

NORTH SOMERSET SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD



ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

Published September 2019

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1 – FOREWORD AND INTRODUCTION



Our Vision: “Children and young people of North Somerset will be seen, listened to and valued to ensure they are safe, thriving and reaching their full potential.”

Welcome to the Annual Report of the North Somerset Safeguarding Children Board [NSSCB] for the period April 2018 to March

2019. I mentioned in last year’s report the forthcoming changes to multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. These changes, as outlined in the Children and Social Work Act 2017, mean that this will be my final report.

This report, which reflects the activity of the Board and its sub-groups against the agreed priorities, provides readers with headline information of the LSCB’s work over the past year. As last year, rather than duplicate information which has already been reported, we invite you to make use of the Board’s website and the website of partners should you wish more detailed information.

For 2018 / 19, we chose to retain and progress our priorities from the previous year, namely:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| ● Priority One | Early Intervention |
| ● Priority Two | Neglect |
| ● Priority Three | Sexual Exploitation/ Missing |
| ● Priority Four | Domestic Abuse |

The development of these priorities is detailed in the [Strategic Business Plan](#) which can be found on the Board’s website.

Unfortunately, the Board has been without a Board Manager throughout this reporting period. This has impacted on our ability to develop and plan. That said, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of the Board Co-Ordinator in ensuring that we continued to function in difficult times when, once again, it has been evident that public services have been struggling to respond to ever increasing challenges at a time of restricted budgets.

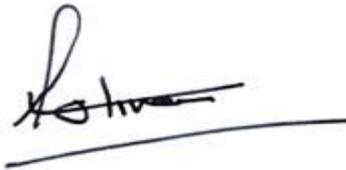
Some notable achievements and commitments over the year are described within paragraph 4 of this report and / or on our website.

The action plans linked to the two Serious Case Reviews [SCR’s] undertaken in 2017 / 18 which were mentioned in last year’s report, are available on our website. I decided not to publish these SCR’s as, I felt in both cases, the children concerned

were locally identifiable which would have been inappropriate. The learning from both SCR's has been published on the Board's website on the NSPCC SCR database as well as being embedded into front line practice across North Somerset.

I would like to thank all the Professionals, our Lay members and the young people who have contributed to the work of the Board and its subgroups for their time, energy and commitment to Safeguarding Children which, despite many challenges, have consistently been evident during this reporting period and throughout my tenure as Independent Chair.

I am confident that North Somerset is well placed to introduce and develop the new arrangements with partners to continue to safeguard our children and young people who are the very centre of what we do. I will retain a keen interest in these arrangements. I wish you all well.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Oliver', with a horizontal line underneath it.

Tony Oliver,
Independent Chair, North Somerset Safeguarding Children Board

2 - LEGAL FRAMEWORK, MAIN FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

Section 13 of the Children Act 2004 requires each Local Authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) for their area and specifies the organisations and individuals (other than the Local Authority) that should be represented on LSCBs.

It is independently chaired (as required by statute) and consists of senior representatives of all the principle stakeholders working together to safeguard children and young people in North Somerset.

There is an agreed role description for all Board members, recognising that some members do not represent their agencies but represent professions or sectors. The Board has two lay members as required by the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009.

Each Board partner retains their own existing line of accountability for safeguarding.

Section 14 of the Children Act 2004 sets out the objectives of LSCBs, which are;

- To co-ordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority; and
- To ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for that purpose. Regulation 5 of the Local Safeguarding Children Board's Regulations 2006 sets out that the functions of the LSCB, in relation to the above objectives under section 14 of the Children Act 2004, are as follows:
 - Developing policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, including policies and procedures in relation to:
 - The action to be taken where there are concerns about a child's safety or welfare including thresholds for intervention.
 - Training of persons who work with children or in services affecting the safety and welfare of children.
 - Recruitment and supervision of persons who work with children.
 - Investigation of allegations concerning persons who work with children.
 - Safety and welfare of children who are privately fostered.
 - Co-operation with neighbouring children's services authorities and their Board partners.
- Communicating to persons and bodies in the area of the authority the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, raising their awareness of how this can best be done and encouraging them to do so.

- Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of what is done by the authority and their Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advising them on ways to improve.
- Participating in the planning of services for children in the area of the authority.
- Undertaking reviews of serious cases and advising the authority and their Board partners on lessons to be learned.

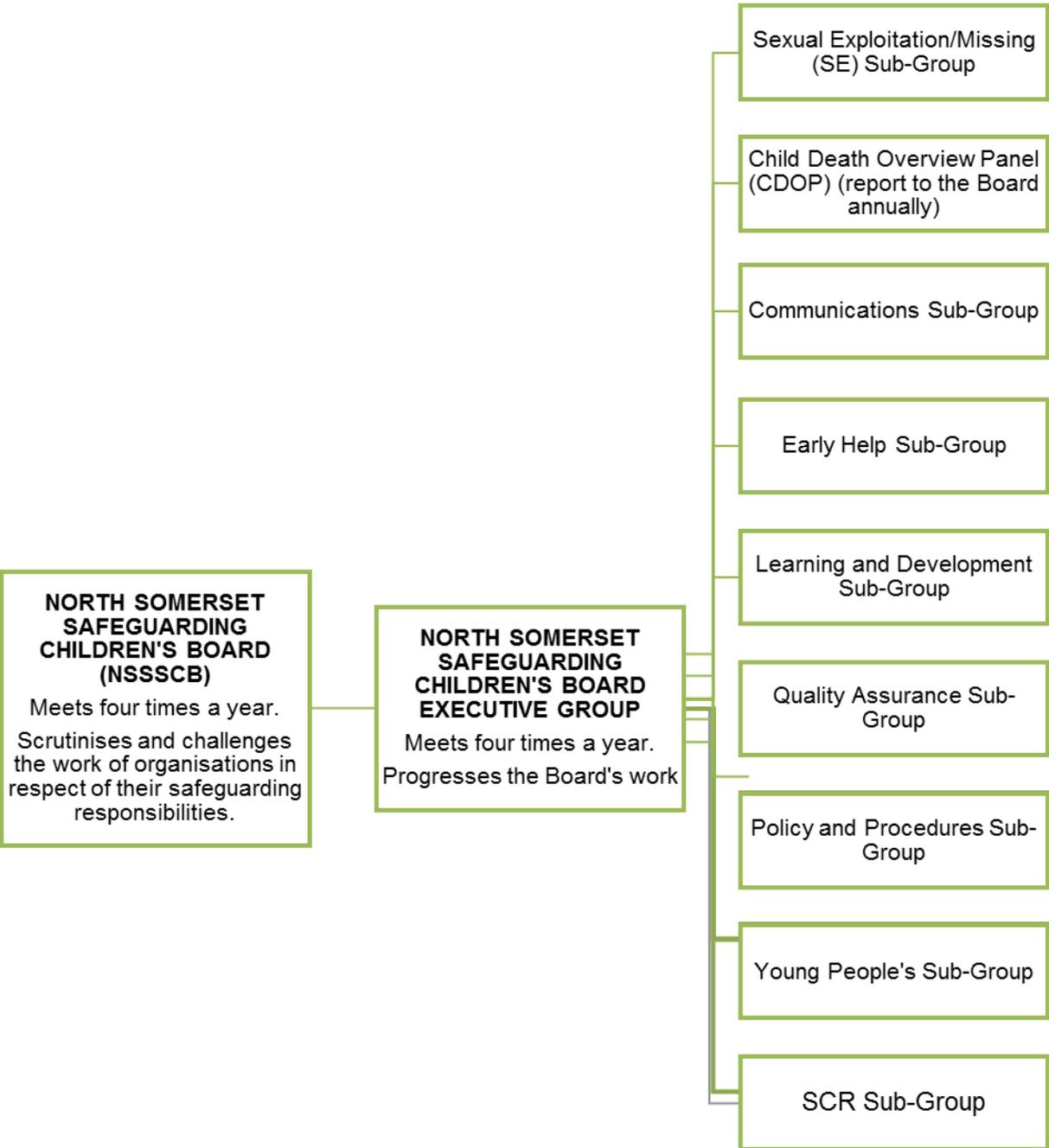
Structure of North Somerset Safeguarding Children Board (NSSCB):

Working Together 2018 highlights the importance of partner agencies and their role in implementing effective safeguarding practice. While LSCBs do not have the power to direct other organisations, they do have a role in making clear where improvement is needed. Each Board partner retains its own existing line of accountability for safeguarding. In North Somerset our Board partners include:

- Local Authority
- Avon and Somerset Police
- Health
- National Probation Service and local Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC)
- Education (including schools)
- Voluntary sector
- CAFCASS

A full list of [Board Members](#) can be found on our website

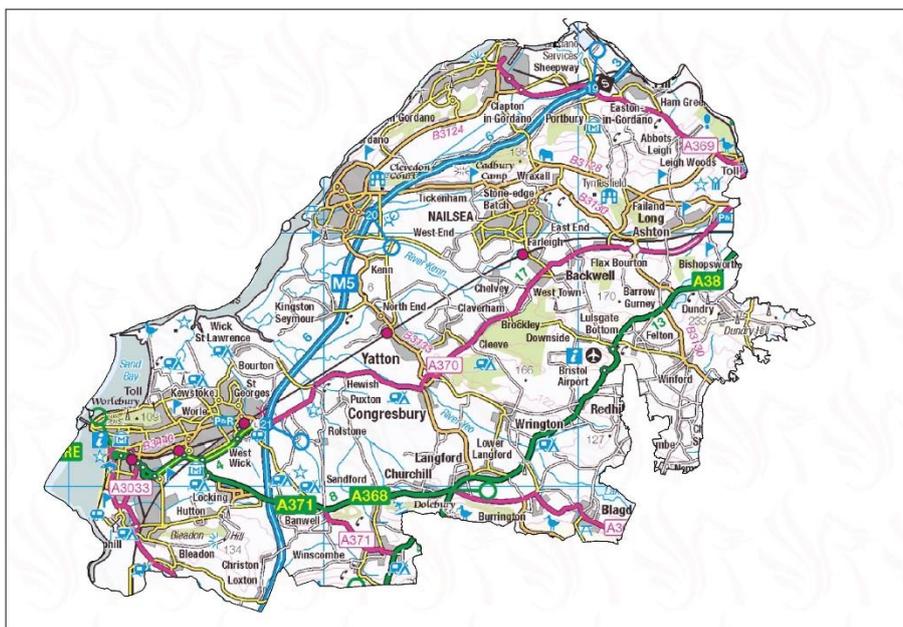
There is also a section within the appendices in relation to board attendance ([Appendix A](#)).



3 – LOCAL DEMOGRAPHICS

North Somerset Council is a unitary authority in the South West of England which borders Bristol, Somerset, and Bath and North-East Somerset, and is part of the West of England Partnership.

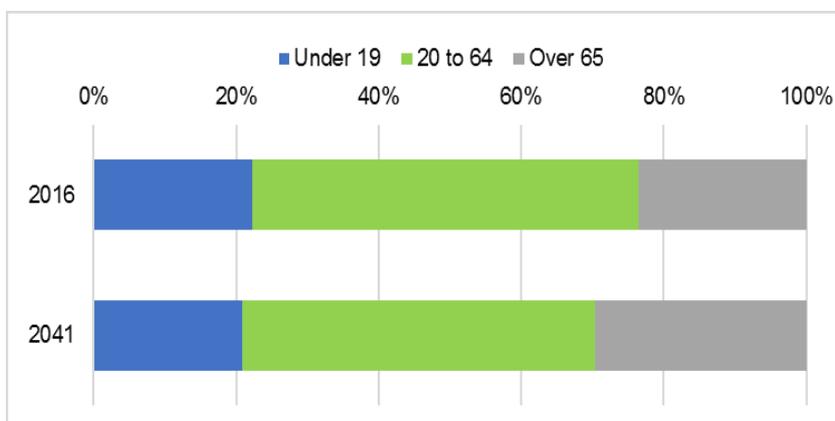
There are four main towns within North Somerset: Clevedon, Portishead, Nailsea and Backwell, and Weston-super-Mare.



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Office of National Statistics mid-year estimates 2018 give the North Somerset population as 213,919 people. Of the 213,919 people, 45,717 are children and young people (under the age of 19 years), 117,255 are between 20 and 64 years of age, and 50,947 are older people (aged over the age of 65 years).

The North Somerset population is projected to increase from 213,919 people in 2018 to approx. 251,700 people in 2041, an increase of 37,781 people. Of this increase just 5,600 are projected to be young people under the age of 19 years.



