

Appendix 1

Extended Partner Priorities

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Child Protection Service

Between April 2022 and March 2023, the Child Protection Service convened and chaired 388 Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) relating to 730 children, and 886 Review Child Protection Conferences (RCPCs) relating to 730 children.

Achievements in 2022/23

A duty consultation system is now embedded which provides consultation and advice to children's social care. This process has reduced the number of conferences due to identifying work that should be undertaken prior to the conference, resulting in safety planning for children outside of the child protection arena. Feedback from children's social care remains positive. The duty consultation system is also available to partner agencies who can contact a child protection coordinator for any advice regarding the child protection conferencing process.

In response to the Covid 19 Pandemic, Child Protection Conferences moved to virtual. Since March 2023, all ICPCs are now held face to face. This has been welcomed and praised by both professionals and parents, who feel face-to-face meetings provide a more improved conference experience. For parents who do not prefer meetings in person, virtual and hybrid links are provided.

Child protection coordinator challenge process guidance has been developed and implemented. This includes finalisation by the worker raising the challenge, following receiving a response. This ensures the response is satisfactory, in line with the child's safety and best interests and what the agreed next steps are.





All child protection coordinators have assigned lead areas to develop links and strengthen professional contributions at ICPCs and RCPCs. Lead areas include Probation, Housing, 0-19 Health, Youth Justice Service and Children's Social Care teams. These collaborations provide clarity to partner agencies about what is expected from them throughout the conference process and the important role they play in the decision making and overall safeguarding of children and young people. This development has been met with praise and compliments from external agencies.

Bimonthly child protection network meetings are held involving all partner agencies to discuss themes and trends of the conferencing process. Areas of good practice are also highlighted and discussed.

The dual planning process is firmly embedded and has reduced the number of children and young people subject to both the Child Protection and Looked After planning process. This process ensures children are only subject to one process and/or meeting with close consultation between the child protection coordinators and independent reviewing officers.

The Children's Involvement Team (CIT) continues to provide a crucial role in supporting children and young people to share their wishes and views at Conference. Between April 2022 and March 2023, the CIT advocated for children and young people at 198 ICPCs and 47 RCPCs.

Further work is being done with CIT to increase children and young people's participation using the hybrid equipment and encourage attendance via virtual link. The feedback form provided by the advocate will be adapted to include the child and young person's voice regarding the child protection process and whether there is a way of capturing their voices to make the process more accessible for children, particularly those who have attended conferences.

Child protection coordinators continue to offer consultations to all parents pre-conference to enable parents to talk through any worries or concerns and to ensure all parents' views and contributions are heard.

Developments for 2023/24

- **To continue to increase oversight of all children** subject to Child Protection Plans with the aim of reducing the number of lengthy plans, reducing the potential for drift and delay, and ensuring effective timely planning and case escalation if required.
- **To further develop the midway review process** with the child protection coordinators and allocated social workers having a verbal case discussion regarding progress to the plan. This will strengthen progress tracking in between conferences and address any areas of potential drift and delay at earlier opportunities.
- **To incorporate the hybrid equipment** to enable increased participation of young people within the conference process and gather first hand their wishes, feelings and views of the process and plans.
- **The development of a notification form** which will enable child protection coordinators to inform partner agencies of any challenges or compliments relating to the conference process that have impacted on the planning process for Children and Young People. This was initially agreed by several partner agencies, with the aim of improving the contribution and attendance of partner agencies at conferences.
- **A working group incorporating child protection coordinators and Amber Service** has been developed to look at changing the format of Harm outside the Home conference structure whilst agreements are sought regarding a more formalised process. We will change the current structure and terminology used within the conference process, so it is more inclusive of parents.



Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

Safeguarding partnerships have responsibility for ensuring that there are effective procedures in place for investigating allegations against people who work with children using the principles outlined in Working Together to Safeguard Children.

Managing allegations against staff and volunteers who work with children in Sheffield is a shared, multi-agency responsibility.

The LADO role provides advice and guidance to organisations who employ or oversee the children's workforce in Sheffield; liaises with the police and children's social care and other relevant agencies. The LADO will decide if the LADO threshold is met and chairs meetings to monitor and progress investigations to ensure they are handled using a timely, consistent, thorough, and fair process.

Achievements in 2022/23

A case management model for recording LADO's contacts and outcomes has been developed, and we are now able to produce live data on volume of work throughput and type of work. We are developing this data to inform practice and quality of service.

A closure process has been embedded, so each LADO contact has a written outcome response. Subsequently, organisations are clear about LADO advice and outcomes. This includes lessons learnt for the organisation and actions for the organisation to be responsible for promoting safeguarding in their organisations.

