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# Annual Report 2014/15

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## Message from the Chair

After 4 years of consecutive cuts to central government funding, partnership working is more essential than ever as we have all done our best to minimise the impact on frontline services to children in 2014/15. All areas of Greater Manchester have seen significant changes in staffing including at senior management level and the Partnership has not been immune to this. I am the third chair in the space of one year!

I have been a committed member of the Greater Manchester Safeguarding Partnership for a number of years and only stopped attending when I became DCS in Salford last October. In my view it is an invaluable partnership which brings together professional expertise and learning across a wide range of safeguarding challenges. It enables speedy thinking about emerging issues, leads to the development of plans and ideas, supports the work of the LSCBs in GM and enables a collective focus on key priority areas. I am delighted to be back and as the Chair I hope to enable the strong partnership working to continue focused around our agreed priorities and linked to the escalating work of the devolution agenda where appropriate.

Despite the disruption over the past year to the Chairing arrangements, membership and commitment has remained strong and thanks to their continued dedication good progress has been made. Please read our 2nd Annual Report which highlights some of these achievements.



**Charlotte Ramsden**  
**Chair, Greater Manchester Safeguarding Partnership**

Members said they wanted the GMSP Core Principles to:

## support partners to work better together to share best practice and encourage a consistent service to safeguard children across Greater Manchester.

The GMSP is a cooperative partnership of the 10 Local Safeguarding Boards of Greater Manchester. Throughout 2014/15 the Partnership has continued to support partners to work better together through a range of regular network meetings such as the GMSP Quarterly Meetings, LSCB Chairs group, LSCB Business Managers, LA Heads of Safeguarding and CDOP Chairs. These regular meetings allow partners to discuss and resolve common issues and consider shared approaches.



The work to create a GM-wide, multi-agency response to tackle Child Sexual Exploitation which started as a working group of the GMSP morphed into the Phoenix Project at the end of 2013. Pooling resources to employ a dedicated project manager has allowed our shared concerns and ideas to be driven forward and real progress has been made in 2014/15. Members of the GMSP continue to play an active role in both the regular and time-bound working groups to progress the many workstreams of Project Phoenix.

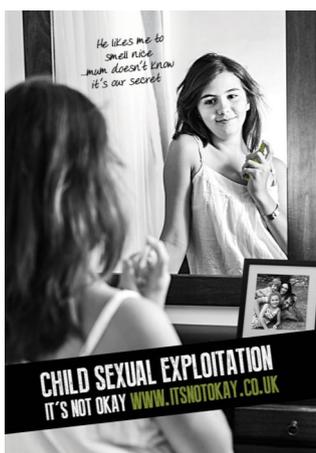
[WWW.ITSNOTOKAY.CO.UK](http://WWW.ITSNOTOKAY.CO.UK)

The Phoenix website was launched at a media event on 19 September 2014 to raise awareness, help people spot the signs of CSE and know where to turn to for help. The GMSP Chair at the time Mike Livingstone spoke at the event which kicked off a multi-agency week of action demonstrating that Phoenix is as much about prevention and early intervention as it is about arrests and enforcement. A suite of GM-wide material supports the campaign with the leaflets, posters and wristbands driving the community to the website. These were distributed to every high school and FE college and also sexual health clinics, A&E and GP surgeries across the region.

### A common way to identify risk of CSE across Greater Manchester

The GMSP led the work to develop a Phoenix Measurement of Risk Tool. This gives the ten specialist teams a consistent way to measure the level of risk of CSE to a child and, crucially, track this risk over time to see whether it is reducing or escalating. Police ensure these young people and their risk levels are flagged on their systems so any officer who may come across these children in the course of their normal duties can instantly see that that child is at risk and a series of actions are triggered to safeguard that child.

The data collection sheet, found towards the end of the tool, is helping LSCBs collect data in a consistent way to build a profile of CSE. Every quarter this data is scrutinised by the LSCB so operational information informs multi agency strategies and action plans.



**“Children don’t recognise LA boundaries when out socialising. Perpetrators, however, actively manipulate these boundary lines to avoid detection. Having a common toolkit and a shared language across GM is one way we can work better together to keep our children safe.”**

Members said they wanted the GMSP's Core Principles to:

## help partners to constantly learn from one another and improve together.

As well as the regular network meetings, the GM Safeguarding Partnership has arranged a number of bespoke events to ensure sector-led improvement continues.

The GM Safeguarding Partnership collaborated with the NW Sector Led Improvement Board to launch a suggested Core Performance Management Quality Assurance Framework for LSCBs. At a full day event in central Manchester in September 2014 the suggested dataset and a common toolkit were shared. Both can be found [here](#). The dataset comprises of Part A (the core) which most boards are hoping to collect and includes a list of key measures

and indicators which LSCBs should use as a context for their dashboard or scorecard and can be used in regional benchmarking. Part B includes a more comprehensive list of potential evidence. It is hoped that the common dataset and toolkit will help boards assess the effectiveness of the help being provided to children and families and to assess whether LSCB partners are fulfilling their statutory obligations set out in chapter 2 of Working Together 2015.

