



Children, Education and Skills Sub Committee

North Tyneside Council

9 November 2018

To be held on **Monday 19 November 2018 in room 0.01**, Quadrant, The Silverlink North, Cobalt Business Park, North Tyneside, NE27 0BY **commencing at 6.00pm.**

Agenda Item	Page
1. Apologies for absence To receive apologies for absence from the meeting.	
2. Appointment of substitutes To be informed of the appointment of any substitute members for the meeting.	
3. To receive any declarations of interest You are invited to declare any registerable and/or non-registerable interests in matters appearing on the agenda, and the nature of that interest. You are also requested to complete the Declarations of Interests card available at the meeting and return it to the Democratic Services Officer before leaving the meeting. You are also invited to disclose any dispensation from the requirement to declare any registerable and/or non-registerable interests that have been granted to you in respect of any matters appearing on the agenda.	
4. Minutes To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2018.	3

Continued overleaf

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For further information about the meeting please call:
Elizabeth Kerr, Democratic Services Officer on tel: (0191) 643 5322

5.	North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2017-18	8
	To receive and discuss the above report with the Independent Chair of the NTSCB.	
6.	Child Sexual Exploitation Update	34
	To receive an update on any developments relating to child sexual exploitation in North Tyneside since the last report in July 2018.	
7.	Domestic Abuse	36
	To receive information on the subject and the support available for children who are affected by Domestic Abuse.	
8.	Adopt North East	47
	To receive information on the implementation of the Regional Adoption Agency: Adopt North East.	
9.	Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning	-
	Councillor Peter Earley will address the sub-committee on the year ahead for his portfolio area.	

To all Members of the Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee

Councillor Linda Bell	Councillor Joe Kirwin
Councillor Sean Brockbank	Councillor Maureen Madden
Councillor Pamela Brooks	Councillor Andy Newman
Councillor Joanne Cassidy	Councillor Pat Oliver (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Karen Clark	Councillor Steven Phillips
Councillor Cath Davis	Councillor Matthew Thirlaway (Chair)

Parent Governor Representatives

Mrs Michelle Ord

Churches Representatives

Rev. Michael Vine, Church of England

Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee

10 September 2018

Present: Councillor M Thirlaway (Chair)
Councillors L Bell, J Cassidy, C Davis, J Kirwin,
M Madden, A Newman, P Oliver, W Samuel,
J O'Shea and S Phillips.

Rev. M Vine Church Representative
Mrs M Ord Parent Governor Representative

CES11/09/18 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Brooks and K Clark.

CES12/09/18 Substitute Members

Pursuant to the Council's Constitution the appointment of the following substitute members were reported:

Councillor J O'Shea for Councillor K Clark.
Councillor W Samuel for Councillor P Brooks.

CES13/09/18 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest or dispensations were reported.

CES14/09/18 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 July 2018 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

CES15/09/18 Neglect Strategy

The sub-committee received a report on the neglectful care of children and young people in the borough and the North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board's Neglect Strategy to ensure that multi-agency help and support was available to children and young people and their families.

The sub-committee was informed that neglect was defined in the *Working Together to Safeguard Children* statutory guidance from 2018 as:

"The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development.

Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- a) provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment)
- b) protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger
- c) ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers)
- d) ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs."

Examples were given of what would and would not qualify as neglect and a case study was provided. The biggest challenge faced by officers was deciding when enough was enough in neglect cases and taking the decision to remove a child from what could be a loving but neglectful, for whatever reason, home. When a referral was received by the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) the response was based on the seriousness and severity of the reported neglect as assessed against the Thresholds of Need established by the North Tyneside Safeguarding Children's Board.

In 2014/15 and 2015/16 the North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board had Neglect as one of its key priorities and in 2016 had published a Neglect Strategy. The Strategy had established twelve key principles under which work around neglect would be undertaken and three strategic objectives for the Borough's safeguarding partners. The three objectives were to: improve awareness and understanding of neglect across the whole partnership; improve the recognition, assessment and response to children and young people living in neglectful situations before statutory intervention was required, including the appropriate use of assessment tools; and to ensure the effectiveness of service provision.

A refresh of the Strategy was now expected to take into account proposed changes to local safeguarding children boards and the Working Together statutory guidance; to ensure the early help response offered the appropriate help at the earliest opportunity; and the provision of training for practitioners.

Currently 48 children and young people were subject to a Child Protection Plan as a result of neglect. Until recently, neglect was the highest numerical category of child protection concern in the borough (59.2% in 2016/17). Now more children and young people had been subject to emotional abuse concerns, often related to domestic abuse, and neglect had decreased as the primary safeguarding concern. 59.2% was a higher percentage than the average for the borough's statistical neighbours and England but it was lower than the average for the North East.

In response to questions the difference between emotional abuse and neglect and the appropriate thresholds were explained; how different opinions between the partner agencies were resolved; how safeguarding of children who were home educated was achieved; what options might be available to family members who can see neglect but have shared or no responsibility for the children involved; and where childhood obesity ranked in the neglect spectrum. The sub-committee was reassured that very few children had no contact with any external practitioners and referrals could be made from a dentist, a doctor or a concerned neighbour. All reports were acknowledged so the individual who had

reported the matter knew that the concern had been noted.

It was **Agreed** to note the information about the Neglect Strategy and its forthcoming review.

CES16/09/18 Prevention and Early Help

The sub-committee received a report from the Senior Manager Prevention and Early Help on the Troubled Families Programme and the objectives for the final 18 months of the programme.

The report included an explanation of how the second phase of the programme was different from the first; the progress made on turning around a minimum of 1480 families; the impact service transformation had made; the data used to identify families for the programme; and how the programme had improved working practices across the service and with partners.

The sub-committee was reminded that stage one of the programme had achieved 97% of families being “turned around” with the outstanding 3% rolling over to phase two; as of the beginning of August 2018 the team had identified and attached 1354 families (91%) with the trajectory of attaching the remaining cohort of families by December 2018. The Authority had already successfully claimed for 459 families (33%) with a trajectory of claiming a 100% of the 1480 by March 2020, the end of the programme. The team was on track to maximise the income from the Programme by demonstrating not only service transformation but also improved outcomes for vulnerable families in the borough. The Troubled Families Programme had enabled the Authority to examine how it worked with safeguarding partners and make adjustments to ensure support offered to these families was done so at the earliest opportunity. The Programme had also improved the use of data and informed some of the developments the Local Authority had made to services during this period. As the programme ended in 2020, the on-going challenge was how the Authority would continue to intervene and evidence the impact of the intervention work with troubled families beyond that date.

In response to questions it was clarified that the programme complemented the Signs of Safety approach and even though the formal relationship with the families ended six months after they had been “turned around” the service did remain in touch with them and should it be required could attach them to the programme again.

It was explained that the programme aimed to build resilience, skills and confidence in the family so they took action when things became difficult; for example if they were impacted by the introduction of Universal Credit they would know and have the confidence to ring the Council or their landlord to let them know that their rent might be late this month rather than ignoring the situation.

The Chair thanked the officers for their presentation and attendance.

It was **Agreed** (1) to note the progress of the work undertaken to date to achieve the Troubled Family Programme outcomes; and
(2) that the Sub-committee was satisfied as to the effectiveness of the approach and ability to demonstrate improved outcomes for families.

CES1709/18 Permanency Planning

The sub-committee received a report which detailed the processes and policies in place to support permanency planning for children in the Authority's care. The senior manager for Looked After Children attended the meeting to present the information and answer questions.

The statutory definition of permanence in the Children Act 1989 was to provide children with *'a sense of security, continuity, commitment and identity ... a secure, stable and loving family to support them through childhood and beyond'*.

Placement stability was an important element of permanence as it created opportunities for children to develop relationships by giving them the time to do so. Continuing high-quality relationships was important for children in care because it helped them build security by developing secure attachments and supported their ability to form relationships in the future and develop a strong sense of belonging and identity.

Children and young people in care had expressed the view that they hated the drift, delay and uncertainty about where and with whom they might live and government had responded by requiring all children and young people who had been looked after by a local authority to have an individual plan for permanency after four months in care.

During the four months' work was undertaken to see if a return to the family was likely. The Signs of Safety model included at the outset of any work with a family a meeting described as a 'network meeting' when adults involved in a child's life who were able to offer support to the child and/or their parents came together to identify the concerns that had led to social work involvement; establish a 'bottom line' with parents; and also to identify contingency arrangements in the event changes were not made or sustained within a timescale required by the child. If a return to the family was not likely the plan for permanence would change to one of the other options.

Permanence could be achieved through any of the pathways: a return to birth parents; shared care arrangements; permanence within the looked after system (a residential placement, long-term unrelated foster care, or family and friends care); or legal permanence (adoption, Special Guardianship Order, Child Arrangement Order).

The vast majority of children achieved permanence by being returned to the family with the second largest cohort being long-term foster placements, a small number were adopted because that was the only occasion when all ties with a birth family were severed. A permanent placement did not mean that the Authority severed all ties; in the case of a long term foster placement the legal responsibility for the child remained with the local authority and adopted children and their parents had a range of additional needs and needed to be supported long term.

