

CABINET AGENDA

Tuesday, 17 September 2019 at 10.00 am in the Blaydon Room - Civic Centre

From the Chief Executive, Sheena Ramsey

Item Business

1 **Apologies for absence**

2 **Minutes** (Pages 3 - 14)

Cabinet is asked to approve as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting held on 16 July 2019.

Key Decisions

3 **Consultation on a Revised Option to Improve Air Quality in Gateshead, Newcastle and North Tyneside** (Pages 15 - 28)

Report of the Chief Executive and Acting Strategic Director, Communities and Environment

4 **Public Space Protection Orders** (Pages 29 - 52)

Report of the Acting Strategic Director, Communities and Environment

Recommendations to Council

5 **Annual Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2019-2020** (Pages 53 - 96)

Report of the Strategic Director, Care, Wellbeing and Learning

6 **Annual Report of the Audit and Standards Committee 2018/19** (Pages 97 - 108)

Report of the Strategic Director, Corporate Resources

Non Key Decisions

7 **Safeguarding Boards Annual Reports and Strategic Plans** (Pages 109 - 218)

Report of the Strategic Director, Care, Wellbeing and Learning

8 **The Prevention Green Paper - ASH Consultation Recommendations** (Pages 219 - 224)

Report of the Director of Public Health

- 9** | **Proposals for School Term Dates 2020/21** (Pages 225 - 230)
Report of the Strategic Director, Care, Wellbeing and Learning
- 10** | **Nomination of Local Authority School Governors** (Pages 231 - 234)
Report of the Strategic Director, Care, Wellbeing and Learning
- 11** | **Petitions Schedule** (Pages 235 - 240)
Report of the Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance

Contact: Kevin Ingledeu Email: keviningledeu@gateshead.gov.uk Tel: 0191 4332142
Date: Monday, 9 September 2019

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET MEETING

Tuesday, 16 July 2019

PRESENT: Councillor C Donovan

Councillors: J Adams, M Brain, A Douglas, M Foy, L Green, G Haley, J McElroy and M McNestry

C30 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor M Gannon

C31 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 25 June 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

C32 **"A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR CHOPWELL" - ERDF FUNDING BID**

Consideration has been given to a full application to the North East European Regional Development Fund to progress the scheme 'A Sustainable Future for Chopwell'.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the submission of a full application for £5.8m of grants to the NE ERDF Low Carbon fund be approved.
 - (ii) That the awarding of contracts to Willmott Dixon Construction Ltd for the design, preconstruction works and pilot installations in relation to the scheme be approved.
 - (iii) That the Acting Strategic Director, Communities and Environment be authorised, following consultation with the Strategic Director, Corporate Resources, to agree detailed terms and scope of contracts with Willmott Dixon Construction Ltd, within the agreed capital budget of £0.5m.

The above decisions have been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To support the delivery of the Chopwell and Blackhall Mill 10 Year Plan.
- (B) To support the Thrive agenda, by reducing energy costs and fuel poverty in Chopwell, and supporting housing

improvements and their associated benefits.

- (C) To continue to reduce carbon emissions of housing in Gateshead, in line with Gateshead's Climate Change Strategy.

C33

HOUSING MANAGEMENT - VARIATION OF HOUSING MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT AND REVIEW OF DELIVERY MODEL

Consideration has been given to changes to the Council's management agreement with Gateshead Housing Company (GHC) to update and strengthen the Council's oversight of the Company.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the immediate updating of the Management Agreement by way of a variation letter recording newly agreed performance metrics, reporting and monitoring processes between the Council and Gateshead Housing Company based on Appendices 2 and 3 in the report be approved and the Strategic Director, Communities and Environment be authorised, following consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet member for Housing, to approve any minor amendments to the proposed variations following further discussions with GHC or such amendments as might be required by the Regulator for Social Housing.
 - (ii) That the proposal to commence a comprehensive review of the delivery model for management of the Council's housing stock, including a full options appraisal of alternatives and all necessary consultation with stakeholders be endorsed.
 - (iii) That the Strategic Director, Communities and Environment be authorised, following consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet member for Housing, to agree to the renewal of the Management Agreement for a period of up to two years, to allow time for the review to be concluded and any revised arrangements implemented.

The above decisions have been made to ensure the Council's housing stock is managed, and housing services delivered, in the interests of the Council and its tenants as effectively and efficiently as possible.

C34

GATESHEAD ENFORCEMENT POLICY

Consideration has been given to the adoption of the Council's Enforcement Policy for the Communities and Environment Directorate.

RESOLVED - That Council be recommended to adopt the Enforcement Policy, as set out in appendix 2 to the report.

The above decision has been made to ensure that enforcement action is carried out successfully by the Council to protect and promote the health and safety of the public and residents and to protect the environment.

C35

CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2019/20 – 1ST QUARTER REVIEW

Consideration has been given to the latest position on the 2019/20 capital programme and prudential Indicators at the end of the first quarter to 30 June 2019.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the Council be recommended to agree all variations to the 2019/20 Capital Programme, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report, as the revised programme.
 - (ii) That the financing of the revised programme be recommended to the Council.
 - (iii) That it be confirmed to Council that the capital expenditure and capital financing requirement indicators have been revised in line with the revised budget and that none of the approved Prudential Indicators set for 2019/20 have been breached.

The above decisions have been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To ensure the optimum use of the Council's capital resources in 2019/20.
- (B) To accommodate changes to the Council's in-year capital expenditure plans.
- (C) To ensure performance has been assessed against the approved Prudential Limits.

C36

REVENUE BUDGET - FIRST QUARTER REVIEW 2019/20

Consideration has been given to the latest position on the 2019/20 revenue budget at the end of the first quarter.

RESOLVED - That the Council's revenue expenditure position at the end of the first quarter, as set out in Appendix 1, of the report be noted.

The above decision has been made to contribute to sound financial management

and the long-term financial sustainability of the Council.

C37

MAKING GATESHEAD A PLACE WHERE EVERYONE THRIVES - YEAR END ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE AND DELIVERY 2018/19

Consideration has been given to the Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives – Year End Assessment of Performance and Delivery Report for 2018/19.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the recommendations of all the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees in relation to the 2018/19 year-end performance report, as set out in Appendix 4 to the report, be approved.
 - (ii) That it be confirmed that the activities undertaken during April 2018 to March 2019 are supporting delivery of the Thrive agenda.

The above decisions were made to ensure performance and focus supports the delivery against the strategic approach of Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives.

C38

POST 16 SEND PROVISION IN GATESHEAD SPECIAL SCHOOLS

Consideration has been given to the response to the consultation exercise on the proposed changes to sixth form provision in Gateshead Special Schools and a proposed change to the designated age range for Hill Top and Dryden Schools.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the responses to the consultation exercise be noted.
 - (ii) That Council will continue to support funding for post 16 provision for two years of sixth form for children in the main school of Hill Top and Cedars, and commits to continuing to strengthen the Council's work with young people and families from Year 9 onwards to identify and secure the most appropriate post 16 pathway which will best prepare individual learners for adulthood and to ensure all children are offered a choice of provisions.
 - (iii) That a statutory consultation exercise be undertaken during the Autumn Term 2019 to change the designated age range of Dryden and Hill Top Schools to be 11-18 schools

The above decisions were made for the following decisions:

- (A) To meet the Council's statutory duty to promote high educational standards and to make effective use of

resources.

- (B) To comply with school organisation legislation.

C39

PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTS

Consideration has been given to the procurement and award of contracts.

RESOLVED - That the Service Director, Corporate Commissioning and Procurement be authorised to invite or negotiate tenders or conduct other procurement processes (or to complete the relevant processes where they have already begun) in respect of the contracts, listed in Appendix 2 to the report, and to award the relevant contracts to the tenderers submitting the most economically advantageous tenders (or otherwise proving successful in accordance with other procurement processes) in accordance with the Contract Procedure Rules.

The above decisions have been made to enable the procurement of goods, works and services required for the efficient and effective delivery of services.

C40

APPROVAL OF SCHEMES, ESTIMATES AND TENDERS DURING THE SUMMER RECESS

Consideration has been given to the authorisation of the Acting Strategic Director, Communities and Environment and the Service Director, Council Housing, Design and Technical Services, following consultation with the Strategic Directors, Corporate Resources and Corporate Services and Governance, to jointly approve schemes and estimates, and to invite and accept tenders over certain thresholds, during the summer recess following this Cabinet meeting up to the Cabinet meeting on 17 September 2019.

RESOLVED - That the Acting Strategic Director, Communities and Environment and the Service Director, Council Housing, Design and Technical Services be authorised, in consultation with the Strategic Directors, Corporate Resources and Corporate Services and Governance, to jointly approve the letting of any contracts relating to the Cabinet approved 2019/20 Capital Works Programme which exceed £250,000 in value; such approval to be in the form of either:

(a) an authorisation to invite or negotiate tenders in accordance with Rule 6 of the Contract Procedure Rules (“the Rules”) or to conduct some other procurement process in accordance with the Rules and to award the contract to the economic operator submitting the most economically advantageous tender as determined by the Service Director, Corporate Commissioning and

Procurement in accordance with the stated terms of the tender or other process and, where applicable, the Regulations; or

- (b) an authorisation subsequent to the conduct of a tendering process or other procurement process in accordance with the Rules to award the contract.

The above decisions have been made to enable projects to progress and to avoid delay in delivery of the capital programme and its related expenditure.

C41 PETITIONS SCHEDULE

Consideration has been given to an update on petitions submitted to the Council and the action taken on them.

RESOLVED - That the petitions received and action taken on them be noted.

The above decision has been made to inform the Cabinet of the progress of the petitions.

C42 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED - That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the remaining business in accordance with paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

C43 GIBSIDE SCHOOL - NEW BUILD SPECIAL SCHOOL

Consideration has been given to the scheme and estimate to create a new expanded school on a new site to replace the existing Gibside School.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the scheme and estimate be approved.
 - (ii) That the Service Director, Council Housing, Design and Technical Services be authorised to place an order through the SCAPE Major Works Framework within the agreed overall budget limit.

The above decisions have been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To enable the Council to fulfil its statutory duty to ensure a match between the predicted demand for school places and the number of schools and places maintained, and to ensure efficient use of resources.
- (B) To meet the required timescale for delivery of the

additional school places.

C44

CLASPER VILLAGE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT - ENABLING WORKS CONTRACT

Consideration has been given to a proposal to enter into a contract with Wates Construction Ltd. (WCL) for the enabling works and site remediation ahead of delivery of the residential development and regeneration of the former Clasper Village housing site.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the entering into a contract with WCL be approved via the Scape Framework for the site enabling works, as outlined in the report, and the Service Director, Council Housing, Design and Technical Services be authorised to place an order for the works, subject to the form and content of the contract being approved by the Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance in accordance with the Council's constitution.
 - (ii) That the total scheme cost estimates be noted and further reports be received on the next phase of delivery.
 - (iii) That the Service Director, Council Housing, Design and Technical Services be authorised to progress the scheme and to establish full contract estimates for the construction works and sales and marketing activity to deliver the housing development.

The above decisions have been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To promote the accelerated delivery of homes within the Borough.
- (B) To help meet housing need in the Borough.
- (C) To realise the Council's policies and objectives in relation to housing growth.

C45

GATESHEAD QUAYS SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE

Consideration has been given to an update on the supporting infrastructure needed to bring forward the development of Gateshead Quays and the progression of initial designs and pre-construction work to develop the supporting infrastructure for Gateshead Quays.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the progression of initial design and pre-construction work to develop the supporting infrastructure for Gateshead Quays be approved.

- (ii) That the development of a Gateshead Quays Development Framework to coordinate site development and infrastructure improvements be approved.

The above decisions have been made to progress the development of the Gateshead Quays site.

C46

HIGH STREET SOUTH DELIVERY PLAN

Consideration has been given to the conclusions of the High Street South Delivery Plan.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That comprehensive development of the High Street South regeneration area be approved, as set out in the report.
 - (ii) That the provision of a 5 year capital allocation, as detailed in the report, be approved.
 - (iii) That the Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance be authorised, following consultation with the Leader of the Council, and with the Strategic Directors, Communities and Environment and Corporate Resources, to negotiate and agree the necessary legal documentation to give effect to the proposals and enter into contracts for that purpose.

The above decisions have been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To regenerate High Street South.
- (B) To provide new homes and community facilities in the Town Centre to improve performance and economic growth.
- (C) To improve the perception of the centre of Gateshead, and to provide safe attractive passage from the Exemplar Neighbourhood to the Town Centre.
- (D) To integrate health and wellbeing into the regeneration objectives.
- (E) To maximise internal trading opportunities where feasible and subject to capacity.

C47

LONGSIDE HOUSE - CONTRACT FOR WORKS

Consideration has been given to a proposal to enter into a contract with the Gateshead Housing Company for construction works for the conversion of Longside House into a Children's Home.

RESOLVED - That the Service Director, Council Housing, Design and Technical Services be authorised to place an order with the Gateshead Housing Company, as set out in the report, and enter into a contract for the works with the Gateshead Housing Company, following consultation with the Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance.

The above decision has been made for the following reasons:

- (A) Young people needing residential care will be placed within Gateshead rather than being placed at a distance.
- (B) There will be savings to be made by bringing young people back into our own resource.

C48

TRANSFER OF LAND AT WINDY NOOK AND ROWLANDS GILL TO GATESHEAD REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP

Consideration has been given to the freehold transfer of two sites that make up Bundle 2 to the Gateshead Regeneration Project (GRP) for the delivery of 62 homes at Whitehills Drive in Windy Nook and the former Rowlands Gill Primary School site in Rowlands Gill.

RESOLVED -

- (i) That the transfer of the freehold interest in the sites at Rowlands Gill and Windy Nook for nil consideration to Gateshead Regeneration Partnership for the provision of new homes be approved.
- (ii) That the provision of a capital injection, as set out in the report, for these sites to facilitate the delivery of new homes be approved; and that the Council enter into site specific funding agreements with GRP in a form approved by the Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance in accordance with the Council's constitution.

The above decisions have been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To support the delivery of 62 homes, with a start on site in August 2019.
- (B) To secure the delivery of 52 homes and Accelerated Construction funding from Homes England for the Kelvin

Grove site.

- (C) To enable income to accrue to the Council; and training, employment and socioeconomic benefits for the residents and businesses of Gateshead.
- (D) To utilise the Council's land and property portfolio to support the Council's policy priorities in accordance with the provisions of the Council's Corporate Asset Strategy and Management Plan 2015 – 2020 and Housing Strategy 2019-30.

C49

SOUTH TYNE AND WEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP PFI CONTRACT

Consideration has been given to proposed changes to the funding arrangements on the Council's Waste PFI Contract.

RESOLVED -

- (i) That the principle of South of Tyne and Wear Energy Recovery Limited revising their funding arrangements in accordance with the provisions contained within the PFI contract be approved.
- (ii) That the Strategic Director, Corporate Resources be given delegated powers to approve the revisions to the financial model and funding terms, including the calculation of the gain for the Partnership in consultation with the S151 Officers from Sunderland and South Tyneside Councils and in accordance with advice from external financial consultants, Local Partnerships LLP.
- (iii) That the Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance be given delegated powers to approve and agree any revisions to the contractual documentation necessary to reflect the changes to the funding terms in accordance with advice from external legal consultants, Pinsent Masons LLP.
- (iv) That the Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance be given delegated powers to execute the variation agreement and other necessary documentation as is required to give effect to the above decisions, so far as such power is not already delegated by the Council's constitution.

The above decisions have been made to deliver a revenue saving for the Council by

reducing the financing costs associated with the Council's Residual Waste Treatment Contract.

C50

GATESHEAD COUNCIL'S TRADING COMPANIES OPERATIONAL AND FINANCIAL POSITION 2018/19

Consideration has been given to the current trading activity undertaken through subsidiaries wholly owned by the Council.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the report outlining company activity to date including the contribution to the Council's Thrive priorities be noted.
 - (ii) That an annual composite report be presented to Cabinet covering the activities of the companies.

The above decisions have been were made for the following reasons:

- (A) To contribute to the sound governance, operational and financial management of the Council's wholly owned subsidiary companies.
- (B) To assist effective financial and performance oversight and awareness of all Council activity, regardless of delivery model.

Copies of all reports and appendices referred to in these minutes are available online and in the minute file. Please note access restrictions apply for exempt business as defined by the Access to Information Act.

The decisions referred to in these minutes will come into force and be implemented after the expiry of 3 working days after the publication date of the minutes identified below unless the matters are 'called in'.

Publication date: 18 July 2019

Chair.....

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TITLE OF REPORT: Consultation on a Revised Option to Improve Air Quality in Gateshead, Newcastle and North Tyneside

REPORT OF: Sheena Ramsey, Chief Executive
Colin Huntington, Acting Strategic Director,
Communities and Environment

Purpose of the Report

1. To approve consultation on a revised proposal for improving air quality in Gateshead, Newcastle and North Tyneside.

Background

2. Cabinet has previously agreed that our approach in responding to the government's legal direction to improve air quality in the shortest possible time should also look more broadly than the government's narrow focus. Consultation feedback on different options earlier this year along with refined technical information has enabled Newcastle, Gateshead and North Tyneside councils to develop a revised proposal. It is felt that this package more closely meets these wider ambitions while also responding to the specific requirements of the legal order.
3. This report seeks approval to reconsult on a final proposed package of measures to improve air quality while outlining measures to mitigate the impact on businesses affected by a charging clean air zone. This zone would not initially include private vehicles. Contingent on government funding, our proposals also seek to ensure we incorporate major roadworks such as the maintenance of the Tyne Bridge into our plans. This would help to deliver required improvements and minimise the impact on the economy. Further proposals to government for funding will support the delivery of a reliable sustainable and active travel network in our area, ensuring more viable alternative travel options.

Proposal

4. There are four categories of Charging Clean Air Zones (CAZ), A to D, covering different types of vehicle. For the purposes of this report the following categories are relevant:
 - CAZ 'C' – charging older HGVs, buses, vans, taxis and private hire vehicles.
 - CAZ 'D' – as for CAZ C, but additionally including charging for older private cars.
5. Following the previous consultation, which attracted over 20,000 responses, further work has been undertaken. This has refined the technical basis for assessment and revised options to achieve the necessary compliance by 2021. These include:

- A smaller CAZ D covering Newcastle city centre only [see map at Appendix 2];
 - A Low Emission Zone combined with tolls on city centre bridges, as set out in the original consultation; and
 - A CAZ C charging older HGVs, buses, vans, taxis and private hire vehicles in Newcastle city centre only (see Appendix 2), combined with access restrictions to and from the Central Motorway between New Bridge Street and the Swan House roundabout and lane and highway capacity restrictions linked to a major maintenance scheme on the Tyne Bridge. In this option there would be no charges on private cars.
6. All the above are predicted to achieve compliance in 2021, so the aim is to select the option most consistent with the three authorities' ambitions on fairness, public health improvement and minimising economic impact. In the short-term this is a CAZ C with supporting measures which, although having major impacts on traffic using the Tyne Bridge, overall is predicted to have a smaller economic and displacement impact. It also enables us to target mitigation on a smaller group of users which makes a package of mitigations more deliverable given the tight timescales to which we are working.
7. For the longer-term, achieving continuous improvement in public health in the city will require further action including restrictions on the most polluting private vehicles. As a result, while the authorities are proposing not to charge private vehicles in the first year of a proposed charging scheme, they will continue to keep all potential measures under consideration. The authorities will consider extending or upgrading any CAZ to incorporate private vehicles if compliance is not achieved or in response to other environmental concerns. The position is that investment in alternatives should pre-empt such a charge on private vehicles and once this further investment in transport improvements has been delivered, the authorities will review the most appropriate solution to deliver on all objectives for the authorities.

Recommendations

8. Cabinet are requested to:
- (i) agree to consult affected stakeholders and the public for six weeks on a Clean Air Zone Class C and associated traffic management measures;
 - (ii) agree to consult affected stakeholders and the public on possible mitigation measures to minimise the impact of the aforementioned Clean Air Zone and traffic management schemes;
 - (iii) delegate the approval of the final form of the appropriate consultation materials to the Chief Executive in consultation with the lead Cabinet Member; and
 - (iv) agree that outcomes of consultation, together with a Final Business Case for a single option, be brought back to Cabinet for final approval.

For the following reason:

- To improve air quality in Gateshead, Newcastle and North Tyneside.

CONTACT: Anneliese Hutchinson ext 3881

Policy Context

1. The proposals in this report are consistent with the Council priorities and the overall strategic approach for Gateshead as set out in “Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives” and its policy objectives. In particular ‘Put people and families at the heart of everything we do’ and ‘Work together and fight for a better future for Gateshead’. They also support the Core Strategy and Urban Core Plan, and the aims and objectives of the Tyne and Wear Local Transport Plan 3.
2. Outdoor air pollution is a major risk to human health. Based on national estimates, poor air quality is considered to be responsible for around 360 deaths each year across Newcastle, Gateshead and North Tyneside and around 40,000 across the UK. Related causes of death include circulatory disease, respiratory disease and cancer. The main cause of roadside nitrogen dioxide is road transport, which also has wider impacts on public health and is a significant contributor to carbon emissions and climate change.

Background

3. Newcastle, North Tyneside and Gateshead councils are working together to develop this plan to improve air quality across our area. This follows a government-issued legal direction requiring all three authorities to produce a Feasibility Study to identify the option that will deliver compliance with legal limits for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) in the area for which the authority is responsible, in the shortest possible time. In September 2017, Cabinet approved the preparation of an Initial Feasibility Study relating to NO₂ emissions in line with the legal direction and in February 2019 agreed the submission of an Outline Business Case and the beginning of a consultation on potential options.
4. Since the last cabinet paper on this topic in February 2019, we have undertaken this consultation with the public on possible options. We have also continued to refine our understanding of the air quality challenge facing our authorities and our options to address these. In addition, a revised legal direction was received from government on 3rd July 2019. This confirmed that updated modelling of options should be submitted to Defra in August, ahead of final proposals being agreed in November for implementation from 2021. This report outlines the outcomes of the latest modelling of refined options and seeks cabinet approval to consult with stakeholders and the public on a package of measures incorporating ways to mitigate the impact on businesses and individuals of a refocused charging option.
5. While it is not specifically required by government, cabinets of all three authorities have been clear that success should also be measured by whether or not we achieve sustainable changes in air quality and in travel behaviour for the long term. Our aim is therefore to ensure that solutions are fair, support the economy and improve public health, rather than following a direction to focus solely on specific stretches of road for one pollutant. Our plan aligns directly with proposals for significant public and active travel improvements

that we have submitted to government alongside other authorities in the North East.

6. Our plans to transform our transport network are contingent on government's support and commitment of funding. Moving forward with a plan that delivers a coherent and safe walking and cycling network enabling more people to choose to cycle to education or employment opportunities. Through the delivery of improved traffic signals and the prioritisation of buses at key points we want to deliver a visible improvement in bus reliability. This in turn would enable us to work with bus operators to ensure that improved reliability from our roads leads to improvements in fares and the quality of our public transport offer. Our plan also recognises that the taxi and private hire offer in the area needs to be updated. We understand the impact on individuals who use their vehicles as part of their work which is why a further key part of this plan is to provide grants to such individuals, or businesses, to help them upgrade their vehicles if they would be impacted by a charge.

There are four categories of Charging Clean Air Zones (CAZ), A to D, covering different types of vehicle. For the purposes of this report the following categories are relevant:

- CAZ 'C' – charging older HGVs, buses, vans, taxis and private hire vehicles.
- CAZ 'D' – as for CAZ C, but additionally including charging for older private cars.

Air quality work to date

7. Successive national governments have failed to tackle air pollution in the UK effectively, leading to a series of legal actions against the Government. One of these, in May 2017, led to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) issuing legal Directions to a number of local authority areas across the country requiring them to improve air quality on specific stretches of road “In the shortest possible time”. Newcastle, Gateshead and North Tyneside local authorities received Directions requiring us to improve air quality, with a particular focus on roads which had been modelled by government (using a national air quality model) not to be in compliance. These were parts of the Central Motorway and its approaches to the Tyne Bridge, and areas on the Coast Road. Government guidance required authorities to look for solutions that would deliver compliance as quickly as putting in place charges for polluting vehicles (a charging Clean Air Zone).
8. Since receiving the Direction the authorities have made significant progress in developing options. We have also worked together and with other cities across the country to highlight the challenge of progressing this work within constrained timescales, and have consistently highlighted concerns that Defra's narrow approach to NO₂ (and only on specific road links) could exacerbate rather than resolve public health issues.
9. In February 2019 Cabinets approved two principal options for consultation with the public (referred to throughout the remainder of this report as “the original options”). These were:
 - A Clean Air Zone in which vehicles of all types that did not meet minimum emissions standards would be charged to enter the zone (a CAZ D). The proposed area covered all the routes identified by

- Government as having high levels of air pollution, and other areas where air quality was known to be an issue; and
- A Low Emission Zone forbidding more polluting buses, Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) and taxis/private hire vehicles from entering Newcastle city centre, combined with tolls for all vehicles crossing the Tyne, Swing and Redheugh bridges.
10. Consultation took place over 11 weeks between 6 March and 19 May 2019. This was supported by social media alerts, emails to consultation panels in the three authorities, a range of media coverage, information made available in customer contact points and libraries, easy read versions of the consultation issued in appropriate locations, over 50 dedicated engagement sessions, face to face meetings with stakeholders and community groups, and letters to every taxi or private hire driver licensed to operate in the three authorities.
11. The consultation attracted over 20,000 responses from individuals, businesses, community groups and voluntary organisations – more than similar consultations in other cities across the country. Over three quarters of respondents were from the three authorities' areas, with the remainder largely from the rest of the North East. The respondents were consistent with the commuting patterns for the major employment sites in the three local authority areas, and unsurprisingly were strongly skewed towards car owners. Demographic analysis shows that older and higher income groups were more likely to respond to the consultation, and the proportion of respondents reporting a long-term health problem or disability was representative of the local population as a whole. As such, Cabinets will want to consider analysis of impacts on younger and lower income groups less likely to give their views through the consultation process alongside the consultation responses.
12. An independent analysis of consultation responses was carried out and has been available online since July 2019 on each of the local authorities' websites and on the central consultation website <https://www.breathe-cleanair.com/>. This release of the independent report was publicised in local media and some key messages emerging were:
- Widespread recognition of the public health impacts of air pollution and the importance of addressing the problem, with 75% aware of the issue and only 19% disagreeing that it was an issue that should be addressed;
 - The majority of respondents opposed both a CAZ D (52%) and LEZ (48%) + tolls (62%) proposals, citing the personal financial impact and concerns on the economic impact on businesses in the city;
 - Concerns were expressed on the poor quality of public transport alternatives, the challenge for many businesses and families of purchasing a new vehicle which would be exempt from charges, and the large size of the CAZ area. Residents also expressed concerns on displacement of traffic into other areas; and
 - The majority of respondents supported the range of potential mitigation measures proposed, such as grants/loans and investment in alternative forms of transport.

