

Report title: Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report

Date of meeting: 29 September 2021

Sponsor

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

Reason for the Report

The Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) 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 summarises the local arrangements for safeguarding children. It includes governance and strategic overview; Norfolk's response to Covid-19; independent scrutiny; progress against NSCP priorities; learning from Serious Case Reviews/Safeguarding Practice Reviews; training and workforce development; and the voice of the child. The scope of the report runs from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021. 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 report and comment on the contents.

1. Methodology

- 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 Clinical Commissioning Group).
- 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 (see the full report in Appendix A).

2. The 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 2020 and June 2021. The NSCP annual reports are presented to the HWB every year and this report builds on the content provided in October 2020. 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 chairs, 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 new arrangements build on the strengths of partnership working in Norfolk, for example, learning from Serious Case/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. This year, the chapter on Norfolk's response to Covid further explores ways we can address and tackle inequalities as we emerge from the pandemic.
 - 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.
- 2.2 In May 2021 the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel published its second Annual Report, drawing on evidence from Safeguarding Partners' published Yearly Reports. 68 yearly reports were reviewed against the requirements of WT2018; the NSCP's 2019 - 20 report was selected alongside 18 others to be reviewed for learning about practice issues. Feedback was provided and the National Panel noted the maturity of the partnership and requested more information about Norfolk's response to Covid as well as better analysis of the impact of learning on practice.
- 2.3 This year's report is lengthy in order to respond to the National Panel's direction, however, a separate report has been produced with the support of Norfolk's In Care Council to act as both a children and young people 'friendly' version as well as an executive summary. At the time of writing, it is the NSCP's Independent Chair's intention to focus the HWB on the children's version and we are aiming to have a young person co-present.

Officer Contact

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

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