderdale.



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Independent Scrutiny, Assurance, Learning and Improvement

Governance: Funding, Resource and Alignment

The three key partners from the Local Authority, Police and the Clinical Commissioning Group direct the CSCP through an Executive Group which meets quarterly. Attendance at the CSCP Executive comprises of the three key partners and the Chairpersons of the CSCP Sub Groups, which includes representation from voluntary and education sectors and the Independent Scrutineer. A Manager and Secretariat supports the work of the CSCP and help to coordinate the sub groups who deliver against the priorities for the CSCP Executive.

Sub Group membership includes professionals from Calderdale and regional multi-disciplinary organisations; their identification of emerging priorities and delivery against the CSCP Business Plan is crucial in how the Partnership executes its statutory functions.

Funding for the CSCP has come from the three key partner agencies. Contributions in the form of meeting space, staff time and other resources have additionally been contributed by other partners. The Local Authority hosts the secretariat staff, which includes HR support, IT technical support and office space.

The CSCP aligns itself and influences the strategies and priorities from other strategic partnerships such as:

- the Safeguarding Adult Board (which is jointly staffed by the same Secretariat)
- the Community Safety Partnership
- the Health and Wellbeing Board
- the Domestic Abuse Strategic Group

A Business Plan details the function and priorities of the CSCP. There are five priorities which steer the work of the Partnership:

- There is independent assurance that children receive the right help and protection at the right time
- Children achieve the best outcomes by receiving targeted services in a co-ordinated way
- Independent Scrutiny Evidences Improved Outcomes for Children
- A learning culture is created which consistently improves outcomes for children and young people
- The CSCP works with all partners to agreed priorities to improve outcomes for children

A regional work stream led by West Yorkshire Police has been instrumental in progressing the transformation from Safeguarding Children Boards to Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements across the region. The Independent Scrutineer and Business Manager have led the Calderdale involvement with full cooperation from the 3 key partners.

Significantly, several functions of the partnerships across West Yorkshire have been unified across the region, to rationalise resource and simplify processes for partners. This has included a uniform approach to Rapid Reviews, a single portal and joint process for Section 11 / Safeguarding Adults Audit across the region and leads for each regional work stream (Child Death Overview Panel, communications, Risk & Vulnerability, regional trainer's network and procedures).

The partnership employs various methods to drive improvement and seek assurance about how well children are safeguarded in Calderdale. The following sections provide detail about some of the methods employed, the functionality of the CSCP and how the CSCP has steered system and practice development.

The CSCP work streams are split in this report, into two chapters covering 'Independent Scrutiny and Assurance' and 'Learning and Improvement' as follows:

i. Independent Scrutiny & Assurance:

1. Overview
2. Child Death Overview Panel
3. Engagement
4. Section 11 / Safeguarding Adults Audit
5. Practitioner Focus Groups
6. Audit
7. Scrutiny of Performance
8. The Independent Scrutineer

ii. Learning & Improvement:

1. Overview
2. Learning from Serious Case Review
3. Multi Agency Training and e-Learning
4. Outreach
5. Safeguarding Week
6. Procedures, Resources, Guidance and Toolkits
7. Communication

The three key partners have ensured that the function and role of the CSCP has delivered against the Business Plan and priorities, and that liaison with other partners and partnerships has been proactive, constructive and ongoing. The prevention of silo working and delivery of positive outcomes for children and families is vital in the approach of the CSCP.

Each section of this report describes the activity undertaken and outcomes achieved during 2019. Finally, the report concludes and summarises the next steps for the CSCP and how it will be further developed in 2020.

Chapter I: Independent Scrutiny & Assurance

1. Overview

The CSCP Independent Scrutiny and Assurance Framework explains how joint working arrangements are monitored and measured in Calderdale to assess whether they are working effectively to keep children safe. This framework is used to independently scrutinise multi-agency safeguarding arrangements to:

- highlight areas of good practice;
- highlight areas which require improvement;
- examine how effective arrangements are for practitioners;
- decide what we need to examine in more detail;
- determine what difference the CSCP has made to outcomes for children and to practice;
- support and challenge partners to improve practice; and
- inform standards and agreements for joint working;

The four elements of the independent scrutiny and assurance process are: – quantitative data, qualitative evidence, engagement with service users and engagement with front line staff – which result in recommendations to change and develop practice through learning and improvement. This can include changes to procedures, training, guidance, tools, communications and single agency practice change.

2. Independent Scrutiny & Assurance: Child Death Overview Panel

The Child Death Overview Panel has continued to meet regularly to review all deaths of children in Calderdale. The Panel itself has undergone transformation from Calderdale, Kirklees and Mid Yorkshire Local Authority Footprint, to the inclusion of Wakefield Local Authority area, resulting in a 'tri-panel'. The Calderdale cases have continued to be scrutinised by the multi-agency panel and serviced by the experienced, proactive members of staff from the Secretariat. This focus and thoroughness has resulted in learning for individual agencies and systems as a whole.