Latest developments

13. The consultation sent a clear message that residents and representative groups wanted to take action but most were concerned at the potential impacts of an immediate move to charge all vehicle types over a wide geographic area. In addition, analysis in the Outline Business Case published alongside the consultation demonstrated that the CAZ D over the wide geographic area proposed, risked significant negative impacts, with the large amounts of displaced traffic leading to increased greenhouse gas emissions and, in early years, a negative health impact outside the zone as a result.
14. Since the consultation the councils have been refining possible options to take account of these issues. Officers were also concerned that the original modelling, which was based on projections of national fleet mix data provided by Defra, over-estimated the proportion of diesel vehicles on the roads in future years. Purchases of diesel vehicles have been falling, in part due to concerns on their air pollution impact. Following representations to them, Defra have now agreed that options can be remodelled with different scenarios for the future vehicle fleet. This makes a significant difference to the way different options perform.
15. The councils also considered how options could be refined to take account of feedback from the consultation. This process identified three revised options, all of which can now be seen to meet the legal requirement to achieve compliance on local roads in the shortest possible time:
 - A smaller CAZ D covering Newcastle city centre only [see map at Appendix 2];
 - A Low Emission Zone combined with tolls on city centre bridges, as set out in the original consultation; and
 - A CAZ C charging older HGVs, buses, vans, taxis and private hire vehicles in Newcastle city centre only (see Appendix 2), combined with access restrictions to and from the Central Motorway between New Bridge Street and the Swan House roundabout and lane restrictions on the Tyne Bridge with the aim that this would be linked to a major maintenance scheme on the Tyne Bridge. In this option there would be no charges on private cars.
16. These options were made public by the authorities in early August and detailed modelling of the impacts of introducing these options was submitted to Government on 8th August and is available at www.breathe-cleanair.com.

Selecting a package of measures to deliver improved air quality

17. As more than one package of measures now appear to achieve compliance in 2021, our ability to select the option most consistent with the three authorities' ambitions on fairness, public health improvement and minimising economic impact has been improved. In the short-term this is considered to be the newly defined option, which is:

- a smaller charging Clean Air Zone covering only Newcastle City Centre affecting non-compliant buses, coaches, taxis (Hackney Carriages and private hire vehicles), heavy goods vehicles and vans from 2021;
 - changes to the road layout on the Central Motorway, that will prevent traffic from merging on and off the slip lane between the New Bridge Street and Swan House junctions;
 - lane restrictions on the Tyne Bridge and Central Motorway. These restrictions will be put in place to support air quality work but the councils are asking government for £40m funding to ensure essential maintenance works take place at the same time, minimising disruption by aligning these much needed roadworks to update the ageing bridge with the need to implement lane restrictions for air quality; and
 - changes to the local road network in Newcastle and Gateshead to reflect the Tyne Bridge restrictions and ensure public transport can run reliably.
18. This package is considered to have a smaller economic and traffic rerouting impact. It also enables us to target mitigation on a smaller group of users which makes a package of mitigations more deliverable given the tight timescales to which we are working.
19. For the longer-term, achieving continuous improvement in public health in the city will require further action including restrictions on the most polluting private vehicles. In the consultation, residents were clear that they recognised the need for action, but wanted better alternative transport choices and support in upgrading vehicles before charging for private vehicles was introduced. Over the next few years significant improvements in transport across Tyneside are expected, including:
- New Metro fleet carriages to be introduced by 2023;
 - Substantial improvements to public transport, walking and cycling as part of the Transforming Cities Fund by the end of 2023; and
 - An additional lane on the Western Bypass north of the Tyne in 2023.
20. While, by means of this report, the authorities are intending not to charge private vehicles in the first year of a proposed charging scheme, the authorities will continue to keep all potential measures under consideration. The authorities will consider extending or upgrading any CAZ to incorporate private vehicles if compliance is not achieved or in response to other environmental concerns. The position is that investment in alternatives should pre-empt such a charge on private vehicles and once this further investment in transport improvements has been delivered, the authorities will review the most appropriate solution to deliver on all objectives for the authorities.

Supporting residents and business to adapt to these changes

21. The consultation showed strong support for measures to support residents and businesses to adapt to the introduction of charges. Officers have refined potential packages of support to reflect the proposed option. The consultation sets out key mitigation proposals, which would be subject to government funding, including:
- Grants of up to £2,000 for private hire & taxi drivers, and for light goods vehicle drivers with non-compliant vehicles;

- Grants of up to £16,000 for Bus and Coach and Heavy Goods Vehicle operators with non-compliant vehicles;
- Delivering freight consolidation opportunities for light goods vehicles outside the charging zone;
- Some exemptions to certain types of vehicles;
- A behavioural change campaign to assist people in making the switch to cleaner modes of transport; and
- Investment in additional public transport priority to accompany the Transforming Cities Fund and ensure that public transport and active travel modes are attractive and viable.

What impact will this proposal have?

22. All three of the revised options achieve compliance with legal limits on air quality in 2021 on local roads.
23. Taking account of feedback received during the next round of consultation, a full Integrated Impact Assessment on the final option will be published alongside the request for a final decision on the option to be implemented. This will be taken after the consultation. Key impacts of the three revised options, in comparison with the original options, are outlined below.

Public health

24. Public health impacts of the options depend critically on the balance between improvement in areas where traffic is reduced and risk of higher pollutant levels in areas to which any traffic is displaced. The original CAZ D option raised concerns in this area. The large size of the CAZ D resulted in such extensive displacement that in early years modelling suggested that there could be a net detriment to public health and overall emissions, although by year 5 of the scheme there was a clear net improvement. Levels of inappropriate rerouting would also have directed traffic through residential areas and increased risks around road safety. However, this negative public health impact in the short-term was a key driver in seeking a smaller CAZ D.
25. Modelling shows that all three revised options improve air quality and hence public health within the central zone by roughly the same amount in early years. Displacement of traffic is much lower, giving a clear overall public health benefit to the area from the outset. In early years, options which achieve the least displacement are most likely to have positive public health impacts as they achieve improvement in air quality within the city centre with minimal displacement to other areas. Over time, options which charge cars become more favourable for public health, as the charges drive fleet improvement and increased use of alternatives to the car.

Fairness

26. Fairness impacts of the original options were a key concern, particularly for the CAZ D. There was concern at the impact on low income travellers, and those for whom public transport alternatives might not be available, such as residents with health needs or shift workers working overnight. Feedback was clear that early introduction of car charges was particularly challenging for lower income individuals as it gives little time to invest in an alternative

vehicle, and as there was not confidence in availability or suitability of public transport and active travel alternatives. While these comments and impacts do not take account of any support or mitigation measures which could be introduced, the level of required mitigation would be challenging in the timescales involved.

27. The options which have been revised have the following likely impact on fairness:
- CAZ C with additional measures - there are potential fairness impacts from potential charges to bus, taxi and private hire vehicles, including potential changes to bus services and reduced commercial viability of some services. These will be mitigated through the provision of financial mitigation set out above – subject to government funding. Any spatial equity issues through traffic management changes will be addressed through targeted packages at those locations including additional bus priority measures and junction changes at key locations.
 - CAZ D – In addition to the above, there is a risk of the greatest impacts from charges to vehicles being borne by those on lower incomes, both in terms of paying charges and the rerouting of vehicles through lower income areas. While these could to some extent be mitigated by mobility credits or grants, there would remain significant challenges.

Economic

28. Defra require that economic impacts of the proposed measures include the cost or benefit of changes in greenhouse gas emissions, the cost of inconvenience to residents and businesses of changing travel patterns due to charging, and the economic benefits of improved air quality. This assessment does not take account of the economic impact on businesses of any change in attractiveness of Tyneside or the city centre as a place to do business. An independent economic assessment undertaken for the authorities suggests that a CAZ C would have the lowest economic impact on businesses and the LEZ and toll option the highest.

Climate change

29. The CAZ C will likely lead to positive impacts in terms of the Councils' commitment to achieving net zero. This is due to the fact that fewer trips will be made and that vehicles will be upgraded to newer models, which emit lower levels of carbon. In itself, the CAZ C will not lead to a very significant impact on overall carbon emissions, however, when combined with the transport investment set out above, there will potentially be large positive impacts on climate change.

Timetable

30. The three authorities will consult affected stakeholders and residents over the next six weeks, before bringing the outcome of consultation and a final business case for the preferred option to councils for approval.
31. The delivery of the measures required will be undertaken throughout 2020, and are anticipated to be in place in by January 2021, in order for the scheme to become active.

32. Effective delivery of the preferred option is dependent on Government action on a number of key issues, including:
- Providing the necessary resources for implementation and mitigation in a timely fashion;
 - Confirmation of available funding in order to allow Local Authorities to procure both required new systems and relevant mitigation;
 - Provision of a national taxi and private hire database; and
 - Provision of central systems to allow payment and processing, in order that Local Authorities can deliver their own Clean Air Zones.

Consultation

33. Cabinet members have been consulted on the proposals and a members' seminar was held on this issue on 5 September 2019.

The proposal is to carry out a further 6 week consultation on the revised option.

Alternative Options

34. The assessment of different options is summarised in paragraphs 13 to 28 above.

Implications of Recommended Options

35. **Resources:**

a) **Financial Implications** – Defra are required to fund the capital costs of introducing the preferred option through their Implementation Fund and the costs will be outlined as part of the final business case taking into account feedback from the consultation.

Defra may choose to fund mitigation measures necessary to delivery of the preferred option through their Clean Air Fund. The proposed mitigation options set out in this paper comprise a demand of more than £20million on the Clean Air Fund but this will be adjusted to take into account feedback from the consultation.

b) **Human Resources Implications** – There are no human resources implications.

c) **Property Implications** – No property implications have been identified.

36. **Risk Management Implications** – The key risk is to the public health of the people of the area. Poor air quality is having an impact on people's lives and needs to be addressed. We have made a number of improvements in recent years but need to continue to do so through this plan and engaging with people about their travel choices.
37. **Equality and Diversity Implications** – See paragraphs 26 and 27 above.
38. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – None.
39. **Health Implications** – See paragraphs 24 and 25 above.

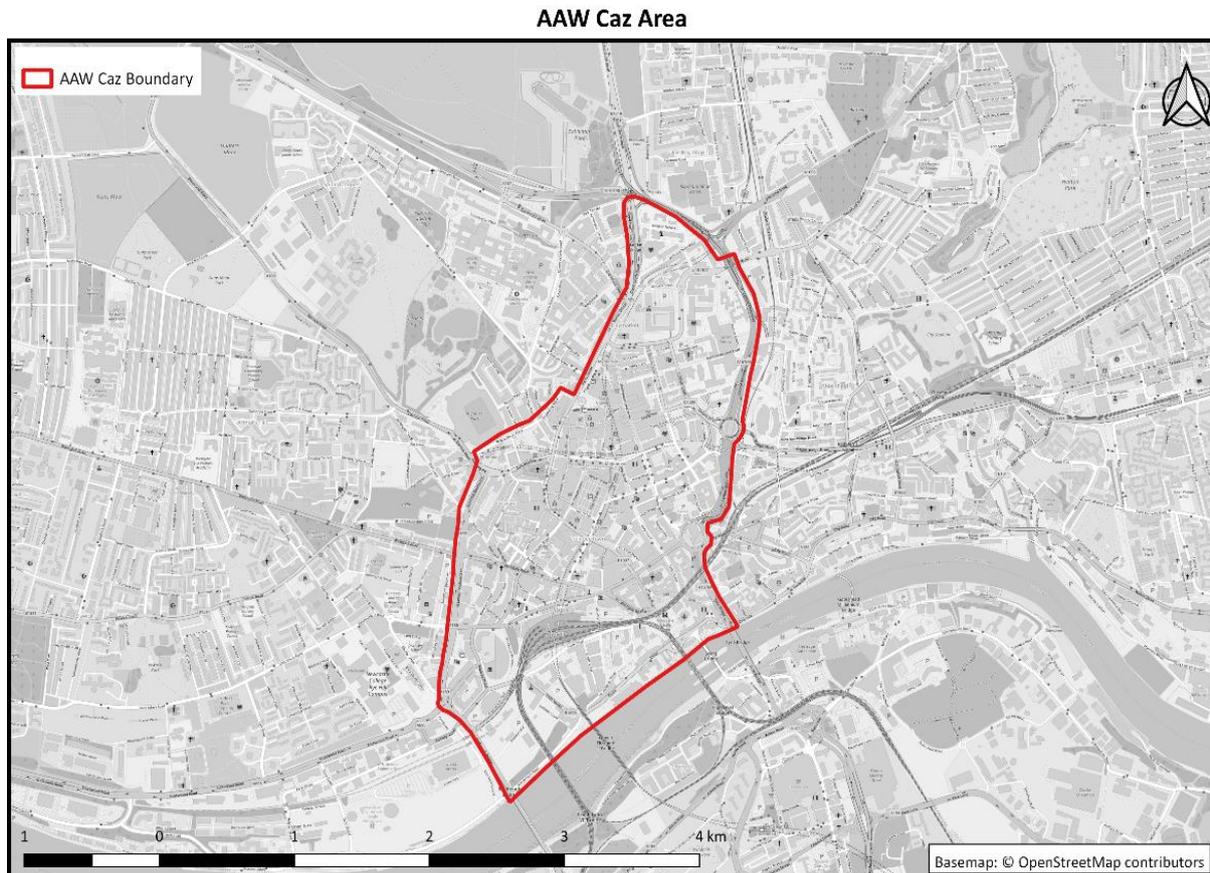
40. **Sustainability Implications** – See paragraph 29 above.
41. **Human Rights Implications** – none.
42. **Area/Ward Implications** – All wards will be affected.

Background Information

43. Further background information is contained in:
 - Cabinet Report, 26th February 2019, Air Quality Plan for Gateshead, Newcastle and North Tyneside.

Proposed scope of new Clean Air Zone

- The new proposed CAZ enables the movement from the Coast Road onto the Central Motorway (and vice versa) to be made without entering the charging zone.
- The Royal Victoria Infirmary is not part of the new charging zone.



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TITLE OF REPORT: Public Space Protection Orders

REPORT OF: Colin Huntington, Acting Strategic Director, Communities and Environment

Purpose of the Report

1. The report is to seek Cabinet approval on the recommendations to implement four Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) for Gateshead.

Background

2. Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) were brought in under the provisions of the Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. The Act permits Councils to introduce PSPOs. The purpose of these orders is to give local authorities and the Police more effective powers to control and/or support the reduction of anti-social-behaviour in public places.
3. PSPOs are enforced by authorised officers of the Council and the Police by either service of a Fixed Penalty Notice up to a maximum of £100 (set by the Council), or by prosecution with a court fine of up to £1,000 on conviction (or up to £500 for alcohol offences).
4. Public consultation was undertaken on four proposed PSPOs in December 2018, March and August 2019. The results of the consultation are at appendix 2.
5. The proposed orders are:
 - Borough wide (extension of the existing order). It will be an offence to:
 - be in control of a dog which fouls in a public space and not remove the dog faeces
 - not put a dog that is out of control on a lead when requested to do so by a council officer or a police officer
 - not keep dogs on a lead at all times at all cemeteries and school sites
 - Penser Street East
 - Access to the back lane will be blocked to all vehicles
 - Mill Road Car Park. It will be an offence to:
 - Attend the car park for the purposes of a rally/car meet
 - Race motor vehicles
 - Act in an anti social manner e.g. do burn outs, play loud music
 - Pilot School Site. It will be an offence to:
 - pick up and drop off pupils of Dunston Hill/Kingsmeadow School, during certain times.

6. There was a very high level of support for the introduction of all measures suggested in the PSPOs for all the antisocial behaviours consulted on, ranging from between 62% and 97% for each of the antisocial behaviours.
7. The Integrated Impact Assessment (appendix 3) has highlighted potential negative impacts on residents from some of the protected characteristic groups. However, exemptions will be in place to reduce the potential negative impact:
 - Statement to be included in borough wide order with exemptions for assistance dogs, following feedback from The Kennel Club
 - Exemption policy will accompany school PSPO covering Blue badge holders and other circumstances

Proposal

8. Cabinet is asked to consider the implementation of the PSPOs.

Recommendations

9. Cabinet is requested to:
 - (i) consider and note the outcome of the public consultation (appendix 2);
 - (ii) consider and note the Integrated Impact Assessment (appendix 3);
 - (iii) approve the PSPOs outlined in paragraph 5 and appendix 4; and
 - (iv) agree the maximum amount of £100 as the level of the Fixed Penalty Notice, with a 25% discount for payment within 14 days

For the following reason:

To reduce the amount of anti-social behaviour (including dog fouling) across Gateshead.

CONTACT: Anneliese Hutchinson

extension: 3881

Policy Context

1. The Public Space Protection Orders will support the Councils Thrive agenda, putting people and families at the heart of everything we do.

Background

2. Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) were brought in under the provisions of the Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. The purpose of these orders is to give local authorities and the Police more effective powers to control and/or support the reduction of anti-social-behaviour in public places.
3. PSPOs are designed to stop individuals or groups of people committing anti-social behaviour in a public space. It is for each local authority to determine what behaviour(s) they may want to make the subject of a PSPO.
4. The PSPO can prohibit specified things being done in the area or require specified things to be done in the area.
5. Before a local authority introduces a PSPO, it must be satisfied that the antisocial activities carried out in a public place within the local authority's area:
 - Have, or are likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those living in the locality;
 - Is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature;
 - Is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonableAs a result, this thereby justifies the restrictions imposed by the Order.
6. The statutory guidance is not specific to what can be included in a PSPO. The potential for their use is broad and flexible to allow a local authority to take into account specific circumstances in its area. A PSPO can cover multiple restrictions. The PSPO can cover any publicly accessible space within the local authority's area, including areas in private ownership to which the public have access.
7. A PSPO can be made for a maximum of three years, but before the end of the three year period, the Order can be extended for a further period of up to three years. A PSPO can also be extended more than once. Local authorities can increase or reduce the restricted area of an existing order, amend or remove a prohibition or requirement, or add a new prohibition or requirement. They can also discharge an order, but further consultation must take place for varying, discharging or extending Orders.
8. Breach of a PSPO without reasonable excuse would be a criminal offence, subject to a fixed penalty notice or prosecution. On summary conviction, the Act specifies that an individual would be liable to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale (currently set at £1,000).
9. A Fixed Penalty Notice may also be issued at a level to be determined by the local authority, up to a maximum of £100. PSPO's can be enforced by both the Police and authorised persons of the local authority.

10. When PSPOs are made they must be published on the local authority's website, and sufficient signs erected on, or adjacent to, the public places to which the Order relates.
11. The implementation of the PSPO can be challenged at the High Court by any interested person within six weeks of the making of the Order. An interested person is deemed to be an individual who lives in the restricted area or who regularly works in or visits that area. A challenge can be made on the basis that the local authority:
 - does not have the power to make the Order, or impose the particular prohibitions or requirements in the Order; or
 - that the requirements of the Act were not complied with.
12. If an application is made, the High Court can decide to suspend the operation of the PSPO pending the verdict, in part or in totality. The High Court has the ability to uphold the PSPO, quash it, or vary it.

The Proposed PSPOs

13. The anti-social behaviours that have been identified for a series of PSPOs within Gateshead are:
 - Dog fouling
 - Fly tipping by entering Pensher Street East by vehicle
 - Vehicle cruising at Mill Road Car Park (and associated anti social behaviours including racing, burn outs, revving car engines)
 - Unsafe and inconsiderate parking during school pick up and drop off times at Kingsmeadow/Dunston Hill School site
14. The behaviours being considered for a series of PSPOs have been reported or raised by residents, Councillors, the Police, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service and Council officers as causing detriment to the quality of life in the locality and are continuing or persisting.
15. Appendix 4 sets out the restrictions and prohibitions in the proposed PSPOs for each anti-social behaviour, and the locations to which it is proposed that the particular PSPO applies.
16. Enforcement will be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Enforcement Policy and procedures. The officers involved include:
 - Environmental Enforcement Team;
 - Dog warden;
 - Police Constables and Police Community Support Officers (Mill Road Car Park provisions)

Consultation

18. The Act requires that the Council must consult with:
 - The Chief of Police
 - The Police and Crime Commissioner
 - Community representatives (whoever the local authority considers appropriate)
 - Owners or occupiers of land (within the proposed designated areas)

- 19 The public consultation comprised of:
- An online questionnaire on the Council’s website;
 - Letter drop to residents of Pensher Street East, Market Lane and Park Terrace
 - Hard copy questionnaires available on request;
 - Questionnaires completed face to face; and
 - Emails received directly into the Community Safety Team.
- 20 The stakeholders with whom we have consulted include:
- Northumbria Police;
 - Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner;
 - Gateshead Council Community Safety Team and Enforcement Team;
 - Residents;
 - Gateshead Housing Company
 - Gateshead Community Safety Board;
 - Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service;
 - The Kennel Club; and
 - Councillors.
- 21 Overall, there were 915 respondents to the online public consultations:
- 10 - Pensher Street East
 - 202 - Mill Road Car Park
 - 551 - Dog controls
 - 152 – Dunston Hill/Kingsmeadow School
- Most of whom were Gateshead residents
- 24 There were also in excess of 200 comments received as a result of the posts on social media:
- The post around Mill Road Car Park PSPO reached almost 14,000 people and received 59 comments on social media
 - The post around the Dog control PSPO reached 30,000 people and received 144 comments on social media
- The comments varied in terms of support for the proposals and negative comments towards the police and council.
- 25 There was a high level of support for the introduction of all measures suggested in the PSPOs, ranging from between 49% and 97% for each of the antisocial behaviours.
- 26 Of the 56 properties in Pensher Street East, we talked to 33 residents, all of whom were in favour of the PSPO (two did say as long as there was still vehicle access). The remaining residents received information in the post which outlined the proposals and included a paper copy of the questionnaire. No one responded to the postal questionnaire.
- 27 A number of residents from Market Lane got in touch to express concern with the proposed boundary for the school PSPO and requested that an additional area be included. This has been reviewed and the boundary re-drawn to reflect the views of the public.

Alternative Options

28 Not to implement any order

Implications of Recommended Option

29 Resources:

a) Financial Implications –

Signage will be required at the locations affected by the Orders. The signage for the existing dog control orders and borough wide PSPO will need to be replaced with signage for the PSPOs. It is estimated that the minimum cost of the new signage will be £2000 (if stickers are used instead of signs).

Concrete bollards will be required at the entrance to the back lane of Pensher Street East. It is estimated that the cost will be £2000 for six months.

It is not possible to estimate the possible receipts from the breach of PSPOs, but this will be monitored as part of the monthly budget monitoring process.

The Strategic Director, Corporate Resources confirms that the costs associated with implementation of the PSPOs will be met from existing resources.

b) Human Resources Implications –

Council officers will be authorised and briefed to enforce orders. It is intended that through cross-skilling and training that the enforcement of PSPOs will be delivered by existing staffing resources, predominately the new On Street Environmental Enforcement team and Parking Enforcement team.

Signage (including stickers) needs to be erected before any orders can be enforced.

c) Property Implications -

There are no property implications.

30 Risk Management Implications -

There are no risk management implications. Evidence and demand supports implementation of the orders.

31 **Equality and Diversity Implications** - It is important to consider carefully the potential impact of a PSPO on different sections of their communities. In introducing an Order, care must be taken to ensure that they comply with the requirements of the public sector equality duty under the Equality Act 2010. The Equality Act requires public authorities to have due regard to a number of equality considerations when exercising their functions.

32 **Crime and Disorder Implications** – The introduction of PSPOs in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 are intended to allow the law-abiding majority to enjoy public spaces and to feel safe. Reducing anti-social behaviour has

been proved to contribute to improved community cohesion and the development of stronger community spirit.

- 33 Health Implications** – Enforcement of these orders will impact positively on the health and wellbeing of Gateshead residents.
- 34 Sustainability Implications** - There are no direct sustainability issues within this report.
- 35 Human Rights Implications** - There are some limitations set out in the legislation regarding behaviours that can be restricted by PSPOs. Under the 2014 Act, local authorities must have regard to the freedoms permitted under articles 10 and 11 of the Human Rights Act 1998 when drafting, extending, varying or discharging an Order. These cover freedom of expression, and freedom of assembly and association respectively.
- 36 Area and Ward Implications –**
 - a. The dog fouling PSPOs covers all areas and wards throughout Gateshead.
 - b. Mill Road PSPO covers the Bridges ward
 - c. Pensher Street East PSPO covers Felling ward
 - d. Dunston Hill/Kingsmeadow PSPO covers Dunston Hill and Whickham East ward

1. Borough wide – Dog control

Q1. Do you support the measure that will make it an offence for anyone in control of a dog, not to clean up after it?

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	536	97.28%
No	15	2.72%

Q2. Do you support the measure that will make it an offence for a dog owner to have their dog of a lead or a chain in any cemetery or school ground in the Gateshead borough?

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	502	91.77%
No	45	8.23%

Q3. Do you support the measure which will make it an offence for a dog owner not to put their dog on a lead, when requested to do so by an authorised person?

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	502	91.27%
No	48	8.73%

2. Pensher Street East

Q1. Do you support the use of a public space protection order to stop vehicles accessing the back lane?

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	10	100%
No	0	

Mill Road

Q1. Do you support the measure to make it an offence to attend the car park for the purposes of a car rally?

