



Safer Newsletter

from Dudley Safeguarding People Partnership | Jun/July 2021
<http://safeguarding.dudley.gov.uk> | @DSPPB

Dudley Exploitation hub Launched

On 14th June 2021 Dudley's Exploitation Hub was launched virtually as we observed Covid social distancing rules.

It had speakers including Dr Paul Kingston, independent chair for DSPP, Kim Madill, Chief Inspector from West Midlands Police, Sally Roberts – NHS Black Country and West Birmingham CCG, and Catherine Driscoll, Director of Childrens services for DMBC.

The event covered the following key topics:

- Child Exploitation Strategy
- Dudley Exploitation profile
- Dudley Exploitation Hub
- Screening and Mapping
- Voice of young people

You can watch the DEx Hub launch online via an on-demand eLearning package that DSPP have created, visit the Learning Zone to find out more.

We also have a dedicated page for exploitation on our website – visit <https://safeguarding.dudley.gov.uk/safeguarding/child/work-with-children-young-people/child-exploitation/> for more information.

On there you can find links to the Child Exploitation Strategy, Screening Tools and a wealth of information about the different types of exploitation that are dealt with via the DEx Hub.

DSPP Training offer

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Learning Zone

In this section you will find details of training courses, policies and strategies to support you in your work. If you feel we can improve this section further please do not hesitate to contact us.

[View our training offer](#)

We are responsible for the co-ordination, commissioning, delivery and evaluation of the multi-agency safeguarding training programme across Dudley.

As you will know 2020 has been a difficult year for us all with Covid and social distancing, but we wanted to remind you that we have a comprehensive training offer that is delivered virtually and via eLearning.

We use the Phew LMS system for our event and learning management and you must be a registered user to access our systems.



A couple of things to note are that you cannot sign up other people to access training on your account as only you can access your account, and secondly, we **charge** for non-attendance of training that is booked via the DSPP.



Please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the course commencing as the training will begin promptly at the time stated.



The DSPP have agreed that candidates that are more than 30 minutes late to a one-day course without making contact with the venue or training team will not be allowed admittance and will be charged the full fee (**£100**) for non-attendance, the same fees will be charged for absence from the course too.



Half Day courses and briefing sessions: In order to minimise disruption to the training, the partnership have agreed that candidates who are more than 15 minutes late for a half day course or shorter briefing session without making contact with the venue or training team will not be allowed admittance and will be charged the full fee (**£50**) for nonattendance, the same fees will be charged for absence from the course too.

DSPP to recruit an Independent Scrutineer for Childrens safeguarding.

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 replaced Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) with a new statutory framework requiring clinical commissioning groups, police, and local authorities to determine local arrangements for the protection and safeguarding of children in their area.



The legislation stipulates that arrangements must include scrutiny of effectiveness.

The role of independent scrutiny Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) gives further guidance and states that scrutiny should be:

- Objective
- Act as a constructive critical friend
- Promote reflection to drive continuous improvement

In Dudley, the role is designed to provide critical challenge to:

- Provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of services to protect children
- Assist where there is a disagreement between agencies
- Support the Dudley Safeguarding People Partnership to be a learning organisation

Independent scrutiny will be provided by a single individual with a view to generating learning for system improvements.

The independent scrutineer will be required to provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all Dudley children, including arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases.

In other news:

The DSPP are working in partnership to developing a neglect quality statement, that is life course to support the work of safeguarding children, young people, and adults in Dudley.

Multi Agency Case File Audit's (MACFAs)

Dudley Safeguarding People Partnership (DSPP) has a duty to evaluate multi-agency working through case file audits which involves professionals from across the children's workforce, and in turn, identify themes and trends in order to share learning and recommendations for improvement regarding the quality of practice and service provision.

The audits look at and scrutinise multi-agency practice from a random selection of cases to assess the quality of practice and lessons to be learned in terms of both multi-agency and multi-disciplinary practice.

The following will underpin the MACFA process:

- Focus on multi-agency and multi-disciplinary interventions and have a clear focus and clearly defined terms of reference
- An expectation that all agencies commit to the MACFA procedures
- Focus on current practice, considering interventions that have occurred within the last 12 months
- Consider interventions that are within the remit and work of local agencies
- Include a focus on the welfare of the child, other children living in the household, timeliness, communication and engagement with families or other significant adults

The intention of the MACFA process is to carry out audits in a spirit of appreciative inquiry to “shine a light on what is working well in organisations and potentially engage all stakeholders in building conditions for best practice” (Bellinger and Elliot, 2011)

MACFAs provide opportunities:

- For each agency to audit their own practice
- To create a culture of constructive challenge
- To share expertise
- Identify elements of good practice
- To ensure identified areas for improvements are followed up
- To ensure lessons from audits inform and enhance frontline practice

To read our published MACFAs please visit our MACFA page on the DSPP website -

<https://safeguarding.dudley.gov.uk/safeguarding/child/work-with-children-young-people/multi-agency-case-file-audits/>

Safer 7s

Don't forget we have a range of safer 7s, which are 7 minute briefings that you can share at team meetings, or read yourself.

They are designed to help you embed learning around safeguarding in short snappy bursts of information and are designed to be consistent and easy to access.

We have Safer7s on:

Coercive control	SARs	CSPRs
FGM	Clare's Law	Domestic Abuse
JTAs	Hate Crime	Online Harms

Among many others, all available on the DSPP website under the Learning Zone.



If you have Safeguarding news or updates of your own that you would like to be considered for inclusion in the next Safer, then please email: **Mark Wilson**, DSPP Learning and Development Coordinator via mark.wilson@dudley.gov.uk