4 – SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY OF THE BOARD DURING 2018 - 2019

- The North Somerset Safeguarding Children Board Business Plan was reviewed in July 2018 by the Independent Chair and the statutory lead members of the Board. The refreshed plan continues to ensure that the work of the Board and its sub-groups is informed by clear agreed priorities with completion dates dovetailing in with the timescale of the implementation of the new Safeguarding Children arrangements which will be implemented in September 2019. The completed plan is attached as [Appendix D](#).
- Due to the on-going lack of a Board Manager, the Board, its Executive and its sub-groups have continued to work closely together relying on partnership working.
- The action plan against Ofsted recommendations was completed, apart from the recruitment of a Board Manager, and signed off by the Board in December 2018.
- The joint North Somerset Safeguarding website is continuing to be used as a useful tool for professionals. <https://www.northsomersetsafeguarding.co.uk/>
- A quarterly joint newsletter is produced for partners to disseminate information on the work of the Board which include recommendations from learning reviews; audits; and upcoming events. These are uploaded onto the joint North Somerset Safeguarding website. <https://www.northsomersetsafeguarding.co.uk/children-safeguarding-board/safeguarding-children-board/newsletters>.
- The Independent Author of last year's two Serious Case Reviews (SCR) presented her reports and recommendations to the LSCB in June 2018. The SCR Panel subsequently produced action plans against these recommendations. All recommendations have been incorporated into future multi-agency training courses. Multi-agency briefing sessions have also taken place. All activity on these actions is monitored at the Board's Executive and reported back to the quarterly Board.
- Local Learning reviews have been carried out and briefing notes have been produced, disseminated and uploaded onto the website. <https://www.northsomersetsafeguarding.co.uk/children-safeguarding-board/safeguarding-children-board/serious-case-reviews>
- Following our Section 11 audits, walkabouts were carried out on North Somerset Community Partnership; Weston Area Health Trust and National Probation Service. Reports were submitted to the Board and an action plan on common themes has been produced.
- Section 175 audits were sent out by the Training in Education officer with a 100% return.

- Early Years Audit: At the request of the LSCB an audit took place in January 2018. 100% response rate of 230 providers. Findings from the audit were reported back to the Board in December 2018.
- Awareness raising for Board members through presentations, good practice examples of multi-agency working and national updates. The following went to the Board:

Presentations:

- Suicide Prevention Group and Action Plan (June Board)
- One Front Door (1FD). (September Board)
- Operation Topaz (December Board)
- Sexual Abuse and Violence Strategy (December Board)
- Family Conflict Pilot (March)

5 – SUB-GROUPS

The Board's sub-groups consist of multi-agency representation and the following section summarises the activity of these groups from April 1st 2018 to March 31st 2019 detailed under the Board's priorities:

- 5.1 Early Intervention;
- 5.2 Neglect;
- 5.3 Sexual Exploitation/Missing;
- 5.4 Domestic Abuse;
- 5.5 Quality and Performance.

The exceptions are:

A) POLICY AND PROCEDURES SUB-GROUP Since January 2018 this has been a virtual sub-group made up of representatives from key partner agencies: the local authority, BNSSG CCG and the police. Documents due for updates are forwarded to this group for comment before being presented to the Executive Group and final approval by the Board. Throughout the year a number of documents and policies have been approved in this way and have been uploaded onto the website. [Safeguarding Guidance, Procedures and Policies](#)

The following strategies have been presented to the Board in draft format and are in the process of being signed off :

- Sexual Abuse and Violence Strategy
- Early Help Strategy (refresh)

Other policies have been reviewed and the decision has been made to update these under the new arrangements.

B) SERIOUS CASE REVIEWS (SCR) SUB-GROUP The final reports on the two Serious Case Reviews held in 2017 were produced and presented to the LSCB in June 2018. The Serious Case Review panel agreed that both reports would only be published anonymously on the NSPCC website. Action plans have been produced and disseminated to all Board member organisations as well as the LSCB sub-groups. Learning has been embedded in multi-agency training courses and staff briefings have taken place with key themes discussed and policies/culture amended to reflect best practice. The Independent Chair continues to monitor and request updates on the action plans and these are due to be completed by September 2019.

Throughout the year the group has been convened on five occasions and although no cases have reached the threshold to carry out a Serious Case Review learning has been recommended and carried out. The following briefing notes have been produced, presented and circulated widely across the LSCB membership. These are also uploaded onto the website:

- [Child sexual abuse in the family environment](#)
- [Children at risk as a result of parental "Toxic Trio"](#)

C) YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUB-GROUP The following presentations were created by the Young People's sub-group. These are uploaded onto the website:

- a. [Sexting Awareness](#)
- b. [Mindfulness tips](#)

The momentum of the good work of the sub-group has unfortunately slowed over the reporting period due to several factors including the co-ordinator stepping down in May '18, the Board not finding a replacement until November '18 and the current members leaving the sub-group to concentrate on exams. The Board has held discussions around the best way of achieving representation and connecting with young people from different forums. Suggestions have included linking in with existing groups. This will be carried forward as part of the implementation of the new arrangements.

5.1 EARLY INTERVENTION (Early Help, Pathways, Thresholds)

JOINT COMMUNICATION SUB-GROUP

What did we do and why?

1. The Sub Group continues to communicate factual information about the safeguarding of children via the awareness campaigns.

What have we learnt?

1. The Sub Group has learnt that by not having a children's co-chair there may have been some missed opportunities.

How have we made a difference for children and young people?

1. The campaigns have ensured that public awareness has been improved regarding the different types of child abuse and how to raise concerns.

What do we need to do better?

1. The Sub Group needs to measure the effectiveness of the awareness days.

EARLY HELP SUB-GROUP

What did we do and why?

- To understand the effectiveness of Early Intervention:
 - Increased the use of common assessment framework utilised by range of agencies
 - Carried out regular Early Help Audits e.g. Children's Centre

- Various agencies record service user feedback ensuring children and families views and experiences of early help intervention are heard.
- Routine training delivered to practitioners to ensure North Somerset Threshold continuum is understood.

What have we learnt?

- Multi-ownership of triage is secured; and there is a need to continue to develop multi-agency ownership of Early Help.
- There is no collective overview of case outcomes – this is undertaken at agency level.

How have we made a difference for children and young people?

- There has been an increase in numbers of families receiving coordinated help across North Somerset with various agencies reporting positive outcomes.
- Individual agencies collate outcome information.
- Early Help cases and Early Help module suggest that the correct application of the Threshold is taking place.

5.2 NEGLECT

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT SUB-GROUP

What did we do and why?

1. Implemented 'Hollie' case study in basic, refresher and advanced inter-agency training packages.
2. Introduction of Neglect Toolkit through Neglect course which is now being used in schools.
3. Creation of Managing Difficult Conversations workshop.

What have we learnt?

1. Teachers are very aware of the issues surrounding neglect (prominent concern in North Somerset) and understand neglect's place in the bigger picture surrounding safeguarding.

How have we made a difference for children and young people?

1. Neglect toolkit is being used as referenced in response to the 2019 '175 Audit'.
2. Professionals have a broader understanding of implications of 'Hollie' case study and changes have been made in their organisations.
3. Increased professional curiosity into the 'little things' and more willingness to report.
4. Increase in children on CP plans for neglect- locally and nationally.

What do we need to do better?

1. Managing Difficult Conversations course to be rolled out and a quicker turn-around for courses to be delivered.
2. Schools and partner agencies need support to write referrals that are more likely to be accepted by social care.
3. Relationships between key agencies to continue to improve, Siblings A and B case study has highlighted this (escalation).

5.3 SEXUAL EXPLOITATION/MISSING

JOINT COMMUNICATIONS SUB-GROUP

What did we do and why?

1. The Sub Group worked in Partnership with the Exploitation and Missing Sub Group.

What have we learnt?

1. The Sub Group learnt that sexual exploitation affects male and females of any age.

How have we made a difference for children and young people?

1. The Sub Group ensured that the CSE Awareness Day was widely communicated across North Somerset.

What do we need to do better?

1. The Sub Group would have benefited from having a co-chair from a children's background.

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT SUB-GROUP

What did we do and why?

1. Return from Missing training facilitated, ensuring consistency between agencies on this process.
2. Training and audit amended to ensure schools collecting multiple contacts for Missing Children (Case study- Hackney).
3. Yearly audit includes children who have had a fixed/permanent exclusion in the last year and those at risk of dropping off the system
4. Advanced and Basic Awareness- CSE training (Paul and Rhi)

What have we learnt?

1. Subject matter is broader and increasing due to the need to understand links between criminal and sexual exploitation and human trafficking.
2. Quality of training has been enhanced by Barnardos training material.

How have we made a difference for children and young people?

1. Workforce more equipped to recognise the signs of sexual and criminal exploitation (including the risk for boys) and how to respond to it, as well as concerns around cuckooing

What do we need to do better?

1. CSE training to include Criminal Exploitation and County Lines
2. Online grooming to be incorporated- webcam abuse/ sextortion

TACKLING EXPLOITATION/MISSING SUB-GROUP

What did we do and why?

1. Awareness raising of Child Exploitation within educational settings to speak to Teachers, parents and children. Presentations to the young people's housing providers and to the Private landlord's forum. Hoteliers have also been written to, to raise awareness. Taxi drivers CSE and safeguarding training is now mandatory.
2. Topaz is now in North Somerset. The aim of Topaz is to bring partners together to ensure those children at the highest risk of exploitation receive bespoke support and safeguarding intervention, with a view of building a level of rapport

and trust and hopefully evidential complaints. Further to this the Topaz team will identify locations of concerns (hotels/takeaways for example) as well as offenders and utilise police tactics and powers/enforcement from partners to disrupt offending.

3. Joint working between CSE coordinator and Education. CSE Coordinator invited to quarterly Inclusion Panel. CSE Coordinator is now receiving list of children discussed at Inclusion Panel to identify any cross over, between children going missing or children identified as at risk of CE.
4. Sexual exploitation risk assessment form has now been added into the Early help Module. So where low risk of CSE has been identified there is a process to step up into safeguarding when multiple low/moderate scores identified.

What have we learnt?

1. Criminal exploitation of children is being identified more and more through a SERAF, there is no independent tool for criminal exploitation.
2. The children who have been identified as at risk of exploitation are often not in full time education.
3. Children going into adult hood who have been identified as at risk of exploitation have very few services that will continue to support them once they are 18. It is hoped that the Adults needs assessment will identify gaps in services currently provided.

How have we made a difference for children and young people?

1. Raised awareness within schools, colleges, children's homes and young people's housing projects.
2. Topaz is now supporting children identified as most at risk of sexual exploitation, and work to disrupt perpetrators to keep children safe.
3. All agencies have promoted CSE training for their staff to better support children at risk of exploitation and raise awareness so they are able to identify the risk of exploitation and know safeguarding processes and how to report intelligence.

5.4 DOMESTIC ABUSE

JOINT COMMUNICATIONS SUB-GROUP

What did we do and why?

1. The Sub Group worked in partnership with the Domestic Abuse Co-Ordinator to raise awareness of Domestic Abuse and the effect it has on children.

What have we learnt?

1. That partnership working is key to ensuring that the effects of Domestic Abuse is considered for both adults and children.

How have we made a difference for children and young people?

1. The Sub Group has ensured that the general public are aware that Domestic Abuse also affects children, and that support services are vital in addressing the effects of abuse

What do we need to do better?

1. The Sub Group needs to engage with the One front Door Project.

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT SUB-GROUP

What did we do and why?

1. 'Domestic Abuse Impact on Children' developed and delivered alongside 'Domestic Abuse - Working with Adults' so workforce understand the impact of domestic abuse on children and families and understand the importance of the Safe Lives DASH
2. One Front Door- more direct response to incidents of Domestic Abuse.
3. DASH workshops with victims and Gemini to improve understanding and support around completion of the DASH.
4. Having evaluated the two most serious case reviews and embedding those, we're now looking at specific actions to respond to areas that need further development:
 - managing 'difficult conversations';
 - 'domestic abuse and the impact on children';
 - referral writing and
 - DASH workshops.

What have we learnt?

1. Staff are not confident in using and completing the DASH
2. Victims have noted that professionals are not confident as to what the DASH is for and what support should be provided at certain thresholds. Therefore victims don't understand the importance of answering honestly and don't know the support they could receive (Victims Group, My kids and me- Gemini)
3. Some of the case reviews involved Domestic Abuse in the background that wasn't explored at the time until serious harm to the child had taken place (SCR Darry).
4. One Front Door is working very well and a positive move to ensure all multi-agency partners are communicating and feel included

How have we made a difference for children and young people?

1. Practitioners working to support children holistically for childhood trauma, rather than behaviour management- embedded in all aspects of training where Domestic Abuse is discussed (behaviour as communication)
2. One Front Door provides early response to concerns around Domestic Abuse where children are present, in particular, positive feedback received from schools for being involved in the process.
3. Through focusing on children's experience of Domestic Abuse in its various forms, practitioners are able to understand the context of that and respond to it (domestic abuse and the impact on the child course- accumulation of trauma)

What do we need to do better?

1. DASH writing workshop to be created and implemented to support lack of confidence in this area.
2. Continue to learn from victims/ survivors as to what their experiences are and how as professionals we can better support them.
3. Voice of the child.