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	99	49%
No	103	51%

Q2. Do you support the measure to make it an offence for anyone to race motor vehicles and deliberately cause their vehicle to spin wheels so as to leave burnt rubber on the road surface?

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	156	77%
No	46	23%

Q3. Do you support the measure to drive anti socially whilst in the car park, for example by playing loud music, 'revving' car engines or 'tooting' horns excessively?

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	133	66%
No	69	34%

Dunston Hill/Kingsmeadow School

Q1. Do you support the measure to make it an offence to pick up/drop off at certain times outside the school?

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	94	61.84%
No	58	38.16%

Q2. Do you agree or disagree with the proposed restricted area?

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Agree	86	56.95%
Disagree	65	43.05%

Q3. Do you agree or disagree with the proposed timings?

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Agree	94	62.25%
Disagree	57	37.75%

Title of proposal:	Age	Race	Sex	Gender reassignment	Disability	Religion or Belief	Pregnancy and Maternity	Sexual Orientation	Marriage and Civil Partnership	Description of potential mitigation
<p>Public Space Protection orders</p> <p>Implementation of four PSPOs across Gateshead:</p> <p>Borough wide (extension of the existing order). It would be an offence to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be in control of a dog which fouls in a public space and not remove the dog faeces • not put a dog that is out of control on a lead when requested to do so by a council officer or a police officer • not keep dogs on a lead at all times at all cemeteries and school sites <p>Pensher Street East</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to the back lane would be blocked to all vehicles <p>Mill Road Car Park. It would be an offence to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend the car park for the purposes of a rally/car meet • Race motor vehicles • Act in an anti social manner e.g. do burn outs, play loud music <p>Pilot School Site. It would be an offence to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pick up and drop off pupils of Dunston Hill/Kingsmeadow School, during certain times. 										

<p>Equality impact: (✓ all that apply). The assessment should also consider impact on council employees and carers where applicable)</p> <p>Description of impact:</p> <p>Borough wide Disability – negative</p> <p>Pensher Street East</p> <p>Mill Road Car Park</p> <p>Pilot School Site Age – positive impact – making it safer for young people to get to school Disability – negative</p>					✓					<p>Consulted with kennel club who are happy with the order. Have recommended that an exemption for assistance dogs be included, which it has been.</p> <p>Exemption policy will complement the order – people with blue badges are exempt, car users can also apply for an exemption for up to a year if they have mitigating circumstances</p>
<p>Health impact: (eg physical, mental health, wellbeing, substance misuse)</p> <p>No direct impact</p> <p>There should be less dog fouling, fewer vehicles around problematic areas and less fly tipping.</p>										
<p>Socio Economic impact: (eg neighbourhood, ward, area of deprivation, household group, income, wealth)</p> <p>Neutral</p>										
<p>Environmental impact: (does the proposal impact on climate change and the Council’s commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030?)</p> <p>Less vehicles around a school (pilot site with the possibility of implementing at more sites in the future)</p> <p>Fewer cars speeding, revving engines and congregating at a particular ASB hot spot</p>										

Cumulative impact: (consider impact based on successive budgetary decisions relating to the proposal or is the proposal part of wider budgetary considerations that may collectively have an impact on service users, and is potentially at odds with the Thrive agenda)

Neutral

**Summary of consultation/data/research undertaken to inform the assessment:
(eg feedback and engagement with service users, trade unions, employees, partners, public, benchmarking, case studies)**

The public consultation comprised of:

- An online questionnaire on the Council's website;
- Letter drop to residents of Pensher Street East, Market Lane and Park Terrace;
- Hard copy questionnaires available on request;
- Questionnaires completed face to face; and
- Emails received directly into the community safety team.

The stakeholders with whom we have consulted include:

- Northumbria Police;
- Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner;
- Gateshead Council Community Safety Team and Enforcement Team;
- Residents;
- Gateshead Housing Company
- Gateshead Community Safety Board;
- Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service;
- The Kennel Club; and
- Councillors.

Overall, there were 915 respondents to the online public consultations:

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Most of whom were Gateshead residents

There were also in excess of 200 comments received as a result of the posts on social media:

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The comments varied in terms of support for the proposals and negative comments towards the police and council.

There was a very high level of support for all of the measures suggested in the PSPOs for all the antisocial behaviours consulted on, ranging from between 49% and 97% for each of the antisocial behaviours.

Kennel Club

We welcome the intent to include exemptions for assistance dogs from dog fouling, however we would suggest further consideration of the wording contained within the draft Order, specifically with reference to “prescribed charity”.

Assistance Dogs UK currently have eight member organisations which can be viewed here - <http://www.assistedogs.org.uk/>. However, the membership of Assistance Dogs UK is not a definitive list of all UK assistance dog organisations, and may change during the currency of the PSPO, it also does not provide for owner trained assistance dogs. We would therefore encourage the Council to allow some flexibility when considering whether a disabled person’s dog is acting as an assistance dog.

We would encourage the Council adopts the definitions of assistance dogs as used by Mole Valley District Council which can be found on page 4 of this document - https://www.molevalley.gov.uk/media/pdf/1/b/83072_-_Completed_PSPO.pdf

Signed: (completing officer) N Johnson

Date: 02.09.19

Service Director: (approved)

Date:

Gateshead Council Public Spaces Protection Order (Borough wide)

Notice is hereby given that Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council (“the Council”) in exercise of the power under sections 59, 63, 64 & 72 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, being satisfied that the conditions set out in section 59 of the Act have been met make the following order:

**Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council
Public Spaces Protection order**

Number 1 of 2019 (amended 2017 order)

1. The land described by the map attached and shown edged red being land in the area of the Council is land to which the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 applies and will be protected by the making of this Order
2. The order may be cited as the Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council Public Spaces Protection Order and shall come into force on 1 December 2016 for the duration of three years.
3. The following activities have caused a detrimental effect to the quality of life of those living in the locality-
 - a. Persons being intoxicated and drinking alcohol in public places which are not licenced premises
 - b. Dog fouling
 - c. Persons in control of a dog depositing dog faeces in places other than bins
4. The effect of this order is to impose the following conditions on the use of the land:
 - a. In this area any person who continues to carry out activities from which they are prohibited commits an offence namely:
 - i. Any person drinking alcohol in a public place (licensed premises excluded) commits an offence if on the request of a Police Constable, Police Community Support Officer or an authorised Council Officer they fail to surrender to them anything in the person’s possession believed to be alcohol or a container for alcohol from which they were believed to be consuming alcohol.
 - ii. No person shall be in control of a dog¹ in a public place without having a dog waste bag and upon the request of a Police Constable, Police Community Support Officer or an authorised Council Officer shall produce to that officer forthwith a dog waste bag for collecting and disposing of dog faeces.
 - iii. No person in this area shall dispose of any dog faeces except by placing it in a bin or by taking it home.
 - iv. No person shall be in control of a dog which fouls in a public space covered by this order and does not removed dog faeces from land
 - v. Any person who has a dog in a public space covered by this order and that dog is out of control should put their dog on a lead when requested to do so by a council officer or a police officer

- vi. Any person in control of a dog should keep dogs on a lead at all times at all cemeteries and school sites within the borough
 - vii. A person guilty of an offence under conditions a (i) or (ii) or (iii) above, under section 67 of the Act is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale (£1000) or a fixed penalty notice of a maximum of £100
5. The Council is satisfied that the conditions set out in Sections 59, 63, 64 & 72 of the Act have been satisfied and that it is in all the circumstances expedient to make this Order to reduce the detrimental effect or to reduce the risk of crime and anti-social behaviour, disorder, nuisance and annoyance and its continuance, occurrence or reoccurrence in the Restricted Area which has had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality. The effect or likely effect of this is of a persistent or continuing nature such as to make this unreasonable, and justifies the restrictions imposed by this Order.
 6. The restrictions as stated in paragraph 3 applies to all persons .
 7. If any interested person desires to question the validity of this Order on the grounds that the Council had no power to make it or that any requirement of the Act has not been complied with in relation to this order, he or she may apply to the High Court within six weeks from the date on which this order is made.

Exemptions

¹ The following exemption will apply – nothing in 4 (ii),(iii)and(v) shall apply to –

- (a) A person who is registered as blind
- (b) A person who has a disability which affects that persons mobility, manual dexterity, physical co-ordination or ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects, in respect of a dog trained by a prescribed charity upon which that person relies for assistance (dogs must be clearly marked as assistance) or
- (c) A person who is training an assistance dog in an official capacity, or a dog used by the police or other agencies permitted by the Council for official purposes

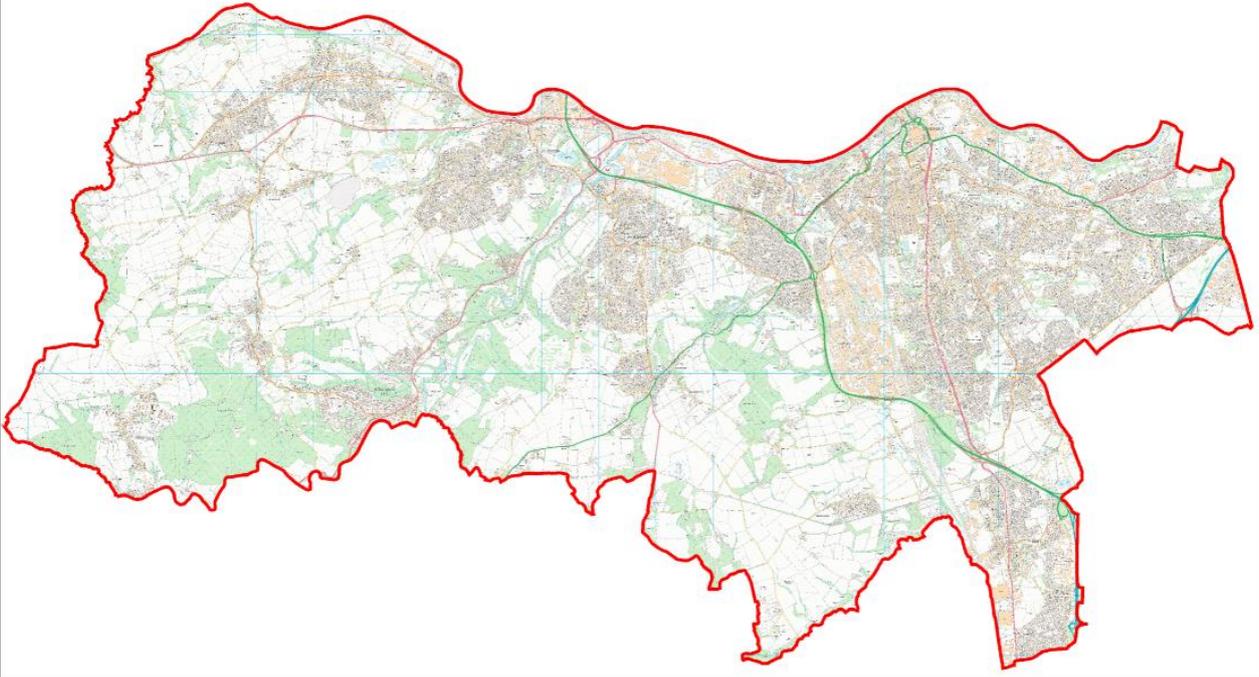
Nothing in this Order shall apply to a person who –

- a) is registered as a blind person on a register compiled under section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948; or
- b) is deaf, in respect of a dog trained by Hearing Dogs for Deaf People (registered charity number 293358) and upon which he relies for assistance; or
- c) has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on the ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities, in respect of a dog trained by any current or future members of Assistance Dogs UK or any other charity registered in the UK with a purpose of training assistance dogs and upon which he relies for assistance
- d) has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on the ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities and in the reasonable opinion of the Council that person relies upon the assistance of the dog in connection with their disability.

For the purpose of this Order: -

- A person who habitually has a dog in his possession shall be taken to be in charge of the dog at any time unless, at the time of the offence, some other person is in charge of the dog;
- Placing the faeces in a receptacle on the land which is provided for the purpose, or for the disposal of waste, shall be sufficient removal from the Restricted Area,
- Being unaware of the defecation (whether by reason of not being in the vicinity or otherwise), or not having a device for or other suitable means of removing the faeces shall not be a reasonable excuse for failing to remove the faeces.

Proposed Public Space Protection Order
Gateshead-wide



Public Space Protection Order (Pensher Street East)

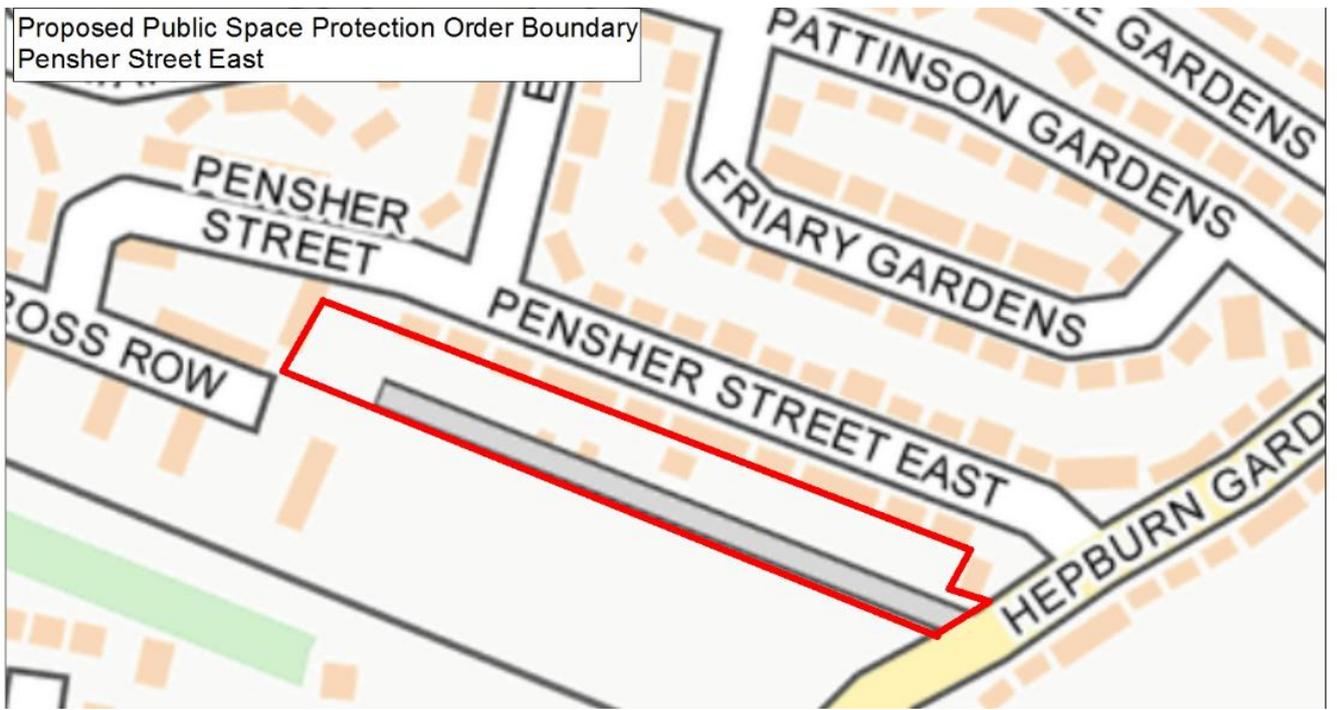
Notice is hereby given that Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council in exercise of its powers under Sections 59, 64 & 72 of the Antisocial Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 (“the Act”) proposes to make the following order:

Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council
Public Spaces Protection Order

Number 2 of 2019

1. The Order shall come into operation on XXXXX and shall have effect for a period of three years thereafter, unless extended by further orders under Gateshead Council’s (hereafter “the Council”) statutory powers.
2. The Order relates to the area marked red on the attached plan, commonly known as the rear of Pensher Street East, Gateshead.
3. The effect of this Order is to restrict vehicular access to the rear of Pensher Street East. The Order authorises the installation of barriers and any necessary associated fencing which will enforce the restriction and prevent people using the land for fly tipping from vehicles and on foot.
4. Responsibility for maintaining the barriers and fencing at the location will lie with the Council.
5. The Council is satisfied that the conditions set out in Sections 59,64 & 72 of the Act have been satisfied and that it is in all circumstances expedient to make this Order to reduce the detrimental effect or to reduce the risk of crime and antisocial behaviour and its continuance, occurrence or reoccurrence in the restricted area which has had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality. The effect or likely effect of this is of a persistent or continuing nature such as to make this unreasonable, and justifies the restrictions imposed.
6. The restriction as stated in paragraph 3 applies to all persons in control of or in a vehicle.
7. If any interested person desires to question the validity of this Order on the grounds that the Council has not power to make it or that any requirement of the ACT has not been complied with in relation to the Order, he or she may apply to the High Court within six weeks from the date on which this Order is made.

Proposed Public Space Protection Order Boundary
Pensher Street East



Gateshead Council Public Spaces Protection Order (Mill Road Car Park)

Notice is hereby given that Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council (“the Council”) in exercise of the power under sections 59, 63, 64 & 72 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, being satisfied that the conditions set out in section 59 of the Act have been met make the following order:

Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council (Gateshead Quays, Mill Road Car Park) Public Spaces Protection Order

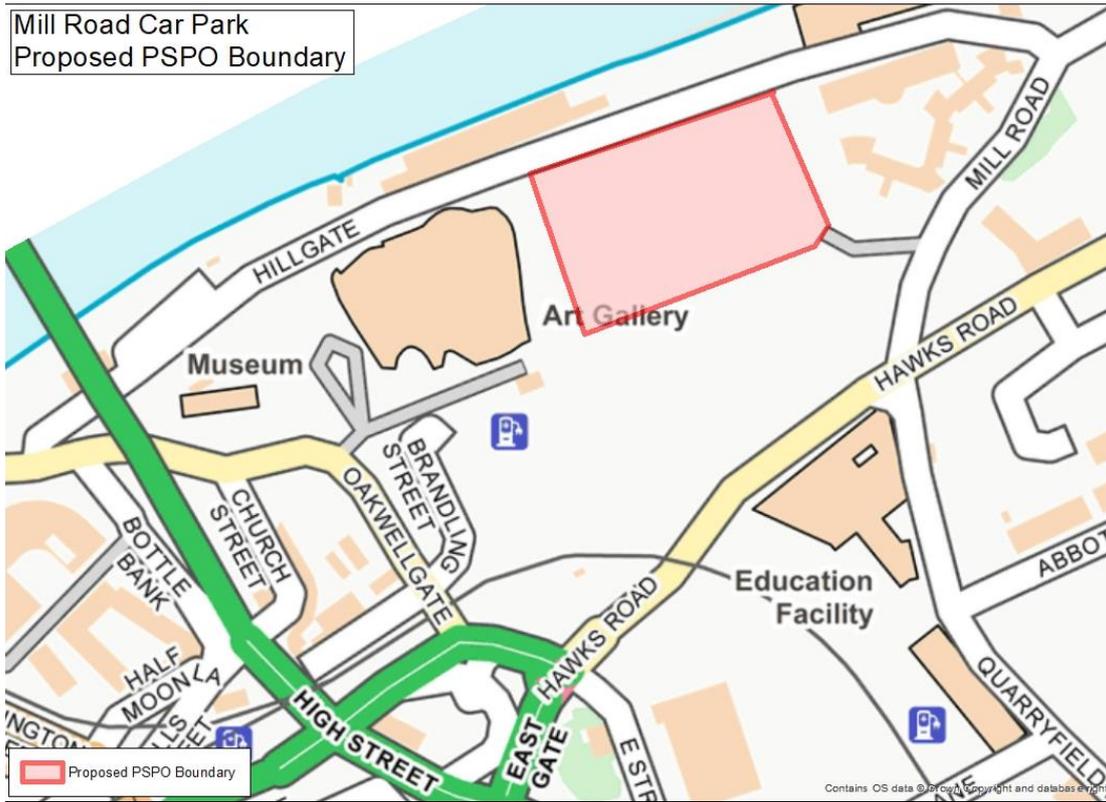
Number 3 of 2019

1. The land described by the map attached and shown edged red being land in the area of the Council is land to which the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 applies and will be protected by the making of this Order
2. The order may be cited as the Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council Public Spaces Protection Order (Mill Road Car Park) and shall come into force on XXXXX for the duration of three years.
3. The following activities have caused a detrimental effect to the quality of life of those in the locality-
 - a. Large numbers of vehicles gathering in the Gateshead Quays, Mill Road Car Park, Gateshead, NE8 5JB for the purposes of a car rally causing congestion and inconvenience to customers and residents.
 - b. Parking spaces for customers being taken up by rally spectators and participants.
 - c. Rubbish and litter being left behind by rally spectators and participants.
 - d. Persons driving in a dangerous and anti social manner, for example racing, ‘burn –outs’.
 - e. Leaving, entering and driving in the car park at speed
 - f. Parking up and causing excessive noise by playing loud music, ‘revving’ car engines and ‘tooting’ horns
4. The effect of this order is to impose the following conditions on the use of the land:
 - a. In this area any person who continues to carry out activities from which they are prohibited commits an offence namely:
 - i. No person shall attend the area whether in control of a vehicle or otherwise to watch or participate in a car rally, where a car rally is a meeting of two or more motor vehicles for the purpose of socialising, display, comparison, promotion or any other purpose other than the legitimate use of the car park.
 - ii. No person shall race motor vehicles nor shall they deliberately cause their vehicle to spin wheels so as to leave burnt rubber on the road surface.
 - iii. No person shall act in an anti social manner whilst in the car park, for example by playing loud music, ‘revving’ car engines or ‘tooting’ horns excessively
 - iv. A person guilty of an offence under conditions a (i) or (ii) above, under section 67 of the Act is liable on summary conviction to a fine not

exceeding level 3 on the standard scale (£1000) or a fixed penalty notice of a maximum of £100

5. The Council is satisfied that the conditions set out in Sections 59, 63, 64 & 72 of the Act have been satisfied and that it is in all the circumstances expedient to make this Order to reduce the detrimental effect or to reduce the risk of crime and anti-social behaviour, disorder, nuisance and annoyance and its continuance, occurrence or reoccurrence in the Restricted Area which has had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality. The effect or likely effect of this is of a persistent or continuing nature such as to make this unreasonable, and justifies the restrictions imposed by this Order.
6. The restrictions as stated in paragraph 4 applies to all persons.
7. If any interested person desires to question the validity of this Order on the grounds that the Council had no power to make it or that any requirement of the Act has not been complied with in relation to this order, he or she may apply to the High Court within six weeks from the date on which this order is made.

Mill Road Car Park
Proposed PSPO Boundary



Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014
Public Spaces Protection Order Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council
Dunston Hill Community Primary School and Kingsmeadow Community
Comprehensive School

Hereafter referred to as PSPO 4 of 2019

**NO DROP OFF OR PICK UP OF PUPILS FROM DUNSTON HILL COMMUNITY
PRIMARY SCHOOL and KINGSMEADOW COMMUNITY COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL
ON MORNINGS AND AFTERNOONS IN TERM TIME**

Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council (in this Order called “the Authority”) in exercise of its powers under Section 59 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 (“the Act”) hereby makes this Public Spaces Protection Order. The Authority has complied with the requirements of Section 72 of the Act and undertaken the necessary consultation.

This Order shall come into force on xxxxxxxxxxxx 2019 and remain in force for a period of two years.

Preliminary

The Authority, in making this Order, is satisfied on reasonable grounds:

- a) That the following activities in relation to dropping off and collecting pupils from Dunston Hill Community Primary School and Kingsmeadow Community Comprehensive School have been carried out within the Authority’s area and have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality:
- i. Hazardous parking causing obstruction and preventing school pupils and children crossing the road safely
 - ii. Vehicles parked in the bus stop on Market Lane
 - iii. Vehicles blocking residents’ driveways and dropped kerbs
 - iv. Vehicles parked at road junctions obstructing the view onto Market Lane
 - v. Vehicles mounting the pavements along Park Terrace and Market Lane
 - vi. Vehicles using the school gates as a turning circle
 - vii. Obstruction of the highway causing congestion; and that:
- b) The effect, or likely effect, of the activities is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature; is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable; and justifies the restrictions imposed by the Order
- c) The prohibitions and requirements imposed by this Order are reasonable to impose in order to prevent the detrimental effect of these activities from continuing, occurring or recurring, or to reduce that detrimental effect or to reduce the risk of its continuance, occurrence or recurrence.

d) It has had regard to the rights and freedoms set out in the European Convention on Human Rights as defined in s.21 (1) of the Human Rights Act 1998, and in particular, to those rights set out in Article 10 (right of freedom of expression) and Article 11 (right of freedom of assembly) and has concluded that the restrictions on such rights and freedoms imposed by this Order are lawful, necessary and proportionate.

Prohibitions

No driver shall drop off or pick up pupils from Dunston Hill Community Primary School and Kingsmeadow Community Comprehensive School from any vehicle (regardless of whether those pupils and children are accompanied by any person) within the Restricted Area on Monday to Friday between:

- 8.00 am – 9.30 am and
- 2.30 pm – 4.00 pm

during each term of the School academic year.

Restricted Area

This Order applies to those areas being the highway consisting of designated sections of the following roads:

- Market Lane
- Park Terrace

and shown edged pink and hatched on the plan annexed as Schedule 1 of this Order.

