

1st November 2021

Agenda Item: 5

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

Purpose of the Report

1. The report informs Members of the content of the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) Annual Report 2020/21, which is attached as **Appendix 1** to this report, and asks the Committee to consider whether there are any further actions it requires in relation to the information contained in the report.

Information

2. Under statutory guidance, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018¹, the safeguarding partners (local authority, police and clinical commissioning groups) have a shared and equal duty to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area.
3. The safeguarding partners must publish a report at least once in every 12-month period. The report must set out what they have done as a result of the arrangements, including on child safeguarding practice reviews, and how effective these arrangements have been in practice.
4. The NSCP Annual Report 2020/21 has therefore been prepared in accordance with the guidance and agreed by the NSCP Strategic Leadership Group. In line with local policy the annual report is being presented to the respective governance arrangements for each of the safeguarding partners. The report has also been published on the NSCP website and a copy provided to the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and the What Works Centre for Children's Social Care.
5. The Annual Report includes an addendum which provides the Independent Scrutineer's assessment of the effectiveness of the leadership by the safeguarding partners.
6. A Joint Strategic Leadership Group with the Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership meets annually to identify and coordinate any cross-cutting issues for the Partnerships. This group has reviewed learning from both Partnerships in relation to Covid-

¹ Published in June 2018

19, it has also considered responses to national reviews, and identified emerging safeguarding issues. The group has reflected on learning from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) and effectiveness of the response by relevant agencies. Opportunities for strengthening joint work around safeguarding training and tackling child exploitation have also been considered and taken forward.

7. A Safeguarding Assurance and Improvement Group, with senior representation from across the partnership, has monitored safeguarding performance and coordinated a significant amount of improvement work which is detailed fully within the report.
8. During 2020/21 the NSCP multi-agency training programme of courses and seminars were redesigned and adapted to be delivered virtually. Participation in training delivered through the NSCP has increased with 2,840 practitioners attending virtual events (compared with 2,346 the previous year). Completion of E learning modules has also increased significantly with 13,625 completions this year compared with 8,060 the previous year.
9. A key responsibility for the NSCP is to commission and undertake case reviews according to national criteria. An initial Rapid Review is undertaken in relation to all serious child safeguarding cases and where necessary a more in-depth Child Safeguarding Practice Review is commissioned to identify any improvements to practice that are needed. During the reporting period, eight Rapid Reviews have been completed and submitted to the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel. Three Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews have been commissioned during the reporting period, one (SN20) has been completed and is awaiting the conclusion of other legal processes before publication and two others are ongoing. The National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel has agreed with the findings and decisions from all the Rapid Reviews undertaken and the learning identified, and action taken in response, is detailed within the report.
10. The safeguarding partnership strategic priorities for 2021/23 are set out within the final section of the safeguarding arrangements annual report.

Other Options Considered

11. No other options have been considered as the publication of an annual report is a statutory requirement.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

12. The report provides the opportunity for the Committee to consider any further actions arising from the information contained in the report.

Statutory and Policy Implications

13. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

14. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATION/S

1) That Committee considers whether there are any actions it requires in relation to the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report for the period 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021, attached as **Appendix 1**.

Colin Pettigrew
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Constitutional Comments (ELP 21/10/21)

15. The recommendations fall within the delegation to Children and Young People's Committee by virtue of its frame of reference.

Financial Comments (CDS 07/10/21)

16. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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