5.5 QUALITY AND PERFORMANCE

QUALITY AND PERFORMANCE SUB-GROUP

What did we do and why?

1. An annual audit plan was agreed based on the business plan of the NSSCB and local and national SCRs. We focused on priority pieces of work identified by the NSSCB.
2. Our first multi-agency audit related to strategy discussions. Following the Ofsted inspection, this was identified as an area for development. The audit aimed to provide an analysis of partner agency involvement in strategy discussions and the quality. In response to the completed audit, the board was asked to create a multi-agency action plan with SMART objectives to be disseminated to all relevant agencies.

The audit informed the drawing up of a multi-agency strategy discussion protocol, clearly detailing each partner agency's role and responsibilities.

3. Our second themed audit focussed on children missing education and exclusions. There have been several SCRs nationally of children who have not been in an education provision. The audit aimed to examine the situation in North Somerset and identify any needs/risks for children.

The report made recommendations to the Education Inclusion Service Leader and Virtual School Head Teacher. It recommended that children/young people and families/carers are contacted for their views/experiences as part of the follow-up audit/review.

4. A task and finish group completed a sexual abuse and violence needs assessment. This was to identify strategic priorities and present them to the NSSCB, to inform a sexual abuse and violence strategy.
5. We proposed a thematic audit regarding child sexual abuse in the family environment. This was the identified JTAI theme.

We drew up a learning briefing summarising a recent learning review and what national findings tell us about risk factors and learning for improved practice around understanding and responding to child sexual abuse. It provides key findings, messages, learning themes, recommendations and links to guidance.

The NSSCB was asked to ratify the learning briefing and disseminate to partner agencies and sub-group chairs to action accordingly (i.e. future training, wider communications, update policies etc).

6. We drew up a learning briefing regarding 'Toxic Trio'. This briefing is aimed at anyone working with children and families in North Somerset. It summarises what a recent local learning review (and national findings tell us about risk factors and

learning for improved practice around Toxic Trio. It provides key findings, recommendations and links to guidance.

The NSSCB was asked to ratify the learning briefing and disseminate to partner agencies and sub-group chairs to action accordingly (i.e. future training, wider communications, update policies etc).

What have we learnt?

Communication. How we communicate with families and children, how and when we should/must communicate across agencies. Our use of language and the potentials for assumptions based on our interpretation of information as opposed to analysis of facts and description could prevent an opportunity to safeguard a child.

Child's voice and the absence of their voice is apparent and often sadly noted within many SCRs and learning reviews. Our skills and confidence in being able to communicate specifically with younger children so we accurately seek to understand their lived experience, wishes and feelings in order to safeguard and support them. Risk of "**Fixed thinking**" and limited curiosity/openness to a range of issues. Professionals' confidence and competence in responding to signs of grooming and safeguarding children from child sexual abuse.

Complexity of child sexual abuse. In particular intra familiar sexual abuse where identification is heavily relied on disclosures by a child as opposed to family and professionals spotting the signs of grooming.

The need for agencies to review their responsiveness to children at 'risk of exclusion'; to ensure early intervention and support is prioritized to avoid exclusion. The need for a process in which minutes of strategy discussions are circulated by children's services to all attendees within 48 hours.

How have we made a difference for children and young people?

1. An area for development is for the NSSCB to have an assessed view on how well we are safeguarding children in North Somerset – impact and outcomes.

What do we need to do better?

1. The safeguarding partnership to pursue and monitor action plans arising from auditing. The partnership to have a role to pose questions of partners to respond to the findings of audits and develop a plan to mitigate future concern.
2. Learning to be disseminated via the Learning and Development Sub-group and incorporated into each agency's learning programme as appropriate.
3. The safeguarding partnership to ratify learning briefings and disseminate to partner agencies and sub-group chairs to action accordingly (i.e. future training, wider communications, update policies etc).

4. Partner agencies to present data at the Quality and Performance Sub-group meetings. The sub-group will then analyse information relating to safeguarding performance across partner agencies to understand areas of prevalence and emerging trends. The group will provide the board with a summarised account of information relating to safeguarding performance, enabling the board to know how well we are safeguarding children in North Somerset – impact and outcomes.
5. Moving forward, we would like there to be a standing agenda item ‘Impact and Outcomes’ at the safeguarding partnership meetings; the ‘So what?’ question.

6 – PARTNER ORGANISATION ANNUAL REPORTS

As a standard agenda item on the LSCB relevant partners are requested to present their annual reports for the Board to have the opportunity to scrutinise and hold partners to account.

The following reports have been completed and presented to the Board:

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| September 2018: | Designated Officer for Allegations against People in a Position of Trust (DOfA) Annual Report 2017-2018 |
| September 2018: | West of England Child Death Overview Panel Annual Report 2017-2018 WOE CDOP Annual Report 2017-2018 |
| September 2018: | Independent Safeguarding and Reviewing Officers (ISRO) Annual Report 2018-2019 Summary for Children Looked After |
| March 2019: | Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (BNSSG CCG) Safeguarding Annual Report: 2017-2018 |

There is a section on the Board’s website where these reports can be downloaded. [Other Partner Organisations Annual Reports](#)

7 – PARTNER ORGANISATION SUMMARY OF DATA

- 7.1 NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL (1ST APRIL 2018 TO 31ST MARCH 2019):** A summary of local authority data presented to the Board over the 12-month period is detailed in APPENDIX B of this report.
- 7.2 AVON AND SOMERSET CONSTABULARY (1ST APRIL 2018 TO 31ST MARCH 2019):** The commentary and data submission for North Somerset over the 12-month period is detailed in APPENDIX C of this report.
- 7.3 BNSSG CCG (1ST APRIL 2018 TO 31ST MARCH 2019):** BNSSG CCG have still been unable to provide relevant data for the reporting period.

8 – INDEPENDENT CHAIR'S GOVERNANCE

The NSSCB Independent Chair continues to request that Board partners produce relevant and meaningful data. Data from BNSSG has been agreed and will be available once the new arrangements are in place. This data will be consistent across all Boards in the BNSSG area. Analysis of data is now a function of the Quality & Performance sub-group who present findings to the Executive Group and the Board.

The Quality & Performance sub-group reports back to the LSCB their recommendations from multi-agency audits against the Board's priorities.

All Board members are asked to update the Board on their organisation's annual report and single agency audits. This continues to be a standing item on the Boards agenda.

Easy accessibility of safeguarding and child protection policies, procedures and guidance continue to be available on the joint safeguarding boards website.

The NSSCB Independent Chair encourages challenge at the Board and its Executive and holds a challenge log which identifies themes to scrutinise.

The Independent Chair oversees the Board's business by regularly attending the Board's sub-groups.

The Independent Chair presents the annual report to the local authority's Children and Young People's services policy and scrutiny panel.

The Independent Chair regularly attends training courses to dip sample quality of training and to keep abreast of safeguarding developments, locally, regionally and nationally.

Following the publication of the Ofsted Inspection in August 2017, the Independent Chair produced an action plan dealing with each of the Ofsted recommendations. Except for recruiting a dedicated Board manager, that action plan was completed and signed off at the Board in December 2018.

The Independent Chair has produced a Risk Register which is reviewed quarterly.

9 – NEXT STEPS

This section reviews what needs to happen next to ensure continuing improvement.

9.1 Business Planning and new North Somerset Safeguarding Children arrangements.

The refreshed strategic plan will be completed by the Board and the Executive before the final LSCB on 9th September.

The new safeguarding children arrangements which will be implemented from September 2019 have been uploaded onto the North Somerset Safeguarding website:

<https://www.northsomersetsafeguarding.co.uk/userfiles/downloads/537/north-somerset--safeguarding-arrangements-publication-final-28.6.19.pdf>

9.2 Key Sub-group priorities

JOINT COMMUNICATIONS SUB-GROUP

1. Develop the Easy Read information leaflet for different aspects of safeguarding.
2. Measure the impact of the different campaigns.
3. Organise a Task and Finish Group for raising awareness of the Suicide Prevention Campaign.
4. Organise a Task and Finish Group for raising awareness of the Anti-Bullying Campaign.

EARLY HELP SUB-GROUP

1. Continue to promote Early Help coordination and delivery.
2. Promote Signs of Safety construct within Early Help to advance securing service user feedback.
3. Sustain training to ensure the correct application of the Threshold continues.

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT SUB-GROUP

1. Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Criminal Exploitation/ County Lines
Contextual safeguarding (covered in points 1 and 2)
2. Peer on Peer Abuse
3. Domestic Abuse- risk assessment
4. Clarification of Early Help and Referral Pathways
5. (5) Neglect

QUALITY AND PERFORMANCE

1. An area for development is for the NSSCB to have an assessed view on how well we are safeguarding children in North Somerset – impact and outcomes.

SE/MISSING (TACKLING EXPLOITATION/MISSING)

1. Further develop regional working.

Appendix A: Board Attendance chart

| Organisation | Representative | June '18 | Sep '18 | Dec '18 | March '19 |
|---|----------------------------|-------------|---------|---------|------------------|
| Avon Fire and Rescue (Correspondent Member only) | Mick Dixon/Neil Liddington | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Avon & Somerset Police | Leanne Pook | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| Avon & Somerset Police (Lighthouse Unit) | Victoria Caple/Stuart Bell | n/a | n/a | A | √ |
| AWP | Jon Peyton/Lynn Franklin | D Rowan | A | A | √ |
| Barnados | Duncan Stanway | √ | A | √ | √ |
| Border Force Agency | Denise Preston | A | A | A | A |
| BGSW CRC | Peter Brandt | A | √ | A | √ |
| BNSSG CCG | Jacalyn Mathers | Anne Morris | √ | √ | √ |
| CAFCASS | Victoria Penaliggon | A | A | A | A |
| Community Partnership | Mary Lewis | J Grimwood | √ | √ | J Grimwood |
| Director of P&C (NSC) | Sheila Smith | √ | √ | √ | A (Ofsted) |
| Designated Doctor | Dr Richard Williams | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| Independent Chair | Tony Oliver | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| Lay Member | Anna Curvan | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| Lay Member | Pam Pollard | √ | √ | A | No longer member |

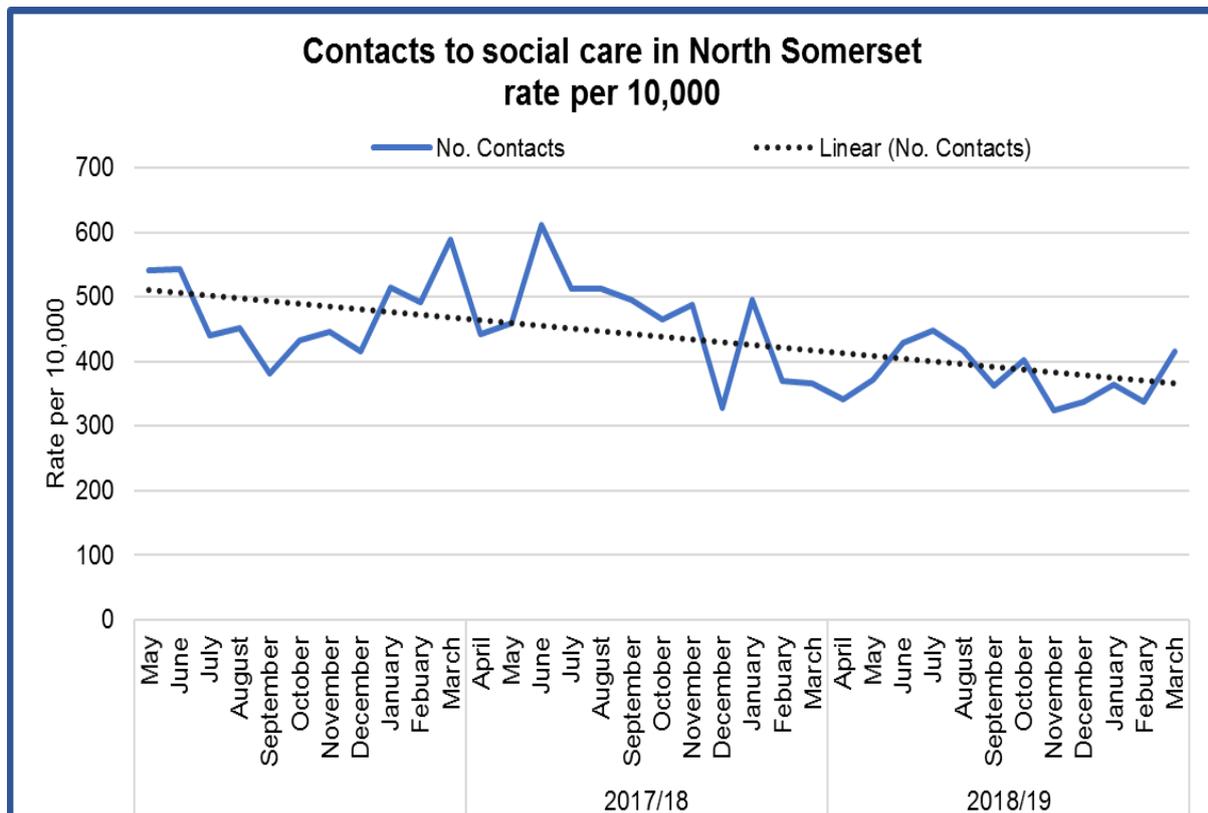
| Organisation | Representative | June '18 | Sep '18 | Dec '18 | March '19 |
|--|---|----------------------|----------|------------|------------|
| Named Nurse Safeguarding Children (NSCP) | Jocelyn Grimwood | √ | M Lewis | √ | √ |
| National Probation Service and Deputy Chair | Liz Spencer | √ | A Harris | J Williams | √ |
| NHS South South West | Nick Rudling/Helen Chrystal/Mark Tucker/Rosi Shepherd | A | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| NSC: CSDAT | Jo Mercer | A | A | A | A |
| NSC: Support & Safeguarding Adults | Hayley Verrico | √ | A | A | A |
| NSC: Support & Safeguarding Children | Eifion Price | A | A | √ | A (Ofsted) |
| NSC: Youth Offending Team | Mike Rees/Howard Wilson | H Wilson | A | A | √ |
| Participating Observer, Executive Member NSC | Cllr Jan Barber | √ | √ | A | √ |
| Schools: St Francis Primary | Caroline Hostein/Catherine Hunt | A | A | A | A |
| Schools: Ravenswood | Philippa Clark/No representative | √ | No rep | No rep | No rep |
| Solicitor | Lorraine Sherman | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| South West Ambulance Service | Debbie Bilton | Correspondent member | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Sub Group: Communications | Anne Ray-Rowley | √ | A | √ | A |
| Sub Group: Early Help | Sadie Hall/Mike Rees | √ | √ | A | √ |
| Sub Group: Policy & Procedures | Jos Grimwood/virtual sub-group | | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Sub Group: Tackling Exploitation and Missing | Ruth Sutherland | √ | √ | √ | A (Ofsted) |

