

**KIRKLEES HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD**

**MEETING DATE: 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

**TITLE OF PAPER: The Kirklees Safeguarding Children Partnership Assurance Report**

**1. Purpose of paper**

The Kirklees Safeguarding Children Annual Assurance Report is a report produced by the Independent Advisor to the Safeguarding Children Partnership. The report sets out the work of the multi-agency partnership in the preceding year and articulates the priorities going forward.

The report while coming to the Health and Wellbeing Board primarily for information also highlights work done by the Safeguarding Partnership in relation to the priorities of the Health and Wellbeing Board in relation to children and young people , alongside work on cross cutting issues with other statutory partnerships including Safer community activity and Adult Safeguarding .

**2. Background**

There is a requirement on local partnerships as prescribed under Working Together 2018 to produce an Annual Assurance statement of safeguarding activity. As a partnership we have continued to develop a much fuller report, documenting key performance data alongside case studies to demonstrate impact. The year overall, has seen positive improvements in performance and therefore the report offers a high level of continued assurance.

This report has been signed off by the Partnership Executive, made up of the three statutory partners of the Local Authority, the CCG and West Yorkshire Police.

The priorities going forward build on existing priorities alongside the issues highlighted by monitoring and analysis of data.

It is worth noting that there has been an impact as a consequence of the Covid pandemic, but that as a partnership there has been a continued ability to carry out the full range of expected functions.

**3. Proposal**

The Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to consider the information contained in the Assurance report and to identify any issues to feed back to the Safeguarding Children Partnership.

The Annual Assurance Report, while stand alone in terms of being prescribed by legislation, captures the contribution to a number of the Health and Wellbeing priorities for Kirklees. This includes supporting children and their families Early, through a joint agency Early Help Strategy, designed to give children the best start and to support

families to become more resilient. Alongside this promoting a climate in which children and young people feel safe and included in their communities.

#### **4. Financial Implications**

The safeguarding Partnership is supported by a multi-agency budget contributed to by partner agencies. This is detailed in the report. Agencies have confirmed contributions going forward

#### **5. Sign off**

This is a multi-agency report, signed off by the strategic leads of statutory agencies at the Executive meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021. For the purposes of being presented here Mel Meggs as Strategic lead and statutory Director of Children’s Services has signed it off at that multi-agency meeting.

#### **6. Next Steps**

The partnership will ensure that any comments from the Health and Wellbeing Board are fed into the work going forward and that the governance arrangements reflect the contribution. This will result in the development of the associated Business Plan

#### **7. Recommendations**

1. The Health and Well Being Board in line with agreed governance arrangements are asked to note the Assurance report and its contents.
2. The Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to note the joint agency priorities going forward and to highlight any particular contributions that the Safeguarding Partnership should make on the Joint Health and Well Being strategy

#### **8. Contact Officer**

Sharon Hewitt – Safeguarding Children Partnership Business Manager

