

FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AGENDA

Thursday, 30 November 2017 at 1.30 pm in the Bridges Room - Civic Centre

From the Chief Executive, Sheena Ramsey

Item	Business
1	Apologies for absence
2	Minutes of last meeting (Pages 3 - 12) The Committee is asked to approve as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on 19 October 2017 and 1 November 2017
3	OSC Review - Children on Edge of Care - Final Report (Pages 13 - 20) Report of Strategic Director, Care Wellbeing and Learning
4	The Council Plan - Six Monthly Assessment and Performance Delivery (Pages 21 - 40) Report of Strategic Director, Care Wellbeing and Learning
5	Safeguarding Children LSCB Annual Report and Plans (Pages 41 - 92) Report of the Strategic Director, Care Wellbeing and Learning
6	Work Permits for the Employment of Children within the Borough (Pages 93 - 96) Report of Strategic Director, Care Wellbeing and Learning
7	Work Programme (Pages 97 - 100) Joint Report of the Chief Executive and Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance

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GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, 19 October 2017

PRESENT: Councillor B Oliphant (Chair)

Councillor(s): L Caffrey, B Clelland, S Craig, L Kirton,
K McCartney, E McMaster and S Ronchetti

F21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Thompson, Cllr Geddes, Cllr Hall, Cllr Mullen, Cllr Craig, Cllr Davison and co-opted members Sasha Ban and Maveen Pereira.

F22 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

F23 UPDATE - CARE PATHWAY FOR FOETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER

The Committee received an overview of the report by Dr Carmen Howey – Consultant Paediatrician and Designated Doctor Safeguarding Children, Gateshead Health NHS FT.

Concerns were raised by partner agencies, Local Authority and Public Health, in relation to a potential excess of Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Foetal Alcohol Syndrome (FASD/FAS) diagnoses amongst the Gateshead paediatric population, particularly those children who are Looked After (LACYP). It was agreed by Gateshead NHS Foundation Trust (GHNT), in conjunction with Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning group (CCG), to review the diagnoses of this group to establish if those concerns are valid.

The Committee were advised that a new review tool has been developed to review the diagnosis of children on the FASD database. This has been completed for 60 randomly selected children from a total of 223 on the database which was compiled by the previous Designated Doctor LAC.

The accepted diagnostic criteria for FASD that the review has been working to are:

- A. History of maternal alcohol intake in pregnancy (quantities needed to cause effects of FASD/FAS are uncertain with limited evidence available)
OR
- B. Presence of typical facial features associated with FAS
AND
- C. Microcephaly (head circumference <3rd centile for age) in pre-school children

OR

- D. Clear evidence of significantly impaired function across at least 3 domains of the FASD checklist

An overview of the outcomes of cases reviewed to date was provided from the report and the Committee were advised that the review is a significant piece of work which is ongoing.

It was noted that the results of the review so far support the view that some children were receiving a FASD/FAS diagnosis without the relevant diagnostic criteria being evidenced. The Committee were also advised that in order to determine the validity of a child's diagnosis further assessments would need to be done.

A comment was made that professionals working with young women and expectant mothers need to get better at discussing the risks of drinking alcohol during pregnancy in a non-judgemental way. It was also noted that improvements need to be made to keep a record of when an expectant mother makes an admission of drinking alcohol – having such a record can assist in making a diagnosis of potential FASD/FAS should a child display symptoms later on.

A comment was made that the information presented at Committee on this occasion was a more neutral and balanced view than what had been previously reported. Information presented to Committee previously suggested an epidemic of FASD/FAS which would have a significant impact on Children's Services. It was commented that the volumes identified by the previous Designated Doctor LAC were deemed to be large proportion of children however it was much about perception.

It was asked whether enough importance on diagnosing FASD/FAS was being given by the CCG. It was noted that the process has been manageable so far however there may be a need for a more formal approach in the future. The Committee were also advised that a discussion needs to take place with the CCG to see if the diagnosing FASD/FAS could be balanced with other statutory functions. It was also noted that the children identified so far on the database are not at any immediate risk of harm.

It was asked as a result of the comments above whether this issue of FASD/FAS is not as worrying as other health issues in children. It was noted that more work needs to be done in prevention and that young women needed to improve their awareness of the risks alcohol poses to unborn children. Targeted work with young women who have unplanned pregnancies and have been binge drinking as well as middle class women who drink wine regularly needs to take place.

It was asked whether FASD/FAS are a result of sustained or just occasional alcohol intake. The Committee were advised that this is variable from individual to individual however for a child to have the facial features associated with FASD/FAS alcohol is consumed by the mother in the first 12 weeks of the pregnancy. The physical effects on a child due to alcohol consumption within the first 12 weeks is a concern as many women may be unaware they are pregnant during those weeks and drink alcohol.

The Committee were advised that this is a long term project and once children from

the database are investigated then there is potential for a wider regional approach to take place.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Committee notes the actions and comments outlined in the report.

F24 OSC REVIEW - CHILDREN ON EDGE OF CARE - EVIDENCE GATHERING

The Committee were presented with information from the Edge of Care Review report. The review was established to look at the challenges facing services for adolescents and to consider the key ingredients of successful approaches to effectively support young people and their families on the edge of care.

An overview of the term 'edge of care' was provided – this covers the following situations:

- Before entering care the young person has been identified as being at risk of needing care
- When a young person is leaving care by going home or to live with a relative or into a range of accommodation
- Young people 16 and 17 years presenting as homeless
- Care leavers are particularly vulnerable as are their future children

It was noted that every young person's situation is different and that it is important not to generalise from specific situations as there are varying circumstances that can lead to a young person to be looked after.

Some of the multiple elements that cause a young person to become looked after were described from the report; these include violence from the young person, anti-social behaviour, mental illness and family dysfunction.

The Committee were advised that a Rapid Response Team (RRT) is being developed to increase the support capacity of the Looked After Children's Service. It was noted that this team would be made up of multiple partners across varying departments able to provide knowledge and support in areas such as housing, mental health and referral & assessment. Staff members from these services were present at the meeting to screen questions from the Committee. The function of the RRT was outlined as follows:

- The ethos is predicated on a belief that children should live within the family where safe to do so
- The team will work intensively with families in order to bring about change to reduce the need for accommodation or rehabilitate the child quickly
- They do not work with families beyond 12 weeks
- The team's terms and conditions include evening and weekend/bank holidays
- There is a firm commitment to invest in the professional development of the team and equip them with the skills and tools to do the job

- Staff are recruited with the pre-requisite skill mix
- The rapid response service will work as part of the CCIN team
- Clinical supervision is provided by the Manager/Systemic Practice lead
- It is understood that the Social Worker from CCIN retains responsibility for the case
- The team works collaboratively with partners

It was repeated that importance is being placed on supporting the young person through their issues whilst they remain at home whenever practical and safe to do so. It was also said that the prevention of homelessness in care leavers is a priority and that collaborative work with Housing Services has helped to develop a taster flat scheme. It was advised that the taster flat scheme has been developed to promote stability and integration for care leavers within the community.

A comment was made that the multi-service approach is welcomed – particularly in areas such as housing and mental health. It was said that families often reach the point of crisis as a result of financial problems which lead to subsequent issues. It was asked whether there was a support mechanism in place to provide benefits and financial advice; the committee were advised that individuals and families requiring this kind of support are currently identified via Housing Services.

It was noted that the Looked After Children's Service are working closely with housing colleagues and that there are staff from within Housing Services qualified to provide benefit and financial advice.

A concern about Council services making referrals to the Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB) was raised. It was said that CAB are at breaking point and that residents need to be clear as to where they should go for advice and guidance on matters that could cause them to fall into crisis.

It was said that services within Gateshead are being proactive with these issues and that work is being done to identify families with issues before they become out of hand. It was noted that significant investment has been put in to Housing Services to support families/tenants and that links with DWP are also established.

A question was asked about how families at risk of crisis are identified. In answering, the Committee was advised that these are picked up via the Early Help team, Safeguarding as well as Referral and Assessment. More detail on this will be provided in the next report.

It was asked what was new about the information provided to Committee today and whether the Council were already providing the support outlined. It was noted that whilst these services have always existed they have been reconfigured with stronger collaboration to support young people and their families.

An update on the mental health service was requested. The Committee was advised that significant progress has been made and that a new model to reduce waiting times and improve pathways for Looked After Children would be implemented in April 2018. The Committee was also advised that there was potential for a web based/app system to be developed for young people to use to access mental health

services. The Committee was further advised that the new process won't happen overnight and that there is to be a systematic approach to implementation.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Committee note the contents of the report.

F25 EARLY HELP STRATEGY

An update on the Early Help Strategy was provided to the Committee. It was noted that there are strong links between this report and Edge of Care report.

The Committee were advised that the Early Help Strategy will bring together many strands of work to create a vision for the future where families are resilient and supported within their local community. It was noted that by developing flexible evidence based early interventions, which are delivered in a timely way families would feel empowered and less reliant on Council services.

From the report the Committee were advised the delivery model will:

- Bring together a range of services which support children and families – a broader range of provision and community activity, including health, emotional wellbeing, behaviour support, family support, advice and support around debt, worklessness and poverty
- Use CAF and TAF approaches to wrap support around families to meet the multiplicity of their needs
- Ensure that practitioners identify and intervene with causes rather than with presenting symptoms
- Harnesses the social capital of communities and use an asset based approach to developing solutions

It was noted that this draft of the Strategy which will be brought before Cabinet in November 2018. The draft has been developed in partnership with internal and external partners and it is hoped that it is used as a working document.

It was said that in practise this Early Help Strategy would be implemented before the need for statutory Council services whilst working in a coherent way with relevant partners. It was also noted that work within children's centres and other outreach locations would continue.

It was mentioned that the outcomes framework as outlined within the report was helpful and that it was encouraging to see further joined up working across services. Further to this, the Committee were advised that some of the intended outcomes from the report were aspirational and contained a mix of Council priorities as well as outcomes dictated by external partners.

Background on the Families Gateshead was provided. It was noted that unlike some other local authorities Gateshead have taken a proactive approach to working with families to put interventions in place to remove their barriers to employment. The Families Gateshead programme provides support to all family members regardless

of age and is run on a payment by results model. Recent audits have shown that there has been an impact due to this service.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Committee note the contents of the report and the Early Help Outcomes Framework.

F26 WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee received the work programme for the municipal year 2017/18. It was noted that the work programme would be a standing item on each agenda so that members could see any changes.

RESOLVED

- (i) That Committee noted the provisional programme.
- (ii) That Committee noted that further reports on the work programme will be brought to the Committee to identify any additional policy issues, which the Committee may be asked to consider.

Chair.....

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, 1 November 2017

PRESENT: Councillor B Oliphant (Chair)
Councillor(s): L Caffrey, B Clelland, S Craig, A Geddes,
M Hall, L Kirton, E McMaster and P Craig

CO-OPTED MEMBERS Maveen Pereira and Sasha Ban

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor(s): G Haley and N Weatherley

F27 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Thompson, Cllr McCartney, Cllr Mullen, Cllr Bradford and Cllr Davison.

F28 PERMANENT EXCLUSIONS AND THE POSITION OF THE PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT

The Committee received a report which outlined the issues in terms of the number of permanent exclusions and the position of the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU).

It was reported that permanent exclusions have increased significantly in Gateshead across all schools, currently Gateshead's figures are above the national average. It was noted that any permanent exclusion is a system failure. In Gateshead every child who is permanently excluded is shown in the figures, however other local authorities have a 'no permanent exclusion' policy where children are not counted as being excluded but are being educated in places similar to the PRU. Therefore it was acknowledged that Gateshead's figures are transparent.

It was noted that since 2014/15 the number of permanently excluded children has doubled and the figures continue to rise year on year. The Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) was concerned with this trend and commissioned Dr Jeanne Pratt to lead, with officers and Headteachers, to look at the issue. From the work undertaken so far it is clear this is a complex issue and there is no simple answer.

There is pressure from Ofsted as behaviour is now a factor it considers, as bad behaviour impacts on results. There has also been a change in curriculum requirements which means some children cannot be as easily matched to all children because it is a very academic curriculum. Vocational qualifications, which schools were just developing, are no longer seen as GCSE equivalents. The academisation of failing schools is also an added pressure in addition to the cuts in support areas, such as youth services and education support services, and a 60-70% reduction in the leadership team. All are contributory factors to an increase in

permanent exclusions.

As a response work has been ongoing with the Behaviour Support Service to ensure it continues to provide a good service. However, the increasing figures year on year is difficult because of the challenging and often complex nature of the children involved.

It was noted that Ofsted has deemed the PRU as inadequate due to behaviour and attendance. It was acknowledged that this will always be the biggest challenge in terms of the PRU. The PRU will therefore become a MAT (Multi-Academy Trust) from 1st January 2018, as part of River Tees MAT.

Due to the increased number of permanent exclusions the PRU announced that it could no longer accommodate any more pupils. It was therefore agreed that any further pupils excluded would be educated within Education Gateshead in order to find the most appropriate educational opportunities and safeguard/

It was noted that the LSCB report was the start of identifying the complex problem surrounding the increase in permanent exclusions. The LSCB wanted further progress and a conference was organised which involved key stakeholders including; YOT, health, education. From that conference a 14 point Action Plan was developed, which aims to ensure there is work as a whole system to take the right action to reduce the need for permanent exclusions, intervene earlier and create better solutions. A Task and Finish Group has been set up and a Registrar is currently working on the analysis and looking at what can be done earlier.

It was reported that currently there are 40 children now off school roll receiving a minimal tutoring offer. It therefore became important to look for a building in order to accommodate the additional pupils. The Corporate Asset Strategy Team identified a number of potential sites and it has now been agreed that the old Ravensworth Terrace Primary School building be used.

The point was made that the Ravensworth Terrace building will be used to accommodate the pupils of Heworth Hall (medically unfit for school) which was barely adequate. The maximum number of pupils who will be attending at any one time is 60, although not all are full time and the building previously accommodated 300 pupils plus staff.

It was suggested that schools are not doing enough to keep pupils in school and therefore all governors should be challenging any decision to exclude within their schools.

It was pointed out that a lot of the permanent exclusions are from families known to the authority, therefore there is a lack of joined up working.

It was questioned why it has taken four months for the Action Plan to be developed. It was noted that due to the conference being held late in the term and the appointment of a new Strategic Director this led to a delay as a teacher driver was needed at that point which was not available. It was also noted that capacity has reduced massively so it is not always about availability. It was pointed out that this

needs to be a year-long approach and not just in term time.

It was suggested that a lot of pupils accessing the PRU are likely to be facing mental health problems, therefore the environment is very important, for example being in a setting away from a main road in a low sensory arousal area, such as the old Hookergate School. It was therefore questioned if in the long term the best location is being sought, not just the best empty building. It was confirmed that it would cost £20-£25million to build a new school and the Council does not have that resource and there is an urgent need to deal with the children here and now. It was acknowledged that a piecemeal approach is not ideal and it is aspirational to have a longer term facility.

It was suggested that the primary position be looked at to see if there is systemic failure. It was confirmed that there was only two primary permanent exclusions last year.

The point was made that this cannot be taken forward until the 14 point action plan is available. It was confirmed that it is a system wide plan, including health, education, CAMHS, providers and the local authority. Work is ongoing to look at who is responsible for delivery, for example some of it will fall within the 0-19 spec.

It was questioned whether the commissioned places to Special Schools include some of these pupils with behavioural needs. It was confirmed that it is not that there are no places at Special Schools it is about pupils not identified as SEN until they get to the PRU. It is expected that as the PRU moves to a MAT the relationship will be strengthened in terms of looking at individual needs of each pupil.

It was questioned how primary schools deal with pupils in order to avoid permanent exclusions and also how LAC are dealt with. It was confirmed that LAC should not be excluded and would only do so if it was the end of the line. Primary Schools are good at keeping hold of pupils and not always getting help in early enough which can sometimes store up problems for later in secondary school. It was suggested that primary schools need to be encouraged to get the right help early on, however it was acknowledged that this is difficult when there is no money. It was also confirmed that any school excluding through the backdoor would be challenged.

The point was made that at disciplinary panels, the impact on Ofsted of exclusions is not considered by governors and it was felt unfair to suggest that. It was acknowledged that this is complex and there is some generalisation and there has been an example of a Headteacher who received a bad Ofsted because he refused to exclude certain children. It is felt that this is an unintended consequence of Ofsted and austerity measures.

It was also suggested that schools are fighting against systems, for example attempting to appoint a Primary Mental Health Worker has resulted in hitting barriers at every point. It was noted that Public Health Team is in the process of procuring the School Nurse contract and this can be added into the contract from December.

A question was received around underfunded SEBD facilities and the concerns of overcrowding and it was suggested that the report be refused as it fails to make

plans beyond six months to deal with issues and that further failures can therefore be expected. The point was made that there will be a service level agreement between the local authority and the MAT around how many pupils they will accept and only when that number is exceeded with it need to be looked at further. It was also reiterated that the Action Plan would be brought back to Committee which puts plans in place beyond six months.

RESOLVED - That a further report be brought back to Committee next year to show progress against the Action Plan.

TITLE OF REPORT: Edge of Care Review Final Report

REPORT OF: Caroline O'Neill, Strategic Director Care, Wellbeing and Learning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the course of this review Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to focus on support to young people and families with complex needs on the edge of care. The committee has considered the needs of these families with complex higher level needs and what actions will have the greatest impact on improving outcomes.

This report sets out the scope and outcome of the review.

LEGAL POLICY CONTEXT

Working Together statutory guidance – outlines the requirements of LA to have an LSCB, interagency child protection procedures, how to undertake safeguarding investigations. The guidance confirms the lead role for LA social workers in:

- Responding to young people and families in need of support and help
 - Undertaking initial and core assessments as part of the Assessment Framework
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BACKGROUND

1. The council is committed to making changes to service delivery in order to meet the changing demands for adolescent young people on the edge of care.
2. The National picture of adolescent young people on the edge of the care indicates this age group makes up 45% of Children in Need, 23% of children on a child protection plan and 24% of Serious Case Reviews. A typical new case for a social worker is just as likely to be a teenager in need of help as a child aged under five.
3. Adolescents often enter care during a crisis with their family, with the police or with their mental or emotional health. The response to this crisis and finding them a safe place tends to drive the system's immediate response.
4. The reasons for entering care and the level and complexity of need are also far more diverse amongst this group. The national picture by the age 14 years abuse or neglect accounts for just 42% of entries to care, with 45% accounted for by a mixture of acute family stress, family dysfunction and socially unacceptable behaviour. Alongside this, many face challenges with their mental and emotional health (64%), special educational needs (38%) and substance misuse (32%). Around 9% of those aged 14 or older enter care through the youth justice system. One third of

adolescents placed in foster care have been recently cautioned or committed an offence (36%).

5. Faced with this complexity, and the challenges in identifying long-term options, the care system is often caught between two competing priorities, firstly providing an immediate place of safety and secondly to develop a long-term plan based on individual needs.
6. The national picture for many adolescents is the most likely long-term placement is back with their family. One in four adolescent entrants to care almost 3,000 young people a year are looked after for less than eight weeks.

SCOPE OF THE REVIEW

7. The review considered:
 - The challenges facing services for adolescents on the edge of care and what might help to overcome these challenges.
 - What are the key ingredients to successful approaches to supporting young people and their families with complex needs on the edge of care.
 - What are the elements of service design that will support best practice with young people on the edge of care.
 - Strengthen service delivery to better meet the needs of local families with multiple needs at risk of becoming looked after.
 - Safely reducing the numbers of children coming into care

THE PROCESS AND PARTNER INVOLVEMENT

8. The process of the review has involved the presentation of evidence and research and an opportunity to involve partners within health, housing, education, commissioning, the referral and assessment team homeless service and mental health services.

FOCUS OF THE REVIEW

9. The review focused on the 'Edge of Care' arrangements for adolescents aged 11yrs to 17 years.
10. The report described how young people come to be 'on the edge' of care and discussed the complex needs faced by these young people. It outlined the services available to support young people and their families and the challenges that the Council faces supporting this group.

EDGE OF CARE DEFINITION

11. The journey through the care system includes periods of time that are often described as being on the "edge of care".

12. For the purpose of the review “edge of care” covers the following situations:

- Before entering care the young person has been identified as being at risk of requiring care.
- When a young person is leaving care by going home or to live with a relative or into a range of accommodation.
- Young people 16 and 17 years presenting as homeless.
- Care leavers are particularly vulnerable as are their future children

CHARACTERISTICS OF YOUNG PEOPLE ON THE EDGE OF CARE

13. Young people on the edge of care are not a homogeneous group. Every young person is an individual whilst it is important not to over generalise from specific situations. There are many different patterns of need that can lead to a young person becoming looked after. These are young people often with longstanding issues that have escalated or become more problematic.

14. Young people between the ages of 11 year plus who have required care or edge of care services often have experienced one or more of the following characteristics:

- Violence from young person – either directed at parent(s) or sibling(s)
- Criminal or anti-social behaviour, gang activity or substance misuse
- Difficulty controlling emotions and anger management issues
- Mental illness, self-harming and suicide attempts
- Family dysfunction
- Young person homeless or abandoned, neglect or abuse
- Young people who go missing from home, demonstrate risk taking behaviours, are at risk of sexual exploitation and are not accepting of the risks they are taking
- School, exclusions, non-attendance

15. Parents capacity to cope with these issues can be limited due a number of factors identified below:

- Their own mental illness
- Substance misuse
- Poor parenting skills, difficulties in learning and sustaining safe parenting
- Experience of domestic violence and abuse
- Intergenerational domestic violence and abuse can impact and limit wider family or community support networks

Factors identified at Child In Need assessment 11 – 17 year olds

16. Between 1st September 2015 and 31st August 2016, mental health issues (which could apply to the young person or the parent) were identified in 36.3% of cases, but between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017, it was identified in 46.4% of cases. Alcohol misuse (from 21.7% to 27.1%) and drug misuse (17.3% to 23.8%) have also risen, but domestic violence has remained stable, occurring in roughly a third of all assessments.

17. Emotional abuse, physical abuse and sexual abuse have all also seen small increases, although cases of neglect being identified has remained stable. Although ‘gangs’ being identified as a factor remains low (3.5%), the actual number of cases identified has more than doubled (from 15 cases in 15/16 to 24 cases during 16/17).

18. A range of problems and factors may have an accumulative effect resulting in a crisis where the young person is at risk of coming into care which is often the picture of neglect.

