



Welcome to the Early Years DSL Network 12TH November 2025



Welcome!

Catherine Smith
Programmes Manager

Ben Osifo
Safeguarding Children Partnership Service Manager



**TAKE
CARE OF
yourself**

Agenda

Time	Agenda Items	Presenter
9:30-9:40 am	Welcome and Introduction	Catherine Smith
9:40-9:50 am	DSL Network Update	Catherine Smith
9:50- 10:00 am	Introduction to Childcare Safeguarding Coordinator	Rochelle Patterson
10:00-10:30 am	Exploitation -county lines	Rani Ali
10:30-10:40 am	Comfort Break	
10:40-11:00 am	Equation	Anna Clarke
11:00-11:20 am	NCSOC-Local and National Updates	Ben Osifo
11:20- 11:25 am	LADO	Mono Cook
11:25-11:30 am	CPD	Catherine Smith
11:30-11:45 am	Close and evaluation	Catherine Smith

DSL Network Aims and Purpose

- ☐ To promote connectivity with the Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership, other key local authority departments and Designated Safeguarding Leads across the city
- ☐ Act as a conduit for policy updates
- ☐ A network which demonstrates professional behaviours and mutual support
- ☐ Sharing of pertinent local and national updates focusing on safeguarding priorities and emerging trends across the city of Nottingham



DSL Network process change- reminder

The Early Years team along with Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership (NCSCP) have made the decision to discontinue issuing certificates as evidence of attendance at DSL Networks. This bring the PVI sector in-line with schools in Nottingham City.

Upon reviewing this process and considering the EYFS statutory guidance on DSL training expectations, which states that - *'The designated safeguarding lead (and any deputies) should undergo training to provide them with the knowledge and skills required to carry out the role. This training should be updated at least every two years'*; we have concluded that the DSL Networks do not constitute formal training. **Therefore, we will no longer be issuing a DSL attendance certificates.**

The DSL Networks, held once per term, aim to disseminate local updates, share knowledge, and discuss key safeguarding priorities at both local and national levels. While these networks are not formal training sessions, we hope they serve as valuable opportunities for safeguarding professionals to refresh their knowledge and skills, stay updated on relevant developments, and collaborate within a multiagency safeguarding environment.

In light of the above information the Early Years team are currently reviewing our CPD offer to DSL's. We encourage you to review your safeguarding training needs and speak to your support worker if you have any questions

Childcare Safeguarding Coordinator?

- Started in post September 2025
- Background/experience
- Childcare Safeguarding Coordinator role - priorities:
 - Influence and support safeguarding and DSL networks and CPD
 - Link DSL and Safeguarding support into the Provider Support Framework
 - Develop and manage DSL and safeguarding resources
 - Link into NCLSCP, MASH and LADO referral processes



NOTTINGHAM CITY
Safeguarding
Children
PARTNERSHIP

Pause



Understanding and Responding to Domestic Abuse in Early Years

Sue Walmsley

CADA Co-ordinator

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equation.org.uk



About Equation

Support for
men and
LGBTQ+



Domestic
abuse
recovery



Training for
professionals and
community



Education
in schools



Perpetrator
programme



Awareness,
campaigns and
safety resources


equation

equal relationships free from abuse

Aims of CADA (Children Affected By Domestic Abuse)

Child health and wellbeing:

Increased wellbeing, reduced mental distress, improved sense of self and self-care and coping, enhanced social relations and social wellbeing

Feelings of safety:

Improved (understanding of) safety, CADA and non-abusing parents' increased understanding of abuse, freedom to go about daily life

Improved CADA access to support:

CADA have a voice, increased capacity to engage in school and social activities

Aims of CADA

Early years professionals:

have increased understanding of and ability to identify and respond to DVSA/VAWG

Family relationships:

CADA and non-abusing parent have improved relationships, Caregiver emotional health and wellbeing improved, carers have greater understanding of abuse, parenting confident self-care and coping.

Why is Domestic Abuse Training Important?

