



Report to Children Young People and Families Scrutiny Committee January 2021

Report of: Executive Director, People Services

Subject: Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership (SCSP) Annual Report 2019 - 2020

Author of Report: David Ashcroft, Independent Chair, SCSP

Summary:

This Annual Report is intended to be informative about the work of the SCSP 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 July 2019 the Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board (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 2019-20

Category of Report: OPEN

This report provides an overview of safeguarding activity in Sheffield. The Annual Report (2019/20) 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 Children Safeguarding Partnership informs the people of Sheffield about the work that we do and how we are accountable to them. The Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership 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 Children Safeguarding Partnership 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 Partnerships as set out in s.16E of the Children Act 2004, which was added by the Children and Social Work Act 2017, are to ensure that safeguarding partners and relevant agencies work together to:

- Safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the area
- Identify and respond to the needs of children in the area

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 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 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 2019-20

- In July 2019 we became a Partnership and well-established relationships were cemented in our “New Arrangements”. Agencies continue to contribute to the work of the partnership both at a senior and practitioner level with strong political support from elected members.
- A positive culture and mutually supportive relationships have ensured that partners have been able to work together as the city dealt with the impacts of Covid-19, with the initial impact of the pandemic being briefly touched on in this report.
- Local Safeguarding Self-Assessments (Section 11) and Challenge Sessions were successfully completed in conjunction with the Adult Safeguarding Partnership to support a coordinated approach and identify any cross-cutting themes that apply equally in adults’ and children’s services.
- Work has progressed over the year to address harmful gambling and the impact it can have on children and families. Seminars were well received and with Public Health colleague’s resources were produced for employers.
- Work carried out by the Vulnerabilities Manager has been extended to include drug and alcohol misuse and / or mental ill health within the remit of Hidden Harm. This has helped practitioners across adults’ and children’s services extend their knowledge and better respond to families.
- The well-established multi-agency workforce development programme delivered over 13,000 contacts across a range of topics with good feedback from practitioners. A Workforce Development Questionnaire circulated to partners and children’s services confirmed the value of this programme and the confidence it gives professional’s as well as identifying areas for further work.
- Two themed audits were completed focusing on priorities within the Business Plan (mental health and child criminal or sexual exploitation) with actions being progressed by agencies. Following a Multiagency Audit of Contacts and Referrals to the Safeguarding Hub, work to improve the quality of information and to monitor and improve professional’s attendance at, and report submissions to Child Protection Conferences has taken place.
- A full-scale review of the SCSP data suite commenced in 2019/20, to ensure it continues to be concise, insightful, reliable, and accurate in providing a picture of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of CYP in Sheffield.

During 2020-21 Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership priorities are:

- 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 2020-21 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 transition plans are being delivered and that the transition of the most vulnerable young people to adult services is improved and protecting those most in need.
- To develop joint training across the workforce including in relation to hearing the user voice 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
- 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
- Continue to build closer working arrangements across Children and Adults safeguarding and with other key partnerships