It was emphasised that the Authority did not have enough foster carers or adopters and if Members knew of any people interested to encourage them to come forward. A larger number than was actually required was needed to ensure each child was placed with the right foster carers/adoptive parents.

It was clarified that the Authority had moved away from not placing children over 12 with foster parents as the difficulties to overcome when placing a child were rarely to do with the child's age and more often the details of the particular case, how the child presented and

how the child would fit in the home. When matching families the challenge was to ensure the carers had resilience and were able to understand that the child might not respond in expected ways. Training was provided on child development, attachment and what the changing needs might be as the child grew up.

Where children had been placed out of the borough due to a lack of capacity in the borough, specialist intervention or additional needs, the children and their care was closely monitored by the Authority as it retained parental responsibility. Announced and unannounced visits were conducted of the establishments before and during the placements and the child's social worker visited regularly. Efforts were also made to maintain the child's network in North Tyneside for when they returned; the Authority had a good record of bringing children back.

In response to questions the work undertaken with children to help them understand their story and make informed decisions as adults and the process undertaken and support provided to foster carers who had been accused of mistreatment was explained.

The Chair thanked the officers for their presentation and attendance.

It was **Agreed** to note the information about Permanency Planning.

Meeting: Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee
Date: 19 November 2018
Title: North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board's Annual Report 2017/18

Author: Elizabeth Kerr, Democratic Services Officer Tel: 643 5322
Service: Law and Governance
Wards affected: All

1. Purpose of Report

To provide the sub-committee with an introduction to the Annual Report of the North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board (NTSCB).

2. Recommendation(s)

The sub-committee is recommended to consider, make comment upon and note the NTSCB's Annual Report.

3. Details

- 3.1 In 2015 the sub-committee established a sub group to examine child sexual exploitation in the borough. One of the recommendations of the sub group was that the Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee should receive the NTSCB's Annual Report every year.
- 3.2 The NTSCB draft Annual report was discussed at its meeting on 30 July 2018 and after some final amendments was published in October 2018. The report is attached as appendix 1 for the sub-committee's attention.
- 3.3 Mr Burrows, the Independent Chair of the NTSCB, has accepted an invitation to attend the meeting.

4. Appendices

- North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board's Annual Report 2017/18.

Annual Report 2017-2018



North Tyneside Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2017 - 2018

1. Introduction

1.1 Welcome to the annual report of North Tyneside LSCB. Each year we publish a report which demonstrates how as a partnership we have been able to:



Be sure children and young people in North Tyneside are protected and kept safe as possible

Be sure that all organisations, their leaders and their practitioners are working effectively together to safeguard children and young people.

Be sure that people are open to learning, transparent about what they do and focused on improving outcomes for children and young people.

1.2 As well as showing how the partnership has met its statutory responsibilities, we need to show the difference joint working has made to how children and young people in North Tyneside are protected from harm, abuse, neglect and exploitation.

1.3 Our partnership is made up of the leaders, or their senior representatives, from all organisations who are directly involved with the lives and welfare of children, young people and their families in the borough.

1.4 There is a shared legal responsibility for all those who work with children and young people to be able to demonstrate how they safeguard them. Some partners such as the Local Authority, the Police and Health Service organisations, and the professionals that work within them, have particular roles and responsibilities. Overall the Local Authority has to make sure that partnership working is effective. Ensuring that there is an effective LSCB in place does this. Through this all partners are able to benefit from the focus and

feedback the partnership provides in making sure that children and young people are as safe as possible.

1.5 Through its required functions the LSCB focuses on Early Help activities and the times when it is necessary to intervene in family life on a statutory basis. Through its links with, and contribution to, the other strategic partnerships the LSCB seeks to reflect and ensure that the principles of safeguarding and joint working are embedded in all strategies and policies.

The [Our North Tyneside Plan](#) continues to provide an effective mechanism for joining up the steps being taken to improve the life chances and circumstances of families in the borough, including the priority to be cared for, protected and supported.

2. The Local Context



Although North Tyneside is one of the least deprived boroughs in the region and generally there is an improving picture of health and wellbeing, the situation remains that some areas vulnerable groups and communities continue to face significant challenges. Current data tells us that:

- There are 44,800 children, age 0-19 living in North Tyneside
- 17.1% of children are living in poverty which is below the regional average but above the national average. There is a significant increase to nearly half in the most deprived parts of the borough.
- Breastfeeding is lower than the England average and more mothers continue to smoke during pregnancy compared to the England average
- Teenage conception rates are continuing to fall
- Nationally, the rate of young people being admitted to hospital as a result of self-harm is increasing, and this is also the case in North Tyneside. Nationally, levels of self-harm are higher among young women than young men.
- There are 150 children and young people who are subject to a child protection plan (as of 31/3/18)
- There are 284 children looked after (as of 31/3/18)
- It is estimated that around 7,900 children and young people in the borough have a long standing illness or disability.
- There has been an increase in the number of children with special educational needs over the last five years
- The educational attainment gap between North Tyneside's vulnerable learners and their peers persists. (i.e. Looked after Children, those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and those in receipt of pupil premium).

There are 44,800 children aged between 0-19 in the borough of which 11,500 are under the age of five.

There are over 3,000 children and young people with mental health and behavioural disorders

- Hospital admissions for under 18's are significantly higher in North Tyneside compared with the England average including admissions due to injury, substance misuse and as a result of self harm
 - The rate of obese children doubles between Reception and Year 6. One in 10 children are obese in Reception, and 1 in 5 by Year 6

3. Our Priorities 2017/18

The Board agreed four priority areas. Information on some of the progress made against these priorities can be found below:

Priority One – Improve accountability, challenge and communications to develop the effectiveness of the Board.

- We have continued to develop and make improvements to our website to strengthen the visibility of the NTSCB and the importance of safeguarding. The site received 24,030 views in the last year. The section for professionals was the most popular. An average of two news articles was posted each month.
- We have recruited a further two lay members who joined us in September 2017 and who will play an important role in helping the Independent Chair and other members make sure the Board has an independent voice and considers things from all points of view.
- We are developing our ‘Professional Conversation’ approach to Early Help alongside a revised Escalation Policy in response to learning from a Learning Review.
- We have responded to national consultations e.g. Working Together 2018, and engaged with the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse and promoted the [Truth Project](#) an opportunity for victims and survivors to share their experience and to be heard.

Priority Two – Prevent harm and the protection of vulnerable groups

- We have maintained an oversight of Early Help, Children’s Social Care Transformation and the 0-19 Agenda.
- We delivered ‘SAFE Week’ in collaboration with the Safeguarding Adults Board. Throughout the week various activities were arranged to raise community awareness of safeguarding including the development of an educational resource package for use in schools and colleges to develop young people’s awareness of safeguarding issues.



- Domestic Abuse - in preparation for a possible Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) a self-assessment of multi-agency practice was completed which enabled 'oversight' of multi agency arrangements.
- Assurance was sought in relation to the arrangements for children missing out on education. These arrangements enable the local authority to identify children who may not be accessing education and to ensure through case discussions and information sharing that robust measures are taken to ensure education is accessed and any other areas of concern are addressed.

Priority Three – The views of children and young people are contributing to learning and best practice.

- We have engaged with the Young Mayor and the Cabinet Member for Young People to understand the views of the young people they represent.
- The Young Mayor and Cabinet Member contributed to a Safe Week video aimed at raising community awareness of the safeguarding agenda.

Priority Four – Learning and improvement positively influences multi-agency practice

- Espresso events continued to be delivered to disseminate learning outcomes from national and local reviews.
- Work continues with regional colleagues to identify learning from Reviews and how this can be effectively shared across the region.
- We have supported the implementation of Signs of Safety by the Local Authority.
- We delivered our annual NTSCB Conference to 88 delegates with the theme of '**Understanding the Impact of Trauma on Children and Young People.**'

4. Significant steps taken in the year - “Setting the balance between the whole system and front line practice”.

4.1 Acting strategically as a partnership

4.1.2 Learning from experience gained over the past few years the LSCB has aligned its work on the basis of the things that “are most likely to make the most difference”. As a result this year the LSCB has supported and scrutinised changes relating to the further development of Early Help, the transformation of social care, changes for services for 0-19 year olds, the introduction of Signs of Safety and new ways of key services sharing information at the point when people ask for help or share a concern for a child. As well during the year the LSCB has been concerned to support the innovative changes being adopted to address the emotional and mental health and well being of children and young people.



4.1.3 The LSCB has also supported the review of the [Health and Wellbeing Board](#) priorities, and will contribute to the renewal of the Children and Young Peoples Plan and Community Safety priorities. This has, and will be shaped by the desire to reduce duplication, increase clarity and find common and shared ways of approaching the need to plan, coordinate and scrutinise in order to be assured that things are making a difference

4.2 Promoting common core safeguarding standards and principles to strengthen local accountability and whole system assurance that joint working works well and is led by a common view and understanding of “what good looks like”

4.2.1 The LSCB has maintained its long-term strategy to embed the common standards and requirements represented by the Section 11 duties placed on all organisations that work with children and young people. This involves maintaining an on going self assessment and reporting on this on an annual basis. There has been continued progress in moving from a compliance model to one of ongoing self assessment that supports organisational and sector specific accountability arrangements and promotes more consistent learning.