| Organisation | Representative | June '18 | Sep '18 | Dec '18 | March '19 |
|--|---------------------------------|----------|---------|-----------|-------------|
| Sub Group: Training and Development and Service Leader Learning and Development | Carolyn Hills | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| Sub Group: Quality Assurance and Performance and Service Leader Strategic Safeguarding and Quality Assurance | Jo Baker | √ | √ | √ | A (Ofsted) |
| Sub-Group: Young People Co-ordinator and Principal Social Worker | Shelley Caldwell/Michael Jordan | √ | A | A | A |
| University Hospitals Bristol Foundation Trust | Sarah Winfield | √ | A | √ | F Robertson |
| VANS | Doreen Smith | A | A | √ | A |
| Weston Area Health NHS Trust | Sarah Dodds | A | √ | B Watkins | √ |

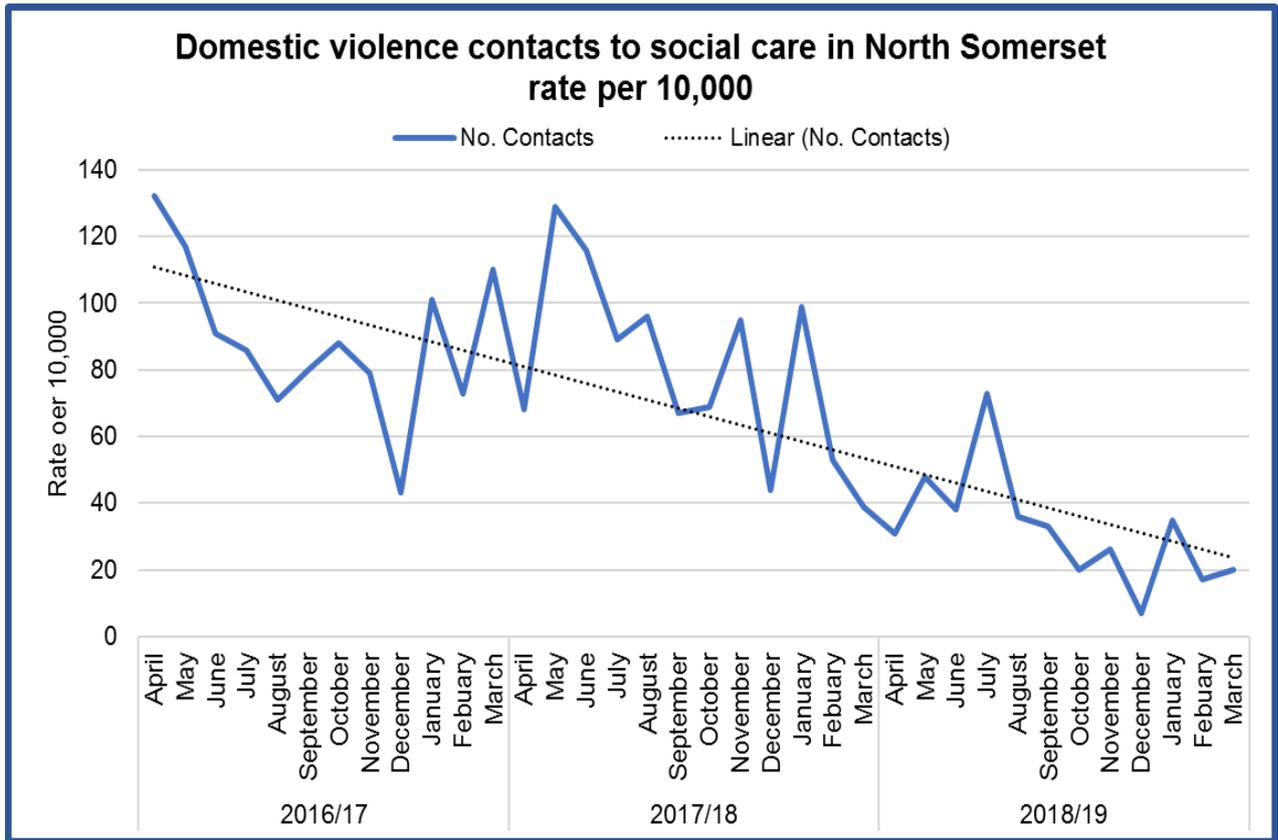
APPENDIX B: NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL

Contacts

The average number of monthly contacts to children's social care has fallen during the last 3 year with 2018/19 showing the lowest numbers so far.



The number and rate of domestic violence contacts has also fallen during 2018/19, with just 8% of all contacts being DV contacts in comparison with 17% during 2017/18. As of the end of March 2019, there were a total of 384 cumulative domestic violence contacts for the year while at the same point last year this number was 964.

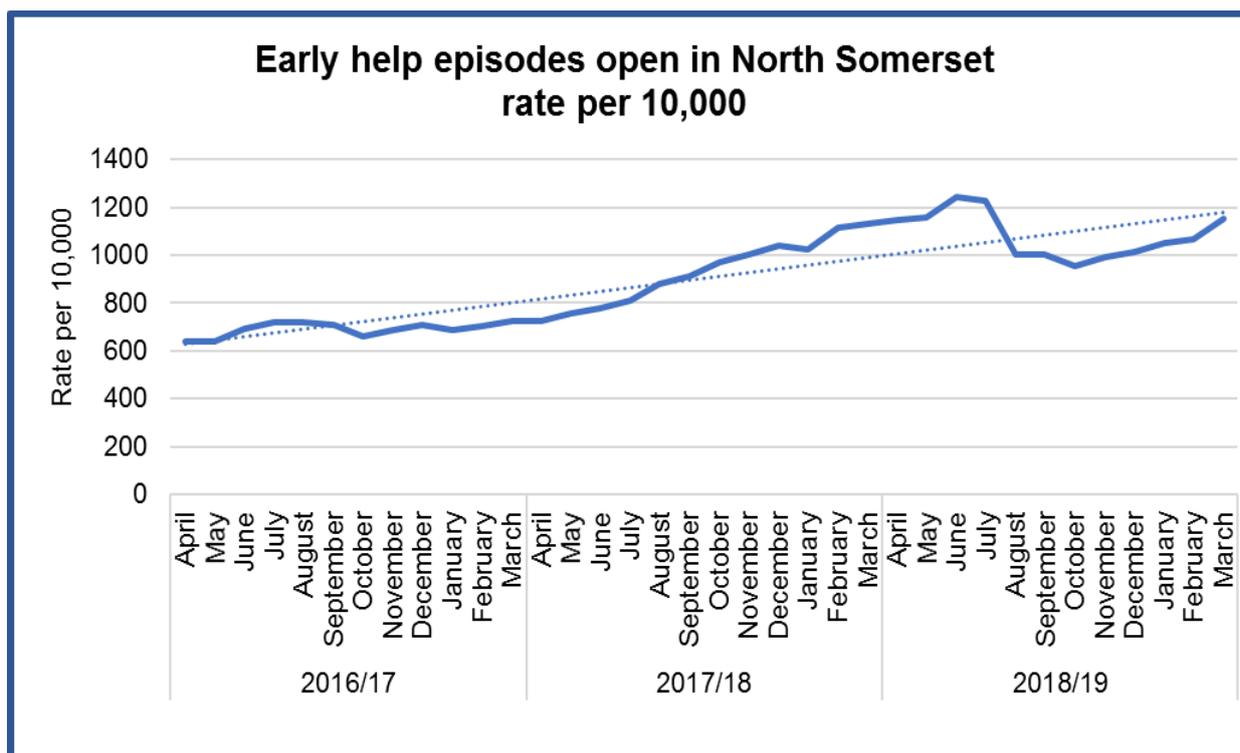


28% of all contacts progressed to a referral in 2018/19. This is slightly higher than 2017/18 where the percentage was 24%.

Early Help

Overall, the number and rate of children receiving an Early Help service has been increasing within North Somerset since September 2015.

As at the end of March 2019 there were 1,151 active Early Help episodes and throughout the year more episodes have been opened than were closed (a net gain).



Demographic analysis of the Early Help cohort throughout 2018/19 showed that:

- There were consistently 80-150 more episodes open for males than females.
- The percentage of BME children with an Early Help episode is slightly below what would be expected as a comparison against the population (School Census 2018).
- Approximately 15% of all Early Help episodes were for disabled children, a large increase on 2017/18 where 8% were for disabled children.
- The proportion of episodes open for each age group remained very similar to the proportions seen at the end of 2017/18. At the end of 2018/19 around 36% were 0-5, 36% 6-11 and 28% 12+.

The categories of referral for Early Help episodes that children were most likely to be referred in on were (and in descending order):

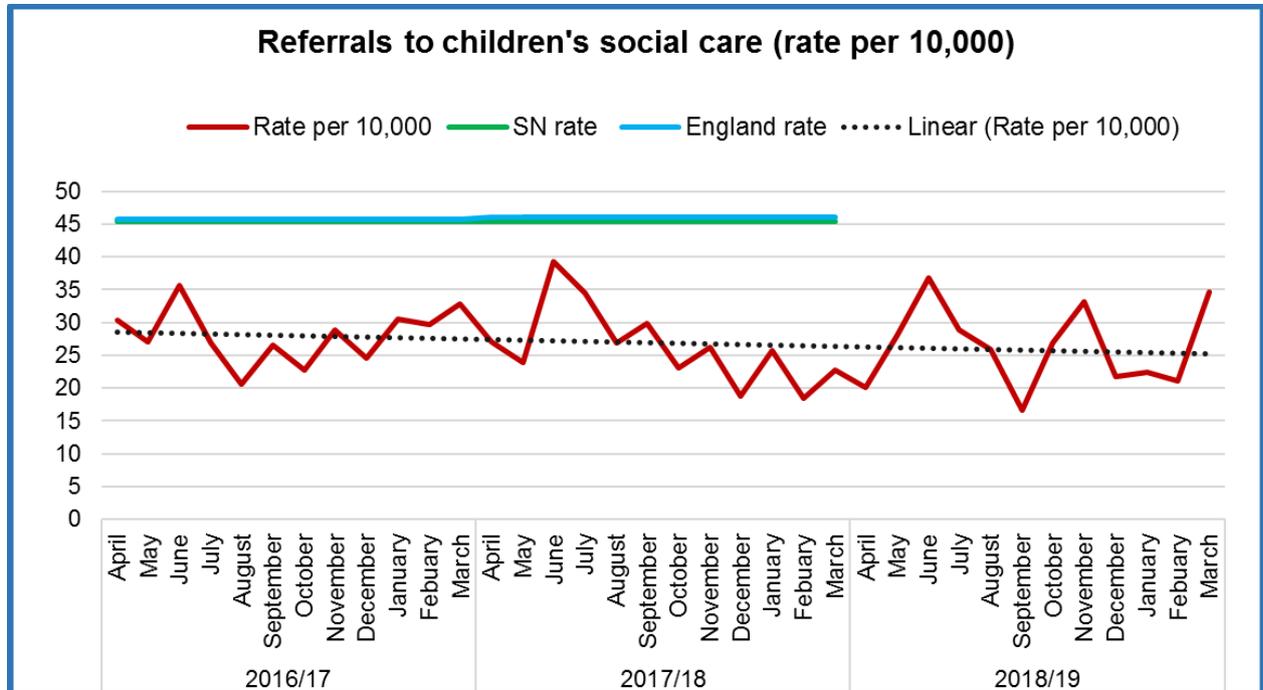
- Other (including the High Impact Families programme).
- Family and Environment (including support for parents around housing, employment and finance).
- Development of the baby, child or young person (including emotional and social development and self-care and independence).
- Request for 0-2 funding.
- Parents and carers (including basic care, safety and protection and emotional support and stability).