Entering Care aged 11 – 17 year olds

19. There are 66 cases where 11-17 year olds entered care during September 16 to August 17. In 36 (55%) cases, the category of need was abuse or neglect, 28 (43%) cases involved categories relating to family breakdowns

THE CHALLENGE FOR SERVICES

20. By responding to family crises quickly and intensively and at times most suited to families, some children who might otherwise become accommodated via section 20 of the Children Act 1989, could be supported at home.
21. Equally, we know that the longer a child is looked after the less likely rehabilitation home becomes. So by responding promptly and working intensively with children and their families when children have become accommodated due to family dysfunction/breakdown, rehabilitation home is more likely to be achieved and sustained. Thus reducing the length of time that looked after care is required.
22. Children and Families social work service is developing a response to strengthen keeping young people in the community where it is safe and appropriate to do so.
23. The safeguarding and care planning service is redesigning how services support complex child in need young people. The service is reconfiguring resources into a complex child in need team.
24. In addition we are developing a rapid response service to help manage some intensive intervention and have the capacity to undertake this work out of usual hours where appropriate this service will go live in January.
25. The rapid response team will respond immediately to cases where there is a strong likelihood that the child will become accommodated because of a breakdown in their family situation or where there is a risk of significant harm to a child which might otherwise require the child to become Looked After. This might include for example, a family crisis that impacts on parental resilience, parental and/or child interactions and behaviours which seriously weaken the family's ability to function and/or child protection concerns that might be safely mitigated by the provision of intensive interventions.
26. The team will work with families for a maximum of 12 weeks. A single keyworker system will operate with the ability to mobilise other team members where needed. Occasionally a full team response may be required. Keyworkers will hold a maximum of 12 families at any one time. The youngest child will normally be 11 years old or above. Case responsibility will remain with the Social Worker from the complex child in need team.
27. The rapid response team will have a mixed multi -disciplinary skill set and be specifically trained in strength based methodologies- namely motivational interviewing and Systemic practice- as well as specific training in assessing and

managing risk in crisis driven circumstances. Within its resources there will be a systemic practice worker, Social Workers, Family Group conference/mediation workers, school liaison worker, Youth Worker The team will have a Manager/Coordinator who will also manage the complex child in need team.

28. In addition the rapid response service will have recourse to dedicated professional foster care placements.
29. A key feature of the rapid response service will be the flexibility of its availability to families. Family crisis tends to become acute at the times when normal Council functions are unavailable. To mitigate this and to ensure availability when families need support the most the team will overlap with day time services and be available on a shift basis which will include weekend and evening work.
30. The skill set of the staff will cover intensive family intervention, family group conference and staff experienced in mental health substance misuse and domestic violence issues.

The Intervention

31. The rapid response service will be trained in multi-systemic practice this will be the main model adopted as part of a tool kit for staff involved in family intervention for complex needs young people and this will be rolled out over all social work teams.
32. Multi-systemic intervention is an evidence based programme that delivers family intervention in the home through qualified staff from a range of disciplines. By improving parenting and rebuilding positive family relationships it allows families to manage future crisis situations, delivering long term and sustained impact. It works with young people aged 11-17 who are at risk of entering care or custody and their families who have not engaged or maintained engagement with other services.
33. Greater emphasis is placed on outcomes measurement and performance management to drive continual improvement. Rather than just taking a snapshot of the outcomes for the young person immediately after the conclusion of the intervention, progress of the child would be tracked to look for sustained improvement.

STABLE ACCOMMODATION

34. It is important to ensure care leavers are fully supported in a range of accommodation.
Services are developing services and have been successful in developing taster flat for young people as well as a range of supported accommodation. We know this is instrumental in stabilising care leavers and preventing a cycle of returns to care and is a building block to stability for their future family.
35. The accommodation offer to care leavers has been strengthened supporting their stability in the community. The service has worked collaboratively with the housing service developing the taster flat scheme. Careful consideration is given to the level of support and location of accommodation a care leaver needs. Every effort is made to locate care leavers to support their social networks and promote access to training, employment and education. Care leavers have told us avoiding social

isolation and feeling safe, are issues very important to them. The taster flat scheme acts to promote stability and integration for care leavers within the community.

36. The service has worked collaboratively with the commissioning service to develop the range of choice of supported accommodation for care leavers with complex needs. We are in the process of preparing to tender for a range of provision to strengthen the supported accommodation offer to care leavers.
37. The service commissions a range of housing provision for 16 – 25 year olds. Some of this provision is very generic covering all needs. The new commissioning model is much more focused upon developing provision for specific needs managing a continuum of housing options offering a range of accommodation and support to care leavers and young people at risk of homelessness.

HOMELESSNESS

38. Our duties and responsibilities across children and housing legislation make it clear that supporting care leavers and reducing the risk of homelessness is a priority.
39. Managing edge of care pressures also involves supporting 16 and 17 year old young people presenting as homeless. There is a duty to ensure this group is supported and where appropriate provide accommodation.
40. Care wellbeing and learning have worked collaboratively with housing services to develop a dedicated post to work intensively and in a timely manner with any young people presenting as homeless. This has been a very effective way of supporting young people ensuring they are not homeless.

OUTCOME OF THE REVIEW

- The review demonstrated the challenges facing services for adolescents on the edge of care and the approaches to supporting young people and their families with complex needs.
- The report outlined the changes being made to the design and best practice delivery of services for young people with complex needs on the edge of care.
- The committee recognised the importance of partnership working regarding mental health substance misuse and neglect issues and the significance of commissioning housing options for young people and care leavers.
- It was recognised how important responsive service delivery is to meet the needs of these families through stable housing, prevention of homeless and providing housing options.
- The committee reflected the importance of supporting families to manage financial issues which the service has incorporated into the overall service design.
- There was acknowledgement from the committee that responsive systemic best practice with families on the edge of care gave the best opportunities to safely reduce the numbers of children and young people entering care.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to agree to the following draft recommendations and refer it to Cabinet on 19 December 2017;

1. The service to implement the complex child in need team and the rapid response service development by January 2018.
2. The delivery of the rapid response service to strengthen links to financial and benefits support services.
3. The service will train staff in systemic approaches as a strengths based model best practice model.
4. The committee acknowledged the importance of developing the housing options offer for care leavers and agreed that strengthening this offer during the next commissioning process.
5. The committee agreed that continuing to build joint service delivery with partners is important and needs to continue within the edge of care service development work.

CONTACT: Elaine Devaney

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TITLE OF REPORT: The Council Plan – Six Month Assessment of Performance and Delivery 2017/18
REPORT OF: Caroline O’Neil, Strategic Director, Care, Wellbeing and Learning

SUMMARY

This report provides the six month update of performance and delivery for the period April to September 2017 in relation to the Council Plan 2015-2020 for the indicators and activity linked to children and young people.

Background

1. The report forms part of the Council’s performance management framework and gives an overview of progress for the priorities appropriate to the remit of the Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC).
2. The Council Plan 2015-2020 was approved by Cabinet on the 14 July 2015, to enable the Council, along with partners, to be better placed to achieve positive outcomes for the people of Gateshead and deliver the ambition of Vision 2030.

2020 Target Setting

3. As part of the Council’s performance management framework, five year targets were replaced with a single 2020 target with strategic indicators identified as either target or tracker indicators. These targets were approved by Cabinet on 12 July 2016.

Delivery and Performance

4. This report sets out the a performance overview linked to the 31 strategic outcome indicators, which have been identified as providing a high level picture of the strategic priorities for the Council and its partners in relation to children and young people. These indicators fall under the Live Well Gateshead and Prosperous Gateshead outcomes.
5. All 31 indicators are listed in appendix 1. Section 3 the report provides and overview of performance highlighted in Appendix 1, and sets out to summarise if trends have improved or declined since the previous report for indicators where in year updates are available (22 for this period). Where a trend for a particular indicator is that it has not improved since the previous report these are highlighted and commented on by exception. For this report 7 indicators have been highlighted as exceptions.
6. The report also identifies achievements, updates on key actions from the previous report and identifies key actions for the next six months.

Recommendation

5. It is recommended that the Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee:
 - (i) consider whether the activities undertaken during April to September 2017 are achieving the desired outcomes in the Council Plan 2015-2020;
 - (ii) are asked to identify any areas they feel they require more detail about or feel require further scrutiny.

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Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Council Plan – 6 Month Update of Delivery and Performance 2017/18 30 November 2017

Portfolio:	Children and Young People
Portfolio Member:	Councillor Gary Hayley
OSC Chair:	Councillor Bernadette Oliphant
Lead Officer:	Caroline O'Neill
Support Officer:	Jon Gaines

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Council Plan 2015-2020 sets out the vision for the Council and together with Children Gateshead (the plan for children, young people and families) and the Active, Healthy and Well Gateshead Strategy provides the strategic outcomes framework for children and young people. The overarching strategic outcomes for children and young people threaded throughout is that they are given the best start in life, which is in line with the shared outcomes in the Council Plan and in particular “Live Well Gateshead”, to develop a healthy, inclusive and nurturing place for all. And in “Prosperous Gateshead” seeking to provide a thriving economy for all.
- 1.2 This report provides a performance overview linked to the 31 strategic outcome indicators, which have been identified as providing a high level picture of the strategic priorities for the Council and its partners in relation to children and young people. Performance for these indicators is summarised as a performance dashboard in Appendix 1. The dashboard groups the indicators by Care, Wellbeing and Learning responsible or supporting their delivery (Learning and Schools, Early Help, Public Health and Children and Families).
- 1.3 Section 3 of this report provides an overview of performance highlighted in Appendix 1, and sets out to summarise if trends have improved or declined since the previous report for indicators where in year updates are available (22 for this period).
- 1.4 Where a trend for a particular indicator is that it has not improved since the previous report, these are highlighted by exception. For this report 7 indicators have been highlighted as exceptions.
- 1.4 Section 4 of the report updates on actions identified from the previous report, and section 5 highlights any key achievements or challenges.

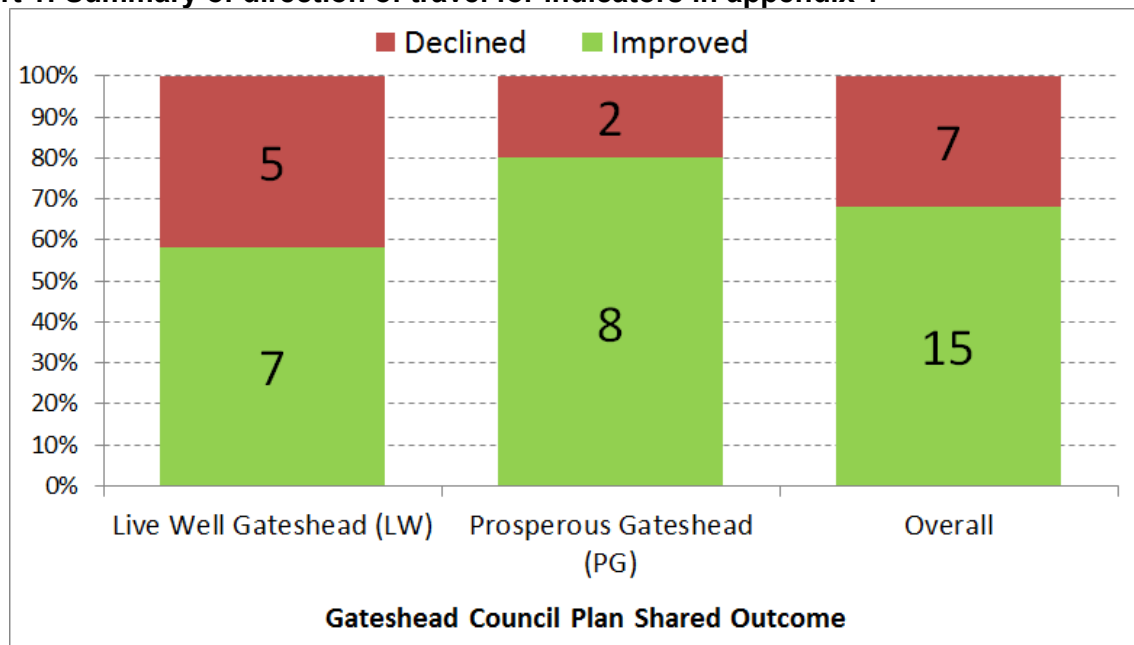
2.0 Recommendation:

- 2.1 Members are asked to consider whether the activities undertaken during April 2016 to September 2016 are achieving the desired outcomes in the Council Plan 2015-2020;
 - (ii) and are asked to identify any areas they feel they require more detail about or feel require further scrutiny.

3.0 Performance Summary

3.1 The following section summarises the overall position and trend in performance linked to the indicators included in appendix 1. More specific detail for individual indicators is provided in the table in appendix 1.

Chart 1: Summary of direction of travel for indicators in appendix 1



3.2 Of the 22 indicators with an updated position for this report included in appendix 1:

- **Overall performance trends are positive with 15 out of the 22 indicators (68%) showing an improvement since the previous report**
- **7 out of 12 indicators (58%) are showing an improvement for coming under the Live Well Gateshead outcome**, including an increase in the number of families engaged by the Troubled Families Gateshead programme, a reduction in the use of custody for 10-17 year olds, a reduction in the number of mothers smoking at the time of delivery, a reduction in 4-5 year olds with excess weight issues, a reduction in the number of children subject to a child protection plan and an increase in the proportion of care leavers in suitable accommodation and education, training and employment.
- **8 out 10 (80%) of the indicators under the Prosperous Gateshead outcome have shown improvement**, of note an increase in the percentage of schools rated outstanding and the percentage of children offered their preferred primary school place and increases in the percentage of children achieving a good level of development at age 5, those achieving the expected standard at Key Stage 1 in reading, writing and maths and those achieving the expected standard at the end of Key Stage 2.

- 3.3 Appendix 1 reports 7 indicators which have not shown improvement since the previous report, they are:

Service Area – Learning and Schools

- 3.3.1 PG19b: Maximise the % of children offered a place at their preferred secondary school** - 88 % of applicants received a place at their first preference school. This is lower than last year's figure of 92 %, but still compares favourably against the national figure of 83.5%. However 97.8 % of applicants received a place at one their preferred schools compared to 96.1 % nationally. As there are more children in the cohort this year we expect this figure will decrease for 2018 (as well as future years) if capacity within the current secondary school system remains as it is.

Service Area – Early Help

- 3.3.2 LW3: The number of eligible 2 year olds accessing their free early learning place** – We are currently awaiting final head-count data from providers so performance for this indicator is likely to improve. There has been a revised process for engaging with families on the list supplied by the Department for Work and Pensions to encourage take up. However we will continue to monitor sufficiency of places due to the introduction of the extended entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds.
- 3.3.3 LW29: First Time Entrants (FTE) into youth justice system aged 10-17 (Rate per 100,000 of Population 10-17 yr.)** - This is higher than the Northumbria PCC regional average (411) and the England average (321) of FTE per 100,000 population. Traditionally performance in this area has been better than the regional and national average for some time. The recent increase in FTEs is currently being investigated by the YOT Board to gain a better understanding of the increase; however actual numbers related to the increase are small. Moving forward as part of the development of Early Help Services in the Care, Wellbeing and Learning Group YOT prevention staff have moved into Early Help to allow co-ordinated preventative services to intervene at an earlier stage. As the FTE target will sit across the Early Help Services and not just in YOT prevention as it was previously – the increase in the numbers of staff working with these young people should help to reduce the numbers of FTE in the future.
- 3.3.4 LW14a: Support for young carers** - Performance covers the period April to September 17. The council's commissioning service monitors the contract for the Young Carers Assessment Service, provided by the Carers Trust Tyne & Wear (formerly Crossroads). The council will be sharing information on Children's Centres and Schools to help the Carers Trust deliver training for Age 5-7yrs.

Service Area – Public Health

- 3.3.5 LW4b: Reduce excess weight 10-11 yr. olds (excess weight = Obese/overweight)** Excess weight levels amongst Year 6 children have increased from 34.0% in 14/15 to 37.9% in 15/16. A research project was commissioned to explore engaging communities to address childhood obesity in areas with high levels of health inequalities. The research findings have been presented at Gateshead Council Public Health Senior Management Team, Care Wellbeing and Learning Group Management Team, Health and Wellbeing portfolio, Public Health team meeting as well as to community members, staff and head teachers who participated in the research and at the Public Health Intelligence Network North east. In addition there is a Members Seminar planned for Wednesday 10th January 2018. Work with Public Health England and Newcastle University's Open Lab is taking place to progress regional plans for an outdoor initiative focusing on a "Outdoor App" to allow children and families to find out more about, and access to green spaces, parks and cycling/walking routes in local areas.
- 3.3.6 LW16: Hospital admissions for self-harm rate per 100,000 (aged 10-24 years)** Latest data not available until March 2018. Gateshead has the 2nd highest rate of admissions per 100,000 for those aged 10-24 for self-harm in the North East. A report about self-harm is being produced and will be presented to the Families OSC in January 2018. The report will focus on local level data and provide an analysis for the 2016/17 period.
- 3.3.7 PG20: Reduce the % of children in low income families (children in poverty)** - No change on previous report, 2015 data not available. Efforts to tackle child poverty are being focused on financial inclusion – working with credit unions, enforcement activity and prevalence of high interest loans. Mitigate the impact of welfare reforms, supporting young people into education, employment and training, frontline support and advice via children's centres and other initiatives through the Employment and Enterprise Growth and Job Centre Plus to get people into work.

4.0 Updates on actions from previous reports

Service Area – Learning and Schools

- 4.4.1 Action - Look at the increase in permanent exclusions and focus on individual pupils to identify issues and any recommendations arising to address them**

Permanent exclusions continue to rise in Gateshead, although nationally they are also on the increase. Following a report to the LSCB in March 2017, a Behaviour Conference was held with primary and secondary Head teachers and representatives from health, social care and Early Help in July 2017 to formulate an action plan to address these issues. Dr Lynn Wilson (Consultant in Public Health) is overseeing the implementation of this.

There were 14 recommendations from this conference to improve behaviour in schools and the following are examples of the work being carried out;

- Conduct a multi-agency review based on a random sample of vulnerable pupils to identify where improvements can be made to multi-agency practice.
- Implement “Team around the School” pilots in primary, secondary and special schools.
- Develop a menu of alternative provision.
- Look at and redefine arrangements for information sharing (Health, Police and Schools) to ensure schools have a comprehensive picture of a child’s needs and the support that is required.
- Explore conducting Action Research into the permanent exclusion of girls to identify any specific causes and complexities.

Service Area – Early Help

4.4.2 Action - Strengthen the Early Help Strategy to empower families, professionals from all sectors, including the voluntary sector.

Update - The Early Help model has continued to be developed between April to September. The structure and key processes for the new Early Help Service are now in place, bringing together family support services from across the LA into a single, integrated delivery model and working within updated Tier 2 thresholds. This will bring efficiency benefits (one service, one structure, one system and one base) with a renewed focus on using evidence-based interventions which help families build resilience and make sustained changes.

4.4.3 Action - The Early Years and Childcare Service will focus on preparing for the increase in the statutory free childcare entitlement, from 15 to 30 hours, for eligible 3 and 4 year old children.

Update - The statutory duty to provide free childcare entitlement, from 15 to 30 hours, for eligible 3 and 4 year old children commenced 1st September. Gateshead has been an Early Implementer Innovator since April 2016 which gave us the opportunity to carry out extra work in preparation for the roll-out of the extended entitlement. Our learning has been shared with DfE.

All providers of the universal entitlement have been engaged, and although subject to change, we can report that 70% of schools with nurseries, 100% of private, voluntary and Independent providers and 40% of child minders have agreed to deliver all or part of the extended hours.

We anticipate sufficient places in the Autumn Term, but a shortfall in spring 2018, and a further shortfall in summer 2018. There will be a surplus of places in some areas of sessional, term-time only, less flexible provision.

Autumn take up figures will be known by late October but we do know that 1042 voucher codes have been issued to parents/ carers (some may be for January starts) and 837 (80%) have been validated by the LA.

Service Area – Children and Families

4.4.4 Action – Work to improve the planning framework seeking to make plans smarter and define success more clearly, and develop services to address the increase in Child Protection Plans.

Update - A Complex Child in Need Team and Rapid Response Team (to work out of hours) is being established which will work intensively with children and families to prevent their situations escalating to a point where the child may require a Child Protection plan or become looked after. Recruitment has commenced to these teams and the planned go live date for them is 2nd January 2018.

Work continues to improve planning within case work to support achieving better outcomes, with training sessions held in late 2016. 3 further workshop sessions are planned before Christmas targeting specific groups of staff. The training will be informed by a themed audit of plans which is currently being undertaken and due to be reported to the Principal Social Worker for children by the end of October.

4.4.5 Action - Target and co-ordinate work to improve outcomes for Care leavers, including the development of opportunities for apprenticeships within the Council.

Update - A separate report was made to the Corporate Parenting OSC in October 2017 giving a detailed update on the provision of support to Care Leavers. Some key areas around targeted work to improve outcomes of care leavers include:

- Building Better Opportunities programme – Wise Steps, which is designed to support those Care leavers furthest away from the labour market
- Choices programme where young people get the chance to explore universities in the region, take part in activities and develop relationships with higher education support services
- Pathways 2 work, a voluntary work experience programme which aims to develop skills needed for future employment
- A bid is currently in place for funding Core Assets 'Triple A' programme, aimed at increasing care leavers in EET through an innovative and targeted mix of therapeutic and solution focused mentoring
- Programme for marginalized young people delivered by Gateshead College, giving a comprehensive range of industry related workshops aimed at enhancing learner skills and knowledge.

In August 2017 a number of service directors pledged to offer apprenticeships to Care Leavers. This will be built into the Corporate Parenting partnership strategy and plan and reviewed every 3 months. In addition the service is currently advertising an apprenticeship for a care leaver to work with Chris Hulme (Children's Rights Officer). The advert is going out in October with interviews scheduled for November, with the aim of a planned start date of January 2018.

