

Meeting date: 8th December 2020

Report to: Full Council



Subject/report title: Local Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2019-2020

Report from: LSCP Independent Scrutineer – David Peplow

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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 Full Council of the work of the Solihull Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) in 2019/20
- 1.2 To inform Solihull Full Council of the LSCP's priorities and planned activity during 2020/21

2. Decision(s) recommended

- 2.1 The LSCP independent Scrutineer requests that Solihull Council accepts the LSCP annual report as a transparent account of the work of the LSCP in 2019 - 2020.

3. Matters for Consideration

- 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. The Solihull Local Safeguarding Children Partnership arrangements can be viewed at <https://solihulllscp.co.uk/>

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. This report was presented to the Solihull Health and Wellbeing Board on 11 November 2020. Following publication the link is 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 LSCB set three key priorities for 2019 - 2020:

- Early Help
- Neglect
- Exploitation

4.2 The LSCP annual report provides details of the activities undertaken by Solihull LSCP during 2019-2020 to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of child safeguarding arrangements in Solihull, with a particular focus on these three priority areas. The options chosen to fulfil this statutory function and the outcomes from these activities are detailed within the report.

4.3 The new partnership has agreed, based on 2019/20 activities, to retain neglect and exploitation as strategic priorities in 2020/21.

5. **Reasons for recommending preferred option**

5.1 The LSCP Executive agreed on 25 February 2020 that its strategic priorities for 2020/21 will be children and young people at risk of **Neglect** and children and young people at risk of **Exploitation**.

5.2 It is recognised that effective Early Help is extremely important and a focus will be retained on early identification and intervention at lower levels when looking at the multi-agency response to Neglect and Exploitation, but it will not be a priority in its own right. This is in recognition of the fact that progress has been made on the delivery of targeted Early Help through the re-structuring of children's social care teams, and also that Ofsted identified Solihull's Early Help offer as a strength in the recent inspection.

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

Strategy will inform the development work required to ensure children receive a robust multi-agency response.

5.4 Exploitation remains a high priority as the focus nationally moves from Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) specifically, to different forms of exploitation, including Criminal Exploitation and County Lines. In Solihull much work is being undertaken, both strategically and operationally, to develop multi-agency systems and processes to ensure children and young people (including young adults) are identified as being at risk of exploitation and protected, and offenders are pursued. The LSCP, along with other partnership boards, will have a particular role in supporting the launch of the Solihull All-Age Exploitation Strategy and the embedding of pathways and tools to underpin the multi-agency response on the frontline.

6. Implications and Considerations

6.1 State how the proposals in this report contribute to the priorities in the [Council Plan](#):

Priority:	Contribution:
<p>Economy:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Revitalising our towns and local centres. 2. UK Central (UKC) and maximising the opportunities of HS2. 3. Increase the supply of housing, especially affordable and social housing. 	<p>Click here to enter text.</p>
<p>Environment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Enhance Solihull's natural environment. 5. Improve Solihull's air quality. 6. Reduce Solihull's net carbon emissions. 	<p>Click here to enter text.</p>
<p>People and Communities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Take action to improve life chances in our most disadvantaged communities. 8. Enable communities to thrive. 9. Sustainable, quality, affordable provision for adults & children with complex needs. 	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

6.2 Consultation and Scrutiny:

6.2.1 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 has been presented to Solihull's Health and Wellbeing Board and is being presented to Council for consultation and scrutiny, and will be reviewed by the national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel on behalf of government.

6.3 Financial implications:

6.3.1 The LSCP is funded by its partner members and details of that funding is contained within the report (Appendix 2). There are no identified financial implications for any partner agency or local partnership forum beyond those set out in the annual report.

6.4 Legal implications:

6.4.1 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)

6.5 Risk implications:

6.5.1 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.

6.5.2 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.

6.6 Equality implications:

6.6.1 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

6.6.2 It is submitted that the presentation of this annual report to Solihull Council 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 2019/2020.

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