

# Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2023/2024



Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership



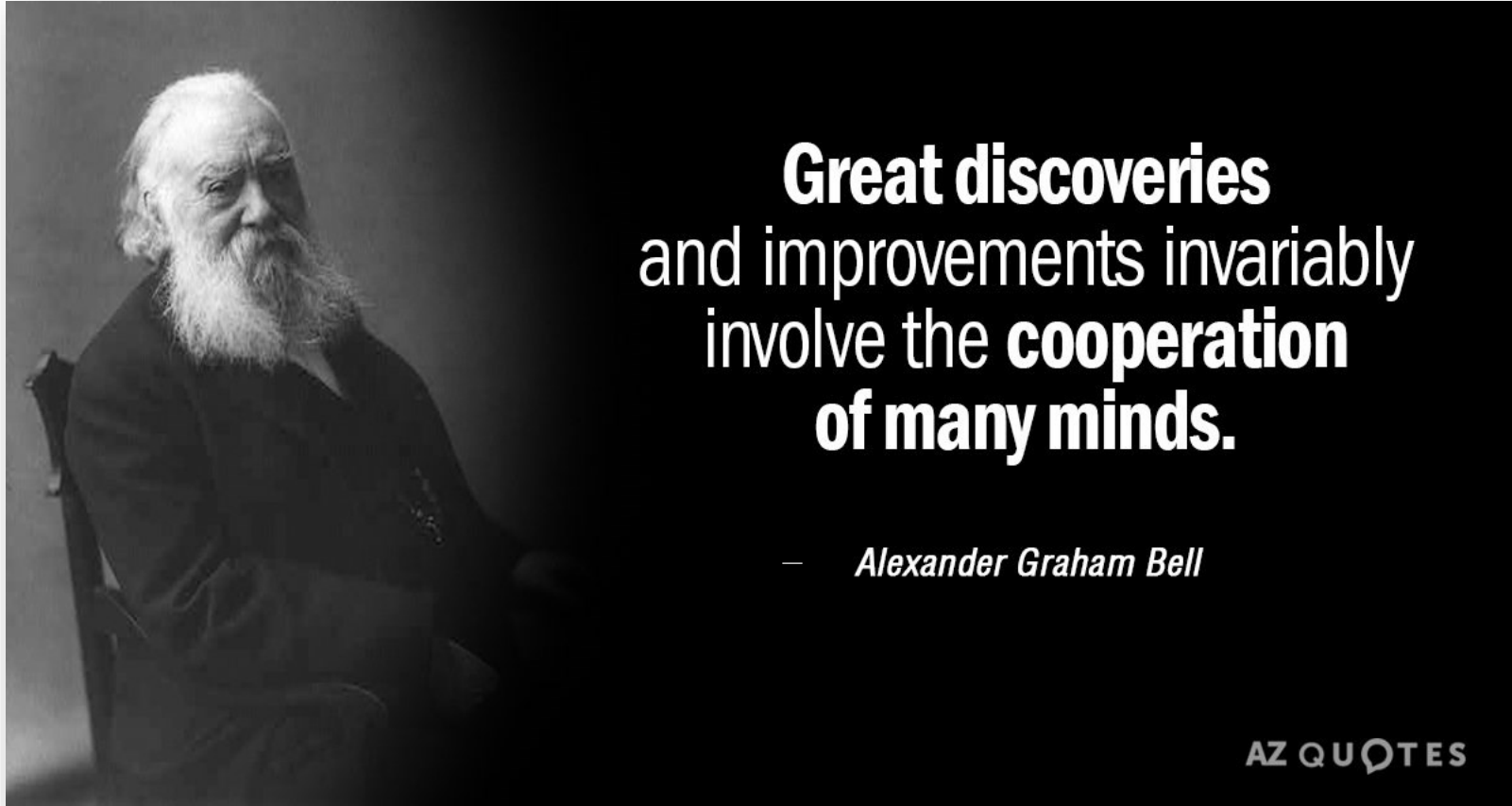
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**Great discoveries**  
and improvements invariably  
involve the **cooperation**  
of many minds.

— *Alexander Graham Bell*

AZ QUOTES

# Foreword

As we present the Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership (PDSCP) Annual Report for 2023/24, we stand in reflection of a year marked by unwavering commitment and collective effort to safeguard the children and families within our communities. This document not only outlines the milestones achieved but also the challenges faced and surmounted.

The year has been pivotal, with the PDSCP navigating the dynamic terrain of safeguarding, aligning with the new policies and procedures of the Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023. Our resolve to deliver services that are both effective and inclusive has been reinforced, with a focus on ensuring accessibility and shared responsibilities.

Our priority areas have seen substantial progress, particularly in addressing violence affecting children, including domestic abuse, sexual assault, and knife crime. Our strategies to combat child exploitation and extra-familial harm have been bolstered by the introduction of new risk assessment tools and revised strategies.

The PDSCP has diligently worked on adapting to the new guidelines of the Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023, with a full implementation plan set to be completed by December 2024.

Extensive quality assurance and scrutiny activities have been undertaken, particularly in relation to domestic abuse, neglect, and injuries to non-mobile babies and in response to learning from review activity. A Pan-Dorset dataset has been developed and reviewed quarterly to identify key trends and inform partnership activity.

The increase in permanent staff positions within the PDSCP has led to better service delivery and more consistent practice across agencies.

A Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership conference entitled: Hopefulness and working with adolescent young people was a success, with the expert by experience voice being at the heart. The PDSCP has ensured that the voices, views, and influence of children and young people are integral to the success of the partnership, reflecting the PDSCP's commitment to making sure that children and young people have the best chances to thrive and be successful.

The backbone of our success lies in the dedication of our multi-agency workforce. Their expertise and steadfast support have been crucial in fostering improvements and learning across all agencies. We express our deepest appreciation to every professional and volunteer who has played a part in our mission.

Looking forward, our dedication to safeguarding excellence remains steadfast. We are committed to continuous learning, adaptation, and innovation to ensure the safety and well-being of every child and young person under our care.

On behalf of the PDSCP, I extend our sincere gratitude to all our partners, stakeholders, and the community for their unwavering support. Together, we are effecting positive change in the lives of children and families across Dorset.

James R. Vaughan

Independent Chair

Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership

## Overview of the Area by each Council Location

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council area population is 401,900 residents. The BCP area has a smaller proportion of 0–15 year olds (16%) compared to England (19%). 65,800 children under the age of 16 are living in the BCP area.

The number of under 16s is set to decrease by 7% between 2018 and 2028, with the decrease being seen predominantly in the 0-5s and 6-10s age ranges. The area, however, has a larger proportion of residents aged 66 or over (21%) compared with the rest of England (18%), although a significantly smaller proportion than neighbouring Dorset. The working age population aged 16-65 (63%) is marginally larger than the percentage in the Southwest (62%) but slightly smaller than England (64%).

Since the 2011 Census the population in the BCP area has become more diverse with over 80 languages being spoken across the area. The top 5 languages spoken in BCP (excluding English), are Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Spanish and Hungarian. According to the 2021 Census 82% of the population are white British, a decrease of 6% from the 2011 Census (88%), the remaining 18% of the population in the 2021 Census are reported to be from a non-white British background.

The largest religious group in the BCP area is Christianity with 46.8% of residents identifying as Christian, down from 59.7% in 2011. Around 4 in 10 (42.2%) identify as having no religion, this has increased by 12.9% from 29.3% in 2011. The second largest religion in the BCP area according to the 2021 census, is Islam – 1.7% up from 1.2% in 2011.

