



## **Strategic Plan 2019-2022**

Shropshire Safeguarding Partnership, (SSP), works with relevant agencies to improve outcomes for children and families through the development of arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. The SSP acts in an independent role to seek assurance, scrutinise, challenge and support the multi-agency partnerships in Shropshire to safeguard children.

### **Our Vision**

“For all children and young people to be happy, healthy and safe and to reach their full potential, supported in a family environment, by their families, friends and the wider community.” (Children and Young People’s Plan 2016)

### **Our Core Business**

The following areas are identified as core business for the SSP, in line with the statutory guidance of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, and are reflected in the SSP sub-group work plans.

- Quality assurance of safeguarding arrangements across the partnership, including co-ordination of Section 11 audits and multi-agency audits.
- Publish a threshold document, which sets out the local criteria for action in a way that is transparent, accessible and easily understood.
- Assessing the effectiveness of the help being provided to children and families, including early help.
- Commissioning of inter-agency training and measuring the impact of training on safeguarding practice.
- Development of robust regional and local multi-agency safeguarding policies and procedures.
- Identifying serious child safeguarding cases and undertaking Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews where appropriate.
- Embedding local and national learning, including from serious child safeguarding incidents.
- Seeking assurance from child death review partners on the effectiveness of the local and regional Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) processes.
- Hearing the voice of children and families to inform service improvements.

### **Our Priorities**

In addition to the core business the SSP has identified two priority areas to focus on for the next three years; Exploitation and Neglect. Exploitation is a shared priority area with the Keeping Adults Safe in Shropshire Board, (KASiSB).

These priorities are progressed through the work of the SSP sub-groups whose work plans detail specific activity, quality assurance and performance in relation to achieving these priorities. Progress against the strategic plan is monitored by the Executive group on a quarterly basis.

The SSP recognises that domestic abuse is still significant in terms of its prevalence across Shropshire and its impact on children. SSP will continue to safeguard and protect children who are experiencing domestic abuse as part of core safeguarding business.

The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) leads on preventing and tackling domestic abuse through the Shropshire Domestic Abuse Strategy. The SSP will work with the CSP to ensure that children and families affected by domestic abuse receive appropriate support, intervention, and protection and that positive action is taken against perpetrators.

### **Priority 1: Exploitation (joint priority with KASiSB)**

**Strategic objective:** To safeguard children who are at risk of, or who are being exploited.

#### **How we will do this:**

- By developing a clear structure of governance and clear lines of accountability for the exploitation agenda across the partnership, working in conjunction with the Community Safety Partnership and KASiSB.
- By working with other partnership boards to develop strategies that address the issue of exploitation across adults, children, perpetrators and victims.
- By understanding what types of exploitation are prevalent in Shropshire for both adults and children, including young people transitioning into adulthood.
- By developing an operational multi-agency children's criminal exploitation pathway and assessment tools.
- By prioritising resources effectively to address the main areas of concern in relation to exploitation across the partnership.
- By preventing the exploitation of children through raising awareness, building young people's resilience and providing appropriate diversionary activities.
- By working with partners and/or commissioners to ensure services are available and accessible to provide support for parents and to provide enduring support for victims and survivors.
- By working in partnership and sharing intelligence to assist in the disruption and dismantling of organised crime groups and tackling perpetrators.
- By working in partnership with schools to reduce exclusions.

#### **We will know we are successful when we can:**

- Understand the nature and prevalence of exploitation across the partnership.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of interventions for children and their families.
- Identify children at risk of exploitation and refer them to the appropriate safeguarding support.
- Evaluate impact of learning activity to demonstrate workforce knowledge and understanding.
- Identify exploitation and share intelligence to effectively disrupt the exploitation of children.
- Demonstrate that children are receiving the right service at the right time.
- Measure the impact of the Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation Strategy.

## **We will monitor our success measures through:**

- The interrogation of a robust children's exploitation dataset that supports the collation of a wider partnership problem profile.
- Increase in referrals for children at risk of or being exploited.
- Improved outcomes for children and families.
- Reduction in criminal offences associated with exploitation.
- Reduction in the number of school exclusions.
- Feedback from children and families.

## **Priority 2: Neglect**

**Strategic objective:** To safeguard children by identifying neglect and intervening at the earliest opportunity.

### **How we will do this:**

- By strengthening the governance of partnership arrangements in our response to neglect.
- By strengthening strategic links through the engagement of the wider partnership, including those services that don't predominantly work with children.
- By improving our data capture in order to understand the nature and scale of neglect across Shropshire.
- By working in partnership to revise the Shropshire Neglect Strategy.
- By identifying children at risk of neglect at the earliest opportunity through robust assessment and identification of associated risk factors using a range of assessment tools.
- By effectively utilising resources to respond promptly and to effectively to address underlying factors.
- By maintaining our focus on the lived experience of the child and involving children and families in our work.
- By embedding learning from serious case reviews and case audits to improve the safeguarding system.

### **We will know we are successful when we can:**

- Understand the profile of the different categories of neglect across Shropshire.
- Address neglect with early help and reduce the need for social care intervention.
- Demonstrate effective use of a whole family approach to assessing neglect and planning interventions.
- Effectively measure the impact of parenting programmes and other interventions.
- Understand the lived experience of the child and improve outcomes for children and families.
- Demonstrate an increase in public awareness of child neglect.
- Measure the impact of the Neglect Strategy.

### **We will monitor our success measures through:**

- Interrogation of a robust children's dataset and performance information that measures the impact of our work to safeguard children from neglect.
- A reduction in numbers of children subject to a child protection plan under the category of neglect, numbers of children subject to a second or subsequent child protection plan and a reduction in the length of time children are subject to a plan.
- A reported higher degree of confidence amongst our workforce in recognising and responding to neglect.

- Feedback from children and families that demonstrates we have worked with them in making safeguarding personal and building their resilience.

**Annual reporting:**

The SSP will publish an annual report which will set out what the partnership has achieved in respect of its core business and the strategic objectives outlined in this plan.