

Health and Wellbeing Board

24 November 2020

**Durham Safeguarding Children
Partnership Annual Report**



**Report of David Pickard, Independent Chair and Scrutineer,
Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership**

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to present the Health and Wellbeing Board with the Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership (DSCP) Annual Report 2019-20. The full annual report is available on the DSCP website ([link](#)) and attached as Appendix 2

The Young People's version of the Annual Report is attached at Appendix 3.

Executive Summary

- 2 The DSCP Annual Report 2019/20 demonstrates the extent to which the functions of the Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership, as set out in the national statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, have been effectively fulfilled.

The report gives a brief insight of work undertaken against the DSCP's 2019/20 priorities and describes local governance arrangements and links to other strategic partnerships across County Durham.

The report provides an overview of performance monitoring as well as providing a summary of the use of restraint in secure centres; Serious Case Reviews; Child Death Reviews; and the DSCP's provision of multi-agency training.

Recommendation

- 3 Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board are requested to:
 - a) Note the content of this report.

Background

- 4 This is the first full DSCP Annual Report after the transition from Board to the new Partnership Arrangements on 1 April 2019.
- 5 The Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership (DSCP) has a statutory duty under the guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 to prepare and publish an Annual Report which describes how our partners safeguard vulnerable children and young people.
- 6 Our primary responsibility is to provide a way for the local agencies that have a responsibility in respect of child welfare, to agree how they will work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to ensure that they do so effectively.
- 7 The report describes the local governance arrangements and structure of the Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership. It also provides information on the Safeguarding Arrangements that were introduced in 2018/19 through the Children and Social Work Act 2017.
- 8 The DSCP Annual Report 2019/20 sets out the work of multi-agency partners to ensure effective arrangements are in place to safeguard and protect vulnerable children and young people from abuse and neglect.
- 9 It articulates the progress on key pieces of work in the last year and its impact, our achievements, as well as reporting on the work undertaken in line with our Vision and Values:
 - Prevention Through Early Intervention
 - Joined Up Response
 - Listening
 - Identifying
 - Challenging
- 10 It also sets out our areas for focus in the year 2020/21.
- 11 It covers our Performance Management Framework and describes the multi-agency audits we have undertaken. It also gives an overview of Serious Case Reviews and the use of restraint in the Aycliffe Secure Services Centre.
- 12 There is also detail on our multi-agency training provision and description of the marketing and communication activity undertaken by the DSCP.
- 13 Of particular note is the extensive work carried out across all partners, in addressing recommendations from the Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) into domestic abuse and its impact on children.

- 14 In the last year we have continued to focus on Child Exploitation and tackling Neglect.
- 15 The Signs of Safety Practice Framework is becoming the bedrock of what we do both in terms of Local Authority working practices and including our multi-agency partners.
- 16 Another innovative development during the year has been the introduction of a Young Peoples Commissioner Apprentice, whose role it has been to engage with children and young people across the county to ensure their voices are heard, so that they can influence the services they receive. Further, her role is connected to the independent scrutiny of how the DSCP operates.
- 17 The DSCP will continue to work within our Vision and Values, but with additional focus around:
 - (a) Risk Assessment and Cumulative Harm
 - (b) Decision Making
 - (c) Domestic Abuse and Coercion and Control
 - (d) Challenge and Escalation

Approach to Wellbeing

- 18 The Vision and Values of the DSCP is focused around keeping children safe. The Signs of Safety Practice Framework adopted across the partnership has children at the centre of all of our processes, so they and their families can have a say in the services that they receive.

Conclusion

- 19 The Health and Wellbeing Board are sighted on the work of the DSCP including their engagement with young people and families through both survey work and the role of the Young People's Commissioner, which ensures that the voice of the child is heard and influences partnership activity.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

None

Finance

Yearly financial contributions to Durham SCP are received from partner agencies and are detailed in the DSCP Annual Report

Consultation

Across all relevant partners

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

The DSCP Annual Report identifies the actions to safeguard the needs of vulnerable children and young people.

Climate Change

N/A

Human Rights

Text.

Crime and Disorder

The DSCP Annual Report reflects priorities and action that impact positively on crime and disorder in County Durham. The report shows effective partnership working with the Safe Durham Partnership

Staffing

The priorities identified in the DSCP Annual Report will be delivered using existing resources. Durham County Council will contribute to the delivery of the priorities in partnership with other responsible authorities.

Accommodation

N/A

Risk

No adverse implications

Procurement

No adverse implications

Appendix 2: DSCP Annual Report 2019-20

Attached as a separate document

Appendix 3: DSCP Annual Report 2019-20: Young People's Version

Attached as a separate document