

NORTHUMBERLAND, TYNE AND WEAR NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

Meeting Date: 24 February 2016

Title and Author of Paper: Safeguarding Children Board Annual Reports 2014/2015
Jan Grey Head of Safeguarding and Public Protection

Paper for Debate, Decision or Information: Information

Key Points to Note:

The attached paper provides a brief overview of the Safeguarding Children Annual reports for 2014 – 2015 with a link to the full reports.

Outcome required:

Board to note the outcome of the report

Northumberland Safeguarding Children's Board Annual report 2014/2015

This report provides an insight into the work of all agencies involved in safeguarding children and our progress and achievements in Northumberland over the preceding year. Work as a partnership has taken place during a period of continuing intensive change, in which safe practice has to be set in the context of achieving significant efficiencies. Despite this, the Board and its members have continued to work well together, remaining focused on our priority of protecting children and young people in the county. The year on year increases in the number of children and young people being referred for support and/protection in Northumberland are a challenge, but they also evidence positive progress in partnership safeguarding practice. The increase in the number of notifications reflects on-going work to raise awareness of children's safeguarding, and the development of early help strategies to improve the prospect of children enjoying better lives.

Key Achievements;

- Improving working together at a time of change
- Achieving a focus on children, young people and their journey
- Early Intervention and Early Help
- Vulnerable children who live in high need households
- Vulnerable Adolescents

The board also agreed to focus on the following groups:

- Children and young people who are at risk of or are being sexually exploited
- Children who self-harm/attempt, or are at risk of attempting, suicide
- Children who live in high need households and where there are lots of professionals involved

Board Strategic Priorities for 2015-16

- Improving focus on the child's experience of services and better embedding it in practice
- Further promoting preventative and early help approaches
- Improving partnership working with education services on the safeguarding agenda
- Improving support to especially vulnerable children and high risk adolescents
- Reviewing our response to sexual exploitation

[Annual Reports\NorthumberlandSCB-report-2014-15.pdf](#)

North Tyneside Safeguarding Children's Annual Report 2014/15

Working Together 2015 sets out that the Annual Report should provide a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services. This report identifies areas of strength and weakness, the causes of those weaknesses and the action being taken to address them. The report includes lessons from serious case reviews undertaken within the reporting period. It is also an assessment of the effectiveness of the Board and the partnership it represents and this judgment is made on the basis of providing an account of and an account for how the Board fulfilled its statutory functions and responsibilities. The report rightly highlights the continuing

dilemma of how to respond to an increasingly complex agenda to higher standards from an inclusive basis and a limited resource base. It is the view of the Board that this report provides a level of assurance and a level of challenge on the basis of strong and effective partnership working that is undertaking both significant transitions and improvements to further ensure that children and young people are protected, and as far as is possible the factors that can contribute to neglect and abuse are being addressed and that the joint working culture is focused, aware and able to learn so as to improve.

In January 2015 Board members met to formally review progress against the business plan and agree future priorities. It was agreed that the business plan will be more focused on the specific role and remit of the LSCB in ensuring that the welfare of children and young people is safeguarded and protected as set out in Working Together 2015. It focuses on maintaining core functions (case review and quality of practice, policies and procedures, high quality multi agency training, engagement of children and young people, as well as ensuring that priorities agreed locally and nationally are progressing (for example child sexual exploitation, private fostering). It will move to a way of working which emphasises the collective leadership role of the LSCB membership rather than the individual roles of each organization

This resulted in a move in a 3-year business plan to align with the North Tyneside Children and Young People's Plan 2014 – 18.

[NTSCB Annual Report 2014-2015.pdf](#)

Newcastle Safeguarding Children's Board Annual report 2014/15

Our approach to understanding our local needs is drawn from a number of sources, which includes Newcastle Future Needs Assessment; internal and external reviews; inspection; audit; performance information; national drivers and re-search. The business plan sets out the underpinning references that have informed its development.

We know that there are approximately 67, 000 children and young people under the age of 18 in Newcastle; with 59% of 0-4 year olds; 61% of primary school pupils and 58% of secondary school pupils living in the 30% most deprived areas. 29% of children under 16 years live in poverty, compared to the England and Wales National average of 21%.

Some families are complex and multiple factors are present which impact upon parenting capacity and family function. We know that domestic violence was an issue in 33% of all initial assessments by Children's Social Care, which also included concerns relating to parental mental health, parental alcohol misuse and physical abuse and neglect (Newcastle Children and Young People's Plan 2015-2020).

Priorities 2014- 2016

Early Help and Protection

The Munro review of child protection in 2011 strengthened the view that early help is more effective in promoting the welfare of children than reacting later.

Engaging Children and Young People

Effective ongoing action to keep the child in focus includes: developing a direct relationship with the child; obtaining information from the child about his or her situation; providing children with honest and accurate information about the current situation and possible actions; involving the child in key decision making; ensuring children have access to independent advice and support and involvement in staff recruitment.

Leadership, Accountability and Continuous Improvement

Working Together 2015 states that everyone who works with children has a responsibility for keeping them safe

Early Help and Protection

During 2014/15 NSCB has continued to scrutinise and challenge the implementation of the 'early help' offer in Newcastle.

Engaging Children and Young People

NSCB hears from Newcastle's Looked After population through regular reporting of their views using Viewpoint (a computer assisted interviewing process) and through Voices for Choices.

Continuous Improvement

Learning from reviews will be disseminated through practitioner learning events during 2015/16

Child sexual exploitation

A Police led operation has been ongoing in Newcastle since January 2014, into the sexual exploitation of young girls and adults. This has provided the platform for a whole system review of local arrangements to safeguard children, young people and adults from the risks and effects of sexual exploitation. During 2014/15 organisations were assisted to undertake a self assessment which enabled them to identify areas for improvement within their service area.