Our approach to Child Death Review, in line with Working Together 2018, is developing and as a result we are seeing a shift to proactive agency identification of learning. As a result the focus has changed at CDOP from one where we are uncovering single and multi-agency actions to one where we are reviewing actions that have been taken. This is a positive development, and ensures a more timely response to sub-optimal care. Challenge from the Child Death Overview Panel is robust and independence from the CSCP Manager and Public Health Lead has ensured that where learning is uncovered, appropriate actions are taken.

A new National Child Mortality Database has been developed to capture intelligence across the country. At the moment no national or thematic reports have resulted, however locally we continue to capture, monitor and report on themes, trends and areas for improvement.

Modifiable factors continued to be associated more with child deaths in Calderdale than in the England average. This has been the case in previous years and demonstrates one of the fundamental challenges of the CDOP process – the different categorisation of contributory factors nationally.

We have a robust process that identifies and categorises all associated factors, but we know other CDOPs choose to categorise in different ways. A prime example of this is our approach to categorising consanguinity, where we say all deaths attributed to recessive genetic conditions born to consanguineous parents may be modifiable. Other CDOPs only categorise as such where two or more children from the same parents have the same condition. Our greatest modifiable factor continues to be 'consanguinity', or as we would prefer it to be referred to 'autosomal recessive disorders'. This continues to be a significant challenge for services (locally and nationally) but the Calderdale and Kirklees CDOP have ensured that individual families receive or are offered genetic counselling. Other significant modifiable factors that we know are contributory factors locally are smoking and obesity. These two factors continue to be public health priorities in Calderdale with local and national agencies and services working towards reducing both.

3. Independent Scrutiny & Assurance: Engagement

Young Advisors

Calderdale Young Advisors have been working in a paid role for over four years for the Calderdale Safeguarding Children Board and now the CSCP. They are a committed group of young people aged between 13 – 17 years from different schools. It's important that young people are part of the CSCP and able to have their say on issues that occur and are meaningful to children and young people. Young Advisors are involved in the succession and recruitment of new Young Advisors for the CSCP.

The CSCP Young Advisors have proactively undertaken a multitude of tasks this year which has been instrumental in informing the work of the safeguarding partners in Calderdale. The most influential has been the Child Exploitation Survey. The Young Advisors wanted to find out what young people in Calderdale know about it. The Young Advisors produced an online survey about Child Exploitation using Survey Monkey, which was sent to half of the secondary schools in Calderdale.

The Young Advisors requested that the schools share the online survey with at least two classes/forms (selected at random) from each year group. A total of 424 responses were received from young people in Calderdale. 227 males and 179 females, the rest preferred not to say or identified as trans or non-binary.

The majority of pupils had not heard of Child Exploitation, those who did know about it were concerned about drugs, sexual exploitation, gangs and knife crime. Parks and public spaces are where those young people said they felt most unsafe as well as the Town Centre and outside the border of Calderdale. This information was reported to the Community Safety Partnership and the Child Exploitation Operational Group which resulted in an offer to provide Child Exploitation awareness training to schools and groups of professionals.

The majority of responders wanted to know more about Child Exploitation and that they wanted to know more about it from school. In response, the Young Advisors produced a Powerpoint presentation providing young people with information about Child Exploitation and where to find help – this has been delivered in schools and will continue to be promoted through 2020.

The CSCP has remained focused on the risk of Child Exploitation and how Calderdale has developed services in response to this threat. The invaluable information from the Young Advisors has also been fed through to the West Yorkshire Risk and Vulnerability Group and the Serious Violent Crime Reduction Unit in West Yorkshire to influence decisions about how resource is allocated.

The Young Advisors have also focussed on Online Safety this year. They considered what could be done to raise awareness of online safety, that hadn't already been covered in other national or local campaigns. They worked with the

local SEND group (young people with special education needs or disabilities) to produce a real life story of online safety. This continues to be developed with other groups across Calderdale and will tie in with the CSCP priorities for 2020.

Additional areas covered by the Young Advisors include participation in Practitioner Learning Events, production of 'Shocking Facts' posters below, involvement in Safeguarding Week, the recruitment of new members and the planning and co-delivery of the Community Engagement Events. The CSCP function and effectiveness is enriched because of the extensiveness of the work of the Young Advisors in Calderdale and those who support them.

[Community Engagement Events](#)

Engagement with children, young people, families and front-line practitioners has been a key area of focus for the CSCP following the successful engagement with the community during the 'Early Adopter' transition from CSCB to CSCP.

