



Cheshire West and Chester
Safeguarding Children
Partnership

Safeguarding Children Partnership Summer 2022 Newsletter

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Key Messages - Water Safety

As the temperature rises this week, we want to remind children and young people to enjoy water safely this summer. **Please help us to spread the message via your newsletters and social media.** Drowning is a leading cause of accidental child death. In the UK and Ireland drowning takes an average of 402 lives each year. 46% of those who drown never intended to be in the water, sometimes going to help others in distress. 62% of accidental drownings happen in inland water and around 44% of accidental drownings happen between May and August.

For free water safety resources visit

<https://www.rlss.org.uk/pages/category/drowning-prevention-week-campaign>



Update from the Safeguarding Children Partnership

It's been another busy term for the Safeguarding Children Partnership. A massive thank you to all our partners for your contributions, without which, none of this work would be possible. Here's some highlights:

Continuum of Need Task Group

In May we were joined by nearly 40 professionals to review the SCP Continuum of Need (CoN) Threshold Guidance. There was lots of helpful discussion and a recommendation to the Partnership that the Continuum of Need was itself in need of a refresh and relaunch. That recommendation was endorsed by the SCP Practice Improvement Group and the work is underway. We look forward to updating you on the revisions in our next newsletter.

Safeguarding Under 5s Task Group

Following publication of the [Cheshire West and Chester Thematic Review into Non-Accidental Injuries in Babies under 1](#) (February 2022) a Pan Cheshire multi-agency task group has now come together to consider strategy, policy and training requirements for the workforce in order Follow us on Twitter @CheshWestSCP

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to strengthen safeguarding for children under 5s, including a specific focus on pre-birth and first year of life. We'll bring you updates on progress in future newsletters.

Team around the School (TaS project)

In January 2022 the SCP were awarded funding to deliver a project with a small number of schools, as part of the DfE Building Back Better Covid Recovery monies. The project launched in March and it's been great working with amazing schools and local providers who are all focused on one thing – **improving attendance and school engagement**.



Staff at Neston High focused on developing a Contextual Safeguarding approach to practice with Queensberry AP



Year 7 pupils at Christleton High receiving the Future Matters workshops with 2Engage

The work will continue across the Summer and into the Autumn term, but phase one of the learning report is now ready to be shared with our schools and partners and this will be updated when all 1-1 interventions have been completed.

Safeguarders and Scrutineer Sessions

In June we launched the first of our 'Safeguarders and Scrutineer' Sessions. Paula St Aubyn our Independent Scrutineer met with over 30 professionals to talk about the issues that matter to them. We spoke about 'what works' and practice partners are proud of such as the locally developed self-harm pathway and strategy discussions. Then we wrestled with the challenges and frustrations of single and multi-agency practice including capacity, lack of escalation, and virtual working. We'll be bringing these matters to the attention of the partnership and look forward to updating professionals on progress at the next session. If you'd like to be involved, please contact your Designated Safeguarding Lead who can make a request via Noreen.Gallagher@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

In case you missed it - Bite Sized Briefing Resources

In July we held two bite-sized briefings to share the learning from the [National Review into the murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson](#). If you would like to access a recording from the session please contact sian.jones@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Here's the powerpoint and a useful summary briefing from the NSPCC



Learning from child-safeguarding-p
National Review into practice-review-panel-



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What's New - Changes in Legislation, Policy, Practice Guidance

Early Years - The Department for Education (DfE) has published non-statutory guidance on assessing the development, health and wellbeing of children aged between 2 and 3 in England. The guidance helps early years practitioners to review a child's development against the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework, identify any areas of concern or additional development needs, and work with parents and other professionals to put in place appropriate support and intervention. [Progress check at age 2 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/progress-check-at-age-2)

Childcare Consultation - The Department for Education (DfE) has opened a consultation on proposed regulatory changes to childcare in England. Recommendations include increasing the current minimum staff to child ratios for two-year-olds from 1:4 to 1:5 and clarifying wording in the Early Years Foundation Stage statutory framework around adequate supervision while children are eating. [Childcare: regulatory changes - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/childcare-regulatory-changes)

Tackling School Absence - The Children's Commissioner Dame Rachel de Souza has published the findings of her national school attendance audit, setting out six 'key ambitions' to deliver an overarching goal of every child being 'supported to be in school every day' and 'ready to learn'. Dame Rachel says any form of exclusion or removal from the classroom – whether a fixed-term suspension, permanent exclusion or internal exclusion – should always be a 'trigger for intervention'. And she is also calling for greater support for young carers and their families so that no child has to take time out of school to care for a family member. [The Children's Commissioner publishes Voices of England's Missing Children report | Children's Commissioner for England \(childrenscommissioner.gov.uk\)](https://childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/news/childrens-commissioner-publishes-voices-of-englands-missing-children-report)

