

Blackpool Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements Annual Report 2024 – 2025

Contents

1. Introduction and Foreword.....	3
2. Published Arrangements.....	3
3. Governance.....	5
4. Growing up in Blackpool, what's it like for Children and Young People?.....	7
5. Progress against Priorities.....	10
6. MASA, BSAB & BSafe Workforce Development and Training.....	17
7. Multi-Agency Practice, Audit and Assurance.....	25
8. Joint Targeted Area Inspection.....	31
9. Independent Scrutineer's Reflections.....	32
10. Priorities for 2025 - 2026	33

1. Introduction and Foreword

The purpose of this yearly report is to provide an overview of how partners in the Blackpool Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) are working collaboratively to safeguard, protect and promote the welfare and wellbeing of children, young people and families in Blackpool.

This report serves as a record of reflection, continuous improvement and scrutiny undertaken by Blackpool's partners in the last year from 1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025 and includes strategic oversight by MASA's Independent Scrutineer.

It includes what the partnership have learned from local and national safeguarding activity and what impact our partnerships collective actions have had on the wellbeing of children, young people and their families. The report demonstrates how learning has informed policy, practice and systems and how those changes have led to improvements.

The report is also an opportunity assess the effectiveness of the governance arrangements in Blackpool and to identify progress and persistent challenges through our culture of transparency and accountability.

Additionally the report highlights the importance of involving children, young people and families in our safeguarding work, illustrating what processes we have in place for doing so. Whilst Blackpool is well known to have coproduction well embedded in its culture, the report highlights the importance of going further to involve children, young people and families in our safeguarding work, showing how their voices have been heard and how they have helped us to shape services.

The report is not just a look back at Blackpool MASA's previous year, it also sets the direction for future priorities, identifying areas for development and outlining how safeguarding partners will continue to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families. The report outlines how the partnership are committed to learning from the Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) in November 2024, ensuring that the insights from this inspection strengthen our future plans.

Finally, this report will act as a key mechanism through which safeguarding partners demonstrate their commitment to a joined up, learning focussed approach to safeguarding Blackpool children, young people and their families, ensuring that they are at the heart of all of our MASA activity and plans.

2. Published Arrangements

In October 2024, twelve months after the implementation of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA), the Independent Scrutineer undertook a formal review of the governance structure. The purpose of the review was to assess progress against key priorities, evaluate the effectiveness of communication, and to check that organisations were working together effectively. It also aimed to identify anything that wasn't working well, with the goal of simplifying processes to help us deliver the Business Plan and ensure the most effective use of stakeholders' time and resources.

The review discussed approaches to involving Blackpool Education settings more in MASA, and partners asked the Department for Education's lead Safeguarding Partner for their input to inform this.

Following the review, a refreshed governance structure was agreed, with a reduction in the number of Strategic Delivery Groups (SDG's), to support attendance, as well as a review of MASA and SDG chairing arrangements. The review aims to allow the partnership to be more responsive to emerging safeguarding issues while maintaining a sharp focus on strategic priorities and ensuring efficient use of all partnership resources.

2.1 Our Vision

All members of Blackpool's MASA recognise that children, young people and their families are Blackpool's future. We want to ensure that all children experience a great education and are supported by our partnership at the earliest opportunity, so they can thrive, feel healthy, happy and safe, and have opportunities to be ambitious about their future. When children and families need additional support our vision is that they are supported to remain living within stable homes and loving families wherever possible.

2.2 Our Principles

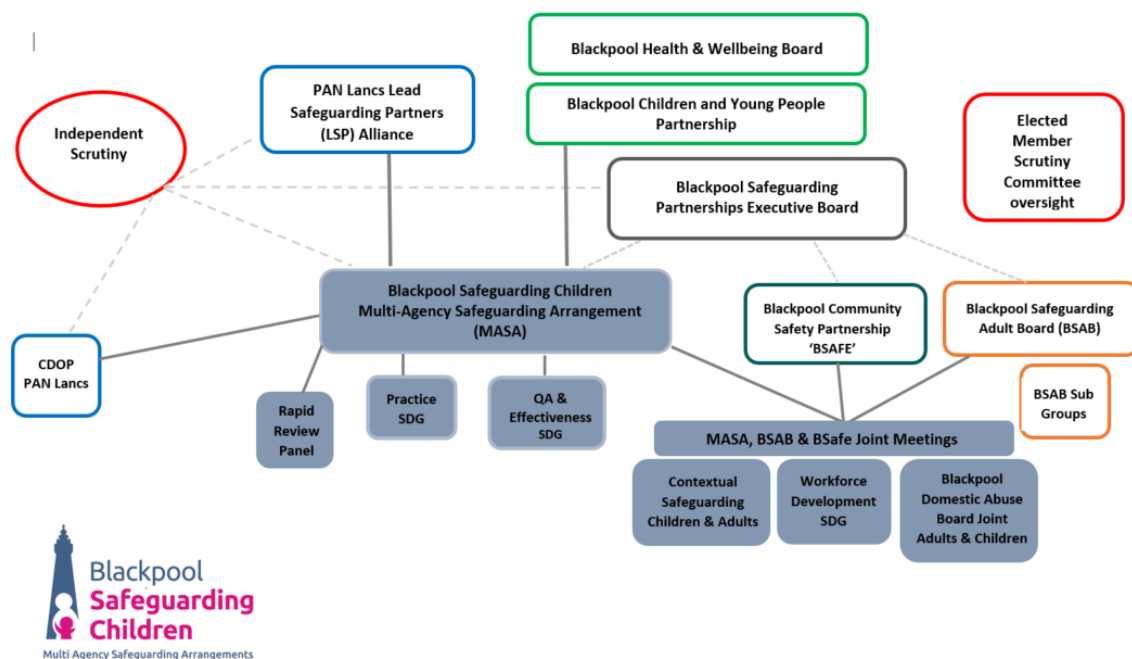
- In Blackpool we are committed to co-production, with families we serve in our local community. '[Blackpool Families Rock](#)' creates a clear reference point for 'the way we do things', which includes co-production, listening, and empathy and putting families' needs first.
- To work together as a partnership to support Blackpool's children and their families, our strategic and professional partners, voluntary & third sector organisations and communities
- To continue to implement a trauma attuned approach in all that we do to support Blackpool's families
- To commit to listening to our frontline workforce
- To promote continuous improvement via a transparent learning culture, professional curiosity, and restorative practice
- To always ask 'so what?', focusing on what difference we have made to Blackpool's children, young people and families daily lived experiences and whether we have supported them to experience improved outcomes in the future

2.3 Our Priorities 2024 – 2025

- Blackpool's Request for Support Hub ensures children and their families are receiving the right support, at the right time, including early help, their needs are being supported and children are safeguarded from experiencing significant harm
- Safeguarding children from experiencing neglect
- Safeguarding children living in households experiencing domestic abuse
- Safeguarding children and young people from contextual harm outside of the family home
- Ensuring our partnership workforce receive good quality multi-agency training, are supported to learn from audits and reviews, develop an understanding of each other's roles, build partnership relationships & develop an effective partnership system to support our families.
- Listening to the experiences of our children, young people, families and partnership frontline workforce

3. Governance

The revised MASA structure was launched in January 2025, with a follow up review scheduled in 12 months' time to assess the impact of the new arrangements and ensure it is continuing to meet the evolving needs of the partnership as it matures. The MASA governance structure and is clearly linked to BSAB, BSafe and the CYPFPB, evidencing our partnerships commitment to support children, families and communities from pre-birth and throughout adulthood.



New MASA structure January 2025

3.1 Blackpool MASA's Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSP's) are:

- Neil Jack - Chief Executive Blackpool Council
- Sacha Hatchett - Chief Constable of Lancashire Constabulary
- Sam Proffit – Interim Chief Executive Lancashire & South Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB)

3.2 The Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSP's) at the time of writing (2025) are:

- Vicky Gent - Director of Children's Services (DCS) Blackpool Council (* MASA Partnership Chair 24-25)
- Hassan Khan - Chief Superintendent, Divisional Commander Lancashire Police
- Interim - Jane Scattergood – Chief Nursing Officer ICB

3.3 Scrutiny Arrangements

The MASA Independent Scrutineer Stephen Chapman has been in place since 2024.

During that time Stephen has been pivotal in the review and effectiveness of MASA arrangements, scrutiny of key priorities including Domestic Abuse and Neglect, and has undertaken scrutiny and made

recommendations relating to ongoing CSPA's. The Scrutineer reports to Chief Exec of Blackpool Council (LSP) and the Council Scrutiny Board. Stephen has also joined the RiPP Scrutiny Network which aims to share best practice and strengthen the quality of North West safeguarding arrangements.

3.4 Who makes up our MASA Board?

The following organisations are members of Blackpool's MASA

- Lancashire Constabulary
- Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB)
- Blackpool Council - representatives of Children Services and Public Health
- Education Settings
- Blackpool Teaching Hospital
- Lancashire & South Cumbria Foundation Trust Contributions
- National Probation Service
- Blackpool Coastal Housing
- Delphi Medical
- Blackpool Council's Elected Member Portfolio lead for Childrens Services (observer)

3.5 Executive Board

The Blackpool Safeguarding Executive Board chaired by the Chief Executive of Blackpool Council (LSP) and attended by MASA Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSP's) meets quarterly to oversee the partnership governance arrangements, ensure that all agencies are working together to safeguard children and young people, adults and our local communities and that the safeguarding partnerships are effectively undertaking their statutory functions. The Executive Board oversees the MASA, BSAB and BSafe Boards.

