



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2022-2023



## Contents

Introduction.....	3
Purpose and Vision of the Surrey Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP) .....	3
Reflections on the Year from our 3 Strategic Partners .....	3
Surrey’s Local Context.....	4
Engaging with Children and Young People .....	5
What progress has been made against this year’s priorities?.....	10
Priority One: Early Help and Thresholds.....	10
Priority Two: Child and Adolescent Mental Health and Well-being.....	12
Priority Three: Neglect: improving the quality and timeliness of our practice in relation to neglect. ..	13
Learning from Case Reviews .....	14
Evidence of impact from sharing the learning.....	15
Child Death Reviews and the Surrey Child Death Overview Panel .....	17
Looking Forward – what’s Next? .....	18
Appendices .....	20
Appendix 1: Governance Structure 2022-2023.....	20
Appendix 2: SSCP Budget 2022-2023.....	21



## Introduction

### Purpose and Vision of the Surrey Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP)

The purpose of the Surrey Safeguarding Children Partnership is to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Surrey. As defined in The Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, the Surrey Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP) consists of three statutory safeguarding partners, Surrey County Council (SCC), Surrey Police and the Surrey Heartlands and Frimley ICBs.

In Surrey, these statutory safeguarding partners are supported by representatives from the county's schools and colleges, District and Borough Councils, and the Police and Crime Commissioner's office, to provide strategic leadership for our wider safeguarding children practices here in Surrey. These partners form the SSCP's Executive Group.

The membership of the wider Surrey Safeguarding Children Partnership however includes all those agencies across Surrey who provide support and services to children and young people up to the age of 18 years. This group represents the full breadth of interests and stakeholders involved in children's safeguarding in Surrey. The full structure of the SSCP can be seen in [Appendix 1](#).

The SSCP's vision is that our partnership arrangements and the work that we do together, will make a difference to the lives of children and young people in Surrey. Our aim is to facilitate closer working relationships across our partner agencies and to ensure that the lessons we learn from listening to our children and families, undertaking our own local reviews and learning from national reviews and guidance that is published, we can improve the lives and welfare of children and young people here in Surrey. This annual report reflects on what we have learnt and what we have achieved in the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 and looks ahead to what we hope to achieve in the next 12 months.

### Reflections on the Year from our 3 Strategic Partners

"The Surrey Safeguarding Children Partnership has developed a stronger sense of togetherness this year. It has a shared vision of "what good looks like" and under the positive influence of its independent chair it has grown and evolved into a discreet entity with an identity of its own. We believe that the current plans to refresh the governance and structures of the Partnership is an important part of this ongoing development. Our current priorities around early help and thresholds, tackling neglect and child and adolescent mental health and wellbeing and risk management is a positive reflection of our partners shared commitment, aligned aspirations and strength of collaboration, in pursuance of better outcomes for children and young people in Surrey".

Rachael Wardell - Executive Director of Children, Families and Lifelong Learning, Surrey County Council

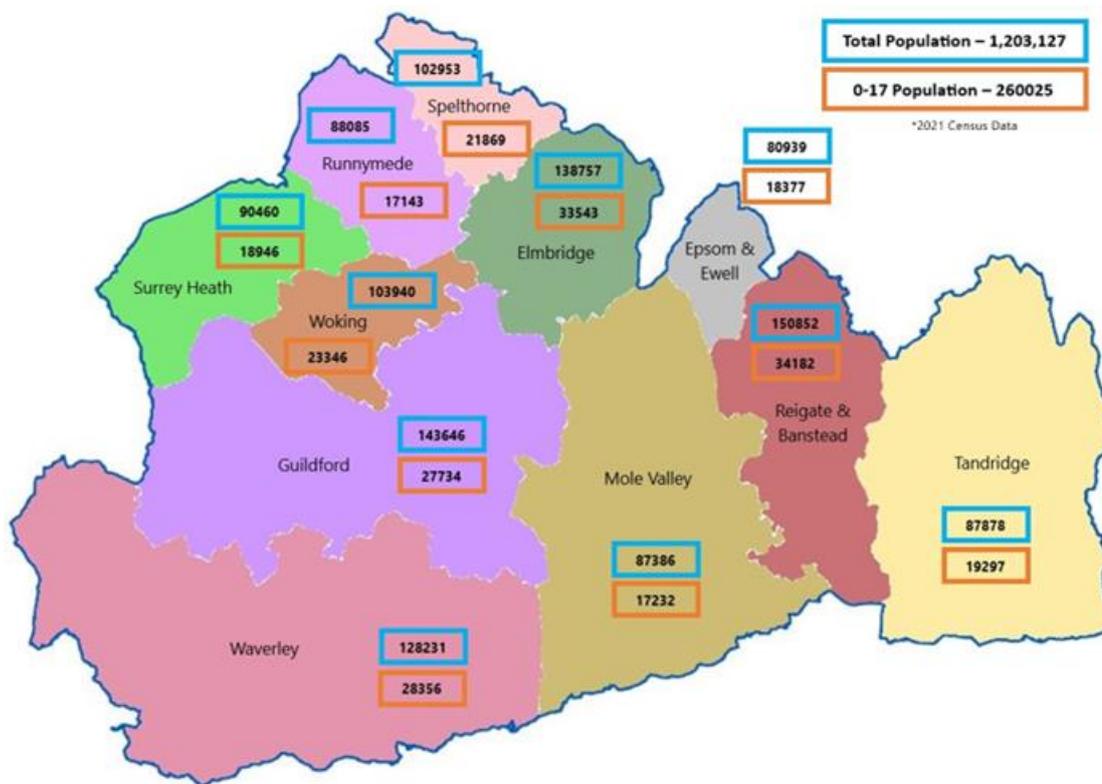
Chris Raymer – Head of Public Protection Surrey Police

Audrey Scott Ryan - Associate Director of Safeguarding Adults and Children Surrey Heartlands Integrated Care System, NHS Surrey Heartlands Surrey Heartlands Health and Care Partnership

## Surrey's Local Context

Surrey is the 5th largest Local Authority in England, based on resident numbers, with a population of just over 1.2 million people (2021 Census data). The population size gives the initial impression that one of the primary challenges would be volume. However, this population is spread across 11 District and Boroughs and the composition of these ranges from significant urban areas to the north and rural areas to the south of the county. This creates a variety of needs across the county and the challenge of responding in a way that is relevant to each area.

