



## Report to Cabinet

<b>Date:</b>	14 November 2023
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP) Annual Report 2022-23</b>
<b>Cabinet Member(s):</b>	Cllr Anita Cranmer, Cabinet Member for Childrens & Education
<b>Contact officer:</b>	Joanne Stephenson, Safeguarding Partnership Manager
<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>	None specific
<b>Recommendations:</b>	<b>For Cabinet to note the content of the BSCP Annual Report</b>
<b>Reason for recommendation:</b>	n/a

### 1. Background

- 1.1 Working Together 2018 states that partnerships must produce an annual report “at least once in every 12 month period”. The report must set out what they have done as a result of the arrangements, including on child safeguarding practice reviews, and how effective these arrangements have been in practice.
- 1.2 WT18 also states that the report should include:
  1. 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
  2. an analysis of any areas where there has been little or no evidence of progress on agreed priorities
  3. 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

4. ways in which the partners have sought and utilised feedback from children and families to inform their work and influence service provision.

These requirements will form the chapters for the annual report.

## **2. Main content of report**

- 2.1 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. In addition there have been local staffing challenges within the business unit and partner agencies. There has been a great deal of change in the subgroups including in key positions such as the role of Chair. This has led to delays while new people are established and while new partners can be identified to discharge actions. This has also led to some issues around having the correct level of authority and decision making ability in groups which in turn creates delays. The partnership manager and Independent Chair continue to address this.
- 2.2 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. While there have been changes , there remains good participation across the partnership in the sub-groups, with a variety of relevant agencies represented. The subgroups have begun to work actively with the Independent Chair and partnership manager to bring a sharper focus to their work, updating the business plan and ensuring that the groups link effectively with each other.
- 2.3 In keeping with the National picture the number of appropriate referrals for Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews continues to rise . This is in conjunction with the need to ensure that actions from previous reviews have been completed and have brought about positive change in the system. The post in the business unit designed to manage and lead this work has been affected by long term absence in this period . While we have met all our statutory responsibilities and had good engagement from partners , the work on impact of reviews will be picked up as a priority by the new post holder.
- 2.4 Work commenced in this period with the Independent Chair to refine the business priorities , better describe the requirements on partners and agree expectations about impact. To support this we began the process of collaboration with children, young people and families in the work of the partnership.

## **3. Next steps**

### **Next Steps for the report**

- Report approved by the BSCP Executive (19/9/23)

- Report to be published on website (November 2023)

#### **Next steps for the Partnership**

- To agree a new business plan with measurable priorities and ensure this is shared with the sub groups for action.
- To review the current membership and structure to ensure that it can deliver what is required.
- To agree and implement a front line staff and residents engagement plan.
- To re-establish and strengthen the links between the relevant Partnership Boards.
- To implement and measure the impact of the revised training offer.
- To review the evidence based from practice reviews and ensure that the learning is shared.

#### **4. Legal and financial implications**

- 4.1 There are no legal or financial implications to this report.

#### **5. Background papers**

- 5.1 N/A

#### **6. Your questions and views (for key decisions)**

- 6.1 If you have any questions about the matters contained in this report, please contact the author of this report. If you have any views that you would like the cabinet member to consider, please inform the democratic services team. This can be done by email to [democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk).