3.6 Pan Lancashire Alliance

A twice yearly Pan Lancashire meeting of Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSP's) takes place. Blackpool, Blackburn with Darwen and Lancashire Chief Executives, the Chief Constable of Lancashire Police and the Chief Executive of Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB, attend with the Independent Scrutineer.

3.7 MASA Financial Contributions 2024 – 2025

Description	Contribution in £
Blackpool Local Authority (Childrens)	£138,118
Lancashire Constabulary	£57,509
LSC ICB	£92,852

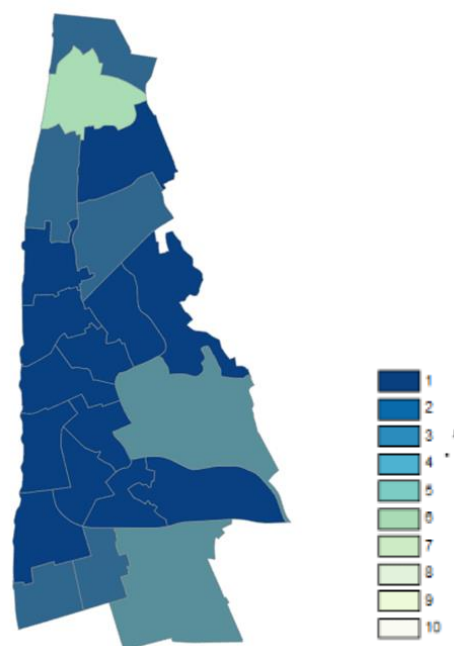
Financial Reserves from the previous PAN Lancashire arrangements are available to support our governance between 2024 and 2028. The funding above supports Blackpool MASA, BSAB & BSafe Boards.

4. Growing up in Blackpool, what's it like for Children and Young People?

According to 2022 data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS), approximately 141,600 people live in Blackpool. This makes Blackpool the third most densely populated local authority in the North West, with 4,060 people per square kilometre, compared to 4,920 in Manchester, 4,442 in Liverpool, 501 in neighbouring Fylde, and 407 in Wyre.

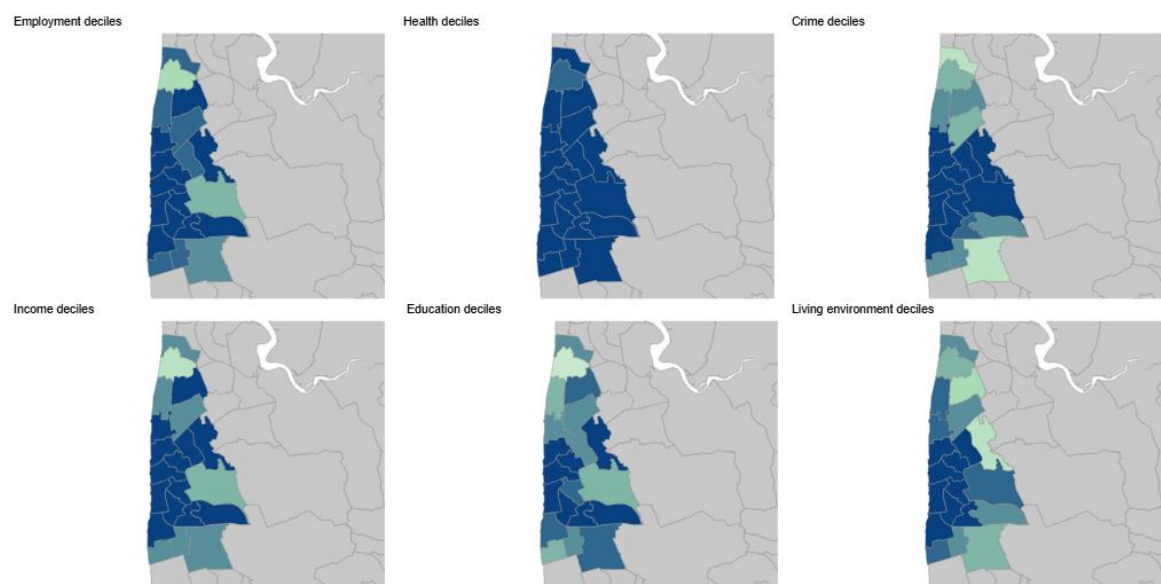
Blackpool faces challenges associated with the level of deprivation across the Local Authority – the 2019 Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) ranks Blackpool as the most deprived of 317 Local Authority areas in England.

The following maps¹ and data taken from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), illustrate the areas of Blackpool classified within overall deprivation, income, employment, health, crime, education and living environment. 1 represents the most deprived areas in the country, 10 represents the least deprived. The majority of areas of Blackpool fall in 1, the top 10% of deprived areas in the country.



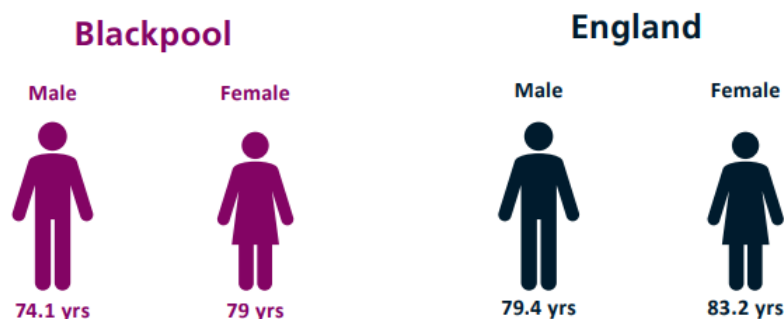
¹ <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/lancashire-insight/deprivation/indices-of-deprivation-2019/neighbourhood-intelligence-ward-maps/>

Many of the families being supported by the partnership in Blackpool are impacted upon by their experience of living in poverty, which is to be expected given Blackpool's ranking as the most deprived local authority area nationally and the second highest ranked for income deprivation affecting children



Life Expectancy is one of the key indicators of health in a population. In Blackpool life expectancy falls below the National average for both males and females²

Life Expectancy 2018-20



4.2 Children in Blackpool who are supported by our partnership Q4 2024 - 2025

- 37% of children who have been brought into care in 2024 were infants, compared to 16% nationally
- Newborns entering care within a week of being born form at least 49% of all infants (under 12 months) entering care
- 635 Early Help assessments have been received as completed in Q4, 89% of these were completed by Family Support Workers supporting Family Hubs
- 114 per 10,000 children were supported via a Child Protection Plan
- 20% of children are being supported by a Child Protection Plan, having previously been supported by a Child Protection Plan.

² Blackpool Joint Local Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2024 – 2028

- 42 children and young people were being supported by our AWAKEN multi-agency team in respect of sexual, criminal exploitation and trafficking
- 332 per 100,000 of young people entered the Youth Justice System for the first time, compared to 172 per 100,000 England average
- 52 children per 10,000 are currently in our care, this has decreased but is still higher than statistical neighbours and England

4.3 What does the first 1001 days for a child in Blackpool look like?

The first 1001 critical days of a child's life from pregnancy to age two are when the building blocks of a child's cognitive, emotional and physical development are laid down.

- 19.4% of women report that they have smoked during pregnancy, compared to a national average of 8.8%
- 54.5% of women initiate breastfeeding compared to 71.1% nationally
- 25% of babies continue to be breastfed by 6-8 weeks compared to 49% in England as a whole
- The take up rate for funded childcare of eligible 2 year olds in January 2023 was 78.4%, compared to 73.9% nationally, the take up rate for 3 and 4 year olds was 91.1%, compared to 93.7% nationally
- 63.9% of children reached a good level of development at the end of Reception, compared to 67.2% nationally (2023)

4.4 Blackpool Joint Local Health & Wellbeing Strategy (JLHWS) 2024–2028

In response to the data, the aim of the JLHWS is to drive change to help improve the health and wellbeing of the population of Blackpool and reduce the gap in health outcomes between Blackpool and England as a whole. The Blackpool JLHWS identifies four priorities for people living and working in Blackpool informed by the [Blackpool Joint Strategic Needs Assessment](#)³. Plans to address the health needs of children are a priority in the JLHWS. [Click here to read](#)

Our vision for Blackpool is bold and ambitious:

Together we will make Blackpool a place where ALL people can live, long, happy and healthy lives

'Working together with all our partners including statutory, voluntary and smaller groups within the heart of our communities will ensure that this Strategy will tackle the root causes of inequalities and poor health and provide the opportunities our residents richly deserve'

Cllr Jo Farrell Chair of the Blackpool Health and Wellbeing Board Cabinet Member for Levelling Up – People

³ <https://www.blackpooljsna.org.uk/Home.aspx>

5. Progress against Priorities

5.1 Early Help

MASA oversight of Family Hubs is important to ensure that in partnership with local services, that they provide consistent and effective early help to identify and meet need in a timely way and prevent children experiencing significant harm

Our Focus

- Implement and embed the Blackpool Family Hubs model
- Embed 'Born into Care' co-produced guidance into practice
- Revise and re-launch the Early Help Partnership Strategy based on the updated Blackpool Working Well with Children and Families in Blackpool (Part 3)
- Develop and implement a data dashboard for Early Help

What difference have we made?