Exemptions to the prohibitions imposed by this Order

- Drivers of vehicles delivering and collecting pupils and children with physical disabilities to and from the School
- Disabled drivers who are holders of a Blue Badge or similar disabled authorisation
- For full information and the evidence we need please see Schedule 2 of this order

Failure to comply

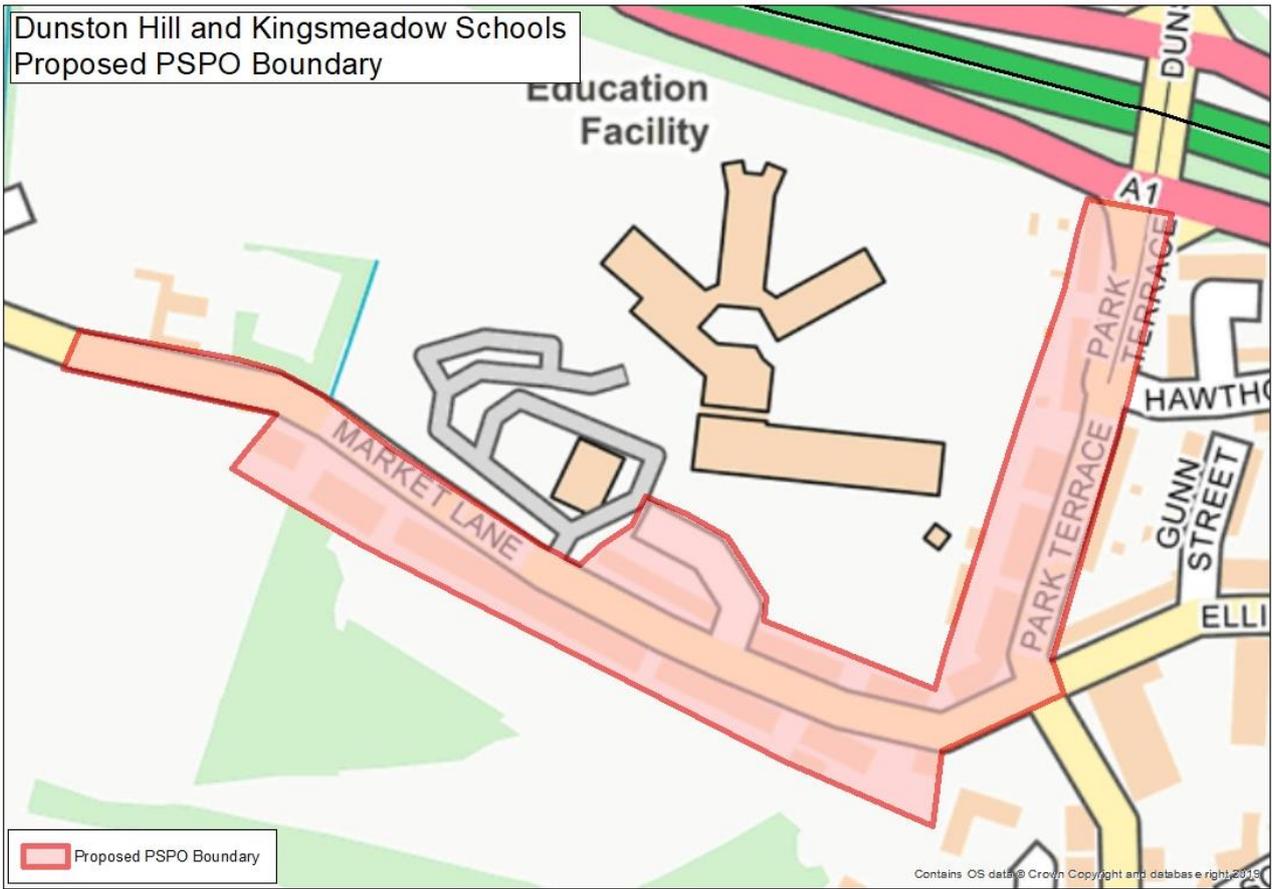
Failure without reasonable excuse to comply with the prohibitions of this Order is a summary offence under Section 67 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014. A person guilty of an offence is liable to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale (maximum £1000).

Fixed Penalty Notice

A police constable or police community support officer (PCSO) or an authorised officer of the Authority may, under Section 68 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014, issue a Fixed Penalty Notice (maximum £100) to any person he or she has reason to believe has committed an offence, payment of which will discharge any liability to conviction for the offence.

Dated this day of 2019

Dunston Hill and Kingsmeadow Schools
Proposed PSPO Boundary



TITLE OF REPORT: Annual Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2019-2020

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

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek approval for the Annual Youth Justice Strategic Plan for 2019-2020

Background

2. There is a requirement for the Youth Justice Service to produce an Annual Youth Justice Plan, which is one of the grant conditions for local authorities. The Youth Justice Board has produced guidelines on what should be incorporated, however this is not restrictive. The plan should include:
 - Introduction
 - Performance Data (including Restraints in Custody)
 - Structure and Governance
 - Innovation and Promising Practice
 - Partnership Arrangements
 - Resources and Value for Money (including staffing structure)
 - Key Priorities
 - Risks to Future Delivery
 - What do People Say About Us?
 - Our Work with Victims
 - Contact Us
3. The Plan should be endorsed by Children and Young People Portfolio, Cabinet, Council and Gateshead Youth Justice Board and requires a signature from the Strategic Director for Care, Wellbeing and Learning.

Proposal

4. The Annual Youth Justice Strategic Plan has been prepared by the Youth Justice Service in collaboration with the Youth Justice Board. The annual plan reports on performance, financial management and the work of the Youth Justice Service and partners during the previous year and identifies recommendations, priorities and risks for the service in the coming year. It is also aligned to the Council's Thrive agenda.
5. Key priorities for 2019-20 are:
 - To further strengthen the Youth Justice Board through development sessions which will include reviewing terms of reference in line with Youth Justice Board guidance.
 - To set up a scrutiny panel for Out of Court Disposals which will report into the Board to improve accountability. The scrutiny panel will include Board members and volunteers to provide more objectivity and independence.

- To develop a digital forum where young people can access information and support through mobile technology.
- To further develop case audits to include trauma informed working and enhanced case management approaches to ensure this new learning is incorporated into assessment and planning of cases.
- To increase the identification of speech and language difficulties of young people and develop effective methods of addressing these.

Risks to Future Delivery

6. As more young people are successfully diverted away from the Criminal Justice System via early intervention work, those who remain are increasingly complex with greater and challenging needs.
7. If the low-level use of remand and custody is not maintained, pressure is placed upon the secure accommodation budget. Remand costs remain an area of risk as this is dependent on several factors mainly outside of our control, including the nature and seriousness of the offences committed where alternatives to custody may not be appropriate. Future remand costs cannot be reliably forecast.
8. Statutory partners continue to have significant budget reductions to absorb and this may in turn reduce their capability to maintain Youth Just Service funding contributions and/or lead to removal of seconded staff in the future.

Recommendations

10. Cabinet is asked to recommend the Council to endorse the Annual Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2019-2020.

For the following reason:

To allow the Youth Justice Service to fulfil its strategic and operational responsibilities.

Policy Context

1. It is a requirement of grant funding that an annual strategic plan is produced for all Youth Offending Teams/Services. The annual plan supports Thrive.

Background

2. The Plan has been submitted to the Youth Justice Board who will forward the Plan to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) and Ministers.
3. The Plan will be used by HMIP to help monitor the Youth Justice Service to ensure that it continues to improve and have evidenced based outcomes. The plan will also be scrutinised and used within any Youth Justice Board inspection as part of the inspection framework.

Consultation

4. The Cabinet Members for Children and Young People and the Youth Justice Board have been consulted.

Alternative Options

5. There are no alternative options. The Strategic Plan requires updating on an annual basis and is a statutory requirement for the Youth Justice Service.

Implications of Recommended Option

6. **Resources:**
 - a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director Corporate Resources confirms there are no financial implications arising from this report.
 - b) **Human Resources Implications** – There are no specific implications arising from this report.
 - c) **Property Implications** - There are no property Implications.
7. **Risk Management Implication** - Potential budget efficiencies and changes within the Youth Justice Board could impact on overall performance and maintaining and improving performance in a changing political landscape could dilute the youth justice services provided to young people and families.
8. **Equality and Diversity Implications** - The work of the service contributes to Families Gateshead and improves emotional health and well-being for children, young people and their families.
10. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – The service includes professionals who specialise in parenting, drug and alcohol use, emotional mental health, education and offending behaviour work. The service supports multi-agency interventions and will work with families where issues around anti-social behaviour and those young people on the cusp of offending have been identified, or where there is a potential risk that there may be in the future. The service has developed areas of business which include: Child to Parent Violence work; sexualised behaviour work in partnership with the NSPCC; and staff have benefitted from Extremism and Anti Radicalisation Training which

does not feature highly in our work but remains an area which we regularly review.

11. **Health Implications** - The service works to improve and minimise the potential for substance misuse and emotional mental health of all the young people where this is identified as an issue.
12. **Sustainability Implications** - The service model delivers a responsive and flexible support to young people and their families to ensure that we provide effective interventions and intervene as early as possible.
13. **Human Rights Implications** - There are no human rights implications arising from this report.
14. **Area and Ward Implications** - The service covers all areas and wards within Gateshead. Reparation projects cover all areas and wards.

Background Information

15. See attached copy of Youth Justice Strategic Plan for 2019/20.



Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2019-20

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Foreword

I have pleasure in presenting the Gateshead Youth Justice Strategic Plan for 2019/20. The Plan is part of our continued commitment to keeping the Youth Justice Board (YJB), Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation, partners, stakeholders, employees and the public informed of our work.

This Strategic Plan also provides an update on the key priorities set for 2019/20 and reports on the progress and achievements during the last year.

Gateshead Youth Justice Service (YJS) strives to engage and understand the young people they work with and offer interventions to prevent re-offending. It is an ambitious service which is also committed to providing the highest level of support to victims of crime.

We take a proactive approach to working with those affected by crime and deliver integrated, joined up services with shared objectives. This has had a positive impact on our performance and outcomes, illustrated by the downward trend in youth offending in Gateshead.

New ways of working have strengthened the continuum of care for all vulnerable children and young people who reside in Gateshead and ensure a prompt response to all concerns identified. As the YJS sits within the Early Help Service, interventions often involve a whole family approach. We continue to help children, young people and families build on their strengths, develop resilience and lead fulfilling lives.

We take pride in putting victims and young people at the centre of our work, and would like to thank those victims, young people, families and partners who have helped in the development of this plan and shaped its aims and objectives for the coming year.

Finally, I would like to thank all of those across the Youth Justice workforce and beyond who are working to achieve better outcomes for our children, young people and families to ensure that Gateshead is a place where everyone thrives.

Councillor Gary Haley
Cabinet Member
Children & Young People





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Introduction

The Crime and Disorder Act (1998) places a statutory responsibility on local authorities, acting with statutory partner agencies, to establish a Youth Offending Team (YOT). The statutory function of the YOT is to co-ordinate the provision of Youth Justice Services. The Act also sets out responsibilities in relation to the production of a Youth Justice Plan setting out how youth justice services are to be provided, how the YOT will operate and which functions it will carry out.

This Youth Justice Plan is overseen by the Gateshead YJB. In May 2019 the Board agreed that Gateshead Youth Offending Team should be renamed to the Youth Justice Service, to ensure that young people are not labelled as offenders and to promote desistance.

During 2018/19 we restructured our Early Help Service. The YJS became part of the Specialist Support function within Early Help, alongside the Domestic Abuse Team, Supporting Children and Families and CAF Support Team. We have recently appointed a new Service Manager for YJS, following retirement of the previous postholder.

We are committed to the Board's Vision;

"A youth justice system that sees children as children, treats them fairly and helps them to build on their strengths so they can make a constructive contribution to society. This will prevent offending and create safer communities with fewer victims."

We continue to show strong performance and have continued to reduce the number of first-time entrants, resulting in fewer victims and more young people having the opportunity to lead positive lives as productive members of our community. The rate of re-offending in the Gateshead cohort is lower, demonstrating a positive picture against the regional and national figures.

We continue to use custody as a last resort, shown by the lower than the national and regional average numbers of young people in custody. However, we are aware that small numbers can be affected by factors outside of our control, which could lead to future changes in this indicator.

Our Plan is aligned with existing policy initiatives, including the Council's strategic approach of 'Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives', with five key pledges:

1. Put people and families at the heart of everything we do
2. Tackle inequality so people have a fair chance
3. Support our communities to support themselves and each other
4. Invest in our economy to provide sustainable opportunities for employment, innovation and growth across the Borough
5. Work together and fight for a better future for Gateshead



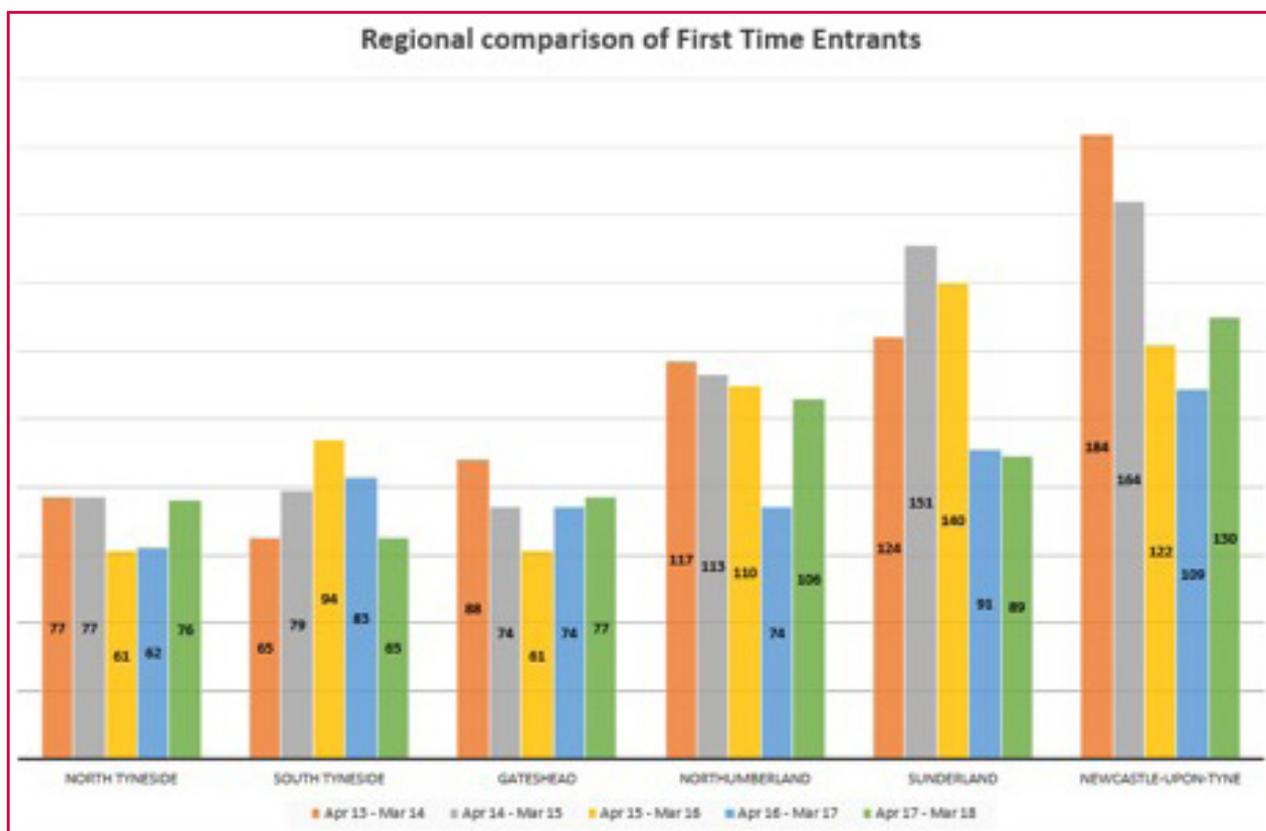
Performance Data 2018/19

Our Performance 2018/19

We use performance management to underpin our working practices, so that our staff understand and can manage their business effectively. Our service has a clear understanding of how service delivery translates into performance management and how individual roles contribute towards it. We have regular communication and discussions around performance at weekly and monthly team meetings, analysis and risk assessment of the active cohort on a weekly basis, a robust data monitoring and validation process and strong Case Management System Support.

A monthly performance workbook monitors the key Youth Justice performance indicators and victim information. The findings of our performance clinic are scrutinised by the Strategic Director of Care Wellbeing and Learning. This method provides robust senior management overview, challenge and understanding of the service performance. In addition, regular audits of cases are undertaken by managers and by case management staff. Findings from these are used to inform case management improvement workshops.

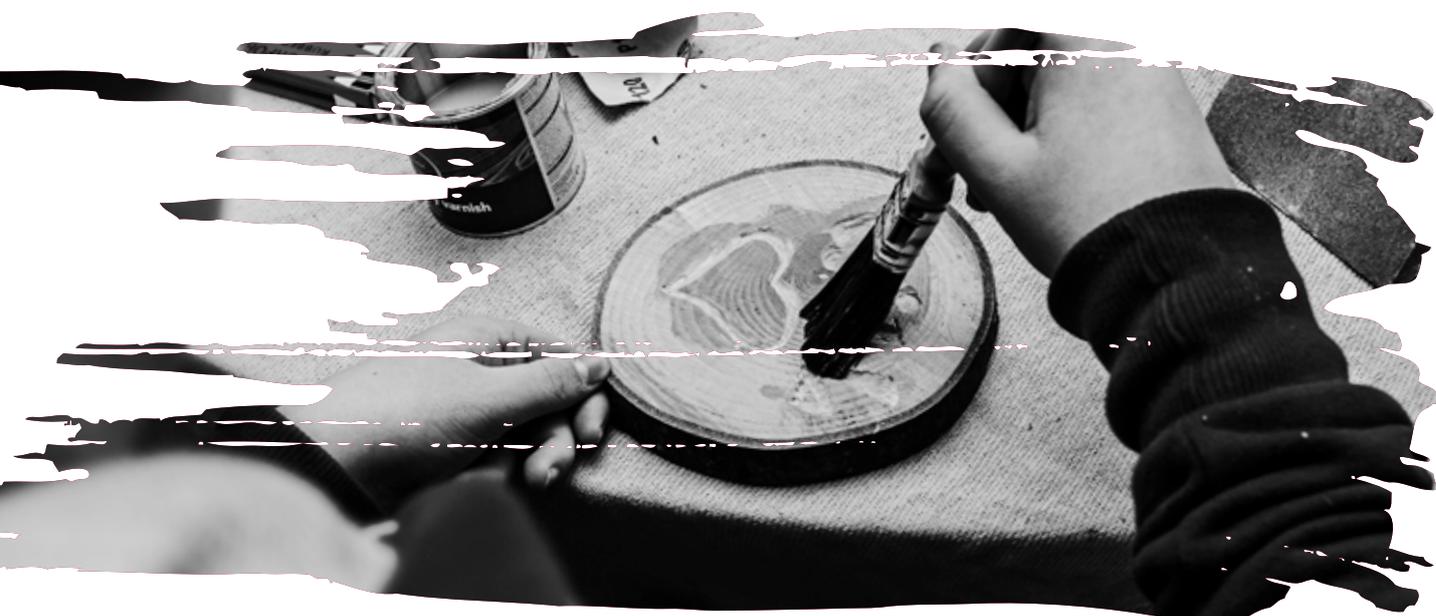
First Time Entrants (FTE) data source – Police National Computer (PNC)



The latest published data for the period 2017/18 shows that Gateshead has seen a 4% increase (three young people) in the number of FTE entering the Youth Justice System. When compared to the earliest period (2013/14), this is a -12.5% decrease. During the latest quarter (Jan-Mar 2019) there were nine FTE reported, compared to the same period for the previous year (10), this is a 10% reduction.

Gateshead FTEs	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Number	89	73	62	75	77
Rate/100,000	503	424	366	442	452
PCC Northumbria area only	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Number	655	659	588	500	544
Rate/100,000	532	589	491	416	450
North East	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Number	1,176	1,099	977	903	830
Rate/100,000	514	487	437	403	368
National	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Number	21,449	19,881	17,717	15,974	13,746
Rate/100,000	437	407	363	324	276

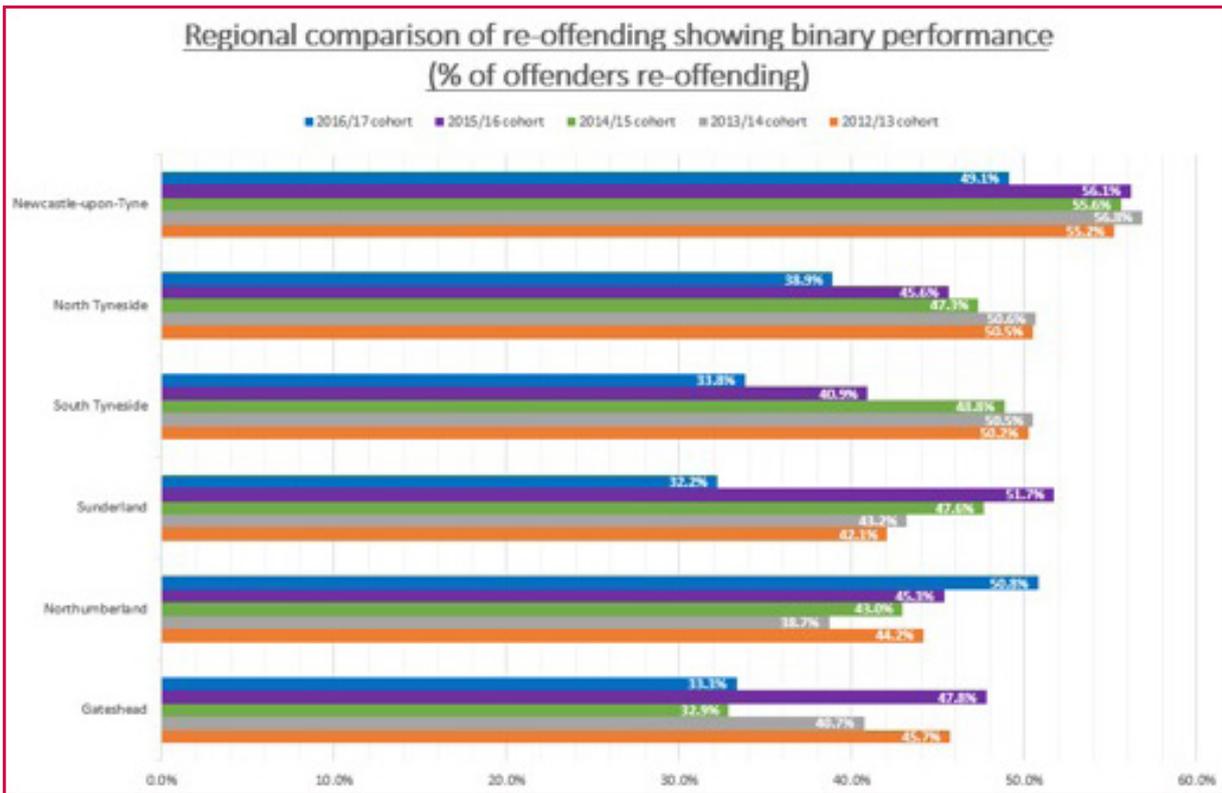
Please note that the numbers and associated rates of FTEs may change slightly when compared to previous years reports. This is due to the information source (PNC data) being updated and refreshed on a regular basis which can result in slight changes to past FTE numbers.



Re-offending Data Source – Police National Computer (PNC)

The most recently published 12-month re-offending data from the Police National Computer (PNC) for 2016/17 sets Gateshead's binary performance (% of young people who go on to re-offend) at 33.3%. When we compare the latest data to the previous year's (2015/16) of 47.8% the binary performance has improved by 14.5%.

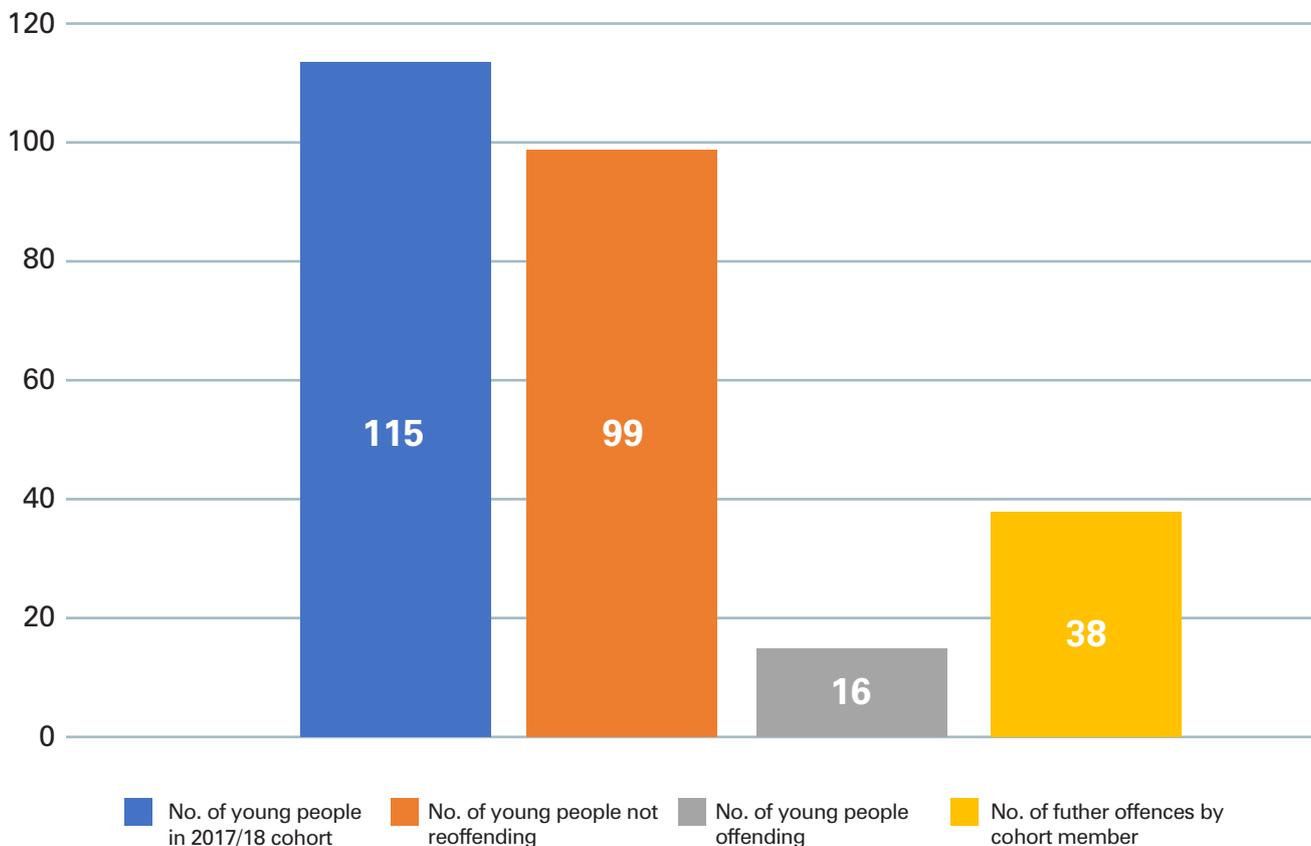
The latest binary performance of 33.3% is lower than both the Northumbria PCC regional average of 41.3%, and the national average of 40.6%.