LADO has been proactive in reaching into the community, providing training to faith groups, new Designated Safeguarding Leads, headteachers, fostering service, and residential settings. This included a LADO presentation teaching tool for education staff to access on the SCSP website. We are working with Sport England to promote safeguarding within sports clubs in Sheffield.

LADOs have participated in National LADO network meetings and subgroups, including contributing to the New LADO National Handbook which is currently with the Department of Education for consideration.

Below are a couple of comments from professionals:

“I can see for myself the palpable changes and improvements in the service and therefore can see how hard you have worked as a team to achieve such a transformation.”

Andrew Jones, Interim Director of Children's Services.

“I just wanted to say a big thank you for the support with this, it has been crucial for me and helped me not get drawn into allowing other things to override this. So just wanted to say thank you for your time and expertise.”

Residential Manager.

Developments for 2023/24:

- **Create a leaflet for employers** and people subject to allegations.
- **Build on the community reach and training.**
- **Further develop the data reporting** to be proactive in identifying referral patterns.
- **Improve their own quality assurance** through audit work.



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Sheffield Domestic Abuse Coordination Team (DACT):

Sheffield’s response to domestic abuse was reviewed by the national charity SafeLives in a report published in early 2023, **Public Health Systems Review of the Domestic Abuse Response in Sheffield** (sheffielddact.org.uk). This report estimates that in the year up to June 2022, there were **13,334 children living in a household with partner abuse and 7,990 young victims aged 16-24.**

Our own needs assessment found that when situations of adult family violence are included, there would have been around 26,019 children affected by domestic abuse in Sheffield in the last year.

SafeLives also estimates that there are 86,670 adult victims in Sheffield who have experienced domestic abuse at some point in their lives since the age of sixteen.

The overall finding was that...

‘Sheffield has some real strengths in the area. The culture within services is positive, multi-agency working is effective. The service offer a forward thinking training and strategic response, coupled with a strong survivor network and evidence of experts by experience being consulted throughout work, gives victims in Sheffield a real opportunity to be safe and move on from domestic abuse.

There are further opportunities to increase awareness within the wider system, including but not limited to the specialist service resource, the Police and Housing response and inclusivity of marginalised groups. There is some excellent working practice, joined up work is responsive, and practitioners are working well with newer Perpetrator services, and newer Social Work responses.

Overall, Sheffield should be proud of how it responds to domestic abuse. The strategic leaders give great insight and work with operational leads, and this filters into a culture of support and challenge within local services.’

Achievements in 2022/23

Continued to embed the **Safe and Together** Model and its core principles across Children's Social Care to partners via regular briefings but also the first overview days on the model.

The impact of the model is being felt across case work, in Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference Meetings (the process for safeguarding high risk domestic abuse victims/ survivors and their children), and in case reviews. There is still more to be done in terms of holding parents and carers who are perpetrators of domestic abuse to account for their behaviour and being clear that such behaviour is a parenting choice, but good progress is being made.

The Strengthening Families Domestic Abuse Team in the Children and Families Service continues to support the roll out of Safe and Together and to offer consultation to frontline staff on domestic abuse cases to ensure the response is 'domestic abuse informed.'

The team works closely with local charity **Haven**, who provide commissioned therapeutic support to children and young people who have lived with domestic abuse in their families, in order to triage social care cases where children have been impacted by domestic abuse and refer the most appropriate to the service.

Haven offered intensive support to 164 children to help them to recover from the trauma of domestic abuse during the year. Professionals described the service as supporting children well, that Haven staff were efficient, supportive, informative, very helpful, very professional, and friendly, and that they would absolutely and definitely recommend Haven's services.

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“The worker was very professional and friendly. Arrived promptly. The children loved their time working with them.”

Ann's Grove Primary.

“Great communication and a supportive member of the team.”

Safeguarding Manager Newfield School.

Violence Reduction Unit (VRU)

The South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit's aim is to work in partnership with organisations and communities across the county to prevent and reduce violence, taking a Public Health Approach.



The Unit contributed to Violence Reduction Action Plans in the four

Community Safety Partnerships. These help ensure a multi-agency commitment to reducing violence.

The Serious Violence Duty is a statutory duty which was introduced by the Government at the end of January 2023.

It requires “specified authorities to work together and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence, including identifying the kinds of serious violence that occur in the area and to prepare and implement a strategy for preventing and reducing serious violence in the area.”

The VRU has been instrumental in developing arrangements to meet the Serious Violence Duty in South Yorkshire, working with key partners across the county to prepare for the implementation of the Duty, and to assess how it fits in with our existing work. Find out more [here](#).

Achievements in 2022/23

The delivery of Trauma-Informed training – The aim is for staff who work with young people to be ‘trauma informed’, and to recognise childhood trauma when making assessments and engaging with young people. The VRU worked with Sheffield Hallam University to develop a trauma hotspot heatmap.