Service Area – Health and Social Care Commissioning and Quality Assurance

4.4.6 Action - Oversee the SEND Joint Commissioning arrangements ensuring key actions identified are delivered

Update - The SEND Joint Commissioning arrangement has an action plan which is overseen by the Children & Young People Strategic Commissioning Group. The following provides an update of some key actions undertaken in the latest period:

- A Refresh of the SEND needs assessment to inform the future commissioning of services is being undertaken. This is being informed by a range of established stakeholder groups overseen by the SEND Engagement and Communication Group.
- Meetings have taken place with all current head teachers of Additionally Resourced Mainstream Schools (ARMS). The heads been requested to inform the Council in writing by the end November 2017 whether they wish to continue or close their ARMS provision. Expressions of interest have been sought for a new pilot model which will be a partnership between Gibside School and a new primary mainstream. This inclusive model of provision will be for pupils with Autism/Social and Communication Difficulties with an EHC Plan. It will be based in a mainstream primary school, staffed by Gibside School on an outreach basis. It is proposed that this model is replicated in other primary ARM schools if successful although it is recognised that it is not a one size fits all model. New Service Level Agreements will be put in place across all ARMS provisions. A Transitions Protocol has been developed and approved by the Post-16 Co-ordinating Group. The Post-16 Pathways Group is to develop information to make it clearer to young people and parents/carers about which Post-16 pathway is right for them. This information will be added to the Local Offer and will clearly outline the outcomes that young people will be expected to achieve following the course of study and what the next step is likely to be for them.
- A draft All Age Autism Strategy has been presented to the Autism Strategy Group, the strategy will now be consulted on with partners and the public prior to agreement and sign off

Achievements

- Gateshead continues to build on the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Local Family Offer which is a funded pilot of new approaches to addressing inter-parental conflict in families. This follows emerging research from the Early Intervention Foundation that poorly resolved conflict between parents has a significant adverse impact on outcomes for children. The LFO has funded workforce development, resources for intervention work, and a new referral pathway for couple counselling and new performance indicators for measurement of relationship quality. Gateshead is proposing to act as the lead Local Authority for a regional cluster of areas interested in using up to £1M worth of new relationship provision across the North East.
- The proportion of children achieving a good level of development at age 5 has risen year on year from 34.2% in 2013 to 70% in 2017, which is within 1% of the national average.

- For Key Stage 1, the proportion of children at the expected standard in each of Reading and Writing and Maths is slightly higher than the national average.
- Outcomes at Key Stage 2 have been strong for several years, and remain so. Provisional 2017 data show Gateshead ranked 15th out of 152 Local Authorities nationally for the % children who reach the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths.
- GCSE and equivalent outcomes at Key Stage 4 have been relatively strong and above the national average for several years.

Areas of Improvement / challenges

- The shortfall in places for free childcare following the statutory increase from 15 to 30 hours, especially for the Summer Term, poses a challenge. It is very difficult to measure at the moment, as this is a parental demand led market.
- No funding to support any further development of Early Years places.
- Value-added and progress scores from KS2 to KS4 have not been strong across Gateshead as a whole. There is a wide variation in outcomes of students at different secondary schools with some performing at a high level in terms of outcomes and progress compared to the national average, and some performing much less well.

Key Actions over the next 6 months

- Continue to develop and implement the learning and actions emerging from the Behaviour conference earlier this year linked to permanent exclusions
- Allow for the new early help model to settle and ensure that families will not experience delays in receiving the service in the transition period.
- Implement the new Rapid Response and Child with Complex Needs teams within Children and Families Social Care.
- Continue to develop and implement the learning and actions from the SEND Joint Commissioning arrangement action plan

Section B: Performance Overview

Table 1, Learning & Schools – Steve Horn

Indicator	Objective	Target Type	Target 2020 17/18		Most Recent Performance	Direction of Travel	Comments and Actions
PG18: Increase the % of Gateshead schools rated Outstanding	Strategic	2020 Tracker	40%	-	38% (2016/17)	Improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspection team works closely with Primary schools to support and challenge Service Director monitors performance of individual Secondary schools and brokers support where necessary
PG19a: Maximise the % of children offered a place at their preferred primary school	Strategic	2020 Tracker	97%	-	96% (2017 intake)	Improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gateshead's primary first preference match for 2017 was 96 %. This has risen from the previous year's figure of 94% This compares favourably against national data with 90 % of applicants receiving a place at their first preference school nationally. 99.5% of applicants in Gateshead received a place at one of their chosen schools compared to 97.2 % nationally.
PG19b: Maximise the % of children offered a place at their preferred secondary school	Strategic	2020 Tracker	95%	-	88% (2017 intake)	Declined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 88 % of applicants received a place at their first preference school. This is lower than last year's figure of 92 %, but still compares favourably against the national figure of 83.5 % 97.8 % of applicants received a place at one their preferred schools compared to 96.1 % nationally. As there are more children in the cohort this year we expect this figure will decrease for 2018 (as well as future years) if capacity within the current secondary school system remains as it is.
PG21: Educational Attainment: Increase the % of children achieving a good level of development at age 5	Strategic	To be reviewed	Awaiting Government guidance on future of this indicator		70% (2017)	Improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only a statutory indicator for one more year We continue to support schools and settings in inverse proportion to need More settings judged outstanding this year We continue to focus on improving leadership and communication and language as well as development of the whole child.
PG22a: Reading - Increase the % of children attaining expected standard at the end of KS1	Strategic	2020 Tracker	90%	-	77.1%	Improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provisional result for 2016/17 academic year National performance is 75.8% The inspection team and consultants provide challenge and support

Indicator	Objective	Target Type	Target		Most Recent Performance	Direction of Travel	Comments and Actions
			2020	17/18			
PG22b: Writing - Increase the % of children attaining expected standard at the end of KS1	Strategic	2020 Tracker	84%	-	70.4%	Improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provisional result for 2016/17 academic year National performance is 68.4% The inspection team and consultants provide challenge and support
PG22c: Maths - Increase the % of children attaining expected standard at the end of KS1	Strategic	2020 Tracker	90%	-	75.9%	Improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provisional result for 2016/17 academic year National performance is 68.4% The inspection team and consultants provide challenge and support
PG23: Increase the % of children attaining the "expected standard" at the end of KS2	Strategic	2020 Tracker	85%	-	67%	Improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provisional result for 2016/17 academic year National figure was 53% in 2015/16 and is 61% in 2016/17 Inspection team and consultants provide challenge and support.
PG24: Increase % of children achieving 5 or more A* - C GCSEs including Maths & English (the final year is 2016 and 2017 will be the first year of the new 1-9 grades)	Strategic	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please note that this is no longer a national indicator so this information may not be available in the future.
PG25: Raise Attainment 8 – scores of pupils at the end of KS4	Strategic	2020 Tracker	50	-	49.9 (2015/16)	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change since last report, academic year 2016/17 not yet published National all-schools figure was 48.6 in 2015/16 academic year. Please note that scoring for GCSEs has changed this year so outcomes will not be directly comparable.
PG26: Raise progress 8 – scores of pupils at the end of KS4	Strategic	2020 Tracker	-0.03	-	-0.15 (2015/16)	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change since last report, academic year 2016/17 not yet published Service Director monitors performance of individual Secondary schools and brokers support where necessary
PG27 Attainment Gap: Reduce the gap between Attainment 8 and Progress 8 scores of disadvantaged pupils/disadvantaged peers at KS4	Equality	To be agreed	To be reviewed following 1st publication of data		-14.6 (2015/16)	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change since last report, academic year 2016/17 not yet published Service Director monitors performance of individual Secondary schools and brokers support where necessary
PG27 Progress 8 Gap: Reduce the gap between Attainment 8 and Progress 8 scores of disadvantaged pupils/disadvantaged peers at KS4	Equality	To be agreed	To be reviewed following 1st publication of data		-0.71 (2015/16)	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change since last report, academic year 2016/17 not yet published Service Director monitors performance of individual Secondary schools and brokers support where necessary

Indicator	Objective	Target Type	Target		Most Recent Performance	Direction of Travel	Comments and Actions
			2020	17/18			
PG28a: Attainment of vulnerable children. Raise progress 8 scores of Looked after Children at the end of KS4	Equality	2020 Tracker	0	-	-1.38 (2015/16)	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academic year 2016/17 not yet published National figure was -1.46 for academic year 2015/16 Service Director monitors performance of individual Secondary schools and brokers support where necessary Virtual School Head monitors progress of young people and the PEPs which are written to support them
PG28b: Raise the Progress 8 scores of vulnerable children - children on Free School Meals (FSM)	Equality	2020 Tracker	0	-	-0.72 (2015/16)	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academic year 2016/17 not yet published National gap was -0.57 in academic year 2015/16 Service Director monitors performance of individual Secondary schools and brokers support where necessary
PG28c: Raise the Progress 8 scores of vulnerable children - children with Special Educational Needs (SEN)	Equality	2020 Tracker	0	-	-0.24 (SEN Support 2015/16) -1.26 (SEN statement 2015/16)	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change since last report, academic year 2016/17 not yet published Service Director monitors performance of individual Secondary schools and brokers support where necessary. Teams of consultants support schools and individual young people to improve.

Table 2, Early Help – Val Hall, Service Director

Indicator	Objective	Target Type	Target		Most Recent Performance	Direction of Travel	Comments and Actions
			2020	17/18			
PG17: Reduce NEET rate (% not in education, training or employment as a proportion of 16-18 year olds)	Strategic	2020 Tracker	4.8%	-	4.8%	Improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performance relates to June 2017 There has been a slight improvement in NEET reflecting success in contacting 'Not Known' young people Gateshead remains below the Tyne and Wear and National figures, with the combined NEET and Not Known figure falling from 5.3% to 4.8%
LW3: The number of eligible 2 year olds accessing their free early learning place)	Equality	2020 Tracker	To be agreed	85%	73%	Declined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awaiting final head-count data from providers so performance likely to increase Revised process for engaging with families on the list supplied by the DWP to encourage take up. Monitor sufficiency of places due to the introduction of the extended entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds.
LW7: Work with families– National Troubled Families Programme - Number of families engaged by Families Gateshead	Equality	2020 Tracker	1930 families		1707 families allocated to Families Gateshead under Phase 2	Improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As at 30/09/17 there have been 1707 families allocated under Phase 2 of the Troubled Families programme PBR has been claimed for 537 families. The payment recognises where families have made significant and sustained progress against areas of identified need As of 30th September 2017 Gateshead has achieved 28% of the overall target
LW14a: Support for young carers	Equality	2020 Tracker	85	-	71 referrals	Declined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performance covers the period April to September 17 The councils commissioning service monitors the contract for the Young Carers Assessment Service, provided by the Carers Trust Tyne & Wear (formerly Crossroads) Gateshead Council are to share information on Children's Centres and Schools to help the Carers Trust deliver training for Age 5-7yrs.
LW29: First Time Entrants into youth justice system aged 10-17 (12 month lag PNC Rate per 100,000 of Population 10-17 yr. olds Rolling 12 Month)	Strategic	2020 Tracker	398 per 100k (70 FTE)	-	437 per 100k (74 FTE)	Declined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performance relates to Apr-Mar 2016/17 This is higher than the Northumbria PCC regional average (411) and the England average (321) of FTE per 100,000 population
LW30: Custody – Use of custody rate per 1000 of 10-17 years population	Strategic	2020 Tracker	Maintain low number of young people		0.18 per 1k (3 custodial sentences)	Improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The latest YJB published data for Jul 2016 - Jun 2017 shows the 12 monthly rate of custody for Gateshead at 0.18 per 1000 10-17 year olds This is below the Northumbria PCC regional average for

Indicator	Objective	Target Type	Target		Most Recent Performance	Direction of Travel	Comments and Actions
			2020	17/18			
							this period (0.27) and also below the national average (0.36)

Table 3, Public Health – Alice Wiseman, Service Director

Indicator	Objective	Target Type	Target 2020 17/18		Most Recent Performance	Direction of Travel	Comments and Actions
LW2: % of mothers smoking at the time of delivery (Rate of smoking at time of delivery per 100 maternities)	Strategic	2020 Tracker	9.9%	-	13.2% (2015/16)	Improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change since last report, 2016/17 data not available A major programme to embed NICE guidance to help midwives raise the issue and refer women to stop smoking services through the babyClear initiative has doubled quitting rates and received national acclaim Work is currently underway to re-establish a referral pathway for midwives to refer women to local stop smoking services While these improvements are significant, they have been hard won. The babyClear model isn't consistently applied and will require continued 'servicing' to maintain progress.
LW4a: Reduce Excess weight 4-5 year olds - excess weight =Obese/overweight	Strategic	2020 Tracker	18.1%	-	22.0% (2016/17)	Improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gateshead has the lowest prevalence of excess weight amongst reception children since 2012/13. A research project was commissioned to explore engaging communities to address childhood obesity in areas with high levels of health inequalities. Provisional findings are now available. Work with Public Health England and Newcastle University's Open Lab is taking place to progress regional plans for an outdoor initiative focusing on a "Outdoor App" to allow Children & families to find out more about and access to green spaces, parks and cycling/walking routes in local areas
LW4b: Reduce excess weight 10-11 yr. olds (excess weight =Obese/overweight)	Strategic	2020 Tracker	25%	-	38.5% (2016/17)	Declined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excess weight levels amongst Year 6 children have increased from 37.9% in 15/16 to 38.5% in 16/17. This is the highest level of excess weight in year 6 since 2009/10. Please see LW4a for other actions.
LW16: Hospital admissions for self-harm rate per100,000 (aged 10-24 years)	Equality	2020 Tracker	Reduce	Reduce	544.9 per 100k (2015/16)	Declined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change on previous report, latest data not available until March 2018 Gateshead has the 2nd highest rate of admissions per 100,000 for those aged 10-24 for self-harm in the North East
PG20: Reduce the % of children in low income families (children in poverty)	Strategic	2020 Tracker	18.5%	-	22.2% (2014 period)	Declined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change on previous report, 2015 data not available Increase in the % of children in low income families Efforts to tackle child poverty are being focused on financial inclusion – working with credit unions,

Indicator	Objective	Target Type	Target		Most Recent Performance	Direction of Travel	Comments and Actions
			2020	17/18			
							<p>enforcement activity and prevalence of high interest loans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitigate the impact of welfare reforms, supporting young people into education, employment and training, frontline support and advice via children's centres and other initiatives through the Employment and Enterprise Growth and Job Centre Plus to get people into work

Table 4, Children & Families – Elaine Devaney, Service Director

Indicator	Objective	Target Type	Target 2020	Target 17/18	Most Recent Performance	RAG / DOT	Comment and Actions
LW6: Numbers of children subject to a child protection plan	Strategic	2020 Tracker	54 per 10k	58 per 10k	70.4 per 10k	Improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notable reduction in the latest period, with numbers of children subject to a Child Protection Plan reducing from 312 to 285 • Development of a Complex Child in Need team and Rapid Response Team (to work out of hours) has started with an aim to support families and prevent escalation to Child Protection Plans or becoming looked after, therefore helping to reduce numbers • Work is ongoing to improve plans through training sessions being delivered before Christmas to targeted staff groups, based on learning from a themed audit currently being undertaken and due for report at the end of October.
LW8: Ensure young people leaving care and homeless are supported to have a safe place to live, appropriate and sustainable accommodation	Equality	2020 Tracker	100%	100%	98.5%	Improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance covers the period April to September 17 • The Care Leavers Accommodation and Support Panel bring services together and form a joint response to the accommodation needs of care leavers. • This initiative is proving to be very successful and was shortlisted for a Local Government Award in March 2017
LW9: Ensure young people leaving care are supported to be in education, employment, apprenticeships and training	Equality	2020 Tracker	71%	71%	50.8%	Improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance covers the period April to September 17 • Care leavers who are not in employment, education or training are monitored closely by the service. • There has been increased partnership working between the Looked After Children & Young People (LAC & YP) Service, REALAC, Connexions and the Youth Support Services • The Education, Employment and Training (EET) panel was set up in 2015 and is chaired by the LAC and YP service. The panel looks at all LAC and YP from the age of 15 and identifies gaps in EET to ensure additional support and resources are identified.
PG10: Equality Target: Ensure young people leaving care are supported to have an opportunity in the Council for an apprenticeship	Strategic	To be reviewed	To be reviewed				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In August 2017 a number of directors pledged to offer apprenticeships to Care Leavers. • In addition the service advertising an apprenticeship for a care leaver to work with Chris Hulme (Children's Rights Officer). • The advert is going out in October with interviews

Indicator	Objective	Target Type	Target 2020 17/18	Most Recent Performance	RAG / DOT	Comment and Actions
						scheduled for November, with the aim of a planned start date of January 2018.

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TITLE OF REPORT: Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report and Business Plan

REPORT OF: Caroline O'Neill, Strategic Director, Care, Wellbeing and Learning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) has a statutory requirement to publish an annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area. The findings of the annual report are then used to determine safeguarding priorities for the LSCB and partner agencies for the following financial year.

The report and priorities are considered each year at OSC to inform the committee of arrangements in place to safeguard children in Gateshead.

Background

1. The Children Act 2004 requires local authorities to have in place a LSCB. The LSCB is the principle mechanism for agreeing how relevant organisations in the local area will cooperate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the area and for ensuring the effectiveness of the arrangements. Gateshead has had a LSCB since 2005. It publishes an annual report and business plan which is reviewed and updated annually. The report contains details of the work undertaken by the Board, information on child protection activity and the priorities for the coming year.
2. Gateshead LSCB is independently chaired by Sir Paul Ennals.
3. The Government have introduced new legislation is preparing new statutory guidance that will end the requirement for local authorities to ensure that there is a LSCB and sets out requirements for a new strategic partnership made up of the local authority, police and Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). These new arrangements are expected to be in place by April 2018 and work is underway in Gateshead to prepare for this.

Performance and activity in 2016-2017

4. The full annual report for 2016-2017 is provided as an appendix to this report.
5. In 2016-2017:
 - The Board made progress against its own priorities of **Leadership**, **Challenge**, and **Learning**. This included strengthening links with local communities and other partnerships, understanding the audit activity of

our partners and what difference it made, understanding how effective we are as a Board and what needs to happen to make us more effective and work to understand why we've seen higher than expected rates of permanent exclusion and self-harm in previous years.

- The LSCB did not initiate or publish a formal Serious Case Review (SCR). The Board and partners continued to learn from high profile cases in other areas and cases within Gateshead where the threshold for a statutory SCR were not met but there were lessons to be learned
 - The LSCB Missing, Sexually Exploited and Trafficked Group (MSET) discussed the cases of 47 children and young people who were reported missing from home/care and/or were at risk from CSE. Multi-agency actions were set and diversion plans established to try to reduce the risks
 - The Gateshead Local Child Death Review Sub Group was notified of the deaths of 16 children in 2016-2017. The sub group reviews the death of every child resident in Gateshead at the time of their death and disseminates any relevant learning. The sub group works closely with similar groups in Sunderland and South Tyneside and feeds into the South of Tyne and Wearside Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) to review all child deaths in the sub region and establish whether there are any overall lessons to learn. The CDOP provides an annual report to each LSCB
 - The LSCB continued to offer a number of interactive on-line e-learning modules to complement the existing face-to-face training package. 1253 professionals attended a face-to-face session and 473 completed an e-learning module. All LSCB training is available to access free of charge (in line with the charging policy) and covers areas such as basic child protection, the impact of domestic abuse, self-harm and CSE. Members are welcome to access the modules via the LSCB website to strengthen their knowledge base
6. The annual report also details partner agency performance in relation to safeguarding. A number of partner agencies underwent reorganisations and restructures in 2016-2017 and the Board challenged areas where there were concerns about the impact on safeguarding. A number of LSCB partner agencies were inspected in 2016-2017 and on the whole findings were very positive. LSCB members are asked to share the findings of any inspection linked to safeguarding with the Board. Northumbria Police and Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust were subject to very positive inspections throughout the reporting period and Newcastle Gateshead CCG was subject to a positive NHS England Assurance Visit. The Board continues to receive updates on the progress made in South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust since their inspection in the previous year. A number of Gateshead schools were inspected by Ofsted in 2016-2017 and, whilst some were judged to be inadequate overall, no safeguarding concerns were identified. Overall 38.3% of Gateshead schools are outstanding (higher than the national average of 19%).
7. Board members were also asked to provide evidence of how they and their agency/service demonstrated **leadership**, **challenge** and **learning** and a summary is set out in the annual report.

8. The annual report also contains multi-agency and single agency performance data. Key issues to note include:
- An increase in the number of children made subject to Child Protection Plans than in previous years (78.7 per 10,000 children at year end, which is higher than the North East rate and almost double the England rate)
 - The most common category for a Child Protection Plan remains as neglect (67.8% of all plans)
 - The number of Child Protection Plans lasting over 2 years remains low however there was an increase in the numbers of children made subject to a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time
 - An increase in the number of children Looked After by Gateshead Council – at year end there were 376 children in the case of the local authority, which is a 9.6% increase from the previous year and higher than both the England and North East rate. However, data indicates good placement stability and timely performance planning
 - An increase in the number of Child Concern Notifications and “contacts” to Children’s Social Care. However, the number of referrals decreased
 - A comparable number of Child in Need (CIN Assessments) with the previous year. However, there was a decrease in CIN assessments being authorised in timescale
 - A large increase in Section 47 investigations (formal child protection investigations) and a higher percentage progressing to an Initial Child Protection Conference
 - High numbers of assessments undertaken by Children’s Social Care which identified mental health (38.7%) and domestic abuse (37.5%) as a factor. Other common factors included drug misuse, socially unacceptable behaviour, neglect and emotional abuse
 - Continuing high numbers of Permanent Exclusions from Gateshead schools
 - Continuing high rates of admission to hospital for self-harm (544.9 per 10,000 of the population aged 10-24)
9. Our data reinforces the increasing demands on statutory services. Workloads across the system as a whole continue to increase, often against a backdrop of cuts to budgets and reduced capacity. OSC members will be aware that Early Help arrangements and mental health services for young people in the borough are being reviewed and the LSCB will scrutinise and challenge these arrangements where necessary. Effective preventative and Early Help services across the system as a whole are vital to keep children and young people safe and to enable them to reach their full potential. Effective early intervention will enable agencies in Gateshead to tackle problems for our children and families before they become more difficult to reverse.
10. As part of the annual report, the LSCB Independent Chair is expected to comment on how safe children are in Gateshead and he says the following:
- “It is never possible to say categorically that all children are safe. However, external scrutiny of our services within Gateshead suggests that our services are at least as good as most areas, and in many cases better. This is no mean*

achievement since the authority scores highly on most deprivation indices, and public services have faced very severe reductions in public funding”.

