



Leeds Safeguarding
Children Partnership



ANNUAL REPORT

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Chair's Introduction

This Annual Report evidences good progress with regard to the safeguarding priorities identified in 2018/19, along with comprehensive data from across the partnership, allowing me to take a very positive view of the quality and consistency of safeguarding in the City.

This has not come about by chance or 'happy accident,' but rather reflects the overall priority that continues to be afforded to safeguarding by Elected Members, senior officers, practitioners and all others. And indeed, formal independent inspection confirms my view that an outstanding level of provision and service.

I reported directly to OFSTED my view that Leeds values with regard to early intervention and restorative practice are now endemic within the safeguarding partnership, to such an extent that change of personnel, even at the most senior level, has not mitigated against this.

It would however be quite wrong to feel we can now 'take our foot off the accelerator' or be in any way complacent about the future of safeguarding in the City. A difficulty may be that it has become more difficult to identify areas requiring substantial improvement, as the standard overall has risen.

One consequence of early intervention, for example, is that the number of serious, 'notifiable events' in Leeds is comparatively low, and whilst there is compelling evidence that this is indeed a corollary of effective early safeguarding, it is likely that external inspectorial agencies and others may nonetheless view this with a degree of circumspection and scepticism.

The new arrangements for safeguarding following from the Wood review, now reflected in legislation and guidance, are in place in Leeds and were published prior to the required deadline. The new LSCP Executive is due to meet for an inaugural meeting in October 2019, and matters are in hand to recruit a new Independent Chair as my four year term comes to a conclusion.

Whilst it is the responsibility of the new LSCP Executive to identify priorities for the coming year; I would make the following observations. It would be wise I suggest to select a relatively small number of priorities to take forward, and my research with regard to 'early adopter' agencies would suggest that the average number of priorities selected is three. Additionally selecting at least one priority where tangible evidence of progress is

possible within twelve months will be of obvious value in establishing the effectiveness of the new arrangements for safeguarding, but will also be of great value as independent and testable evidence for the various inspectorial bodies.

Overall, given that the number of Serious Case Reviews/ Local Reviews in hand or predicted (to the extent possible) is low, additional consideration should be given to other opportunities to build positive learning opportunities into practice, such as that afforded for example through Appreciative Inquiry.

I would lastly identify two areas I feel would benefit from additional scrutiny; specifically young people who go missing (especially those looked after) and children and young people who are witness to domestic violence, as discussed further in this report.

In summary, I am delighted to independently evidence and confirm Leeds real progress with safeguarding, with particular recognition to everyone across the safeguarding partnership as a whole who has worked so hard (often over many years) to make this a reality. Thank you.

Dr Mark A Peel



Purpose of the report

This document constitutes the Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) Annual Report 2018/19 and provides a summary of the effectiveness of services in the city to safeguard children and young people and promote their welfare. The information contained within this document has been provided by partners.

The following framework identifies and summarises key issues for consideration and evaluates the partnership's ability to continue to drive change and improvement, and provides a summary of progress against the LSCP Strategic Priorities 2018-19 is below.



Maintain a clear Early Help Strategy

The Children and Families Trust Board have now set up an Early Help Board with a series of sub groups to support its updated strategy. The Early Help Board has representation from the LSCP and safeguarding partners including 3rd Sector. Regular updates are provided to both the CFTB and LSCP with a Performance management sub group established to consider both data and quality assurance.

Maintain strong safeguarding partnerships

The three key partners, in conjunction with the wider partnership, have agreed the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. Building on the current arrangements the partnership will be led by Executive representation and overseen by an Independent Chair who will also provide independent scrutiny.

Ensuring an appropriate response to those that seek to harm children and young people

In 2019 the government published its Child Exploitation disruption toolkit. This toolkit primarily aimed at frontline staff working to safeguard children and young people under the age of 18 from sexual and criminal exploitation, supporting their understanding and access to existing legislative opportunities at their disposal and to target specific risks, ranging from warning notices to offence charges and care orders.

The Lucy Faithfull Foundation campaign was promoted across West Yorkshire to tackle the online viewing and sharing of indecent images of children.

The LSCP Business Unit has met with Crown Prosecution Service and been assured that Section 28 (S28) of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999 (YJCEA) allows vulnerable and intimidated witnesses to video record their cross-examination before the trial. The process makes it more likely that a guilty verdict against perpetrators results.

Safer Leeds and the LSCP are bringing together a joined up strategic approach to tackling youth violence, crime and exploitation. This partnership ensures a joined up approach to tackling a subject that cross cuts across both children and adult services.

Tackling Neglect

Throughout the year the LSCP Neglect Strategy 2017-22 has continued to be implemented, with key highlights including:

- Practitioner Guidance updated and re-issued January 2019.
- Online neglect toolkit developed
- LSCP Neglect training updated
- Child & Adolescent Neglect; Assessing Harm, Securing Change and Measuring Success regional masterclass (J Howarth), January 2019
- Ongoing work to continue to raise the profile of Neglect.

Progressing the Risk and Vulnerabilities action plan

The Risk and Vulnerability Strategy has been updated and refreshed within 2018/19. Key areas of development include:

- Implementation of the Multi-Agency Child Exploitation framework
- A revision of Social Work risk assessment process & tools underway and a 'Partner Checklist' (used to identify risk / vulnerability early on)
- Innovative communications campaigns using social media which target young people and parents. Campaigns have received significant media attention.

Improving practice through innovative case review methodology

Review processes within Leeds continue to be evaluated and evolve to ensure best practice to support processes and identify learning.

The Appreciative Inquiry methodology introduced in 2018 has been used on three case files identifying, understanding and learning from good practice seen every day across the partnership and doing more of it.

Key changes to the approach of undertaking SCRs and LLRs across the year have included:

- Move away from chronologies to identification of key practice episodes through scrutiny of timelines.
- Practitioner involvement, at key strategic points within the reviewing process.
- Move away from "recommendations" to the identification of "learning points" within reviews.
- SMARTer Action Plans being developed restoratively with partner agencies to respond appropriately to learning points.
- Fixed pricing of authors / chairs.

About us

Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership

Our vision is for Leeds to be a child friendly city in which children and young people are safe from harm in their families, their communities and their neighbourhoods. Children and young people, their welfare, protection and the promotion of their best interests are at the heart of everything the LSCP does.

The current structure of the LSCP consists of statutory partnership organisations with responsibility for the safeguarding and welfare of children and young people in Leeds. It has a collective and corporate responsibility for fulfilling its statutory functions and for holding the system to account whilst 'holding the ring' on how the system works together. The Partnership has a series of sub groups, focused on key elements of the Partnership's work. The Partnership is supported by a Business Unit which facilitates the varied elements of the Partnership's work.

New Safeguarding Arrangements

In March 2016 the Government accepted the recommendations of the Wood Report 2015 which summarised the findings of a national review of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs). The recommendations in the report led to a change in legislation to the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 (WTSC), removing the statutory requirement of local authorities to have a Local Safeguarding Children Board.

As a result three key agencies now collectively hold new statutory responsibilities for safeguarding; namely the Local Authority (through Children and Families), Health (through NHS Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group [CCG]) and West Yorkshire Police.

Within Leeds the new arrangements will come into effect as of 30th September 2019. The Safeguarding Partnership will continue to be known as the Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) to ensure the well-established and recognised 'brand' is preserved.

The LSCP will remain an independent intermediary body with an Independent Chair, and will work with all agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in Leeds. The new arrangements are under pinned by the LSCP Learning and Improvement Framework.

Learning and Improvement Framework

The LSCP Learning and Improvement Framework (LIF) demonstrates how learning will be identified, disseminated and implemented in practice within a multi-agency context in order to improve outcomes for children and young people and their families within Leeds. The LSCP Learning and Improvement Framework is central to the LSCP Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements enabling not only a rigorous assessment of the quality of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements but how we learn from this to drive forward improvements to the safeguarding system and in turn, outcomes for children and young people.



Strategic Partnerships

The three Safeguarding Boards in Leeds (Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board [LSAB], Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Safer Leeds Community Safety Partnership) have been working together collectively to achieve a city that is 'Safe for All'. Work has been ongoing to highlight learning in a number of cross cutting areas across the city:

- **Violence in the Home**, including domestic and intra-familial violence and abuse, 'honour-based' violence and forced marriage.

The LSCP, along with Safer Leeds, have delivered briefing sessions and produced learning sheets which were based on findings from four safeguarding reviews undertaken in Leeds. The learning focused on six key areas:

- Coercive control
 - Assessments
 - Relationship breakdown
 - Men presenting in crisis
 - Family members as assumed protective factors
 - Complexity.
- **Exploitation** can present as multi-faceted for example sexual, criminal, financial, grooming, gangs and modern day slavery. Safer Leeds and the LSCP have been and continue to work closely to integrate its approach to violence, crime and exploitation and ensure this is built into a coordinated Strategy across Leeds. This has also linked to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and the Police and Crime Plan.

- **People at high risk of harm (living on the edge of services)**. People's circumstances may mean they do not meet the thresholds or criteria for statutory input, and not all families may identify themselves as 'in need'. These families can often be on the fringes of support but due to a number of reasons may not come forward themselves. This is what is known in Leeds as being on the 'edge of services'. There may be multiple issues from long term unemployed, emotional/mental health issues, criminality, and school exclusion.

The LSCP also engages with other strategic bodies in Leeds, collaborating with them and promoting key strategic plans in the city including:

- Best Council Plan
- The Children and Young People's Plan
- The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- Best Start Plan
- Safer Leeds Plan
- Leeds Safeguarding Adult Board Strategic Plan.



The city of Leeds

Leeds is the second largest city council in England. The latest population estimate is 761,000 representing a 12% increase over the last 10 years, which is higher than the average regionally and nationally. The population of children and young people aged 0-19 is 183,000. Within this, the number of very young children (0-4 year olds) has increased faster with over 10,000 children being born in Leeds every year. Leeds has a significantly higher proportion of 15-25 year olds compared to both the regional and national averages, with a total population of 289,000 0-25 year olds living in the city.

Leeds is a very diverse city, with over 130 nationalities included in a minority ethnic population of 19.9%. The proportion of pupils in Leeds schools that are of minority ethnic heritage has increased since 2005 to 28.1%, with a higher proportion of primary than secondary pupils being of minority ethnic heritage. Some 16% of pupils have English as an additional language and over 170 languages are recorded as spoken in Leeds. The largest minority ethnic groups in the city are the Indian and Pakistani communities, but more recently there has also been a significant increase in economic migration, mainly from Eastern Europe.

The changing child population seen across Leeds has implications for the demand for services, whether that is for school places, early year's provision, complex needs services or an increase in the number of vulnerable families requiring support.

The Local Authority area includes some rural communities as well as densely populated inner city areas where people can face multiple challenges. The Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) indicate that 19%, or over 150,000 people in Leeds, live in areas that are ranked amongst the most deprived 10% nationally. Around 25,710 children and young people, 23% of all those aged 0-16, live in poverty compared to 20%¹ nationally.

Cluster Arrangements

Leeds works within a cluster model, a local partnership that includes many of the organisations that provide support to children, young people and their families. There are currently 23 cluster partnerships within Leeds, each based around a family of schools within a locality. Within this partnership is a key strategy to support children and young people early on, to ensure that their needs are met quickly. The configuration varies in each cluster, depending on the services available and the needs of families in the local area.

The LSCP has maintained a focus on cluster working which has been evidenced in previous Annual Reports, however in 2018/19 the CFTB have undertaken a review of Early Help, establishing a multi-agency Early Help Board to refocus the partnership approach to supporting children and families to get the right support at the right time. The LSCP see these as positive developments to ensure that children and families can access support early on and within their community. A focus on local joined up Early Help services will support the approach Leeds has in re-balancing the safeguarding system to prevent children requiring statutory support.

¹ *Poverty Fact Book, data, information and analysis for Leeds 2018*

Partner safeguarding activity

Health

The health of people in Leeds is generally worse than the England average. Within Leeds about 20% (28,200) of children live in low income families, and life expectancy for both men and women is lower than the England average².

In Year 6, 19.3% (1,499) of children are classified as obese however Leeds is making significant progress in the reduction in obesity among children with rates among four and five year olds declining from 9.4% to 8.8% since 2009, while similar cities and England have shown no change. This reduction in obesity has been seen primarily among the most disadvantaged children in the city.

Leeds has continued to promote mental health and emotional wellbeing for all children and young people through its Transformation Plan³, a five-year strategic plan to deliver whole system change to children and young people's emotional and mental health support and service provision in the city. The plan incorporates priorities from primary prevention through to specialist provision and focuses on improving both children and young people's experience and outcomes.

The developments in Leeds of Mind Mate (mental health and wellbeing work with children and young people in Leeds) includes: the MindMate self-help website, MindMate SPA, a single point of access for many emotional wellbeing and mental health referrals; and MindMate Wellbeing Support.

During the past year, Leeds City Council (LCC) Public Health has commissioned a new 0-19 Public Health Integrated Nursing Service (PHINS), bringing together Health Visiting and School Nursing services for the city, bringing with it important opportunities to achieve service innovations:

- A single integrated nursing service for children from 0-19 years old. This will ensure that families get to see the right practitioner, at the right time, in the right place and enable families to continue to work with the same health practitioner over a longer period of time

- Co-location of the service into Children's Centres as part of Early Start Teams, to reach children, young people and their families in the heart of their communities, building on the existing integrated service model
- A new digital offer to children and young people (11-19) to access the support of the school nursing service. ChatHealth, a confidential text messaging service that will enable young people to send questions via SMS. The response may include brief advice, an offer of direct support from the service or signposting to other services
- Increased flexibility and accessibility to the service. Clinical staff will be available 8.00am – 8.00pm on weekdays and elements of the service will be delivered within these extended hours in order to better meet the needs of families
- Increased focus on improving coverage of the mandated contacts for those families who have been assessed as having greater need for support.

The new service contract commences from 1st April 2019. Both Early Help and safeguarding are key functions of the 0-19 PHINS service, and improved access to the service will maximise the ability of the service to contribute to the safeguarding agenda.

The Best Start programme aims to ensure a good start for every baby, with early identification and targeted support for vulnerable families early in the life of the child.

² Leeds Local Authority Health Profile 2018

³ Futures in Mind: Leeds Local Transformation Plan for children and young people's mental health and wellbeing

The LSCP recognise that when children are accessing good quality education provision they are safe, protected and have access to good quality support to protect them from harm.



The last year has seen excellent progress with the Best Start programme, a broad preventative programme from conception to age 2 years which is jointly led by Public Health and Children and Families. The Best Start programme aims to ensure a good start for every baby, with early identification and targeted support for vulnerable families early in the life of the child. In the longer term, this will promote social and emotional capacity and cognitive growth, and will aim to break inter-generational cycles of neglect, abuse and violence.

Key achievements across agencies under the umbrella of Best Start in the past year include:

- The Baby Buddy app promoted as part of routine care to all new parents. Data on the number of Leeds downloads is being monitored and used locally to support promotion
- An annual Leeds Baby week highlighting the importance of this life stage, promoting best practice and raising awareness of the services available to support families during pregnancy and the first two years of life
- Health Visiting Services achieved gold BFI accreditation with Children's Centres achieving Stage 1 BFI accreditation helping to ensure families receive high quality support to breastfeed
- Alcohol and pregnancy campaign promoted via Facebook and other social media to raise awareness of the impact of drinking alcohol during pregnancy
- The Specialist Community Perinatal Team has been expanded increasing access to services for new mums and the availability of training for other practitioners across the Perinatal Mental Health Pathway
- Anti-stigma campaign resources promoted via relevant Maternity, Early Start and Mental Health Services, plus online campaign targeting members of the public to encourage families to seek support when experiencing low mood
- A local partnership group established to oversee and support development of Leeds Best Start parent education offer
- Resources provided to key stakeholders to maintain awareness of the main causes of unintentional injury among the under 2's
- A multi-agency practitioners group established to promote speech, communication and language development and increase best practice locally.

Health Care Trusts

Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust (LTHT)

In 2017/18 the LSCP reported introduction by LTHT of the National Child Protection Information System (CP-IS) into unscheduled care pathways, assisting clinicians in unscheduled care settings to identify vulnerable children via a flag indicating the patient is a vulnerable child. By sharing data across regional boundaries, CP-IS helps health and care professionals build a complete picture of a child's visits to unscheduled care settings, supporting early detection and intervention in cases of potential or actual abuse. LTHT has now implemented CP-IS in both Emergency Departments across the Trust.

A review of data provided by LTHT identified that, in addition to data on emergency admissions and emergency department (ED) attendance, the Trust collected other safeguarding data that may be beneficial. It was agreed that LTHT would provide data on child protection medicals, mental health related ED attendances and patients admitted for mental health and behavioural disorder / intentional self-harm.

During 2018/19 there have been a total of 1057 ED attendances of patients aged under 18 years for mental health. A breakdown of these attendances shows; 22.0% (233) were for depressive disorder, 21.6% (229) were for intentional self-harm, 15.2% (161) were for anxiety disorder and 14.1% (150) were for suicidal intent.

