

North Somerset Council

REPORT TO THE CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE POLICY & SCRUTINY PANEL

DATE OF MEETING: 24TH JANUARY 2019

SUBJECT OF REPORT:

NORTH SOMERSET SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2017/2018

TOWN OR PARISH: ALL

OFFICER/MEMBER PRESENTING:

TONY OLIVER, INDEPENDENT CHAIR, NORTH SOMERSET SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

KEY DECISION: NO

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Children and Young People Policy and Scrutiny Panel note the Annual Report of the North Somerset Safeguarding Children Board (NSSCB) and comment on issues arising from the report that they wish the Board to consider, or to feed into their own future planning.

That Children and Young People Policy and Scrutiny Panel endorses the NSSCB Business Plan for 2016/19.

Reasons for the Recommendations:

A key purpose in presenting the report is to ensure that the Children and Young People Policy and Scrutiny Panel is informed about the performance of the Board, can hold the Board to account for their performance and identify any issues specifically relating to the Council that they determine require action.

A further key purpose of this report is to secure the endorsement of the Children and Young People Policy and Scrutiny Panel to the Business Plan for the North Somerset Safeguarding Children Board (NSSCB).

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT

- 1.1 The NSSCB Annual Report is a statutory requirement as set out in Working Together 2018.
- 1.2 The key purpose of the annual report is to summarise the work we have undertaken in 2017/18 and to assess the impact on service quality and on safeguarding outcomes for children and young people in North Somerset. Specifically, it evaluates

our performance against the four priorities that we set and against other statutory functions that the NSSCB must undertake.

2. POLICY

- 2.1 The NSSCB is a statutory body and local authorities have a duty to ensure that the Board is enabled to operate effectively.
- 2.2 It is a requirement of (the statutory guidance) Working Together 2015 that the NSSCB Annual Report be reported to the Leader of the Council together with the Chief Executive of the local authority, the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board, and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

3. DETAILS

NSSCB Annual Report 2017/18

- 3.1 The NSSCB's priorities remain the same as last year and the business plan has been refreshed by the three strategic leads: local authority; police and BNSSG CCG and informs the sub-groups of their future priorities. There continues to be a focus on whole family issues and transitions from children to young adults.
- 3.2 The future 'next step' priorities identified have been incorporated into the NSSCB Business Plan for 2016/19. In addition to issues arising from the annual report the refreshed business plan's priorities have been identified against a range of national and local drivers including:
 - a) national safeguarding policy initiatives and drivers;
 - b) recommendations from regulatory inspections across partner agencies;
 - c) the outcomes of Serious Case Reviews (SCRs), Learning Reviews and other review processes both national and local.
- 3.3 The annual report 2017/18 includes:
 - A brief overview of the local area safeguarding context with some key context data;
 - A summary of activity of the Board during 2017/18;
 - A summary of activity of the Board's sub-groups against the key priorities. These remain the same as last year:
 - Early Intervention
 - Neglect
 - Sexual Exploitation/Missing
 - Domestic Abuse
 - An overview of performance in key statutory functions notably the Serious Case Review Panel;
 - An overview of the Independent Chair and the Board's governance and accountability arrangements;
 - The Foreword produced to accompany the annual report draws out the headlines in terms of performance. The full report is attached for your information.
- 3.5 The annual report illustrates a range of improvements that have been secured in the delivery of safeguarding across North Somerset. They also identify a range of

improvements that are required in the future and these are reflected in the refreshed Business Plan for 2016/19.

- 3.6 The Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel is requested to note the annual report and to comment on any issues which they believe the Board may wish to consider in the future.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The NSSCB works closely with Safer and Stronger Communities across North Somerset since there is a range of areas of shared interest. Domestic Abuse, for example, features as a key priority.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The safeguarding board has budgets built through the contributions of partner agencies.

6. LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 The NSSCB was inspected by Ofsted in June 2017 and was deemed to be inadequate. The Board responded to the recommendations from Ofsted's report with a detailed action plan. The Independent Chair and the Board's statutory partners attended Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel in July 2018 to update and assure members on the work the Board had achieved since the inspection.

8. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 No formal equalities impact assessment is carried out on the Business Plan. However, performance data being collected by the Board will include reference to gender, race/ethnicity, disability and other protected characteristics to ensure that the profile of safeguarding data is tested and any related issues identified and acted upon.

9. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

N/a

10. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

N/a

AUTHOR

Tony Oliver, Independent Chair, North Somerset Safeguarding Adults and Children Boards

BACKGROUND PAPERS

[North Somerset Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2017/18](#)

NORTH SOMERSET SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD



ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

Published November 2018

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1 – FOREWORD AND INTRODUCTION



Our Vision: “Children and young people of North Somerset will be seen, listened to and valued to ensure they are safe, thriving and reaching their full potential.”

Welcome to this, the Annual Report of the North Somerset Safeguarding Children Board (NSSCB) for the period April 2017 to March

2018.

The purpose of this report is to provide readers with a summary of activity undertaken by the Board and its sub groups over the reporting period. This year, rather than duplicating information which has already been reported elsewhere, where relevant, we are inviting you to make greater use of the Boards’ web site and the websites of our partners to obtain more detailed information should you so wish.

Following our Ofsted inspection in June 2017, one of their recommendations was that the NSSCB should:

“Ensure that the business manager is sufficiently resourced to meet the needs of the board”.

Unfortunately, two of the Board’s principle partners felt unable to increase their funding of the Board to allow this recommendation to be completed. It is partly for this reason that we have chosen to alter our reporting style.

To minimise the effect of reduced business support, the Board and its sub groups have had to develop smarter ways of working to ensure that we continue to monitor the delivery of quality safeguarding practices across North Somerset. This has only been possible to do with the ongoing professional enthusiasm and commitment of all involved in Board and sub group business without which we would not be able to deliver our strategic objectives as set out in our business plan.

Our priorities remain the same as last year:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| • Priority One | Early Intervention |
| • Priority Two | Neglect |
| • Priority Three | Sexual Exploitation/ Missing |
| • Priority Four | Domestic Abuse |

These are detailed in the [Strategic Business Plan](#) which can be found on the Board’s website.

There is a section within the appendices in relation to board attendance ([Appendix A](#)).

Despite the financial and resource difficulties suffered by most of our partners there are some excellent and innovative examples of safeguarding practices which are reported on within the sub-groups reports. For example, the work of the Sexual Exploitation and Missing sub group has expanded its remit to include all forms of exploitation under the auspices of “Tackling Exploitation/ Missing” sub-group. The Young People sub-group continued to make recommendations to the Board so that we hear directly the Voice of the Child which helps inform our strategic priorities. The excellent work of all of the sub-groups can be seen within this report.

As can be seen there are still some challenges to be overcome for regular meaningful attendance by some partners. Accepting the difficulties that the requirement to attend numerous Boards across their areas, it is vital to ensure local children are safeguarded, that we have regular and appropriate attendance.

We have again needed to convene our Serious Case Review (SCR) sub-group on several occasions. Details can be found later in this document.

Following the publication of the “Wood” report in May 2016, the Government’s response to that report and the relevant legislation which, the Boards partners have also been busy working to consider and develop which new model of safeguarding will best suit North Somerset. Whichever model is finally decided on, we must ensure that it continues to safeguard the most vulnerable people in our communities.

I offer my sincere thanks to all who contribute to the work of North Somerset’s Board and its sub groups.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Tony Oliver', with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

Tony Oliver,
Independent Chair, North Somerset Safeguarding Children Board

2 - LEGAL FRAMEWORK, MAIN FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

Section 13 of the Children Act 2004 requires each Local Authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) for their area and specifies the organisations and individuals (other than the Local Authority) that should be represented on LSCBs.

It is independently chaired (as required by statute) and consists of senior representatives of all the principle stakeholders working together to safeguard children and young people in North Somerset.

There is an agreed role description for all Board members, recognising that some members do not represent their agencies but represent professions or sectors. The Board has two lay members as required by the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009.

Each Board partner retains their own existing line of accountability for safeguarding.

Section 14 of the Children Act 2004 sets out the objectives of LSCBs, which are;

- ☐ To co-ordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority; and
- ☐ To ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for that purpose. Regulation 5 of the Local Safeguarding Children Board's Regulations 2006 sets out that the functions of the LSCB, in relation to the above objectives under section 14 of the Children Act 2004, are as follows:
 - ☐ Developing policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, including policies and procedures in relation to:
 - The action to be taken where there are concerns about a child's safety or welfare including thresholds for intervention.
 - Training of persons who work with children or in services affecting the safety and welfare of children.
 - Recruitment and supervision of persons who work with children.
 - Investigation of allegations concerning persons who work with children.
 - Safety and welfare of children who are privately fostered.
 - Co-operation with neighbouring children's services authorities and their Board partners.
 - ☐ Communicating to persons and bodies in the area of the authority the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, raising their awareness of how this can best be done and encouraging them to do so.

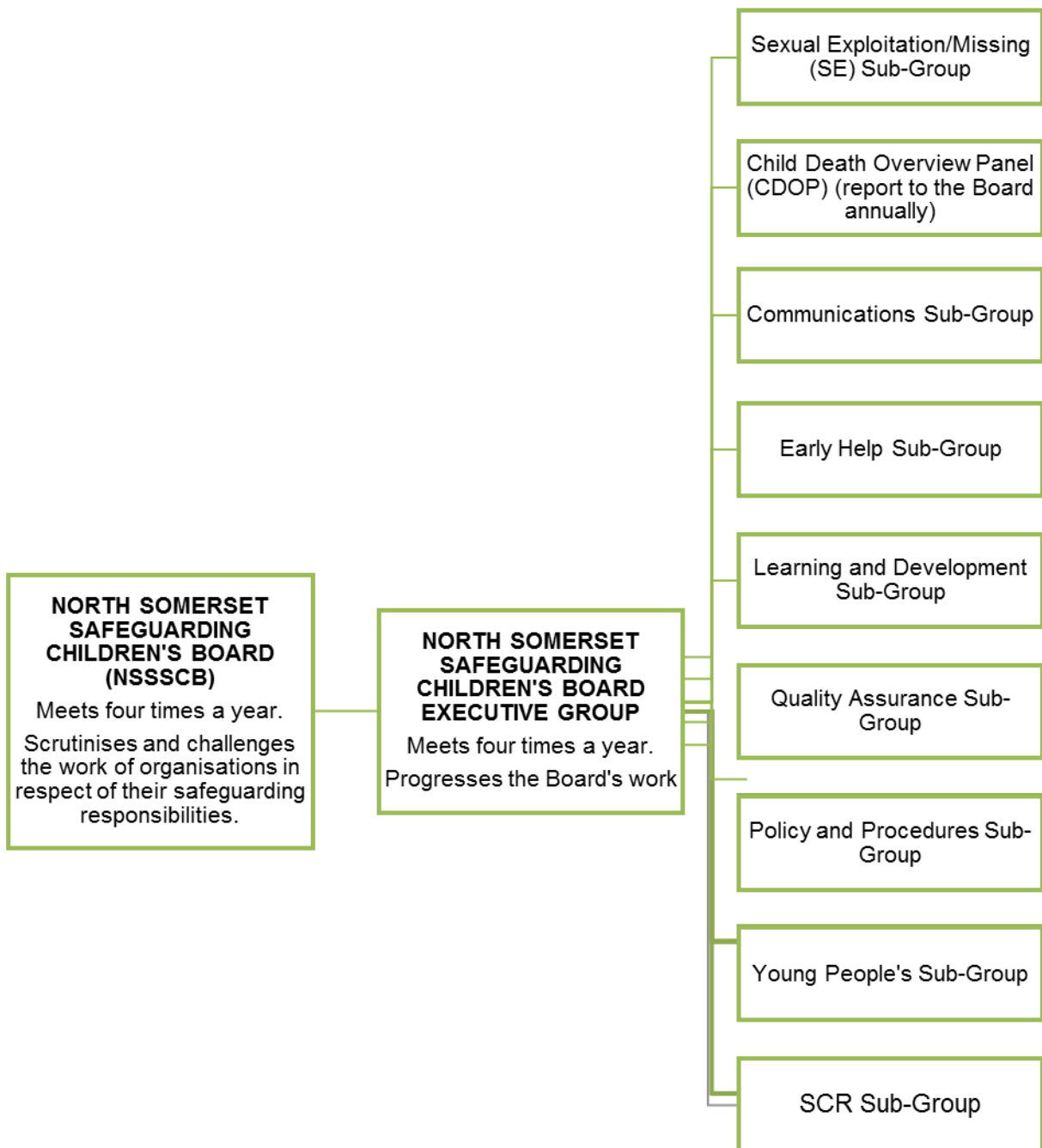
- ☐ Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of what is done by the authority and their Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advising them on ways to improve.
- ☐ Participating in the planning of services for children in the area of the authority.
- ☐ Undertaking reviews of serious cases and advising the authority and their Board partners on lessons to be learned.

