

Annual Report

September 2020 –

September 2021

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Foreword

This is the second Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-agency Partnership annual report, reflecting on the period from September 2020 to September 2021. This year has been one of embedding, but also reflection and review. The ongoing global Covid-19 pandemic has continued to impact on the way that we work together as partners, and on our capacity to deliver some activities. Alongside these challenges, there have been changes in personnel within the Executive and KSCMP Business Unit, which only reached its full staffing capacity in August 2021. We are, however, now in a position to move forward positively and at pace.

As an Executive we have taken time during this year to reflect on our new arrangements, to consider how they are working, and to hear the views of our partners. This report covers the range of projects and workstreams that are underway in order to make improvements and refinements where needed. We noted that our structure was not operating in the manner we had hoped, and we listened to feedback about improvements we could make in terms of communication and connectivity. Our Architecture Review has been undertaken with a view to building on these areas and this work has been carried out in conjunction with a Practice Review Project, designed to ensure that learning from case reviews is making a demonstrable change to practice. As such we are in a period of transformation, where we are focusing on ensuring our foundation is right to enable partners to work together effectively and in the best way safeguard the children of Kent.

It has been clear through our projects and our day-to-day working that the partners in Kent are committed to our aims of ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. As an Executive we aim to strengthen our leadership of the Partnership over the coming year through the renewed architecture and building on the commitment of our partner safeguarding agencies.



Emma Banks
T/Chief Superintendent,
Head of Protecting
Vulnerable People
Command, Kent Police

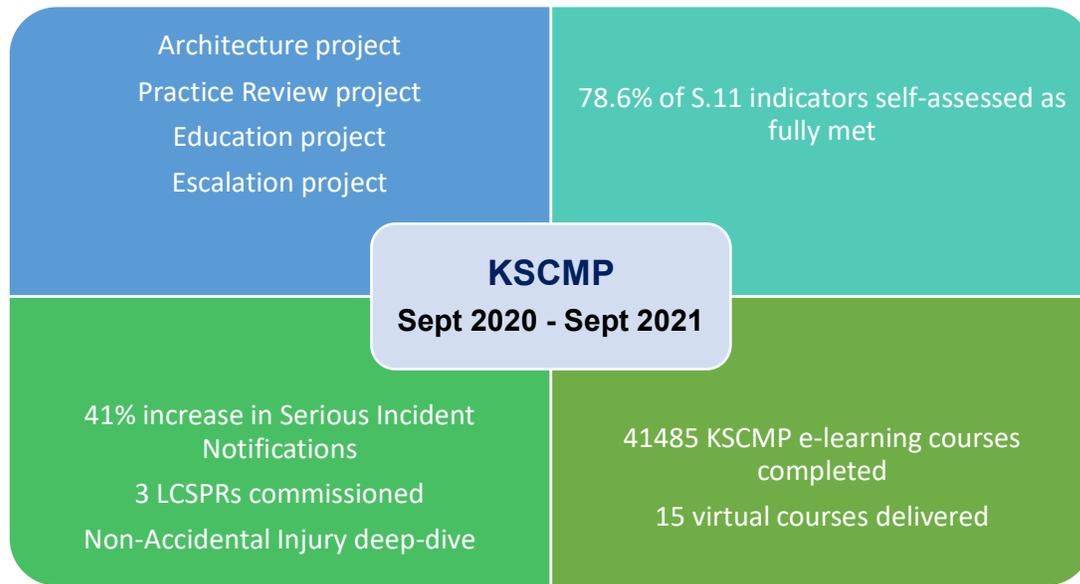


Matt Dunkley
Corporate Director,
Children, Young People
and Education, Kent
County Council

