

**Report title: Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report**

**Date of meeting: 09 November 2022**

**Sponsor**

**(HWB member): Sara Tough, Executive Director of Children's Services**

### **Reason for the Report**

The Health and Wellbeing Board should be sighted on the work of the Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership as part of the overarching governance arrangements. This will ensure strategic join up in relevant areas.

### **Report summary**

The Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) Annual Report (seen in Appendix A) summarises the local arrangements for safeguarding children. It covers: governance and strategic overview; Norfolk's response to Covid-19; independent scrutiny; progress against NSCP priorities; learning from local and national Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews; training and workforce development; and the voice of the child. The scope of the report runs from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022. The report provides a comprehensive overview of both the NSCP's achievements as well as the challenges it has faced during this period.

### **Recommendations**

The HWB is asked to:

- a) Endorse the NSCP Annual report and comment on the contents.

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 Local Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements for children are written into *Working Together 2018*. The plan is owned by three statutory partners: the Local Authority (Norfolk Children's Services), Police and Health (Norfolk & Waveney Integrated Care Board).
- 1.2 In order to bring transparency for children, families and all practitioners about the activity undertaken, *Working Together* requires that the safeguarding partners publish a report at least once in every 12-month period. This should include:
  - *Evidence of the impact of the work of the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies, including training, on outcomes for children and families from early help to looked-after children and care leavers.*
  - *An analysis of any areas where there has been little or no evidence of progress on agreed priorities.*
  - *A record of decisions and actions taken by the partners in the report's period (or planned to be taken) to implement the recommendations of any local and national child safeguarding practice reviews, including any resulting improvements.*
  - *Ways in which the partners have sought and utilised feedback from children and families to inform their work and influence service provision.*(Chapter 3, Paragraph 42)
- 1.3 This annual report sets out what the NSCP has done as a result of the arrangements, including responding to child safeguarding practice reviews, and how effective these arrangements have been in practice.

## 2. Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report

- 2.1 As noted above, the report covers a wide range of safeguarding activity and challenges faced in the year between July 2021 and June 2022. The NSCP annual reports are presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board every year and this report builds on the content provided in September 2021.
- 2.2 As a reminder:
- The NSCP has been established to provide a **single sustainable system** to safeguard children in a complex partnership network. Under the leadership of the three statutory partners and with the support of the independent scrutiny team, including the NSCP independent chair, they are responsible for ensuring that safeguarding arrangements enable all partners to work together, lead the change and use our resources in the most effective way.
  - The Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) plan clearly states the NSCP's commitment to **prioritise prevention** through early help, which in turn supports Norfolk's children and young people to be healthy, independent and resilient throughout life.
  - The local safeguarding arrangements build on the strengths of partnership working in Norfolk, for example, learning from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, placing a strong emphasis on locality working and clear thresholds for intervention. This supports us to **understand and tackle inequalities in communities**, providing support for those who are most in need and address wider factors that impact on wellbeing, such as housing and crime.
  - The success of the NSCP is predicated on **joined up working** and collaborating in the delivery of people-centred services. Good relationships and clear communication between providers and services as well as between partners underpins effective safeguarding. This includes strategic leaders and links with other partnership boards with shared priorities and cross cutting strategies.
- 2.3 As in 2020 – 21, the NSCP has produced two versions of the report: a lengthy and detailed account as well as a Children and Young People's (CYP) version which acts as an Executive summary. The CYP version was produced with the support of Norfolk's In Care Council. Hard copies of the CYP version will be made available on the day.

### Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper please get in touch with:

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