

Report of the Office of the Chief Executive to the meeting of the Council Executive Committee to be held on Tuesday 7th November 2023

W

Subject: Bradford District Safeguarding Children Annual Report 2022/23

Summary statement:

The Bradford District Safeguarding Children Partnership's (BDSCP) annual report for 2022-2023 highlights the collective activities undertaken by the Partnership and its associated agencies to protect children and young people from harm and abuse. It details various initiatives to ensure children's welfare, learning from practice reviews, safeguarding training for professionals, performance quality metrics, and developments in line with the Partnership's new priorities. This report aims to demonstrate the strength and commitment of the partnerships and colleagues in the Bradford District. This report is presented by the three primary statutory partners: the Local Authority, West Yorkshire Police, and the Integrated Care Board.

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY:

The Bradford District Safeguarding Children Partnership's annual report for 2022-2023 underscores a robust dedication to championing equality and celebrating diversity in all its initiatives geared towards safeguarding children. The Partnership embodies the principles of child-centred care, empowerment, and cooperative efforts, which are pivotal in fostering an inclusive and diverse environment. By enhancing multi-agency collaborations and training, the Partnership ensures that every child, regardless of background or individual circumstances, benefits from consistent, top-tier protection and support. Although the report might not explicitly align with one specific Council's equality objective, the Partnership's stance against discrimination and its endeavours to bolster social inclusion resonate profoundly with overarching equality goals.

Jenny Cryer
Assistant Director – Chief Executive
Office

Portfolio:

Children and Families

Report Contact: Darren Minton –
Business Manager & Lawrence Bone –
Deputy Manager
Phone: (01274) 434361
E-mail: darren.minton@bradford.gov.uk

Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Children Services

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Bradford District Safeguarding Children Partnership's (BDSCP) annual report for 2022-2023 highlights the collective activities undertaken by the Partnership and its associated agencies to protect children and young people from harm and abuse. It details various initiatives to ensure children's welfare, learning from practice reviews, safeguarding training for professionals, performance quality metrics, and developments in line with the Partnership's new priorities. This report aims to demonstrate the strength and commitment of the partnerships and colleagues in the Bradford District. This report is presented by the three primary statutory partners: the Local Authority, West Yorkshire Police, and the Integrated Care Board.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The BDSCP is required under the Children Act 2004 to produce an annual report. The Act requires local authorities and their partners to work together to oversee and coordinate children safeguarding activities in their areas.
- 2.2 The BDSCP's annual report is a cornerstone in fulfilling our statutory responsibilities. This comprehensive document showcases the collective efforts of our partner agencies in child safeguarding, ensuring accountability and transparency at every step. Within its pages, you can find detailed insights into the performance of our initiatives, identify areas that require attention, and understand the strategies we've crafted for the future.
- 2.3 The BDSCP's annual report covers the extensive work done by our sub-groups, the lessons and recommendations from practice reviews, the multi-agency training offer, and most importantly, captures the voices and sentiments of the children and young people under our care. This report aims to underscore our transparency, accountability, and stakeholder engagement, ensuring that child safeguarding remains at the forefront of all collaborative efforts across our partner agencies.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 No

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

- 4.1.1 The Bradford District Safeguarding Children Partnership receives funding contributions from partner agencies. The primary financial responsibilities rest with the three core statutory partners: the Local Authority, West Yorkshire Police, and the Integrated Care Board. A unanimous consensus ensures the BDSCP's financial needs are adequately met, enabling the Partnership to champion child protection throughout the district.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

Nil

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

- 6.1 The BDSCP Safeguarding Children Partnership has a statutory duty to publish an annual report under the Children Act (2004) as amended by the Children and Social Work Act (2017). This report demonstrates our compliance with this duty

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Nil

7.1 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

7.2.1 TACKLING THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

7.3 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.31 The Bradford Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and BDSCP are essential collaborators in protecting the community's most vulnerable individuals. The implications for the BDSCPs 2022/23 annual report show enhanced cooperation and communication between these partnerships, sharing knowledge, resources, and best practices to mitigate identified risks effectively. BDSCP ,& CSP intend to explore overlapping areas of responsibility. Continued opportunities may exist to refine roles or develop joint strategies for more impactful community safeguarding, particularly evident in the efforts of the all age exploitation group.
- 7.32 The Serious Violence Duty will require local authorities, the police, fire and rescue authorities, specified criminal justice agencies and health authorities to work together to formulate an evidence based analysis of the problems associated with serious violence in a local area, and then produce and implement a strategy detailing how they will respond to those particular issues.
- 7.33 Across West Yorkshire we are adopting a public health approach to reducing violence and seek to identify the common risk factors driving violence and the protective factors preventing violence. This encourages identification of these factors and implementing interventions across all levels: individual, relationship, community and societal, at the same time.
- 7.34 The public health approach to violence reduction has dedicated research and evidence at its core and addresses the inequalities that can lead to involvement in serious violence.

7.4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

Nil

7.5 TRADE UNION

Nil

7.6 WARD IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

7.7 AREA COMMITTEE LOCALITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

7.8 IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

7.81 Detailed in the annual report.

7.9 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT

Nil

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

Nil

9. OPTIONS

9.1 No other option considered as it is a statutory duty for BDSCP to publish an annual report.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 The Committee is requested to note the Annual Report 2022/23

10.2 The Committee to receive another report in 12 months' time.

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix A – BDSCP Annual Report 2022/23

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Nil