**Norwich LSCG Meeting – Minutes and Actions**

**Date:** 8 July 2025  
**Location:** City Hall, Norwich  
**Topic:** Domestic Abuse, Housing, and Homelessness  
**Chair:** Josie Wells  
**Attachments:** Presentation Slides (Lucy Barnes)

**Attendees:**

* **Mark Osborn**– Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership
* **Josie Wells** – Head of Service: City and South, Children’s Services
* **Lucy Barnes** – Early Intervention Officer, City Council
* **Kevin Howard** – Commissioning Manager, Norfolk County Council
* **Anna-Lisa Puricelli** – Border Force
* **Caroline Hill** – The Magdalen Group
* **Sarah Healey** – Matthew Project
* **Jules Prior** – NHS
* **Carole Jacques** – Headteacher, Earlham Nursery School
* **Jade Hunter** – West Earlham Infant and Nursery School

1. **Domestic Abuse and Housing Overview**

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**Presented by:** Lucy Barnes (City Council)

* Overview of City Council’s role in domestic abuse (DA), homelessness, and housing.
* City Council manages 14,000 homes and retains its own housing stock.
* Environmental Protection covers graffiti, noise, vermin, food safety, etc.
* Safeguarding is embedded across all council services and includes collaboration with police (e.g. use of camera footage).
* Events support includes safeguarding processes such as lost child protocols.
* Emphasis on evolving safeguarding needs, including contextual safeguarding and exploitation.

**Key Points:**

* Contracted staff are trained to act as safeguarding eyes and ears.
* Interlinking of DA, homelessness, and housing discussed.
* 5 new safe spaces developed across 7 districts, in addition to 7 existing provisions.
* Support for perpetrators is being developed alongside survivor-focused interventions.
* Working towards DAHA Gold/Platinum accreditation.
* **Discussion around challenges of abusive partners in joint tenancies**—clarity of options and advice around rights to remain in the home is needed. Schools highlighted this as a key issue affecting children’s stability and school attendance.
* **Cuckooing** and exploitation of children and young people (CYP) discussed as a correlated and complex issue. Emphasis on multi-agency response. Lucy confirmed City Council’s commitment to being an active partner in these discussions and offered to be contacted directly. A contact list was shared with Mark.

**2. Children & Families Support**

* All cases triaged via MAS/CADS to ensure appropriate and timely support.
* Schools raised concerns that CADS does not always recognise CYP as victims of DA.
* DSLs feel their professional insights are undervalued.
* Non-verbal signs of distress (e.g. through play) are not being adequately recognised.
* Health representatives raised concerns about neurodiverse responses being mislabelled as SEMH, risking institutionalisation.

**3. Operation Encompass**

* Extension into Early Years welcomed.

**4. Homelessness**

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**Presented by:** Lucy Barnes

* Homelessness includes unsafe housing, imminent loss of home, or inability to access home.
* Early advice is key—84% of early-stage cases in Norwich avoid homelessness.
* Schools praised council support for families affected by private landlord sales.
* Shelter provides independent legal advice; council can assist with rent deposits.
* Support available for those with local connections elsewhere.
* Rough sleeper coordinator supports relief duty and extreme weather accommodation.
* Temporary accommodation is limited and costly; pregnant women face disproportionate challenges.
* 4,000 applicants on housing register; 694 aged 18–24.
* Lack of 1-bed accommodation affects care leavers—shared housing being explored.
* Overcrowding definitions vary; grants available for adaptations.
* Sanctuary Scheme enables DA survivors to remain in homes with safety measures.
* Housing First project praised for trauma-informed, wraparound support.
* Magdalen Group’s non-closure approach highlighted as best practice.
* Foodbanks identified as key contact points—training needs discussed.

**5. Service Updates**

* **Border Force**: Marked *World Day Against Trafficking*. Focus on identifying forced marriage and unaccompanied minors.
* **The Magdalen Group**:
  + Busy as usual; Rose Team supporting CSE cases.
  + Summer activities planned; Jigsaw programme delivering education on grooming, exploitation, and healthy relationships in partnership with Family Hubs.
  + *Doorway* may see more women on the streets during summer—staff reminded to check for signs of heatstroke or dehydration.
  + New **Women’s Health Champion** appointed to improve access to immunisations, cancer screenings, and health services for underrepresented groups.
* **Matthew Project**:
  + Increased service uptake during summer holidays.
  + Delivering a range of positive activities and trips.
  + Reminder: **Activity packs** available for families who prefer home-based support—can be requested via the Unity email address.
* **Earlham DSL Cluster**:
  + Raised concerns about inconsistent messaging around the **Graded Care Profile (GCP)**—schools being asked to complete in isolation without clarity on their role.
  + Mark queried what would help; **Kelly Waters** to be asked to provide clarity and reinforce the importance of school involvement.
  + Concerns raised about inconsistent access to **TAC meetings** and lack of recognition of schools as professionals.
  + Mark questioned whether this is contributing to **case drift** and suggested **JAGs** as a potential solution.
  + Discussion around the need for education to have a stronger voice in initiating these meetings.
  + Promotion of **community shops** and use of **geographical criteria** encouraged.

**Actions Agreed:**

1. **Mark**  to discuss wider referral opportunities with **Lucy Barnes**.
2. **Mark/Josie**  to explore development of **Father-Inclusive Practice CPD** for schools.
3. **Lucy Barnes** to explore additional **resourcing for accommodation** for pregnant and postnatal women experiencing homelessness with **Caroline**
4. **Lucy** to provide a **link for reporting rough sleepers** (included in presentation).
5. **Mark** to seek **clarification regarding GCP**.

Next meeting: alongside the Adult Safeguarding Partnership on **15 September at 10am at County Hall.**