

South West Safeguarding Annual Report 2021/2022 v 0.11

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APPROVED

Foreword

Welcome to the NHS England (NHSE) and NHS Improvement (NHSEI) South West (SW) Safeguarding Annual Report. We are now over 2 years on from the initial outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then we have been adapting, living, and working alongside the variations of the virus, but by the end of 2021 we entered another Level 4 National Incident (restrictions).

During the 2021/22 financial year, we have continued to work in collaboration as we prepare for new reforms. The pandemic has delayed implementation of some of the reforms, most notably the Health and Care Bill, Liberty Protection Safeguards and the review of the NHS Plan.

In January 2022 we also heard that the Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) will not be a legal entity until 1st July 2022, but until late December 2021 the implementation date was April 2022.

In the South West Region there continues to be seven ICSs which will become statutory Boards from 1st July 2022:

Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly (Kernow)	NHS Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Integrated Care Board
Devon	NHS Devon Integrated Care Board
Somerset	NHS Somerset Integrated Care Board
Bristol, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire (BNSSG)	NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board
Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire (BSW)	NHS Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Board
Dorset	NHS Dorset Integrated Care Board
Gloucestershire	NHS Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board

Between December 2021 and February 2022, we have undertaken bespoke ICS Safeguarding site visits/virtual meetings. The process and outcome are reported later in this report. In addition, and keeping in mind the 21/22 key priorities, the Annual Report provides an update on progress made, impact of Covid-19 on safeguarding activity

including statutory review data, awards and celebrations, key achievements, and challenges across our 7 local systems and provides an outline of our future priorities. Before we move into the main body of the report, we would like to introduce the South West Regional Safeguarding Team:



Sue Doheny
Regional Chief Nurse



Penny Smith
Director of Nursing Leadership
& Quality



Dr Rosie Luce
Assistant Director
of Nursing (Safeguarding)
and Regional Safeguarding
Lead (RSL)



Nick Rudling
Head of Safeguarding
Transformation



Melanie Munday
Safeguarding Professional
Lead (secondment)



Joanne May
Safeguarding Officer



Sally Harwood
Business Support Assistant
(Safeguarding)

Acknowledgements

We would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the continued support of the South West Commissioning Support Unit (CSU) and specifically the Business Intelligence team; Kirsty Hall, Elen Hall and Alex Bunn, who have continued to provide us with timely data analysis and information governance advice during 2021/22.

Awards

Over the past year across our region, regional safeguarding teams have been awarded the following Safeguarding Star Awards, presented by the National NHSEI Safeguarding Team:

- Somerset Foundation Trust Safeguarding Team for providing such a valued service in responding to the day-to-day requests for support, advice and guidance.
- Paulette Nuttall, Safeguarding Implementation Lead, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire CCG, ahead of retirement for Paulette's passion around improving the lives of individuals, demonstrating system leadership both internally and externally and for excellent work as the Adult Safeguarding Lead.
- Dr Laraine Dibble, Designated Doctor for Safeguarding Children, NHS Devon CCG, ahead of Laraine's retirement. Colleagues nominated Laraine for her dedication to her career, supporting the most vulnerable children in their area whilst also taking the lead role in safeguarding, children in care and SEND and supporting the team with her professional knowledge and advice.
- Dr Michelle Sharma, Named GP for Safeguarding, Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire CCG (BSW), for national work on LPS implementation in Primary Care.
- Gill Cobham, Lead Nurse for Safeguarding Adults, Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust for tenacity and compassion towards a victim and their family in relation to positive work following a serious incident where a vulnerable patient was filmed by a staff member and subsequently shared on social media.

Paulette Nuttall was also awarded with the National Safeguarding Adults Board 2021 'We see you – We Hear You' award for being a Partnership Champion – demonstrating working in partnership to safeguard adults.

NHS Devon Clinical Commissioning Group's Chief Nurse, Darryn Allcorn won the Covid-19 Response award. The award recognises his personal contribution setting up NHS Nightingale Hospital Exeter, which treated around 250 Covid-19 patients at the height of the pandemic.

NHS Devon Clinical Commissioning Group Equality, Diversity and Inclusion team won the Health Equalities Award; which recognised their trailblazing work to tackle health inequalities experienced by ethnically diverse communities in Devon and the vaccination outreach programme during which saw over 50,000 from vulnerable communities (including Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ+), Migrant workers, Gypsy Roma and Traveller communities and ethnically diverse groups), receive their covid-19 vaccination.

Key achievements/celebrations:

1. Successfully completed the 7 NHSEI South West ICS site visits/virtual meetings with Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) / developing Integrated Care Boards (ICBs). This involved preparing and collating a range of safeguarding information with a focus on system governance and readiness for ICS transformation.
2. The Regional Data Set & Information Governance Reference Group completed its main task and has developed and published the [*South West Regional Serious Violence and Contextualised Safeguarding Information Governance Framework 2021*](#)
3. In partnership with NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group, and through a wider multi-agency partnership with [*360 Skills for Life*](#) project, Skills City - an interactive learning virtual environment, has been developed to prepare children for life. A new accessible national programme for UK schools has been developed. The pilot launched in March 2022 and is reported on further below.
4. The Office of the Regional Director of Public Health South West Region, NHSEI, has collaborated with academic establishments and launched the Public Health and Criminal Justice Research Network on the 28th April 2022.

5. NHSEI have funded three training and development opportunities to support the South West safeguarding workforce. These have comprised of two University level courses (a safeguarding module funded by a successful bid to Health Education England and the second module with a focus on supervision). The third is a wider flexible continued professional development opportunity.
6. Dr Rosie Luce, Assistant Director of Safeguarding/ Regional Safeguarding Lead, has been successful in completing the examination for the degree of Doctor of Legal Practice in respect of a programme of work entitled: Sixteen Plus, People with Declining Capacity due to Progressive Illness: A Critique Based on Governmentality.

Finally, we would like to thank everyone for working so hard during the continued pandemic and working together to safeguard our communities. We look forward to welcoming new system leaders as the Integrated Care Boards, including the Chief Nursing Officers appointments coming into place during 2022.



Sue Doheny
Regional Chief Nurse

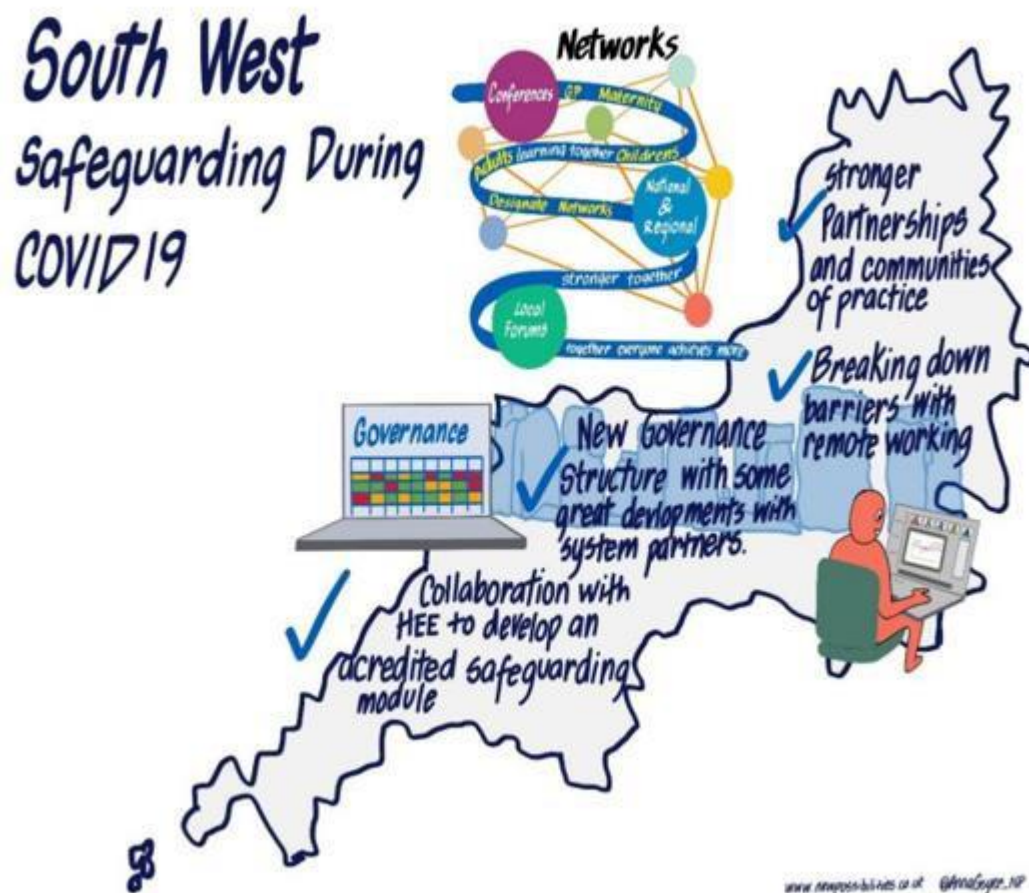


Dr Rosie Luce
Assistant Director of Nursing (Safeguarding)
and Regional Safeguarding Lead (RSL)

Our South West Regional Priorities

With disruption to services, keeping a focus on safeguarding during the continued pandemic has been both a key priority and challenge. However, the following section highlights our work alongside our key priority areas during 2021/22.