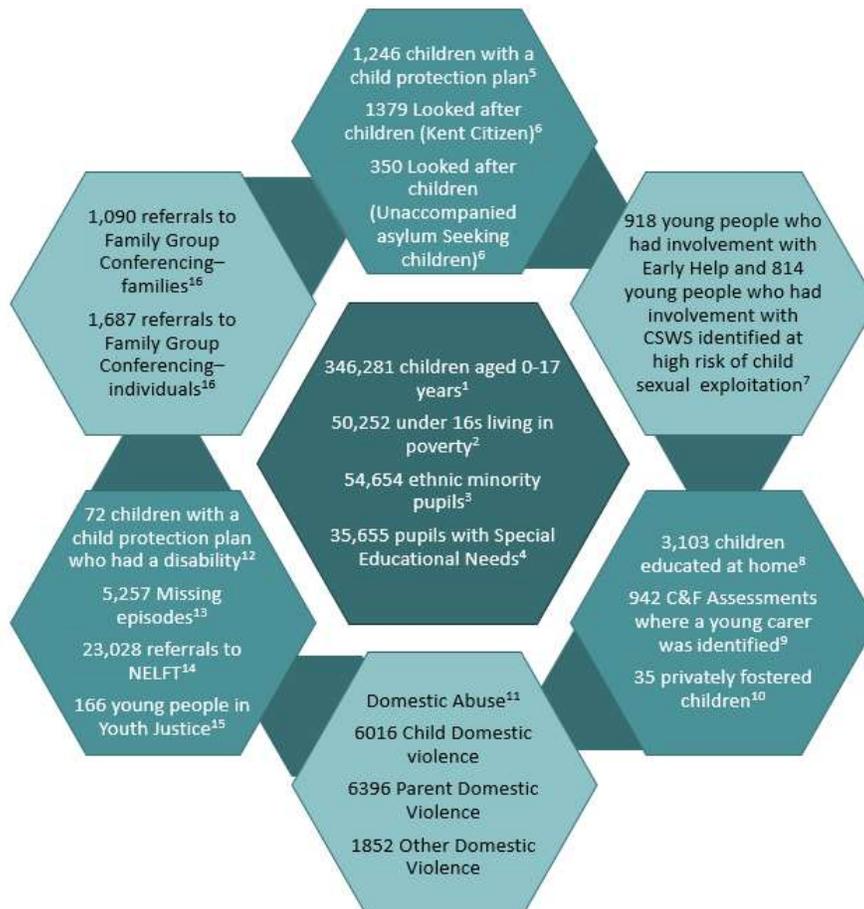


Paula Wilkins
Executive Chief Nurse,
NHS Kent and Medway
CCG

Key headlines



Kent Safeguarding Context (see Appendix 5 for list of references)



Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-agency Partnership: Key Projects in 2020/21

Architecture project

In September 2019 the new KSCMP working arrangements were launched. They replaced the previous Safeguarding Children Board and were designed to be more streamlined with only three named sub-groups. However, in practice a range of additional multi-agency groups remained operational to varying extents. To assess what was working well and where improvements needed to be made the KSCMP Architecture Review was commenced. The Review aimed to evaluate how the current architecture was operating and identify opportunities for progression. The project commenced in June 2021 with the final report and recommendations completed in September 2021. The Executive reviewed and agreed the requisite recommendations in November 2021.

The project analysis indicates that the fundamental cultural shift from the previous Children Board's ways of working to the new Partnership has not yet been achieved. This has likely been owing to the convergence of a lack of significant launch events at the time the new Partnership came into effect, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the significant (and delayed) restructure of the KSCMP Business Unit – both in terms of job roles and personnel occupying them. It was also identified that there is currently a lack of a feedback loop between the Executive and Sub-groups (and vice versa), as well as a lack of connectivity between different parts of the structural architecture. Recommendations in the final report have sought to address these issues and to deliver an effective and connected multi-agency partnership structure. Implementation of these reforms will be a key focus over the upcoming year.

Education project

The Ofsted Review of Sexual Abuse in Schools and Colleges Report¹ and the Wood Review both highlighted the need to consider and improve multi-agency engagement with schools and educational establishments in order to improve the effectiveness of safeguarding across local areas. The KSCMP Architecture Review similarly highlighted that the designed arrangements for engagement with education are not currently operating effectively in Kent. As a result, an Education Project has been established and is underway. The project considers a range of aspects, including:

- Reviewing the support currently offered to schools and colleges considering the Ofsted Review findings.
- Developing a free toolkit available to schools and educational establishments to help them identify areas of strength, as well as areas in need of further development in relation to peer-on-peer abuse and harmful sexual behaviour in a school setting.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/review-of-sexual-abuse-in-schools-and-colleges>

- More generally reviewing how the KSCMP engages with schools and colleges.
- Reviewing the workings, forward plan, and agency representation on the Education Sub-group (part of the KSCMP Architecture Review).

The study included an analysis of a range of quantitative (statistics from consultations, training etc) and qualitative (focus groups with Headteachers, interviews, etc) data to inform its study scope and findings. The final report of the project will be considered by the Executive in Autumn 2021.

Scrutiny, Challenge and Assurance

Independent Scrutineer Evaluation

Membership of the Executive has been delegated to the Director of Children's Services, the Chief Nurse, and the Chief Superintendent for the area. According to the recent Wood Review (May 2021) 100% of partnerships had delegated the role. There is a strong commitment to partnership working from members of the Executive and a commitment to evidencing impact. However, the three core partners are not yet active in strategic planning and implementation and there are currently no formal arrangements for reporting the activity of the partnership to the senior accountable officers in each agency. Nor is there an opportunity for them to meet in any structured way. Partners are aware of this issue and will implement measures to address this in the coming months.

The new partnership business unit has already undertaken a comprehensive review of the partnership architecture and a number of recommendations are now being implemented. This will more effectively drive the partnership's business and support more impactful delivery in 2022. The team has also recently undertaken a review of rapid reviews of non-accidental injury to children under 1. The findings are being considered by the Executive.

A range of relevant agencies are engaged in the sub-groups supporting the work of the partnership. Responsibility for chairing the various sub-groups is shared between agencies and they are well attended. Further work is underway to clarify the expected deliverables from each sub-group as well as lines of accountability.

The local authority has good links with schools in Kent through The Education People, and as valuable as this is, it means that the views of heads and designated leads is fed in through a third party. There is an opportunity for the partnership to consult with head teachers and designated leads in schools to agree how they might be able to work more effectively with the local arrangements.

Currently, each agency has a programme to audit, and quality assure their work. However, the outcomes of audits are not shared between the partners and there is therefore less opportunity for multi-agency challenge. Furthermore, there have not been any multi-agency audits undertaken in the past year, thereby limiting the opportunity for more detailed scrutiny and challenge of how the partners work together. This may be a role that the Scrutiny and Challenge Sub-Group could take the lead on, and therefore enable greater scrutiny of partnership working. This issue has been recognised through the recent architecture review, and work is now underway to support the S&C Sub-Group to develop a more focussed workplan which will enable it to hold partners more effectively to account.

