

Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust

Board of Directors meeting

Meeting Date: 28 September 2016

Title and Author of Paper: Local Safeguarding Children Boards – Update Report  
Jan Grey, Head of Safeguarding and Public Protection

Executive Lead: Gary O'Hare, Executive Director of Nursing and Operations

Paper for Debate, Decision or Information: Information

Key Points to Note:

Regular update report for information.

Risks Highlighted to Board :

Does this affect any Board Assurance Framework/Corporate Risks? NO  
Please state Yes or No  
If Yes please outline

Equal Opportunities, Legal and Other Implications:

Outcome Required: The Board of Directors are asked to note the content of this report.

Link to Policies and Strategies:

## **Northumberland: Vida Morris Group Nurse Director, Trust Representative**

The Northumberland Safeguarding Children's Board met on the 26<sup>th</sup> July 2016.

### Competence, capacity and consent in under 18's – the legal framework

Board members discussed the House of Lords Select Committee on the Mental Capacity Act (post legislative scrutiny report) and the Cheshire West judgement both published in March 2014 sharpened focus on issues of competence, capacity and consent for all agencies working in health and social care. The impact on the operation of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 (MCA) particularly for adults with care and support needs has tended to dominate professional attention but, not least to be legally compliant, organisations need to ensure practice and record of practice is properly embedded with those under 18.

As the MCA applies to individuals who are 16 or over and is designed to protect and empower individuals who may lack the mental capacity to make their own decisions about their care and treatment. Agencies were asked to assure the NSCB that MCA safeguards were in place for those young people aged 16 to 18.

### Early Help Strategy

The Board were presented with the final Early Help Strategy that sets out our approach to achieve our aims through a systematic, multi-agency, consistent approach to early intervention. It sets out what Northumberland will do to make sure that children and young people get the early help they need. It depends on families, communities, staff and volunteers all working together to make the difference.

### Sexual Exploitation

Members received a hard hitting presentation from Northumbria Police Cyber Crime Unit in relation to local and national initiatives and disruption techniques for those children and young people who are being sexually exploited.

## **North Tyneside: Dr Jane Carlisle, Group Medical Director, Trust Representative**

The Safeguarding Children's Board met on the 18<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

### Process for Resolving Professional Concerns and Disagreements (draft)

It was a recommendation from the recent Learning Review that NTSCB develop an escalation process.

When working with practitioners from other agencies there will at times be differences of opinion with regards to how to respond to an identified concern about a child, young person or family. Disagreements can be a sign of developing thinking, and the value of exchanging ideas from different perspectives should not be under-estimated. However, disagreements may disadvantage the child or family involved if they are not resolved constructively and in a timely manner.

Throughout our work the safety and wellbeing of the child or young person is the primary concern, and professional disputes must not obstruct this. If you feel that a practitioner or an agency is not acting in the best interests of the child, young person or family, you have a responsibility to respectfully challenge the practitioner or agency.

In order to support that challenge a clear process needs to be in place to ensure that all professionals involved in multi-agency work understand the steps they should take when these concerns arise. This process should however, be measured in its approach to allow professionals the opportunity to openly discuss with other professionals, their concerns.

However some disagreements may need to be escalated up to first line managers (and beyond if appropriate) who should address any concerns

#### Members

- endorse the proposed procedure
- considered how the procedure can be implemented and evaluated the impact

#### Overview of performance and issues in relation to Looked after Children

There are fewer children looked after at the end of 2016 than at the end of any year since 2011. The rate of children had been growing in line with the England rate, although less quickly than the rate of change in comparator authorities. However, the fluctuations in the Looked after population in North Tyneside has meant that despite this reduction in 2016, there were actually more children who were in the Looked after system during the year than in previous years.

The changing pattern of placement types and has been partially driven by the changing age range of looked after children, with more older children being looked after resulting in more Residential and Supported Living placements. In 2011 under half of children were aged 10 or above, by 2016 two thirds were aged over 10. There are now also fewer children in placements provided directly by the Local Authority and more in placements from externally commissioned agencies or providers.