Calderdale became an Early Adopter of the new safeguarding arrangements, securing a grant to facilitate community engagement events in order to consult on and inform the new arrangements. Five community events were planned and delivered with the CSCB Young Advisors.

The first; FAXFEST, attracted 174 people; this injection of enthusiasm in engaging with communities was effective in establishing the views of children and their families and informing how the CSCP developed.

The safeguarding themes that children identified as being of most concern to them were: danger, knives, bullying and online safety. Safety, prevention and protection were identified as being provided by the Police, family and friends. 95% of the respondents said they would know who to report concerns to about themselves or someone else.

A further 4 events were held in the four different localities in Calderdale attracting over 100 additional people. The events followed up on the themes provided by the first but were not as successful at attracting attendees. The CSCP, in response to the learning from this event, has changed how it engages with the general public. This was further developed in Safeguarding Week (described later in this report). The police attended at each subsequent event and discussed their work around prevention and knife crime in response to the earlier views from young people.

Attendees provided information about their age, gender, racial background, sexuality and disability. Half of the attendees were adults (parents or community members) and the majority of children were aged between 10-13. One session involved a large proportion of people from Eastern European communities who were not previously represented at the main Halifax FAXFEST. More information is available in the [FAXFEST Report](#).

Organisations from statutory, voluntary and community services attended all events, and provided information to children and families.

Engagement network

In April, a variety of organisations who work with children, young people and adults nominated officers to undertake service user engagement for the CSCP and SAB. Their role was to liaise with their service users, or use the contacts to gather or disseminate information.

The network consists of 25 different contacts, from a range of organisations including, housing organisations, drug and alcohol services, identity groups for LGBT, Voluntary Sector Infrastructure Alliance, Tough Times Reference Group, Young Carers, Cohesion and Equality Officer, Hate Crime Reduction Group, Calderdale Carers, Youth Offending Team, Healthwatch UK, Residential Care Homes, and advocacy services.

The Network gathered views from their service users about safeguarding. They influenced the design and content of training material that was produced for safeguarding week which included a power point presentation aimed at service users, carers and the public.

The network continues to be used to engage with service users about particular topics or themes and can work jointly with adult services on more generic safeguarding issues, or topics which have cross cutting agendas.

4. Independent Scrutiny & Assurance: Section 11

This year's Section 11 assessment (Children Act 2004) continued the expansion from the statutory sector to the wider multi-agency partnership including non-statutory partners, and overall, there has been good support for the process in Calderdale.

This year is the second year of using the combined children's and adults safeguarding standards and questions in one audit tool; this has once again been received well as many partners work with both children and adults.

It has been an aspiration for several years, to be able to combine the Partnership Learning Events this year, and this year is the first year we have completed a Shared Partnership Learning Event for both CSCP, and Calderdale Safeguarding Adults Board (CSAB).

A total of 259 completed audit tools were received, with 156 being received from agencies / providers / settings working with children only or with children and adults. The overall self-assessment rates are:

These results indicate the maturity of the process within the multi-agency partnership however there were still areas identified for development:

- Online Safety
- Managing transitions between child and adult safeguarding services
- Mental Health and the Mental Health Act of parents. Specifically how the Mental Capacity Act is relevant to all organisations who support young people aged 16 & 17.
- Safer Recruitment
- Learning from Serious Case Reviews / Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews
- Supervision processes

A direct response from the Section 11 process was communicated to all participants, in the form of a briefing which highlighted where practitioners and managers could find support for each of these areas (such as the CSCP Multi Agency Supervision Framework, the direct link to SCR publications and advertising safer recruitment training). The priority areas for online safety, transitions and additionally for child exploitation will be further developed by the CSCP in 2020 as they continue to be the focus of the assurance process and business planning processes.

The Section 11 process will continue to be developed in 2020. West Yorkshire Safeguarding Partnerships and Safeguarding Adult Boards are currently considering whether one online system can be adopted across the region using the Calderdale approach to a joint Adult and Child Tool. This Regional Section 11 and Safeguarding Adult Audit processes and a shift to an online system will be beneficial to partners who work across many borders.

5. Independent Scrutiny & Assurance: Practitioner Focus Groups

The CSCP Independent Scrutiny and Assurance Framework sets out a schedule of thematic self-assessment activity on specific themes as described earlier; the first being Child Exploitation.

Work had already been completed by the Young Advisors to seek feedback from children and young people about Child Exploitation with students from Calderdale secondary schools.

The aim of Practitioner Focus Groups is to capture evidence from front line staff of what is working well in practice and what areas need to be examined or changed. This evidence is then triangulated with information from other sources such as the Young Advisors survey. This provides the CSCP with a baseline of how well partners in Calderdale are safeguarding children.