In 2022/23, the VRU's two grant rounds focused on supporting young people and tackling Violence Against Women and Girls. More than £688,000 was awarded through 43 grants. More than three thousand people were engaged through the grant rounds.

Violence Against Women and Girls has a terrible impact directly on victims, and indirectly on other women and girls who too often do not feel safe in our communities.

Tackling this issue remains a priority for the VRU and, during 2022, we supported four engagement events on this issue, most recently a knowledge sharing event at the end of November, and further supported the development of a South Yorkshire

Violence Against Women and Girls Partnership Statement of Intent. This asks organisations to sign up to a shared set of principles to tackle this issue in the county. 28 organisations have signed up to the Statement, which can be viewed [here](#).

Developments for 2023/24

In 2023/24, the VRU is running a grant round to support children and young people aged 4-25, with the aim of providing diversionary activities, positive role models, and mental health support. This aims to support young people and prevent them from becoming involved in violence.

Alongside this work, the VRU will continue to engage with organisations and communities, including education providers, childcare providers, charities, and community groups, as part of its work with children and families.

This includes organisations which have received funding from the VRU and those which haven't.

Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme

As part of the Government's new Family Hub and Start for Life programme, Sheffield's current Family Centres are now known as Family Hubs, building upon the existing services that are in place to support families from pregnancy through a child's early years until they reach adulthood. Find out more [here](#).



- **Continue with transformational changes** to establish the Family Hub network across the city including the development of a Parent Carer Panel and publish the new offer.
- **Establish working arrangements with Voluntary, Community and Faith (VCF) sector** to map universal baby and toddler services for families to access and support the availability of high-quality preventative practice provided by the VCF and integrate these into the Family Hub Network..
- **We will establish working opportunities with partners** to progress the Green agenda and equity and equality across the Family Hub and Start for Life programme agenda, by progressing the work on Breastfeeding and Climate Change and Breastfeeding and Cultural Competence awareness groups to support the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) population.

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Achievements in 2022/23

Formed a new parent and carer panel citywide to ensure parents and families voices are heard. We will link with our young 'Sheffielders' to ensure young people's voices are heard. Recent feedback from parents have been included in the film here: [Sheffield Family Hubs](#)

Developments for 2023/24

- **Continue to offer existing statutory duty Children's Centre Services** (this is now referred to as the Start for Life offer).
- **Continue to develop our workforce** to enable the enhanced Start for Life offer in communities linked to the Family Hub and Start for Life Programme funding and Early Help Review.



Universal Community Youth Services

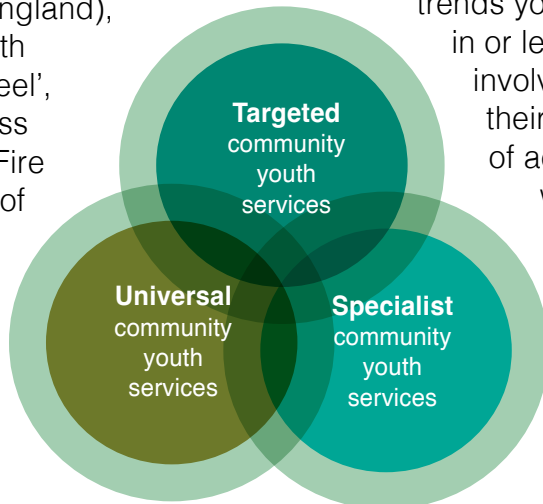
The aim of Universal Community Youth Services is to deliver engaging, innovative, educational, disability safe and fun youth work sessions that are needs led and engage, challenge, and develop young people’s understanding and knowledge. We currently deliver 42 sessions per week in key neighbourhoods and communities.

The delivery has been open access youth clubs and detached youth work; engaging young residents through informal education, sport, art, and personal development.

Achievements in 2022/23

Using quarterly curriculum plans as a planning tool, young people and youth workers develop varied harm reduction sessions for young residents – ‘Your Stance’ (NHS England), Sheffield Sexual Health Services, ‘Coppa a Feel’, Knife Crime Awareness and South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue in terms of firework safety and water safety.

An integral part of Universal Community Youth Services



is delivering innovative holiday activities; using existing and developing new partnerships to enhance young people’s experiences, to increase young people’s social and emotional skills, in particular, self-confidence, self-efficacy, and emotional intelligence to create new friendships and expand their community.

A key element to all our delivery is the ability to have authentic conversations with young people; we are continuously evaluating our practice and interactions. We use a variety of methods to ensure young people can contribute meaningfully to evaluating services that are delivered to, and for, them. In terms of examples, we use creative consultations, web based, oral, digital, and written word.