Like many places BCP is an area of contrast, including some of the most affluent and most deprived areas in the country. Just under 9,000 children live in families with a low income (i.e. reported income is less than 60% of national median). This is 13.5% of those aged 0-19 and 11% of those aged under 16. As well as this, using the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) indicator, BCP has around 8,100 children aged 0-14 and 2,700 15–19-year-olds living in areas that fall into the 20% most deprived in the country. The greatest levels of deprivation are in the wards of Boscombe, West, Kinson, East Cliff and Springbourne, Alderney and Bourne Valley and Muscliffe and Strouden Park. In contrast 16,000 0-19 year olds live in an area in BCP that is amongst the 20% least deprived in England.

There are 98 state-funded schools within the BCP area: 66 primaries (comprising infant, first and junior schools); 22 secondary schools (including 4 Grammar schools and 1 middle school); and 3 all-through schools. There are a further 5 special schools, 1 alternative provision and 1 pupil referral unit. As of 15 April 2024, 95.5% of primary and secondary schools were rated Good or Outstanding for overall effectiveness. Educational attainment for all key stages is above the national average. The authority has three universities within its area with around 22,700 students. Bournemouth University (2021/22) has around 18,000 students with 16% of its student population from outside of the UK.

In 2023/24, the BCP area had a crime rate of approximately 98 crimes per 1,000 residents. Crime numbers are typically higher in the town centre areas, in part due to the night-time economy.



The population of the Dorset Council area is 383,274. There are 73,013 children and young people aged 0-19 representing 19.1% of the total population. 30% of the population are aged 65 and older (nationally 19%) and the working age population aged 16 to 64 represents 55.2% of the population.

English is the main language in Dorset with 98.2% of the population in 2021. There, are though, over 80 languages spoken across Dorset, however residents for whom non-English is a main language make up a very small proportion of the population. The top 5 languages spoken in Dorset are English with Polish, Romanian, Nepalese and Bulgarian spoken by 0.7% of the population. According to the 2021 Census 93.9% of the population are white British, a decrease of 1.7% from the 2011 Census with the remaining 6.1% of residents from Black and Minority Ethnic groups (national 25.6%), this rises to 7.8% for children and young people (aged 24 years and under). Just over half of our residents who are from an ethnic minority, report as being 'White Other.' This is mainly made up of White European residents.

The beautiful landscapes and towns and villages of Dorset can conceal hidden challenges: there are significant areas of deprivation, mostly in urban areas (mainly Weymouth and Portland). Eleven areas in Dorset are within the top 20% nationally for high levels of multiple deprivation, ten of these within Weymouth and Portland (data from 2019). In 2018, South Dorset was ranked at 533 among 533 parliamentary constituencies in England for social mobility with some 70% of the population of the constituency living in Weymouth & Portland. There is rural deprivation linked to isolation and difficulty accessing housing, transport, and essential services. The Children's Society estimates that approximately 23% of Dorset children are living in poverty with up to 45% in some wards (2021).

There are 47,012 children from Reception to Year 14 in Dorset (May 2023 school census). Dorset has 158 Schools Academies, Maintained and Free. 84% are good or better (83% of Academies are Good or Outstanding, compared to 86% of Maintained schools). The Key Stage 2 performance was in the bottom quartile nationally and Key Stage 4 performance (progress and attainment 8) was in the second lowest quartile. The gap between disadvantaged young people and their peers is still not where we need it to be and faced further challenge due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the impact on school attendance.

Crime is generally low with Dorset being the sixth safest place to live in the UK. First Time Entrants of young people to the Criminal Justice System are relatively low in a national context.



# Governance

The Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership (PDSCP) was set up to meet the requirements of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018. In December 2023 Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 was published, and this is to be fully implemented by December 2024. The PDSCP has developed and is implementing a plan to deliver the changes required under Working Together 2023.

In July 2024 it is important to note that a review of the partnership governance arrangements has led to both council areas creating independent partnership arrangements. This means that this will be the last PDSCP annual report as the new Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership and BCP Safeguarding Children Partnership will produce their own council area reports going forward. This change is to allow for each Local Authority area to have dedicated focus with partners on the children and families residing within the council areas. These new arrangements are set out on the partnership website. However as these changes were later on in the year the report and findings are concluding the work of the PDSCP arrangements.

Over the preceding 12 months the PDSCP recognised that to achieve the best possible outcomes:

- Children and families should receive targeted services that meet their needs in a co-ordinated way.
- There is a shared and equal responsibility between organisations and agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in the Pan-Dorset area.
- The responsibility to join up services locally rests with the safeguarding partners who have a shared and equal duty to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children across the Pan-Dorset area.

## The Statutory Safeguarding Partners

For each of these partners, Working Together 2018 defined the lead representatives from each as the Local Authority Chief Executive, the Accountable Officer of the Clinical Commissioning Group (now Integrated Care Boards - ICB) and a Chief Officer of Police (these will be the Lead Safeguarding Partners under Working Together 2023)

For the Pan-Dorset area the lead representatives are:

- Matt Prosser, Chief Executive Dorset Council
- Graham Farrant, Chief Executive BCP Council
- Amanda Pearson, Chief Constable Dorset Police
- Patricia Miller, Chief Executive NHS Dorset

As set out in Working Together 2018, the lead representatives can delegate their functions, although they retain accountability for any actions taken on behalf of their agency.

In the Dorset/BCP areas, the lead representatives have identified the following senior officers in their respective agencies who have responsibility and authority for ensuring full participation with these arrangements (these will be the Delegated Safeguarding Partners under Working Together 2023)



For the Dorset and BCP areas, the agency representatives are:

- Theresa Leavy, Executive Director for People - Children Dorset Council
- Cathi Hadley, Corporate Director for Children's Services BCP Council
- Mark Callaghan, Assistant Chief Constable Dorset Police
- Debbie Simmons, Chief Nursing Officer NHS Dorset

These representatives or delegates:

- Speak with authority for the safeguarding partner they represent.
- Take decisions on behalf of their organisation or agency and commit them on policy, resourcing, and practice matters.
- Hold their own organisation or agency to account on how effectively they participate and implement the local arrangements.

**Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership**



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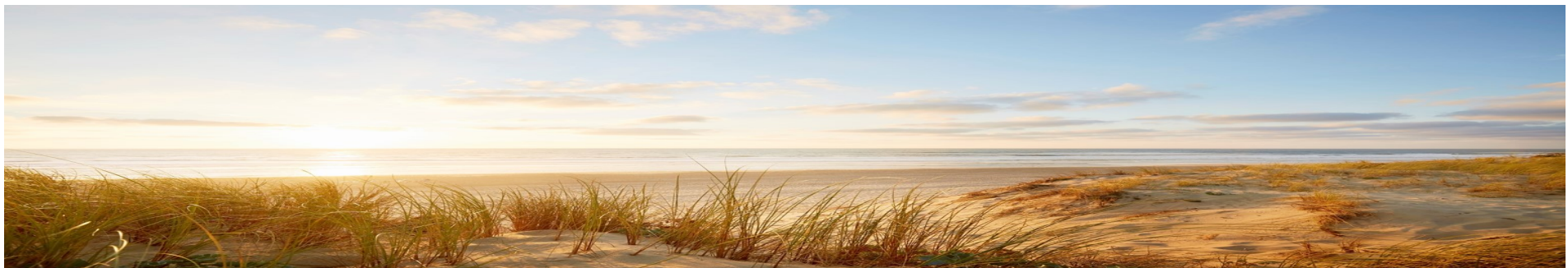
The Executive Group supported and complimented the place based multi-agency arrangements within both Dorset and BCP areas:

- **Dorset's Strengthening Services Board**

The Strengthening Services Board is the local delivery arm for the Dorset area in the Pan-Dorset Partnership. This is chaired by the Chief Executive of Dorset Council with representatives at executive level across the partnership. The Board meets 6-weekly to oversee progress and impact of the partnership plan and ensure improved outcomes for children and young people. The Board oversees multi-agency safeguarding activity within the Dorset area and highlights from each Board is shared with the PDSCP Executive (see Appendix 1 for structure).

