Greater Manchester
SAFEGUARDING
PARTNERSHIP

Annual Report 2013/14

Message from the Chair

Over 600,000 young people aged 17 and under live in Greater Manchester, and a good number of those live in some of the most deprived boroughs of England. This can impact on their safety and put them at greater risk of not achieving their best outcomes in life. While the Greater Manchester Safeguarding Partnership is not responsible for individual child protection matters it can make a difference to their lives by providing strategic advice and support to the ten LSCBs within Greater Manchester who are responsible for ensuring partners work together to safeguard children.

I became Chair of the GMSP in April 2013 because I wanted to encourage us as a city region and partnership to go deeper into the underlying causes of child neglect and harm, both to understand what interventions work, but, as importantly, what we can do to prevent issues from occurring in the first place.

This past year has seen a huge amount of change in Safeguarding with wide-ranging reforms to the Health sector, new statutory guidance in the form of Working Together 2013 bringing with it many more recommendations and responsibilities placed firmly with LSCBs, and the loss of the Children's Improvement Board. All this is happening against a backdrop of huge pressures in the budgets of agencies working to safeguard children. With this in mind, the GMSP's unique role in encouraging all partners across Greater Manchester to work better together to improve consistency and best practice now feels increasingly important.

This report highlights just some of the work achieved over the past 12 months to support the development of robust local safeguarding partnerships and provide strong strategic leadership across Greater Manchester. I am grateful for the enthusiasm and dedication of GMSP members who have made this possible and call on all partners to keep up this level of commitment to allow us to meet the challenges ahead.

Finally I would suggest we have made some good progress over the last year and we should use this as a springboard to go further, deeper and sharper as partners to benefit all our children and young people.

Nick Page

Chair, Greater Manchester Safeguarding Partnership

Members said they wanted the GMSP Core Principles to:

support partners to work better together to share best practice and encourage a consistent service to safeguard children across Greater Manchester.

The GMSP is a cooperative partnership of the 10 Local Safeguarding Boards of Greater Manchester. Throughout 2013/14 the Partnership has continued to support the effectiveness of LSCBs in GM through a range of regular network meetings such as the GMSP Quarterly Meetings, LSCB Chairs group, LSCB Business Managers, Heads of Safeguarding and CDOP Chairs as well as through bespoke events. These regular meetings allow partners to discuss and resolve common issues and consider shared approaches.

Inviting speakers like Moya Sutton, the Head of Safeguarding at NHS England, to talk to partners, gave partners a better understanding of the organisational changes to the health service whilst also reminding health providers not to lose sight of their responsibilities of 'safeguarding' while they get to grips with the changes within their own organisation.

A single quality-assured system for male infant circumcision to help parents make an informed choice.

Following the death of a boy through blood loss following circumcision the GMSP worked with partners in Public Health to provide and promote advice to parents to help them chose a safe circumcision service for their sons. A leaflet was produced in consultation with Jewish, Muslim and African communities and a single and consistent, quality-assured system was created. Information is distributed via midwives and health visitors and is hosted on the GMSP's website. GMSP has since secured the future of this service to be provided by GM's Public Health Network and the Partnership will continue to support it via our website.

http://www.gmsafeguardingchildren.co.uk/projects/circumcision/

Next steps: Members have expressed a desire to have a newsletter dedicated to safeguarding on issues and initiatives affecting Greater Manchester.

PROJECT PHOENIX

Protecting all children from Sexual Exploitation no matter where they live in Greater Manchester. The GMSP recognised that there were isolated pockets of good practice across the sub-region to tackle CSE but that considerable benefits could be gained through a more joined up, systematic approach. The GMSP led on the development of a GM-wide, multi-agency response; scoping how local areas recognise and respond to CSE, identifying CSE Leads in each area and initiating a GM CSE Working Group to coordinate the approach. This has since morphed into the Phoenix Project with funding for a full-time Project Manager for 12 months to drive this work forward.

We shared a simple yet effective initiative to help hospitals fulfil a statutory duty to notify CDOP and SUDC Rapid Response Team of a child death in their facility. Most children aged 16 – 18 are cared for in adult hospitals yet most of these settings didn't have adequate systems in place to identify under-18s who die on site despite notifications to CDOP and RRT being a requirement under UK law. When a consultant paediatrician at Salford Royal Foundation Trust shared a simple yet effective system based around the use of two distinct body labels they had created GMSP was quick to write to Chief Executives at all Hospital Trusts within Greater Manchester to share this best practice and to encourage them to implement the system within their own setting. This should prevent the deaths of under 18s from slipping through the net.

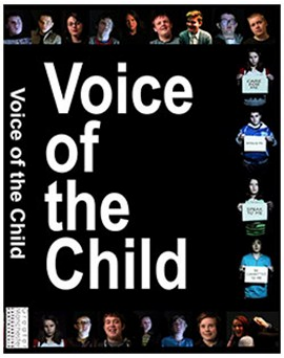
Note: *CDOP is the Child Death Overview Panel; SUDC is Sudden Unexpected Death of a Child*

Members said they wanted the GMSP's Core Principles to:

enable partners to combine resources so we do things once and do it well rather than in ten different ways at ten times the cost.

In 2012 all 10 authority areas contributed 15% of their Munro money into one combined Greater Manchester pot to enable joint initiatives to be taken forward in response to Prof Munro's report. A breakdown of costs received and how this has been spent is attached at appendix a.