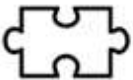

4.2.2 The planned next steps to promote sharing and cross-organisational challenge did not take place for reasons of limited resources and this is planned for 2018/19. The analysis of this year's Section 11 returns gave assurance and examples of how each are addressing the common standards and principles. All partner agencies reported full compliance with the following standards;



- A named person with sufficient seniority identified to champion safeguarding.
- Clear policies and procedures in place to show how to report welfare and safety concerns.
- Staff are encouraged and required to attend safeguarding and child protection training.
- Safer recruitment training to all staff involved with recruitment.
- Children are made aware of their right to be safe from abuse

4.2.3 Significant progress has been made with education providers with a marked increase in the audit participation rate, within excess of 90% of all schools submitting a return. This is the first year that an online tool was used and although there were some initial teething problems to resolve, the electronic version has allowed for better analysis and comparison. Those schools that did not respond have been contacted and support offered to promote completion in 2018/19. Overall compliance with standards is high and an average of 88% of schools assessed themselves as green against the eight standards. There were also some common themes identified:

Common Themes

	Key issues / improvements 	Good practice 
Safeguarding training	Needs arranging, updating or refreshing for staff, volunteers and Governors in some schools, and training logs need to be created or updated.	Regular training and updates provided for all staff. Teaching staff take part in 'What would you do?' scenarios.
Information and communication	Safeguarding information needs to be provided in a format and language that can be easily understood by all service-users. Child-friendly versions of policies need to be created. More regular consultation to gather feedback from parents.	Regular communication between Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs), staff and Governors. Policies, documentations and contact details readily available and easily accessible online and in hard copy.
Policies, systems and procedures	Require review or update. Child-friendly policies need to be written in consultation with pupils and disseminated. Curriculum requires review to ensure all aspects of personal safety are taught, and at an appropriate level.	All policies are regularly reviewed and updated, and easily accessible online and in hard copy. The school council is actively involved in producing child-friendly versions of policies. There are regular risk assessments of school premises and activities.



Recommendations

- 1 Consultation with schools to review the online self-assessment tool and identify any opportunities for improvement.
- 2 Further training and guidance for those completing online audits may improve the quality, consistency and accuracy of self-assessment.
- 3 Information and support for schools that did not participate in the audit, to highlight the importance of completing a self-assessment.

4.2.4 On a further positive note all of the GP Practices in North Tyneside were asked to complete a self-assessment against the Section 11 standards. This has been undertaken by all Practices and the results are being collated by the Named GP. Outcomes will be shared with NTSCB once completed. We have also revised the tool specifically for use by the voluntary and community sector. The revised template was piloted and has received positive feedback as a useful tool for the sector to benchmark practice against nationally recognised safeguarding standards.

4.2.5 Analysis of the Section 11 data assured the LSCB there were no significant concerns that children were likely to be unsafe. We are assured that the LSCB partners, schools and colleges can demonstrate their ongoing and regular assessment of progress, impact and learning on the basis of shared standards and a common approach. This strengthens accountability and learning within respective governance structures and at a collective level. It provides the opportunity to build on strengths and act on weaknesses as well as new developments. The LSCB will continue to extend and implement the approach across the voluntary and community sector, improve the model, make more of the shared learning and act to highlight and understand where improvements may be indicated as needed from the annual analysis.

4.3 Case Reviews and acting on learning

4.3.1 The case review responsibilities held by the LSCB have been supported by its Case Review Sub Group. The work of the group has brought about improved notification and reporting arrangements and internal quality assurance arrangements to ensure continued learning and improvement in how the LSCB:

- Receives and coordinates notifications where joint working practice may indicate there is a need to better understand “what works and what hasn’t” and put appropriate learning in place.
- A stronger process and arrangement for reaching decisions about whether a review is required and the format it will take.
- An improved commissioning and management process for reviews; so that these use an approach that will help get to the heart of matters and ensure that those involved are able to identify their own strengths and weaknesses as well as those of the whole system.
- The move to the LSCB taking more responsibility for identifying and acting on the findings of reviews that is targeted, proportionate and manageable.
- Contributing to a partner owned culture of transparency and recognition that all practice presents opportunities to learn to do things better and differently.

4.3.2 During the year the NTSCB commissioned one Serious Case Review (SCR) in relation to siblings Claire and Sarah which is due to be completed in October 2018. The final report cannot be finalised until the ongoing criminal proceedings are completed in September 18.

In relation to a second case, Kevin, where the criteria for a SCR was judged to be met, agreement was reached that a Scottish Child Protection Committee (comparable to the LSCB role) would undertake a SCR with a contribution from North Tyneside. Kevin was a young child who was placed with a relative in North

Tyneside by the Scottish local authority. He sustained significant injuries, which were assessed as non-accidental and initial enquiries seemed to indicate the learning would be most relevant to the placing authority. This report has been completed and agreed by both the LSCB and the HCPC. Publication of the Executive Summary is pending the outcome of local Police and CPS decisions related to possible prosecutions. Local learning will be shared via briefings and learning events.



4.3.3 The LSCB now has in place a continuously improving arrangement to respond to practice where there may be a need for formal review. The evidence indicates that this is discharged proportionately taking into account past learning and the other evidence and feedback provided through the LSCB functions. This in turn has continued to demonstrate each partner's capacity and support for review, scrutiny and a willingness

to learn and to be held to account. The LSCB has continued to review the progress of learning and actions as a result of review. There has been regular and positive liaison with the National Panel of Experts (NPE) who supported all decisions made.

4.3.4 The evidence and results of reviews during the year served to remind all partners of the complexity and potential fragility of joint working arrangements. It also served to demonstrate the importance of the LSCB being able to maintain its view of practice through performance and quality as well as the direct involvement of board members, their representatives, practitioners and children. There remains an ongoing challenge to achieve the wider picture and to encourage partners to engage with this, particularly where the evidence may suggest that assumptions of progress may need revisiting either collectively or by individual partners. Participating partners have continued to demonstrate their commitment to learning from practice and review on the basis of transparency, objectivity and in reference to their understanding of the potential for local joint working arrangements to continue to improve.

4.4 Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

4.4.1 The Board are responsible for reviewing child deaths and we carry out this function in partnership with our counterparts in Newcastle and Northumberland, through a North of Tyne Child Death Overview Panel. North Tyneside Clinical Commissioning Group has played a central part in supporting and providing a significant element of funding, alongside contributions from the three Boards, to ensure the panel is well resourced and independently chaired.

4.4.2 In 2017/18 there was a total of 38 child death reviews across North of Tyne. Due to the low numbers it is difficult to ascertain any specific learning, although aggregated learning both regionally and nationally will help provide a wider picture from which to share learning, process changes and good practice.

4.4.3 In relation to CDOP themes, the 0-1 year age group shows modifiable factors relate to infection, consanguinity, co-sleeping, alcohol and smoking by parents. For 15-17 year olds, factors include accidental death deaths, e.g. drowning and trauma. This is a similar pattern to 2016/17.

4.4.4 More information about the Child Death Overview Panel and a copy of the CDOP Annual Report will be available on the website at <http://www.northtynesidelscb.org.uk/>. National guidance in relation to how the CDOP will operate going forward is due for publication in September 2018 and this will inform the development of new arrangements in 2018/19.

4.5 Making sure people have the right knowledge, skills and confidence

4.5.1 Last year's report highlighted how the delivery of the well received multi agency training programme had addressed a reduction in available resources, by seeking to diversify models of delivery, utilise the potential of on-line learning and target delivery more effectively. The programme is developed and overseen by the Training Sub Group which also is tasked with addressing some of the wider and more long term issues as how best to be assured that all those who work, with and have significant contact with children and young people, are equipped and competent in joint working to protect children.

4.5.2 In total **936** learners accessed face-to-face NTSCB safeguarding children training this year, which shows a reduction by 243 from 2016/17. The contributing factors to the reduction of this number are; the conference being postponed into the 2018/19 programme and the introduction of more e-learning modules. The quality and effectiveness of the training is monitored through:

- Electronic evaluations sent four weeks after the training event
- Observations of the trainer’s practice monitored against agreed standards
- Impact on Practice



Approximately four weeks following training, learners are asked to complete an evaluation of the training, and this year, a new question has been added to capture the impact on their practice. Typical responses to this question are outlined below. Overall the impact evaluation is positive, suggesting that the training is meeting the needs of the workforce and is having a positive impact on practice. Practitioners typically reporting that the training is re-affirming their current knowledge

and skills and increasing their knowledge in new and emerging areas. They are also generally reporting an increase in confidence in dealing with safeguarding issues.

4.5.3 Responses to the evaluation are also used to inform future planning and to shape the training delivery methods and resources. This helps to continuously improve the quality of the training. Below are some examples of responses from delegates who attended child protection training:

“This course provided me with a much greater knowledge of Child Protection and the processes involved.”

“Highlighted the importance of communication with other agencies”

“It has given me the confidence to undertake my new role as designated person for my setting.”