Priorities for 2017-2018 and beyond

11. Gateshead LSCB agreed a new approach in 2014 and developed a three year Business Plan for 2014-2017 which focused on the specific role and remit of the LSCB in ensuring that the welfare of children is safeguarded and protected. The Business Plan emphasised the role of the LSCB in leading the safeguarding agenda, in challenging the work of partner organisations and in committing to an approach which learns lessons, embeds good practice and which is continually influenced by the views of children and young people.
12. The LSCB has agreed a one year Business Plan for 2017-2018 in light of the planned changes to the LSCB's arrangements for 2018 and beyond. The Business Plan is again based on three strategic business priorities (**leadership, challenge, and learning**). There will also be a focus on five thematic priority areas identified at our annual Development Day and from our data and discussions with partners. The five thematic priorities for 2017-2018 will be:
 - **Voice of the child**
 - **Improving relationships and the interface with schools**
 - **Early Help**
 - **Mental health**
 - **Safeguarding disabled children**
13. The 2017-2018 Business Plan is provided as an appendix to this document.
14. In 2017-2018, in relation to **leadership** we work to ensure that our future arrangements are fit for purpose and enable the new body which will be established to oversee strategic safeguarding arrangements in Gateshead to build on the work of the LSCB and strengthen the position further
15. In relation to **challenge** we will continue to build on our links with other partnerships (e.g. the Safeguarding Adults Board and Health and Wellbeing Board) and influence their agenda via our own work plan and membership.
16. And, in relation to **learning**, we will continue to review cases where there are lessons to be learned. We will also implement and embed the findings of any relevant inspections of the Board and partner agencies and cascade the learning across partner agencies.
17. In relation to the **voice of the child** we will ensure that our work plan helps us to improve the way that we hear and respond to the voice of the child as a Board
18. In relation to **improving the relationships and interface with schools** we will establish a reference group with Head Teachers. The aim of the group will be to secure a two-way dialogue on issues for the Board and partners that may impact on schools and relevant lessons from frontline practice across the education landscape.

19. In relation to **Early Help** we will challenge progress on the development and implementation of the new Early Help Strategy for Gateshead. We will receive assurances on the impact of the strategy on safeguarding children.
20. In relation to **mental health** we will receive assurances on the implementation of the new model for delivering mental health services for children and young people. We will seek assurances that services are adequate in terms of safeguarding. We will also seek assurances that mental health services commissioned and delivered to adults in Gateshead pay due regard to safeguarding any relevant children and operate with a “think family” approach.
21. And, in relation to **safeguarding disabled children** we will receive assurances from the relevant agencies and services that the learning from the recent SEND inspection has been embedded. We will also seek assurances that relevant actions from the 2017 report from the National Working Group on Safeguarding Disabled Children have been taken forward.

Recommendation

22. It is recommended that the Families OSC note LSCB and partner agency performance for 2016-2017 and note and endorse the proposed priorities and agree to participate in future consultation around safeguarding priorities. It is also recommended that Families OSC agree to receive updates in relation forthcoming changes to the LSCB and safeguarding arrangements as a result of new legislation and Government guidance.

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GATESHEAD
local **safeguarding**
children board

Gateshead LSCB Annual Report

2016 - 2017



LSCB ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017

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1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

Introduction – Councillor Angela Douglas, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People



I am pleased to introduce the Gateshead Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Annual Report for 2016-2017.

As the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People for Gateshead Council I continue to hold the statutory responsibility alongside the Director of Children's Services for ensuring that children at risk of harm receive high quality services that support and protect them.

We have once again seen unprecedented pressures on agencies in Gateshead as we all have to balance increasing demand with decreasing resources. Despite this we continue to see strong and effective practice and unwavering commitment from our professionals who often go above and beyond to keep young people safe. This report sets out some of the excellent work undertaken in the past 12 months and demonstrates just how we keep children at the heart of good practice in the borough.

I am delighted to welcome Sir Paul Ennals as the new Independent Chair of Gateshead LSCB. He brings with him a wealth of experience which can only strengthen the work of the Board in leading and coordinating the safeguarding agenda in Gateshead. The next 12 months will see a lot of change for LSCBs following new Government legislation and I am confident that we have the capacity, capability and commitment that we need to move forward and continue to support arrangements to safeguard and protect the children of Gateshead.

Foreword – Sir Paul Ennals, LSCB Independent Chair



I was honoured and delighted to be appointed to chair the Gateshead Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) in November 2016. There had been a gap of some months since the departure of my predecessor Gary Hetherington, but this report still reflects much of the positive influence that he had on the strength of the multi-agency partnership in Gateshead.

It was immediately clear to me that the partners in Gateshead have a strong commitment to working together, holding each other to account and seeking to learn and improve together. The LSCB brings together a wide range of partners – council, health bodies, police, schools, probation, voluntary sector and many others – and we all know that working together across so many agencies is inherently challenging. In particular, as austerity has hit all agencies to differing degrees, the partnership has been making genuinely difficult and painful decisions at times, seeking to respond to increasing needs within the community with ever reducing resources. It is these periods that really test the depth of the partnership, and I thank all the partners for their continued commitment.

It has been a year of change throughout many of the partners. Strong multi-agency partnerships extend beyond the personal relationships created between individuals, but there is no doubt that they benefit greatly from a level of personal consistency. Whilst representation has remained largely stable amongst the CCG, hospital trust and police, most other agencies have restructured. We have seen widespread turnover of senior council staff – an excellent new team is joining the council now, which we hope will provide welcome stability and consistency of direction. The council is rightly looking to respond to the continued budget reductions by seeking to increase its focus on early help and prevention; this requires some bold decisions and strong partnerships, since the necessary changes can have an impact on services provided by schools, health agencies, police and others. The development of the new Early Help Strategy is somewhat behind schedule, and will set the stage for more important developments in the year ahead.

It is over a year since Ofsted inspected the Council and LSCB. I am pleased to say that all their recommendations relating to the LSCB have been fully implemented.

The Government has introduced new legislation, changing the future of safeguarding arrangements for children. Gateshead LSCB has drawn up detailed proposals for how we intend to operate once the new Act comes into force; we will look to retain most of our current arrangements, but streamline our ways of working and strengthen our partnerships with colleagues across the region.

There is much detail in this report of the hard work of all the agencies. We have the confidence to challenge each other if we think any agencies need to improve, but we do so within a partnership where we offer strong support to each other. “High Support, High

Challenge” is becoming our slogan, as the partnership of agencies confronts the real challenges that the Government and the economy present to us all.

Safeguarding arrangements within Gateshead are broadly robust and effective. This is due to the personal commitment of many individuals. Above all, though, I should thank our excellent Board manager Louise Gill, whose departure in August 2017 to work in Public Health brings real gains to them, but leaves a significant hole in our working arrangements which will be hard to fill.

Paul Burr

2. SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

2.1 Purpose of report

As set out in *Working Together to Safeguard Children* (2015), every Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) is required to produce and publish an annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area. This report sets out the arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Gateshead and provides an assessment of those arrangements. The report also sets out how we discharge our statutory functions.

2.2 Overall LSCB progress

Once again, 2016-2017 has been a busy year for us. Despite the Board not undergoing specific external scrutiny as we were not inspected by Ofsted and did not undertake any statutory Serious Case Reviews (SCRs), our “business as usual” and a number of new emerging issues nationally and locally have meant that our meetings have been busier than ever. Considerable work has also been undertaken between meetings by our sub groups, task and finish groups and highly committed members. We also continued to build on the learning from the Ofsted inspection of the LSCB in 2015-2016 to strengthen our position and build on our ambition to be a “good” LSCB.

We appointed a new Independent Chair in November 2016 and as part of his review of our arrangements we strengthened our governance arrangements and updated our Terms of Reference. We also improved processes during our meetings to allow for more discussion of key issues to result in actions and recommendations and less time simply receiving reports.

2.3 Progress against last year’s objectives

Our Business Plan was monitored at every meeting of the LSCB Business Planning Group and the new LSCB Executive, which first met in February 2017, took this role forward. By year end most of our priorities were signed off or due to be signed off by the end of April 2017. The only exceptions are as follows: The redesign of Early Help is ongoing to enable active involvement of partner agencies. Updating the “Thresholds/Indicators of Need” document from Children’s Social Care will be completed once the Early Help offer is finalised. The work around the national Child Protection – Information System has not yet been completed due to technology issues beyond the control of agencies in Gateshead; however this is being actively addressed.

In terms of **Leadership** we strengthened our links with our local communities and other partnerships to improve the visibility of the LSCB and ensure that safeguarding children was still a priority for groups with an adult or community focus. We also considered whether it would be appropriate to establish a young person’s LSCB and continued with work to engage children and young people with the work of the Board.

We **challenged** our partner agencies to provide us with details of their own internal single-agency scrutiny and audit. We were not asking agencies to do additional audit work but wanted to make sure that we knew what audits were already taking place, what they were showing and whether they made a difference. The purpose of this was to reassure us as a Board that there were no significant issues picked up in term of practice but also to ensure that agencies were robust in their own arrangements to identify any issues. Overall, the findings identified no specific concerns about single agency practice and indeed some high quality single agency and joint working was demonstrated. In terms of areas for development, Children’s Social Care shared that in 53% of the cases audited “visits” were not in timescale (this was across all cases including Child Protection, Child in Need and Looked After Children). This figure improved to 80% as a result of the actions undertaken

following the audit. The voice of the child is heard and acted upon, however this is not always evidenced as well as it could be through recording. Inconsistencies were noted in the planning process and areas for improvement identified. Some very good work was noted in all of the Children's Social Care audits however. Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust shared that there was limited evidence in hospital records of paediatric engagement with child protection conferences. Invitations were only received a few days before the meeting, making paediatric attendance more difficult due to clinical commitments. Processes were introduced to address this and plans put in place to re-audit and determine if improvements had been made. The LSCB Executive will continue to monitor single agency audits on behalf of the Board in 2017-2018.

2.4 Board effectiveness

We challenged ourselves as a Board through our new Effectiveness Framework. Our benchmarking exercise showed us that there were no significant areas of concern but we needed to evidence further the impact of our work. Work in this particular area will continue into 2017-2018 as we review our arrangements in light of the Government's review of LSCBs and new legislation. We also reviewed our mini peer review proposal from previous years and looked at more effective ways of challenging each other.

In terms of **Learning**, we considered the national review of LSCBs commissioned by the Government to make sure there were no significant gaps in our training offer. We also reviewed cases in a multi-agency setting where there were lessons to be learned and took this learning forward. As a result of the 2015 Ofsted inspection we also reviewed processes to understand the impact of our training offer and maintained a focus on delivering high quality training that met demand.

As well as our work towards our Business Plan and priorities we are satisfied that we have highly effective partnership arrangements in Gateshead which are built on trust and honesty. Agencies have the confidence to challenge each other due to robust working relationships.

Our annual Development Session commended the highly effective work of our LSCB Business Manager. The role is crucial to the work of the Board in terms of ongoing work, compliance with statutory requirements and helping to drive the Board forward. The LSCB Business Manager provides a link between the Board and sub groups and links to other partnerships. The new LSCB Chair also chairs the SAB and this further strengthens joint working and will help to improve the transition agenda.

As a Board, we are confident that we have effective training that responds well to LSCB priorities. Despite increasing pressures on partner agency staff we have a skilled pool of trainers who deliver a lot of our sessions "in house" but we also have the resources to commission specialist sessions when appropriate. We continue to carry out work to ensure that our training has an impact on frontline to ensure that the sessions not only lead to improved outcomes but provide the Board with best value for money.

We acknowledge that we need to do more to hear the voice of the child as a Board. Our partner agencies undertake a lot of work to listen to and act on the voice of children accessing their services and there is some work for us to do to join this up better across the partnership and to see more meaningful outcomes from this. We also need to carry out more work to capture the voice of children who aren't part of groups such as school councils, the Youth Assembly, One Voice, Police Cadets etc. We will take this work forward into 2017-2018. However, some really positive practice was noted for example the use of the "Seen and Heard" campaign and "My Care Plan" in health and the use of the "MOMO" app for children involved in the Child Protection and Looked After systems.

2.5 Summary of sub group and task & finish group progress

We established two task & finish groups in 2016-2017 to lead on the two thematic high priority areas - self-harm and permanent exclusions - on behalf of the Board. The two groups met regularly, scoped each issue, identified and took forward areas for development. The **self-harm** group acknowledged that reported rates of self-harm in Gateshead are high, though reducing. Schools were not routinely informed when a young person presented to hospital with self-harm and therefore were unable to support them when they next attended school. Processes to allow this information to be shared were explored and school staff identified a training need around how to respond to self-harm, so specialist training was commissioned and offered to every school. It is too soon to see whether or not this will help to reduce the number of young people who self-harm, but clearly young people involved are now better supported. The **exclusions** group explored the rise in permanent exclusions within Gateshead, and produced a range of recommendations for how the local authority, health and schools can seek to tackle the issue; a seminar for all schools is planned for the summer of 2017. The two task & finish groups provided a 6 month update report and a final report at year end to evidence what had taken place and any further actions required. Both groups were praised by the Board on the level of detail in their work and the actions identified and achieved. Work will be taken forward into 2017-2018 by identified Board members.

At year end we had seven sub groups, one of which is shared with the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB). They are:

- Gateshead Local Child Death Review Group
- Joint LSCB & SAB Strategic Exploitation Group
- Learning & Improvement Sub Group
- Licensing Sub Group
- Performance Management Sub Group
- Policy & Procedures Sub Group
- Training Sub Group

The LSCB Missing, Sexually Exploited and Trafficked Sub Group (MSET) also reports into the Strategic Exploitation Group having previously reported directly to the Board.

Throughout the year our sub groups continued to work towards their own work plans and towards one or more of our priorities of **Leadership**, **Challenge** and **Learning** and specific details of this are found in the sub group reports in Appendix 4.

2.6 Summary of partner agency progress

A number of our partner agencies underwent reorganisations and restructures in 2016-2017 and as a Board we participated in consultation exercises and discussions and challenged areas where we were concerned that there could be an impact on safeguarding. As a Board we continue to give partner agencies a clear message that safeguarding all children, but particularly vulnerable children, must continue to be a priority when resources are reviewed.

We held a workshop session in October for members of our Board, the Safeguarding Adults Board and the Community Safety Board to ensure that our response to domestic abuse was strong enough. In particular, we looked at the way that agencies kept children safe when their parents/carers were involved in incidents of domestic abuse in the home. Some of our partners have been involved in some innovative pieces of work to improve the response to children involved in domestic abuse. For example, the Northumbria Police have been awarded additional money to focus on prevention and early intervention and this will include

work with schools. In previous annual reports we have described Operation Encompass, where police information feeds into schools to help school staff support children who have witnessed domestic abuse and this work continues successfully. Overall we were assured that some really effective work is in place. A lot of local authorities commission out their domestic abuse work but a great deal of it is done “in house” in Gateshead. Our partner agencies are focusing on being proactive and robust in their risk assessment and specialist training has been given on the perspective of the child. We felt that there are still some small gaps and we have asked partners to look into this further and will monitor this as a Board.

At our Board development session in March 2017 we asked our members to evidence how their own agencies had made a positive impact on children and young people and how we as a Board were also improving outcomes. The session provided us with some positive assurances. Some of our partners are performing extremely well in inspections nationally (e.g. Northumbria Police and Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust) and some of our joint working has also been nationally recognised (e.g. Team Sanctuary). Despite some difficult budget decisions being made over the past 12 months our partners continue to prioritise safeguarding and continue to demonstrate good practice such as improvements in training for school governors and GPs, a safe and strong “front door” in Children’s Social Care, work with refugee families, additional supervision sessions for staff and strengthened policies and procedures in Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust.

Our partner agencies were asked to provide assurances about how they demonstrated our priorities of **Leadership**, **Challenge** and **Learning** in 2016-2017. In terms of **Leadership** a number of high profile appointments have been made or are being made to strengthen practice, governance and oversight and this includes a new Strategic Director in Gateshead Council, a new Designated Doctor in health and a continuing commitment to the role of Designated Nurses for both Safeguarding and Looked After Children. Northumbria Police demonstrated leadership in safeguarding with a clear direction regarding vulnerability and leadership and working to improve areas such as professional development and resilience of staff.

In terms of **Challenge**, our partner agencies have numerous practice examples of working together in a high support, high challenge culture with regular dialogue between managers in cases of abuse, neglect and exploitation. NHS England carried out assurance visits and audits of all of the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) in the North East of England to ensure compliance with national safeguarding standards. Newcastle Gateshead CCG were rated very positively throughout this process.

In terms of **Learning**, our partners were able to demonstrate changes to practice as a result of learning from cases (including good practice examples) and how this was disseminated and implemented. Gateshead College has ensured that learning around safeguarding is delivered to students and staff including delivering training on staying safe online to 1,842 students, counter extremism tutorials to 1,775 students and British values training to 1,684 students. By equipping their students with more information on risks and how to respond the College is helping to improve outcomes and raise awareness. The learning from Independent Return Interviews carried out by Adolescent Youth Support Service staff helps police and Children’s Social Care to understand an individual young person’s needs and specific risks in relation to them going missing and potential exploitation. This learning is then used to plan specific support packages.

In Gateshead we are rightly proud of the work that we have done as a Board and as partner agencies in 2016-2017. Agencies and individuals work well together providing support and challenge when necessary to ensure that safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people remains a priority in both statutory child protection/safeguarding work and the wider work across the borough.

3. PERFORMANCE DATA AND INFORMATION

3.1 Performance Data

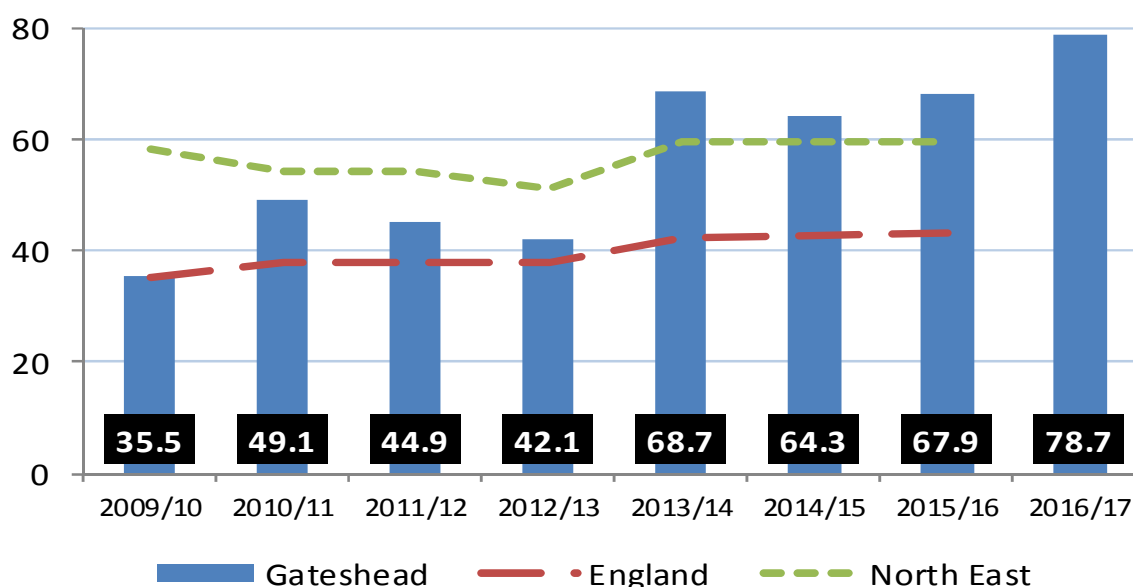
The LSCB Performance Management Sub Group monitors performance information on behalf of the LSCB and reports regularly to the Board against an agreed data set/performance dash board linked to priority areas.

A number of key issues were noted in the year-end report to the Board including continuing high child protection figures. The number of re-referrals increased but they remain in line with Gateshead's four year average and below regional and national averages

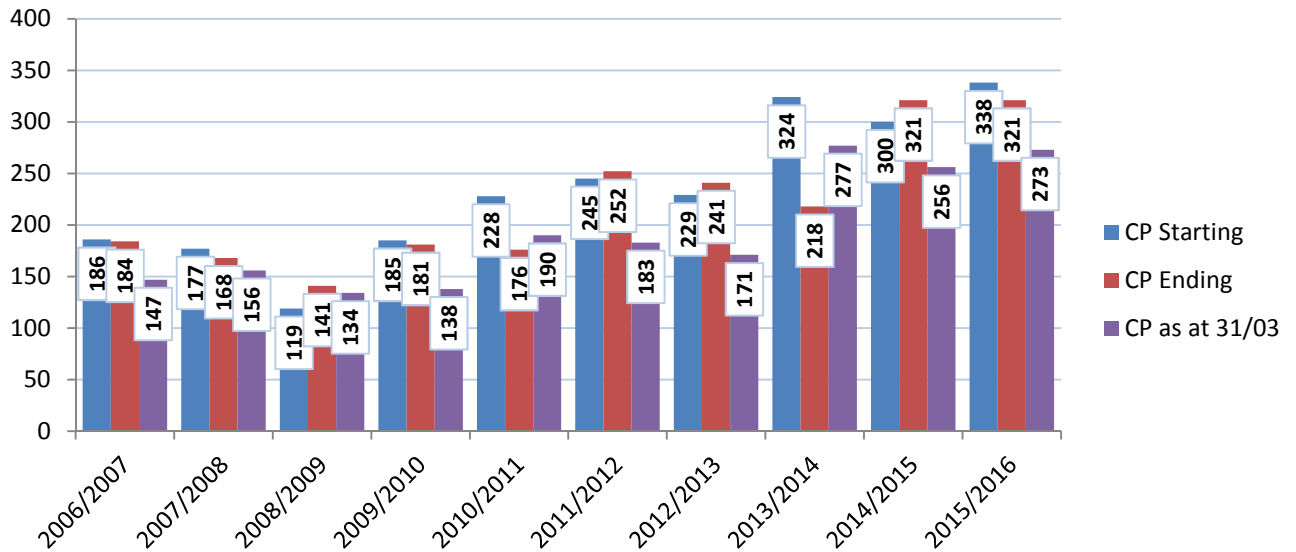
The dashboard also contains data on CSE and missing episodes but this is covered elsewhere in this report

At year end there were 314 children from Gateshead subject to a Child Protection Plan, which is a rate of 78.7 per 10,000, and almost double the England rate of 43.1 per 10,000 reported in 2015-2016. It is also 32% higher than the North East rate and an increase of 10.8 per 10,000 on the previous year in Gateshead. Work is ongoing to understand the significant rise alongside a new planning framework.

