

Cabinet 8 December 2020 Annual Safeguarding Report

For Decision

Portfolio Holder: Cllr A Parry, Children, Education, Skills and Early Help

Local Councillor(s): Cllr

Executive Director: T Leavy, Executive Director of People - Children

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Report Status: Public

Recommendation:

Members of the cabinet are asked to consider and note the contents of the Annual Report of the Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Partnership.

Reason for Recommendation:

Safeguarding partnerships are required to publish and share Annual Reports widely. Dorset Council is a statutory safeguarding partner in the Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Partnership.

1. Executive Summary

This report provides an introduction to and overview of the Annual Report of the Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Partnership (Appendix 1), implemented on the 1st August 2019 in response to the updated Children and Family Social Work Act (2017) and Working Together (2018) which set out changes in relation to multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. The annual report provides an overview of progress to date and sets out priorities for the coming 12 months.

2. Financial Implications

N/A

3. Well-being and Health Implications

Good safeguarding practice is essential to the health and wellbeing of children, young people and families.

4. Climate implications

N/A

5. Other Implications

The annual report of the Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Partnership provides co-ordination and leadership to the safeguarding system for children.

6. Risk Assessment

Having considered the risks associated with this decision, the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: Low

Residual Risk: Low

7. Equalities Impact Assessment

N/A

8. Appendices

Appendix 1: PDSCP Annual Report 2019-20

9. Background Papers

10. Introduction and Background

10.1. This report provides an introduction to and overview of the Annual Report of the Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Partnership (Appendix 1), implemented on the 1st August 2019 in response to the updated Children and Family Social Work Act (2017) and Working Together (2018) which set out changes in relation to multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

10.2. The legislation placed a shared and equal duty on three safeguarding partners (the local authority, police, and clinical commissioning groups) to co-ordinate their safeguarding services and act as a strategic leadership group. In the Dorset area, it was agreed to set up a single safeguarding partnership that would serve the Dorset Council and BCP Council footprints. These arrangements replaced the two Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs). An independent chair and scrutineer oversees these arrangements.

10.3. The annual report provides:

- (i) An introduction from the Chair and Independent Scrutineer
- (ii) A summary of key milestones

- (iii) An overview of the work of the partnership focusing on multi-agency practice reviews, the child death overview panel, multi-agency quality assurance processes; the learning hub and safeguarding training
- (iv) Brief Progress Reviews from each of the statutory partners
- (v) Partnership priorities for 2020/21
- (vi) Progress on delivery
- (vii) Work programme

11. Key Findings

- 11.1. These new arrangements have been implemented in the context of implementation of local government reorganisation and the shift to an Integrated Care System (ICS). New partnerships have formed and work has continued to be delivered throughout the pandemic and the building blocks for service improvement are in place.
- 11.2. The partnership has made good progress on range of areas, and has a demonstrated a strong commitment to child safeguarding.
- 11.3. In the next 12 months will continue to focus on the nine strategic areas that make up a strong safeguarding partnership: governance and organisation; system leadership; risk management; culture; quality assurance and learning hub; strategy, services priorities and policies; voices and liver experience; practice reviews, learning and improvement; and multi-agency practice and workforce development.
- 11.4. There will be a particular focus on systems leadership and coordination to make sure we have the right mix of place-based (local authority footprint) and pan-Dorset alongside improving our data, audit and practice improvements supported by the learning hub.
- 11.5. Priorities for the partnership in the coming 12 months include:
 - (i) Ensuring front-door arrangements are effective
 - (ii) Practice development and improvement
 - (iii) Improving information sharing with schools following domestic abuse incidents
 - (iv) Ensuring we provide the best support we can to babies and new parents
 - (v) Child exploitation and adolescent risk
 - (vi) Child and adolescent neglect
 - (vii) Focusing on hearing the lived experiences of children, young people and families involved in the safeguarding system

12. Recommendations

12.1. Cabinet members are asked:

- 1. To consider and note the contents of the Annual Report of the Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Partnership

Footnote:

Issues relating to financial, legal, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.