



Report to Children's and Education Select Committee

Date: 3rd November 2022

Title: Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership

Relevant councillor(s): Anita Cranmer

Author and/or contact officer: Author - Jo Stephenson, Safeguarding Partnerships Manager. The report will be presented by the newly appointed Independent Chair, Walter McCulloch who started in post on 19th September 2022.

Ward(s) affected: none specific

Recommendations: That the Select Committee note and provide feedback on the contents of the report.

Executive summary

- 1.1 This annual report captures the work of the partnership in continuing times of strain for public services who are experiencing greater volumes of work in a period of national and indeed international turbulence. It is clear that children, young people and their families, across Buckinghamshire, have required more assistance in the past year than previously. In that context it is very creditable that both the external scrutiny of an Ofsted inspection and indeed the self-assessment carried out by the partnership itself has found that services for children are improving. There is clearly more to be done in this respect but a firm base is being established. Nevertheless it is important to commend staff, managers, and leaders across the partnership.
- 1.2 The work of the board is evident in the contributions in the report from the chairs of the sub-groups and the record of its broader activities. There is good participation across the partnership in these sub-groups, and it is good and appropriate that these are chaired by senior colleagues from across the partners. It is notable that each of the sub-groups has spent time consolidating previous work, and it is a strength that each has identified a need to bring a sharper focus to their work, linking activity to the business plan and driving evidence of the impact of their work in practice. Similarly, the important work that ensures learning from Safeguarding Practice Reviews has replicated this consolidation of earlier work.

- 1.3 This recurring theme of sharpening the product of the combined work of partners, ensuring clear and deliverable improvements for children and young people will be an area for my attention in these coming months. The ongoing aim of the is to further strengthen the collaboration with children, young people and families in the work of the partnership.

Content of report

- 1.4 An introduction from the Chair , demographic overview of Buckinghamshire children's population and reports from the Chairs of Sub groups detailing activity undertaken over the preceding year .

Other options considered

- 1.5 The meeting is asked to noted that at the request of CMT , a stand alone executive summary is in production using mainly infographics to set out the activity described .
- 1.6 The next annual report will be less text based and more accessible. The Partnerships Manager is looking at best practice in other areas which includes use of video/animation to convey the report.

Legal and financial implications

- 1.7 The Partnership has met it's statutory obligation to produce this report.

Corporate implications

- n/a

Consultation and communication

- 1.8 n/a.

Next steps and review

Once comments have been considered, the full report can be published on the BSCP website and the executive summary will be published before the end of December.

Background papers

n/a