With 22% of the population being aged 0-17 this means that roughly in 1 in 5 Surrey residents are children or young people. This ranks Surrey as having the 6th highest number of children and young people across all Local Authorities.

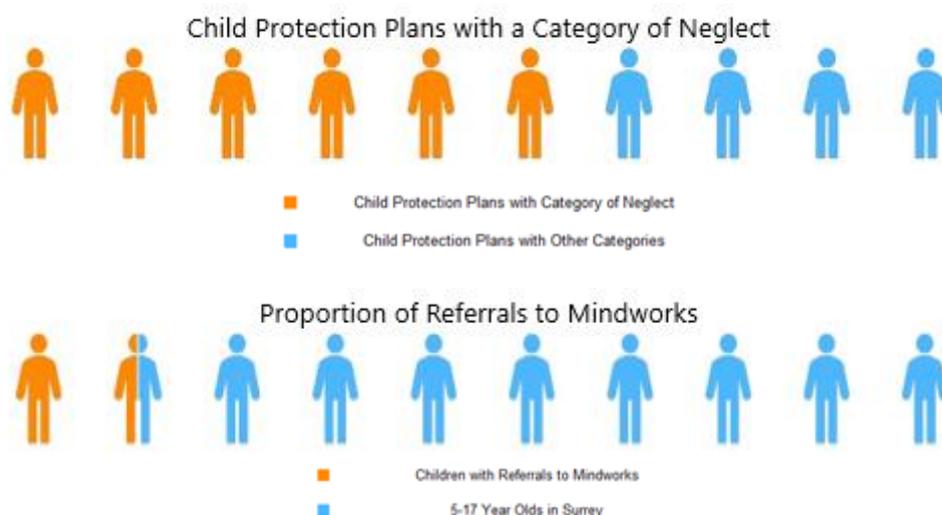


In addition to a growing population, Surrey is becoming more diverse with 6% more residents in 2021 identifying as ethnicity groups other than White British compared with 2011. A similar increase was seen between the 2001 and 2011 Censuses and shows the shifting populations within Surrey.

Surrey is an affluent county, which is clear when viewing the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) which shows that only 0.42% of the county is classified as very deprived. In addition to this only 2.2% of households have 3 or more markers of deprivation. Yet, 42.9% of households have at least one deprivation marker, highlighting further concerns beyond those areas and households that are most in need.

Neglect is a growing issue within Surrey and for those children and young people who have a Child Protection Plan in place, neglect forms the main concern.

Pressures on the services in Surrey that provide support for children and young people with mental health and wellbeing needs has provided an additional challenge during 2022-2023. Across the year there were just over 29,000 referrals for support for children with a range of mental health needs. This is equal to 15% of all children and young people aged 5-17.



## Engaging with Children and Young People

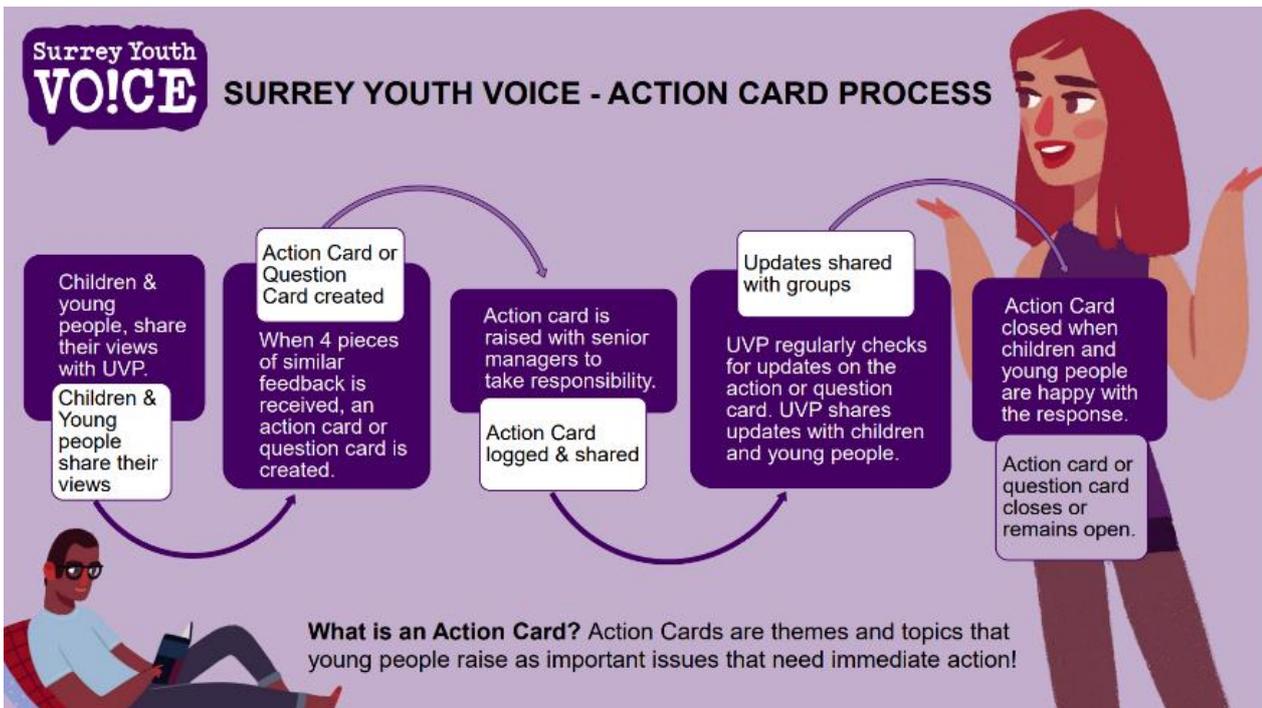
There has been a sustained and managed focus this year on how to involve children and young people in the work of the Partnership. In particular we have been looking at ways in which we can capture their voices and gain a clearer understanding of their lived experience as well how we use that feedback to improve our services and support to children and families. These areas include:

- Working with Surrey Youth Voice and use of action cards
- Developing Time for Kids principles
- Other engagement initiatives by Partner agencies