Data on admissions shows that there were 1171 patients aged under 18 years admitted for mental and behavioural disorders/intentional self-harm in 2018/19. A breakdown of these referrals shows; 21.1% (248) were for intentional self-harm, 66.5% (779) were for mental and behavioural disorders and 12.2% (144) were for mental and behavioural disorders with intentional self-harm.

Admissions for self-harm have increased throughout the year from 49 in quarter 1 to 82 in quarter 4, a 67.3% increase. When looking at the age distribution of the self-harm admissions it can be seen that 85% (211) were for children and young people aged 13 to 17 and 14.5% (36) were aged 7 to 12.

It is important to note that some children may attend more than once in the year and a number of children may not be Leeds children. In addition some children who are admitted may also have initially presented at ED. In Leeds, children are encouraged to talk about mental and emotional health with professionals and are encouraged to seek support when needed, so the increase in numbers is not necessarily a reflection of a growing issue. It is also acknowledged that children often present to ED with various issues and that self-harm may not be the primary reason but will then be disclosed. All children are supported appropriately by Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) when they attend hospital for self-harm. The CCG has also commissioned an online counselling service which is promoted to people waiting to be seen by Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.

LTHT Safeguarding Team have strengthened internal flagging systems to enable the identification of people and their children who are identified of high risk domestic violence (DV) with more robust information sharing into the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Committee (MARAC) process and a flagging system in place on all victims and their children. This has enabled a citywide health process to be put in place and allows these highly vulnerable individuals and children to be identified and information shared appropriately.

LTHT Young people aged 16-17 years, who attend the 'adult' ED now benefit from an improved assessment of risk, through the use of an age appropriate risk assessment tool. This robust assessment for 16-17 year olds ensures any vulnerability or risk is identified and appropriately responded to within a child safeguarding context.

The risk assessment tool is now planned to be rolled out across other specialist areas and then into ward based areas in 2019/20.

NHS Leeds CCG

The CCG MindMate and Future in Mind programme have been making great strides to improve the support available to children and young people. Meanwhile the CCG have ensured that the profile of [MindWell](#) is raised, as well as funding services such as Teen Connect to support children and young people in distress, with a single point of access to simplify referrals.

The CCG Children's Commissioning Team has also worked with CAMHS to significantly reduce waiting times for autism assessments so that children with the most complex needs are assessed quickly to inform and support care needs.

Work has been ongoing with GPs to raise awareness of the implications of vulnerable people not being brought to health care appointments, including safeguarding implications. Recording of a child as not having been brought, rather than not attending an appointment, has been encouraged in order to allow the recognition of patterns and further follow up as appropriate. This is informing a wider piece of work across the partnership.

Leeds York Partnership Foundation Trust (LYPFT)

LYPFT has embedded safeguarding supervision for all level 3 staff, which is being strengthened through group sessions in prioritised areas (as identified by the CQC inspection) using the Morrison's 4x4x4 model of supervision. It is planned to widen this to specialist areas and inpatient areas.

During 2018/2019 the CCG and providers across the health economy have continued to work together to promote safeguarding. Safeguarding Week was used as an opportunity for all practitioners to think about safeguarding and this year, partners from the health economy collaborated to promote the same safeguarding messages across their organisations. Members of staff in all organisations, including members of the CCG governing body, were approached to make a pledge and comment on: "what does safeguarding mean to me" and with the help of social media the hashtag trended on Twitter and Facebook.



Education and Early Years

The LSCP facilitates an Education Reference Group which brings together representatives from across different education establishments to support the development and co-production of a safeguarding assurance, improvement and development 'offer' for education establishments in order to:

- Improve the welfare and safety of children and young people
- Provide assurance for establishments and the LSCP of the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements and practice
- Provide support to school and further education representatives to ensure that:
 - Representatives have a constituency to relate to among establishments schools
 - The LSCP is aware of key safeguarding issues and challenges faced by educational establishments
 - Emerging safeguarding issues are communicated effectively to all educational establishments.

In recognition of the importance of early years in establishing good foundation pre education, and the importance of strong transition into education from 2019/20 the remit of the group will broaden to include representatives from this sector.

Early Years

Leeds is a city that values children and young people and wants all children to have the best start in life. The city has protected its network of Children's Centres which are fully integrated with Health Visitors and closely linked to a range of wider public and voluntary sector services.

There are currently 52 Children's Centres in Leeds, 30 of which are led by the Local Authority and 22 that are led by schools, providing children and families a valuable local resource to receive support and help across a range of issues. There were 10 Ofsted inspections of Children's Centres in Leeds during 2018/19 with six judged as 'Good' and four judged as 'Outstanding'.

Ofsted judgements on Early Years' providers show that 85% of domestic and non-domestic child minders inspected in Leeds were judged either 'Good' or 'Outstanding. Early Years settings that are judged inadequate are visited and supported by the LCC ISU Education and Early Start Safeguarding Unit.

As previously stated Children's Centres achieved Stage 1 BFI accreditation helping to ensure families receive high quality support to breastfeed.

Education

The LSCP recognise that when children are accessing good quality education provision they are safe, protected and have access to good quality support to protect them from harm; Leeds Local Authority has worked well with school leaders to build a diverse community of high quality schools. There are 222 primary, 44 secondary schools, 5 LA maintained Special Inclusion Learning Centres and 4 special or alternative provisions.

Leeds has 73 Academy schools (independent, state-funded schools, which receive their funding directly from central government, rather than through a local authority). In comparison there are 193 Maintained Schools (overseen, or 'maintained', by the Local Authority), and while the number of academies in England is expanding, the majority of state schools in Leeds are maintained schools.

Ofsted judgements of schools show that the vast majority of schools in Leeds are judged either 'Good' or 'Outstanding'.

As a major city Leeds also has a wide range of great further education colleges and three universities with internationally recognised research and teaching; University of Leeds, Leeds Beckett University and Trinity Leeds University.

The number of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) continues to fall (9.1 in 2017 to 6.7 in 2018).

Governance in Schools

The Leeds Annual Review Monitoring return is a self-reporting compliance document which supports schools in ensuring safeguarding arrangements are robust and in line with LSCP S11 audit standards. In 2018/19 there was a 100% return rate, all of which

were counter-signed by the Chair of the requisite governing body. Schools are advised to share the returns with the full Governing Body as part of their own safeguarding quality assurance processes.

Educational attainment is one of the obsessions of the Leeds Children and Young People's Plan. Some children and young people face particular challenges in getting the most out of education, with research and national data highlighting that children from deprived families and communities, children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, Children in Need and those with Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic are all more likely to do less well than their peers. In Leeds, although improvements have been seen in outcomes for the most vulnerable learners, the performance is still below that of other areas of the country. In improving educational outcomes for all, there needs to be a continued drive to narrow the gap between vulnerable learners and other children and young people in the city.

The implementation of the Leeds Learning for Life Strategy resulted in an improvement in the results at the end of primary school and GCSE results are also much improved, and with a determination to continue to build on this progress. However, outcomes for children in the early years foundation stage are among the lowest in the country and the proportion of young people remaining in learning and achieving good qualifications by age 19 is too low. Leeds have committed to significantly improve outcomes in all of these areas, so that all children and young people in Leeds, at every stage of their education, are supported to reach their potential.

Electively Home Educated (EHE)

An Association of Directors of Children and Families survey in 2018 found that across the 106 councils which responded, around 40,000 children were being home educated. The survey suggests around 58,000 children were being home educated across England as a whole and that 80,000 children could be being home educated at some point during the school year as they may dip in and out of accessing school provision. The precise figures are unknown due to parents not having to register children who are home-educated, resulting in councils using various other sources to estimate the numbers.

As in previous years Leeds has continued to see a rise in the number of new notifications of children becoming electively home educated, with over 800

children registered as EHE at some time. It is of particular note that some children figure more than once in the year. To date 2019 looks to be similar with 504 children registered as being EHE as of February 2019, and over 300 new notifications and over 200 closures.

While each case is unique, there are some clear trends presenting such as more cases have had previous social care involvement at some time prior to EHE. It also appears that more young people becoming home educated may have free school meal eligibility.

The number of closures seems partially due to the closer working of the EHE Team and Attendance Team, with work to stream line the processes where there has been little or no evidence of a suitable education for the child's age, aptitude and special needs if any. This has led to 128 referrals for school attendance orders, resulting in 62 children returned to school and 66 currently being supported to either provide more evidence of a suitable plan for education or moving to school return. No cases have yet gone to court but attendance officer support has enabled a process of escalation, much of which is in line with the updated DFE Guidelines⁴ for local authorities published in April 2019.

In Leeds there remains a continued focus on the safety and wellbeing of EHE children with a specialist teacher working directly with those on a CIN(Child in Need)/CPP(Child Protection Plan) or experiencing mental health issues to enable swift supported return to school or to appropriate educational provision (e.g. Medical Needs Teaching Service). There is also a relentless focus on literacy and numeracy and whether the child is socially integrated with other children and activities.

The majority of children educated at home receive good support from their family and other networks however there are a growing number of children who are taken off school role without having appropriate educational and welfare support.

An independent citywide review, currently being taken forward in the City by the LSCP, LSAB and Safer Leeds Executive, is likely to offer opportunity for honest reflection around the balance of rights and responsibilities around home education and safeguarding, which we await with interest.

⁴ *Elective Home Education. Departmental guidance for local authorities April 2019*

Children Missing Education (CME)

All children, regardless of their circumstances, are entitled to a full time education which is suitable to their age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs they may have, however there are many reasons why children and young people do not routinely access school provision and go missing from education (Children Missing Education - CME). CME are at significant risk of underachieving, being victims of abuse, and becoming NEET later on in life.

In Leeds, cases are designated either:

- 'Missing from Education' (where the whereabouts of the child at the point of referral is unknown). These children could either be in another part of the UK or have left the UK.

or

- 'Out of Education' (children known to be in the city but who are without a school place). These are almost entirely children new to Leeds or the UK, or the very small cohort of children who have previously lived in Leeds and have returned.

Total referrals for the period 2018/19 were 2887 which 1503 were made up of children missing from education and 1380 being out of education. The total number of cases closed for the same period was 2881. The average length of time cases were open for was just 3.2 months

The number of cases referred and the number of cases closed are almost identical. This does not mean that all cases referred in this period were closed in this period. Some of the closed cases will have been referred before April 2018 and some of the cases referred will have remained open beyond April 2019. What it does show is that the case closure rate matches that of new referrals.

A dedicated team within Children and Families effectively monitor and support children and families back into the school system.

Broader Educational Challenges

The link between school exclusion, reduced timetables and alternative educational settings and an increased risk of exploitation is an issue that has been raised within the partnership and is currently attracting significant national interest. A baseline audit was agreed by RVSG to give an indication of the picture in Leeds and to highlight potential areas to follow up to provide assurance to the Partnership on this complex issue.

The findings from this audit confirm that children who are at risk of being exploited are likely to experience significant and multiple risks and vulnerabilities. The audit sample was based on children deemed to be at risk of exploitation and the audit found that aspects of educational provision were significant for this group of children, including being excluded from school, moving schools and being assessed as needing additional learning support.

This priority area will be taken forward and will include the LSCP Education Reference Group the LSCP Risk and Vulnerabilities Strategic Sub Group and other relevant strategic partnerships.



Secure Estates

Leeds is host to two secure settings for young people.

Adel Beck

Adel Beck is a purpose built, mixed gender Secure Children's Home, and provides secure accommodation for up to 24 young people aged between 10 and 17 years old who are either placed there because they have been remanded or sentenced to custody, or for concerns about their welfare. The home comprises three 8-bedded house units. Of the 24 available places, 16 are contracted to the Youth Justice Board (YJB), allowing eight for local authority purchase or further YJB requirement. If available, beds can also be accessed under the Police and Criminal Evidence

Act (PACE) 1984. It is the most technologically advanced secure children's home in the UK and provides a child friendly environment, with enhanced safety and security for children and young people with extremely complex and challenging behaviour.

As in 2016, Ofsted have judged Adel Beck as 'outstanding' in 2017 noting that the home is run by a strong, cohesive and highly effective leadership team. They are aspirational leaders and well organised in their efforts to drive an improvement agenda that gives young people's needs, safety and wellbeing the highest priority."

Wetherby Young Offenders Institute (YOI)

Wetherby YOI is one of four establishments the YJB commission from the National Offender Management Service to provide specialist custodial places for young people aged 15 - 18. All living accommodation is in single occupancy cells. The living accommodation is split into 5 living units each housing 60 young people.

In addition Wetherby YOI hosts the Keppel Unit, an enhanced needs unit holding up to 48 young people. This is a national resource and looks after young people who find it difficult to manage in normal secure accommodation due to a range of issues including learning, physical and mental health issues. These are some of the most vulnerable and challenging young people securely accommodated in the country.

During the period 2015 to 2017 Wetherby YOI has undergone a period of substantial change with the decommissioning of Hindley YOI, resulting in a very significant increase in the number of residents. One impact of this was a spike of violence seen within the setting, however, most of this is not serious and that this is well managed through effective intervention by staff.

A Safer Custody Analyst was introduced in August 2018. This member of staff is responsible for interviewing all young people involved in bullying incidents. In addition, they complete a violence reduction analysis in order to provide an executive summary of all occurrences. One to one interviews with those involved in acts of violence has been introduced and the Behaviour Management Policy will be updated to outline the governance guidance for those subject to restricted regimes. The governance arrangements within this document will be based on either national Young Offender Institution segregation governance arrangements and/or bespoke individualised plans. Those subject to such arrangements will be the subject of a weekly meeting chaired by the Deputy Governor, whereby progressive/supportive actions will be discussed, developed and agreed.

The local 'Use of Force' training package was reviewed to provide increased emphasis on de-escalation, the use of Body Worn Video Cameras, and the extreme circumstances where pain-inducing techniques are legally permitted. A daily governance/management check will be introduced to be completed by the duty governor or orderly officer to review every incident of Use of Force and any concerns are escalated accordingly.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) undertook an inspection in March 2018 and found that real progress had been made from the previous HMIP inspection in 2017. Behaviour management programmes had improved and disproportionate security restrictions, which were observed at the last inspection in 2017, had been lifted.

In 2019 a further inspection by HMIP in March 2019 noted that *'Overall Wetherby continues to be a well-led institution, run by a confident staff group delivering useful outcomes for children. We observed considerable initiative and energy and a very evident commitment to ongoing improvement. We have made a small number of recommendations which we hope will assist this process'*

Weekly, multi-agency safeguarding meeting was noted to be well attended and dealt effectively with all operational safeguarding issues from the previous week. This meeting formed the basis of a monthly meeting which was more strategic in focus, coordinating all actions into a plan which was reviewed at the next meeting (see paragraph 1.35). The quarterly meeting with community partners was not so well focused, although this had been noted and the agenda revised for future events. In addition, the governor sat on the Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership (LCSP) which met quarterly. This comprehensive meeting structure delivered effective actions which were reviewed internally and externally, helping to forge good relationships with the LCSP and local authority designated officer (LADO).'

These encouraging improvements are a clear sign that Wetherby YOI are addressing the difficulties they have experienced, and adjusting to the greater size and complexity of the new establishment, with the LSCP Secure Settings subgroup and the Independent Chair closely monitoring and supporting improvements.

Over the past year the LSCP Independent Chair has met with the small group of LSCB Independent Chairs who also have YOI secure establishments within their area. The purpose of this was to maintain a national overview of new developments within YOI establishments across the country and coming to a collective understanding of any emerging concerns or risks that could collectively be represented to the YJB, and if necessary, government. Work has also been undertaken to develop a simple indicative tool that can be used to assess the standard of safeguarding across the estate as a whole (i.e. not specific to individual YOI's) drawn from the annual data produced by the YJB. The objective being to calculate a simple annual index figure year on year, indicative of improvement or decline around safeguarding outcomes in the sector, and in so doing raise the general profile of safeguarding issues across the secure estate, and indeed more widely. This work was presented at the Annual Conference for LSCB Independent Chairs in 2018, and is ongoing.



Crime

West Yorkshire Police, and specifically Leeds as a district, were subject to an inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services inspection on Crime Data Integrity (CDI), at the beginning of 2019, for which a rating of 'outstanding' was awarded.

Notwithstanding this rating, CDI is not without areas for continual improvement and monitoring, especially around the crime recording of serious sexual offences (including rape and non-recent sexual offences) and domestic offences (especially stalking and harassment, and coercive and controlling behaviour). Improving compliance around such offences as a district and safeguarding department is likely, in significant part, to have contributed to increases in these crime types.

Domestic incidents (with some seasonal variations) appear to have plateaued in the last 12 months, averaging 1,850 incidents per month for the district. Crimes recorded from these incidents has however increased by 40% (between May 2018 and April 2019). The number of crimes resulting in charges have remained relatively stable (therefore a percentage decrease), and the rate of victim non-support/cooperation has increased, at both investigation and post-charge stages, illustrating the importance of victim support and encouragement during the criminal justice process.

Although within Leeds there has been a rise in overall recorded crime (crimes recorded in 2017 were up 11.7% on the previous year) the proportion of incidents with a child present is relatively stable, and the number of recorded DV and abuse incidents in Leeds during 2018/19 where children were present saw a slight decrease (1.7%). Of the total number of DV and abuse incidents reported (2176) a child was present in 26.3% of incidents, and of these alcohol was involved in 6.5% of incidents and drugs were involved in 2.1%.

