



## Report to Children, Young People & Family Support Scrutiny Committee 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019

**Report of:** Executive Director, People Services

**Subject:** Sheffield Children Safeguarding Board (SSCB) Annual Report 2018 - 2019

**Author of Report:** David Ashcroft, Independent Chair, SCSP

**Summary:**

This Annual Report is intended to be informative about the work of the SSCB and to make the Board and its partners accountable to child protection professionals, to those who fund and support safeguarding services, to service users, to elected members and the public of Sheffield.

*Please note from June 2019 the SSCB became the Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership (SCSP)*

**Type of item:** The report author should tick the appropriate box

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	✓
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	✓
Other	

**The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:**

- Receive the Annual Report and note its content
- Comment on and / or seek clarification on any issues raised
- Identify priority areas for next year's business plan

**Background Papers:**

- Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report 2018-19

**Category of Report:** OPEN

This report provides an overview of safeguarding activity in Sheffield. Included are the priorities for 2019/20. The Annual Report (2018/2019) of the Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership is included for information and to provide context and background information to inform discussion. The Annual Report underlines the accountability of the Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership to the people of the City.

## **SAFEGUARDING IN SHEFFIELD**

The Annual Report provides information on the safeguarding work undertaken in Sheffield and gives a sense of the positive difference this work makes to children and young people who are most at risk of abuse and neglect.

Reporting to the CYPF Scrutiny Committee is one of the ways in which the Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board informs the people of Sheffield about the work that we do and how we are accountable to them. The Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board is keen to encourage and further develop links with the people of Sheffield to raise the profile of safeguarding and to listen to what people think about our work and what our priorities should be.

Every child and young person in Sheffield should be able to grow up free from the fear of abuse or neglect. Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board is committed to improving the safety of all children and young people in Sheffield. If children are not safe, they cannot be healthy, happy, achieve or reach their full potential. We recognise and promote the concept that keeping children safe is everybody's responsibility.

The objectives of Local Safeguarding Children Boards are set out in s.13 of the Children Act 2004 as:

- Coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area
- To ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes

This is defined by the core functions of:

- Developing local procedures and policies
- Communicating the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, raising awareness of how this can best be done and encouraging practitioners, agencies and the public to take the required action
- Participating in local planning of services for children in Sheffield
- Undertaking reviews of serious cases and advising the authority and Board partners on lessons to be learnt
- Undertaking reviews of child deaths to identify any concerns or patterns affecting the welfare and safety of children and ensuring the correct procedures are in place to provide a coordinated multi-agency response

- Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of what is done by partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advise them on ways to improve
- Assessing whether Board partners are fulfilling their statutory obligations under s.11 of the Children Act 2004
- Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of training
- Producing and publishing an Annual Report on the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area

### **Key Achievements 2018-19**

- Developed the new governance arrangements for the Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership
- Launched the Team Up initiative in partnership with Sheffield Wednesday Football Club and others to promote inclusion and equality for children and vulnerable adults in stadiums and sports venues.
- Worked with the Gambling Commission and others to develop and promote a training resource for the gambling trade
- Developed a proposal for a strategy to tackle harmful gambling, which includes the commissioning of Young Gamers and Gamblers Education Trust to provide awareness training to staff in secondary schools
- Safeguarding training has been delivered to taxis, hotels and managers at takeaways and fast food restaurants on their role in raising awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)
- Unannounced night time inspections with partners to Shisha venues have resulted in a number of premises being disrupted for unsafe operational standards and prosecuted by Sheffield City Council (SCC) for illegal smoking
- Considerable amounts of work have been undertaken to raise awareness of the impact of substance misuse on children including:
  - 5 Safeguarding refresher events with Substance Misuse, Domestic Abuse and Mental Health Services
  - A Parental Mental Health workshop to help develop a strategy and joint working agreement between Adult Mental Health Services and Children Services
  - Increasing awareness of Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder via a hidden harm masterclass, a Team Talk and training for targeted services
- As well as regular development sessions, Workforce Development activity during 2018/19 has included:
  - Closer working with the Adult Safeguarding Partnership on joint programmes including a new course for those transitioning from Childrens to Adult services

- Further online courses including ones on Prevent & Radicalisation, Child Sexual Exploitation, Trafficking and Modern Slavery and Children with Disabilities
- Two well attended SSCB Conferences focusing on Safeguarding Adolescents: Issues and challenges when working with children and young people aged 13+
- Following a Multiagency Audit of Contacts and Referrals to the Sheffield Safeguarding Hub, the SSCB worked closely with Children's Social Care to develop guidance regarding the completion of MACFs.

**During 2019-20 Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership will have the following priorities:**

- To maintain an effective response to the Neglect of Children and Young People in Sheffield
- To develop robust responses to address issues around Vulnerable Young People and Contextual Safeguarding (CSE/CCE/Gangs/Knife Crime) in Sheffield
- To improve provision of services to support good Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing in Young People and Children in Sheffield

**During 2019-20 Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership and Sheffield Adults Safeguarding Partnership will have the following joint priorities:**

- Seek assurance from the health and well-being board and partners across Sheffield that the transition plans that were agreed in 2018/19 are being delivered and that the transition of the most vulnerable young people to adult services is improved and protecting those most in need.
- Review training across the workforce to ensure that user voice is heard and that contextual safeguarding is understood and supported by the workforce.
- Explore the understanding of risk across the workforce and consider how the workforce should be supported in identifying and responding to risk
- Introduce joint challenge meetings to ensure effective use of partner time and test whether partners are able to see the links across families and communities
- Build and embed a Sheffield is Safe message for all communities using a range of communication tools including social media. Keep a focus on hate crime, cohesion, modern slavery and criminal exploitation
- Make effective use of data on domestic abuse, particularly in younger people, to develop more effective interventions by partners
- Embed the new governance arrangements and seek to build closer working arrangements across Children and Adults safeguarding and with other key partnerships