

Introduction & Background

- The statutory safeguarding partners welcome you to the summary of the HCYPSP Annual Report for 2021/22. The full report is available on the HCYPSP website: www.haltonsafeguarding.co.uk
- The report provides an update on progress made by the HCYPSP over the last 12 months and an assessment of its effectiveness, as well as outlining the development plans for 2022/23.
- Halton Borough Council is a constituent council of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority. The area is served by Cheshire Police who participate in three other safeguarding partnerships in the area.
- Audit themes for the period were agreed by the Halton Safeguarding Executive Group and identified through local priorities, national research, inspection findings and performance data.
- Halton comprises one of the four local authorities that form the PAN-Cheshire network. This network works collegiately in sharing expertise and where appropriate consistency in practice.



Multi-agency Working

- Practitioners across sectors were integral to the two Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs) conducted during 2021/22 and in identifying learning and suggestions for improvement.
- 'Seven-minute Guides' were produced and published following the CSPRs aimed at frontline practitioners and managers.
- A multi-agency audit on 'Emotional Harm' was conducted (Sept 2021) and further audits on 'Harm Outside the Home' and 'Neglect' were conducted just before and after the period covered in this annual report.
- Police, Health and the Local Authority recognised the importance of sharing data regularly between agencies. This was evident in the work undertaken by Public Health on injuries to children under 5 years and the revised training that followed.
- Several other partnerships in Halton were active between 2021/22 including the Halton Special Educational Needs and Disability Partnership.

Key Activity

- Much time, thought and effort went into creating performance dashboards for the partnership's key priorities: 'Harm Outside the Home' and 'Neglect'. Effectively utilising these indicators is an area for further focus.
- A week of practitioner workshops (Feb 2022) attended by 200 front line practitioners provided insightful feedback to HCYPSP.
- Feedback from Health practitioners resulted in changes to policies and procedures around 'Fabricated Illness'.
- Health professionals' concerns about the level of 'Was Not Brought' for children on Child Protection plans led to a thematic audit and a change in policy. (Was Not Brought: Did Not Attend)
- A Development Day (Aug 2021) involved senior managers from CSC, Health, police & education. This ensured key priorities were identified and agreed by all stakeholders & embedded in the 2022-24 Business Plan.
- Terms of reference were reviewed for the HCYPSP sub-groups ensuring discussions took place in the right place.

Key Activity

- Extensive engagement of schools and nurseries was achieved via the Education sub-group.
- The Education sub-group did a piece of work on anxiety driven school avoidance which has become worse since the Covid pandemic. This resulted in a service to help address it.
- The Neglect sub-group implemented their strategy. This included training in practical assessment tools, and a performance strategy to measure impact.
- The voice of young people helped shape partnership activity, e.g. young people co-produced the imagery within the Neglect strategy and helped develop the community awareness programme.
- Over 90% of schools participated in a full S175 audit with over 90% meeting or exceeding standards.
- Operation Encompass was launched in nursery settings resulting in improved communication between early years settings and children's social care and more referrals.

Learning & Development

1. A Learning & Improvement tracker was produced to monitor progress on the delivery of actions from audits and CSPRs, supported by assurance forms to measure impact.

2. A training needs analysis helped shape a programme of professional development in 2021/22. Topic based short courses delivered by subject experts were popular, as was the multi-agency Working Together training overseen by the Training & Development Officer.

3. Additional training opportunities were sourced via the PAN-Cheshire network. This gave practitioners greater flexibility in accessing the training available.



Next Steps...

1. Establish more visible leadership from the Accountable Officers.
2. To look out for further opportunities where PAN-Cheshire working might benefit the children of Halton.
3. To make better use of feedback from young people & practitioners.
4. To agree options for independent scrutiny & refine the partnership's approach to monitoring performance.
5. Ensure service improvement as a result of learning is consistently embedded.