A DVD was made to prompt practitioners and strategists to reflect on whether they are doing all they can to listen to the voices of the young people they serve – The Partnership commissioned CSV to run several activity days with young people from across Greater Manchester who had had some experience of professional support from a wide range of services. CSV has experience of engaging people through various forms of media and it was hoped this would give the young people the freedom to express themselves so professionals could listen and learn about why it is so important to involve them in the things that are happening to them and the decisions being taken on their behalf. The content of the sessions was generated and led by the young people – it was their idea to film their interviews like a diary room and they requested the activity to make a 30 second TV commercial based on the discussions that had taken place earlier in the day. They also contributed to the feel of the film by being involved in the post production of the DVD. The conversations were unscripted with young people being free to talk about whatever aspect they wished. The content naturally fell into several themes which included: "Why is it important to listen?" and "What I need?" Multi Agency trainers then worked together to produce guidance notes to accompany the DVD. At the launch event, which was held at BBC Media City, young people took centre stage. They screened the film and gave us examples of how they are actively involved with different LSCBs to ensure young people have a voice when new services are being designed or existing services reviewed. LSCBs and partner agencies were invited, each receiving copies of the DVD and a link to the online training resources. To share the learning further, a copy of the DVD was also sent to all LSCBs across the North West.



http://www.gmsafeguardingchildren.co.uk/newsroom/

Greater Manchester MULTI-AGENCY SAFEGUARDING PROCEDURES

In 2011 an internal report found that multi-agency safeguarding policies across GM were quite varied but with a great deal of cross over. Partners who operate across LA boundaries told us how they found it hard to work to several different policies and that families were not getting a consistent message or service. To address this, in March 2013, we launched the Greater Manchester Multi-Agency Safeguarding Procedures. Content is now standardised across partners whilst retaining the flexibility to allow for 'local' differences where required. Best practice is encouraged by allowing those with the most expertise on a particular issue to lead, so bringing safeguarding policies up to the standard of the best. The manual is hosted online in a centralised location with a search facility so information can be easily found and is widely accessible with links to additional or local information as required. All 10 LSCBs are signed up so now when national guidance changes, the policy is updated once rather than ten-fold. That's greater consistency and less of a strain on dwindling resources. http://greatermanchesterscb.proceduresonline.com/index.htm

In 2013 the Partnership commissioned Bruce Thornton to develop risk assessment tools to support the work of non-social care agencies to deliver safe management of cases at the Early Help level. The Risk Model will be modified for multi-agency use to become an 'Early Risk Assessment and Analysis' tool which will give assurance that risks can be appropriately managed below the threshold of social care. It will also support better identification of harm, ensuring that appropriate referrals are made into social care.

Next steps:

Drafts tools are currently being tested in multi-agency courses and the final product is imminently due. Work will then take place to see this is disseminated across the Partnership.

Members said they wanted the GMSP's Core Principles to:

help partners to constantly learn from one another and improve together.

Funding from the DfE for Children's Improvement Board work was withdrawn in April 2013. The Greater Manchester Safeguarding Partnership has worked closely with partners to ensure that, despite this, sector-led improvement continues.

Publication of the first pan - Manchester CDOP Annual Report. There are four Child Death Overview Panels within Greater Manchester, each with responsibility for summarising the data collected in their area on child deaths over the year. However, with small numbers of around 50 – 80 child deaths per CDOP per year, detailed analysis and conclusions were felt to be limited. The GM Safeguarding Partnership worked with the CDOP Chairs, administrators, a performance analyst and a public health registrar to compile the data from the four CDOPs into a single GM dataset. This provides larger numbers to be analysed which should enable trends to be spotted and gaps in data collection to be highlighted. This has resulted in the publication of our first GM-wide CDOP Annual Report which was able to highlight key findings and make stronger GM-wide recommendations. For example, it has highlighted that across Greater Manchester modifiable factors may have contributed to 26% of the 269 deaths reviewed in 2012/13. To allow for pan-Manchester CDOP reports to be written annually GMSP has put in place a timetable of work so resources can be ring-fenced each year. GMSP negotiated with CDOP and LSCB Chairs for all four local CDOP reports to be published in the same quarter each year so that data and observations from all reports can be viewed together for maximum impact. The GMSP gained agreement that future GM CDOP Annual Reports will be taken to the GM Safeguarding Partnership meeting in January of each year where recommendations can be noted and acted upon.

http://www.gmsafeguardingchildren.co.uk/usefulresources/sharedlearningresources/childdeathoverviewpanelscdops/gmcdopannualreport201213/

Greater Manchester has adopted the North West Sector-Led Improvement Framework as part of its GM Safeguarding Procedures. 'Working Together 2013' does not provide a prescriptive approach as to how SCRs should be conducted so partners across Greater Manchester have produced further guidance as to how a systems approach could be carried out to support LSCBs should they chose to use it.

Development of a GM Performance Management Quality Assurance Framework for LSCBs. In January 2014 the GMSP held a half day workshop with representatives from across Greater Manchester, including the police, health, education and the 3rd sector. The focus of the workshop, which was led by independent specialist Carole Brooks, was to gain a better understanding of how Boards can be effective in their duties to monitor, challenge and improve services across their local area and to develop a performance and quality assurance framework. Additionally, we mapped our current priorities across the 10 LSCBs and four key shared priorities emerged - Neglect, Domestic Violence, CSE and Early Help.

Next steps: We are now working to ensure we only capture relevant data, understand what it needs to tell us and agree the outcomes which will allow us to measure the difference we are making to children in these areas as well as to children universally. Once completed, this will be shared across the North West and other regions.