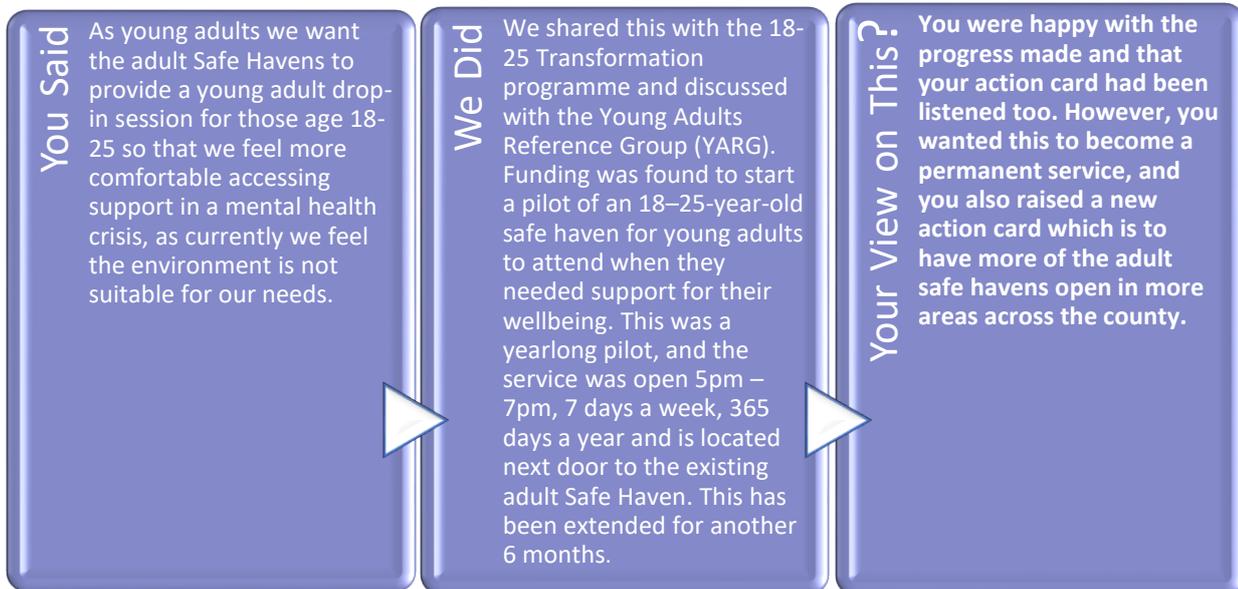
### Surrey Youth Voice and use of action cards

**Surrey Youth Voice (SYV)** was launched this year. This is a partnership between children and young people in Surrey and Surrey County Council's User Voice and Participation Team. There are now 6 established cohort groups who meet regularly to discuss their experiences of accessing services in Surrey. They also engage in improvement projects working directly with service providers, a good example of this being the drafting of a Co Production Charter which is to be launched in 2023-2024.

The use of action cards to address the issues raised by children in Surrey, has gone from strength to strength this year under the management of Surrey's User Voice and Participation Team and has even received national recognition, with The Surrey Youth Cabinet action cards being written into the British Youth Council (BYC) manifesto for 2022/2023.

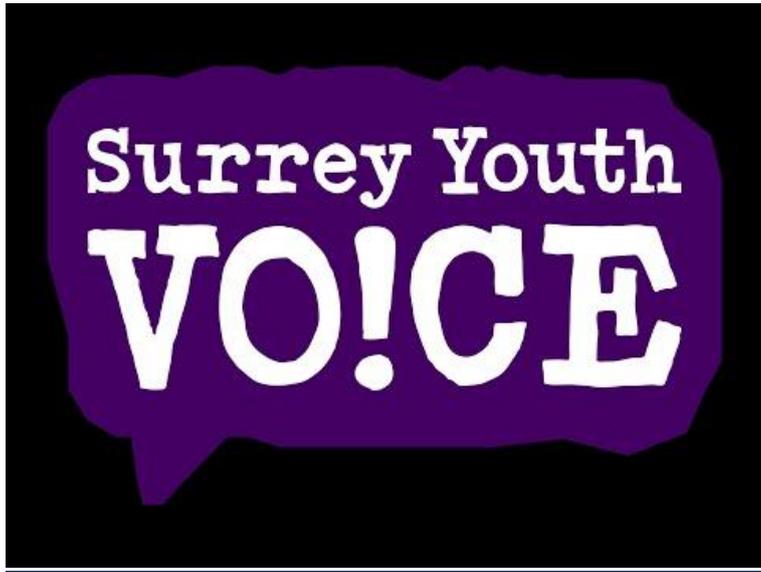


There have been some notable changes made using the action card process, which has enabled children and young people to have an impact on the ways things are done here in Surrey. Some examples of this follow:





To find out more about Surrey Youth Voice please click on the image below.



## Developing Time for Kids principles

Time for Kids is a set of core principles which have been developed and promoted here in Surrey over the last few years and championed by the Charity Surrey Youth Focus (see diagram below).



The SSCP has been proactively promoting the use of the Time for Kids principles this year to strengthen the voice of children in all that we do. [Time for Kids \(surreyyouthfocus.org.uk\)](https://surreyyouthfocus.org.uk)

This year the Time for Kids principles were used effectively during one of our Case Review Practitioner

Events. This helped to move the focus of the discussion away from services processes i.e., “what happened and when” to also consider “how was the child or young person feeling as a result of our actions?” “What was their experience?”

Over the next 12 months the SSCP will be researching the level of awareness and use of these principles across our wider partnership through our annual, revised Section 11 self-assessment process.

## Other engagement initiatives by Partner agencies

Surrey Police have been developing ways to actively capture the voice of children for front line officers by introducing dedicated mandated questions that are built into our police referral form known as a SCARF (Single Combined Assessment of Risk form). These questions ask officers, “did you speak to the child/children, if not, why not? and if you did, record in their own words what the child/children said”. This information is now being shared with children’s services and helps to inform a more child centred approach to any resulting safeguarding measures.

Surrey Police have been developing their **new Child Centred Policing strategy** that sets out their commitment to providing children and young people with a first-class policing response that is child-centred and part of an integrated and effective partnership approach. This is due to be published in September 2023. See [Surrey Police Youth Engagement Offer](#).

