

# SCSP Summer Summit

## June 2024



Sandwell Children's  
**Safeguarding**  
Partnership

Dear colleagues

On Friday 7 June 2024, the Sandwell Children's Safeguarding Partnership (SCSP) hosted its inaugural biannual **Safeguarding Summer Summit** at Friar Park Millennium Centre. Thank you to over 120 colleagues who attended from a range of agencies across Sandwell's children's workforce. The theme was our new statutory guidance: **Working Together 2023 and what this means for Sandwell**. Some important themes were highlighted through the day, with the overarching message being the 'shared responsibilities' of us all to help, support and protect all children and young people.

The event was opened by the **Chair of the SCSP Executive Forum, Sally Roberts**, Chief Nursing Officer & Deputy Chief Executive of the Black Country Integrated Care Board (ICB). Sally introduced the day's agenda and objectives, setting the stage for an informative day, where colleagues would gain valuable knowledge to apply in their professional roles.

**Lou Williams**, DfE Improvement Advisor, focused on the legal framework and new statutory guidance that we all must comply with. What stood out was the clear difference in language within the Children Act (1989 and 2004). What stood out was the distinct difference between significant impairment (S17) and significant harm (S47) and what this means for how we should work with families. There was also a clear message about culture and practice- how we should all respond early to children's needs, build positive relationships with families and take a proportionate response to needs and risk- because the law tells us to and it is best for families.

**SCSP Executive Member, Kim Madill**, Chief Superintendent, West Midlands Police, outlined the revised structure for the local safeguarding children's arrangements and **reaffirmed the strategic commitments** to a shared vision underpinned by a set of values and key principles in the context of Working Together 2023 and the shared responsibilities for the provision of help, support & protection.

**SCSP Executive Member, Emma Taylor**, Chief Executive of Sandwell Children's Trust, introduced the **National Standards for Children Social Care** and its 4 outcomes that we all must strive for, all of which centre around keeping families safely together and making sure all children live in safe and stable homes. It was poignant to remember some children who have been killed by family members over the decades, and how information sharing played a key part of learning from these tragedies. This is critical to us having a full understanding of families; and that we must challenge each other on this information so we are making the best possible decisions about children. Emma also introduced the work underway to implement Working Together 2023 locally, building on existing good practice. This includes our **STaR Shared Practice Model** and our new **Integrated Front Door**, based on the clear concept whether a child needs 'Help' or whether they are being 'Harmed.'

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**Aman Basi** from Sandwell Children's Trust, **Anne Holloway** from Black Country ICB, and **Claire Henley** from Sandwell Family Hubs (Barnardo's) led an interactive presentation on our newly developed **STaR Practice Model**. The roll out of this will help us work more consistently with families-shared language, learning and decision making, underpinned by a trauma-informed and strengths-based approach.

**Kate Griffiths**, and **Leah Arnold**, both from Sandwell Children's Trust, focused on the work underway to develop our new **Integrated Front Door** and the concept of 'Help vs Harm.' They outlined the ingredients of an effective Integrated Front Door and emphasised the fact that our front door is part of a wider system where there are different avenues of advice and support when families need help, prior to contacting the front door when a child may have been harmed. Further detail will follow on how the new Integrated Front Door will operate.

Summarising the accomplishment of meeting the objectives and closing the day, was provided by **SCSP Executive Member Sally Giles**, Director for Children & Education Services, Sandwell MBC.

The slides from the day are available HERE:

<https://www.sandwellcsp.org.uk/scsp-summer-summit-2024/>

The slides can also be heard via a series of roadshows coming to each of the 6 Towns between July and September – please look out for the dates or notify us of your interest at:

[SCSP\\_Projects@sandwellchildrenstrust.org](mailto:SCSP_Projects@sandwellchildrenstrust.org)

However, we are also asking that Managers cascade these across the children's workforce via, for example, team meetings, staff training/briefing sessions.

Look out for our monthly newsletter /comms which will provide the progress being made in implementing and embedding our STaR Practice Model & the progress regarding the implementation of our new Integrated Front Door.

Work is also underway to develop a suite of training packages to ensure that our children's workforce is well equipped, knowledgeable and supported to deliver the best possible services to children and families, in line with Working Together 2023.

From July, please ask any questions regarding our new safeguarding arrangements, the STaR Practice Model or the Integrated Front Door to the a dedicated SCSP webpage:

<https://www.sandwellcsp.org.uk/>

Finally, please watch out for the date of our second **SCSP Autumn Summit**.

On behalf of the SCSP Executive Forum, thank you to everyone who helped to organise the Summit, those who presented and to those who attended.