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022 - Following publication by the Department for Education in May of the [revised statutory guidance for schools and colleges on keeping children safe in education](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education-2022) the NSPCC has issued a short briefing itemising all the changes incorporated in the revised guidance [A summary of changes introduced by Keeping children safe in education 2022 \(nspcc.org.uk\)](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-we-do/our-work/keeping-children-safe-in-education-2022) **The revised guidance will come into effect on 1 September.**

Introduction of Integrated Care Systems (ICSS) - The Health and Care Bill was passed into law in England on 28 April 2022. The new Act establishes 42 Integrated Care Boards (ICBs), which replaced the NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) across England on 1st July. **Locally NHS Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group has become NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care System.** To support the new system, Cheshire West Local Authority Deputy Chief Executive Delyth Curtis has been appointed to the role of NHS Place Director for Cheshire West, alongside her existing council responsibilities. Under the new Act ICBs will have to report annually on how well they are delivering their duty to safeguard children and young people.

Independent Review of Children's Social Care - The NSPCC has produced a short briefing summarising the recommendations for reform following a government commissioned review of the children's social care system in England. [A summary of the final report of the independent review of children's social care \(nspcc.org.uk\)](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-we-do/our-work/independent-review-of-childrens-social-care)

Pan Cheshire Policy and Procedures Updates (June 2022) – In the latest round of updates there have been changes to the following policies: Allegations against Staff or Volunteers, Bullying, Children of Parents Who Misuse Substances, Online Safety, Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding Children and Young People from Radicalisation and Violent Extremism. For a summary of the updates click here [Amendments \(proceduresonline.com\)](https://www.proceduresonline.com/updates)

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Useful Resources

Healthy Relationships - The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command (CEOP), of the National Crime Agency, has released a new resource to help develop young people's understanding of healthy relationships and unhealthy behaviours. The resource consists of eight lesson plans and five short films to help protect children aged 12-14 from harmful sexual behaviour both off and online. [Respecting me, you, us - RSE lessons \(thinkuknow.co.uk\)](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/healthy-relationships)

Understanding the dark web - CEOP have also launched a short five-minute film and factsheet to help practitioners who work with children and young people to understand the dark web. The resource, which has been developed in collaboration with The Children's Society and Marie Collins Foundation, aims to help practitioners feel confident in having conversations with and supporting young people who are accessing the dark web. **The resource is not intended for sharing with young people directly.** CEOP has also produced a separate factsheet for parents and carers. [Dark Web Explained \(thinkuknow.co.uk\)](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/dark-web-explained)

Online Safety SEND resources – Childnet has released new resources around online safety to support young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) aged 11 and over. The resources cover topics such as healthy relationships, digital wellbeing and online pornography. Each topic contains three lessons and films for educators and those working with young people to initiate discussion and help young people navigate online spaces. [Thrive Online | Childnet](https://www.childnet.co.uk/online-safety-sen)

Childhood Trauma - The UK Trauma Council has created a guide sharing research into how brain changes following trauma can affect a child's social world. The guide illustrates the importance of social relationships for mental health and explains that children with a history of maltreatment could face social difficulties such as bullying. [Childhood trauma, the brain and the social world - UKTC \(uktraumacouncil.org\)](https://www.uktraumacouncil.org/childhood-trauma-the-brain-and-the-social-world)

Defensible Decision-Making - Research in Practice, in partnership with the Practice Supervisor Development Programme (PSDP), has created new resources to support defensible decision-making in children's social care organisations. The three resources aim to: support line managers to develop analytical writing skills; development leads to train staff; and leaders to host discussion on defensible decision-making. [Supporting defensible decision-making | Research In Practice](https://www.researchinpractice.org.uk/supporting-defensible-decision-making)

Ask for Jessie - Oral Hygiene Pharmacy Campaign - 'Ask for Jesse' is a new campaign fronted by Boots, aimed at helping to close the poverty gap by assisting vulnerable families. Working in collaboration with [The Hygiene Bank](https://www.thehygienebank.org/) customers can simply 'ask for Jesse' when in store. A member of the Boots team will discreetly provide oral hygiene products to customers with children aged three to five years old. Please share with parents and carers as appropriate.

**Have an amazing Summer and Stay Safe
From your Safeguarding Children Partnership Team**

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