From:	Paul Webb, Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services Christine McInnes, Corporate Director Children, Young People and Education
To:	**Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee** – *26th November 2026*
Subject:	Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership (KSCMP) Annual Report 2025/26
Classification:	Unrestricted
Past Pathway of report:	Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership Executive Board – 4th June 2026 Lead Safeguarding Partners - *4*th June 2026
Future Pathway of report:	None
Electoral Division:	*All*

Is the decision eligible for call-in? *Yes / No – exempt*

Summary: The KSCMP Annual Report provides an overview of Partnership activities undertaken, key achievements, challenges addressed and impact made during the period April 2025 to March 2026.

Recommendation(s):

The Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to **CONSIDER** and **NOTE** the content of the Annual Report.

1. Introduction

1.1 The KSCMP Annual Report 2025-26 has been produced in-line with the statutory requirements sets out in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026'[1] (hereafter referred to as Working Together 2026). It has also been produced in-line with the proposed yearly report template set out in Appendix 1 of the Department for Education's (DfE) 'Safeguarding Partners Yearly Report Analysis 2023 to 2024'[2].

1.2 Working Together 2026 requires that Children Safeguarding Partners publish a yearly report by 30th September each year, which should include the following:

[1] Working together to safeguard children - GOV.UK
[2] Safeguarding partners yearly reports analysis 2023 to 2024

- What Partnerships have done as a result of the arrangements, including in relation to child safeguarding practice reviews.
- How effective these arrangements have been in practice.
- The contribution of each Safeguarding Partner to the functioning and structure of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.
- Any themes emanating from aggregated methods of scrutiny, for example, reviews and scrutineer activity and multi-agency audits and inspections such as JTAIs.
- Evidence of the impact of the work of the Safeguarding Partners and relevant agencies, including training, on outcomes for children and families, including the identification of groups of children who may be disproportionately over- or under-represented in services.
- An analysis of any areas where there has been little or no evidence of progress on agreed priorities.
- An analysis of learning from serious incidents.
- A record of key decisions and actions taken by the Safeguarding Partners in the yearly cycle.
- Ways in which the Safeguarding Partners have sought and utilised feedback from children and families to inform their work and influence service provision.
- The breakdown of costs in delivering the arrangements for that period, including the financial contributions of individual partners.
- Evidence of how Safeguarding Partners are ensuring the adequate representation and input of early education and childcare settings, schools, colleges and education providers at both the operational and strategic levels of the arrangements.
- An overview of how data is being used to encourage learning within the arrangements and evidence of how information sharing has improved practice and outcomes.
- A review of the impact and learning from independent scrutiny arrangements to ensure the leadership is strong and the arrangements are leading to the desired and necessary impact.
- Any updates to the published arrangements with the proposed timescale for implementation.
- Evidence that national reforms have been implemented.

2. Annual Report April 2025 to March 2026

2.1 The report is compliant with Working Together 2026. The 2025-26 report is substantially different in structure and length to previous years, owing to the report template set out by the DfE. In recognition of the increased length and detailed nature of the report, supporting communication resources have been published alongside:

- KSCMP 2025-26 annual report at a glance for professionals
- KSCMP 2025-26 annual report for children and young people
- What KSCMP did this year 2025-26 video for children and young people

2.2 The report includes an overview of key activities undertaken during the 2025/26 financial year, alongside the Partnership's ambitions for the next 12 months. It includes an evaluation from the KSCMP Independent Scrutineer.

2.3 The report particularly highlights several key activities progressed during the period, including:

- Updating of the Partnership Arrangements
- Work undertaken and planned to respond to the additional responsibilities outlined in Working Together 2026
- Hosting of the first annual KSCMP Conference in April 2025, as well as a shorter virtual Partnership Forum in October 2025.
- Undertaking a benchmarking exercise to understand Kent's position against the Domestic Abuse Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) framework.
- Undertaking a benchmarking exercise to understand Kent's position in response to the findings of the national audit on group-based Child Sexual Exploitation ('the Casey audit').
- Completion of two training impact audits, considering online safety and faither inclusive practice respectively, to understand the impact of training the Partnership provides.
- Publication of and implementation of learning and recommendations from Kent Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.
- Development of a Kent Child Sexual Abuse action plan in response to the learning and recommendations of the national Child Safeguarding Practice Review considering child sexual abuse within the family environment.
- Responding to the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel's briefing on race, racism and safeguarding children.
- Hosting of learning events, including a webinar on the risks posed to children from pets.
- Launch of the 'I'm Lucy' campaign, including video and practice resources, to raise awareness of risks associated with children being considered protective factors for their parents and carers' mental health.
- Development and launch of the 'Clear Minds, Safer Homes' campaign, including an awareness week held in March 2026, to raise awareness of potential risks to children associated with parent and carer cannabis use.
- Tracking of Serious Incident Notifications and referrals to the National Panel.

2.4 The KSCMP Annual Report 2025/26 was agreed by the KSCMP Executive Board on 4th June 2026. It was subsequently signed off by the Lead Safeguarding Partners. It was subsequently published on the KSCMP website.

3. Conclusions

3.1 The KSCMP has been established to fulfil the statutory duties placed on Kent County Council, NHS Kent and Medway Integrated Care Board and Kent Police by virtue of the Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017).

3.2 The Lead Safeguarding Partners and KSCMP Executive (Delegated Safeguarding Partners) will continue to discharge such responsibilities as defined in law and statutory guidance working in partnership with all relevant bodies and organisations in Kent.

3.3 The KSCMP Annual Report 2025/26 is presented for the information of the Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee.

Recommendation(s):

The Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to **CONSIDER** and **NOTE** the content of the Annual Report.

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4. Background Documents

4.1 *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026: A guide to multi-agency working to help, protect and promote the welfare of children*

5. Contact details

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