

Welcome to our latest joint HSCP/HSAB newsletter.

Spring is around the corner and hopefully we can start to enjoy the great outdoors in the sunshine.

The HSCP and HSAB held a self-assessment day with the District Councils who attended and presented their thoughts on learnings from both Safeguarding Adult Reviews and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and how those learnings were embedded. This was an excellent day which produced a great opportunity for all Districts and partner agencies to share good practice.

In February, both the Children's Partnership and the Adult Board held a Learning and Development Stakeholder event to review our training needs for multi-agency professionals. Presentations were made on Learning from Children's Case Reviews, Learning from Adult Review, Domestic Homicide Review, and feedback from the evaluation that the University of Hertfordshire carried out on our learning offer. It is useful to hear what practitioners need to help them work more confidently with Hertfordshire residents and beyond. Participants made some suggestions to enhance our training offer, e.g., risk assessment of complex cases, working with migrant families, homelessness, cuckooing, which will be taken to the main L&D Subgroup for consideration. You can access our latest L&D Newsletter [here](#).

The HSAB has been prioritising areas of their business which include Making Safeguarding Personal, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and Prevention.

The HSAB has commissioned a survey into Making Safeguarding Personal which looks at contacting people and their carers/

family members who have been through the safeguarding process to gain their thoughts and views to help us identify good practice and further learnings. The survey should be completed at the end of February where we will then be in a position to share its findings.

The HSAB has also held a development day where we looked at our priorities and how we as partners can work together to achieve these objectives. We identified several areas of future work including Cuckooing, gaining the voice of those with lived experience and the Mental Capacity Act including executive functioning. We have developed a large amount of training over the next few months, and I would encourage people to access the training provided.

In December 2023, the Department of Education published a new edition of its statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children, which replaced the 2018 edition. The guidance outlines what organisations and agencies must and should do to help, protect and promote the welfare of all children and young people in England. Below is an article which includes a link to the NSPCC briefing, that outlines the main changes in the 2023 edition, and you can access the full guidance [here](#).

The HSCP have published their fourth Annual Report which can be found on our [website](#). The report outlines the functions of the Partnership and highlights the progress in the key priorities set in 2022/23.

Working Together to Safeguarding Children 2023



The Department for Education (DfE) published a new edition of its statutory guidance **Working Together to safeguard children** in December 2023.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>

It came with a suite of other documents which are the Government's response to the Stable Homes, Built on Love review.

A new **Children's Social Care National Framework** which brings together the purpose, principles, enablers, and outcomes that should be achieved in children's social care

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/childrens-social-care-national-framework>

The first national kinship strategy,

'Championing Kinship which outlines support for kinship carers to provide loving and stable homes for children.

Heads. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/championing-kinship-care-national-kinship-care-strategy>

A data strategy which outlines plans to transform children's social care data, including improved information sharing

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/childrens-social-care-data-and-digital-strategy>

The Working Together guidance outlines what organisations and agencies must and should do to help, protect and promote the welfare of all children and young people under the age of 18 in England.

Key Changes

Strategic changes

The most significant changes are those affecting the strategic part of the system, namely Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships (LSCPs). The key change to Working Together is the change to the structure of LSCPs. Partnerships will no longer be allowed to elect to employ an independent chair. There will be two levels of representation from the three statutory safeguarding partners. Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSPs) must be the most senior member of paid service from the three key agencies the Local Authority, Police and ICB. They will then nominate a Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSPs) from each of the three key partner agencies.

The important role of education is highlighted, and it is recommended that LSPs have a representative from the education sector present at strategic discussions and it is expected that local arrangements include all education and childcare providers working with children.



Operational Changes

There are few significant changes that affect operational practice.