Another initiative launched this year by Surrey Youth Voice, in collaboration with Surrey Police, has been the production of a range of “Fabulous Profiles” i.e., qualities that young people would like to see in professional roles such as social worker or police officer. This was driven by initial feedback received from young people as a result of some consultation work around what an “ideal police officer” should be like. Young people created their own profile of how they would like a police officer to be, including how they felt about interactions with the police and what support they would like to receive from them. This work has since been expanded to include profiles of other professionals including teachers, social workers and foster carers.



### TREAT CHILDREN AS CHILDREN FIRST

Children are not the same as adults, they do not think or behave the same and they have greater vulnerabilities – no matter how they look or act we must respect the fact they are children.



### VOICE OF THE CHILD

We must always take the opportunity to ask about and listen to the views of children, this isn't just when they are the victim or the offender, it's also when they are impacted by another's crime or behaviour such as domestic abuse. It is also not just about what 'is said'! It is also observing behaviour, interactions and seeing what is "not said" – especially with babies and children who are non-verbal.



### EVERY INTERACTION IS AN OPPORTUNITY

Every time we interact with a child it's an opportunity to truly understand what is going on for them and to make them safer. Even if we have tried before, we are the paid professional and we need to try again – young people who have experienced trauma and challenging childhoods find it hard to trust, one day our listening ear, our acknowledgment, our actions could be what makes a difference.

Surrey **Children's Community Health Services Engagement Project** was commenced this year aimed at identifying what matters most to local children and their families and Carers when accessing local care services. The report is intended to inform the commissioning of health services in Surrey thereby giving a clear voice to our service users.

One area of concern raised by children and young people this year has been the timeliness of producing and agreeing an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). EHCPs are put in place for children and young people with Additional Learning Needs and Disabilities (ALND), who need more support than mainstream early years settings, schools and colleges can normally provide. See this link for further details [Education, Health and Care \(EHC\) plans | Surrey Local Offer](#).

The impact that delays in drawing together an EHCP can have on the emotional wellbeing and mental health of children and young people has been a primary concern and focus this year. Children and young people have requested more information on the process of raising an EHCP so that they can understand it better and for reasonable adjustments within the school environment to be provided more quickly. One of the actions taken in response to this feedback has been to introduce [Surrey's Ordinarily Available Provision Guidance](#) for Schools, with a child friendly version being produced by members of the ATLAS (which stands for: Accept, Teach, Listen, Access and Support) Group. This has helped to clarify for both children and Schools, what support is legally required to be provided by schools, to ensure that teaching and learning is fully inclusive for all children before the need for an EHCP and specialist provision is requested.

Also, a new Co-production Charter is currently being drawn up in collaboration with school staff, parents, and families, and members of the ATLAS group. This will enable children and their families to influence the development of the services that we provide to them and the way in which those services are delivered. This Charter is scheduled to be launched in 2023-2024.

*Definition of Co-production developed and agreed in partnership with Surrey Children and Young People:*

***“Co-production is a collaborative process, which empowers individuals to collectively and actively shape the support services that they need.”***

*“I like that it uses the word ‘empower, because it brings me positivity”.*

*“I like it because I think it uses a lot of the words that we came up with and it explains co-production in a bit more depth. I do understand it is a bit wordy, but I feel like as an older young person I like this one”.*

## **What progress has been made against this year’s priorities?**

**Priority One: Early Help and Thresholds: We want to ensure that thresholds are clearly understood, and consistently applied, with effective multi-agency working and clear pathways for support.**

In last year’s annual report, the SSCP recognised that more work was needed to deepen the understanding of thresholds and level of need across the partnership. For example, contacts into the C-SPA (Children’s Single Point of Access) which resulted in information advice and guidance were running at 60% at the end of last year, meaning that only 40% of contacts were resulting in an intervention with children and families.

Specific work on thresholds between strategic partners this year has helped to reduce the number of contacts to Children’s Social Care, especially those received from Police. Previously police colleagues have been the largest single provider of contacts, with them representing 43% of the total contacts received in April 2022. By March 2023 the percentage of contacts from police had been reduced to 27% which in turn has reduced the burden on C-SPA by filtering out lower-level contacts that do not require any action.

Re-referrals to Children’s Social Care have remained low throughout 2022-2023 at 17% which is lower than the rate seen in previous years. This is also below the national rate (20%) and our statistical neighbours (21%) comparators. This indicates that involvements are being de-escalated appropriately. The number of children on child protection plans (CPP) have also reduced over the course of the year by 22%, from approx. 1004 at the end of April 2022 to 776 at the end of March 2023 following an update to the Family Safeguarding model.

Our aim as a Partnership continues to be to identify and support families at the earliest opportunity, by embedding the Family Resilience and Safeguarding model across the whole system in Surrey. An internal C-SPA Task and Finish Group was commissioned this year which focused on reviewing the effectiveness of our ‘front door’ model (C-SPA). One of the agreed outcomes of this work has been to work with partners to review the existing threshold and level of need document and to review the language and processes for application, to focus on the

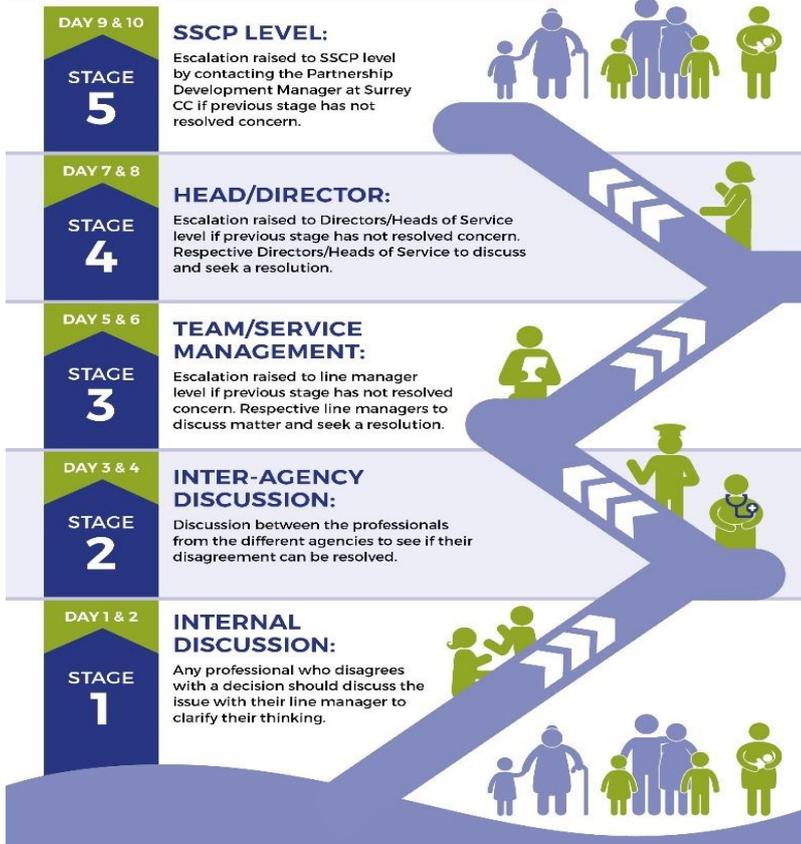
actual needs of families rather than allocating levels of support. This work is well underway and will be continuing into 2023-2024.