South West Region



Strengthening Leadership and Partnership Collaboration

As part of the NHS Long Term Plan prevention objectives, and the fulfilment of our statutory duties, we have continued to work in collaboration and across the multi-agency partnerships. During 2021 and 2022 there has been a mixture of formal and informal meetings and or, supervision and peer support offered to systems, Chief Nurses, Heads of Safeguarding and Designated Professionals.

Regionally and through the National NHS safeguarding team, we have continued to collaborate nationally, regionally and locally with internal and external partners to profile the national, regional and local data sets relating to abuse; exploitation and serious violence which together make up contextual safeguarding. During 2021 and at national level, progress has been made to develop the NHS Safeguarding Multi-agency High Level Integrated Safeguarding Dashboard for England. This is an ongoing project with cross government partners and includes the National Policing Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Programme, the Office for Health Improvement & Disparities, Department of Health and Social Care, Department for Education as well as other national charities.

The Regional Safeguarding Data Set & Information Governance Reference Group was a Task and Finish Group arising from the South West NHSE Safeguarding Steering Group. The Task and Finish Group brought partners together to improve the multi-agency response to contextual safeguarding on public and private space violence, including all forms of exploitation and domestic abuse. During 2021 the group completed its main task and has developed and published the [South West Regional Serious Violence and Contextualised Safeguarding Information Governance Framework 2021](#)

Considering the Health and Care Act 2022, and with the changing nature of public health, the South West Regional Safeguarding Steering Group have reflected on how best to support our designated and named professionals for safeguarding, as well as our developing ICBs and multiagency partnerships going forward. Following a development session, we have revised our SW Safeguarding Governance Architecture, see **Appendix 1**.

Building collaboration between health, public health and criminal justice and academia, the Health and Justice Public Health Lead, the Office of the Regional Director of Public Health South West Region, NHSE, has alongside academic bodies across the South West established the Public Health and Criminal Justice Research Network. The first meeting was held on the 28th April 2022 and was the first of an ongoing network that will meet 3 times a year to bring together professionals, policymakers, academics, and service providers and operational staff to share ideas, challenges, and develop research and commission ideas.

Learning with the Offices of Police & Crime Commissioners (OPCC), the Community Safety Partnerships and Violence Reduction Units

The South West Region has 7 CCGs (developing ICBs), 5 Offices of the Police & Crime Commissioners (OPCC) and police force areas and 15 Local Authorities. All areas have undertaken programmes of work in tackling serious violence and safeguarding inequalities and the positive impact that it has had on communities or populations.

Common themes across the Community Safety Partnerships are:

- Leadership and system change.
- Data, evidence and evaluation.
- Identification of risk and vulnerability and understanding need.
- Prevention and Interventions.
- Community and young people
- Criminal justice and disruption.

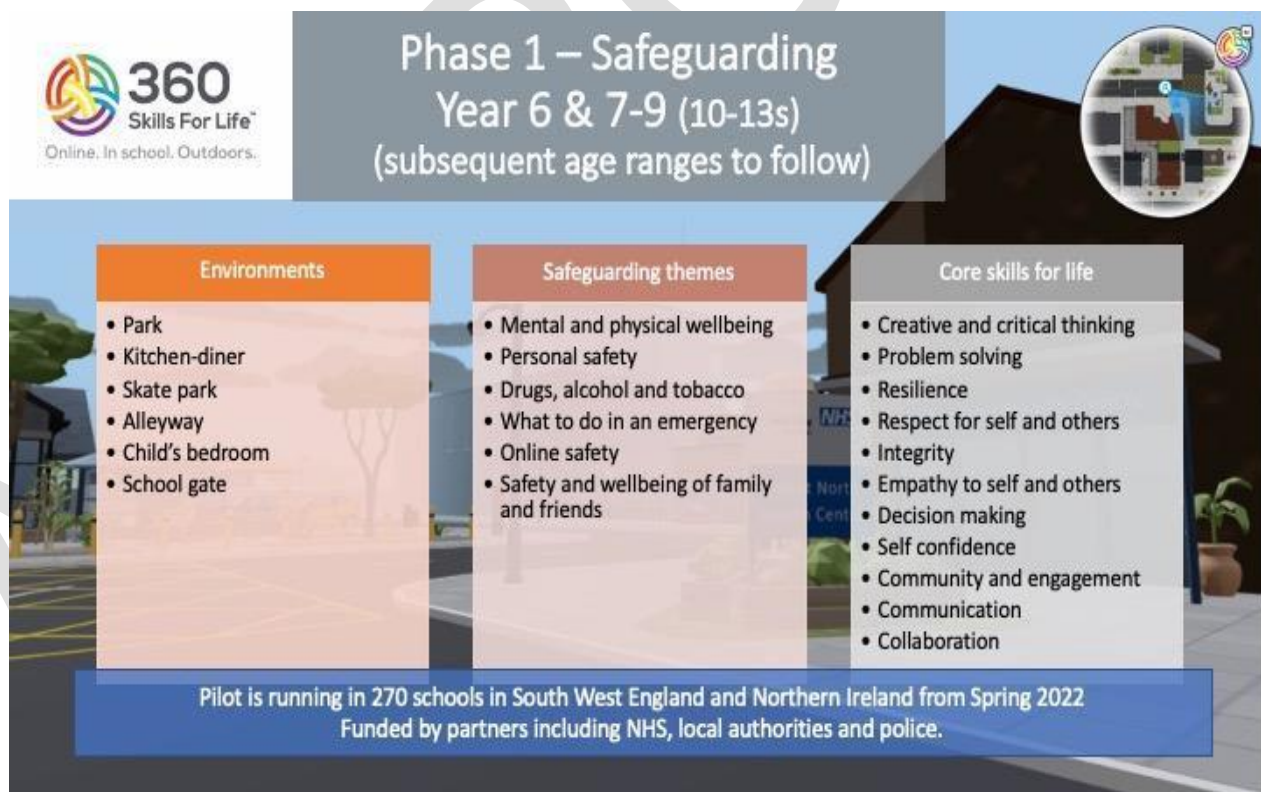
The Avon and Somerset Constabulary regional footprints key priority is to involve young people in a force wide communication plan that includes addressing attitudes and risks of knife carrying, serious violence, and the added pressures and negative influences of social media. This will build upon the Somerset commissioned peer led social media and cultural norms research that was published May 2021.

The OPCC and systems, including the NHSEI Regional Safeguarding Lead, were invited to attend Bristol's Youth serious violence summit in March 2022 . The resulting manifesto

fed into the subsequent City Mayoral summit and has helped shape Bristol Violence Reduction Unit's plan for 2022 and beyond.

Giving control back to children and young people via a virtual room

We have been innovative and despite a challenging climate for schools over the past 2 years, a new accessible and virtual national programme for UK schools has been developed. In partnership with NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group, and through a wider multi-agency partnership with 360 Skills for Life project, Skills City, a scalable interactive virtual learning environment has been developed to prepare children for life, including some of the life style risks related to knife crime, county lines and exploitation. The schools Designated Safeguarding Teacher and assigned support teachers are the key contact points and the teachers dashboard holds a suite of 360 lesson plans, resource packs and links to further resources to support learning.



