

**NORTHUMBERLAND TYNE AND WEAR NHS FOUNDATION TRUST**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**Meeting Date:** 27 January 2016

**Title and Author of Paper:**

Local Safeguarding Children's Board Update Report

Jan Grey, Head of Safeguarding and Public Protection

**Paper for Debate, Decision or Information: Information**

**Key Points to Note:**

Regular update report for information.

**Outcome required:**

The Board is asked to note the content of this report.

## **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 24/11/2015

### **OPERATION ENCOMPASS**

The board received a presentation on the Operation from Northumbria Police. Operation Encompass was created so that by the morning of the next school day, a nominated person will be informed that the child or young person has been involved in a domestic incident. This information, is then given to schools through Operation Encompass, enables swift, early intervention through 'silent' or 'overt' support, depending upon the needs and wishes of the child.

Northumbria Police proposed that this could be rolled out to all 6 Local Authorities. The Operation was created in Plymouth and has been funded and piloted in Gateshead where there has been positive feedback from schools and partners.

The key consideration for Board members was the significant resource requirement of an unfunded roll out. If the NSCB endorse the idea, funding would need to be explored.

### **ABSENCE CATEGORY**

Introduction to the absence category:- Northumbria Police

Northumbria Police will in future introduce the 'absence' category, in line with national practice, to their service. Police currently treat anyone whose whereabouts is not known as missing and a report written which is resource-intensive. A risk-based approach will now be implemented to adopt the new definition. The change will have an impact on LSCBs data around children who go missing, and in particular Looked After Children. A child or young person will be reported as absent, for example, in the context of when they are past their curfew but have informed carers. However where there is significant risk the category will be escalated to 'missing'

### **PERFORMANCE & STATISTICAL INFORMATION**

**The number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan in Northumberland is significantly** higher than the national average. It was noted that in the past where numbers have increased work has been done around decision-making. A recommendation was made that Children's Services provides a drilldown into the data and that the QIPLSCB sub group will assess the need for audit of decision-making.

**NEWCASTLE: DR JOHNATHON RICHARDSON, GROUP MEDICAL DIRECTOR, TRUST REPRESENTATIVE**

Newcastle Safeguarding Children's Board met 18/11/2015

**NSCB Delivery Plan and Overview Report**

It was reported that the overview report was produced and the priority for the Neglect Strategy is underway. The Neglect Strategy and training plan guidance was presented to members, there was a concern raised by members that as yet not established in Newcastle.

**ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION POLICY**

The procedures have been revised to increase the vigilance following contact from parents stating they want to home educate their child especially when they suspect this decision is the result of a conversation with their current/former school.

There are currently around 80 EHE children in Newcastle and under the rag rating system, a high number of these children are rated as amber or red. Although the numbers are larger than some national comparators, this is not considered a concerning difference and the LA have put in more robust procedures to ensure children are safeguarded.

**SECTION 47 LEAFLETS**

Members received leaflets undertaken by parents and carers have devised a Section 47 leaflet to assist other families when CSC commences a Section 47 investigation. The leaflets are being trialled with parents of disabled children.

**NORTH TYNESIDE RAJESH NADKARNI, GROUP MEDICAL DIRECTOR, TRUST REPRESENTATIVE**

**Safeguarding Children's Board met on 23/11/2015**

**Child Death Overview Panel Annual Report**

Members received an overview of the draft annual report for Child Deaths  
The modifiable factors were discussed in the meeting :

- Importance of the whooping cough immunisation being given during pregnancy. This .
- Capacity issues in service delivery

- Smoking and maternal obesity during pregnancy
  - Drowning - Risk of uncovered garden ponds
  - Raising awareness of inherited disease when parents are related (Consanguinity)
  - Asthma - poor attendance re routine follow ups with GP/hospital.
  - Delayed recognition of treatment side effect
  - Safe Sleeping
- Alcohol
  - Drugs
  - Bed/settee sharing
  - Smoking
  - Side Sleeping

Members endorsed the report

### **INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICER ANNUAL REPORT**

An annual report by the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Service for looked after children is required in accordance with the Children and Young Person's Act 2008 and subsequent statutory care planning guidance published in 2010.

Key statistics:

- There were a total of 302 looked after children and young people on 31st March, 2015
- There were a total of 305 looked after children and young people on 1st April 2014
- The IRO service has completed 813 reviews during this period

### **PRIVATE FOSTERING**

The number of notifications of new Private Fostering Arrangements to date was two in North Tyneside. Within the period of the report there have been three cases where action was taken in regards to Private Fostering, and in each case action was taken within 7 days of notification which complies with statutory requirements.

There have been six new notifications in the period, these are all female children. The ages vary from 4 years to 15 years. All the children are White British.

Regionally the number of Private Fostering arrangements varies, however, as a small local authority, North Tyneside numbers have always been relatively low in comparison. Six Private Fostering arrangements is the highest number known about at any one time since 2013.