Structure of North Somerset Safeguarding Children Board (NSSCB):

Working Together 2015 highlights the importance of partner agencies and their role in implementing effective safeguarding practice. While LSCBs do not have the power to direct other organisations, they do have a role in making clear where improvement is needed. Each Board partner retains its own existing line of accountability for safeguarding. In North Somerset our Board partners include:

- ☐ Local Authority
- ☐ Avon and Somerset Police
- ☐ Health
- ☐ National Probation Service and local Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC)
- ☐ Education (including schools)
- ☐ Voluntary sector
- ☐ CAFCASS

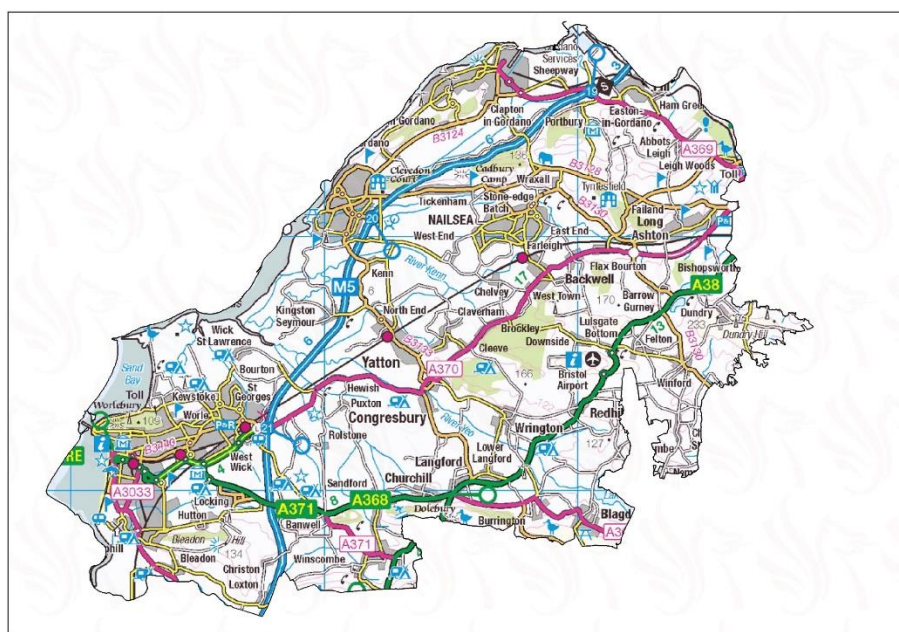
A full list of [Board Members](#) can be found on our website



3 – LOCAL DEMOGRAPHICS

North Somerset Council is a unitary authority in the South West of England which borders Bristol, Somerset, and Bath and North-East Somerset, and is part of the West of England Partnership.

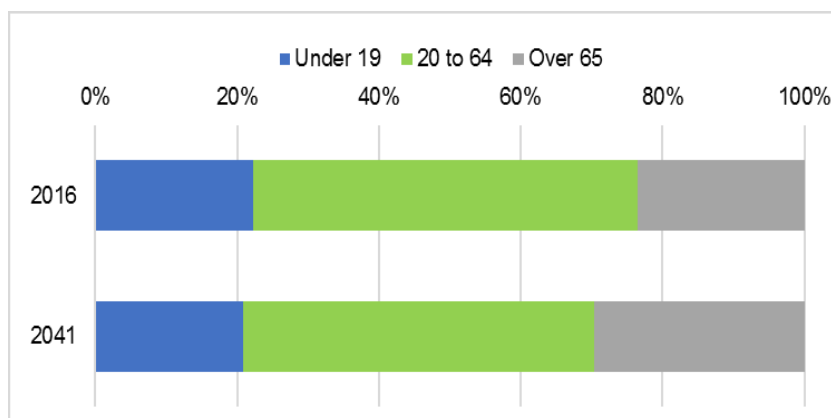
There are four main towns within North Somerset: Clevedon, Portishead, Nailsea and Backwell, and Weston-super-Mare.



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Office of National Statistics mid-year estimates 2016 give the North Somerset population as 211,500 people. Of the 211,500 people, 47,100 are children and young people (under the age of 19 years), 114,700 are between 20 and 64 years of age, and 49,700 are older people (aged over the age of 65 years).

The North Somerset population is projected to increase from 211,500 people in 2016 to approx. 251,700 people in 2041, an increase of 40,200 people. Of this increase just 5,600 are projected to be young people under the age of 19 years.



4 – SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY OF THE BOARD DURING 2017 - 2018

- The work of the Board and its sub-groups has been informed by clear agreed priorities and underpinned by an up to date and well-structured Strategic Business Plan. This is available on our website. [2016-2019 Strategic Business Plan](#)
- Following an Ofsted Inspection of “*services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers and review of the LSCB*” in June 2017, the Board has responded to the recommendations from the report with a detailed action plan. This is work in progress with the majority of actions now complete. The [Ofsted report](#) and [LSCB action plan](#) are available to download from our website.
- SMARTER working has been implemented due to the lack of a Board Manager with more Executive and strategic leads’ involvement resulting in greater partnership working.
- The development of a joint North Somerset Safeguarding Boards website has raised the profile of the North Somerset LSCB as well as providing professionals with a useful tool. www.northsomersetsafeguarding.co.uk
- The Serious Case Review (SCR) panel has had to be convened three times over the last year.
 - one case is still outstanding pending the receipt of further information;
 - two SCRs have now been completed with the reports from the Independent Reviewer in the process of being produced. Further details can be found in Section 5 of this report.
- There has been significant change within the sub-groups.
 - The joint Policy and Procedures sub-group after a year’s trial has now separated. This is now a virtual group, called upon as and when the LSCB need it.
 - The joint LSAB and LSCB SE/Missing sub-group has broadened its scope and is now encompassing all exploitation of vulnerable adults and children. The group is re-named Tackling Exploitation and Missing.
 - Attendance at some sub-groups remains low. However, the sub-groups continue to work enthusiastically on behalf of the Board as is evidenced in Section 5 of this report.
 - The following multi-agency short life working groups were convened:
 - Neglect Task and Finish Group. A [Neglect Strategy and Neglect Toolkit](#) were produced and are uploaded on to the website.
 - FGM Working Group. The [FGM Guidance and Flowchart](#) were produced and uploaded on to the website.

- Awareness raising for Board members through presentations, good practice examples of multi-agency working and national updates. The following went to the Board:

Presentations:

- North Somerset Council's Disabled Children's Team.
- Trading Standards
- Children's Service South West New Children's Unit

Good Practice Examples:

- The role of the DOfA (Designated Officer for Allegations)

National Updates:

- Wood Report/Children and Social Work Act 2017. The Board has been updated throughout the year of any proposed new formats and the future of the LSCB.
- Child Protection Information Sharing

5 – SUB-GROUPS

The Board's sub-groups consist of multi-agency representation and the following section summarises the activity of these groups from April 1st 2017 to March 31st 2018 detailed under the Board's priorities:

- 5.1 Early Intervention;
- 5.2 Neglect;
- 5.3 Sexual Exploitation/Missing;
- 5.4 Domestic Abuse;
- 5.5 Governance, Quality Assurance and LSCB Scrutiny;

The exceptions are:

- a) **Policy & Procedures sub-group.** The group, which had been joint with the Local Safeguarding Adult's Board separated in January 2018 and became a virtual sub-group of the LSCB. Strategic leads from the local authority, BNSSG and the police are forwarded relevant documents for comment before being presented to the Executive Group and final approval by the Board. Throughout the year a number of documents and policies have been approved in this way and have been uploaded onto the website. [Safeguarding Guidance, Procedures and Policies](#)
- b) **Serious Case Reviews (SCR) sub-group.** The group commissioned two serious case reviews over 2017-18. Both were carried out by the same independent author using a hybrid version of a systems process. Chronologies of agency involvement with single agency reflections on practice were commissioned. Emerging themes include:
 - Neglect;
 - Mental health in children and young people;

- Disabilities in children and young people;
- Transitions from childhood to adulthood;
- Hearing the voice of the child and the lived experience of the child.

The final reports are due to be completed early summer 2018. The SCR panel will use the recommendations from the reports to produce action plans which will be disseminated to all partner organisations for training and embedding into day-to-day good practice. The LSCB will over-see the action plans until all actions are complete.

5.1 EARLY INTERVENTION (Early Help, Pathways, Thresholds)

EARLY HELP SUB-GROUP

What did we do and why?

- Contributed to the development of the multi-agency One Front Door.
- Pilot project in South Weston to develop more joined up working between schools and whole family early help episodes.
- Increased the number of Early Help episodes across North Somerset, especially with school aged children.
- Improved the alignment of Early Help and the High Impact Families programme through the triage to ensure a more joined up approach for families and partner agencies.

What have we learnt?

- We have learnt that Early Help delivery is assisted by clear and consistent messages backed up by good quality advice and guidance from the Early Help Advisor and Children's Systems Project Officer for Early Help Module.

How have we made a difference for children and young people?

- We have increased the number of families receiving coordinated Early Help across North Somerset.

What do we need to do better?

- Improve the quality of recording, assessments and coordination of Early Help.

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT SUB-GROUP

What did we do and why?

- We ran courses on Early Help to educate the multi-agency workforce.
- Early intervention is covered in many different courses which have been run throughout the year to keep the multi-agency workforce informed about Early Help procedures.

What have we learnt?

- Many school's practitioners find the early help system draconian and difficult to use.

- Practitioners do utilise the Early Help Team and speak to them when they need assistance.
- Multi agencies know what early help is and how to use it as it forms a huge part of our training programme.

How have we made a difference for children and young people?

- Referrals for Early Help have increased.

What do we need to do better?

- Improve the early help systems in liaison with the Early Help Lead.
- Follow up on Early Help when the EH team tell practitioners their referral doesn't meet threshold.

QUALITY ASSURANCE SUB-GROUP

What did we do and why?

- Completed a multi-agency audit of Early Help provision in North Somerset.
- Provided a forum for frontline practitioners to report their concerns back to the LSCB.

What have we learnt?

