



Briefing Paper: Executive Summary of DSCP Annual Report 2024–2025

Introduction

This briefing paper provides a concise overview of the Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership (DSCP) Annual Report for 2024–2025. It highlights strategic developments, key achievements, priority areas, and future planning relevant to professionals and stakeholders.

Strategic Context and Governance

- DSCP and BCP SCP were established as separate entities in August 2024, aligning with the Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 guidance.
- DSCP is led by Dorset Council, Dorset Police, and NHS Dorset, with Education newly recognised as a statutory partner in the local arrangements.
- Strategic oversight is provided by Lead Safeguarding Partners, with operational delivery by Delegated Safeguarding Partners.

Key Achievements

- Education Integration: Formation of the Education Safeguarding Board has strengthened multi-agency collaboration.
- Families First for Children Pathfinder: Dorset successfully piloted this initiative, earning an 'Outstanding' Ofsted rating.
- Training and Development: 84% of professionals reported high confidence and 95% applied knowledge effectively.
- Voice of Children and Families: Co-production efforts, including the Pineapple Project survey (1,548 responses), informed safeguarding strategies.

Quality Assurance and Scrutiny

- Multi-agency audits and learning circles identified strengths in collaboration and child-centred practice.
- Areas for improvement include outdated risk assessments and inconsistent supervision.
- Action plans were developed to address findings from audits on intra-familial sexual abuse and neglect.

Priority Areas

1. Violence Against Children and Young People:
 - Includes sexual violence, domestic abuse, and knife crime.
 - Toolkits and frameworks developed; usage remains inconsistent.



2. Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing:

- Focus on parental and child mental health impacts.
- CAMHS transformation aims to improve early access and school-based support.

3. Neglect:

- Revised strategy and toolkit underway.
- Independent scrutiny informed targeted training and policy updates.

Future Planning

- Bi-monthly multi-agency audits and assurance activities planned for 2025/26.
- Quarterly reporting from all subgroups and non-statutory agencies.
- December 2025 conference to focus on Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing.

Funding and Resources

- DSCP received £38,195 from the Pan-Dorset split and had a year-end balance of £60,716.
- Projected contributions for 2025/26 total £151,570, supporting statutory functions and training initiatives.

Conclusion

DSCP has successfully transitioned into a standalone safeguarding entity, demonstrating strong governance, innovation, and a commitment to continuous improvement. The partnership remains focused on embedding learning, amplifying the voice of children and families, and strengthening multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.