

## BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This matter is not a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has not been included in the relevant Forward Plan

### REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (CHILDREN'S SERVICES) TO CABINET

#### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BARNSELY LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S PARTNERSHIP (2019/20)

#### 1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present for Cabinet's consideration the first annual report of the Barnsley Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP).

#### 2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **That Cabinet receives the Annual Report of the Barnsley LSCP (2019/20) and notes the progress made by the LSCP in relation to its statutory role and functions, as part of Cabinet's continued consideration of the Borough's framework for safeguarding vulnerable adults and children.**

#### 3.0 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 The Children and Social Work Act (2017) followed by the amended statutory guidance for safeguarding children ("*Working Together To Safeguard Children*" (July 2018)) paved the way for significant changes in responsibilities for safeguarding children and promoting their welfare in local areas.

- 3.2 This included the abolition of local safeguarding children boards and the formal introduction of new multi-agency, safeguarding arrangements. From September 2019, responsibility for safeguarding children and promoting their welfare in the Borough has rested with the three designated, safeguarding partners identified in Chapter 3 of the Children and Social Work Act (2017) as follows:

- The local authority.
- NHS clinical commissioning group for an area any part of which falls within the local authority area.
- The chief officer of police for any area in which a part falls within the local authority area.

- 3.3 In Barnsley, these three statutory safeguarding partners have combined to form the Borough LSCP. Whilst the revised statutory guidance applies to all schools and other education providers, they are designated as 'relevant agencies' under the 2017 Act and part of the role of the LSCP is to set out how relevant agencies will comply with this ongoing statutory responsibility within the new local arrangements.

- 3.4 The LSCP is also expected to set out, in writing, how the three statutory local partners will work together and with relevant agencies as well as develop processes and procedures to safeguard children and promote their welfare. This should include reference to the interface with other strategic partnerships, including the Borough's Health and Wellbeing Board; Adult Safeguarding Board and Safer Barnsley Partnership.
- 3.5 The revised guidance identifies the lead representative for each of the 3 safeguarding partners all of whom will be expected to play an active role. In Barnsley, these are as follows:
- The Executive Director (Children's Services) of the Local Authority as the statutory director of children's services.
  - The accountable officer of the Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group.
  - The District Commander for South Yorkshire Police.

All 3 statutory safeguarding partners should have equal and joint responsibility for local safeguarding arrangements. The Cabinet Spokesperson for Children's Services attends meetings and receives all reports of the LSCP as an observer and as the Borough's statutory Lead Member for Children's Services.

#### **4.0 PROPOSAL AND JUSTIFICATION**

- 4.1 The revised statutory guidance makes provision for the independent scrutiny of these new, local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and this forms part of the Barnsley LSCP's published arrangements for safeguarding children and promoting their welfare in the Borough.
- 4.2 The revised guidance also states that the designated safeguarding partners should agree an equitable and proportionate level of funding to be derived from each in order to support the new arrangements.
- 4.3 As well as the publication of arrangements for safeguarding children and promoting their welfare, the Barnsley LSCP is also required to publish an annual report on the effectiveness of these arrangements and the progress achieved which should be presented for consideration by the Council's Chief Executive and by Cabinet.
- 4.4 The LSCP's annual report is duly appended to this report and sets out the work of the Partnership in relation to the changes made to local area arrangements for the safeguarding of children and promoting their welfare. This includes the conducting of local child safeguarding practice reviews and child death reviews, together with reporting any instances of child abuse or neglect to the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel as well as informing additional organisations, such as local sports clubs and faith organisations, of their responsibility under the 2017 Act revised statutory guidance.

4.5 The LSCP's annual report also outlines the local, multi-agency arrangements concerning contextual safeguarding, including tackling child criminal exploitation together with protecting children and young people with complex needs and those at risk of neglect. The annual report also indicates the progress made towards improving the quality of evidence informed practice particularly through its programme of multi-agency training, together with the lessons to be learned through initiatives, notably the annual National and Local Safeguarding Awareness Week.

4.6 These considerations are founded upon the four Strategic Priorities of the LSCP, namely:

Strategic Priority 1: Sharing and Engaging

Strategic Priority 2: Helping, Empowering and Supporting

Strategic Priority 3: Prevention

Strategic Priority 4: Ensuring Accountability

Further detail on the LSCP's Strategic Priorities is outlined particularly in Page 4 of the Annual Report.

## **5.0 CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES**

5.1 The purpose of this report is to comply with the provisions of the amended statutory guidance for safeguarding children concerning the production of an annual report by the Barnsley LSCP and its presentation to Cabinet.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE/SERVICE USERS**

6.1 The LSCP's annual report will provide assurance of the robust arrangements for safeguarding children and promoting their welfare in all areas of the Borough. In terms of prevention, both Elected Members and the general public all have a valuable role to play in acting as the "eyes and ears" of their local communities in spotting the tell-tale signs of abuse, exploitation or neglect and informing the LSCP in order to prevent children and young people from being exposed to further risks.