- The Domestic Abuse Act in 2021 introduced that children and young people are survivors of domestic abuse 'in their own right'.
- Historically, we believed that if babies, toddlers and young children 'don't see' incidents of DA – they won't be impacted. However, we now know differently. Research tells us that babies and toddlers can be significantly impacted by Domestic abuse.
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- Being able to identify, recognise and respond effectively to someone who discloses DA can help survivors of DA access specialist support.
- Agencies in Nottinghamshire are supporting child survivors of DA as young as 2 years old.

We want you to know about them!

Victims in their own right?

Babies, children and young people's experiences of domestic abuse

Nicole Jacobs 2025



“Specialist training for every frontline professional who may work with babies, children and young people”

[dac_bcyp_main-report_FINAL-DIGITAL.pdf](#)

Local Statistics

41% of adults disclosing via the CSEW reported children were present

46,500 Nottinghamshire residents are likely to have experienced DA in the last year

Children were likely to be present in 19,000 cases

Nottinghamshire Police recorded 4,236 DA crimes in 21/22 in which at least 1 child was present

Nottinghamshire DA commissioned services supported 3,000 adults and 280 CYP experiencing DA in 2021

Non commissioning services supported another 300 CYP.

Equation's Training Offer

Content of Training

- Context and Statistics
- What is Domestic Abuse? – Physical, Sexual, economic and coercive control
- Impact on the Unborn child
- Impact on Parenting
- Domestic Abuse and Trauma
- Why Early Years provisions are so important
- Good Practice for Early Years Settings

By the end of the training, Early Years Practitioners will have had the opportunity to:

- Gain a shared an understanding of DA and the impact this may have on both child and adult survivors of Domestic Abuse
- Learn about indicators of domestic abuse (both Adult and Child)
- Learn how to respond effectively to disclosures of DA
- Learn some good practice strategies which support children in Early Years Settings
- Find out about the work from partners agencies and learn how to make effective referrals
- Receive free resources

Training Session Options

Training sessions can be delivered to your staff teams at your convenience.

We offer:

- 2 x 90-minute sessions (minimum)
- Full days (best option)
- Evenings / Inset days / Weekends

Training Day for Managers and DSL's
18th February 2026 – Full Day



A note about Equation's training content and staff care

Equation understand that the content of Domestic Abuse training can impact delegates. and as a response, trainers put strategies in place to minimise this.

- Encourage managers to inform staff teams about subject matter prior to the training
- Giving staff members the choice to attend training
- 'Time Out' space
- Ground Rules / guidance – the impact of training – Get Help



Feedback

What Early Years Settings say about the training



“Informative, a real eye opener to the way a perpetrator sees the home and dangers within. A good inset session, I would recommend to other EY settings.”

Feedback from CADA training

“The training was incredibly informative from individuals who had a breadth of knowledge and experience. They demonstrated a dedication to a difficult role and subject to teach. Our staff felt well informed and more confident to identify cases in their work moving forward. It built on everyone's knowledge in some way or another and highlighted all other areas of safeguarding. We proactively display the help posters in the public toilets to support us reach more people and have become J9 approved as well”.

Feedback from CADA training



equal relationships, free from abuse

“Course was amazing. Understanding a lot more about domestic abuse and how to support families”.

Feedback from CADA training

"This training opened my eyes to the possibility that people I know could have previously experienced domestic violence but have not felt strong enough to share their experiences until now. This training gave some of our team members the confidence to open up about their own experiences and it made them feel like they didn't need to be ashamed but instead be proud that they got them and their family away from the violence."

Feedback from CADA training

Feedback

Follow on Surveys

Early Years settings were contacted 6 months after the training took place. These were the findings from the responses we received.

66.6%
of respondents said they
felt more confident in
responding to domestic
abuse

66.67%
have put helpline
posters /support
numbers up in their Early
Years setting

88.33%
said they have given
someone information
about Domestic Abuse
Services

Signpost to local helplines

Women and Children
Juno Women's Aid

Free 24-hour helpline

Tel: 0808 800 0340

junowomensaid.org.uk



Men and LGBTQ+ Survivors
Equation

Mon-Fri 9.30am-4.30pm
Wed 7.30pm

Tel: 0330 088 0787 (LGBTQ+)
Tel: 0800 9956 999 (men)

equation.org.uk

999 - always call the Police in an emergency

Any Questions?