- All 3 [Family Hubs](#) are fully operational and on track to meet the minimum Family Hubs and Start for Life guidance by the end of March 2025 with some going further than minimum expectations
- 5906 unique Family Hub users attended a group or activity at Family Hubs since their launch in May 2023 and of these users 32% live in the most deprived wards i.e. IMD 1, on the Indices of Multiple Deprivation which increases to 43% when viewed across IMD 1-4 wards
- The Family Hub Parenting Support offer has a full suite of evidence-based programmes, groups, individual family support and an online offer for families with children aged 0-19 and up to 25 when the young person has additional needs
- The updated Early Help Strategy will be launched in Quarter 2 of 2025 alongside the updated Working Well with Families
- Blackpool birth data is now being shared with Family Hubs supporting early post birth contact and our offer of support for families with birth registrations beginning to take place in Family Hubs
- Our Early Help Central Record is now live and is being rolled out incrementally to the partnership

Feedback from November 2024 JTAI – “Partnership work is increasingly focused on early prevention. As a key part of the wider early help offer, the establishment of family support hubs has provided a valued community-based integrated support for children and their families. Early help is preventing many children’s needs and risks from escalating due to the availability of wide-ranging tailored specialist support and evidence-based programmes”

What our partners have done to achieve this

- Infant feeding work is seeing an increase in breastfeeding initiation rates (by approximately 9% in 2024) and there is a greater understanding across the Early Help (EH) service about the

benefits of breast feeding and Family Hubs are progressing through the Baby Friendly Initiative (BFI) awards alongside Midwifery and Health Visiting Services.

- The wider service offer of support continues to grow and has seen Clever Money (Credit Union) and Relate begin delivery in Family Hubs in 2024.
- Childrens Services have introduced a Learning Circle to support improved understanding of young carers and how to assess the support they and their families need which was made available January 2025
- The quality of work undertaken by Local Authority Early Help (EH) teams with families is improving, evidenced through audits, quality assurance and performance data as well as inspection feedback
- Childrens Services focus in 2024 has been to further develop the knowledge base and skills in EH teams through using evidence-based tools (Parenting Programmes, Reducing Parental Conflict and Contextual Safeguarding Toolkits) to support assessment, planning and direct work, with audits telling us the tools are used and the work we do is of good quality and making a difference for children, young people and families
- From performance data, audit work, regular management discussions around thresholds and JTAI inspection feedback we are more confident that the application of thresholds and screening in the Early Help Request for Support Hub (EHRFS) is of good quality as are our assessments and plans
- The ICB have provided a lunch and learn session to Primary Care regarding quality of referrals to support improvement.

5.2 Neglect

Neglect is a significant issue in Blackpool and is the most common Child Protection category, as is across the UK.

Our focus

- Education and Training – Build a skilled, competent workforce on neglect
- Support Services – understand the service and support landscape in Blackpool
- Intervention – Are our interventions accessible and effective?

What difference have we made?

- The Blackpool Neglect Strategy has been updated and will be launched alongside the updated Blackpool Safeguarding Adult Board Self-Neglect Strategy and Toolkit. This will evidence our partnership commitment to support all members in families and households from experiencing neglect.
- A full review and roll out for GCP2 assessment tool and Practitioner Toolkit
- Multi-agency training review and roll out including e learning, Neglect, GCP2 and GCP2 trainers

GCP2 Family Scenario 1 – ‘The Early Help worker actively involved the family throughout this process, with contributions from the children’s schools, health visitor and school nurse as well. This collaboration helped bring the family and the partnership together through active involvement’.

What our partners have done to achieve this

- Professionals from all three strategic partners and schools make up the new dedicated Neglect multi-agency training pool for Level 3 and GCP2 training.
- Multi-agency Neglect training and guidance was rolled out in February 2025 to support a clearer shared partnership understanding and language around neglect and improved partnership response including greater use of the Graded Care Profile 2
- Childrens Services are currently developing a tiered approach to supporting children and families where neglect is the primary concern
- Continued specialist training is delivered to Police Officers in child protection teams. The Specialist Child Abuse Investigation Development Programme (SCADIP), ensures a professional workforce is available to support victims of neglect.
- Independent Review Officers (IRO), Social Workers and Designated Safeguarding Leads have been introduced to the Specialist Child Abuse Investigation Development Programme (SCAIDP) training. This ensures officers are provided with relevant and up to date information to support specialist child abuse investigations. Police policy ensures child neglect investigations are reviewed by Child Abuse Investigation Teams.

5.3 Domestic Abuse

Our Focus

- Learn from internal review of MARRAC
- Implement the recommendations from the PAN Lancashire Domestic Abuse focused Independent Scrutiny Report
- Understand and implement learning from Op Provide Review
- Develop & implement a multi-agency Domestic Abuse Training Offer

What difference have we made?

- As our new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) are starting to mature the Domestic Abuse (DA) Board is supporting a stronger more coordinated local response to DA, with the next step being leading multi-agency audit activity
- Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARRACs) chaired by Police have been subject to a review and now take place three times a week allowing for more timely discussions and oversight.
- A pan-Lancashire MARRAC Scrutiny Panel has been established to look at the quality of practice around high-risk DA
- OP Provide remains in place, providing Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs) co-located in our local police station to ensure rapid support to victims of high-risk Domestic Abuse
- Development of a new in depth DA Training and a one-day multi-agency programme has helped improve DA practice over the last year. Over 200 staff have attended to date.
- The ICB have provided MASA multi-agency training on Non-fatal strangulation.

What our partners have done to achieve this

- A DA Strategy and Perpetrator Strategy are in place overseen by the Domestic Abuse Board

- The DRIVE Perpetrator Programme has been established in Blackpool in the last 12 months and is currently being evaluated
- Dedicated Domestic Abuse workers have been recruited to Blackpool Family Safeguarding (BFS) Teams supporting an effective response to Domestic Abuse
- The commitment to support reduction and prevention of domestic abuse is recognised in the ICB Forward Plan and the ICB engages fully with its acute/community health providers and partners to fulfil statutory requirements.

The ICB has a focussed approach to our health response to domestic abuse that includes;

- ICB promotes a trauma informed approach to health interventions recognising the impact of DA on victims and children in the context of providing health support.
- The ICB Safeguarding Team were successful in obtaining Ministry of Justice funding for implementation of IRIS, a 3-year specialist intervention programme specific to GP Primary care settings is includes accredited training, referral, response and an advocate educator support programme. The training includes the impact of domestic abuse on children.
- The Police VOICE principals have been re-launched across the county to support Police Officers in understanding how they should respond to incidents involving children and what is expected to be recorded in referrals.
- The Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme has seen increased applications and disclosures protecting victims and their children who may be at risk of harm from DA. The scheme is utilised as part of a wider safeguarding strategy and reviewed by officers to ensure ongoing safety planning is in place.
- DA Matters training from SafeLives has been commissioned for all frontline Police Officers. The training has been presented throughout 2024 and extends into 2025 to ensure all relevant staff have received the training.
- Training offered to all school DSL's on the topic of domestic abuse
- Operation encompass has an 86% success rate (going to the right school) enabling DSL's and pastoral teams to give the right intervention at the right time.

5.4 Contextual Safeguarding

Our Focus

- Revise and re-launch the revised Missing from Home Procedure, Guidance & Training
- Deliver the Child Criminal Exploitation / Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Raising and Training Programme
- Deliver early prevention and intervention with young people in their education Settings

What difference have we made?

- Multi-agency Missing from Home Guidance document has been through a task and finish group and is awaiting final sign off. All agencies have agreed to the use of the Philomena protocol.
- The roll out of Contextual Safeguarding Training delivered in partnership with Awaken Team
- 54 staff have attended our Contextualised Safeguarding Toolkit training in 2024, with positive feedback from partners around using the toolkit at Level 2 helping early identification of contextual safeguarding concerns
- Training has been offered to all school DSL's on contextual safeguarding and youth gambling

- Unstoppable and Stay on Side have provided projects for children in – year 6, 7 & 8 to address contextual safeguarding issues such as grooming, teen domestic abuse, online safety, gangs, knives and friendship choices. Funding for these projects will cease in July 2025
- A new Education Family Support Worker is building relationships and offering preventative work for schools which is leading to earlier identification, prevention and better sharing of intelligence around exploitation for children and young people.

What our partners have done to achieve this

- Awaken is Blackpool's multi-disciplinary team, who support risk of exploitation for young people up to the age of 25. Awaken Outreach takes an innovative and flexible approach to form positive relationships with young people working outside of office hours to identify and respond to emerging risks and threats.
- One of our strengths is the effective identification and response to children at risk of, or experiencing child exploitation, in particular from the multidisciplinary Awaken Team. The Team are highly valued team and are making a positive impact in the support and reduction of risk for these highly vulnerable children and young people.

Feedback from the November 2024 JTAI – 'The Awaken team has a culture of learning and high ambition and is led by capable, knowledgeable and experienced managers. Effective systems are in place which include daily and weekly meetings to review risk and progress. Through these, professionals make sure that complex risks to children receive continued multiagency oversight'.

