



## Welcome to our Summer Newsletter

**It continues to be a busy time for both HSCP and HSAB. Both partnerships have now published our revised priorities for 2025-2028 and the partnerships are implementing their updated business plans.**

We recognise that there is considerable amount of change in the system including Local Government Reform, reforms in respect of how we safeguard children, proposed changes within the NHS etc. To keep up to date with some of the changes you may wish to register for the [Families First Newsletter](#) and register for updates with the [Children Partnership Procedures manual](#) and [Adults Policy and Procedure manual](#)

The HSCP have updated/refreshed some of their Procedures, which can be accessed via the [website](#). A new procedure has been added on [Response to Suspicious Marks, Bruises and Injuries to Children and Young People over Six Months](#). To see what Procedures have been updated, please see our [webpage](#).

The HSCP continue to enhance their training offers, which are available to all professionals working with children, families and adults in Hertfordshire. You can access the training offer for bookings via this [link](#). On the same link you can see our library of 7 Minute Briefings, with recently added ones on The Prevent Referral Process and Professional Curiosity.

The HSCP and HSAB Business Teams have also seen changes in personnel and currently we have a full complement of staff who are beginning to settle into their new roles.

We hope you will be able to get sometime over the summer to spend with family and friends.

**Jo Fisher**

Chair, Hertfordshire Safeguarding Childrens Partnership

**Liz Hanlon**

Chair, Hertfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board

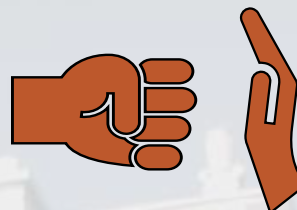


## Agencies working together to keep children safe

### Our Priorities:

#### Protecting against Domestic Abuse

We will commit to ensuring families are kept safe from domestic abuse by implementing the findings from our recent [inspection activity](#) and the development of a new subgroup.



#### Creating Best Life Chances for Children

We will ensure that children that are not in full-time education will continue to be effectively safeguarded and implement the findings from [our recent scrutiny report](#).

We will ensure that children seeking asylum with their families are safeguarded in their accommodation by working with the Strategic Partnership Migration Board.

#### Protecting against Extra-Familial Harm

We continue to ensure that we have effective systems to respond to children who are suffering harm outside of their families and implement findings from our recent review.



#### Keeping Children Safe, Helping Families Thrive

We will continue to keep children safe and help families to thrive by beginning to implement the [government's new strategy](#) and ensure families and children are supported at the right time and in the right way.

#### Protecting against Sexual Abuse

We continue to ensure we are effectively protecting children from sexual abuse and respond to the findings from the [national review](#).



We strive to capture the voice and experiences of parents/carers, children and young people, and practitioners.

We strive to ensure we have the right training and development opportunities for our practitioners.

We continue to strive for culturally competent and professionally curious practice.

We will continue to deliver our statutory responsibilities as outlined in Working Together 2023.

## Talking about child sexual abuse

Source: NSPCC Learning

NSPCC  
Learning

**NSPCC Learning has published a Why language matters blog exploring how professionals can struggle with understanding, talking about and responding to child sexual abuse.**

The blog is in response to the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel's National review into child sexual abuse in the family environment. The blog discusses why it can be difficult for children to share their concerns and how professionals can approach conversations about concerns of child sexual abuse with children and with other professionals.



**Read the blog:** [Why language matters: why professionals need to talk about child sexual abuse](#)

**Read the CASPAR briefing:** [Summary of the National review into child sexual abuse within the family environment – “I wanted them all to notice”](#)

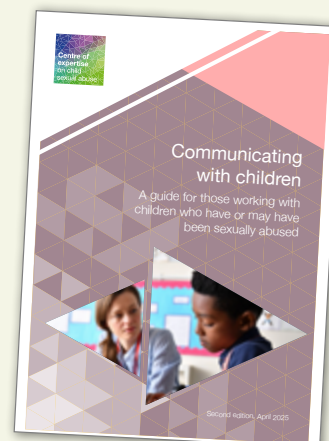
## Responding to child sexual abuse concerns

Source: CSA Centre

**The Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse (CSA Centre) has updated its guidance on communicating with children who have or may have been sexually abused.**

The guide has been designed to help professionals to listen, understand and provide support to children and young people when there are concerns about sexual abuse.

**Access the guide:** [Communicating with children : a guide for those working with children who have or may have been sexually abused](#)



## Trauma informed approach

**Source: SBNI**

**The Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (SBNI) has published a report exploring organisations' experiences of implementing an organisational Trauma Informed Approach (TIA).**



The research aimed to identify best practice in reviewing, developing and tracking the progress of organisations implementing a TIA using an external assessment process. Interviews were carried out with professionals in the five participating organisations to understand the lived experiences of staff on implementation teams. Key points include: participants agreed that the external assessment process was a valuable experience for organisations committed to implementing an organisational TIA; and the external assessment provided access to expertise and resources to support them.

**Read the report:** [Developing trauma informed systems in Northern Ireland: full report](#)

## Online abuse and girls

**Source: NSPCC Learning**



**NSPCC Learning has published new research examining the design features of online platforms that can facilitate or promote abusive communications with young female users.**

The research explored the design of ten video-sharing, social media, gaming and messaging platforms, using fake accounts for a fictitious 14-year-old girl; interviews with experts; and user journey mapping. Findings show: online service design can be exploited to identify, target and abuse girls; risky design features are built into the entire user journey; and platforms place the onus on girls to protect themselves online. The report proposes solutions and urges the Government and technology companies to put measures in place to mitigate unsafe design features and protect girls on digital platforms.