I undertook a review of Rapid Reviews over an 18-month period. The majority of children were under 1 and an emerging theme was that information sharing, particularly between midwives, health visitors and GPs was presenting as a barrier to effective safeguarding of children. This finding is in line with a similar theme which emerged in the national review of Non-Accidental Injury in under 1s published in

September 2021. This is an area for development which the partnership has acknowledge and will be progressing further in its workplan for 2022.

Rory Patterson, Independent Scrutineer of KSCMP

Scrutiny and Challenge

The Scrutiny and Challenge Group has met three times between September 2020 and September 2021, as currently meetings are held twice yearly. The group has continued to develop its role in the Partnership and has begun to establish ambitions for the activity that it will oversee. The group would particularly like to have oversight of thematic risks and to consider the findings from ‘deep dive’ studies with a view to informing and improving multi-agency safeguarding practice. The first such study on Non-Accidental Injury in the Under Ones will be presented to the next meeting of the Group.

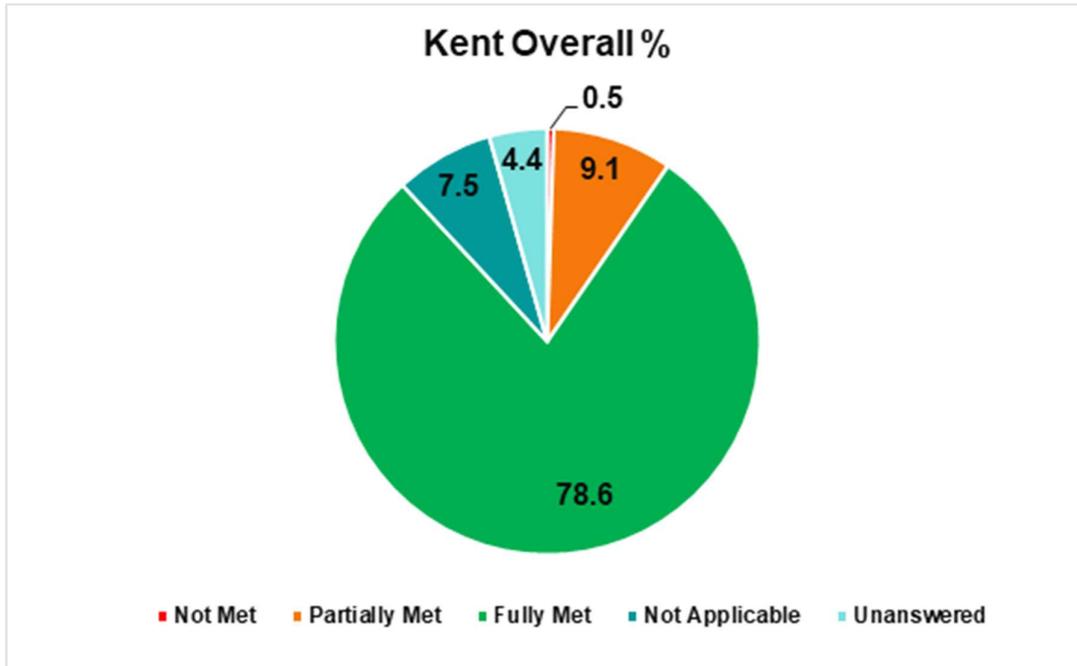
Early in this year the Group asked for an account of how learning from JTAs and National Reviews was being incorporated into the KSCMP training programme, which was subsequently explored in the KSCMP Learning and Development annual report. The Group continues to offer challenge and to ask for evidence of effectiveness and impact. Similarly, the group has a longstanding requirement to consider a multi-agency dataset which considers a range of indicators that can provide an overview of how safeguarding systems are operating, highlighting potential areas of concern for exploration, and allowing for the measurement of impact on practice. Developing a comprehensive multi-agency dataset and dashboard has continued to be challenge during this year, however in the latter months real progress has been made following the appointment of the KSCMP System Performance Analyst. Establishing a robust data dashboard and embedding its use both for the Executive Board and within the Scrutiny and Challenge Group is a priority area of work for the upcoming year, which is already underway.

Section 11 Assessments

Section 11 (S11) of the Children Act 2004 places a statutory responsibility on key agencies and organisations to make arrangements to ensure that in discharging their functions, they have regards to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Agencies are required to complete a full S11 self-assessment on a biennial basis.

