

## Combined Meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board, and Surrey Heartlands Integrated Care Partnership - Formal (public)

### 1. Reference Information

Paper tracking information	
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Surrey Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP) Annual Report 2023/24 and future plans</b>
<b>HWBS/Surrey Heartlands IC Strategy priority populations:</b>	All
<b>Assessed Need including link to HWBS Priority - 1, 2 and/or 3/IC Strategy Ambition 1 and/or 2:</b>	HWBS Priority 3: Supporting people to reach their potential by addressing the wider determinants of health; Integrated Care Strategy - Ambition 1: Prevention
<b>HWBS or IC Strategy Outcome(s):</b>	Outcome: People are safe and feel safe
<b>HWBS system capabilities/IC Strategy Ambition 3 enablers:</b>	Empowered and Thriving Communities / Working with Communities
<b>HWBS/IC Strategy Principles for Working with Communities:</b>	Community capacity building: 'Building trust and relationships'
<b>Interventions for reducing health inequalities:</b>	
<b>Author(s):</b>	Alison Cutler, Partnership Development Manager, SSCP; <a href="mailto:alison.cutler@surreycc.gov.uk">alison.cutler@surreycc.gov.uk</a>
<b>Sponsor(s)/Champions:</b>	Rachael Wardell, Executive Director - Children, Families and Lifelong Learning, SCC
<b>HWB/ICP meeting date:</b>	11 December 2024
<b>Related HWB/ICP papers:</b>	N/A
<b>Annexes/Appendices:</b>	<b>Annex 1 - SSCP Annual Report 2023/24</b>

### 2. Executive summary

This report highlights the work of the SSCP from April 1 2023 - 31 March 2024 and opportunities going forward for 2024 - 2026.

### 3. Recommendations

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The HWB and Surrey Heartlands ICP are asked to:

1. Note the SSCP Annual Report 2023/2024.
2. Note our priorities for 2024 to 2026 (i.e. a two-year plan) - Neglect, Early Help and Safeguarding Adolescents.
3. Note that from 1 January 2025 our arrangements will be changing in line with legislation in Working Together 2023 [Working together to safeguard children - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/115222/Working_together_to_safeguard_children_-_2023.pdf).

### 4. Reasons for recommendations

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SSCP areas of priorities are based on issues arising from practice and from safeguarding reviews.

SSCP look forward to continuing discussions with the HWB/ICP to identify any areas where our work may be aligned with member organisations.

### 5. Detail

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Our priorities for 2023/24 were:

- Neglect – a [Neglect Strategy 2024 - 26 was developed](#).
- Early Help - an [Early Help Strategy 2024-27](#) was developed.
- Mental health and well-being – it has been recognised that this is a wider system, rather than uniquely safeguarding issue.

The SSCP Executive agreed that two of these priorities for 2023 – 2024 i.e. Neglect and Early Help will be carried over to 2024 - 2026 and Safeguarding Adolescents has been added as a third priority which will include a focus on extra familial harm and contextual safeguarding, linking into the Adolescent Service Project Board.

These areas of focus are those which appear to be having the most impact on safeguarding for children and young people in Surrey based on the work that has been done in reviews, and themes emerging from practice. Our children and young people are also telling us that they value the importance of communities and a sense of belonging. They want to feel part of a community with support networks and friends, and children and young people with additional needs and disabilities would like to see the stigma of additional needs and disabilities reduced.

Whilst in its infancy, the Adolescent Service Project Board aims to improve services for adolescents in Surrey and particularly those suffering from mental health issues associated with exploitation. We are particularly keen to hold a safeguarding lens up to those children who are out of sight due to a range of situations, for example Elective Home Education, those children who are severely absent from school, or

who have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and have been permanently excluded.

Topics such as child exploitation, adultification and those children who are missing will also be explored. The aim is to adopt a unified 'Surrey' approach, or model that improves outcomes for adolescents who are vulnerable and victims of exploitation which is highly associated with mental health concerns.

### **Details of each priority 2024/26**

Each of these priorities are listed in more detail below. There are subgroups responsible for the delivery of workplans under these and progress is reported back regularly to the Executive.

#### **Priority 1: Neglect: Deliver a consistent and effective multi-agency response to all forms of neglect.**

Actions:

- Support the implementation of the Neglect Strategy.
- Develop an understanding of the demographics in Surrey around neglect.
- Early identification of neglect using appropriate tools e.g. GCP2, Neglect screening tool
- Increase awareness, knowledge, understanding and recognition of all forms of neglect by the effective dissemination and embedding of learning from reviews and from practice.
- Use data to reassure the partnership that interventions are effective.
- Improve the quality of referrals around neglect to ensure intervention is at the right level at the right time.

