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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5 DECEMBER 2023

MEDWAY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP (MSCP) ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

Report from: Dr Lee-Anne Farach, Director of People, Medway Council, Chair
Allison Cannon, Chief Nursing Officer, NHS Kent and Medway
ACC Simon Wilson, Kent Police
Rory Patterson, MSCP Independent Scrutineer

Author: Simon Plummer, MSCP Business Manager

Summary

The purpose of this report is to present the Medway Safeguarding Children Partnership (MSCP) Annual Report 2022-23 to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The report provides an overview of the work carried out by the MSCP in the last year. It sets out the key achievements of the partnership against its key priorities and gives an overview of the learning and improvement role of the MSCP including case reviews that have been undertaken. It also includes a section from the Independent Scrutineer, Rory Patterson.

The report was presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board on 23 November 2023 and will be presented to the Community Safety Partnership in line with the Joint Working Protocol between the boards in Medway.

1. Recommendations

1.1. The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider and comment on the annual report and the effectiveness of local services in keeping children safe.

2. Budget and policy framework

2.1 The Children and Social Work Act 2017, The Child Safeguarding Practice Review and Relevant Agency (England) Regulations 2018 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 guidance legislate for all local areas to publish multi-agency safeguarding children arrangements led by three statutory agencies.

- 2.2 Medway Council, Kent Police and NHS Kent and Medway 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.
- 2.3 The MSCP has a pooled budget made up from financial contributions from the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies:
- Medway Council
 - NHS Kent and Medway and Health partners
 - Kent Police & Crime Commissioner
 - Probation Service
 - HM Young Offenders Institution Cookham Wood
 - Kent Fire and Rescue Service

3. Background

- 3.1 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 One.
- 3.2 The annual report brings together in one place reports on all the principal work carried out in Medway during 2022-23 that have been designed to keep children safe from harm, abuse or neglect.
- 3.3 The Annual Report 2022-23 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 and its impact;

- An overview of the quality assurance and learning and improvement activities during the year; and
- A summary of the MSCP accounts.

4. Risk management

- 4.1 Whilst there are no specific risks identified, the MSCP annual report 2022-23 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.

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Appendices

Appendix 1 – Medway Safeguarding Children Partnership (MSCP) Annual Report 2022-23

Background papers

None