In partnership with Surrey Youth Focus and Surrey and Borders Partnership (SABP), Parents as Partners principles have been developed, based on the original Time for Kids principles. An in-person workshop was held with stakeholder partners to explore how practitioners can use these principles by listening to parents and building genuine and valuable relationships with families. This will also be included in the refresh of the strategy for supporting parenthood, which is part of the Helping Families Early Strategy.

The Third Sector Network has been proactive this year in finding ways to work more effectively with Children's Services. An example of this was by inviting the C-SPA Service Manager (Early Help and Hubs) to attend the network to share information about the team and the way they work. It also gave C-SPA an opportunity to listen to and gather feedback from a range of third sector organisations on their experiences of the referral process. This has led to an ongoing dialogue particularly regarding thresholds and levels of need to ensure that children are supported in the most appropriate and timely way. The Third Sector are keen to continue to build and strengthen relationships with key partners so this work will continue to be developed.



## FINDING SOLUTIONS TOGETHER



A great deal of work has been carried out this year to develop and reinforce processes for escalating concerns when disagreements arise between agencies. The process is particularly helpful in addressing disagreements related to decisions taken around thresholds and the provision of support. If a child is judged to have been put at risk because of a decision that has been taken, then the new FaST process (Finding A Solution Together) enables any agency to have their concerns addressed and resolved quickly. There has been evidence of increased and effective use of the FaST process throughout the year and it is continuing to evolve and strengthen as a result.

Encouraging closer working relationships between our partners requires effective communication, trust, respect for differing opinions and a willingness to talk openly and tackle demanding situations together

in a collaborative way. As relationships develop this becomes easier to manage but having clear and agreed procedures to support this activity is also important. The introduction of the FaST (Finding a Solution Together) process this year has provided an effective mechanism for addressing disagreements quickly. During 2022-2023 feedback from partners that have used the process has been very positive (especially from colleagues in Schools and the Third Sector).

It became evident however that the [FaST process](#) was not always being used in the right way and for the right reasons. Further work has been undertaken by the SSCP Business Team to provide practitioners with clearer guidance and alternative methods for raising a wider range of issues. These continue to be proactively publicised via bite sized briefings, forum meetings and written media.

### Priority Two: Child and Adolescent Mental Health and Well-being

In our 2021-2022 annual report, clear priority actions were set for 2022-2023 regarding the re-commissioning and monitoring of services for children with mental health needs. The SSCP has been closely monitoring the implementation phase of MindWorks services throughout 2022/23 via its MindWorks Reference Group (previously known as the Alliance Reference Group). This has been a proactive and effective multi agency group with members able to professionally challenge and influence the ideas, service offers and pathways that have been proposed, providing a strong safeguarding perspective to the development of these services. Members have been able to provide constructive feedback on services through their own frontline experience with children and families. There has also been strong advocacy from

frontline staff and the voice of the child has been heard in meetings as a consequence. Some of the key actions taken by the group this year have been:

- Introduction of a new neurodevelopmental pathway; “the HUB”. This area undertakes diagnostic assessments and ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) medication reviews with “the SPOKE” area offering early intervention and support. Training has been carried out to enable more nurses to prescribe for ADHD, in a bid to bring down the waiting lists.
- An assessment of need form has been developed that is completed between parents and schools, which is then submitted to the Spoke team for review. The Spoke team includes trainee family therapists, speech and language therapists and occupational therapists.
- Interventions are embedded for at least 10 weeks in line with NICE guidance. This is reviewed again following the 10 weeks if the individual is still struggling.

The Surrey CYP Suicide Prevention Partnership and Oversight Group was established in 2022. The Oversight Group is chaired by the Director for Family Resilience & Safeguarding and the Children’s Director of Commissioning and its key function is to oversee the progress towards the **CYP suicide prevention implementation plan**. The learning from the **CYP suicide thematic review** is embedded in the implementation plan.

A key area of work developed from the learning of the thematic review is the Surrey school suicide prevention programme, which includes Mental Health First Aid and self-harm and suicide prevention training. The training includes raising awareness of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and the high risk of suicide and self-harm within certain demographic groups including males, Autistic children, and young people. There has also been a new 18-month post created within our third sector partner Papyrus aimed at developing a Surrey schools suicide prevention toolkit that will support schools to develop a suicide prevention policy.

The Children and Young People Suicide Prevention Group launched a multi-agency subgroup this year to monitor CYP who have attempted suicide and look for any emerging trends and points of learning that can be acted upon. The new working group is led by Public Health and meets every 2 weeks to review data relating to attempted suicides within Surrey over the course of the previous 2 weeks. The aim is to identify any emerging trends, clusters of activity or gaps in provision that may need to be addressed by the wider partnership. In the autumn of 2023, the SSCP will be using this data to carry out a deeper dive audit on attempted suicides by children and young people. Whilst we know that nationally around 60% of suicides are fatal at the first attempt, there are still 40% that are not and therefore timely and effective intervention truly can save lives. We want to learn more about the action’s agencies take when a child attempts to take their own life, how well information is shared and how well agencies work together to support that child and family, to minimise the risk of another attempt at a later stage.

