

## **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**1 DECEMBER 2020**

### **MEDWAY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP (MSCP) ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20**

Report from: Andy Pritchard, Detective Superintendent, Kent Police (Chair)  
Ian Sutherland, Director of Children & Adults Services  
Sarah Vaux, Director of Nursing and Quality, Kent and Medway  
Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)  
Rory Patterson, MSCP Independent Scrutineer

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#### **Summary**

The purpose of this report is to present the first Medway Safeguarding Children Partnership (MSCP) Annual Report 2019-20 to the Committee. Whilst the predominant focus of the report is on the work of the MSCP since it was set up on 2 September 2019, the report provides a summary of activity across the whole year and includes work undertaken by the Medway Safeguarding Children Board (MSCB) in preparation for the transition to the new arrangements. The report summarises the progress that has been made in 2019-20 and the plans to develop this further in 2020-21.

The report also provides an update on the MSCP Business Plan 2020-22.

#### **1. Budget and policy framework**

1.1. The Medway Safeguarding Children Partnership (MSCP) was set up on 2 September 2019 to replace the Medway Safeguarding Children Board. These new arrangements were in response to the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and were approved by Cabinet on 9 April 2019.

1.2. Medway Council, Kent Police and Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) are the three safeguarding partners that make up the MSCP. The purpose of the MSCP is to 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.

1.3. The MSCP has a pooled budget made up from financial contributions from the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies:

- Medway Council
- Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group and Health partners
- Kent Police & Crime Commissioner
- National Probation Service
- Kent, Surrey & Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company
- HM Young Offenders Institution Cookham Wood
- Kent Fire and Rescue Service

## 2. Background

2.1. The safeguarding partners are required to publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in Medway. The report is presented annually to the Health and Wellbeing Board, Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Community Safety Partnership. The annual report is appended to this report at Appendix A.

2.2. The annual report brings together in one place reports on all the principle work carried out in Medway during 2019-20 that have been designed to keep children safe from harm, abuse or neglect.

2.3. The Annual Report 2019-20 includes:

- An overview of the partnership's governance and accountability arrangements including the statutory role of the partnership, its structure and key relationships with other strategic partnerships;
- An update from the Independent Scrutineer on his work to evaluate the partnership;
- An analysis of the key activity of the MSCP for the year;
- An overview of the quality assurance and learning and improvement activities during the year; and
- A summary of the MSCP accounts.

### 3. MSCP Business Plan

3.1. The MSCP agreed five new priorities for 2020-22 set out in the MSCP Strategic Plan. The MSCP has a Business Plan which sets out the detailed actions under each of the five priority areas. The five priorities for 2020-22 are:

- Effective Partnerships
- Contextual Safeguarding and trauma informed practice
- Domestic Abuse
- Neglect
- Effective Early Help

3.2. A copy of the MSCP Business Plan 2020-22 is attached in Appendix B.

### 4. Risk management

4.1. Whilst there are no specific risks identified, the MSCP annual report 2019-20 presents an analysis of safeguarding in Medway and work to challenge and support the Council and its other partners to address and reduce risks to children.

### 5. Financial and legal implications

5.1. MSCP is a statutory body funded through financial and “in kind” contributions from local agencies. There are no financial or legal implications for the Committee arising from this report.

### 6. Recommendations

6.1. The committee is asked to consider and comment on the annual report and the effectiveness of local services in keeping children safe.

### Lead officer contact

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### Appendices

Appendix A – Medway Safeguarding Children Partnership (MSCP) Annual Report 2019-20

Appendix B – Medway Safeguarding Children Partnership (MSCP) Business Plan 2020-22 (Draft)

### Background papers

None