- We have learnt that children's centres are providing high quality early help support both by delivering groups and 1-1 support and by involving other agencies.
- There is evidence that information is shared between agencies, promoting a better understanding of the issues affecting parenting and providing parents with a professional network who are working together to prevent needs escalating.
- Step down cases from Child in Need to Early Help in Children's Centres is particularly effective.
- From the returns from primary schools it is evident that children's escalating needs are recognised at an early opportunity and support is provided.
- Feedback received about the terminology used in early help is that it is confusing for professionals and parents.
- Common concerns across the workforce have been identified including worries about the role of lead professional in that it is an additional workload for them that they do not have the resources for. The requirement to chair meetings is also cited as a barrier.

How have we made a difference for children and young people?

- Increase in referrals shows that children are receiving a service sooner.

What do we need to do better?

- Tracking and measuring that the recommendations from the audit have been actioned.
- Supporting other agencies to hold lead professional role.

SE/MISSING SUB-GROUP (TACKLING EXPLOITATION/MISSING)

What did we do and why?

- Set up a pathway for Children Looked After (CLA) living in North Somerset who are at risk of CSE. This is to ensure the designated nurse for CLA is aware of all children in our area at risk of CSE.
- Training on a rolling programme includes:
 - CSE Training to raise awareness for all professionals.
 - Taxi driver training to raise awareness of early identification and response to CSE. This is being made mandatory and is part of their licence renewal.
- SE/Missing Co-ordinator and Avon and Somerset Police public awareness raising around CSE across the towns of North Somerset.
- CSE awareness raising for teachers in schools and colleges across North Somerset.
- Joint Communications and SE/Missing sub-group linked in with the Avon and Somerset Police for CSE awareness day in March to mirror and promote their campaign.

What have we learnt?

- Joint working is effective and ongoing.

What difference have we made?

- More of the wider children's workforce have an understanding of CSE, what it is, what to look for and what to do. More practitioners are aware of what the Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Form (SERAF) is and how it is to be used. This all supports early identification and appropriate intervention.

What do we need to do better?

- More early intervention to include a clear understanding of children at low risk of CSE.

YOUNG PEOPLE SUB-GROUP

What did we do and why?

- At initial development stage the sub-group delivered consultation to the website, considered content and language, how the website language could be changed to ensure that it didn't become a barrier to children and young people accessing information. In particular this included challenging the board on the use of language for sub headings.
- Ensured young people's voice is valued and heard when NSSCB is putting together any safeguarding resources for professionals and young people. This makes our resources accessible to young people.
- Consulted on guidance for professionals on Sexting
We noted that professional guidance was offered by the CSE sub-group but nothing produced for Young people. We therefore completed a [Sexting Power Point training pack](#) which is contained within the website and can be freely accessed by any professional wishing to offer groups of YP guidance and information.

- We also drew up the following:
 - a. Mental Health Advisory document for professionals - signs and symptoms, what to look for and how to support YP.
 - b. Preventative guidance for students - [Mindfulness tips](#) document to support the devolvement of positive mental health. This can also be downloaded from the website.

What have we learnt?

- We have learnt that in order to reach a wider audience the use of language needs to be inclusive.
- Young people are really aware of the potential to risks to their mental health and wellbeing

How have we made a difference for children and young people?

- The “children” section of the website is an easy read and attractive to young people, language is inclusive and appropriate.
- Consultation with young people enabled the sexting guidance to be up to date/relevant and will not alienate young people.
- Information is now available to young people via our website offering sexting guidance, wellbeing and mindfulness written by young people for young people
- Information is now available to professionals on how to best support and promote the mental health of young people/students

What do we need to do better?

- Ensure that the voice of the sub-group is heard at an early stage.
- Promote the achievements of the sub-group so we can attract additional schools/pupils
- Consistently consult the sub-group and for the board to set them clear tasks which complement the focus of the sub-group and their agenda.

5.2 NEGLECT

QUALITY ASSURANCE SUB-GROUP

What did we do and why?

- Completed an audit of support provided for children and young people in North Somerset whose needs have been neglected.

What have we learnt?

- Practitioners in North Somerset have a good awareness of the signs that a child’s needs are being neglected according to their own agencies. Schools are alert to children being dirty, hungry and reporting home conditions that raised concerns. Health professionals are alert to missed appointments, poor dental hygiene and how the issues of the parents might impact on their ability to provide good enough care.
- Training has provided good awareness of neglect including the less obvious signs. *‘Will now refer earlier’*. Raised awareness of possible misinterpretation of signs and need to consider all parts of the jigsaw.

- Helped to understand other agencies' perspectives. *"I am now clear it is not acceptable to find excuses or reasons for neglect happening – I am more aware of how neglect can present."*
- Neglect conference was very useful in crystallising the necessary action to take when issues occur.
- Training is now a bigger focus of in-school training / awareness raising
- More alert to neglect and the subtle effects of ACE's (Adverse Childhood Experiences)
- North Somerset Community Partnership identify children who may be at risk of neglect by a Family Health Needs Assessment. Needs are measured against the NSSCB threshold document and they are embedding the use of the Neglect Toolkit at part of their action plan arising from the SCR Holly.
- Cases open to Children's Social Care have a clear pathway and a systematic approach that identifies what needs to change. Worker has access to regular supervision that enables a focus to remain on the impact on the child.

How have we made a difference for children and young people?

- Measured practitioner confidence in recognising and naming neglect which reinforced the use of the neglect toolkit. This means that children suffering neglect are being identified and responded to sooner.

What do we need to do better?

- Share audit findings more widely across our partner agencies.
- Secondary schools to contribute to audits so that adolescent neglect is recognised sooner.

5.3 SEXUAL EXPLOITATION/MISSING

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT SUB-GROUP

What did we do and why?

- We run several courses on CSE which apply to practitioners and carers. These are designed to give both parties tools to recognise and help support victims of CSE.
- We introduced a focus on county lines.

What have we learnt?

- CSE courses are well attended.

SE/MISSING SUB-GROUP (TACKLING EXPLOITATION/MISSING)

What did we do and why?

- Raised awareness with public days/joint working with police.
- Sexting guidance for professionals produced.
- Raised quality of return from Missing Interviews with new form designed and audit carried out of Return to Home interviews.
- Worked in partnership with the local authority's Learning and Development team to secure in-house multi-agency delivery of Barnardos CSE training at

Awareness Raising and Advanced level, and Skills and Practice for those working directly with children at risk or being exploited.

- 170 delegates trained across 11 events. Approximately 250 taxi and private hire vehicle drivers also trained in basic awareness of CSE as part of the joint initiative with Licensing.
- The purpose of training ranges from raising general awareness of what CSE is, models of exploitation and what to do if you have a concern, to giving practitioners tools and confidence with working with young people who have been/are being exploited.

What have we learnt?

- County lines, cuckooing and criminal exploitation has been identified in North Somerset with children and vulnerable adults often becoming affected.
- Public are concerned about the safety of their children and want to know where they can get help regarding CSE and on-line abuse.
- Taxi drivers are keen to engage with training.
- The need to raise awareness with B&Bs, hoteliers and late-night eateries around SE. Due to the high number of organisations this is likely to need a bespoke training package, for example on-line training.
- Training is well received and feedback indicates that objectives are being met.
- There is currently no demand for the Barnardos CSE 'Working with Parents' course and little demand for the Barnardos CSE 'Skills and Practice' course despite promotion efforts.

How have we made a difference for children and young people?

- More parents and children are aware through public raising awareness and educational settings and speaking to parents of risks posed by perpetrators.
- Raising awareness with supported housing providers with clear pathway to raise any concerns and report soft intelligence.
- The above means that there is earlier identification and response of/to CSE. This means that children receive a service at an earlier stage.

What do we need to do better?

- Gather information and identify children at risk of exploitation of any form and clear process to support young people.
- Timeliness of Return from Missing interviews and repeat audit on regular basis.
- Develop a wider understanding of on-line abuse and ways of tackling it.
- Raise awareness to children who are home educated.
- Training hoteliers, B&B and late-night eateries
- Gathering of information from other agencies about training needs to enable development of most appropriate course material and to avoid cancellation of multiple courses going forward.

5.4 DOMESTIC ABUSE

EARLY HELP SUB-GROUP

What did we do and why?

- We have contributed to the development of the One Front Door Safelives project which will focus on domestic abuse before expanding into a wider multi-agency safeguarding response.

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT SUB-GROUP

What did we do and why?

- We run very well attended courses to help educate the multi-agency workforce on how to recognise and respond to domestic abuse.

5.5 GOVERNANCE, QUALITY ASSURANCE AND LSCB SCRUTINY

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT SUB-GROUP

- From the date of the last annual report, the L&D sub-group has had inconsistent and low attendance making it difficult to achieve a quorate group.
- The sub-group has a chair, however, there is no co-chair.
- Earlier on in the year, it was discussed between the chair of this sub-group and the chair of the adults L&D sub-group that we did not feel our groups collaboration twice a year held any mutual benefit or substance. We believed that we needed to separate to concentrate on building up our own groups and concentrate on our own agendas and goals.
- The independent chair of the board agreed to both the children's and adult subgroups split for us to meet by ourselves four times a year and anchor into our agendas what we want to achieve in the upcoming year. We will however, liaise with the adult subgroup in the future to share good practise.
- The L&D subgroup have produced a training needs analysis for all agencies to circulate – thus giving the group indicators for any gaps in learning.
- All agencies are being asked within their analysis to offer some indication of the impact that has been made from any training which had been attended.

SE/MISSING SUB-GROUP (TACKLING EXPLOITATION/MISSING)

What did we do and why?

- Audit on Return from Missing Interviews to look at:
 - Numbers of Missing,
 - Repeats,
 - Timeliness of interviews being carried out
 - Quality of interviews
 - Outcomes.

What have we learnt?

- Improved quality of Return from Missing interviews since new form.
- Timeliness is better although it needs to improve.
- Outcomes: need to use/consider early help as an outcome.

How have we made a difference for children and young people?

- Capturing much more of whole “missing” event
- By developing a child friendly form that captures not only the voice of child but their whole experience of being missing to ensure that what they are saying is being heard.
- Following on from the Sexting Guidance written for professionals the Young people sub-group re-wrote a version for young people to be disseminated through schools.

6 – PARTNER ORGANISATION ANNUAL REPORTS

One of the recommendations from the Ofsted Inspection in June 2017 was for the Board *“to request and receive annual reports from a range of partners in order to scrutinise practice and hold partners to account”*. This is now a standing agenda item at the quarterly Board.

The following reports have been completed and presented to the Board:

September 2017: CDOP
March 2018: MAPPA

The following reports are due to be presented to the LSCB in 2018.

DOfA
IRO
CDOP

There is a section on the Board’s website where these reports can be downloaded.

[Other Partner Organisations Annual Reports](#)

7 – PARTNER ORGANISATION SUMMARY OF DATA

7.1 NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL (1ST APRIL TO 31ST MARCH 2018): A summary of local authority data presented to the Board over the 12- month period is detailed in [APPENDIX B](#) of this report.

7.2 AVON AND SOMERSET CONSTABULARY (1ST APRIL TO 31ST MARCH 2018): The commentary and data submission for North Somerset over the 12-month period is detailed in [APPENDIX C](#) of this report.

- 7.3 BNSSG** are in the process of agreeing with regional chairs and Board managers what health data they will provide in the future. This will be consistent for all Boards across the BNSSG area.

8 – INDEPENDENT CHAIR’S GOVERNANCE

The NSSCB Independent Chair continues to request that Board partners produce relevant and meaningful data. Work is on-going to produce “Health” data as noted in Section 7 of this report. Analysis of data continues to be a main agenda item on both the quarterly Executive and Boards where it is scrutinised by Board members.