- **BCP Safeguarding Children Partnership**

The BCP Safeguarding Children Partnership is the multi-agency delivery arm for the BCP area in the Pan-Dorset partnership, it is chaired by the BCP Council Director of Children's Services and meets every 2 months. The group oversees multi-agency safeguarding activity within the BCP area and reports into the PDSCP Executive (see Appendix 2 for structure).





# Review

As highlighted in the governance a review of the Pan-Dorset arrangements for the delivery of the Safeguarding Children's Partnership was undertaken by the statutory partners. The review recommended that the partnership arrangements be delivered separately for each Local Authority area.

One of the fundamental reasons behind this was the significant difference between the two local authorities within the existing partnership. The authorities operate differently, and their approaches to safeguarding and working practices often diverge, particularly as Dorset is a pathfinder for Stable Homes Built on Love, trialling new ways of partnership working. The recent changes outlined in the Working Together Guidance 2023 posed an additional challenge for our Pan-Dorset arrangement. With the removal of the Independent Chair role, implementing the necessary changes becomes considerably more complex under a Pan-Dorset arrangement. By transitioning to a Dorset Safeguarding Partnership and a separate BCP Safeguarding Partnership, both areas can adapt their structures and procedures seamlessly to align with the revised guidelines. This will enable them to fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities independently and effectively across the region. This proposal was agreed through governance structures and is being implemented from the 1st August 2024.



# Training and Development

Pan-Dorset training offers a core safeguarding training provision with focus on a multi-agency workforce accessed by a wide range of agencies. The training will continue to be delivered Pan Dorset after the partnership separates. The administration and co-ordination of the training is paid by income generation.

PDSCP is a trusted and dependable provider ensuring that organisations meet their safeguarding training requirements. Courses are commissioned through the Learning and Development Framework and meet the specific quality control and contract compliance measures.

The offer is constantly updated with both local and national changes in policy and procedure.

The core offer in 2023-24 covered:

- Safeguarding Level 2 training
- Working Together both initial and updates
- Neglect
- Safer Recruitment and updates
- Online Safety
- Missing Exploited Trafficked Children
- Child Exploitation Basic Awareness

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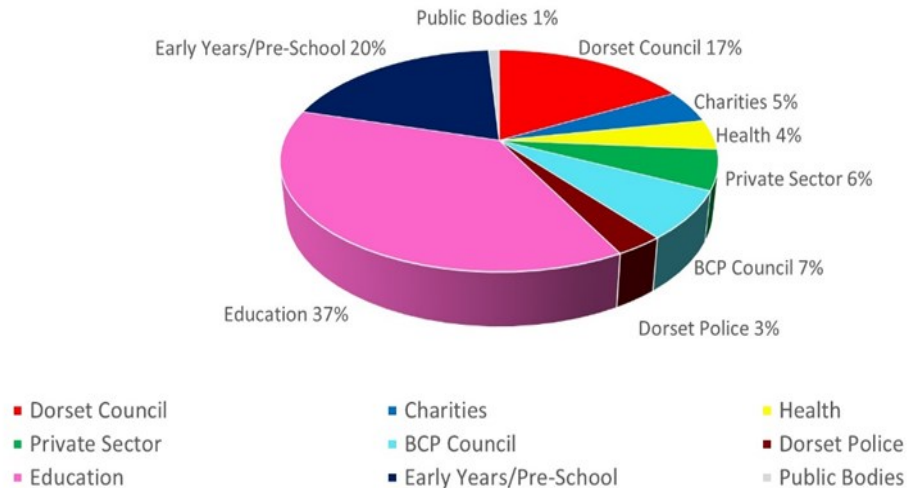
The training offer developed in 2023-24 in response to the findings from reviews, PDSCP priorities and quality assurance activity and also included:

<b>Working with families of sex workers</b>	This followed a BCP conference and the findings of the River Review
<b>TIP (Trauma Informed Practice)</b>	The PDSCP undertook a task and finish group re: trauma-informed practice in response to the Ashley review and it was agreed to commission an introduction to Trauma Informed Practice training.
<b>Intra-Familial Child Sexual Abuse</b>	Following a Dorset review the multi-agency training re: intra-familial sexual abuse was reviewed and revised.
<b>Domestic Abuse</b>	Following quality assurance activity themed in respect of domestic abuse it was agreed to offer 4 FREE training sessions in 2024-2025.
<b>Intel</b>	Our partner, the Police hosted virtually several 1-hour training sessions discussing how intelligence is gathered and used. This was offered to PDSCP delegates for FREE.

When changes to local and national legislation or guidance are known, the information is shared to all relevant training providers to update their training content where required for example when Working Together 2023 was released, a 7-minute guide re: role of Designated Officer was shared with the training providers as an outcome of the BCP Charlie Review, to ensure training providers include professional bias.

## 2023-2024 Reports Q1, Q2, Q3 & Q4

Number of delegates that attended training by agency  
Q1 - Q4 (Apr 2023 - Mar 2024)



There remained a surplus in the budget for 2023-2024 and as such a £10,000 fund for a FREE programme of training has been allocated to the 2024-2025 budget. This is with the caveat that it relates to a Rapid Review, a strategic priority, or a child safeguarding practice review.



## Looking Ahead 2024-2025

A proposal was submitted and approved at the Dorset Learning Hub (LH) and the BCP Quality Assurance Learning Group (QALG) recommending a 5% uplift on course fees this is linked to the cost-of-living rise.

Charities or community interested Companies (CIC) can apply for free places to ensure they can access trusted safeguarding training. The policy has been changed to include all charities not just those registered (as per the charity Policy). All Policies and procedures for the PDSCP Training team have been reviewed and agreed for a year, with tighter restrictions within the cancellation policy while this remains a £25 cancellation fee.

The team are reviewing the Nexus training system and working with our Nexus system colleagues to review and improve with potential system updates, tweaks, and development changes.

The Training and Development Co-Ordinator Role links with the PDSCP and the place-based arrangements within Dorset and BCP to ensure that the training programme is in line with:

- The PDSCP priorities
- Findings from quality assurance activity including reviews.
- Other local and national developments.

The Training and Development Co-Ordinator manages the procurement process, awards the contracts, manages the Training budget, the continued relationships and regular feedback with the trainers and partners.

The PDSCP training team work continually to fill places onto the training offer and accommodate delegates whenever they can, cancellations are the last resort. Their approachable, calm, and professional nature ensures the best experience for all delegates. They manage the invoice process and go over and above to ensure this is timely and accurate. The Training team also support the Training and Development Co-Ordinator in a variety of ways providing accurate report information, supporting the Dorset Learning Hub, improving nexus, and bringing new and fresh ideas regularly.



## **Closing the Learning Loop**

Learning from practice - Qualitative data from evaluation feedback demonstrates that practitioners are using their learning when they return to the workplace. Courses are quality assured through the Learning Hub groups from Dorset and BCP which review feedback, impact, performance of providers and course design and planning. The training co-ordinator shares 3-month post training feedback that includes use of policies, procedures, guidance, and toolkits.





