

Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust

Board of Directors Meeting

Meeting Date; 24th January 2018

Title and Author of Paper: Local Safeguarding Children's Board Update Report
Leesa Stephenson Safeguarding and Public Protection Manager and Named Nurse

Executive Lead: Gary O'Hare, Executive Director of Nursing & Chief Operating Officer

Paper for Debate, Decision or Information: Information

Key Points to Note:

Regular update report for information.

Risks Highlighted to Board : None

Does this affect any Board Assurance Framework/Corporate Risks?
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:
Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015
Children's Act 2004

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: Jackie Jollands, Group Nurse Director, Trust Representative

The Board met on the 28th November 2017.

The meeting in the main focussed on the presentation of the O SCR, the finding and the recommendations. The group confirmed that they are happy with the recommendations and accept this as the final report.

Working Together consultation

Panel members were reminded of the importance of this document and encouraged to contribute to the consultation. The Local Authority, Police and CCG will be the three safeguarding partners and a meeting will take place between the 3 agencies next month to determine the way forward.

Northumbria Police Safeguarding Operation Model

Police representative discussed the new model for Northumbria Police. There are 29 recommendations relating to internal processes and terms of reference and these have all been provisionally agreed.

Frontline resources have been reviewed – increasing the safeguarding department by 70 officers.

Another review is planned looking at all resources.

Action: Provide feedback to HA/MP if any concerns

HA also gave an update on the PEEL inspection and the three areas reported on:

1. Efficiency – considered good
2. Effectiveness – yet to be graded
3. Legitimacy – yet to be graded

There is a need to understand future demands and improve the digital services (for country wide communication).

HA informed the group that there will be an HMIC child protection thematic inspection in January (will be directed towards MASH).

Newcastle: David Muir, Group Nurse Director, Trust Representative

The Board met on the 11th October 2017.

An update of usual business was given but in the main the topic's covered in this meeting were:

Ofsted inspection Improvement Plan

Ofsted report and action plan circulated and members advised plan will be monitored and reviewed to ensure the necessary improvements are made and governance is strengthened. There are 12 sections each with recommendations that will be scrutinised by the NSCB and NSCB BG to ensure progress is made and the required impact is achieved. These are broken down to show:

- What action is needed?
- Who will lead on the action?
- Timescale of the action?
- The difference made?

Elective Home Education (EHE)

It was highlighted that there are low numbers of children in Newcastle that are EHE. Concern was raised that any parent can choose to EHE their child and are not required to inform LA of their intention. Process is in place to monitor home educated children and policy to escalate any concerns. It was acknowledged that it is often the most vulnerable children are the ones who have never been in school and they are not on the radar of services.

Ongoing work by the LA is in place to gather intelligence regarding number of children and young people who are EHE the quality of education received and what services are accessed i.e. school health, GP.

North Tyneside: Jane Carlile Group Medical Director, Trust Representative

The Board met on the 25th September 2017.

In the main the meeting addressed the learning and recommendations from the recent SCR and how these were to be disseminated to the wider work force.

Annual Report 2016/17

A draft version was shared with the panel, the chair gave a presentation on the key learning areas, the final report will be produced but feedback was requested.

Children's Services transformation Agenda

The report was presented and emphasised the partnership approach to the project.

Key points were:

- Timeliness of outcomes and how the Troubled Families agenda was influencing the wider approach.
- The plan has been signed off.
- It remains a priority that families are identified at the earliest level.
- Maturity matrix – this is an approach that helps to make sure that review results in proportionate and achievable next steps leading to actions plans and further peer review.
- Events and visits to families took place over the summer.
- Deadline for submission to DCLG is the end of September.

Police showed particular interest as they are seeing an increase in activity. Panel members were reassured that outcomes will be measured, that data will be captured and monitoring will be in place.

Operation Sanctuary

A report was shared referring to Operation Sanctuary as a set of principles used by the Police. The learning is being embedded into practice. Currently working with local hoteliers and taxi drivers. Assurance was given that the current police position regarding operational and strategic issues around Operation Sanctuary (and related operations) that focused on implementing learning and the wider partner engagement in terms of prevention and awareness raising, was fully understood by the Sexual Exploitation sub group, a part of their brief was to ensure that such developments were reflected and addressed in the context of the local strategic plan and the LSCB scrutiny and assurance role. A neighbouring LSCB will be publishing a SCR in the very near future and further learning will be shared within this report.

