



Full Council 26th January 2023

Report Title	Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2021-22
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Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there public sector equality duty implications?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information (whether in appendices or not)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Applicable paragraph number/s for exemption from publication under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972	

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2021-22

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present the Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) Annual Report 2021-22, which outlines the partnerships achievements during the reporting period.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 North Northamptonshire Council is one of five strategic leads representing the multi-agency Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership (NSCP), which is a statutory requirement of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 guidance (see Section 8 Background Papers)
- 2.2 The Partnership is required to produce an annual report that provides an overview of the partnership's achievements against the NSCP Business Plan.
- 2.3 The purpose of the partnership is to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Northamptonshire. This is done by coordinating the work of those

people and all organisations working in the county ensuring that what they do is effective.

- 2.4 The partnership is not an operational body. Its role is to ensure the coordination and effectiveness of the services provided to children, young people and their families by member organisations.
- 2.5 This report provides assurance to Members of the activities undertaken by the partnership and its agencies to safeguard children and young people across the county during the reporting period.
- 2.6 This Report was considered by the Executive at its meeting held on 12th January 2023. The Executive noted the report.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that: -
- (i) Council receives the Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership's Annual Report 2021-22 (Appendix A) and note the findings.
- 3.2 Reason for Recommendations – To accord with legislation or the policy of the Council; Under the statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018', the five key strategic lead agencies are accountable for safeguarding children and young people, including the Local Authority, who in turn are required to publish an annual report (see Section 8 Background papers).
- 3.3 Alternative Options Considered – The report not to be considered by Council members, however this would not comply with the governance arrangements and expectations of the Partnership.

4. Report Background

- 4.1 Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) is a statutory multi-agency partnership led by five strategic leads in accordance with, and as stipulated within, 'Working Together 2018' statutory guidance.
- 4.2 The purpose of the partnership is to support and enable local agencies to work together in a system where:
- Excellent practice is the norm
 - Partner agencies hold one another to account effectively
 - There is early identification of "new" safeguarding issues
 - Learning is promoted and embedded
 - Information is shared effectively

- The public can feel confident that children are protected from harm

4.3 In addition, the Safeguarding Partnership's values are:

4.3.1 A child centred approach to safeguarding ensuring their voice is heard and understood;

4.3.2 Effective ways to identify and support children and families who would benefit from early help;

4.3.3 A culture of continuous review and learning; and

4.3.4 Constructive and mutual challenge between partners to keep children safe.

4.4 The five strategic lead partners are; North Northamptonshire Council, West Northamptonshire Council, Northamptonshire Children's Trust, Northamptonshire Police and Integrated Care Board.

4.5 All partners are expected to support and to deliver the highest standard of service. All partners share responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.

4.6 The Annual Report has been developed with contributions from statutory partners and has been reviewed and approved by NSCP Strategic Lead representatives.

4.7 This is the first Annual Report to be received by North Northamptonshire Council and informs future developments to safeguard children and young people in the North Northamptonshire area.

5. Issues and Choices

5.1 The Annual Report includes quantitative and qualitative data, key messages and impact of activities that relate to the three priorities set out in the NSCP Business Plan:

- Taking positive action early enough to protect children.
- To support children, young people, and families at risk of exploitation; and
- To work effectively as a partnership and support our staff.

5.2 Plans for 2022/23, as set out on page 14 of the Annual Report (**Appendix A**), include:

- Continue to strengthen our responses to the health and wellbeing of our children and young people
- Development of new governance arrangements for the NSCP
- Creation of a Countywide Safeguarding Children structure
- Develop bespoke local virtual training

- Strengthening the response to Child Exploitation
- Consistency and promotion of good practice
- Review of Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub
- Public Neglect campaign

6. Next Steps

- 6.1 In accordance with the statutory guidance 'Working Together 2018', the Annual Report will be made available on the NSCP website.
- 6.2 The Annual Report for 2021/22 will be informing the NSCP Business Plan review scheduled for early 2023.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1 Resources, Financial and Transformation

- 7.1.1 The delivery and publication of the annual report does not sight any financial implications; however, it is for members to note the Partnership contributions which were committed for 2021/22 (see Table 1 below), which is set out within the NSCP Annual Report 2021-2022 (**Appendix A**) and which have supported the activities set out within the body of the Annual Report.