Through quarterly action plans, we determine the activities and issues and trends young people want to participate in or learn about. Youth Workers involve young people in managing their youth club budget in terms of activities and resources which are our building blocks to develop youth club forums across the city with support from the Voice and Influence Service.

“Like talking to youth worker- they listened to me.”

“Really enjoyed going on a residential- gave me time away, to meet new friends.”

“Gives me somewhere to go with my mates.”

Developments for 2023/24

- **To develop our digital offer**, recruit volunteers from local communities to form a trusted adult network.
- **Our annual training plan highlighted key training for staff** – Neurodiversity awareness, Mental Health First Aid, CCE awareness and Reflective Practice.
- **Increase membership to all youth provision** including SEND specific sessions and create sensory spaces in all youth clubs. The aim of our sensory space will be to provide safe, low-level stimulation and a recalibration zone for neuro-divergent young residents.



Youth Justice Service (YJS)

Building on the Child First approach, Sheffield Youth Justice Service (YJS) has made several changes which help to further embrace the guiding principles. Here is a link to Child First Principles - A Guide to Child First – Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (October 2022) - Youth Justice Resource Hub (yjresourcehub.uk)

To prioritise the best interests of children, specialist teams within the YJS have been dissolved. In addition, all assessment and intervention work for Out of Court Disposals now sits within the YJS to allow us to work with children in a seamless way and avoid a change in service delivery should a child progress through the criminal justice system.

Removing structural barriers around dedicated teams allows Sheffield Youth Justice Officers and Workers to work with a child collaboratively and continuously through their contact with the YJS. The case manager can draw upon the plethora of specialist support to respond to a child's needs without limitation.

Case managers build relationships with young people and families identifying their wishes, needs, interests and barriers to engagement. These are then taken into account during planning and delivery of interventions. This may include what is offered, where and how. Case work plans are reviewed at three monthly intervals to ensure interventions are still relevant and effective, and amended if necessary.

Developments for 2023/24

Sheffield Youth Justice Service is part of the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) Turnaround Programme initiative which will operate until April 2025; being provided with funding to intervene earlier and improve outcomes for children on the cusp of entering the youth justice system. The key aims of the programme are as follows:

- **Achieve positive outcomes for children** with the ultimate aim of preventing them going on to offend.
- **Build on work already done** to ensure all children on the cusp of the youth justice system are consistently offered a needs assessment and the opportunity for support.
- **Improve the socio-emotional, mental health and wellbeing** of children.
- **Improve the integration and partnership working** between Youth Offending Teams and other statutory services to support children.
- **Whilst our offer is still in development owing to LA commissioning procedures**, delivery has commenced, and the programme will be evaluated both locally and nationally by the Ministry Of Justice and staff from the Youth Endowment Fund.



Youth Voice and Influence Service

The Youth Voice and Influence Service authentically listens to, and clearly communicates with, Young Residents, Partners, and Local Area Committees to identify the challenges and strengths of communities to improve services for young residents.

Achievements in 2022/23

- **Several safety conferences/workshops** for young residents in relation to street safety and online safety.
- **Production of Be That Mate** film focusing on sexual harassment of girls and young women.
- **Test purchasing of knives, alcohol, and fireworks** in partnership with SYP.
- **SEND educational development** – consulting with young people in Alternative Provision and Integrated Resource settings.
- **GBTQ+ tender** – young residents' consultation, sitting on tender panel.
- **SENDing voices group have advised and youth proofed** the Sheffield transition pathway document that has been adopted by partners.

All delivery is young person centred. The service 'youth proofs' consultation material so that young residents can effectively engage in all areas of their lives. All feedback is analysed and reviewed to improve our service offer to young people by bringing key decision makers on board who help influence positive change.

Excellent feedback was received re the Be That Mate film from young residents, parents and carers and professionals (film has been adopted by nine police forces within the country).

Youth councillor young person

“Before getting involved in youth cabinet I didn't have any friends and my mental health wasn't great, but now I have friends and life is much brighter.”

Youth councillor young person

“Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to go and see the women euro matches! I absolutely loved it, and they were my first ever football matches! Thank you, I had a blast!”

Youth councillor young person

“Huge confidence growth due to me being involved in youth voice work.”

SEND young person

“I am looking forward to the year as a group. I think this is the best thing that has happened to me in a long time.”

SEND parent

“It was so lovely to meet you and everyone else yesterday. We are all quite overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity shown to us. My daughter was very nervous yesterday beforehand but is now looking forward to meeting again. I must admit I had to Google what a youth worker is; I assumed it was like a social worker but wow, what a fantastic job.”

SEND young person

“I like being with an amazing group of people, a very good bunch. I get to have a voice and people listen to me.”