#### **Priority 2: Early Help: Ensuring that children and young people receive the right support from the right agencies at the right time.**

Actions: Implementation of the Early Help JTAI action plan under the following headings:

- Leadership and oversight of the quality and effectiveness of early help
- Consistency of feedback to families and agencies when referrals are made.
- Effective information sharing between agencies to ensure children are effectively supported.
- When families are stepped down from statutory intervention, agencies are informed and given the opportunity to contribute to that decision.

### **Priority 3: Safeguarding Adolescents.**

Actions: Implementation of the new multi-agency Adolescent Safeguarding model, including:

- Extra-Familial Harm and the partnership response to children & young people who are missing and experiencing extra-familial harm.
- Improving the experience for children & young people requiring mental health services; including the management of demand, pathway, commissioning, language, and culture.
- Developing and improving partnership understanding and multi-agency response for children and young people who are missing education.
- Developing and improving partnership understanding and multi-agency response for children and young people who are or at risk of homelessness.
- Co-design of the service with children, young people, and their families

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### **Changes in governance in line with new statutory guidance**

From 1 January 2025 The SSCP governance arrangements will be changing in line with legislation in Working Together 2023 [Working together to safeguard children - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/115222/Working_together_to_safeguard_children_2023.pdf).

This means the SSCP will no longer have an independent chair and the chairing will be undertaken by one of the Delegated Safeguarding Partners on an annual rotation basis. The three Partners remain the Local Authority, Police and Health (ICBs).

The SSCP has also used the opportunity presented by Working Together 2023 to redesign its governance around the work priorities including revising its subgroup and forum structures.

These new arrangements are due to be published by 31 December 2024 in line with Statutory Guidance on the SSCP website.

## **6. Opportunities/Challenges**

### **Challenges**

Since 2023/24, Neglect continues to be a challenge in Surrey and therefore has therefore remained a priority for the SSCP for 2024 - 2026. (A refreshed [Neglect Strategy for 2024 - 26](#) has recently been launched). We are committed to the use of language that families can understand, therefore helping professionals provide families with the support they need. Neglect Masterclasses have been undertaken share the new strategy and ensure all agencies are engaged and providing support to families to reduce the number of children that suffer neglect.

Detailed data analysis into demographics such as age, ethnicity, income deprivation and location are helping to identify signs of neglect and those who are disproportionately affected by it. This allows for appropriate support to be provided at

an earlier stage where it is needed. All of this work is being led by our Neglect subgroup.

The cost of living crisis and pressures on agency resources are issues that will continue to put pressure on the system, and we will continue to monitor the impact of these as we move into 2025.

## Opportunities

SSCP's new arrangements and re-focussed subgroups and forums will help further develop the improve the work of the SSCP as it moves forward. This represents an opportunity for the SSCP to strengthen its relationships with other partners and Boards both locally and nationally.

In Surrey, SSCP would want to explore the following with the HWB / ICP:

- Regular discussions about priorities for the SSCP and organisations that are members of the HWB and ICP to explore any potential areas of cooperation
- Mental health and wellbeing remains an area of interest to the SSCP even though it is not a uniquely safeguarding issue. It would therefore be useful to explore how the work of the SSCP and organisations that are members of the HWB and ICP could align in this regard.

## **7. Timescale and delivery plan**

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An SSCP work plan is in place and will be reviewed again in March 2025 to look at progress in the year and if any of the priorities need to be amended. Progress is also regularly reviewed during the year with reports coming to the Executive from each of the subgroups. Our Independent Scrutineer acts as a critical friend to help highlight where improvements can be made. Our next annual report will be published by 30 September 2025.

## **8. What communication and engagement has happened/needs to happen?**

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This Annual Report is product of engagement with all partners of SSCP. It has been developed with input from all the subgroups and forums as well as the Statutory Partners and has been published on the SSCP website since September 2024. The Annual Report and priorities for 2024/26 can be found at this link: [Strategic Documents - Surrey Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)

## **9. Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer:**

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There are no legal implications arising from this report.

## 10. Next steps

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To continue to have conversations with the member organisations of HWB/ICP as our work progresses to identify any areas where work may align and where we might be able to cooperate and work together as a system.

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### **Question to guide discussion:**

Where are the potential areas for co-operation between member organisations of the HWB/ICP and SSCP and the system as a whole?