“Better understanding of thresholds and guidelines”

“I have a greater understanding of the Early Help pathways and the levels of need in addition to how the system works and who to contact.”

4.5.4 The Training and Development Officer for Schools, with some support from the local authority Workforce Development Team, delivered child protection training to **1650 school staff** in 2017-2018 through their Service Level Agreements. In addition **345** Designated Safeguarding Leads attended briefing sessions and **12** school Governors received safeguarding training. A separate report on training for school staff is available from lisa.wardingham@northtyneside.gov.uk

4.5.5 The responsibility for ensuring that each partners' workforce is sufficiently equipped to meet joint working standards rests with them. This is partially addressed and evidenced by their Section 11 audit submission. There is also an expectation that each organisation will have a clear approach for this. It remains a priority for the LSCB to consider how best to support and be assured that people have the base line knowledge and skills.

4.5.6 During the year the Board supported the development of a 'Professional Conversations' approach in Early Help alongside a revised Escalation Policy, which encourages and supports people to 'challenge' when they feel the response to their concern may not be in the best interests of the child. Previous learning has indicated that too often people settle for outcomes that are based on "I have fulfilled my duty by telling someone else". This can mean that important information is not



shared and more importantly actions may not happen in a timely way. As a result children can continue to suffer harm. The overall evidence suggests that this does not happen on a widespread scale but the LSCB takes the view that an outstanding approach to safeguarding has to include ongoing and constructive dialogues and challenge across boundaries, professions and organisations, to ensure that decisions and outcomes reflect a multi agency and inter disciplinary approach and agreement to what is best for the child.

4.5.7 Bringing a wide range of local professionals together to look at a common issue that will better inform joint working practice and improve its quality was a

central ambition for the NTSCB Annual conference entitled **Understanding the Impact of Trauma on Children and Young People**.

4.5.8 This was attended by over 100 people representative of a full range of agencies who work with children and young people. The main speaker was able to stimulate discussion in relation to both our understanding of trauma and how we develop resilience in children and young people.

4.5.9 The significant and long-term investment in **Signs Of Safety** by North Tyneside Council was recognised by the LSCB as a welcome opportunity to review and refresh joint working arrangements in the longer term. During the year the Board supported and worked to identify how to support the introduction of the new system across all partners.

The focus on child protection alongside more integrated and participative risk assessments and judgments from a “safety” perspective requires changes in the



interactions professionals and the system has with children and their families. This aligns with the Board’s contribution to ensuring good outcomes for vulnerable children. The coming year is likely to require the LSCB to develop a more detailed approach to ensure that joint working arrangements fully benefit from this and other significant changes. The evidence also suggests that partners may need to consider the sustainability of multi agency training and learning in its current form, in order to ensure that across all areas of the workforce there is a robust understanding of how things work and why, and that people are able to fit their own organisational and or professional requirements

with the wider frameworks and processes. This report also evidences the additional and perhaps critical additional dimension of enabling participants to form collaborative judgments that are supported by a collaborative culture that responds positively to challenge and does not lose sight of what children may be telling us.

4.6 Making sure that we have a good view and understanding of what good joint working practice looks like

4.6.1 The Board is required to operate a Performance Management Framework (PMQA) alongside its Learning and Development Framework. Through the work of the Quality, Improvement Learning and Performance (QILP) Sub Group and Board engagement with its output, the approach taken has been innovative in how it targets quantitative with qualitative analysis. The sub group use the NTSCB data set to interrogate safeguarding activity, undertaking further scrutiny on particular areas which are brought to the boards attention suggesting areas of good or concerning performance. This may link to audit work, for example, data indicated a rise in the number of children subject to second or subsequent child protection plans. Whilst this can be an appropriate response to a change in a child's circumstance, it can be an indicator that the initial plan was not sufficiently effective to support sustained change. Some initial scrutiny has been undertaken and further work is required including a better understanding of the overall duration of child protection plans and the outcome when the plan ends – a child becoming looked after, step down to Early Help or sign posted to other services.



4.6.2 Limited resources in terms of time and access to expertise have previously rated this as a high-risk area in terms of the Board's assessment of its performance. The Ofsted inspection endorsed the quality and impact of the approach and this included the caveat related to risk. During the year there were continued efforts to lift volume and quality of impact, but significant changes in personnel in some agencies meant that the outcome was

focused on holding the position rather than advancing it.

4.6.3 This meant that questions and lines of enquiry were carefully selected and targeted to ensure full impact in terms of how the LSCB was able to form a view on how the joint working system was working and where there was potential to build on success and reduce the incidence of weaker practice.

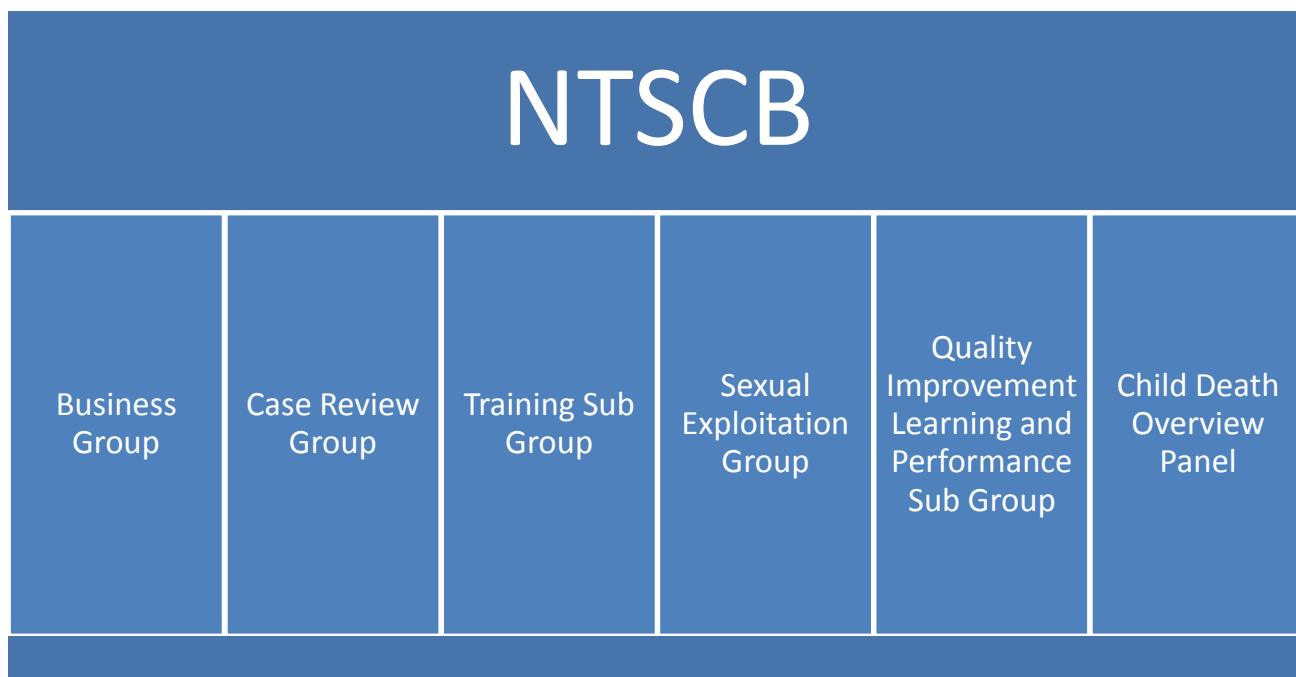
4.6.4 Through the Board and the Sexual Exploitation Sub Group there has been a continued encouragement for agencies who work closely together to address and resolve the ways in which they share and use information with each other. Sexual Exploitation continues to be a priority for both the Children's and Adult Safeguarding Boards; acknowledging that vulnerability does continue post 18. The MSET (Missing, Sexually Exploited and Trafficked) Panel oversees risk

management plans for those individual young people whose behaviour is a significant concern because they are regularly going missing, at risk or involved in exploitation. MSET performance is reported to the sub group on a quarterly basis to scrutinise and monitor progress.

4.6.5 Partners are expected to be able to present an analysis and dialogue around their own practice from a multi agency perspective. The excellent developments around responding to children missing from home, care and education during the year highlighted this. Agencies presenting the narrative and the analysis struggled to show how the information related to how they managed risk and outcomes for children aligned with their broader assurance that outcomes were good. This remains a challenge for joint working practice. Too often analysis and the narrative could be seen as being primarily about maintaining single agency reputation as opposed to being able to demonstrate how multi agency arrangements are resulting in safe and improving outcomes for children.

4.7. How have we performed as a partnership so that we continue to offer support, leadership and credible feedback that helps ensure that children are as safe as possible in North Tyneside

4.7.1 The LSCB has continued to meet its statutory responsibilities. The Board and sub group meetings have been regular and largely well attended. The Board has monitored and acted early to explore and address any sign that partners are struggling to maintain the agreed commitments. Consistency of representation as well as full engagement has remained a challenge, therefore during the year some partners have been asked to address issues relating to this. This has had some impact especially at Business Group and sub group level on maintaining pace and breadth of the planned agenda. In some other LSCBs this would be mitigated through the Board staffing infrastructure. This is not an option for this Board therefore mitigation rests with the Business Manager and the Chair. They have acted to ensure that pace, quality and the capacity to respond to unforeseen developments such as case reviews have been addressed.