Developments for 2023/24

- **Housing Strategy consultation** with young residents (September).
- **City Goals consultation** – Building a better Sheffield.
- **LAC area school youth conference** – Based on South LAC pilot, the North-East one will take place in October 2023, six schools and one college will attend a full day workshop to discuss and develop plans based on three subjects 1) Cost of living then a further two chosen from the North East Local Area Committee (LAC) priorities (e.g. Community Safety, Health, and Wellbeing).
- **Celebrating young residents' Voices** – Showcase conference and award ceremony.
- **Coproduction of a new educational hate crime film** aimed at young people (working with same film maker as Be That Mate).
- **Supporting Public Health** to gather the views of younger parents on the perinatal services they received in relation to their mental health to influence service improvements.



Prevent

The Sheffield City Council Prevent Team supports a partnership approach to safeguarding young people and adults from the risk of radicalisation.

Achievements in 2022/23

Throughout the year, we have worked directly with young people, learners, parents and carers, schools, training providers, out of school settings and VCF organisations.

Supporting young people to build resilience to extremist narratives by raising awareness of local risks, developing skills to challenge misinformation, and promoting positive local narratives to tackle hate.

Providing tailored multi-agency support at the earliest stage to young people who are vulnerable to radicalisation.

Engaging with communities is a key strand of Prevent delivery – in helping to build resilience to radicalisers, but also in terms of promoting transparency regarding Prevent activity, listening to and responding to concerns, and developing trust in local referral pathways.

Throughout the year we have:

- **Met with the Youth Parliament and parents groups** to discuss how Prevent works locally.
- **Received feedback and evaluations** from Prevent projects and training delivered to young people, parents, and carers.
- **Spoken to all young people and their families** who have been adopted on to the **Channel** – explaining the safeguarding process and seeking and respecting their consent for support.
- **Supported safeguarding interventions**, such as Child in Need meetings, where the voice of the child and the wider family is included and acted upon.

Feedback from Prevent delivery to young people during the year showed that it had helped to:

- **Improve their understanding** of the risk of radicalisation.
- **Strengthen their awareness** of how to access support for themselves and others.
- **Empower them to challenge** divisive and hateful narratives and behaviour.

Developments for 2023/24

Continue to work with young people, parents and carers, settings, and services.

To support children and young people to be resilient to extremism and to provide safeguarding support at the earliest stage to those who are vulnerable to radicalisation.





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Learn Sheffield – Online Harm

Learn Sheffield continues to deliver a commission on Online Safety from SCSP.

This commission covers training, policy and curriculum advice for schools and alternative providers, in addition to Online Safety consultancy for the wider children's workforce through multi-agency seminars, web-based advice, and individual support for the Safeguarding Education Advisors team.



Achievements in 2022/23

January 2023 saw the publication of the Children's Commissioner's report on Pornography: "**A Lot of it is Actually Just Abuse**". This research gives the average age for accessing pornography online as thirteen. There is no discernible difference between males and females in this average figure.

A sizeable minority of primary age children also access pornography (27% by the age of eleven and 10% by the age of nine). These statistics have been anecdotally confirmed by discussions with students in Sheffield secondary schools. The report also reports the expectation for violent sex amongst teenagers.

This has been borne out in discussions with young people as part of a Sexual Harassment project in schools in South Yorkshire. Twitter is mentioned as one platform where links to pornography are regularly spread in addition to porn sites e.g. PornHub.

More in-depth discussion has revealed that links are often moved from sites who are becoming more adept at regulation, for example TikTok, with the video short being a taster and a link to an external site being shared, hence Twitter and other chat sites being used.

These findings reiterate the need for high quality Relationships and Sex Education in schools as well as increased industry regulation for individual sites. Young people consistently report their education in this area as being too little and too late. This situation will be further complicated by pressure that is being placed on Government to make its education guidelines more conservative and lobbying by certain parent groups to do the same.

Some settings have mentioned some use of Only Fans to monetise sexual activity with poverty primarily being an underlying factor in the motivation of the young person.

Over the course of this year, an increasing number of primary and secondary students have reported experiencing hate speech in their online

lives. This manifests itself as children from minority ethnic groups making their avatars white, girls pretending to be boys in gaming situations and young people with SEND routinely accepting ableist abuse online.

We have been advising schools how to deal with misogynistic influencers online but the most publicised are only a small part of what is becoming known as the Manosphere. Worryingly, young men in Sheffield report an increased use of Discord, Reddit, 4Chan and other message board sites where such content can be found, and young men “groomed” and influenced.

We believe that excellent equality education from a young age is the best way to counteract such beliefs. This needs to be approached carefully as there can be some confusion with promoting sex equality with young children and highlighting the transgender narrative. This is particularly pertinent due to the polarised opinions that transgenderism can elicit. Equally, the wellbeing of our LGBTQ+ students remains a concern in the online space.

