

Annual Safeguarding Report (2022 – 2023) Executive Summary

14 November 2023

Steph How

Deputy Director - CSD

Ofsted (P2 Section 7)

- Four inspections have taken place since the introduction of the Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS).
- Latest inspection was February 2023. This was a focused visit looking at CIC. Hampshire received very positive feedback.
- All inspections are rooted in safeguarding.
- We can therefore be assured that practice in this area is strong.

National Developments (Section 10)

- Reminder re **The National Review** – covered under TSC and Family Help Model slides (6-8).
- **Child Exploitation** – an area of robust oversight (externally tested during JTAI, November 2021), supported by:
 - HIPS Child Exploitation Strategy
 - HIPS Operational Child Exploitation Group
 - District led Missing Exploited and Trafficked (MET) meetings
 - Willow Team
 - Multi agency involvement from all partners

Data (Sections 11 -16)

- Workloads (contacts, referrals, safeguarding activity) remains high 11,517 cases open (page 4).
- Contacts March 2023 11% higher than March 2022 (page 5)
- Assessment timeliness remains in the 90 percents as it has for last 5 years, better than other LAs.
- Increases of UASC lead to the general increase in CLA numbers (page 6). UASC are now nearly 13% of the CLA cohort compared to 6% in March 2022 (page 6).
- financial cost of CLA is significantly affecting the financial challenges the Council is facing (page 7).

Recruitment and retention (Section 18)

- A key national challenge, especially in the South East.
- Retention stabilised from an increase last year at 20%.
- The Independent Review of Children's Social Care allows us to use alternatively qualified professionals, so we have introduced the role of Family Practitioners who are differently qualified case-holding professionals in our statutory teams.
- Increasing recruitment through an increase in apprenticeships, recruiting from overseas and continuing with graduate employment programme. (Page 9)

Transforming Social Care (TSC) (Section 19)

Responding to the recommendations outlined in the Care Review, TSC is leading on the development of the new Family Help model.

Family Help will bring together a range of services, delivered within the community, to families across both targeted early help and children in need.

The new model is set to launch in January 2024.

Family Help Model

- The vision for Family Help is for new local, community-based teams. These teams will be sited within the community they support which will enable and facilitate easier and quicker access to services, therefore meeting the family's needs as early as possible.
- This initially means that our Family Support Service and Childrens Assessment and Safeguarding Teams will be brought together.

Family Help Model

- **Phase 1.1** – The introduction in January 2023 of a new differently qualified case holding role, that of the Family Practitioner. These workers have initially been recruited in CAST and will transition into the new Family Help teams in January 2024.
- **Phase 1.2** - Has focused on the development of Family Help teams; there will be 34 in total, each geographically sited to cover specific wards within districts. The aligned of these teams within specific areas will enable the delivery of local support as prescribed in the government paper 'Stable Homes Built on Love'.

SLI (Section 22) we are looking to reduce and concentrate on HCC

- Despite the detail provided in the report detailing a significant amount of support to OLAs we are looking to reduce this in the coming months and years due to an increasing utilisation on our staff and their time. Given the pressures on recruitment and retention in the sector it is imperative that we focus the staff and their skills / experience on Hampshire priorities.