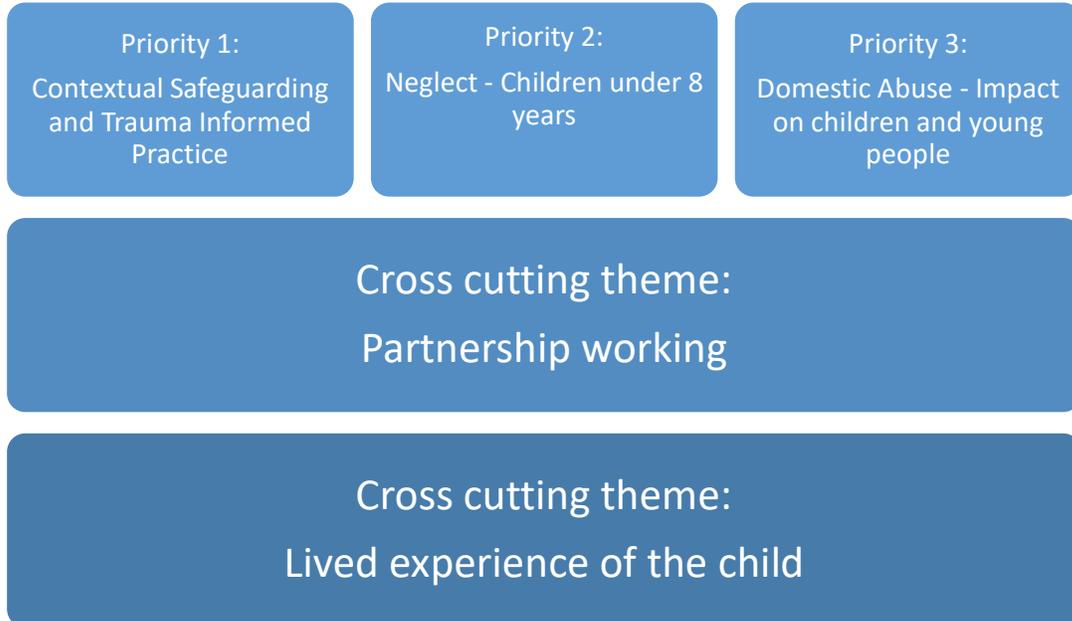
In the past, both the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Children’s Partnerships requested agencies to complete a S11 audit for their respective areas. In 2020, it was decided that the Partnerships would work collaboratively on the process, and so, for the first time, organisations that span both Kent and Medway were asked to complete only one S11 return, covering their duties in one or both local authority areas. Kent’s partners had been advised of a launch of 1st April for completion of the S11 toolkit, however due to the impact of Covid-19 on all agencies, the launch was delayed until November 2020. The audit has now been completed, and the joint Kent

and Medway findings collated and analysed. To add to this, a series of multi-agency review panels provided a further element of challenge and scrutiny to the joint audit process. The chart below shows a breakdown of the self-assessment ratings for Kent agencies:



Priorities

The KSCMP has continued to work towards the current priorities which were established for 2020-2023.

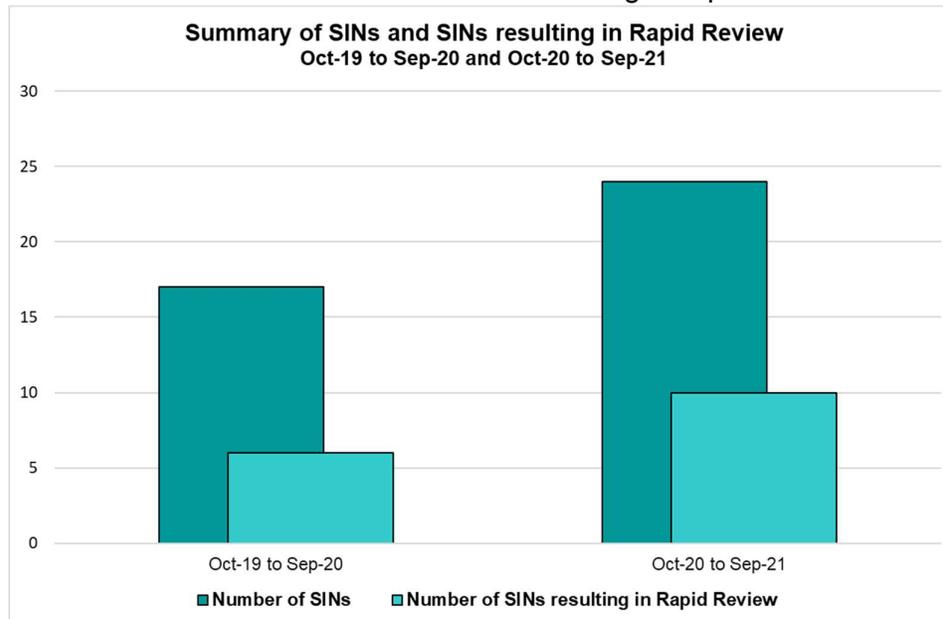


In the upcoming year the Executive will consider whether these priorities remain appropriate, taking into account multi-agency data and emerging practice issues.

Learning and Improvement

Serious Incident Notifications

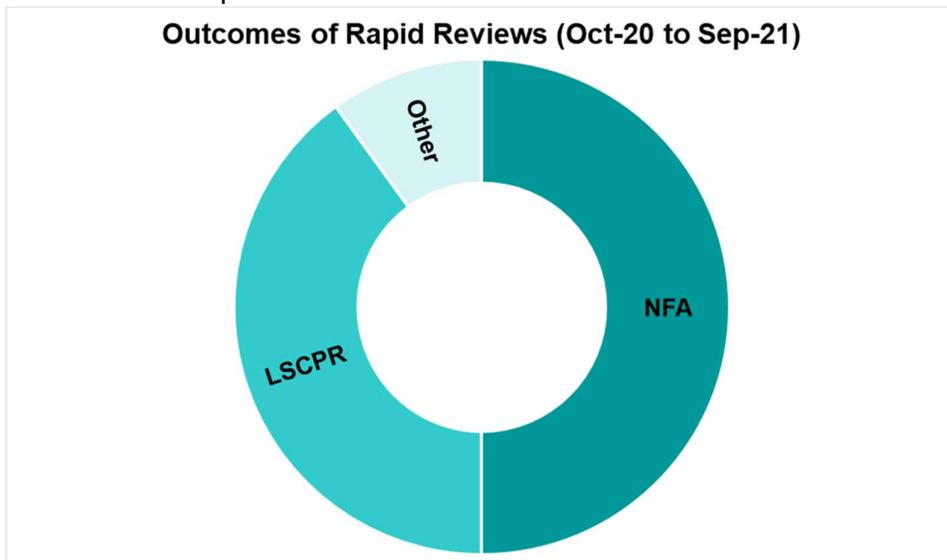
During this year the KSCMP has seen a 41% increase in the number of Serious Incident Notifications² (SINs) we have received. Serious Incident Notifications relate to serious child safeguarding cases. The summary chart below shows the number of SINs received and the number of SINs resulting in rapid review.



