

NORTHUMBERLAND TYNE AND WEAR NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Meeting Date:	22 nd June 2016
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Title and Author of Paper:	Local Safeguarding Children's Board Update Report Jan Grey, Head of Safeguarding and Public Protection
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Executive Lead:	Gary O'Hare Executive Director of Nursing and Operations
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Paper for Debate, Decision or Information:	Information
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Key Points to Note:	Regular update report for information.
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Risks Highlighted to Board :	
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Does this affect any Board Assurance Framework/Corporate Risks? Please state Yes or No- If Yes please outline	No
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Equal Opportunities, Legal and Other Implications:	
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Outcome Required:	The Board is asked to note the content of this report.
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Link to Policies and Strategies:	
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Introduction

This paper provides a brief update on issues raised at each of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards in the area covered by the Trust.

Northumberland Children: Vida Morris Group Nurse Director, Trust Representative

Northumberland Safeguarding Children's Board met on 31/5//2016

Asylum Seekers & Refugees in Northumberland

Members received a presentation from the housing services manager, the key points to note

The Home Office required offers of assistance to place Asylum Seekers and Refugees from all areas including Syria from those Local Authorities willing to help.

Northumberland County Council has not previously been an asylum dispersal area as the Home Office contractor, G4S had chosen not to identify accommodation in the county (rather than NCC refusing to offer support). Widening dispersal in Northumberland is now being considered by G4S.

A proposal was developed and then agreed by Cabinet on the 10th May enabling an offer to be submitted to the Home Office for support for receiving refugees under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme (SVPRS) (paragraph 8 below).

It is currently not the Council's intention to accept Unaccompanied Children as part of the offer.

G4S are now actively identifying properties in Northumberland for the placement of Asylum Seekers awaiting determination of their refugee status

Alan Wood report March 2016- Review of the role and functions of Local Safeguarding Children Boards

Members received the recently published report that report sets out a new framework for improving the organisation and delivery of multi-agency arrangements to protect and safeguard children. It contains recommendations for government to consider. These recommendations suggest that appropriate steps should be taken to recast the statutory framework that underpins the model of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs), Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) and Child Death Overview Panels (CDOPs). The report argues that on a scale of prescriptive to permissive arrangements, the pendulum has locked itself too close to a belief that we should say how things should be done as opposed to what outcomes we want for children and young people.

Local Safeguarding Children Boards -The government's response to Alan Wood CBE- May 2016

Members received the response to the Wood report indicating:

- LSCB current arrangements are inflexible and too often ineffective. Meetings take place involving large numbers of people, but decision-making leading to effective action on the ground can be all too often lacking.
- The Government will introduce a flexible statutory framework that will support local partners to work together more effectively to protect and safeguard children and young people, embedding improved multi-agency behaviours and practices. This framework will set out clear requirements for the key local partners, while allowing them freedom to determine how they organise themselves to meet those requirements and improve outcomes for children locally. To ensure engagement of the key partners in a better coordinated, more consistent framework for protecting children, placing a new requirement on three key partners, namely local authorities, the police and the health service, to make arrangements for working together in a local area.
- Replace the current system of SCRs and miscellaneous local reviews with a system of national and local reviews in order to bring greater consistency to public reviews of child protection failures; establishing an independent National Panel which would be responsible for commissioning and publishing national reviews and investigate the most serious and/or complex cases relating to children in circumstances which the Panel considers will lead to national learning.
- Child Death Overview Panel arrangements to transfer national oversight of CDOPs from the Department for Education to the Department of Health, whilst ensuring that the keen focus on distilling and embedding learning is maintained within the necessary child protection agencies.

The CADAN Project

Members received a presentation on the CADAN project that aims to provide children and young people from Northumberland with an evidence based specialist domestic violence and abuse service which addresses the emotional, psychological and physical harms arising from the effects of domestic violence and abuse and to increase the safety of children and young people in their home and their community.