# Annual Conference

A Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership conference took place on the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023. The Conference was titled: Hopefulness and working with adolescent young people. The Conference was linked to our priority areas 1 - Violence experienced by children and young people and 2- Children's mental health and emotional well-being.

The conference heard from someone's personal experience of living in a family where there was coercive control and domestic homicide, an approach to working with young people using a mentalising approach and directly from young people about their experience of working with practitioners and gender identity. In addition, we heard from agencies and how they were addressing challenges such as knife crime, exploitation and the opportunities presented by the pathfinder work in Dorset. The conference was attended by 200 practitioners across the BCP and Dorset areas. In the evaluation of the conference:

- 98% of those who responded rated the event as good or excellent.
- 75% of those who responded said that conference was "very useful" to their work with a further 24% saying that it was "fairly useful".

The work of the conference was built upon e.g. the development of a guide for practitioners working with gender identity.





## Local and National Learning

During 2023/24 the PDSCP has undertaken a range of quality assurance activity linked to its priority areas and these are explored under the priority areas (see chapter 11). Activity has been completed in relation to domestic abuse, neglect, injuries to non-mobile babies.

An agreed Pan-Dorset dataset has been developed over 2023/24 and this contains a core dataset and data linked to each of the priority areas and reviewed the data on a quarterly basis to identify any key trends and to inform partnership activity. This data has been used as part of quality assurance activity e.g. in relation to work on neglect and to identify other areas of focus e.g. in relation to physical abuse. There has been a challenge in obtaining place-based data re: young people's mental health but this has been addressed and we are awaiting data from CAMHS. The PDSCP is aware of the requirements in Working Together 2023 re: independent scrutiny of the arrangements and this is being developed through 2024/25. In 2022/23 independent scrutiny included: employing an independent scrutineer to undertake a piece of work re: neglect (see chapter 11) and the independent chair undertaking a range of activity including: chairing the PDSCP Executive and creating a culture of open and honest challenge and collaboration including the Chair challenging senior leaders, chairing sign off meetings for Rapid Reviews, chairing sign off meetings for Child Safeguarding Practice Review reports, periodic attendance at place-based meetings etc.

The PDSCP also revised and updated the escalation policy and process and launched this in April 2024 in order to have effective oversight of escalations and ensure resolution and any key themes identified and addressed.

The findings from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and other reviews can found on the PDSCP website; [Child Safeguarding Practice Review \(previously known as Serious Case Reviews\) - Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership \(pdscp.co.uk\)](https://pdscp.co.uk) .

During 2023/24 three CSPRs were published, and two others were underway and were published in early 2024/25. The PDSCP has also contributed to two LSCPRs in other areas which are due to be published in 2024/25.

Key areas of learning from reviews for the partnership in 2023/24 included:

- Developing the multi-agency response to extra-familial harm including the link with intra-familial harm
- Ensuring an effective multi-agency response to working with young people and knife crime.
- Developing practice re: responding to bruising and injuries to non-mobile babies
- Ensuring that there is an effective safeguarding response to children who have disabilities or are neuro-diverse.
- Work with children and families in a trauma informed way.
- Ensuring that there was effective work with families re: home safety.

Further learning and the multi-agency response is explored in Chapter 11 linked to the priority areas.

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.

The PDSCP were also aware and responded to key national developments including:

- The consultation re: Working Together 2023
- Developed and implemented workplans to provide reassurance in response to DfE.
- Safeguarding children with disabilities and complex health needs in residential settings published in April 2023.

- Responded to other government consultations such as mandatory reporting of child sexual abuse.
- Provided representation to central government re: requirements for DBS checks for small organisations working with children e.g. dance schools.
- Was given assurances from Dorset police re: appropriate use of force in working with children and young people in respect of local issues and Child Q LSCPR.
- We were invited to participate in national research regarding CSPRS, led by research and practice in partnership with the University of East Anglia and the Vulnerability of Knowledge and Practice Program. Funded by the Department for Education.



# Funding

The PDSCP is committed to the principles of equitable and proportionate funding with shared and equal responsibilities. There is a dedicated Business Team to support the work of the partnership across the Pan-Dorset area.

Each partner puts in an equal share into the PDSCP budget and for 2023/24 this was £75,785 per partner. This meant a total budget of £303,140.

There was a carry-over at the end of the financial year of £68,853 as this was to support the changes required from Working Together 2023.

The plan for 2024/25 is to have the same budget but this will be divided into two for the separated partnerships.





# Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

Statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 (and this continues under Working Together 2023) defines child death review partners as “local authorities and any clinical commissioning groups for the local area as set out in the Children Act 2004 (the Act), as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017”.

When a child dies, in any circumstances, it is important for parents and families to understand what has happened and whether there are any lessons to be learned. The responsibility for ensuring child death reviews are carried out is held by ‘child death review partners,’ as defined within Working Together to Safeguarding Children 2018 (and 2023) and set out in current legislation child death review partners must make arrangements to review all deaths of children normally resident in the local area and, if they consider it appropriate, for any non-resident child who has died in their area.

Child death review partners for two or more local authority areas may combine and agree that their areas be treated as a single area for the purpose of undertaking child death reviews. Child death review partners in Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole, Dorset, and Somerset have agreed to treat Pan Dorset and Somerset as a single area, resulting in a joint Pan Dorset and Somerset Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) undertaking child death reviews for Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole, Dorset, and Somerset children.

# CDOP Data

The CDOP panel met 4 times in 2023/24 and reviewed 27 deaths: 22 Pan-Dorset deaths (10 Dorset and 12 BCP) and 5 Somerset deaths. In 14 (52 %) of these cases there were modifiable factors identified. This compared to last year's figures where 59 cases were reviewed, and modifiable factors were identified in 54.2 % of cases. We await the annual National Child Mortality Database (hereafter referred to as NCMD) report due in November to compare where these sit against national figures and we will produce an annual CDOP report.

## **Child Deaths – Notifications 23/24**

CDOP has been notified of a total of 27 deaths of Pan Dorset residents and 30 deaths of Somerset residents 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.

The annual CDOP report is due to be published in November 2024.

## Key Safeguarding Developments in Agencies

### BCP Council

Since the full inspection of local authority children's services (ILACS) in December 2021, when Children's Services was judged 'Inadequate', six monitoring visits have been undertaken all evidencing strong progress and confirmation that Children's Services in BCP has moved out of inadequate. Ofsted have confirmed that they will not be doing any further monitoring visits, and the next inspection will be a full ILACS.

Children's Services has made progress over the last 12 months, there is certainly good work to celebrate, however we recognise there is still a significant way to go with pace and consistency being a priority. There is very good stability in the extended leadership team and continuing evidence of traction from senior managers to service improvement. A far higher number of staff are in permanent positions, and this translates into practitioners having a better understanding of the support children and their families need and how best to provide this help.



## Dorset Council

Dorset was selected as one of only three local authority areas to participate in Wave One of the Families First for Children Pathfinder. Successful partnership and stakeholder co-design work has been completed and the pathfinder work was launched in June 2024. Key to this is multi-agency working and NHS Dorset and Dorset Police are key partners in this.

Our Local Area SEND Inspection took place between 26th February and 15th March 2024. Over the course of the three-week inspection, inspectors explored 16 children in detail, selected by them from a much larger cohort of children, to understand their lived experiences and that of their families.