The first area of focus was Child Exploitation; front line professionals attended from the following organisations:

- Children's Social Care (Child Exploitation Team/Hub)
- Academy High School
- College

- Human Kind (Drug and Alcohol Service)
- Police (Child Exploitation Team)
- Calderdale & Huddersfield Foundation Hospital Trust
- Neighbourhood and Cohesion Service CMBC
- Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC)
- CAFCASS

The group were asked to provide examples of real-life cases. One good example was given about the Calderdale Child M SCR, which as a result of the SCR, the Child Exploitation team was formed and is now working well. All front line professionals could explain their own agencies and multi-agency procedures, referral forms and referral processes competently. A 'Screening tool' was identified as a potential gap by the group and it was felt by the professionals involved that further improvements could be made to the guidance available.

As a result, the CSCP has proposed the use of a screening tool but has taken this to the West Yorkshire Risk and Vulnerability Group so that the tool can be standardised across the district (important when the issue is cross-border). Additionally the West Yorkshire Procedures have been updated since this group discussion, and will be made available in 2020.

As a result of the practitioner focus group, the Child Exploitation Team offered additional training sessions and outreach to services and to target community services.

6. Independent Scrutiny & Assurance: Audit

As detailed above, the Performance Management and Quality Assurance Framework details how the partnership seeks assurance about how well adults in Calderdale are safeguarded. One of the elements of this is through quality assurance or audit. The following section details some of the audit work undertaken by the Board in the year 2019.

Transition - Best Practice to Facilitate Transitions from Children's to Adult Services. The need for this audit originated from a recommendation from a Calderdale Safeguarding Adult Review but it was recognised that this is an for a number of children and young people who are currently receiving support from children's services and who are likely to continue to need support into adulthood. This audit attempted to identify local examples of good practice that facilitate transition for specific groups of young people and consider how this learning can be shared and applied more generally to transitions across the partnership. The audit focused on the lived experiences of young adults and the practitioners who have worked with them. It is anticipated that the findings and recommendations will be available by June 2020.

Harmful Sexual Behaviour - developing Harmful Sexual Behaviour practice

Intelligence from multi-agency training, referrals to the Youth Offending Team and requests for support from the Schools Safeguarding Advisor, indicated that practitioners were identifying children and young people who were displaying worrying harmful sexual behaviour but professionals were unclear about the most appropriate referral route for these young people and lacked confidence and skills in responding to manage this behaviour.

The findings highlighted a need for a more coordinated approach in Calderdale to develop and improve proportionate and effective responses. The findings helped give clarity about who should undertake assessments or deliver interventions. A multi-agency Harmful Sexual Behaviour Panel was formed in response. The Panel has created an opportunity to understand the number of children displaying inappropriate sexual behaviours in Calderdale and ensure that children receive the most appropriate assessment. In addition to the existing multi-agency Harmful Sexual Behaviour training; external training has also been commissioned to deliver a Trauma Informed Response to support children and young people who display HSB behaviours and to support a consistent approach across Calderdale.

SMART Planning – audit to explore whether Early Help and Child Protection Plans were clear, timely, action oriented and child focussed. The rationale for this audit came from a Serious Case Review recommendation. Previous SMART planning audits highlighted improvements in the quality of plans.

The findings of this audit showed that the quality of SMART planning for children was still improving: Proposed changes to the Early Help process took place following the audit and Children's Social Care undertook additional single agency audit activity of Child in Need and Child Protection plans to quality assure the highlighted areas for improvement. A new set of standards are being produced to support recommendations.

Parental Mental Health - To promote the safety of children and young people who live with a parent with mental ill health. A recommendation from a Serious Case Review was about the importance of fully assessing and addressing the risks that parental mental health could present to children and the impact of mental health and medication on parenting. The audit sought assurance about the use of tools, guidance, policies, systems and training.

The audit required practitioners and managers from Adults and Children's Services to provide information about their organisation's expectations to respond when a parent/carer with a mental health problem is identified; the tools used to support the assessment of risk and need; and whether or not specific training is undertaken. The audit findings will be reported in 2020.

7. Independent Scrutiny and Assurance: Scrutiny of Performance

The protection of children and young people remains paramount, and as the early help approach has been revised and developed in the year, partners are aware that this has implications for how safeguarding joint working arrangements are set and reviewed. The CSCP has committed to ensuring local partners continue to meet the needs of vulnerable children at risk of harm and to engage in shared partnership responsibilities, enhancing the multi-agency response to children wherever possible.

The opportunity for the partnership to develop assurance methods was explored during the year and resulted in a new approach to performance management and quality assurance. An Independent Scrutiny and Assurance Framework provides the structure for the CSCP and a more holistic approach to data collation has been agreed.