South Tyneside: Vida Morris Group Nurse Director, Trust Representative

There has been no further board meeting since the last report.

Gateshead: Jane Carlile, Medical Director, Trust Representative:

The Board met on the 11th October 2017.

Operation Sanctuary

Police colleagues presented a paper on the future direction of Operation Sanctuary and outlined the new Safeguarding Operating Model being delivered by Northumbria Police.

Operation Sanctuary has been considered to be a highly successful programme for tackling CSE and trafficking, across the Northumbria area. Staff have been deployed from Gateshead into the Sanctuary South team. Funding finishes in March 2018 and decisions are required regarding future planning of the service.

There was widespread support for the continuation of Operation Sanctuary, including the continued secondment of a Social Worker and the continuation of two operational bases (North and South). Discussions will take place outside the Board regarding potential funding for the location and continued secondment of the staff.

The Safeguarding Operation Model highlights the benefits of a multi-agency approach, noting that Gateshead has been a front runner regarding adult multi-agency teams, though less prominent in relation to children. It was agreed that there is potential now to discuss the potential of a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) within Gateshead and it was agreed that the Council Strategic Director would meet with police and chair of the LSCB to discuss options.

Impact of the roll out of Universal Credit

A report was presented, setting out the anticipated negative impact on children and families of the roll out of Universal Credit across Gateshead.

Concerns include the following:

- Potential increase in rent arrears and evictions.
- At least a 6 week delay in receipt of first payment and consequent debts.
- Potential increase in the domestic abuse if tensions increase between partners regarding which partner receives the credit.
- Impact on claimants who have limited online access.
- Impact on access to free school meals whilst claims are being processed.

The Council is taking steps to ensure no tenants are evicted from their social housing as a direct consequence of Universal Credit and are seeking to contact other social housing providers and private providers. Schools have indicated their willingness to ensure no child goes hungry during the school day as a consequence of delays in agreeing FSM eligibility.

The Board commended the planning that has been undertaken and commended the quality of the Implementation Plan. It was agreed that the information in this briefing should be shared widely amongst front-line staff across the partnership. An update report was requested in 6 months.

Early Help Strategy

The Board has a statutory function in overseeing the early help strategy of the partnership and the draft strategy was considered for approval.

The Board provided strong support for the principles underpinning the Early Help Strategy, noting in particular the vital importance of early intervention and of partnership working, within the current economic climate. There has been strong support for the principles and recognition towards early intervention and partnership working to produce better outcomes for children. Partners want to own the strategy collectively and not just endorse the Council's strategy. It was agreed that discussions will need to be held with senior representatives from Health and the Police, to ensure the strategy becomes a true partnership strategy. There is strong recognition that we need long term commitment to this area of work.

Monitoring the roll-out of the strategy will need to involve a review of the data that is available from partners. The Board's role will be to monitor the impact of the strategy on safeguarding. The Performance Management Sub Group will be asked to consider how the Board can best monitor the impact of the EH strategy.

Sunderland: Vida Morris, Group Nurse Director, Trust Representative

The Board met on the 16th October 2017.

Again this board discussed the publication of 4 SCR's, the learning and monitoring of the action plan. NTW were involved with 3 cases.

Together for Children Sunderland Improvement Plan

A verbal update was given which highlighted work is progressing and improvements are being maintained. Ofsted is undertaking a monitoring visit of Together for Children on 17th & 18th October 2017 and the outcome will be reported to the Board in January 2018.

The Improvement Board is arranged for the 23rd of November 2017.

In the week beginning the 20th November 2017 a deep dive piece of work is being carried out and clarity will be given as to what responsibilities will be transferred to the SSCB.

South of Tyne Child Death Review Annual Report

The South of Tyne Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) shared that there has been excellent work and progress carried out by the Designated Doctor for Child Death supported by local partners which has been acknowledged by the DfE.

Following the publication of one of the SCR's the report will be considered as part of the child death review process and the safe keeping of animals in the home will be documented and added as a modifiable factor. Further work will be undertaken to raise awareness of the risks of alcohol and drug misuse.

Gary O'Hare
Executive Director of Nursing and Chief Operating Officer