Referrals

The average number of referrals during 2018/19 remained very similar to the 2017/18 figures. Q2 of 2018/19 saw a dip in referrals compared to the rest of 2018/19 with Q1 showing the highest number of referrals.

As of the end of March 2019, the rate in North Somerset was 34.7 referrals per 10,000 children, with an average for the year of 26.4 per 10,000 children (between 80 and 160 referrals per month).

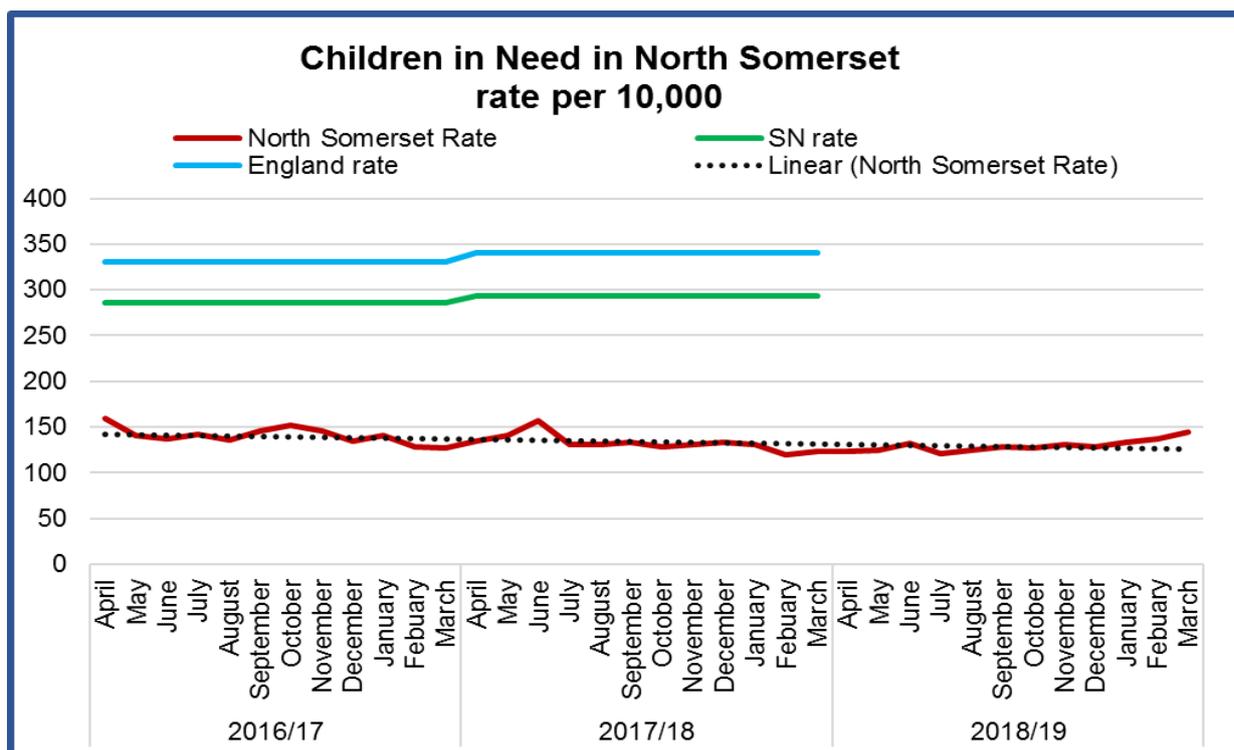
The rate per 10,000 of referrals is lower than the England average rate of 46 and the Stat Neighbours rate of 45.5. This has been the case since 2014/15.



Children in Need

**This information excludes those children who were subject to a Child Protection Plan or who were Looked After. It also does not include Care Leavers. **

The number and rate of Children in Need (CiN) during 2018/19 decreased slightly in comparison to 2017/18. On average we had 560 Children in Need during 2018/19 with an average rate per 10,000 of 129.6. The rate is significantly below the national, our statistical neighbour, and other south west council's rate (based on latest available data). However, it is worth noting that this data is for guidance only as the calculation for CiN used here differs to that used both at statistical neighbour and national level.



Demographic analysis of the CiN cohort throughout 2018/19 shows that:

- The average percentage of BME children is 9% which is similar to what would be expected as a comparison against the population (School Census January 2019)
- Around 26% of Children in Need are disabled children.

The categories of need that CiN children are most likely to be referred in on are (and in descending order):

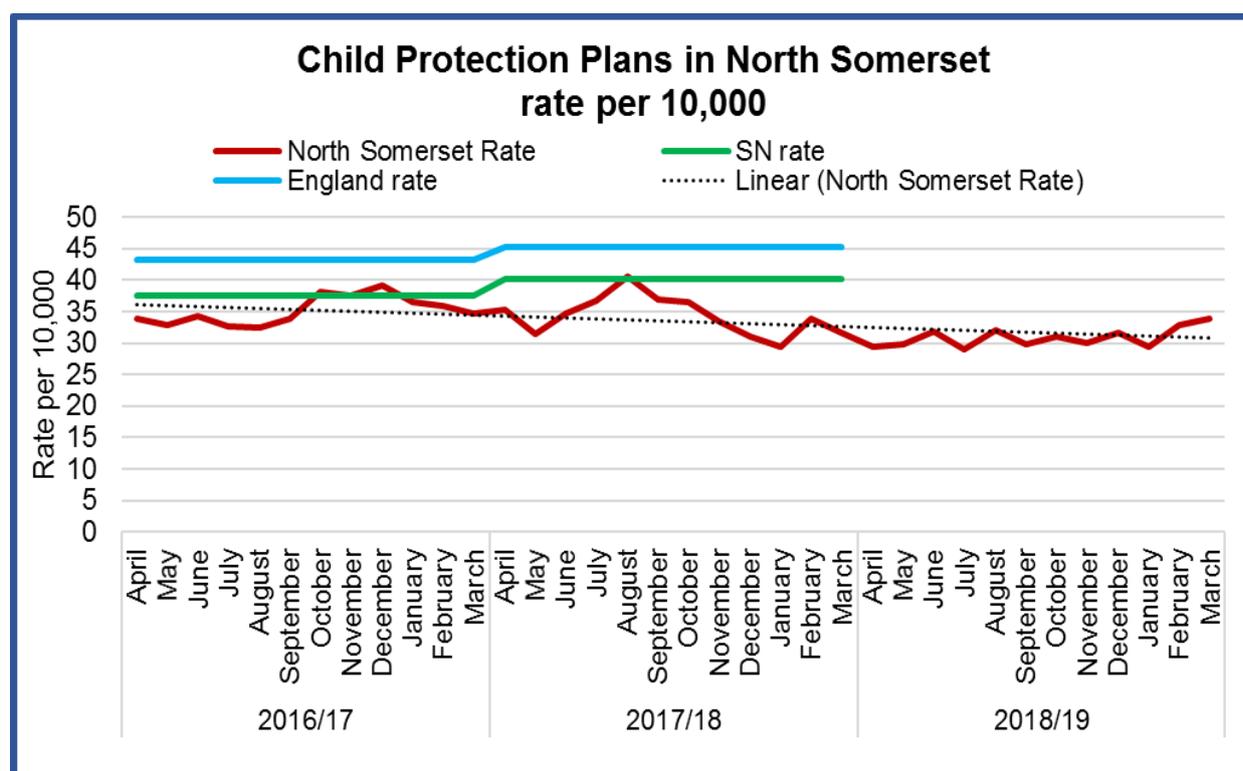
- Family in acute stress
- Abuse or neglect
- Disability
- Family dysfunction
- Parental illness or disability.

Factors of assessment i.e. issues identified for Children in Need during their completed assessments for 2018/19 include:

- Mental health - parent or carer (41.3%)
- Mental health - child (19.0%)
- Domestic violence - parent or carer (34.2%)
- Domestic violence – child subject (16.6%)
- Drug misuse - parent or carer (19.4%)
- Alcohol misuse - parent or carer (21.0%)
- Abuse or neglect – emotional abuse (23.3%)
- Abuse or neglect – neglect (16.5%)
- Abuse of neglect – physical abuse (13.1%)

Child Protection Plans

During 2016/17 the number and rate of children on a Child Protection Plan was higher than at any point in the previous two years. During 2017/18 numbers fluctuated throughout the year with a high in August. During 2018/19 numbers and rates have remained fairly consistent and lower than the previous 2 years. As of March 2019, 146 children were on a Plan. There were a high number of sibling groups making up this number. As of March 2019, the rate of CP Plans per 10,000 remains lower in North Somerset than the statistical neighbours and national rate (based on latest available data).



Demographic analysis of the CP Plan cohort throughout 2018/19 shows that:

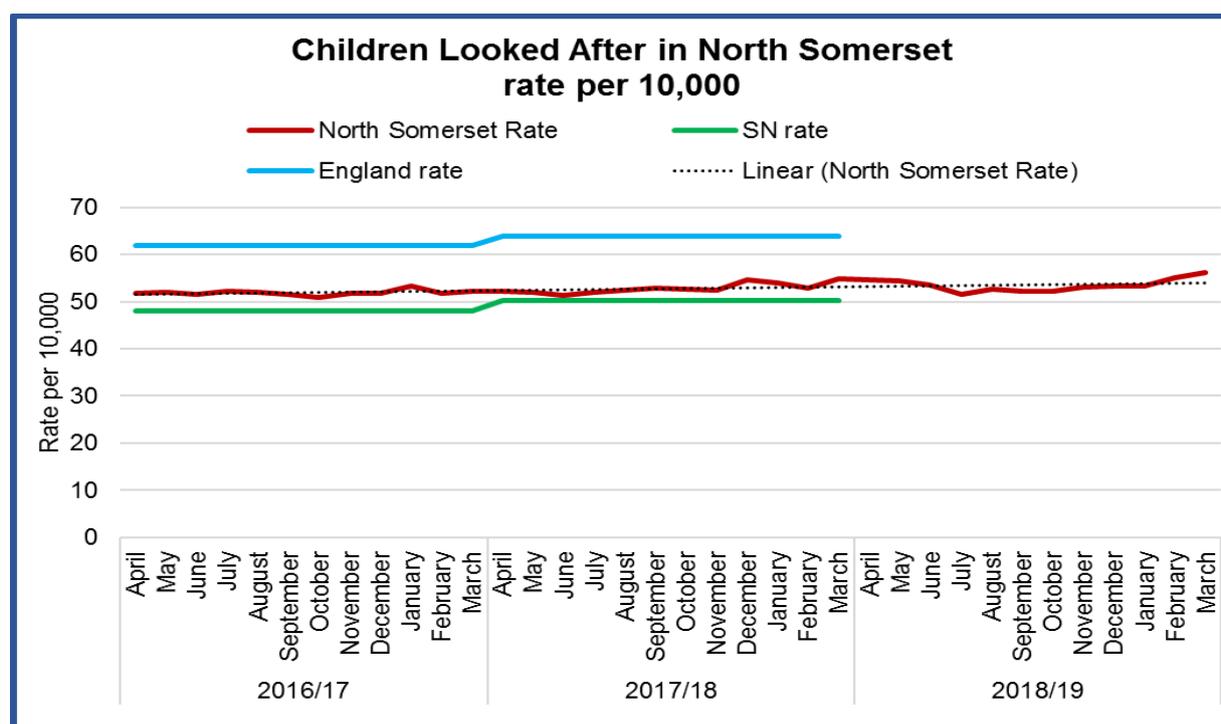
- Around 55% of children on a Plan are over the age of six years.
- On average, there were slightly more females than males during the period.
- The percentage of BME children on a CP Plan is 8% which is similar of what would be expected when compared to the profile of the population (School Census January 2019).
- Around 6% of children on a Plan are disabled children.

The categories of need that have been seen for children on a CP Plan have remained steady throughout the year with emotional abuse being the most likely reason for a child coming on to plan, followed by neglect, physical abuse and then sexual abuse.

Children Looked After

During 2018/19 the number of Children Looked After has ranged between 223 and 243 children. Since a low of 223 in July 2018 it has increased steadily and was at a four year high of 243 CLA at the end of March 2019.