Gateshead's Proven Rate of Re-offending	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Re-offences/re-offender	2.83	2.57	3.49	3.69	3.51
% Re-offending	45.7%	40.7%	32.9%	47.8%	33.3%
PCC Northumbria area only	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Re-offences/re-offender	3.14	3.45	3.9	3.91	4.56
% Re-offending	48.2%	47.7%	48.2%	49.8%	41.3%
North East	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Re-offences/re-offender	3.42	3.58	3.96	4.04	4.45
% Re-offending	43.3%	44.5%	44.9%	44.4%	41.8%
National	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Re-offences/re-offender	3.25	3.41	3.61	3.78	3.9

Latest Offending Data of 2017/18 Community Resolution and Triage Cohort

Current offending of 2017/18 Community Resolution/Triage cohort



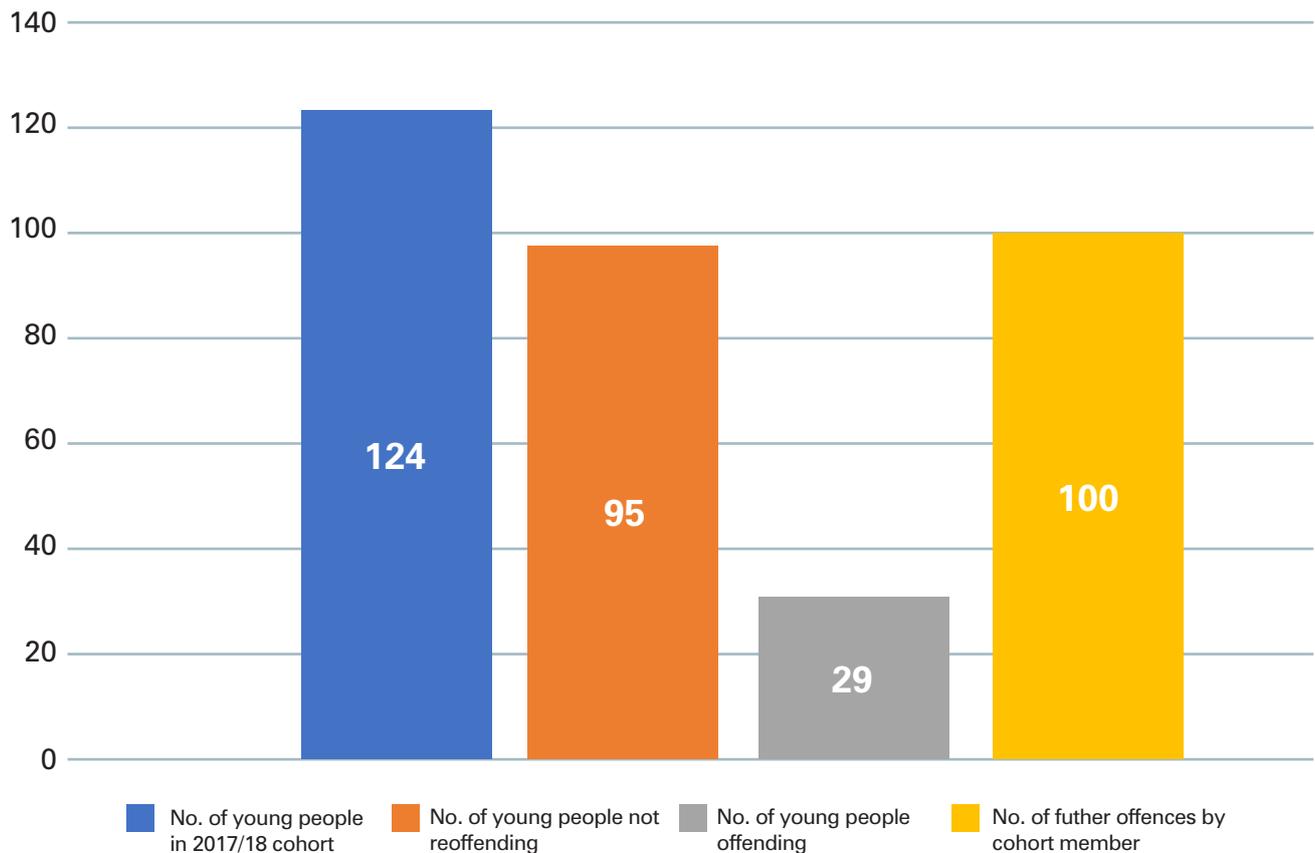
Latest offending data relating to those young people receiving either a Community Resolution or Triage Intervention during 2017/18 shows our reoffending rate at 14%. This is a +7% increase when compared to the previous year's cohort, binary performance is currently at 14%.

Of the 115 young people within this cohort, 16 young people have so far gone on to offend, committing a total of 38 offences.

Using a monthly tracking tool, we can track the offending of this cohort that enables the YJS to review the current YJS intervention plan in place to prevent the likelihood of those young people within this cohort becoming First Time Entrants (FTE).

Latest Offending Data of 2017/18 Live Tracker Cohort

Current offending of 2017/18 Live Tracker Cohort



Latest offending data relating to those young people receiving either a youth caution or court disposal during 2017/18 shows the reoffending rate at 23%. This is an 8% increase when compared to the previous year's cohort, binary performance is currently at 23%.

Of the 124 young people within this cohort, 29 young people have so far gone on to offend committing a total of 100 offences. From the 29 young people re-offending, five young people (4%), were responsible for committing 54% of the 100 further offences.

Like the Community Resolution and Triage Cohort we can track those young people who received either a Youth Caution or court conviction for a period of 18 months. Upon refreshing the cohort offending data, the YJS management team review those cases each month to ensure the plan in place is robust and includes the necessary objectives to prevent further offending.

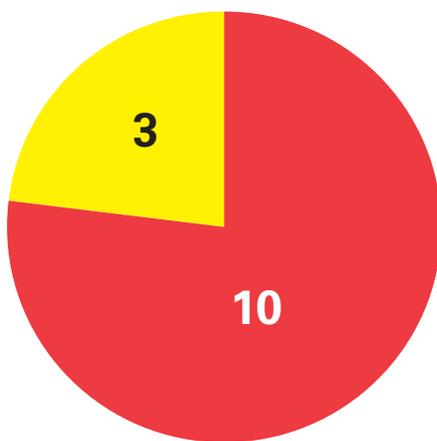
Active Cohort Analysis

We regularly track those young people within each re-offending cohort monthly. We also identify which cohort members are open to a YJS intervention on a weekly basis, using the risk register report. This is a breakdown of cases open to the YJS that includes the latest case level data relating to many factors such as: Likelihood of re-offending (LOR), Risk of Serious Harm (ROSH), Looked After Child (LAC) status, Child Protection (CP) involvement, Troubled Families involvement.

The charts below are a snapshot as of May 2019 that outlines the types the risks associated with those active cohort members, currently open to a YJS intervention.

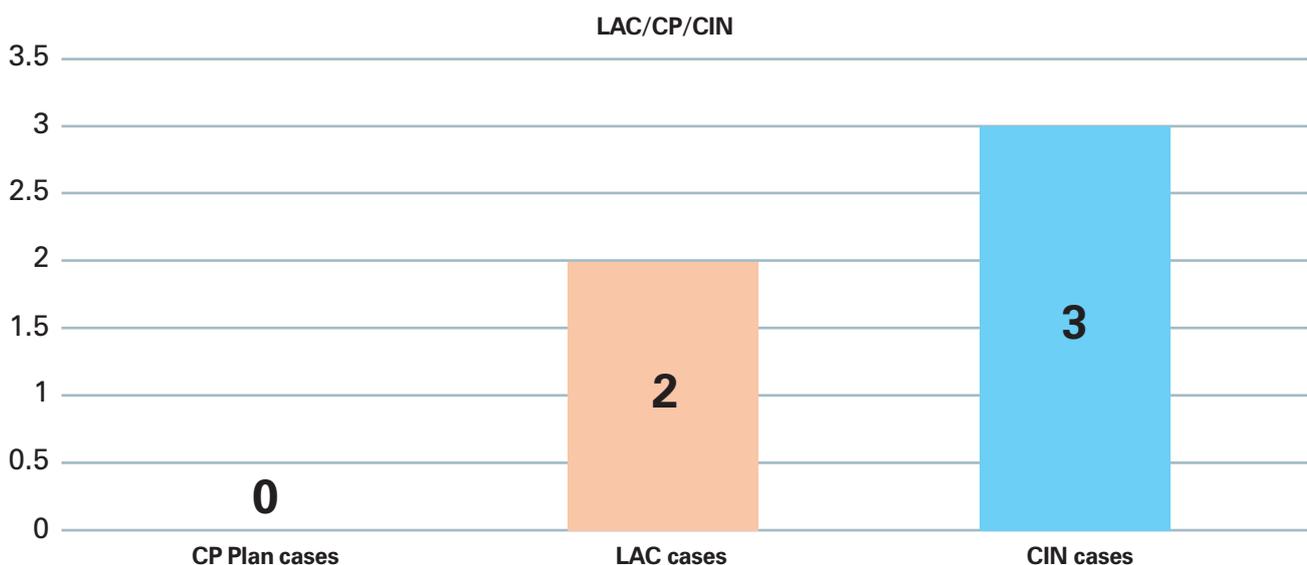
From the original combined cohort of 239 members being tracked, 45 had committed further offences since entering the cohort. Of those members that had reoffended (45), 13 or 29% were open to the YJS as of May 2019.

FamiliesGateshead Involvement



77% (10) of active cohort cases are allocated to the FamiliesGateshead Programme

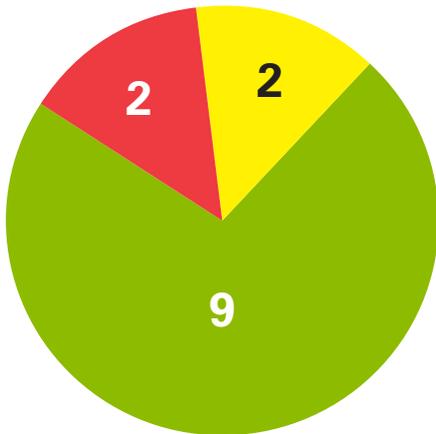
- Active cohort cases with FamiliesGateshead involvement
- Active cohort cases without FamiliesGateshead involvement



24% (three) are identified as a Looked After Child (LAC)
 15% (two) are identified as a Child in Need (CIN)
 No cases (0) are subjected to a Child Protection Plan

Latest Offending data of 2017/18 Live tracker cohort

Likelihood of re-offending



15% (two) of active cohort cases were recently assessed with a high likelihood of re-offending

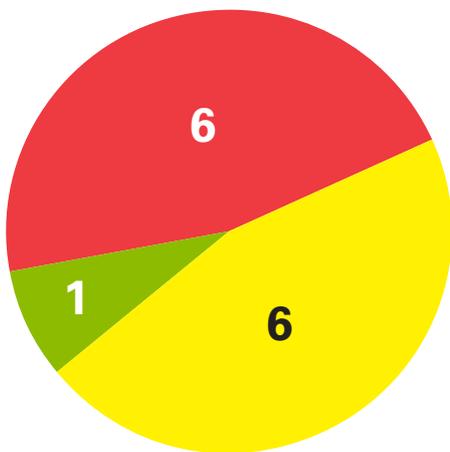
15% (two) were assessed with a medium likelihood of re-offending

70% (nine) were assessed with a low likelihood of re-offending

■ High likelihood of re-offending ■ Medium likelihood of re-offending ■ Low likelihood of re-offending

NB: the likelihood of re-offending is based on many factors such as: gender, age, prior conviction severity and frequency.

Risk of serious harm



46% (six) of cases have a high risk of serious harm rating

46% (six) of cases have a low risk of serious harm rating

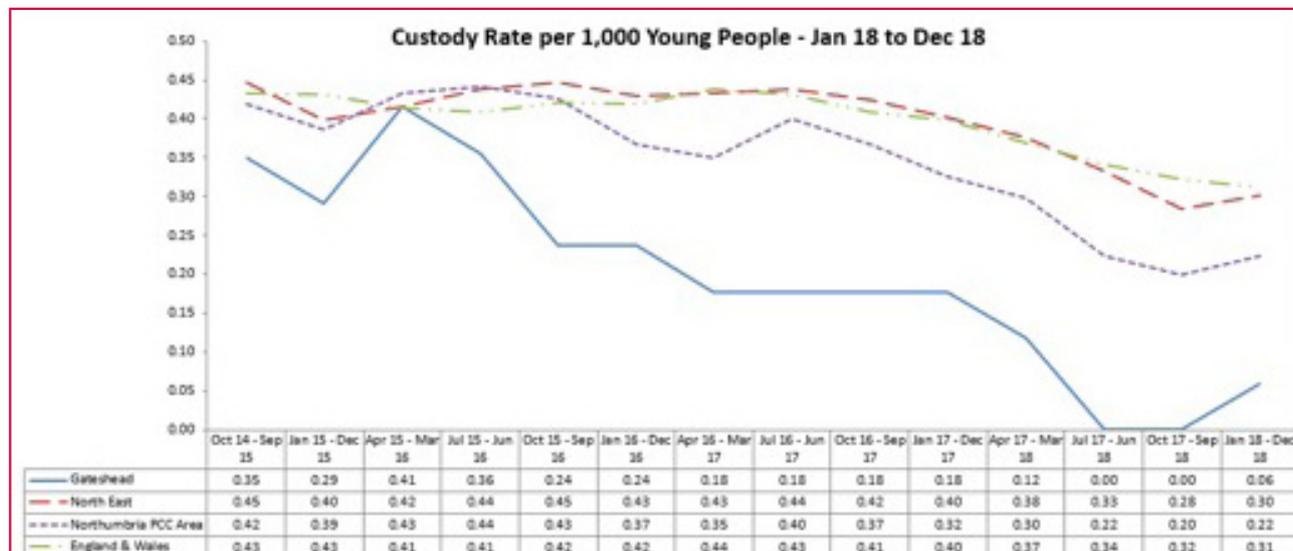
8% (one) of cases have a medium risk of serious harm rating

■ High likelihood of re-offending ■ Medium likelihood of re-offending ■ Low likelihood of re-offending

NB: The Risk of Serious Harm Level is based on a "Yes" response to any of the questions in the indicators of harm section within the assessment.

Custodial Sentences – Data source Case Level Data

The latest YJB published data for Jan-Dec 18 shows the 12-month rate of Custody for Gateshead at 0.06, this represents one custodial sentence in the 12-month period compared to two custodial sentences in the same period of the previous year. This is below the Northumbria PCC and regional average for this period (0.22), and below the national average (0.31).



Gateshead continues to reduce the number of custodial sentences given to young offenders using alternative interventions to custody.

Looked After Children

There were 20 cases of Looked After Children (LAC) who were sentenced to a YJS intervention throughout 2018/19, which is the same number of LAC offenders when compared to the previous year (2017/18).

12 LAC (60%) were subjected to a Section 20 order (single period of accommodation), eight LAC (40%) were subjected to a Care Order, and no-one was subject to an Interim Care Order.

Restraints in Secure Accommodation

During the period of 2018/19 there were no instances of restraints being used by custodial establishments. Any incidents would be reported to the YJB. The YJS Team Manager also attends the regional Resettlement and Case Management Improvement Group meetings, where restraints are monitored and where necessary further investigation undertaken.

Ethnic Background of Young People Receiving Youth Cautions or Convictions During 2018/19

Young people from a white ethnic background accounted for 97% of all those receiving a youth caution or court conviction in the year ending March 2019. Those from a Gypsy/Roma ethnic background accounted for 1% and those from a mixed ethnic background accounted for 1%. Young people declaring themselves as any other ethnic group accounted for 1%. This is in line with the latest Office for National Statistics (ONS) census report for Gateshead.

3

Structure and Governance

The YJS is part of the Care, Wellbeing and Learning Directorate within Gateshead Council, and is accountable to the YJB. The Board sits every two months and reviews the annual workplan, ensures the appropriate services are in place and has oversight of the budget. All key partners are represented on the Board and if appropriate the Board will extend its membership to other partners to ensure the progression of a specific development issue.

The Board is currently reviewing its terms of reference and has refreshed its membership to ensure appropriate representation. The Board will develop a greater level of scrutiny and challenge, to hold the service to account.

The YJS also reports into Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC), to update and seek the views of members on the annual strategic plan as well as progress against priorities and performance indicators bi-annually, most recently in June 2019.

The YJS also reports into Children and Young People's Portfolio and the Gateshead Community Safety Board.





Innovative and Promising Practice

Out of Court Disposal Panel

The YJS have developed an Out of Court Disposal Panel process. The primary purpose of the Panel is to ensure joint decision making between the Police and the YJS in relation to all out of court disposals, except for Police-led community resolutions.

The purpose of the Panel is;

- To reduce the possibility of inappropriate repeat cautioning and unnecessary formal entry to the Criminal Justice System for at risk groups such as Looked After Children and children with additional needs.
- To promote the use of Restorative Justice in diverting young people from the Criminal Justice System, whilst addressing the causes of their offending behaviour.

Responses to youth offending must be proportionate and defensible. The views of the victim should be an integral part of the process and an important factor in determining the seriousness of the offence. The victim's views alone however, will not be conclusive in determining the appropriate disposal.

During 2019 we will develop an Out of Court Disposal Panel Scrutiny process. We will use partners and volunteers to review the decision making of the Out of Court Disposal Panel. This will ensure defensibility of those decisions and challenge future practice. Recommendations and learning from this process will help inform future service delivery. It will provide constructive scrutiny at an organisational and individual level to promote best practices, identify potential policy or staff development needs and more effective working practices between agencies. It will work to ensure the voice of victims are heard through the out of court disposal process and provide challenge where it appears not to have been considered. The results of these audits will go to the Board so senior management and partner scrutiny of the process is achieved.

The intention of the Panel is to provide transparency and accountability and increase public understanding, confidence and trust in how the YJS uses out of court disposals. There is a particular focus on the delivery of appropriate and proportionate justice, ensuring redress for victims of crime as well as addressing the root causes of offending behaviour.

Volunteers are an integral part of the YJS and enable the delivery of Referral Orders. The YJS will develop the opportunities that are afforded to volunteers by working with them to provide scrutiny of the Out of Court Disposal Panel and having representation on the Board. By working with volunteers in innovative ways it will help the service to ascertain the views of others within the community.

Involving volunteers will reflect and build a bridge between us and the community we serve and potentially engage clients in different ways. Volunteers in Gateshead bring a range of qualities, skills and expertise, we value our community and their experiences, we want to invest in their future by training volunteers. The development of volunteers in the YJS is a key area to explore in the coming year.

Respect Young People Programme (RYPP)

The YJS have trained six staff in the Respect Young People Programme within the YJS, which focusses on interventions with young people who use violence and abuse in close relationships. This 12-week programme work with young people and parents, both separately and together, to make a family agreement and build on strengths. The programme can be used for children aged 10 – 18 who display violence and/or aggression or coercive behaviour toward a parent, grandparent or carer on a regular basis.

Adverse Childhood Experiences and Trauma

We have developed a good understanding around identifying trauma, and over the next 12 months need to work on providing effective interventions. We are implementing an Enhanced Case Management (ECM) model, which is a form of trauma informed practice. Adverse Childhood Experiences and the impact of trauma are routinely identified in assessments and recorded under significant life events. Where trauma is identified every effort is made to ensure this is explored and support is offered within the young person's plan.

We feel trauma informed practice is an important area of practice which views the child first, offender second. Trauma informed practice will be evident in our local services, and we will;

- Improve children's resilience to trauma.
- Improve social outcomes e.g. relations with others, engagement with services and activities.
- Reduce offending and re-offending levels.
- Reduce incidences of non-engagement and breach.
- Reduce entry to custody.
- Improve resettlement outcomes.
- Improve transitions between youth and adult services.
- Strengthen multi-agency working.

Training has helped to develop an understanding of the development and attachment consequences of trauma. It has helped to support casework and helped practitioners to identify young people who need clinical assessment and support. Staff supervising young people need support and the flexibility to work with traumatised young people effectively. Trauma-informed approaches accept the child and take their experiences into account, but do not excuse and accept all behaviour. Taking responsibility, and holding back from acting on impulse, are the kind of life skills a trauma informed approach aims to develop. Over the next 12 months further development in this area will ensure the trauma recovery model is used to inform intervention with young people. Practitioners need flexibility, so they can tailor their plans, build trust and stabilise young people and prioritise the most urgent needs.

Viewpoint

The YJS is working with Viewpoint to use a digital platform to gather the views of young people and their parents/carers and to access service specific information alongside national organisations.

Viewpoint believe that all children and young people in the Youth Justice System should have:

- The opportunity to get involved in decisions about their care and supervision.
- Access to the services they need, “a say in how those services work.”
- The YJB goes onto highlight the importance of local services, “preventing crime and addressing the needs and concerns of victims” and argues that services, “are more likely to be effective if they are informed by and codesigned with young people.”

The YJS completes exit interviews with young people and carers at the end of their interventions. The questionnaire is designed to gather feedback from parents/carers of the young people who we work with. The results enable us to improve our service to ensure we are providing the best possible intervention for young people. We value thoughts and feelings of our service users and welcome any suggestions about how we can improve our service. These interviews are going to be conducted using Viewpoint software. For all young people, including those who have experienced trauma or who have learning disability, they may have difficulty expressing their experience in words, and expressing sensitive, embarrassing or stigmatizing behaviours can be particularly difficult. International research shows that computer mediated environments are helpful in obtaining information about sensitive subjects. Feedback from this interview can be used quickly to inform service delivery and make changes when appropriate.

Viewpoint will also provide performance data which can be aggregated to identify trends, this information will be fed into the Board. Viewpoint is essentially a communication medium. It enables children and young people to directly communicate their attitudes, behaviours and experiences by completing interactive questionnaires in a safe, easy to use and confidential environment similar to that of social networking.

The YJS is also working with Viewpoint to create a QR code which young people and parents can scan. This will enable them to view information regarding the YJS, relevant external agencies and national organisations. This is currently in development but aims to provide an opportunity for information to be easily available using an innovative approach.

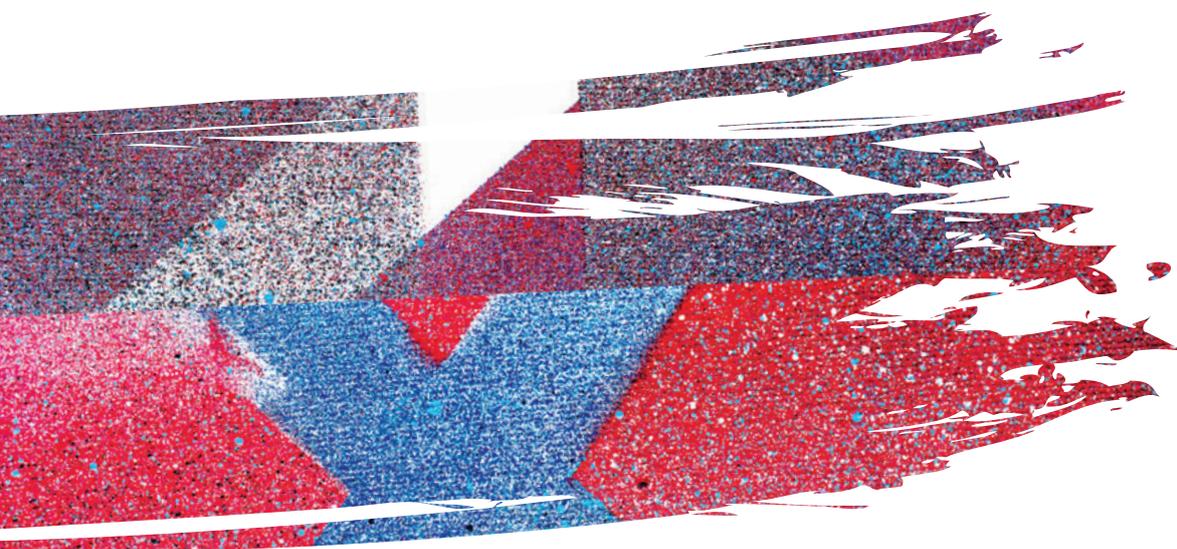


Our Way of Working - Restorative Justice

In 2018 the YJS successfully renewed the Restorative Service Quality Mark (RSQM) award for a further three years, until February 2022. YJS have trained all practitioners and volunteers in restorative approaches through the recognised Restorative Justice Facilitator training. Additional training for case management staff will take place later in 2019. As a restorative service it is recognised that the skills and knowledge gained through this training can be used in all disposals and it is an effective method of working with young people to reduce offending. It is key to involve young people in restorative conversations to improve outcomes for victims of their offending. In line with the YJB's Strategic Plan, we work to prevent offending to create safer communities with fewer victims and reduced fear of crime.

We have a Victim Liaison Officer based within the case management team who works closely with team members and regularly discusses outcomes for both victims and young people. The needs of the victim are met whilst taking into consideration the circumstances of each young person and any realistic possibilities for a restorative outcome. The views of victims are heard in our Out of Court Disposal Panel and information about victim impact will be considered before decisions are made at Panel. This means victims feel involved in the process and can let decision makers know how they were affected by a crime, as well as have their voice heard regarding the outcome and conditions for the young person.

It has enabled the Panel to make more informed decisions since they have both information on what a young person might need to reduce their offending as well as information regarding the views and needs of the victim. It has been particularly useful in formulating reparation activities both direct and in the community.