The Quality Assurance sub-group reports back to the LSCB their recommendations from multi-agency audits against the Board’s priorities.

All Board members are asked to update the Board on their organisation’s annual report and single agency audits. This is a developing area which continues to be on each Board’s agenda.

Easy accessibility of safeguarding and child protection policies, procedures and guidance are now available on the new joint safeguarding boards website.

The NSSCB Independent Chair encourages challenge at the Board and its Executive and holds a challenge log which identifies themes to scrutinise.

The Independent Chair oversees the Board’s business by regularly attending the Board’s sub-groups.

The Independent Chair presents the annual report to the local authority’s Children and young people’s services policy and scrutiny panel.

The Independent Chair regularly attends training courses to dip sample quality of training and to keep abreast of safeguarding developments, locally, regionally and nationally.

Following the publication of the Ofsted Inspection in August 2017, the Independent Chair produced an action plan dealing with each of the Ofsted recommendations.

The Independent Chair has produced a Risk Register which is reviewed quarterly.

9 – NEXT STEPS

This section reviews what needs to happen next to ensure continuing improvement.

9.1 Business Planning

The strategic leads have refreshed the current strategic business plan (2016-2019) which is available on the website. [Strategic Business Plan](#) This informs the work of the sub-groups for the year ahead.

9.2 Key Sub-group priorities

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLICITY

1. Appoint a further Co-Chair for the sub-group.
2. Develop the joint LSCB/LSAB quarterly newsletter.
3. Development and implementation of a Communication and Engagement Strategy
4. Develop a suite of 'Safeguarding Leaflets' to promote an awareness and understanding of safeguarding in various settings to assist practitioners and members of the public in recognising that safeguarding is everyone's business, and what to do when there is a concern
5. Identify methods to measure the impact of communication and engagement activity

EARLY HELP SUB-GROUP

1. The One Front Door is developed to become an effective threshold decision making process that meets the needs of families and partner agencies and includes the Early Help triage function so North Somerset is effectively delivering to its obligations as set out in Working Together and section 10 of the Children Act 2004.
2. Learning from the Early Help pilot is used across North Somerset to further develop integrated family working and coordinated Early Help responses from universal services. The emerging MAT's (Multi-Academy Trusts) are engaged with to ensure the progress with Early Help is embedded and improved upon.
3. Quality assurance of Early Help assessments and episodes is further developed and embedded to ensure families are receiving the coordinated responses and services they need. Audits are completed and feedback to lead professional is given.
4. A review of the Early Help Module workflow process and assessment is undertaken to respond to agencies feedback and streamline and simplify processes.

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT SUB-GROUP

1. The emergence of two Serious case reviews (SCR), both which have been recently published, have given members a valuable reason for realising the need for their input. The subgroup has been tasked to discuss the findings from each review to make decisions on which key findings would be included into the training courses for academic year 2018-2019.
2. Whilst the SCRs were both heavily anonymised, the group felt it was both important and necessary to enable delegates to have access to the context of each SCR. The group agreed upon briefings which would be implemented into the relevant courses which would meet this need for context.
3. The training and development team are writing a course which will address 'managing difficult conversations' which will give key members of different agencies the skills to manage challenging and difficult conversations regarding addressing safeguarding concerns.
4. Going forward, it is imperative that all members feel as though the group holds value and is a worthwhile cause which warrants taking two hours out of the working day.
5. On the next meeting we will be re-establishing our terms of reference to have a clear understanding of what we as a group want to achieve.

QUALITY ASSURANCE AND PERFORMANCE

1. The newly formed Quality and Performance sub-group has been established to implement a framework which will enable the NSSCB to evaluate the effectiveness of the inter-agency safeguarding process for safeguarding children and young people in North Somerset. The sub-group will focus on "outcomes" by monitoring and interpreting relevant performance data from partner agencies and bringing meaningful and evidence-based findings to the Board, escalating any identified risk.
2. Ensuring audit findings are shared with NSSCB sub-groups, in particular, the Learning and Development sub-group;
3. Four audits will be undertaken each year
4. A robust Section 11 audit activity has been developed and this process will be undertaken to include schools, partnership agencies, and voluntary sector and faith groups. The findings will be reviewed and scrutinised by a peer to peer group and presented to Board. Walkabouts

SE/MISSING (TACKLING EXPLOITATION/MISSING)

1. To widen the sub-group's priorities to encompass all exploitation, trafficking, slavery and missing.
2. Training for professionals to raise awareness of exploitation of adults.

Appendix A: Board Attendance chart

Organisation	Representative	June '17	Sep '17	Dec '17	March '18
Avon Fire and Rescue (Correspondent Member only)	Mick Dixon/Neil Liddington	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Avon & Somerset Police	Tina Robinson/Leanne Pook	√	√	√	√
AWP	Jon Peyton	D Rowan	√	D Rowan	√
Barnados	Duncan Stanway	√	A	√	Attended p.m.
BGSW Probation	Peter Brandt	A	√	√	√
Border Force Agency	Fiona Mcphail/Denise Preston	√	A	A	A
CAFCASS	Victoria Penaliggon	√	√	A	A
Clinical Commissioning Group/ BNSSG CCG	Jacqui Chidgey-Clark/Jacalyn Mathers	A	Susan Masters	√	√
Community Partnership	Mary Lewis	A	Jos Grimwood	√	√
Deputy Chair until September Board and Director of P&C (NSC)	Sheila Smith	√	√	√	√
Designated Doctor	Dr Richard Williams	A	A	√	Attended p.m.
Designated Nurse (CCG)	Susan Masters	√	√	n/a	n/a
Designated Nurse for CLA	Rosie Grenter	n/a	n/a	√	A
Independent Chair	Tony Oliver	√	√	√	√
Lay Member	Anna Curvan	√	√	√	√

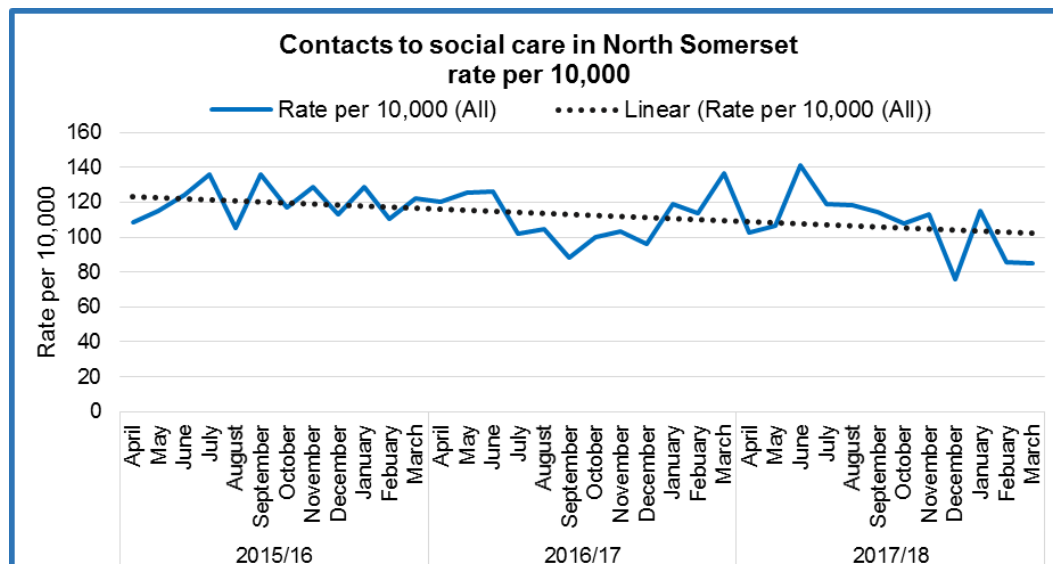
Organisation	Representative	June '17	Sep '17	Dec '17	March '18
Lay Member	Pam Pollard	√	√	A	A
Named Doctor	Dr Mike Pimm	√	√	n/a	n/a
Named Nurse for Child Protection (AWP)	Jon Peyton	A	√	D Rowan	√
Named Nurse for Child Protection (WAHT)	Judith Steele/Mel Munday	√	√	J Marker	n/a
Named Nurse Safeguarding Children (CP)	Jocelyn Grimwood	A	√	√	√
National Probation Service	Liz Spencer	√	√	Andy Harris	A
NHS South South West	Nick Rudling	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
NSC: CSDAT	Jo Mercer	√	A	√	A
NSC: Trading Standards	Helen Heskins	n/a	n/a	√	√
NSC: Safeguarding Quality Assurance	Jo Baker	√	√	√	A
NSC: Support & Safeguarding Adults	Hayley Verrico	√	A	A	A
NSC: Support & Safeguarding Children	Eifion Price	√	√	A	√
NSC: Youth Offending Team	Mike Rees/Howard Wilson	Howard Wilson	√	A	√
Participating Observer, Executive Member NSC	Cllr Jan Barber	√	√	A	A
Schools: St Francis Primary	Caroline Hostein/Catherine Hunt	A	A	A	A
Schools: Clevedon Academy/Ravenswood	John Wells/Philippa Clark	A	A	No longer Board member	P Clark
Solicitor	Lorraine Sherman	A	√	A	A

Organisation	Representative	June '17	Sep '17	Dec '17	March '18
South West Ambulance Service	Sarah Thompson/Debbie Bilton	A	A	Correspondent member	n/a
Sub Group: Communications	Anne Ray-Rowley	√	A	√	A
Sub Group: Early Help	Sadie Hall	√	A	√	A
Sub Group: Policy & Procedures	Jos Grimwood	A	√	n/a	n/a
Sub Group: SE/Missing (formerly CSE)	Ruth Sutherland	√	√	A	√
Sub Group: Training and Development and Service Leader Learning and Development	Carolyn Hills	√	√	√	B.Youds
Sub Group: Quality Assurance (formerly Monitoring and Evaluation)	Jackie Milton	A	√	A	√
Sub-Group: Young People Co-ordinator and Principal Social Worker	Shelley Caldwell	A	A	√	√
University Hospitals Bristol Foundation Trust	Sarah Winfield	A	A	√	√
VANS	No representative	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Weston Area Health NHS Trust	Helen Richardson/Sarah Dodds	Judith Steele	Mel Munday	Julia Marker	√

APPENDIX B: NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL

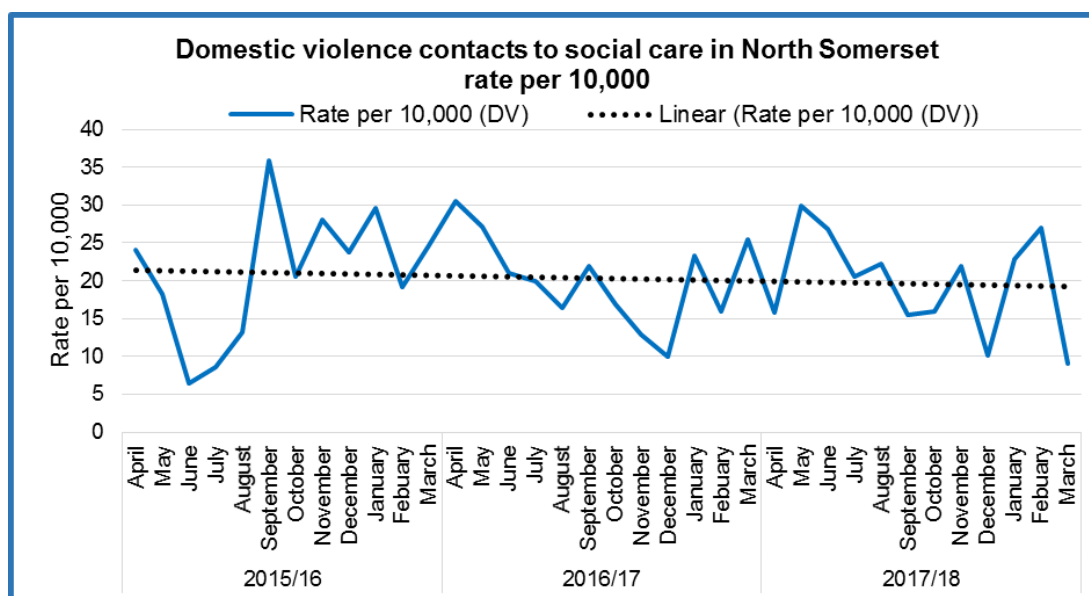
Contacts

The average number of monthly contacts to children's social care has fallen slightly 2015/16 through to 2017/18, and is showing an overall downward trend.