360 Skills For Life
Online. In school. Outdoors.

Phase 1 – Safeguarding Year 6 & 7-9 (10-13s) (subsequent age ranges to follow)

Environments	Safeguarding themes	Core skills for life
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Park• Kitchen-diner• Skate park• Alleyway• Child's bedroom• School gate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mental and physical wellbeing• Personal safety• Drugs, alcohol and tobacco• What to do in an emergency• Online safety• Safety and wellbeing of family and friends	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creative and critical thinking• Problem solving• Resilience• Respect for self and others• Integrity• Empathy to self and others• Decision making• Self confidence• Community and engagement• Communication• Collaboration

Pilot is running in 270 schools in South West England and Northern Ireland from Spring 2022
Funded by partners including NHS, local authorities and police.

The pilot launched in March 2022 and Phase 1 is ready for rolling out across the South West. Initial feedback has been extremely positive, teachers and pupils have said:

Initial feedback (prior to full academic evaluation report in 2023)



"A child asked if we could do 360 again as soon as he came in the next morning, highlighting just how much the programme motivates boys in particular." – teacher

"360 is really cool. It is super realistic and helps me to understand what to do when something like happens in real life." – Sophia, pupil

"I liked it because instead of just watching, you could control what was happening." – Ryan, pupil

"It's very fun because there are multiple choices and based on your options it can go a different way" – Caitlin, pupil

"It's like a game and you have pick the right decisions in real life situations but it's fun at the same time." – Caoimhe, pupil

"360 helped us to work out what to do to keep ourselves safe." – Dylan, pupil

Progress is being monitored by NHS Dorset CCG/ICB Head of Safeguarding, and the 360 Skills for Life CEO also reports directly in the South West Safeguarding Evaluation Project Group. A final report is expected January – February 2023.

South West ICS Safeguarding Visits and Virtual Meetings

The Regional Safeguarding Team have supported the South West ICSs to develop strong governance and accountability arrangements for safeguarding and protecting the public.

The Regional Safeguarding Lead wrote to the 7 developing ICSs in October 2021 setting out the purpose and intention for meeting with key safeguarding system leaders. The subsequent meetings and visits took place from December 2021 through to March 2022, with the Director of Nursing Leadership and Quality, Regional Safeguarding Team, CCG Directors of Nursing and Accountable Officers and other members of the safeguarding team.

There was an appreciation that each ICS was in a different place in their ICB journey whilst national guidance was still emerging, and ICB senior staff recruitment was underway. However, it was felt important to have an opportunity with each system to set out what we already knew as a Regional Team supplemented with additional information from the systems and a space to support a free-flowing discussion on the ICB safeguarding arrangements.

The Regional Safeguarding Team collated a range of information into a safeguarding presentation with the local systems to frame the conversations and included any key lines of enquiry (KLOEs). Information reviewed and summarised included:

- CCG Annual reports for Adult & Child Safeguarding, Looked After Children, Child Death Overview panels (where available).
- CCG responses to the Safeguarding Commissioning Assurance Tool (S-CAT) – a new national tool.
- Formal ICS safeguarding risks.
- CCG responses and positions on National NHSEI Safeguarding Team ICS 'Heat Map' exercise to ascertain ICS safeguarding governance arrangements progress.
- Information gathered from recent ICS safeguarding discussions with CCG Heads of Safeguarding (or equivalent role).
- Data from national published safeguarding reports.
- Safeguarding review data and learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews, Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Domestic Homicide Reviews.
- Current safeguarding workforce gaps/ capacity concerns.
- Recent inspections of ICS health services which may have identified learning/recommendations for safeguarding (Ofsted/CQC).
- Progress and readiness for implementation of the new Liberty Protection Safeguards.
- CCG Modern Slavery Statements.
- CCG Safeguarding Training data and compliance.
- In addition to the regional meetings set out above the National NHSEI Safeguarding Team have requested that each regional team provide a RAG rating on their respective ICSs regarding their readiness for ICS status and final safeguarding governance arrangements

Following each ICS meeting the Regional Team summarised the discussion and key points in a letter. The final summary letter and collated intelligence presentation was shared with the CCG Directors of Nursing and Accountable Officers and the NHSEI System Transformation Team as part of their wider ICS intelligence.

In addition to the regional intelligence gathering, the National NHSEI Safeguarding Team have requested each region assess each ICS's readiness for ICB transition and progress towards achieving ICS safeguarding governance sign-off. Within the SW we have approached this in collaboration with our systems i.e. a hybrid of their own self-assessment alongside our regional view based on information we hold. This has been conducted 3 times to date with the next due towards the end of quarter 1 2022/23. The latest SW Heat Map with current RAG rating and descriptor can be found below. Devon is the first SW system to currently report a signed off governance position whilst the other six remain in progress.

Summary of South West Position – April 2022



Name of ICS	RAG rating Q4	RAG rating Q3
NHS Somerset	Amber	Amber
NHS Devon	Green	Green
NHS Bristol, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire (BNSSG)	Amber	Amber
NHS Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire (BSW)	Amber	Amber
NHS Gloucestershire	Amber	Amber
NHS Kernow (will become NHS Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly ICB)	Amber	Amber
NHS Dorset	Amber	Amber

Safeguarding Q4 SW ICS Development Map, March 2022



Key to National RAG Rating

ICS NHS governance agreed and signed off (Established)
ICS NHS governance agreed but not signed off (In Progress)
ICS NHS governance not agreed or signed off (Support Required)

Themes and considerations from ICS visits and meetings

Overall, the ICSs stated they welcomed the focus and time set aside to review their existing and future safeguarding arrangements and risks. It was a great opportunity for some CCG's to have their entire safeguarding team alongside their Director of Nursing and Accountable Officer for a focused safeguarding discussion particularly at a time of great change in the systems. It was encouraging to hear that the process was of benefit to them as much as to us in the Regional Team.

The South West ICSs are all on a slightly different journey in terms of their future ICS safeguarding arrangements and to what degree the functions may be integrated across the ICS. In addition, whilst some of the safeguarding challenges and risks within the ICS may be nuanced to that system there are a few common themes.

As CCG safeguarding statutory responsibilities and functions will transfer to ICBs, from a CCG perspective most saw existing teams and roles as a 'lift and shift' into the emerging ICBs with much of the ICS transformation opportunities for safeguarding emerging from the wider health system. Some of this work is already well advanced in some ICSs with provider integrations of teams and resources such as sharing training and policy development.

A further theme in most systems was in relation to vacancies in some statutory roles, most commonly the Designated Doctors for Safeguarding Children and Looked After Children. This has been explored at length locally, regionally, and nationally and has been a long-term regional risk with mitigations underway and some systems developing new ways of addressing the gaps.

Next steps following ICS visits and meetings

The Regional Safeguarding Team are undertaking follow up meetings with the CCG/ICB Heads of Safeguarding to address any local issues that emerged. This is an opportunity to hear about progress but also offer continued support, coaching and acting as a critical friend to their approach and plans.

It was agreed with the 7 SW ICSs that the Regional Team would hold a follow up meeting in 6 months to continue the conversation at a senior level. However, this would have meant follow-ups from June - September 2022 and since then ICBs have been delayed until July 2022. We are also aware at the point of writing this report several of our SW future ICBs have not appointed their Chief Nursing Officer posts which will be critical to future ICB safeguarding leadership and direction. Therefore, it is likely that the follow up meetings will be delayed until Autumn 2022. There are opportunities via our business as usual contacts with safeguarding system leaders to ensure SW NHSEI stay connected with the ICB as plans progress, but it seems appropriate to delay formal meetings with systems until key leaders are in post.

Meanwhile, the Regional Safeguarding Lead will offer each of the appointed ICB Chief Nursing Officers quarterly supportive meetings/ supervision. This will be additional to formal and informal meetings undertaken through the Regional Chief Nurse Directorate.

Throughout 2022/23 the Regional Safeguarding Team will also continue to:

- Support the national quarterly ICS safeguarding 'Heat Map' exercise, next due June 2022.
- Offer regional support and facilitation through sharing of best practice with individual ICSs as they progress their transformation and integration plans.
- Keep ICS transformation on our agenda for key regional safeguarding meetings and encourage system safeguarding leaders to explore, question and help shape local decision making and plans.
- Report progress and or barriers/risks in SW ICS safeguarding transformation to the SW Safeguarding Steering Group and onward to the Quality Committee where appropriate.