Work regarding DV and abuse, and the effect it has on children, is a clear strength of the Local Authority and the issues are well understood across the partnership. The daily MARAC meeting within the Front Door supports robust multi-agency information sharing and response to higher level DV and abuse incidents. This reduces delay in families receiving a more detailed assessment of risk and access to services. This is further supported through the School Notification System which allows schools to be aware of any DV incidents pupils may have witnessed and provide appropriate responses and support within the school environment.

There is a systemic and multi-agency approach to DV and abuse including the Caring Dads programme; the planned DV (and substance misuse and mental health) specialist advisors in the Early Help hubs and, more recently, the commencement of restorative deep dive action learning sets focusing on practice where there is DV and abuse in families, was recognised by Ofsted in the 2018 Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS).

To support the response to DV and abuse the LSCP and Safer Leeds Executive undertook briefings for the workforce based on the findings from four safeguarding reviews undertaken by Safer Leeds and LSCP, to learn lessons and improve future responses to safeguarding incidents. These reviews (some of which will be published) all focused on incidents whereby a level of DV and abuse was evident.

Recorded rape and serious sexual offences have increased numerically year-on-year, with a reduction in positive outcomes. The reduction in positive outcomes is not therefore a function of the increase in incidents. This is due to a combination of CDI factors and a continuing upward trend in the reporting of sexual offences due to improving victim confidence. The increases are not, however, as great as the raises seen from 2017/18 to 2018/19, which represented a significant adjustment in crime recording practices. These increases do present resourcing issues to Leeds as a policing district and to partners as well.

6.6% of serious sexual offences in Leeds resulted in a positive outcome (slightly below the Force average) with serious sexual assaults on children under 13 years having the highest rates of detection. Excluding convictions from non-recent Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) enquiries in the west of the county, Leeds has the highest positive outcome rate for adult rape (male and female) in West Yorkshire, although they still represent a reduction in positive outcome rates from 2017/2018.

During 2018/19 there have been a total of 715 recorded serious sexual offences on children, this is a 10.5% increase from 2017/18 when there were 647 recorded offences. A breakdown of these offences shows:

- 229 (32.0%) were for sexual activity involving a child under 13
- 140 (19.5%) were for rape of a female child under 16 - this has increased significantly over the last 3 years from 96 in 2016/17
- 118 (16.5%) were for rape of a female child under 13

- 112 (15.6%) were for sexual assault on a female child under 13.

Nationally there has been an increase in reporting serious sexual offences on children over the last 2 years; these changes reflect general increases of all sexual offences. The Crime Survey for England and Wales suggests those, at least partly, are due to better recording and increased reporting by victims. However, it should be noted that increased reporting and improvements in recording alone are unlikely to be the sole cause of increased offences; for example, reported levels of rapes of female child under 16 have seen ongoing increases over the last 2 years, whilst levels of rapes of a female child under 13 fluctuated (increased levels in 2015/16 compared to 2014/15, decreasing in 2016/17).

Levels of “domestic” serious sexual offences against children appear relatively stable over recent years, however previous analysis (Serious Sexual Offences report, Safer Leeds March 2017) has highlighted increased levels of “peer-on-peer” sexual offences (where both victim and offender are similar ages), with increased levels of younger suspects linked to serious sexual offences in recent years. However, although levels of sexual offences occurring in residential properties appear to have increased, reports of “peer-on-peer” rapes often occur at the suspect’s address, without witnesses, leading to complexities around detections and prosecutions if allegations are denied.

‘Work regarding domestic abuse and the effect it has on children is a clear strength of the local authority and the issues are well understood across the partnership.’

Ofsted ILACS 2018

Missing from Home reports are down 19.7%, so far, on this time last year, representing a real success in respect of work done by CSE and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) partnership within multi-agency meeting framework. At present, around half of those going missing are children. 53% of those are aged 13-15 years (with an equal split of boys and girls) and 83% of those are not deemed to be at risk of CSE.

An emerging area is clearly around the wider CCE which is a feature being examined more closely and regularly within the Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) arrangements. First time missing processes have sought to reduce the chances of a child going missing a second time by early intervention of police and partnership, this is showing early signs of success, and is being monitored.



In order to manage allegations against child care professionals, every Local Authority appoints a [Local Authority Designated Officer \(LADO\)](#). These investigative arrangements ensure that any allegations made against people that work with children are appropriately followed up and thoroughly investigated. The LADO works within Children's Services and is alerted to all cases in which it is alleged that a person who works with children has:

- behaved in a way that has harmed, or may have harmed, a child
- possibly committed a criminal offence against children, or related to a child, or
- behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates s/he may pose a risk to children.

The LADO received 298 notifications during 2018/19 however just 54% of those were unsubstantiated or unfounded, 12% awaiting outcomes from other investigations and 34% which were substantiated.

Youth Justice Service (YJS)

Since 2014 Leeds has seen a 60% reduction in the number of first time entrants into the youth justice system. The YJS in Leeds are national leader in its efforts to keep young people out of the formal youth justice system and work with them in a more meaningful, voluntary capacity. The number of children in care that are known to the YJS has remained stable at around 5% of the total number of 10-17 year olds in care (760). The YJS has three embedded CAMHS clinical nurse specialists to ensure swift access for those needing support. Closer working relationships between the Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) has resulted in the implementation of the Joint National Protocol for Transitions in England for managing the cases of young people moving from Youth Offending Teams to Probation Services. This ensures amongst other things that transitions address a young person's/ young adult's individual needs and their safeguarding requirements.

Courts and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)

In keeping with the Child Friendly processes the CPS in Leeds have piloted the implementation of Section 28 of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act (YJCEA) 1999. The act allows vulnerable and intimidated witnesses to video record their cross-examination before the trial. Their evidence in chief is also recorded. The two recordings are completed at an early stage in the trial proceedings which allows the victim to come out of the process and not have to take part in the trauma of the trial, which often takes place some considerable time later.

Within Leeds the CPS report that:

- Around 200 young people have gone through the process, thus avoiding being present for the trial
- Young people have been able to receive therapy for their abuse at an early stage not having to suffer the anxiety and emotional stress of waiting to be called to court
- The nature of their evidence is much clearer and of higher quality
- Some alleged perpetrators have pleaded guilty at an early stage on seeing the recording, and it could be argued that the process makes it more likely that a guilty verdict results
- Good professional relationships have developed between the CPS and the police.

Child and Family Court Advisory Service (Cafcass)

Cafcass continue to make positive contributions to innovations and family justice reform, designed to improve children's outcomes and make family justice more efficient. These are formed in private law by projects trialing pre-court or out-of-court path ways of resolving disputes; and in public law projects aimed at helping local authorities and parents to 'find common ground', thus diverting cases from or expediting cases within, care proceedings.

Effective safeguarding governance

Section 11 of the Children Act provides a framework for organisations to self-assess whether they are meeting their responsibilities to safeguard children and promote their welfare. The LSCP challenges partners both in terms of their response and any action plan that is developed through their self-assessment. It is clear that partners fully acknowledge the importance of ensuring compliance with Section 11 and clearly demonstrate improvement journeys since their previous Section 11 assessment.

Work is ongoing to support commissioned and non-statutory organisations that work with children and young people to complete Section 11 returns. The number of completed Section 11 audits undertaken with non-statutory organisations continues to increase with over 600 submitted from this sector.

As part of the review of the CCG Safeguarding Children and Adults Policy, revised safeguarding standards for commissioned services are to be put in place to reflect the Section 11 Audit for safeguarding children and regionally agreed commissioning standards for safeguarding adults. An audit tool has been developed to enable providers to evidence compliance with the standards. This will be monitored via the usual CCG contract monitoring arrangements and providers will be expected to develop an action plan to address any areas where they cannot demonstrate compliance.

The White Rose Framework (a consortium made up of 12 member local authorities brought together to increase the buying power for looked after placements) has adopted the Leeds LSCP Section 11 online process meaning Leeds have oversight of all Section 11 responses across the region where Children Looked After (CLA) may be placed. These returns are monitored and any areas identified for improvement are addressed locally.



Inspections, reviews and quality assurance

The LSCP, under its Performance Management Sub Group, has its own quality assurance framework which in 2018/19 included:

- Monitoring of safeguarding data across the partnership
- Reviews under the Appreciative Inquiry (AI) approach regarding a deaf child and a case highlighted by the Leeds Family Court
- CSE and Missing children audits.

The findings from this activity is regularly reported to the full LSCP and has given assurance that:

- High quality work is taking place across the partnership and across a range of children's needs
- Areas for development are identified and multi-agency action planning taking place
- Leeds is a city that seeks to learn and improve
- Outstanding Performance and outcome data has provided assurance to the Board on the 'health' of the safeguarding system
- Support to improve understanding and the development of key LSCP priorities and work streams, for example risk and vulnerability.

The LSCP also monitors partner's own external and internal inspections to gain a multi-faceted understanding of safeguarding across the city.

Ofsted

The recent Ofsted inspections have repeatedly confirmed that LCC is self-aware and committed to continuous improvement, and that where issues arise, strong leadership action leads to swift and effective change. This capacity to learn and improve continues to be vital because, despite all the strengths of the city, there are important areas for development where Leeds needs to improve to meet its own high standards and aspirations for children and young people.

In 2018 Ofsted undertook a further inspection of Children Services in October 2018 and graded Children Social Care Services as outstanding.

The report noted that Leeds Local Authority has invested in a range of services, including multi-systemic therapy (MST) and Family Group Conferencing to facilitate problem-solving by the family themselves. This is helping to prevent concerns escalating and diverting children away from more formal child protection procedures, ensuring that issues are resolved with the least intrusive intervention. Relationship-based practice is a clear feature of the work in Leeds, children are allocated a social worker in a timely way and, wherever possible, they remain with the same social worker throughout the family involvement. This facilitates the development of trusting relationships and reduces the number of professionals in the family's life. Social workers know 'their' children well, and children are seen regularly and seen alone.

It also went on to say that leaders have established a well-understood practice model that promotes child-centred work and productive working relationships between workers and families, as well as giving a clear overview of the outcomes desired. The Local Authority is a committed corporate parent that is ambitious for its children, that encourages children to realise their potential and that celebrates their achievements. Leaders are committed to continuous improvement, invite feedback and engage in innovations to further enhance services. This is reflected in an accurate self-evaluation and improvement plan, focusing not just on successes but also on areas where further work is required. Children in care and care leavers are encouraged to keep themselves safe

and there is an effective multi-agency approach to addressing risks such as sexual exploitation and going missing. Children are listened to and their feelings and wishes are acted upon. Those children who are unable to live with their extended family they are supported to maintain appropriate contact.

In March 2018 Ofsted undertook a national inspection of Cafcass rating it outstanding for leadership and governance of the national organisations and outstanding for leadership and management of local services. In addition, Cafcass also received a rating of 'Good' for the quality of both private law and public law practice with families. It was noted that children's experiences are constantly central to the proceedings; Family Court Advisors advocate well on their behalf to produce high quality reports that tell the child's story and that timely allocation and sharing early analysis with the courts, assist in preventing delay for children.

Care Quality Commission (CQC)

In June 2018, the CQC completed a review exploring the effectiveness of health services for looked after children and the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements within health for all children. Inspectors concluded that:

- The CCG has invested in additional safeguarding posts to increase capacity and resources in the Safeguarding Team with two additional named nurse posts. This has enabled additional support for safeguarding work within primary care and the work of the Front Door Safeguarding Hub
- The CCG Safeguarding Team has developed a record keeping audit tool across primary care. The team has audited the completion of GP's report writing and presentation of evidence to child protection conferences, improving the standard of defensible documentation and record keeping across primary care in Leeds.
- Leadership provided by safeguarding professionals across Leeds is good. The CCG Safeguarding Team provides visible and active leadership. The designated professionals for safeguarding children are proactive and influential in the city's safeguarding leadership
- The Front Door Safeguarding Hub has good engagement and participation from health through provision of a full-time CCG safeguarding nurse. This facilitates sharing of health information and effective liaison, which promotes the safeguarding of children and young people.

Following the CQC Review LTHT was found to have robust safeguarding arrangements in place and perspective recognition, and examples of good practice were highlighted within the review report. The review acknowledged the revised and strengthened safeguarding supervision process and safeguarding training within the Trust and recognised this as having a positive impact upon practice.

The CQC made a total of 36 recommendations across the whole health economy, including two for the CCG relating to the role of the designated nurse for looked after children and whether this should sit with the CCG or providers, and operational oversight of looked after children work.



The LSCP continues to provide a coordinated multi-agency response to safeguarding through the development, review and updating of policies and procedures for use by professionals across the partnership.



The CCG has led on developing an action plan addressing the recommendations with providers, monitoring their implementation, and to date a number of actions have been achieved including all CCG actions. All eight recommendations for LTHT have now been completed and the associated evidence submitted to the CCG.

The CQC Review recommended for all health providers and commissioners in Leeds, that safeguarding referrals to children's social care should be quality assured within local services to support organisational learning and consistent standards. The Safeguarding Children Team are working to develop a process to ensure that all referrals made to children's social care by LTHT follow a quality assurance process by 2019/20.

Her Majesty's Inspection of Prisons

HMIP undertook an inspection of HMYOI Wetherby in 2018 and concluded that it was reassuring to see the very real progress that had been made at both Wetherby and the Keppel Unit. It was noted as a 'good' inspection, with improved assessments in every healthy prison test at both sites, except for that of safety at Wetherby, which remained 'not sufficiently good'. The inspection also highlighted a combination of committed staff and focused leadership working together with, what in this case, was a clear common purpose.

The LSCP has had sight of the action plan that resulted from this inspection and noted real progress.

At the time of writing this report HMIP had visited HMYOI again however, the outcome of this inspection had not yet been published.

West Yorkshire CRC 2018

An inspection of West Yorkshire CRC in 2018 resulted in an overall rating of "requires improvement". It is noted that the CRC has good working relationships with the Safeguarding Boards in West Yorkshire and works closely with the local Police and Crime Commissioner, including good representation at meetings, where the needs and views of the CRC are heard and valued, which is reflected within Leeds.

It noted that there is a committed, skilled and knowledgeable senior management team who have a clear vision for service delivery. However, the inspectors felt that practice development for work on public protection and safeguarding is limited and evidence of sufficient planning to address child safeguarding or child protection issues and to keep other people safe was found in just under half of the relevant cases.

Learning from the front line

A programme of quality assurance, including interactive practice audits, multi-agency thematic audits through the Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) and group audits enables a focus on the quality of practice and the impact that it has had children's lives. (Ofsted 2018)

The LSCP uses a number of mechanisms to access and better understand the voices of front line practitioners. This includes conversations with practitioners within its case file auditing process, use of 'round the table' auditing and review methodology, hearing from participants within multi-agency learning and development courses, feedback through the agency representatives that sit on the LSCP and its sub groups or through practitioner questionnaires.

Frontline practitioners are also involved in the work of the LSCP through their contribution and involvement in delivering training, audits, developing policy and procedures, review processes and contributing to LSCP sub groups. Their valuable insight on frontline practice feeds into the LSCP Learning and Improvement Framework.

Review Processes

Review processes provide opportunities to identify learning from case files to improve practice and improve outcomes for children, young people and families. The LSCP undertake a number of review processes to support wider learning and improvements in practice within the workforce as well as how we can improve our support for families.

Appreciative Inquiry

Within 2018/19 AI was successfully piloted by the LSCP to support safeguarding practice reviews and to help understand and define good and best practice in Leeds. It provides a means of seeking assurance about safeguarding practice through a restorative and strengths based approach. To date the LSCP has hosted two AI events, each with a different focus. The first followed a Cafcass case review involving a young child who experienced significant neglect, the second focused on effective Early Help planning in respect of young child who has a hearing impairment.

The early indications are that our approach to AI can enable the partnership to articulate and describe what good practice looks like and what enables it, whilst focussing on those key practice episodes which help us understand how a case developed, and can deliver learning outcomes in respect of complex cases.

Participant feedback confirms the value of positive, supportive and reflective multi-agency case-based discussion and analysis leading to clear learning outcomes, which is reflective within all the LSCP review processes. In terms of preparation and facilitation of AI reviews, we routinely consider (with agreement) showing a photograph of the child at the event and discuss the appropriateness of writing a letter to the child about the event for their future reference.

Practitioners have also reflected how a work environment that embraces learning, development and high quality safeguarding support and supervision, influences professional confidence and judgement, along with the flexibility of the approach.

Key areas of learning were:

- High-quality information sharing and communication led to confident and inclusive planning
- The commitment of the service area (single and multi-agency) to ongoing learning and development; access to high quality safeguarding support and supervision
- Professional confidence; a flexible approach to role boundaries, professional judgement; a pragmatic approach to information sharing, flexing guidelines and pathways
- The role of the lead practitioner was instrumental in ensuring effective information sharing, communication and planning that involved parents and partnership working; service/organisational investment in, and commitment to, the role of the lead practitioner is critical

- The actual and perceived value of the Early Help approach was undisputed and provided a framework within which the child's needs could be identified and met in partnership with the child's parents. This included effective transitional planning
- Capacity is required across the partnership to provide effective Early Help support
- Membership of the team around the family was stable throughout and team members were accessible and visible. Professionals in varied roles all had a part to play in planning to meet the child's needs.

Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) and Learning Lessons Reviews (LLRs)

It is acknowledged that the proportionate number of SCRs within Leeds is lower than other local authority areas, however the notification process of Serious Child Care Incidents that may warrant a SCR is robust and has previously been considered by Ofsted. All Serious Child Care Incidents are rigorously investigated and independently reviewed by the LSCP Independent Chair to ensure transparency of processes and appropriate decision making. A further check and balance in the system is the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP), who review all child deaths. Any child death that happens in Leeds can be referred back to the SCR panel for further investigation if appropriate.

It is suggested by the Independent Chair of the LSCP, following the review mentioned above, that the reduction in the number of notifiable events, and concomitant reviews in Leeds, is most likely to reflect a 'knock on' effect of investment across the safeguarding partnership in early intervention, now historic and established in present practice.

Within the last year the LSCP has continued to progress its ongoing reviews (a SCR and a joint review), both of which have had associated court proceedings which have impacted on timescales. However the ongoing processes have provided the opportunity to identify lessons, which have been acted upon as the reviews have progressed in order to ensure a timely response to practice improvement.

In addition, a LLR has been initiated to identify potential learning with regards to parental mental health.

Within all of the ongoing reviews a number of learning points have been identified, and acted upon in order to improve practice including:

- Understanding and responding to the impact of parental mental ill health
- Effective understanding and implementation of a 'Think Family, Work Family' (TFWF) approach
- Effective use, tracking and recording of Concerns Resolution Processes
- Effective contribution of all agencies in the formulation of plans
- Ensuring effective communication of and practitioner understanding in relation to court processes and associated plans.

To ensure learning points are acted upon, multi-agency action plans are developed and monitored, and updated to the LSCP periodically in order to allow assurance of learning back in practice. As well as through identified practice improvements, learning is also fed back into practice through individual agency and multi-agency learning and development opportunities including training and masterclasses, SCR Learning Sheets and via the LSCP Bulletin. Where appropriate this has also taken place collaboratively with other strategic Boards such as Safer Leeds, and thematically for instance, through the thematic learning on DV and abuse which incorporated learning from four different reviews.

Work is ongoing in relation to finalising the arrangements for commissioning and undertaking Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews in line with the national guidance within Working Together to Safeguard Children and Young People 2018. These reviews will be aligned within a wider approach and set of principles for undertaking reviews to identify learning and improve practice across the city.

Involving children, young people and families

The LSCP continues to see good evidence through its audit programme of front line practitioners, using a family centred approach to support children and families throughout the safeguarding system. There is clear evidence of children and young people participating in Early Help Assessments and discussions between children and professionals following multi-agency meetings. There are further innovations to expand how young people, especially teenagers, are consulted and supported in developing their own plans throughout the whole safeguarding system.

Where appropriate the LSCP has spoken to families as part of its auditing programme, with one mother giving very high praise to services stating that *“the Early Help planning had made a real difference for her and for her child”*. The mother described a scenario prior to the Early Help planning where she would regularly maintain contact with the many professionals working with her child, seeking to coordinate planning, inputs, updates and differing views on her child’s progress, which was both difficult and exhausting. Having a lead practitioner to take these responsibilities from her was ‘like a weight lifted from her shoulders’, she had felt fully included and listened to, and as a parent felt better knowing that her child was getting what they needed. The stability of the team was important to mother as she would have been concerned that new professionals would not have understood the full and prior picture.

Leeds has a very strong voice, influence and change approach, especially for CLA and care leavers. Leeds have more recently established the Super Powers Group, a forum for participation for children and young people who are subject to CPPs and CiN plans, the purpose being to give children and young people a voice in shaping the services they receive from Children’s Social Work Service (CSWS). The group also gives CSWS some insight into understanding what it is like for children and young people to have a social worker and to explore children’s understanding of children’s social work involvement within their families.

2018/19 saw the development of the CCG Young Parent’s Action Group, which is co-chaired by a young parent which has helped make several improvements in services. These include a jointly produced pathway that clearly shows young parents and professionals which services are available and appropriate; the introduction of post-natal contraception delivered by teenage midwives; and the introduction of joint visits with teenage midwives and health visitors, to maintain and build relationships with the young parents.

In 2018 the CCG also carried out an engagement to understand what support parents and carers need if a child or young person they care for requires mental health support. The aim of the engagement was to get a better understanding of the information and support needs of parents and carers supporting children and young people with mental health issues, and to find out what parents and carers in general would like should they have concerns about the mental health of their child.

LYPFT are working to improve how the voice of the child is heard in the organisation. Recently young carers asked to be allowed to visit an inpatient ward to see for themselves what it was like. Unfortunately it was felt there were a number of safety and consent issues which stopped this being possible to facilitate, instead a film has been made showing all of the key areas and the young carers engaged with separately.

The LSCP has their own youth advisory group in the form of the Student LSCP, a group created to advise the Partnership from a young person’s perspective. You can find their full annual report on the [LSCP website](#).

Families lead the planning and support for themselves through Leeds Family Group Conferences (FGCs) (mediated formal meetings between family members which allow the wider family group a greater input in finding their own solutions to problems). This restorative approach promotes the family members as the decision-makers rather than the professionals. The ‘family’ is the primary planning group and is based on the full involvement of children, young people and their families in considering the challenges that face them and being supported to address them.

Partnership engagement and the work of the LSCP

Well developed and mature relationships across the partnership form the foundations of the purpose of the Partnership, which is to challenge each other and work together effectively. There are consistent contributions from agencies to the work of the LSCP at both senior and practitioner level. This is evidenced through the commitment to attending full LSCP meetings as well as ensuring the sub groups are appropriately resourced. This commitment also extends to the strong political support and priority that the elected members of Leeds puts on children.

Over the course of the year, changes following from the Wood Review of LSCBs, have been addressed with key partner agencies (Police, Health and Children and Families) developing the future safeguarding arrangements. This will see the three key partner agencies share overall statutory responsibility for safeguarding through consultation led by an Independent Chair. However it is indicative of the strength of the Leeds Partnership and the mutual respect and trust established between agencies, that it was possible to readily come to agreement with regard to interim arrangements across 2018/19 whilst new arrangements were being developed. The agreed arrangements served to protect existing arrangements and maintained good safeguarding practice in Leeds. They were deemed by each agency to continue to be strong, fit for purpose and reflective of the overall safeguarding vision set for the city, that continue to be the basis of inter- agency engagement, co-operation and partnership.

Multi-agency Learning and Development

The LSCP has a strong history of providing good quality multi-agency learning and development opportunities.

In 2018-19 the LSCP provided a multi-agency safeguarding training programme which included two core courses, a series of ten additional and specialist courses and eight briefings.

The LSCP multi-agency training programme successfully delivered a total of 41 core courses, 38 specialist and additional courses and 21 briefing sessions. This offered the children's workforce of Leeds 2400 places on learning events. While 90% of these were booked only 66% were used due to people withdrawing in advance (14%) or not turning up on the day (10%).

In addition to the ongoing training programme two specialist workshops were delivered by Emeritus Professor Jan Horwath on the topic of Child Neglect. 118 colleagues took advantage of these sessions.

The 6th Yorkshire and Humber Multi-Agency Safeguarding Trainers Conference "Safeguarding Children in a Digital Age" took place in November 2018 in Bradford. This was attended by 13 practitioners from Leeds.



A series of 'Thematic Learning from Review' sessions were delivered in partnership with Safer Leeds and LSAB. These sessions focused on sharing learning from four reviews (a Domestic Homicide Review, a SCR, a Joint Domestic Homicide Review/ SCR and Lessons Learnt Review (Safer Leeds), which all had a key focus on Domestic Abuse. 8 sessions were delivered and 197 delegates attended.

The LSCP training continues to be delivered by a multi-agency training pool, with 26 new trainers going through the 'Training for Trainers' programme to join the pool. A survey of trainers showed that they feel well supported by the LSCP Training Team and are keen to engage in further trainer development activities. In addition to this the LSCP commissioned O'Neill's Training Consultancy to support this delivery and ensure adequate cover for all training sessions.

The LSCP arranged for a 'Training for Trainers' session in Leeds to equip more agencies to deliver Safer Recruitment training in the city. This session was delivered by Carolyn Eyre on behalf of the Safer Recruitment Consortium. This ensures that those trainers are then equipped to deliver the national Safer Recruitment training programme both in-house and on behalf of the LSCP.

Quality Assurance observations were also undertaken in this period by members of the L&D Sub-Group attending a range of LSCP training sessions to observe both the trainers and the content of the courses. The feedback on trainers was wholly positive with just a few suggested changes to training content which will be taken into account in future training updates.

From April 2018 the LSCP introduced a charging policy. This included charging for attendance at training for those agencies who don't contribute to the training pool and charging all delegates for non-attendance at training. Funds raised from this have paid for the contract with O'Neill's and will pay for additional workshops such as those delivered by Jan Horwath.

Partner organisations have also forged ahead with their own internal training programmes to ensure that children are seen within the context of their family environment, TFWF training is embedded, not just in Children and Families, but also some adult services.



LSCP Multi-agency Policies and Procedures

The LSCP continues to provide a coordinated multi-agency response to safeguarding through the development, review and updating of policies and procedures for use by professionals across the partnership. Led by the Policy and Procedures Sub Group it provides a platform to ensure consistent understanding of, and response to particular safeguarding situations. This is further supported by regional procedures across West Yorkshire which, where appropriate, provide a consistent and coordinated response. Overseen by the West Yorkshire Consortium, these procedures particularly support partners who work across the region and for working with vulnerable children and young people who move from area to area.

There is a clear timeline for the revision of policies locally and regionally ensuring that they are up to date, fit for purpose and reflective of the Leeds approaches to working with children and young people in order to ensure safe and appropriate responses to concerns. In addition revision of policies may take place as a result of an identified need from local review processes or implementation in practice, which identifies the need for review or amendments (in 2018/19 an appropriate challenge was raised with the LSCP with regards to the implementation of one particular protocol for an agency in Leeds resulting in an ongoing review with the agency to ensure it is fit for purpose).

Within the past year the following procedures have been reviewed and revised by the LSCP:

- Guidance for the Relocation of Families due to Risk
- Intimate Care
- Bruising Protocol for Non-independently Mobile Children
- Neglect Practice Guidance
- Supervision: Policy and Guidance.

‘Was not Brought’

‘Was not brought’ is an innovative approach to thinking about children who miss health appointments where traditionally the term “did not attend” had been used. In changing the terminology from “did not attend” to “was not brought” health care practitioners have been encouraged to reflect upon a child’s ability to attend the health appointment without appropriate adult support and consequently consider what missing the appointment might mean for the child, as well as what additional steps should be taken to assess the risk of harm.

The LSCP, LSAB and Safer Leeds have embraced this concept and during 2018/2019 work commenced in collaboration with the CCG Safeguarding Team to help both the LSCP and LSAB consider how the “was not brought” concept could be widened to both children and adults at risk, for all missed appointments and not just exclusively health. The current ambition is for a joint set of “was not brought” principles to be developed to embed the “was not brought” philosophy across the city.

The City’s Focus on Neglect

The LSCP launched its Neglect Strategy in July 2017, to support the recognition and response to neglect of children and young people within the city. The strategy is initially for 5 years, and is underpinned by an action plan which is monitored by the LSCP Policy and Procedures Sub Group. The strategy has four strategic aims; Recognise, Respond, Quantify and Evaluate, around which the action plan is structured.

At the 18 month review point (January 2019) progress had been made on a number of actions under all areas. Progress in some areas (namely the Neglect Guidance and Online Toolkit) has been slower than planned due to capacity, however, this has been rectified with the Neglect Guidance issued in January 2019 and the launch of the Neglect Toolkit in July 2019.

Progress on the LSCP Neglect Action Plan (18 month review – January 2019):

In relation to the strategic aim “Recognise” an LSCP Neglect Training Strategy, including identification of training

based on job role; minimum contact checklist and Neglect Briefing Sheet to support in house briefings has been developed allowing agencies to ensure appropriate training pathways for their staff.

The LSCP Neglect Training has been reviewed and updated, along with the review of all other LSCP training, to ensure neglect is appropriately incorporated and referenced. This has been accompanied by a partnership questionnaire in relation to neglect training (issued January 2019) to support the planning of neglect training sessions.

Further ongoing workforce development opportunities have also been provided including:

- LSCP Neglect Strategy launch July 2017
- LSCP Neglect Conference September 2017
- Child & Adolescent Neglect; Assessing Harm, Securing Change and Measuring Success regional masterclass (J Howarth), March 2018 and January 2019

In addition there has been ongoing work to continue to raise the profile of neglect, including:

- Development of a guidance leaflet on neglect, for non-children services workforce
- Neglect focused “stall” at 3 LCC housing events
- Use of banners, email signatures, lanyards etc, to continue raising awareness of the subject of neglect.

To support the “*Respond*” strategic aim the Neglect Practitioner Guidance has been reviewed and updated (signed off January 2019). An online neglect Toolkit was developed and launched in July 2019.

Data analysis of the number of contacts to the Front Door where neglect was recognised, will form a basis for future planned auditing work.

A practitioner survey in relation to confidence levels, perceptions of impact and ongoing support needs, has been planned to periodically take place across the strategy’s five year timespan. A baseline survey completed in September 2017, indicated that overall levels of confidence in working with neglect were high (80% were confident / very confident) and were also high in identifying the signs of neglect (83% confident / very confident).

Confidence levels were broadly the same when working in both early help and statutory contexts (68% and 65% confident / very confident) respectively. Practitioners were most confident in working with physical neglect, but least when working with medical neglect. Practitioners also identified the most confident when working with neglect in primary aged children and least with regards to infants.

Whilst 92% respondents noted they were supported when working with neglect, and there was a range of support available to them, 50% felt they still needed more support, despite 88% stating that they received safeguarding supervision.

When asked about the impact of their work on neglect, 95% of practitioners felt they had seen at least some impact, with only 5% reporting little or no impact.

The survey will be repeated half way through the strategy (December 2019) and again at the end of the strategy (July 2022).

The “*Quantify*” strategic aim will look at the prevalence of neglect over the lifetime of the strategy. A data set (including contacts to Front Door in relation to Neglect) has been identified and data is currently being collated.

A neglect focused audit took place over summer 2019, the findings of which will inform further work across the whole of the strategy.

The “*Evaluation*” strategic aim will focus primarily on the impact and outcomes of the strategy. However to date evaluation of this aim is being informed by a snap shot of the take up of LSCP Neglect Training and associated evaluations during 2016-18 which includes the quality assurance of the LSCP neglect training. The base line practitioner survey will also feed into ongoing evaluation work when repeated at the half way mark in December 2019.

Campaigns and Awareness Raising

The LSCP's website had 33,921 visits in the last year, with 133,072 unique page views providing professionals, parents and children with up-to date information on safeguarding.

The LSCP utilizes social media to engage with its stakeholders and to disseminate key messages to its 1800 followers on Facebook and Twitter. The LSCP e-bulletin provides practitioners with information on safeguarding developments in Leeds and has over 1600 subscribers.

Throughout 2018/19 the LSCP undertook the following awareness raising campaigns:

Your Child campaign (4th Feb – 1 March 2019)

A partnership campaign delivered by the LSCP, West Yorkshire Police and the NSPCC, targeting parents/carers asking them to take 5 minutes to talk to their child about their online activity. Elements included a letter to parents, an online animation, a display on the screen in Millennium Square, audio adverts and social media adverts. The LSCP Chair also appeared on Radio Aire being interviewed about safety online.

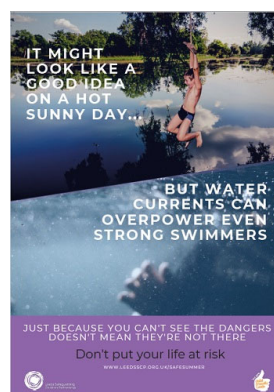
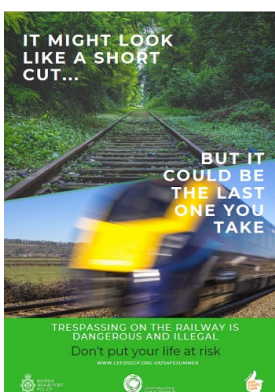


Play Safe (summer 2018)

Following the tragic death of a 14 year old boy in 2017, who had fallen through the roof of an abandoned building and 2 further incidents of young people being hurt from entering similar spaces, a successful campaign was developed and launched in 2017, to warn Leeds children of the dangers, not only of entering abandoned buildings, but also playing on railway lines and swimming in open water. The campaign was relaunched again in 2018, over the summer holidays.

Parents/carers and grandparents were encouraged to talk to their children/grandchildren about the potential dangers in their local area e.g.; open water, abandoned and derelict buildings and railway lines highlighting the following key messages:

- Abandoned buildings may be fun to explore but can cause serious harm
- Water may look safe but can contain hidden dangers
- Only appropriate crossings such as bridges or level crossings should be used to cross railway lines.
- Talking to your child about these dangers can help them stay safe when they are out on their own this summer.