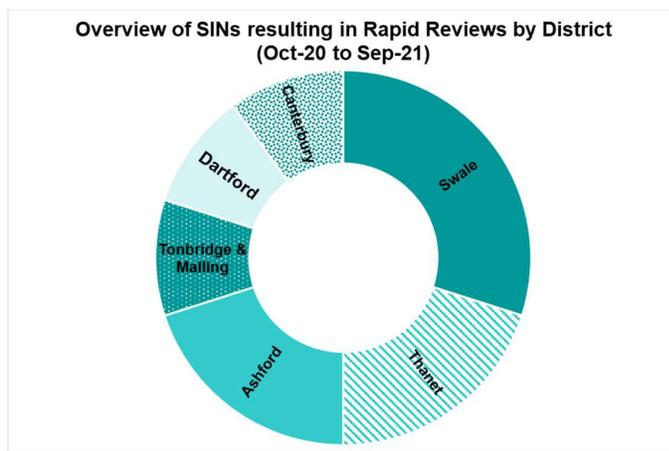
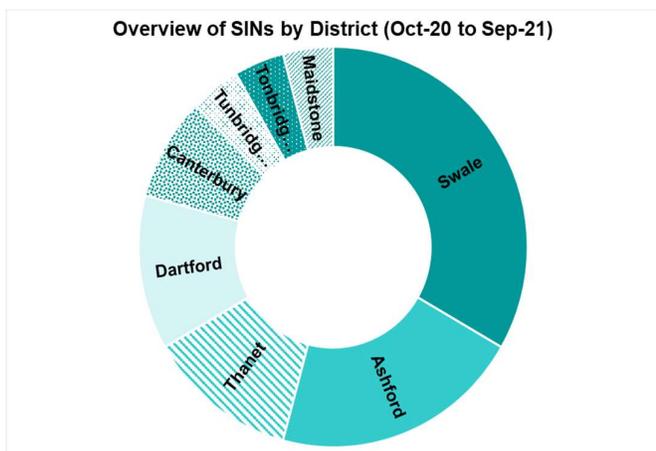
This chart illustrates that between October 2019 and September 2020 the KSCMP received 17 SINs, with 6 leading to a rapid review. Between October 2020 and September 2021 the KSCMP received 24 SINs with 10 resulting in rapid review. An increase was seen not just in the number of SINs, but also in the proportion of SINs progressing to rapid review from 35% to 42%. The chart below shows the outcomes

² For the purposes of this report SIN refers to notifications made to KCC Integrated Children’s Services, which are considered for notification to the national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, and notifications for consideration of a practice review made via the KSCMP website directly to the partnership.

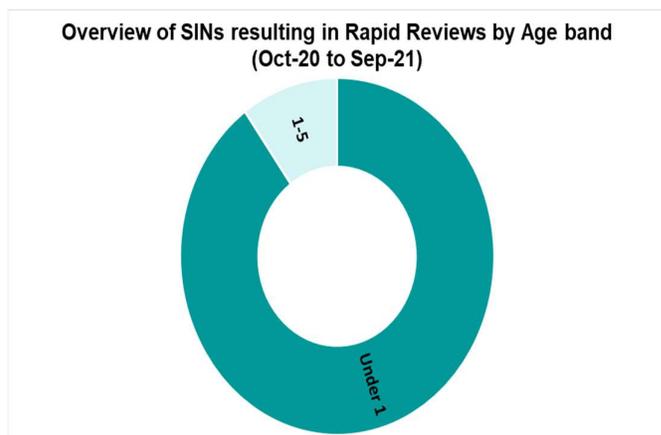
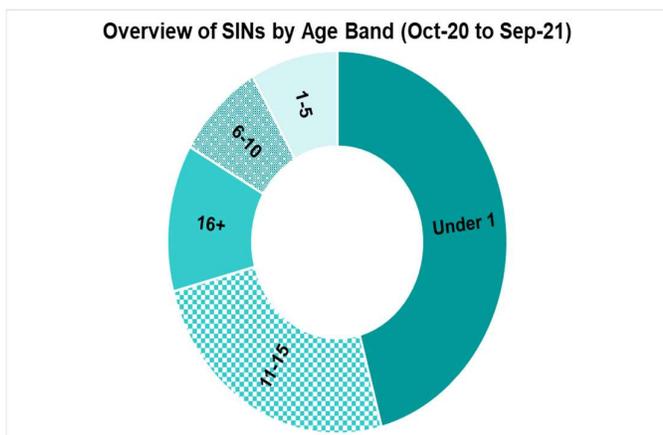
of cases from rapid reviews.



The below charts show the geographic distribution of SINs and rapid review cases across Kent.



The below charts further show the split of SINs and rapid review cases by age band of the child(ren) involved.