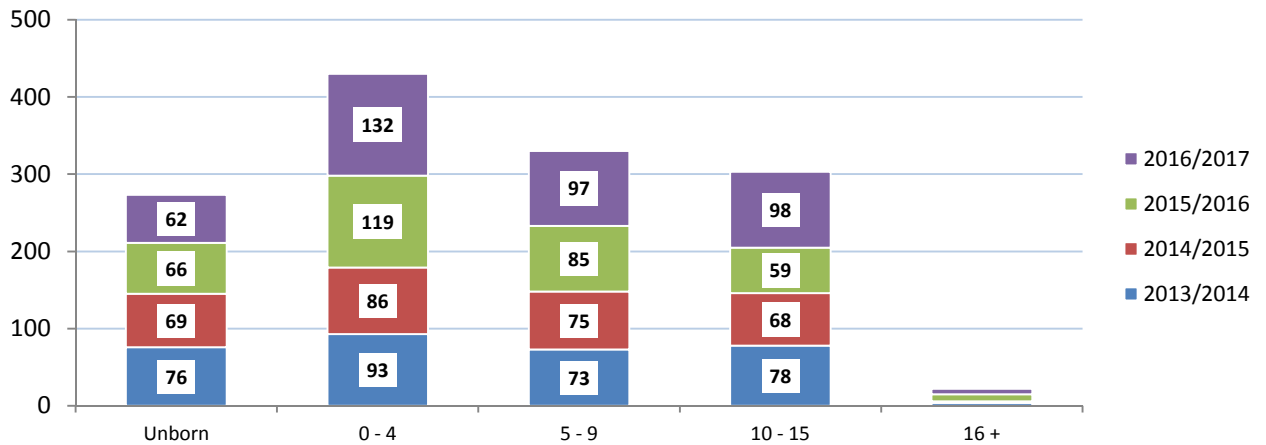
Child Protection Plan numbers per 10,000 @ 31st March



Child Protection Numbers

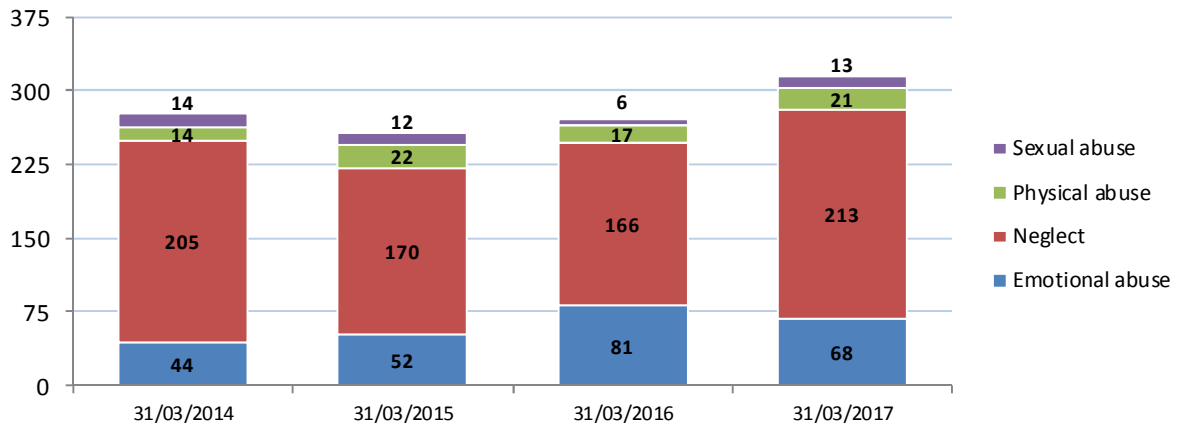


Age of Children when placed on a Child Protection Plan (Apr-Mar)



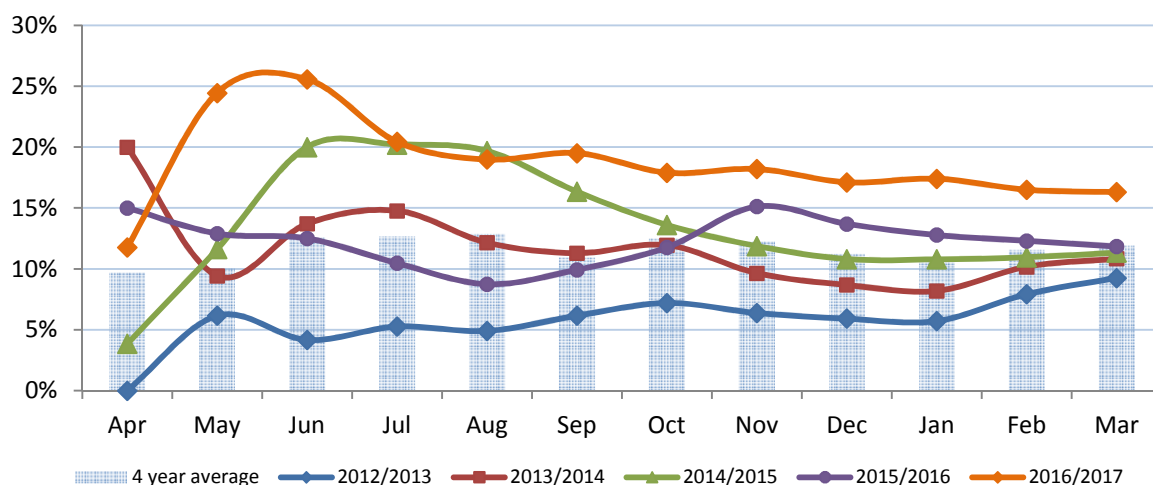
The category of neglect remains the highest at 67.8% of all plans. The numbers of plans lasting over 2 years remains low.

Child Protection Category at year end



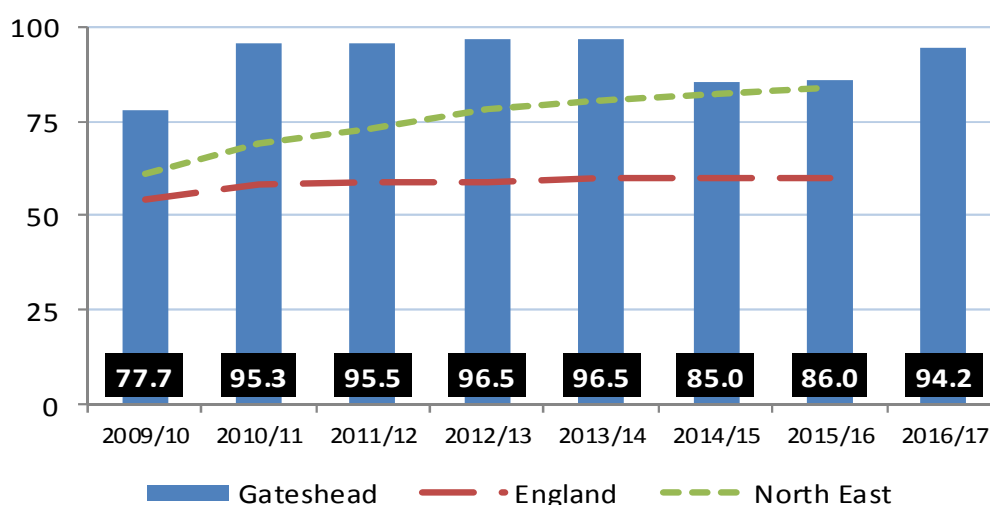
There was an increase noted in the numbers of children who became subject to a plan for a second or subsequent time (65 of 397 plans that started in 2016-2017 or 16.3%) and work is underway to understand this. The figure has reduced in the first quarter of 2017-2018 and there are currently 13 children subject to a second or subsequent plan. It is worth noting that only four of those children were made subject to a plan within two years of their last plan; the remaining nine children had a gap of over two years between plans.

Performance Indicator: Percentage of children becoming the subject of Child Protection Plan for a 2nd or subsequent time



This reporting period also saw an increase in the number of children who are Looked After by Gateshead Council. At year end there were 376 children in the care of Gateshead Council (94.2 per 10,000) which represents a 9.6% increase from the previous year end and is 57% higher than the latest England rate and 12% higher than the North East rate. The Looked After Children performance information indicates good placement stability and timely performance planning. This data and information on outcomes is monitored regularly by Gateshead Council Children's Social Care Performance Clinic, the Corporate Parenting Partnership, the Looked After Children Overview and Scrutiny Committee and a number of other partner agency forums. The LSCB established a task & finish group to examine ways of safely reducing this figure.

Looked After Children numbers per 10,000 @ 31st March



Other data to note included:

- Child Concern Notifications and contacts to Children's Social Care increased from previous years; however the number of referrals decreased.
- A high number of assessments undertaken by Children's Social Care identified mental health (38.7%) and domestic abuse (37.5%) as a factor. Other common factors included alcohol or drug misuse, socially unacceptable behaviour, neglect and emotional abuse. Whilst the numbers of cases where domestic abuse is a factor is high it is much lower than the England average of 2015-2016 (49.6%) whereas the socially unacceptable behaviour rate (18.5%) is much higher (8.3%).
- A comparable amount of Child In Need (CIN) Assessments were undertaken in 2015-2016 and 2016-2017, however there was a decrease in CIN assessments being authorised within timescales. There was a large increase in Section 47 investigations and a higher percentage of these progressed to Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC). Of those cases going to ICPC, 84% went on to require a Child Protection Plan, which indicates multi-agency agreement on the way to progress these cases
- 98.2% of ICPCs were held within the 15 day timescale (well above the regional average of 82.4% and national average of 76.7%). Attendance and contribution to CP conferences is monitored and remains strong overall, particularly for some partners e.g. Police. Work is ongoing to improve the contribution of some agencies to the process e.g. GPs. and also ensure sustained improvement against timescales for distribution of minutes
- There are small numbers of young people receiving treatment in specialist substance misuse services. There was a slight increase in the number of new presentations to treatment compared to the previous reporting period. Alcohol and cannabis continue to be the highest proportion of substances misused
- Rates of Permanent Exclusions from schools in Gateshead continue to be high and the 2016-2017 academic year is likely to show an increase on the previous year (data not available yet). Work has been carried out to explore this area further. The most common reason for Permanent Exclusion was "persistent disruptive behaviour". Work is ongoing around this area and the LSCB will host a seminar for all schools to explore the issue further in July 2017
- Gateshead continues to have higher than average rates of admissions to hospital for self-harm (544.9 per 10,000 of the population aged 10-24) and this has increased from last year. Significant work has been undertaken to reduce these rates but the impact will not be seen immediately

3.2 Summary of thematic information

3.2.1 Missing children

The LSCB Missing, Sexually Exploited and Trafficked Sub Group (MSET) monitors and coordinates multi-agency activity for children who are reported missing from home or care.

In total, there were **862 episodes** in 2016-2017 where a young person from Gateshead was reported missing or absent to police. **541 (63%) of these episodes were children/young people looked after by Gateshead Council**. These figures differ slightly from those presented by Northumbria Police – they state that there were 439 "missing" episodes involving under 18s in Gateshead and 331 "absent" episodes. This equates to 770 episodes in total, 417 of which were Looked After Children. However these figures only include young people reported missing from a Gateshead address and do not include Gateshead LAC placed elsewhere in the Northumbria area or further afield whereas the LSCB data for MSET does. There are also a small number of young people placed into private children's homes in Gateshead by other local authorities who are included in the police figures (e.g. Fairways,

Caxton House and Church Rise). There were 928 missing/absent episodes in 2015-2016 (of which 657 or 71% related to Looked After Children) therefore this represents a **7% decrease year on year** on the total episodes and an **18% decrease in missing from care episodes**.

All children who are missing or absent on two or more occasions in a six month period or for a single episode lasting more than 24 hours are offered an Independent Return Interview. This differs from a police Safe and Well Check (which all missing people receive on return) and is carried out by skilled and experienced youth workers to determine underlying reasons for the missing episode and wider risks and vulnerability factors. The interviews are also used to identify broader trends, including "CSE hotspots" and there are clear links into MSET meetings and intelligence sharing with police.

In total there were 308 requests for a return interview in 2016-2017 (as the 862 missing episodes relate to a smaller number of individuals as a small cohort of young people were reported missing more than once). 186 interviews were carried out (60%), 97 young people refused (31%) and 25 interviews were no longer required or not appropriate (8%). This 60% completion rate is significantly higher than in other LSCB areas where external services are commissioned to provide the service and reflects the specialist skills and local knowledge that the youth workers have whilst also retaining independence from the case. The youth workers also have links in to other services which means that appropriate support can then be put in place for young people when required.

3.2.2 Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

The MSET sub group of the LSCB also has oversight of cases where there are concerns about sexual exploitation. There were **47 cases** discussed at MSET due to concerns about them in 2016-2017, 27 of which were discussed on more than one occasion. This is 8.5% increase from 2015-2016 when there were 43 cases discussed (23 of those were discussed more than once). It is not possible to separate how many of those cases were discussed due to missing episodes and how many due to CSE due to the overlap between the two, but a CSE risk assessment was carried out for each case that was discussed and diversion plans put in place. It is thought that this increase represents improved awareness rather than increased incidence of sexual exploitation. More detail on the work of the MSET is set out in Appendix 4. It is not possible to provide case studies on how the work of the group improved outcomes as they may lead to young people being identified.

The chair of the MSET was nominated for the National Working Group's National Policing Lead's Award in recognition of her contribution to the work of the MSET and work in general to safeguard children and young people at risk of CSE in Gateshead and the local area.

Northumbria Police produce a "Problem Profile" which details crimes, incidents and child concerns with a CCN marker and also locations linked to CSE intelligence. The report for 2016-2017 is not yet available and the previous report does not cover a full year's worth of data so will not be reported in this report. These reports are monitored by the joint LSCB and SAB Strategic Exploitation Sub Group.

The 2014-2015 LSCB Annual Report detailed a highly effective piece of work where the LSCB commissioned Chelsea's Choice, a hard hitting drama workshop focusing on CSE, to be delivered to over 2,500 young people. We jointly commissioned this with a number of schools in 2016-2017 and the session was delivered to over 2,000 further young people. The sessions have been shown to impact on young people by raising awareness of CSE, how to respond, staying safe and the differences between healthy and unhealthy relationships. There is anecdotal evidence of young people radically changing the way they behave online after the sessions and also examples of young people making disclosures afterwards.

There is an expectation that all children who are at risk of CSE are “flagged” on the Children’s Social Care electronic recording system. At year end there were 16 young people flagged as being at risk of CSE. These cases are a mix of males and females (although mainly female) and children in the Looked After system, on Child Protection Plans and Child in Need cases. Throughout 2016-2017 there were 16 cases that were “flagged” on the system and 14 cases who had their flag removed.

The 2015-2016 LSCB Annual Report detailed work that was undertaken by the LSCB Business Manager with colleagues from Northumbria Police and Gateshead Council Licensing to ensure that all taxi drivers licenced by Gateshead Council were aware of the signs of CSE and how to respond. This work continued into 2016-2017 and a number of additional sessions were held for new drivers to continue to raise awareness.

3.2.3 Private Fostering

Gateshead LSCB receives an annual report on Private Fostering from Children’s Social Care to update members on the number of arrangements in the borough and to raise local and national issues. The 2016 report set out that at the time of the report there were no children subject to private fostering arrangements in Gateshead and there were two arrangements that had ended in the reporting period and one new notification. The report gave additional details about compliance with timescales and the work undertaken to raise awareness and to manage any perceived under-reporting.

The 2015 Ofsted inspection stated that “private fostering arrangements are clear and follow statutory guidance...Despite awareness-raising campaigns, the number has not increased. Agencies accept this is likely to be under-reported and, although a wide range of activity has been undertaken, further work is required to raise the profile of private fostering with the public and to raise awareness within faith and community groups”. The Board was satisfied that the work undertaken was appropriate and planned work was fit for purpose in terms of the comments from Ofsted and the national context.

3.2.4 Child Deaths

The Gateshead LSCB Child Death Review Sub Group reviews the death of every child in the borough and reports into the sub regional Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) which is shared with Sunderland and South Tyneside LSCBs. More information on the work of the sub group and CDOP is set out in Appendix 4.

In 2016-2017 the LSCB was notified of the deaths of 16 children from Gateshead. There were no significant safeguarding issues in any of the deaths. Detailed information is not presented in this report so that the young people cannot be identified but it should be noted that the majority of deaths were premature babies or babies born with life limiting conditions who died within a short period of their birth. There were also a small number of deaths due to road traffic collisions.

3.2.4 Allegations against those working with children

There are clear statutory processes in place for responding to allegations made against those working with children. The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) is a key role in this process.

From 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017 there were 59 LADO enquires that went to strategy meeting/discussion and 238 further LADO enquiries, making a total of 297 LADO enquiries where there were concerns about someone working with children. There were 66 referrals in 2015-2016 that were progressed. Referrals to the LADO were received from statutory and

non-statutory organisations. Police, education and social care remain the main source of referrals in addition to Ofsted and other local authorities.

The most common category of abuse recorded for those cases which went to strategy meeting/discussion was physical abuse (62.7%). A small number of the allegations were found to be false or malicious; the remainder were recorded as “unfounded” (16), “substantiated” (12) and unsubstantiated (10). An outcome is defined as substantiated where on the balance of probability abuse or harm is confirmed and unsubstantiated where there is insufficient identifiable evidence to prove or disprove the allegation. Employees subject to investigations that concluded either substantiated or unsubstantiated predominately received management advice with additional training. Three employees were issued with written warnings and and three received final written warnings. Four employees were dismissed with referrals to the Disclosure and Barring Service for consideration.

The LADO will continue to provide advice and guidance to employers and voluntary organisations in 2017-2018 and continue to liaise with the police and other relevant agencies and professional bodies in responding to allegations or complaints.

4. SUMMARY OF LEARNING FROM INSPECTIONS AND REVIEWS

4.1 2015-2016 Ofsted Inspection of the LSCB and Gateshead Council

The previous LSCB Annual Report detailed the findings of the Ofsted inspection of the LSCB that was undertaken in 2015 and published in 2016, rating the Board as “requires improvement”. Seven recommendations were made to the LSCB and a detailed Improvement Plan was put in place. All actions were achieved by August 2016 and the Board has satisfied itself and key partner officers that the relevant work had been undertaken. Key pieces of work were undertaken around membership, links to other partnerships, training, auditing, performance data set, the Board’s own performance framework and the LSCB Annual Report. The Board was reassured that arrangements and governance were strengthened and the positive aspects of the partnership were built upon.

Gateshead Council’s Children’s Social Care was judged to be good in the same inspection and a small number of improvements in practice have been made since.

Gateshead LSCB was not subject to a Joint Targeted Inspection in 2016-2017 by Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission (CQC), Her Majesty’s Inspector of Constabulary (HMIC) and Her Majesty’s Inspector of Prisons (HMIP).

4.2 Inspections of partner agencies in 2016-2017

A number of Board partner agencies were inspected or had recent inspections published in 2016-2017:

- **Northumbria Police** – Overall the force was judged to be good in the HMIC Peel: Police Effectiveness 2016 inspection. The force was found to be good in respect of its effectiveness at keeping people safe and at reducing crime. The inspection also found some elements of outstanding practice in the way that it supports vulnerable victims and found that it requires improvement in relation to investigating crime and reducing reoffending. The force was also rated as good after a HMIC inspection on legitimacy which was published in December 2016 and showed performance ahead of many other police forces. HMIC also endorsed the Team Sanctuary model introduced to investigate sexual exploitation
- **Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust** – NTW’s latest CQC inspection report was published in September 2016 and the Trust was found to be

outstanding overall with a grading of good for child and adolescent mental health wards and safety and outstanding for specialist community mental health services for children and young people (and outstanding for 'effective', 'caring', 'responsive' and 'well led'). NTW is one of only two Trusts to be judged as outstanding nationally.

- **South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust** – STFT was inspected by the CQC in 2015-2016 and found to require improvement overall and has been subject to a number of monitoring visits and improvement activities in 2016-2017. This has been monitored by South Tyneside LSCB, however issues relevant to safeguarding and community services (as STFT is commissioned to provide some community services in Gateshead) have been shared with Gateshead LSCB when relevant
- **Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust** - a CQC report into the GHNFT inspection was published in February 2016 and highlighted robust safeguarding arrangements. Internal safeguarding audits were used to provide assurance and monitor practice in 2016-2017
- **Newcastle Gateshead CCG** – The CCG was not inspected by the CQC in 2016-2017. However, a very positive NHS England Assurance Audit was carried out
- **SEND inspection** – A joint CQC and Ofsted inspection into Gateshead's effectiveness in identifying and meeting the needs of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities was carried out in early 2017. The formal outcome was not received until June 2017 and full findings will be presented to the LSCB in July 2017. Overall, the report is very positive and Gateshead is not required to submit a written statement of action as there were no significant concerns
- A number of our **schools** were inspected by Ofsted in 2016-2017 and, whilst some were judged to be inadequate or require improvement overall, no safeguarding concerns were identified. Overall 38.3% of our schools are outstanding, which is higher than the national average of 19%. Of 70 primary, junior, infant and nursery schools (including primary special schools), 40% are outstanding, 49% are good and 11% require improvement. Of 15 secondary schools and academies (including special schools and behaviour support), 27% are outstanding, 20% are good, 33% require improvement and 20% are inadequate (three schools)

4.3 Learning from reviews in 2016-2017

The LSCB Learning and Improvement Sub Group manages learning from Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) and other reviews on behalf of the Board. There have been no SCRs initiated or published by Gateshead LSCB in the past 12 months. One Serious Incident Notification was submitted to Ofsted/Department for Education in April 2016 but it was agreed that the criteria for a SCR were not met and the National Panel agreed with this decision.

Despite the fact that no formal reviews were required in 2016-2017 the sub group worked within the Board's Learning & Improvement Framework to drive forward multi-agency learning and changes to practice. The sub group carried out detailed reviews of the cases of four children and young people where potential lessons were identified. The group also continued to build on the learning from a case first discussed in 2015-2016 and received a single agency management report on the learning. These reviews have led to a number of changes in practice including an increased emphasis on challenge/escalation and changes to procedures when children are returned home from care, and holding Initial Child Protection Conferences for a small number of complex cases where the child is Looked After under section 20. The learning from these cases has also led to the delivery of additional training on disguised compliance and working with hostile families. All of the reviews identified numerous examples of good practice as well as areas where things could have been done differently.

The sub group also considered a diverse range of SCRs from other areas to ensure that any relevant learning is disseminated and applied to practice in Gateshead. More detail on the work of the Learning and Improvement Sub Group is set out in Appendix 2 and 4 of this report.

