



**Local Safeguarding Children Group (LSCG) – North & Broadland**

**Date:**   **9th January 2024 – 10-12pm**

**Venue:**  **MS Teams**

**Present:**

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| Name | Title | Organisation |
| Mark Osborn | Safeguarding Intelligence & Performance Co-ordinator (SIPCo) | NCC |
| Philip Beck (Chair) | Head of Partnerships, Schools and Communities & ERMiN | NCC |
| Emma Wyatt | Designated safeguarding lead | Sprowston infant school |
| Leon McLoughlin-Smith | Head of Norfolk Probation |  |
| Mary Thornton | Play therapist/ Safeguarding Champion | NSFT |
| Sonia Shuter | Early help prevention manager/ Safeguarding Lead for Adults and Children | North Norfolk District council |
| Emma Nobbs | Practice manager | NCC |
| Melanie Perry | Team Manager Community and Partnerships | NCC |
| Abby Whittaker | Administration Assistant | NCC |

**Apologies**

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| Kirsty Pitcher (Co-Chair) | Interim CEO | Benjamin Foundation |
| Melanie Perry | Team Manager Community and Partnerships | NCC |
| Natalie Spurdens | Services Manager | Home Start Norfolk |
| Ross Wacey | Family Support Practitioner | Action for Children |
| Sally Bailey | Safeguarding and Attendance Advisor | Broad Horizons Education Trust |

