



**Initial Review of the Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership
Arrangements
February 2020**

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership (DDSCP) has now been in place since the 29.9.2019.
- 1.2 The governance arrangements are now in place and have securely and safely enabled there to be a smooth transition between the County and City.

2 The Business Office

- 2.1 All post in the business support team have now been filled, with Officers having a clear work plan in line with their role. It has been vital that the Officers are visible in the County to evidence the flexibility in approach; there is now a base for Officers in County Hall and the District Officers.

3 The DDSCP Website

- 3.1 This is now in place and there is work being undertaken to ensure that all procedural documentation has the DDSCP logo. It is anticipated that this will be a gradual process; the priority currently is that all procedures are updated and in line with statutory and local practice across the Partnership.

4 Update on the Subgroups

- 4.1 Terms Of References' and Chairs of meetings have been agreed for all sub groups with a developing work plan.

5 Case Review

- 5.1 Oversight of children who have been harmed or who have sadly died has remained a top priority and learning from these incidences is critical.
- 5.2 The Safeguarding Practice Review Manager has in place regular attendance at key meetings in Derby and Derbyshire and is developing a method of enabling there to be cross authority / partnership learning from all case reviews which take place. Working with both Chairs of these meetings to agree a standardised approach has been beneficial. Once this has been cemented there will evidence both of efficient and effective management to safeguard more children from harm.

6 Quality Assurance

- 6.1 This area of work has been important to both understand and measure practice across the Partnership. Arrangements are now in place to agree a data set which is informed by both the County and City performance measuring tools. Work is underway to ensure that it is not only the Local authorities who are quality assured but practice across the whole partnership is reviewed and there is learning attributed to this.

7 Learning and Organisational Development

- 7.1 Since the arrangements have been in place this area of work has been a challenge for the partnership, primarily due to the contract ending for the website on line booking provider. Contingency arrangements have been put in place to ensure key training courses are maintained and delivered .
- 7.2 There has been a procurement process and successfully a new provider PHEW has been secured to implement the new online booking system.

8 Policy and Procedure

- 8.1 This sub group has benefited from a continued joint up approach between the County and the City. Discussions are effective and where at all possible there is synergy between the two Local Authorities. However where processes are very different this is accepted and policy and procedures will reflect this.

9 Exploitation and Vulnerable Young People's Group

- 9.1 Understanding the differences and similarities across the two local authorities has been vital as this has governed the approach and challenge needed across the whole sector. There is still work to be completed in this regard but maintaining individual over sight of exploited and vulnerable children has been maintained by the local authorities.

10 Strengths of the new Arrangements

- 10.1** Since September 2019 there has been a great deal of work achieved across the Partnership to get to where we currently are.
- 10.2** It was anticipated that by becoming a Partnership there would be both individual and collective benefits for the two local authorities and the agencies who were previously involved in the Local Safeguarding Boards. Early indications are that this has been the case.

11 Strengths of the Partnership

- 11.1**
- Increased efficiency and effective working practices to safeguard children and families.
 - There is now one business office based in Derby City which drives the work forward under the leadership of one Partnership Manager.
 - The new arrangement has meant that there is comprehensive discussions with Strategic and Chief Officers in decision making
 - There are now more joined up approaches to address challenges such as Child Exploitation
 - From the Agencies point of view there will be fewer meetings to attend once processes are bedded down.
- 11.2** There remains a great deal of work to do in order to undertake and cement the work of the partnership and realise its ambition. Nonetheless in a relatively short space of time the Partnership has developed by ensuring that there is strong governance, robust and timely work plans in place for the sub groups whilst maintaining strong oversight to continue to safeguard children in the two Local authorities. The merging the two safeguarding Boards has not compromised the safeguarding of children and families