Restorative Conferences - Case Studies

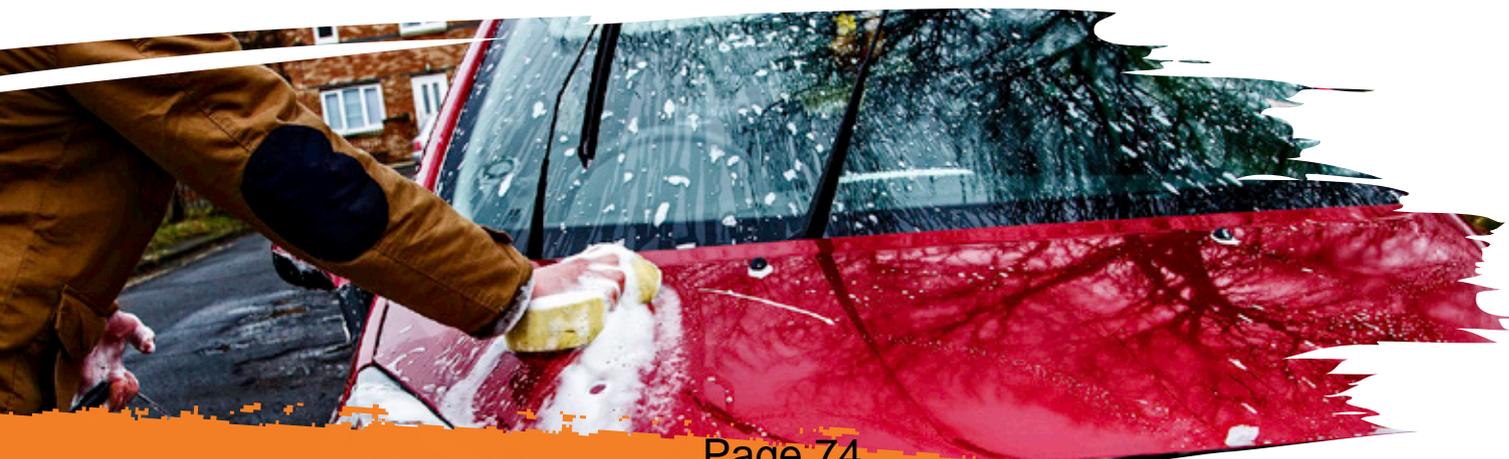
Church – Criminal Damage

The three co-accused received community resolutions for Criminal Damage. They all attended the church where the offence occurred with their mothers where we met with the Priest. He spoke first about the impact of the damage and how much it had cost the church (£88) to repair and then the time it had taken to make the roof safe (installing security measures). The Priest was concerned about the safety of the boys climbing on the roof and the consequences for them of offending. He told them how disappointed he was in their behaviour (he knew all the boys). Each boy then spoke about their actions and how they had been bored and had climbed on the roof for something to do.

They admitted that throwing and damaging the tiles was wrong and they had no good reason for doing this. They all said they would never do anything like this again and said they were sorry. Both mothers spoke to the boys and reiterated the consequences of their behaviour, reminding the boys that all the community who use the church have been affected as their donations have had to be used to pay for the damage. When the boys replied to the comments from the Priest and their mothers, they suggested helping at the church and all the boys agreed they will attend on a Saturday with one of their mothers to clean leaves from the car park and to wash the Priest's car.

Dangerous Driving

Following the restorative conference, the young person was asked for his feedback he was very satisfied with all elements of the process and he commented that, "I never thought I would be sat in an office talking to a policeman about my actions." The Police Officer said the meeting was very good and commented that he liked, "being able to offer friendly advice from a Police perspective in a relaxed environment." He said he learnt that the young person "seems to be a sensible lad who made a bad mistake."



Criminal Damage

The young person completed Direct Reparation, he removed the graffiti that he was responsible for.

He was very apologetic and remorseful for what he had done and said that he hoped that it would not affect his future career.



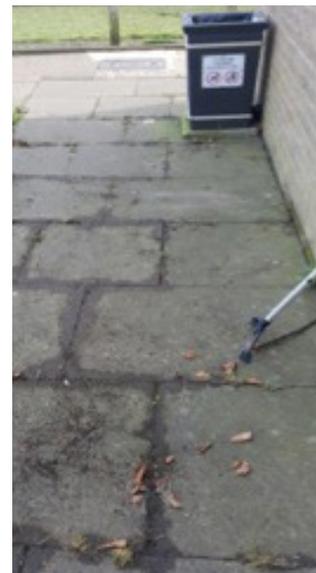
Assault PC

The young person received a Triage for this offence, she was remorseful and wished to apologise to the officer she assaulted (no injuries caused). The meeting was very positive with the officer explaining his role and his concerns about her behaviour and not wishing to hurt her when he restrained her. The young person said the thing she liked most about the meeting was that they both had the chance to say their points. About the officer she said that, "he's alright and he didn't want to do what he did, but he had to as it's his job and for the way I went on."

Criminal damage to Social Club (firework set off in the entrance)

Both youths received Youth Cautions for this offence and agreed to meet with the committee members. The YJS held two meetings with three committee members and both youths agreed to write a letter of apology to the club members and complete direct reparation at the Club.

One youth tidied the outside area, litter picking, clearing footpaths and cutting back shrubs. The other youth cleaned and painted the changing rooms.



Criminal Damage

This young man completed two hours Direct Reparation at his home by the request of the victim. He cleared the front garden, again, at the request, of the victim



Medical Centre

The young person age 14 years old had been responsible for graffiti on the outside of a recently painted medical centre. After contacting the practice manager, it was agreed that the young person would repaint the wall using paint provided by the medical centre.

The young person completed direct reparation being supervised to paint over the graffiti. The medical centre was pleased with the result and thanked us for organising the reparation.



The Angling Club

In April 2019 a young person admitted being with 5-6 peers at the pond and that some of his peers were lighting fires. He states that these were just small fires that they quickly put out. He admitted that he then started a fire and that damaged grass land at the pond. The young person received a Triage intervention for the offence.

The Angling Club said the damage cost them money to repair and it also stopped the use of that area for a few days. They welcomed the young person completing direct reparation in the form of litter picking at the pond area.

This was duly organised. A representative from the Angling Club stated "The reparation work carried out made up for the damage caused. The situation was handled very well from the YJS and contact was made on various occasions and dealt with in a very professional manner from start to finish."



The Book Project

We were glad to be able to contact the YJS after we moved towards the end of last year as we needed plenty of help to get the books stamped and on the shelves for our Borderline Books. We had a number of young people coming to help - some of whom we would have given permanent volunteering jobs without hesitation.

We only wish that more young people enjoyed reading - or that if they have difficulties with reading, there was a chance to help them over that and thereby give them much better chances to veer away from offending and into work in the future. We would be very willing to help with that as well.





Partnership Arrangements

Some of the young people involved with Youth Justice Services are the most vulnerable children in society and are at greatest risk of social exclusion. 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015' highlights the need for Youth Offending Services to work jointly with other agencies and professionals to ensure that young people are protected from harm and to support them to achieve more.

The YJS is represented by our Service Director on a wide range of partnership boards and we contribute to their action plans and strategic direction. These include the Local Safeguarding Children Board which reports to the Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and the Community Safety Board. The Northumbria CONTEST Panel has representation from the Strategic Director of Care, Wellbeing and Learning who represents the YJS. The Service Director also attends regional Youth Justice meetings.

Gateshead Community Safety Board – Adam Lindridge, Communities and Environment, Gateshead Council

"The Specialist Support Team Service Manager is an active member of the Gateshead Community Safety Board.

Community safety is a key priority within Gateshead - and by putting people and families at the heart of everything we do, we are confident we can work together and fight for a better future for Gateshead, making it a place where everyone can thrive."

Strategic Priorities 2019/20

Our Community Safety Board has identified the following themes that will be prioritised for 2019/20:

Anti-Social Behaviour

Tackling issues of anti-social behaviour and environmental crime continues to be one of the biggest areas of concern identified by Gateshead residents.

Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse continues to have a detrimental impact on individuals, families, children and wider society.

Harms from Substance Misuse

The harms caused by drug and alcohol misuse continue to cause significant problems for vulnerable persons, communities and places within Gateshead.

Hate Crime, Tensions and Community Cohesion

We will continue to raise awareness of hate crime and provide relevant support/guidance to victims as well as monitoring local tensions to ensure we engender cohesive and integrated communities. safeguard vulnerable persons who have the potential to be drawn into this area.

Preventing Violent Extremism

The threat of terrorism continues to be ever-present. We need to continue to work collectively to safeguard vulnerable persons who have the potential to be drawn into this area.

These are the areas where we feel we can collectively make a bigger impact by working together.

It is important to note that whilst the Board has chosen to focus on these priorities – our partners will continue to tackle crime and disorder issues identified within their own operating practices. The Board also remains flexible enough to be able to respond proactively to emerging risks and threats not linked to these priority areas.

Activity that we have undertaken throughout the last 12 months linked with young-people/offending:

Serious and Organised Crime – we have been included in preventing people getting involved in serious and organised crime activity, strengthen our protection/response to it as well as continuing to work collectively to pursue and disrupt the criminals behind it.

Reducing Re-offending – we have continued to work collectively to provide appropriate support/enforcement to change behaviour and divert offenders. The introduction of a revised approach to Integrated Offender Management and the Complex Offender Panel has allowed us to help identify, respond and stop persistent offending across the Borough. Both of these multi-agency approaches have strong links to the work overseen by the Youth Justice Board.

ASB – Community Safety partners continue to make proactive use of the tools and powers available in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. Community Protection Notices, Civil Injunctions and Closure Notices/Orders have all been used to good effect in the last six months. This has included the first civil injunction taken out in Gateshead against a young person for persistent anti-social behaviour.

Platform Outreach Project – we have commissioned the young people’s substance misuse service for Gateshead to deliver the Platform Outreach Project. The project involves workers visiting hotspot areas for youth disorder and offering advice and guidance on the harms of substance misuse and the effects their behaviour has on residents and the local community.”

Trailblazer Programme – Gateshead - Chris Piercy, CCG

“The Trailblazer Programme is working with primary and secondary schools in Gateshead with the aim of providing earlier care for children and young people who may be experiencing mild to moderate problems, or those who experience sub-threshold symptoms of mental health problems, which tend to be outside the scope of NHS-funded mental health services.

We are currently in the first wave of the programme and have two Mental Health Support Teams (MHST), each consisting of four trainee Educational Mental Health Practitioners, working alongside 31 schools in Gateshead.

These teams will be working with teachers and school staff to identify children and young people with emerging mental health needs, as part of a whole school approach to mental health and wellbeing.

The implementation of MHST’s in schools and colleges was set out in the Green Paper for Transforming Children and Young People’s Mental Health.”

Domestic Violence - Chris Piercy, CCG

"As part of the Action Plan that accompanied the Domestic Homicide Review into Alice Ruggles which was commissioned by Gateshead Community Safety Board, there were several recommendations including:

- The Community Safety Board to seek assurance all relevant local agencies and partners understand the risk of perpetrators accessing electronic devices in respect of domestic abuse.
- Outcome: Improved understanding with frontline staff and practitioners. Better awareness of techniques and methods used by perpetrators.

The Review demonstrated that more needed to be done to raise awareness and change attitudes towards stalking and that it was crucial to offer appropriate and timely help and advice to victims of stalking, to their families and friends, and to professionals. Technology can often play a fundamental role in stalking and, as the case of Alice demonstrated, its impact is often underestimated and poorly understood. It was anticipated that the learning points and recommendations will provide a platform to help national, regional and local agencies to implement measures designed to prevent what happened to Alice from happening to others.

As part of this an awareness session was delivered to staff at both Riverside and Ridley House. It is anticipated that the session will be delivered to the Partnership Forum and Patient Forum and possibly alongside the Trail Blazers into higher education facilities."

Mental Health – Chris Piercy, CCG

"A recent review of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) across Newcastle and Gateshead has been undertaken, this has led to the redesign of provision resulting in the creation of a new Single Point of Access (SPA). The aim is to make referring into the service easier and streamlined for professionals, families and young people by creating one entry into services.

A new pathway has been developed for those children who are at risk of or are involved in offending are more vulnerable to psychological distress but do not necessarily present with mental health difficulties. The new pathway aims to ensure that these children and young people get access to the right service to meet their needs, at the right time when they need it."

Parental Conflict Programme – Kim Knowles, Targeted Family Support, Early Help

"The Government's Improving Lives Strategy introduced a new focus on tackling the impact of parental conflict on children, with the aim that this will become mainstream, alongside support for parenting. Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is leading a national Reducing Parental Conflict Programme to embed evidence-based support to tackle parental conflict in local areas and improve outcomes for children. A new national Reducing Parental Conflict (RPC) Programme, announced in 2017, funded until 2021 to support both the supply and demand for evidence-based interventions at a local level. Gateshead hold the Referral Gateway and are offering support to practitioners across the region to develop an understanding of what parental conflict is, facilitate discussions with parents to offer support to identify conflict in their relationships and to refer them onto interventions."

Corporate Parenting – Jill Little, Looked After Children, Children and Families

“The YJS works alongside Children’s Services Looked After Children’s Team to ensure that young people open to both teams have co-ordinated plans to avoid duplication and to ensure the young person’s needs are met. Both teams are co-located, and this provides easier communication which ensures the young people are supported in the most effective way to try and avoid their escalation through the systems. Each service attends planning and review meetings so the most up to date information is shared and there is a shared responsibility across the case management of the young person.

The YJS sit on the Corporate Parenting Partnership and the Looked After Children’s Service Manager has a reciprocal arrangement to ensure the needs of the LAC offending cohort are represented. Gateshead Youth Justice Service and Looked After Teams recognise the need to work together and with other services to promote the recovery, resilience and wellbeing of young people and to work together to prevent unnecessary criminalisation. Restorative approaches are used by Police in Gateshead to avoid young people becoming involved in the criminal justice system for matters that can be dealt with by an alternative method. The number of LAC young people in Gateshead re-offending cohort is 9% this is lower than the national and statistical neighbourhood cohort.

Local Authority, Region and England

		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	-	Changes from previous year
390	Gateshead	8.10	5.50	6.40	6.10	3.70	5.00	9.00	6.00	4.00	-	-2.00
980	Gateshead	9.70	9.20	9.40	8.20	7.60	6.00	6.00	6.00	5.00	-	-1.00
	Statistical Neighbours	10.47	10.10	9.41	8.14	8.94	7.75	7.38	6.60	5.29	-	-1.31
970	Gateshead	7.90	7.30	6.90	6.20	5.60	5.00	5.00	4.00	4.00	-	0.00

Education – Jeanne Pratt, EducationGateshead

“Education in Gateshead has a strong working relationship with the YJS; this includes among other education providers our secondary schools/academies, PRU and primary schools. The YJS continue to actively support the fair access process with information provided to the secondary Pupil Placement and primary Fair Access Panels; supporting the educational placements of some of our more difficult children and young people. The process seeks to reduce exclusions and support some of our most vulnerable children and young people including the needs of refugees and asylum seekers. More recently there has been representation on the Education Inclusion Panel; where the education for children and young people who have been permanently excluded or who are medically unfit to attend mainstream school is agreed. In addition, the YJS are represented at the Complex Pupils meeting. This half termly meeting looks at the needs of our most complex pupils from a multi-agency perspective to ensure the most appropriate educational pathway is provide.”

Children Young People's Service

We have access to three consultations per month with two mental health clinicians. During these sessions CYPS and our Youth Justice worker discuss cases and determine the best pathway for the young person. This could include a clinical assessment followed by treatment or being signposted to other services which can meet the young person's needs. Each month CYPS provide agreed thematic training for Youth Justice staff.

National Probation Service

We have a full-time seconded Probation Officer within the team and receive a funded contribution towards administration. The current seconded Probation Officer has been in post for 18 months. The previous secondee is now back at the National Probation Service and is working with young people transferring between services. This has helped the young people to understand the different services and support them to comply with the requirements of their order. When a young person turns 18 years old the services available to them change. To help support young people and workers a directory of services is being developed by the Probation Officer within our team, this will be available for use soon.

Northumbria Police – Alan Pitchford

"The YJB have a very good and well-established working relationship with Northumbria Police. This relationship has continued to grow and develop over the past 12 months and has seen the appointment of an additional YJS PC, which is indicative of how highly Northumbria Police view the work of the YJB.

Following research in other areas of the country in to how interventions relating to young people are managed, the YJS has introduced a Panel which will sit in relation to out of court disposals for young people. This Panel will consider all aspects of the young person's life prior to deciding on which is the most appropriate intervention for that young person. Northumbria Police feel that this approach will better address the needs of the young person in a holistic way and in turn will help reduce the chances of the young person reoffending.

The YJS PCs continue to attend the weekly operational meeting where all relevant partner agencies attend to decide on their collective priorities for the week ahead. This meeting allows any young persons, who may be coming to an agencies attention, to be discussed and will allow the YJS PC to conduct some early intervention to prevent that young person entering the criminal justice system.

In the past year the YJS have been successful in a joint bid with the other local YOTs to secure some significant Home Office funding to deter young people away from serious violence. This funding will provide diversionary and educational activity to young people at risk of being involved in serious violence and will further enhance our already close links with Northumbria Police."

County Lines

“County Lines” is a term used by the Police to describe a growing practice among criminal gangs: when demand for drugs fails to meet the supply in major cities, gangs travel to remote rural areas, market towns or coastal locations in search of new customers. Historically there has been no intelligence of “County Lines” activity in the Northumbria area. There are indications that this is changing and that this activity is becoming an issue. The accurate recognition and reporting of “County Lines” is key to successful combating this activity and protecting those affected by it. We work with Police and partners to gather and share information to help build a local picture and safeguard vulnerable children and adults.

Operation Encompass

Northumbria Police began implementation of Operation Encompass in 2014 and it has been core business across the whole force area since 2016. The concept is simple; each time Police deal with a domestic abuse incident which involves children, a referral is made to the school of the child before 9.30am on the next school day. This enables the school to assess the needs of the child and provide support within the school environment. Each school has identified two Operation Encompass leads.

Operation Encompass: The Next Steps

Northumbria Police and OPCC approached the Operation Encompass organisation and Barnardo’s with a proposal to pilot this programme of work as a collaboration.

This new project seeks to provide a whole system approach to tackling domestic abuse and provide primary prevention and early intervention and support for vulnerable children in a safe environment, using school safeguarding liaison officers.

You Only Live Once

The You Only Live Once (YOLO) project funded nationally by the Home Office has been launched across the Northumbria Police Force area. In Gateshead, we work with Newcastle and Sunderland Football Foundations, Street Doctors and the Police and Crime Commissioners Office to prevent children becoming involved in knife crime or other forms of serious violence. The Police co-ordinate referrals to the project, children will be assessed (by the Police and our service) and if suitable will be offered regular mentoring (from the football foundations) to reduce the risk of offending.

We have a case manager who is the conduit between the Police referral, and following assessment, the referral into the mentoring programme. A home visit and screening are completed for each young person referred into the Service.

Operation Divan - Knife and Weapons Youth Early Intervention Guidance

The Police, Gateshead Council and partners, aim to identify and support young people under the age of 18, where there is information or intelligence to suggest that they may be carrying or involved in the possession of a knife or other weapons.

Operation Divan aims to educate young people at the earliest opportunity, to reduce the number carrying weapons, raise awareness of the consequences and to reduce the risk of doing so. We signpost where support is available to those young people that are involved.

Police Officers should be informed of any persons under the age of 18, who are identified via a recorded incident, intelligence submission or crime report as being involved in, but not prosecuted for ANY weapons offences or those who are believed to be potentially in possession of a knife or other weapon. This includes where reports/referrals have been made by schools or other partners. Home and/or school visits will then be conducted with that named person with an appropriate adult present (i.e. parent/guardian). The purpose of the visit is to educate that young person and discuss the risks posed both to themselves and others and to help reduce the potential for harm to themselves or others. During the meeting engagement will be carried out with the individual to highlight the risks and consequences in relation to possession of knives and weapons. They will be also be given guidance in relation to Police powers of Stop and Search, the young person/appropriate adult will also be handed relevant reference material.

Accommodation – Behnam Khazaeli, Commissioning and Quality Assurance

“A new model for the provision of supported housing for young people aged 16 to 25 years of age was developed through 2016 and 2017, with new services commencing in July 2018.

The strategic review of supported housing in Gateshead commenced in June 2016. The review included work with experts by experience and the market to consider new delivery options. In November 2017 the decision was made to progress the procurement of new Supported Housing services for young people, aged 16 to 25, based on an agreed service model. These services, termed “SAILS”, commenced in July 2018 and offer a range of provision, including on-site psychological interventions for young people with mental health or complex needs.”

SAILS

There are four providers offering six distinct services within the model:

- Needs Assessment Service – “Front Door” service located out of the 20-bed provision at Eslington House in Teams; includes in-reach and out-reach assessment. Service provided by Changing Lives.
- Shared Living Service – located out of the 13-bed provision at Alexandra Road Centre (formerly Oakwell); 24-hour support for medium to high need and includes on-site clinicians. Service provided by Home Group.
- Semi-Independent Living Service – located out of the 4-bed provision at Poplar Crescent; non-24-hour support for medium to low need. Service provided by Home Group.
- Dispersed Housing – four properties located in central and east Gateshead; four hours of floating support per week for medium to low need. Service provided by Home Group.
- Supported Lodgings – eight to 12 placements for LAC or Care Leavers with medium to low need in the homes of host families. Service provided by Barnardo’s.
- Taster Flats – 30 properties located across Gateshead, two hours of floating support per week for low need, including Care Leavers. Service provided by The Gateshead Housing Company.



Resources and Value for Money

The table below shows how the funding for the core YJS has changed between the financial years 2018/19 and 2019/20, and how the current year’s funding will be spent. Regular revenue monitoring meetings take place with the budget holder alongside audit regulations and checks which remain in place to ensure that the Council has a system for monitoring YJB Grant Conditions.

Core YJS

	2018/19 Budget			2019/20 Budget			Difference £'000
	Cash £'000	In-Kind £'000	Total £'000	Cash £'000	In-Kind £'000	Total £'000	
Income							
YJB Grants	383	0	383	382	0	382	-1
Police	0	54	54	0	79	79	25
Probation	5	44	49	5	47	52	3
Health	62	27	89	62	29	91	2
Gateshead MBC	616	0	616	596	0	596	-20
	1,066	125	1,191	1,045	155	1,200	9
Expenditure							
Salaries	1,011	125	1,136	1,007	155	1,162	26
Activity	42	0	42	23	0	23	-19
Overheads	12	0	12	14	0	14	2
Equipment	1	0	1	1	0	1	0
	1,066	125	1,191	1,045	155	1,200	9

Remand

	2018/19 Budget			2019/20 Budget			Difference £'000
	Cash	In-Kind	Total	Cash	In-Kind	Total	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Income							
YJB Grants	36	0	36	45	0	45	9
	36	0	36	45	0	45	9
Expenditure							
YOI Recharge	36	0	36	45	0	45	9
	36	0	36	45	0	45	9

The YJB grant is unchanged and specific grants for restorative justice and unpaid work have not been received for some time.

The Police and Crime Commissioner YJS Grant is no longer automatically allocated, so is not shown in the budget, although bids may be accepted for specific project work. The YJS has a full-time seconded police officer and a second short-term secondment.

The National Probation Service contribution is unchanged at £5K, in addition to which the services of a full-time seconded probation officer is received and unchanged from previous years.

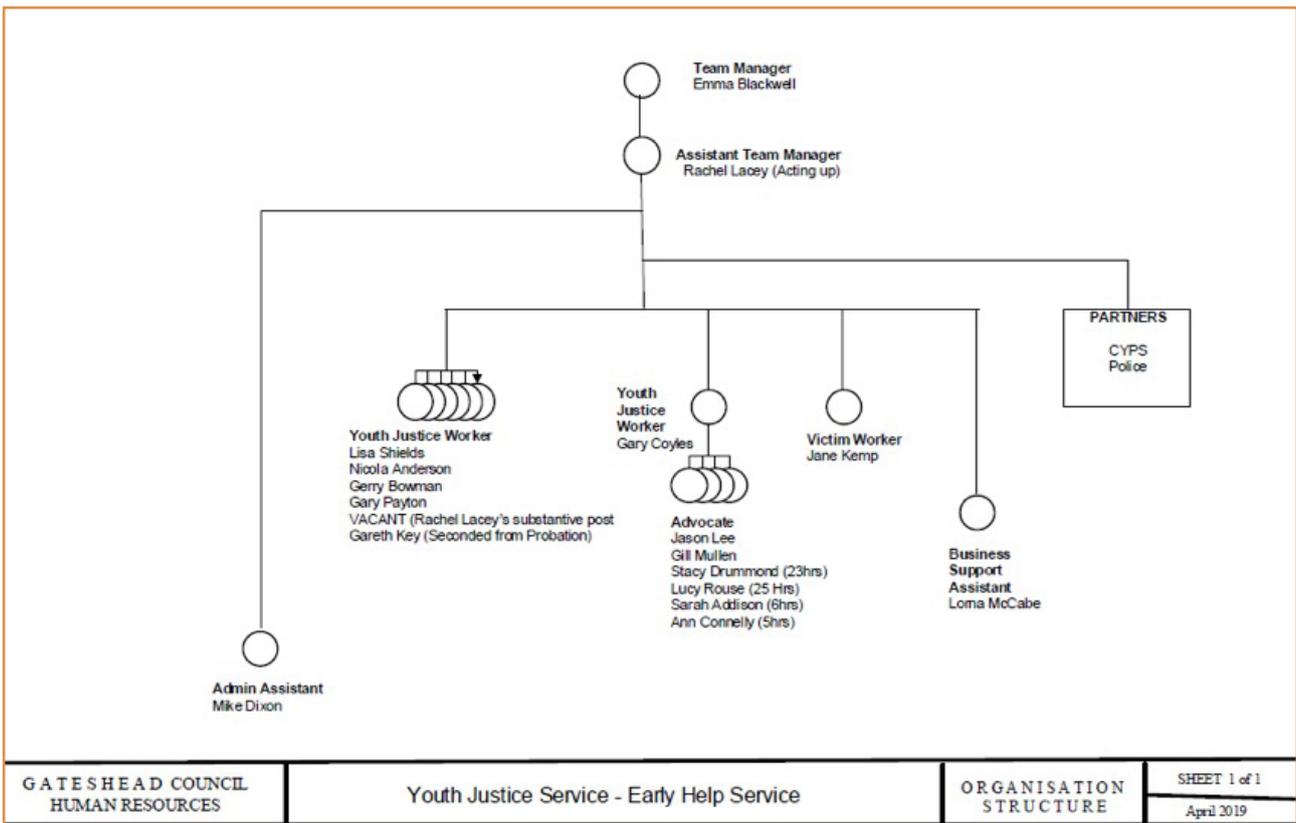
The cash contribution the YJS receives from health has maintained at the same amount, alongside staff provision at a similar level.

