

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee:	Hampshire Health and Wellbeing Board
Date:	10 th December 2020
Title:	Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP) Annual Report 2019/20
Report From:	Derek Benson, Independent Chair, HSCB

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Purpose of this Report

1.1 This attached [Annual Report](#) from the Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP) provides an independent analysis of the safeguarding services provided to children and young people in Hampshire over 2019/20. It contains a summary of the work undertaken to deliver the HSCP's Business Plan and outlines the priorities over the next year.

Recommendation(s)

2.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board to note that--

- the Annual Report of the Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership and in particular the assessment that arrangements remain effective.
- the transition to the new arrangements under Working Together 2018 was successfully implemented in September 2019, and within these arrangements the statutory status of the three Safeguarding Partners; Hampshire County Council, Hampshire Constabulary and the Clinical Commissioning Group. The HSCP will continue to ensure the effective implementation of the arrangements for Safeguarding Partners laid out in Working Together 2018.
- that whilst the report covers the year 2019/20, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has impacted on requirements for service and has seen a renewed commitment to partnership working.

Executive Summary

3.1 The statutory responsibility for the effectiveness of the HSCP is held jointly between Hampshire County Council Children's Services, Hampshire Constabulary, and West Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group (on behalf of the Hampshire Partnership of Clinical Commissioning Group). The Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP) reviewed its Local Safeguarding Arrangements document in October 2020, and this is attached to this paper for information.

3.2 Safeguarding remains a firm priority for all partner agencies, demonstrated by consistently good levels of attendance, effective engagement in subgroups, and a strong culture of constructive challenge and debate.

3.3 Key to the success of the HSCP is the focus on the different safeguarding contexts that exist across Hampshire, with the emphasis being placed on children and young people being safeguarded in their lives at home, in their friendship circles, in health, in education and in the public spaces that they occupy both offline and online.

3.4 Multi-agency work within the HSCP's groups and subgroups continue to promote work to drive a range of improvements to both the safety and welfare of children and young people. Partnership membership extends across several working groups to provide continuity.

3.5 The Hampshire statutory safeguarding partners for the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth, and Southampton known locally as 'HIPS' continue to collaborate over the wider geographical area. This benefits professionals working across more than one of the local authority areas, ensuring greater joined-up working on strategic issues and common themes.

3.6 The annual business plan and work programme is developed in partnership with all agencies. The HSCB had four Business Plan priorities during 2019/20. Information on key highlights delivered under each priority is contained in the Annual Report and a summary is detailed below.

Priority 1. Further embed and evaluate HSCP initiatives.

a) Formally launching the Family Approach Protocol and Toolkit with the other LSCBs and Local Safeguarding Adults Boards (LSABs) in the Pan-Hampshire

area. Running a programme of multi-agency briefings and agree evaluation criteria for an end of year evaluation.

b) Developing and embedding the ICON programme, completing the public launch of the programme. Including undertaking first stage professional and public evaluation of impact of the programme to date.

c) Launching the 'Safe Sleep' campaign with the other LSCBs and Child Death Overview Panels (CDOPs) in the Pan-Hampshire and Isle of Wight area by Summer 2019. Conducting a first phase evaluation by the end of the reporting period.

d) Reviewing the joint HSCB/IOWSCB Neglect Toolkit and consider additional information to include. Conducting an evaluation of the understanding, use of the Strategy and Toolkit by frontline professionals, and assess impact on children and families

Priority 2. Strengthening our Assurance Programmes

a) Responding to the outcomes of the Keeping Children Safe (Section 11) audit to better promote staff understanding and awareness of key policies and procedures.

b) Reviewing learning from Serious Case Reviews to test impact on frontline practice.

Priority 3. Leadership and Transformation

a) Publishing new safeguarding partnership arrangements by 29 June 2019, and full implementation by 29 September 2019 in line with Working Together 2018 statutory guidance.

b) Publishing new Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) arrangements by 29 June 2019, and full implementation by 29 September 2019 in line with Working Together 2018 statutory guidance.

c) With colleagues across the other LSCBs in Pan-Hampshire and Isle of Wight, developing and implementing new Pan-Hampshire and Isle of Wight work streams, including Exploitation and Health groups.

3.7 As part of the above, and in line with its scrutiny and assurance role, the Partnership has maintained a close focus on any change programmes ongoing in partner agencies, that may have an impact on the broader system. Safeguarding Partners and Relevant Agencies are invited to provide briefings on a quarterly basis on any transformation or change programmes so that the partnership has early sight on any changes in service delivery or practice that may impact on single agencies or broader partnership working.

Co-production

4.1 The strength of the partnership continues through good communication and information sharing and innovative work in response to safeguarding.

Remote working has promoted greater participation from colleagues who were often covering more than one geographical area and supporting more than one Local Safeguarding Partnership.

4.2 The HSCP response to the 'new normal' arrangements have allowed us to adapt and build on our success further, at a time when resources are stretched, the HSCP response has helped facilitate a strategic coordination of activity and understanding of impact.

4.3 The HSCP, in line with its duties, continues to scrutinise and challenge performance, identify, disseminate, and embed lessons, engage with children, young people, and families, and evaluate the impact on outcomes.

4.4 Covid-19 has inevitably had an impact on the capacity of partners and relevant agencies. Statutory Partners have had to balance increased demand to continue support for working groups and engage in auditing.

4.5 In response to Covid-19, fortnightly Covid-19 meetings are held with senior managers to share information and respond to any issues that arise. This has ensured that responses to safeguarding is timely and effective.

4.6 Despite the demand issues, remote working has reduced travel time and attendance for working groups, which has generally been good. Attendance for our groups, including task and finish groups, has remained high.

The impact of Covid and increase in the complexity of work has impacted on deadlines and some of our development work has been slowed by Covid-19. However, we are progressing the work we set out in our business plan.

Conclusions

5.1 Note that the Safeguarding Children Partnership which is overseen by the three Safeguarding partners is working effectively across Hampshire. Robust delivery of business plan priorities is supporting collaborative working across organisations and agencies who work with children, young people, and families to ensure that they are effectively safeguarded and supported.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	No
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy, and independent lives:	Yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	No
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	No

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Document

Location

None

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it.
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

Race and equality impact assessment has been considered in the development of this report and no adverse impact has been identified.