



Report to Policy Committee

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Report of: *Strategic Director of Children's Services*

Report to: *Strategy and Resources Policy Committee*

Date of Decision: *20 November 2023*

Subject: *Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership
Annual reports for 21-22 and 22-23*

Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) been undertaken?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
If YES, what EIA reference number has it been given? (2410)				
Has appropriate consultation taken place?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has a Climate Impact Assessment (CIA) been undertaken?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Purpose of Report:

Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership (SCSP) is made up of the following three local safeguarding partners:

- Sheffield City Council: represented by the Director of Children's Services
- NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board: represented by the Chief Nurse
- South Yorkshire Police: represented by the Chief Superintendent District Commander

The three partners must publish a yearly report setting out the work they have undertaken that year.

Working Together 2018 states: "In order to bring transparency for children, families and all practitioners about the activity undertaken, 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".

A copy of all published reports should be sent to the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and the What Works Centre for Children's Social Care within seven days of being published.

The attached Annual Reports covers the periods from

- April 2021 through to March 2022
- April 2022 through to March 2023

Both annual reports set out how the SCSP have reviewed the partnership's ambition, strategy and key business priorities over the 12-month reporting period.

Both reports provide details of the following areas:

- Priorities, progress and impact
- Dissemination and embedding of learning.
- Conclusion and next steps

The key priorities for 2021-22 were identified as far back as 2019/20 and over the last two years against a background of the Covid 19 pandemic these have continued to roll forward.

As outlined in the SCSP 22-23 Annual Report, there has been a huge amount of work undertaken across the city and progress made with regards to meeting the key priority areas.

Recommendations:

That the contents of the annual reports (appendices 1-3) be noted.

Background Papers:

The 22-23 Annual report has focused on the recommendations from the What Works for Children's Social Care (WWCSC) Safeguarding Partners Annual Report Analysis 20-21 [Safeguarding Partners' Annual Reports Analysis 2020-21 - What Works for Children's Social Care \(whatworks-csc.org.uk\)](https://www.whatworks-csc.org.uk), which seeks to determine the extent to which safeguarding partners' annual reports meet the requirements set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - SCSP Annual report 2021 – 2022

Appendix 2 - SCSP Annual report 2022 – 2023

Appendix 3 - Appendix 1 to the SCSP annual report 2022 – 2023

Lead Officer to complete:-		
1	I have consulted the relevant departments in respect of any relevant implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist, and comments have been incorporated / additional forms completed / EIA completed, where required.	Finance: <i>Kayleigh Iman</i>
		Legal: <i>Patrick Chisholm</i>
		Equalities & Consultation:
		Climate:
<i>Legal, financial/commercial and equalities implications must be included within the report and the name of the officer consulted must be included above.</i>		
2	SLB member who approved submission:	<i>Meredith Dixon-Teasdale</i>
3	Committee Chair consulted:	<i>Councillor Dawn Dale</i>
4	I confirm that all necessary approval has been obtained in respect of the implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist and that the report has been approved for submission to the Committee by the SLB member indicated at 2. In addition, any additional forms have been completed and signed off as required at 1.	
	Lead Officer Name: <i>Meredith Dixon-Teasdale</i>	Job Title: <i>Strategic Director of Children's services</i>
	Date: <i>24th October 2023</i>	

1. PROPOSAL

- 1.1 Under Working Together 2018 – para 21-46, all safeguarding partners must publish a report at least once in every 12-month period.

2. HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE ?

- 2.1 There is a shared and equal responsibility between the three safeguarding partners to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in the local area.
- 2.2 As a partnership, we should agree clear priorities, based on what we know about the lives of children and young people in Sheffield, and what works to improve them. Our priorities should be co-owned, transcend organisational boundaries and we should feel comfortable holding each other to account against them. Support and challenge should be part of how we ensure impacts are clear, understood, co-owned, and contribute to progressively improving children and young people's lives.
- 2.3 Working in partnership means organisations and agencies should collaborate on how they will fund their arrangements. The three safeguarding partners and relevant agencies for the local authority area should make payments towards expenditure incurred in conjunction with local multi-agency arrangements for safeguarding and promoting welfare of children.
- 2.4 The safeguarding partners should agree the level of funding secured from each partner, which should be equitable and proportionate, and any contributions from each relevant agency, to support the local arrangements. The funding should be transparent to children and families in the area, and sufficient to cover all elements of the arrangements, including the cost of local child safeguarding practice reviews. **Working Together to Safeguard Children (DfE 2018) (Chapter 3).**

3. HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONSULTATION?

- 3.1 In February 2023, a development workshop was held with partners and key stakeholders to review the partnership's ambition, strategy, and priorities for the next three years. The workshop was facilitated by two national facilitators, and it was recognised that the workshop was the first step on a journey to reset, refresh and revitalise the work of the partnership.
- 3.2 To continue reviewing the partnerships ambition, strategy, and priorities, two further development workshops were held on 17th and 24th July 2023, with the chair of the partnership, officers and chairs of subgroups. Prior to the workshops, questionnaires were completed by all attendees to review their workstreams and contributions to the 22-23 priorities.
- 3.3 Our Independent Chair and Scrutineer, Lesley Smith, was appointed in April 2022 and sits across both the children and adult partnerships. Lesley acts as a constructive critical friend and is a key driver to promoting reflection for continuous improvement across the Partnership.

4. RISK ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

4.1 Equality Implications

4.1.1 N/A

4.2 Financial and Commercial Implications

4.2.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

4.3 Legal Implications

4.3.1 Local Safeguarding Partnerships are subject to a statutory duty to publish an annual report under the Children Act (2004) as amended by the Children and Social Work Act (2017) dealing with the achievements of the Partnership and making an assessment of the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements within the local area.

4.3.2 The Annual Report outlines what the Partnership has done over the period 2021/22 and 2022/23, drawing upon a range of data and information to outline the progress made and illustrates the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding partnership arrangements.

4.3.3 A copy of all published reports should be sent to the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and the What Works Centre for Children's Social Care within seven days of being published.

4.4 Climate Implications

4.4.1 N/A

4.5 Other Implications

4.5.1 N/A

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 N/A

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 It is important that the Committee are aware of the work of the Sheffield Children's Safeguarding Partnership and the content of the Annual Reports.

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