Inspectors commended the partnership for placing children, young people, and their families at the centre of decision-making, leading to **“typically positive experiences and outcomes.”** The Inspection highlighted the collaborative efforts of strategic partners, including Dorset Council, NHS Dorset Integrated Care Board, and the Dorset Parent Carer Council, to support children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND). **Our most recent Inspection report can be accessed [here](#).**

The Dorset area revised and launched their ten-year Children, Young People and Families Plan. Some other key areas of development in respect of safeguarding included:

- Making good progress on developing a network of Family Hubs
- Launching the 0 to 25 Birth to Settled Adulthood Service for children and young people with a disability/complex need.
- Participating in the 'Re-imagining Pre-proceedings' pilot with The Family Rights Group and the local judiciary.
- Continuing to deliver the Safeguarding Families Together pilot with a positive evaluation from the University of Bedfordshire. This has led to the agreement of a roll out to all locality areas and is due to be in place by the end of the year.





## **Dorset Police**

Over the last 12 months the Child Abuse Investigation Team has received additional staffing to better service the needs of the public and the demand within the department. The team continue to secure significant convictions and prison sentences against Child Abuse suspects, securing almost 200 years of sentencing in the last 12 months. Additionally, the two Child Abuse Investigation Teams boundaries have been realigned to match those of the two Local Authorities in order to aid collaborative working with partner agencies.

The Paedophile Online Investigation Team continue to be highly regarded nationally and are one of the first to obtain a Sexual Harm Prevention Order preventing an offender from accessing Artificial Intelligence software as a preventative measure to prevent future harm.

Structures within the Dorset Police side of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) have developed in line with the Dorset Council Pathfinder project regarding the Multi-Agency Child Protection Teams and Child Protection Conferences whereby the police representative will be more consistent throughout the Child Protection procedures.

Dorset Police has taken part in a PEER review by the Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Programme which focused on the governance structures regarding the strands of vulnerability. Initial feedback has been received and implemented, with the full report expected summer 2024.

Dorset Police has also engaged in the Modern Day Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime review. An action and improvement plan has been developed and delivery is in progress.



## **NHS Dorset**

During 2023/24, NHS Dorset continued to provide a team of safeguarding clinical leads coordinated by the Head of Safeguarding. The portfolio for clinical leadership by the NHS Dorset safeguarding team included child, adult, and community safeguarding, children in care and care leavers, learning from the review of child mortality, and, from 2024, special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). The clinical leads included nurses, GPs, paediatricians, and an allied health professional.



The clinical leads continued to provide expert clinical support to the statutory multi-agency safeguarding partnerships to develop strategy and assure the quality of partnership safeguarding arrangements in BCP and Dorset. The clinical leads contributed to the Joint Forward Plan published by NHS Dorset to help with the alignment of priorities.

# Priority Areas 2023/24

The PDSCP agreed three priority areas for their work from 2023/24 and these will continue to the priority areas for 2024/25.

## **(A) Violence experienced by children and young people, including;**

- Sexual violence and abuse
- Domestic violence and abuse
- Physical violence and knife crime

## **Extra-Familial Harm**

During the year both place-based arrangements within Dorset and BCP have revised and renewed their strategic approach to working with Extra-Familial Harm (EFH)

## **Extra-Familial Harm BCP**

The BCP area undertook a number of reviews in respect of extra-familial harm including 2 CSPRs. The reviews identified areas of good practice and areas for development. Whilst each review has its own findings there are several common themes/ areas. These include concerns about:

- The response to intra-familial harm.
- The response to extra-familial harm.
- The approach to children and young people and their families.
- Support to practitioners and management oversight.

The findings were used to inform the implementation of a revised strategy and plan and to assist with key areas for evaluation.

The BCP Extra Familial Harm Strategy was approved by the BCP Children Safeguarding Partnership Board. The strategy covers MET – Missing, Exploited and Trafficked children, led by BCP Children’s Services, MSV - Most Serious Violence led by Dorset Police and PREVENT – children at risk of radicalisation, led by the Community Safety Partnership.

A review of the MET panel has been undertaken and work undertaken to strengthen the panel. The panel now seeks to identify and provide oversight of the children and young people at highest risk of MET in the BCP area, provides an overview of perpetrators, identifies hotspot areas, and ensures disruption planning and cross referencing those young people who may also be at risk of MSV and radicalisation. The new, renewed panel has both a strategic and operational role, and performance measures have been identified.

The existing Child Exploitation screening tool has been reviewed and a new tool (CERAF) has been agreed. Work is being undertaken by MET panel partners to create a post-18 CERAF which will allow for safeguarding adult risks to be identified, alongside a shortened CERAF tool for health to use. The tool can measure the level of exploitation, enabling BCP to report back also then on any improvements in the outcome and risks to young people.

A trafficking tool has been created and will be introduced to Children’s Social care staff to aid identification of trafficking risk for those children being trafficked to the UK (UASCs) and those children being trafficked internally. National Referral Mechanism (NRM) identification and tracking will shortly be available on our IT systems to allow for more robust understanding of children experiencing and at risk of trafficking in BCP.

The work that has occurred will enable us to measure the risks in BCP, and measures improvements and outcomes for our children. Police and Children's Services have worked hard to create a measurable system and so enable an evidence-based approach to risk and address the identified themes and 'hot spots'.

The BCP Safeguarding Children Partnership will measure the impact of the implementation of the extra-familial harm delivery plan via updates being provided to the Partnership by the MET Panel, Most Serious Violence Panel and PREVENT panel, every six months. There is planned multi-agency quality assurance activity of this area in 2024/25.

### **Dorset Extra-Familial Risk and Harm**

The Dorset place-based arrangements also revised their Extra Familial Risk and Harm Strategy, partly following the findings of a multi-agency review. This is based upon the Joining the Dots framework (Tackling Child Exploitation Project) and the 8 Practice Principles

[Multi-agency Practice Principles for responding to child exploitation and extra-familial harm \(researchinpractice.org.uk\)](https://researchinpractice.org.uk)

The Extra Familial Harm and Risk 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.

A new extra familial harm risk assessment was launched in February 2024. Agencies continued to use the child exploitation screening tool to aid identification of exploitation. The extra familial harm risk assessment is used by children's services staff to identify, understand, and analyse risk outside of the home, and supports consideration of wider risks.

An Extra Familial risk and harm panel has been in place since September 2023. This is a multi-agency panel held on a weekly basis.

There has been good partnership engagement with the Extra Familial Risk and Harm Panels. There has been a more consistent approach to identifying those most at risk with numbers of significant and moderate risk reducing. There has been increasing focus on contexts and peer groups, which has promoted contextual safeguarding approaches. There has been an increase in context assessments and contextual safeguarding conferences held to identify and address risks that will positively impact all young people within those contexts.

Data from the Extra Familial Risk and Harm Tactical Group in March 2024 indicated that 14 children were identified at 'significant' risk of Extra Familial Risk and Harm. This has reduced from the previous high number of 28 children in September 2023.

There is a recognition that the extra familial harm that young people can experience does not stop when a young person turns 18 and can at times increase with reduced support and changes to how young people are viewed. A working group is developing the approach to transitional safeguarding.

The Pineapple Project, part of the wider concept of Chesil Hidden Girls, was launched in Weymouth Town Centre in November 2022 with the purpose to provide safe spaces from young women through the provision of Community Guardians within local businesses. A survey was completed with young women in the locality in May 2022 which identified when, where, and why they feel unsafe. Chesil 'Hidden Girls' seeks to highlight, recognise, and prevent the 'hidden' exploitation of young women and girls.

Since launching in November 2022, the Pineapple Project has been awarded two grants, one from the Safer Streets fund and the other from the Serious Violence Duty fund. The Safer Streets funding has enabled the Pineapple Project to expand into three additional areas – Dorchester, Portland, and Swanage. The anticipation for the Serious Violence Duty funding is to support a hub within Weymouth Town Centre to offer a therapeutic safe space for young women to attend.