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During 2021-2022 the Regional Safeguarding Team and Health Education England – South West, have continued to analyse the existing safeguarding workforce via the South West Safeguarding Workforce & Learning Development Reference Group. This group has worked to strengthen the career pathway for safeguarding professionals and has developed and delivered on three separate funding opportunities for the NHS South West safeguarding workforce, accessible to both health and social care professionals working in health roles.

The second opportunity related to Level 7 (Masters level) 20 credit modules for supervision, and the third opportunity offered a blended approach to supporting safeguarding professionals continued professional development.

As part of the monitoring and formal evaluation process we have also requested comments from professionals who have accessed the course. Please see feedback within **Appendix 2**. A formal evaluation is due to be completed in June 2022.

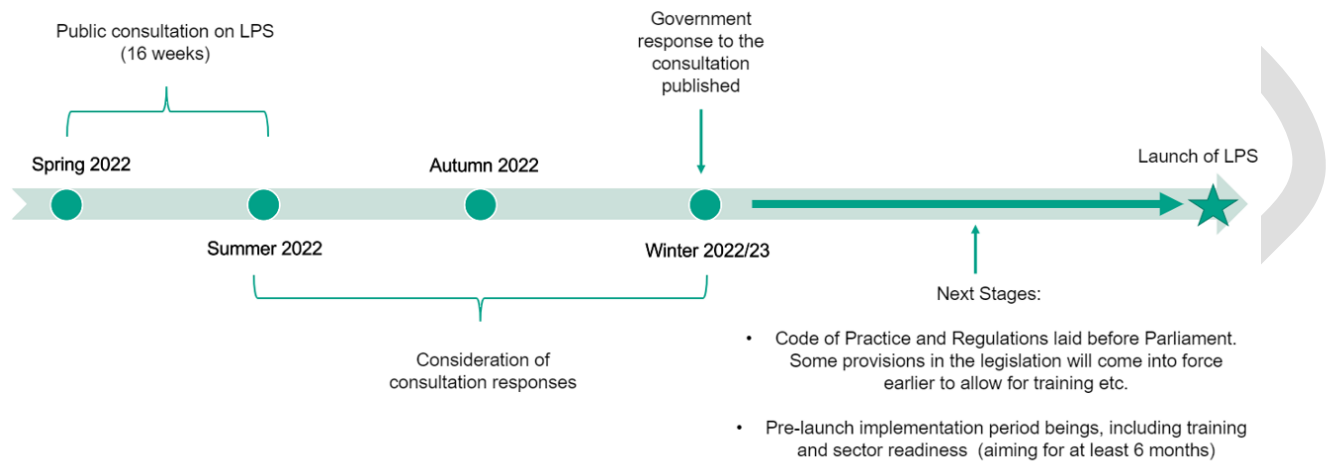
In addition to this work the Safeguarding Professional Lead has led three separate task and finish groups with Designated and Named Safeguarding Professionals for Adults, Children and Children Looked After to undertake a gap analysis in relation to the Intercollegiate Guidance Roles and Competencies for Health Care Staff (for adult, children and children looked after. All Designated and Named Professionals must achieve a set of competencies as outlined in these documents and the group have identified those which are difficult to achieve. Subsequently the groups developed a 'wish list' of training requirements which will be reviewed by the Regional Team in 2022. Plans are already underway for NHSEI to commission bespoke legal training for Children Looked After designates, an area identified as a need in the task and finish group.

Supporting the Implementation of the Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS)

The Mental Capacity (Amendment) Act 2019 (MCAA), which introduces the Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) scheme was due to be implemented in April 2022. However, the Code of Practice and Regulations which provide the detail to enable implementation, were due out for a 12-week consultation in Spring 2021. These documents were due to be published with a training and workforce strategy along with a revised Impact Assessment. The actual consultation Launched on 17th March 2022 and closes on 14th July 2022.

Although the Government confirmed in December 2021 that they would not set a new date for implementation until after consultation, with the consultation process underway, the expected milestones over the coming months is set out below. The government intend

to update on the next stages once the consultation response is published, and a new implementation date will be announced.



During 21/22 the Regional Safeguarding Team have:

- Established a SW LPS Health Group with all system and key professional group represented. This group now meets bi-monthly and is well attended.
- Ensured good attendance and engagement at the national LPS Clinical Reference Group.
- Worked closely with the existing SW Local Authority (LA) MCA/DoLS/LPS Forum to ensure a regionally joined up approach across health and social care. We have also ensured we have reciprocal representation at each other's regional meetings to keep the flow of information and communication.
- Appointed a full time 18-month LPS Clinical Lead to take the lead on regional health implementation of the MCAA and LPS (start date 1st June 2022)
- Supported the 3 LPS 'readiness audits' run nationally to establish our SW systems preparedness for LPS.

The South West Prevent Health Network

Prevent is one of the four elements of CONTEST, the government's counter-terrorism strategy. It aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. The Home

Office works with local authorities and a wide range of government departments, and community organisations to deliver the Prevent Strategy.

The Prevent Strategy responds to the ideological challenge we face from terrorism and aspects of extremism, and the threat we face from those who promote these views provides practical help to prevent individuals from being drawn into terrorism and ensure they are given appropriate advice and support works with a wide range of institutions (including education, criminal justice, faith, charities, online and health) where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to deal with.

The Prevent strategy covers all forms of terrorism, including far right extremism and some aspects of non-violent extremism. There are duties set out nationally around Prevent as well as requirements set specifically for health commissioned services in the NHS standard contract, which require Trusts to have a named Prevent Lead (often a safeguarding lead with the organisation but doesn't have to be), a Prevent policy and a training strategy.

Within the South West, the Regional Safeguarding Team co-ordinate and Chair a South West Health Prevent Leads Network, attended by CCG and Provider leads across the region. The Regional Team also attend a multi-agency SW Regional Prevent Partnership, Chaired by Avon and Somerset police as well as a National Health Prevent Partnership Chaired and led by the Department of Health and Social Care National Prevent Team. At a local level, health organisation within systems will also be part of a local Prevent partnership which will report into their respective Community Safety Partnerships.

During 2021/22 the Home Office have appointed Prevent Advisers in regions previously identified as non-priority areas. Within the South West there have been two advisors appointed, their primary role is in supporting local authorities with the Prevent agenda. However, within the region we have ensured there is close working and information sharing between the health and social care networks.

Throughout 2021/22 there has been an independent review of Prevent that will consider the UK's strategy for protecting people vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism and will

make recommendations for the future. The final report was due to be available from September 2021 but has been delayed and is unlikely to be laid before parliament until after the Summer 2022 recess. Once the final report is formally received it will be considered by the Home Office who will respond appropriately, including engaging those in the wider Prevent network on the contents and their response.

NHS Provider Trusts are also required to submit quarterly data on their compliance at the two levels of prevent training, namely Basic Prevent Awareness Training (BPAT) which is equivalent to level 1 & 2 and Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) or Level 3.

As of end of 2021/22 of the South West NHS Providers that submit this training compliance (NHS Trusts) , 87% of staff are up to date with their Prevent level 1&2 (basic awareness), this is above the 85% target which is set nationally. At the higher level 3 (WRAP) training 83% of staff requiring this level are compliant, which is below the 85% target, however this is an improvement from the 77% South West average at the end of 2020/21. NHS Trusts have reported particular difficulties in maintaining and improving training compliance during the pandemic but it's encouraging to see an upward trend over the last 12 months. There is still considerable variation at Trust level, even within ICB footprints, therefore work will be undertaken to understand why such variation exists across South West Providers and how they can be supported to improve training compliance whilst seeking assurance that potential Prevent issues are being identified and escalated appropriately.

The Designated Safeguarding Professional Forum

Within the South West, the Regional Safeguarding Team co-ordinate and Chair a Designated Professionals Forum attended by CCG Designated Nurses and Doctors across the region. In September 2021 we requested a short survey was completed to ascertain views of the functioning of this long-standing forum to ensure it continues to meet the specialist safeguarding and children looked after workforce's needs. On request it continues to meet bi- monthly and is an opportunity to provide and receive NHSEI national and regional safeguarding updates and local safeguarding professional network updates, case study and hot topic discussions.