Lucy Faithful Foundation campaign (14 March 2019 – 31 March 2019)

The Lucy Faithfull Foundation delivered a campaign across West Yorkshire to tackle the online viewing and sharing of indecent images of children. The campaign’s objective was to deter online viewing of the indecent images of children and to sign post to support. Funded by the Home Office, the campaign consisted of a press release, graphics, content for websites and a suite of online videos.

The campaign had a wide reach including 21 radio clippings across four local stations, three printed articles in local newspapers and a further 14 online pieces.

“Running away is not the answer” (December 2018)

The West Yorkshire Communications group (made up of Leeds, Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield Safeguarding Children Board’s, West Yorkshire Police and the OPCC) were awarded £5000 from the Safer Communities funding to create and launch case study videos to further develop the “Running Away is not the answer” campaign which was originally launched in 2018.

The campaign’s main objective was to prevent young people from running away and targeted young people aged 13-17, both male and female across West Yorkshire. The overall message was to reassure young people who are considering running away, that there is help available regardless of what their problems are, and encourage them to speak to someone they trust or to call a helpline as an alternative to running away.

Following consultation across West Yorkshire with over 100 young people between the ages of 13 and 17, including some young people who had run away from home in the past, a clear message was that watching a video of a real case study and hearing about a young person’s experience of running away, would make them think twice about running away themselves. The young people also stated that videos from a parents/carers and sibling perspective would also be a deterrent, due to seeing what impact their actions had on others. The funding was therefore used to develop two case study videos which were launched across the region.

The associated social media advertising resulted in the following reach:

Leeds

- Static adverts: 393 clicks / 23,608 reach
- Video adverts: 5767 clicks / 80,035 reach.

West Yorkshire

- Static adverts: 2,598 clicks / 195,000 reach
- Video adverts: 27,623 clicks / 380,000 reach.

In addition the campaign webpage on the LSCP website received 5,241 page views (the most popular web page on the LSCP website during the period of the campaign) whilst the campaign webpage on the West Yorkshire Police website received 19,324 page views.



Responding to risk and vulnerabilities of children and young people

The LSCP Risk and Vulnerability strategy outlines a focused approach and a robust multi-agency response towards prevention, early identification and intervention of children and young people, and the proactive targeting, disrupting and prosecuting of individuals or groups who seek to exploit, abuse and harm children. It sets out a number of strategic objectives that combine to explain how the LSCP will achieve its stated priority of progressing this agenda through the Risk and Vulnerabilities Action Plan which gives more detail of how partners will work together to effectively tackle child exploitation. Progress against the strategy and action plan is monitored through the RVSG and reported to the LSCP. The action plan has been updated following this annual review and progress update.

Children who are being exploited and who are at risk of being exploited, experience a range of other significant risks and vulnerabilities. This picture of complex and multi-dimensional needs is confirmed and evidenced locally through a range of sources, examples of which are included in the profiles below. The following risks and vulnerabilities are significant features for this group of children: missing from home or care, offending behaviour, domestic violence, learning difficulties and school exclusion. The picture is also one of many children experiencing more than one form of exploitation.

Children's Services are developing a sophisticated approach to the presentation and analysis of the relationship between types of exploitation and risk factors and the capability to show if / how these are changing over time. There is the potential to use this analysis to support strategy, interventions and workforce development.

Missing Children

West Yorkshire Police snapshot data (September – December 2018) shows that just over half the children reported as missing in the quarter are boys (51%). Of the 5,783 missing children occurrences in West Yorkshire, a quarter (26%) involved a child at risk of CSE, and of these, three quarters (79%) were girls and over half (60.0%) related to a child in care. Whilst some children are reported as missing frequently, the vast majority of children have the lowest number of reported missing occurrences: 68% were reported as missing once; 90% were reported as missing 1-4 times). Children going missing aged 16-17 were more likely to be in care (63%) than younger children. 62% of girls who are in care and missing were assessed as being at risk of CSE compared with 19% of boys. Approximately 80% of children reported as missing are of White British ethnic origin.

West Yorkshire Police CSE Dashboard data covering a full year from June 2018 to May 2019 shows a slight decline in missing episodes involving children with a Leeds home address and children with a West Yorkshire address. Across the region there were 22 children who each had 30 or more missing episodes over the twelve month period, of these 14 were female and 8 male. The majority of missing children found outside their recorded home district were repeat missing children. Just under a quarter of children reported missing over the year were recorded as being in the care of the local authority at some point. Over 70% of missing children did not have a CSE risk or Local Authority indicator.

At a Leeds level, the children's services database recorded 3004 reported incidents of children being missing from home or care, this relating to 1264 children. Of the 3004 just over half the missing incidents (54%) related to females which is slight variation to the most recent WY profile. Nearly two thirds of missing incidents (63%) related to children who have no legal status / are not known to children's services; a quarter of missing episodes relate to children on full care order or who are accommodated under section 20. Children placed in Leeds by another Local Authority account for 7% of missing episodes. Children in the age groups 13-15 were reported missing most frequently, this finding being broadly consistent with the regional profile and the LSCP Missing audit undertaken last year. Most Leeds children reported as missing have the lowest number of missing occurrences which is consistent with the wider West Yorkshire picture above.

West Yorkshire Police data notes that around 22% of children missing were looked after and 16% had a mental health indicator. Analysis states that around 12% of children missing during the period had been identified as

being at risk of CSE. The link between missing and exploitation is confirmed in an LSCP CSE audit where 10/12 children assessed as being at risk of CSE had missing episodes.

An LSCP Missing audit found that children reported as missing from home or care are evidenced to have a number of other associated vulnerabilities, risks and needs. Children were generally recorded as having been missing in the locality of Leeds, usually returned home themselves, and whilst missing, spent time with their peers. The majority of children reported as missing did not consider themselves to be missing.

Children's Services missing data shows that where the ethnicity of the child is stated, 75% are white British / white northern European which is broadly in line with the regional picture. In terms of where children reported missing were found (when known), most (96%) were found in the Leeds area with other being found in Bradford, Harrogate, Kirklees and Wakefield. Children were most likely to be found within two miles of their home / placement address in nearly three quarters of missing occurrences (73%).

The Return Interview Service offers an independent Return Interview to children who are Looked After and those without any involvement from the children's Social Work Service, last year in relation to approximately 900 missing instances.

The most common reason for young people being reported missing was due to a miscommunication between the child and their parent/carer, accounting for almost a third of the missing episodes discussed at interview. It is often assumed that going missing is based on a conscious decision to 'run away' but this is not the experience of the Return Interview service. Other significant reasons include arguments and problems at home, unplanned/unauthorised trips and truanting from school, which more readily fit the public perception of missing. Anecdotally, the service sees that some of the children who are missing most often are reported missing due to arguments or disagreements or simply knowing that their parents/carers won't let them go out and feeling they are too strict, this despite the parent/carer having good reason to not want them go to a party, spend time with certain people/friends, wander around the community or go into the city centre. The parents of the young people going missing the most feel that there is insufficient support available to them. Most parents of children reported missing are doing

everything they can and are at their wits end, some don't want support and some could be more proactive.

The service also notes that substance misuse or the risk of being involved in substance misuse is a common factor for those who go missing most often, and that generally substance misuse is becoming an issue at a younger age.

Children at risk of child sexual exploitation

Data produced by Children's Services shows that 169 children whose cases were open to children's services were assessed by a social worker as being at risk of CSE⁵:

- 8% assessed at high risk
- 41% assessed at medium risk
- 43% assessed at low risk.

Three quarters of the children were female (75%) and nearly three quarters were ages 15 years and older (72%). Most children assessed as being at risk of CSE were white British (75%) which is an overrepresentation of 10% when compared to the total Leeds school pupil population. 1% of children assessed as being at risk of CSE were of Pakistani ethnicity which is the largest underrepresentation of the total school population by 7%.

The group of 169 children included 72 looked after children and 17 children with a child protection plan. Other factors highlighted in the CSE assessments include CCE (18 children), Harmful Sexual Behaviour (17 children), learning difficulties (13), gang / group membership (7), trafficking / Modern Day Slavery (3) and forced marriage (1).

Snapshot data held at West Yorkshire Police level (September – December 2018) is broadly consistent with that held by Children's Services, showing that of the 157 Leeds children assessed as being at risk of CSE, 50% of the children were assessed at low risk of CSE. This pattern is consistent across most districts including Leeds. In comparison, 12% of children were assessed at high risk and 38% at medium risk. (For information, Bradford have the highest number of children flagged at risk in total (354), accounting for 52% of all children flagged across West Yorkshire).

West Yorkshire Police CSE Dashboard data covering a full year from June 2018 to May 2019 notes a steady

⁵ The Annual Report in June 2017 reported that 338 children were identified as being at risk of CSE. This cohort included cases that were open and not open to CSWS. The current figure of 169 relates only to children assessed as being at risk of CSE and whose cases are open to CSWS, it does not include children who are closed to CSWS, hence the difference in numbers.



decrease across the region in the numbers of children flagged at risk of CSE and in May 2019 the number was at its lowest for the year (down from 678 in December 2018 to 480 in May 2019). Analysis suggests this is likely to be due to a newly implemented process whereby children deemed to be at risk of child criminal exploitation can now be flagged as being at risk of CCE whereas previously a CSE flag was used. Bradford and Leeds continue to have the highest volume of children flagged at risk of CSE, with numbers reducing in both areas. This dashboard also states that 70% of individuals assessed as at risk of perpetrating CSE were judged to be at medium risk.

The LSCP CSE audit found that virtually all of the children in the sample had been reported as missing from home, care or school.

West Yorkshire Police data shows that 178 crimes of child sexual exploitation were recorded as having been committed in Leeds during 2018-19. Of these, 26 crimes (15%) were committed at least a year ago. It is worth noting that CSE crimes may have been captured and recorded differently, for example where there are other / multiple offences in relation to a child, therefore the numbers may be higher.

Children at risk of criminal exploitation

At present data is limited in respect of child criminal exploitation. This form of child exploitation has been seen as an urgent priority and changes made by partners to practice, process and data capture will soon yield more comprehensive information about this group of children:

- West Yorkshire Police have implemented a new process whereby children deemed to be at risk of child criminal exploitation can now be flagged as being at risk of CCE whereas previously a CSE flag was used.
- Children's Services have now included CCE as a specific referral reason on the Mosaic database.

Data shared by the Youth Justice Service showed that children for whom risk of child criminal exploitation was identified face a range of additional and complex characteristics including gang involvement, county lines, knives / weapons and domestic violence.

Children who are trafficked

Nationally, over 2100 children were identified as potential victims of trafficking last year⁶. The most common countries for children to be trafficked from are UK, Albania, Vietnam, Afghanistan and Eritrea and the most common reasons for children to be trafficked are labour exploitation and sexual exploitation.

Children's Services data shows that 17 referrals were made to children's social care about children for whom the primary referral reason was trafficking in 2018/19. Of the 17, three quarters (76%) were male. The

⁶ *Child Trafficking Facts and Statistics, NSPCC*

ages of children span from unborn to age 17, with the highest number (5) age 16. The ethnicity of the children about whom there were concerns of trafficking is most likely to be Asian background, Asian, Black African, Black Caribbean, Gypsy Roma (12/17), least likely to be White ('other White Background' 2/17) and not White British (no children). The ethnic profile of this group of children is in contrast to other groups of children at risk of other forms of exploitation.

In relation to the 17 referrals, the outcomes were mostly for child and family assessment (12/17). Other outcomes included further social work involvement and a strategy discussion.

Children and gangs

Children's Services data shows that 15 referrals were made to children's social care about children for whom the primary referral reason was gangs in 2018/19. Of the 15, all but one of the children were male. The ages of children span from age 5 to 17, with ages 15, 16 and 17 reflecting the highest numbers. The ethnicity of the children about whom there were concerns about gangs was most likely to be White British (5/15) with one other child from Other White background, and least likely to be from Other Ethnic Group, Other mixed background, and Pakistani.

In relation to the 15 referrals, the outcomes were mostly child and family assessment (10/15). Other outcomes include youth detention / looked after planning and a strategy discussions.

The LSCP is working closely with the Safer Leeds Executive to ensure that the children's element of the Youth Violence Strategy is fully aligned with the LSCP Risk and Vulnerability Strategy.

Children and knife crime

Analysis of data by Public Health in relation to all age knife crime shows a rise in the numbers of stabbing assaults leading to hospital admissions for Leeds residents⁷ and that very few assaults occur in children under 15. This rise is not seen as alarming though the latest data relates to 2017/18 and may not be picking up the current trend being reported in the media. Almost 90% are males and 44% are people in their 20's. Over half of admissions are people resident in deprived areas of Leeds⁸.

Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust colleagues based at both emergency department sites and ward L10 are piloting the use of a screening tool for 16-17 year olds that includes the question "*Are they or have they ever been involved in gangs, drug dealing or criminal activity?*" Data will become available as this practice becomes embedded. The Head of Safeguarding at LTHT and the LSCP are reviewing emergency department admissions to establish an accurate picture of the prevalence of knife crime injuries and incidents involving children.

Service data and perspectives

In addition to the data provided by agencies, services have provided other sources of information in respect of what is known about the vulnerabilities and risks of exploitation faced by children with whom they work, this providing more detail and adding a richness to our emerging profiles.

Analysis of data provided by the Youth Justice Service in respect of 104 open cases where CSE, CCE and Gangs were an assessed risk confirms the prevalence of multiple and complex needs and risks faced by this group of vulnerable young children. Of the 104 children in the sample the ages span 13 to 19 years and three quarters were males (76%). The ethnicity of most children was White / White British (75%), 13% were of 'Mixed' and 9% of Gypsy / Roma backgrounds.

Sexual exploitation was a feature for over a third of the children (38%), child criminal exploitation for a half (51%) and issues regarding gang involvement for 12%. Other characteristics for this group of children were numerous and

⁷ People admitted to hospital from Leeds district with stabbing assault as part of their diagnoses

⁸ Indices of Mass Deprivation 2015 Decile 1

varied, both in respect of the whole group and in relation to individual children. The actual or likely prevalence of weapons was a characteristic for nearly a third of children (30%), this was nearly always in respect of knives, but guns were noted for 2 children. 38% of children were identified for the Troubled Families Programme and domestic violence was a feature for 20% of children, approximately a third of whom were identified as a perpetrator of domestic violence.

Providers of CSE services work directly with girls and boys who are at risk of or are being sexually exploited. Providers report the complexity and interrelated nature of a wide range of risks faced by children with whom they work. Many individual children may be experiencing multiple aspects of exploitation (CSE, CCE, being trafficked) and vulnerability (for example going missing, mental health, domestic violence). The increasing prevalence of boys at risk of exploitation presents a challenge both in terms of the knowledge and expertise needed to respond to and manage risk, and in relation to the availability of support and services. Where a child has other needs, for example in relation to mental health, support can be accessed through routes that are not specific to exploitation. In these instances, it is likely that data capture is not reflecting exploitation which consequently remains 'hidden' in the data available. On-line grooming is seen to have increased in relation to CSE and the risks involved in contacting unknown people through social media (Facebook and Instagram) are evident. Providers are seeing an 'explosion of awareness' in relation to other forms of exploitation, CCE in particular, as practitioners are viewing exploitation through a broader lens, however we are cautioned against losing sight of CSE.

Providers see that exploitation occurs within many different ethnic communities and that this is not reflected in the data (see profiles above). Providers' knowledge of vulnerable children and their communities suggests that exploitation is 'hidden' as concerns about children are often focussed instead on other issues such as forced marriage, NEET, mental health; we cannot therefore be confident in the ethnic profile of exploited children.

Given the size and diversity of the city, providers (and others) question the comparatively low numbers of children recorded as being vulnerable to exploitation and that unlike other areas in the region, Leeds has not experienced an enquiry into exploitation. Assurance is given by the police that cases that have been flagged or referred to the police have been reviewed, however there remains a cautiousness given concerns noted above about exploitation being potentially 'hidden' in some communities.

Progress and work underway

Work continues to improve the quality of data through changes to systems and process, and these profiles should be considered 'work in progress'. The Children's Services child referral form continues to be developed and child factors included in it now include more aspects of exploitation and associated risk / vulnerability factors. The Children's Services Return Interview Service is now funded to offer independent return interviews to all Leeds children and changes to the children's services process now requires all return interviews to be noted on the case management system (Mosaic). This development will significantly enhance the scope and quality of Return Interview and missing data from 01/04/2019 and has the potential to provide a wider perspective on other forms of exploitation, risk and vulnerability experienced by children.

The new MACE (Multi-Agency Child Exploitation) arrangements focus on high risk emerging cases. This multi-agency approach is led by Children's Services and enables information sharing, risk analysis, the connectivity of push and pull factors and the complexity of risks. As the MACE model and practices develop, more information and analysis will become available in respect of themes, trends and challenges to the RVSG.

An overview of child deaths in Leeds

Chapter 5 of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 (WTSC) published in July 2018, outlined changes to the child death review process. The government produced a more comprehensive Child Death Review Statutory and Operational Guidance in October 2018 and set out key features of what a good Child Death Review (CDR) process should look like and the statutory requirements that must be followed. Leeds published its arrangements under the new guidance in June 2019 and through the commitment of the Partnership, a seamless transition into the new arrangements will happen in September 2019.

