

Local Safeguarding Children Groups

 Annual Report

April 2023 to March 2024

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6. **Introduction**

Six Local Safeguarding Children Groups (LSCGs) support the work of the Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP). These groups meet on a bimonthly basis and provide a multi-agency local forum where agencies can meet collectively to increase learning across the safeguarding network and improve inter-agency relationships.

This year has seen a changes to the LSCGs in terms of Chairing roles, Business Support and the format of the meetings. It has been a period of transition which has challenged the previous smooth running of these meetings and the work of the LSCGs outside of meetings. To support the new chairs in their role there was a joint LSCG and LSAP (Local Safeguarding Adult Partnership) workshop in October 2023 to explore and consider how to effectively chair these networking meetings.

Whilst there has been disruption in this transitional year, there have been positive aspects to this, not least the first face to face meeting for most of the LSCGs in over four years.

1. **LSCG Chairs planning and review**

In June 2023 the LSCG chairs met to review the work of the groups and to plan for the year ahead. Feedback from the survey of LSCG members earlier in the year was used to inform this meeting. There were two significant format changes that the group agreed to implement:

* 1. Alternate online meetings with face-to-face meetings.

Feedback from LSCG members last year highlighted the need for occasional face to face meetings to happen whilst it was recognised that virtual meetings were more efficient in terms of time and capacity of staff. Face to face meeting are consider by many of the LSCG members to allow greater interaction between members and offer a greater learning opportunity than online meetings. There was a concern that if we hold face to face meetings that the numbers attending may decrease so it was agreed that we would alternate the meetings and review how this progressed.

* 1. Regular presentations from LSCG members about their role and their safeguarding practices

Similarly this resulted from feedback from members that they wanted to hear more about each other’s work to help develop understanding and to build stronger relationships.

1. **Attendance**

Attendance at all of the LSCG has been on average slightly reduced from the previous year. It is not possible to do a direct comparison with last year for several reasons. The September meetings were replaced with an LSCG CoNG launch event. Fifty LSCG members attended but this was not broken down to individual LSCG data nor by organisation. Similarly, attendance at the November meeting was not minuted to record individual attendee information.

1. **LSCG Presentations**

Presentations at meetings have included:

* Family Hubs updates
* Local First Inclusion (LFI) and School and Community Teams.
* NSCP website and training
* Working with fathers good practice guide
* Participation and engagement with Children and Young People
* Norfolk Graded Care Profile
* Child exploitation
* Neglect
* A Staged Intervention Pathway for Promoting Good School Attendance
* Using the CoNG toolkit
* Family Networking
* Presentations from individual LSCG members on their organisation and practice

Presentations have also been provided in specific briefing session outside the meetings and these included:

* Domestic abuse update
* Using the Insight Library
* Protecting Babies
* Neglect
* Child Exploitation
1. **Conclusion**

As highlighted in the introduction this has been a year of change in the LSCG landscape and whilst the numbers attending these meetings has reduced, the quality of the discussion, particularly in the face-to-face meetings, has been high and invaluable. Presentations from members about their work and safeguarding practices has proved to be a valuable addition to the meetings. These presentations have provoked stimulating discussions on a wide range of topics and created networking opportunities and built specific links between colleagues. The coming year will need to focus on rebuilding and stabilising the attendance and continuity of these meetings.