4.7.2 This means that going forward the Board has committed to trialling a thematic basis for a part of some future meeting to enable board members to play a more active role and further rationalise approaches to ensure effective outcomes.

4.7.3 Perhaps as a reflection of the size of the borough and the high quality of relationships that generally exist at all levels the LSCB has sought to maintain an inclusive approach at Board level. During the year improved liaison and integration in relation to how best to ensure that education providers are better able to be heard and contribute to the safeguarding agenda, has improved.

4.7.4 Too often we forget that partnerships are about people and those board members who are able to maintain regular attendance or ensure that their designated deputy is well briefed, have continued to support this important dynamic. During the year the LSCB successfully recruited two new lay members this reflected a conscious decision to have three lay members. Working with all board members to close gaps between perspectives, awareness of role and significance of issues within a shared and respectful environment that welcomes challenge remains an ongoing challenge that tests individuals and the Board as a whole.

4.7.5 The LSCB continues to manage its financial resources carefully and made provision for review and contingency year on year. The Board continued to develop its approach to, and learning from, out-sourcing in order to better manage overall pace and impact. This has been positive and added to overall capacity as well as commissioning expertise. Over and above the financial

contribution that some partners are required to make, an income stream was maintained in respect of cancellation charges for training. Although we do not 'cost out' the other forms of contribution made by some partners, for example attendance at sub groups and identifying chairs, this has a considerable value to the work of the LSCB.

Because there is sometimes a risk that this is seen as either an informal or an additional contribution it can mean that the priority and stability attached to these can appear inconsistent or to fall disproportionately on some agencies. Maintaining a wide and inclusive approach at board and sub group level remains an important element of the ways in which as a partnership we can strengthen and enrich joint working to safeguard children.



4.7.6 It is important to note that the LSCB recognises and tries to take into account the impact of austerity on children, families and partner agencies; but equally it has to ensure that shortfalls are highlighted. In this respect the issue for the coming year is not whether the financial resource is adequate but whether partners will be able to maintain and find the time to play their part in a Board and a model that does carry the fixed infrastructure to allow any other approach.

4.7.7 As an LSCB we have not yet reached a position whereby we can be assured that we are learning all we could from the arrangements in place to ensure that there is safe recruitment and when allegations are made about adults who work with children. To some extent the Board is partially reliant on the local authority in how it reports and makes sense of its statutory role and responsibilities in this regard. The Board has continued to encourage the local authority to develop its delivery and management arrangements (which it has) and review how it assesses its experience and data in order that the Board can address, with the whole system, how effective the response is to allegations that are made about people who work with children. More importantly as a partnership we will continue to monitor and highlight the impact of government fiscal policy on service outcomes and partners. We heard during the year of the pressures on the family courts, the difficulty in recruiting staff some partners experienced as well as the need to embrace new areas of need and priority.

4.7.8 Within each partner agency there have been many positive developments relating to what they have learned and how they have been able to maintain their own arrangements and contribution to joint working; a number of thematically focused developments have been significant. These include a growing appreciation that partners, and the partnership, need to review and refresh approaches to neglect, domestic violence and FGM. This also applies to learning from children who are trafficked and are subject to honour based violence and modern slavery.

The LSCB was able to draw on the important learning from CAFCASS during the year in respect of positive responses to children party to private law proceedings. This also served to remind the board of the importance of having a clear line of sight of the times and situations when people become involved with children and their families outside of the times when there is a child protection led response. The positive developments that took place around the Early Help offer and the shared focus on addressing an integrated approach focused on risk was a feature of the Board during the year.

The Board also recognised that it needed to address the ways in which we decide and designate the reasons why decisions are made to protect children through a plan, which may suggest that how thresholds are currently explained may need to change. The Board also felt that the way in which Early Help is developing alongside the welcome introduction of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), lends credence to a view that current models and ways of describing what's expected and how it all works may soon require replacement.



These important developments have also raised some wider questions as to the need for the LSCB and partners to consider whether some of the key assumptions and models for joint working may need further development.

4.7.9 Each year we critically assess the ways in which we have been able to see things from the child's or young person's perspective and whether we have been able to listen to what they say has been important. This has been progressed with a constructive dialogue with young people who lead the shadow youth council and the youth parliament. The active involvement of young people in our annual

conference and regular challenge at Board demonstrates how what we do reflects and impacts on children and young people's experience. In turn this has increased the expectation on all partners to evidence and share how they do this and the results of their work in this area. This has provided the impetus for all partners to ensure that partnership working focuses on positive outcomes for children.

5. The coming year and new arrangements to replace the LSCB

5.1. This report highlights the continued commitment and success of partners to work together in practice and in the form of meaningful partnership. This partnership provides a place and space for partners to reflect on their own contribution in response to standards and constructive objective feedback. Additionally the partnership was able to continue to take steps that it judges will add to the long term sustainability and resilience of a culture that will ensure the ways in which children and young people are protected is the best it can be.

5.2. Critically this has meant continuing to find ways of forming a comprehensive and clear view of a complex landscape to encourage engagement and highlight the importance of safeguarding and protection for all children. When the LSCB works well it finds a way of highlighting an important issue and enabling the diverse range of partners and interests to form a view. Many of the outcomes and benefits from this process are difficult to identify as they might lead to a subtle change in approach or other actions to share information or experience. Some outcomes are concrete as these relate to the things currently necessary for successful practice such as thresholds; multi agency training; scrutiny of performance and quality; and case review. This report illustrates how activity has resulted in a range of positive impacts alongside the continuity of learning and sharing that the Board has demonstrated in each of its successive reports. It also highlights the continued importance of practitioners and leaders being able to reflect on the wider issues so as to ensure that the wider picture makes sense and is formulated on what is best for children and young people.



5.3 The report highlights the successful progress there appears to have been in making the output and outcomes from the Board more relevant to and aligned with other strategic priorities and partnerships. There remains potential to continue to explore ways of integrating the different ways in which partners formulate and assess priorities and progress, and in ensuring that

safeguarding is seen as central and not a peripheral or a distinct activity.

5.4 New legislation will see a different approach to how joint-working to protect children will be arranged. The structures and approaches created through The Children Act (2004) and subsequently developed through the various revisions of the statutory guidance have been put to one side. The basis for this is the intention to move away from what was seen as a prescriptive approach to a more permissive one, and that this will encourage innovation and flexibility.

The new approach places responsibility equally on the Local Authority, the Clinical Commissioning Group and the Chief of Police (Statutory Safeguarding Partners) to identify and decide what arrangements will replace the LSCB by September 2019. There will be a freedom and opportunity to configure the new arrangements and the role of other partner's 'relevant agencies'. This can include alignment with other local authorities and developing the best ways of translating experience into an arrangement that produces a culture of cooperation and collaboration. This should result in a clear view of what's important in maintaining the safety and protection of local children and young people. Also these arrangements have to be able to demonstrate that they can reduce and transparently respond to the times when we do not protect children from harm, neglect, abuse and exploitation.



The nature and structure of joint working and safeguarding is such that it has to reflect the perspective and approaches of different organisations and professions. It also has to address the expectation that people will be able to play their part in joint working in different ways. This means that the LSCB (and if the new arrangements conclude that this is a retained function) through its delivery of multi agency training and learning will need to make sure that the 'narrative and context' it provides is fit for purpose and resourced to achieve this. This represents a considerable ongoing challenge. Some professional roles and models are influential but do not always reflect the context and perspective of other professions and roles. The LSCB seeks to address and provide definitions and understandings that



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reduce the potential barriers that these differences can make. It is likely that future arrangements will need to carefully consider how best to approach this. In addition to the need to know how things work i.e. core processes and thresholds (when you should do something and who you should do it with) people also need to know more about the different ways in which children can tell or show us that things may not be as they should be.

5.5 Therefore the Board until such a time as it is stood down will need to attribute equal priority to maintaining current responsibilities and activities whilst contributing to the forming of new arrangements. During the year the LSCB has supported and promoted local and regional discussions with this view. Different models and configurations for the new arrangements are being considered and these may need to address a re balancing of the advantages and disadvantages of doing this on the basis of footprint greater than that of North Tyneside. It is also likely to include a consideration of what functions will be retained and if so how these can be deployed to reflect on learning and a view of what makes for successful outcomes for children as a result of partnership and joint working practice.

5.6 This report asks the reader to reflect on the strength and progress of the partnership in the contribution and leadership it has made, to the ways in which partners across North Tyneside have continued to work together to protect children and young people. The report demonstrates how the partnership has provided space, place and ways in which joint working can be maintained and strengthened; on the basis of focusing on the things that are most likely to make the most difference and seeking to build and act on learning outcomes.

6. A final word from the Chair

6.1. The new arrangements do not require or exclude the need for the partnership to be led by an independent person. So this may be my last annual report in such a role. As with the realities of practice to safeguard children, it is often a matter of judgement that is important in what may or may not make a difference. This report traditionally requires such a judgement based on the evidence available to the Board and how this has been used as to the 'sufficiency' of local arrangements to protect children and young people; promote their welfare and the effectiveness of Early Help arrangements.