Developments for 2023/24

The Online Safety Consultants and the Education Safeguarding Advisors have strengthened their relationship over the year and are preparing to co-deliver training for Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) and other school staff over the coming year.

This will facilitate a more coherent and streamlined approach to the training. It also makes clear to schools that Online Safeguarding is very much the responsibility of the DSL and is not a separate entity.

Keeping Children Safe In Education 2023 further strengthens the responsibility of the DSL in this space, particularly with regard to reviewing Online Safety policy and practice, as well as leading the internet filtering and monitoring strategy in schools.

Plans are already in hand for Learn Sheffield, SCSP and Sheffield City Council staff to brief schools about these changes.

We will also involve the commercial provider Smoothwall who are the majority provider to Sheffield schools.



Public Health

The Public Health team has moved back into ‘business as usual’ work having spent over two years providing mutual aid to support health protection and COVID response. Providing outbreak response identified where services and settings required additional support to safeguard children and young people, most notably, the ability for settings to manage infection prevention control and reduce risks. Education and nursery settings have been supported with guidance. Regular communication has been established through the Education and Skills newsletter to inform settings of health protection issues and action that should be taken.

An example of this was when cases of Strep A increased over the autumn period as we came out of the pandemic. There has also been a focus on immunisation ‘catch up’ post pandemic in order to protect those children and young people who may have missed vaccinations during lock down periods and for those that are under immunised.

Achievements in 2022/23

The pandemic greatly impacted on the lives and wellbeing of children and young people in many ways. **The Director of Public Health**

Annual report (2023) takes us through the journey of the pandemic and, specifically, the impact of COVID-19 on inequalities.

Whilst the priority throughout was to safeguard the health of children, young people and families, there is no doubt there has been a long-term impact on children and young people’s education and emotional wellbeing and mental health.

The Public Health Service has continued to work closely with organisations to further develop early intervention and support for mental health. This has taken the form of working across South Yorkshire Public Health teams/Local Authorities and Chilypep on the development of the **‘Walk with us Toolkit’**, providing support to children and young people bereaved by suicide (This has won a national Local Government Chronicle LGC Award).

As well as all early years and school settings receiving copies of this toolkit, fifty training places were offered to school staff for the **‘Talking with Children and Young People when there has been a suicide’** training. There has also been the continued expansion of the national Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs) in school settings led by Sheffield Children’s NHS Foundation Trust Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAHMS) team.

A recent priority has been to continue to work with partners to deliver a comprehensive programme of tobacco control interventions to reduce smoking amongst adults and children. Following a focus on increases in young people vaping, Smokefree Sheffield with ASH UK has produced [advice on how to stop children vaping](#), in response to demand from parents and teachers. This information has been disseminated across children and young people's settings.

During the month of May 2023, Sheffield Trading Standards removed over 16,500 illegal vapes and 7,680 items of illicit tobacco from shops in the city. In the Autumn, Greg Feo, Director of Public Health, and Sarah Heworth, the Health Improvement Principal lead for tobacco, will be meeting with headteachers to review what further ongoing support is needed.

Training on CYP and vaping resources will also be offered to safeguarding leads, school nurses, teachers and PSHE co-ordinators to further support settings to deal with this issue. Settings are being urged to report illegal sales via Trading Standards so we act on this intelligence.

A safeguarding and behaviour policy is being developed in collaboration with partners and we would like to bring this to the safeguarding

board for input into this development. The Sheffield tobacco control programme was recently awarded the LGC award in the Public Health category and the work on vaping and CYP was a key aspect of success in achieving the award for the outstanding resources developed – which are now also being utilised by sixty local authorities across England.

In response of our partnership and mutual accountability role, the Public Health Service is aligned to working with the Safeguarding Partnership to protect and respond to all forms of child abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

Through building partnerships with the Sheffield Health and Wellbeing Board, there has been a priority in establishing themed workshop sessions for health and wellbeing board members focusing on emotional wellbeing and mental health and children and young people.

This has provided input to the development of the city's strategy for health [The Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#) which is due to be refreshed for 2024.

Through feedback from City Goals engagement work and the 2019 Healthwatch project, some draft key themes for the refreshed strategy have developed and include:

- A strong need for connection, belonging, support, understanding.
- Better ways of getting round the city, feeling safer, green spaces.
- Support to live more healthily.
- More preventive healthcare and access.
- Mental wellbeing. Through the DfE Start for Life Programme, Public Health is leading the development of a new perinatal mental health pathway to support and protect those most vulnerable. This is a key element of service delivery to safeguard children and families. The design of the pathway is currently underway with services to be mobilised soon.