LCSPRs

Whilst no Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews have been published in this year, a number have been underway. The LCSPR process provides opportunities for agencies to reflect and learn, and importantly agencies do not wait for the publication of a summary document to act on the learning. One example is Organisational Grooming, identified as a key issue of concern in an LCSPR due to be published imminently related to Child Sexual Abuse, several local actions have been undertaken in response prior to publication. Actions have included preparation of an Organisational Grooming factsheet, provision of enhanced guidance and training in respect of investigating allegations against staff by the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) service, and a review of KSCMP training content relating to Child Sexual Abuse.

Practice Review Group

The Practice Review Group has continued to meet and consider notifications of serious incidents which have not been deemed suitable for Rapid Review, including undertaking Local Lessons Learned reviews where appropriate. The group has identified key thematic learning and undertaken activity including regarding Adolescent Neglect, Fabricated and Induced Illness and Non-Accidental Injury. In 2021 the PRG undertook analysis of learning from cases of adolescent neglect and subsequently published a briefing note outlining key themes and the impact of Covid-19 on young people.

Practice Themes

Thematic Review of Teenage Suicide (August 2020)

In the 2019-20 KSCMP annual report it was outlined that, following the tragic increase in suspected suicides of young people in Kent, a thematic review was undertaken, along with a range of other activities under the Suicide and Self-Harm Prevention Strategy for Children and Young People 2021-2026. During this year the KSCMP has continued to work with Kent and Medway Suicide Prevent Programme colleagues, including to deliver a follow-up conference event in Autumn 2021. The KSCMP has also taken on administration for the Youth Mental Health First Aid courses, supporting colleagues to access this vital training.

Escalation Project

The Escalation Project stemmed from a rapid review of a serious safeguarding case that was held in early 2021. The agency summaries of involvement showed the correct escalation process had not been followed and there was an apparent lack of challenge across the system. The findings from this case echoed those identified in

several previous cases. Therefore, to better understand potential barriers to escalation, it was decided to commission a survey. The survey was targeted at a range of agencies with safeguarding responsibilities, including public services and voluntary and community sector providers, working from universal to specialist services.

The survey was designed with input from Safeguarding Partners and ran for six weeks during June and July 2021. The survey included a range of questions around the theme of escalation including reflecting on their own experience, culture, and challenge, as well as policies. In total 146 people responded to the survey. Analysis of the responses highlighted some key learning areas that KSCMP can address and respond to. Recommendations following the survey findings have been agreed and are being taken forward in the coming year. In order to assess whether changes made have had an impact on practice, the survey will be repeated six months after the report recommendations have been enacted and the results compared to assess whether the changes have resulted in improved knowledge and practice.

Non-accidental injury in babies under one

In August and September 2021, it was noted that a significant proportion of SINs the KSCMP was receiving related to Non-Accidental Injury (NAI) in non-mobile babies. Concerns were raised about common practice themes and areas of learning being identified through rapid reviews and subsequent LCSPRs featuring NAI. As such the KSCMP Business Unit undertook a deep dive study of practice reviews where NAI was a factor, to determine key themes and consider recommendations to improve practice - and therefore the safety of babies in Kent. The report from the study was completed in September 2021 and was considered by the Executive in October 2021. Implementation of the report recommendations and responding to the learning will be an area of work in the upcoming year, with a further deep dive expected to take place in Spring 2022 to understand any changes in learning and to consider the impact of actions as a result of this piece of work.

Practice Review Project

In September 2019, Kent began the transition to meet new legislation and statutory process set out in *Working Together 2018*, designed to allow for greater flexibility in the reviewing of serious child safeguarding cases. However, at present Kent's practice review process is not capitalising on these flexibilities. As such, a 'root and branch' assessment of the whole process – from the point at which SINs are received, to how we embed the learning from cases is being undertaken. The study is considering both any immediate actions that need addressing so the Partnership can be assured it is functioning effectively, to longer-term considerations around shifting from a blame to a learning culture, the best way of meaningfully involving children and families in reviews, and the interfaces between practice reviews any other types of reviews e.g., Safeguarding Adults Reviews. The report and its recommendations also looks to build on the findings of the KSCMP Architecture

Review. As of September 2021, the Practice Review Project has entered its final report writing phase and it will be considered by the Executive in Autumn/Winter 2021, with delivery of recommendations which will improve the current system and, most importantly, ensure impact on practice, being a focus of the upcoming year.

Training

E-learning

The KSCMP continues to provide access to a range of training topics through the e-learning portal on our website. Partners (and the public) are able to undertake the training at no cost. During 2020-21 the number of training courses available on the platform has increased to 61, covering topics including Criminal Exploitation and County Lines, Eating Disorders, Information Sharing and Consent, Neglect, Safeguarding Children, and Unconscious Bias.

In the period 1st October 2020 to 30th September 2021, 41485 KSCMP e-learning courses were completed - a 29% reduction on the number of course completions in the previous 12 months. This may be due to the extended period of lockdown in the previous year where staff may have been more able to undertake e-learning or use e-learning in place of other training options (such as face-to-face or virtual) which were not yet in place. Below are the top ten courses, in order, by number of completions compared with the previous year.