[NewcastleSCB annual report 2014-15.pdf](#)

South Tyneside Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report 2014/2015

The Annual Report sets out the activity of the Board and its sub groups, and provides an assessment on the effectiveness of the multi-agency arrangements and partnership working towards safeguarding children and young people in South Tyneside.

Key Priorities/achievements 2014/15, these included:

- Develop the influence and local Impact of the Local Safeguarding Children Board;
- Develop a strong multi agency quality and performance framework;
- Develop and influence the multi agency safeguarding arrangements across South Tyneside to ensure compliance with Working Together 2013;
- Develop a greater understanding of the local safeguarding risk areas and to take appropriate action to reduce risk taking behaviours;

- Enhance learning and improvement to positively influence multi agency safeguarding practice.
- Despite the range of changes and challenges at both a local and national level, there is a continued commitment by partners at both strategic and operational levels to maintain the safety and wellbeing of the children and young people in South Tyneside. Safeguarding arrangements in South Tyneside are robust and effective, and that where improvements have been required partners have acted urgently and comprehensively to address them. Change and improvement is not achieved overnight, and there is work still to be done, the work reported in this Annual Report; the priorities identified for the Business Plan in 2014/17 all provide a solid foundation for ensuring effective safeguarding practice and for supporting all agencies to continue to improve. The Board is building an effective process of self-review and learning from practice, performance data and case reviews that will allow it to have confidence in partnership arrangements.

[SouthTyneside Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2014-15.pdf](#)

Gateshead Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report 2014/2015

The LSCB holds a central role in leading and coordinating the work of those agencies who work to keep children safe and has continued to strengthen its own arrangements in 2014-2015. In previous years we have talked about the challenges that we face in Gateshead and there is no doubt that those challenges have continued over the last year. Again, we continue to have high numbers of children in the care of Gateshead Council and high numbers of children with child protection plans, especially for neglect. The past twelve months have also seen an increased focus on Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) following high profile issues in other areas such as Rotherham, and also more locally Operation Sanctuary in the Northumbria Police force area. The LSCB has challenged agencies to work together to safeguard young people from this devastating form of abuse and continues to scrutinise arrangements in place to ensure that professionals, carers and young people themselves are aware of the signs of CSE and how best to respond.

Our priorities continue to respond to both local and national issues:

The national issues of CSE and our work locally with Operation Sanctuary have supported the continuous development of our capability to identify risk and respond to incidents of exploitation. This has included the LSCB moving from a working group to a standing sub group to focus on the CSE strategically

The LSCB Performance Framework identified the high proportion of children in Gateshead subject to child protection plans under the category of neglect. Therefore we commissioned our first inquiry to examine this. The results showed the positive outcomes of recent service redesign and the existence of healthy challenge in decision making. The inquiry will also inform the review of guidance for practitioners, prevention strategies and the overriding case for a child-centred but family-focussed approach to planning

The LSCB has continued to develop its own understanding of the adverse impact of domestic abuse on children and has supported the development of a Multi Agency

Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and Operation Encompass in order to enhance a truly holistic approach to identifying concerns, solving problems and supporting families

[Gateshead LSCB-annual-report-2014-2015.pdf](#)

Sunderland Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report 2014/2015

The work of Local Children Safeguarding Boards (LSCBs) is so important in that they are required to provide that crucial oversight of the work delivered by the multi-agency safeguarding Partnership to ensure that everything possible is done to help and protect those who are most in need of safeguarding. This means that the LSCB needs to be ever vigilant in order to recognise when the 'system' is under pressure and be ready to take steps to effect are remedy before failings occur. In order to be successful, effective monitoring, scrutiny and challenge across all members of the safeguarding partnership is a fundamental requirement.

Regrettably, some of these important tasks and responsibilities of the LSCB have not always been discharged to the appropriate standard. During 2014/15 the LSCB became distracted by an unusually high number of Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) meaning that a number of its core duties and responsibilities dropped off the LSCB's 'radar'. During the second part of this year the Board recognised this to be the case and focussed quickly on a remedial plan to address this. As the 12 month period pertinent to this report (2014/15) drew to a close, significant rapid progress had been made in terms of remedy. Early into the new financial year (2015/16) Ofsted inspected Children's Services in Sunderland, including assessing the effectiveness of the LSCB. Whilst recognising that the LSCB had already commenced its own 'recovery plan' Ofsted considered it too early to judge whether such change would deliver positive outcomes for Sunderland's children and young people and in consequence set out seven specific recommendations for the LSCB. These recommendations have already been turned in to an Action Plan with a significant number of the deficits on a completion trajectory.

SSCB Priorities 2015/2016

Neglect

- SSCB must undertake a mapping exercise across all agencies to understand our collective response to children and families from universal services and early help offers to child protection
- Commission a piece of work to understand what is the universal offer and collective offer
- Neglect Strategy to be developed and endorsed by all agencies
- Audits regarding cases of neglect

Toxic Trio

- CPPs and CIN plans clearly indicate issues of the Toxic Trio and identify causation of these issues where possible
- Commission a piece of work to understand what is the universal offer and collective offer?

- Measure and demonstrate a positive impact on outcomes for children from the work of the SSCB
- Training to be reviewed for DV, Mental Health and the impact on parenting capacity and substance misuse and the impact on parenting capacity

Risk taking behaviour

- Commissioning a piece of work from Public Health colleagues and others regarding prevalence of risk taking behaviour
- Early Help Strategy should interface with Risk Management Model and CSE strategy
- Performance data should demonstrate more children being supported in early help arena when issues of risk taking
- Measure and demonstrate a positive impact on outcomes for children from the work of the SSCB

[SSCB Annual Report Final 121015.pdf](#)