#### Key Points – Looked After Children at 31st March

- 292 children were looked after by North Tyneside Council at the end of March 2016. This is the smallest year end number of children since the March 2011 figure of 280.
- In comparison to other local authorities in England, North Tyneside has had a higher rate of Looked after Children over the last six years. Following the growth of looked after numbers in 2011/12, North Tyneside has remained around 15 children per 10,000 higher than the England rate in each year to 2015.
- Looked after Children were placed with Foster Carers at the end of March 2016, 75.7% of placements, a small increase on the 2011 proportion of 73.2%. However the proportion of those Foster Carers which were provided directly by the local

authority reduced from 78% in 2011 to 63.8% in 2016. More children were Looked After by Agency Foster Carers and Connected Persons Foster Carers at the end of 2016 than in previous years.

- Between 2011 and 2016 there was a distinct reduction in the number of children in the 5 to 9 year old age group, and an increase in both the 10 to 15 and Over 15 age groups. In 2011 47.7% of Looked After children were aged over the age of 10. The proportion of children in the 10+ age groups increased through the period, and in 2016 66.9% of looked after children were aged 10 or above

#### Chairs response to the Wood report

Richard Burrows NTSCB Chair provided his response to the Wood report. At this stage we have only a limited response from Government. They endorse the general approach of placing a new and clearer statutory duty on the 3 main agencies; health, police and social care and retaining but amending the wider duty to cooperate on all other agencies. They agree to the change in SCRs, and have introduced the necessary legislation to establish a new national panel. They also agree to transfer responsibility for CDOPs to DH. We can expect more detailed responses in due course, especially as these measures are debated through the coming year in Parliament. Child protection legislation tends to be addressed in a cross-party way, with less rancour and political infighting than many other issues. I think we can expect some changes to the various proposals as they work through, and some greater clarity as to what it all means in practice. Legislation always takes time, I would anticipate that the changes will not take effect until September 2017 at the earliest, but we may start to see some developments prior to that.

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

The Newcastle Safeguarding Children's Board met on the 17<sup>th</sup> August 2016.

#### Annual Report

Members received the draft report for discussion and agreed single agency submissions required prior to sign off.

#### M-SET Update

The Missing/Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking Group, known as the M-SET Group, is a sub working group of Newcastle Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB). Its purpose is to:

- Devise, implement and monitor 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
- Ensure effective links with other strategic and service plans to prevent duplication

- Consider implications of policy, legislation, research and guidance
- Consider issues relating to the compliance of procedures, guidance and protocol
- Contribute to the commissioning of services for children and young people
- Develop and monitor performance management data
- Develop and maintain links with other relevant partnerships tackling associated issues e.g. forced marriage, domestic abuse, trafficking
- Contribute to regional collaboration and working

Members received progress on objectives and actions

- Sexual Exploitation document is completed and to be added to the website
- Survey monkey sent to all professionals to complete re own arrangements
- CSE problem profile produced and discussed
- Police IT sexual exploitation screens are now live, which will ensure current data capture. Training on the new screens provided force wide
- Reassurance provided regarding the success of partners submitting intelligence to M-SET.

#### Schools Safeguarding Partnership

Members received an update report on Schools Safeguarding arrangements in Newcastle

Newcastle Schools Safeguarding Partnership provides the mechanism to fulfil the requirements of Working Together (2015) and enables representatives from schools to link with the work of NSCB.

Progress on objectives and actions

- A new report format has been trialled and will now be used at initial and review conferences. The report has a greater focus on the views of the child.
- To explore information sharing between education and health at the point of entry to schools where concerns are identified. There has been an initial meeting with Health and the work here is ongoing.
- Good representation in place from all schools and sectors.

- LA representation has been confirmed on the partnership
- Presentations from the Virtual School and representation on the group confirmed

### **South Tyneside: Ann Marshall, Group Nurse Director, Trust Representative**

The Safeguarding Board met on the 25<sup>th</sup> August 2016.

#### Joint Targeted Area Inspection, (JTAI) update

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.

Following the inspection a multi-agency action plan was drawn up in response to the findings. The final version of the plan was presented to the Management group in July. All partners were happy with the plan and felt that it was a good reflection of partnership working.

The plan having being formally approved was submitted to Ofsted. The plan will be a standard Agenda item at future Management group meetings to monitor progress through a RAG rating/exception reporting methodology.