Table 1. Partnership Contributions 2021/22

Partner Income 2021/22 from Strategic Partner agencies	Annual Contribution to NSCP Budget
North Northants Council	£24,646
West Northants Council	£26,351
Police Funding	£43,000
Health Authority Contribution	£48,949

7.2 Legal and Governance

- 7.2.1 The Partnership of which North Northamptonshire is represented as one of five strategic leads is required by the government's statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018' to produce and publish an annual report.
- 7.2.2 The Partnership governance and structure is informed by the governance arrangements document which is published on the NSCP website (see section 8 Background Papers).

7.3 Relevant Policies and Plans

7.3.1 North Northamptonshire Corporate Plan identifies our vision to be '**A place where everyone has the best opportunities and quality of life**' and its key commitments are:

- (a) **Active, fulfilled lives:** We will help people live healthier, more active, independent and fulfilled lives.
- (b) **Better, brighter futures:** We will care for our young people, providing them with a high-quality education and opportunities to help them flourish.
- (c) **Safe and thriving places:** We will enable a thriving and successful economy that shapes great places to live, learn, work and visit.
- (d) **Green, sustainable environment:** We will take a lead on improving the green environment, making the area more sustainable for generations to come.
- (e) **Connected communities:** We will ensure our communities are connected with one another so they are able to shape their lives and the areas where they live.
- (f) **Modern public services:** We will provide efficient, effective and affordable services that make a real difference to all our local communities.

7.3.2 The NSCP directly supports and aligns to the Council's Corporate Plan with the following Mission Statement; *"For the children and young people of Northamptonshire to be as safe as they can be from harm, exploitation and neglect."* and the partnerships Key Priorities, which are set out below contribute to NNC's delivery of its commitments, notably Active, fulfilled lives; Better, brighter futures and Modern public services.

- Taking positive action early enough to protect children
- To support children, young people and families who are at risk of exploitation
- To work effectively as a partnership and support our staff
- Partners will take the guiding principles and convert them into practice for the above priorities. In particular, there will need to be a strong focus on:
 - Really understanding what is happening through the use of data and information and via direct insights from practitioners and children and young people
 - Being fully knowledgeable and briefed on the key safeguarding issues, both current and emerging, in particularly on exploitation of children and young people (including sexual, criminal exploitation and the changing gang culture in the County)
 - Considering safeguarding in the context of all influences on children and young people to gather information from the statutory partners and relevant other partners in such a way as to establish patterns and key points of change

- Looking at the effective use of resources across and between partners to seek opportunities for the unified deployment of resources (staff, money, capital resources)
- Looking outward to the public in order to be sensitive to local needs and to create an effective dialogue with communities

7.4 Risk

7.4.1 There are no significant risks arising from the proposed recommendations in this report. The report sets out the achievements of Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership throughout 2021-22 and is a statutory requirement in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018' guidance.

7.5 Consultation

7.5.1 There is no statutory requirement to conduct public consultation in the writing of the Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2021-22.

7.5.2 Statutory partners have been consulted with and provided contributions in the writing of this report.

7.5.3 The Annual Report received endorsement of the Strategic Leads on 5 October 2022 at the Strategic Leads Group.

7.6 Consideration by Executive Advisory Panel

7.6.1 Not applicable.

7.7 Consideration by Scrutiny

7.7.1 Not applicable.

7.8 Equality Implications

7.8.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

7.9 Climate and Environment Impact

7.9.1 There is no climate impact arising from the NSCP Annual Report 2021-22, however as a partnership we are committed to considering our impacts on the environment which are managed via the individual strategic lead partnership organisation via organisational policy and commitments.

7.9.2 The NSCP publish the Annual Report on the dedicated website rather than printing.

7.10 Community Impact

7.10.1 There is no known community impact arising from this report.

7.11 Crime and Disorder Impact

7.11.1 There are no implications in terms of crime and disorder impact from this report.

8. Background Papers

8.1 Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 -
www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children-2

8.2 NSCP Governance Arrangements -
<http://ccl/sites/scs/ibo/Reports/NSCPgovernance.docx>