### Priority Three: Neglect: improving the quality and timeliness of our practice in relation to neglect.

As a Partnership we have been working hard over the last 12 months to promote and track the use of the Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2), a neglect assessment tool chosen by Surrey partners for use across partner agencies. A Graded Profile 2 Project Manager was appointed in July 2021 for an 18-month period to develop GCP2 training materials and to train staff throughout the Partnership, so that they would feel confident to use the tools when assessing the needs of children and families. This was a key proposal in the neglect strategy and the post, which was extended for a further 6 months until May 2023, was funded by Surrey County Council.

Introducing the GCP2 in Surrey was aimed at strengthening inter-agency practice with children and families in the light of the learning arising from inspections and local case reviews. We have been able to demonstrate, through the active use of GCP2, positive experiences for children and families, and experiences which help parents/carers to improve the quality of care provided to children.

*“I have used the tool with a young person preparing to be a parent who had little positive parenting support around her, having been in and out of the care system through her life; GCP2 helped her to learn what good parenting looks like, as she had never experienced this herself. This was positive and a supportive process that helped to achieve good outcomes for both mum and baby”.*

*“I found the sessions we had very helpful doing the GCP2. I sometimes struggle to know when I am doing the right thing and beating myself up for doing the wrong things. Doing the GCP2 really helped me to identify my strengths and weaknesses caring for my son. I still know that there is work that I can do to be better, and I also realise that I am not perfect, and I can slip up, because even at my worst, I am still doing a pretty good job.”*

Over 1500 staff have been trained on GCP2 and the feedback from training has been positive showing an increased awareness, knowledge, confidence and understanding in the identification and assessment of neglect and focused intervention. GCP2 champions were also recruited across our partner agencies to reinforce the promotion and use of the model. The Third Sector also have Neglect and GCP2 on the agenda at each network meeting to ensure it is kept front of mind when working with children and families and that the tool is used to assist organisations in dealing with Neglect.

It is recognised that there is still more work to be done before all staff feel fully confident in the use of the GCP2 and ECINs and this will continue to be a key priority area for operational managers within our partner agencies in 2023-2024 and will be closely monitored by the SSCP.

Surrey Police are producing a training video, aimed at helping professionals respond more effectively and consistently to child Neglect. It will be delivered in documentary style format and involves subject matter experts, Surrey case studies and inputs from police and their safeguarding partners. This is going to be rolled out throughout 2023-2024 to all partner agencies, to illustrate the important role all partners play in helping prevent children that are suffering from neglect. The video will educate professionals on the whole spectrum of neglect including intentional and unintentional neglect, to improve understanding and response, to help professionals recognise the indicators, intervene early and appropriately.

## Learning from Case Reviews

The SSCP Case Review Group has successfully streamlined and shortened the review process duration over the last 2 years. In 2022 -2023 there have been 5 Rapid Reviews carried out within an average completion time (from day of notification to sending the final report in to National Panel) of 16.8 days which has brought this more in line with national guidance (15 working days) with times ranging from 13 days to 20 days.

There was just one LCSPR commissioned during 2022-2023 which was still in progress at the end of March 2023.

The Partnership has remapped and revised the LSCPR and Rapid Review processes, using the new guidance that was published this year by the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel. These new processes are now being implemented providing a more consistent, timely and managed approach to how we deal with referrals and decisions around LCSPRs.

Being able to identify and share learning in an efficient and timely way has been crucial to the work of the Partnership and to our strategies for driving change and improvement in practices. At the end of 2022-2023 a survey was shared across Surrey partners to gather opinions from our practitioners and gain a better understanding of how effective our existing methods for sharing learning have been over the year. The results will enable us to gauge the level of impact that the learning is having on improving safeguarding practices and knowledge across the partnership. The results of this survey will also help us to hear the strengths and barriers experienced by practitioners accessing learning from the SSCP, whilst providing a deeper understanding of how we can improve dissemination and increase the impact of future work shared during 2023-24.

The SSCP is committed to supporting the development of a culture of continuous learning across all agencies. To do this we develop a package of learning interventions which include briefings, training sessions, practitioner workshops and sharing learning via the SSCP website. Some examples of this include:

- Learning is shared across the Partnership via the publication of both national and local review reports [Learning from National Case Reviews - Surrey Safeguarding Children Partnership \(surreyscp.org.uk\)](https://www.surreyscp.org.uk); [Learning from Local Reviews - Surrey Safeguarding Children Partnership \(surreyscp.org.uk\)](https://www.surreyscp.org.uk);
- 7-minute briefings are used to give a quick summary of the learning arising from rapid reviews and LCSPRs with direct links to the full reports where appropriate [7 minute briefings - Surrey Safeguarding Children Partnership \(surreyscp.org.uk\)](https://www.surreyscp.org.uk);
- In the Summer of 2022, a briefing event was held to deliver the findings of the following cases:
  - The National Review into the Murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson
  - The Child Q Report

Each of these were significant National Reviews which will have major implications for the future of child safeguarding and child protection. This briefing was an opportunity for staff to hear the key themes, learning and recommendations emerging out of these reviews and to hear about actions that were planned to be taken in Surrey, in response to these recommendations. The briefings were recorded for those that could not attend and then published on the SSCP YouTube site [SSCP Termly Briefing Event Summer 2022 - YouTube](https://www.surreyscp.org.uk)

## Evidence of impact from sharing the learning

Back in 2020, the SSCP in conjunction with Surrey CDOP, undertook and published the [Thematic Review of Adolescent Suicide](https://www.surreyscp.org.uk). This was a significant step toward a multi-agency shared objective to reduce and prevent suicide in young people and a strong example of working together across all of the agencies, which spanned several years and embedded the work across the Partnership. During 2022-2023 the thematic review report has been refreshed to include any new learning arising both nationally and locally and the Suicide Prevention

Toolkit, which is being widely used and acclaimed within Surrey. During the year the following projects have been implemented:

- The delivery of regular Lunch and Learn Sessions for Schools – advising staff on how to respond to the sudden and unexpected death of a child within the school.
- Building on the learning from the thematic review and working in partnership with Surrey Healthy Schools, an online self-evaluation tool has been developed.
- A successful bid for WER (Wellbeing for Education Return) funding has enabled us to launch free online learning sessions for the year, to support schools build a Whole School Approach to Building a Thriving School Culture.
- A Papyrus Community Development Officer role was introduced (funded by Surrey County Council Public Health) to update the Toolkit, provide training and support to schools.