The average rate per 10,000 children during 2018/19 was 56.3 which is below the national rate of 64 but above the rate of our statistical neighbours of 50.3 (based on latest available data).



Demographic analysis of the Children Looked After cohort throughout 2018/19 shows that:

- There are more males than females
- The percentage of BME children who are looked after is 13% which is slightly higher than would be expected as a comparison against the population (School Census January 2019)
- Around 11% of CLA are disabled. There are more males than females in this cohort, and as of March 2019, over 95% of them were aged above 10 years.

The categories of need that Children Looked After are mostly likely to experience (and in descending order) are:

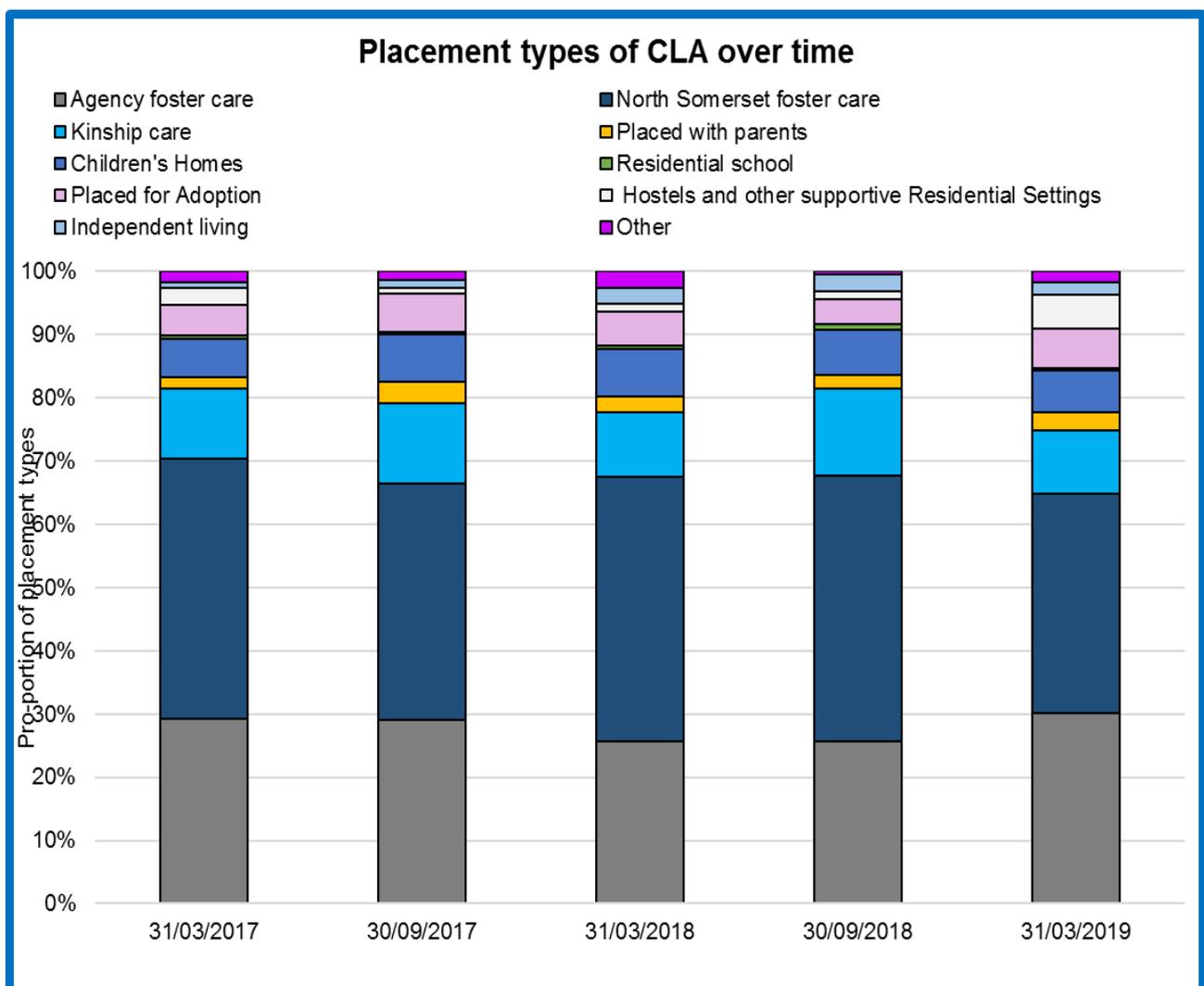
- Abuse or neglect
- Family in acute stress
- Family dysfunction
- Absent parenting
- Disability
- Parent illness or disability.

Placements

At the end of March 2019, 35% of Children Looked After were placed within North Somerset foster care, 30% were placed within agency foster care and 10% were placed within kinship care. This shows a decrease in children placed within North Somerset foster care and increase in children placed within agency foster care.

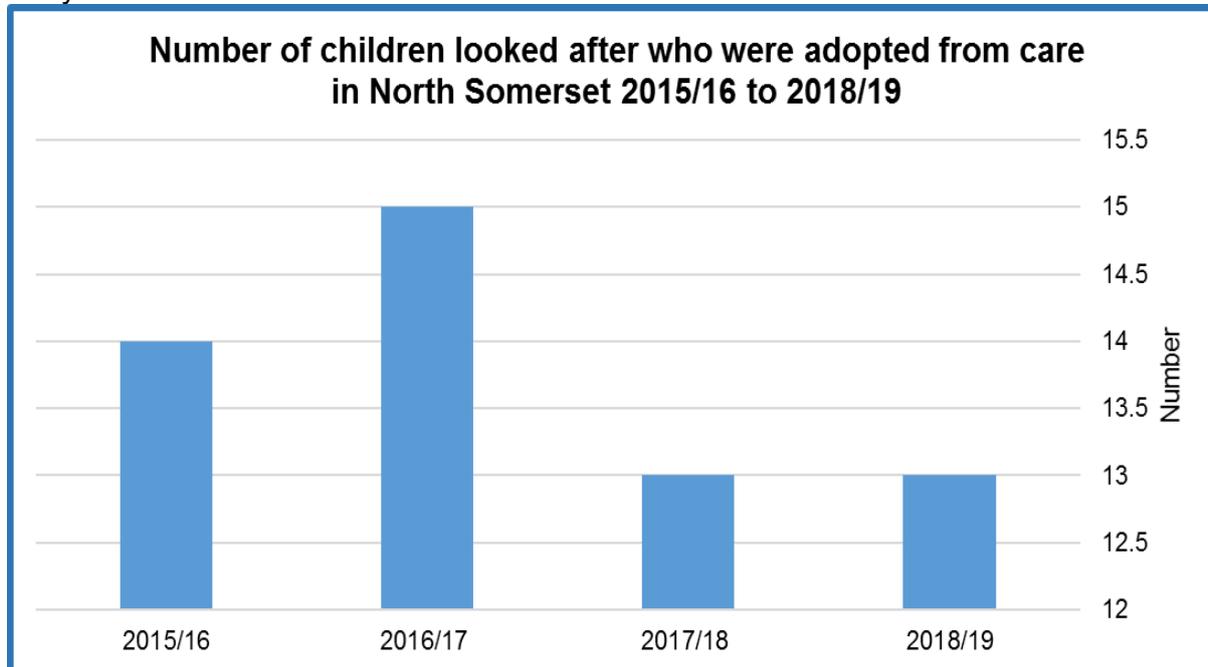
In total just over 75% of children were placed in a combination of these care settings across North Somerset at the end of March 2019 compared to 73% nationally.

| | March 2016 | March 2017 | March 2018 | March 2019 | England 31/03/2018 |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------------|
| Agency foster care | 25% | 29% | 26% | 30% | 60% |
| North Somerset foster care | 44% | 40% | 42% | 35% | |
| Kinship care | 12% | 11% | 10% | 10% | 13% |

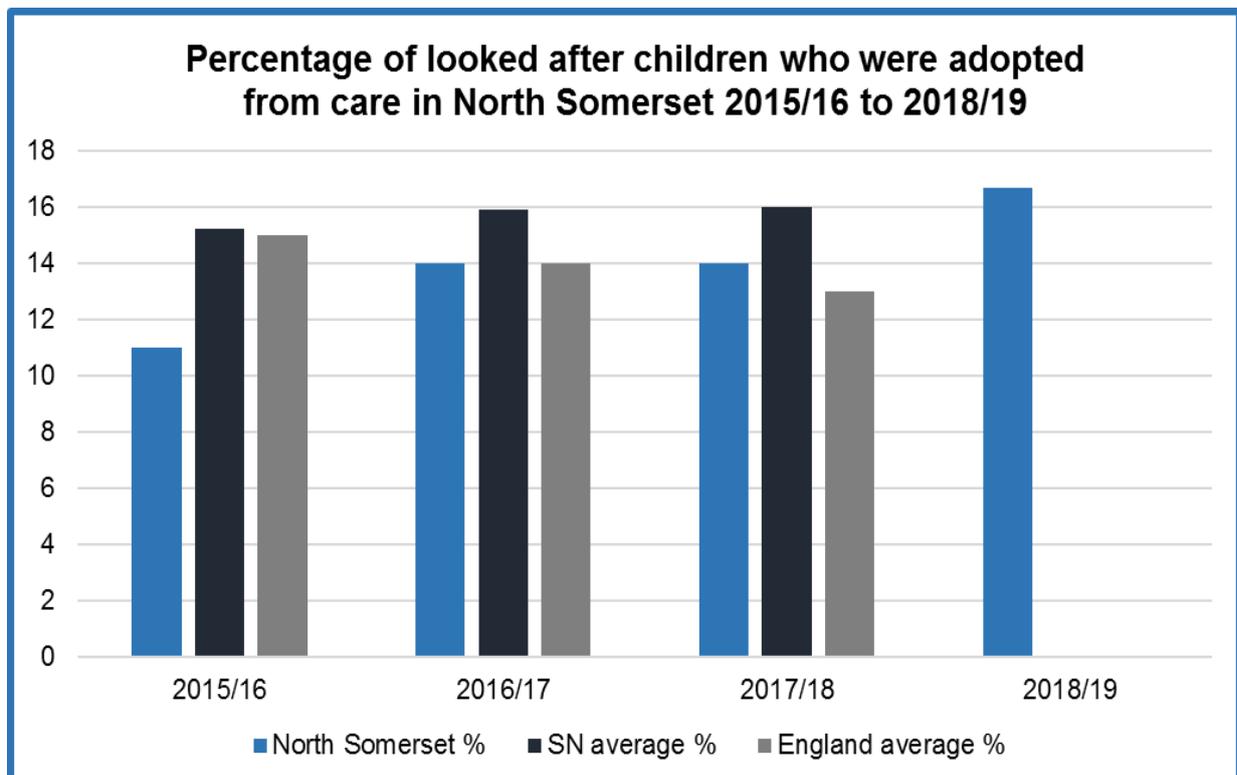


Adoption

At the end of 2018/19 in North Somerset a total of 13 children were adopted from care. This is the same as at the end of the previous year 2017/18 and two less than the year 2016/17.

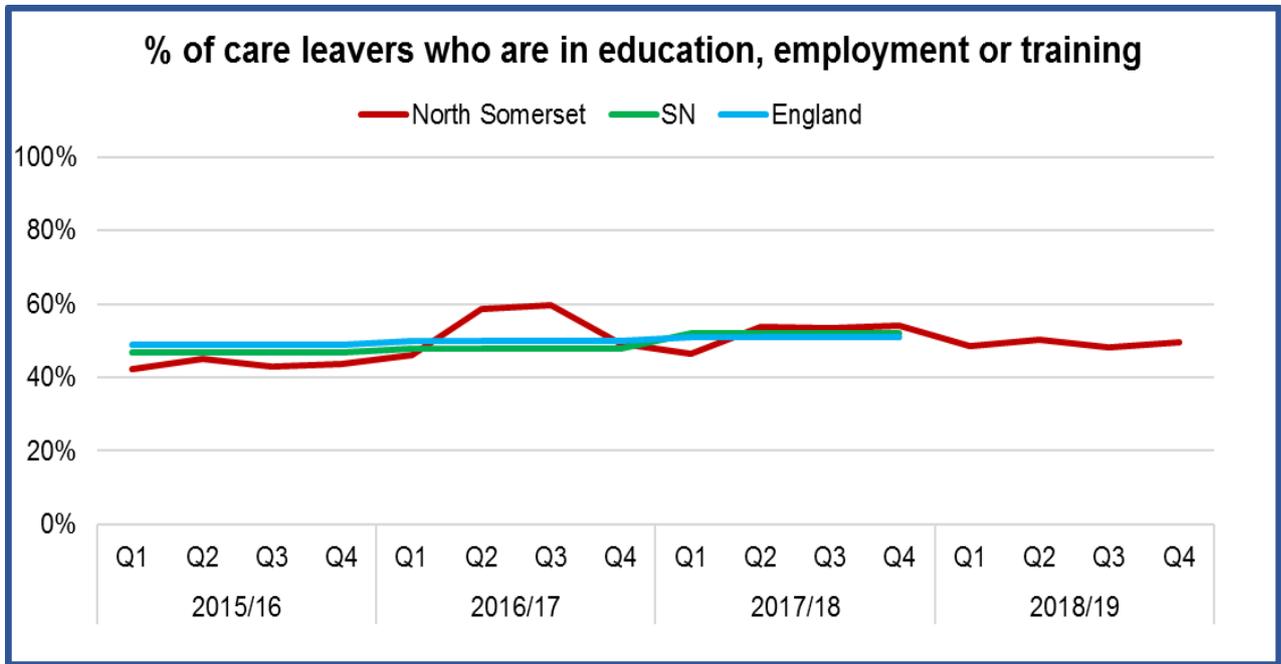


Looking at this as a percentage of Children Looked After adopted in the year, North Somerset is similar to the national average but slightly below our statistical neighbours' average.

