



Norfolk Safeguarding
Children Partnership

Local Safeguarding Children Groups Annual Report April 2025 to March 2026

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1. Introduction

Six Local Safeguarding Children Groups (LSCGs) support the work of the Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP). These groups meet on a bimonthly basis and provide a multi-agency local forum where agencies can meet collectively to increase learning across the safeguarding network and improve inter-agency relationships.

The meetings are co-chaired and there are currently eight chairs covering the six meetings with one vacant position:

- Three from Childrens Services (each covering two meetings)
- Three from the Healthy Child Service
- One from James Paget University Hospital
- One from the Early Childhood and Family Service

2. Attendance

Attendance at LSCG meetings has increased slightly from the previous two years with an average of 14 participants at each meeting. At the September meetings Transitional Safeguarding was the subject for discussion with these being held as joint meetings with the respective Local Safeguarding Adult Partnership (LSAP) groups. As with previous years, the November LSCG meetings were replaced with an annual face-to-face meeting for all the LSCGs together. Over 60 members attended this meeting which focused on the safeguarding priorities for Norfolk with presentations on Families First, child sexual abuse, child exploitation and access to education. There were several responses in the LSCG members survey that highlighted the value of the annual collected LSCG meeting (e.g. *“Annual in person conference with all the areas is always very informative and if there is just one thing that I'd keep the same, that is it”*).

3. LSCG Presentations

Feedback from the previous year highlighted the value of presentations from members about their single agency work and safeguarding practices. These presentations have stimulated much discussion, and colleagues have found them very useful to learn more about each others' work and how they respond to safeguarding.

This year's meetings included organisations helping to plan and set the agendas for LSCG sessions. This began with The Benjamin Foundation helping to plan the May LSCGs and the July round of meetings planned with the District Council Safeguarding Group. September meetings were held jointly with the LSAPs and were well received by participants from both cohorts.

