

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee:	Hampshire Health and Wellbeing Board
Date:	09 December 2021
Title:	Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP) Annual Report 2020/21
Report From:	Derek Benson, Independent Chair, HSCB

Contact name: Tim Sandle, Strategic Partnerships Manager

Tel: 03707790448 **Email:** tim.sandle@hants.gov.uk

Purpose of this Report

1. The Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP) [Annual Report](#) covers the reporting period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. The Annual Report provides an assessment of the effectiveness of agencies across Hampshire to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, set against a comprehensive analysis of the local safeguarding context in line with responsibilities under Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018. The Annual Report contains a summary of the work undertaken to deliver the HSCP's Business Plan and outlines the priorities over the next year.

Recommendation

2. **The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the content of this report.**

Executive Summary

3. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note that safeguarding and well-being of children across Hampshire has remained at the forefront of HSCP work, with a continued commitment to protecting children demonstrated across the partnership during the COVID –19 Pandemic.
4. HSCP agencies and their workforces continue to make positive progress in many areas of child protection. This includes maintaining robust and integrated front-line services in conjunction with the Children's Services partnership with Hampshire.

- 5 The Annual Report reflects the HSCP vision and partnership approach:
- Child-focussed leadership which is effective and ambitious across the partnership.
 - Agencies that understand their roles and actively engage in multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.
 - An environment in which multi-agency practice can flourish.
 - Effective information sharing systems which professionals are confident and knowledgeable about.
 - Strong support and healthy challenge within the multi-agency system.
 - Creating a culture of continuous improvement and learning.

Contextual Information

- 6 Safeguarding remains a firm priority for all partner agencies, demonstrated by consistently good levels of attendance, effective engagement in subgroups, and a strong culture of constructive challenge and debate. Multi-agency work within the HSCP's groups and subgroups continue to promote work to drive a range of improvements to both the safety and welfare of children and young people.
- 7 The Hampshire statutory safeguarding partners for the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth, and Southampton known locally as 'HIPS' continue to collaborate over the wider geographical area. This benefits professionals working across more than one of the local authority areas, ensuring greater joined-up working on strategic issues and common themes.
- 8 The HSCP Business Plan informs the basis of the partnership's work. The Business Plan sets out the strategic commitment of the partnership to embed good practice making its vision a reality. Performance is measured against the HSCP Business Plan's outcome measures and is reported to the Business Group and Main Board which includes the statutory safeguarding partners and executive.
- 9 The Business Plan and work programme is developed in partnership with all agencies, drives a range of improvements to both the safety and the welfare of children. The priorities remain flexible for the duration of the Business Plan, and the detail will be set out in specific work plans of the subgroups and task and finish groups. The HSCP reviewed its Business Plan and priorities at a development day in January 2021 with a review in August, the next development day review is scheduled for January 2022.
- 10 Themed priorities for 2021-22 include:
1. Safeguarding adolescents in the home and the community (linking with contextual safeguarding).
 2. Neglect.
 3. Child sexual abuse (including interfamilial abuse).
 4. Improving collaboration between children and adult service providers (The Family Approach).

5. Mental health and emotional wellbeing.

11 Part A of the HSCP Business Plan contains long-term strategic objectives spanning the period 2020-2023. These objectives cover complex areas of children's safeguarding which require a deeper collective understanding to inform a targeted and coordinated partnership response. The strategic objectives will remain the same for the three-year period of the plan but the activities that sit underneath them need to be reviewed and refreshed annually.

12 **Part A Strategic Objective Safeguarding Adolescents**
A task and finish group has developed an Adolescent Safeguarding Strategy and practice tools and materials on safeguarding themes to support the strategy. The Strategy will be launched on 9 December 2021.

Actions Taken:

- Audit and surveys undertaken, and results used to evidence understanding of the range of complex and interrelated risks that impact adolescents.
- Safeguarding Adolescents Strategy drafted.
- Safeguarding Adolescents Toolkit materials for Professionals drafted.

Areas for further development in 2021/22:

- Adolescent Strategy and Toolkit to be launched 9th December 2021.
- Transitions Group set up across four Safeguarding Adults Board (areas will inform the strategy and toolkit.
- Training needs and workforce development programme developed.

13 **Part A Strategic Objective Responding to Neglect.**
The HSCP and Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnership (IOWSCP) jointly revised the Neglect Strategy and toolkit which was relaunched in February 2021. There is a plan to audit, evaluate and measure the impact of the Neglect Strategy, Toolkit and Training Offer in 2022 /23.

Actions Taken:

- Joint HSCP and IOWSCP Task and Finish group re-established to review and update the Neglect Strategy and Toolkit.
- Strategy Review work completed.
- Neglect Strategy and Toolkit re launched in February 2021 with additional materials included.
- Training offer revised to include scenario-based activities.

Areas for further development in 2021/22

- Once the new materials and training are embedded, they will be evaluated in terms of impact on practice.

14 Part B of the HSCP Business Plan contains several shorter-term activities, typically covering a reporting year. This part of the Business Plan will be refreshed annually with new activities identified when appropriate. These should be identified from the Partnership's existing scrutiny and learning review programmes and support the HSCP's statutory functions.

15 **Part B Strategic Objective: Evaluate the impact of HSCP initiatives and programmes.**

Actions 2020/21

In partnership with the Hampshire Safeguarding Adults Board, evaluate the local response to the HIPS and 4LSAB Family Approach protocol and toolkit.

In collaboration with the other HIPS LSCPs, launch the Lurking Trolls online safety campaign aimed at primary school aged children. Lurking Trolls was launched in July 2021.