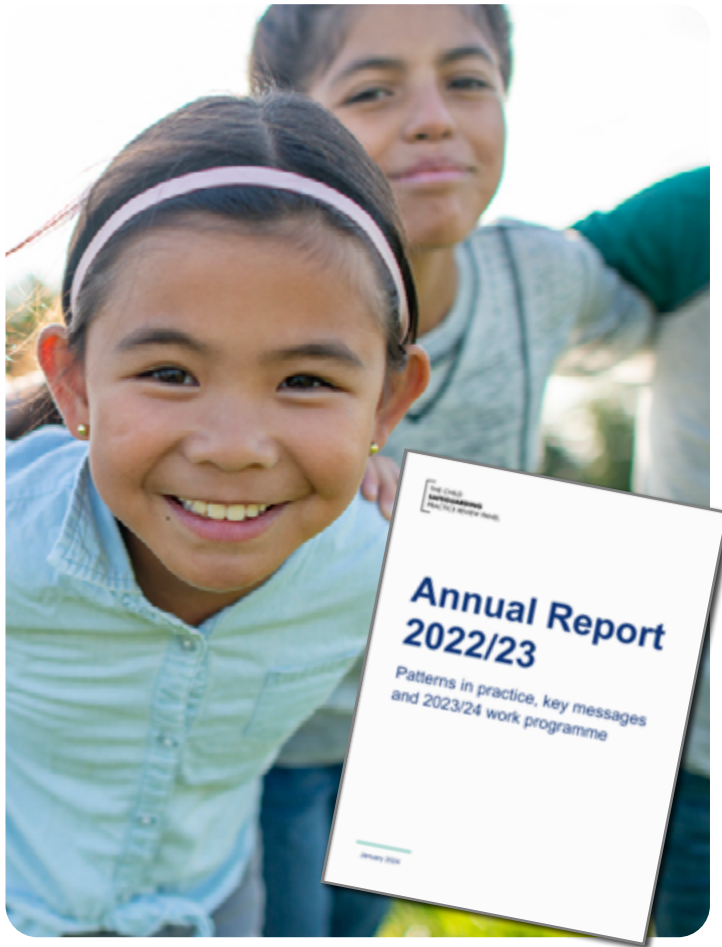
- **Early Help** -The role of education and childcare settings in supporting children and keeping them safe has been strengthened, along with emphasising a child's right to education. Improving engagement with family networks in decision making and supporting children, in particular through Family Group Conferencing, is emphasised.
- **Section 17 Child in Need** -The guidance clarifies that it is not a requirement for section 17 assessments and support work to be led by a social worker. Each area must decide and publish its arrangement.
- **Child Protection – Multi-Agency Child Protection Standards** - Working Together introduces a set of new Multi-Agency Child Protection Standards. These Standards are in addition to the Children's Social Care National Framework which sets out expectations for Local Authority staff. These standards apply to all practitioners working in services and settings who come into contact with children who may be suffering or have suffered significant harm within or outside the home. They set out the expectations of practitioners at the different stages of the Child Protection process.

The NSPCC have developed a document outline the key changes/provisions, which can be accessed here.

[Key provisions introduced in Working together to safeguard children 2023 \(nspcc.org.uk\)](https://www.nspcc.org.uk)

The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel – Annual Report

The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel for England has published its 2022/23 annual report.



The report analyses data and outlines learning from serious incidents, rapid reviews, local child safeguarding practice reviews, national reviews, thematic analysis and reports.

Key themes explored include: supporting critical thinking and professional challenge; impact of racial, ethnic and cultural identity on the lived experience of children; and recognising and responding to the vulnerability of babies.

The Panel also provides plans for its future work.

The panel identified 6 key practice themes that could make a difference in reducing serious harm and preventing child deaths caused by abuse and neglect:

- **Effective leadership and creating a culture that supports critical thinking and professional challenge.**
- **Making racial, ethnic, and cultural identity a central theme of practitioners' work so we can understand its impact on the lived experience of children and families, and design and deliver services accordingly.**
- **The importance of a whole family approach to risk assessment and support, rather than focusing on a single family member.**
- **Recognising and responding to the vulnerability of babies, particularly the risk from wider family members.**
- **Domestic abuse and harm to children – working across services to improve information sharing.**
- **Keeping a focus on risks outside the family and considering the wider experiences of children outside the home.**

You can access the Annual Report [here](#)

Family Reunification

NSPCC Learning has published a learning from case reviews briefing on family reunification based on a sample of case reviews published between 2016 and 2023 where returning children home from care was a key factor.

The briefing highlights: the need for a thorough assessment of risk, protective factors and parental capacity; clear preparations for the return; and sharing information with other agencies.

Learning also includes the need to continue to monitor the child's safety and wellbeing before, during and after the return.


Read the briefing:

[Returning children home from care: learning from case reviews](#)

**NSPCC
Learning**



ICON is all about helping people who care for babies to cope with crying.

- I** – infant crying is normal
- C** – comforting methods can help
-  – its OK to walk away
- N** – never, ever shake a baby

Research suggests that some lose control when a baby's crying becomes too much.

Some go on to shake a baby with devastating consequences. The most effective evidence-based programmes



studied provide a simple message that supports parents/caregivers to cope with infant crying. ICON is here to help prevent abusive head trauma.

ICON have developed a free e-learning package for professionals, which includes a certificate upon completion. You first need to register and then you can complete the training. Follow this [link](#) to access the training.

Families First - Workforce Shadowing

The vision for Families First training and development is to create a skilled, confident and resilient multi-agency workforce that supports whole family working.

Workforce shadowing provides a great opportunity to find out more about other services, what they do and how they might be able to support you in your work. It also enhances communication across agencies and helps strengthen and develop professional relationships, building local networks.



If you would like to organise a workforce shadowing placement for either yourself or a team member [please complete the form on this page](#) stating the service you would like to shadow and the preferred district and we will match you to a shadowing opportunity.

The following services have offered to host shadowing opportunities, either in person or by a virtual meeting:-

- Citizens Advice (Broxbourne/St Albans/ North Herts)
- Childcare provision
- CGL
- Domestic Abuse Support
- Families First Panels Team
- Family Support Service, Family Centre
- Herts Mind Network
- Herts Sports Partnership
- MIND in Mid Herts
- ASB Team, District Council, Three Rivers
- Housing Support, District Council
- Intensive Family Support Team (IFST)
- Local School Partnerships
- Police
- Public Health Nursing
- Schools Early Years Provision

- Specialist Adolescent Services Hertfordshire (SASH)
- Services for Young People
- Supporting Families Practice Team

Additionally, if you would like to add your service to the above list, please email Familiesfirst.support@hertfordshire.gov.uk with your contact details, service and district.