Overall, the number of domestic violence contacts by year has not differed significantly 2015/16 through to 2017/18, though there are monthly fluctuations. As of the end of March 2018, there were a total of 964 cumulative domestic violence contacts for the year. At that point in 2016/17 there were 1,044 contacts.

DV contacts equal around 18% of all contacts.

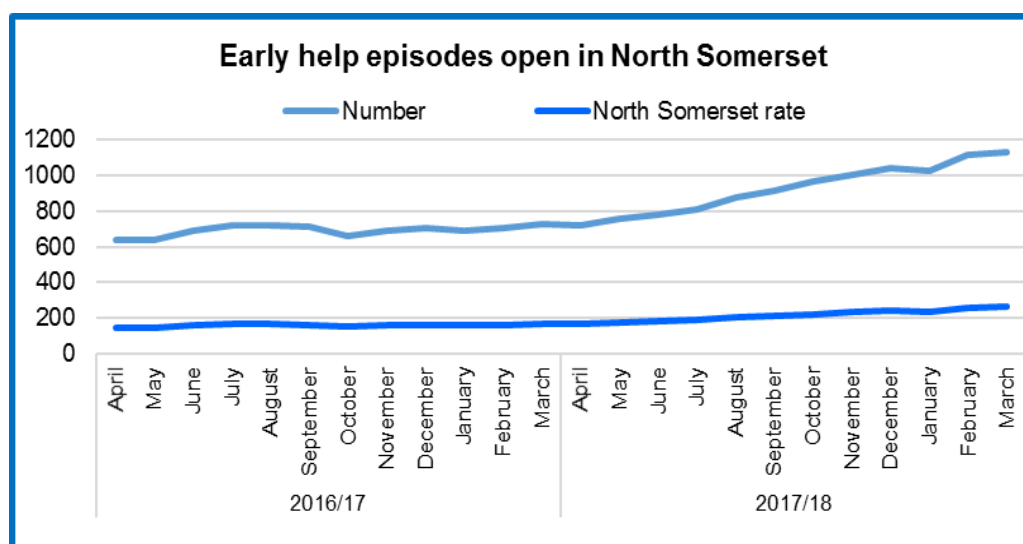


24% of all contacts progressed to a referral in 2017/18. This is similar to the percentage in 2016/17.

Early Help

Overall, the number and rate of children receiving an Early Help service has been increasing within North Somerset since September 2015.

As at the end of March 2018 there were 1,100 active Early Help episodes and throughout the year more episodes have been opened than were closed (a net gain).



Demographic analysis of the Early Help cohort throughout 2017/18 showed that:

- There were slightly more episodes open for males than females.
- The percentage of BME children with an Early Help episode is slightly below what would be expected as a comparison against the population (School Census 2017).
- Approximately 8% of all Early Help episodes were for disabled children, a very slight increase on 2016/17.
- Whilst the number of open episodes has increased for all age groups, the biggest increase was seen in the 6-11 year old group (143 episodes) followed by the 0-5 age group (109 episodes).

The categories of referral for Early Help episodes that children were most likely to be referred in on were (and in descending order):

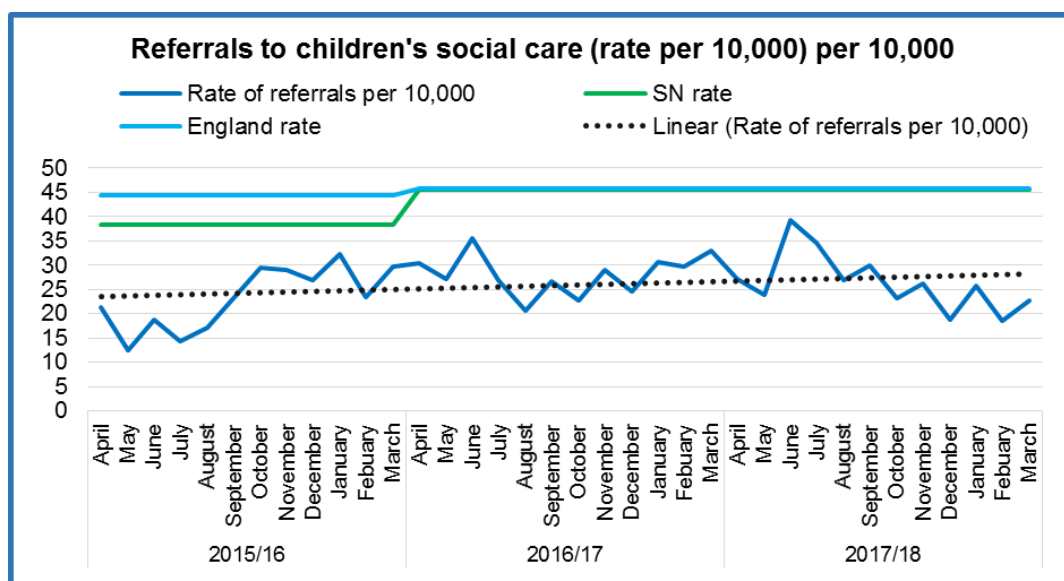
- Other (including the High Impact Families programme).
- Family and Environment (including support for parents around housing, employment and finance).
- Development of the baby, child or young person (including emotional and social development and self-care and independence).
- Request for 0-2 funding.
- Parents and carers (including basic care, safety and protection and emotional support and stability).

Referrals

The rate of referrals to children's social care (per 10,000) in North Somerset shows a slight increasing trend. That being said, in 2017/18 numbers have generally been slightly lower apart from the peak during June.

As of the end of March 2018, the rate in North Somerset was 22.7 referrals per 10,000 children, with an average for the year of 26.4 per 10,000 children (between 80 and 170 referrals per month).

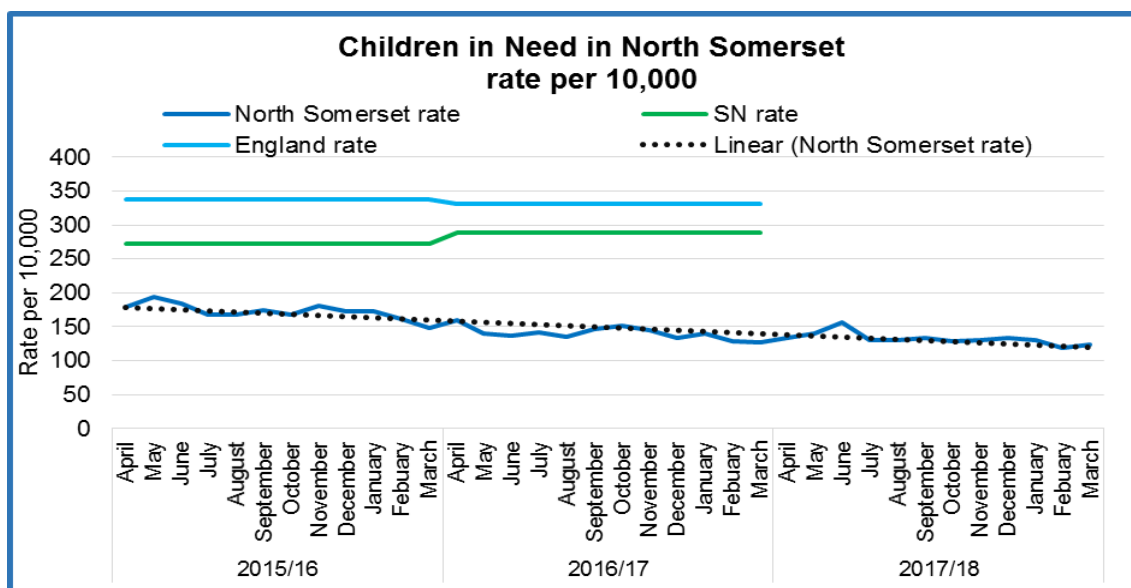
This compares to an average of 45.5 per 10,000 for stat neighbours and 39.4 per 10,000 for south west councils. North Somerset is significantly below both of these rates as well as that of the national average (45.7 per 10,000).



Children in Need

This information excludes those children who were subject to a Child Protection Plan or who were Looked After. It also does not include Care Leavers.

The number and rate of Children in Need (CiN) within North Somerset increased during the first quarter of 2017/18 (to a peak of 676 children) and has then decreased to 532 children as of March 2018. The rate is still significantly below the national, our statistical neighbour, and other south west council's rate (based on latest available data). However, it is worth noting that this data is for guidance only as the calculation for CiN used here differs to that used both at statistical neighbour and national level.



Demographic analysis of the CiN cohort throughout 2017/18 shows that:

- The percentage of BME children who have been or are CiN is similar to what would be expected as a comparison against the population (School Census 2017)
- Around 34% of Children in Need are disabled children.

The categories of need that CiN children are most likely to be referred in on are (and in descending order):

- Family in acute stress
- Abuse or neglect
- Disability
- Family dysfunction
- Parental illness or disability.

Factors of assessment i.e. issues identified for Children in Need during their assessments are not yet available for 2017/18 but for 2016/17 include:

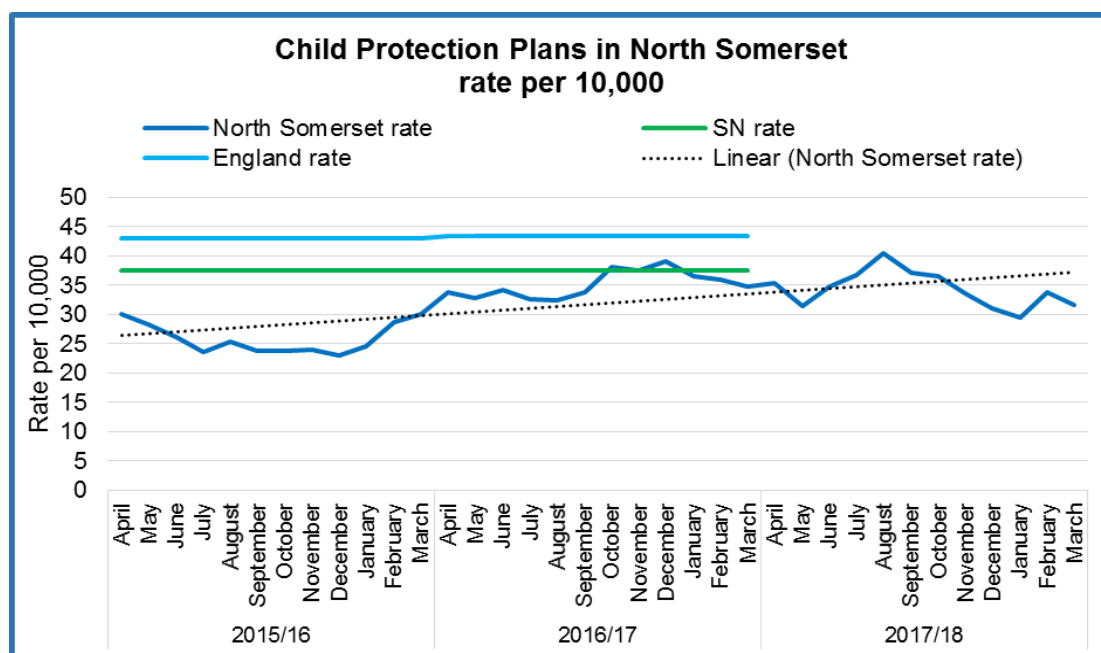
- Mental health - parent or carer (31.8%)
- Domestic violence - parent or carer (30.6%)
- Abuse or neglect – emotional abuse (23.8%)
- Drug misuse - partner or carer (17.3%)
- Abuse or neglect – neglect (18.5%)
- Abuse of neglect – physical abuse (13.6%)

Child Protection Plans

During 2016/17 the number and rate of children on a Child Protection Plan (CP Plan) increased significantly compared to 2015/16. This increase continued into 2017/18, peaking in August 2017 before decreasing slightly.