The approach is thematic, informed by local and national emerging issues and will focus on areas which have been identified as needing improvement or emerging areas of multi-agency safeguarding practice. Holistic self-assessment through data analysis, multi-agency audit, observation of practice, feedback from service users and practitioners and comparator intelligence will provide a thorough account of how effective interventions are in Calderdale. The reports from these in-depth reviews will either provide confidence in good practice, or suggest areas which need improvement.

In 2019, the CSCP led a self-assessment about the effectiveness of services which identify and work with children who have mental ill health. This resulted in confirmation that a lot of practice in Calderdale was good, innovative and improving, and that there were still areas for development but that these areas have been recognised nationally as needing improvement. The themes are agreed by the Executive and will correspond with the priorities for the CSCP. In 2020, these themes will include Child Exploitation, Online Safety, Transition (from child to adult), Early Help and Domestic Abuse.

Exception Reporting will continue into 2020. This is an outcomes-based accountability model to report exceptions to the partnership, which includes narratives, stories behind the data and how agencies intend to improve. Areas of good practice as well as areas for improvement are reported by applying parameters agreed by the CSCP. Use of comparator data, trends and projected trends are used to inform when and how exception reports need to be presented.

8. Independent Scrutiny & Assurance: The Independent Scrutineer

Professor Nick Frost was the last Independent Chair of the CSCB and the first Independent Scrutineer of the CSCP. His role has been transformed alongside the new safeguarding arrangement changes and with it, a new approach to scrutiny.

In addition to actively participating in and observing the roll out of the Early Adopters, the Community Engagement Events and smoothing the transformation from CSCB to CSCP, Nick has observed a number of training sessions delivered by the CSCP Learning & Improvements Officer, the Health Assurance and Improvement Group and reported his findings to the CSCP Executive. All sessions Nick has attended have been positive, informative, well delivered and importantly focussed on the priorities of the CSCP Executive and trying to tackle how to be more effective.

Regionally, the CSCP works to ensure that there is co-operation and synergy across the five West Yorkshire authorities. The Business Manager for Calderdale facilitates how the Business Managers from the four other authorities collaborate and look to reduce duplication. The Independent Scrutineer chairs the Yorkshire and Humber regional meetings for Independent Chairs, Scrutineers and Managers. These gatherings highlight shared priorities, encourage people to overcome barriers together, utilise expertise across the region and look to streamline work streams and share good practice.

The Business Manager and Independent Scrutineer have taken an active role in the development and impact of West Yorkshire Young People Risk and Vulnerability Strategic Group. Along with the Detective Chief Inspector from the region, Calderdale has influenced regional assessment toolkits for child sexual exploitation and most recently for child exploitation. The Calderdale representatives have been proactive in shaping the work of the WYR&V group from local need and demand, through communications campaigns, policy development, licencing initiatives, prevention in schools, single point of contacts, data sharing, and problem profiling.

SCR Challenge Events

In April 2019, the Independent Scrutineer acted as a participant observer at the Child M SCR Progress Review. A panel consisted of the Scrutineer, the Chair of the SCR Sub Group and the Business Manager for the CSCP and CSAB. The panel interviewed front line professionals and managers from the 7 different agencies who had a role in the SCR. The majority of the professionals had worked directly with Child M. The observations of the Independent Scrutineer were:

- a) All the professionals exhibited appropriate professional behaviour and many were passionate about their work and had clearly learnt considerably from their involvement in this case. Some demonstrated great passion, persistence and commitment going the 'extra mile' to support Child M and other children and young people.
- b) The Review process worked well – it was rigorous and well-conducted, and generated substantial learning.
- c) Most participants demonstrated effective multi-agency working and spoke of good professional relationships.
- d) Participants felt well informed about CSE (child sexual exploitation) and confident that agency responses were much better than those outlined in the Child M case.

- e) The handling of CSE referrals and responses to these referrals is good and cases seem to be responded to effectively and professionally.
- f) Participants were aware of the changing nature of CSE and the emergent challenge of Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and 'county lines'. They felt that systems needed to change to meet these new challenges.
- g) The discussions in relation to the challenge of the transition from child to adult were mixed – some feeling this was managed well, others expressing some concerns.
- h) Front-line staff were not always aware of information including that in relation to the SCR and related policy changes.
- i) There was some evidence of a 'disconnect' between the experience of front-line staff and regional policy work.
- j) Most professionals felt that young people were aware of CSE as an issue and that they knew where to go for help.

There were specific actions which arose from the discussions which the Business Manager followed up which were not related to the case of Child M – rather how multi agency working could be further developed and improved. The only other area for improvement was that the CSCP effectively communicate policy developments to front line staff. This issue of communication from CSCP to front line staff has been further discussed by the CSCP and wider partners at the CSCP away day with an agreement to address communication issues through a variety of methods discussed later in this report.