During November 2023 Violence Against Women Awareness week, the Project Lead 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. Alongside that they are seeking to raise the awareness of 'hidden girls' and develop greater recognition of exploitation to enable proactive prevention. An area of focus is developing community guardians to help safeguard young women and girls. Currently 10 community guardians are fully approved, and a further 12 being progressed through checks and training.



## Knife crime

The BCP area has learnt from a PDSCP review into the death of a member of the public who was stabbed by an unaccompanied asylum seeker who was initially understood to be child. Age Assessment training has been delivered to a range of Social Workers across the Council and there is a clear rota and plan in place to ensure backlogs and drift are prevented. Risk Assessments and Exploitation Screening are used more consistently when working with UASC in the Council, and training to strengthen the understanding of, and quality of referrals to, Prevent and NRM has also been completed. Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children and Young People are supported by a wide network of professionals.

During the recent BCP wide Knife Crime Awareness campaign, the sessions across four weeks were themed to support these young people to recognise and understand the risks of exploitation, violence, and knife crime, including the impact any criminal or anti-social involvement could have on their application to remain in the UK. The focus from our staff and the wider network is always on promoting community engagement, education, and/or employment, and equipping our young people with the skills and knowledge to keep themselves and others safe.

The awareness campaign was facilitated in collaboration with CAM (Changes Are Made), a local community organisation established in 2023 by the grandmother and wider family of a CEYP who was tragically stabbed and murdered in Bournemouth town centre.



Work in relation to knife awareness and knife crime sits within the Community Safety partnership (CSP), recognising the collective need to support and address this within the community. The OPCC has currently set aside funding to work to enable a Boscombe based charity to deliver the 'Wasp Nest' within schools. Whilst BCP has a low crime rate, the impact of knife crime can be devastating to families.

The CSP recently held events for Knife Awareness Month- there were various talks, education, and sharing within this month to raise the awareness of the impact of knife crime, but also information shared to help safeguard against this.

Dorset Police have supported Op Sceptre (a national initiative re: knife crime) across Dorset and this includes diversions, targeted intervention for those most at risk of being involved in knife crime, and educational work for schools across the County with the firearms and knife education work (FAKE). F.A.K.E. is also supported by the safer school's network and our education colleagues, reaching between 2500 and 3000 young people twice a year. Work continues throughout Dorset local authority areas around the serious violence duty with working groups targeting knife crime intervention and education for young people along with funding opportunities to support this work.

A youth justice worker recorded the following after a conversation with a young person:

*"We talked about the YJS interventions regarding knife crime. I asked you what we as a service could do better/different with young people who carry knives/weapons. We had a long chat, and you were great at sharing your views. You said that we should concentrate on young people's positives, strengths, build on them, find something like a positive relationship with a family member and young people should spend more time thinking about them, being with them. Build on self-worth, do something to replace the dealing and the 'crap' that goes with this, like going to the gym. What's unhelpful is talking about the dangers of carrying a knife, kids know this, probably better than us, and they don't want to keep talking about it, especially if they say they don't do it anymore and have moved on."*

## **BCP CSP and Serious Violence**

BCP Community Safety Partnership completed their Serious Violence Needs Assessment and published their Serious Violence Strategy at the end of January 2024. There were 4 priorities outlined under the strategy. These were:

- Sex offences and rapes
- Domestic Abuse
- Knife related offending
- Robberies

The Domestic Abuse priority is currently being dealt with through the Domestic Abuse strategy and the Domestic Abuse Strategic Group.

A Serious Violence Delivery Group was created (a multi-agency group) to work through the remaining 3 priorities and the action plan that had been created.

The Serious Violence Delivery Group meets monthly and focuses on a subject matter each month on a rolling cycle. This is overseen by the BCP CSP.

The Serious Violence Strategy sits on the Safer BCP website and the link to the strategy is included below:

<https://www.saferbcp.co.uk/Resources/Documents/Final-BCP-CSP-Serious-Violence-Duty-Strategy.pdf>

The BCP Community Safety Partnership Executive receives an update every two months on the work being carried out on the action plan.

## Dorset CSP and Serious Violence

The Dorset CSP has undertaken a Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment. This includes data and intelligence from a range of partners across the CSP.

The needs assessment provides an analysis of serious violence across the Dorset CSP area, including contextual issues such as deprivation and complex need.

Six drivers of serious violence were identified:

- Deprivation
- Childhood development
- Childhood vulnerability
- School engagement and exclusion
- Mental health
- Drug and alcohol misuse

- \* In relation to children and young people it was noted that the number of young people in Dorset carrying weapons is low in comparison to national figures.
- \* Younger people feature disproportionately among the victims of violent crime.
- \* Data shows a predominance of offending in the under 25 age group across a range of crime types, indicating the need to engage with young people and young adults.

Strategic priorities were identified see [Dorset Community Safety Partnership Serious Violence Strategy - Dorset Council](#) and there is a plan of delivery against the priorities, and this is reported to the CSP, with progress reported quarterly to the Home Office. Good progress is being made across those partners developing and delivering interventions.



## **Domestic Abuse**

CSPs (Community Safety Partnership) in Dorset and BCP lead on Domestic abuse across the partnership.

[Dorset Domestic Abuse Strategy Dorset Council](#) and [BCP CSP Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2020-2023 \(saferbcp.co.uk\)](#)

Domestic Abuse is a Dorset Police force priority, led by a force silver at Superintendent level with a supporting tactical group behind it. The focus at present being the early preservation of evidence to prevent victim attrition and improve arrest rates, outcomes, and a victim first approach. Performance is overseen through force Investigation Standards Boards and Performance Boards.

Nationally, there has been a drive to refresh College of Policing DA matters training. Dorset will be training an additional 400 officers in the DA Matters Responder Course early 2025 and are providing our Investigators with an immersive Hydra course with a focus on Coercive and Controlling behaviour in late 2024.

### **Domestic Abuse Quality Assurance work**

The Pan Dorset partnership undertook a multi-agency quality assurance exercise in respect of partnership work with families where there was domestic abuse and a specific focus in audit activity on under 5s. The triangulating findings across a number of quality assurance activity including audits, case reviews, the voice of practitioners and the voice of parents.

The quality assurance process identified a number of strengths including:

- Children and young people were predominately safeguarded in timely manner.
- In all the audits the children were assessed as safe with positive outcomes for them following the intervention.

- Interventions were predominately appropriate to the risks and needs identified.
- There was evidence of effective multi-agency information sharing and planning.
- There was positive feedback about workers and engagement with families.
- Practitioners who used HRDA were positive about it.
- Assessment and plans were in place for children that addressed key issues.
- Child Protection Conferences were seen as safe meetings to discuss and share information and mainly received positive feedback from parents.
- Practitioners understood the term coercive control.
- There was a range of training available to practitioners.
- There were a range of specialist resources used to work with families.

The process also identified a number of areas for development:

- There was inconsistent use of tools when working with domestic abuse e.g. not all practitioners were aware of the toolkit and practice was not informed by specific models of domestic abuse.
- Assessments did not consistently understand and address the history and lived experience of parents/carers and the children. They did not consistently assess:
  - \* The risks and strengths in relation to each adult including now and in the future. This needed to include the ability to change or protect as appropriate?
  - \* The risks and strengths in this relationship including if they were or did separate?
  - \* What was the risk to specific children and how had domestic abuse impacted on them?