Remand

The increase in remand grant is due to the time lag in reflecting remand bed usage in recent years. The amount allocated would fund 186 nights in a youth offending institution at £240 per night, or 73 nights in a secure training centre at £612 per night.

We have previously successfully managed young people in the community under bail conditions, and therefore generally have a low use of the remand budget.

YJS Staffing Structure



Volunteers

We currently have a diverse team of 19 active volunteers who perform the role of community representatives on “Referral Order Panels”, as set out in the Criminal Evidence Act (1999). They have varying experiences of the criminal justice system and have all received appropriate training to carry out their roles. A number of our volunteers have been working with us over several years to help provide PACE. Retention of volunteers within YJS continues to be strong. More recently, volunteers have been involved in the newly developed Out of Court Disposal Panel and will be central to the scrutiny process which is currently being developed. Volunteers are part of the YJB and will be engaged in future development work.

Key Priorities 2019/20

- To further strengthen the YJB, through development sessions which will include reviewing the terms of reference in line with YJB guidance.
- To set up a scrutiny panel for Out of Court Disposals which will report into the Board to improve accountability. The scrutiny panel will include Board members and volunteers to provide more objectivity and independence.
- To develop a digital forum where young people can access information and support through mobile technology.
- To further develop case audits to include trauma informed working and Enhanced Case Management approaches to ensure this new learning is incorporated into assessment and planning of cases.
- To increase the identification of speech and language difficulties of young people and develop effective methods of addressing these.





Risks to future delivery

- As more young people are successfully diverted away from the Criminal Justice System via early intervention work, those who remain are increasingly complex with greater and challenging needs.
- If the low-level use of remand and custody is not maintained, pressure is placed upon the secure accommodation budget. Remand costs remain an area of risk as this is dependent on several factors mainly outside of our control, including the nature and seriousness of the offences committed where alternatives to custody may not be appropriate. Future remand costs cannot be reliably forecast.
- Statutory partners continue to have significant budget reductions to absorb and this may in turn reduce their capability to maintain YJS funding contributions and/or lead to removal of seconded staff in the future.



What do people say about us?

We recognise that the views of young people and victims are extremely important as this can improve and inform service delivery and outcomes for clients. Twice a year the Board receives feedback from young people, parents/carers and victims. This information is used to identify areas of development and to challenge practice at a strategic and operational level. The service proactively offers every young person, parent or carer and victim the opportunity to take part in an exit interview.

Victims

Every identified victim is contacted by the Victim Liaison Officer to be offered support and the opportunity to take part in the restorative process. Each victim is given the chance to feedback by an exit survey at the end of the intervention. If a conference takes place all parties are asked to complete an evaluation form. The YJS also receives feedback from groups and organisations which it has supported through reparative projects.

What some victims have said about their experience of the service:

"The whole process was very satisfactory, and it was seen through from beginning to the end and I was updated throughout the whole process. I felt listened to and made to feel that my views matter."

"Thank you for sending this form and the letter enclosed. The Victim Officer who contacted us was very nice, easy to talk to and understood our comments regarding what had happened and how we wanted the boy concerned to know how we felt. The letter from him made us feel better to know your service is helping him in a positive way."

"I was satisfied because we were listened to regarding a restorative job relating to the incident."

"The service was very good with prompt contact from the YOT who explained everything. The reparation was arranged quickly and without hassle. The young person did everything that I asked."

"I was pleased to receive a letter of apology."

Following a face to face restorative conference a young person said, ***"I found this good because I feel I can move on and also that I am not thinking about it all the time. It was a really good experience, they explained everything to me."*** The victim of the same conference said, ***"I hope this (the conference) has helped the young person to reflect on his actions and can move on and make a better life for himself."***

Parents

The YJS completes exit interviews with parents and carers to ensure that we can improve our service following their comments or views. Information from the most recent report indicates all parents and carers understood why their child was subject to intervention and they all had a say in what their child was asked to do as part of their plan. Every parent or carer understood the plan and agreed with it.

Parents and carers felt that they were listened to and their views were taken seriously, they felt they were included in their child's intervention. Where education and substance misuse issues were identified all parents and carers felt that their child had received help with this. Parents and carers largely felt that where offending behaviour and victim impact interventions were completed that their child had showed an understanding of this work and the impact of their behaviour on others.

88% felt their child would make better decisions in the future.

"I think the YOT have been great, and his case manager has really turned my son around. Reparation staff have also had a positive effect on my son's behaviour."

"Everything was smashing, case workers A and B both obviously have a lot of life experience with these types of kids, Case worker A maybe more as he is older!"

"The case manager was brilliant, he talked to him and supported him throughout his order. He attended court on each occasion and that was good."

"The case manager was easy to talk to, he spent time getting to know my son and they had a good relationship. The case manager worked with me and my son and my family and helped to support us through the intervention, we only wish it had been over a longer period."

Young Person Feedback

Young people finishing their interventions with the YJS are asked to share their views. In the last reported period all young people understood why they were working with the service. Over 95% of young people felt their views were taken seriously and understood the consequences of not attending for appointments. Where accommodation and substance misuse were identified as an issue for the young person in all cases the young people felt they got the help they required. Young people who completed offending behaviour work felt that it was helpful, and 96% of young people felt the victim awareness work they had completed helped them understand the impact on the victim.

The exit interview data shows that young people in Gateshead feel they are listened to, they found staff helpful and that due to the interventions they had completed their situation had improved and they would make better decisions in the future.

Young people's views and opinions are central to our work. We ensure that we listen to young people at all stages of their interventions with us. These are some of the comments the young people have made;

"I believe that writing an apology is fair as I have done something bad."

"My views are that they (Gateshead Youth Justice Service) have been fair with what they have chosen me to do and I respect it."

"I think that this will really help me and will show me never to do this again."

"I just want to thank you for making me feel welcome in the meetings we had, and it is very easy to get along and express how I feel, thanks."

"Everything has gone alright, I haven't got into any more bother, I think it's because of this (YOT)."

He went on to say that he had a good relationship with his case manager and could talk to him because he trusted him.

"Proper happy, it has changed my life."

Case Study 1

The young person stated that he had an excellent relationship with his case manager and that he felt that he had helped him a lot over the past two and half years. He said that he had been pushed to do things that he wouldn't do himself through his case manager motivating, encouraging and believing in him and that he couldn't explain or show how much he appreciated it. The young person spoke about the 'sh*t' he went through and described this as his worst time and the first person he turned to was his case manager who helped him and was there for him.

The young person stated that despite going through some difficulties with the Service he understood that they were trying to help him and where they were coming from and he knows that he could talk to anyone in the team. The young person spoke about his reparation sessions and felt that his reparation worker made the sessions so much better as she was "straight to the point, good craic and fun" which made it easier, but understood the importance of giving back to the community and paying back due to his bad behaviour.

Case Study 2

The young person was 14 years old and had been involved in an assault against a peer. When asked about the intervention work she had completed she said that the work had a massive impact on her, "she had not realised the harm she could have done and the impact on the victim." She said that she had "built a good trusting relationship with her case manager and had liked the opportunity to talk to someone, people (in the YJS) cared for me and wanted to help." She said that because of our Service she had "changed a lot, about my behaviour and attitude, I think it has really helped us." As part of reparation she had been involved in planting tomatoes and bean seeds, she said she "had really liked it, I enjoyed being away from everything and doing something different, I didn't realise tomatoes came from seeds."

Views of Young People who have been in custody

Young people in the secure estate often have complex needs and difficult behaviours. It is recognised that there are challenges in the secure estate around violence and self-harm and to be proactive we engage with young people in custody about these issues. We have a low use of custody; however, when young people are placed in secure facilities the ongoing responsibility to the young person should continue and support is offered to them throughout their entire sentence. Young people in custody have their voices heard in planning meetings and using advocates. In addition, we have provided additional safeguarding procedures and checks. Each young person in custody is visited by a manager to ascertain their views on their safety, welfare, needs and wellbeing. This provides robust oversight of the young person's needs whilst in custody and to ensure that any issues which are identified can be swiftly addressed by the management of the secure facility. The Board monitor these interviews to ensure the young person is listened to at each stage of their sentence.



Contact Us

Gateshead Youth Justice Service
Early Help
Civic Centre
Gateshead Council, NE8 1HH

Our opening hours are:

Monday to Thursday	8:30am – 5.00pm
Friday	8.30am – 4.30pm
Saturday Reparation / Constructive activity and on call Court	8.30am – 4.30pm
Sunday ISS / constructive activity – as required	8.30am – 4.30pm

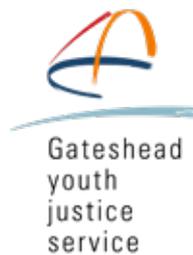
Tel: 0191 433 3000 • Fax: 0191 433 4548

Service Manager

Linda Kelly, Specialist Support Services
Tel: 0191 433 2560
Email: lindakelly@gateshead.gov.uk

How to find Gateshead Youth Justice Service





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All images in this publication are taken from artwork created by young people known to Gateshead Youth Justice Service.





REPORT TO CABINET
17 September 2019

Title of Report: Annual Report of the Audit and Standards Committee 2018/19

Report of: Darren Collins, Strategic Director, Corporate Resources

Purpose of the Report

1. Cabinet is asked to consider the Audit and Standards Committee Annual Report for 2018/19 and agree that this report is submitted to Council.

Background

2. In line with best practice the Audit and Standards Committee is required to report to Cabinet and Council on the Committee's activity each year. The report for 2018/19 was agreed by the Audit and Standards Committee on 22 July 2019.

Proposal

3. Cabinet is asked to consider the Audit and Standards Committee's Annual Report at Appendix 2 and agree to submit it to Council. The Report provides an overview on the work of the Audit and Standards Committee during 2018/19 and describes how it has had a positive impact on governance, financial reporting and audit issues across the Council, as well as providing challenge and independent assurance on the risk management framework and associated internal control environment.

Recommendation

4. It is recommended that Cabinet endorses the Annual Report of the Audit and Standards Committee for 2018/19 and agrees that it is submitted to Council.

For the following reason:

To strengthen the Council's arrangements for oversight by councillors of governance, audit, risk management, the internal control framework, value for money and efficiency.

Contact name: Craig Oakes Ext. - 3711

Policy Context

1. The proposal supports the Council's policy, service planning and performance management framework which aims to ensure that all resources are directed towards delivery of the Council's strategic approach, Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives.

Background

2. In line with best practice, the Audit and Standards Committee is required to submit an annual report to Cabinet and Council, and also any further reports and recommendations as it sees fit. The areas of activity of the Audit and Standards Committee during 2018/19 are set out in the Annual Report.

Contents of the Report

3. Appendix 2 outlines the activity which the Audit and Standards Committee has covered over the last year.
4. The Audit and Standards Committee has received reports in the following areas:
 - Internal Audit planning, performance and activity;
 - Annual Internal Audit benchmarking results;
 - Internal Audit recommendations;
 - External Audit planning, performance and activity;
 - Corporate Risk Management and Resilience activity;
 - Counter Fraud Updates;
 - Standards Updates;
 - The Annual Governance Statement and supporting evidence;
 - Review of Internal Audit Charter and compliance with Public Sector Internal Audit Standards;
 - Annual Audit Letter;
 - Achievement of Going Concern Status;
 - Audit Completion Report and Council Statement of Accounts;
 - Treasury Management Policy & Strategy and mid-year update;
 - Local Code of Governance;
 - Review of Internal Audit Charter;
 - Review of Financial Regulations;
 - Training and Induction; and
 - External Quality Assessment of Internal Audit.
5. There were no reports in year which were specific to Standards issues. No complaints have been received under the Member's Code of Conduct, that required investigation, nor was there any guidance or best practice issued during the year that warranted a report. The Monitoring Officer is responsible for maintaining and promoting high standards within the

Council and he and his staff have contributed to the Audit work on good governance particularly those matters relating to the Corporate Risk Management activity and the Annual Governance Statement.

6. Based on the evidence presented during the year and at the meeting of the Audit and Standards Committee on 24 June 2019 it was concluded that the Council's system of internal control and governance framework is effective. This was demonstrated through the approval of the Annual Governance Statement for 2018/19, which accompanies the Statement of Accounts.

Consultation

7. The Audit and Standards Committee considered and agreed the contents of this report at their meeting of 22 July 2019.

Alternative Options

8. There are no alternative options.

Implications of Recommended Option

9. Resources:

- a) **Financial Implications** - The Strategic Director, Corporate Resources confirms that there are no financial implications arising from this report.
- b) **Human Resources Implications** – There are no human resources implications arising from this report.
- c) **Property Implications** –. There are no property implications arising from this report.

10. **Risk Management Implications** - The Audit and Standards Committee receives quarterly reports on risk management.
11. **Equality and Diversity Implications** – there are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report.
12. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.
13. **Health Implications** – There are no health implications arising from this report.
14. **Sustainability Implications** – There are no sustainability implications arising from this report.
15. **Human Rights Implications** – There are no human rights implications arising from this report.

16. **Area and Ward Implications** – There are no area and ward implications arising from this report.
17. **Background Information** – Report of the Audit and Standards Committee meeting on 22 July 2019.

Contents of the Report to Cabinet and Council – 2018/19

1. The areas of activity considered by the Audit and Standards Committee during 2018/19 are set out below.

Internal Audit planning, performance and activity

2. As at 31 March 2019 102% of the Internal Audit Plan was completed, which resulted in 89 audit reports. Of these reports 74 (83%) found systems to be operating well or satisfactory, with 15 (17%) reporting systems having significant weaknesses, of which three were in relation to schools.
3. All recommendations are followed-up as part of the Internal Audit process and the Audit and Standards Committee will monitor the outcomes.
4. Based on this evidence arising from Internal Audit activity during 2018/19, the Council's internal control systems and governance and risk management arrangements are considered to be effective.
5. The Internal Audit Service has also co-ordinated the Council's National Fraud Initiative (NFI) work and has supported Council managers with irregularity, e-mail, internet and other disciplinary investigations on an ongoing basis during 2018/19, with quarterly updates to Audit and Standards Committee.
6. Other reports received during 2018/19 relating to Internal Audit included the CIPFA Benchmarking Results for 2017/18. The Audit and Standards Committee also approved the Audit Strategy and Plan.
7. The Audit and Standards Committee will continue to monitor Internal Audit's progress on a quarterly basis against the 2019/20 Audit Plan.

External Audit planning, performance and activity

8. The following external audit reports have been reviewed over the year:
 - Results of Certification Work 2017/18
 - 2017/18 Audit – Additional Fee
 - Audit Strategy Memorandum Year Ending 31 March 2019.
9. The Committee was also asked to consider how it exercises oversight of certain key management processes in relation to some specific areas of governance with a potential to impact upon the financial statements during 2018/19. This was a requirement to satisfy the external auditors that such oversight was in place in order to comply with International

Auditing Standards. The Committee agreed that an effective level of oversight was in place.

Corporate Risk Management and Resilience activity

10. The Committee received quarterly reports on the assurance derived from risk management. These reports make Councillors aware of the arrangements that exist within the Council for managing risk, the impact that these have had and the plans for further development of risk management arrangements.

Counter Fraud Update

11. The Committee received a report every six months updating on activity undertaken in relation to the work of the Corporate Fraud Team summarising performance against the Counter Fraud and Corruption Strategy and the effectiveness of the Strategy. Conclusions also form part of the Annual Governance Statement.

Standards Update

12. The Committee received quarterly reports which highlighted national and local standards issues, raised Member awareness of national reviews and consultations which may be relevant to their role and identified whether further Member training was required.

The Annual Governance Statement and supporting evidence

13. The Annual Governance Statement for 2018/19 concluded that the Council's system of internal control, risk management and governance framework is effective.
14. The Audit and Standards Committee approved the Annual Governance Statement for 2018/19 at its meeting on 24 June 2019, following a review of the evidence detailed below in paragraphs 15-32, and evidence seen by the Committee during the year.

Cabinet Members

15. Assurance was sought from Members of the Cabinet on the effectiveness they felt could be placed on the Council's corporate governance arrangements. They concluded that effective governance arrangements are in place.

Senior Managers

16. Service Directors completed self-assessment assurance statements detailing the level of assurance obtained from their key control processes. The conclusion of this exercise found that senior managers agreed that effective control systems were in place overall. These areas

will be examined as part of the 2019/20 Audit Plan and the outcomes reported to the Audit and Standards Committee in July 2019.

Internal Audit

17. The Internal Audit Service has undertaken audit work throughout the year based on the risk based audit plan. In addition, the Council has a framework of assurance available to satisfy it that risks have been properly identified and are being managed by controls that are adequately designed and effective in operation. This includes assurance from a variety of sources other than the Internal Audit Service. These other audit systems have been assessed, as part of the Audit Plan.
18. Based on this audit activity the overall opinion of the Chief Internal Auditor for the year 2018/19 was that internal control systems and risk management and governance arrangements are effective.
19. A review of the effectiveness of Internal Audit has also been undertaken for 2018/19 in line with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. This review focused upon compliance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and the CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Head of Internal Audit, reliance placed by the external auditor on Internal Audit's work, an assessment of the effectiveness of the Audit and Standards Committee and relevant local performance information. Based on the review the Council's system of Internal Audit was considered to be operating effectively.

Risk Management

20. Risk management is embedded in the Council through a Corporate Risk Management Policy which includes the requirement to identify strategic and operational risks, assess those risks for likelihood and impact, identify mitigating controls and allocate responsibility for those controls. The Council maintains and reviews a register of its business risks, linking them to strategic business objectives and assigning ownership for each risk.
21. The Strategic Director, Corporate Resources reported that risk management arrangements during the year were effective.

Counter Fraud

22. The Council has a zero tolerance approach to fraud and corruption. A counter fraud communications and awareness plan is in place to enable and evidence communication requirements to promote and raise awareness of the Council's counter fraud arrangements, including the publicising of any proven fraud cases and media handling. The plan details the key stakeholders and the methods and frequency of any communications during the year. The plan also details how the outcomes of any successful prosecutions would be handled.

23. The Strategic Director, Corporate Resources reported that counter fraud arrangements during the year were effective.

Performance Management and Data Quality

24. The Council has a Corporate Performance Management Framework which helps it deliver the priorities within the Council Plan. The monitoring of performance takes place at key performance points as identified in the framework including quarterly performance reported to Group Management Teams and Corporate Senior Officer meetings.
25. In addition performance is also monitored, measured, challenged and scrutinised on a six monthly basis at Cabinet and respective Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
26. Based on evidence arising from the performance management framework process for 2018/19 effective controls are in place.

Views of the External Auditor and other External Inspectors

27. Mazars, the Council's external auditor, issued an Annual Audit Letter in August 2018 covering the financial year 2017/18. This comprised of two elements: the audit of the Council's financial statements and an assessment of the Council's arrangements to achieve value for money in its use of resources. An unqualified opinion was given in both of these areas for 2017/18.
28. Other external inspectorates' reports have been issued from time to time on management and governance arrangements to the Council.

The Legal and Regulatory Framework

29. Assurance has been obtained from the Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance as the Monitoring Officer who has a legal duty to ensure the lawfulness and fairness of decision-making within the Council. The Council has a Constitution in place and compliance with established policies, procedures, laws and regulations is ensured by the requirement to give the Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance the opportunity to comment on every report submitted to a decision-making body.

Financial Controls

30. Assurance has been obtained from the Strategic Director, Corporate Resources, who is designated as the responsible officer for the administration of the Council's financial affairs under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972, that financial controls are effective. Systems in place include Financial Regulations, the opportunity to comment on the financial implications of committee reports, monitoring meetings and evidence from internal and external audit.

Partnerships

31. Service Directors review partnerships within their service plans on an annual basis. As partners are key to the delivery of the Council's objectives assurance of their control and governance systems is required. Service Directors have also been required to provide assurance on governance arrangements through their self-assessment statements and all Services are required to identify, through their business plans, where delivery of activity could impact on partnership working.
32. Based on evidence arising from partnerships for 2018/19 effective controls are in place.

Other Reports

Achievement of Going Concern Status

33. The Committee received a report considering the Council's status as a going concern.
34. Authorities are required by Section 32 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to set a balanced budget. However, financial pressures within the local government sector mean that there continues to be a risk that the Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 officer) may need to consider whether action is required under Section 114 of the 1988 Act, where the Section 151 officer must report, following consultation with the council's monitoring officer, to all authority's members if they believe expenditure is likely to exceed incoming resources in the current or in any future year.
35. The report outlined the assessment of the Council's status as a going concern as this is now considered best practice in the current challenging local government financial climate.
36. Based on the assessment undertaken, the Council's Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 officer) view was that the Council is fully aware of the challenges it faces and is prepared to deliver its services in the future taking account of the future known risks and therefore the Council is a going concern and the 2017/18 Statement of Accounts should be prepared on that basis.

Audit Completion Report and Council's Statement of Accounts

37. The outcome and findings of the audit of the Council's Statement of Accounts 2017/18 by the Council's external auditor, Mazars, along with the audited Statement of Accounts, were reported to the Audit and Standards Committee 23 July 2018. Mazars issued an unqualified opinion on the Statement of Accounts and concluded that the Council has proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. The Committee noted the contents of the report and resolved that the Accounts Committee be advised that

they had no issues to raise on the outcomes and findings of the Council's Statement of Accounts 2017/18 by Mazars

Treasury Management Policy & Strategy and Six Monthly Update

38. In line with CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management the Annual Treasury Policy and Strategy are reviewed by the Audit and Standards Committee prior to being reported to Cabinet and Council. A six monthly position is also reported through the Audit and Standards Committee to highlight progress on investment performance and borrowing.

Local Code of Governance Update

39. The Council has a local code of governance which was originally presented to the Audit Committee in April 2007. In line with good practice the document should be reviewed regularly, and the Audit and Standards Committee were asked to consider and approve an updated version on 28 January 2019, based on the CIPFA Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework. The Code defines how the Council complies with the principles of good governance laid down by the Independent Commission on Good Governance in Public Services and forms an integral part of the Councils' Annual Governance Statement, which is a legal requirement to demonstrate the level of assurance that can be given by the Council's control systems and governance arrangements.

Review of Internal Audit Charter

40. The Internal Audit Charter is reviewed annually, and the outcome is reported to the Audit and Standards Committee to seek comments and approval in line with Best Practice. The Chief Internal Auditor carried out the annual review and confirmed that it continues to reflect best practice and no amendments were required. It was proposed and agreed that in future years the timing of this review would be revised to April, to be reported with the Internal Audit Strategy and Annual Plan.

Review of Financial Regulations

41. Financial Regulations contained within the Council's Constitution form part of the system of financial control and are subject to periodic review to ensure they remain effective. A review was carried out in 2018/19 and a report presented to the Committee summarising the review process followed and presenting the draft revised Regulations for the Committee to review and comment.

Training and Induction

42. A report was presented to the Committee setting out proposals for induction and training plans for the Committee and seeking views from the Committee on the approach.

External Quality Assessment of Internal Audit

43. A report was presented informing the Committee of the options for the external assessment of the Internal Audit and Risk Service compliance with the UK Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS), which must be conducted at least once every five years by a qualified and independent assessor, with the next one planned to be undertaken in 2019/20 to be within the required five year timeframe. The report set out three main options available for the external assessment, and the Committee endorsed the reports' recommendation that the preferred option was for a validated self assessment of the Internal Audit and Risk Service's compliance with PSIAS and for Mazars to undertake this work following consideration of the options detailed.

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TITLE OF REPORT: Safeguarding Boards Annual Reports and Strategic Plans

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

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to present the Gateshead Safeguarding Adult's Board (SAB) and Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) Annual Reports to Cabinet, to provide an overview of the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements for children in Gateshead and present the 2019-2024 SAB Strategic Plan

Background

2. The Care Act 2014 states that a SAB must publish an annual report and strategic plan. The Gateshead SAB continues to provide leadership, accountability and vision for safeguarding adults. The Board has a strong commitment to working together, holding each other to account and seeking to learn and improve together. It has been a year of change throughout many of the partner organisations that make up SAB and a number of changes to Board representatives. Despite this, along with ongoing public-sector austerity measures, the Annual Report illustrates that good progress has been made.
3. As set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015), every Local Safeguarding Children Board is required to produce and publish an annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area (s.14A Children Act 2004). The annual 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 the LSCB discharges its statutory functions. The Local Safeguarding Children's Board continues to provide leadership, accountability and vision for safeguarding in Gateshead. The LSCB has a strong commitment from partners to working together, holding each other to account and seeking to learn and improve together.

Gateshead Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2018/19 and Strategic Plan 2019-24

4. The SAB 2018/19 Annual Report provides a policy context and an overview of the SAB Structure, governance and scrutiny arrangements and performance information. Key achievements of the SAB during 2018/19 are documented within the report and are aligned to the five Strategic Priorities. These include:
 - Adult Sexual Exploitation practice guidance and implementation of the Adult Missing, Sexually Exploited and Trafficked group
 - Development of a case file audit tool
 - Successful joint Adverse Childhood Experiences conference with the LSCB and Public Health

- Delivery of bespoke training courses, including voluntary sector management trustees and resident groups
 - Launch of Safeguarding in Gateshead website and @Gatesheadsafes twitter account
 - Development of the Gateshead Multi-Agency Adult Referral Team (MAART)
 - Maintaining compliance with Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards
5. The SAB Strategic Plan 2019/24 was developed following a period of consultation involving service users, key partners and providers. Importantly, the Strategic Plan also focuses upon areas of work identified from local and national Safeguarding Adult Reviews and other inquiries. The consultation identified that the five SAB strategic priorities that had been in place since 2016 remained fit for purpose for 2019-24. They are:
- Quality Assurance
 - Prevention
 - Community Engagement and Communication
 - Improved Operational Practice
 - Implementing Mental Capacity Act / Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards
6. Each strategic priority is accompanied by a series of key actions that the Board are committing to deliver during the five-year period. The Strategic Plan is supported by an annual business plan to assist the SAB Executive Group to prioritise workstreams and keep on track with delivery. The Plan will be refreshed on an annual basis to ensure that new legislation and emerging issues are reflected and that the Strategic Priorities remain fit for purpose.