## **7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 Consultations have taken place with representatives of the Service Director, Finance. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

7.2 The cost of undertaking the activities of the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership in 2019/20 amounted to £148k, which includes related staffing, independent chair costs, business support, etc. The overall cost is funded from contributions from partner organisations' and includes the Council, Barnsley CCG and the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner. A breakdown of costs and partner contributions is outlined on Page 18 of the attached Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership annual report.

## **8.0 EMPLOYEE IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 There are no employee implications directly arising through consideration of this report.

## **9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no legal considerations emerging for the Council through this report.

## **10.0 CUSTOMER AND DIGITAL IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are no implications for accessing the range of Council services or for the onus in favour of digital transactions arising through the report.

## **11.0 COMMUNICATIONS IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 There are no direct implications for the Council arising through the Annual Report. In considering communications, within the context of child protection, Cabinet will note that among the policies and procedures to be continually reviewed and developed by the Barnsley LSCP are those aimed at keeping children and young people safe from grooming and exploitation whilst online

11.2 Equally, through engaging young people on how best they can report or raise concerns with the Partnership, statutory partners and relevant agencies, relating to their safety or wellbeing, Cabinet is assured that communication channels are in place to enable them to do this on their terms and in ways which are most familiar to them

## **12.0 CONSULTATIONS**

12.1 The Senior Management Team has both been consulted and endorsed the progress and achievements outlined in the Annual Report.

## **13.0 THE CORPORATE PLAN AND THE COUNCIL'S PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK**

13.1 The role and responsibilities of the LSCP in safeguarding children and young people from harm and to promote their welfare, accords with one of the six Strategic Priorities of the Borough's Children and Young People's Plan (2020-23) and is reflective of the Corporate Plan's outcome statement of ensuring children and adults are kept safe from harm, thereby enabling them to be better placed in achieving their potential

## **14.0 PROMOTING EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION**

14.1 The Partnership is subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty and will ensure that the development of key strategies, policies and procedures are underpinned by a full equality impact assessment

14.2 As part of the Partnership's multi-agency programme, training continues to be offered to practitioners and front line staff, to improve their understanding of complex needs, together with cultural and faith issues in order to help them ensure that the specific needs of children and young people, including from diverse communities are met

## **15.0 TACKLING THE IMPACT OF POVERTY**

15.1 In promoting the welfare of children and young people, the Partnership has had a crucial role in helping co-ordinate the monitoring and tracking of vulnerable children in the Borough during the Covid-19 Pandemic as part of preventing the risk of any harm, including hidden harm such as neglect. This has enabled vulnerable children to attend school and maintain their health and wellbeing. This is so that they are better placed to fulfil their aspirations and are equipped with the skills that will enable them to participate in the employment market and enhance social capital in our communities.

## **16.0 TACKLING HEALTH INEQUALITIES**

16.1 The LSCP will continue to perform an important role in helping improve the health outcomes of children in care through its oversight of the performance of partners in undertaking timely health assessments and, thereby, closing the gap in health inequality

16.2 This also includes helping improve waiting times for accessing child and adult mental health services. In addition, the LSCP will continue to ensure compliance with the mandatory reporting of any known cases of female genital mutilation (FGM) affecting young women under the age of 18 in the Borough, as part of helping promote public health

## **17.0 REDUCTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER**

17.1 In complying with its statutory responsibilities, the LSCP not only ensures that children and young people are safeguarded from harm, it also performs a crucial role in helping identify and bring to account those responsible for harming children through cruelty, neglect, violence or exploitation

## **18.0 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

18.1 Where any risks emerge to the progress of its Strategic Priorities, remedial action will be taken to ensure there is no impact on vulnerable children and young people in the Borough and that the needs of children requiring help or protection are met without delay

## **19.0 HEALTH, SAFETY AND EMERGENCY RESILIENCE ISSUES**

19.1 Please see Paragraph 15.1.

## **20. COMPATIBILITY WITH THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

20.1 The progress achieved by the LSCP, in compliance with the responsibilities upon the statutory safeguarding partners, accords with the Articles and Protocols of the Convention, particularly the rights of the child to be kept safe from serious harm

## **21.0 CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY**

21.1 There are no implications for the local environment, tackling climate change or the conservation of biodiversity arising through consideration of this report.

## **22.0 GLOSSARY**

22.1 None, applicable.

## **23.0 LIST OF APPENDICES**

23.1 Appendix 1: Annual Report of the Barnsley Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (2019/20)

## **24.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

24.1 If you would like to inspect background papers for this report, please email [governance@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:governance@barnsley.gov.uk) so that appropriate arrangements can be made

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Financial Implications/Consultation



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*(To be signed by senior Financial Services officer  
where no financial implications)*