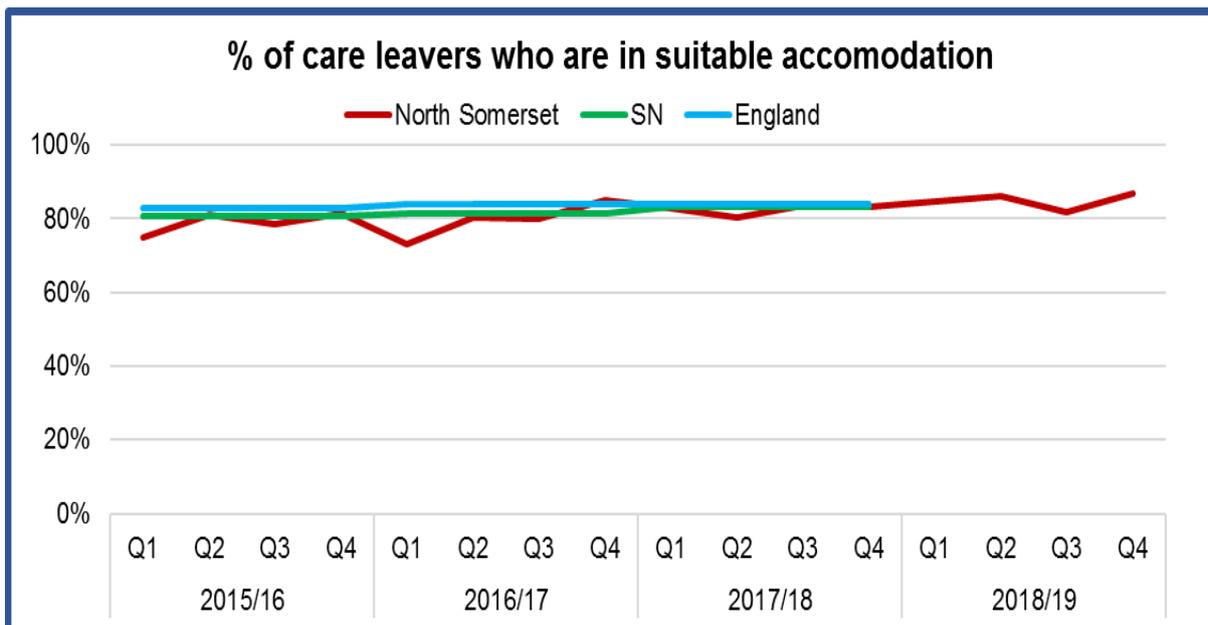


Care Leavers

The percentage of care leavers who were in education, employment and/or training (EET) in North Somerset at the end of March 2019 was 49.7%, down from 54.2% at the end of March 2018. Current performance is also lower than the Statistical Neighbour and England data (Latest data March 2018).



The percentage of care leavers who were in suitable accommodation as of the end of March 2019 in North Somerset was 86.8%, up from 83% at the end of March 2018. The current performance is also above both the England and Statistical Neighbour figure. (Latest data March 2018)



APPENDIX C: AVON AND SOMERSET CONSTABULARY (1ST APRIL TO 31ST MARCH 2018)

Introduction

This report, produced at the end of the fourth quarter of 2018/19, provides commentary on the attached Constabulary data submission for North Somerset, and supplements these measures with further data. It covers the 12-month period 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019 and the preceding 12 months for comparison.

The volume of child protection related crimes and missing children reports varies tremendously from month to month. This volatility in demand was one of the reasons that the five boards chose 12 month rolling data for each of the police measures they selected, providing a more meaningful indication of the underlying changes in demand. The expectation nationally is that the overall trend in child protection demand will continue to increase. However, through 2018/19 we saw an overall fall in child protection flagged crimes, the first fall through a financial year since this report was first produced in 2013/14. This is in line with falls in overall recorded crime in Avon and Somerset.

Data quality

There is a number of data quality issues that should be borne in mind when interpreting the data:

- case audits have identified that appropriate tags have not always been applied consistently over time, such as for Child Protection or Child Sexual Exploitation, meaning that some numbers reported here may undercount the actual numbers
- the failure to record a beat code in many reports (approximately 7.5% of reports Force-wide) means that data at LSCB level under counts the actual level. As the degree of undercounting at LSCB level is not consistent across the two 12 month periods, like is not necessarily being compared with like
- the failure to record a date of birth in some reports can mean that a number of child victims or child suspects associated to a crime will not have been captured within this data, however Child Protection tags have been used as one means of mitigating this

Children Missing

In the last 12 months 162 individual children from North Somerset were recorded as having been missing, a fall of 12.0% or 22 children on the previous 12 months, in line with the rate of reduction experienced across the Force area as a whole (12.9%). Over half (53.1%) of children who went missing in North Somerset in the last 12 months went missing on more than one occasion, 3.1 percentage points above the average rate of 50.0% across the Force area as a whole.

Over the same two 12 month periods, there has been a smaller rate of decline in the total number of missing children reports in North Somerset, falling by 6.8% to 368 reports (the number of missing children episodes, including multiple episodes by the same child).

Children missing from care accounted for 14.8% of all missing children in North Somerset, and are therefore overrepresented in the population of missing children. This is below the rate across the Force area as a whole where 17.1% of missing

children went missing from care. The number of children missing from care in North Somerset remained unchanged in the last 12 months compared with the previous at 24 children. The number of repeat children missing from care also remained unchanged at 16 children. Whilst the numbers involved are relatively small, it does mean that 66.7% of children who went missing from care in North Somerset in the last 12 months went missing on more than one occasion. This compares less favourably with the total population of children going missing in North Somerset, where 53.1% went missing on more than one occasion, but not significantly greater than the average repeat children missing from care rate across the Force area as a whole (63.8%).

Safety & Anti-Bullying

The total number of child victims of crime in North Somerset over the last 12 months was 904, almost unchanged from the previous 12 months (14 more child victims). However, this contrasts with a 3.5% fall in child victims of crime rise across the Force area as a whole. The number of recorded Domestic Abuse Crimes where the victim was aged 16 - 17 rose by 2 crimes to 57.

The number of child suspects of crimes in North Somerset fell by 8.8% to 536 child suspects in the last 12 months. This is a larger rate of reduction than across the Force area as a whole, where there was a fall of 6.3%. In the last 12 months, 123 children and young people aged under 18, whose latest recorded address is in North Somerset, were arrested and brought into custody, 5 of whom were charged and detained. In the last quarter, January to March 2019, 21 children whose latest recorded address is in North Somerset were arrested and brought into custody, one of whom was charged and detained.

Child Protection

The Police were invited to 33 Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) in the fourth quarter of 2018/19 and attended 25 of these. Reasons for non-attendance include cancellations, insufficient staffing capacity and a morning conference in another local authority area over-running.

The “Child Protection Crimes (excluding Domestic Abuse Crimes)” in the accompanying table are recorded crimes where there are child protection concerns (Child Abuse, Child Sexual Exploitation, Child Safeguarding), with this particular measure excluding Domestic Abuse Crimes where there are child protection concerns. The measure includes crimes where the victim is a child, crimes where the suspect is a child and crimes where the child is an involved party. The measure also includes peer-on-peer crimes where both the victim and suspect are children. The measure includes non-recent child abuse allegations, regardless of whether the victim was a child or adult at the time of reporting.

The number of recorded Child Protection Crimes (excluding Domestic Abuse Crimes) in North Somerset fell by 22 crimes or 5.7% in the last 12 months, compared with the previous 12 months, a smaller rate of reduction than that experienced across the Force area as a whole of 14.9%. There were 361 such crimes recorded in North Somerset in the last 12 months.

Across the Force area as a whole, the Force used police protection powers under Section 46 of the Children Act 1989 on 124 occasions in the last 12 months, compared with 114 occasions in previous 12 months. The reporting of the use of police protection powers at local authority area level is subject to data quality issues, whereby 13 records (10.5%) in last 12 months, and 9 records (7.9%) in previous 12 months, were not linked to a beat code. There are 18 records of the use of these powers linked to beat codes in North Somerset in last 12 months, an increase from the 12 records in the previous 12 months. 4 of the records of the use of police protection powers in the fourth quarter of 2018/19 were linked to a beat code in North Somerset.

Child Sexual Exploitation

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is not a Home Office "crime type" so in November 2012 a CSE Force Crime Tag was introduced which, in addition to providing safeguarding and investigation benefits, allows the monitoring of crimes that fall within the national definition of CSE (the CSE tagged Crimes are also counted within the Child Protection crimes category above).

CSE tagged crimes in North Somerset fell by 25.7% crimes to 26 tagged crimes over the last 12 months. This is in line with the rate of reduction across the Force area as a whole at 24.2%. The reductions might be attributable or attributable in part to the work of police and partner agencies in seeking to prevent children from being sexually exploited, including through increased disruption activity. It is important to note that the distribution of crimes involving CSE can be skewed by a relatively small number of investigations in a given area over a given period; a relatively small number of investigations can identify comparatively large numbers of victims, perpetrators and offences, accounting for apparently large increases or reductions in tagged crimes in a 12-month period compared with the previous.

**Forcewide - Avon and Somerset Constabulary Child Protection Performance Report
April 2018 - March 2019**

Forcewide

| Missing Children | 12 Month Rolling | | | |
|---|------------------|----------|----------|--------|
| | Current | Previous | Chg | % Chg |
| Number of Missing Children | 1,518 | 1,742 | -224 | -12.9% |
| Number of Missing Children Reports | 3,827 | 4,025 | -198 | -4.9% |
| Number of Repeat Missing Children | 759 | 937 | -178 | -19.0% |
| Number of Children Missing from Care | 260 | 293 | -33 | -11.3% |
| Number of Repeat Children Missing from Care | 166 | 196 | -30 | -15.3% |
| Percentage of Filed Repeat Missing Children with Interviews Completed * | 84.5% | 83.0% | +1.5%Pts | N/A |
| * based on having an officer completed return sign | | | | |

| Safety and Anti-Bullying | 12 Month Rolling | | | |
|---|------------------|----------|------|-------|
| | Current | Previous | Chg | % Chg |
| Number of Child Suspects of Crimes | 4,333 | 4,623 | -290 | -6.3% |
| Number of Domestic Abuse Incidents (Excluding Crimes) | 12,705 | 13,006 | -301 | -2.3% |
| Number of Domestic Abuse Crimes | 18,635 | 18,370 | +265 | +1.4% |
| Number of Domestic Abuse Crimes - Victim Age 16 - 17 | 437 | 460 | -23 | -5.0% |
| Number of Child Victims of Crimes | 7,453 | 7,725 | -272 | -3.5% |
| Number of Child Victims of Race Hate Crimes | 138 | 151 | -13 | -8.6% |

| Child Sexual Exploitation | 12 Month Rolling | | | |
|--|------------------|----------|-----|--------|
| | Current | Previous | Chg | % Chg |
| Number of Child Sexual Exploitation Crimes | 257 | 339 | -82 | -24.2% |

| Child Protection | 12 Month Rolling | | | |
|---|------------------|----------|------|--------|
| | Current | Previous | Chg | % Chg |
| Number of Child Protection Crime (excluding Domestic Abuse Crimes) | 2,962 | 3,479 | -517 | -14.9% |
| Number of Child Protection Serious Sexual Offences | 735 | 813 | -78 | -9.6% |
| Number of Non-Familial Sexual Crimes - Child Victim | 1,305 | 1,394 | -89 | -6.4% |
| Number of Child Protection Crimes for Cruelty and Neglect of Children | 608 | 657 | -49 | -7.5% |

