

**SUNDERLAND SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP (SSCP) ANNUAL  
REPORT 2022/23**

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT CHAIR OF THE SSCP**

**1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To present the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP) Annual Report 2022-23 for members information.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 As part of the SSCPs Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements and in line with Working Together 2023, we must publish an annual report.

- 2.1 This represents our third Annual Report, and it sets out:

- Details of the Joint Targeted Area Inspection that took place in early 2023 and the key recommendations from this.
- The work that the partnership has undertaken throughout the year from 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023, in line with our Business Plan, including impact where this can be demonstrated.
- The training offer we have provided to ensure the Sunderland workforce is better equipped to support the children, young people and families who need it.
- Reflections from the Independent Scrutineer

**3. Achievements**

- 3.1 The achievements of the SSCB/SSCP throughout the 2022/23 year are noted within the report, though it is useful to highlight some of these. The partnership achievements include:

- In 2022/23, aligned to the work of the Young People's team (a team established in 2021/22 to work directly with vulnerable teenagers who are experiencing harm outside the home), a multi-agency Young Person's Plan was introduced – an alternative to a child protection plan which focuses on working directly with young people themselves, rather than changes to the behaviour of parents.

- Funding has continued for the city's prevention bus, Wear Here 4 You and also for Relationship and Sex Education Workers who are managed by TfC.
- Signs of Safety Training has been widely rolled out, ensuring the support families in Sunderland receive is consistent, whichever agency they work with.
- Significant progress has been made in relation to delivering and developing the SSCP training offer. Training is designed to engage, upskill and raise the confidence of professionals in Sunderland who work with children, young people and their families. Between 1st April 2022 and 31st March 2023, 100 sessions took place. A total of 1933 professionals booked on to training from 11 agency types with the highest representations from TfC, Health and Education. There has also been an introduction of new courses (MSET/Extra-Familial Harm) and updates for others (Thresholds of Need, Vulnerable Babies).
- Through joint working with the Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board, an annual Safeguarding Learning Week was established.

### 3.2 Our focus for 2023/24 will be to:

- Create a plan for embedding Working Together 2023 (published December 2023).
- Deliver an effective learning week, in partnership with the Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board.
- Embed learning from any rapid reviews and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs).
- Continue to deliver against the priorities within the SSCP Business Plan
- Continue to work strategically with other partnerships across the system
- Deliver quality services to families against the backdrop of the cost-of-living crisis.
- The 2023/24 annual report will be produced by September 2024.

## 4. Recommendation

### 4.1 Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- Note the content of the report and accept it as assurance of the current effectiveness of the local safeguarding children arrangements; and
- Direct any queries in relation to the SSCP Annual Report to Jen Beer, Head of Service for SSCP and Early Help – [jennifer.beer@togetherforchildren.ork.uk](mailto:jennifer.beer@togetherforchildren.ork.uk)