

The Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership's Annual Report for 2021-22.

This report sets out the work programme of the Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership's (NSCP) work through this reporting period, aligned to the three key priorities set out in the 2021-22 Business Plan and referenced at the bottom of page 4. The report shows the progress being and developments to practice to support and safeguard children and young people in the local area. There is a strong focus on voice of the child, crucial in every aspect of our work.

Early Help has been developed and services re-designed with a focus on intervention and prevention, led on by colleagues within the Children's Trust, with further plans for continuous improvement through 2022-23 and a focus on neglect as a key priority.

Considerable work has been undertaken to raise the profile of Child Exploitation led by Northamptonshire Constabulary, building on existing processes to protect our most vulnerable children and young people. Plans are in place for 2022-23 to review these processes to strengthen and develop a more cohesive multi-agency approach.

The Safeguarding Partnership has continued to focus on supporting staff with a comprehensive on-line training package offering a suite of courses and, with the restricting effects of Covid-19 beginning to relax, is re-initiating multi-agency training through Teams. The partnership is committed to training staff and has agreed a funding package for 2022-23.

Covid-19 has continued to cause significant pressures on many services and remains a feature throughout this report. Strategic Leads in the North & West Northampton Local Authorities; the Clinical Commissioning Groups (now the Integrated Care Board) and health providers, the Police, schools and education settings, Probation Service and the voluntary and community sectors have worked together to support front line staff who have worked tirelessly in delivering services to children and families during these challenging times. This will continue through 2022-23 with recognition of the additional pressure of the cost-of-living for families.

In conclusion the annual report is a reflection of progress made by the NSCP in the last year, with acknowledgement of the further work and improvements needed as set out in the plans for 2022-23, referenced on page 15.