Newcastle: Dr Jonathon Richardson, Group Medical Director, Trust Representative

Newcastle Safeguarding Children's Board met 18/5/2016

The Missing/Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking sub group update

Members received an update of the:

- M-SET strategic plan to improve outcomes for children and young people at risk due to going missing, including from education; sexual exploitation and trafficking
- effective links with other strategic and service plans to prevent duplication
- implications of policy, legislation, research and guidance
- Development and monitor performance management data

Outcome of Ofsted's Inspection of the Linhope Pupil Referral Unit

The Linhope Pupil Referral Unit was recently inspected by Ofsted. Unfortunately the Inspectors have concluded that the school is "inadequate" and therefore requires special improvement measures.

Ofsted have found that there are weaknesses in leadership and governance arrangements. There has been insufficient challenge and support to the leadership of the PRU to return the pupils to mainstream education or find them specialist support. We accept that the Council should have done more to intervene.

Ofsted's report was published on their website on Friday 18 March 2016. An action plan is already being implemented to make sure this happens

Immediate steps have been taken to ensure that children are safe – in particular by ensuring attendance is properly recorded and monitored. We had already reorganised and strengthened the Council's education team to ensure we have the right capacity to work with the leadership of the PRU and the wider school community on this issue, and we are strengthening the PRU's management committee.

Early Help Annual Report Presentation

In Newcastle early help has a dual meaning. It is used to describe both: Intervening early in a child's life. And: Intervening as soon as a problem is identified in a family or in an individual's life to provide the most appropriate support and to prevent problems developing further.

Using the Common Assessment Framework (CAF)

There were 887 CAFs initiated over the period 2015/16. This is a slight increase (from 856 the previous year).

0-5 year olds account for the largest proportion of CAFs initiated over 2015/16, accounting for 45% (404) of all CAFs initiated.

CAF's are often logged with a range of different issues identified within the family. The issues most commonly logged were:

- Emotional and behavioural problems
- Transition – moving from Tier 4

- Housing situation
- Parenting
- Educational Issues
- Mental Health: parent/carer
- Income/ Poor financial management

Key objectives for 16/17:

- To identify and to work with families to reduce the need for child protection intervention
- To work with families and communities to build capacity and resilience
- To engage universal and community based services in developing and enhancing the early help offer –move to Early Help Assessment
- (Early Help Strategic Group and Schools Safeguarding Group)
- To strengthen the early help infrastructure to be better able to capture outcomes

North Tyneside Jane Carlisle Group Medical Director, Trust Representative

Safeguarding Children’s Board met on 9/5/2016

Children’s Services Peer Challenge: North Tyneside, April 2016

Members received the feedback letter from the Peer Challenge that was undertaken by ADASS. The focus of the Challenge was safeguarding and more specifically,

- Effectiveness of early help
- Effectiveness of contact, referral and assessment
- Effectiveness of safeguarding
- Ofsted Readiness

Strengths was acknowledged as well areas for improvement. The feedback was agreed by members to be incorporated into the improvement plan.

Concordat on Children in Custody

It is of the greatest importance that police and local authorities work together to ensure that the welfare of children is protected and these statutory obligations to some of the most vulnerable children in society are met.

Children should not be spending the night in police cells when the law entitles them to be transferred to alternative accommodation. To improve transfer arrangements, two factors are essential: a clear understanding of your respective duties and effective local collaboration between police forces and local authorities. It is to drive improvement in these areas that a multi-agency Working Group on Children in Custody, led by the Home Office and Department for Education, has developed the Concordat on Children in Custody. The Concordat clearly sets out each party’s responsibilities and provides a protocol for how transfers should work in practice. Between its signatories, it is both an agreement of understanding and a declaration of commitment to ensuring that these

duties are fulfilled. The Government will be publishing the Concordat in England shortly and we would like to ask all local authorities, police forces and PCCs to become signatories in advance so that your commitment to children in your area can be reflected in the published document. Members agreed to sign up to the Concordat.

Numbers of Private Fostering arrangements in North Tyneside

There are currently only three known private fostering arrangements known to North Tyneside Council (March 2016). These are all White British girls, who are aged 4 years, and two 14 year olds. The reasons for the arrangements vary and these include family breakdown triggered by parental mental health issues or challenging behaviours of the young person.