5. HOW SAFE ARE CHILDREN IN GATESHEAD?

It is never possible to say categorically that all children are safe. However, external scrutiny of our services within Gateshead suggests that our services are at least as good as most other areas, and in many cases better. This is no mean achievement, since the authority scores highly on most deprivation indices, and all the public services have faced very severe reductions in funding.

We know that Gateshead **schools** are more likely than most to be rated good or outstanding, and that no schools in the area have been identified by Ofsted as having weaknesses relating to safeguarding. Good schools are normally safe schools, and schools play a vital role in helping children learn how to keep themselves safe, as well as providing us with a great opportunity to check on how children are doing.

We know too that many of the **child health** indicators in Gateshead are worrying; our rates of child poverty, smoking in children, under 16 conceptions, smoking amongst expectant mothers, and hospital admissions for injuries and for self-harm, are all high.

The **safeguarding data** within this report shows some varied trends. We have seen an increase in notifications of concerns (particularly from the Police), but no increase in rates of referrals. Numbers of children on child protection plans is high and increasing, and numbers of children entering care are increasing also – broadly in line with regional trends but much higher than the national averages. Children in care experience better placement stability than most places. Our responses to Child Sexual Exploitation and to children missing are good.

External inspections paint a broadly positive picture of the quality of services operating across Gateshead. More importantly, where issues have been presented, partners have responded vigorously to the challenges presented to them, and the partnership itself has been strengthened through the process.

In the year ahead all LSCBs will be facing change, as the government introduces new legislation changing the statutory requirements. Partners across Gateshead have been discussing the options, and we are confident we will have a robust and effective set of processes in place to respond to the new changes.

All partners are facing changes – reorganisations, budget reductions, changes of focus. Change brings the risk that the eye might veer off the ball of child protection. Gateshead LSCB is committed to ensuring that all partners stay focussed, and that we continue to work effectively together to keep the children of Gateshead safe.

APPENDIX 1 – SUMMARY OF STATUTORY ARRANGEMENTS

Legal duties and general summary

Chapter 3 of *Working Together to Safeguard Children* (2015) and *Regulation 4 of the Local Safeguarding Children Board Regulations* (2006) set out the statutory objectives and functions of LSCBs. Gateshead LSCB was judged to meet statutory requirements in the 2015-2016 Ofsted inspection and compliance is monitored by both the Board and LSCB Executive as well as the Independent Chair and Business Manager.

Policies and Procedures – the LSCB has web-based multi-agency child protection procedures which set out actions to take where there are concerns about a child, thresholds for intervention, guidance on recruitment and supervision, investigation of allegations, management of private fostering arrangements and cross border working (in line with 1(a) of Regulation 5). This is managed by the Policy and Procedures Sub Group on behalf of the Board and joint work is carried out with Sunderland and South Tyneside LSCBs.

Communicating the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children – A number of methods are used in Gateshead to communicate the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children depending on the audience and subject matter. For example, the LSCB has a website which contains detailed information for professionals on the work of the Board, Serious Case Reviews, Child Death Reviews, sexual exploitation and missing children and links to key documents such as *Working Together to Safeguard Children*, the LSCB Annual Report and the referral form for safeguarding concerns. There are also links to the online LSCB Inter-agency Child Protection Procedures for professionals to access. There is also a page called “what to do if you’re worried about a child” and this explains to members of the public, professionals and young people themselves how to respond to concerns.

For the last few years a summary version of the LSCB’s annual report has been produced with the assistance of Gateshead Council’s Communications Team and this has been shared with groups of young people including all school councils. This sets out what key issues have been noted in the past year and also how to raise concerns about a young person at risk.

A LSCB newsletter is produced for frontline practitioners to raise awareness of safeguarding issues. Originally this was produced quarterly; however this was less frequent in 2016-2017 due to a reduction in submissions. A monthly e-mail bulletin is sent to relevant frontline staff via members of the MSET and this contains details of current intelligence or concerns about CSE hotspots and other issues of concern e.g. trends around drug use, areas where young people are congregating for anti-social behaviour, alcohol consumption etc. and current issues identified online e.g. new social media apps of concern and new website.

The LSCB has a full training programme of face-to-face and e-learning modules to raise awareness of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Professionals are encouraged to attend the sessions and some sessions are mandatory for some practitioners.

All LSCB members are aware of their roles and responsibilities as Board members and partner agency representatives. This includes a requirement to promote the role of the Board and promote safeguarding in their own organisation/service. The LSCB’s lay member is also aware of his responsibilities and his unique role in linking the Board to the community which it serves.

Training – A full LSCB, Safeguarding Adults Board and Community Safety Board Training Programme is in place. This is managed by the Training Sub Group on behalf of the Board. See Appendix 3.

Monitoring and evaluating effectiveness – Gateshead LSCB operates under the principles of high support and high challenge with and between partners. The theme of challenge is a key business priority for the Board and this is monitored at each meeting. Effectiveness is also monitored via single agency audit reports, the LSCB Development Day (and in previous years the section 11 audits) and areas of the Learning & Improvement Framework

Serious Case Reviews – There were no Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) initiated or published in 2016-2017. A framework is in place to ensure that SCRs are carried out when the criteria are met and published as appropriate. See Appendix 2 for more information.

Attendance

Arrangements are in place to monitor Board attendance and this can be challenged either when issues arise or as an annual process when this report is sent out to Chief Officers, depending on which is more appropriate.

The following table sets out the membership of Gateshead LSCB at 31 March 2017 and the percentage of meetings attended (either by the named representative or their nominated deputy). This does not include attendance at the Development Day

Membership of the Board			Attendance (out of five meetings)
Independent Chair			80% (NB there was no Chair from June to November and the vice chair was able to cover one meeting and another senior member chaired another meeting)
LSCB Business Manager			100%
Lay Member			60%
Organisation	Service		
Cafcass			0%
Gateshead College			60%
Gateshead Council	Safer Communities		60%
	Housing Services/ The Gateshead Housing Company		60%
	Children's Social Care		100%
	Adult Social Care/MASH		100%
	Public Health		100%
	Children & Families Support		40%
	Children's Commissioning		60%
	Corporate Services and Governance		80%
	Learning and Schools		100%
	Workforce Development		60%
Gateshead Health NHS FT (GHNFT)	Designated Doctor		80%
	Nursing, Midwifery & Quality		80%
Gateshead SAB			40%
GemArts			20%
Jewish representative	Community		20% (NB only a member for one meeting)
Jewish representative	Schools'		20%
National Service	Probation		80%
Newcastle	Gateshead	Designated Nurse	80%

CCG	Nursing & Safety	100%
Northumbria CRC		80%
Northumbria Police		80%
NTW NHS Foundation Trust		80%
South Tyneside NHS FT	Nursing and Patient Safety	60%
	Safer Care	40% (NB only a member for two meetings)
UK Visas and Immigration		40%

Budget

Section 15 of the Children Act 2004 sets out that statutory Board partners may:

- Make payments towards expenditure incurred by, or for the purposes conducted with, a LSCB directly, or by contributing towards a fund out of which payments may be made
- Provide staff, goods, services, accommodation or other resources for purposes connected with a LSCB.

Cafcass, Gateshead Council, National Probation Service, Newcastle Gateshead CCG, Northumbria Police and Northumbria CRC all made contributions to the LSCB in 2016-2017.

Income 2016-2017 (£)	
Gateshead Council	73,083*
Newcastle Gateshead CCG	44,023
Northumbria Police	5,000
National Probation Service	932
Cafcass	550
Northumbria CRC	250
TOTAL	123,155

*The contribution from Gateshead Council includes the £11,430 budget for the LSCB Multi-Agency Training Programme which was previously reported separately.

The budget has increased since 2015-2016 (£116,783) due to an increased contribution from Gateshead Council (previously £66,170) and National Probation Service (previously £250). However, due to previous agreements Gateshead Council's actual contribution will be less than £73,083 if there is an underspend.

At the time of writing this report a total of £104,219 has been spent from the LSCB budget. This represents an underspend of £18,936. This figure is likely to change slightly as arrangements have not yet been made for the Safeguarding Adults Board to contribute their full 25% of the cost of the business support post and there is often a delay in invoices being received, paid and deducted from the LSCB budget. Any underspend will not be carried through to 2017-2018.

In 2016-2017:

- **£69,704** was spent by the LSCB in salaries and on-costs for the LSCB Business Manager and business support post.
- **£13,555** was spent by the LSCB on fees which included £3,600 on the maintenance of the online LSCB Inter-Agency Child Protection Procedures, £500 to the National Working Group (for CSE) and the remainder was payment to the LSCB Independent Chairs

- **£11,430** was spent on the LSCB multi-agency child protection training programme and **£4,905** was spent on other training

The budget for Child Death Reviews is shared with Sunderland and South Tyneside LSCBs and is not reported here.

The underspend can be explained by the following factors:

- There was no independent chair in post from June-November 2016 (a total of £16,243 was spent on fees in the previous year when there was a chair in post for the whole period)
- There was a gap in the business support post and the new post holder is shared with the SAB who contribute 25% of the salary (£81,922 was spent in the previous year on salaries etc.)
- There was no money spent on SCRs and there is an approved budget of £7,900 for this (it should be noted that a SCR is likely to cost in excess of £10k)
- There was a slight reduction in the fees paid for the online procedures due to a new contract being negotiated
- The LSCB did not contribute to the National Association of Independent Chairs in 2016-2017 (previously £1,500)

Agencies have confirmed that they will match their contributions in 2017-2018.

APPENDIX 2 – FULLER LEARNING FROM LEARNING REVIEWS AND CHILD DEATH REVIEWS

The LSCB Learning & Improvement Sub Group take the lead on the LSCB Learning & Improvement Framework on behalf of the Board. Appendix 4 sets out progress made by the sub group in 2016-2017.

There were no Serious Case Reviews initiated or published in 2016-2017. The most recent SCR was published in 2014 and led to changes in practice in 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 including strengthening section 47 processes which means that social workers now have access to more detailed information about a family when assessing the level of risk. The impact of this has not been formally evaluated but clearly this will strengthen outcomes for children and young people as decisions are made based on all presenting concerns rather than a more limited scope.

Last year's annual report detailed "Case B", a teenager who made a possible allegation of sexual assault whilst missing from care. The case was reviewed and it was determined that the criteria for a SCR were not met however the sub group requested that Children's Social Care carry out a management review into elements of the case including risk management/assessment and returning children home from care. The review was carried out and the lessons were presented back to the sub group this year. As a consequence of the learning from the case procedures (internal and multi-agency) around Decision Making Meetings, returning children home from care, escalation of concerns and planning were strengthened. The LSCB Business Manager also assisted the author in delivering a number of workshops on the case (which were mandatory for all frontline social workers, IROs and FIT workers). It is too soon to determine whether this has led to changes in outcomes for children and this will continue to be monitored.

"Case C" was also listed in last year's annual report and Children's Social Care was also asked to carry out a management review into the case. The learning was similar to Case B and the lessons were woven into the case review workshops and work is underway to strengthen procedures.

A learning review was also carried out in relation to a baby with complex health needs who sustained an injury. The review identified lessons around disguised compliance and working with difficult and hostile families. As a consequence a new procedure on disguised compliance was written and training on both issues was commissioned. This training has been very well received and practitioners have fed back how powerful it was and how it will impact on their practice significantly.

Other cases reviewed by the sub group did not find any significant learning in relation to practice preceding the event. However, it was noted that a number of teenagers who were either victims or perpetrators of sexual offences were victims of neglect and other forms of abuse at an early age which could have been managed differently. The learning from these cases will factor into discussions about new Early Help strategies in Gateshead and a learning event which is going to be arranged following an incident in early 2017-2018.

The Gateshead Local Child Death Review Sub Group and South of Tyne and Wearside Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) review the death of every child resident in Gateshead on behalf of the LSCB. Appendix 4 details work undertaken by the sub group in 2016-2017 and the CDOP Annual Report (available on the LSCB website) details the learning from cases in the sub region.

An improvement plan was implemented following the Ofsted inspection of the LSCB in late 2015 as the Board was judged to "require improvement". The inspection report was

published in March 2016 but work was already underway to address the areas identified and this continued into 2016-2017.

Overall, Ofsted made seven recommendations and 18 areas for action linked to these were identified as part of the Board's own improvement work. The areas for action were in relation to:

- Membership
- Links to the Health and Wellbeing Board
- Training
- Auditing
- The LSCB data set
- The LSCB performance/effectiveness framework
- The LSCB annual report

All actions and tasks in the improvement plan were signed off by the Board and/or Business Planning Group by 24 August 2016.

Key achievements included:

- Recruitment of three lay members (shared with the Safeguarding Adults Board)
- Engagement work with young people and consideration of a shadow LSCB
- Work with the Diversity Forum and Gateshead Council Jewish Relationship Manager
- Development of a pathway to increase the LSCB contribution and influence on the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board
- A review of the impact of training on practice and the development of a Training Needs Analysis
- Integration of single agency audits into the LSCB work plan to strengthen the oversight of frontline practice
- Development of a new LSCB data set, drawing on good practice nationally
- Development of a new LSCB Effectiveness Framework, drawing on good practice locally and nationally
- Consultation work regarding the annual report to make it clearer and less descriptive and more accessible to lay readers

APPENDIX 3 – TRAINING REPORT

The LSCB Training Sub Group aims to ensure that LSCB priority areas are supported with appropriate learning and development opportunities that have a positive impact on frontline practice. The work of the group links directly to the LSCB priority of **Learning**.

The 2016-2017 LSCB training programme saw the delivery of 59 training events with 1253 professionals attending classroom-based training and 473 professionals completing e-learning modules. The table below provides a comparison.

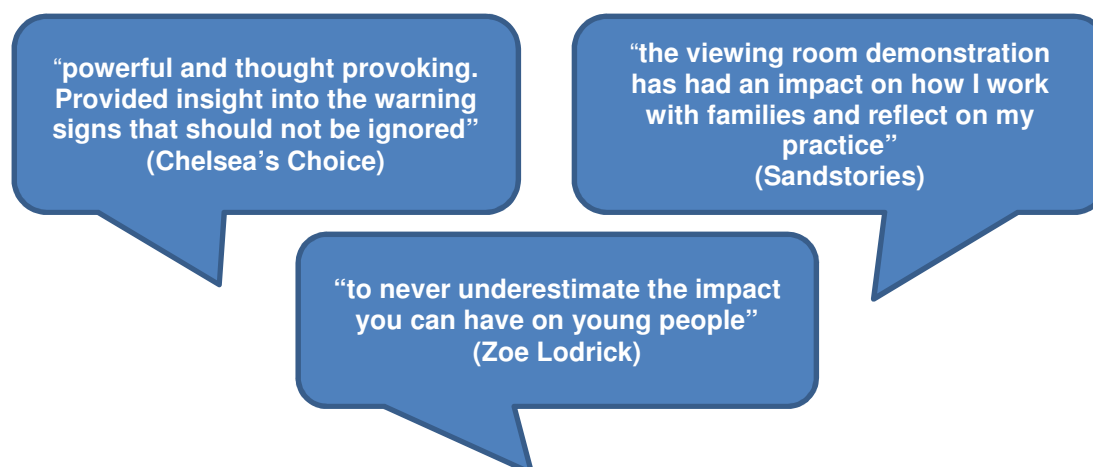
	Number of learning events	Face-to-face attendees	E-learning modules completed
2015-2016	61	1151	763
2016-2017	59	1253	473

The following sessions were delivered in the reporting period:

Event	Number of sessions	Number attended
Child protection awareness	10	189
Chelsea's Choice for professionals, parents and carers	4	92
Female Genital Mutilation	4	59
Young people at risk of sexual exploitation	4	59
Common Assessment Framework	4	50
Safeguarding children & young people in the digital age	3	59
Human Trafficking	3	52
Young people who self-harm	3	51
Foetal Alcohol Syndrome	2	43
"Sandstories" by Sue Woolmore	2	41
Fabricated and Induced Illness	2	40
The impact of parental mental health	2	39
Neglect	2	38
Multi-agency working to safeguard and protect children	2	24
The impact of drug use on young people	2	22
Responding to allegations of abuse	2	19
Unveiling the psychology of sexual exploitation and domestic abuse by Zoe Lodrick	1	120
An introduction to child & adolescent mental health	1	22
"Sandstories" by Sue Woolmore (managers)	1	21
Understanding and responding to child sexual abuse	1	20
Safeguarding babies from abuse & neglect	1	15
Serious Case Reviews – local & national picture	1	14
Effective Core Groups	1	13
Effective Child Protection Conferences	1	7

Work continued in 2016-2017 to try and reduce the number of professionals who booked a place on a session and failed to attend. Work also took place to better understand the impact of training on practice and ensure that the training programme was responsive to local need, in line with a recommendation from Ofsted.

Once again, the majority of our training sessions were delivered “in house” by Gateshead LSCB’s multi-agency partners and the committed pool of trainers continue to deliver training which receives excellent feedback. We were also fortunate to be in a position to be able to commission external training sessions delivered in a unique style; for example Zoe Lodrick, a highly regarded psychotherapist delivered “Unveiling the psychology of sexual exploitation and domestic abuse” and Sue Woolmore, a renowned safeguarding expert with over 30 years’ experience, delivered “Sandstories” which brought insight and wisdom to the impact of neglect and maltreatment on infants and children. Responses from impact evaluation questionnaires highlighted the positive impact that the training had on people’s thinking and practice.



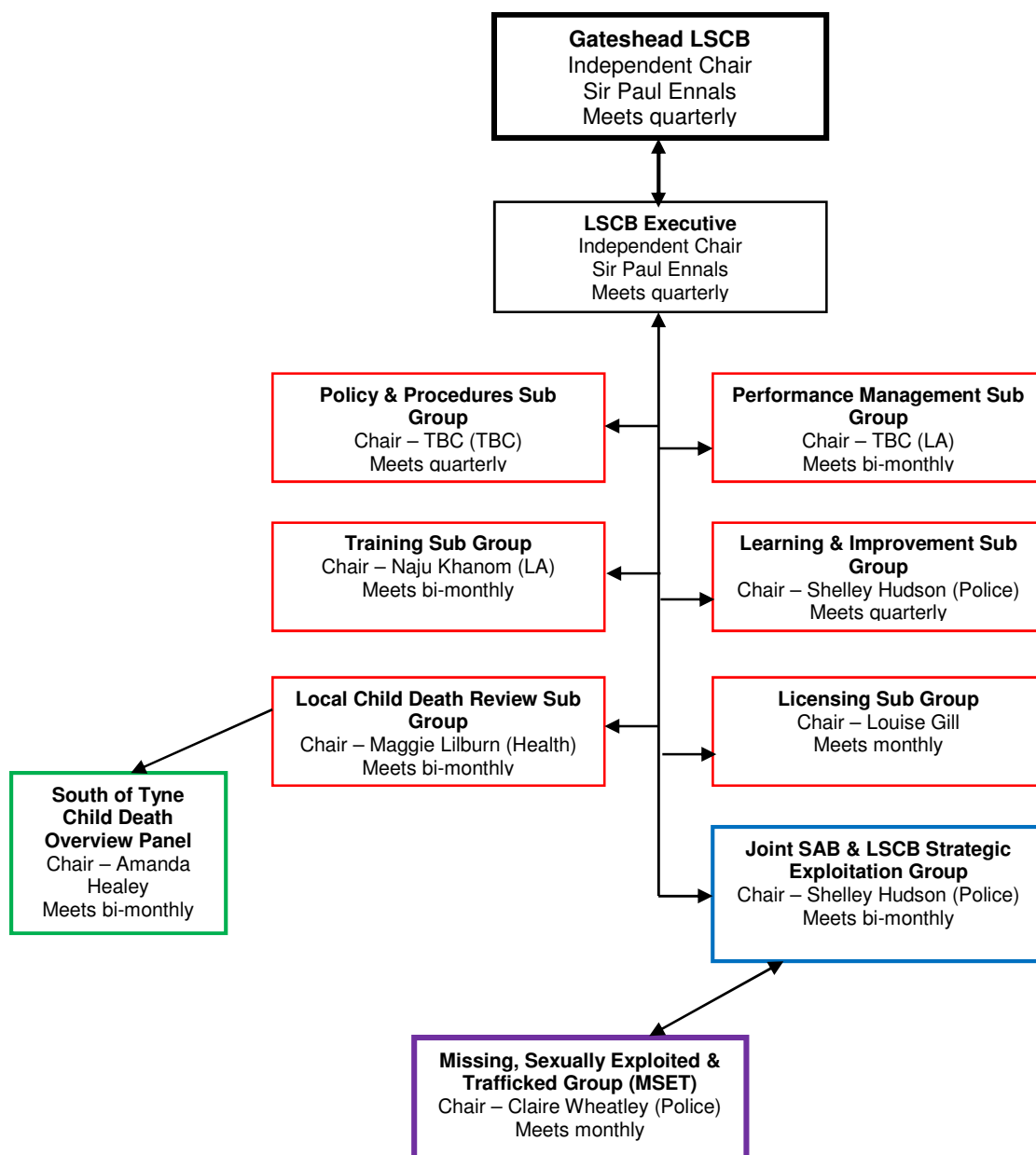
During 2016-2017 the sub group also undertook work in relation to the Action for Children Neglect Toolkit as the LSCB tasked the group to implement the tool following the Neglect Inquiry. However, discussions at the group highlighted the need to pilot this first to understand how and when it was best to adopt the toolkit. Sub group members then provided position statements on behalf of their agency/service and it was agreed that where possible partner agencies would adopt it to assess neglect, particularly at the early stages of CAF assessment. The toolkit will now be embedded in the relevant training sessions e.g. CPA, CAF and Neglect.

The funding for the LSCB Training Programme comes from a Gateshead Council Adult Social Care mainline funding budget. This is currently £11,430 per annum in addition to the provision of a full time Workforce Development Advisor post. Both the budget and the LSCB post holder’s roles and responsibilities will be reviewed in 2017-2018 as part of a wider review of workforce development across the Council. The LSCB will be consulted as part of this review. This will not impact on the provision for 2017-2018 but may have an impact from 2018-2019 onwards.