**Read the news story:** [Social media sites failing to protect girls from harm at every stage](#)

**Read the report:** [Targeting girls online](#)



## Sibling sexual behaviour and abuse

### Source: NSPCC Learning

NSPCC Learning has published a Why language matters blog exploring how we talk about sibling sexual behaviour and abuse. The blog highlights that a range of different terms are used to describe sibling sexual behaviour, and these terms can be misused or misinterpreted. This can lead to professionals responding disproportionately to cases of sexual behaviour between siblings. The blog outlines why it's important to accurately describe the behaviour, the context and the sibling dynamic when discussing sibling sexual behaviour and abuse.

**NSPCC**  
Learning

**Read the blog:** [Why language matters: how we talk about sibling sexual behaviour and abuse](#)



## HSAB Priorities

### Our Priorities:

#### Complex Needs & Multiple Disadvantages

To ensure that we effectively working with adults who have complex needs and multiple disadvantages. This will include reviewing our current approach and identifying strengths and areas for development.



#### Asylum seekers

To work with partners to assure ourselves that adults with care and support needs who are asylum seekers are safe with a focus on those in temporary accommodation

#### Homelessness

To ensure that those who are homeless are safe from abuse and neglect, including implementing and embedding learning from reviews and guidance from central government.



#### Learning Disability

To ensure that adults with learning disabilities are effectively safe from abuse and neglect, including embedding the learning from local and national reviews.

**We strive to capture the voice and experiences of adults and work with them to improve practice.**

**We strive to ensure we have the right training and development opportunities for our practitioners and hear their voice.**

**We continue to strive for professionally curious and culturally competent practice.**

**We will continue to deliver our statutory responsibilities including undertaking reviews, developing policies and procedures and undertaking quality assurance activity.**



## Domestic Abuse and Dementia

**The HSAB has been working with the Domestic Abuse/VAWG Partnership and HCC Scrutiny Committee in work in relation to Domestic Abuse and Dementia.**

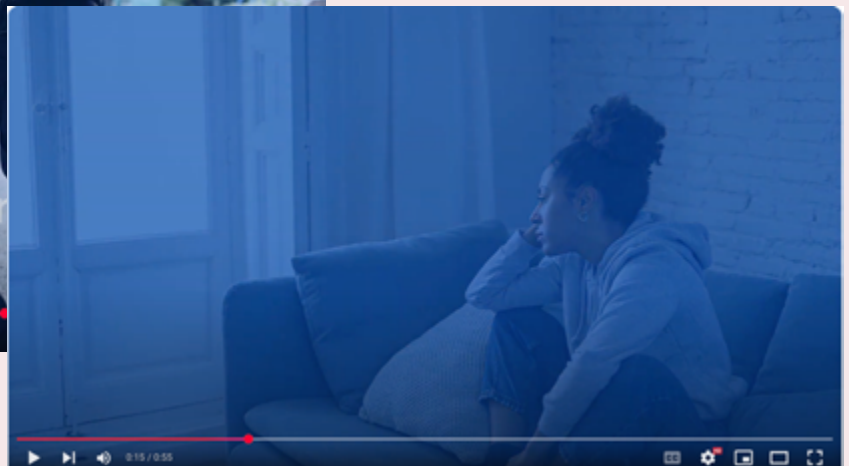
We are about to launch our campaign to raise awareness of the issue and to signpost to support and help. Further information will be shared in the next newsletter.



## Cuckooing

**We have completed a significant piece of work in respect of Cuckooing, where criminals take over the property to facilitate exploitation and cause great harm to communities.**

We have carried out a full public awareness campaign together with [Crimestoppers](#) across all ten Districts and developed a social media campaign that raised awareness amongst professionals to deliver a consistent approach. Please see Criminal gang in your street (unlisted)



## Complex cases



### **We are reviewing our approach to working with adults with complex needs.**

You may be asked to contribute to the review as we are keen to hear from practitioners.

The complex pathway is available via

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/media-library/documents/adult-social-services/herts-safeguarding-adults-board/multi-disciplinary-guidance-complex-cases.pdf>

## Other areas of work

- We are developing our multi-agency response to dignity and privacy especially within care homes.
- We are reviewing the impact of our work in relation to preventing fire deaths, the full review is available on HSAB website [Fire Deaths Report](#)
- Homelessness including offering training and workshops. [Hertfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board Review Report](#)



**If you have any queries on any items in this newsletter  
please contact a member of the Business Unit Staff**

**Laurence Doe - Service Manager**

Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership  
Hertfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board

**Elizabeth Peters - Development Manager**

Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership  
Elizabeth.peters@hertfordshire.gov.uk

**Freya Rymer - Business Manager**

Hertfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board  
Freya.rymer@hertfordshire.gov.uk

**Laura Maze - Senior Business  
Support Officer**

Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership  
Laura.maze@hertfordshire.gov.uk

**Kirsty Sandford - Senior Business  
Support Officer**

Hertfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board  
Kirsty.sandford1@hertfordshire.gov.uk

**Tara Walton - Quality Assurance Senior  
Support Officer**

Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership  
Tara.walton@hertfordshire.gov.uk

**Janine Veldman - Business Support Officer**

Hertfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board  
Janine.veldman1@hertfordshire.gov.uk

**Andrea Lemaire - Learning &  
Development Training Coordinator**

Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership  
Andrea.lemaire@hertfordshire.gov.uk