Whilst the number of Private Fostering arrangements remain low, there does continue to be work put into each notification as it is received into the service. For example, during the year 1 April 2015 – 31 March 2016 there were nine arrangements assessed altogether although six of these did not last. The reasons the arrangements ended remain varied also and include two children going home, one child moving into mainstream foster care and three children being made subject to a legal order. This evidences that when appropriate the Local Authority is being proactive in securing permanence for these children. It is of note that all nine of the arrangements known about in 2015-2016 were of female children.

Raising awareness within Social Care is already embedded, however wider publicity awareness raising is still required, although research has suggested that even well-funded public media campaigns by Local Authorities have limited impact on increasing numbers of notifications. It is hoped that within the next year that there will be the facility to update leaflets for young people, private foster carers and parents and raise awareness across partner agencies. Private Fostering will remain part of the fundamental safeguarding training within North Tyneside, and consideration needs to be given to further publish and update the intranet.

South Tyneside: Ann Marshall Group Nurse Director, Trust Representative

The Safeguarding Board met on 26/5/2016

Joint Targeted Area Inspection, (JTAI) update CSE

A JTAI took place during February, of the multi-agency response to abuse and neglect provided by partners across South Tyneside. The inspection included a “deep dive” focus on the response to child sexual exploitation and those missing from home, care and education. The results of the inspection were broadly positive although there is some significant learning for the partnership. The inspectors positively identified our work in increasing awareness of CSE, for the commitment of all leaders in all agencies to tackle the problems and for the quality of much of the front line practice. Work is already in progress to develop the multi-agency improvement plan.

Child Sexual Exploitation

Operation Sanctuary South an initiative from Northumbria Police in conjunction with South Tyneside, Gateshead and Sunderland is now live. The key purpose of this initiative is to build on the key learning from Operation Sanctuary and have operational teams that can tackle child sexual exploitation, sexual exploitation, human trafficking and modern day slavery.

The CSE, Missing and Trafficked profile for 2015/16 is work in progress. The profile is to include comparator information with the 2014/15 profile in order to clearly highlight the current position, trends and themes in South Tyneside. The profile will be presented at the Executive Board meeting in August.

South Tyneside in partnership with Rochdale, Oldham, Calderdale and Oxfordshire Council and the GW Theatre Company are part of a project that has developed a drama production and resources for teachers to raise the awareness of CSE with children aged 10-12 yrs. A small delegation of multi-agency partners from South Tyneside attended a pilot show in Rochdale. Since then the drama production has been viewed by three Primary Schools in South Tyneside. The initial feedback is that the children were all very engaged. Awaiting more feedback from the schools that took part.

A number of multi-agency awareness raising events will be taking place around the role and purpose of the Missing, Sexually Exploited and Trafficked LSCB sub group. This will include advice and guidance on use of the new MSET documentation, the referral process and the expectations of multi-agency partners

FGM - Multi-Agency Advice from DfE

On Friday 1st April the Government published, under powers in the Serious Crime Act 2015, multi-agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation and the consultation response.

Gateshead: Damian Robinson, Medical Director, Trust Representative:

Gateshead Safeguarding Children Board met on 4th May 2016

Development Day Feedback

Sixteen Board members and six deputies attended the annual development session on 16 March and participated in very useful discussions around partner agency progress, performance data, Board progress (with a focus on Leadership, Challenge and Learning), the voice of the child, LSCB effectiveness and moving forwards into 2016-2017. A lot of the areas raised will be included in the 2015-2016 annual report or 2016-2017 action plan for the Business Plan. It was agreed that the BPG will be used more effectively to free up more discussion time in full Board meetings. Therefore when the BPG determines that that a report does not contain any risks that Board members

should be aware of full Board for information. If the BPG determines however that there are risks contained in a report or action is required, the paper will still be presented for full discussion at the full Board meeting. Board members present at the development session also agreed that Gateshead would not contribute to the national Association of Independent LSCB Chairs. Members will recall that Gateshead agreed to contribute £1,500 last year and review that decision after 12 months and it was felt that there had been little benefit seen for the Board and members could no longer justify.

