



SOUTHEND Safeguarding Partnership

Southend-on-Sea City Council
Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board
Essex Police

2023/2024 Annual Report
Easy Read

Introduction/Executive Summary

This Easy Read document contains a summary of the full Annual Report which was co-owned and jointly constructed by Southend's three Statutory Partners (Southend-on-Sea City Council, Essex Police and Mid & South Essex Integrated Care Board).

This is the final annual report for the all-age Safeguarding Partnership. Partner agencies, having surveyed the changing national legislative regulatory and inspection environments, have agreed that from the end of 2024, the Southend Safeguarding Partnership (SSP) will split into an Adults Board (SSAB) and a Children Partnership (SSCP). Partners remain determined to ensure safeguarding and wellbeing are at the heart of strategies within Southend.



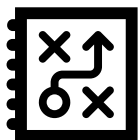
Vision

Southend Safeguarding Partnership (SSP) prevents Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults in our community from experiencing harm or exploitation; and intervenes where and when appropriate if this does occur.



Mission

- To create opportunity for Partners to work together.
- To develop trust in the Partnership; so that we can help each other to find better ways of doing what we do.
- To ensure Partners work together to reduce the causes of harm to our communities.
- To act as a critical friend and to highlight areas needing improvement.



Strategy

The Partnership Strategy was created with multi-agency input in 2020 and sets out 16 key themes for the Partnership. The Strategy came to an end in 2024 and the below details the progress that was made on delivery the 2020-2024 strategy.

Strategy work was undertaken at all levels of the Partnership, with each subgroup having a Strategy Workplan setting out what needed to be achieved as a Partnership.

Training, audits, position statements and data discussions were some of the ways that were used to meet elements of the strategy.

It is recognised that there are some elements of the strategy that still require further work to gain the appropriate assurance required by the Partners, these areas include E-Safety and Mental Health.

*At time of publishing this report, the Southend Safeguarding Adults Board have published their 2024 – 2027 Strategy. The Southend Safeguarding Children Partnership Strategy is currently on hold.

Workstream Reports

Southend Safeguarding Partnership Boards (SSPA and SSPC) are multi-agency partnership meetings. They co-ordinate strategic development of adults and children's safeguarding across the Southend area; ensuring the effectiveness of the work undertaken by partner agencies. Below the Board sit a number of subgroups, some which have a joint adult & children's focus and some that focus on either adult or children's work.

SSPC Performance, Audit, Quality & Assurance (PAQA) Subgroup

Holds responsibility to lead, support and co-ordinate multi-agency audits, to identify good practice, strengths and areas of practice that requires improvement.

Key work undertaken by the subgroup:

- Follow up on action plans from the Section 175/157 Education Safeguarding audit. Updated action plans showed progress by schools on outstanding actions.
- Section 11 Statutory Partners audit – 87% return rate from Statutory Services. No immediate safeguarding concerns were identified. Follow up on actions planned for Autumn 24.
- Early Years & Childminders Safeguarding & Welfare Audit – 100% return from Early Years settings and 82% from Childminders. No immediate safeguarding concerns identified.
- Holiday Activity & Food (HAF) Providers Safeguarding Audit – 100% return rate. No immediate safeguarding concerns identified.
- Review of the SSP Data Dashboard – regular review of the dashboard data is undertaken, and deep dive reports requested for further information.

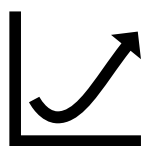
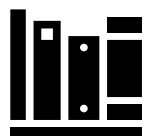


SSPA Performance, Audit, Quality & Assurance (PAQA) Subgroup

Holds responsibility to review the performance of safeguarding arrangements of Partner Agencies and monitor the delivery of action plans from relevant Case Reviews

Key work undertaken by the subgroup:

- Review of the SSP Data Dashboard – regular review of the dashboard data is undertaken, and deep dive reports requested for further information.
- Deep dive of safeguarding themes, including:
 - Sexual exploitation & sexual safety
 - Missing people
 - Hate crime
 - Deprivation of Liberty Safeguarding (DoLS)
 - Self-Neglect/Neglect & Acts of Omission
 - Timescales for safeguarding investigations



SSP Safeguarding Community Forum

The forum provides information to users and providers of services wider than the SSP and acts as a networking forum to share information and strengthen safeguarding knowledge across sectors.

The forum continues to embed, and attendees are encouraged to shape the agenda. Over the year updates on County Lines, Modern Day Slavery and Early Help have been discussed.



SSP Learning & Development (L&D) Subgroup

Identifies areas of learning and development across partners provision of services for Adults and Children; and supports the delivery of improvement where necessary.

Key work undertaken by the subgroup:



- Roll out of the SSP E-Learning platform, with 8 courses created by the SSP and a further 10 courses from Southend-on-Sea City Council being made accessible to all SSP Partners.
- Continuation of the Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2) training programme – over 500 professionals have now been trained.
- Dedicated Improving Outcomes for Children training delivered to over 200 professionals.
- National Safeguarding Adults Awareness Week – attended by over 160 practitioners.
- Neglect Conference hosted with Southend-on-Sea City Council to over 210 attendees.

SSP Safeguarding in Education Forum

The forum champions the voice of education within the Partnership and shares information to strengthen safeguarding knowledge within education whilst acting as a networking forum for education professionals.