In Leeds our CDOP is committed to reviewing every child death in order to identify whether there is any learning to influence better outcomes for children and young people at both local and national level. The CDOP also influence actions that can be taken to reduce the number of child deaths in the future, as well as improving services to families and carers.

Findings from CDOP 2008-2019

It is worthy of note that due to the way figures are recorded the following is a cumulative picture of findings from 2008 – 2019.

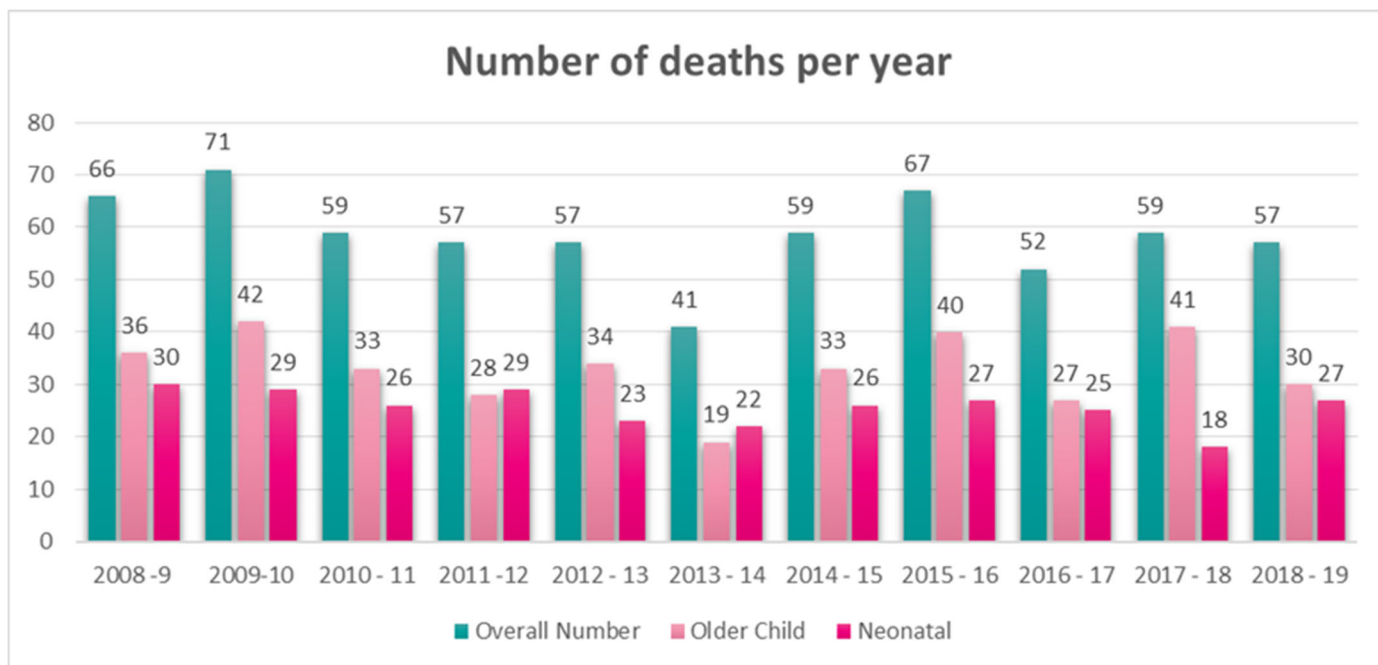
Since 2008 the predominant categories of neonatal deaths were Perinatal/Neonatal Event (65%) and Chromosomal, Genetic and Congenital Anomalies (28%).

From 2012 onwards, there has been an overrepresentation of younger mothers aged 24 years and under, and a slight overrepresentation of mothers aged over 35 years, which might reflect known risk factors for older and younger mothers. There has been an overrepresentation of mothers and babies from ethnic backgrounds other than White British. This was most marked for women of Asian (including Asian mixed) backgrounds, but also a feature for mothers and babies of African and Caribbean (including mixed) backgrounds. This pattern has been noted in previous CDOP annual reports, and appears to be a persistent pattern, which fits with the national picture. In the 2016-17 CDOP annual report, a specific analysis of CDOP data for ethnicity was included, which highlighted high parity and high body mass index (BMI) as prominent risk factors for women of Asian background; and late booking and high BMI as prominent risk factors for women of African and Caribbean backgrounds.

Smoking is a profound risk factor for neonatal death. The rate of smoking for mothers whose babies died was 23%, compared to an overall rate of 10% (self-reported) for Leeds mothers smoking at delivery.

Obesity is another known risk factor for neonatal death. Around 1 in 5 pregnant women in Leeds are obese (21% with a BMI over 30). A higher proportion (28%) of mothers whose babies died neonatally were obese. Moreover, the 2016-17 analysis of CDOP data in relation to ethnicity, highlighted high maternal BMI as a more prominent risk factor among women of Asian (53%) and African and Caribbean (45%) backgrounds. This finding was fed into a health needs assessment of maternal nutrition undertaken by LCC Public Health and has informed a developing programme of work with maternity services and other partners to address maternal nutrition in these groups.

Cousin marriage increases the risk of a birth disorder (6% risk) compared to unrelated couples (3%) and most of this increase is linked to genetic conditions which may cause death or long term disability. Around 0.5% of neonatal deaths were from inherited conditions linked to cousin marriage. However, approximately 4-6% of deaths among older children were from inherited conditions linked to cousin marriage. In most of these cases, there was no known history of genetic conditions in the family prior to the death of the baby, so they were not amenable to prevention via timely genetic counselling. The majority were therefore classified as having no modifiable factors present.



The largest number of deaths was in babies between 1 month and 1 year old (40%), followed by children aged 1-4 years (20%).

In older children, the predominant categories of deaths were: chromosomal, genetic and congenital anomalies (29%); sudden unexpected, unexplained death (13%); trauma (14%); and malignancy (11%). Overall trauma was a prominent cause accounting for 46 deaths (14%) since 2008 of which 28 were related to road traffic injuries, around half being pedestrians and a quarter passengers. 21 (75%) of the road traffic deaths were considered to have modifiable factors.

Since 2008, 50 Leeds babies have died suddenly and unexpectedly in their sleep, without an established underlying medical cause. Actual numbers fluctuate between 3 and 9 each year. Almost all of these babies had one or more modifiable risk factors present. The most prominent risk factor was household smoking (88%). Others were: bottle feeding (60%), co-sleeping (56%). Drug and alcohol intake by parents on the night of death was present in around a fifth of these deaths. It is not possible to ascertain any trend in this type of death because the numbers are small, but national data suggest that Leeds has an average number of such deaths compared to other areas.

Of the 199 deaths of older children reviewed since 2012, 62 (31%) were considered to have modifiable factors. The national figure for modifiable factors is 27% which includes both neonates and older children. The corresponding figure for Leeds deaths (neonates and older children) since 2012 is 28%, suggesting that classification by the Leeds CDOP Panel aligns closely with national classification. The greatest potential for prevention among Leeds deaths, as described above, lies with sudden unexpected deaths of babies and road traffic injuries.

A more in-depth report about why children die in Leeds and our response can be found within the LSCP CDOP Annual Report.

Children and Families who Require Support

Previous LSCP Annual Reports have highlighted Early Help as a priority area for development, ensuring children and families can access support early in order to prevent issues from escalating.

The initiation of the Early Help Board in October 2018 is providing stronger governance and multi-agency strategic focus, support and challenge to realising an ambitious Early Help Strategy which has the following three key aims and objectives:

- Develop culture and practice: improve Early Help by further developing culture and practice, across agencies in the city, to embed the Leeds approach
- Use resources in the most effective ways: review existing resources in the city in order to target and deploy them more efficiently
- Make smarter use of information for better outcomes for families: review existing approaches and systems for case management and data collection and management, to enable improved quality of available citywide Early Help data and quality assurance information to better inform service planning.

There is also now stronger leadership for Early Help with a new Head of Service within Children and Families and three Service Delivery Managers as well as additional capacity in intelligence and analytics and ongoing work to improve information sharing and IT systems across Early Help services. A newly commissioned family support service 'Family Action' is now in operation and working closely with the Local Authority and its partners.

Leeds Children and Families have invested significantly in an Early Help Workforce Development programme, including the successful roll out of the Level Three Early Help Qualification. Success to date has led to ongoing work to expand into a traded offer, supporting Early Help workforce development in other areas, with plans to develop the Level Four qualification.

Last year's LSCP Annual Report highlighted some tension between statutory services and universal services when managing difficult cases. The relationship between cluster leadership and CSWS leadership, on a locality basis, continues to strengthen resulting in stronger links between statutory and universal/targeted services, increasing confidence in managing risk in clusters through support with social work teams and effective escalation and de-escalation of cases.

To support this work a number of services work intensively in clusters to support families across a range of needs including:

- Family Intervention Service
- Mind Mate
- Educational Settings
- Family Group Conferences
- Safer Schools Officers
- Children's Centres
- A multi-systemic team supporting children with offending behavior, or those children at risk from neglect
- Leeds Strengthening Families Service
- Health visitors and school nurses
- Third Sector services such as The Market Place, Young Lives Leeds and BASIS
- Services specifically commissioned by clusters to meet specific localised needs.

The Leeds Troubled Families Programme (Families First) has been delivered through the existing architecture of Targeted Services and continues to build on existing good practice across the partnership including restorative and TFWF approaches. Troubled Families and the LSCP are working closer to further embed the TFWF approach in Leeds. In March 2019 Leeds was awarded continued funding for the European Structural and Investment Fund 'Stronger Families' programme, which works with families with lower level needs to help

them with education, wellbeing and work. Leeds is integrating this work within the wider child welfare system at a citywide and local level, using this funding as a way to drive and incentivise continued system reform and continued development of Early Help services and practice.

During 2018-19:

- The Troubled Families Team increased the number of families on the programme from 6269 (March 2018) to 8069 (March 2019), an increase of 1800 families
- 1644 families have achieved outcomes on the programme during the last year, of these
 - 1433 achieved sustained⁹ and significant outcomes
 - 231 achieved continuous employment¹⁰ outcomes
- Total outcomes went up to 4644 by March 2019 (with 67% of the target number of families achieving outcomes on the programme). Of these:
 - 3835 are sustained and significant outcomes
 - 809 are continuous employment outcomes
- 50% of families on the programme are from the top 10% most deprived areas (IMD)
- 68% of families on the programme have identified issues around DV and abuse
- 59% of families on the programme have identified issues relating to employment.

Leeds was also successful in its bid for “Earned Autonomy” status providing greater flexibility to transform Early Help services with payment by results funding up front. Leeds was one of only 13 authorities to be successful.

The Front Door

The Front Door Safeguarding Hub (the Leeds ‘Front Door’ arrangements) has two clear functions:

- Provide a ‘Duty and Advice’ function to directly receive contacts from practitioners and to offer quality conversations with them to identify an appropriate response, where there may be concerns over the safety and wellbeing of a child or young person. This includes assessing whether or not a contact should be considered for further assessment by CSWS. Duty and Advice also have Early Help Officers to provide advice where there are no safeguarding concerns.
- Provide a daily, co-ordinated and consistent response to DV cases. Key features of these arrangements include: improved information sharing and quicker responses to potentially vulnerable children. This arrangement now also incorporates MARACs.

Leeds recognition that continual assessment supported by conversations is the best way of identifying and responding to the needs of children and young people, and that a check list approach is mechanistic and identifies weaknesses, not taking into consideration the complexity of individual situations and can overlook strengths. This was tested and supported via the 2018 Ofsted inspection.

⁹ This is where a family has shown significant improvement against all of their indicator criteria, without regression in other criteria, over a sustained period of time, in most cases this is a 6 month period.

¹⁰ This is where family had been identified as having an employment issue (i.e. in receipt of out of work benefits) when initially engaging with the programme and who have since achieved a sustained period of employment of 6 months or more.

Health involvement in child protection work in Leeds and specifically regarding involvement in strategy discussion is 'good', based on strong partnership working, with health colleagues co-located at the Front Door. However in the 2018 ILACS report, Ofsted identified that there needs to be improved consistency in the routine involvement of health in strategy discussion and work is underway to provide more rigour and consistency, including the provision of two further health posts at the Front Door.

The CCG Designated Nurses for Safeguarding Children continue to attend the weekly Multi-agency Referral Review meeting hosted by CSWS. Data from this meeting is shared with provider organisations in relation to their contacts and referrals to the Duty and Advice Team at CSWS. In 2018/19 the health economy made 3399 contacts of which 1322 converted to a referral. These figures are comparable to last year with 2911 contacts with 1372 converting to referrals.

When a child's needs cannot be met by universal services alone, quality conversations strengthen and improve decision making and joint working to provide the right help at the right time for families. Leeds uses the term conversation opportunities to describe the phone calls and meetings that take place between those working across universal, targeted and specialist Services. These take place when it is felt that the child's needs are not being met and something else is needed to improve outcomes for the child.

The Duty and Advice Team have seen a 14.3% increase in the number of contacts made from 21,534 contact in 2017/18 to 24,629 contacts in 2018/19. The police made the most contacts over the year with 9509 (38.60%) of contacts being made by them, followed by other agencies (35.37%), Education (14.22%) and Health (11.79%). The number of referrals accepted by CSWS has remained in line with previous years and the 'rate per ten thousand' of S47 enquiries undertaken are 9.910 (compared to 8.6 in 2015/16 and 8.6 in 2014/15).

When looking at the outcomes of contacts made to Duty and Advice it can be seen that 10,930 (44.3%) resulted in a referral to CSWS and 13,701 (55.6%) resulted in other outcomes.

A breakdown of the other outcomes shows that 1172 (8.5%) were Early Help contacts and 12,371 (90.3%) had no further social work involvement.

It was noted that further analysis is needed on the outcomes that do not result in a referral, particularly the 'no further social work involvement' category. This category doesn't mean that nothing else has happened, but includes contacts that have been signposted to other agencies or where information and advice has been given.

A full-time member of the CCG Safeguarding Team is co-located at the Front Door, Monday to Friday, to ensure the full integration between primary care and social care. From attendance at the Daily Risk and Coordination Meetings, the CCG Safeguarding Team have developed and implemented a process that notifies GPs of DV and abuse concerns for all victims identified at the meetings. The police also have officers co-located to ensure that there is an appropriate multi-agency approach to risk and assessment.

Schools are also notified, by the next day, of any DV call outs from the police where children are present. This ensures a quick response to ensure children are supported appropriately.

Most recently CSWS Emergency Duty Team has moved to become co-located with the police at the Elland Road Police District Headquarters. This will allow improved early information sharing and better joint decision making to protect vulnerable children in the city.

In 2018 the Performance Management Sub Group coordinated an audit in relation to the children's 'Front Door', the focus of which has been to look at the experience of people who contacted the Front Door and outcomes following that contact. This audit comprised 3 main elements:

1. Analysis of six randomly selected contacts made to the Front Door which were accepted as referrals by CSWS
2. Analysis of six randomly selected contacts made to the Front Door which were not accepted as referrals by CSWS
3. Caller feedback: attempts were made to contact all 12 callers whose contacts were selected in the sample and callers were invited to give structured feedback about their experience.

There is evidence of succinct, thoughtful, clear and well set out contact records, appropriate use of language, helpful analysis of risk, notes of attempts to contact other family members and helpful comments on injuries. Contacts gave a picture of the journey of the child prior to the point of contact. There was evidence of the child's views being sought and recorded in the narrative. There was evidence of timely, effective and efficient, immediate and appropriate responses. There was thorough and timely recording, enabling the audit panel to understand the context of a contact and response from the Front Door, analysis of risk and clarity of decisions made.

The audit also showed that the weekly multi-agency referrals meeting chaired by the Head of Service facilitates further scrutiny and challenge of the referrals progressed in order to ensure that decisions are appropriate.

Areas for development identified within the audit were fully recognised and accepted by Children and Families and addressed appropriately.

Child Protection Medicals

A total of 117 child protection medicals were undertaken between April and December 2018 by LTHT. There were 44 child protection medicals undertaken in quarter 1 and 45 undertaken in quarter 2, dropping to 28 in quarter 3.

From 2019/20 this data will be broken down to provide the age demographics of the children and young people that have had a child protection medical.

Those children requiring child protection medicals for sexual abuse are now seen by professionals based in the Sexual Abuse Resource Centre (SARC), a service commissioned by NHS England, Leeds CCG and funded by the OPCC. The contract is held by Mountain Health Care who are commissioned to provide a 7 day per week service to children and young people aged 0-15 years, delivered from the Hazlehurst Centre, West Yorkshire SARC.

Children are assessed including their forensic assessment to ensure the right support can be provided as well as evidence to support a criminal conviction against a perpetrator.

A recommendation from the previous audits of child protection reports submitted by GPs was the development of a "toolkit" to support them to write comprehensive reports. This toolkit has now been launched and is available for use by all practices. The resource includes, a self-assessment tool which GPs can utilise to quality assure their own reports, guidance regarding what a "good" quality report needs to include and an example of what "good" would look like.