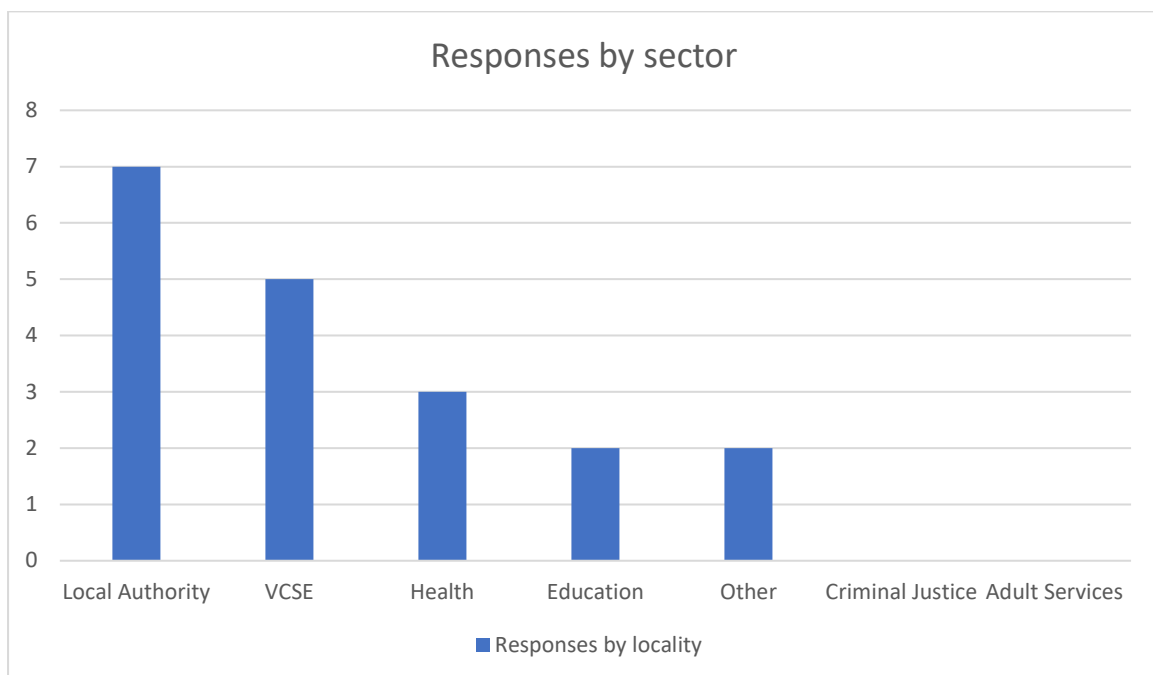
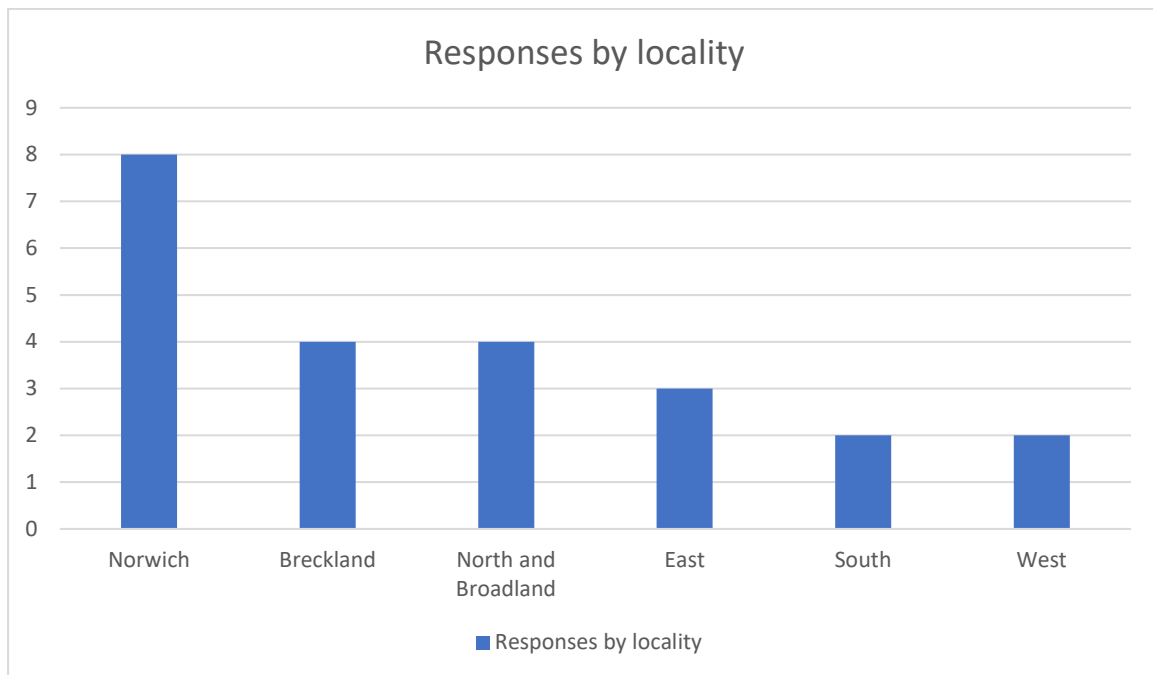
Presentations during the year included:

- Transitional safeguarding
- Child Sexual Abuse
- Families First programme,
- Child exploitation and access to education
- Homelessness
- Targeted Youth Support
- A Nurtured Heart approach to safeguarding
- Housing and safeguarding
- Domestic abuse
- Safeguarding Practice Review Case AO Jasmine

4. Feedback from LSCG members

In March 2026, LSCG members were surveyed to provide feedback on the LSCGs with a total of 19 responses. This is a disappointing return and equates to approximately 20% of the regular numbers of attendees across the county. There

was a response from each of the local groups and the majority of sectors gave a response.



Whilst the number of returns was low the quality of the responses was very high, providing valuable information and feedback.

Colleagues were asked “What aspects of the LSCG add the most value to your practice or organisation?”. There was a wide range of responses with a number of common themes.

1. Building connections and relationships with partners and learning about their work (e.g.):
 - *“Learning how other services deliver their support, networking. relevant case studies to reflect on what went wrong how we can do it better next time”*
 - *“The connections with system partners, and having links and getting to know and understand different agency’s roles.”*
2. Being kept up to date with national and county-wide safeguarding concerns and developments (e.g.):
 - *“Reflective discussions and focusing on what the big issues look like locally”*
 - *“Gaining insight into upcoming projects and changes, and playing an active role in shaping future initiatives that have a meaningful and positive impact on customers in our communities.”*
3. Strengthening our interagency working and having greater confidence in practice (e.g.):
 - *“They [LSCGs] add value to Family Hubs by strengthening safeguarding intelligence, enabling better multi agency coordination, enhancing signposting, and ensuring that Family Hub teams stay connected to local safeguarding priorities and emerging needs.”*
 - *“Being able to think about and plan to address gaps/issues in Safeguarding practice together”*
 - *“It’s also a benefit as a forum to hear first-hand how the different strategies within the Partnership are developing, and it helps partners to identify multi-agency gaps and set action plans.”*

In the survey, LSCG members were asked how the meetings could be improved and the most common responses were:

1. That they were good as they are and don’t need to be developed.
2. Greater regular attendance from more organisations
3. The difficulty of regular attendance

There were two responses wanting to see locality level data to help inform our work and there were two responses that talked about the desire to see collective actions and outcomes from the LSCG meetings.

