Hartlepool & Stockton-on-Tees SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP

Quarterly Newsletter

Quarter 2 - 2026

Dear Hartlepool and Stockton-On-Tees Safeguarding Children Colleagues, welcome to this edition of the HSSCP newsletter, which aims to provide HSSCP Partners and Relevant Agencies with a summary of work undertaken by the HSSCP Partnership during quarter two of 2026-2027.





Serious Incident Notification / Learning Requests:

1 Serious Incident Notifications was received in this quarter. A Rapid Review took place and it was decided that it would not progress to a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review.

Partnership Updates:

In Quarter 2, we said goodbye to our Independent Scrutineer, Mel John-Ross, who has been working with us for the last 4 years. We would like to thank Mel for all of her ahrd work and wish her luck in her next role. We are also looking forward to welcoming our next Independent Scutineer, Emma Phillips, in Q3.

In September, we started our self-assessment work in regards to the Southport Inquiry and the Protecting All Vulnerable Babies Better government report. The True to Us self-assessment saw multi-agency professionals gather together to discuss the learning and recommendations from each of the reports.

Our HSSCP Annual Report for 2025-2026 has now been published on the HSSCP website.

Following the Cumulative Harm Audit that was conducted earlier this year, the the Cumualtive Harm Task and Finish group have been working on the new Cumualative Harm Tool and guide, which will be ready to publish in Quarter 3. The tool is designed to be a working tool for professionals to track concerns, with the hopes that cumulative harm will be able to be recognised at the earliest possible opportunity.

Trauma-Informed Partnership Priority

The trauma prioritty working group have been working towards planning a successful Trauma Awareness Month campaign for October 2026. The campaign will feature a number of workshops for professionals to attend, including a trauma active learning event, trauma basic awareness training, and training that explores vicarious trauma and how this can be mitigated within working environments. The woprkshops will also run alongside a communications campaign to promote the key messgae of 'See me, not my behaviour'.

Engagement of Children/Young People

The Summer term issue of the Young People's Newsletter was published and ciruclated to our partners to share with the young people they work with.

Having identified an opportunity to add some additional content to the HSSCP website's children and young people page on the topics of LGBTQ+ young people and young people who have been displaced by war, we are in the process of working with local charity and support groups to ensure that young peoples experiences are at the heart of the work that we do.

HSSCP Work Streams

Safeguarding in Education and the Community Sub-group

From September, the Safeguarding in Education sub-group officially became the Safeguarding in Education and the Community sub-group, where we formally welcomed our colleagues and partners in the VCSE sector. Our first joint meeting took place in October.

We also held the first of two whole-staff training events, which was delivered by Dr Sarah Hall from the Ivison Trust. The session focussed on child exploitation and aimed to inform staff of the risks of exploitation, signs and indicatators that a child might be a victim of exploitation, and to provide practical advise and strategies to staff who have concerns that a child might be being exploited.

Child Sexual Abuse Priority

The Child Sexual Abuse steering group have now agreed the joint strategy and theory of change document that underpins the stategy and supports the working action plan for the priority. The group have also confirmed the new CSA response pathway for Tees.

The new CSA/CSE and Harmful Sexual Behaviour guidance has now been published on the Tees Procedures website (documents are linked on the following page).

HSSCP Training

The latest annual HSSCP multi-agency safeguarding children training programme for April 2026 to March 2027 is available. This includes a full programme of safeguarding children training with bookings made via a new online booking system.

Quality assurance of multi-agency training courses is being undertaken by the Tees Joint Training Group (TJTG). **Two** courses have been observed by key practitioners this quarter and feedback from these observations have been incorporated into each training course. Further evaluation is undertaken via training evaluation forms and impact on working practice evaluation forms to both the attendee and their manager. Also, included in the programme is the e-learning courses from the Tees Safeguarding All MeLearning platform. Further information on how to register for an e-learning account and to enrol on any of the e-learning courses can be found here.

HSSCP continues to provide a hybrid model of both face to face and virtual delivery of the safeguarding children training courses they offer. In this quarter, **eight** training sessions have been delivered to professionals in Hartlepool and Stockton-On-Tees. HSSCP is working with STSCP to ensure the same programme of multi-agency safeguarding training is delivered across Teesside to ensure key messages are received across all agencies within the Tees area.





Tees Safeguarding Procedures

The Tees Safeguarding Procedures Group have continued to develop and update safeguarding children procedures/guidance which are published on:

https://www.teescpp.org.uk/

During this quarter the following procedures/guidance were reviewed & updated:

- SAFER Referral
- Regional Protocol for Protecting Children Who Move Across Local Authority Borders
- Rough Guide to Outcomes
- Community Partnership Intelligence
- Harmful Sexual Behaviour Guidance (NEW)
- Child Sexual Abuse & Exploitation (CSA&E)
- Sexual Abuse
- Tees Framework of Need

Key Events:

Learning From Reviews Briefings:

Our 6-monthly Learning from Reviews Breifings took place in September and covered the rapid review that has taken place in our partnership, as well as the work we have undertaken at audits and how the learning from these have been implemented across our organisations. We also covered a number of national reviews, including the Southport Inquiry, Protecting All Vulnerable Babies Better, and the thematic review into Child Neglect. The slides from this briefing can be found here.

Professional Challenge Briefing:

The new Professional Challenge and Resolution of Professional Disagreement Procedure Update has been uploaded onto our e-learning site, MeLearning. You can find this by loggin into your MeLearning account and searching the courses for 'Professional Challenge'.

This quarter's monthly E-Bulletin's can be found on the links below:

Bulletin for July 2026

Bulletin for August 2026

Bulletin for September 2026

For further updates and information, go to:

the **HSSCP website**

or email

hsscp@hartlepool.gov.uk