Feedback from families who have worked with Awaken (anonymised)

**Awaken was great, I felt really comfortable with them and they were easy to talk to. I didn't feel judged and I felt that I could be honest with them and tell them how I felt.*

**Awaken was brilliant, really good. They were brilliant with the kids, and with their mum. I did feel listened to, absolutely.*

- Resources created from co-production work led by Leeds University around online child exploitation with our partnership will be implemented to improve the partnership response and impact with online risks
- Children and young people who are Missing from Home (MFH) receive timely good quality Return Home Interviews (RHI) supporting increased safety putting effective Triggers Plans and Safety Plans in place
- Blackpool has a bespoke Adolescent Service for vulnerable and complex young people under 25, bringing together Youth Justice, Drug, Alcohol, Sexual Health, Leaving Care Services, support for homeless young people aged 16 and 17, and those Not in Education, Employment or Training or (NEET)
- We are continually looking to develop the Adolescent Service and in the last year have provided training around the Impact of Trauma on Adolescence Development, Dialectical

Behaviour Therapy (DBT), and Substance Misuse ensuring our practitioners are better placed to support the young people we work with

- One area of focus in last 12 months has been prevention work in schools with 372 young people accessing the 8-week Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment (ADAPT) programme aimed at delaying young people's substance use or preventing young people from starting substance use altogether
- Our recent JTAI in November 2024, said that Blackpool's offer to homeless children is effective and equitable and leads to positive outcomes for these vulnerable children, and that children who go missing from home or care receive an effective multi-agency response which includes timely and supportive return home interviews to help keep them safe.
- Specialist health practitioners are placed within the Child Exploitation service AWAKEN and Youth Justice Team to ensure children's health needs are assessed and their voices listened to.
- Audits show that assessments, plans and management oversight by AWAKEN are of high quality with young people at the centre of all our work leading to improved outcomes for young people
- Continued support for the multi-agency specialist teams under the implementation of the police Targeted Operating Model (TOM) has seen a revised crime allocation policy and a Standard Operating Protocol implemented to ensure those most complex cases are supported by specialist investigators.
- A Vulnerability Assessment Tool has been introduced to aid risk assessment for children and young people at risk of or being exploited. Initial findings by staff support the use of the tool in identifying and responding to risk.
- A Child Sexual Abuse Problem Profile presentation was attended by colleagues from the LA children's services, health and education. This included the re launch of Operation Makesafe. We now have a clear operation order and direction in how to conduct test purchases.
- Missing from Home Coordinators have moved from the exploitation teams into the Safer Neighbourhood teams, working with dedicated Missing Person Protection Officers to support response officers in searching and investigating missing person cases.
- Exploitation teams hold monthly meetings with safer neighbourhood teams and missing person co-ordinators to discuss children who are identified on the vulnerability assessment tracker or those children discussed during MACE meetings.
- The constabulary has introduced Internet Child Exploitation (ICE) teams in each Basic Control Unit (BCU). This is to support all investigations relating to exploitation involving the internet.

5.5 Request for Support Hubs (RfS)

Our Focus

- Revise and re-launch of Working Well with Children and Families
- Ensure RfS Hub has effective multi-agency resource
- Review effectiveness of Level 3 & Level 4 process (Step up & step down)
- Undertake a Multi-Agency Quality Audit re consistent thresholds, quality of 'contacts' & ensuring partnership agencies have offered families Early Help support.
- Review Blackpool Safeguarding Children MASA Issue Resolution Process (previously referred to as CSAP Resolving Professional Disagreements Process)

What difference have we made?

- Working Well with Children and Families has been updated and will be launched in Quarter 2 of 2025
- Blackpool Safeguarding Children MASA Request for Support Hub & Early Help Strategic Delivery groups undertook a partnership audit in March 2024, to analyse the 'Working Well with Children and Families' ⁴ thresholds and decision making and how these are being applied across the partnership. The JTAI found that *'when concerns about children are identified, the multidisciplinary Request for Support Hub (RfSH) ensures children receive a timely and mainly effective response, including outside office hours. Thresholds are well understood by professionals making referrals'*.

What our partners have done to achieve this

130 children in Blackpool are recorded as being supported through the Early Parenting Service which support parents to be the best they can be, by providing consistent and intensive support utilising a tool kit of evidenced based interventions throughout the antenatal period until the baby is up to three months old. This service recently won the Nursing Times Nursing in the Community award and the Health Service Journal Primary and Community Care Innovation of the year award, two extremely prestigious awards for a service working with some of our vulnerable residents.

5.6 Voice of Children, Families and the Workforce

Our focus

Our focus is to ensure the voice of children, families and the workforce are heard, valued and used to shape the services and support that affect their lives.

What our partners have done to achieve this

Blackpool workforce actively participated in the RiPP North West MASA diagnostic survey and training series, delivered in March 2025. These sessions focused on creating environments where all children - especially those less frequently heard - can safely and meaningfully contribute. Delegates explored the structural, relational, and cultural changes needed to move beyond tokenistic engagement. Emphasis was placed on building trust, clarity, and safety in participation spaces, as well as the importance of follow-through.

5.6.1 Participation People Diagnostic March 2025

'Blackpool is recognised across the region for its pioneering co-production work. Driven by National Lottery-funded programmes like Blackpool Head Start, Fulfilling Lives, and Better Start, participation is embedded not only in practice—but in culture'⁵. ()

Analysis of the diagnostic survey provides an assessment of Blackpool's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) in embedding the voices of children, young people, and families.

The report highlights key strengths in Blackpool's approach to participation

⁴ <https://panlancashirescp.trixonline.co.uk/chapter/working-well-with-children-and-families-in-lancashire?search=working%20well>

⁵ Diagnostic Report: Blackpool MASA – Embedding Voice through Co-Production Culture, 2025

- A dedicated team of 24 individuals, including 18 members with lived experience, who support youth voice and family engagement;
- Inclusive leadership practices, including involving young people and parents in recruitment for senior roles in social care;
- Strategic involvement of community voices across boards and partnerships, including SEND and early years governance;
- A commitment to social pedagogy, embedding the Blackpool Families Rock “head, heart, and hands” model into how engagement is approached.

Recommendations from the full report will be included in the work plan of the Practice Strategic Delivery Group following discussion at MASA.

- Blackpool Childrens Services have reflected on how views and feedback from children, young people and families are gathered and used. Blackpool’s recent JTAI told us that professionals across much of the partnership are aware of the need to hear the voice and lived experience of children, but states there is less consistency about how the voice of children is captured when contacts are screened. Childrens Services set up a representative group of parents and young people and over 8 sessions co-produced a new approach to gathering views and feedback from children, young people, parents, carers and their families, as part of the Children Services Quality Assurance Framework. The new approach links to our Blackpool Families Rock values and principles and initial feedback from testing has been positive.
- The new approach has been embedded in audit work and includes managers routinely and consistently gathering feedback, of the impact services have on family’s lives and inform continual service development. This support ensures Children Service Senior Managers have a clear line of sight.
- The Police VOICE of the child has been re launched across the police force as part of the RESPECT campaign.
- Evaluation of the Targeted Operating Model (TOM) continues and the crime allocation policy has been amended appropriately. More recently with the introduction of the police Internet Child Exploitation (ICE) teams.
- Monthly vulnerability tasking co-ordination groups (VTCG) are held within each Basic Command Unit (BCU). These meetings are chaired by the BCU commanders and discuss all elements of vulnerability. Vulnerability Governance Unit (VGU) Detective Inspectors (DI’s) attend the local meetings to listen to local experiences and challenges.

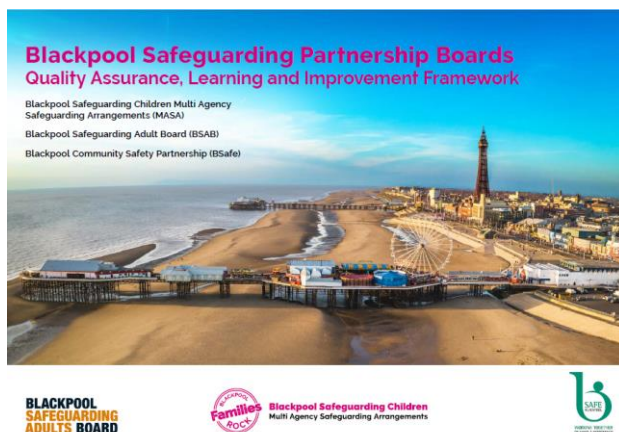
6. MASA, BSAB & BSafe Workforce Development and Training

2024 – 2025 has seen significant progress in the development of the joint children and adults Workforce Development offer. Alongside the Blackpool Adults safeguarding Board (BSAB) and BSafe Boards, MASA has prioritised the development, design and delivery of a Workforce Development Plan that reflects local priorities, national guidance, and the lived experience of children and families who we work alongside in Blackpool. Throughout this reporting year the focus has been on building on a

consistent approach to learning, development and training, building a strong collaborative approach across the three safeguarding partnerships, co-producing training materials, aligning training content for the all age workforce and embedding the Blackpool Families Rock language and culture which underpins all training delivery.

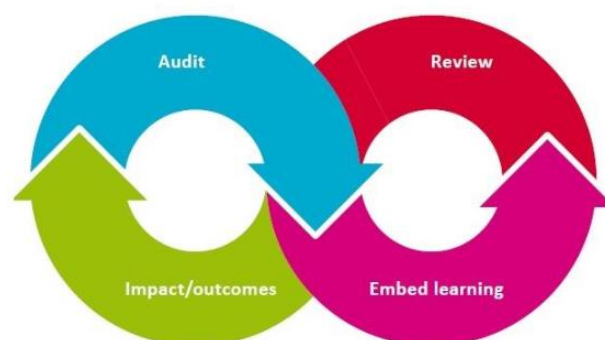
6.1 Quality Assurance, Learning and Improvement Cycle

The development of the Workforce Development Offer is underpinned by Quality Assurance Learning and Improvement Framework (QALIF). The QALIF provides a framework for evidencing and measuring the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements to protect Blackpool's children, adults, and communities and promotes a culture of continuous learning.