Safeguarding Professional Networks

The South West Safeguarding Team supports a range of other safeguarding professional regional networks including;

- SW Health Safeguarding Adults Network
- SW Regional Looked After Children Network
- SW Named GP for Safeguarding Network
- Regional Named Safeguarding Midwives Network
- SW Regional Looked After Children Designated Professional Network.

‘Deep Dive’ analysis work regarding Children Looked After

The Regional Safeguarding Team undertook a ‘deep dive’ analysis informed by some key lines of enquiry to help us gain a more in-depth understanding of the lived experiences of children in care and care leavers across the South West. This information can be used to influence service provision to meet present and future needs.

We utilised the support of our data analysts and worked with our Designated Professionals for Children Looked After by the local authority to further understand the needs of our population. This included a Freedom of Information request to understand the numbers of children in care placed both inside and outside of the responsible local authorities’ boundaries. Analytical findings were shared with the 7 systems and presented at SW Designate and Named Children in Care and Care Leavers Network to support local programmes of work. The full data can be provided on request.

Addressing safeguarding health inequalities

Mental Health

During 2021 the Mental Health and Children & Young People Transformation programmes came together and are now linked to the Health and Equalities Improvement Group.

Learning Disabilities

The Regional Safeguarding Team are a member of the recently formed NHSEI Health Equalities Improvement Group and safeguarding is a substantive item on the agenda. The purpose of this group is to provide a regional forum that can reach into and support the broader health improvement/equalities programme and ensure that the agenda for people with learning disability and autistic people is linked into the mainstream. The group aims to oversee the work and outputs of health improvement/improvement agenda for the South West of England and develop ideas and proposals to enable delivery against the national priorities in the Long-Term Plan and recommendations from LeDeR Annual Reports, nationally and locally to form a regional action plan.

Following the publication of the Norfolk adult safeguarding board review in September 2021 'Joanna, Jon & Ben' the Regional Learning Disability and Autism Programme has supported all South West ICSs to undertake Safe & Wellbeing reviews for all 161 people with a learning disability and/or autism in mental health or specialist learning disability hospital. These reviews were quality assured at ICS Boards with assurances and themes collated by the Regional Team. To date we have published a thematic report into the quality of Care, (Education) Treatment Reviews (C[E]TR), thematic reports using collated C(E)TR's on each hospital where South West people are placed and a soon to be published regional thematic report capturing the themes and issues from each of the seven ICS. The hospital thematic reports are being shared with host commissioners to support their quality improvement process with providers and also available to our ICSs to support due diligence when placing people in hospital. The regional thematic report will be shared back through ICS quality surveillance groups, shared with the national team to gather national themes and be used to inform regional programme delivery.

Safeguarding within Direct Commissioning

Key achievements in 2021-22;

- Detained estate safeguarding e-learning launch – This course has been created to support the principles of safeguarding and supporting those who can be considered at risk within secure estates within the UK. This course is also for anyone working or volunteering in secure facilities across the UK. This includes HM Prison staff from all areas of support, health, and local authority.
- NHSEI Safeguarding Training Strategy – co-authored document with Safeguarding Professional Lead.
- Community of Practice Named Nurses Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Tier 4 – The Quality & Safeguarding Team within the Direct Commissioning Directorate initiated and developed a community of practice forum for Named Nurses with responsibility for CAMHS Tier 4 services in region to facilitate peer support, relationship building, best practice sharing and to support the alignment of safeguarding policy and practice across providers prior to the delegation of CAMHS Tier 4 commissioning to the Provider Collaboratives. Facilitation of the meetings has now been handed over to the newly appointed Safeguarding Manager for the South West Provider Collaborative.
- Safeguarding in Mental Health Provider Collaboratives – The Quality & Safeguarding Team within the Direct Commissioning Directorate developed and implemented a Safeguarding Toolkit for Mental Health Provider Collaboratives which articulates how the Lead Provider and subcontracted providers benchmark themselves against to ensure that statutory functions for safeguarding adults, children and looked after children are in line with current legislation and national guidance including: Care Act 2014, Children Act 1989 (as amended), Children Act 2004 (as amended), NHS Safeguarding Accountability Framework 2019, NHS Standard Contract - Service Requirement 32 and system based Safeguarding Schedules (NB: List not exhaustive). This toolkit is now included in the South West NHSEI and Provider Collaborative (lead provider) contracts.
- Schedule 2K (Safeguarding) for NHS England Specialised Services 2022/23 contracts – The Quality & Safeguarding Team within the Direct Commissioning

Directorate have worked to align Schedule 2k (Safeguarding) with providers lead commissioner safeguarding schedule (CCG). NHSEI (Specialised Services) have agreed that providers should be reporting against the CCGs safeguarding schedule, and NHSEI would only seek assurance where it is appropriate and proportionate to do so. For those providers where NHSEI (Specialised Services) is the lead commissioner, such as some independent hospitals, the full schedule applies.

ICS system 3 key achievements, priorities, and challenges

As part of our assurance and support function, the Regional Safeguarding Team request end of year information from each CCG safeguarding team. We asked for 3 key achievements, 3 key celebrations and 3 key challenges. These are outlined in the following table.

CCG	<u>Key achievements</u>	<u>Key challenges</u>	<u>Priorities for 22/23</u>
BNSSG	<p>Child exploitation thematic review completed.</p> <p>Health strategic safeguarding group commenced.</p>	<p>Increasing number of statutory reviews (rapid reviews).</p> <p>Staff turnover and capacity.</p>	<p>Developing Children and Care service</p> <p>Liberty Protection Safeguards Implementation.</p> <p>Creation of a Systemwide Learning Assurance Network (sharing academic evidence-based research and audits).</p>
Gloucestershire	<p>Investment in Children Looked After medical roles.</p> <p>Engagement of GP's in safeguarding forums.</p>	<p>Capacity of team.</p> <p>Rising numbers of children in care.</p>	<p>Succession planning for statutory roles.</p> <p>Ensuring safeguarding information within GP records remains secure- NHS accelerated access to patient records.</p>
Devon	<p>Consistent and good GP engagement with safeguarding via forums, newsletters, training etc.</p> <p>Funding for a 1-year Pilot focusing on Sensory training for</p>	<p>Supporting primary care with their safeguarding activity despite COVID pressures.</p> <p>Ongoing vacancy of Designated Doctor.</p>	<p>Ensure the ICS transition creates opportunities to strengthen safeguarding across Devon.</p> <p>Improve the GP Safeguarding</p>

	<p>Named Nurses CIC and foster carers secured.</p> <p>Safeguarding adult Level 3 CCG training delivered and key workstreams continued despite under resourced team.</p>	<p>for Safeguarding Children.</p> <p>Liberty Protection Safeguards consultation and implementation.</p>	<p>Leads confidence and empower them to deliver robust supervision and support.</p> <p>Succession planning for those retiring.</p>
Dorset	<p>Much closer working between Children's Partnership, Safeguarding Adult Board and Community Safety Partnerships.</p> <p>Momentum between all statutory partners to sharing population data with Dorset Insight and Intelligence Service.</p> <p>Digital schools platform rolled out to support young people's decision making in risk taking behaviours as part of serious violence and contextual safeguarding strategy.</p> <p>Significant improvement in quality of GP reports to CP Conferences with a QA framework to maintain sustainability of the model.</p> <p>QA framework to maintain sustainability of model.</p>	<p>Liberty Protection Safeguards implementation.</p> <p>Local Authority (BCP) Ofsted findings have implications for all statutory partners-significant improvement required.</p> <p>Place based arrangements of the two LA's impact on the ability to service all safeguarding commitments.</p>	<p>Liberty Protection Safeguards Implementation.</p> <p>Linking all three safeguarding partnerships-Think Family.</p> <p>Work in partnership with BCP Council to improve safeguarding practice and support their improvement plan.</p>