6.2 There is strong evidence to support a judgement that steps have been taken by partners and the Local Authority in particular, to reach beyond 'sufficiency' towards a stronger, better defined and shared learning approach to joint working to protect children and promote their welfare including Early Help. The evidence

suggests that the local focus and connections alongside the provision of feedback, checks and balances informed by children and front line practitioners has played a significant part in this.

The Board has supported and tested many aspects of this and provided an important 'check and balance'. The Board's views have been heard, reflected on and taken seriously at all levels. The Board will seek to continue to build on this in the hope that the new arrangements will provide a similar influence.

6.3 Working Together as a principle and a requirement can too easily be characterised by apparent compliance with indicators that do not reflect the complexity or the human elements of the challenges safeguarding can represent. Whether at a strategic or operational level, when a child is trying to tell us that something is not right, we all want to be assured that the response is proportionate and optimal. Our experience in the year has continued to remind us that whilst this requires individual responses and judgments, success is contingent on a coherent, consistent and collaborative join up of process, practice and people. The evidence suggests that as partners we are getting better at recognising that assurance and practice is better served by a capacity to recognise and address when we may be at risk of losing sight of what is in a child's best interests.

I would like to formally thank all partners and their representatives for the support they provide and their willingness to share a journey down roads that may not always be smooth. It remains reassuring that in North Tyneside such challenges do not obscure or deter the desire to do the right thing for children and young people. This report affirms this and illustrates how the partnership arrangement has played some part in shaping and encouraging this.



Richard Burrows, Independent Chair
Sue Burns, LSCB Business Manager

Appendix. Finance

All LSCB member organisations have an obligation to provide LSCB's with reliable resources that enable the LSCB to be strong and effective (Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015). This includes consideration on how the resources for training, including joint training, should be made available with responsibility equally shared among statutory partners. Some partner agencies contribute financially to the Board and the total 2017/18 budget was;

Financial contributions 2017/18

North Tyneside Council	£87, 178
North Tyneside CCG	£31, 823
Northumbria Police	£ 5, 000
CAFCASS	£ 550
NPS	£ 863
CRC	£ 250
Under spend from 2016/17	£ 11,477
Total	£137,141

Partners also contribute in other ways by attending meetings, releasing staff to sit on sub groups, sharing information, responding to local and national consultations, supporting the implementation of decisions and agreements within their own organisations, and being accountable for the performance and quality of joint working arrangements collectively and on behalf of the organisations or sectors they represent.

Meeting: Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee

Date: 19 November 2018

Title: Child Sexual Exploitation

Author: Majella Tallack Tel: 0191 643 7982

Service: Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding

Wards affected: All

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide an update and overview of the current local picture in relation to work being undertaken with respect to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).

2. Recommendations

The sub-committee is recommended to note the information provided and make any recommendations.

3. Update

- All young people identified as high risk of CSE and are monitored through the Missing, Sexually Exploited and Trafficked Panel (MSET), this is the multi-agency panel which is chaired by the police and vice chaired by a Children's social care senior manager. The panel reviews the risk assessment and the risk reduction plans for our high risk young people.
- The local authorities' response to CSE reports to the Sexual Exploitation LSCB sub group.

4. Sanctuary update

- Presented at the North East regional children's social work conference.
- Supported Bright Futures in accessing schools to complete work with groups of young people
- Commenced work with schools in relation to them completing return interviews with young people that go missing from education.

5. Review of CSE Risk assessment tool

A development day was organised by Northumbria police for the 6 Local Authorities to review MSET arrangements and the Terms of Reference on 3 October 2018. The scope of the day was to review the practice of each local authority with a view to

agree and develop one consistent approach. This was a productive day and the lead police officer is drafting the agreed new Terms of Reference and Risk Assessment tool which will go out for further consultation and senior management agreement. It is expected that this can be implemented before the end of the year/ beginning of the new year. The revised risk assessment tool will incorporate modern slavery and criminal exploitation (County Lines).

6. Training

Sexual Exploitation for multi-agency workers

This quarter (1 July – 30 Sept) 44 people have completed Sexual Exploitation E-learning (face to face is no longer offered)

Preventing Sexual Exploitation for Transport Services (Taxi drivers)

This quarter (1 - July 30 Sept) 57 drivers have completed e-learning in Preventing Sexual Exploitation for Transport Services.

Refresher training has been reviewed and a short refresher test will be taken at the point of licence renewal.

Meeting: Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee

Date: 19 November 2018

Title: Domestic Abuse

Author: Majella Tallack - Safeguarding and Placement Services

Service: Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding

Wards affected: All

1. Purpose of Report

This report provides the Committee with an overview of the current local picture in relation to work being undertaken with respect of Domestic Abuse.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is requested to consider the report, offer comment and advise of any recommendations for consideration.

3. Arrangements for tackling Domestic Abuse in North Tyneside and contribution of the Domestic Abuse Partnership in delivering the strategic priorities.

(Extracted from the Report to Safer North Tyneside Board dated 30/10/18)

North Tyneside's Domestic Abuse Partnership (DAP) is the multi-agency group that co-ordinates the local approach to domestic abuse across the borough.

3.1 Local Context

The North Tyneside Domestic Abuse needs assessment was refreshed in 2018 and includes the latest data from Northumbria Police. The needs assessment highlights the challenges involved in tackling domestic abuse across the borough, identifies evidence based interventions and describes current service provision.

3.2 North Tyneside Domestic Abuse Partnership Plan

The partnerships action plan sets out the agreed priorities for the coming year and is attached at Appendix 1. The plan is informed by the North Tyneside Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment and key areas for action include:

- Preventative work in schools as part of Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) and with young people around healthy relationships;
- Awareness raising and training to ensure multi-agency staff are equipped to identify domestic abuse and sign-post or support victims. This includes children's centres; health

services e.g. GPs, Health Visitors and Schools Nurses, schools and our voluntary sector organisations;

- Operation Encompass which connects the police with schools to secure better outcomes for children who are subject or witness to police-attended incidents of domestic abuse. Rapid provision of support within the school environment means children are better safeguarded against the short, medium- and long-term effects of domestic abuse;
- Locality Teams providing early help and intervention to identify and support families who are at risk of domestic abuse;
- The Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub North Tyneside (MASH) as the single front door for all safeguarding concerns, including those related to domestic abuse;
- Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) in North Tyneside. MARACs are nationally recognised as best practice in multi-agency working to assess and support high risk victims of domestic abuse and reduce the risk of domestic homicide;
- Provision of commissioned service is an integral part of the wider multi-agency approach to tackle domestic abuse. This is focused on prevention and early intervention as well as support for victims; and
- The delivery of Perpetrator Programmes across the Northumbria police force area to address offending behaviour. These are currently funded by the Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner until March 2019.

3.3 Current Domestic Abuse Commissioned Services in North Tyneside

Domestic Abuse Service

The integrated domestic abuse service provision in North Tyneside is currently delivered by Harbour. It includes refuge based accommodation (14 units, including crèche facilities and office space), 3 dispersed properties, and a range of support services such as outreach and an Independent Domestic Violence Advisory Service (IDVA) to support those victims who are assessed as high risk.

The integrated service is a single point of contact for all self and agency referrals, and provides services to address all levels of risk, and severity of domestic abuse. It is accessible for all victims, regardless of age, as well as ensuring support is available for children and young people who have witnessed domestic abuse.

3.4 Children's Therapeutic Service

The specialist therapeutic service for children and young people (aged 4-18) who have witnessed domestic abuse is currently delivered by Acorns. This includes counselling, play therapy and wider prevention work through awareness-raising and information events. North Tyneside Council make a financial contribution to Acorns and this commissioning arrangement ends in March 2019.

In 2017/18 Acorns supported 144 children and young people who received therapeutic one-to-one support (counselling or play therapy). The majority of referrals come from Children's Services and from Schools. A scaling tool is used to collect baseline data from children in five areas of their lives. This information is recorded by the counsellor and repeated at four-

week and eight-week reviews to measure change and identify areas for further work. On completion of the programme, 98% of children reported that their situation had improved. (see appendixes for full report).

4. SafeLives Pilot

SafeLives, is a national charity dedicated to ending domestic abuse.

North Tyneside is one of 7 pilot local authorities chosen to work with SafeLives to develop and improve the response to victims and perpetrators of Domestic Abuse and Violence. SafeLives is a national charity dedicated to ending domestic abuse, for good. As part of the pilot a SafeLives Senior Knowledge Hub advisor has been on site since November 2017 and will be on site with follow up off site support for up to 2 years. The pilot operates within the Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

4.1 The whole picture for the whole family

Family members and their vulnerabilities interconnect. People do not operate in silos and neither should we.

A mental health worker supporting a vulnerable woman should know if there is domestic abuse in the household. A child safeguarding team should be aware of substance misuse at home. Without knowing about the whole family and the issues affecting them, how can we fully support them?

If information is not shared, we deal with one person and one concern at a time – through different professionals with different agendas. We are missing opportunities to help and lives are being put unnecessarily at risk. But if we work together, and build a picture of each family that reflects how people actually live their lives – we can help people earlier, and more effectively.

