

Health and Wellbeing Board

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Medway Safeguarding Children Partnership (MSCP) Annual Report 2023-24

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Executive group

Summary

The purpose of this report is to present the Medway Safeguarding Children Partnership (MSCP) Annual Report 2023-24 to the Health and Wellbeing Board. The report provides an overview of the work carried out by the MSCP in the last year. It sets out the progress the partnership has made against 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 on scrutiny and assurance, providing details of the independent scrutineer activity in the reporting year.

The report will also be presented to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Community Safety Partnership in line with the Joint Working Protocol between the boards in Medway.

1. Recommendation

1.1. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to consider and comment on the annual report including where they can support and assist the MSCP priorities for 2024-2025.

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.

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 2023-24 that have been designed to keep children safe from harm, abuse or neglect.

3.3 The Annual Report 2023-24 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 secure estate 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 resources

4. Risk management

- 4.1 Whilst there are no specific risks identified, the MSCP annual report 2023-24 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, any unspent funding is transferred to an earmarked reserve for use in future years.
- 5.2 There are no direct financial or legal implications for the Board arising from this report.

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Appendices

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

Background papers

None