Click on the image to see the QALIF

The Partnership is committed to a continuous transparent learning culture and will implement a cyclical approach to learning and improvement through audit, reflection and review to understand needs and priorities, identify and embed learning, gather feedback from individuals and the workforce that learning has informed changes to practice, and ensure that outcomes are identified and impact of learning is measured effectively.



6.2 Priority 1: Develop Joint Workforce Development Offer across the three Boards

Training Needs Analysis

A key priority and area of progress during this reporting year has been the development and delivery of a robust multi-agency training plan, shaped by partnership priorities and underpinned by an evidence based Training Needs Analysis (TNA). Conducted in the early part of the reporting year, the purpose of the multi-agency TNA was to gather information to help inform planning of workforce development activity for the all age multi-agency workforce across Blackpool MASA; Blackpool Safeguarding Adult Board and BSafe Community Safety Partnership.

The methodology for conducting the TNA was designed to provide partners with a structured, evidence based approach to identifying current skills and knowledge gaps, and development priorities across the partnership. This approach enabled the Workforce Development SDG to gain a clearer picture of training demand across the workforce and the development of training, which prioritises key themes such as Domestic Abuse, Neglect, Contextual Safeguarding and trauma informed practice.

We recognise that increasing and diversifying participation in future TNA's is essential to creating a truly representative picture of workforce need. To address this, we plan to work with safeguarding leads within each agency who will act as an L&D specific point of contact (SPOC), ensuring that the survey reaches the right staff and encouraging participation in the task.

The TNA provided a valuable starting point to build a responsive training offer that evolves with the needs of the workforce. In subsequent years the offer will be built on with more advanced, specialist training focussed on learning from local and national review and audit and analysis of our partnership data. Additionally, a robust evaluation framework will be established to assess the impact of training on practice and outcomes.

A snapshot of responses is illustrated below

- 87 individuals responded to the
- TNA. 71% of respondents felt that they did not need further training to better their understanding of initiating early help support to ensure early intervention at Level 2 is coordinated correctly
- 42% of respondents expressed an interest in joining, or nominating their team members to join the Multi-Agency Training Pool.
- The highest demand for Contextual Safeguarding training was for basic awareness of contextual safeguarding and cuckooing. As a result of this, sessions to support the understanding of cuckooing for our Blackpool workforce are planned for launch in 2025.
- The highest demand for training in Domestic Abuse was for awareness of DA, followed by impact of DA on children and adults, coercive control, MARRAC, DASH, civil tools and powers and the role of early help. As a result of this, a comprehensive one day training session was coproduced to cover all aspects of domestic abuse highlighted from the survey.
- 95% of respondents requested basic or intermediate information on neglect. As a result, the neglect e learning package was reviewed to ensure this provided learning and materials which would support participants to access and prepare for the more advanced training. Furthermore, respondents asked for advanced or specialist training in neglect, and training to understand neglect and toolkits used to support assessment and the role of early help in neglect such as undertaking assessments.

Summary of multi-agency training provided April 2024 – March 2025

The following table shows an oversight of multi-agency training delivered in the period April 2024 - March 2025.

Course Title	Course Type	Number of sessions	Total attendees	Number of agencies
A Better Response to Domestic Abuse	Full day face to face	6	100	16
DASH	Half day	3	51	14
Non-fatal strangulation	1 hour online briefing	2	112	12
Contextual Safeguarding	Full day face to face	1	18	6
Neglect	Face to face	11	217	7
GCP2 Train the Trainer	Face to face	1	19	6
Training Pool Development	Face to face	1	15	8
Impact Chronology	Face to face	1	14	7
Impact Chronology Train the Trainer	Face to face	1	8	5

A Better Response to Domestic Abuse Training

A one day face-to-face Level 3 training for the adult, children and communities workforce. Feedback from attendees on this new training has been extremely positive

"The training was brilliant. I grew up in a household where domestic violence was present and I wish the training you guys deliver was available to people then. It takes a whole community approach and you all were such well-informed and authentic professionals all respectively with different areas of knowledge that built a valuable training experience. Thank you."

"Training session was very informative and will greatly impact my patient work"

"Great training! Real case studies and practice examples were so helpful and relatable"

"The training was a wonderful experience and so informative, trainers were knowledgeable, included the whole group and delivered in a way that met everyone's learning style. Thanks so much to you all."

"This was one of the best courses I have done in a long time"

"Amazing training and has positively changed my thinking".

Neglect Training

This 1 day face to face session focusses on the 'Blackpool Families Rock' approach and values, the current scale of neglect, learning from practice and reviews and the impact of trauma linked to neglect. Initial post course feedback showed that the majority of attendees felt that neglect was explained well and that they gained essential knowledge to help them within their specific roles.

'Karen is a wonderful trainer with a wealth of knowledge'

'Fantastic training, it's been a wonderful refresher'

'Realising impact and trauma on circumstances now'

'This was a good training session and I learned a lot around recognising neglect'

As attendance at this training was mandatory prior to attending GCP2 Neglect Tool and train the trainers, additional sessions were delivered.

GCP2 Neglect Tool Kit, Implementation and Train the Trainer

The NSPCC delivered a two day Train the Trainer course in February 2025. A task and finish group including the trained GCP2 trainers are currently planning for roll out of the training for practitioners to commence in May 2025.

Impact Chronology Training

Impact Chronology Training was commissioned to support the completion and analysis of information requested during a CSPR process. Following this, a Train the Trainer session was delivered to partners from health, social care and police so that training is sustained across the partnership and rolled out within organisations to support staff in completing chronologies which are impactful and meaningful.

The public health team and trainers, and partners provide a range of training courses, available across Blackpool on a variety of subjects which are relevant to children's safeguarding, these include:

- Safer Sleep training and resources
- 7 minute briefings and resources on a range of issues pertaining to risk of child death e.g. accident safety
- Suicide Prevention
- Making Every Contact Count
- Green DOT campaign
- Tackling Gambling Related Harms

6.3 Priority 2: Develop Multi-Agency Training Pool

Establishing a Multi-Agency Training Pool was a key priority for 2024-2025 to ensure consistent high quality and sustainable delivery of safeguarding training across the partnership. Through development of the training pool of experienced, knowledgeable and local frontline practitioners we have been able to create a learning experience for attendees which is relevant to, and reflects the context of working alongside children and families in Blackpool. The initial session which was written and coproduced specifically for our children and adults workforce took place on the 31st March 2025. The training was described by attendees as *'one of the best they have attended'* with key resources to take away and embed across current training. At the time of writing, the training pool has 26 members from 8 different agencies, all strategic partners are represented.

6.4 Priority 3: Cascade learning from local and national reviews and audits

Early learning identified from Case Reviews (CSPRs, SAR & DHRs) is cascaded through learning circles; learning briefs and seven minute briefings.

The Workforce Development & Audit Co-ordinators attend Rapid Reviews, and the third panel for CSPRs where recommendations for learning are discussed and support the facilitation of practitioner learning events. This allows for early identification and reporting of learning and allows for methods of dissemination and measurement of impact to be considered at the earliest opportunity. Learning Briefs and full reports are published on the MASA website, however, none have been published during this reporting period.

6.5 Priority 4: Work with colleagues across pan-Lancashire to update multi-agency policies and procedures⁶

All Pan Lancashire policies are hosted by Tri X. The manual has recently been updated to a new format and platform. A Multi-Agency Pan Lancashire Group meet monthly, to update the policies.

6.6 Priority 5: Design a new Safeguarding Blackpool Partnership Website in collaboration with the three boards and Blackpool's children, adults and communities

[Click here for access](#)

An exciting achievement and key priority in 2024-2025 was the development of the new Blackpool Safeguarding Partnerships logo and website, designed to be an accessible and inclusive resource for children, adults, communities and professionals. The coproduced website was launched in December 2024 and is continually developing as a one stop shop for safeguarding information.

The website will host a fully integrated training management system and a professional's area serving as a central hub for resources, guidance, learning and opportunities for collaboration.

6.7 Priority 6: Produce a Safeguarding Partnerships newsletter

The website also hosts the new Blackpool Safeguarding Partnerships Newsletter. Launched in May 2024, the quarterly newsletter includes regular updates on key developments including changes to policy and procedures, updates to local and national guidance to promote best practice, and upcoming opportunities for learning and development including 7 minute briefings (7mb's), learning from CSPR's, SAR's and DHR's and published national reviews.

Agreement of a non-attendance charging policy

All multi-agency training is free of charge to participants who attend from all agencies working in Blackpool. However, it was agreed by MASA that a charge for non-attendance would be levied from April 2025 in certain circumstances. It was widely agreed that charging for non-attendance helps to ensure the effective use of resources, promote accountability across the partnerships workforce and promote a culture of commitment and shared respect for resources whilst reinforcing the importance of attending training for professional development and continuous improvement of safeguarding practice.

Full details of the training plan and associated policies can be found on the [Blackpool Safeguarding Partnerships website](#).

