HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Panel:	Children and Families Advisory Panel	
Date:	9 February 2021	
Title:	Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership 2019/20 Annual Report	
Report From:	Director of Children's Services	
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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP) Annual Report 2019-20.

Recommendation

2. That the Children and Families Advisory Panel note the Annual Report of the Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership and in particular the assessment that arrangements remain effective.

Executive Summary

- The attached <u>Annual Report</u> 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 HSCPs Business Plan and outlines the priorities over the next year.
- 4. 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.
- 5. 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.

- 6. 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.
- 7. 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.
- 8. The annual business plan and work programme is developed in partnership with all agencies. The HSCP 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 LSCPs 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 LSCPs 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 HSCP/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 LSCPs in Pan-Hampshire and Isle of Wight, developing and implementing new Pan-Hampshire and Isle of Wight work streams, including Exploitation and Health groups.
- 9. As part of the above, and in line with its scrutiny and assurance role, the Safeguarding Partners have 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.

Contextual information

10. 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.

Finance

11. Not applicable

Performance

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

Consultation and Equalities

13. No equality impacts have been identified in the development of this report.

Other Key Issues

14. In addition to note that whilst the report covers the year 2019/20, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has impacted on service demands and has seen a renewed commitment to partnership working. 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.

Conclusions

- 15. The Hampshire Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report provides evidence that there is positive progress in many areas of child protection with strong and integrated front-line services maintained within the partnership across Hampshire.
- 16. The Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership has ensured the implementation of arrangements set out in Working 2018.
- 17. Safeguarding arrangements in Hampshire has continued to improve with partnership membership extending across several working groups to provide continuity. Multi-agency work within partnership groups and subgroups is driving a range of improvements to promote the safety and welfare of children and young people.

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

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 disproportionally low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

Not applicable