4.2 The One Front Door model

The One Front Door model aims to overcome this problem. The vision is to transform local systems, processes and responses so that they start making vital links between the needs of individuals and the families they belong to; this starts at the point of contact within the MASH.

The One Front Door will facilitate earlier intervention and swifter, pre-emptive action by a multi-agency specialist team who will identify the needs and risks to all family members at the same time.

The first stage of One Front Door model is known as Sooner the Better and will focus on bringing two elements together: child safeguarding and domestic abuse.

4.3 The North Tyneside pilot has and will further explore:

- Integrated referral pathway, combining the process for child safeguarding with responses to domestic abuse
- Collaborative multi-agency working, simultaneously assessing risk and need for all individuals in a family

- Timely and effective information sharing across agencies for all individuals in a family at the earliest opportunity

4.4 Summary of work undertaken so far:

- One Front Door workshops to introduce the model and gather initial feedback about the opportunities and challenges to implementing the approach in North Tyneside (Four workshops – Total of 77 staff across range of services).
- Multi-agency survey completed by staff members from different agencies across North Tyneside. The survey sought to gather views on multi-agency working, training and information sharing. The questionnaire was distributed by email and was filled in online through Survey Monkey. In total 73 responses were received.
- Interviews with Practitioners and Managers from Domestic Abuse services (Harbour) and the MASH to gather their views on multi-agency working and pathways for support for families.
- Service user consultation – with women who were receiving support from Harbour as a result of experiencing domestic abuse. Interviews and surveys which gathered views on their experience of accessing services.
- Training for Children’s Services practitioners to increase skills and confidence in having conversations with perpetrators of domestic abuse (Two half day training sessions).
- Case Audits – 5 Case audits to review the response for families referred to the MASH where there is a child safeguarding concern and domestic abuse as a risk factor. Findings and recommendations were delivered as part of a development workshop for MASH and SWAT teams.
- Mapping referral pathways and comparison with One Front Door approach to offer recommendations.
- Gathering and analysing data – including volumes of referrals to MASH and DA services.
- Development of plan for a pilot to test a new approach in the MASH which would be in line with One Front Door through a daily multi- agency triage meeting – **Launched 18 September 2018.**

5. Training

Until recently, the LSCB and SAB offered separate courses on Domestic Abuse (impact on children and impact on adults). This year, a new course has been developed: ‘*Impact of Domestic Abuse*’ and addresses issues for the whole family including the impact on children and adults at risk, this maximises resources and reduces time away from work to attend two courses.

On 5 November, a workforce development lead attended a consultation event, on the proposed Domestic Abuse Practitioner Standard (DAPS) for Northumbria, funded through the Home Office Violence against Women and Girls Transformation Fund, the training is being developed in collaboration with key partners. The aim of DAPS is to standardise,

accredit and expand the DVA training available in each of the six local authority areas within Northumbria. This will be presented to the LSCB to consider whether they want to become part of this project for higher level accreditation and training.

6 practitioners from North Tyneside have been trained in the RESPECT programme. The Respect Young People's Programme (RYPP) is a structured programme of work directed at working with families in relation to adolescent to parent violence and abuse (APVA). These workers will be expected to work with 2 families each during the initial funding period (until April 2019).

A steering group has been set up to consider adolescent to parent violence and abuse (APVA), including a pathway for referral and training strategy. A training strategy has been developed with Northumberland to provide training from awareness raising to working directly with families where this is an issue; this will be considered by both LSCB Boards.

Domestic Abuse is a common thread which runs through all Child Protection, Early Help training and is also embedded in training such as Blue Light Training (impact of alcohol on domestic abuse).

There has recently been training on '*Working with perpetrators of domestic abuse*' delivered by the Northumbria Community Rehabilitation Company.

The workforce development team are currently working with colleagues in Facilities and Fair Access (catering staff) to provide training and to identify Domestic Abuse champions for their service area (approx. 400 staff).

6. Appendices

Appendix 1 - North Tyneside Domestic Abuse Partnership Action Plan 2018-19

**North Tyneside Domestic Abuse Partnership
action plan 2018-19**

Priority 1 : Prevention				
<p>Aims</p> <p>a) Staff able to recognise the signs and indicators of domestic abuse and offer support at an early stage to prevent further violence and abuse and protect all victims regardless of age, gender or sexuality.</p> <p>b) Multi agency staff accessing appropriate domestic abuse and safeguarding training so that they have the knowledge and understanding to enable effective sign posting; support and asses risk.</p> <p>c) Young people are aware of domestic abuse and and its impact, and more likely to recognise domestic abuse in their own relationships and seek support.</p>				
No.	Action	Lead	Timescales	Evidence Progress
1 a & b	All staff will be able to recognise domestic abuse to ensure victims and their children receive the right level of support at the earliest opportunity.	Workforce Development DAP	March 2019	Professionals have raised awareness of domestic abuse and support available. Circulation of DA service leaflets, referral forms and guidance. Numbers attending training sessions and positive evaluations, including e-learning Referrals to DA services, including referrals to the perpetrator programmes. (increased/decreased/quality of referrals improved) Sample feedback 6 months following attendance at training to capture impact on practice Audits and referrals identify staff are using routinely completing the risk identification checklist in order to assess the level of risk
1 a & b	Ensure there are DA & SV Champions in all areas.	DA Coordinator DAP	March 2019	Members review list of champions and recruit new champions for any identified gaps Staff report feeling confident to support colleagues The dissemination of up to date information Staff report DA and SV information is easy to access Staff report feeling confident to make appropriate referrals
1 c	All schools in North Tyneside deliver high quality RSE in line with national guidance and are prepared to deliver the statutory curriculum	School Improvement	July 2020	All schools and APs indicate in their safeguarding audit that they <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. are delivering PSHE in line with national guidance 2. feel confident to implement the statutory changes for implementation in September 2020

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	from September 2020			
1 a & c	Awareness raising work and support for young people.	Acorns DAP	March 2019	Young people receive the right help - data sources Police and DA service providers. Number of sessions and numbers attending, positive evaluations Gaps in provision identified and funding opportunities explored.
1 a & c	All professionals working with young people are able to recognise the signs of domestic abuse in teenage relationships and know where to refer.	School Improvement Acorns	March 2019	Resources reviewed and easily accessible, and promoted widely. Professionals have raised awareness of Teen DA and the young person's version of the RIC and where to sign post and refer. An increase in appropriate referrals for young people at risk of, or experiencing DA
1 a	All professionals working with young people and families are able to recognise the signs of APVA and know where to refer.	APVA task and finish group MASH	March 2019	6 staff identified and trained by RESPECT to deliver the RYPP Referral pathway agreed Briefing sessions for managers and staff Referrals and outcomes reviewed Case audits and reviews of resources and pathways

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Priority 2 : Provision				
<p>Aims</p> <p>a) North Tyneside has high quality levels of support for victims, children and young people.</p> <p>b) Multi agency staff are assessing risk and referring when appropriate.</p> <p>c) Processes are in place to challenge perpetrators and offer them support to change their behaviour.</p>				
No.	Action	Lead	Timescales	Evidence Progress
2 a	Operation Encompass embedded as a process in North Tyneside.	LA (Children's Services and School Improvement)	March 2019	<p>School staff aware of the impact of DA on children and young people.</p> <p>Through the school's safeguarding audit ascertain that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all school staff aware of the impact of DA on children and young people having received an Operation Encompass briefing, including this being included in their induction packages • designated safeguarding leads in schools understand the referral processes when they are made aware of domestic abuse (either following on from an Encompass referral or when in receipt of local intelligence) • staff in schools are aware of the support services which can be accessed for adult victims and children
2 a	Counselling and play therapy for children and young people who have witnessed domestic abuse.	Acorns	March 2019	Number of referrals and number of sessions delivered
2 b	Domestic Abuse Health Advocate based in NHCT.	Northumbria Health Foundation Safeguarding team	March 2019	<p>Hospital staff accessing training and onsite support, initially in A&E/Maternity & Gynae, positive evaluations</p> <p>Increased referrals to MARAC and DA services from hospital based staff.</p> <p>An increase in DA Champions within the hospital settings..</p>
2 a	Harbour NT commissioned to provide IDVA, Outreach, Refuge, Dispersed properties and group work support	Harbour Support service	March 2019	<p>Statistical data and reports evidencing the number of referrals, sessions, engagement and positive outcomes.</p> <p>Case studies.</p> <p>Staff trained and experienced in providing support to victims and vulnerable people across all risk levels</p>
2 a & b	Review of the MARAC process as part of the development of the MASH and the One Front Door.	<p>NT MASH Strategic & Design groups</p> <p>Northumbria Police</p>	March 2019	<p>MARAC pilot</p> <p>Referral, including repeat referrals, numbers</p> <p>Timely research and actions</p> <p>Improved and coordinated approach to risk assessment evidenced in case audits</p> <p>A whole family approach to DA</p>

