



Medway Safeguarding Children Partnership

Strategic Plan
2020-2022



Medway Context

This is the first Strategic Plan for the Medway Safeguarding Children Partnership (MSCP). The MSCP was set up on 2 September 2019 to replace the Local Safeguarding Children Board. These new arrangements were in response to the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

Medway Council, Kent Police and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) are the three safeguarding partners that make up the MSCP.

This Strategic Plan has been developed following engagement with partners at the first MSCP Development Day on 27 September 2019. The purpose of the day was to help develop the Strategic Plan for the MSCP by identifying the key priorities for the new partnership to ensure that agencies work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Medway.

The Safeguarding partners met with a range of relevant agencies on the day including health providers, probation, the secure estate and education and discussion focused on what has been working well for safeguarding children and what the key areas for improvement are. In developing this strategic plan and priorities for the next two years, the MSCP has reflected on the progress of the Medway Safeguarding Children Board, which the new partnership replaces.

Vision

The MSCP is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children in Medway. We want Medway to be a place where children are safe from harm in their homes, families and communities and we want to ensure the right service is delivered the first time.

The MSCP will support and enable local organisations and agencies to work together in a system where:

- Children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted
- Partner organisations and agencies collaborate, share and co-own the vision for how to achieve improved outcomes for vulnerable children
- Organisations and agencies challenge appropriately and hold one another to account effectively
- There is early identification and analysis of new safeguarding issues and emerging threats
- Learning is promoted and embedded in a way that local services for children and families can become more reflective and implement changes to practice
- Information is shared effectively to facilitate more accurate and timely decision making for children and families.

Values and Principles

The work of the MSCP is underpinned by the following principles:

- There is a culture of continuous learning and improvement across the organisations that work together to support staff to be effective in their role, and safeguard and promote the welfare of children, identifying *opportunities to draw on what works and promote good practice*. *This includes the MSCP and its partner role in scrutiny and challenge*.
- Children, young people and their families that are in need of help and protection have appropriate assessments and their needs addressed as early as possible.
- Services support timely service provision to ensure children, young people and their families have a positive journey through services and this prevents the escalation in needs that may require specialist intervention in the future.
- Services are accessible to all children, young people and families equally and organisations work to prevent and overcome barriers.
- Children, young people and families have opportunity to express their views, wishes and feelings about their individual plans and the work of the MSCP and its partners. They are confident that their views are taken into account and influence service planning and development as well as individual practice
- Partner agencies engage with the MSCP and are clear about their roles and responsibilities in relation to safeguarding children; and this is effectively communicated by the MSCP.
- Frontline practitioners are well informed of, and involved in, the work of the MSCP, including specific learning from MSCP review activity.
- Qualitative and quantitative information is available and used to influence planning, exercise challenge and improve performance
- Link with key strategic partners where appropriate, including the Adult Safeguarding Board, Improvement Board, Health and Wellbeing Board, Community Safety Partnership and the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive.

Strategic Priorities

The MSCP has set the following five priorities for 2020-22.

Priority One: Effective Partnerships

What do we want to achieve?

- Partners hold each other to account, support and challenge each other and use the challenge and escalation process effectively
- A partnership that learns from case reviews and audits
- Professionals recognise and reflect the child's lived experience and utilise a range of communication methods to engage with children
- Children and young people have the opportunity to be involved in the work of the MSCP

How will we achieve it?

- Develop and implement the MSCP Quality Assurance Framework
- Ensure inspectorate recommendations are effectively implemented
- Develop joint learning from case review events across Kent and Medway
- Assess the child's voice and lived experience through multi agency audits
- Develop opportunities to work with wider groups of children and young people to support the work of the MSCP

Priority Two: Contextual Safeguarding and trauma informed practice

What do we want to achieve?

- An effective multi agency response to contextual safeguarding and agreed set of tools for practitioners, recognising exploitation of young people in all its forms
- An engaged workforce that understands contextual safeguarding and thresholds for tiered child protection interventions and services
- Partners act to prevent safeguarding issues arising and minimise the harm and impacts arising from those that do occur

How will we achieve it?

- Implementing a partnership approach to contextual safeguarding which identifies and responds to risks outside the family home
- Using trauma informed practice to understand and meet the needs of children

Priority Three: Domestic Abuse

What do we want to achieve?

- To prevent and reduce domestic abuse and ensure when children experience domestic abuse they can access the help and services which they need
- To have a competent and confident workforce who are able to recognise and appropriately respond to the needs of children affected by domestic abuse

How will we achieve it?

- Work closely with the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive to deliver the Domestic Abuse Strategy
- Delivery of learning opportunities to ensure Medway professionals are aware of services for children and young people and support health relationship education to young people
- Ensure that the multi agency audit programme includes themed audits on domestic abuse

Priority Four: Neglect

What do we want to achieve?

- Children in households where neglect is a feature are helped and when necessary protected
- To ensure that professionals have an enhanced understanding of neglect including adolescent neglect

How will we achieve it?

- Implement a multi agency neglect strategy to support the utilisation of the Graded Care Profile (GCP) to provide professionals with an objective measure of the care of children
- Ensure high quality training opportunities are available to support the identification of neglect
- Ensure that the multi agency audit programme includes themed audits on neglect

Priority Five: Effective Early Help

What do we want to achieve?

- Children and young people receive effective early help and appropriate interventions when needs are identified and/or problems arise

How will we achieve it?

- Support the development of a robust Early Help Strategy and service delivery model

Delivery of the Strategic Plan

The MSCP Strategic Plan will be delivered through the MSCP Business Plan which will be monitored by the MSCP Executive. This two year strategic plan will be reviewed annually.