As of March 2018, 137 children were on a Plan. There were a high number of sibling groups making up this number.

As of March 2018, the rate of CP Plans per 10,000 remains lower in North Somerset than the statistical neighbour and national rate (based on latest available data).



Demographic analysis of the CP Plan cohort throughout 2017/18 shows that:

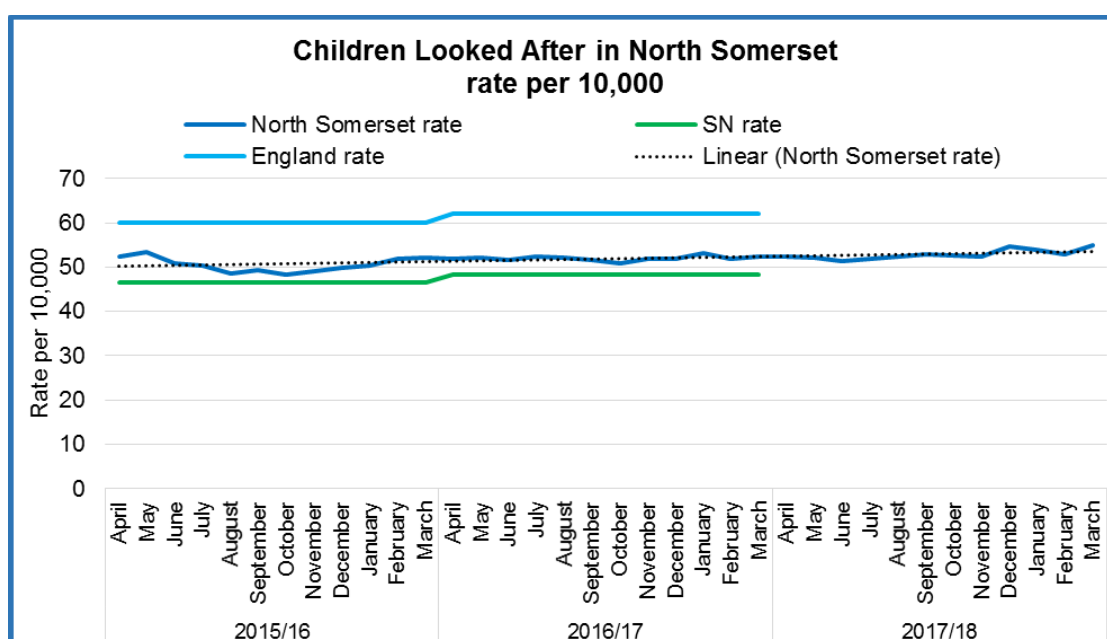
- Around 56% of children on a Plan are over the age of six years.
- On average, there were slightly more females than males during the period.
- The percentage of BME children on a CP Plan is slightly below what would be expected when compared to the profile of the population (School Census 2017).
- There has been an increase in the number of disabled children on a Plan as of October 2017, moving from an average of 2% to just below 10%. This may in part be due to better recording of disability.

The categories of need that have been seen for children on a CP Plan have remained steady throughout the year with neglect being the most likely reason for a child coming on to plan (and increasing) followed by emotional abuse, sexual abuse and then physical abuse.

Children Looked After

Since the beginning of 2016/17 the number of Children Looked After (CLA) in North Somerset has remained steady at between 220 and 230 children, with only a handful of months showing numbers outside of this range. This gives a rate of between 50.9 and 53.2 per 10,000 children.

This rate is below that seen nationally and for other south west councils, but is above that of our statistical neighbours (based on latest available data).



Demographic analysis of the Children Looked After cohort throughout 2017/18 shows that:

- There are more females than males
- The percentage of BME children who are looked after is slightly higher than would be expected as a comparison against the population (School Census 2017)
- Around 12% of CLA are disabled. There are more males than females in this cohort, and as of March 2018, over 90% of them were aged above 10 years.

The categories of need that Children Looked After are mostly likely to experience (and in descending order) are:

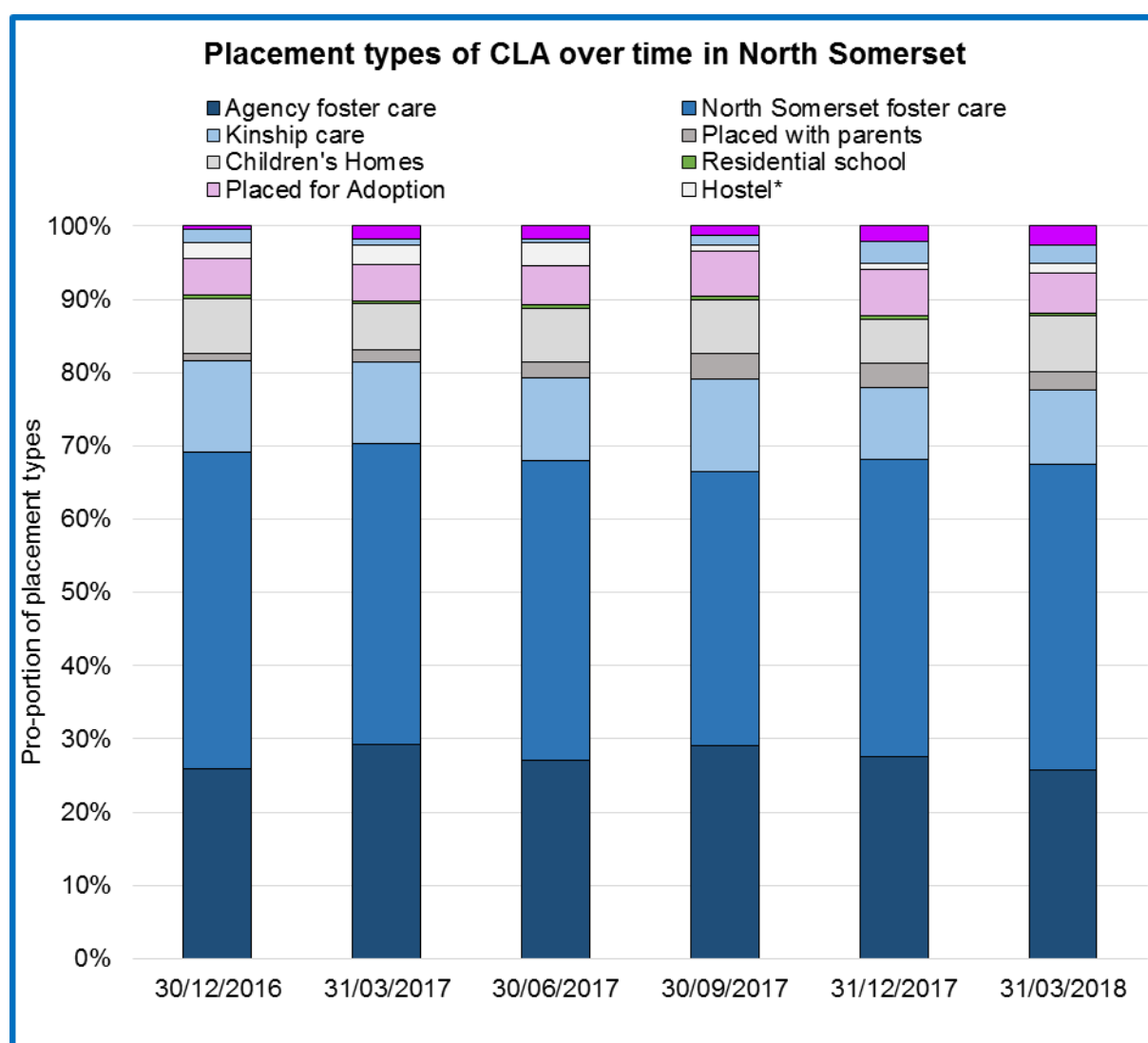
- Abuse or neglect
- Family in acute stress
- Family dysfunction
- Absent parenting
- Disability
- Parent illness or disability.

Placements

At the end of March 2018, 42% of Children Looked After were placed within North Somerset foster care. 26% were placed within agency foster care and 10% were placed within kinship care. These were similar numbers to that seen at the end of 2016/17.

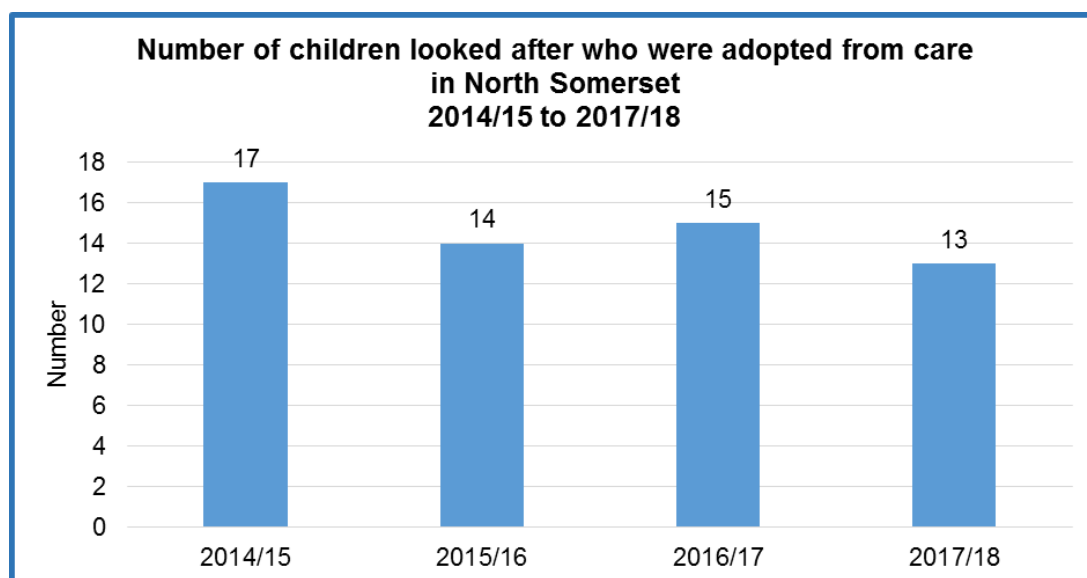
In total, just over 78% of children were placed in a combination of these care settings across North Somerset compared to 74% nationally at the end of March 2018.