October 2019 – September 2020		October 2020 – September 2021	
Rank	Course	Rank	Course
1.	Safeguarding children level 1	1.	Safeguarding children level 1
2.	Safeguarding against radicalisation	2.	Safeguarding against radicalisation
3.	Safeguarding children for education	3.	Safeguarding children for education
4.	Online safety: risks to children	4.	Safeguarding children level 2
5.	Autism awareness	5.	GDPR
6.	Safeguarding children level 2	6.	Safeguarding adults
7.	Child sexual exploitation level 1	7.	Female genital mutilation
8.	Neglect	8.	Child sexual exploitation level 1
9.	Emotional abuse	9.	Equality and diversity
10.	GDPR	10.	Online safety: risks to children

Delivery of training

The delivery of non-e-learning training continued to be impacted by the pandemic over the last 12 months. Seven planned courses had to be cancelled owing to ongoing restrictions (both national and in organisational practice) around Covid-19, and further dates for the core face-to-face courses offered by KSCMP were not planned as a result. Several shorter 'need to know' and half-day courses were able to be adapted to virtual delivery, including Allegation Management: Role of the LADO; Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention; MAPPA Awareness; Contextual

Safeguarding; and LGBTQ+/Gender Identity Basic Awareness, with 15 courses delivered between September 2020 and September 2021.

Further work has been underway to restructure courses for virtual delivery where appropriate and to identify priority courses for face-to-face delivery starting in Autumn 2021. Exploring innovative training methods and resources will be a feature of the training programme over the next 12 months, alongside introducing enhanced impact measurements.

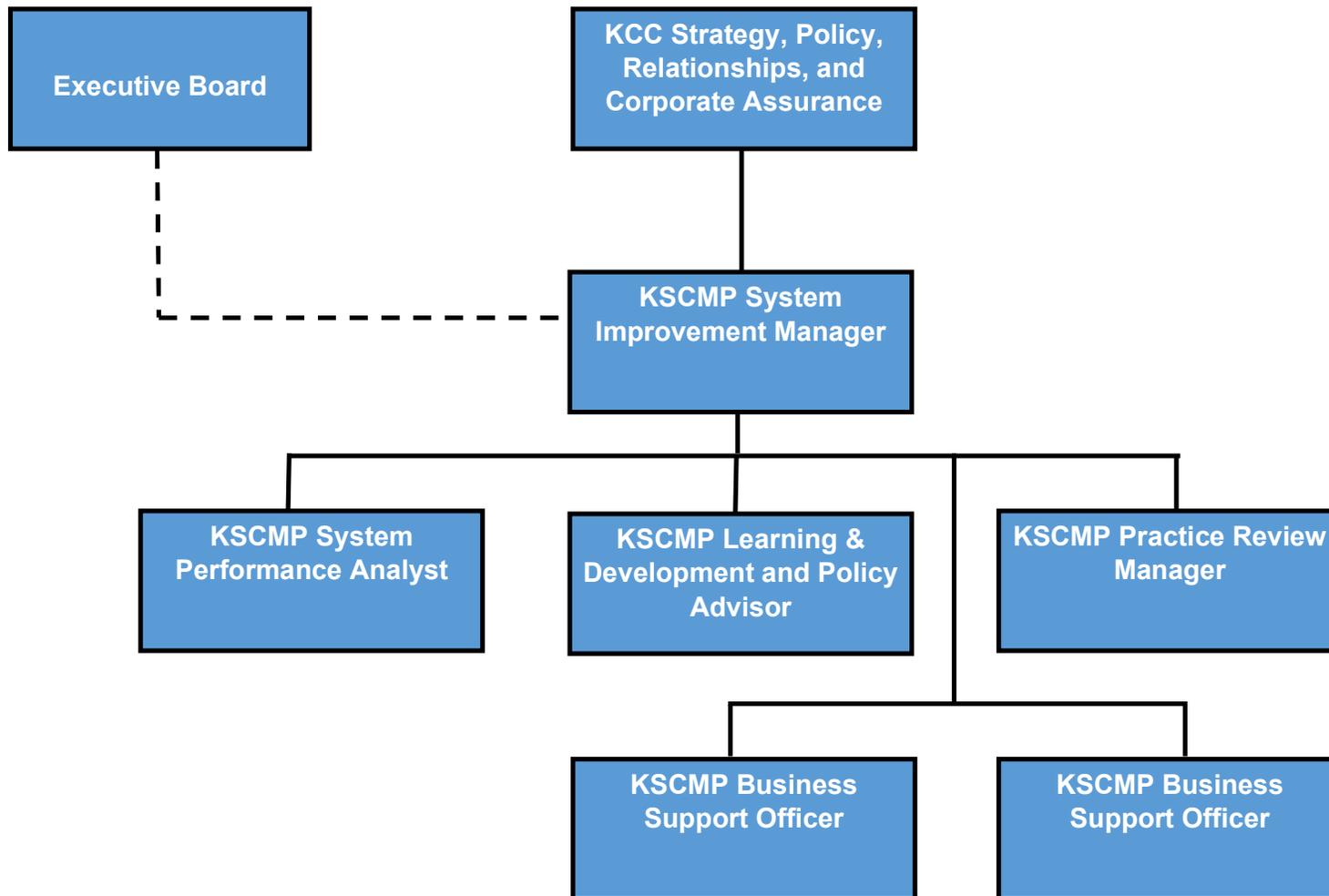
The restriction on delivery of face-to-face training has also impacted on delivery of bespoke courses. Appendix Two shows a reduced training income in this year as a result.