[The Public Health Outcomes](#) Framework continues to provide a robust opportunity to monitor and analyse outcome indicators across a range of themes. There is rigorous and regular monitoring of commissioned services and performance monitoring of all contracts funded via the Public Health grant.

For health protection, there continues to be a requirement to monitor and review serious incidents related to outbreaks of infectious diseases in children and young people's settings to review how transmission and risk is managed.

Voice of the Child, Young Person, and Family

The Public Health Service regularly consults with services that directly support children, young people, and families particularly Early Years, schools, and post 16 settings.

Additionally, those services commissioned using the Public Health grant have a requirement to engage and consult. An example of this is the 0-19 Healthy Child Programme Service provided by Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust. Through engagement with families, the Trust has established a programme of Super Saturdays where clinical teams/services are providing outreach into community locations over a weekend to increase engagement and flexibility.

Sensory vaccination and immunisation sessions have been arranged to enable children with special educational needs to access vaccinations through a most appropriate and suitable environment.

“The support for early years staff, families and school leaders from the Public Health team was extraordinary and essential in enabling colleagues to support their school communities. Always solution focussed and never judgmental, they supported and challenged their education colleagues in an exemplary way. The legacy of those working relationships will long outlast the pandemic itself.”

“The response to individual family issues, emergencies and queries was incredible. The response was always rapid (regardless of whether it was an evening or a weekend) and questions were always answered in the most empathetic and supportive way.”

“How things were handled has left me with a feeling of deep respect and a shared experience of something that was profoundly challenging at times.”

“The way the Public Health team supported schools will remain with me as a school leader as a brilliant example of how a service went over and above to provide support to schools and families throughout the whole period.”

Developments for 2023/24

As we move on from the pandemic and develop a refreshed city Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the Public Health Service will:

- **Review how the Public Health grant is allocated** across the city to ensure that where and how it is spent provides the best outcomes for children and families.
- **Continue to support organisations across the city** to best meet the needs of families through

the identification of evidence-based practice and advising and designing services to safeguard children and families. Examples of this in 2023/24 will be a continued focus on emotional wellbeing and mental health, and health protection/communicable disease.

- **Using the model of compassionate leadership** to work with anchor organisations to support staff to deliver services that meet need.

South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue (SYFR)

Achievements in 2022/23

Compliance with national requirements.

The National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) has produced a suite of Professional Standards and South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue (SYFR) Safeguarding Officers have been active, both nationally and regionally, in the NFCC Safeguarding work stream. We have undertaken Safeguarding self-assessment implementation tool, gap analysis together with an action plan.

SYFR have two Safeguarding Officers who are designated safeguarding leads. They continue to make staff aware of their roles and responsibilities along with providing quarterly development sessions for operational group managers who deputise out of hours for safeguarding. SYFR have recently completed self-assessments and attended Challenge/Assurance Meetings in both Sheffield and Rotherham.

We provide quarterly reports to the Fire Authority and have identified increasing numbers of complex cases in relation to children and young people with fire setting behaviours. These

cases often meet the threshold for a referral to Children's Services and Early Help. SYFR triage all safeguarding referrals to ensure they are appropriate and go to the most appropriate service.

SYFR Safeguarding Case Records provide us with information on the outcomes for children and their families. We also receive referrals from Independent Domestic Violence advisors (IDVAs) and South Yorkshire Police for home safety checks where there is a threat of arson often related to domestic abuse and households where children are living. SYFR Safeguarding Officers triage internal safeguarding referrals to ensure that thresholds are met for services ensuring our referral to services are appropriate.

SYFR continue to offer a range of activities for young people e.g. Fire Cadets. Attendance, completion of course work and feedback all indicate a positive impact. The outcomes are based on the experience of team building and pro-social modelling from a uniformed public sector service. In addition to this, targeted youth work, for example, Princes Trust, offers a more structured and intensive course for those not in education or employment and at risk of being marginalised and becoming involved in anti-social behaviour. Participation and end of course testimony from the students together with positive outcomes in terms of future employment are indicators of success.

As per the gap analysis on the last section 11 SYFR completed, we have now employed a Youth Engagement and

Interventions Manager to support with the youth provision within our service. We have tasked the manager with a suite of work to ensure we are able to capture the voice of the child more appropriately and provide further training for staff.

A new quality assurance framework is being introduced to SYFR so we can ensure compliance with national guidance from the National Fire Chiefs Council, which includes a person centred framework for home safety fire visits. SYFR will continue to do this with case work for children, young people, and adults to ensure staff can recognise and respond appropriately to safeguarding.



