

**SUNDERLAND SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP (SSCP) ANNUAL  
REPORT 2019/20**

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

**1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To present the SSCP Annual Report 2019-20; this is a statutory requirement under section 14A of the Children Act 2004.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 This Annual Report covers a period of time when the Local Safeguarding Children Board ended, and the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP) began on 5 August 2019. This change was required by statute in line with the implementation of the Children and Social Work Act 2017.
- 2.2 Sir Paul Ennals stepped down as Independent Chair of the SSCP at end of September 2020. He will attend Scrutiny Committee to present this report however future annual reports of the partnership are the responsibility of the three safeguarding partners (Sunderland City Council, Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group and Northumbria Police).

**3. Achievements, risks and assurances**

**Achievements**

- 3.1 The achievements of the SSCB/SSCP throughout the 2019/20 year are noted within the report, though it is useful to highlight some of these. The partnership has:
- Developed and published multi-agency safeguarding arrangements for the SSCP; implemented an interim structure for the operational arrangements of the partnership and developed a more streamlined structure from October 2020 onwards.
  - Implemented Operation Endeavour, a joint operation between SSCP, Northumbria Police and the Police and Crimes Commissioner to safeguard children and young people at risk of harm from going missing.
  - Influenced regional safeguarding developments by:
    - contributing to the development of a safeguarding children procedure manual covering the North and South of Tyne

- leading the implementation of the regional Missing, Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking (MSET) Framework.

### **Risks**

3.2 The SSCP has identified the following areas as service priorities for the coming year:

- Complex Adolescents
- Neglect
- Mental Health

3.3 It is these areas that present the greatest risk to the safety of children and young people if we do not strengthen process, practice and partnership working, provide evidence based interventions and mitigate impacts.

### **Assurance**

3.4 During the last 12 months, the SSCP has contributed to the development of a new regional performance scorecard. This will allow us to identify safeguarding concerns at a regional level and implement improvements in collaboration with other local authorities and safeguarding partners across the North and South of Tyne local authorities.

## **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.