BSW	<p>BaNES locality- GP safeguarding training delivered and Primary care quality assurance visits underway.</p> <p>Swindon- adult leads in post and progressing workstreams, policies and procedures.</p> <p>Salisbury Trust Named Nurse adults took part in NHSEI Safeguarding Learning week-presented case study.</p>	<p>Domestic abuse resources in BaNES recommissioned but not including all services (health IDVA).</p> <p>Swindon: Accelerating GP patient online access- concerns.</p> <p>Volume of statutory reviews and embedding learning from reviews.</p> <p>Increasing number of children becoming looked after.</p> <p>Liberty Protection Safeguards Implementation.</p>	<p>Getting Designated Doctor Children in post.</p> <p>Preparing for transition to ICB and ensuring that sufficient safeguarding capacity and expertise sits in the system.</p> <p>Ensuring safeguarding leadership remains influential in ICB development.</p> <p>Embedding learning from statutory reviews.</p>
Kernow	<p>Thematic action planning for Safeguarding Adult Reviews.</p> <p>Named GP involved in local and national response to safeguarding issues around accelerated patient access to GP notes.</p> <p>The Designated Nurses Looked After Children regional group have been successful in raising Looked after Children and Care Leavers issues with the Regional Team and contributing to the debates raised by the regional Looked After</p>	<p>Difficulties in recruiting Designated Doctor safeguarding children.</p> <p>Difficulties in maintaining statutory provision for LAC due to continued staff sickness (Covid), vacancies, mandating of the national asylum seeker transfer scheme.</p> <p>Monitoring and responding to the increased safeguarding risk to children of health service design based on resource constraints.</p>	<p>Liberty Protection Safeguards preparation and implementation.</p> <p>Conducting assurance of the health contribution to MASH and other multi agency processes, following the Solihull Joint Targeted Area Inspections.</p> <p>Co ordinating the health and safeguarding response to Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) and refugees.</p>

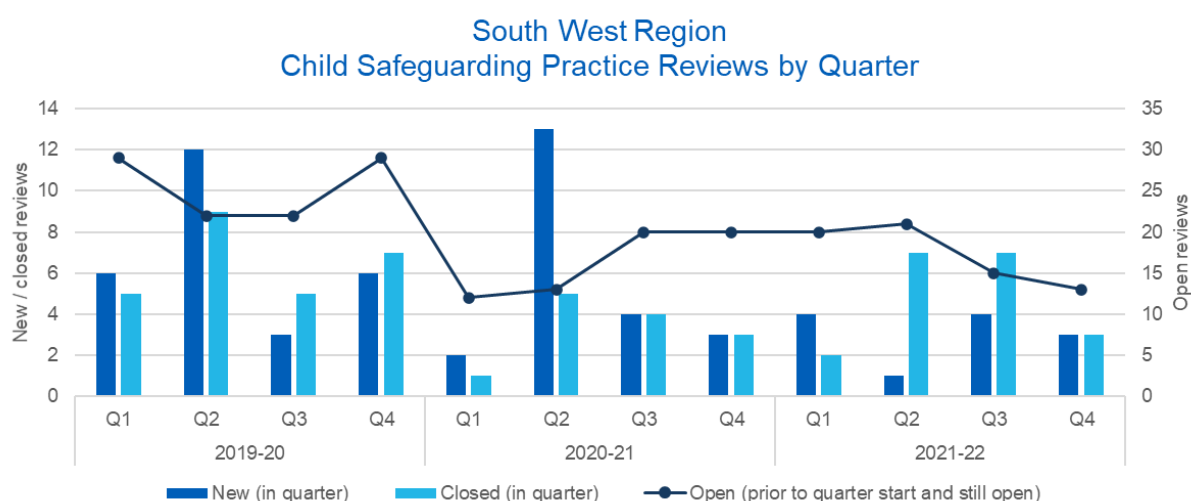
	Children and Care Leavers deep dive.	Maintaining oversight of the safety and wellbeing of people placed in inpatient mental health units and enabling them to return to Cornwall	
Somerset	<p>Recommissioning of adoption services as a result of a legislative review.</p> <p>Progress made in bringing together senior health and social care leads to embed safeguarding across ICS and agreeing responsibilities</p> <p>Continued to provide a comprehensive safeguarding service across safeguarding system; in spite of vacancies, additional pressures associated with the pandemic as we move towards an ICS.</p>	<p>Significant increase in statutory review workload with at a time when capacity within safeguarding adult team has fluctuated.</p> <p>Making effective changes in respect of Domestic Abuse that featured in reviews was significantly impacted on by pandemic primary care demands and a failure of key partner agencies in how they shared information and engaged with primary care.</p> <p>System pressures impacting on multi-agency review of emotional and mental health services for Children Looked After and Care Leavers.</p>	<p>Implementation of Liberty Protection Safeguards.</p> <p>Working closely with the new Quality Lead for safeguarding to explore opportunities to embed key learning from statutory reviews.</p> <p>ICS and safeguarding workstream, undertake a review of the health safeguarding system resource and potential for streamlining developing joint resources, increasing resilience of staff.</p>

Statutory Safeguarding Reviews across the South West

The Regional Team continue to support individual systems with oversight of statutory safeguarding reviews. CCGs complete quarterly returns which report the number of open/ongoing and closed reviews in their respective system. These are subsequently collated, analysed and reported at the NHSEI Safeguarding Steering Group. The new NHSEI Digital National Safeguarding Review Tracker Tool (S-CRT) was launched in early 2022 and we have supported systems to use this as a live tool to input review information on a regular basis. As this is a new process for the region, we will be reviewing progress and the effectiveness of reporting mechanisms within the tool and giving feedback to NHSEI Digital over the coming months as it continues to be embedded.

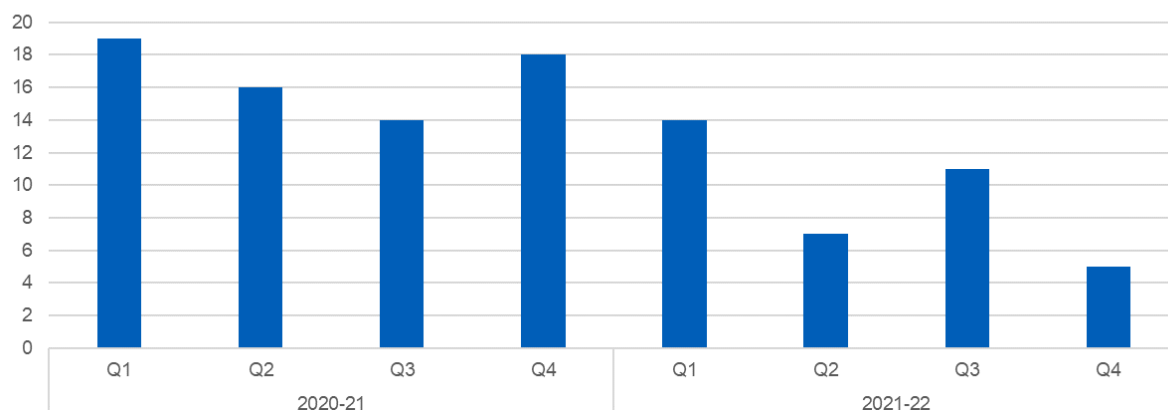
Regional Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs):

The below chart shows the number of new, open and closed CSPRs by quarter for the South West Region. The number of open CSPR's has fallen for the last two quarters, from being stable over the previous year. There were 3 new CSPRs in quarter 4 2021-22 across the South West Region, with 3 closed in the same period.



Rapid review figures for the South West Region are only available from 2020-21. The number of rapid reviews fell between 2020-21 and 2021-22, from 67 to 37 reviews. There were 5 rapid reviews initiated in the South West Region in quarter 4 2021-22, this figure is the lowest seen in the last two financial years.