Nick will be continuing in his role as Independent Scrutineer visiting the Voluntary Sector Infrastructure, Education settings and Health and Wellbeing services as well as maintaining his approach to scrutiny through the Executive and on Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, Challenge Events and through assurance processes.

Chapter II: Learning & Improvement

1. Overview

Working Together 2018 states that employers should ensure that staff are supported and undertake safeguarding training in particular to identify children and families who would benefit from early help.

The CSCP utilises learning from previous multi-agency safeguarding children training; learning and action plans from Serious Case Reviews; CDOP; section 11 and multi-agency audit; new and amended legislation/policy/practice/guidance; feedback from practitioners and managers; training needs analysis findings (2019); further review of the traditional training offer and consideration of the alternative approach to learning and development. This results in a number of different ways of learning and improvement as is described in this chapter.

2. Serious Case Reviews

WTSC 2018 guidance revised the terminology from Serious Case Reviews (SCR) to Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPR). The Partnership has written the CSPR Toolkit to support and facilitate CSPRs, but has not undertaken any under the new guidance. Therefore this report focuses on the SCRs undertaken in this time period.

The CSCP undertook and completed two SCRs in this period. Due to criminal proceedings neither SCR has been published however there has been much learning for the Partnership which has been fed back in person to the practitioners involved in the cases, through written briefings to professionals working with children in Calderdale and through multi agency training sessions. In addition, the Learning and Improvement Officer has developed a programme of Outreach Training sessions to individual teams, talking about what was learned and the tools developed in response to the findings.

As a result of these SCRs the following guidance and tools were developed:

- [Professional Curiosity and Challenge](#) Safeguard Guide giving top tips for practice
- [West Yorkshire Interagency Procedures](#) chapter 1.4.39 and [Calderdale Information Sharing Guidance](#)
- [Pathway and Letter for Engaging Hostile and Resistant Families](#)
- [Was Not Brought](#) Safeguard Guide to explain the importance of adopting a 'was not brought' rather than a 'did not attend' policy
- [Multi-Agency Professionals Meetings Guidance](#) and [Multi-Agency Meetings Guidance](#) and [Escalation Process](#)
- [Hidden Male / Significant Other Safeguard Guide](#)
- [Risk Indicator Tool](#).
- [A Day in the Life of a Child](#) toolkit
- Refreshed Multi Agency Supervision Framework
- [Parental Mental Health Toolkit](#)
- [Harmful Sexual Behaviour Toolkit](#) updated to include an appropriate intervention for Worrying and Problematic Behaviour
- [Risk Indicator Tool](#) – updated to include links to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) in response to a recommendation from a SCR.
- [Multi-Agency Professional Disagreements and Escalation](#)
- [Assessment of the Impact of Parental Mental Health on Children tool](#)
- Underweight and Obesity Safeguarding Pathway
- In addition, the findings from this SCR contributed to the revision of Early Help Arrangements in Calderdale. These will be published in the following year.

3. Multi-agency Safeguarding Training & e-learning

The SAB and CSCP share both face to face training and e-learning which is open and free to all professionals and volunteers working with children or adults in Calderdale.

A total of 3352 e-learning courses were completed in this quarter, the majority of learners demonstrating competence in 'Safeguarding Everyone' which provides safeguarding awareness of both adults and children. A total of 978 professionals from across adult and children services attended 73 face to face courses over the year.

The evaluation of courses included the following positive comments:

- *"Made me think as to why information is not always shared with key professionals who may be working with the young person."*
- *"Looking at reasons why families display disguised compliance"*
- *"The differences between CSE, trafficking and slavery. To know that this is still going on right underneath our noses."*
- *"... to never give up on a child who is at risk of CSE as they will try and push you away."*
- *"I was reminded that plans need to be child-focused. I have created plans in the past that have been about meeting the needs of parents."*

Comments about changes to practice include:

- *"When children are making a disclosure they may not want to make eye contact."*
- *"To use more of the tools provided to identify needs"*
- *"I now know how to report intelligence to the CSE hub"*
- *"I will think more about the child and the child's voice (experience to date is with parents) and not get too focused on parent's needs."*
- *"Make sure we are having conversations with YPs around online safety, knowing the warning signs."*
- *"Going to develop safeguarding training and supervision plan"*
- *"Supporting staff to use more tool kits for evidence gathering."*
- *"Going through serious case reviews and seeing what was recommended enabled me to see the whole picture and helped me to understand better. Very powerful!"*
- *"Thinking about risk and highlighting the importance of professional curiosity."*

The evaluation of training shows an increased uptake; 98% of learners said their skills and knowledge had improved as a result of attending the course. The Voluntary, Community and Faith sector make up a large proportion of learners and that this year there has been an increase in representation from Police (in particular, the Early Intervention Team). The value of the contribution of these and other agency perspectives is recognised.