Learning resources

Despite restrictions to training delivery, the KSCMP has continued to be committed to learning. A range of factsheets have been published on the KSCMP website, designed to offer practical guidance and support to professionals at the moment of need. The topics covered include those related to the partnership priorities (such as contextual safeguarding), procedural information (such as Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews), and themes emerging from practice review (such as suicide awareness and unconscious bias). Alongside these factsheets several training and information videos have been made available via the KSCMP website on topics such as contextual safeguarding, trauma, violence prevention and the Kent Sexual Assault Referral Centre.

Appendices

Appendix One – KSCMP Business Unit Structure



Appendix Two – KSCMP Budget

INCOME		2020-21 total contributions	EXPENDITURE		2020/21
Balance b/f from 19/20	£0		KSCMP*		£339,089
KCC contributions	£242,334		Training**		£37,098
External contributions	£193,184.05		Practice Reviews		£39,008
Training income	£15,408		Independent Scrutineer		£8,371
Total	£450,926.05		Total		£423,566

2021/22 roll forward:		£16,988.46 (External contributions)
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* Includes staffing and all associated costs

** Training breakdown includes subscriptions to the e-learning provider (£16,625) and for the online training booking system (£5,300).

Appendix Three – Financial Contributions

Agency	Contributions 2020/21
Kent County Council	£242,334
Kent Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent	£45,934
Kent CCG (each) x 7	£8,951.85
Health Providers (each) x 6	£8,951.85
Total Health Contributions	£116,374.05
National Probation Service/ Kent, Surrey, and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company	£7,876
Kent Fire and Rescue Service	£5,000
District/Borough Councils (each) x 12	£1,500
Total District/Borough Council Contributions	£18,000
TOTAL	£435,518.05

Appendix Four – Agencies within our partnership

<p>Education</p> <p>16-19 Academies Alternative provision academies Governing bodies of maintained schools Governing bodies of maintained nursery schools Governing bodies of pupil referral units Independent educational institutions Schools approved under section 342 of the Education Act 1996(e) - SEND Special post-16 institutions Governing bodies of institutions within the further education sector Governing bodies of English higher education providers Childminders</p>
<p>Health provider trusts</p> <p>Kent Community Health Foundation Trust (KCHFT) – community health provider Kent and Medway Partnership Trust (KMPT) – adult mental health provider North East London Foundation Trust (NELFT) – children and young people mental health provider South London and Maudsley (SLAM) – Tier 4 children and young person’s mental health service provider East Kent Hospital University Foundation Trust (EKHUFT) Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust (MTWNHST) Darent Valley Hospital (DVH) South East Coast Ambulance Service (SECAmbS)</p>
<p>Additional social care</p> <p>Registered providers of adoption support services Registered providers of fostering services Registered providers of children’s homes Registered providers of residential family centres Registered providers of residential holiday schemes for disabled children</p>
<p>District councils</p> <p>Ashford Borough Council Canterbury City Council Dartford Borough Council Dover District Council Folkestone and Hythe District Council Gravesham Borough Council Maidstone Borough Council Sevenoaks District Council Swale Borough Council Thanet District Council Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council Tunbridge Wells Borough Council</p>

Other agencies

National Probation Service (NPS)

The Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (CAFCASS)
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Kent Fire and Rescue Service

Appendix Five – Kent Safeguarding Context data references

1. 2020 Mid-Year Population Estimates. Source: ONS, from Kent Analytics (KCC)
2. Children living in **relative** low income families (defined as a family in low income before housing costs in the reference year). Source: DWP, from Kent Analytics (KCC)
3. Ethnic minority categories excluded are: White English, White British, Other White British, Scottish, Welsh, Cornish, Not obtained, Refused, and Not States. Source: January 2021 School Census from MIU, KCC.
4. Source: May 2021 School Census from MIU, KCC
5. Source: MIU, KCC Snapshot as at 30/09/2021
6. Source: MIU, KCC Snapshot as at 30/09/2021
7. Number of young people at high risk of child exploitation (number of YP who have had a risk of CSE identified Oct 20-Sept 21) split by involvement with EH or CSWS. Source: MIU, KCC
8. Source: MIU, KCC Snapshot as at 30/09/2021
9. Number of Children and Families assessments where one of the factors identified was young carers (Oct 20 – Sep 21). Source: MIU, KCC
10. Source: MIU, KCC Snapshot as at 30/09/2021
11. Number of Children and Families assessments where domestic abuse was identified as a factor of the assessment, broken down into 3 categories (Domestic Violence – Child, Domestic Violence – Parent, Domestic Violence – Other). Source: MIU, KCC
12. Source: MIU, KCC Snapshot as at 30/09/2021
13. Number of missing episodes – open to Children’s Social Work, Early Help, Other Local Authority or not known (totalled). Source: MIU, KCC
14. Referrals are for the NELFT single point of access and include referrals to Kent Child and Young People’s mental health service and the Neurodevelopmental diagnostic assessment service. (This figure includes Crisis, Neuro and Locality together.) NELFT are one of four providers of ND assessments in Kent and provide them for 11+ in West and North Kent and 8+ in East Kent. Source: NELFT
15. Breakdown of Youth Justice caseload population (snapshot). Source: MIU, KCC snapshot as at September 2021
16. Number of referrals to Family Group Conferencing (now renamed to Social Connections Service), by families and individuals received between Oct 2020 and Sept 2021. Source: MIU, KCC