Whilst it can never be certain whether any of this work has had a direct impact on outcomes, Surrey's adolescent suicide rates have fallen in recent years and at the time of writing, there has not been a probable or suspected suicide since June 2022. As a partnership we will continue to focus our attention on emerging trends and in providing greater support, awareness and information for those supporting children, young people and their families through this difficult time.

Other changes that have/are being made in response to learning arising from our case reviews this year, and which are starting to show “green shoots” of improvement include:

- **Surrey's new FaST escalation process** which continues to be reviewed, evaluated and promoted across partners agencies (see Page 10 for further evidence and information about FaST).
- The **roll out of ICON** across Surrey, this is in response to two cases this year relating to the death of infants.



Infant crying  
is normal



Comforting  
methods can  
help



It's OK to walk  
away



Never, ever  
shake a baby

ICON is an evidence-based approach that supports vulnerable families in raising awareness of normal infant development and the potential to lose control when caring for a small baby, with the overall aim of reducing physical abuse such as abusive head trauma from shaking. Implementation of ICON across Surrey has the potential to promote numerous benefits for new-born babies and their families by focusing on the well-being of new-borns and their physical and emotional wellbeing at this very early stage. There is currently no ongoing monitoring of how many cases present within Surrey of abusive head trauma or suspected physical abuse. A snapshot review was undertaken by Children's Services during the pandemic, and the roll out of the ICON

programme provides an opportunity to re-consider this again and to map it alongside the findings of the previous report.

- A full review of the Pre-Birth Assessment policy and procedures was undertaken this year to strengthen the quality and timeliness of the process. A programme of pre-birth assessment training has also been delivered to all managers within Surrey's Children's Services. Evidence of improvement is being seen through internal auditing systems, especially in relation to the use of best practice guidance and the timeliness of completion when families with children on child protection plans are expecting their next child.
- The SSCP hosted their first large-scale, face to face, conference in June 2022 on the topic of 'Trauma-Informed Practice'. The day was well attended with over 300 delegates from all partner agencies. The keynote speaker for the day was Dr Kristine Hickle, Professor of Social Work Care at the University of Sussex and the workshops focussed on themes derived from trauma-informed practice and were multi-agency both in terms of their delivery and content. Feedback on the day from those in attendance was very positive.
- In March 2023 a "Sharing the Learning" survey was carried out on-line which was completed by over 140 partners across all sectors. The survey looked at a wide range of mechanisms used by the Partnership for sharing learning, including the conference. It appeared that whilst all of the methods used for sharing learning here in Surrey received positive feedback, the most popular was information on the SSCP Website at 67% awareness. This is something that the Partnership will be working to improve further in 2023-2024.

## Child Death Reviews and the Surrey Child Death Overview Panel

The Child Death Review (CDR) process continues to work well within Surrey with high engagement by all agencies. Between 1st April 2022 and 31st March 2023, Surrey CDOP was notified of 75 deaths of which 49 were children who were resident in Surrey. In Surrey, the number of child deaths in 2022-2023 remained static in comparison with the previous year, when 67 child deaths were notified, of which 50 were from Surrey.

Surrey continues to offer a high-quality service which fulfils the statutory requirements and most importantly, keeps our bereaved families fully engaged with the process. The Surrey CDR team offer a 7-day week service (9-5pm) for any child death that requires a joint agency response (JAR) and all families are allocated a CDR Nurse to support them throughout the child death review process. The process of expertly reviewing all children's deaths is grounded in deep respect for the rights of children and their families and with the intention of preventing future child deaths.

Surrey's Child Death Overview Panel reviewed and closed 65 deaths in that period. Of the 49 Surrey child deaths notified to CDOP between 1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023, 14% (7/49) of the deaths have been identified to have potentially modifiable factors, which is a decrease of 6 since the previous reporting period.

*"Modifiable factors are defined as 'those, where, if actions could be taken through national or local interventions, the risk of future child deaths could be reduced'.*

During this period identified learning points considered from child deaths include guidelines/policy/pathways not always followed, patient safety, risk factors in mother during pregnancy, smoking, alcohol, substance misuse by a parent carer, initiation of treatment/identification of illness and lack of recognition of the deteriorating health of a child.

Further thematic reviews (Neonatal and 4-year CDOP report) have been undertaken in this reporting period to identify learning from child deaths which will help to inform commissioners, providers and partners of actions needed and opportunities not to be missed to help prevent future deaths. During the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) year 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 the Specialist Child Death Review Nurses have continued their excellent and invaluable work in supporting bereaved families. An excerpt from one of the many positive comments our nurses receive from the families that they support is shown below, highlighting the positive impact the Child Death Review service in Surrey has on families when they are at their most vulnerable.

*"I am writing following the tragic and sudden death of our son to provide feedback on the care we received from (CDR Nurse) and others. I can say with all honesty that the support that (CDR Nurse) has provided has been exemplary, and I genuinely do not know where we would be today without her..... I also want to comment more broadly on the wider support and compassion that we have received. Whether that was the doctors, nurses and paramedics who were with us on the day; the police officer who waited beyond his shift with us at the hospital even after others had arrived to take on the responsibility; the support from the cemetery manager and funeral home; the care our daughter has received from her teachers and the wider school community. In a time when the public sector is at breaking point, it is people like this who remind you how fortunate we are to live in a country where this kind of compassionate service is offered to people."*

## Looking Forward – what's Next?

Whilst the SSCP has made good progress this year, there is always more to improve. The SSCP will continue to develop and improve to support the safeguarding of children and young people across Surrey.

Our plans for 2023/24 include the following:

### Funding and resources:

This continues to be a challenge for all agencies and the SSCP will work closely with agencies to monitor any potential adverse impact on children and young people so that appropriate action can be taken to minimise this.

### Review and implementation of Governance Arrangements:

The SSCP has committed to update the Partnership governance arrangements in 2023 and a development day was held in March 2023 at which there was agreement to continue the SSCP's 3 priorities into 2023 and 2024: Early Help & Thresholds, Child and Adolescent Resilience and Support and Neglect.