**South Yorkshire
FIRE & RESCUE**





Voice of the Child, Young Person, and Family

The testimonies of young people attending SYFR youth courses, such as Prince’s Trust and receiving awards, offers a genuine insight into what the young people and their families think about the service offered and the difference it has made to them. In addition to this, SYFR receive regular feedback from visits to LIFEWISE, Schools Education and visits to the station which is often captured in “Compliments” in our Weekly Bulletin.

The Education Officer and New Youth Engagement and Intervention Manager have been tasked with accessing the views of children and young people SYFR work with. This can be part of SYFR work in schools, Lifewise centre or through Cadets or Prince’s Trust.

A new child friendly complaints procedure is being development through our corporate governance department and Youth Engagement and Interventions manager.

It can be difficult to reference or quantify what children, young people and families say about our service as our engagement can often be brief such as the home safety check or during an incident. Think Family Education is producing harm reduction and some positive outcomes for children and young people who play with fire.

Developments for 2023/24

Refresher training for operational fire fighters covering professional curiosity, adverse childhood experiences and contextual safeguarding.

Training for People’s Services staff in relation to safer recruitment. Training to empower and ensure that staff know what their responsibilities are in relation to safeguarding children and young people.

A new Learnpro for all staff will be introduced to support everyone to have an awareness of Safeguarding, including internal safeguarding procedures ensuring all SYFR know how to respond to a safeguarding concern.

Probation

The Probation Service works with offenders who are serving their sentence but are not in prison. This could be because they are serving a community sentence or have been released from prison on licence or parole.

People on probation have regular meetings with a probation practitioner and may have to do unpaid work, complete an education or training course, and/or get treatment for addictions, like drugs or alcohol.



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Achievements in 2022/23

- **Improved staffing and resources to manage caseloads.** Impact achieved on improved child safeguarding checks for cases going through Court and Sentence Management to ensure all child safeguarding measures form part of our assessment at Court for sentence proposals, and the way we manage community sentence plans.
- **Delivery of Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)** has continued to ensure public protection and safeguarding has been a deliverable priority, particularly regarding individuals assessed as posing the highest risk of serious harm to the public, including children. Similarly, probation practitioner presence at Child Protection Conferences has also remained an operational priority to contribute to children's safety.
- **In building back after the pandemic recovery,** we have re-introduced home visits in appropriate cases, and this will impact cases with child safeguarding concerns.
- **In operating under the Probation Prioritisation Framework** - Amber – we have progressed to improved arrangements for face-to-face supervision for higher risk cases.
- **Robust monitoring of probation appointments** and child safeguarding checks has been implemented.

The Sheffield Probation Delivery Unit (PDU) has practitioners on one site in the city centre and has realigned teams with attendance at multi-agency meetings, particularly child protection conferences, a priority. Senior and middle managers are visible and engaging with local strategic meetings and are driving quality and performance internally, particularly with a commitment to safeguarding training and development.

We make full use of all options on community orders post-sentence, including with appropriate licence conditions and enforcement to keep child safeguarding as one of our operational priorities.

Voice of the Child, Young Person, and Family

The Probation Service does not work directly with children, however our focus on child welfare remains a high priority, and the assessment of the risks posed by adults towards children is continuously assessed and referrals made when appropriate.

As part of our assessments and referrals, the voice of the child is considered, particularly when contributing to more formal scenarios such as child protection conferences. The increased use of home visits and subsequent visibility and contact with partners and children in the households of our people on probation has meant that probation practitioners have been better able to assess child welfare.

Similarly, the robust management of people on probation assessed as posing a risk to children means that we have the ability to remove direct threats to children's safety from home environments, reducing the risk of harm to those children.

We subsequently continue to work with those individuals, and associated partnership agencies, to assist them to understand the type and level of harm that their behaviour can cause to a child with a view to assist them to improve their behaviour to the point where they can positively contribute to a child's life and development, where possible and appropriate.

Developments for 2023/24

Whilst continuing to work to the Prioritising Probation Framework (PPF) and develop our contact with people on probation, we will, through ongoing recruitment and retention, continue to progress on implementing the Probation Service Target Operating Model (TOM).

We have recruited a Probation Service Officer to work in the Child Safeguarding Hub with Sheffield City Council (SCC). Safeguarding children shall remain a priority area of work throughout, particularly in regard to risk assessments and intervention delivery. This will help all our probation staff to complete checks on our cases with child safeguarding concerns more quickly and efficiently. We will also contribute to daily multi-agency case conferences with partner agencies in the

Child Safeguarding Hub. We have agreed with training leads in SCC that, in order to increase opportunities for probation staff to attend relevant training, bespoke sessions will be facilitated in our probation office in Sheffield. Furthermore, operational staff will engage with continued professional development and learning that is inclusive of safeguarding children and promoting child welfare and development.

We will have direct access to domestic abuse intelligence from South Yorkshire Police to enable us to directly access information and keep individuals and children safe.



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