



Report subject	Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership
Meeting date	11 January 2023
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>The Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership (PDSCP) is the statutory body which oversees multi-agency safeguarding services which covers the local Dorset and BCP council areas. This report contains a background and introduction to the functions of the partnership and the council's responsibilities.</p> <p>The annual report of the PDSCP is provided as an attachment for consideration by cabinet. The annual report includes reflections on 2021/22; strategic priorities for 2022 to 2024; learning from practice; information from the Child Death Overview Panel; summary of multi-agency training; achievements from each of the statutory safeguarding partner organisations and sub-groups of the partnership.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <p>Cabinet note the content of the PDSCP Annual Report 2021/2022.</p>
Reason for recommendations	The production of an annual report is a statutory responsibility and therefore the endorsement of the four statutory partners (Dorset Council, BCP Council, NHS Dorset, Dorset Police) of the safeguarding partnership is required prior to publication.
Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr Mike White, Children and Young People
Corporate Director	Cathi Hadley, Corporate Director – Children's Services
Report Authors	Tammy Lawrence, Interim Head of Quality Assurance, Safeguarding and Partnerships
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Information

Background

- 1.1 The Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership (PDSCP) is the statutory body which oversees multi-agency child safeguarding services which cover the Dorset Council and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council (BCP) footprints. It was introduced in 2019 in line with the statutory guidance [Working Together to Safeguard Children \(2018\)](#). The guidance outlines the legislative requirements placed on individual services; and provides a framework for how partners are required to work together. This requires three local safeguarding partners (local authority, clinical commissioning groups, and chief officer of the police) are required to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children, including identifying and responding to their needs.
- 1.2 The executive team of the partnership maintains oversight and responsibility for the partnership's statutory functions, provides strategic leadership and seeks assurance about the effectiveness of the safeguarding system and provides strategic leadership. In October 2021, a new independent chair was appointed to act as a critical friend and independent scrutineer. The partnership operates at a pan-Dorset level, and place based operational delivery arms have been created, serving each local authority area. This is to enable the delivery of multi-agency safeguarding delivery in a way that is responsive to local community needs and in line with local service provision.
- 1.3 In BCP, the place-based arrangements are driven through the multi-agency Strengthening Services Board, chaired by the Chief Executive of Dorset Council. These arrangements have enabled the partnership to deliver timely responses to local safeguarding priorities and offer strong alignment with other local partnerships such as the Community Safety Partnership and Safeguarding Adults Board.

2. Functions of the partnership

- 2.1 Learning from practice: the partnership facilitates learning from practice through multi-agency case audits and when required the commissioning of Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews. These reviews are shared nationally to identify improvements to be made to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Learning is not only used locally but has a wider importance for all practitioners working with children and families as well as informing government and policy makers. Any actions identified from these are added to the Strengthening Services Board action plan and tracked to ensure implementation.
- 2.2 Child Death Overview Panel: arrangements for reviewing child deaths are through a panel that covers the pan-Dorset and Somerset local authority areas. The panel is responsible for reviewing all deaths of children aged under 18 years. The learning from reviews must be shared with the National Child Mortality Database, which is used to identify any patterns or trends/similarities in deaths that can be used to systematic or local changes to prevent future deaths.

- 2.3 Multi-agency training: All practitioners working with children and young people or their families or those who come into contact with them have a responsibility to identify the symptoms and triggers of abuse and neglect, to share that information and provide children with the help they need. To do that, they need to have the knowledge and skills and keep up to date with emerging threats. To enable this the safeguarding partners are required to coordinate training and monitor and evaluate its effectiveness. The pan-Dorset training function administers, coordinates and monitors this. Income received from the provision of this training funds the delivery.
- 2.4 Quality Assurance: Place based arrangements have been implemented to enable the prioritisation of local practice issues; identify areas for practice improvement and celebrate good practice. This includes single agency and multi-agency audit activity. In BCP the implementation of multi-agency practice toolkits has enabled practitioners to have one dedicated resource for practical guidance and access to services and research in one place.
3. **Annual Report**
- 3.1 In order to bring transparency for children, families, and all practitioners about the activity undertaken, the safeguarding partners are required to publish a report at least once every 12 months. The report must set out the work that have been undertaken and as assessment of the effectiveness of the partnership arrangements.
- 3.2 The PDSCP Annual Report 2021/2022 is provided as an appendix to this report.

Options Appraisal

The PDSCP Annual Report 2021/2022 is for information and scrutiny.

Summary of financial implications

Safeguarding partners are required to provide equitable and proportionate funding to cover all elements of their multi-agency child safeguarding arrangements ([Working Together 2018](#)). The funding should be transparent to children and families in the area and sufficient to cover all elements of the arrangements.

The table below sets out the contributions of each of the safeguarding partners to the delivery of the partnership. These resources are used to facilitate the delivery of partnership functions including learning from practice reviews, the child death overview panel, multi-agency training and quality assurance activity.

SAFEGUARDING PARTNER	CONTRIBUTION	Proportion
BCP COUNCIL	£79,605	29%
DORSET COUNCIL	72,359	26%
DORSET POLICE	48,846	18%
DORSET CCG	75,393	27%
TOTAL	276,203	

Summary of legal implications

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Summary of human resources implications

None identified through this report

Summary of sustainability impact

None identified through this report

Summary of public health implications

The Partnership's work is designed to impact positively on the well-being and health of BCP's children and young people, by keeping them safe, by reducing the risk of harm and through raising awareness of child safeguarding issues so that children None identified are protected from harm and provided support when they need it.

Summary of equality implications

None completed for this report. The Partnership's core business is to reduce the impact of inequalities, both on individual children and young people and on groups, cohorts of children and young people.

Summary of risk assessment

The level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: Low
Residual Risk: Low

Background papers

Annual Report of the partnership presented to Cabinet 2021:

<https://modern.gov.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/documents/g5133/Public%20reports%20package%2007th-Sep-2021%2010.00%20Cabinet.pdf?T=10>

Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership Website:

[Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership - Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership \(pdscp.co.uk\)](https://www.pdscp.co.uk)

Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Reports (Historic):

[Annual Reports - Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership \(pdscp.co.uk\)](https://www.pdscp.co.uk/annual-reports)

Appendices

PDSCP Annual Report 2021-22