

## Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	<b>Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel</b>	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020</b>	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
TITLE:	<b>Bath &amp; North East Somerset Community Safety &amp; Safeguarding Partnership (BCSSP) Annual report 2019-2020</b>	
WARD:	All	
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>		
<b>List of attachments to this report:</b> Attachment 1: BCSSP Annual Report 2019-2020		

### 1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 The B&NES Community Safety & Safeguarding Partnership (BCSSP) would like to set out the Annual Safeguarding Report for 2019-2020. The Partnership was set up in September 2019, though the report sets out the work of the previous Safeguarding Children and Safeguarding Adult's Boards up to September 2019. The Annual Report also includes the Partnership priorities for 2020-2021.

### 2 RECOMMENDATION

**The Panel is asked to;**

- 2.1 **Proposal 1:** Note the Annual Report and Executive Summary for the BCSSP
- 2.2 **Proposal 2:** Raise any queries in respect of community safety and/or safeguarding activity
- 2.3 **Proposal 3:** Recommend any additional areas it would like the BCSSP to give consideration to in 2020-2021

### 3 THE REPORT

3.1 The report contains information covering the following areas:

- The current community safety and safeguarding context for B&NES
- The new Partnership governance arrangements

- Achievements against strategic plans for community safety, safeguarding children and adults
- The work of the sub-groups and our partner agencies during the year
- Adult and children's safeguarding activity data
- Priorities for the year ahead

In June 2018, the government announced that all local authorities would need to make arrangements to replace their Local Safeguarding Children Board by September 2019. Instead of each locality having access to a Local Safeguarding Children Board, the government wanted each locality to have access to a team of Safeguarding Partners, who work collaboratively to strengthen the child protection and safeguarding system. The government specified that these Safeguarding Partners would be a team of key professionals from three sectors: the local authority, the Clinical Commissioning Group, and the Police.

In response to this, B&NES redefined its safeguarding arrangements to take a holistic approach and combined its responsibilities for community safety and safeguarding children and adults. B&NES replaced the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB), Local Safeguarding Adult's Board (LSAB) and Responsible Authorities Group (RAG) with the B&NES Community Safety and Safeguarding Partnership (BCSSP), which meets the statutory requirements of the three Boards it replaced. The Partnership is chaired by an Independent Chair.

The Annual Report covers the transitional period as the BCSSP became operational in September 2019, up until that point the report only reflects on the work of the LSCB and LSAB.

The Strategic Plans for the LSAB, LSCB and RAG run through to 2021 and their priorities have been taken up by the BCSSP as they are still relevant to mitigating risk and providing assurance. The delivery mechanisms have altered to align with the new BCSSP governance structure.

All members of the BCSSP have worked extremely hard to establish the groups and sub-groups within the partnership and transition from the previous three boards as smoothly as possible to reduce impacting on delivery. There have been complexities in this process, but as shown in the report, there have been substantial achievements and the dynamic of the Partnership has been positive.

One of the key areas of challenge has been developing a multi-agency dashboard, the report includes data from the Council services only whilst this is being developed however Police have shared their usual activity information. The Operational Group have identified all the information it would like to collect but this needs refining and is the focus on work during 2020/2021. Key highlights include:

- Despite some quarterly fluctuations, the number of children on child protection plans has remained consistent for the last three years.
- Number of adults for whom a safeguarding concern was raised was 1132 in 2019/2020 down 1.5% from 2018/19; similarly section 42 enquiries reduced from 28% of concerns to 26% of concerns.

Whilst the COVID-19 Pandemic came at the end of the reporting period, its impact cannot be underestimated. It caused a delay in partner returns due to priority commitments and also impacted on training delivery in the last few weeks of the financial year. The time and consideration that partners continued to give to the BCSSP in spite of this is commendable.

## **4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 4.1 Three reasons can be considered in terms of the statutory basis for the BCSSP annual report being shared with the Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel.
- 4.2 Safeguarding is everyone's business and the BCSSP would like the Panel to consider the information contained in the report on this basis and because it meets the outcomes the Health and Wellbeing Board set out to achieve through its Strategy.
- 4.3 The BCSSP has set out in its Terms of Reference the requirement for the BCSSP Annual Report to be presented to the Panel. By delivering this presentation the BCSSP is meeting its responsibilities and raising awareness of safeguarding concerns.
- 4.4 Although the Council is responsible for establishing the BCSSP jointly with its statutory partners, Avon and Somerset Constabulary, B&NES, Swindon & Wiltshire CCG, National Probation Service and Avon Fire and Rescue Service, the BCSSP is not accountable to the Panel – it is independent. Therefore, the relationship is one of mutual challenge and scrutiny. It is also on this basis the BCSSP would like to present their work.
- 4.5 There is also a requirement for the BCSSP to present its Annual Report to the Health and Wellbeing Board for consideration and the Care Act 2014 Schedule 2 requires a copy to be shared with the Chair; there is no requirement to share with Panels however the Partnership welcomes the scrutiny and challenge from the Panel as well, in order to ensure the widest breadth of views are heard and considered.

## **5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)**

- 5.1 B&NES Council, BaNES, Swindon and Wiltshire CCG, and Avon and Somerset Constabulary contributed to the running costs during the period with smaller contributions being made by National Probation Service.
- 5.2 The BCSSP is funded through multi-agency partners and the budget is set out in the full report (page 44). Whilst the 2019-2020 multi-agency budget is underspent the Panel needs to be aware that this is non-recurring; it has however been carried over into 2020-2021 to cover the adverse impact on training income brought about by COVID-19 pandemic.
- 5.3 Following agreement with B&NES Council, BaNES, Swindon and Wiltshire CCG, and Avon and Somerset Constabulary to contribute equally to any Child Practice reviews (CPRs) or Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs), additional contributions have been sought from the three statutory partners in 2019-2020 to fund these in addition to the general running costs of the Boards.

## **6 RISK MANAGEMENT**

6.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

6.2 The BCSSP developed its own Risk Register for 2019 – 2020 which is regularly monitored. This will be available to share with the Panel if requested.

## **7. EQUALITIES**

7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not required for the BCSSP Annual Report. However with the development of the new Strategic Plan one will be carried out.

## **8. CLIMATE CHANGE**

The BCSSP (and sub-groups) ensure that meetings have dial in facilities available where possible to reduce officers travelling and reduce carbon emissions. The new B&NES Community Safety and Safeguarding Partnership has had a direct impact on reducing carbon emissions by merging the LSCB, LSAB and RAG into one meeting.

## **9. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

None

## **10. CONSULTATION**

10.1 The BCSSP Annual Report were approved by the BCSSP in September 2020. They have been approved by the Independent Chair, Director of Children's Services and Director of Adult's Services who sit on the Operational Group.

10.2 The Report will go to the Health and Wellbeing Board on the 29<sup>th</sup> September.

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<b>Background papers</b>	None
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	