Future developments

The following areas are currently in development for inclusion in the workforce development offer:

- Professional Curiosity – a multi-agency task and finish group is developing face-to-face training and resources, drawing on best practice from single-agency materials to ensure consistency in learning and messages across the all-age multi-agency workforce.
- Trauma Informed Approaches – trauma awareness will be embedded as a core theme in all new training packages. A Train the Trainer model is being explored with the Violence Reduction Network (VRN) to embed a standalone Trauma Informed model within the training offer on a long-term basis.

6.8 Blackpool Safeguarding Partnerships Conference 2024

Blackpool's first Safeguarding Partnerships Conference took place on 25th September 2024. Around 200 people representing health, local authority, police, probation, schools, the fire service, 26 people from the Voluntary, Community and faith sector as well as adults and young people with lived experience. [Find out more here](#)

Key note speakers shared their lived experiences and spoke about how effectively services can work together by being professionally curious and trauma attuned to gain a greater understanding of children, adults and family's stories.

Blackpool gave a warm welcome to

Rachel Williams

Rachel is founder of SUTDA, (Stand Up to Domestic Abuse) a Patron for WCID – What Can I Do and Ambassador for Locality Solutions.



After 18 years in an abusive relationship, Rachel was shot and severely injured by her violent partner in 2011. He then died by suicide shortly after the attack. Rachel campaigns tirelessly and is committed to ending domestic abuse. She has 5 successful petitions on change.org with a combined 1 million signatures. A qualified IDVA, Rachel also runs an online awareness Facebook page called Stand Up to Domestic Abuse. Her ambition includes to set up the 'House that Jack Built' a children and young person's refuge and place of safety, in memory of her son.

Lads Like Us

Lads like Us are two lived experience speakers from Manchester.

'Our journey started with a mission dedicated to informing the practice of professionals and organisations that had failed us as children and adults. We had to make something positive out of our lived experience, chaos and anger, in order to thrive. Shouting and screaming about failures and trying to hold people to account made us mentally ill. We needed to adopt a new approach that would help "Us and them". In order to break barriers between "Us and Them" we needed to work out a way to weaponise the empathy of professionals to allow them to see that the majority of the behaviours displayed by service users/clients/citizens/people are a direct result of some kind of trauma experienced throughout their lives. Mike and Danny aim to reach a million frontline workforce professionals with their messages.

Dean Cody

Dean is a lived experience professional from Manchester. As of January 2024, Dean has delivered safeguarding training to over 85,000 individuals across the UK.

Born in Salford, and having lived and grown up in South Manchester, Dean Coady OBE SRMC is a former Parachute Regiment soldier. He joined Greater Manchester Police in 1990 and remained 'front-line' throughout his career. He has been attached to numerous and varied Police departments including; Organised Crime, Special Operations, Murder Squad, Gang Unit- based in Moss Side and the Counter-Terrorism Unit, where he acted as an Engagement Officer, providing a conduit between the communities in South Manchester and surrounding areas, and the Police. Throughout his career Dean has continued to concentrate his efforts, to engage with those classed as, 'least-heard', the disenfranchised and the most vulnerable individuals and groups in local communities, and those abroad.

Through presentations, workshops and marketplace stalls, the aim of the conference was for participants to

- Receive updates and information from the current MASA; BSAB and BSafe priorities;
- Explore recent learning and safeguarding issues impacting on children, adults and communities;
- Hear and learn about impactful real life experiences from those with lived experience;
- Have the opportunity to network with colleagues working across the children's, adults and communities workforce to improve and strengthen future collaboration.

Feedback received has been extremely powerful and has provided us with clear visions for future practice and learning. This [video](#) produced by our Partnership Digital Media Apprentice gives a brief overview of the day.



Here's a snapshot of feedback from the day

'Brilliant day. Lived experience speakers were engaging and delivered the key learning today'.

'It was really powerful to hear from people with lived experiences, although it was upsetting & difficult to hear, it was good to hear how we can make a difference through our work and reflect on how I can be a better practitioner'.

'The event met all expectations and exceeded many. Lived experiences and narratives were particularly compelling, informative, and a formidable learning experience'.

'I did utilise the marketplace and was enthralled by Lads like Us. What a presentation. I have been attending meetings and conferences all my working life and have never seen anything as good as this. It was honest and refreshing and so desperately sad'

"As a Domestic Abuse service commissioner I found Rachel Williams key note speech incredible from a victim perspective and highly enlightening.

'Yes, particularly Rachel Williams and the reassurance that we are taking the right approach moving forward in Blackpool'

'Looking forward to going back into surgery & sharing and implementing this enhanced knowledge and new professional relationships'

7. Multi-Agency Practice, Audit and Assurance

To support robust governance arrangements, two dedicated strategic delivery groups

- a. Practice
- b. Effectiveness

have been set up under the revised governance arrangements. The purpose of the Blackpool Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) Practice Strategic Delivery Group (SDG) is to work alongside the Effectiveness and Workforce Development SDG's to ensure that practice, systems and processes designed to safeguard children in Blackpool are effective, evidence based, trauma informed and aligned with statutory guidance and best practice standards. The purpose of the Blackpool Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) Effectiveness Strategic Delivery Group (SDG) is to provide a forum for multi-agency discussion and information sharing regarding local and national issues and trends which impact on Blackpool's children and families and ensure that systems and processes designed to safeguard children in Blackpool are effective, evidence based and aligned with statutory guidance and best practice standards.

7.1 Dataset

This year MASA has been working with key partners to develop a robust comprehensive dataset which accurately informs our understanding of Blackpool communities and the needs of Blackpool's children and young people. Using this data the partnership can make informed decisions about where our resources and priorities are targeted to respond to known and emerging need, and underpin how we measure the impact of our work.

MASA are working closely with the Regional Improvement Pilot project (RiPP) to review and improve our datasets and develop a Safeguarding Effectiveness Impact and Outcomes Framework.

7.2 Learning from CSPR's and Rapid Reviews

The purpose of serious Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPR's) and Rapid Reviews (RR's) at local and national level, is to identify improvements that can be made to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Understanding whether there are systemic issues, and whether and how policy and practice need to change, is critical to the system being dynamic and self-improving.

The responsibility for how the system learns the lessons from serious child safeguarding incidents lies at a national level with the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and at a local level with the safeguarding partners.

In Blackpool, the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) Rapid Review Panel is chaired by our Head of Service for Safeguarding and Partnership Boards who is independent of frontline partnership service delivery. During the reporting period, two CSPR's and one Rapid Review have

been undertaken. Once finalised full reports, Learning Briefs and 7 Minute Briefings will be available on our website [here](#).

CSPR's and Rapid Reviews remain a key tool for the partnership's understanding of what happened when very significant or complex incidents take place which result in the death or serious harm of a child, and abuse or neglect is known or suspected. In line with Working Together 2023, our focus remains on fostering an open and transparent learning culture, scrutinising system learning and supporting practitioners to safeguard children effectively, with clear emphasis on partnership working, robust information sharing, and keeping the child's voice at the heart of everything we do.

A recurring theme this year, as identified in reviews nationally, has been the importance of **professional curiosity** – the need for practitioners to 'look beyond the obvious', ask difficult or challenging questions, have the confidence to probe, and think critically about what they see and hear, always considering the child's voice and daily lived experience. It is important to be aware of any personal or professional bias including over optimism which may influence what we think we know about a family. Learning from reviews this year has served as a reminder to respectfully challenge, share, communicate and triangulate multi agency information, and maintain a healthy scepticism when working with families where risks may be hidden or minimised.

Another key focus of learning for the partnership has been the delays in transfer of children's and family's social care and medical records **when a family moves across geographical boundaries**. As families move into Blackpool, it is essential that agencies prioritise the timely sharing and request of information from health and children's social care records when a child has moved from one geographical area to another. Learning from one CSPR has shown that children are vulnerable and at risk of abuse when their families histories are hidden or unavailable for review. As a result, changes have been implemented at GP practices in Blackpool to ensure that both electronic and paper records are received in a timely way when a family or individual registers with a new practice. This review will make recommendations to the National Panel for national statutory guidance timescales of information being shared when families known to services move across geographical boundaries.

Learning from one recent CSPR has focused on the **management of serious sexual offenders** in the community, in particular notifications that are provided to a local authority when a sex offender moves into the area and intervention in the previous authority has ceased. Robust risk assessment and clear communication between agencies is essential to protect children from people who present a known risk. In over a third of reviews nationally, the people who harmed children (98% of whom were men) were known to pose a risk of sexual harm⁷. The partnership is working together to review and strengthen our local arrangements for the management of sexual offenders living in the local community and ensure that known risks are actively managed.

Equally, this year's learning from reviews also reinforces the need for **comprehensive family assessment** including full consideration of **fathers and male care givers**. Recent reviews have shown instances where assessment of fathers and male care givers and record keeping has not been thorough, and when fathers or male care givers have been overlooked as either a protective factor or a safeguarding risk. Work is ongoing to improve the way practitioners engage with fathers and male

⁷ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67446a8a81f809b32c8568d3/CSPRP_-_I_wanted_them_all_to_notice.pdf

care givers so that we are more able to fully understand the whole family network including understanding of men's lives and experiences⁸ and the role they play in a child's life.

In September 2022 National Panel published their first panel briefing, '**Bruising in non-mobile infants**'⁹. The report states that in the Rapid Reviews and local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPRs) submitted to the Panel, cases where 'young infants have previously presented with apparently minor injuries – with visible minor bruising – and a failure to follow established guidance, or inconsistencies within such guidance, have been highlighted as potential contributory factors to a subsequent serious incident or, ultimately, the child's death'. In Blackpool, partners have undertaken or contributed to reviews where learning has been consistent with the National Panels findings. As an outcome of infant deaths across Pan-Lancashire, our Pan-Lancashire Bruising in Non-Mobile and Infants Protocol will be revised and relaunched.

