

Progress report on the Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership Children & Young People's Plan 2022 – 25.

Lead Officer: Claire Winter, Assistant Director, Children's Services

Author: Caroline Dowson, SSCP Business Manager

Contact Details: CDowson@somerset.gov.uk, FZPhur@somerset.gov.uk

Cabinet Member: Frances Nicholson

Division and Local Member: All (county-wide implications)

1. Summary

1.1 The Children's Trust Board was incorporated into the Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP) when the new arrangements took effect, and therefore the SSCP took oversight of the existing Children and Young People's Plan (2019-2022). The current plan ends on 31 March 2022 and the next plan is at an advanced stage of development and consultation, with new priorities agreed and the development of a 'Plan on a Page', which will be underpinned by a series of measures taken from existing strategies with specified governance. The Children and Young People's Plan for Somerset is the over-arching partnership plan and co-ordinates shared activity to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families.

Links to County Plan

1.3 The Children and Young People's Plan will discharge the partnership responsibility to promote the welfare of and safeguard all children in Somerset. The new plan will link to the County Vision of partnership working for the benefit of children and families, with a focus on those most in need of safeguarding to promote the best possible outcomes.

2. Issues for consideration / Recommendations

2.1 The Scrutiny for Policies for Children and Families Committee is asked to note and comment on:

The consultation with children, young people and stakeholders on the new plan.

The new priorities for the plan:

- **Keeping children and young people safe**
- **Supporting physical, emotional health and resilience**
- **Enabling children and young people to learn and thrive.**

3. Background

3.1 The new safeguarding arrangements took effect on 29 September 2019 as set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018). The three statutory safeguarding partners (Somerset County Council, Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group, and Avon and Somerset Constabulary) have a shared and equal duty to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in the local area.

3.2 The SSCP recognises the need to ensure safeguarding is at the centre of the next plan, but that it also encompasses a whole system, partnership approach that supports children, young people and their families who only access universal services, and not just those who make use of targeted or specialist parts of the system. The new plan will align to strategies, existing and under development, that contribute to the plan, and specify accountable bodies or individuals against the priorities. The analogy proposed is that the 'Plan on a Page', which is the overall snapshot view of the plan, functions like a 'bookcase' and co-ordinates the activity taking place across the partnership behind the plan.

4. Consultations undertaken

4.1 The SSCP decided, through the SSCP Partnership Business Group in June 2021, to consult widely with children and young people on their priorities and to ratify this with the SSCP subgroups. The process for consultation is through the SSCP subgroups, as shown in the structure chart, <https://sscb.safeguardingsomerset.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Structure-Chart-Childrens-safeguarding-Arrangements-in-Somerset-Sept-2021.pdf> as well as other associated groups, such as the SEND Board.

Young people also presented their priorities in June 2021 during the online Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership Forum week and engaged with stakeholders in discussing their priorities. The Youth Forum, which holds the SSCP Executive Group to account through an annual conversation, discussed the priorities further with the Executive in October 2021.

5. Implications

5.1 The priorities agreed to date are:

- Keeping children and young people safe
- Supporting physical, emotional health and resilience
- Enabling children and young people to learn and thrive.

5.2 Behind the Plan on a Page, key priorities from each associated strategy or plan will be monitored and reported on a quarterly basis.

6. Background papers

6.1 The Children and Families Scrutiny Committee has been presented with the attached papers for consideration.

Document 1 – Our Vision

Document 2 – Universal C&YPP priorities

Document 3 - Priorities

Note: For sight of individual background papers please contact the report author.