

FOI 3272

27<sup>th</sup> August 2025

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST**

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**I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding your Trust's response to the findings and recommendations set out in Professor Ray Jones' 2023 Review of Children's Social Services.**

**Please provide:**

**Any internal reports, audits, or reviews carried out by the Trust since 2023 addressing the concerns raised in the Ray Jones Review**

**Response:**

The Department of Health is leading a programme of work on service improvement and the delivery of transformation in children's social care services under the auspices of the Children's Social Care Services Strategic Reform Programme. It has been established to deliver reform and development across children's social care services to address a range of challenges outlined within the NI Review of Children's Social Care Services report. The programme of work involves a regional review of specific service areas, and any proposals for service improvement will be made at a regional level. No Trust specific review reports or audits have been completed specifically in response to the above referenced report.

**Details of any changes made to the Trust's safeguarding thresholds, child protection protocols, or care planning procedures as a result of the review.**

**Response:**

The regional SBNI Child Protection Policy and Procedures are mandated by the SBNI, these are updated via the SBNI as per website below:

<https://www.proceduresonline.com/sbni/contents.html>

There have been no changes made to the regional policy and procedures as a result of the Review of Children's Services 2023.

**The number of children subject to interim care orders within your Trust area from 2019 to present, including how many were returned to parental care within 12 months.**

**Response:**

Table 1 No of Children subject to Interim Care Order by year end.

Legal Status	Years					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
ART.57(1) INTERIM CARE ORDER	114	113	123	131	152	139

During the period 2019 to 2025 20 children subject to Interim Care Orders have had the Orders revoked and returned to parental care with the 12 month period.

**Copies of any updated training materials issued to social work staff regarding trauma-informed practice or improved reporting standards since 2023.**

**Response:**

All training delivered to social work and social care staff is trauma infused though its design and delivery. The Social Services Learning and Development Team developed guidance on tips for delivering in person and virtual training though a trauma informed lens. This guidance was published on the SBNI website, see attached document (Attachment 1)

The Trust deliver training developed by the SBNI;

- Adversity, Trauma and Resilience Awareness – Module One
- Develop awareness of the skills that promote a trauma informed approach in practice – Module Two

These training materials are the property of the SBNI and therefore not shared within this response.

The Trust delivers training on the Solihull Approach which is trauma informed given its focus on All Solihull Approach training supports the application of their theoretical model alongside an understanding of brain development. The range of training provide on the Solihull Approach includes the following;

Solihull Approach - 2 day Programme for Managers

Solihull Approach Foundation Course

Solihull Approach Open Practice Sessions

Solihull Approach Refresher Training

Solihull Managers Training

Solihull Plus – Understanding Attachment

Solihull Plus – Understanding Brain Development

Solihull Plus – Understanding Trauma

These training materials are the property of the SBNI and therefore not shared within this response.

**Data on complaints made against social workers from 2020 to present, including how many were upheld or resulted in disciplinary action.**

**Response:**

Please find below the total number of formal complaints raised in relation to children's social work services by year (up until 31 July 2025).

	Total by Year
2020	76
2021	70
2022	75
2023	56
2024	62
(up to 31.07.25) 2025	45
Total	384

There is currently no system within the Trust to accurately extrapolate which of these related specifically to complaints against individual social workers which have been upheld/ partially upheld.

Social work complaints are often complex in nature and multifaceted. To extrapolate this data, this would require a manual review of each complaint and would exceed the timeframe of 18 hrs for FOI requests.

Disciplinary processes and complaints processes are recorded and measured through separate systems. Consequently, we are unable to determine how many complaints specifically resulted in disciplinary action without conducting a manual review of individual cases, which would exceed the appropriate time limit under FOI request.

**Details of how the Signs of Safety model is being evaluated within the Trust, including any feedback gathered from parents or children since 2023.**

**Response:**

Signs of Safety remains the key framework for safeguarding intervention used within Southern Trust CYPS, however no formal evaluation has been undertaken since 2023 nor any feedback gathered directly from parents and children within this period.

The Trust completed an audit of the application of Signs of Safety at Child Protection Case Conference. This report dated 2023 identified overall progress in embedding the broad strength based ethos of the approach and evidence of application of the key concepts of Signs of Safety.

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