



Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership – Thematic Review, March 2022

The Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership has responded to the findings of the thematic review. An action plan was put in place as soon as the learning from the rapid review processes was elicited in summer 2021. Key developments are set out below:

The development of **practical tools** for frontline practitioners, which include:

- A new, modular pre-birth workbook for practitioners to work through with families, according to areas of need in the ante-natal period.
- Revision of the 'Effective Support for Families in Somerset' guidance, published December 2021, which strengthens descriptors of need, especially at an early help level.
- Refresh of the Neglect Toolkit to reflect the development of the partnership and to provide further guidance on the identification of neglect. To be published March 2022.
- Development of a multi-agency protocol setting out best practice when families transfer between services.
- Roll-out of the ICON model which supports families to manage crying in a safe way, supplemented by a training programme for ICON champions across the workforce.
- Development of multi-agency guidance on the effective functioning of strategy discussions, with a short animation for members of the workforce invited to strategy discussions, explaining roles and responsibilities.
- Publication of a new domestic abuse strategy (January 2022).

A comprehensive training programme designed to promote the **involvement of fathers/male carers** within families:

A themed, week-long session of events, aimed at the children's workforce in its widest sense, tackling:

- What we think about fathers and why we might think that – delivered by the Fatherhood Institute
- Practical tools for the workforce: DadPad in Somerset: ICON model

- Round-table event/discussion about what more we can do to involve father/male carers in Somerset

The SSCP Forum week will be followed up with future events to share learning and developments across the partnership to ensure that learning continues.

Children's Social Care have commissioned the Fatherhood Institute to deliver a similar session to social care staff (winter 2021-22).

Agencies across the children's safeguarding partnership have strengthened their safeguarding **supervision and training**, and multi-agency safeguarding training continues to evolve and reflect the learning.

SSCP, March 2022