#### Missing, Sexually Exploited and Trafficked Learning Events

In response to an action given to the LSCB from the recent JTAI, a number of multi-agency awareness raising events have started to take place around the role and purpose of the Missing, Sexually Exploited and Trafficked LSCB sub group. This includes advice and guidance on the use of the new M-SET documentation, the referral process and the expectations of multi-agency partners. To date there have been 230 multi-agency attendees, with approximately an additional 155 for the events planned for September and October.

#### Assurance in respect of Disabled Children

A report was provided to the Management Group in respect of the progress of the action plan for the Children with Disabilities Service (CADS) in response to concerns highlighted in the JTAI, which included assessments completed within timescale, management oversight/grip and responsiveness to risk.

The audit process that was undertaken identified a number of key areas, including:

- Lack of management grip and oversight at all levels within CADS
- Thresholds and understating of risk and vulnerability for disabled children
- Holistic processes not evident
- Quality and depth of written records
- Lack of clear processes for budget monitoring, authorisation and management

The service has now been moved under the governance of Children and Families Social Care however this is not a permanent arrangement. It should also be noted that not all children with disabilities sit within the CADS team as some are in receipt of mainstream services.

The LSCB previously had a Children with Disabilities sub group which was stood down with a view that issues for children with disabilities should be incorporated into all strands of work and the LSCB needs to ensure that this can be explicitly evidenced.

It was felt that appropriate assurances have been given that the issues highlighted have been addressed and Paul Ennals, STSCB Chair will receive a copy of future progress reports provided to the Director of Children's Services.

#### Combined Consortium of Safeguarding Procedures for Children

A sub-regional approach has been taken by South Tyneside, Sunderland and Gateshead LSCB's to produce a combined consortium of safeguarding procedures for children. This is to strengthen a more consistent approach to safeguarding across the sub region as well as to promote a more efficient and succinct approach in terms of the procedures. Prior to the switch over date of June 30th to the new system all partners have all been sent the detailed information regarding the combined consortium and how to access the appropriate procedures.

#### **Gateshead: Damian Robinson, Group Medical Director, Trust Representative:**

The Gateshead Safeguarding Children Board met on the 27<sup>th</sup> July 2016

#### Annual Report 2015/16

The Board received a draft copy of its 2015/16 Annual Report for comments and information. It was noted that the document had been circulated prior to its presentation at this meeting and updated following the receipt of comments, this was signed off by the board.

#### NHS England Safeguarding Assurance Visit In Respect Of Newcastle Gateshead CCG

The Board received a report highlighting the key themes and messages following the NHS England visit to Newcastle Gateshead CCG. The Safeguarding assurance process sought to ensure that Newcastle Gateshead CCG is meeting its statutory requirements to safeguard children, young people and adults at risk

#### Drug Related Death Annual Report 2015 and 2016 Update

A report was presented detailing the Drug-related Death (DRD) Annual Report for 2015. The report also provided an overview of the 2016 DRDs.

It was noted that since 2013 the number of DRDs in Gateshead has increased year on year and that this mirrors the national trend. It was noted that so far in 2016 there have

been 13 DRDs, which represents a significant increase potentially. The DRD group in Gateshead has identified key themes which need to be addressed to help reduce the risks to individuals who are potentially at risk.

The Board agreed to take ownership of the concern and requested that a forensic investigation of the issue be undertaken including an audit of the causes, localities and social factors relating to the DRDs. It was agreed that DRDs become a standing agenda item.

#### Management Of PREVENT Cases

The Board received a report outlining the Preventing Violent Extremism Practice Guidance Note. The report sought approval in relation to the proposed referral process for Gateshead.

The evidential significance of mental health issues in extremist behaviour was noted. In respect of this, the importance of providing adequate awareness training to GPs and other front line professionals was stressed. It was also commented that there are individuals with low level mental health issues who do not access services and therefore partners must be mindful of this.

It was suggested that training is made available to landlords including social housing providers.

#### **Sunderland: Anne Moore, Group Nurse Director, Trust Representative**

The Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board met on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2016.

This was a development session with the new interim Chair.

The session covered: -

- What 'Good' looks like?
- What an Effective Board is?

Workshops were undertaken including:

- Vision/Values/Behaviours/Function

The agreed priorities and action plan were to be formalised at the next board.

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