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		MARAC Steering group		
2 a	Early intervention with families	NT Locality teams		CiN and CP plans Case audits
2 a	Provide high quality specialist support to individuals who have experienced any form of sexual violence	RCTN	March 2019	Number of referrals and sessions, Service user surveys Case studies
2 a	Provide a NT Sanctuary Scheme across all tenures	NT Housing	March 2019	Number of referrals Number of service users who remain in their own home over 6 months following the installation of security measures Increased security within the home for the victim and family
2 c	Challenging perpetrators and provide support	Barnardos MATAC	March 2019	Increase in referrals to the non mandatory perpetrator programme Numbers assessed as appropriate to attend the group programme Number of successful completions Monthly MATAC meeting minutes - multi agency attendance and actions and outcomes Police data, including MATAC scores Long term reduction in offending/ domestic abuse incidents

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Priority 3 : Partnership Working				
<p>Aims</p> <p>a) Partners have a common understanding of the extent and impact of domestic abuse in North Tyneside</p> <p>b) Accurate data is available to identify priorities and gaps in provision.</p> <p>c) Partners raise awareness of domestic abuse across the borough.</p>				
No.	Action	Lead	Timescales	Evidence Progress
3 a	NT DAP to undertake a refresh of the DA needs assessment to inform a strategy and action plan.	DA Coordinator NT Public Health	September 2018	DA needs assessment
3 a	Northumbria police to undertake a problem profile of DA across the force.	Northumbria Police	May 2018	Police DA problem profile
3 b	Data collection and recording systems established to monitor and evaluate responses to DA and SV	DA Coordinator DAP members	March 2019	The DAP group has a better understanding of the extent of DA in North Tyneside and service provision. Regular updates on referrals, waiting lists, police incidents, MARAC.
3 c	The three North of Tyne Local Authorities to arrange a North of Tyne Awareness week to raise awareness of domestic abuse and the support available.	DA Coordinator DA week task & finish	November 2018	DA and SV information up to date on websites Articles in the local press Leaflets, posters, white ribbons and resources distributed Events Increased awareness among employers, staff and the community of DA and SV and its impact and what support is available. Number of referrals and source of referral

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Priority 4 : Justice Outcomes and Risk Reduction				
<p>Aims</p> <p>a) Take action to reduce the risk of domestic abuse to women and girls who are victims of these crimes and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice</p> <p>b) Multi agency staff aware of the MARAC process for high risk victims of domestic abuse</p> <p>c) Staff have a robust knowledge of risk of domestic abuse</p> <p>d) Lessons learnt from DHR's and SCR's are shared and acted upon.</p>				
No.	Action	Lead	Timescales	Evidence Progress
4 a)	Effective use of CP processes, risk assessments and safety planning to ensure children are safeguarded.	CSC	March 2019	CSC data Case audits
4 b)	All staff accessing MARAC awareness sessions to ensure they are aware of the process and how to refer.	Workforce Development	March 2019	Numbers attending MARAC awareness session and positive evaluations Multi agency referrals to MARAC MARAC self assessment Case audits
4 c)	All staff accessing appropriate training to ensure robust risk assessments are being undertaken.	Workforce Development	March 2019	Staff supervision - evidence that quality risk assessments are being routinely being completed, and appropriate referrals and actions being taken. Case audits - evidence of robust knowledge of risk Appropriate referrals
4 d)	Local and national learning and recommendations from DHR's implemented.	Safer North Tyneside DA Coordinator NT Commissioning	March 2019	DHR action plans Training updated following any lessons learnt Staff briefing sessions and feedback Protocol reviews and updates DA service delivery reviews Case audits

Meeting: Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee

Date: 19 November 2018

Title: Regional Adoption Agency

Author: Jodie Henderson Tel: 0191 643 7388

Service: Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding

Wards affected: All

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide information regarding the implementation of the Regional Adoption Agency as a hosted service within North Tyneside Children's Services.

2. Recommendations

The sub-committee is recommended to note the progress of the planning for the Regional Adoption Agency.

3. Information

The development of Regional Adoption Agency proposals is part of the national adoption agenda set out in the Department for Education (DfE) paper 'Regionalising Adoption' in June 2015. This was further developed by the Government in 'Adoption: A Vision for Change' in March 2016.

In these papers the Government has sought to address a number of challenges in adoption as follows:

Inefficiencies in the delivery of adoption services in England

Matching of children

Recruitment concerns

Adoption Support challenges

The Government has signaled a clear intention that by 2020 all local authorities will be part of regional agencies. The Education and Adoption Act 2016 makes provision for the Government to direct a local authority to have its adoption functions carried out on its behalf by another authority or adoption agency where such provision has not already been made by the Authority.

Newcastle City Council has received funding from the DfE to develop a regional Adoption Agency on behalf of the Constituent Councils, namely Northumberland County Council, North Tyneside Council, Gateshead MBC, South Tyneside Council and Newcastle City Council [and four voluntary adoption agencies - After Adoption, Barnardos, ARC NE and Durham Family Welfare (DFW)].

The vision for the RAA is to provide “Excellent adoption services that transform children’s and families’ lives for the better” The vision is supported by a range of objectives, namely:

- We place all children in a timely way in high quality, successful, life-long adoptive placements which meet all of their needs.
- Families and prospective adopters receive a high quality experience no matter where they live.
- Adoptive children and families receive the support they need for as long as they need it.
- Our skilled and dedicated staff are proud to work for the service.
- We achieve our objectives by working together in a spirit of collaboration, openness and co-production.

Local Authorities have a statutory duty to provide adoption services to all those affected by adoption living in their area. Services to meet those responsibilities are required to meet legislative requirements and Minimum Standards for Adoption Services and are inspected regularly by Ofsted to ensure they do so.

The move towards the proposed Regional Adoption Agency will not remove the statutory responsibilities placed on local authorities but will have a material impact on how those functions are organised and managed.

While all the Constituent Councils provide high performing adoption services, the Government expects that Regional Adoption Agencies will be better able to target the recruitment of prospective adopters, speed up the matching and placement of children, improve adoption support services and may create efficiency savings.

The proposed RAA would deliver the following main services across the five local authority areas:

- Recruitment and Assessment of prospective adopters;
- Matching and Placement - to match prospective adopters with children in need of adoption
- Post placement and post Adoption Order support (3 year limit)
- Support and advice to all affected by adoption
- Develop and manage all forms of post adoption contact (Post Box) between adopted children and their birth families
- Step Parent Adoption
- Inter-country Adoption

4. Adopt North East

The name selected for the Regional Adoption Agency will be 'Adopt North East', this was ratified at cabinets across the 5 participating Local Authorities in September and October. The 4 other local authorities agreed at their cabinet meetings to delegate their adoption functions to North Tyneside, work is continuing with partner authorities to ensure that they have sufficient influence over the service to meet their requirements to Ofsted and their respective children requiring adoption. It is anticipated that this will be in the form of a steering group that will meet monthly for the first 12 months and quarterly thereafter. This group will monitor performance and budget and provide challenge and support develops within the service. On an annual basis this group will invite the lead members from children's services across the 5 participating authorities to attend a meeting. The purpose of this is to ensure transparency of reporting and monitoring including of budget.

- 4.1 Adopt North East is funded by contributions from each Local Authority based on their net spend average over the preceding 3 years. The on-going budget will be agreed prior to budget setting within each Local Authority in order to ensure the service is sufficiently

resourced to meet the statutory requirements and provide the highest quality of service.

- 4.2 Adopt North East has a dedicated office within Pembroke wing of Balliol School. This area has been refurbished and equipped to meet the needs of the regional adoption service. This allows Adopt North East to have a brand identity separate to any of the participating authorities.
- 4.3 Adopt North East will be formed from the staff groups currently working across the Local Authority adoption services. Staff will TUPE into North Tyneside and work to develop the service to meet the needs of the children across the area who require permanence by adoption. It is anticipated that Adopt North East will be formed from a staff group of approximately 50 people. This includes social workers who work directly with prospective adopters to undertake assessments and to make recommendations to adoption panels that they are suitable to adopt, staff who will engage in recruitment of people interested in adoption and social work and other staff who will provide post adoption support to children and families where a child has been placed for adoption. This includes the administration of all indirect contact with birth families after a child is adopted. This is undertaken with what is called a 'post box' system which ensures information flow while protecting the identity of the adopters and adopted child as required.
- 4.4 Each area of work required to form Adopt North east is supported by a work stream lead within North Tyneside, and participation for the relevant officers within each participating authority. This includes Human Resources and Payroll, ICT and information governance, communications and data performance. The service will use the Liquid Logic ICT system within children's services and performance data will be produced from this to support monthly reporting to a steering group of the 5 participating Local Authorities. Each of the work stream areas reports to an implantation manager within North Tyneside a minimum of weekly to ensure progress against the time line.

5. Progress to date.

- 5.1 It is anticipated that Adopt North East will become a service from the 1st December 2018. It is acknowledged that as with any service development there will continue to be adjustment and learning as it matures. In support of this timescale, the building has been prepared and is ready for staff to move in. The transfer of data from the other 4 Local Authorities is underway and the proposed policies and procedures of Adopt North East

are being consulted upon within the 5 participating Local Authority's. The ICT equipment has been ordered and training and development plans are in place along with events planned to bring together the staff group and adopter support groups to promote continued engagement as the service develops.