The CCG work closely with the Integrated Safeguarding Unit (ISU), which has continued throughout the year to support improvements in practice, in particular related to GPs contribution to child protection conferences. A member of the Safeguarding Team meets on a regular basis with the Head of ISU and a lead for the independent chairs to review progress, address concerns and develop processes which support primary care to continue to contribute effectively to child protection conferences.

The Named GP for safeguarding has updated the report template which GPs complete for child protection conferences. The new format supports GPs to provide concise information which articulates the risks to the child, while evidencing that they have considered all the factors within a child's life, which may impact upon their safety and wellbeing.

Integrated care in Leeds has been nationally recognised during the last four years with the showpiece patient record; the Leeds Care Record (LCR), being quoted as an exemplar in many journals. This patient record is now actively used by over 6,200 clinical and care staff to support integrated care across the city. It contains data contributions from all five key groups – GPs, hospital, community, mental health and social care. 2018/19 saw the inclusion of CSWS data and from March 2019 the CCG Safeguarding Team have been given access which will allow the team to better contribute appropriate health information to risk assessments and safeguarding conversations.

Children on Plans

Child in Need Plans

A CiN Plan is drawn up following a Single Assessment which identifies the child as having complex needs, which impacts on their health and development, and where a coordinated response is needed in order that the child's needs can be met. In 2018/19 there were 2920 children and young people classed as a CiN, a decrease from 2017/18 when there were 3956 children classed as a CiN.

An area social workers identified was, sometimes, the reluctance of clusters towards de-escalating a CiN case to an Early Help Plan. The Early Help audits and a previous LSCP practitioner survey identified some tensions between these processes. These tensions are being managed through closer relationships between clusters and social work teams. Restorative teams across Leeds are also strengthening these relationships and providing further resources into clusters. To further strengthen relationships a new social work qualified Early Help Manager has been tasked with improving decision-making and work with clusters and now sits within the Front Door.

Child Protection Plans

Children and young people are made subject of a multi-agency CPP when it is assessed at a Child Protection Conference that they have suffered or are likely to suffer 'significant harm.' Whilst the circumstances of each case are dealt with carefully and comprehensively, the overall number of children subject to a plan and a comparison with statistical neighbours (below) can give an indication of the effectiveness of the safeguarding system as a whole (and in particular the efficacy of Early Help preventative services). To satisfy the partnership that the quality of CPP are 'good', a number of audits of children on plans have been undertaken since 2012 and have noted significant improvements year on year.

		2017	2018
Core city CPP rate per 10,000	Birmingham	34.4	41.4
	Bristol, City of	52.8	39.3
	Leeds	31.2	31.4
	Liverpool	40.8	39.0
	Manchester	78.6	81.0
	Newcastle upon Tyne	68.7	84.8
	Nottingham	71.7	84.9
	Sheffield	38.6	39.3
	Core city total/average	52.1	55.1

Statistical neighbour CPP rate per 10,000	Bolton	33.2	39.3
	Bury	37.3	46.2
	Calderdale	54.3	54.8
	Darlington	30.6	51.2
	Derby	61.9	87.0
	Leeds	31.2	31.4
	Kirklees	44.1	35.3
	Newcastle upon Tyne	68.7	84.8
	North Tyneside	36.0	36.7
	Sheffield	38.6	39.3
	Stockton-on-Tees	71.7	49.9
	Stat neighbour total/average	47.6	52.5

In 2018/19 the number of children and young people subject to a CPP has decreased to 414, a reduction from 527 in 2017/18.

The number of children subject to a CPP for a second or subsequent time is now 12%, which is slightly higher than the government target of 10%. Evidence shows that families are likely to have been on a CiN plan in the interim period and that DV is the primary issue in the majority of these families.

There is a disproportional number of BME children (29.5%) on CPPs. 64% of children on CPPs are under 10 years of age with 3.6% being 16 years or older. In addition 74% of children on a CPP from the top 10 deprived clusters in Leeds.

56% of children are on a plan have 'emotional harm' as the primary assessed risk factor. Neglect makes up 28% which is a reduction of 5%, which may indicate the Neglect Strategy is starting to work. Physical abuse accounts for 15% and sexual abuse 2%. Parental drug and alcohol misuse continues to be over represented, as is DV and abuse.

During 2018/19 improvements have been seen in:

- A reduction in the number of children and young people subject to CPPs for a second / subsequent time
- The number of child protection cases reviewed within statutory timescales (92.3 per cent).
- The percentage of re-referrals continue to fall meaning children needs are been met and sustained
- The number of children and young people subject to CPPs for more than 2 years is just 3%

77% of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) are held on time, however, some cases can be more complex and require further time to ensure there is a better quality assessment. Families are also offered the chance to take part in a FGC, where safe to do so, to identify their own solutions with close support from a range of practitioners.

The advocacy service continues to be well-used and valued as an important part of gaining the **child's voice** within Child Protection Conferences, with 469 children and young people being supported in the last 12 months, and the service being extended to young children. The impact of this on children and young people's wellbeing can be seen through feedback provided. In the last quarter 80% of children who gave feedback said "the meeting helped to make life safer/make them feel safer, and the original concerns were sorted out".

Although clearly evidenced with CPPs, the voice of the child is primarily identified by Social Care and advocacy services. For a more comprehensive view from the child, partner agencies should consider how their interactions and relationships with the child can provide a wider view and understanding of the child's world. The quality of partner agencies reports to both ICPCs and Review have improved, however, health agencies have recognised some areas of improvement are required and are driving this forward over the coming year.

Within Leeds adherence to statutory child protection timescales is a priority. The number of ICPCs carried out on time is 80%, with a very positive 98% (92% average throughout the year) of CP cases reviewed on time.



Children Looked After

Looked after children and care leavers are recognised nationally as one of the most vulnerable groups in society today, with the gap across a range of outcomes for CLA and their non-looked after peers continuing to be significant. The Local Authority and partners have a unique relationship with this group due to its corporate parenting responsibility.

An emerging finding in last year's LSCP Annual Report was that a significant number of children coming into care have had previous, often lengthy, involvement with Early Help services. Data from that year suggests that around two thirds of children have not been on a CPP before becoming looked after. This suggested that the LSCP needed to focus on the robustness and effectiveness of the Early Help and CiN level interventions, and how these are able to reduce risk and address emerging vulnerabilities in families who otherwise could have their children removed. The full review of the Early Help Strategy in Leeds is a positive response to these findings.

The reduction in the number of children and young people who need to be 'Looked After' is one of the 'obsessions' in the Leeds Children & Young People's Plan. The number of CLA has steadily reduced from 1377 in 2013/14 to its lowest point 1232 in 2016/17. The numbers have risen slightly, (Q4, 2019, 1284) however, this should be seen in the context of a rising child population and a national rise of children been taken into care by 7.5%.

The number of looked after reviews during 2018/19 have generally been positive with a figure of 93.4% of reviews on time during March 2019, with the average during the year being 94%. The Independent Reviewing Officers report presented to the LSCP in October 2018 identified that 94.5% of CLA have a good relationship with their social worker and 96 % of reviews record that children's views have made a difference to the planning in a way that is good or outstanding.

The majority of health needs assessments (95%) and dental checks (85%) are undertaken on time. However, an area for development noted in previous LSCP reports and also within the Ofsted visit of 2018, was that Personal Education Plans were of variable quality and that further work in this area was required. In response a new process was put in place in September 2018 to ensure that pupils whose needs require more intensive support will have their PEPs reviewed on a termly basis.

There has been a wide range of developments across care leaver series including:

- *Care Leaver Improvement Programme Board to monitor progress* - reset the terms of reference for LCC Corporate Parenting Board, revised and reset the key priorities and established a new structure for providing strategic oversight and operational delivery of the Board's priorities which include improvements to our Care Leaver Service
- *Reconfiguration of LCC Corporate Parenting Board* - has been completed which included Board members receiving training and development designed and delivered in June 2018 including:





- The 'Total Respect' programme facilitated by young people (supported by an independent children's rights group)
 - Board members training in January 2019 jointly facilitated by the Head of Service for CLA and care leavers and members of the Care Leavers Council
 - A Corporate Parenting Board 'Take Over' event provided by LCC Children in Care Council (Have a Voice Group) and the Care Leavers Council.
-
- *Dedicated Care Leaver Service:* in June 2018 LCC CLA services were re-configured to provide a dedicated long term CLA and separate Care Leaver Service. LCC care leaving services are continuing to develop to enhance the 'Offer' to Leeds care leavers and this includes work to establish new delivery models to greater engage partners in providing accessible and 'care aware' services to care leavers in the city. To support this work we have secured additional management support from the Child friendly Leeds Enrichment Team
 - *Development programmes for the new Care Leaver Service:* Through membership of the national benchmarking forum, being a champion authority of the National Care Leavers Covenant work and through capitalising on Child Friendly Leeds Ambassador's opportunities, we have been able to promote events and learning opportunities to both staff and care leavers over the past year. In line with services planning for creating a new service offer, to include a 'One Stop Shop' multi-agency hub we are continuing to develop the workforce development strategy for the Care Leaver Service
 - *Integration or co-location of additional expert staff:* as part of the planning to redesign the care leavers offer working with partners across the Local Authority to enhance multi-agency collaborations. Submission of a bid for match funding to establish a joint Education Training and Employment specialist pool of workers, secured agreement to collocate a Youth Housing Advisor within Looked After Services and continued expansion of multi-agency partnerships with services such as the National Probation Services etc
 - *Whole-Council and cross sector collaboration:* in November 2018 the Executive Board of LCC received a report outlining the aspiration and vision for the care leaver offer in the city and endorsed the recommendations set out. The work is now underway to build a truly collaborative service within the city that will enhance and capitalise on the various offers and contribution from partners committed through the LCC ambassador and wider partnerships
 - *Utilising the expertise of national academics and networks:* the Care Leaver Service are currently supporting a project promoted by Professor Mike Stein to identify pathways to uniformed services for care leavers. In addition, the Leeds Care Leaver Service Delivery Manager sits on the National Leaving Care Benchmarking

Forum Steering Group, which provides national resources for services informing service planning and new initiatives within the sector.

The Therapeutic Social Work Service is commissioned to offer oversight and support to Leeds children and young people who are looked after and placed outside of Leeds (within 80 miles). The primary issues for the children and young people referred in to the Therapeutic Social Work Service are consistently around experiences of emotional harm, neglect, physical and sexual abuse with approximately one third of young people having been exposed to DV. A new senior social worker has been appointed in 2018/19 to enhance the capacity of the team, though all members of the team are involved in providing this service.

Transitions

The previous LSCP Annual Report shows that the principal age group of children and young people in Leeds assessed as at risk of experiencing CSE in June 2017 was 16 to 17 year olds.

Sexual exploitation does not cease just because a young person turns 18. Many young people, including those with additional vulnerabilities such as learning disabilities, or being in care, will need support after they turn 18. In recognition of this the LSCP and the LASB agreed to undertake a review of transitional arrangements for young people that have been identified as at risk of sexual exploitation. The audit report presents the findings from this review which focused on:

1. A mapping exercise looking at what services are available to meet the needs of young people at risk of sexual exploitation.
2. Looking at what transitional arrangements are currently in place for this group of young people.
3. Case studies of young people that transitioned from Children and Families to Adult Services to help identify key themes and issues.
4. Development of good practice principles when working with young people.

Good examples were evidenced of practitioners working with young people, families and each other. The Family Practitioner role through The Safe Project was valuable in helping families understand CSE and the risks associated with that. There is evidence of them empowering and strengthening families to address and manage those risks. In a number of cases reviewed practitioners had a very good relationship with the young person. Various examples can be seen of the practitioner, not only, supporting the young person, but also challenging them on what a healthy relationship is and on choices that they made that weren't safe.

Two main routes from children's social care into adult social care have been identified in the review. The Directions Panel is one route that practitioners can use to identify support services in adult social care for young people at risk of CSE. For young people with a diagnosed disability, the Transitions Team is the route for them to access adult social care support.

Taking into account the findings from the report a number of recommendations have been put forward to both the Performance Management Sub Group and the Risk and Vulnerabilities Strategic Sub Group to take forward.

LSCP's strategic priorities 2018-19

The previous LSCP annual report identified six areas where progression was required and the LSCP Business Unit developed an action plan to describe how these priorities will be progressed.

Maintain a clear Early Help Strategy

The CFTB have now set up an Early Help Board with a series of sub groups to support its updated strategy. The Early Help Board has representation from the LSCP and safeguarding partners including Third Sector. Regular updates are provided to both the CFTB and LSCP with a Performance Management Sub Group established to consider both data and quality assurance.

Maintain strong safeguarding partnerships

As previously outlined within this report the three key partners, in conjunction with the wider partnership, have agreed the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. Building on the current arrangements the partnership will be led by executive representation and overseen by an Independent Chair, who will also provide independent scrutiny.

Ensuring an appropriate response to those that seek to harm children and young people

In 2019 the government published its Child Exploitation disruption toolkit. This toolkit primarily aimed at frontline staff working to safeguard children and young people under the age of 18 from sexual and criminal exploitation, supporting their understanding and access to existing legislative opportunities at their disposal and to target specific risks, ranging from warning notices to offence charges and care orders.

The LSCP Business Unit has met with CPS and been assured that Section 28 of the YJCEA 1999 allows vulnerable and intimidated witnesses to video record their cross-examination before the trial. The process makes it more likely that a guilty verdict results.

Safer Leeds and the LSCP are bringing together a joined up strategic approach to tackling youth violence, crime and exploitation. This partnership ensures a joined up approach to tackling a subject that cross cuts across both children and adult services.

CRC Reoffending Analysis Tool – identifies both binary and frequency of offending and can be filtered by child protection and DV flags.

Campaigns

The Lucy Faithfull Foundation campaign across West Yorkshire to tackle the online viewing and sharing of indecent images of children had a wide reach, although it is not possible to state the direct impact on offending, or potential offending rates.

MACE Framework

Within 2018/19 the MACE Framework was developed and implemented. Its purpose is to focus on high risk emerging cases; share information; analyse risk; consider connectivity and push and pull factors to enable further actions for each child or young person to be decided. The meeting also identifies themes, trends and suspected known perpetrators.

In addition to this there is the continued working with partners to identify young people that are either victims of or at risk of CSE/CCE/Modern Day Slavery. Taking into account the information sharing practice through working together, attending Partnership Intelligence Monthly Meetings and sharing of police Intelligence/Information with Social Care and relevant partners. Providing representatives to attend Risk and Vulnerability Management Partnership meetings, and ICPC's. This work supports Leeds in developing intelligence pictures to identify and arrest/disrupt offenders.

Partnership Intelligence Portal

The police have developed an online, non-public, Partnership Intelligence Portal which any partner can sign up to use. The 24-7 intelligence portal enables partners to submit any intelligence relating to any subject/issue to West Yorkshire Police. The Force Intelligence Unit triages data received and where appropriate, tasks out to the appropriate Force area for further development.

In partnership with the OPCC, West Yorkshire Police and the other four LSCB's in West Yorkshire, Leeds has developed a strategy focusing on exploitation across West Yorkshire ensuring a joined up approach to both supporting young people and identifying and responding to perpetrators.

The LSCP now also receives data from Probation with respect to how they manage perpetrators in communities.

Tackling Neglect

Throughout the year the LSCP Neglect Strategy 2017-22 has continued to be implemented.

Practitioners continue to access multi-agency neglect training, and evaluations remain positive. The online Neglect Toolkit provides a valuable resource to allow practitioners to explore neglect both with families and with regards to self-reflection regarding their own practice.

Practitioners have reported through the practitioner survey, high levels of confidence in relation to working with neglect, and specifically in relation to certain types of neglect and with certain age ranges. Therefore consideration will be given to how to further support practitioners in the areas which they are less confident. A masterclass with regards to poverty and neglect by Brid Featherstone is planned for November 2019.

Within 2018/19 28% of children on Child Protection Plans were recorded to have neglect as the primary reason, a reduction of 5% on the previous year. Due to the way Early Help assessments are recorded (internally within agencies as well as with Families First) it is not possible to provide firm data of the number of assessments which have been initiated due to concerns of neglect. However we are encouraged by the ongoing work of the Early Help Board to address this, and the audit undertaken in Summer 2019 had a specific focus on neglect within an early help arena.

Progressing the Risk and Vulnerabilities

Objective 1: To establish comprehensive and accurate data profiles and identify early indicators of risk and vulnerability.

Progress update: A key priority has been to establish accurate data profiles in respect of children who are missing and at risk of child sexual exploitation. CSE and missing profiles are being produced every quarter through the West Yorkshire Police Strategic Group. Children's services have made changes to the Mosaic database which now has the capability to provide data about CSE, CCE, trafficking, missing and other forms of exploitation. In addition, all return interviews are now being recorded on Mosaic thereby significantly improving the quality of missing data. The MACE arrangements (Multi Agency Child Exploitation) are beginning to generate trend data about exploitation and systems being developed to



improve the 'single view of child' in C&F Services. It is anticipated that the quality of data will continue to improve, and that other data / information held by partners will become available as we clarify what is needed.