The LSCB Training Sub Group will continue to facilitate a live training programme receptive to and supporting the LSCB priorities for 2017-2018. The group will work to effectively communicate the training programme to encourage attendance from partner agencies as multi-agency training is important in supporting effective working together to safeguard children and young people. Specifically, the group will develop the skills and knowledge of those working to safeguard children and young people with mental health problems and disabilities and also work with representatives from Gateshead Council’s Community Safety to ensure that domestic abuse training supports the needs of partner agencies. The LSCB’s e-learning package will also be expanded to 25 modules (from five) and sub group members will work to market and encourage engagement across partner agencies.

APPENDIX 4 – SUB GROUP ACTIVITY

At 31 March 2017 Gateshead LSCB had seven sub groups, one of which was shared with the Safeguarding Adults Board and operated the following structure.



All sub group chairs are expected to provide a report to the LSCB at least twice a year and provide an annual report on progress and plans for the future.

Joint SAB & LSCB Strategic Exploitation Group (SEG) – chaired by Detective Chief Inspector Shelley Hudson, Northumbria Police in 2016-2017.

The SEG is a relatively new sub group of the LSCB and shared with the SAB. The group only met on four occasions in 2016-2017 as a number of meetings were stood down or rearranged due to a high volume of apologies. Work will take place as part of the 2017 review of LSCB arrangements to strengthen this.

Despite the small number of meetings, some key pieces of work were undertaken by the group which was widened to recognise other forms of sexual exploitation including adults, LGBT and the exploitation of boys and young men as a serious issue. The Terms of Reference was reviewed and refreshed and work continued to produce information for parents, young people and adults on sexual exploitation. Work also continued around raising awareness of CSE with taxi drivers. The group was also involved in taking forward and monitoring the seven recommendations from the LSCB CSE Inquiry.

The group has also been involved in regional working to undertake joint work and sharing of good practice. A joint regional event was held on National CSE Awareness Day.

In relation to **Leadership, Challenge and Learning** the group challenged Children's Social Care for not submitting referrals to MSET – this was immediately actioned and timeliness has improved. The group also challenged schools/education regarding the use of training materials for rape, consent and healthy relationships not being delivered in schools – an audit has been carried out and hopefully improvements will be made. There is also regular escalation and challenge between police and social care where the risk of CSE for some individuals has not reduced, despite being discussed several times at MSET.

In 2017-2018 the group plans to undertake further education and awareness raising, particularly in schools and colleges and continue the training for new taxi drivers. Sex work mapping in Gateshead will also be carried out. A neighbouring LSCB is carrying out a large SCR into sexual exploitation and once this is published it will be considered by the group and any relevant lessons disseminated and implemented.

The **Missing, Sexually Exploited and Trafficked Group** (MSET) is a sub group of the SEG. In 2016-2017 there were 47 cases discussed at MSET, 27 of them more than once and this is an increase from the previous year. MSET members are also clear that after each meeting they must share current intelligence (e.g. hot spots, new social media apps of concern etc.) with all members of frontline staff in their team/service/agency.

Towards the end of the reporting period a refresh of the CSE framework/MSET assessment started to ensure that all agencies are focused on CSE and understand local processes. The revised risk assessment allows for a more thorough, corporate risk assessment to ensure that the right children are being discussed at MSET. The framework will be used by all LSCBs in the South of Tyne sub-region to ensure a more corporate and consistent approach and improve referrals into Team Sanctuary South.

Team Sanctuary South was formally established in April 2016 and the Detective Inspector from the team took over the chairing of MSET to ensure that there were clear links between Gateshead MSET and Team Sanctuary. The Gateshead embedded social worker also attends MSET to ensure that there is early effective sharing of information and an efficient referral and allocation into the team and partners.

There has been a significant amount of work conducted to improve the sharing of intelligence between agencies with the Team Sanctuary South Intelligence Cell being the central point of collection. This has allowed hot spot areas to be identified and disrupted. A number of disruption packages were produced from MSET intelligence in relation to vehicles, potential perpetrators and potential victims.

It is not possible to share specific case studies to demonstrate how the work of the MSET has helped reduce risks to young people and improve outcomes as this may lead to young people being identified in this report. Diversion plans have included specific actions to reduce missing episodes, disrupt relationships with inappropriate adults and work to promote self-esteem and improve individual young people's awareness of risk.

A series of “MSET road shows” will take place in early 2017-2018 to refresh professional with regard to processes for CSE, trafficking and missing children and young people. The multi-agency workshops are for professionals to highlight and discuss the new MSET referral process and risk assessment framework.

Work will also continue with regard to continued intelligence sharing between agencies to ensure that as many preventative and disruption tactics can be introduced and considered. This will ensure that all agencies are working together (coordinated by Team Sanctuary Intelligence) to keep children and young people safe from CSE and human trafficking. Through robust challenge by MSET panel members appropriate and effective individual safeguarding plans will be devised to reduce the risk presented in relation to CSE and missing and trafficked children. Gateshead Council will also continue to support Team Sanctuary South by funding the embedded social worker and there is a strong commitment from Northumbria Police to maintain the model.

Learning & Improvement Sub Group – Chaired by Elaine Devaney, Service Director, Gateshead Council, and Shelley Hudson, Detective Chief Inspector, Northumbria Police in 2016-2017.

The Learning & Improvement Sub Group has been developed to further promote the role of the Board in providing scrutiny of safeguarding practices and ensuring that multi-agency learning from practice is effectively disseminated and drives improvement in safeguarding and the promotion of children's welfare in Gateshead. The Learning & Improvement Framework approved by the Board sets out the approach and time frame for activity. The framework is consistent with the requirements in *Working Together* (2015) and includes learning from:

- Local and regional Serious Case Reviews (SCRs)
- Child Death Reviews
- Reviews of child protection/child in need cases that fall below the threshold for a SCR
- Review or audit of practice in one or more agencies

The sub group reviewed four cases over the last year (and continued the work from some reviews initiated in the previous year), none of these cases met the criteria for a SCR.

The sub group considered a diverse range of SCR's from other LSCBs and cases across partner agencies. Some cases have been subject to deep dive management reviews where all relevant agencies across the LSCB have actively taken part to consider the learning for their agency. Learning from these cases has been identified across multi-agency services to improve practice in Gateshead.

Partners within the sub group have worked effectively to scrutinise and challenge practice, systems and frameworks taking actions back to their own agencies in order to continuously improve service delivery.

Licensing Sub Group – Chaired by Louise Gill, LSCB Business Manager in 2016-2017

The purpose of the Licensing Sub Group is to ensure that the LSCB fulfils its responsibilities as the “Responsible Authority” with regard to the “protection of children from harm”, which is one of the licensing objectives of the Licensing Act 2003.

The workload of the group is largely dependent on licensing applications. The group meets on a monthly basis and considers all applications submitted to Gateshead Council under the Licensing Act 2003 for premises licences, club premises certificates and Temporary Event Notices (TENs) and also review applications on existing licenses submitted by other parties. The group considers each application individually and determines whether there are any implications from a child protection or safeguarding point of view. Other aspects of the licensing process, such as anti-social behaviour, are considered by other responsible authorities. If there are any concerns then the applicant may be asked to provide further information and this could lead to a representation being made to Gateshead Council's Licensing Committee. This could then lead to a licence not being granted, or being granted with conditions in the case of a new application, or a licence being revoked in the case of a review application.

The sub group reviewed 28 applications in 2016-2017, a decrease from 2015-2016 when there were 47 applications. There were no safeguarding issues identified in the majority of applications – most of these were from individuals or businesses for premises licences, for example new restaurants/pubs/supermarkets opening and due regard had been given to protecting children e.g. "Challenge 25" procedures for the sale of alcohol. The following challenges were made however:

- One applicant wished to sell alcohol in a café area of a furnishing store and a meeting was arranged between the applicant and responsible authorities to ensure that appropriate conditions were in place to prevent under 18s being able to purchase alcohol and to prevent them from being exposed to alcohol consumption by others in the store. Following discussion the responsible authorities were ultimately satisfied that the conditions proposed met the objectives of the Licensing Act 2003 providing they are adhered to
- One applicant wished to set up an online "high end" alcohol sales business. Responsible authorities liaised with the applicant and additional conditions were added to the application to ensure that underage sales did not take place and this was not an attractive option for children (e.g. minimum unit price and limited hours of delivery) and this provided assurances that there will be no increased risk of harm to children provided the conditions are adhered to

The group also reviewed 229 TEN applications, an increase from 195 in the previous year. Again, the majority of these applications had no safeguarding issues and legally only the police and Environmental Health can object to a TEN, however the LSCB Business Manager raised concerns about a small number of applications and recommended that other responsible authorities seek further information. These included applications to host 18th birthday parties as previously these have been events where underage consumption of alcohol has taken place. In some cases assurances were given that appropriate controls were in place and in other instances the application was withdrawn.

In relation to **Leadership, Challenge** and **Improvement** the sub group chair has continued to lead on the delivery of CSE training to taxi drivers licenced by Gateshead Council. The chair of the sub group has also challenged other responsible authorities on a number of occasions following intelligence sharing in MSET meetings e.g. around premises where young people stated that they could easily purchase alcohol or premises where it was easy to shoplift alcohol before congregating locally to get drunk and possibly have sex.

In 2017-2018 the group will continue to respond to applications for new licences or reviews of existing licenses and challenge any issues that impact on the protection of children. The work of the sub group has previously been identified as good practice locally, regionally and nationally and the chair will make representations to ensure that it continues to feature in the new arrangements being developed as a consequence of the national review of LSCBs and

changes in legislation. The LSCB Business Manager will continue to act as a link between this group and other related groups such as MSET and the Strategic Exploitation Sub Group to ensure robust links between safeguarding and licensing.

Local Child Death Review Sub Group (CDRG) – Chaired by Maggie Lilburn, Designated Nurse, Newcastle Gateshead CCG in 2016-2017

The purpose of the CDRG is to undertake multi-disciplinary reviews of the deaths of all children who were resident in Gateshead at the time of their death to better understand how and why children die. These findings are used to take action to prevent other deaths, where relevant/appropriate and improve the health and safety of Gateshead's children. The sub group's remit is determined by the statutory functions of the LSCB as set out in Regulation 6 of the LSCB Regulations 2006, made under section 14(2) of the Children Act 2004 and Chapter 5 of *Working Together* (2015).

The work of the CDRG feeds in to the South of Tyne and Wearside Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP). The group collects and collates an agreed minimum data set of information on all child deaths in Gateshead, Sunderland and South Tyneside. This data set reflects the national requirements. CDOP produces a separate annual report and this is published on the LSCB website.

A CDRG development session was held in 2016 and following this compliance with local processes and procedures has improved and been maintained. Hospital discharge arrangements have also been strengthened as this was identified as an area for development from a small number of cases. Work was also carried out to ensure that bereavement support is in place for fathers as well as mothers and this is now considered in all cases. The sub group has met regularly on a bi-monthly basis with good multi-agency attendance and participation.

The sub group identified a number of areas of good professional practice, particularly with some of the more complex cases. There was evidence of good partnership working and good communication between professionals and with families.

The CDRG and surrounding processes continue to identify challenges around the availability of neonatal beds and this has been raised with the regional Neonatal Network.

CDRG members were also part of some regional work to learn from each other's processes in light of the Government review of LSCBs and CDOPs. A mapping exercise was undertaken and discussions carried on into 2017-2018.

Sub group members continued to deliver training to clinicians and other professionals involved in child deaths as outlined in the LSCB training programme and specific to individual cases.

The LSCB was notified of the deaths of 16 children who were resident in Gateshead in 2016-2017. The majority of these deaths were neonatal cases, particularly premature babies or babies born with life limiting conditions. There were also a small number of older children who died in Road Traffic Collisions and a small number of Sudden Unexpected Deaths in Infancy (SUDI) (numbers not listed to ensure anonymity). There were no significant safeguarding issues identified with any of the cases.

Due to the timescales involved in the Child Death Review process, the group also reviewed the cases of some children who died in previous years. Again, the majority of cases were neonatal deaths; however there were a small number of children who died as a result of substance misuse and accidents in the home. All of these deaths were subject to additional

investigations such as Drug Death Review, Health and Safety Executive and Police investigation. There were also a small number of deaths where children died as a result of suicide and self-harm.

There has also been some national learning which has been discussed by the CDRG. For example there were a number of deaths where premature/small babies died after prolonged periods in car seats. Awareness raising work was carried out with professionals to advise that babies should only be in seats for 30 minutes at a time and always be visible so that parents can regularly check them.

It has been agreed that Gateshead CDRG will be part of a wider piece of work in 2017-2018 as the CDOP links with Cumbria, Durham and Tees CDOPs to hold a regional event and explore current child death themes.

The workload of the group is determined by regional and national events and the group will continue to respond as appropriate in 2017-2018. Due to the current chair retiring a Gateshead Council Public Health Consultant will chair the group moving forwards. The outcome of the national review of LSCBs may impact on the work and governance of the sub group but arrangements will continue as they are until this is clearer.

Performance Management Sub Group – Chaired by Ann Day, Service Manager Gateshead Council until November 2016

The purpose of the Performance Management Sub Group is to support the LSCB in fulfilling its statutory duty to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of what is done by the local authority and Board partners, individually and collectively, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, and advise them on ways to improve.

Continuous performance management is at the core of ensuring the effectiveness and impact of inter-agency safeguarding activity. The sub group supports the LSCB in the monitoring, promotion and planning of high quality practice in line with the inter-agency Performance Management Framework. The framework is used to monitor and analyse a range of quantitative and qualitative information, both via ongoing and set pieces of work. The sub group reports regularly to the Board highlighting any areas of practice that need to be addressed, and identifying areas of good practice.

In early 2016-2017 the sub group finalised the LSCB CSE Inquiry and the chair presented the findings to the Board in May 2016. The report made a number of recommendations and it was agreed that the Strategic Exploitation Group should lead on this work, rather than the Performance Management Sub Group.

Through the LSCB Performance Data Set the group identified an increase in the number of Section 47 enquiries, an increase in the number of young people accused of violent offences and ongoing issues around self-harm and permanent exclusions. The chair of the sub group flagged these concerns with Board members and challenged them to consider the issues.

Due to staffing changes within Gateshead Council the sub group has not met since November 2016. Work is underway to ensure that the group meets regularly in 2017-2018. The LSCB continued to receive performance and data reports on the previously agreed set of indicators (this was coordinated by Gateshead Council on behalf of the Board). A summary of this is provided in Section 3 of this report.

Policy & Procedures Sub Group – Chaired by Louise Gill, LSCB Business Manager in 2016-2017

The Policy & Procedures Sub Group works on behalf of the LSCB to ensure that statutory functions in relation to policies and procedures are carried out. The LSCB commissions TriX, an external provider, to produce and host the online LSCB Inter-Agency Child Protection Manual as part of a sub-regional agreement with Sunderland and South Tyneside LSCBs.

In 2016-2017 the sub group was scheduled to meet on a bi-monthly basis however a number of meetings were cancelled or rescheduled due to the number of apologies received and the group only met on two occasions. Board members were notified of issues with membership and attendance as part of the sub group chair's regular reports to the LSCB. Despite this, work continued between meetings and the group was able to manage the online LSCB Inter-Agency Child Protection Procedures on behalf of the Board.

Key pieces of work undertaken in 2016-2017 included:

- Female Genital Mutilation
- Breast ironing
- “double protection”
- Work with TriX to strengthen chapters on groups & gangs, children visiting psychiatric wards and spiritual, cultural & religious beliefs

In relation to the LSCB's priorities of **Leadership, Challenge** and **Learning** the group raised concerns about the relatively low numbers of “hits” on the procedures website. The sub group challenged Board members to promote use of the website and arranged a series of refresher sessions on how to use the online manual. Approximately 45 frontline practitioners attended the session and around 1000 business cards were disseminated to staff to explain how to access the online manual. Work will be carried out in due course to understand the impact of this. The chair of the sub group also challenged partner agencies about sub group representation and the potential for this to hinder the work of the group.

The LSCB Business Manager chaired the sub group in 2016-2017, however this was originally set up as a short term arrangement in 2014 to cover staffing and capacity issues. It has been agreed that the Principal IRO will chair the sub group moving forwards. The LSCB Business Manager will continue to lead on the sub regional work with TriX. The Board will continue to monitor issues of attendance at the group. The group will carry out work on e-safety, use of technology in Child Protection Conferences, and forced marriage.

Training Sub Group – Chaired by Naju Khanom, Workforce Development Officer, Gateshead Council in 2016-2017

The purpose of the group is to develop and promote, through training, a shared understanding amongst safeguarding partners around the tasks, processes, principles, roles and responsibilities for safeguarding children and promoting better outcomes. For more information on the work of the sub group and the LSCB training programme see Appendix 3 of this report.

APPENDIX 5 – VOICE OF THE CHILD

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) enshrines the right of children to be involved in all decisions that affect their lives. There is also national legislation and guidance stressing the importance of involving children in decision-making, specifically in child protection cases.

A wide range of methods and initiatives are used by partner agencies to hear the voice of the child and act upon this in relation to their own cases and also wider work to keep children and young people safe. The LSCB regularly asks partner agencies to provide assurances that the voice of the child is heard and responded to and also works to engage children and young people in its own work.

At the LSCB Development Session in March 2017 all LSCB members were asked to provide evidence and assurances on work undertaken to engage children and young people in decision-making and the impact of this. A number of areas were discussed, including:

- The Empowering Minds Improving Lives (EMIL) project, which is part of the redesign of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) has involved young people as “Young Commissioners”. These young people were involved in a number of innovative pieces of work, including work to design websites and making films about living with mental health problems and accessing services. The outcome of this work was used as part of the ongoing work of EMIL to redesign services across the North East. NTW also use a “Young People’s Governor” on the Trust Board
- CAFCASS has undertaken engagement work recently on a local and national level to shape strategy and recruitment
- Young people are involved throughout the child protection process and age/ability appropriate methods are used to seek their views, wishes and feelings and these are used in assessments and planning to keep the child safe. This includes innovative work around getting young people to write sections of their own Child Protection Plans and use of the Mind Of My Own (MOMO) app in both child protection and looked after work
- The current Police and Crime Plan involved the views of 1500 young people in its development
- The Gateshead Director of Public Health used the voice of the child as a key factor in her 2016-2017 annual report. This included getting groups of young people to produce a film on their views on smoking and how it impacts on their health and wellbeing
- The 2017 Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) inspection also highlighted areas of good practice involving children and young people in decision making

Board members agreed at the session that hearing and responding to the voice of the child was at the forefront of operational work, but more needed to be done to capture this in strategic and partnership work. There were numerous examples of good practice, however these were mainly in individual cases rather than across a framework.

In 2016-2017 we undertook a piece of work to decide whether we should establish a Young People’s LSCB. After consultation with Board members and discussion with other areas it was agreed that this would not be the most effective way to engage young people with the work of the Board and alternative methods were proposed, including building on relationships with existing groups of young people. As part of the Board Engagement Strategy, the LSCB aims to hold engagement events with children and young people on at least an annual basis. In September 2016 a Board meeting was extended to involve a

number of young people. The young people set the agenda for this part of the session themselves and explored with Board members what was important to them in terms of staying safe and living in Gateshead. Unfortunately, the report written by the young people and youth workers after the event is not available yet, but work will continue to build on the learning from the session.

Gateshead Council now use a mobile “app” called MOMO (Mind Of My Own) to gather the views of children and young people involved in child protection. There are now 251 children registered to use the app and there are two versions, one for older children and one for younger.

From September 2015 to May 2017 343 statements were submitted by young people via MOMO (101 statements were submitted in 2016-2017). The majority of these 343 statements were prepared in advance of formal meetings, for example LAC Reviews (140) and Initial Child Protection Conferences (43). 33 children also used the app in preparation for a visit from their social worker. In 2017-2018 the LSCB will receive a more detailed report on MOMO to better understand what young people said in their statements and how this was used to impact on the management of their case and their outcomes.

Young people’s wishes and feelings are a key feature of the LSCB’s CSE risk assessment as part of the MSET processes. All young people who are referred to MSET are asked to provide their views on professionals’ concerns around them and their wishes and feelings are noted. The weight given to this voice varies depending on the case however as it is clearly not appropriate to sanction inappropriate relationships for example, even when the child is giving clear messages that this is what they want. The voice of the child is also captured during the Independent Return Interview process.

The Board held a thematic workshop session in October 2016 to explore the current position in relation to domestic abuse. A key area of the Ofsted Joint Targeted Area Inspection Framework on domestic abuse is the voice of the child and child centred practice, so part of the session was used to understand the current strengths and weaknesses in the system in Gateshead in relation to this. The breakout discussions highlighted positive practice including the CCG Engagement Strategy, automatic referrals to Children’s Social Care by health when an adult discloses domestic abuse (if they or the perpetrator are known to have contact with children), enhanced training of Community Health staff on non-verbal signs of domestic abuse in children and preventative work by the YOT involving children viewed as victims and perpetrators. The session also explored the direct work undertaken with children when domestic abuse is identified in the home to ensure that their voices are heard. It was noted that every child involved in domestic abuse has a different experience and therefore there is not just one “voice of the child”.

The Business Planning Group identified a need for some smaller engagement events in late 2015-2016 and this work continued into 2016-2017. Business Planning Group members were tasked with meeting specific groups of young people and asking them four questions around feeling safe, staying safe and what is important to them. The young people involved included Police Cadets, 12 school councils, young carers and Once Voice. Overall, young people reported feeling safe living in Gateshead and had a good awareness of to keep themselves and their friends safe. Specific issues were fed back to Board members to take forward.

Newcastle Gateshead CCG has started a piece of work following the “Not Seen Not Heard” review published by the CQC in July 2016. The report identified that when health and safeguarding systems fail, the voice of the child has invariably been lost and a large number of children did not feel that they were involved in their care. Therefore, the CCG has developed an action plan and is holding all provider organisations to account to provide

assurances around the areas identified in the report. This includes providing evidence that staff seek, hear and act on the voice of the child, involve children in each stage of their health care planning and listen and respond to the views of children. The LSCB Business Manager has been involved in some of the assurance work with the CCG and the Board will receive a report in due course.

APPENDIX 6 – LSCB PRIORITIES FOR 2017-2018

Vision

“Our vision is that every child should grow up feeling safe and in a loving, secure environment, free from abuse, neglect and crime, enabling them to enjoy a happy and healthy childhood in which they can fulfil their social and economic potential

Role of the Business Plan

The Gateshead LSCB Business Plan sets the strategic direction for the LSCB. The Business Plan also reinforces the specific role of the LSCB to **lead, challenge** and support **learning**. The plan identifies specific priorities for action and is clear about roles and accountability.