**For further Information,
please contact:**

training@equation.org.uk

or

sue@equation.org.uk

Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership (NCSCP)

Safeguarding Updates

Ben Osifo
Service Manager NCSCP



NCSCP Updates



[National Audit on Group-based Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse - GOV.UK](#)

- commissioned by the Prime Minister and Home Secretary in February 2025
- led by Baroness Casey and carried out in March, April and May 2025.
- The report sets out how group-based CSE is defined in relation to child sexual exploitation and child sexual abuse, highlighting that:
 - child sexual abuse (CSA) is an umbrella term that includes different types of abuse, including intrafamilial CSA, online CSA and child sexual exploitation
 - child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a subset of child sexual abuse involving a power imbalance and the coercion or manipulation of a child into sexual activity in exchange for something the child needs or wants
 - group-based child sexual exploitation (group-based CSE) is a subset of child sexual exploitation where two or more perpetrators are involved.
- the 'grooming gangs' model of abuse is well documented and remains largely consistent, with the main difference in recent years being the growing role of online platforms and social media.
- all children are vulnerable because of their age, so they may not necessarily exhibit known risk factors and vulnerabilities

NCSCP Updates

- [NCSCP 2024 – 2025 Annual Report](#)
- NSPCC Updates - [Learning from case review briefings | NSPCC Learning](#)
- [New Research Suggests that Parents' Mental Health is in Crisis During the First 1001 Days of Parenthood - For Baby's Sake](#)

NCSCP Updates

- New NCSCP Training Officer – Deborah Somerset is our new training officer
- New Training and learning offer will be rolled out and communicated
- Updated Policies & Procedures - [Contents](#)
- [Children Living Away from Home](#)
- [Domestic Abuse](#)
- [Transitional Safeguarding](#)
- [Working With Large Families](#)
- [FGM](#)
- [Children with Disabilities and Complex Needs](#)
- [Children Missing from Care, Home and Education](#)
- [Children Missing Education and Children in Education other than in Registered Schools](#)

Recent Rapid Review Case Study

Circumstances leading to rapid review:

Baby A is a white British infant who lived with his mother. His early life was marked by both nurturing moments and significant risks. While he was seen to be clean, fed, and comforted by his parents, he was also exposed to conflict, shouting, and a chaotic home environment. His mother, a care leaver with a history of trauma and mental health challenges, and his father, who also experienced childhood adversity, struggled to consistently engage with support services. Baby A sustained a serious head injury, later confirmed as likely non-accidental, which was not immediately recognised or acted upon by professionals.

Partnership Learning Points

- Missed Opportunities for Early Intervention: Delayed antenatal engagement and lack of timely safeguarding referrals.
- Information Sharing Gaps: Critical safeguarding information was not accessed or shared across agencies.
- Professional Curiosity: Insufficient challenge and exploration of the causes behind Baby A's symptoms.
- Understanding Parental Vulnerabilities: The impact of trauma, mental health, and cognitive processing on parenting capacity was not fully considered.

Further Information



There are two main websites held by the local authority that will be key to supporting the role of the DSL-

1- Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership-

www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/ncscp

2- [Early Years - Nottingham City Council](#)

Contact us



Email



safeguarding.partnerships@nottinghamcity.gov.uk



Telephone



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Mona Cook

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)



**Changing Lives.
Changing Futures.**



**Nottingham
City Council**

Training Dates

Course	Date	Time	Venue	Fee
Prevent Duty	24.11.2025	10.00-11.30am	Online	FOC
Safeguarding Children Refresher	14.11.2025	10.00-12:00pm	Online	£10
Introduction to Safeguarding Children	07.01.2026	9.30-11.45am	Online	£15

Next DSL Network :

Wednesday 25th February 2026

Start time 9:30am

Venue : Indian Community Centre

99, Hucknall Road

Nottingham

NG51QZ

Evaluation and DSL Questionnaire

DSL Network Evaluation Form

