

## Strategic Priorities 2024-26 Transcript

In this section of the yearly report, we'll consider the strategic priorities set for 2024-26 – an opportunity to look forward.

In January 2024, the Hampshire safeguarding partners agreed their strategic priorities for the next two years. The themes arising throughout the work of the partnership in 2023 and 24 are:

- The importance of educational engagement for every child in particular for children with additional vulnerabilities and/or needs.
- The theme of increased complexity of the needs of children and families, and the cumulative impact of this.
- Keeping the resources and tools of the partnership in the line of sight of busy practitioners, making sure they are updated and used, meeting the requirements of Working Together to Safeguard Children, and taking an iterative approach to the implementation of the vision outlined in Stable Homes Built on Love.

These identified themes are reflected in our priorities for 2024-26.

### Priorities for 2024-26

**Priority 1: Working to ensure a multi-agency family approach to safeguarding children through their engagement in education.**

We will seek to do this by:

- Strengthening our shared approach to relational safeguarding practice and fostering confidence in engaging children and families in help and support at an early stage following a graduated approach.
- Strengthen the scrutiny of key education data relevant to safeguarding children, working closely with our educational partners including our virtual school.
- Expand our Neglect Toolkit to strengthen the focus on parent-oriented issues, such as mental health, which we know can impact on educational engagement of children.
- Support agencies working with children and families to fully understand the universal and early help offer to children and families so they can confidently and assertively

support access for those children and families that need it, including priority groups, such as our young carers.

### **Priority 2: Promoting a multi-agency whole system approach to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of children, focusing on preventing neglect and cumulative harm.**

We will do this by:

- Strengthening the shared approach to restorative or relational safeguarding practice, focusing on high support and high challenge in working with children and families.
- Continuing to focus on the importance of understanding the child's lived experience and the voice of the child through our webinars, our resources and that relational approach.
- Being aware of connected adults and knowing their relationship with the child.
- Promoting risk assessments and referral tools that are already in place and seeking assurance on the quality of them when used, with a focus on doing the basics well, such as the use of the Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework, the Threshold Chart, the Neglect Indicator Chart and Inter-Agency Referral Forms.
- Promote professional challenge and escalation and practice the restorative approach with colleagues, including any multi-agency disagreement around safeguarding concerns.
- Developing webinars and practice guidance raising awareness of the cumulative impact of harm and the risk of the normalisation of neglect.
- Develop a version of the day in the life tools in all toolkits to understand the child's daily lived experience better.

### **Priority 3: Embedding the changes in Working Together to Safeguard Children.**

We will achieve this by:

- Promoting the practice principles for working with parents and carers and the multi-agency practice expectations and the multi-agency child protection standards within Working Together to Safeguard Children.
- Reviewing the partnership arrangements. We have identified our lead safeguarding partners and our delegated safeguarding partners and we will continue to work to

make sure that our partnership chair is securely in place and our independent scrutiny role is defined.

- Clarify the role of schools and settings and the voluntary community and social enterprise sector and being relentless in promoting information sharing to enable all children to achieve best outcomes and to be effectively safeguarded.
- Strengthen the independent scrutiny arrangements of the partnership.
- Work to ensure that the multi-agency workforce is kept informed of changes to key services and agencies and ways of working, and their own roles and responsibilities.
- Maintain a sharp focus on assurance of multi-agency safeguarding practice during times of multi-agency change or transition.

#### **Priority 4: Embedding and refining the work of the partnership.**

We will achieve this by:

- Ensuring our resources for practitioners remain current and up to date, through the Communications and Development Group.
- Maximise two-way communication with frontline practitioners across agencies working hard to embed learning and effective practice. We will measure this by increased use of resources, access, accessibility resources, all informed by frontline practitioners using our multi-agency auditing and practitioner surveys.
- Introduce safeguarding practice weeks focused on current work streams to embed our learning. The first week is scheduled in June 2024 and will focus on learning from reviews and the perennial practice challenges highlighted by the national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel Annual Report.

Our priorities work to recognise the importance of having the right organisational conditions that support effective multi-agency safeguarding practice. We have had a number of years now of increased and sustained need for our services. We continue to work closely together to manage this collectively. This is a time for some innovation and also a time for ensuring we all do the basics well by supporting children and families as risks and needs emerge, not waiting for problems to become worse before we have the conversation, using the practice tools available to us and using them well, such as the Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework and the Inter-agency Referral Form. We all know these tools are only as useful as the quality of information we are able to share. So always have the conversation. That is where effective information sharing and understanding the child's lived experience begins.

We will seek to strengthen our confidence and assertiveness as a multi-agency workforce, enabling and engaging children and families in the support available, offering high support and high challenge and mirroring this approach in our work with each other.

Every way round safeguarding practice is relational practice. Watch out for this core theme of all our priorities developing in 2024-26.