Section 11 audit

Members received an update on Section 11 audits. In total there were 89 responses submitted to the 2016 section 11 audit. The results were discussed in full at the Development Day, however it was identified that two LSCB partner agencies were required to submit additional information to evidence compliance. This has now been achieved and all agencies listed as statutory partners submitted a response and evidenced compliance. All agencies in Gateshead who have a duty placed on them by section 11 were able to evidence arrangements that reflect the importance of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, including clear lines of accountability, leadership, a culture of listening to children, whistleblowing arrangements, information sharing arrangements, arrangements for dealing with allegations, safe recruitment practices and appropriate arrangements to support staff. No response was received from the Home Office (UK Visas and Immigration) and Cafcass submitted a national template response which was not comparable with all other local responses. However, as neither are listed as statutory partners under section 11 it was agreed not to pursue this further, although it was acknowledged that it would have been best practice to have responses from all partners represented on Gateshead LSCB. There were six schools in Gateshead who did not respond to the initial request to complete the audit and 44 schools who submitted a response but did not provide sufficient evidence to give full assurances on compliance. All schools have since been approached by the Safeguarding – Education manager in the Safeguarding children unit and 14 schools have since responded.

Risks

In order to achieve the objectives set out in the LSCB Business Plan, Board members were asked to commit to driving forward the action plan linked to the Year Two update and commit to the new LSCB Inquiry and the work of the Board in general. At present there are no specific failures identified around this and therefore no specific risks to the Board. If the Board is unable to demonstrate progress in relation to areas covered by the Ofsted Inspection Framework then there is a risk to the LSCB should it be inspected and a risk to the reputation of the Board and all partners if the Board was to be judged as anything less than good.

Sunderland: Anne Moore, Group Nurse Director, Trust Representative

The Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board met on 26/4/2016.

Board Frontline Staff Sessions

The purpose of the report was to recommend that the SSCB Meet the Board – Frontline Staff Sessions be reintroduced from April 2016, Frontline staff sessions were in place from 2009-2013 .The purpose was to improve the engagement between staff and managers working with children and their families and Board members. Sessions were held 4 times a year, and were used to work with staff to identify good practice, areas for development and what role the Board could play. Findings of the sessions were evaluated and presented in an annual report.

The SSCB was inspected by Ofsted in 2015 and was found to be Inadequate and a number of recommendations were given to the SSCB. The frontline sessions can be used to evidence Recommendation 143 of the Ofsted Inspection for the LSCB (the Board must be able to effectively monitor the quality and impact of services for children across the partnership) and satisfy LSCB statutory objectives and functions. Members agreed to nominate Board Members / Safeguarding Leads from their agencies to facilitate the sessions.

MALAP

The Board asked for an update in relation to Performance of LAC, the main points of which are:

- LAC numbers are falling
- Numbers of Children placed more than 20 miles remain static
- Percentage of Children with 3+ placements remains static
- LAC visits completed within timescale improves month on month
- Percentage of LAC reviews held in timescale Remains high
- Health check data is not accurate, but we need the data supplied on an individual basis in order that it can be included within the statutory return.
- Care leavers in EET and suitable accommodation shows a month on month improvement – this is linked to the 8 week visit schedule.
- Adoption timescales are good, but this is an improving picture.

Missing Sexually Exploited and Missing Report

Summary Points of Report

- The SSCB CSE Delivery Plan was discussed at the subgroup
- There is good progress and evidence is being added to the plan.
- It was accepted that more progress has been made than evidenced.

It was agreed to undertake some work to incorporate the evaluation criteria outlined in the Ofsted •

MSET Operational Group

- There were two escalated cases discussed- However the process worked and appropriate safeguarding measures were taken.

- Police Missing Data – Detailing the top 10 missing persons and top 5 missing locations
- An issue was raised around a placement of two YP from North Tyneside which partner agencies were unaware. It provoked further discussion around Forever Care as a provider.
- MSET non-attendance (general) – there are issues of non-attendance by Education representatives.
- MSET non-attendance referring agency – the non-attendance of Social Workers at MSET Operational Group has improved significantly from previous months and will continue to be monitored.
- Concerns were raised around the accommodation provided to some of the MSET cohort who were looked after children. Although it was accepted the challenge in this area.
- Outstanding MSET Actions – a new process is being developed to effectively manage MSET actions and updates

Gary O'Hare
Executive Director of Nursing and Operations