

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

SCRUTINY REPORT

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY PANEL

DATE OF MEETING: 30th October 2023

South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership ANNUAL REPORT

HEAD OF SERVICE: Rob Brown, Director Education & Partnerships

SUMMARY

Yet another year on and as South Tees Children's Safeguarding Executive, we are pleased to share the progress made across our Partnership.

This Annual Report covering the year 2022-2023 is published by the four statutory partners (Middlesbrough Council, Redcar & Cleveland Council, Cleveland Police and North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board) who are responsible for putting in place effective arrangements to support the co-ordination, quality assurance and continuous improvement of activity to safeguard children and young people.

Effective joint working has continued and has been further strengthened, in this report the statutory partners set out critical areas of development to further improve the effectiveness of the statutory partnership arrangements including the need for a robust multi- agency quality assurance framework and using the learning from serious safeguarding incidents and auditing to make a difference to practice and service provision.

During this period the STSCP has completed 3 rapid reviews, initiated 2 Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and signed off a further CSPR from early 2022. The partnership also completed a number of multi-agency audits including the Section 11 audit of key partners.

The report sets out the achievements and the work that has progressed at time of unprecedented pressures on services. These achievements are a reflection of the committed individuals who either work directly with children, young people and their families or those with a specialist role in safeguarding in partner agencies.

We are in a strong position to implement any revisions to national guidance as outlined in the consultation on Working Together 2023. Our current partnership arrangement reflects that which is proposed, as does our use of Independent Scrutiny which is separate to the role of Chair. Schools have been represented on the Executive at strategic level, and through events run in partnership with schools. The annual school safeguarding survey (Section 175) has a high rate of completion and the questions are adjusted annually to take into account local issues which have been identified.

Evidence / Discussion

That the Panel acknowledges the STSCP Annual Report.