

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Thursday 31st March 2022

Item Name: Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2020/21

Corporate Director and Lead Officer: Catherine Underwood, Ailsa Barr and John Matravers

Lead Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Cheryl Barnard

1. Purpose:

This report is a statutory requirement for the Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership (NCSCP) to publish each year.

Overview

- This is the second annual report of the Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership in its delivery model, covering 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021.
- The strategic lead responsibility for safeguarding is shared between three statutory partners; the Local Authority, Nottinghamshire Police and Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care System and Clinical Commissioning Group
- The new safeguarding arrangements have been established and an Independent Scrutineer is in place.

2. Information Only:

This annual report reviews the work of the NCSCP for the period April 2020-March 2021. It highlights the key strands of work undertaken and our plans moving forward.

This is an important report as it highlights the work and challenges that we all face in protecting and supporting our Nottingham children.

The Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership will:

- Listen to, hear and act on the voice of the child.
- Use performance data from across the range of services represented in the NCSCP to regularly and effectively monitor front line practice.
- Use multi-agency audits to improve safeguarding practice.
- Ensure that learning from child deaths, learning reviews and significant incidents is central to the work of the NCSCP.
- Embed learning and improvement activity so that impact may be captured.
- Monitoring through the multi-agency audit programme the application of locally agreed thresholds.
- Engage in partnership with children, parents/carers and front line staff as well as the wider community.
- Work effectively as a partnership to protect children from harm.
- Build working relationships between partners which support and encourage constructive challenge.
- Learn from local and national safeguarding practice to continually strive to improve the way children are safeguarded.
- Listen and respond to children and young people and adult victims and survivors of child abuse to inform how services are commissioned and delivered.

- Ensure services for children and families in Nottingham City support children and young people to stay healthy and happy and support parents and carers to provide the best possible care for their children.

Priorities

The NCSCP identified the following six priorities in its business plan for 2020-2023.

Priority One: To ensure the voice and lived experience of children is integral to the development and delivery of services to children and families across Nottingham City.

Priority Two: Recognise and respond to the diverse population of Nottingham City's children, targeting work where necessary

Priority Three: To deliver the Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership Neglect Strategy.

Priority Four: Tackling and reducing Child Exploitation: To further strengthen the partnership response for children and young people experiencing contextual risk factors, including child sexual exploitation, child criminal exploitation, County Lines, gangs, honour based violence, female genital mutilation and children who do not have access to education.

Priority Five: To understand the impact of Covid-19, paying particular attention to Domestic Abuse / Domestic violence and children and young people's mental wellbeing, but also learning from the positive impacts of changes in working practices.

Priority Six: Providing leadership and ensuring core duties are met in line with Working Together 2018 and other relevant legislation.

The report details work undertaken, progressed and achieved throughout the last year and the priorities for the following year.

The overarching key strategic priorities of the NCSCP are:

1. Protecting Vulnerable Children and Young People with the objective of minimising the risks of harm to children and young people
2. Learning and Improving to ensure that children and young people influence the strategic planning on issues that affect them, that we learn from scrutiny of multiagency practice, and that practitioners have the skills and knowledge to be effective in their practice.
3. Leadership to ensure that NCSCP continuously improves on its effectiveness, has clear lines of communication, works strategically with partners, and has effective governance arrangements in place, which support a robust planned approach to its work.

The progression of the NCSCP Business Plan (2020-2023) continues to provide the focus for the partnership to achieve the above priorities. Much of the work undertaken in 2020/21 will continue in the year ahead with an emphasis on scrutiny and improved outcomes in the lived experience for our children, young people and their families. The safeguarding of children and young people is an ever changing environment with new and emerging challenges. This is truer than ever as challenges from the Covid-19 pandemic continue. This includes increased mental health concerns for children and health and education inequalities. The continued work of the NCSCP is critical in driving improved performance and outcomes in their daily lives for all of our children.

3. Proposal or Issue:

This report is for information only as it is subject to the governance arrangements of the NCSCP.

4. Financial Implications:

None

5. Legal Comments

N/A

6. Procurement Comments

N/A

7. Risk Management Considerations:

Keeping children and young people safe is a key responsibility of Nottingham City Council and an effective safeguarding partnership is critical to addressing this.

8. HR and EDI Considerations:

NCSCP's priority two sets out its commitment to ensuring safeguarding addresses the diversity of children in Nottingham.

9. Carbon Reduction and Sustainability Considerations:

N/A

10. Input from Other Internal Departments:

N/A

11. Next Steps

Following formal sign off of this report by the three responsible partners for the NCSCP, the Annual Report shall be published.