## **SOUTH TYNESIDE: ANN MARSHALL GROUP NURSE DIRECTOR**

The Safeguarding Board met on 15/10/2015

### **LSCB Self-Assessment**

Members received a presentation on the self-assessment document. The self-assessment of the LSCB is based on the Ofsted inspection criteria. In order to support the judgement areas of each section RAG rating has been applied. In addition actions are identified of where improvement can be made to progress to a RAG rating of green. The action plan that will support the self-assessment will be strengthened following the views of members from both the LSCB Management Group and Executive Board. The Board consider the self-assessment and advised on;

- RAG rating of each section
- Areas for improvement and further actions required
- The agreed provisional grade for the LSCB from which to work from
- Views around effectively evidencing the impact of the work of the LSCB

### **CHARGING POLICY FOR TRAINING NON ATTENDERS**

The STSCB reported in the 2014-2015 Annual Training Report a high Did Not Attend, DNA, rate of 31%. This DNA rate was in fact higher as there are a number of people who arrive on the date of the training - realistically the DNA is 51%. Board members agreed in principal to the charging policy for agencies.

### **EARLY HELP STRATEGY- update**

In South Tyneside we have replaced the use of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) with a simplified Early Help process of Assessment, Plan and Review. Early Help activity and its impact are monitored by an Early Help Operational Management Group (EHOMG). Representatives from all partners sit on this group.

On 22 September 2015 there were 580 open Early Help Plans. This is increase of 82 plans (18%) since May 2015. Approximately half of all Early Help Assessments are initiated by schools, 30% are led by Children's Centres, Services for Young People and other partners such as health and the voluntary sector combined. The remaining 20% are complex cases sitting just below the threshold for social care intervention and are led by the Early Response Team.

Numbers of children and young people across the whole age-range requiring a Child in Need plan have reduced from 1330 in June 2014 to 916 in June 2015 (having been static in the 1200-1300 range between 2012 and 2014). This represents a reduction of 31%. More than one year's data will be needed to attribute this to the focus on early help from 2013 onwards, but evidence of the longer-term focus on the early years would suggest this could be the case.

**GATESHEAD: ANNE MOORE, GROUP NURSE DIRECTOR, TRUST REPRESENTATIVE:**

Gateshead Safeguarding Children Board met on 4/11/2015

**CSE update**

Work is ongoing around implementation of Project Sanctuary South with the three local authorities. Consultation has started and is hoped to be live in April 2016. For a multi-agency team working with sexual exploitation victims. The Board were informed that discussions have taken place regarding the LSCB Strategic CSE and Trafficking Sub Group and a similar sub group of the Safeguarding Adults Board and proposed that the two groups merge as there are cross cutting themes and also very similar membership. It is proposed that the group will continue to be chaired by the DCI on behalf of both Boards. This proposal was endorsed by members

**Operation Encompass**

DCI board member advised the Board that an evaluation of Operation Encompass is due out and will be circulated because the force are looking to roll the pilot out to other areas. Julie Crichton confirmed that in Gateshead all schools have bought into Operation Encompass and are continuing to develop a consistent approach to children affected by domestic abuse.

**Council Budget Consultation**

The Board was provided with a verbal update on the current position regarding the Council's budget. The Board was advised that Cabinet signed off the budget consultation yesterday. Since 2010 the Council has had to cut £110M, which equates to £300 less per person. In that time the workforce has reduced by 2000 and the Council is now faced with a further £77M funding gap over the next five years and £50M will need to be saved in the first two years. It was noted that this impacts on all services and every Director has been asked to look at their service with 60% of their budget and the savings proposals are based on those scenarios

## **SUNDERLAND: DAMIEN ROBINSON MEDICAL DIRECTOR, TRUST REPRESENTATIVE**

**The Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board/Safeguarding Adult Board (JOINT BOARDS MEETING) met on 12/10 /2015**

### **SUNDERLAND CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

The Chair reported that earlier in the year Sunderland had been inspected by Ofsted to evaluate the effectiveness of services for children in need of help and protection; children looked after and care leavers. The report found the services to be inadequate and the Education Secretary appointed had Nick Whitfield to work with Sunderland City Council as Commissioner and Improvement Partner for Children's Services in Sunderland. NW advised that the Ofsted inspection had resulted in an action plan with more than 27 recommendations and a Children's Services Improvement Plan has also been produced. This is an iterative process with everything starting at amber. An improved data set is to be implemented by November 2015. It is hoped to see improvement in the data by Christmas with some actions turning green. A report is due to the Minister by the end of January 2016.

### **PREVENT Agenda**

Members received an update on PREVENT

The purpose of Prevent is to stop people from becoming drawn into or supporting terrorism.

There are 3 themes that run throughout the statutory guidance:

- Leadership
- Partnership
- Capabilities

Prevent is a safeguarding issue. The statutory guidance states that.... "Local Authorities should establish or make use of an existing local multi-agency group to agree risk and co-ordinate Prevent activity. It is likely that links will need to be made to other statutory partnerships such as Local Safeguarding Children Boards and Safeguarding Adults Boards...."

### **SSAB and SSCB Annual Reports 2014-15 and Overview**

The Chair drew attention to the previously circulated SSCB and SSAB Annual reports and thanked those responsible for their production.

The Chair took the meeting through a PowerPoint presentation. The SSAB element covered;

- An outline of the content of the report
- 6 key objectives of the SSAB
- SSAB positive progress
- SSAB future challenges

The SSCB element covered;

- An outline of the content of the report
- Identification of the key highlights from the report
- Conclusion
- Achievements
- Challenges
- Priorities going forward

It was agreed that both reports be signed off as presented.

**Gary O'Hare**  
**Executive Director of Nursing and Operations**