

# **St Helens Safeguarding Children Board**

## **Response to the findings of the Serious Case Review Child JSH**

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Findings from the St Helens Safeguarding Children Board (SHSCB) SCR JSH are detailed below together with a summary of the work undertaken to address these findings.

Work that has been completed, initiated or that is still to be undertaken, is included in SHSCB SCR Action Plan. This work is reviewed on a quarterly basis by the Critical Incident Panel (CIP). The CIP ensures that actions are progressing in a timely manner.

An impact assessment of these actions will be made by the Learning and Review Group following implementation.

<b>Finding 1: The local safeguarding system is not sufficiently robust in its response to identifying and understanding indicators of risk and vulnerability in young people involved in violence, offending and sexually harmful behaviours</b>
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<b>SHSCB</b>
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SHSCB to write to all partner agencies requesting written assurance that professionals across each of their respective agencies understand the need to respond to the safeguarding needs of older children and adolescents, despite the nature of their presentation (i.e. violent, criminal and aggressive behaviours) and that in these circumstances professionals remain child centred.
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Agencies contacted include : 5BP STKT, Bridgewater ,Police, CYPS, Public Health, CCG, NSPCC, Probation, Schools Representatives, Colleges, GPs representatives, CAFCASS
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SHSCB to collate training needs for this area of delivery and incorporate into the multi-agency training plan.
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A case file audit of vulnerable young people will take place in August 2016
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**Finding 2: The multi-agency system for responding to serious violent and sexual incidents in schools is not well developed. The role of the school police officer is valuable but requires clarification in relation to links to police and other agencies**

**Schools**

An audit of schools/colleges risk management policies to take place in relation to violent and sexual incidents.

A piece of work will be conducted around Managed Transfers to find out what Early Help is available within schools. To establish what information is shared with the receiving school at the time of transfer. The conclusions of this work to be utilised to improve the current system.

Schools will work together to produce a robust and clearly understood policy for managing the risks and vulnerabilities in relation to serious violent and sexual incidents within schools. Policy to include clear guidance on managing pupils who have been moved because of violent or sexual misconduct post transfer.

The Policy will then be fully disseminated across schools

**Multi agency**

A task and finish group led by YOS will meet to consider whether the wider multi-agency safeguarding system is sufficiently focused on addressing issues of violence and sexually harmful behaviours in the school setting. This group to look at the cases of Child JSH, and two other children with similar profiles.

The group to consider models of support provided in other local authorities and to make recommendations to the Board.

**Police**

The Review showed that some agencies did not understand the role School Police Officer. The partners have asked that the role of the school police officer to be reinforced across all agencies – starting with a presentation to the SHSCB.

**Finding 3:**

**(a) Professional understanding and pathways for children who have experienced and witnessed domestic violence are underdeveloped.**

**(b) Responses to children who perpetrate domestic violence, including the protection of the at risk adult, are underdeveloped**

This finding was reinforced by a recent Ofsted inspection and as a result is a Local Priority within the Safeguarding Children Board Business Plan and the Ofsted Improvement Plan.

- Actions Include:  
a multi-agency mapping exercise to establish the range of effectiveness of arrangements for addressing domestic abuse
- Develop and deliver a multi-agency workshop to ensure there is a comprehensive multi-agency understanding of revised domestic abuse arrangements across partners.
- Manage the development and implementation of a comprehensive Domestic Abuse Strategy and pathways encompassing the needs of victims, perpetrators (both adults and children) and children affected by domestic abuse. (Based on the outcome of the mapping exercise)

**Finding 4:**

**The current system of mental health referral and triage does not meet the needs of children who experience severe behavioural difficulties**

The following actions were recommended :

- Review the support available for children and young people who experience severe behavioural difficulties but are not diagnosed with a mental illness
- Review the breadth of mental health provision for Children and Young People

**Public Health**

There has been considerable additional investment in Tier 2 CAMHS in 2014 –2015, with further investment 2015 – 2016 .Tier 3 CAMHS has seen a re specification of the service and investment is stable.

The generic health service offer to YOS is currently being developed and a school nurse is now placed within the team two days a week. Specialist mental health support will be provided to Children’s Social Care as required.

**Children and Young Peoples services**

A task and finish group will be formed and a piece of work will be completed which will review the support available for children and young people who experience severe behavioural difficulties ,but are not diagnosed with a mental illness. This piece of work will conclude with a report and action plan which will be brought to SHSCB in November 2015

## **Wider Learning**

The following areas were highlighted as 'wider learning':

### **Risks of Social Media**

These risks will be considered in relation to developing networks that promote and encourage sexually harmful behaviour. Findings will be disseminated to Schools at a Conference September 2015

### **Drugs and Alcohol**

The SHSCB will consider whether current assessment and referral in relation to substance misuse is fully explored with young people who present to a range of services

### **The voice of the young person**

Work to be completed by partners to ensure that troubled Young People like Child JSH are given a voice

### **Child Sexual Exploitation and Sexually Harmful Behaviour**

The SHSCB to incorporate learning from this review into its approaches to tackling CSE, sexual violence and sexually harmful behaviours.

### **Record Keeping in Children's Social Care**

High priority will be given to improving record keeping in the service. An audit to be undertaken following this review to ensure that standards have improved.

### **Parental Mental Health Issues**

#### **SHSCB will :**

Develop relationships with adult mental health services to ensure that they are sufficiently engaged in the local safeguarding children agenda

Ensure that professionals are supported in making assessments of parenting capacity where parental mental health (particularly borderline mental health problems) may impact on safeguarding