### 10,700 children thought to experience the imprisonment of a parent each year in Greater Manchester



Over 100 key strategic leads, managers and practitioners from across Greater Manchester (including police, probation, prison service, children's services, education, health and the voluntary sector) came together for the first time in January 2015 to share real-life experiences of children affected by parental imprisonment and discuss a local response. GMSP worked with **i-HOP\*** to publish a GM-wide awareness-raising protocol. Available [here](#)

#### SHORTAGE OF AUTHORS HIGHLIGHTED

A workshop presented by Colleen Murphy, a highly experienced SCR Author, on running and managing Multi-Agency Reviews took place in March 2015. **Next Steps:** In order to 'home grow' our own authors the NW Sector Led Improvement Board is funding training and GM LSCBs are encouraged to allow those undertaking the training to shadow a Serious Case Review in order to gain experience before authoring their own review.

At the very end of the financial year **Barnardo's** announced that their CSE resource **Real Love Rocks** is to be provided to all primary and secondary schools, PRUs and academies throughout Greater Manchester free of charge as part of the Police Innovation fund. GMSP is working with Barnardo's and



the 10 LAs to ensure this is rolled out effectively to all schools in 2015/16.

#### Multi Systemic Therapy for Problematic Sexual Behaviour (MST for PSB).

The DfE Social Care Innovation Programme awarded GMSP £10,000 seed funding which we used to hold a morning event with the consultant who developed MST for PSB and to spot purchase a case from Sheffield. The case is still progressing and the outcomes so far for the young person has been no re-offending and improved school attainment. Unfortunately, further funding from this source was unsuccessful.

\* **i-HOP** is a one stop information and advice service to professionals working with children and families of offenders.

Members said they wanted the GMSP's Core Principles to:

**enable partners to combine resources so we do things once and do it well rather than in ten different ways at ten times the cost.**

In 2011 partners who operate across LA boundaries told us how hard they found it to work to several different policies and that families were not getting a consistent service across the sub-region. To address this, in March 2013, we launched the Greater Manchester Multi-Agency Safeguarding Procedures.



Content is now standardised where possible and the manual is easily accessible to all in a centralised location. **1160** practitioners from across all sectors in Greater Manchester are now signed up to receive alerts whenever the manual is updated.

<http://greatermanchesterscb.proceduresonline.com/index.htm>

What Ofsted say about the GM Safeguarding Procedures

**"The LSCB is part of the Greater Manchester Safeguarding Partnership and uses the procedures developed across Manchester available on Greater Manchester Safeguarding Children Board web site. These are up to date, of good quality and cover a comprehensive range of safeguarding areas."**

Quote taken from Trafford's 2015 Ofsted report.  
This LSCB received a 'Good' Inspection Judgement

The **FGM** protocol and procedures were launched on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2014 to tie in with schools starting the new term. The protocol was launched by Tony Lloyd the Police and Crime Commissioner and received coverage in the local press and BBCs North West Tonight which further raised awareness. The GM FGM Forum is responsible for producing the document in consultation with GMSP's Policies and Procedures sub group. The protocol is constantly being updated as new legislation comes into effect.

## Could we help to prevent over a quarter of child deaths?

Child Death Overview Panels (CDOP) is one area where there is already a strong element of collaboration across GM with 9 of the 10 authorities forming tri-partites. Last year the GMSP worked with the CDOP Chairs, Managers, a performance analyst and a public health registrar to compile the data from the four CDOPs into a single GM dataset in order to write the first GM-wide CDOP annual report. The 2nd GM CDOP Annual Report has now been published covering the 215 child deaths reviewed in 2013/14. 58 of these deaths (27%) were considered to have modifiable factors—this is higher than the national average of 22%. Modifiable risk factors identified included parental smoking, access to appropriate healthcare, parental drug & alcohol use, poor parenting, co-sleeping and domestic violence. The GM CDOP group is now taking the recommendations forward with colleagues in Public Health. <http://www.gmsafeguardingchildren.co.uk/417626/cdop201314>



## Suicide and Open Verdicts

GMSP has worked with the 4 GM CDOPs to map the number of children who are thought to have taken their own life since their records began in 2008. Our research shows a worrying upward trend in the numbers as well as a lowering of the age when this is occurring. Information to help teachers prepare their pupils in the event of a suicide has been sent to schools and added to the 'suicide and self-harm' procedures. GM CDOPs will be passing information on to the Centre for Suicide Prevention at the University of Manchester with the ultimate aim being to reduce the number of suicides in children.