

WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL CABINET

16th JANUARY 2024

CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN’S SERVICES AND EDUCATION: COUNCILLOR FIONA BAKER

Report Title	Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2022-23
Report Author	Rebecca Wilshire, Director of Children’s Services (on behalf of the NSCP)

List of Approvers

Monitoring Officer	Catherine Whitehead	13/12/2023
Chief Finance Officer (S.151)	Martin Henry	13/12/2023
Communications Lead/Head of Communications	Becky Hutson	13/12/2023

List of Appendices

Appendix A – NSCP Annual Report 2022-23

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To present the Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) Annual Report 2022-23, which outlines the partnerships achievements during the reporting period.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. West Northamptonshire Council is one of five strategic leads representing the multi-agency Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children’s Partnership, which is a statutory requirement of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 guidance (see Section 8 Background Papers)

- 2.2. The Partnership is required to produce an annual report that provides an overview of the partnership's achievements against the NSCP Business Plan.
- 2.3. The purpose of the partnership is to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Northamptonshire. This is done by coordinating the work of those people and all organisations working in the county ensuring that what they do is effective.
- 2.4. The partnership is not an operational body. Its role is to ensure the coordination and effectiveness of the services provided to children, young people and their families by member organisations.
- 2.5. This report provides assurance to Members of the activities undertaken by the partnership and its agencies to safeguard children and young people across the county during the reporting period.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. It is recommended that Cabinet receives the Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership's Annual Report 2022-23 (Appendix A) and note the findings.

4. Reason for Recommendations

- 4.1. To accord with legislation or the policy of the Council; Under the statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018', the five key strategic lead agencies are accountable for safeguarding children and young people, including the Local Authority, who in turn are required to publish an annual report. (see Section 8 Background papers)

5. Report Background

- 5.1. Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) is a statutory multi-agency partnership led by five strategic leads in accordance with, and as stipulated within, 'Working Together 2018' statutory guidance.
- 5.2. The purpose of the partnership is to support and enable local agencies to work together in a system where:
 - Excellent practice is the norm.
 - Partner agencies hold one another to account effectively.
 - There is early identification of "new" safeguarding issues.
 - Learning is promoted and embedded.
 - Information is shared effectively.
 - The public can feel confident that children are protected from harm.
- 5.3. In addition, the Safeguarding Partnership's values are:
 - A child centred approach to safeguarding ensuring their voice is heard and understood;
 - Effective ways to identify and support children and families who would benefit from early help;

- A culture of continuous review and learning; and
- Constructive and mutual challenge between partners to keep children safe.

5.4. The five strategic lead partners are: West Northamptonshire Council, North Northamptonshire Council, Northamptonshire Children’s Trust, Northamptonshire Police and Integrated Care Board.

5.5. All partners are expected to support and to deliver the highest standard of service. All partners share responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.

5.6. The Annual Report has been developed with contributions from statutory partners and has been reviewed and approved by NSCP Strategic Lead representatives.

5.7. This is the second Annual Report to be received by West Northamptonshire Council and informs future developments to safeguard children and young people in the West Northamptonshire area.

6. Issues and Choices

6.1. The Annual Report includes quantitative and qualitative data, key messages and impact of activities that relate to the three priorities set out in the NSCP Business Plan:

- Taking positive action early enough to protect children.
- To support children, young people, and families at risk of exploitation; and
- To work effectively as a partnership and support our staff.

6.2. Plans for 2023/24, as set out on page 24 of the Annual Report (Appendix A), include:

- Continue to strengthen our responses to the health and wellbeing of our children and young people.
- Launch of the Child Exploitation video, Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework (CERAF) toolkit and Child Exploitation Hub
- Support the development of the Serious Violence Duty unit.
- Continue to strengthen and increase our local bespoke local virtual and face-to-face training offer.
- Strengthen hearing the voices of children and young people.
- Consistency and promotion of good practice
- Review of Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub
- Embed GCP2 Neglect toolkit and launch Public Neglect campaign.
- Strengthen mapping missing children.
- Strengthen education representation and create a Safeguarding in Education Subgroup

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1. Resources and Financial

7.1.1. The delivery and publication of the annual report does not sight any financial implications; however, it is for members to note the Partnership contributions which were committed for 2022/23 (see Table 1 below).

7.1.2. Table 1: Partnership Contributions 2022/23

Partner Income 2022/23 from Strategic Partner agencies	Annual Contribution to NSCP Budget
North Northamptonshire Council	£28,700
North Northamptonshire Council, Designated Schools Grant (DSG)	£33,428
West Northamptonshire Council	£31,046
West Northamptonshire Council, Designated Schools Grant (DSG)	£38,592
Police Funding	£43,000
Health Authority Contribution	£48,949

7.2. Legal

7.2.1. The Partnership of which West Northamptonshire is represented as one of five strategic leads is required by the government's statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018' to produce and publish an annual report.

7.2.2. The Partnership governance and structure is informed by the governance arrangements document which is published on the NSCP website.

7.3. Risk

7.3.1. There are no significant risks arising from the proposed recommendations in this report. The report sets out the achievements of Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership throughout 2022-23 and is a statutory requirement in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018' guidance.

7.4. Consultation and Communications

7.4.1. There is no statutory requirement to conduct public consultation in the writing of the Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2022-23. Statutory partners have been consulted with and provided contributions in the writing of this report. The Annual Report received endorsement of the Strategic Leads virtually 20 July 2023 following presentation on 7 June 2023 at the Strategic Leads Group.

7.5 Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny

7.5.1. Not applicable.

7.6 Climate Impact

7.6.1. There is no climate impact arising from the NSCP Annual Report 2022-23, however as a partnership we are committed to considering our impacts on the environment which are managed via the individual strategic lead partnership organisation via organisational policy and commitments.

7.6.2. The Council and NSCP are aware there are emissions associated with publishing web content and will seek to minimise the impact where possible.

7.7. Community Impact

7.7.1. There is no known community impact arising from this report.

8. Background Papers

8.1. Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 - www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2

8.2. Working Together to Safeguard Children has recently been updated and the 2023 version can be found here [Working together to safeguard children 2023: statutory guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children-2023-statutory-guidance)