The new governance arrangements will build on these themes but will also include further scope around the Partnership's other statutory and strategic functions. This is intended to provide an opportunity to "reset" the Partnership's way of working, to further support the SSCP's

delivery and objectives, and provide greater clarity of purpose. This work aims to conclude in the Autumn with the new arrangements being fully implemented in early 2024.

#### Ongoing development of our work with families:

Development and promotion of the revised Effective Family Resilience document will ensure that all partners understand and have increased confidence in how they can work together to provide appropriate and timely support to families. This will also be one of our key areas of focus at our Annual Conference in November 2023.

#### Audit/scrutiny and impact:

The SSCP has taken the decision to recruit an independent scrutineer in 2023/24 to assist with the scrutiny of the impact of our work so that we can make improvements as necessary.

There are three multi-agency audits planned for 2023/24 looking at key points in a child's journey and each one is focused on an emerging theme that links in with the Partnership's 3 key priority areas.

The development of a new Section 11 self-assessment approach will help reassure the Partnership that statutory duties are being met whilst also tracking and reporting on how well partners are meeting the SSCP objectives and the impact that actions are having on collective safeguarding practices across partner organisations. The new approach will be launched in September 2023.

#### Continuing work on Neglect:

There have been challenges in implementing the neglect strategy this year and ensuring GCP2 tools are completed across all agencies. Despite high numbers of staff being trained, the number of GCP2s completed across the Partnership have fallen below the anticipated level. The number of GCP2 Champions supporting the roll out of the tool has also reduced due to staff turnover and capacity issues. This area of work will continue to be a focus in 2023/24.

Actions to further develop our work in this area include:

- Refresh to the 2021 to 2023 Neglect strategy
- GCP2 implementation group will continue to have oversight of the implementation of the tool during 2023-2024

#### Further improve the way in which we learn from our reviews:

In response to the "Sharing the Learning" survey completed at the end of this year we will be seeking ways in which we can improve the promotion of and increase accessibility to our different methods for sharing learning whilst also measuring and improving the impact that learning has on developing practitioner safeguarding practices.

This will include the following activities:

- To continue to optimise and streamline the Rapid Review and LCSPR processes, to further improve how we conduct reviews and share learning effectively in line with statutory guidance.
- To review and develop training for our local panel members to strengthen and promote professional confidence when involved in the Case Review processes.
- To actively promote the diverse ways in which we share learning, to improve awareness and increase access.

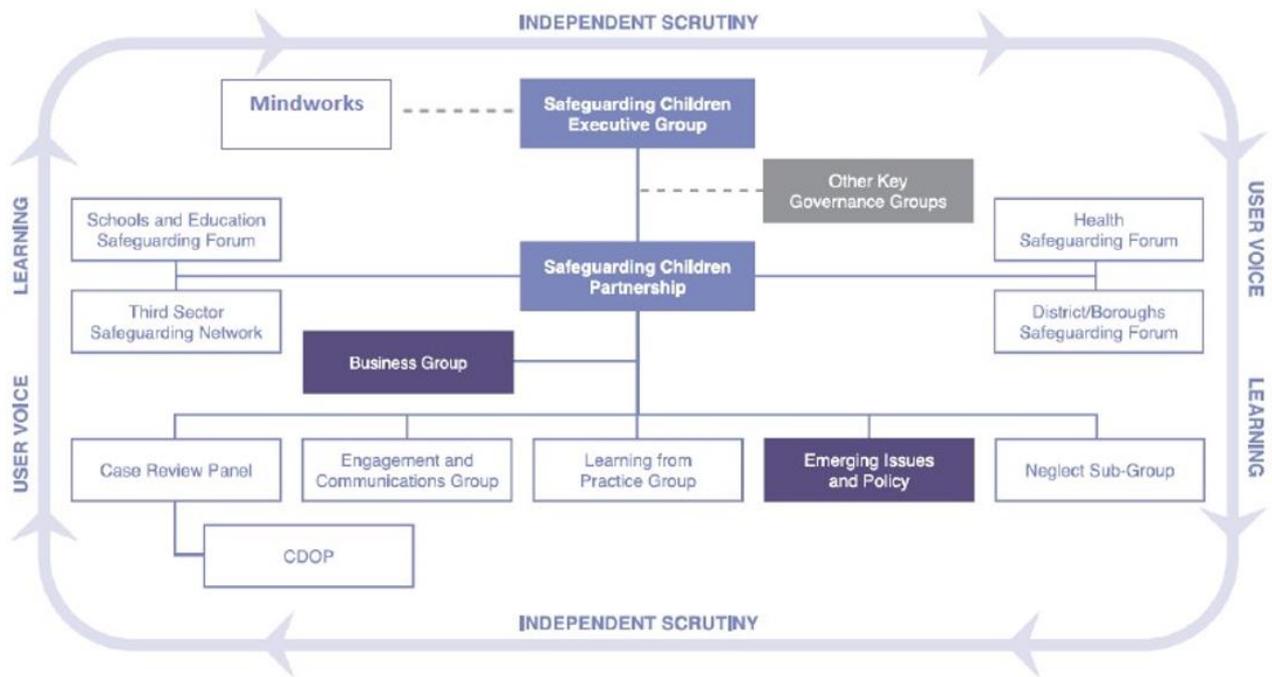
# Appendices

## Appendix 1: Governance Structure 2022-2023

### **THE SAFEGUARDING PARTNERSHIP STRUCTURE**

Updated 2023

*Sub-Group, Forum and Network Structure*



Appendix 2: SSCP Budget 2022-2023

	<b>FY Budget</b>
<b>Staffing</b>	
Direct	406,600
<b>Non Staffing:</b>	
Independent Chair/Scrutineer	40,000
Training (Staff Development)	5,000
Venues	1,500
Conference March 23	
Miscellaneous	400
Subscriptions	1,500
ICT Development and Phones	5,000
Phew Internet	16,000
Independent Case Reviews	42,000
Innovation/Projects	4,329
Staff Travel	4,400
Academy training contribution 22-23	
<b>Total 2022-23 Budget</b>	<b>526,729</b>
Underspend 2021-22 carry forward	270,244
Underspend 2022-23 forecast	
<b>Total</b>	<b>796,973</b>
<b>Funded by:</b>	
Partners' contributions 22-23	-526,729
2021-22 underspend brought forward	-270,244
	<b>-796,973</b>