	March 2015	March 2016	March 2017	March 2018	England 31/03/2017
Agency foster care	17%	25%	29%	26%	62%
North Somerset foster care	47%	44%	40%	42%	
Kinship care	16%	12%	11%	10%	12%

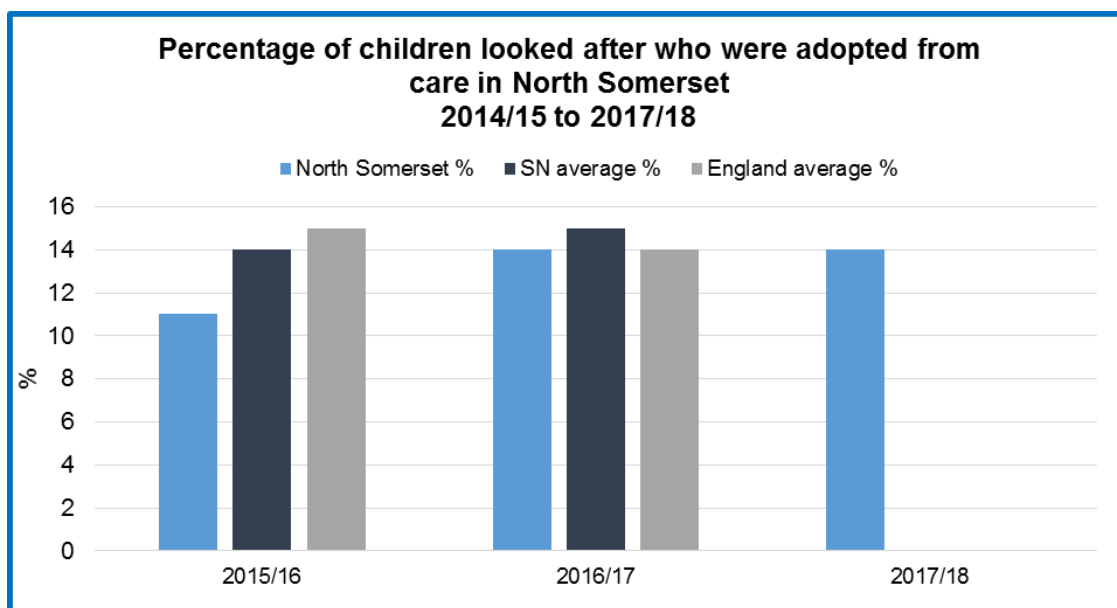


Adoption

At the end of 2017/18 in North Somerset a total of 13 children were adopted from care. This is one less than at the same point in 2016/17.

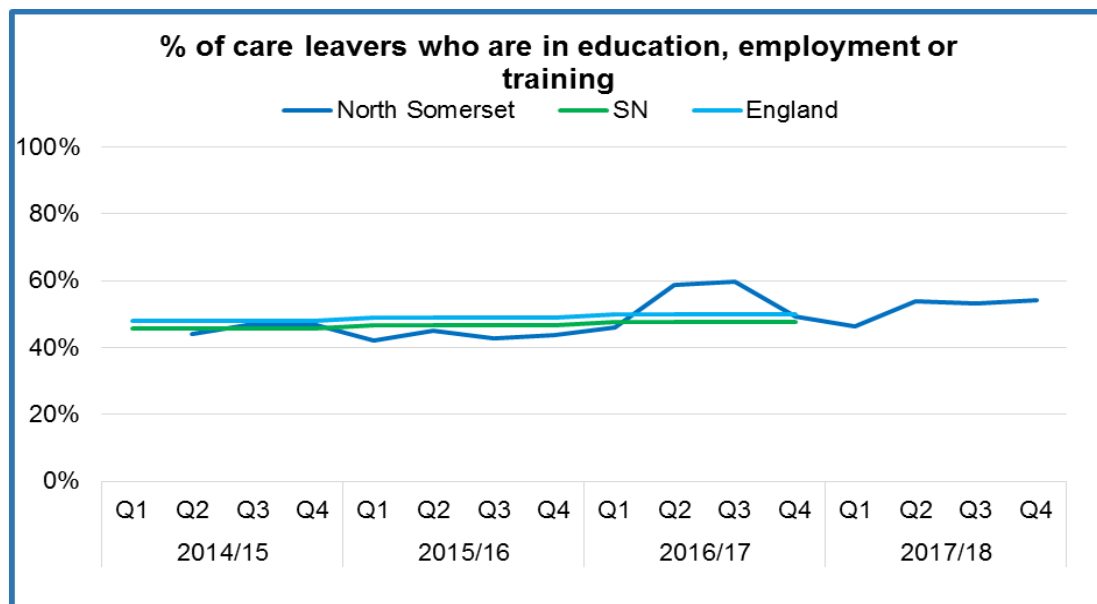


Looking at this as a percentage of Children Looked After adopted in year, North Somerset is similar to our statistical neighbours and to the national average.

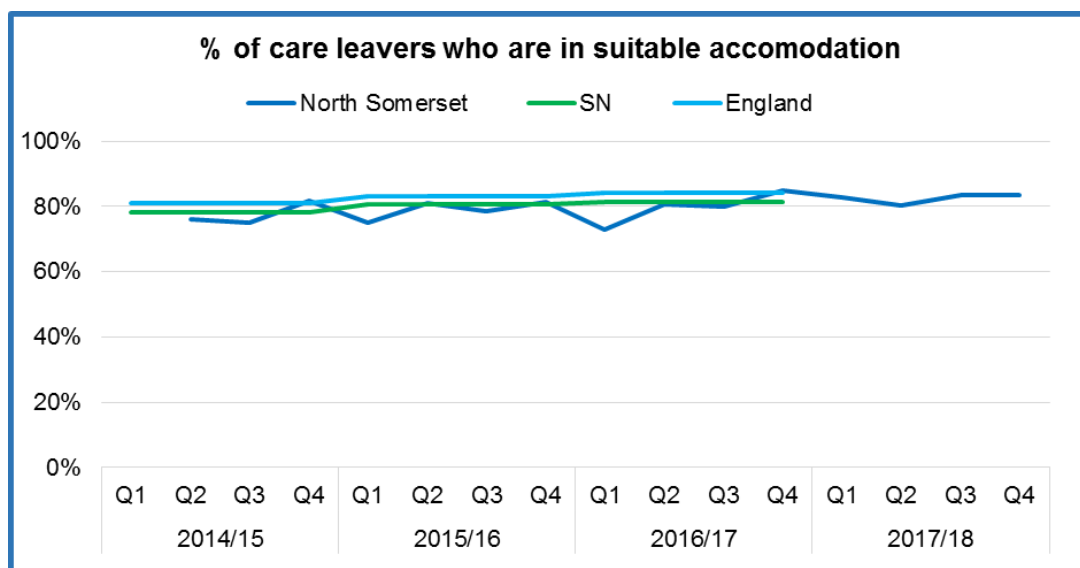


Care Leavers

The percentage of care leavers who were in education, employment and/or training (EET) in North Somerset at the end of March 2018 was 54.2% up from 46.5% at the end of Q1. Current performance is better than the latest Statistical Neighbour and England data (March 2017)



The percentage of care leavers who were in suitable accommodation as of the end of September 2017 in North Somerset was 80% down from 83% at the end of Q1. This has remained fairly steady across the previous quarters. At the end of March 2017, North Somerset performance was slightly above both the England and Statistical Neighbour figure.



APPENDIX C: AVON AND SOMERSET CONSTABULARY (1ST APRIL TO 31ST MARCH 2018)

Introduction

This report, produced at the end of the fourth quarter of 2017/18, provides commentary on the attached Constabulary data submission for North Somerset, and supplements these measures with further data. It covers the 12-month period 1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018 and the preceding 12 months for comparison. Also for comparison purposes, the submission provides data for the other four LSCB areas and for the Force area as a whole.

The volume of child protection related crimes and missing children reports varies tremendously from month to month. This volatility in demand was one of the reasons that the five boards chose 12 month rolling data for each of the police measures they selected, providing a more meaningful indication of the underlying changes in demand.

The volatility in demand also means that it is not sufficiently stable for the Constabulary's Predictive Analytics tool, Qlik Sense, to predict future demand with adequate confidence. Even for the most stable measure for child safeguarding, the headline demand measure of the Number of Child Protection Crimes (Excluding Domestic Abuse Crimes), the volatility of monthly demand over the last two years is such that the confidence that can be attached to the predicted growth is weak (an R Squared measure of just 0.3). However, the expectation nationally is that child protection demand will continue to increase.

With the introduction of further measures by Avon and Somerset Constabulary, designed to increase the recognition of often hidden crimes, further growth in child protection demand can reasonably be expected. For example the BRAG risk assessment, being introduced Force-wide from April 2018, will enable officers and staff to better recognise vulnerability, leading to increased demand. It will also lead to better understanding of risk and actions required to manage that risk, helping officers and police staff to consider why information is being shared and how partners are expected to act upon that information, helping to achieve better-informed referrals and better outcomes.

The Investigations teams are borderless Force-wide teams, each under the leadership of a DCI, providing necessary flex to meet demand at any point in time wherever it arises. Within each Investigations team at each station there are Specialist Child Abuse Investigator Development Programme (SCAIDP) trained investigators. Demand analysis has been undertaken along with benchmarking of expected staffing levels for SCAIDP qualified officers. Child abuse investigations that meet the threshold for a detective response are allocated to those officers. The approach provides a flexible response so there is wider support and resilience to demand, both within each team and across SCAIDP trained officers over the Force area. 178 officers have completed the SCAIDP course. 52 officers have their SCAIDP accreditation and are working in a frontline child protection role. 10 further

officers are accredited but working in a different role. 116 officers have completed their course and are in the process of completing their accreditation, 2 of whom are not in a child protection related role. Achieving Best Evidence (ABE) training forms the second half of the SCAIDP 2 week course. The Force has delivered 12 SCAIDP courses over the last couple of years, and has a further 6 scheduled for 2018/19 in order to maintain and build capacity and resilience in this priority area of policing.

Data quality

The Force introduced the Niche Crime and Intelligence system in September 2015, over two years ago. For many measures it should now in theory be the case that, when comparing data for the last 12 months with data from the previous 12 months, like is being compared with like. However, there are a number of data quality issues that should be borne in mind when interpreting the data:

- case audits have identified that appropriate tags are not always applied, such as for Child Protection or Child Sexual Exploitation, meaning that some numbers reported here under count the actual numbers. As the use of tags is not consistent over time, like is not necessarily being compared with like
- recent changes to the way in which the Incident Assessment Unit identifies occurrences that have yet to be classified as a crime are likely to have created a short-term increase in classified crimes associated with child protection
- the failure to record a beat code in many reports means that data at LSCB level under counts the actual level. For example, 8.9% of all missing children reports in Avon and Somerset in the last 12 months failed to include a beat code. This compares with 10.1% in the previous 12 months, an improvement of 1.2 percentage points, but still unacceptable. As the degree of undercounting at LSCB level is not consistent across the two 12 month periods, like is not necessarily being compared with like.
- the failure to record a date of birth in some reports (approximately 8% of reports Force-wide) can mean that a number of child victims or child suspects associated to a crime will not been captured within this data

ACC Nikki Watson chairs the Constabulary's Crime and Data Integrity Core Group which is monitoring and addressing a number of data quality issues.

Children Missing

It should be noted that the children missing data is subject to the data quality issues, in relation to beat code and date of birth recording, described above. Changes made to the definition of missing children, and to missing children recording practices, were made over two years ago meaning that in these respects at least the data is consistent across the two years.