The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Training programme includes both Adults and Children's workforce learning opportunities. Increasingly, courses are being adapted to be relevant for work with both service user groups. This facilitates greater understanding of respective roles and responsibilities and supports some of the 'transition' areas for improvement.

4. Outreach

There are joint arrangements in place for the Learning & Improvement Sub group with the CSAB. The multi-agency safeguarding learning and development offer provided by CSAB/CSCP was extended this year to include 'outreach' sessions. The sessions have been well-received and practitioners have engaged with activities when they have been introduced.

The outreach sessions have enabled practitioners to explore issues relating to their own work setting, challenging each other and putting forward suggestions, increasing the relevance of the conversation/use of a tool for their role.

It has been helpful that the facilitator has the benefit of a multi-agency perspective, awareness of strategic priorities and knowledge of the background to the tools and guidance, however, it is recognised that the approach lacks opportunities for practitioners to network with colleagues from other agencies or to gain an understanding of their roles and responsibilities.

5. Safeguarding Week

Safeguarding Week is an annual event which provides a range of learning events across Calderdale (and West Yorkshire) aimed at staff in all organisations and members of the public to raise awareness about different aspects of Safeguarding and to highlight the message that 'Safeguarding is Everyone's Business'.



Safeguarding Week is led by the CSCP, the Safeguarding Adult Board and the Community Safety Partnership. The focus of Safeguarding Week 2019 (June) was '**See Me, Hear Me, Know Me; Making Safeguarding Personal**' and was aimed at both professionals and members of the public. The week included:

- Launch Event for both adult and children professionals
- 17 face to face events across the week
- Attendance by 300 professionals
- Over 500 members of the public were engaged in conversation on a stall at a food and drink festival – post card sized information leaflets were given, along

with safeguarding bracelets, crisis cards and other awareness raising information.

- Several safeguarding referrals from members of the public were made on the day due to the public engagement
- A safe space (42 Market Street) was made available for members of the public to talk to a professional in confidence
- 31 Twitter posts using #CdaleSafeguardingWeek with 24,121 impressions
- 11 Facebook posts with 17,879 impressions during the week and 13,358 after

Immediate outcomes that could be measured included:

- Evaluation responses showed a 97% satisfaction rate from attendees
- 92% of professionals reported that their confidence levels in the subject increased as a result of attending a session
- Requests for follow up sessions for individual teams
- An increase in volunteers for the service
- Identification that further training was needed following brief input about a particular subject
- Professionals reported appreciating being able to access subjects which are not ordinarily available to them
- Practitioners reported increased knowledge in subjects
- Professional networking opportunities were capitalised on.

6. Learning & Improvement: Procedures, Resources, Guidance and Toolkits

Tools and Guidance developed and updated in 2019

The CSCP produces a number of resources to aid practitioners and managers to improve services and outcomes for children. Tools and guidance that have been developed in 2019 include: response to findings from audit; learning from Serious Case Reviews; and as a result of developing shared resources with Calderdale Safeguarding Adults Board:

Some examples of the tools and guidance produced by the CSCP can be seen in the Serious Case Review Section above, and the rest can be found on the website www.calderdale-safeguarding.co.uk or by contacting the CSCP Secretariat.

West Yorkshire Multi Agency Safeguarding Procedures

The following updates have been made during the previous 12 months:

Chapter Name	Details
Initial Child Protection	Information in relation to the timescales for submitting reports to the Chair of the Child