To ensure that learning translates into practice improvement, we are currently reviewing our processes for how we monitor multi agency action plans following a CSPR or Rapid Review. Plans which show clear lines of accountability and timescales are developed and monitored in the Effectiveness Strategic Delivery Group to check that changes to practice and guidance have been embedded and that we are making a difference to practice and outcomes for children and their families. Any learning from review that requires changes to practice or guidance will be progressed through the Practice Strategic Delivery Group, ensuring that updates are coproduced, consistent, reflect multi agency approach and are embedded across the partnership so that the workforce are clear and confident about what needs to be done differently. We continue to embed the lessons from reviews into our multi agency training and workforce development offer including the publication of learning briefs and 7 minute briefings.

Learning themes from CSPR's, Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SAR's) and Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR's) is integrated into Blackpool's Joint Partnership Workforce Development strategy, training and resources for both the children's, adults and community workforces. This ensures that professionals working with children, as well as those working with adults have shared understanding of safeguarding responsibilities and best practice.

7.3 Pan Lancashire CSPR Group

The Pan-Lancs CSPR Group is chaired by Blackpool's Head of Safeguarding Children and Strategic Partnership Board. The aims of this group are to

- Undertake a review and update of Pan Lancashire guidance and processes to consistent application of processes for serious child safeguarding case (notifications, Rapid Review meetings (RRM) and Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPR's) to service a consistent process and decision making across Pan-Lancs regarding : Rapid Review and CSPR processes.

⁸

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1017944/The_myth_of_invisible_men_safeguarding_children_under_1_from_non-accidental_injury_caused_by_male_carers.pdf

⁹

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1106085/14.155_DFE_Child_safeguarding_Bruising_PB1_v3_Final_PDFA.pdf

- Share and act on available early learning and recommendations from Rapid Reviews and CSPR's and act as a network for discussion. The aim being to shape learning and training, so families experience consistent practice across Pan-Lancashire.
- Discuss issues, emerging trends, legislative changes to maintain Pan-Lancashire consistency.

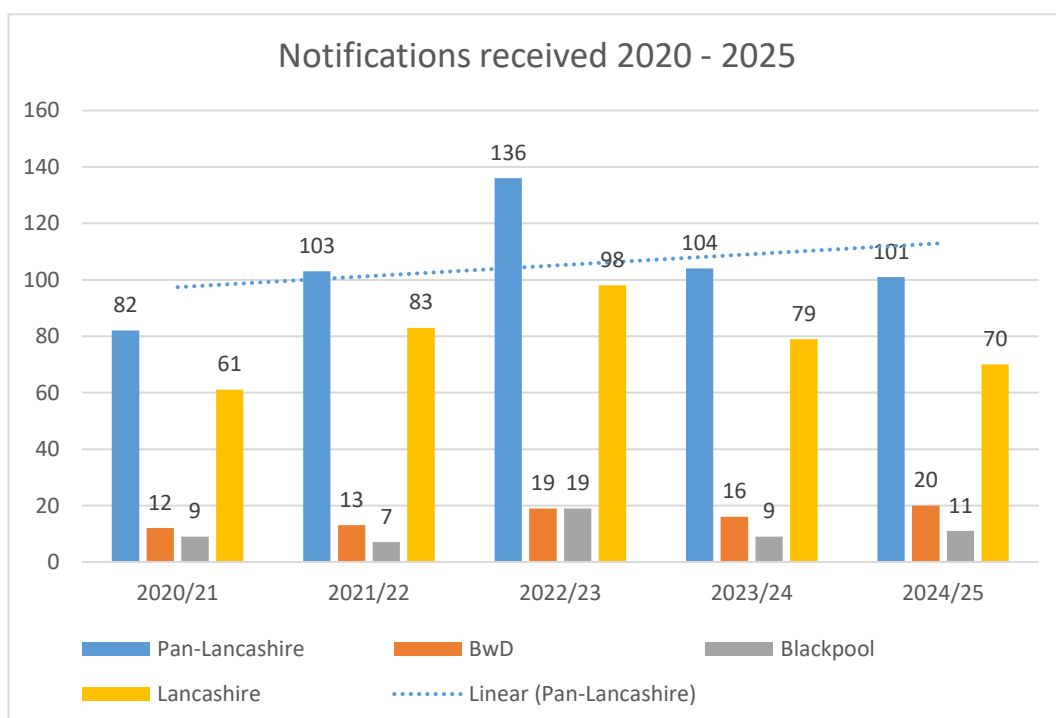
Pan Lancashire processes for Rapid Review and CSPR have been updated to include recommendations from The Child Safeguarding Review panel briefing published in March 2025 - . "It's Silent": Race, racism and safeguarding children¹⁰.

7.4 Child Death Overview Panel

The loss of a child is an unimaginable tragedy that deeply impacts everyone involved. Since 1 April 2008, Child Death Overview Panels (CDOP) across England have been legally required to review all child deaths, including live-born babies of any gestation, up to the age of 18. Child Death Review (CDR) partners hold a statutory responsibility to examine the deaths of all children up to 18 years old, (excluding babies who are stillborn, late foetal loss and planned terminations of pregnancy carried out within the law) and includes any infant death where a death certificate has been issued, irrespective of gestational age.

Child Death notifications

Between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025 the Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire CDOP were notified of 101 child deaths (20 Blackburn with Darwen residents, 11 Blackpool residents and 70 Lancashire residents) that were in line with Working Together 2023. This represents a decrease of 3 deaths, compared to the previous year when we received 104 notifications.



¹⁰ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67cb0a9d5993d41513a45c5b/Race_Racism_Safeguarding_March_2025.pdf

CDOP's key achievements

Members of the safer sleep subgroup were excited to unveil their brand-new logo for the Six Steps to Safer Sleep campaign, symbolising Lancashire's commitment to promoting safe sleep practices within the local community.

Following the recent update to the pan-Lancashire Safer Sleep Guidance, an [eLearning module](#) has been designed to ensure that all professionals understand the guidance and are providing consistent advice to all families across pan-Lancashire. This training has been created in recognition of the fact that unsafe sleep arrangements are a feature in the majority of SIDS deaths across pan-Lancashire.



In addition, the group developed an [Easy Read leaflet](#) and expanded the range of [translated materials](#) to improve accessibility. Practical resources such as cot cards, booklets, and thermometers were purchased, and collaboration with Trading Standards led to the removal of unsafe products from sale. Members of the safer sleep subgroup were excited to unveil their brand-new logo for the Six Steps to Safer Sleep campaign, symbolising Lancashire's commitment to promoting safe sleep practices within the local community. The group also developed guidelines for media outlets to ensure images of sleeping babies depict safer sleep practices. This is crucial as thousands of pregnant women and new parents are frequently exposed to such images through advertising, media, and the nursery industry, often used by commercial companies to promote products or gain publicity. We hope the guidelines will act as a helpful reminder for agencies when posting image and advice online.

The CDOP Continuous Learning & Improvement Group (CLIG) has introduced a two-year cycle of audit activity to improve the quality and outputs of the child death review processes.

Next Steps for CDOP

In the forthcoming reporting period, CDOP will be focussing on:

- Improve the quality and outputs of the child death review processes.
- Support Local Thematic Reviews.
- Ensure that the reduction of infant/child death forms part of multi-agency strategies.
- Raise the profile of CDOP and the Child Death Review (CDR) processes, by delivering multiagency training across the system.
- Improve the quality and outputs of Child Death Review Meetings (CDRMs).
- Reduce the impact of Vicarious Trauma.
- To seek assurance that bereavement support services are readily available to children, young people, families, and communities across pan- Lancashire.
- Highlight risks and issues identified through child death reviews and provide intelligence for inter-agency partnerships.

7.5 Multi Agency Audit and Assurance Activity

A multi-agency Request for Support Hub audit took place in March 2024. Learning actions from this audit are monitored in the Effectiveness SDG.

In response to national reform and scrutiny of our data, two multi agency audits are due to take place in Quarter 1 of 2025 – 2026

- Group Based Exploitation Ensuring our partnership are safeguarding children known due to safeguarding concerns
- Elective Home Education

Single Agency Audits

In addition to MASA MA Partnership Audits, single agency agencies undertake audits in their services. Regular 0-19 Service Reviews and Audits are undertaken in partnership with Public Health.

The School Nursing and Health Visiting reviews and the work of the provider have resulted in the establishment of

- A Single point of contact for Health Visiting and School Nursing
- A Daily Duty Team within the services, enabling timely responses to requests for support, prioritising safeguarding
- Live weighted (deprivation child protection indicators, etc.) caseloads for both services that enable the distribution of the staffing resource to be greater where need is greater
- Data Dashboards that better illustrate service impact

7.6 North West Regional Improvement Plan Pilot (RIPP)

Throughout 2024 – 2025, Blackpool MASA has been working closely with the North West Regional Improvement Plan Pilot (RIPP).

The pilot is part of the government's Opportunity Mission: Keeping Children Safe. It is building on commitments initially set out in Stable Homes, Built on Love, to provide support to addressing systemic issues that affect multiple local authorities (LAs) and disadvantaged children in a single region.