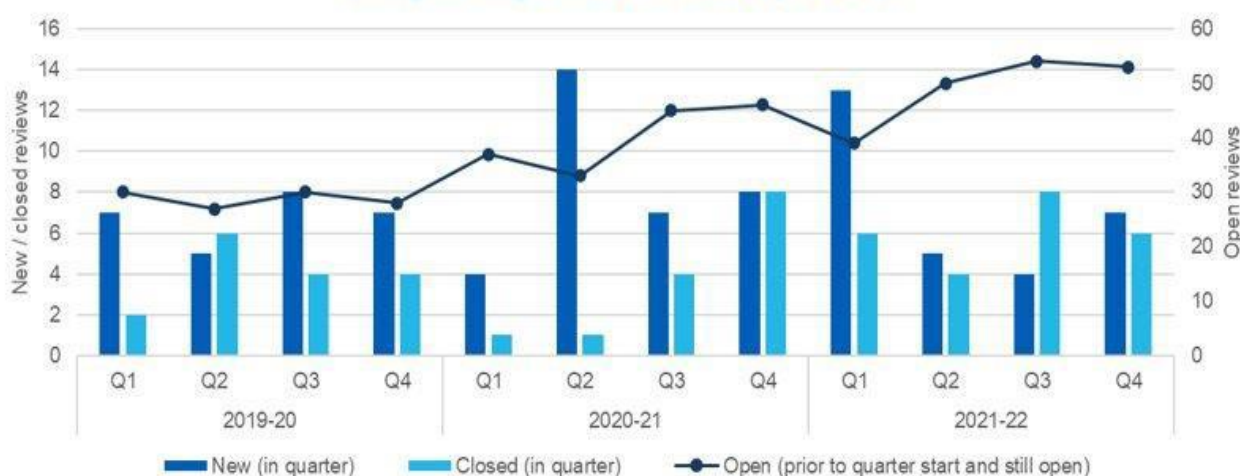
South West Region
Child Safeguarding Rapid Reviews Initiated by Quarter



Regional Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs):

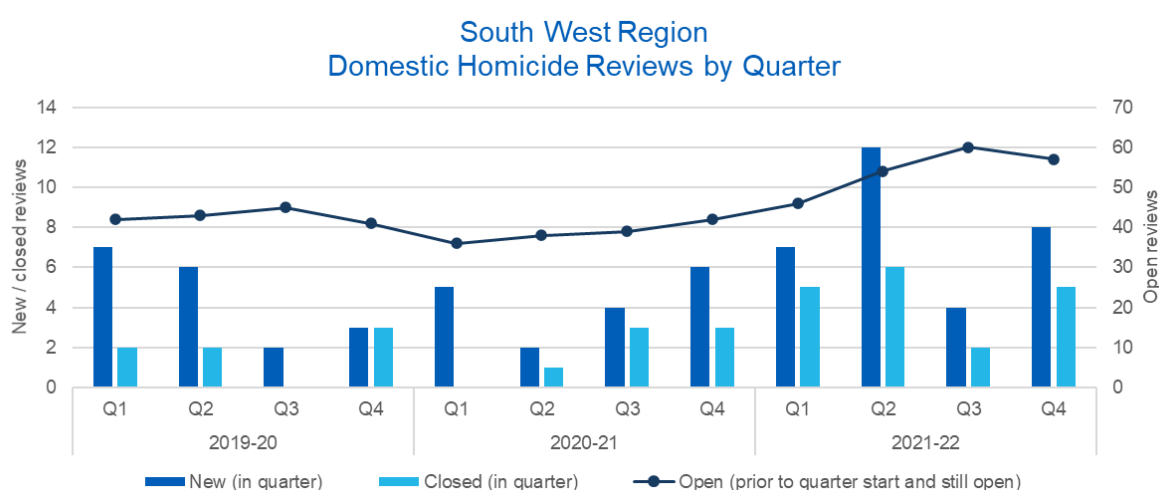
The chart below shows the number of new, closed and open SARs by quarter over time. Despite a couple of dips, the number of open SARs has generally increased over time, though stabilising in the last quarter. For the latest quarter, there were 53 SARs open prior to the quarter start which were still open at the quarter end. There were peaks in the number of new SARs following Covid-19 lockdown periods, with no corresponding increase in closed SARs.

South West Region
Safeguarding Adults Reviews by Quarter



Regional Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs):

The chart below shows the number of new, closed and open DHRs by quarter over time. No DHRs were closed in quarter 1 of 2020-21, potentially due to the first Covid-19 national lockdown. The number of new reviews by quarter had been steadily increasing since the beginning of 2020-21, with a fall in quarter 3 2021-22, but another rise the following quarter. The number of review closures has not kept pace, resulting in a gradual rise in the number of open reviews over 2021-22, though quarter 4 saw a slight fall in open reviews.



Themes arising from South West Safeguarding reviews:

Between November 2021 and April 2022, the Safeguarding Professional Lead undertook a MSc work-based project to understand the South West regional learning from statutory reviews to compliment the above quantitative data.

This involved a combination of an extensive academic literature search, analysis of published reviews (2017 onwards) and individual discussions with each 'system' Designated Health Professional for Safeguarding.

Designated Health Professionals are extensively involved as review panel members; therefore, experience of any anecdotal themes and learning from cases during the last 5 years was explored.

The focus was around the following areas of questioning: current issues identified in SAR and CSPR, any learning themes arising from SAR and CSPR in the last 5 years, either

currently open or closed, challenges for the area in terms of embedding the learning and signposting to the published reviews for further analysis. The decision was made to utilise only publicly accessible reviews in the analysis as learning and themes from ongoing reviews are confidential until such as time as they are published and information gathered was collated into a table. To ensure robust formal analysis of themes arising from reviews these discussions were then followed by an extensive trawl of the websites for each system's Safeguarding Adult Board and Safeguarding Children Board/Partnership.

The decision was taken not to progress the DHR aspect of the project due to capacity and time restraints. Due to the high number of reviews, capacity to undertake the extra work and the geographical split of multiple local authority areas (who lead and publish the DHR's) across the South West this was unable to be progressed as planned. This will be explored as future piece of work within the team when capacity allows.

The most common themes arising locally for safeguarding adults are self-neglect, mental capacity assessment, and ineffective risk assessment, whilst recognising there are other interlinked and important issues arising from reviews which also influence safeguarding practice such as poor communication.

Themes arising from local children's safeguarding reviews are neglect, with 'lack of risk assessment', 'no multiagency overview', 'a lack of professional curiosity' and concerns of 'parental mental ill health and substance misuse' cited frequently in these cases. Non-accidental injury to young babies by male carers, voice of the child, child exploitation and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) also feature. Where themes relate to both adult and children reviews, such as effective information sharing, professional curiosity, and risk assessment these were considered together.

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A national literature review focusing on 'learning from safeguarding reviews' was undertaken to further understand the national themes from both adult and children's statutory safeguarding reviews and consider the implications for regional South West safeguarding practice. The literature focused either on wider thematic learning from reviews or specific safeguarding review topics such as adult self-neglect, criminal exploitation, and child neglect.

Following this analysis, the use of a new NHS National Safeguarding Review Tracker tool, where current themes and learning from reviews are inputted on a 'live' basis is explored in terms of leadership and change management, through supporting the implementation during the project timeline. The tracker tool has been launched by the National NHSEI Safeguarding Team and the Regional Safeguarding Team have a role in supporting staff to use to its full capacity. Change management theory and quality improvement methodology is explored within the project.

Finally the regional learning themes were compared to the current priorities of the national NHSEI Safeguarding Team in order to benchmark if these match the needs of the South West population i.e. what areas should we be focusing on and are there any significant gaps or differences. Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and wider Honour based Abuse (HBA) is an area not highlighted in any published South West reviews during this project but is a national priority and the implications of this are considered.

Although the themes found during the project are not surprising or ground-breaking that in itself is significant. Recurring themes such as self-neglect in adults, neglect and non-accidental injury in children and cases where there are identifiable ACE's over many years lead us to consider why themes continue to emerge. This is explored, along with plans and project next steps to take the learning forward in 2022-23.

Conclusion

Overall, 2021/22 has continued to be a year of adapting, living, and working alongside the variations of the Covid-19 virus. We would like to thank everyone for working so hard during the continued pandemic and working together to safeguard our communities.

We have continued to work in collaboration as we prepare for new reforms. Nevertheless, there have been challenges, successes and achievements along the way. Over the past year there has also been changes to the safeguarding workforce working within the developing integrated care systems.

Next year brings about new reforms as on 1 July, NHS England and NHS Improvement will merge to become one single organisation, NHS England. At the same time, Clinical Commissioning Groups dissolve and new Integrated Care Boards and Integrated Care Partnerships become statutory bodies.

Both NHSE and ICBs will need to develop plans for supporting the upskilling of newly appointed ICB Executives, safeguarding leads, or place-based officers in their safeguarding responsibilities, and for the South West Regional Safeguarding Team, we look forward to working in a new era for health and social care and welcome new system leaders as the Integrated Care Boards appointments come into place during 2022.

