

Cabinet

10 September 2024

Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children's Partnership Annual Report April 2023 - 2024

For Decision

Cabinet Member and Portfolio:

Cllr. C Sutton, Children's Services, Education & Skills

Local Councillor(s):

Cllr Clare Sutton

Executive Director:

T Leavy, Executive Director of People - Children

Report Author: Lisa Reid
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Report Status: Public (the exemption paragraph is N/A)

Recommendation: That the Cabinet note and approve the overall report and continued priority areas, suggesting any further considerations.

Reason for Recommendation: Work has already commenced and will continue under the new Dorset Safeguarding Partnership which came into effect on the 1st August 2024

Brief Summary:

The Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children's Partnership (PDSCP) is the statutory body which oversees multi-agency safeguarding arrangements prior to the 1st of August 2024. This report contains a background and introduction to the statutory functions of the partnership and the council's responsibilities which includes the requirements to publish an annual report.

Cabinet has in June 2024 agreed a separation from the PDSCP to create a Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership, but this report predates the changes made and provides reflections of the partnership work during 2023/2024.

Therefore, this is the final annual report of the PDSCP and is provided as an attachment for consideration by cabinet.

Areas covered in the report include:

- Outlining the findings from a review of the safeguarding arrangements.
- Summarising local and national learning including in relation to Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.
- Providing an overview of multi-agency training.
- Outlining the funding arrangements for the new partnerships.
- Providing information from the Child Death Overview Panel.
- Detailing work across the partnership linked to the priority areas for 2022/23.
- Outlining other key developments by the statutory safeguarding partners.

The report also outlines the continued priority areas set last year as part of a 2 year plan from 2023 to 2025.

The report has been approved by the Statutory partners and both council areas by those who are the representatives of the Safeguarding partnership as outlined in Working Together Guidance 2023.

1. **Report Highlights**

As a summary of the annual report in relation to Dorset

- 1.1 During the reporting period Dorset had one Local Child Safeguarding Practice review (LSCPR) and published by the name of Edie. Key learning in relation to developing the multi-agency response to extra-familial harm including the link with intra-familial harm was identified. As a result, the partnership has been working to strengthen this area of work.
- 1.2 A new extra familial harm risk assessment was launched in February 2024 as part of a revised Extra Familial Harm and Risk Strategy. The strategy provides a framework for oversight of work in Dorset with children and young people in relation to child sexual exploitation, child criminal exploitation, transitional safeguarding, missing, radicalisation and extremism, serious violence and weapons, online exploitation. The new strategy will be published at the end of August 2024.

- 1.3 During November 2023 Violence Against Women Awareness week, Dorset undertook an exercise recording young women's hopes and fears as part of a social media campaign. The Pineapple Project continues to raise awareness of violence against all women, with a focus on young women and girls, and to ensure all young women in Dorset have a safe space to go to when they need to.
- 1.4 The PDSCP also held agencies to account for the quality of safeguarding and the related improvements including by Southwest Ambulance Service Trust, Southwest Probation Service, and concerns about the quality of care in Feltham YOI. They also provide challenge and support in relation to how the Right Care Right Person initiative was being implemented in the Pan-Dorset area. Further work undertaken can be reviewed in section 8 of the full report which demonstrates the effectiveness of the quality assurance provided to the Safeguarding partnership. Activity has also included scrutiny of domestic abuse, neglect, injuries to non-mobile babies (see full report for details).
- 1.5 Child Death Overview Panel, which is an arrangement including Dorset, BCP and Somerset, has been notified of a total of 27 deaths during this twelve-month period. In addition, there were 9 notifications of Out of County children, resident elsewhere who died within our areas – these deaths will be reviewed and recorded by their home Local Authority. Learning will be provided in the CDOP annual report published in November 2024.
- 1.6 The PDSCP agreed three priority areas for their work from 2023/25 and these will continue to be the priority areas for 2024/25.

Priority 1: Violence experienced by children and young people (including sexual violence and abuse, domestic abuse, physical violence and knife crime).

Priority 2: Children's mental health and emotional well-being.

Priority 3. Neglect

2. **Financial Implications**

- 2.1 None, these are set out within the report and contributions from the partners remain the same. The budgets will be split from the 1st August 2024 to form two separate safeguarding partnerships as previously approved by Cabinet. This does not impact the partnership work as changes have been made to the business roles to ensure sufficient

funding to deliver our statutory responsibilities, again already approved by cabinet.

3. **Natural Environment, Climate & Ecology Implications**

3.1 N/A

4. **Well-being and Health Implications**

4.1 N/A

5. **Other Implications**

5.1 N/A

6. **Risk Assessment**

6.1 HAVING CONSIDERED: the risks associated with this decision; the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk:

Residual Risk:

7. **Equalities Impact Assessment**

7.1 None required

8. **Appendices**

8.1 Appendix 1: PDSCP Annual Report 2023/2024

9. **Background Papers**

9.1 None

10. **Report Sign Off**

10.1 This report has been through the internal report clearance process and has been signed off by the Director for Legal and Democratic (Monitoring Officer), the Executive Director for Corporate Development (Section 151 Officer) and the appropriate Portfolio Holder(s)