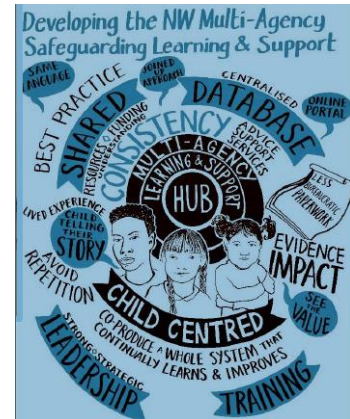
Following consultation, four of the most persistent barriers were assessed as being critical to improving Childrens Services in the region:

- Partnerships, to improve strategic and operational partnership working
- Workforce, to improve retention and overall numbers of social workers
- Sufficiency, to improve the availability of specialist provision and numbers of residential care workers
- Social Work Model, to improve the maturity and effectiveness of social work models

Summary of Blackpool Engagement with the 'Partnership' strand of the RiPP

- Serious Incidents Conference - Blackpool partners attended this conference in September 2024
- Strategic Partnership Conference November 2024. This conference increased collaboration and developed a NW vision and principles of the NW Partnership Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which at the time of writing is currently in the final stages of sign off by all of the regions DSPs and LSPs.

- Data transformation and insight development - Blackpool practitioners attended RiPP data deep dives to inform a North West dataset which will be implemented in July 2025 and adopted by Blackpool MASA.
- Voice and experience of children and families - Blackpool MASA worked alongside Participation people who undertook a Voice of the Child diagnostic after meeting with our participation and coproduction leads and MASA Business Manager.
- Child Sexual Abuse Strategy and training - The Serious Incidents Conference highlighted a need for training on Child Sexual Abuse (CSA). A NW strategy and training programme was created which has seen significant attendance and engagement from professionals across the region.
- Independent Scrutineer Network - Blackpool MASA Independent Scrutineer is a member of the NW Scrutiny network along with all 13 NW Independent Scrutineers. A toolkit has been developed to support roles across the region.
- NW Business Manager Network and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) planning



8. Joint Targeted Area Inspection

Summary of the Blackpool JTAI Report – November 2024

The Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) of Blackpool, conducted in November 2024 by Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission (CQC), and His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS), focused on the multi-agency response to the identification of initial need and risk for children. The inspection highlighted significant strengths in Blackpool's safeguarding partnership, while also identifying areas for further development in the following areas.

The full report can be found [here](#)

8.1 Strengths in Leadership and Partnership

- Throughout the inspection, inspectors praised the strong, caring leadership ethos across Blackpool's safeguarding partnership, underpinned by a shared commitment to doing what is right for children. Inspectors commented that this ethos has fostered a culture of transparency, learning, and continuous improvement and that leaders have embedded a place-based approach to safeguarding, transitioning from a broader Lancashire-wide MASA to a Blackpool-specific arrangement.
- Feedback from the inspection reflects that this shift has enabled more responsive and focused interventions tailored to the unique needs of Blackpool's children.
- Furthermore, the letter states that the establishment of a dedicated business unit, the appointment of an independent scrutineer, and refreshed governance structures have further strengthened the partnership's strategic oversight and accountability. These developments have enhanced the quality and consistency of multi-agency working across the borough.

8.2 Effective Multi-Agency Practice

The inspection found that

- The majority of children in Blackpool receive timely and appropriate support. High-quality family support hubs, embedded within local communities, provide accessible universal and targeted services. These hubs are instrumental in early intervention and prevention, helping to reduce the escalation of need.
- The partnership's response to complex risks, such as domestic abuse and child exploitation, was commended. The multidisciplinary Awaken team, which supports children at risk of exploitation, was highlighted as a model of effective practice. This team's work has led to improved outcomes for some of the most vulnerable children and young people in the area.
- Homeless children also benefit from a well-coordinated multi-agency response, with inspectors noting positive outcomes in this area. Health visiting and support for home-educated children were similarly recognised as areas of improvement.

In response to the findings of the JTAI, an action plan has been coproduced and actively monitored by the Blackpool Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA). This plan outlines clear priorities, timelines, and accountability measures to address the areas for development and to build on the strengths identified in the inspection. MASA's oversight ensures that progress is tracked and that improvements are embedded across all partner agencies.

9. Independent Scrutineer's Reflections

The 2024–2025 Annual Report of the Blackpool Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) provides a clear account of the partnership's work to protect and promote the welfare of children and young people. This report reflects strong governance, committed leadership, and a culture of transparency and learning. As my role continues to mature, offering internal/external challenge and supporting alignment with good practice through regional and national networks, it is clear partners are willing to respond appropriately and effectively, for example: concerns in 2024 relating to the MASA governance structure, specifically the number of delivery groups, attendance within these groups and what was being achieved. The refreshed governance structure introduced in January 2025 has simplified processes, clarified accountability, and strengthened links with related boards, enabling more coordinated and responsive action.

I have completed additional scrutiny aligned to how the partnership responds to Domestic Abuse and Neglect. This worked identified several reviews, policies and procedures that required progression and/or a refresh. For example: a lack of progress on Pan Lancashire DA Scrutiny Report (2023) and a need to refresh the Blackpool Early Help and Neglect Strategies. This work was quickly accepted by MASA, and has been completed or forms part of the ongoing business plan for 2025/26.

The early help and prevention offer, particularly through the fully operational family hubs, is a significant achievement in Blackpool. These hubs are well-used multi agency community assets, delivering integrated, evidence-based support and reducing escalation of need. These hubs, alongside the Awaken Team and wider multi agency working provide a firm foundation on which MASA will deliver the Department for Education (DfE) Family First Partnership Programme (guidance published March 2025). I look forward to supporting this work during 2025/26.

Blackpool's commitment to lived experience and co-production is notable, with a dedicated participation team and individuals with lived experience shaping service design. Over the last twelve months I have had regular contact with Michaela Goodridge (Co Production Delivery Lead) and the wider team, seeking assurance on progress so far. Ongoing assurance will continue in line with the Regional Improvement Partnership Pilot (RIPP) diagnostic report Embedding Voice through Co Production Culture. While Blackpool's report was very positive, areas for improvement have been identified, for example: development of a MASA co production strategy. I look forward to monitoring progress against identified recommendations over the coming year.

As detailed previously in this report, learning from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs) has, and will continue to be a key focus for the partnership. Equally important is setting the appropriate foundations for a focussed and effective review. Blackpool MASA recognised that commissioning of reviewers and the products/reports they produce can be improved upon, particularly around the interview process, evidence of effective report writing, being clear on which methodology is to be used and Delegated Safeguarding Partner (DSP) engagement with the process. It is pleasing to see partnership guidance has now been agreed, and will be signed off in September 2025.

Looking ahead, the partnership should continue to build on the excellent work undertaken around lived experience and co-production, seek to embed education sector engagement, and develop the excellent work undertaken to date relating to Elected Home Education and Organised Group Based Offending.

10 Priorities for 2025 - 2026

Partners attended a development day to collaborate on our partnership plan for 2025 – 2026

Our focus remains on the strategic priorities of

- Early Help
- Neglect
- Domestic Abuse
- Contextual Safeguarding

In addition the partnership plan will focus on

10.1 Families' First Partnership

The Families First Partnership Programme is a national initiative to help improve children's social care across England. It encourages services to work together and take a more joined-up, family-focused approach to early help and child protection.

The programme focuses on:

- Giving the right Family Help at the right time
- Creating Multi-Agency Child Protection Teams (MACPTs)
- Further developing our Family Group Decision Making offer to involve families in planning to support children remaining safely in their stable families.

Families First Partnership is based on the Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 and aims to make sure children and families get the support they need, when they need it.

10.2 Communication Strategy for MASA, BSAB and BSafe

The Communication Strategy for MASA will outline how the partnership share clear consistent messages and key information to frontline practitioners as well as families. This will help children, families, professionals and the wider community know where to get the right help at the right time, and ensure that the workforce is well informed, connected and able to work together to keep children safe.

10.3 The Voice of Children and Families

Blackpool MASA will continue its work with Participation People to develop a structured roadmap for further development of our approaches to embedding the voices of children, young people, and families into decision-making processes.

10.4 Voice and Impact of Education

Blackpool MASA is committed to moving towards a position where education becomes an equal strategic partner in safeguarding decisions, both operationally and strategically. Given the diverse range of education providers in Blackpool, the partnership recognise the complexity of this goal. An Education and MASA Development Day is planned for Blackpool on the 24th May to further discussions between education leads and MASA partners to progress this

10.5 Elective Home Education (EHE)

The issue of home schooling has received considerable national attention, particularly in the context of wider concerns about education attendance during and after the COVID-19 pandemic and following the sad death of Sara Sharif in 2023. The Secretary of State for Education has stated that: “Tackling attendance is my number one priority. We want all our children to have the best start in life because we know that attending school is vital to a child’s wellbeing, development, and attainment as well as impact future career success”.

In Blackpool, data shows that the number of children being electively home educated is increasing in line with the national picture. In response the partnership have committed to a comprehensive piece of partnership work including a detailed audit of children who are currently home educated. Alongside this, a research project with Lancaster University is currently in the planning stage. Together, the aim of the audit and research will provide robust evidence to inform future policy, strengthen oversight and ensure that all children who are electively home educated receive a safe and supportive education.

This report will be reported by Independent Scrutineer to Blackpool Scrutiny Board with Elected Members with MASA Partnership Chair (DSP). A new Partnership Plan will be approved by MASA for 25-26