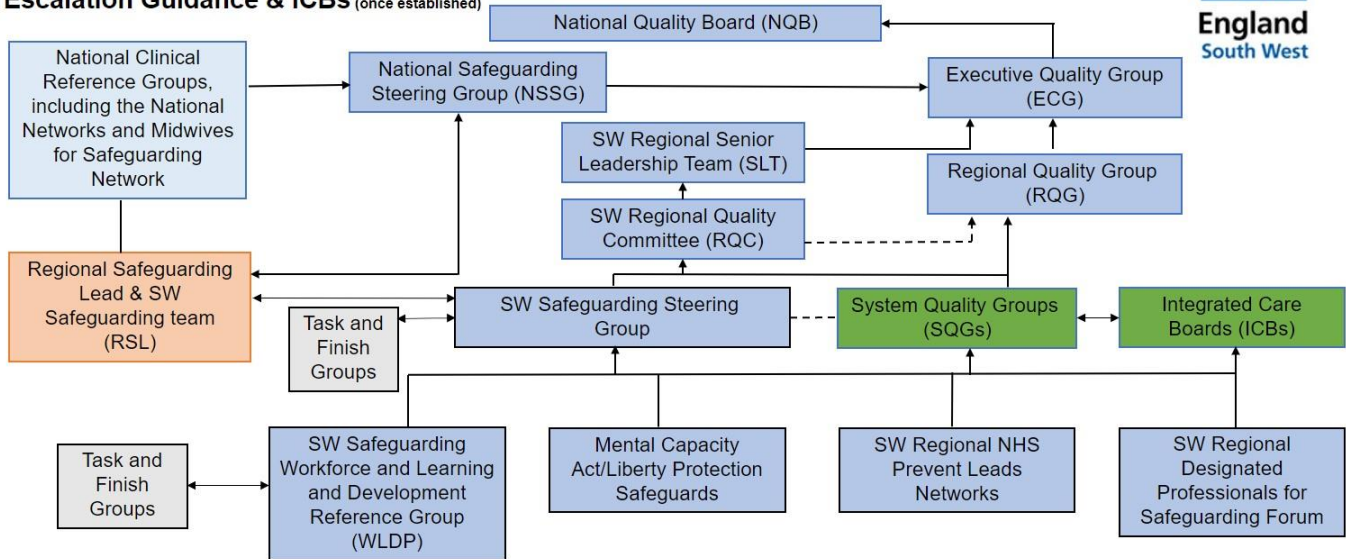
Challenges and Priorities for 2022/23

1. Supporting the transformation of CCGs to Integrated Care Boards ensuring safeguarding statutory functions remain central with good governance arrangements. Alongside this, strengthening safeguarding assurance in line with a new national assurance tool and framework.
2. We have appointed an NHS England Regional Liberty Protection Safeguards Clinical Lead for 18 months. They will develop a detailed implementation plan for the NHS to work in collaboration with other system partners to deliver a successful implementation of Liberty Protection Safeguards for the South West.

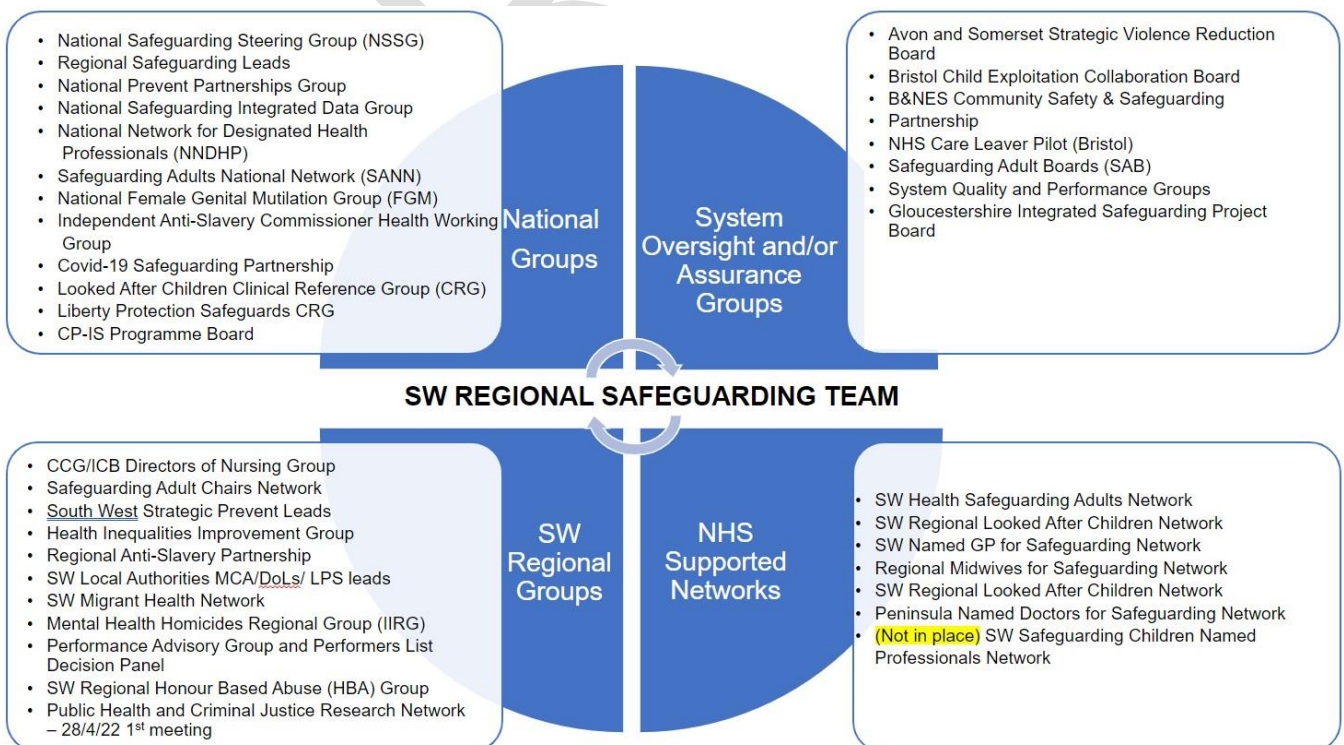
3. Evaluation of the various multiagency projects we have financially supported in 2021/22, in conjunction with our multiagency partners to measure impact and monitor outcomes for the South West population and its workforce.
4. We need to innovate, support, and build on research across our South West Safeguarding Workforce. We think time will be right to celebrate research activity across the South West and continue to work towards 'Celebrating Research in Safeguarding' event in February 2023.

Appendix 1: SW Safeguarding Governance Architecture

SW Safeguarding Governance Architecture linked to the NHS England Quality Risk Response & Escalation Guidance & ICBS (once established)



Appendix 1 continued; SW Safeguarding Governance Architecture



Appendix 2 – Feedback from the Bournemouth University Risk and Decision-Making Module

“This module was extremely well received by attendees. There were many positive comments about the relevant content of the course and the knowledge and enthusiasm of the facilitators. Most attendees reported that their learning was relevant to their practice and many reported already using their learning in their day to day roles. One concern was raised about the lack of group work opportunities which they felt had influenced their ability to get to know other attendees and learn from each other's experiences. One attendee suggested a session by a facilitator with a Health background would have been beneficial” **Somerset system.**

“I found it academically interesting because I enjoyed the independent research side into my topic, and the group discussions were enlightening – but honestly it could have been a research module rather than taught, particularly coming from an acute hospital perspective – very social work focused (though I encourage free thought and challenge)” **BNNSG system.**

“The course affords the opportunity to really research into the safeguarding politics and social influences and gives the practitioner the opportunity to take an in-depth look into their practice and how this can be improved” **Devon system.**

“Tutors were knowledgeable and patient, encouraged participation in virtual format. Teaching element was social care focused, more of balance with health would be appreciated” **Dorset system.**

“I found the course did not meet my Safeguarding nursing needs. I found that there was a greater focus on social care, thresholds and risks and I didn't feel that it expanded my safeguarding knowledge. Furthermore, I found that there was a lack of group participation and little opportunity for networking, sharing of ideas and group reflection”. **BSW system.**

“I gained much from the course personally and professionally. I found the academic challenge and rigour invigorated my thinking and curiosity particularly in my application of theory to practice. My understanding of the impact of the social and cultural contexts in which I practice on my decision making and interactions with service users and colleagues across the multi-agency partnerships grew, as did my understanding of the political drivers that impact on all our decisions” **Gloucestershire system.**

“Excellent course. Really great course, learnt new things, helped to formalise theories underpinning organisational and strategic planning” **Kernow system.**