- There was still evidence that the non-resident parent/partner was not effectively included in work and at times information about them was not fed back to the agencies.
- Reports for child protection conferences were not shared with families in a timely way. This will be progressed through a pathfinder group.
- Plans needed to be consistently Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely (SMART) and multi-agency. There should not be an overreliance on safety plans or court orders to protect children unless there was evidence that this was effective.
- High Risk Domestic Abuse (HRDA) had limited impact at times on work with families. Notes and actions were not consistently recorded on files and there was limited evidence of agencies following up their actions.
- Further support, resources, guidance, and training for practitioners was required in respect of child to parent violence.
- Practitioners supported mandatory domestic abuse training and further work in relation to working with perpetrators.

This formed the basis of an action plan that is being overseen by the Dorset place-based partnership.



## **Dorset Place-based Sexual Abuse Toolkit**

An Intra-Familial Child Sexual Abuse toolkit was launched to develop the confidence of child safeguarding practitioners in recognising and responding to intra-familial child sexual abuse. It took into account local learning from child safeguarding practice reviews. In addition, the Pan-Dorset sexual abuse training offer was updated to reflect local and national learning.

The impact of these developments are being evaluated as part of the Dorset quality assurance activity timetabled for 2024/25.

## **Injuries to Non-mobile Babies**

In BCP, following the findings of a review, a multi-agency audit (acute NHS, health visiting service, primary care, children's social care and police) was undertaken of babies up to the age of 6 months attending ED with any injury.

The headlines issues from the audit included:

- The need for consistent professional curiosity into the cause of any injuries or bruising in a non-mobile baby.
- The need to consistently follow the process in the injuries/bruising to non-mobile baby protocol including ensuring multi-agency decision making and effective recording.
- To revise the protocol in light of the findings.
- To ensure that the voice of parents including fathers informed decision making.

Agencies completed assurance statements to ensure that the learning from the review has been embedded in practice and there was a multi-agency review of the protocol re: injuries to non-mobile babies.



NHS Dorset worked with NHS providers to implement the ICON programme in Dorset following learning arising from a Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR).

The [ICON programme](#) reduces the risk of infants suffering abusive head trauma by being shaken by parents trying to cope with infant crying. The ICON tool provides a way for professionals to give consistent advice to parents to raise awareness and reduce risk.



## **(B) Children's Mental Health and Emotional Well-being**

### **Trauma informed**

The Partnership have developed an agreed definition which is that Trauma-informed practice is an approach to health and care interventions which is grounded in the understanding that trauma exposure can impact an individual's neurological, biological, psychological, and social development.

The safeguarding partnership have outlined the key principles of a trauma informed approach.

[PDSCP-Principles-of-Trauma-Informed-Practice.pdf](#);

Organisations have agreed tools to evaluate where they are in relation to their journey to be a trauma-informed organisation.

There is an agreed introduction to trauma-informed practice training module delivered by the partnership. This is in addition to the training delivered by individual agencies. In addition, the annual conference will have a trauma informed lens.

There is now an agreed process to review policies and procedures to ensure that they are trauma informed. All PDSCP quality assurance activity will be trauma informed. There is now an agreed framework for assessing whether PDSCP training, policies and procedures and quality assurance is informed by an understanding of trauma.

Agencies are now implementing trauma-informed practice, and this is being held to account by the partnership.

## Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Transformation

The partnership is in process of implementing the recommendations of a CAHMS transformational review. This is still in development but is due to be implemented in 2024/25.

[Parents and Carers who Experience Mental Ill-Health Dorset Toolkit - Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership \(pdscp.co.uk\)](https://pdscp.co.uk)

A toolkit was launched in 2023/24 to provide resources, advice and guidance to practitioners working with children whose parents/carers are or may be experiencing mental ill health, so that:

1. Safeguarding work with parents who experience mental ill-health is non-discriminatory and restorative, and
2. Any potential harm to the child that is associated with their parents' experience of mental ill-health can be identified and either prevented or mitigated.

The impact of the toolkit will be reviewed in 2024/25.



## (C) Neglect

An independent scrutiny project was commissioned by the Partnership focusing on the issue of neglect. The scope of the project consisted of three areas:

- To examine the quality and effectiveness of the multi-agency response to child neglect when concerns have reached a threshold of actual, or likely, significant harm, and whether agencies are working together to identify and act on child neglect.
- To examine whether practitioners have the knowledge, confidence, and capacity to identify and act on neglect.
- To capture information which provides insights into children and families experiences of working with professionals, when neglect has been identified, and the impact in improving children's lives.

To fulfil the scope and examine the key lines of enquiry, the following steps were taken:

- An Independent Scrutineer was appointed.
- A task and finish group of agency representatives was formed to support with the smooth and timely completion of the project.
- An on-line survey was developed and used to capture data about a range of issues from across the Partnership area.
- Five multi-agency on-line focus groups were held, four involving front-line practitioners from across the Partnership footprint, and one for designated post-holders from across the area.
- An audit of children's records was completed by the Independent Scrutineer.
- A documentary review was completed by the Independent Scrutineer.

The report concluded that the scrutiny activity 'identified many positive features about the Partnership's response to neglect, and which provide a solid platform on which to develop and further strengthen arrangements. These positive features can be seen across the Partnership footprint and are not isolated to one single local authority area.'

The report outlined a number of areas for development including in relation to the consistent use of assessment tools for neglect, ensuring consistent high-quality assessments and management oversight, ensuring that there were effective multi-agency training and development opportunities and refreshing the Multi-Agency Child Neglect Strategy & Toolkit.

The report outlines some key recommendations including the development of a working group to build on the positive work achieved through the scrutiny exercise and the formulation, and publishing of an action plan to accompany the revised Strategy and multi-agency neglect pathway. The recommendations have been accepted, and a plan is to be delivered 2024/25.

[Pan-Dorset toolkit for practitioners who work with parents and carers who have experienced substance misuse issues - Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership \(pdscp.co.uk\)](#)

Following the recommendation of a review the PDSCP launched a toolkit for practitioners to assist them when working with parents who misuse drugs and alcohol.

The PDSCP recognised that parents' misuse of drugs or alcohol was frequently a factor in the neglect of their children, and that practitioners needed a toolkit to help them identify and respond to such misuse.

The toolkit was developed in a way that engaged practitioners, and reflected both their expertise and the recurring practice issues that they face.

The impact of the toolkit will be evaluated during 2024/25.



## Voice of Children and Families

The partnership has been committed to ensuring that the voice of children and families is central to developing services and approaches to safeguarding. This has included:

- A Family Engagement project being undertaken in the Dorset council area. Feedback was obtained from 67 people (65 adults and 2 children) predominantly where children had been subject to child protection plans and where there were concerns about domestic abuse. The feedback has informed the development of the Pathfinder project and the partnership plan in respect of Domestic Abuse. Further work is underway to develop a Family Advisory Board to provide support and challenge from families in respect of safeguarding practices and co-design changes.
- Working directly with children and young people in relation to working with gender identity including hearing from them at the annual conference and working with them in the co-design of guidance for practitioners (to be completed in 2024/25)

Dorset youth parliament have also voted for a new Chair and vice Chair based on campaigns that children in schools voted the most important to them. The Chair was elected for the campaign of preventing sexual abuse and the vice Chair for campaigning to support child bereavement.

Young people council take over in Dorset also saw another successful week when young people led and stepped into various council meetings and provided a young person's perspective and challenge. This provides unique insight to enable us to consider how we continue to evolve and strengthen the work we do.

Children and young people in Dorset are also regularly contacted where they have received services from us to test the impact of our work and utilise this as part of continuous learning, improvement and celebrating success.