Proposed 2021-22

Continue with the same Strategic Objective and Outcome, changing actions to:

- In collaboration with the other HIPS LSCPs, evaluate the impact of the Lurking Trolls online safety campaign.
- HSCP to evaluate the understanding and application of the updated Unborn Baby Protocol post implementation in March 2021.
- Continue to embed the Hampshire 'Every Sleep Counts' program and conduct an evaluation by the end of the reporting period.

The Lurking Trolls evaluation is being undertaken by Portsmouth LSCP. The unborn baby Protocol evaluation is currently being undertaken by a Health Task and Finish Group.

The Every Sleep Counts program continues to be embedded within services with additional organisations rolling out work within their agency. HSCP offers virtual training on the program as well as incorporating it into other relevant sessions such as safeguarding infants and learning from Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews. A combined audit on safeguarding infants is being planned which will include the evaluation of the Every Sleep Counts program.

16 **Part B Strategic Objective: Improved and effective dissemination of and communication channels across HSCP safeguarding partners and relevant agencies.**

Actions Taken:

- HSCP published its Learning and [Learning and Improvement Framework](#)
- HSCP to develop and publish a Communications Strategy outlining use of social media and how information and initiatives will be shared with agencies and front-line professionals in Hampshire.
- HSCP to work with Communications Colleagues in partner agencies to develop communications plans for core initiatives and key information dissemination to professionals.

- HSCP member agencies to incorporate learning from HSCP activity into messages and policy for their workforce.

Proposed 2021-22

Continue with the same objective and outcomes with more onus on partner agencies to provide evidence of impact.

Areas for further development in 2021/22

- HSCP member agencies to evidence how they have incorporated learning from HSCP activity into messages and policy for their workforce and report on the impact to the HSCP.

Communication of HSCP activities is included in the S11 audit. Information on specific initiatives is also included in other audits and evaluations of programmes undertaken by the HSCP.

17 **Part B Strategic Objective 2020/21: Understanding the safeguarding risks for children who are excluded from education and/or receiving reduced hours provision (not in full-time education).**

Outcomes

- For HSCP members to maintain regular oversight and develop a greater understanding of children in Hampshire who are excluded from education (both fixed term and permanently) and those on reduced hours provision.
- HSCP members to agree where further partnership working is needed to ensure these children are not at greater risk of becoming vulnerable to exploitation or exposure to crime or to other forms of Adverse Childhood Experience (ACEs).

18 **Part B Strategic Objective 2020/21: Child Sexual Abuse Strategy**

To be undertaken in partnership with the Isle of Wight SCP.

Outcomes

The HSCP and IOWSCP produce a child sexual abuse strategy that addresses identification, intervention and prevention of child sexual abuse.

Staff in HSCP and IOWSCP agencies are support in their work via provision of:

- Multi-agency training and awareness raising on child sexual abuse specifically,
- Direct work tools specifically developed to help children speak to trusted people about sexual abuse.

This is now a HIPS group. Small working groups have been established to develop chapters of the strategy. A toolkit will be developed upon completion.

Proposed 2021-22

The established joint HSCP and IOWSCP Task and Finish Group will:

- Develop a HSCP and IOWSCP Child Sexual Abuse Strategy.
- Collate examples of good practice and establish how this can be shared across agencies.
- Utilise collated responses and learning to influence and develop tools, training and support.
- Incorporate learning from national and local Child Safeguarding practice reviews.

19 **Part B Strategic Objective 2020-21: Child Exploitation Review**

Outcomes

Assurance that staff in agencies across the partnership are:

- identifying children at risk of exploitation.
- coordinating services to intervene, support and protect children and their families from harm.
- effectively sharing intelligence and information
- that partners are engaging with the child's extra familial contexts.
- the voice of child and their family/ carers are heard and responded to.
- engaging in ethical decision making.

20 **Part B Strategic Objectives 2021-22**

The established multi-agency review group will complete phase 2 which includes:

- Review of the roll out of the new CERAF (and mini CERAF for health settings).
- Review and coordinate implementation the of the Hampshire delivery plan to aid reporting to the Safeguarding Partners and HIPS Child Exploitation Group.
- Revisit audit outcomes identified in phase one and review implementation and evidence of impact.
- A Hampshire group has now been established to implement the Delivery Plan.

Conclusions

- 21 The multi-agency partnership in Hampshire is mature, robust and effective, with a clear commitment from senior leaders to review and improve ways of working, building on strengths within the strong partnership relationships that exist. Members of the partnership hold a strategic role within their organisations and can speak with authority, commit to matters of policy, and hold their organisation to account.

- 22 Safeguarding has remained a firm priority for all partner agencies since the HSCP inception in 2019 demonstrated by consistently good levels of attendance, effective engagement in subgroups, and a strong culture of constructive challenge and debate.
- 23 Despite the challenges of the COVID 19 pandemic the partners adapted quickly to the national situation, responding effectively to local need and risk. Strong strategic leadership ensured rapid and decisive action to safeguard Hampshire's children and young people at risk of harm or abuse and ensured access to the most appropriate support services to keep them safe. Hampshire schools and early years settings remained open during the reporting period ensuring that rates of attendance for Hampshire children were among the highest in the country and that a professional gaze remained for the county's most vulnerable children.
- 24 Key to the HSCP's success has been a focus on the different safeguarding contexts that exist across Hampshire, with emphasis being placed on children and young people being safeguarded in their lives at home, in their friendship circles, in health, in education and in the public spaces that they occupy both offline and online.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	No
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	Yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	No
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	Yes

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report	December 2020
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Document

Location

None

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

Race and equality impact assessment has been considered in the development of this report and no adverse impact has been identified.