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| No. | Item |
| 1 | Welcome - Minutes from the last meeting including updates from actions –   * Phil welcomed the attendees to the meeting and asked them to introduce themselves. |
| 2 | Presentations from LSCG members  **Mary T (NSFT Play therapist)**     * Within NSFT there is a youth service which covers 16-25yr olds, which also includes a team for psychosis. * There is an under 14s team and it has just been rebranded as PAIRS (Parent and Infant Relationship Service). They have had a revamp and recommissioned so are working closely with the family hubs and the early years strategy. These teams are in Thurlow House in Kings Lynn, Mary Chapman House in Norwich, and Northgate hospital in Great Yarmouth. * The youth teams in Norwich are based at 80 St Stephen’s in Norwich.   The plan was for each team to designate a safeguarding lead to attend these meetings on a rota, however due to staff shortages this has not been the case, so Mary has solely been attending these meetings regularly.  Mark has received an email from a community team manager within NSFT and she has told Mark that she has nominated a number of people to attend all the LSCG meetings.  NSFT has a county wide safeguarding team of dedicated staff members, who now work at County Hall (Previously from Hellesdon hospital). They are a link point for all the teams, they run the safeguarding training, seek consultations, receive copies of all the referrals from software called Datex. They are also the point of contact for escalation processes/ complaints.  When initial assessments are done, they are triaged, accepted ones will have a in person assessment, however the waiting list is exceptionally long, there is however a priority list.  During initial assessments, we are seeing the young child without the parent, so we do get safeguarding issues present themselves, which then needs CADS involvement. We see all different types of safeguarding issues present themselves such as emotional abuse, county lines, sexual abuse, mental abuse, physical abuse, neglect. After the initial assessment phase, the children can then begin to receive therapeutic work from a specialist who will cover a whole range of areas.  Norfolk has the highest number of referrals to CAHMS for the number of children we have in the County. We do know that primary age children, there are more boys being referred than girls. 11-14 the gender split is approx. 50/50 – although we don’t have any statistics on this to be sure.  Another issue is school refusal and neurodevelopmental issues which have both also increased in referrals. In Norfolk, paediatrics does the assessment for this, but outside of Norfolk neurodevelopmental issues are referred to CAHMS.  **Sonia S (North Norfolk District Council Early help prevention manager)**    My responsibilities are for adults with vulnerable care needs but am also the safeguarding lead for adults and children at NNDC. All our staff are trained in generic safeguarding as there is a wide remit of services we offer, and safeguarding concerns can appear in any of these. Some staff have more advanced safeguarding training than others.  We have a safeguarding strategy group and members use this to discuss and take forward actions relating to identified safeguarding issues. I manage the social prescribing, homes for Ukraine support as part of my remit. Unfortunately, we don’t do as much around safeguarding when it comes to working with fathers but that’s due to staff capacity.  We have an increasing number of families who have hoarding cases, and this impacts the children because they cannot access washing facilities, can’t have friends over etc.  In terms of safeguarding referrals, the biggest relating to children at NNDC are for those families in temporary accommodation as we appear to have an increased number of families relying on this. Sometimes this can be through no fault of their own, it may be that the landlord has had to sell the property which then leaves the family vulnerable and with nowhere to live. There are more people around when families are in temporary accommodation so this may be why the referrals are made because there are more people about to notice issues around safeguarding, neglect, sexual exploitation etc.  Ukraine guests have had some safeguarding issues around how they parent their children, but this could be a cultural issue, and this is regularly explored.  We now have a central referral system for dealing with identified safeguarding cases, due to several different parts of NNDC previously making a referral for one child. This makes it easier to not get lost within the system and enables me to monitor safeguarding referrals and follow ups across the district.  What is the housing situation overall? – Sonia answered with - One challenge is the interest rate %, we have people who cannot afford the rent anymore so become homeless, we have landlords who sell up because the rent doesn’t cover the mortgage on the property which in turn makes families homeless. Other reasons could be family breakdowns, domestic abuse etc. |
| **3** | CoNG toolkit  The Continuum of Needs Guidance has replaced the threshold guide, and sitting under this is a whole new toolkit.  The Ages and Stages document is still in development. It uses the flourish outcomes for different age groups and provides a tool to consider how well these outcomes are being achieved. At the end of last year, we had a safeguarding review and looking back at the chronology for the young man (AL) who committed suicide last year and it was noticeable in the review that none of the FLOURISH outcomes within the framework had been achieved for him.  Mark went through the website (<https://norfolklscp.org.uk/people-working-with-children/norfolk-continuum-of-needs-guidance> ), which showed us where all the resources and documents are kept. One thing we are hoping when we come back together for a face-to-face meeting in March is to begin to explore how some people are using these toolkits, and how they work.  **Action:** All members to look at the new Ages and Stages tool with colleagues and give some feedback about whether the descriptors are right and can be used to inform local practice. Feedback to be brought back to the March meeting.  Please note that this document is in development and not to be shared beyond consultation.    **Action:** Between now and March meeting, everyone to go and look at the toolkit which is available online (see above link) and it would be great if staff could have some knowledge of the resources which are available so we can see which things are useful and which things people don’t like and don’t think will be a helpful document.  **Action**: Ask for all colleagues to have a look at the new guidance as there is a lot more information in here compared to the old guide. It is essentially a guide to early help and prevention.  Government is announcing a big push on school attendance, so it’s consistent across England and Wales. Norfolk are just below national average for school attendance. We are still not back to pre-pandemic attendance levels, there are particular problems around year 10-11 attendance, and we know this is not just a school issue. |
| **4** | Transitional safeguarding  There has been a big struggle nationally for a long time to tackle supporting vulnerable young people as they move from child to adult. The 18-25yr olds cohort, are generally not well supported We have services where they support young children but when they become 18, they get lost and there are not enough services for them.  In Norfolk we are taking on a piece of independent scrutiny and this will help us understand where we are at. The scrutiny is being done on transitional safeguarding and being done in collaboration with adult safeguarding. This will be going on until May and the report will show us how to understand the issue and move forwards.  We can learn from good practice and service models from other parts of the County which can help to improve the service, consider the voice of the young adults, and help them to prepare into adulthood.  Phase 1 is the research stage where conversations are happening and there is a review of national guidance going on where the legal thresholds are looked at in more depth for working with 18-25.  Phase 2 is going out and talking with professionals and service users from the feedback we have gained from phase 1.  Action - Any examples of good practice please send Mark an email. Suggestions around 18-25 safeguarding issues to support transition safeguarding would be welcome. |
| **8** | A.O.B.  Hellesdon community centre in Broadland (off Middleton’s Lane) will be the venue for the next face to face LSCG meeting in March. Car parking on-site is available. |
| **9** | Next meeting  Tuesday 19th March 2024  10 – 12  Hellesdon Community Centre  Middletons Lane  Norwich  NR6 5SR |