Please take a look at the page, bookmark and share with teams, where appropriate.

[Workforce development \(hertfordshire.gov.uk\)](#)



**Families
First**

Early help, brighter futures

Do you work with older people?

HSAB has teamed up with the Centre for Age Gender and Social Justice to bring you some new training based around older people and domestic abuse.

This training also looks at how family relationships are affected and how we can improve our response to those with dementia and care and support needs who are involved with domestic abuse.

These trainings will be running throughout the year and can be accessed via our training web site [Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership - Learning Management System \(event-booking.org.uk\)](https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/safeguarding-children-partnership-learning-management-system)



See the link below to further resources from the Centre for Age and Gender and Social Justice which may be of help to you. [Resources - Centre For Age Gender and Social Justice \(dewischoice.org.uk\)](https://www.dewischoice.org.uk/resources)

7 Minute Briefings

HSAB continue to circulate our 7 minute briefings for use in your team meetings to help you discuss the various topics and refresh your knowledge of our policies and procedures.

These are the topics of our latest releases and can be view on our Resources page of our website under 7 Minute Briefings tab

[HSAB and HSCP training and resources | Hertfordshire County Council](#)

Jan – Prof Curiosity

Feb – Cuckooing

March – Self Neglect

Watch out for our monthly updates.

Checklist added to the Self Neglect Policy

During recent Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) eleven themes have been identified which can be used to help staff consider if an individual may be displaying signs of self-neglect.

The HSAB have turned these into a single page check list which you can use to help you consider if any of the themes are impacting on the individual you are working with. We have added this to the Self Neglect Policy which you can access via the link below.

<https://trixcms.trixonline.co.uk/api/assets/hertfordshireadultsg/a7a6c0cf-4c67-4c75-83d4-105302f70b17/self-neglect-policy-jan-2024.pdf>

Cuckooing awareness campaign



Thank you to all those who took part in our professionals' survey as part of our awareness campaign. The survey was intended to gauge the level of understanding within partner agencies and deliver information and training to fill any skills gaps, whilst also developing a clear reporting pathway.

The survey was completed in December 2023 by 387 professionals from more than 40 local agencies. The survey found a good general level of knowledge on the subject amongst those professionals, who were able to identify which individuals were most at risk from cuckooing. Most of those surveyed were also able to identify the indicators that a victim/address was being cuckooed, but not all.

Training was identified as the best way to improve knowledge on the subject and reporting processes were also identified as another area for improvement. The partners will be analysing the survey to develop training packages to improve awareness of cuckooing and the reporting pathway.

Printed literature and online resources were also identified, and a range of leaflets have also been developed as simple guides to spotting and reporting cuckooing. These leaflets can be found on our one-stop website which has been developed as a hub for all cuckooing related needs for professionals and the public, you can find it via this link:

[What is Cuckooing? | Hertfordshire County Council.](#)

The campaign has continued with a public survey which has been running across the county. It will continue through the year via the local media, online and through Crimestoppers. Look out for our updates.

Our New Policy and Procedures Platform

HSAB is holding Lunch and Learn sessions to introduce you to our new policy and procedures platform.

HSAB have now transferred its procedures to the Trix platform, this session will explain how this works and what information can be found on the new platform.

It will be presented by the provider and a senior member of the HSAB who will be able to answer questions.

Have a look round the new platform via this link - [Welcome and Introduction \(trixonline.co.uk\)](https://trixonline.co.uk)

Dates Available

Tuesday 19th March 2024 13.00 – 14.00

Thursday 21st March 2024 13.00 – 14.00

You can book via this link. Hertfordshire [Safeguarding Children Partnership - Learning Management System \(event-booking.org.uk\)](https://event-booking.org.uk)

Lived Experience of the Adult Practice Guidance

Hertfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board (HSAB) regularly undertake Multi-Agency Audits and Safeguarding Adults Reviews.

These audits and reviews emphasise the importance of exploring the lived experience of the adult; what life is like for the adult should be recorded and factored in when trying to support the adult. In cases where the lived experience of the adult is missing, it may not be prioritised, or may be drowned out by louder voices of family, friends, or other professionals, to the detriment of attempts to safeguard the individual.

This new document has been developed by partners to enable practitioners to take into account the adult's experience and ensure that the adult's lived experience remains central to any action taken to safeguard the adult at risk.



This new guidance is for use by all professionals (the term includes managers, staff, and volunteers) who have direct and indirect (i.e. may work with families/carers) contact with adults at risk; and who therefore have responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting their welfare.

Take a look at the Guidance document via this link.

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/livedexperienceguide

If you have any queries on any items in this newsletter please contact a member of the Business Unit Staff

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