**North Somerset LSCB - Avon and Somerset Constabulary Child Protection Performance Report
April 2018 - March 2019**

North Somerset

| Missing Children | 12 Month Rolling | | | |
|---|------------------|----------|----------|--------|
| | Current | Previous | Chg | % Chg |
| Number of Missing Children | 162 | 184 | -22 | -12.0% |
| Number of Missing Children Reports | 368 | 395 | -27 | -6.8% |
| Number of Repeat Missing Children | 86 | 111 | -25 | -22.5% |
| Number of Children Missing from Care | 24 | 24 | 0 | 0.0% |
| Number of Repeat Children Missing from Care | 16 | 16 | 0 | 0.0% |
| Percentage of Filed Repeat Missing Children with Interviews Completed * | 90.1% | 88.3% | +1.7%Pts | N/A |
| * based on having an officer completed return sign | | | | |

| Safety and Anti-Bullying | 12 Month Rolling | | | |
|---|------------------|----------|------|--------|
| | Current | Previous | Chg | % Chg |
| Number of Child Suspects of Crimes | 536 | 588 | -52 | -8.8% |
| Number of Domestic Abuse Incidents (Excluding Crimes) | 1,420 | 1,424 | -4 | -0.3% |
| Number of Domestic Abuse Crimes | 2,421 | 2,293 | +128 | +5.6% |
| Number of Domestic Abuse Crimes - Victim Age 16 - 17 | 57 | 55 | +2 | +3.6% |
| Number of Child Victims of Crimes | 904 | 890 | +14 | +1.6% |
| Number of Child Victims of Race Hate Crimes | 10 | 12 | -2 | -16.7% |

| Child Sexual Exploitation | 12 Month Rolling | | | |
|--|------------------|----------|-----|--------|
| | Current | Previous | Chg | % Chg |
| Number of Child Sexual Exploitation Crimes | 26 | 35 | -9 | -25.7% |

| Child Protection | 12 Month Rolling | | | |
|---|------------------|----------|-----|--------|
| | Current | Previous | Chg | % Chg |
| Number of Child Protection Crime (excluding Domestic Abuse Crimes) | 361 | 383 | -22 | -5.7% |
| Number of Child Protection Serious Sexual Offences | 68 | 62 | +6 | +9.7% |
| Number of Non-Familial Sexual Crimes - Child Victim | 128 | 126 | +2 | +1.6% |
| Number of Child Protection Crimes for Cruelty and Neglect of Children | 63 | 57 | +6 | +10.5% |

North Somerset Safeguarding Children Board

Our Vision: “Children and young people of North Somerset will be seen, listened to and valued to ensure they are safe, thriving and reaching their full potential.”

NSSCB BUSINESS PLAN 2016-19



The NSSCB is responsible for:

- co-ordinating what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority by which it is established;
- ensuring the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for that purpose.
- promoting greater understanding of the need to safeguard children and promote their welfare.

This Business plan is produced in consultation with all NSSCB partners and describes our priorities as a Board over the next year. Business priorities are taken from: the NSSCB workshop, performance questions arising from data and additional priorities arising from key national and local issues.

Our Strategic intent:

- Strategies and action plans for the priority areas developed and implemented;
- prevalence of priority area abuse known and understood;
- priority areas audited as part of planned audit schedule and quality of partners engagement and interventions analysed to evidence impact and outcomes for children and young people;
- preventative interventions are promoted through targeted awareness raising sessions and communications on the priority areas, including to the wider community.

Our key priorities:

Key themes for 2016 to 2019:

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Early Intervention | Challenge and holding each other to account |
| Neglect | Voice/participation of children and young people |
| Sexual Exploitation/Missing | Better joined up working between sub-groups |
| Domestic Abuse | Multi-agency involvement in Early Help |
| | Identifying and promoting a learning culture |
| | Learning from audits |

Priority: Early Help, Pathways, Thresholds

A significant focus on prevention

Understand the Early Intervention arrangement, structure and process.

Outcome for children: Emerging problems and potential unmet needs are identified so that children and families receive the right support at the right time.

| Objective | By When | Lead | Outcome | Actions |
|---|--------------|---|--|---|
| NSSCB to understand the effectiveness of Early Intervention | December '18 | Early Help Sub-group Independent Chair | NSSCB receive analysis and data in relation to the Quality Assurance Framework for the Early Help Service. This will | Early Help Quality Assurance framework to be drawn up. Regular EH audits are carried out. E.g. Children's centres and use of the outcomes star being promoted. |

| Objective | By When | Lead | Outcome | Actions |
|---|-----------|---|--|---|
| | | | enable the Board to evaluate effectiveness and operation in practice. | |
| NSSCB to ensure children and families views and experiences of early help intervention and support influences service delivery. | March '19 | Early Help Sub-group | NSSCB seeks the views of children and families about their experiences of services. This will contribute to measuring the impact and effectiveness of early intervention and support. | Various agencies record service user feedback although there is no collective overview. EH will promote Signs of Safety construct to secure service user feedback. |
| NSSCB to make sure thresholds & referrals across the safeguarding continuum from early help to child protection work are appropriate, understood and are operating effectively to meet a range of needs in different communities. | March '19 | Early Help Sub-group P&P Sub-group | Increase number of families offered Early Help in North Somerset and reduce number of NFA Referral and Assessment Team. NSSCB to capitalise on high level of engagement of Early Help within 0-5 services and grow Early Help using Transitions into primary and secondary education. | Routine training is delivered to practitioners to ensure North Somerset threshold continuum is understood. EH cases on EH module suggests correct application of the above. |

| Objective | By When | Lead | Outcome | Actions |
|-----------|---------|------|---|---|
| | | | NSSCB challenges across the Partnership and gains assurance that policies and procedures concerning thresholds are reviewed and maintained, to ensure children receive the right service at the right time. | Carry over to the new safeguarding children arrangements. |

Priority: Neglect

We are focusing on Neglect because it is one of the highest categories for children and young people in North Somerset on a Child Protection Plan.

Outcome for children: Children in households where neglect is a feature are helped and, when necessary, protected.

| Objective | By when | Lead | Outcome | Actions |
|--|-----------|--|--|---|
| NSSCB to embed the multi-agency Neglect Strategy & Action Plan. | March '19 | Quality and Performance Sub-group and Comms sub-group L&D Sub-Group | The use of the multi-agency Neglect Strategy and Tool Kit is a key consideration in driving daily business and assessing outcomes. | Carry over to the new safeguarding children arrangements a themed audit/questionnaire regarding awareness of the Neglect Strategy. Update L&D: Schools are aware of this and are referencing their use of this in the annual 175 audit. Available on the schools' page on the NSSCB website |
| To identify a range of indicators to allow the NSSCB to understand the numbers of children | March '19 | Early Help Sub-group | NSSCB dataset includes information on the numbers of children experiencing | Completed. Data included in quarterly performance report. . |

| Objective | By when | Lead | Outcome | Actions |
|--|--------------------------------|--|--|--|
| NSSCB Neglect training offer to be delivered and evaluated. | December '18 | Learning and Development Sub-group | Learning & Development Sub-group receive analysis and evaluation of the impact of training in improving the quality of professional practice and of the experiences of children. | Workforce is being trained in relation to the effect of trauma in children. Training in Education officer and sub-group chair has confirmed that this is evidenced on CPD on-line and has requested evaluation report. |
| The particular vulnerabilities of children and families experiencing four ACEs' (Adverse Childhood Experiences) or more to be understood by the workforce. | March '19 September '18 | Learning and Development Sub-group Early Help Sub-group P&P Sub-group Comms Sub-group | Learning & Development Sub-group review & receive evaluation of safeguarding training (including Disguised Compliance). | Workforce is being trained in relation to the effect of trauma in children. Chair of L&D sub-group will discuss evaluation report (above) within her sub-group. Multi-agency conference took place in June. Themed audit/questionnaire to be carried forward into the new arrangements regarding understanding of ACEs. |
| Further develop and implement systems and practices which improve the early identification and the effectiveness of the professional response to Neglect. | March '19 | Early Help Sub-group | | Neglect tool kit has been launched and is uploaded on to the North Somerset Safeguarding website. |

Priority: Sexual Exploitation/Missing

Identify the extent of sexual exploitation towards children and tackle it across all agencies to protect children. Pay particular attention to work with those who go missing from care, home and education.

Outcome for children: Children and young people in North Somerset are protected from sexual exploitation.

| Objective | By when | Lead | Outcome | Actions |
|---|----------------|--|--|--|
| Continue to establish an understanding of the known prevalence and nature of child exploitation in North Somerset to know the numbers of children who are victims of Exploitation and the effectiveness of the strategy to reduce it. | March '19 | Exploitation and Missing Sub-group Police Sub-groups Safer & Stronger Communities | NSSCB dataset includes relevant data; numbers of children at all levels of the continuum who are victims of exploitation & vulnerable groups. Partner agencies contribute to the NSSCB Annual Report and provide a narrative on activity undertaken by their agency to tackle Exploitation. The NSSCB will be provided with data from key partners on the effectiveness of disruption activity to safeguard the child. | Data provided by Business Intelligence and police on CSE and Missing Children on a quarterly basis. Multi-agency sub-groups report through the annual report. |

Priority: Domestic Abuse

Outcome for children: Children in North Somerset who live in households where domestic abuse is a factor will be helped and protected

| Objective | By when | Lead | Outcome | Actions |
|---|---------------------|---|--|---|
| <p>Review the current service offer to help children who either witness, are victims or are perpetrators of domestic abuse to ensure appropriate help is available – any identified unmet need to be fed into the Board to influence future commissioning decisions</p> | <p>December '18</p> | <p>Domestic Abuse Coordinator</p> <p>Safer & Stronger Communities</p> | <p>Children who live in households where domestic abuse is a factor will be well supported and protected through appropriate service provision</p> | <p>NSSCB partners are represented in the multi-agency Domestic Abuse Strategy Group (DASG) which is accountable to the NS People and Communities Board and reports to the NSSCB regularly. The DASG carries out regular needs assessments for domestic abuse, with data being updated annually. A fully revised needs assessment, with NSSCB partners involvement, was completed in August 2019. This assessment will inform the future multi-agency Domestic Abuse Strategy and the Board will be invited to input into this strategy in October. If any agency would like a copy of the needs assessment or would like to get involved in developing the domestic abuse strategy can they please contact louise.branch@n-somerset.gov.uk or howard.pothecary@n-somerset.gov.uk .</p> |

| Objective | By when | Lead | Outcome | Actions |
|---|---------------|----------------------------|---|-----------|
| NSSCB will receive information and provide challenge in relation to the Strategy. | September '18 | Domestic Abuse Coordinator | Evidence of impact in relation to improving outcomes for children and parents living with domestic abuse. | As above. |

Priority: Governance and LSCB Scrutiny

We must challenge each other and seek evidence of the effectiveness of all that we do to keep children and young people safe in North Somerset

Outcome for children: Board business is coordinated and ensures the effectiveness of what is done by partner agencies.

| Objective | By when | Accountability | Outcome | Actions |
|---|---------------|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Setting up a MASH/One Front Door/MARAC | September '18 | 1FD Strategic Group | An established process and timeline for implementation with effective governance and quality assurance demonstrating improved outcomes for children. | Pilot in progress. |
| NSSCB will build on its culture and confidence of self-challenge. | March '19 | Independent Chair Board | NSSCB can demonstrate through its 'Challenge Log' cross agency challenge. Appropriate strategic representation and decision making ability. | The Board holds a challenge log. This will be of significant focus in the new safeguarding arrangements. |

| Objective | By when | Accountability | Outcome | Actions |
|--|---------------|--|--|---|
| | | | Recruitment and Induction package for all Board members. | To be reviewed within the new safeguarding arrangements. |
| Board Manager | December '17 | Independent Chair | The three core partners have agreed a financial plan that facilitates the function of a Board manager. | This is a recommendation of the Ofsted Action Plan and due to lack of funding strategic partners felt unable to fund this post. This has been added to the LSCB Risk Register. |
| Wood Report Recommendations/Working Together 2018 | September '19 | The three core partners: Health LA Police | By April '19 there will be an agreed plan which will be presented to DfE. The agreed plan will be fully implemented by September '19 | North Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership has published their arrangements. |
| Learning from local and national SCRs and Learning Reviews | March '19 | All sub-groups | Reduction in repeat themes from SCRs. Learning is embedded and translated into daily practice and workforce development Ensure the voice of the child is always listened to, understood and acted upon. | Multi-agency sub-groups report through the annual report. L&D: Embedded into all training packages and all schools were asked in the 175 audit to record that they had embedded this in to practice and disseminated to staff. |

| Objective | By when | Accountability | Outcome | Actions |
|-----------|---------|----------------|--|---|
| | | | Services will be informed and improved by the voice of the child at risk, other service users and carers | New action to be formulated in the new safeguarding arrangements. |

| Version Control | Date | Amended By |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|---|
| V1 Refresh | 2 nd July 2018 | Independent Chair and Strategic leads |
| V2 | 30 th July 2019 | Independent Chair request for updates |
| | 6 th August 2019 | Responses received: CSC L&D Early Help |
| | 27 th August 2019 | Domestic Abuse coordinator |
| V3 | 3 rd September 2019 | Finalised for sign-off at Board |