- In BCP there was a public consultation with children, young people, families, and communities occurred in relation to the new service delivery of Early Help and family hubs, informing and shaping service and supporting design.
- In BCP young people have been invited to attend Service Manager and Team manager collective meetings so that management hear their voice, and as a result, management take on board the young person's lived experience and pledge to improve their service areas, where applicable. An example of this is where a young person talked of conflicting information in relation to transition to adulthood resulting in Children's and Adults services working together to ensure better information is available for young people.
- The findings from the Edie review has driven police in undertaking work to engage with marginalised children with the support of partners and to link to youth advisory groups.
- In BCP the newly elected Members of Youth Parliament have outlined their campaign topics based on their lived experience in the area. These include knife crime, homelessness and health and wellbeing.
- Young women in BCP led a campaign to raise awareness of gender-based street harassment and challenge the norm, with the goal of making our local streets feel safer for young women.
- Consultations in BCP youth voice have consistently highlighted the importance to young people of feeling safe in their local environment, this has influenced the Corporate Strategy and related planning, such as the vision for Children's Services, and continues into the current development of the Children and Young Peoples Plan.
- At the end of the 23/24 financial year, 99% of children and young people had participated in their care planning and review process. The number of children and young people attending their children in care meetings has continued to increase with over half attending.





# Conclusion

As we conclude the PDSCP Annual Report for the year 2023-24, we take a moment to appreciate the collective journey we have embarked upon—a journey characterized by resilience, innovation, and a shared vision for the safety and well-being of our children and young people.

This year has been a testament to the power of collaboration and the strength of our commitment. The PDSCP has successfully navigated the complexities of safeguarding, embracing change and emerging stronger. Our transition to distinct safeguarding arrangements for Dorset and BCP Council areas will be a pivotal evolution, enabling us to address the specific needs of our communities with greater precision and care.

Our efforts in quality assurance, data analysis, and service improvement have yielded tangible results, enhancing the effectiveness of our safeguarding practices. The voice of the child has been a guiding principle in all our endeavours, ensuring that their perspectives are not just heard but are instrumental in shaping our strategies and actions. This commitment to listening and responding to the needs of children and young people is the cornerstone of our work and an area both partnerships will strive to build upon.

As we look to the future, we are filled with a sense of purpose and determination. The challenges we face are complex, but our resolve is unwavering. We will continue to strive for excellence, to learn from our experiences, and to innovate in our pursuit of safeguarding the next generation.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to every individual and organization that has contributed to our mission. Your support has been invaluable, and it is through our continued partnership that we will forge a path towards a safer, more nurturing environment for all children and young people in the Pan-Dorset area.

The PDSCP Annual Report 23-24 is not just a record of our past year's work; it is a reflection of our ongoing dedication and a blueprint for the future. It is with pride and optimism that we move forward, united in our goal to safeguard and empower every child and young person in our care.

# Next Steps

There are a number of key areas currently under development in the partnership including:

- Ensuring that the separation of the Partnership is effective and builds upon and develops the work of the Pan-Dorset partnership.
- To ensure that the Dorset and BCP Partnership's arrangements and practice is in line with the guidance in Working Together 2023 including:
  - To continue to develop the role of independent scrutiny.
  - To continue to deliver a quality assurance programme to assess the effectiveness of safeguarding including use of data, case reviews, auditing etc.
  - To ensure that Education are key partners within the new arrangements.
  - To continue to ensure that the voice of practitioners is central to the work of the partnership.
  - To continue to ensure that the voice of children and young people and families is embedded.







**The well-being and  
welfare of children  
should always be  
our focus.**

**Todd Tiahr**

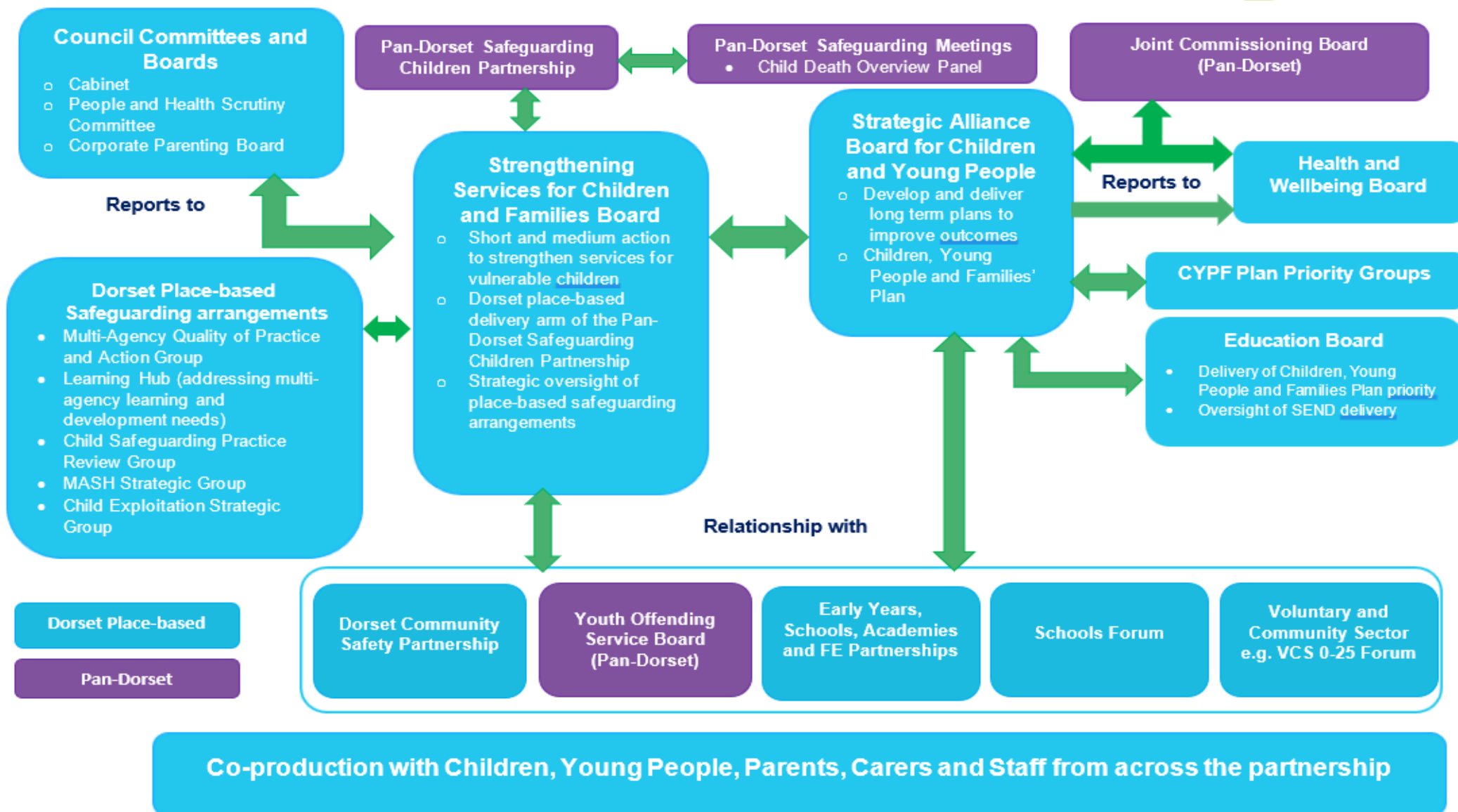
# Appendices

**Appendix 1— Dorset Children’s Strategic Partnership Governance**

**Appendix 2 — BCP Safeguarding Children Partnership Structure**

# Appendix 1 - Dorset Children's Strategic Partnership Governance

## DORSET CHILDREN'S STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP GOVERNANCE



V5.2 draft

# Appendix 2 - BCP Safeguarding Children Partnership Structure

