

Local Safeguarding Children Groups

Annual Report

April 2024 to March 2025

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1. Introduction

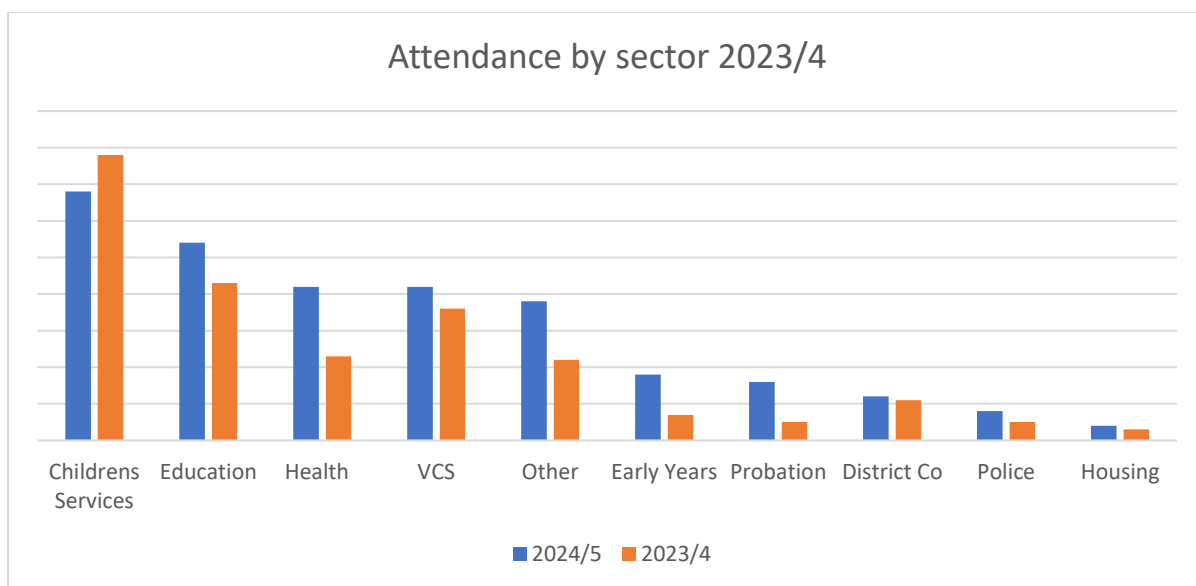
Six Local Safeguarding Children Groups (LSCGs) support the work of the Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP). These groups meet on a bimonthly basis and provide a multi-agency local forum where agencies can meet collectively to increase learning across the safeguarding network and improve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

This year has continued to see changes to the LSCGs in terms of chairing roles, business support, and the format of the meetings. The meetings are co-chaired and three new chairs joined the group in this year. There are currently nine chairs covering the six meetings:

- Three from Childrens Services (each covering two meetings)
- Three from the Healthy Child Service
- One from James Paget University Hospital
- One from the Benjamin Foundation and
- One from the Early Childhood and Family Service

2. Attendance

Attendance at the LSCG meetings has been similar to the previous year despite holding more face-to-face meetings. Attendance levels at the face-to-face meetings have been lower than the online meetings but overall, the levels have not had a marked difference. Online meetings are usually attended by between 10 and 20 participants with face-to-face meetings averaging 9 attendees. The figure below shows the level of attendance from different sectors for this last year compared to the previous.



In November the individual LSCG meetings were replaced with an annually held face-to-face meeting for all the LSCGs together. Fifty-four members attended this meeting which focused on the safeguarding priorities for Norfolk with representatives from the Strategic Priority Groups providing presentations and facilitating discussion.

3. LSCG Presentations

In addition to the presentations from individual LSCG members on their organisation and safeguarding practices, the meetings have included the following presentations:

- Serious Youth Violence
- Use of multi-agency chronologies
- Healthy Child Service
- Family Help arrangements
- Family and Community Networking
- Youth Advisory Boards Reports
- NSCP annual report
- Child exploitation
- Neglect
- CGL and Matthew Project
- Joint Agency Group Supervision (JAGS) QA and monitoring
- Domestic abuse JTAI
- Findings from Section 11

Feedback from the previous year initiated the presentations from members about their single agency work and safeguarding practices. These presentations have stimulated much discussion, and colleagues have found them very useful to learn more about their work and how they respond to safeguarding. Most sectors and organisations have presented during the last year, and for the coming year, this

approach is being modified. This new approach will involve organisations or sectors helping to plan and set the agendas for LSCG sessions. This will begin with The Benjamin Foundation helping to plan the May LSCGs and the July round of meetings will be planned with the District Council Safeguarding Group.

4. Feedback from LSCG members

Feedback from LSCG members is positive about their experience at meetings with colleagues reporting that they use the learning in their practice and share it with others in their organisation on a regular basis. A survey question asking about the usefulness of the meetings scored an average of four out of five. In response to what they find most useful about the meetings colleagues talk about networking and updating their knowledge as the key factors as illustrated by these examples:

- *“Discussing safeguarding openly with other practitioners focussing a little more on operational concerns rather than strategic.”*
- *“Interesting information relevant to day to day working”*
- *“Hearing about the wider work going on in the area, opportunities for families we work with that I may not otherwise have picked up on.”*
- *“Networking, finding out about safeguarding issues and actions across the County and locally”*

The main criticism of the meetings from the survey is that not all organisations attend or there is limited representation from sectors and therefore networking and learning opportunities are missed.

5. Conclusion

As noted in last year’s report on the LSCG meetings, holding face-to-face meetings has led to a small reduction in the numbers attending, but the quality of interaction and discussion has compensated for that. Presentations from LSCG members about their work has been very well received and valued by members and links have been made regularly in meetings for colleagues to continue conversations outside the meetings focussing on how to work together more effectively. Feedback from members is welcomed throughout the year and the majority focuses on the value that members place on these meetings as illustrated by these recent comments:

“I have seen many changes [in safeguarding] and we’ve had to evolve and move the school on accordingly to whatever happens. And that’s why I find this group so useful, I feel a bit ahead of the game in some ways of finding when things are happening and all the new ideas coming in.”

“This is my most useful meeting that I really try to prioritise because it's where you can really join up as a partnership and I learn so much from these meetings. They are invaluable.”