In the last 12 months 184 individual children from North Somerset were recorded as having been missing, an increase of 10.2% or 17 children on the previous 12 months. This is greater than the percentage increase across the Force area as a whole of 4.4%.

Over the same two 12 month periods, there has been a 17.5% rise in the total number of missing children reports in North Somerset (the number of missing

children episodes, including multiple episodes by the same child). These increases have occurred in spite of the 1.9% fall in the number of children repeatedly going missing and can be explained by the rise in the total number of missing children and an increase in the average number of occasions on which repeat missing children went missing. The increase in the number of missing children reports in North Somerset is in line with the rate of increase across the Force area as a whole, where the number of reports rose by 19.6% in the last 12 month periods compared with the previous.

Over half (54.9%) of children that went missing in North Somerset in the last 12 months went missing on more than one occasion. Whilst this is an improvement on the 61.7% in the previous 12 months, North Somerset has the highest repeat missing children rate of the five local authority areas, and is well above the average rate of 47.9% across the Force area as a whole.

Children missing from care accounted for 12.0% of all missing children in North Somerset, and are therefore overrepresented in the population of missing children but to a lesser extent than is the case across the Force area as a whole where 16.8% of missing children went missing from care. The number of children missing from care rose by 3 children to 22 children in the last 12 months. The number of repeat children missing from care rose by 4 children to 17 children in total. Whilst the numbers involved are relatively small, it does mean that 77.3% of children who went missing from care in North Somerset in the last 12 months went missing on more than one occasion. This compares less favourably with the total population of children going missing in North Somerset, where 54.9% went missing on more than one occasion. It also compares less favourably with the other local authority areas, North Somerset having the highest repeat missing children from care rate of the five areas, and compares less favourably with the average rate across the Force area as a whole, with the North Somerset rate being 19.5 percentage points above the average 57.8% for the Force area.

Recorded completed Prevention Interviews (previously known as Police Safe & Well Checks) by officers have increased by 27.1 percentage points, rising to 86.0% in the last 12 months, compared with 58.9% in the previous 12 months. Whilst indicating an apparent significant improvement, the recorded completion rate is still considerably lower than should be the case. It is believed that the rate is closer to 100% and that this is a recording issue with officers recording details of the Prevention Interview within the Occurrence Enquiry Log rather than in the "Return" tab. Where a face-to-face Prevention Interview cannot be undertaken, such that proof of life cannot be achieved, the authority of a Superintendent is required before the report can be closed and the circumstances must be recorded on the Niche report.

Safety & Anti-Bullying

The total number of child victims of crime in North Somerset over the last 12 months was 1028, a 17.1% increase on the previous 12 months (150 more child victims), in line with the 18.0% rise across the Force area as a whole. The number of recorded Domestic Abuse Crimes where the victim was aged 16 - 17 fell by 2 crimes to 39, a fall of 4.9%, compared with a rise of 2.9% across the Force area as a whole.

The number of child victims of recorded Race Hate Crime in North Somerset rose by 4 victims to 6 in total in the last 12 months, compared with the previous 12 months. These 6 child victims represent just 4.4% of all child victims of recorded Race Hate Crimes across the entire Force area over that period. Underreporting is a significant issue for all forms of Hate Crime and it can reasonably be assumed that more children were victims of Race Hate Crime than the recorded numbers suggest, both in North Somerset and across the Force area as a whole. Whilst the population of North Somerset is less ethnically diverse than England and Wales, with 94.1% of people living in North Somerset classifying themselves as White British compared with 80.5% across England and Wales as a whole, the data does suggest that underreporting of Race Hate Crimes against children in North Somerset is of particular concern.

The number of child suspects of crimes in North Somerset rose by 57.7% to 1011 child suspects in the last 12 months. This is almost twice the rate of increase across the Force area as a whole, where there was an increase of 29.1% in the number of child suspects of crime. In the last 12 months, 108 children and young people aged under 18, whose latest recorded address is in North Somerset, were arrested and brought into custody, two of whom were charged and detained. In the last quarter, January to March 2018, 24 children whose latest recorded address is in North Somerset were arrested and brought into custody. None of these children were charged and detained.

Child Protection

The Police were invited to 41 Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) in the fourth quarter of 2017/18 and attended 38 of these. The reason for non-attendance at two of the Conferences was that they were cancelled, whilst the third was postponed.

The “Child Protection Crimes (excluding Domestic Abuse Crimes)” in the accompanying table are recorded crimes where there are child protection concerns (Child Abuse, Child Sexual Exploitation, Child Safeguarding), with this particular measure excluding Domestic Abuse Crimes where there are child protection concerns. The measure includes crimes where the victim is a child, crimes where the suspect is a child and crimes where the child is an involved party. The measure also includes peer-on-peer crimes where both the victim and suspect are children. The measure includes historical child abuse allegations, regardless of whether the victim was a child or adult at the time of reporting.

The number of recorded Child Protection Crimes (excluding Domestic Abuse Crimes) in North Somerset increased by 12 crimes or 3.6% in the last 12 months, compared with the previous 12 months, about one quarter of the rate of increase across the Force area as a whole of 14.1%. There were 342 such crimes recorded in North Somerset in the last 12 months.

The most marked change in recorded Child Protection Crimes is that for Cruelty and Neglect, falling by 46.7% to 40 crimes over the last 12 months, and contrasting with the 3.8% fall across the Force area as a whole. Serious Sexual Offences against children also showed a reduction, falling by 11 offences over the last 12 months to

51 offences, a fall of 17.7%, again greater than the 5.3% fall across the Force area as a whole.

Across the force area as a whole, the Force used police protection powers under Section 46 of the Children Act 1989 on 117 occasions in 2017/18, compared with 102 occasions in 2016/17. The reporting of the use of police protection powers at local authority area level is subject to data quality issues, whereby 13 records (11.1%) in 2017/18, and 14 records (13.7%) in 2016/17, were not linked to a beat code. There are 12 records of the use of these powers linked to beat codes in North Somerset in 2017/18, compared with 11 records in 2016/17. 2 of the records of the use of police protection powers in the last quarter of 2017/18 were linked to a beat code in North Somerset.

Child Sexual Exploitation

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is not a Home Office "crime type" so in November 2012 a CSE Force Crime Tag was introduced which, in addition to providing safeguarding and investigation benefits, allows the monitoring of crimes that fall within the national definition of CSE (the CSE tagged Crimes are also counted within the Child Protection crimes category above).

CSE tagged crimes in North Somerset rose by 2 crimes to 32 tagged crimes over the last 12 months. This 6.7% rise is comparable with the rise across the Force area as a whole at 8.2%. It is important to note that the geographic distribution of crimes involving CSE can be skewed by what has been found over any given period, with a relatively small number of investigations identifying comparatively large numbers of victims, perpetrators and offences.

With partnership involvement, the Constabulary has reviewed its approach to CSE in order to optimise the victim care, disruption and investigative response. The review included the piloting in Bristol of the preferred approach (through Operation Topaz) from January 2017 to September 2017. Partner agencies were consulted on the findings of the evaluation of the pilot and contributed to a series of workshops to help refine the preferred approach. A business case for the rollout of the preferred approach force-wide was recently agreed, including the extension of the approach to include Child Criminal Exploitation and Human Trafficking. The proactive Operation Topaz approach will identify more children at heightened risk of CSE, and being subjected to CSE, and will increase the volume of some of the most complex and resource intensive child protection investigations. However, the Operation Topaz model moves away from the conventional reactive major crime investigation approach to an approach that prioritises victim needs above investigative priorities to enable well-informed safeguarding and disruption activity, and earlier disclosures leading to the earlier initiation of proactive investigations.

Forcewide - Avon and Somerset Constabulary Child Protection Performance Report
April 2017 - March 2018

Forcewide

Missing Children	12 Month Rolling			
	Current	Previous	Chg	% Chg
Number of Missing Children	1,761	1,687	+74	+4.4%
Number of Missing Children Reports	4,005	3,348	657	19.6%
Number of Repeat Missing Children	843	866	-23	-2.7%
Number of Children Missing from Care	296	264	+32	+12.1%
Number of Repeat Children Missing from Care	171	174	-3	-1.7%
Percentage of Filed Repeat Missing Children with Interviews Completed *	82.2%	54.9%	+27.3%Pts	N/A
* based on having an officer completed return sign				

Safety and Anti-Bullying	12 Month Rolling			
	Current	Previous	Chg	% Chg
Number of Child Suspects of Crimes	7,466	5,782	+1684	+29.1%
Number of Domestic Abuse Incidents (Excluding Crimes)	12,678	12,059	+619	+5.1%
Number of Domestic Abuse Crimes	18,358	17,189	+1169	+6.8%
Number of Domestic Abuse Crimes - Victim Age 16 - 17	357	347	+10	+2.9%
Number of Child Victims of Crimes	8,918	7,557	+1361	+18.0%
Number of Child Victims of Race Hate Crimes	136	100	+36	+36.0%

Child Sexual Exploitation	12 Month Rolling			
	Current	Previous	Chg	% Chg
Number of Child Sexual Exploitation Crimes	318	294	+24	+8.2%

Child Protection	12 Month Rolling			
	Current	Previous	Chg	% Chg
Number of Child Protection Crime (excluding Domestic Abuse Crimes)	3,047	2,670	+377	+14.1%
Number of Child Protection Serious Sexual Offences	685	723	-38	-5.3%
Number of Non-Familial Sexual Crimes - Child Victim	1,094	1,009	+85	+8.4%
Number of Child Protection Crimes for Cruelty and Neglect of Children	476	495	-19	-3.8%

North Somerset LSCB - Avon and Somerset Constabulary Child Protection Performance Report
April 2017 - March 2018

North Somerset

Missing Children	12 Month Rolling			
	Current	Previous	Chg	% Chg
Number of Missing Children	184	167	+17	+10.2%
Number of Missing Children Reports	403	343	60	17.5%
Number of Repeat Missing Children	101	103	-2	-1.9%
Number of Children Missing from Care	22	19	+3	+15.8%
Number of Repeat Children Missing from Care	17	13	4	+30.8%
Percentage of Filed Repeat Missing Children with Interviews Completed *	86.0%	58.9%	+27.1%Pts	N/A
* based on having an officer completed return sign				

Safety and Anti-Bullying	12 Month Rolling			
	Current	Previous	Chg	% Chg
Number of Child Suspects of Crimes	1,011	641	+370	+57.7%
Number of Domestic Abuse Incidents (Excluding Crimes)	1,425	1,359	+66	+4.9%
Number of Domestic Abuse Crimes	2,285	2,140	+145	+6.8%
Number of Domestic Abuse Crimes - Victim Age 16 - 17	39	41	-2	-4.9%
Number of Child Victims of Crimes	1,028	878	+150	+17.1%
Number of Child Victims of Race Hate Crimes	6	2	+4	+200.0%

Child Sexual Exploitation	12 Month Rolling			
	Current	Previous	Chg	% Chg
Number of Child Sexual Exploitation Crimes	32	30	+2	+6.7%

Child Protection	12 Month Rolling			
	Current	Previous	Chg	% Chg
Number of Child Protection Crime (excluding Domestic Abuse Crimes)	342	330	+12	+3.6%
Number of Child Protection Serious Sexual Offences	51	62	-11	-17.7%
Number of Non-Familial Sexual Crimes - Child Victim	99	91	+8	+8.8%
Number of Child Protection Crimes for Cruelty and Neglect of Children	40	75	-35	-46.7%

