

Meeting date: 8th November 2022
Report to: Health and Well-Being Board



Subject/report title: Local Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2021 -2022

Report from: Safeguarding Partners – SMBC, WMP and ICB

Report author/lead contact officer: Ian Parnell WMP / Diane Rhoden ICB

Wards affected:

All Wards | Bickenhill | Blythe | Castle Bromwich | Chelmsley Wood |
 Dorridge/Hockley Heath | Elmdon | Kingshurst/Fordbridge | Knowle |
 Lyndon | Meriden | Olton | Shirley East | Shirley South |
 Shirley West | Silhill | Smith's Wood | St Alphege

Public/private report: Public

Exempt by virtue of paragraph: Select an Exemption paragraph from the Quick Parts drop-down list

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To inform Solihull Health and Wellbeing Board of the work of the Solihull Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) in 2021/22

2. Decision(s) recommended

2.1 The Safeguarding Partners request that Solihull Health and Wellbeing Board accept the LSCP annual report as a transparent account of the work of the LSCP in 2021 - 2022.

3. What is the issue?

3.1 The Children and Social Work Act 2017 brought about significant change to local children's multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. This Act amended certain safeguarding provisions within the Children Act 2004 by removing the statutory requirement for areas to have Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs). This was replaced by the requirement for the safeguarding partners (which are the local authority, Chief Officer for police and the local clinical commissioning group for the area) to make arrangements to safeguard children and promote their welfare within their area. Additionally, the safeguarding partners are required to name relevant

agencies that they consider appropriate to work with in exercising their functions, and those named agencies then have a duty to co-operate.

3.2 LSCPs now have a statutory responsibility to publish at least one annual report in each 12 month period. (Working Together 2018 Ch.3, Paras. 41 - 46. Pg.80) The overall purpose of the report is to provide a transparent view as to how effective the arrangements have been in safeguarding children and young people in the local area. Within seven days of being published the link will be sent to the national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and the What Works Centre for Children's Social Care. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and sharing the LSCP annual report provides opportunity for future safeguarding activity across partnerships within Solihull to be co-ordinated and mutually supportive.

4. What options have been considered and what is the evidence telling us about them?

4.1 Solihull LSCP set two key priorities for 2021 - 2022:

- Neglect
- Exploitation

4.2 The LSCP annual report provides details of the activities undertaken by Solihull LSCP during 2021-2022 to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of child safeguarding arrangements in Solihull, with a particular focus on the above two priority areas. The activities undertaken in response to strategic priorities are detailed within the report.

4.3 In addition, the Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) undertaken in January 2022 identified improvement areas for the partnership, as did the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review published in May 2022.

5. Reasons for recommending preferred option

5.1 The LSCP Executive agreed on 24 March 2022 that its strategic priorities for 2022/23 will be children and young people at risk of Neglect and children and young people in need of Early Help. In addition, the LSCP agreed to prioritise the findings of the Joint Targeted Area Inspection and the National Review published by The National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel in May 2022.

5.2 It has been identified that there are gaps within the current early help offer. Children, young people, and parents can access universal services, but there is a gap for the families who need additional targeted support. The LSCP has been made aware that the impact of this gap leads to the escalation of children being referred to children's social care through MASH for statutory support and intervention often without any previous single agency intervention or support. The work planned to address this gap was set out in the report to the Health and Wellbeing Board dated 27 September 2022 and the LSCP will continue to monitor progress during the year.

5.3 Neglect remains important as it continues to represent the largest proportion of child protection plans (consistent with the national picture). Solihull's Neglect Strategy has

been refreshed and this year it will be implemented. A multi-agency Task and Finish Group has been established and a delivery plan is in place to embed the Strategy into frontline practice.

- 5.4 Following the conviction of the father and his partner of the murder of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes in November 2021 the Education Secretary announced the following measures:
- The National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel will work with leaders in Solihull to deliver a single, national, independent review of Arthur’s death to identify learning
 - In accordance with section 20(1)(b) of the Children Act 2004, Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission, HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue services and HM Inspectorate of Probation will lead a Joint Targeted Area Inspection of services in Solihull
- 5.5 The Joint Targeted Area Inspection was undertaken in January 2022 and the LSCP developed its own Improvement Plan based on the findings of the inspection which have now been incorporated into an Integrated Business Plan.
- 5.6 The National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel’s report into the deaths of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson was published in May 2022. The LSCP has developed a comprehensive action plan in response to the local recommendations which is being co-ordinated by the Solihull Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, a sub-group of the LSCP, and reported into the Improving Outcomes for Children in Solihull Board (IOCSB).

6. Implications and Considerations

6.1 Delivery of key themes in the Council Plan:

How will the options/proposals in this report contribute to the delivery of the key themes in the Council Plan? *(select which themes apply and briefly state how the options / proposals in this report contribute to their delivery):*

- Improve Health and Wellbeing - The activity of the LSCP is driven by the need to safeguard children and young people, and in doing so protect and improve their health and wellbeing.
- Managed Growth – n/a
- Build Stronger Communities - The LSCP has a priority to support the implementation of the all-age Exploitation Strategy for Solihull. In so doing, the LSCP is contributing to the building of community resilience to exploitation in its widest sense.

- ☒ Deliver Value - Preventing the abuse of children and young people by keeping them safe and ensuring effective intervention when risks are identified reduces the demand for acute services across the local partnership.

6.2 Implications for children and young people, vulnerable groups and particular communities:

6.2.1 Effective implementation of the LSCP's priorities and work plans will have positive implications for children and young people by reducing the risk of harm to them and improving their wellbeing.

6.3 Consultation and Scrutiny:

6.3.1 This annual report is produced by the three safeguarding partners in Solihull and it has been overseen by the Independent Scrutineer for the LSCP. It will also be presented to Council for consultation and scrutiny, and will be reviewed by the national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel on behalf of government.

6.4 Financial implications:

6.4.1 The LSCP is funded by its partner members and details of that funding is contained within the report (Appendix 1). There are no identified financial implications for any partner agency or local partnership forum beyond those set out in the annual report.

6.5 Legal implications:

6.5.1 The LSCP has produced this annual report in line with the statutory requirements set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 (Department of Education)

6.6 Risk implications:

6.6.1 There are physical, legal, financial, and moral risks inherent in the activities of the LSCP and these are managed through the governance structures currently in place.

6.6.2 There are similar risks to other partnership forums in failing to pay due regard to the responsibility to safeguarding children and young people within their own planning and delivery of services.

6.7 Statutory Equality Duty:

6.7.1 In carrying out its functions Solihull LSCP has due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and people who do not share it
- foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it

6.7.2 It is submitted that the presentation of this annual report to Solihull Health and Wellbeing Board presents no issues in relation to the Public Sector Statutory Equality Duty that require consideration

7. List of appendices referred to

7.1 Appendix A - Solihull Local Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2021/22

8. Background papers used to compile this report

8.1 All LSCP documents generated as a result of its governance processes.

9. List of other relevant documents

9.1 None