Key work undertaken by the subgroup:



- Continuation of information sharing to a well-attended, on average 40 professionals across education – topics included: information sharing, policies, prevent, supervision, early help, thresholds, vaping, domestic abuse, missing, mental health, absences and transgender pupils.

SSP Exploitation & Missing (E&M) Subgroup

Holds responsibility to ensure Partners work together to enable residents in Southend to be protected from abuse, violence and exploitation.

Key work undertaken by the subgroup:



- Information sharing across agencies on missing data.
- Audit exercise on learning identified from the Cheshire East JTAI.
- Update on key Police Operations for exploitation & missing.

SSPC Early Help, Threshold & Neglect Subgroup

Holds strategic oversight to embed the Early Help offer across the City which will improve outcomes and help to prevent children experiencing neglect and/or domestic violence and abuse,

Key work undertaken by the subgroup:



- Understanding our Early Help Offer – contacting local services providing Early Help to build a picture of the offer across the City.
- Creating an opportunity to network for Early Help services (through workshops which will develop into a networking forum).
- Planned audits of referrals to understand what happens at Level 2, what support is being provided and by who.

SSPC Child Practice Review (CPR) Subgroup

Holds responsibility to help partner agencies to have an understanding of the case review process, alongside the statutory guidelines appropriate to a notification of a serious incident.

Key work undertaken by the subgroup:



- Overseen the completion of Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR) Isaac.
- Progressing a Learning Review for Child K which didn't meet the threshold for a full LCSPR.
- Monitoring and completion of the Consolidated Action Plan (CAP) to gain assurance from Partners on recommendations identified by local LCSPRs and other local case reviews.
- Review of national learning including the NSPCC Learning from Case Reviews with regards to Mental Health.

SSPA Safeguarding Adults Case Review Panel (SACRP)

Holds responsibility to help partner agencies to have an understanding of the case review process, alongside the statutory guidelines appropriate to a notification of a serious incident.

Key work undertaken by the subgroup:



- Completion of an Action Learning Review (ALR) including a half day reflective learning session.
- Begun the thematic review for 3 cases with the expected completion in 2024/25.
- Reviewed the Hampshire Thematic review for self-neglect to understand learning locally.
- Monitoring and completion of the Consolidated Action Plan (CAP) to gain assurance from Partners on recommendations identified by Reviews.

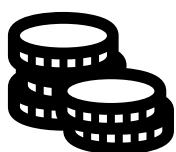
Published LCSPR and SARs

A summary of the cases and issues is included in the table below:

Type of Activity	Themes identified
LSCPR – Isaac (previously Child H) – Completed July 24	Voice of the child, child to parent violence, not in education, mental & physical health, challenge & escalation processes, missing episodes, transition, engagement, planning and case management, adultification and communication, appropriate mental health placements
Learning Review Child K (Ongoing)	Voice of the child, child to parent violence, not in education, transitioning, engagement, mental & physical health, adultification, appropriate mental health placements, missing episodes, challenge & escalation processes, planning & case management
Action Learning review (previously SAR C) – Completed	Voice of the service user, risk management, withdrawal of placements, agency & care provider escalation processes, communication and planning & case management and provider failure policies
Adult Thematic Review	Shared response to self-neglect and thresholds for statutory intervention, voice of the service user, agency & care provider escalation processes

Finance

Southend Safeguarding Partnership budget contributions for 2023/2024 consist of £87,779 from each of its three strategic partners. Over 70% of the SSP budget is assigned to pay any on costs of employment.



The 2023/2024 budget outturn includes reserves of £241,440k of which £179,086k is committed. The reserves have been built in 2023/24 by 2 large underspends in relation to professional fees for the Independent Advisor and Independent Authors of Reviews.

Training

A number of training events were supported by the Partnership in 2023/2024. These ranged from:

<p>Improving Outcomes for Children Training</p> <p>To enable agencies to understand and/or refresh their shared safeguarding responsibilities in achieving best outcomes for children and families. Attended by over 200 professionals</p>	<p>Safeguarding Adults Week (20 – 24 November 2023)</p> <p>The SSP held 5 virtual lunch and learn sessions on various safeguarding topics which were attended by approximately 160 staff across Partnership organisations</p>	<p>Neglect Conference (1st November 2023)</p> <p>SSP and Southend-on-Sea City Council event was attended by over 200 professionals across Southend to strengthen understanding of neglect and what we might do differently as agencies</p>
---	--	---

Future Arrangements for the Southend Safeguarding Partnership

With the publication of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 (WT 2023), a review of the current SSP working arrangements was undertaken. What became clear to Strategic Leads was that legislation governing both 'wings' of the Partnership were becoming more distant and drive for both 'wings' were becoming more separate. The decision was made that during 2024/25 the SSP Partnership would split into a Southend Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) and a Southend Safeguarding Children's Partnership (SSCP). The SSP Business Unit would remain in place and service both the SSAB and the SSCP.

The Partnership did note the importance that the two 'wings' do not separate completely to ensure safeguarding themes, such as transitioning, that cross the 'wings' can be considered by the joint Partnership. It has therefore been agreed that each year the two Executive groups will meet as one to discuss cross-cutting themes to ensure oversight across both 'wings'.