<u>Conferences</u>	Protection Conference has been updated to reflect processes in each of the consortium areas.
<u>Child Protection Review Conferences</u>	Information in relation to the timescales for submitting reports to the Chair of the Child Protection has been updated to reflect processes in each of the consortium areas.
<u>Resolving Multi Agency Professional Disagreements and Escalation</u>	A new Section 4, Immediate / 24 hour Escalation has been added to explain the process for escalation when a professional is concerned that the situation presents a significant risk to the child and the usual escalation process of 5 days is not viable. Section 3, Process of Resolving Professional Disagreements, has been amended to allow 14 working days for the resolution of disagreements at step 6 in the process. Steps 1 -5 in the process should not exceed 5 working days.
<u>Fabricated or Induced Illness</u>	This guidance has been completely rewritten and added to the procedures manual. Please note - The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) guidance 'Fabricated or Induced Illness (FII) by Carers - A Practical Guide for Paediatricians' 2009 is currently being updated. Once this review is complete the following guidance will be reviewed and updated as required in line with the revised RCPCH guidance.
<u>Pre Birth</u>	This guidance which provides information for practitioners on what to do if they have concerns about a pregnant woman and /or her unborn baby has been added to the procedures.
<u>Child Abuse and Information Communication Technology</u>	This guidance has been reviewed and refreshed as required. In the further information section, a link has been added to the Catch 22 publication Social Media as a Catalyst and Trigger for Youth Violence.
<u>Children from Abroad, including Victims of Modern Slavery, Trafficking and Exploitation</u>	This guidance has been reviewed throughout and extensively updated.
<u>Harmful Sexual Behaviour</u>	This chapter has been reviewed throughout and extensively updated. Information was added with regard to Technology-assisted harmful sexual behaviour (TA-HSB) and Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2018. The Further Information section has been reviewed and updated. This includes the link to the <u>Calderdale Harmful Sexual Behaviour Tool</u> . (Updated April 2019)
<u>Parents with Learning Disabilities</u>	This guidance has been reviewed throughout and extensively updated to reflect best practice when working with parents who have a learning disability.
<u>Deprivation of Liberty online Mental Capacity Act online</u>	These new online resources provide information on Mental Capacity and Deprivation of Liberty in relation to children and young people.

7. Communication

Communication with wider partners

The CSCP uses different methods to communicate to many different audiences. From CSCP members, wider safeguarding partners, managers and front line practitioners, to the general public, children & young people, families, parents, carers and communities groups.

The many different ways of communicating to these audiences has been scrutinised during the year and has been agreed that improvements are needed. As has been seen throughout this report, the CSCP undertakes a lot of work and produces a lot of information through reports, briefings, action plans, adverts, emails, face to face in meetings and newsletters.

One of the conclusions from the 2019 CSCP Development Day was to improve how the CSCP communicates; therefore the Communication & Engagement Sub group currently in place for Adults will now be extended to children's services. Additionally, there has been an introduction of 'Safeguarding Champion' roles in each organisation to help with the dissemination of the right materials to the right people. The CSCP will continue to work regionally through the West Yorkshire Communications Group and with the partner agency press offices when publishing reviews and other items of media interest.

In addition, the website has undergone some improvements and continues to be developed in light of feedback that it is difficult to find documents on there. The methods of communicating through sub groups, training advertisements, through Director / Service blogs, through the website, outreach training sessions, via email distribution lists, hot topics training, attendance at conferences and through guidance will not necessarily stop; there will continue to be published reviews, learning briefings, Safeguard Guides, training events, front line practitioner feedback sessions and challenge events to further promote learning, however, how we do this, is likely to change.

Chapter III: Future Priorities for the CSCP

There are a number of upcoming opportunities and challenges which need to be explored, considered and acted upon in order that the partnership can continue to support organisations and professionals to safeguard children. The CSCP will work closely with partners to strategically consider the impact on safeguarding from the following areas:

- Changes to the Early Help offer in Calderdale
- Broadening from familial to contextual safeguarding
- Changes in commissioning landscapes
- Changing demand and decreasing resource

Operational work for the CSCP during 2020 will include:

- Continue to develop transitional safeguarding from childhood to adulthood
- Learning from good practice as well as CSPRs (SCRs)

- Refresh joined up work with other Boards & Partnerships
- Influence the projects and priorities of the West Yorkshire Serious Violent Crime Reduction Unit
- Links to Calderdale Vision 2024 (Kindness and Resilience)
- Links with Anti-Poverty Strategies
- Website development
- Development of regional work streams and further streamlining across borders
- Embedding the Independent Scrutiny on outcomes for children
- Joint Targeted Area Inspection preparation
- Domestic Homicide Review management oversight and development
- Development of Regional Section 11 and Safeguarding Adult Audit processes and a shift to an online system.

The Partnership remains committed to delivering the Business Plan based on local intelligence, learning, analysis of current strengths and areas for development. The CSCP recognises more is achieved through working together in partnership and will continue to support multi-agency working to improve safeguarding outcomes for children.

Appendix 1 – Relevant Agencies

- Adult Services and Wellbeing
- CAFCASS
- Calderdale and Huddersfield Foundation Trust (CHFT)
- Calderdale College
- Calderdale Governors Association (CGA)
- Early Years Representation
- Locala School Nurse and Health Visiting Service
- National Probation Service (NPS)
- NHS England
- Pennine Housing/Together Group
- Education (Primary and Secondary School Representation)
- Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC)
- Public Health
- South West Yorkshire Partnership Foundation Trust (SWYPFT)
- Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS)
- West Yorkshire Fire Service
- Women's Centre
- Youth Offending Team (YOT)
- Children's residential homes including private providers
- Independent Fostering Agencies

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