A significant priority and achievement has been the review and launch of the new Child Exploitation Risk Identification Tool. This replaces the CSE risk assessment tool and broadens the scope to include all forms of exploitation and other aspects of vulnerability. This new tool is available to all practitioners and is hosted on the LSCP website. The Social Work exploitation risk assessment tool and process has also been reviewed to widen the focus to 'exploitation'.

Raising awareness about child exploitation across the partnership and within families and communities is an ongoing challenge. The LSCP ran a series of **awareness raising campaigns** and has been successful in targeting messages using social media to the intended audiences. Campaigns included the following;

- Give Safe Gifts campaign, run at Christmas, targeted parents and grandparents who were considering giving technology gifts to children;
- Party Animals campaign, this was re-run in the lead-up to Xmas with a focus on the risks of CSE, encouraging children to think about the potential risks of going to parties and offering strategies to help them leave safely;
- Missing campaign, ran for many months to the end of December;
- The West Yorkshire-wide 'Know the Signs' poster was updated with a wider 'exploitation' focus.

In November 2018 the Yorkshire and Humberside Multi Agency Safeguarding Training Regional Conference focused on **safeguarding children in the digital world**, and the LSCP is strengthening the profile of technology across its learning and training programme.

Objective 2: To prevent children and young people experiencing or continuing to experience sexual and criminal exploitation.

Progress update: A key priority was to improve the information and data available from **return interviews** and **police safe and well checks**. Children's Services have invested additional resources in the Return Interview Service which now offers independent return interviews to all children who are looked after and those without any involvement from the children's Social Work Service, last year in relation to approximately 900 missing instances. From April 2019 these interviews are being recorded on the Mosaic database which will improve data and link missing with CSE and CCE. The Return Interview service is hosting focus groups to look qualitatively at the experience of return interviews and being missing. Further work is suggested in this area following an LSCP 'missing' audit which recommended looking at if / how information gained in police Safe and Well Checks can be used in the development of local profiles, and 'soft' information sharing.

Young people have been involved in defining healthy relationships for school-based materials which are still available and being used. The My



Health My School annual survey provides **pupil perception** data about healthy relationships, safeguarding and aspects of exploitation, and the LSCP is looking at how this information can be more widely used to inform this work.

Education provision, vulnerability and the risk of exploitation has emerged as a key priority for the RVSG. The link between school exclusion, reduced timetables and alternative educational settings and an increased risk of exploitation is an issue that has been raised within the partnership and is currently attracting significant national interest. The RVSG commissioned an initial LSCP base-line audit to give an indication of the picture in Leeds and to help establish if further activity is needed to provide assurance to the Partnership on this complex issue. This baseline audit has been completed and the headline findings tabled at the RVSG and LSCP Education Reference Group. A review of the available data on exclusions, part time timetables and alternative provision is being coordinated through Education Reference Group.

Objective 3: To intervene early and provide information and services to children, young people, parents, carers, friends and communities through restorative, holistic and multi-agency whole family approaches.

Progress update: As noted above, the **MACE Model** is now operational, located in the Children's Front Door and led by a dedicated manager. The MACE meeting is multi-agency, sharing information to help analyse risk, connectivity and push and pull factors, and to agree further actions for individual children. The meeting identifies themes, trends and suspected known perpetrators. MACE complements statutory planning and referrals can come from any practitioner in any agency. Children discussed at MACE include those who:

- are seen as low risk but not a lot is known about them, and potentially where there are early emerging risks that need to be addressed through early help;
- may be on child protection plans or children looked after where plans are not having the desired effect; and
- are at risk from criminal exploitation (including county lines), gang related crime, and human trafficking and may require a complex multi-agency response

The implementation of MACE represents a **significant and coordinated multi-agency response** to children at risk of exploitation and will continue to develop over time.

Significant and substantial work is undertaken with children who are assessed at low risk of exploitation and who receive support and services through **early help**. Information about this group of children is held in a range of places and in different formats and a comprehensive view of child exploitation in the context of early help is therefore limited. An ongoing priority is therefore to establish stronger links between the LSCP / RVSG with the Early Help Board and its sub groups, to strengthen our shared understanding of the safeguarding and exploitation needs of this group to help inform future strategy and planning.

An ongoing priority is to map and review current the **service offer to children and families**. A draft document is currently being circulated for comment and addition, and will continue to be updated as necessary.

Objective 4: To successfully prosecute those who perpetrate the exploitation and abuse of children and young people; ensuring a child focussed approach where perpetrators are children.

Progress update: This objective is linked to a separate LSCP priority, to 'ensure an appropriate response to those that seek to harm children including peer on peer violence, abuse and harmful sexual behaviour'. The priority for RVSG is to review prosecution rates and outcomes, to establish a good working understanding of the arrest and conviction rates of perpetrators of child exploitation in Leeds, and to be assured that when young people are arrested and prosecuted this is carried out in a child centred way. This priority is to be progressed this year in the anticipation of having improved data profiles and soft intelligence that will support the disruption and prosecution of perpetrators.

Objective 4: To support developments in practice which reflect the complexity and challenges of this work.

Progress update: This part of the R&V action plan is fundamental in terms of influencing practitioner confidence and knowledge in this complex area of safeguarding. RVSG is working in conjunction with the LSCP Learning and

Development sub group to ensure that learning opportunities support the identified priorities and objectives of both sub groups and promote joined-up partnership working. The priority for RVSG is to **review the LSCP learning and development offer** against all the risk and vulnerability strands and to promote the availability and use of the LSCP website where learning and training information and opportunities can be accessed. This work is underway and involves input from relevant subject experts across the partnership.

The LSCP hosted the first partnership child criminal exploitation event during West Yorkshire Safeguarding Week in June. Planning involved partners and the event, which was targeted at frontline practitioners across the partnership whose work involves working with children who may be at risk of CCE and their line managers, was over-subscribed and very well attended. Speakers from the Council, West Yorkshire Police, and Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner highlighted the complex nature of CCE and its interrelationship with other forms of exploitation, risk and vulnerability, using case studies and local examples of CCE, including county lines, relevant to Leeds. The new Child Exploitation Risk Identification Tool and supporting guidance were launched at the event, both of which are on the LSCP website. Members of the Student LSCP used a video to convey their support for tackling CCE and highlighted their 'report it button' campaign aimed at strengthening on-line safety. Delegates gave plenty of feedback about future information and learning needs which has been shared with the RVSG and Learning and Development sub group.

Earlier in the year the LSCP hosted a well-received CCE Briefing Session for Councillors which involved contributions from West Yorkshire Police, Youth Justice Service and Children's Services.

The LSCP is introducing a new way of reviewing multi-agency safeguarding practice, including good practice, across the partnership. A 'good practice' Appreciative Inquiry focussing on CSE is planned for the autumn and will involve practitioners from the organisations and services involved along with input from the child and family. The learning from this review will be shared and posted on the LSCP website.

One Minute Guides have been produced about child criminal exploitation, the MACE arrangements and Appreciative Inquiry.

Data, information, knowledge

Through the R&V Strategy we have sought to gather, share and use data and local intelligence to strengthen the partnership's response to children who are vulnerable and at risk of exploitation and abuse.

A key objective of the R&V Strategy is to produce comprehensive and accurate data profiles of children and young people who are at risk of exploitation. This has been a long-standing ambition of the partnership and whilst significant challenges remain in this aspect of our work, progress is being made through a range of planned improvements that will in due course provide more and better data and improve our ability to generate accurate and useful data profiles. Missing and CSE data profiles have been developing over recent years at the West Yorkshire regional level and are as a result comparatively well developed. Other profiles are beginning to emerge and will benefit from planned improvements in data capture and system development. The profiles set out below are consequently variable in their scope and detail and should be seen as 'work in progress'.

The profiles below are based on data provided from West Yorkshire Police¹¹ ¹² Children's Services¹³ Youth Justice Service¹⁴ and LSCP Audits¹⁵. Please note that percentages are rounded. To avoid repetition, data sources are referenced in footnotes below and referenced in the text with underlining. Partners have also provided service-level information based on professional knowledge of the children and communities they serve, adding a welcome richness to the developing profiles and our shared knowledge of these complex and multi-faceted risks.

Children who are being or who are at risk of being exploited, experience a range of other significant risks and

¹¹ West Yorkshire Police: CSE and Missing Dashboards, September – December 2018; June 2018 to May 2019.

¹² West Yorkshire Police Safeguarding Performance Bulletin July – September 2018

¹³ Mosaic; Summary of Missing Incidents 01/04/18 to 31/03/19; Mosaic: Child Sexual Exploitation Summary

¹⁴ YJS data relating to all open cases between 01/04/2018 and 31/03/2019 where CSE, CCE, and Gang involvement were an assessed feature. Figures are rounded

¹⁵ LSCP Audit Reports: Children who go missing from home or care, May 2018; Child Sexual Exploitation, June 2018; LSCP Baseline audit Exploitation and education provision, May 2019

vulnerabilities. This picture of complex and multi-dimensional needs is confirmed and evidenced locally through a range of sources, with significant features for this group of children including missing from home or care, offending behaviour, DV, learning difficulties and school exclusion. The picture is also one of many children experiencing more than one form of exploitation.

In Leeds in 2018/19 there were 3004 reported incidents of children being missing from home or care, this relates to 1264 children. Just over half of missing incidents (54%) related to females which is slight variation to the most recent West Yorkshire profile. Nearly two thirds (63%) related to children who are not known to Children and Families, with a quarter of missing episodes relating to children on full care order or who are accommodated under section 20. Children placed in Leeds by another local authorities account for 7% of missing episodes. Children in the age groups 13-15 years were reported missing most frequently, which is broadly consistent with the regional profile and the LSCP Missing audit undertaken in 2018.

A 2017/18 LSCP Missing audit found that children reported as missing from home or care are evidenced to have a number of other associated vulnerabilities, risks and needs. Children were generally recorded as having been missing in the locality of Leeds, usually returned home themselves, and whilst missing, spent time with their peers. The majority of children reported as missing did not consider themselves to be missing.

The most common reason (almost a third) for young people being reported missing was due to a miscommunication between the child and their parent/carer. Evidence in Leeds suggests that rather than going missing being based on a conscious decision to 'run away' other reasons were more prevalent including arguments and difficulties at home, unplanned/unauthorised trips and truanting from school. Children were most likely to be found within two miles of their home/placement address in nearly three quarters of missing occurrences (73%).

CSE

Data produced by Children and Families shows that in 169 children, whose cases were open to them, were assessed by a social worker as being at risk of CSE:

- 8% assessed at high risk
- 41% assessed at medium risk
- 43% assessed at low risk. There are more children assessed as being at low risk within Early Help and work is underway to produce accurate figures.

Three quarters of the children were female (75%) and nearly three quarters were aged 15 years or older (72%). Most children assessed as being at risk of CSE were White British (75%) which is an overrepresentation of 10% in relation to the total Leeds school pupil population, whilst 1% were of Pakistani ethnicity which is the largest underrepresentation of the total school population by



7%.

A response to Exploitation

Children and Families have developed a sophisticated approach to the presentation and analysis of the relationship between types of exploitation and risk factors and the capability to show if / how these are changing. There is the potential to use this analysis to support strategy, interventions and training.

Over the past year, Leeds have examined how effective arrangements are to support this vulnerable group through a review of existing processes and practice in identifying and responding to all forms of child exploitation including CSE, CCE, modern slavery, trafficking, gang involvement, organised crime/county lines, radicalisation/extremism and online abuse.

The outcome of this review was the establishment of the MACE arrangements in Leeds which constitute a framework that is increasingly used to respond to the challenge of exploitation, primarily ensuring informed, multi-agency, strength based approaches to the needs of children. The MACE framework promotes a multi-agency approach to tackling child exploitation that responds to the governments objectives outlined in the 'Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation' – progress report (February 2017):

- Tackling offenders
- Reducing vulnerability
- Support victims and survivors.

Safer Leeds have been successful in acquiring funding from the OPCC around youth crime prevention. The Partnership are working closely with Families First and Safer Leeds regarding how the funds are used to strengthen the current offer to support children and their families who are vulnerable to criminal exploitation. Some funding is assigned to strengthening the administrative support to the Child Exploitation Hub to enable us to collate data more effectively to help build a more thorough understanding of CCE across the city. Work is ongoing in relation to developing a Youth Crime Hub in East Leeds and a manager who will work across the partnership to support local provision and communities to help divert young people from crime.

Improving practice through innovative case review methodology

Review processes within Leeds continue to be evaluated and evolve to ensure best practice to support processes and identify learning.

The AI methodology introduced in 2018 has been used on three case files identifying and understanding good practice, the findings of which have been fed back to the Partnership. Parents have also engaged in the process to hear their views on how they were supported. Consistent feedback from practitioners and managers show that this work is valued and important in learning lessons. Further work is underway in embedding the principles of identifying and celebrating good practice into organisational cultures.

Key changes to the approach of undertaking SCRs and LLRs across the year have included:

- Moving away from chronologies to identification of key practice episodes through scrutiny of timelines
- Practitioner involvement, at key strategic points within the reviewing process
- Moving away from “recommendations” to the identification of “learning points” within reviews
- SMARTer action plans being developed restoratively with partner agencies to respond appropriately to learning points
- Fixed pricing of authors/Chairs.

Conclusion

Leeds is a city that continues to invest in its children, young people and their families. Reports from a number of different sources including Ofsted, CQC and audits and performance measures through the LSCP all point to Leeds being a very special and unique place to live, which, despite the challenges that being a city brings, can demonstrate the real difference it is making to the lives of children, young people and families.

With austerity clearly having an impact on resources, Leeds continues to collectively find innovative solutions within its partnership to address the challenges that austerity and poverty brings. There is a joined up and collective approach starting at the very top through the city's 'Best Council Plan' which filters down through to front line practice. Practitioners we speak to are clear about their roles, how to work together and how to respond to safeguarding needs at all levels of need.

Leeds is also a city that is self-aware and recognises there is still much to do. Where gaps are found in the safeguarding system there is a clear multi-agency commitment by all agencies to work collaboratively to address those issues.

Leeds is also very aware of the risks for teenagers that may disappear from view which may put them at risk of sexual/criminal exploitation. In Leeds the response has been robust with the partnership developing its awareness of the complexity in this area as well as developing safeguarding systems to protect those that are experiencing harm but also those children who are at risk of harm. This work with teenagers is challenging and something that can only be addressed by developing a trusting relationship with a young person and supporting them *and* their families over a long period of time to ensure a long term and improvement of sustainable outcomes. The focus and importance of a whole family restorative approach is already evidencing this approach works well. There is a strong strategic response to youth violence and gangs with the LSCP and Safer Leeds closely together coordinate work in this area. The LSCP Risk and Vulnerability Strategy has made significant progress this year and its underpinning action plan is responsive to our understanding and increased awareness of the issues young people face in Leeds.

Witnessing DV impacts on the safety and wellbeing of children and data shows that the number of DV incidents where children are present make up 26.3% of the total number. There are however, safety mechanisms in place to protect and support children within these families.

Safer Leeds Executive fully recognise the damage that domestic violence causes to children and young people and through securing substantial funding through the successful application of bids undertaking an independent review and within their annual report have set out how they are going to address domestic violence in Leeds with a particular emphasis on reducing repeat DV/abuse incidents for victims, protecting vulnerable children and adults from exploitation and improving support and access to service for victims as well as interventions for offenders to support a change a behaviour. There is a recognition that more needs to be done in localities of concern and across other communities of interest on these agendas.

As identified above there has been significant progress against the 2017/18 LSCP priorities, although we recognise that there is always more work to be done. However assurance and progress has resulted in the decision for continued focus on the previous LSCP priorities, but not under the heading of an LSCP priority, in order to allow a concentration of efforts on other emerging areas.

LSCP Priorities 2019/20 will include:

- Domestic violence and abuse
- Contextual safeguarding.

Glossary

Our vision is for Leeds to be a child friendly city in which children and young people are safe from harm in their families, their communities and their neighbourhoods.

	Appreciative Inquiry
BME	Black and Minority Ethnic
BMI	Body Mass Index
CCE	Child Criminal Exploitation
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
CDI	Crime Data Integrity
CFTB	Children and Families Trust Board
CiN	Child in Need
CLA	Children Looked After
CPP	Child Protection Plan
CPS	Crown Prosecution Service
CRC	Community Rehabilitation Company
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
CSWS	Children's Social Work Service
DV	Domestic Violence
EHE	Electively Home Educated
FGC	Family Group Conference
HMIP	Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons
ICPCs	Initial Child Protection Conferences
ILACS	Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services
IMD	Indices of Multiple Deprivation
ISU	Integrated Safeguarding Unit
LCC	Leeds City Council
LLRs	Learning Lessons Reviews
LSAB	Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board
LSCP	Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership
LTHT	Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust
LYPFT	Leeds and York Partnership Foundation Trust
MACE	Multi-Agency Child Exploitation
MARAC	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Committee
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
OPCC	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
PHINS	Public Health Integrated Nursing Service
SCRs	Serious Case Reviews
TFWF	Think Family, Work Family
YJB	Youth Justice Board
YJCEA	Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act (1999)
YJS	Youth Justice Service
YOI	Young Offenders Institute