As a result of the findings a standing agenda item has been added at the start of all meetings to provide all members with the opportunity to a safeguarding update from their organisation’s local perspective including practice issues and emerging themes. In previous years the LSCGs have considered how to develop collective actions and measure outcomes without developing a successful model to manage this.

However, over the last two years, and due to the approach of members talking about the work of their agency, stronger connections have been made with colleagues identifying the need to link up outside the meeting to consider how they can work together more effectively on specific themes.

Discussion with the partnership's Data Analyst concluded that creating locality level data comes with resource, accuracy and data protection implications. LSCGs provide a valuable source of local intelligence that consolidates and augments the learning from the existing partnership data approach.

5. Conclusion

As noted in last year's report on the LSCG meetings, holding face-to-face meetings has led to a small reduction in the numbers attending, but the quality of interaction and discussion has compensated for that. Presentations from LSCG members about their work has been very well received and valued by members and links have been made regularly in meetings for colleagues to continue conversations outside the meetings focussing on how to work together more effectively. Feedback from members is welcomed throughout the year and the majority focuses on the value that members place on these meetings as illustrated by these recent comments:

"When we meet in the LSCG I always come away rejuvenated and yes we all work great together. I try and think what we can do differently to try to carry forward that rejuvenation and positivity that I get from these meetings"

"[The] group allows me to meet and be enthused with our locality partners, adding confidence that there are multi-disciplined practitioners and organisations with a shared focus."

Acknowledging the demands on time and resource and the changing landscape in which all partners work, it is important to note and appreciate the time that organisations and individuals commit to these multi-agency meetings. Opportunities for collaboration and partnership connections ensure that working together is exercised in practice at a local level for children, families and communities. This is highlighted in the feedback from one LSCG member below:

"They [LSCGs] add value to Family Hubs by strengthening safeguarding intelligence, enabling better multi agency coordination, enhancing signposting, and ensuring that Family Hub teams stay connected to local safeguarding priorities and emerging needs."

Appendix 1: discussion from September LSCG/LSAP meetings

Transitions are pivotal moments in a person's life that can significantly impact their wellbeing, safety, and development.

Transitional safeguarding focuses on ensuring that individuals—particularly young people and vulnerable adults—are supported through these changes in a way that promotes resilience, independence, and continuity of care.

Coping with **trauma, loss, and bereavement** – especially recognising the impact of childhood trauma into adulthood

Build **strong relationships** and **good communication** across services and with families.

Get to know the person and understand their **trauma history**.

Be **open, honest, and accountable**.

Listen actively to individuals and families, acknowledging their experiences and concerns.

Use **language and approaches** appropriate for adolescents and young adults—**work with, not do to**.

- Transition to parenthood
- Transition to independent living
- Transition to support services
- Transition from child to adult care packages
- Transition to reception year (school)
- Transition from primary to secondary school

- Between teams and agencies
- Referral transitions
- Stepping down from formal services
- Transition into Department for Work and Pensions services (esp. care-experienced 16–25-year-olds)
- Transforming care navigations

LSAPs and LSCGs Sept 2025 - What works well?

Smooth, personal handovers between professionals and services.

Joint visits to families to support introductions and continuity.

Provide the **right information, in the right format, at the right time**—avoiding overload.

Use **identified keyworkers** to help navigate transitions.

Empower families e.g. **right to choose** in health.

Recognise and support **natural support networks**—family, friends, community.

Strengthen **support networks** for adults and young people.

Engage **family hubs** and **community resources**.

Recognise the role of the **third sector** and address barriers to funding.

Enable **access to systems** across agencies for better coordination.

Recognise the impact of transitions on the **whole family**.

Staff should have the **skills and awareness** to respond effectively.

Encourage **professional curiosity**—recognise where the need is, even if not immediately visible.

Promote **flexibility** in services and professionals.

Use **multi-agency approaches**, collaboration meetings, and early help hubs.

Ensure **consistency** and **overlapping support** across transitions.

Begin planning **early**, when the person is ready.

Focus on **reducing dependency**, increasing independence, and building resilience.