

Item 4a

Report of the Executive Director Core Services to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) on 12 September 2023

Barnsley Safeguarding Children's Partnership Annual Report 2022-23 - Cover Report

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 The Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP) is the organisation responsible for agreeing how services and agencies work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in the borough and ensuring that they do so effectively. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 places the responsibility on the three 'Safeguarding Partners', the police; the local authority; and health, to formulate the local arrangements for partnership working to safeguard children in their own geographical area.
- 1.2 The aim of the partnership is to be more effective together than they are as separate agencies in their shared and equal duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people of Barnsley.
- 1.3 The role of the Partnership is to:-
- Ensure that safeguarding children and young people is at the centre of everything they do
 - Hold Partnership members to account, making sure they are doing enough to keep children and young people safe
 - Collect and share information about how well they are keeping children and young people safe and identify what more can be done
- 1.4 Since January 2023, David Radford began in the newly created combined role of Independent Chair and Scrutineer for BSCP. This involves undertaking the chairing of partnership meetings as well as acting objectively, as a constructive and critical friend who promotes reflection to drive continuous improvement.

2.0 Current Position

- 2.1 The Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership's Annual Report 2022-23 (Item 4b - attached) outlines the work of the Partnership and its sub-groups over the last year and indicates its priorities and plans for continued improvement.
- 2.2 The governance structure of the Partnership has been reviewed and is outlined within the annual report, showing the seven sub-groups who ensure the work of the Partnership is carried forward. These groups are: -
- Bullying, Harassment & Online Harms (BHOH) subgroup
 - Strategic Integrated Front Door (IFD) subgroup
 - Child Exploitation (CE) subgroup
 - Child Neglect (CN) subgroup
 - Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR) subgroup
 - Policy & Workforce Development (PWD) subgroup

- Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

2.3 The Partnership identified four strategic priorities for 2022-25, progress for which is reported on within the annual report: -

- Child neglect - improving outcomes for children and young people at risk of neglect and harm
- Child exploitation - improving outcomes for children and young people at risk of exploitation and harm outside of home
- Bullying, online harm, stalking and harassment
- Service development and improvement (a cross-cutting priority and lead theme in all partnership work).

3.0 Future Plans and Challenges

3.1 The strategic priorities for BSCP for 2023-24 are to: -

- Continue to develop and build on the four strategic priorities begun this year, of service development, child exploitation, child neglect and bullying and online harms.
- Hold a development session (August 2023) to inform and update the strategic plan. This will build on the Partnership's joint work this year, in response to inspections, reviews and learning, with focus on evidence, impact, assurance and learning.
- Continue to improve the availability and quality of data available to the Partnership.
- Continue to develop a Quality Assurance framework that measures the impact of performance through data, audits, feedback from practitioners and the lived experiences of children and their families, to assure that children and young people are protected and safe from harm.
- Tailor the multiagency training programme and evaluate results, to support the Partnership's strategic priorities.
- Learn from national and local reviews and best practice. Encourage positive challenge so that commissioned child safeguarding practice reviews provide partners with the information required to provide learning from serious incidents.

4.0 Invited Witnesses

4.1 A number of Partnership representatives have been invited to today's meeting to answer questions from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding their work over the last annual reporting year (April 2022-March 2023), as well as work being undertaken currently and future plans: -

- David Radford, Independent Chair & Scrutineer, BSCP
- Carly Speechley, Executive Director, Children's Services, BMBC
- Matthew Boud, Service Director, Children's Social Care & Safeguarding, Children's Services, BMBC
- Annette Carey, Strategic Safeguarding Partnership Manager, Children's Services, BMBC
- Cllr Trevor Cave, Cabinet Spokesperson – Children's Services
- Chief Superintendent Simon Wanless, Barnsley District Commander, South Yorkshire Police (SYP)
- Superintendent Emma Wheatcroft, South Yorkshire Police (SYP)
- Dawn Gibbon, Head of Safeguarding, Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (BHNFT)

- Becky Hoskins, Deputy Director of Nursing & Quality, Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (BHNFT)
- Angela Fawcett, Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children and Looked After Children, South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board
- Emma Cox, Assistant Director of Nursing, Quality & Professions, South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SWYPFT)
- Jayne Sivakumar, Chief Nurse, South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board

5.0 Possible Areas for Investigation

5.1 Members may wish to ask questions around the following areas:

- What area of work has had the greatest positive impact on safeguarding children and young people in the borough during 2022-23?
- What evidence is there of the added value of the partnership rather than just the efforts of individual agencies?
- The voice of education providers has been incorporated into operational safeguarding practices during 2022-23, what plans are there (if any) to incorporate this at a strategic level on the board?
- How confident are you that staff have the time and capacity to have professional curiosity around cases, to ensure they are fully identifying the risks to children?
- What has been put in place to improve the voice of the child within cases, to ensure they are being heard and their lived experiences are being fully understood by professionals?
- What impact has the newly created 'Independent Chair & Scrutineer' role had on the work of the partnership?
- How will the partnership positively contribute to addressing the issues identified in the inspection of Youth Justice Services in March 2023?
- To what extent have you achieved the Partnership's aspiration to become a fully 'integrated front door' and providing an effective contextual safeguarding response?
- How is the Partnership ensuring a smooth transition between Children & Adults safeguarding services?
- What evidence is there of BSCP incorporating learning from national safeguarding reviews and good practice evidenced by other areas?
- How do you ensure that respectful challenge is provided amongst officers working across the partnership at both a strategic and operational level to ensure the best outcomes for our children and young people?
- What is being done to address the challenge of recruitment within all agencies? What (if any) joint working has been undertaken on this?

- How confident are you that staff have skills and access to relevant IT systems and are able to obtain information they need amongst partners?
- What actions could be taken by Members to assist in the work of Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership?

6.0 Background Papers and Useful Links

- Barnsley LSOP Annual Report 2022-23 (Item 4b - attached)
- Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership New Arrangements and Implementing the Requirements of Working Together 2018:
<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/media/10311/barnsley-safeguarding-children-partnership-implementation-document.pdf>
- Barnsley Safeguarding Children Website:
<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/children-families-and-education/safeguarding-families-in-barnsley/safeguarding-children-in-barnsley/>

7.0 Glossary

BHOH	Bullying, Harassment & Online Harms
BSCP	Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership
BHNFT	Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
CDOP	Child Death Overview Panel
CE	Child Exploitation
CN	Child Neglect
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
DSL	Designated Safeguarding Lead
IFD	Integrated Front Door
LCSPR	Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews
MASH	Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub
OSC	Overview & Scrutiny Committee
PWD	Policy & Workforce Development
SWYPFT	South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
SYP	South Yorkshire Police

8.0 Officer Contact

Jane Murphy / Anna Marshall, Scrutiny Officers

Scrutiny@barnsley.gov.uk

04 September 2023