

Meeting of the Children's Services Select Committee – 16th November 2023

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Dudley Children's Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report for 2022-2023

Purpose of report

1. To present the Dudley Children's Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report to the Select Committee.

Recommendations

2. It is recommended:-
 - Members consider and comment upon Dudley Children's Safeguarding Partnership (DSPP) Annual Report for 2022-2023

Background

3. The Social Work Act (2017), and subsequent revision of the Statutory guidance Working Together (2018) places the responsibility of ensuring effective coordination between agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their area under the leadership of three key safeguarding partners, that being the Local Authority, Police and Health (Integrated Care Board) with support from wider partners.

This report reflects work carried out by the multi-agency safeguarding arrangement between April 2022 and March 2023.

4. The DSPP is the overarching strategic group which oversees the work of the Children's Safeguarding Partnership Group and the Safeguarding Adults Board, enabling a life course safeguarding approach across the Partnership. Since our last report, we have maintained a life course approach but still recognise that some sub groups should remain focussed on the work of children.
5. The DSPP have embedded the role of Independent Scrutineer to support us in our safeguarding work across the Partnership. This has

provided us with robust challenge as well as advice and guidance to help ensure our Partnership safeguarding arrangements are effective. Our Scrutineer chairs the DSCPG and has been a critical friend, providing independent oversight of our multi agency work.

This report mentions work that is being done on our family Safeguarding model. The DSPP fully supports this model of practice, and we will be able to update more in our next report.

We continue to conduct our multi agency case file audits, which we have renamed Multi Agency Assurance of Practice (MAAP) to better reflect the purpose of this exercise. We have used this process to gauge our preparedness for any JTAI (Joint Targeted Are Inspection) which will involve the Local Authority, Police and Health colleagues.

Finance

6. A breakdown of how the DSPP was funded can be found in the DCSPG Annual Report

Their budget for 2022-23 was not fully utilised, however as this is Partnership money; this has been ring fenced. The surplus money continues to fund our Independent Scrutiny arrangements as well as our training offer, which is more face to face events, then in previous years (due to Covid)

Law

7. New arrangements for Safeguarding were introduced by the Social Work Act 2017 and the revised publication of Working Together 2018.

We are awaiting a revised version of Working Together and when this is released, will discuss in future Annual Reports.

Risk Management

8. There are no identified risks within this report

Equality Impact

9. To the best of our knowledge there are no Equality Impact implications arising from the content of this report

Human Resources/Organisational Development

10. Nothing to note

Commercial/Procurement

11. There are no commercial or procurement implications arising from the content of this report

Environment/Climate Change

12. There are no areas identified in this report

Council Priorities and Projects

13. The work of the DSPP supports the Borough Vision 2030: ensuring Dudley is a place of healthy, resilient, safe communities with high aspirations and the ability to shape their own future

Our strategic plan and priorities support the One Council ethos in relation to supporting stronger and safer communities. We continue to build strong relationships with statutory and voluntary sector partners to ensure safe and high-quality care for children.

We regularly seek assurance, ensuring Children's Social Care delivers high quality; value for money services; growing resilient families and communities, ensuring less children are in care.

The priorities of the Partnership also support Growing Resilient Communities: empowering people to be self-reliant, independent, and well-co-ordinated to grow strong, connected, and resilient communities.



Director of Children's Services

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List of Background Documents

Appendix 1 – DSCPG Annual Report 2022-23