The Business Plan emphasises the role of Gateshead LSCB in **leading** the safeguarding agenda, in **challenging** the work of partner organisations, and in committing to an approach which **learns** lessons, embeds good practice and which is continually influenced by the views of children and young people.

2017-2018 Action Plan

In 2017-2018 the focus will continue to be on the three strategic business priorities:

- **Leadership**
- **Challenge**
- **Learning**

There will also be a focus on five thematic priority areas:

- **Voice of the child**
- **Improving relationships and the interface with schools**
- **Early Help**
- **Mental health**
- **Safeguarding disabled children**

In addition, we will work to prepare for the implementation of new legislation and guidance around statutory strategic arrangements for safeguarding.

We will do the following to deliver our priorities:

In relation to the **Voice of the child** we will ensure that our work plan helps us improve the way that we capture this as a Board so that we can learn from what young people are telling us and our partner agencies.

In relation to **Improving relationships and the interface with schools** we will establish a reference group with Head Teachers to secure a two-way dialogue on issues for the Board and partners that may impact on schools and relevant lessons from frontline practice across the education landscape.

In relation to **Early Help** we will challenge progress on the development and implementation of the new Early Help Strategy for Gateshead and receive assurance about the impact of the strategy on safeguarding children

In relation to **Mental health** we will receive assurances on the implementation of the new model for delivering Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (known as EMIL) and receive assurances that mental health services commissioned for children in Gateshead are adequate in terms of safeguarding and services for adults operate with a “think family” approach.

In relation to **Safeguarding disabled children** we will receive assurances from the relevant agencies and services that the learning from the recent SEND inspection has been embedded and relevant actions from the 2017 report from National Working Group on Safeguarding Disabled Children have been taken forward

In addition, we will do the following to maintain a focus on our strategic priorities linked to our specific role to **lead, challenge and learn**:

In relation to **leadership** we will work to ensure that our future arrangements are fit for purpose and enable the new body which will be established to oversee strategic safeguarding arrangements in Gateshead to build on the work of the LSCB and strengthen the position in Gateshead further.

In relation to **challenge** we will continue to build on our links with other partnerships (e.g. the Safeguarding Adults Board, Health and Wellbeing Board and Community Safety Board) and influence their agenda via our own work plan and membership.

In relation to **learning** we will continue to review cases where there are lessons to be learned through the Learning and Improvement Sub Group (and Serious Case Review Panel when necessary). We will also implement and embed the findings of any relevant inspections of the Board and partner agencies and cascade the learning across partner agencies.

APPENDIX 7 - GLOSSARY

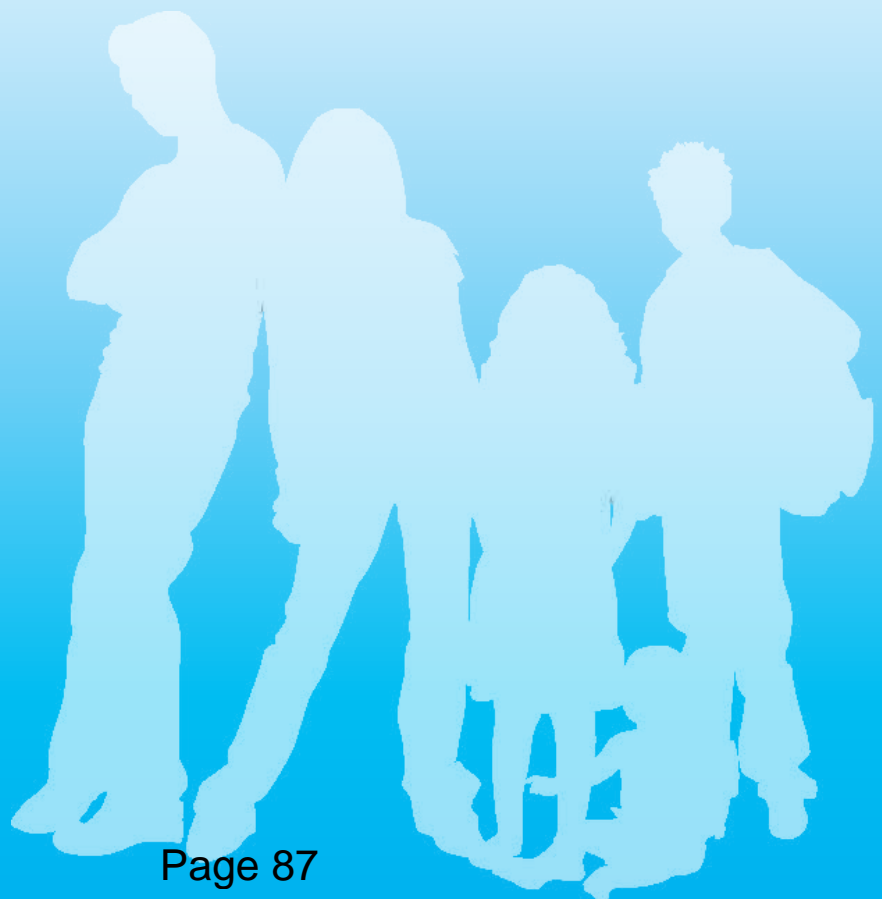
CAF -	Common Assessment Framework
Cafcass -	Child and Family Court Advisory Support Service
CCG -	(NHS) Clinical Commissioning Group
CDOP -	Child Death Overview Panel
CIN Assessment -	Child In Need Assessment
CP Plan -	Child Protection Plan
CQC -	Care Quality Commission
CRC -	Community Rehabilitation Company (Probation)
CSE -	Child Sexual Exploitation
FT -	(NHS) Foundation Trust
HMIC –	Her Majesty’s Inspector of Constabulary
HMIP -	Her Majesty’s Inspector of Prisons
ICPC -	Initial Child Protection Conference
IRO -	Independent Reviewing Officer
LAC -	Looked After Child
LGBT -	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender
LSCB -	Local Safeguarding Children Board
MASH -	Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub
MOMO -	Mind of My Own (mobile app)
MSET -	Missing, Sexually Exploited and Trafficked Sub Group
SAB -	Safeguarding Adults Board
SCR -	Serious Case Review
SUDI -	Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy

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GATESHEAD
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Gateshead LSCB Business Plan 2017-2018





Vision

Our vision is that every child should grow up feeling safe and in a loving, secure environment, free from abuse, neglect and crime, enabling them to enjoy a happy and healthy childhood in which they can fulfil their social and economic potential.

Role of the Business Plan

The Gateshead LSCB Business Plan sets the strategic direction for the LSCB. The Business Plan also reinforces the specific role of the LSCB to **lead, challenge** and support **learning**. The plan identifies specific priorities for action and is clear about roles and accountability.

The Gateshead Approach

Gateshead LSCB agreed a new approach in 2014 and adopted a three year Business Plan to cover the period from 2014-2017. This document provides a focus for 2017-2018 to build on the progress made in the previous three years and to drive forward work to prepare Gateshead for the new safeguarding arrangements which will be established in 2018 in line with new legislation. This document will enable the Board to continue to focus on the specific role and remit of LSCBs in ensuring that the welfare of children is safeguarded and protected, as set out in *Working Together* (2015) and the Children Act 2004.

This Business Plan emphasises the role of Gateshead LSCB in **leading** the safeguarding agenda, in **challenging** the work of partner organisations, and in committing to an approach which **learns** lessons, embeds good practice and which is continually influenced by the views of children and young people.



Summary of Key Achievements in 2016-2017

A full breakdown of progress in 2016-2017 can be found in the Gateshead LSCB 2016-2017 Annual Report. Highlights are shown in the table below.

Area of work	Progress in 2016-2017
Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Links were strengthened with the local community through work with lay members, the Jewish Community and links to the Diversity Forum through GemArts.• Work was undertaken to improve the LSCB's visibility and influence with other partnerships such as the Health and Wellbeing Board, Safeguarding Adults Board and Community Safety Board.• Work was carried out to explore better ways to engage with young people to be led by them and to be seen to be owning the safeguarding agenda
Challenge	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work was carried out to ensure that the Board understood what audit work partners were already carrying out, what this was telling us and what difference it made.• Work was also carried out to challenge ourselves as a Board to understand how effective we are and what we need to do to become more effective and have more impact.
Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board members continued with work to learn lessons from young people directly and to listen to what they are telling us. Work was also carried out to learn from the national review of LSCBs.• Where appropriate, learning reviews on individual cases were carried out to identify lessons for single agency and joint working and the learning was disseminated and practice changed.• Work was also carried out to understand the impact of our training programme and ensure that we deliver high quality resources that help practitioners learn and improve their practice to improve outcomes for children and young people.
Preventing harm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specific work was carried out to understand the increase in Permanent Exclusions in our schools recently and areas for development have been identified.• Work was also carried out to consider a locality based risk assessment, however this was not felt to be appropriate at this time.
Protecting vulnerable children	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specific work was carried out to understand the high levels of self-harm in Gateshead and equip professionals with the skills and knowledge to respond to this and support young people more effectively and more confidently

We also continued to monitor the LSCB Ofsted Improvement Plan which was developed following the inspection in 2015-2016.



2017-2018 Action Plan

In 2017-2018 the focus will continue to be on the three strategic business priorities:

- **Leadership**
- **Challenge**
- **Learning**

There will also be a focus on five thematic priority areas:

- **Voice of the child**
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- **Early Help**
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In addition, we will work to prepare for the implementation of new legislation and guidance around statutory strategic arrangements for safeguarding.

We will do the following to deliver our priorities:

In relation to **Voice of the child** we will ensure that our work plan helps us improve the way that we capture this as a Board so that we can learn from what young people are telling us and our partner agencies.

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In relation to **Early Help** we will challenge progress on the development and implementation of the new Early Help Strategy for Gateshead and receive assurance about the impact of the strategy on safeguarding children

In relation to **Mental health** we will receive assurances on the implementation on the new model for delivering Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (known as EMIL) and receive assurances that mental health services commissioned for children in Gateshead are adequate in terms of safeguarding and services for adults operate with a “think family” approach.

In relation to **Safeguarding disabled children** we will receive assurances from the relevant agencies and services that the learning from the recent SEND inspection has been embedded and relevant actions from the 2017 report from National Working Group on Safeguarding Disabled Children have been taken forward.

Action Plan

Action	Lead Officer	Target Date
Voice of the child		
Receive reports throughout the year regarding partner engagement with young people including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MoMO 	LSCB Business Manager to coordinate work plan, all Board members to contribute	March 2018
Refresh our engagement strategy to ensure that the Voice of the Child is captured at Board level and not just by partner agencies	LSCB Business Manager to coordinate work plan, all Board members to contribute	March 2018
Host an engagement event with Board members and young people with the agenda set by young people themselves	LSCB Business Manager to coordinate work plan, all Board members to contribute	March 2018
Ensure that consideration is given to capturing the Voice of the Child when establishing the new arrangements in Gateshead	Independent Chair and LSCB Business Manager	January 2018
Improving relationships and the interface with schools		
Establish a Reference Group with schools to ensure a two-way dialogue between Education and other Board partners	Service Director Children & Families and Service Director Education & Schools	October 2017
Support schools in relation to Permanent Exclusions by undertaking deep dive work as part of the Early Help re-model	Service Director Early Years and Service Director Education & Schools	March 2018
Early Help		
Receive a progress report on the development and implementation of the new Early Help Strategy for Gateshead and participate in the consultation process	Service Director Children and Families	July 2017
Monitor the impact of the new Early Help Strategy and re-model of services and receive assurances on the impact on safeguarding children	Service Director Early Help	March 2018

Continued overleaf

Action	Lead Officer	Target Date
Mental health		
Challenge the development and implementation of a new model for CAMHS (the EMIL model) and ensure that the learning from the task & finish work on self-harm in 2016-2017 is incorporated	Executive Director, Patient Safety and Designated Nurse, CCG	July 2017
Receive assurances that mental health services commissioned for children in Gateshead are adequate in terms of safeguarding	Executive Director, Patient Safety and Designated Nurse, CCG	January 2018
Receive assurances that mental health services for adults operate with a "think family" approach and maintain a focus on safeguarding children	NTW representative	March 2018
Safeguarding disabled children		
Receive assurances that learning from the recent SEND inspection has been embedded	Service Director Early Years (for Gateshead Council actions) and Designated Nurse (for health actions)	October 2017
Receive assurances that relevant actions from the 2017 report from National Working Group on Safeguarding Disabled Children have been taken forward	LSCB Business Manager to coordinate work plan with relevant partner agencies	January 2018

In addition, we will do the following to maintain a focus on our strategic priorities linked to our specific role to **lead, challenge and learn**:

In relation to **leadership** we will work to ensure that our future arrangements are fit for purpose and enable the new body which will be established to oversee strategic safeguarding arrangements in Gateshead to build on the work of the LSCB and strengthen the position in Gateshead further.

In relation to **challenge** we will continue to build on our links with other partnerships (e.g. the Safeguarding Adults Board, Health and Wellbeing Board and Community Safety Board) and influence their agenda via our own work plan and membership.

In relation to **learning** we will continue to review cases where there are lessons to be learned through the Learning and Improvement Sub Group (and Serious Case Review Panel when necessary). We will also implement and embed the findings of any relevant inspections of the Board and partner agencies and cascade the learning across partner agencies

Action	Lead Officer	Target Date
Leadership		
Work to ensure that future arrangements are fit for purpose and enable the Gateshead Safeguarding Children Board to build on the work of the LSCB and strengthen the position further.	LSCB Independent Chair and Business Manager	March 2018
Challenge		
Build on links with other partnerships (e.g. the SAB, HWB and CSB)	LSCB Independent Chair and Business Manager	March 2018
Learning		
Review cases where there are lessons to be learned and ensure lessons are disseminated and actioned as appropriate	Chair of Learning & Improvement Sub Group (currently Detective Chief Inspector, Safeguarding) and LSCB Business Manager	Ongoing, as and when required
Implement and embed the findings of any Board or partner agency inspections and cascade the learning as appropriate	Relevant LSCB Executive members and LSCB Business Manager	Ongoing, as and when required



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TITLE OF REPORT: Work Permits for the Employment of Children
REPORT OF: Caroline O'Neill Strategic Director Care, Wellbeing and Learning

Summary

The employment of children under the age of 16 is set out regulated through DfE guidance and local byelaws. This report sets out the work that Gateshead does in ensuring the welfare and safety of those young people under the statutory school age who are in part time employment.

Background

1. The DCSF document *Guidance on the Employment of Children* (2009) provides information regarding the employment of children under school leaving age supported. The guidance states that a child reaches the **school leaving age** on the last Friday in June in the school year in which the child has his/her 16th birthday. This applies to maintained, independent schools and academies.
2. The Education and Skills Act 2008 general requires young people to continue to participate in education or training post-16 from 2013 (until 17 from 2013 and until 18 from 2015). This does not necessarily mean staying at school and young people able to work, provided they are learning as well. Participation could be through school, college, work based training or part-time training if they are employed full time.
3. The rules which cover the employment of children under the school leaving age are mainly found in the Children and Young Persons Act 1933. In addition there are rules in local authority byelaws made under the Children and Young Persons Act 1933. In 1998, the Department of Health published model byelaws. Many authorities have made byelaws which broadly follow this model although some authorities have departed from it to suit local circumstances. So employers will always need to check the position about byelaws with the local authority before employing a child.
4. As well as employment in its normal meaning, the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 states that *a person who assists in a trade or occupation carried on for profit* is considered as employed even though he or she may receive no payment. So the rules in the Children and Young Persons Act will apply where, for example, children help their parents in a shop without receiving any payment. In today's circumstances DCSF considers that any occupation where the aim is to make a surplus would be considered as a

trade or occupation carried on for profit so, in DCSF's view, unpaid work at a charity shop would count as employment, but not, for example, unpaid work at a youth club.

5. A child under 14 may not be employed but this rule can be, and often is, relaxed by byelaws to allow the employment of 13 year-old children in certain occupations.
6. A child may not be employed before 7:00 am or after 7:00pm. A child may not be employed before the end of the school day on any day on which the child has to go to school. But this rule can be, and frequently is, relaxed by byelaws to permit an hour's employment in the morning before school starts.

	Daily limit			Weekly* limit	
	School Day	Non-school day Mon-Sat	Sunday (school terms or holidays)	School Term	School holidays
Children under 15	2 hours	5 hours	2 hours	12 hours	25 hours
Children aged 15 and over but under the school leaving age	2 hours	8 hours	2 hours	12 hours	35 hours

*'Week' here is any period of seven consecutive days.

7. The guidance also sets out the type of work children can and cannot engage in, how long they can do it for, when they need to take breaks and holiday entitlement.
8. The model byelaws require work permits for the employment of children under school leaving age. It is the employers' responsibility to apply for the permit. The application (Appendix 1) is signed by both the employer and the young person's parent. In signing the form the parent is confirming that they are in agreement with the employment and that the child is in good health and fit to undertake the work. The employer is confirming the type, place and hours of work and that the required risk assessments have been carried out.
9. Applications are sent to the Local Authority where the employment is (as opposed to where the child lives). In Gateshead applications are sent to the Legal Intervention Team (Education Support Service) marked for the attention of the Senior Education Welfare Officer.
10. When received the officer checks the application ensuring that the type and hours of employment complies with the legislation and local byelaws. If needed they will contact the employer for any clarification and make a site visit if deemed necessary.
11. Once the permit is issued a copy is sent to the employer, to the young person, to their school and to the Local Authority where the young person lives (if other than Gateshead).
12. The Local Authority is also a member of NNCEE (National Network for Child Employment and Entertainment) who hold termly regional meeting where any

issues can be discussed. This allows each LA to ensure that processes and decision are in line with neighbouring authorities

13. There has been a significant decrease in the number of permits issues year on year since 2010/11.

Permits and Licences issued							
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Child Employment Permits	110	88	74	63	54	29	30

14. This decrease is in part due to the fact that the Evening Chronical has changed the structure by which newspaper deliverers are employed.

15. However, in previous years there was an annual letter shot to all potential employers in Gateshead checking whether any children were in their employment, informing them of the legislation around employing children and inviting them to apply for permits if any children were being employed. This exercise has not been feasible over recent years due to staffing levels

Case Study

An application was made by a family butchers to employ a year 11 boy for 4 hours on a Saturday.

Young people should not work in a commercial kitchen or in premises in connection with the preparation of meat for sale as there environments may not be appropriate.

Therefore the LA officer discussed the exact nature and place of the employment with the employer. It was explained that there is no meat preparation undertaken on the premises a Saturday, and that the area the young person would be working in was a small annex away from any potentially dangerous electrical equipment, sharp knives etc. The young person would be making and packing burgers with the use of a 'burger press'.

A site visit was made to meet the employer, see the layout of the shop, the area where the young person would be working, and to identify any risks. The situation was as described by the employer, and the equipment used to press the burgers was similar to one for domestic use. The young person was separate from the area where meat was prepared through the week and not around any potentially dangerous equipment.

Given the age of the child, this was discussed with the senior manager and it was agreed there were no safeguarding issues so a permit was issued.

16. Recently in order to ensure there were no issues from a young persons' perspective the a paragraph has been added to the letter sent to the young person with their work permit, advising them who to talk to if there are any problems in the work place:-

'In the vast majority of cases, young people enjoy the experience of part time working. However, if you have any problems or concerns about your job, your work place or the people you work with, it is important that you speak with an adult you trust, such as a parent or a teacher.'

Conclusion

17. The Senior Education Welfare officer will continue to work with employers, parents and young people to ensure the welfare and safety of our young people who are under the school leaving age when working in Gateshead.

Recommendations

18. Committee members are asked to:
- a. note the contents of this report
 - b. provide comments on the contents of this report

Contact	Jeanne Pratt	extension 8644
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**FAMILIES
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
30 November 2017**

TITLE OF REPORT: Annual Work Programme

REPORT OF: Sheena Ramsey, Chief Executive
Mike Barker, Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance

Summary

The report sets out the provisional work programme for Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year 2017/18.

1. The Committee's provisional work programme was endorsed at the meeting held on 6 April 2017 and Councillors have agreed that further reports will be brought to future meetings to highlight current issues / identify any changes/additions to this programme.
2. Appendix 1 sets out the work programme as it currently stands. Any changes proposed to the programme will be set out in bold and italics for ease of identification.

Recommendations

3. The Committee is asked to
 - a) Note the provisional programme;
 - b) Note that further reports on the work programme will be brought to the Committee to identify any additional policy issues, which the Committee may be asked to consider.

Contact: Angela Frisby

Extension: 2138

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APPENDIX 1

Draft Families OSC 2017/18	
15 June 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council Plan – Year End Assessment and Performance Delivery 2016-17 • 0-19 Public Health Service Provision – consultation / models • Update- Changing role of LAs in Education • Work Programme
18 July 17 (Additional meeting)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review – Children on the Edge of Care - Scoping report • CAMHS – Progress Update • Annual Report on Complaints and Representations – Children • Update on FGM / CSE • Work Programme
7 September 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEND Inspection Outcomes • Ofsted Inspections/School Data – Progress Update • Monitoring – OSC Review of Oral Health • Work Programme
19 October 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review – Children on the Edge of Care - Evidence Gathering • Update - Care Pathway for Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder • Early Help Strategy • Work Programme
1 November 17 (Additional meeting)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent Exclusions and the Pupil Referral Unit
30 November 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review – Children on the Edge of Care – Final Report • The Council Plan – Six Monthly Assessment and Performance Delivery • Employment of Children within the Borough- Update • Safeguarding Children - LSCB Annual Report and Plans • Work Programme
18 January 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance Improvement Update – Children Presenting at Hospital as result of Self Harm • Ofsted – Annual Report • CAMHS Update • Modern Slavery Update • Work Programme
1 March 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Conversation with Head Teachers of Special Schools • Update on Healthy Schools Programme • Recruitment and Retention of Social Workers – Progress Update • Children and Young People’s Commissioning • Permanent Exclusion 14 Point Action Plan* (<i>added following 1/11/2017 meeting</i>) • Work Programme
19 April 18 (5.30pm meeting)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaison with Gateshead Youth Assembly • Monitoring - OSC Review of Oral Health • Closing the Gap – Annual Report 2016/17 • NEET Care Leavers – Progress Update • LSCB Emerging Priorities • OSC Work Programme Review

Issues to slot in:

- Progress Update –How Adult and Children’s Services are working Together (***deferred to 2018-19 work programme***).
- Best Start in Life – Outcome of Pilot Self- Assessment (***deferred to 2018-19 work programme***).