Gateshead LSCB Annual Report 2018-2019 and MASA Safeguarding Plan 2019-2020

7. The LSCB Annual Report 2018-19 details developments for both the LSCB itself and its partner agencies, in relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the borough. Key areas include developing early help strategy and work regionally, developing integrated tools and further integration of processes – performance datasets, QA frameworks, policies & procedures, training, and practice review arrangements.
8. The report also contains an analysis of data, numbers or contacts and notifications have reduced. The number of children on child protection plans have decreased, as have numbers of children in care. The timeliness of assessments and conferences remains high.
9. A major focus of work during 2018-2019 has been around developing our new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements (MASA) and safeguarding plan.
10. The proposals for implementation in September 2019 represent a transitional process. Some streamlining is proposed to the current arrangements, with greater integration between the children and adult boards; however, much of the current structure will be retained for at least 12 months.
11. During the course of 2019-20, further work will be completed on integrating functions across the Northumbria footprint, and a wider structure review will be undertaken in the spring of 2020. It is envisaged that in September 2020 new arrangements will be introduced.

Recommendations

12. It is recommended that Cabinet endorses the content of the annual reports and safeguarding plans.

For the following reason:

To ensure that statutory duties of the Gateshead Local Safeguarding Children's Board and Gateshead Safeguarding Adults Board are met.

CONTACT: Saira Park – Safeguarding Children Business Manager
Carole Paz-Uceira - Safeguarding Adults Business Manager

APPENDIX 1

Policy Context

1. The proposals support the Council's strategic approach of Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives, ensuring that children, young people and vulnerable adults are safe and supported.
2. The Care Act 2014 enshrined in law the principles of Safeguarding Adults and the Safeguarding Adults Board became a statutory body in April 2015. The Care Act states that a Safeguarding Adults Board must:
 - publish a strategic plan for each financial year. This plan could cover 3 – 5 years in order to enable the Board to plan ahead as long as it is reviewed and updated annually
 - publish an annual report which details how the Board and its members achieved the objectives as identified within the strategic plan
3. 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 as contained in the Children Act 2004. As set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015), every Local Safeguarding Children Board is required to produce and publish an annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area (s.14A Children Act 2004). The annual 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 the LSCB discharges its statutory functions.

Background

4. It has been a year of change throughout many of the partner organisations that make up the LSCB and SAB and a number of changes to Board representatives. Despite this, along with ongoing public sector austerity measures, the two Annual Reports illustrate that considerable progress has been made. Neither of the Boards were subject to external inspections during 2018/19.
5. **Changes to LSCB** - Children and Social Work Act 2017 replaces LSCBs with new local safeguarding arrangements led by the three named statutory safeguarding partners; local authorities, chief officers of police, and clinical commissioning groups (health). The three safeguarding partners will assume the responsibilities for safeguarding arrangements that currently sit with LSCBs and will have a shared and equal duty for new safeguarding arrangements and for working together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Gateshead. The Safeguarding partners in Gateshead are:
 - Gateshead Council
 - Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
 - Northumbria Police
6. [Working together to safeguard children 2018](#) requires that as local safeguarding partners the council, the police and the CCG publish

arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children. The Gateshead Safeguarding children Partnership Plan will come into effect for 12 months from September 2019. Our Safeguarding Plan sets out the transitional arrangements for Gateshead from September 2019.

Consultation

7. The LSCB and SAB Boards and Sub-Groups were fully engaged and consulted with during the production of the Annual Reports and Strategic Plan / Business Plan.
8. The Cabinet Members for Children and Young People and Adult Social Care have been consulted.

Alternative Options

9. There are no alternative options available to the Council.

Implications of Recommended Option

10. Resources:

- a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director Corporate Resources confirms there are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.
- b) **Human Resources Implications** – There are no specific human resource implications arising from this report.
- c) **Property Implications** – There are no specific property implications arising from this report.

11. **Risk Management Implications** – The production of the Safeguarding Annual reports and Strategic Plans / Business Plans provides control measures for risk management

12. **Equality and Diversity Implications** – Safeguarding activity makes a major contribution to protecting vulnerable adults from harassment, abuse and discrimination. The Council has a duty under the s149 of the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other prohibited conduct and to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

13. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – The wider safeguarding agenda is an integral part of the Council's work to create a Safer Gateshead. There is a close connection between community safety, MARAC, MAPPA, the protection of adults with needs for care and support and the safeguarding children agenda.

14. **Health Implications** – The priorities and subsequent actions identified within each of the annual plans support the mental health and wellbeing of Gateshead residents.

15. **Sustainability Implications** – **Page 113** There are no direct sustainability issues within this report.

16. **Human Rights Implications** – Account is taken of Article 8 Right to respect for private and family life when considering Safeguarding activity. Independent advocacy is also used during the safeguarding process to ensure service users have an independent voice.
17. **Area and Ward Implications** – Safeguarding cover all areas and wards throughout Gateshead.

Gateshead Safeguarding Adults from Abuse

Safeguarding Adults Board

Annual Report
- 2018/19 -

July 2019

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Introduction

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to be Independent Chair of the Gateshead Safeguarding Adult Board for this last year. Partners understand the importance of working together in order to keep vulnerable people safe, and they have shown enthusiasm and commitment to the joint working that the Board has led.

The harsh face of austerity has been evident in the city this last year. Private providers of residential and home care have faced tight budgets, whilst statutory services from all agencies have undergone further cuts. In some other areas I have known austerity to provoke competition and defensiveness amongst staff – but here in Gateshead I have seen a real commitment to partnership, to rethinking how services can still be provided with less, and to supporting each other at a time of difficulty. It will be important that this commitment continues, as it seems as if our country is not yet through the worst of the financial crisis.

We have worked ever closer with the children's board, and with colleagues across the region, in order to share best practice and learning. This report catalogues some excellent practice by partners in taking forward some of the complex new issues that we are all battling with, such as the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences on later lives.

The board is in good shape, and ambitious for the future. Much of this can be attributed to the major contributions of partner agencies who chair subgroups, lead on the programmes of work, and ensure that people in Gateshead remain safe. In particular, though, my thanks are due to Carole Paz-Uceira and Joe Lowrey for ensuring that the Board's ambitions are translated into concrete outcomes.



Sir Paul Ennals
Independent Chair, Gateshead SAB



Policy Context

The Care Act 2014 enshrined in law the principles of Safeguarding Adults, which aim to ensure that the most vulnerable members of society are afforded appropriate support and protection, and help them to live as independently as possible, for as long as possible.

Chapter 14 of the Care and Support Statutory Guidance issued under the Care Act replaces the No Secrets document as the statutory basis for all safeguarding activity. This was updated in March 2016 by the Department for Health.

The Care Act identifies six key principles which underpin all adult safeguarding work and which apply equally to all sectors and settings:

- **Empowerment** – people being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and give informed consent
- **Prevention** – it is better to take action before harm occurs
- **Proportionality** – the least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented
- **Protection** – support and representation to those in greatest need
- **Partnership** – local solutions through services working with their communities
- **Accountability** – accountability and transparency in safeguarding practice

The Care Act sets out the Safeguarding Adult responsibilities for Local Authorities and their partners. It places a duty upon Local Authorities to establish Safeguarding Adults Boards (SAB) and stipulates that SABs must produce a Strategic Plan and Annual Report. The Statutory Guidance encourages the SAB to link with other partnerships in the locality and share relevant information and work plans.

Safeguarding in Gateshead

Gateshead SAB

The Gateshead SAB became a statutory body in April 2015. The Board's vision for adult safeguarding in Gateshead is:

'Everybody in Gateshead has the right to lead a fulfilling life and should be able to live safely, free from abuse and neglect – and to contribute to their own and other people's health and wellbeing'

The Board is responsible for assuming the strategic lead and overseeing the work of Adult Safeguarding and Mental Capacity Act arrangements in Gateshead. Within Gateshead we have commissioned an Independent Chair to enhance scrutiny and challenge. The Board has a comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding, which is updated annually, and provides a framework for identifying roles and responsibilities and demonstrating accountability.

In law, the statutory members of a SAB are defined as the local authority, the local police force and the clinical commissioning group. However, in Gateshead, we recognise the importance of the contribution made by all of our partner agencies and this is reflected by the wider Board membership (correct as of July 2019):

- Gateshead Council
- Northumbria Police
- Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) – on behalf of NHS England, North East Ambulance Service and incorporating GP lead for Adult Safeguarding
- Lay Member
- Gateshead NHS Foundation Trust
- South Tyneside Foundation Trust (STFT)
- Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust (NTW)
- Gateshead College
- The Gateshead Housing Company (TGHC)
- Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (TWFRS)
- Northumbria Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC)
- National Probation Service
- Oasis Community Housing and Advocacy Centre North, on behalf of the voluntary sector

The SAB is supported by an Executive Group that meets quarterly. The Executive Group brings together the Independent Chair, the three statutory authorities and the Sub-Group Chairs. The role of the Executive is to monitor the effectiveness of the Board and its sub groups and to report directly to the Board on any emerging themes, risks, areas of good practice and learning. The Executive Group scrutinises the annual Business Plan to ensure that progress is on schedule.

During 2018/19 the SAB and Executive Group were supported by five Sub-Groups:

- **Practice Delivery Group** (Chaired by a senior manager from The Gateshead Housing Company)

The role of the Practice Delivery Group is to ensure that the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Adults policy and procedures and supporting practice guidance continue to be fit for purpose. The Group has responsibility for keeping up to date with national policy changes that may impact upon the work of the SAB, and for the development and implementation of the Communication and Engagement strategy.

- **Safeguarding Adult Review and Complex Case (SARCC) Group** (Chaired by a senior nurse from Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group)

The Safeguarding Adult Review Group was reviewed by the Board in July 2018. The remit of the group was expanded to include complex cases, which resulted in a name change to the Safeguarding Adult Review and Complex Case (SARCC) group. The inaugural meeting of the SARCC was held in September 2018. The SARCC considers Safeguarding Adult Review referrals, commissions reviews and subsequently monitors their progress. The SARCC may also oversee discretionary reviews into cases that do not meet the criteria for a Safeguarding Adult Review, where the group feel there are multi-agency lessons to be learned. The SARCC also scrutinises complex safeguarding adult cases. Complex cases appropriate for the SARCC are:

- Safeguarding Adult Cases which have been in review for a prolonged period, but risks remain high and future options appear limited. These are cases that may require more creative interventions and / or a more co-ordinated and bespoke response
- Complex cases transitioning from Children's Services which will require multi-agency interventions to manage risks
- Cases which have demonstrated particularly good practice and from which lessons could be captured and disseminated

- **Quality and Assurance Group** (Chaired by a senior manager from Gateshead Council)

The Quality and Assurance Group has developed and implemented a Quality and Assurance Framework that provides a structure for scrutinising activity that is undertaken by Board member agencies and relevant services or organisations. The group monitors and scrutinises the quality of activities to ensure that the interventions offered are person-centred, proportionate and appropriate. It is also responsible for the performance dashboard and for considering lessons learned that are identified nationally, regionally and locally from any cases requiring a Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR), Serious Case Review or any other review process relevant to the Safeguarding Adults agenda. The Group will also undertake more detailed bespoke analysis to address issues of concern that have arisen from the performance dashboard or the quality assurance frameworks. This can involve tasks such as undertaking case file audits, seeking further performance data or benchmarking. Details of inspection results for partner organisations are also shared at the Quality and Assurance Group and the SAB.

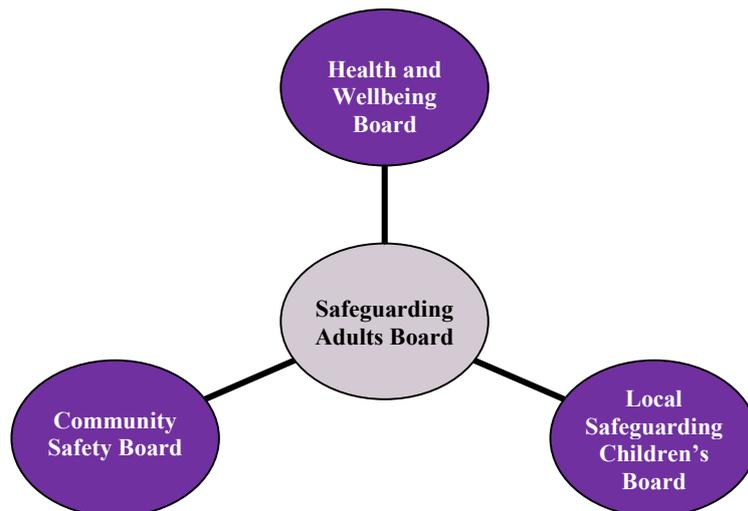
- **Training Group** (Chaired by a senior manager from Gateshead Council)

The Training Group coordinates and develops Safeguarding Adults training and Mental Capacity Act / Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards training that is accessible for practitioners and managers in a multi-agency setting. For the purposes of quality assurance, data is monitored regarding attendance, cancellation and evaluation of training courses. The group develops and implements ad-hoc bespoke training courses to meet evidenced demand in addition to core training courses. The group was disbanded in April 2019, with training and learning integrated within the remainder of the Sub-Groups.

- **Strategic Exploitation Group** (Chaired by an officer from Northumbria Police)

The Strategic Exploitation Group is a sub-group of both the SAB and the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB). The group is responsible for overseeing all work with respect to sexual exploitation, modern slavery, trafficking and female genital mutilation in Gateshead.

The Board and the five sub-groups regularly commission time limited task and finish groups to undertake specific pieces of project work.



The SAB has developed strong links with other local multi-agency partnerships

Partner Governance Arrangements and Scrutiny

Board members are responsible for ensuring that governance arrangements for Safeguarding Adults are incorporated within the structure of their own organisations, and that there are mechanisms for disseminating and sharing information from the SAB. Examples of the governance and scrutiny arrangements for the three statutory partners include:

- Gateshead Council – The Care, Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive updates from the SAB and key pieces of work are submitted to Cabinet. The SAB performance dashboard and annual mandatory Safeguarding Adults Collection are scrutinised within the Adult Social Care performance clinic and strategic items are shared with the Care, Wellbeing and Learning Group Management Team. The Gateshead Council Internal Audit service provide assurance that the Board and Gateshead Council are meeting their statutory duties.
- Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group – An Executive Director holds the lead for the safeguarding portfolio. A Children and Adults Safeguarding Committee meets bi-monthly and a strategic safeguarding forum is held with providers three times per year. The CCG safeguarding committee reports to the CCG Quality, Safety and Risk Committee which in turn reports to the CCG Governing Body.
- Northumbria Police – All learning from national and local serious case reviews are scrutinised through the organisational delivery group and the organisational learning log. The organisational learning log is focused on the importance of identifying learning opportunities and drivers, embedding the value of lessons learned, and helping the organisation to become focused on the importance of continuous

learning. Each Area Command and Department has a responsibility to consider drivers for lessons learned and to encourage organisational learning within their areas of business. The organisational learning log is submitted to each Operational Delivery Group (ODG) and Board for discussion and agreement of new actions, and to ensure organisational wide learning has been considered. Agreed recommendations and actions from the relevant ODG or board will be managed by the assigned learning owner. Areas of learning and best practice that require Force wide communication or change are escalated through Strategic Management Board.

Strategic Plan 2016/19 and Annual Business Plan 2018/19

The Gateshead Strategic Plan 2016/19 was approved by the SAB in March 2016 and was updated in April 2018. The three-year plan incorporates five strategic priorities:

- **Quality Assurance**
- **Prevention**
- **Community Engagement and Communication**
- **Improved Operational Practice**
- **Implementing Mental Capacity Act / Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards**



The three-year Strategic Plan is supported by an Annual Business Plan 2018/19 to enable the Board to prioritise and focus activity over the three-year period.

As 2018/19 was the final year of the Strategic Plan, the SAB undertook a period of consultation for the next Strategic Plan utilising an online survey, face to face consultation with service users and workshops with residents. The SAB decided that the next Strategic Plan would cover a period of 5 years to enable the Board to plan for the longer term. The draft plan was approved by the Executive Group in March 2019 and was ready for the first Board meeting of 2019/20.

Key Achievements 2018/19

The Annual Report must demonstrate what both the SAB and its members have done to carry out and deliver the objectives of its strategic plan. The key achievements for 2018/19 are documented below and are aligned to the SAB Strategic Priorities.

➤ Quality Assurance

- **Implementation of regional Quality Assurance Framework (QAF)**

The Safeguarding Adults QAF is a useful tool that enables partner organisations to reflect upon their progress within the Safeguarding Adults agenda and drive forward continuous improvement. The Quality and Assurance Group responded to concerns from regional partners that there was duplication throughout the region with respect to quality assurance processes. The Gateshead Quality Assurance Framework had been adapted from the North of Tyne model. During 2018/19 we approached Sunderland and South Tyneside who agreed to adopt the same QAF, with slight local variances.

- **Development of Performance Dashboard**

The Quality and Assurance Group continue to refine the performance dashboard to ensure that it is fit for purpose. The first dashboard was presented to the Board in April 2018.

Gateshead SAB Performance Scorecard 2018/19											
LATEST UPDATE: March 2019		Previous Years								Comment - Narrative and recommendations	
Ref. No.	Measure	Sub measure	14/15	15 / 16	16 / 17	17/18	latest figure 2018/19	Trend Line	North East Average	National average	Narrative, comment, Action
Theme 1 - Safeguarding Concerns											
1.1	Volume of concerns		2034	1259	1097	1262					
1.2	Concerns per 100,000 population			1259	779	674	776		1596	902	HE and P National average 2017-18
1.3	Category of abuse	Physical abuse (%)		21.9%	20.6%	20.8%	22.0%				
		Sexual abuse (%)		3.6%	4.1%	3.5%	2.5%				
		Psychological abuse (%)		10.6%	13.4%	9.8%	11.7%				
		Financial or material abuse (%)		14.9%	16.0%	14.7%	11.5%				
		Discriminatory abuse (%)		0.9%	1.3%	0.6%	0.2%				
		Organisational abuse (%)		0.6%	0.4%	1.0%	0.6%				
		Neglect and acts of omission (%)		40.9%	39.2%	45.3%	45.5%				

The dashboard contains standard Safeguarding Adult data with regards to Safeguarding Concerns and Section 42 Enquiries. It also incorporates information on Making Safeguarding Personal, Safeguarding Adult Referrals, Provider Concerns, Training and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards. The Quality and Assurance Group analyse the dashboard information to determine future workstreams. The dashboard was refined and amended during the course of 2018/19, with further development planned in 2019/20 in light of relevant legislation changes.

- **Case File Audit Tool**

A case file audit tool has been developed by the Quality and Assurance Group and is supported by an accompanying guidance note. The Audit tool was developed based on statutory guidance in the Care Act (2014) which places a responsibility on SABs to ensure that local agencies are clear about their responsibilities, learn from experience and improve services as a result. The Quality and Assurance group recognise that learning together helps to influence and promote multi agency understanding and practice.

Gateshead Safeguarding Adults Board Standard Case Audit Tool	
Audit Theme	Date Completed
Case ID	
Section 1	
Safeguarding Adults Concern	
1.1	Was the referral made within appropriate timescales?
Analysis	
1.2	Is the detail of the abuse /neglect / self-neglect clear?
Analysis	
1.3	Has the action to manage immediate risk been recorded appropriately?
Analysis	
1.4	Was consent from the victim/representative sought? And if not has the reason for not informing them been made clear?
Analysis	

The case file audits follow a themed approach using an evidenced based approach. The first case file audit theme in 2018/2019 was with respect to the provider concern process. The results from the audit have greatly assisted with more effective triaging of adult concerns, ensuring that the most appropriate pathway is instigated. Subsequent changes in practice were reflected in performance data contained within the performance dashboard.

- **Learning from Regional and National Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs)**

The Quality and Assurance Group review regional and national SARs and relevant Domestic Homicide Reviews. Case details are summarised and the group consider key findings relevant for Safeguarding Adults in Gateshead. The Gateshead Safeguarding Adults Business Manager has become one of seven regional SAR champions. The Local Government Association Care and Health Improvement Programme (CHIP) commissioned Research in Practice for Adults (RiPfa), in partnership with SCIE, to develop a national Safeguarding Adults Review Champions network. SAR Champions support SABs in their region by raising awareness of the national SAR library, raising awareness of the SAR Quality Markers and producing learning in SARs that fits with the national SAR library.

- **Single Agency Inspections / Scrutiny**

A number of partners within the SAB are subject to single agency inspections and / or invite external scrutiny to improve practice. The results are shared with the Board where there are implications from a Safeguarding Adults perspective. Examples include:

- Northumbria Police invited the Modern Day Slavery Police Transformation team into the Safeguarding Department during the summer of 2018 to do a debrief of some of their Modern Day Slavery Investigations. This was in order to identify best practice which could be rolled out to police forces across the country. The “What Works team” spent three days in force and identified an area of strength as the partnership working around vulnerable adult victims of slavery. It was identified that the multi- agency victim hubs were best practice in terms of victim engagement and safeguarding support.
- South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust undertook an external audit inspection of safeguarding and MCA/DOLS processes across the Healthcare group. Overall findings indicated: - “Governance, risk management and control arrangements provide a good level of assurance that the risks identified are managed effectively. A high level of compliance with the control framework was found to be taking place. Minor remedial action is required”. The remedial action included that each Ward and Department will have their nominated Safeguarding Adult / Children Champion and MCA Champion details identified on the Trust Safeguarding Intranet site. The link to the Intranet site will be publicised via the safeguarding Newsletter and attendance at champion forums will be monitored. Furthermore, safeguarding compliance at Level 2 will be achieved. All remedial actions were completed within the allocated timescales.
- Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust (NTW) invited colleagues from the Local Authority to visit their Trust HQ in February 2019 to quality assure their safeguarding adult processes. The Gateshead Council Safeguarding Business Manager, Safeguarding Adults Team Manager and Adult Social Care Direct Team Manager had the opportunity to view the NTW safeguard system and were satisfied with the current arrangements. NTW were able to provide key contact details within the Trust to support with Multi-Agency Safeguarding Adult Section 42 enquiries and were happy to share their performance dashboard. NTW subsequently provided a list of all cases referred to the Local Authority in 2019 so that the Local Authority could track the journey of the cases once they have been received within Gateshead Council.

➤ Prevention

• Adverse Childhood Experience's across the life course

Gateshead SAB and Local Safeguarding Children's Board worked in partnership with Public Health to host a conference in February 2019 about Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and the impact upon the life course. Over two hundred delegates attended from a wide variety of partner organisations.

Following the conference, work has commenced to consider how the SAB can champion the importance of understanding and responding to the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences and Adult attachment theories. As such, this has been included as a challenge within the 2019/24 SAB Strategic Plan.



• Care Market Challenges

The SAB have worked closely with commissioning colleagues in the Local Authority and the Clinical Commissioning Group to understand the challenges facing the care market nationally and locally in Gateshead. Local authority and CCG finances are under pressure, demand for services is rising and the risks of market failure have been made clear by the high-profile potential collapse of several care providers. With pressured finances for providers, workforce recruitment and retention issues, people entering care with more complex needs for example, this current climate brings a higher risk / potential for failure within the local care market. During 2018/19 the Board discussed these challenges at a number of the Board meetings, and scrutinised the new Standard Operating Practice (SOP) for emergency incidents in the care market in Gateshead. The Serious Provider Concern process is fully integrated with Safeguarding operational practice in Gateshead.

• Training

The SAB Training Sub Group worked alongside the LSCB and Community Safety Partnership to produce a comprehensive training directory for 2018/19. Training courses advertised within the directory are free of charge to

practitioners and volunteers within Gateshead. Key training highlights for the SAB in 2018/19 include:

- ✓ A recruitment drive was held to encourage partner agencies to nominate officers to join the multi-agency Level 1 Raising Concerns trainer pool. A train the trainer session was subsequently held for all of our multi-agency trainers. As a result, the volume of training courses increased from 14 in 2017/18 to 31 in 2018/19. The number of delegates attending Level 1 subsequently increased from 594 in 2017/18 to 707 in 2018/19.
- ✓ Both the Level 1 and Level 2 training courses were updated to incorporate more recent case examples and learning. In addition, the courses were updated to include a section around the duty to refer in accordance with the homelessness reduction act.
- ✓ The Gateshead Council Workforce Development Advisor, SAB Business Manager and LSCB Business Manager worked with their counterparts in Newcastle to develop safeguarding training for voluntary and community organisation trustees. The sessions were promoted via Newcastle Council for Voluntary Services who provide an independent voice for voluntary and community organisations and social enterprises in Newcastle and Gateshead and excellent feedback was provided by attendees



- ✓ The mate crime training course, led by Community Safety, includes a Gateshead safeguarding adult case study – the Safeguarding Business Manager and Community Safety Policy Officer met with a victim of mate crime who had been within the safeguarding adult process to ensure that their experiences were accurately portrayed within the training.
- ✓ The Training Sub group considered the guidance contained within the Intercollegiate Document published by the Royal College of Nursing which articulates required competencies for health care staff within safeguarding and sets out minimum training requirements. A robust programme of training was already being implemented across General

Practice and internally within the CCG, with internal training within the CCG at Levels 1, 2 and 3 being in excess of 90%.

- ✓ Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) training courses were commissioned during 2018/19. These Level 3 courses were aimed at staff from voluntary, statutory and independent agencies whose work may bring them into contact with those who have experienced or could be at risk of FGM. Practitioner feedback was very positive, with comments such as 'I now have an awareness of countries in which FGM is prevalent'
- ✓ A safeguarding adults awareness raising session "looking after your neighbour" was held for residents of The Gateshead Housing Company. The session was a trial with the aim of developing an awareness raising training course that can be adapted for future sessions within resident / community settings in relation to identifying and reporting concerns in the community.

- **Adult Sexual Exploitation**

The Strategic Exploitation Group produced Practice Guidance for front line practitioners with regards to Adult Sexual Exploitation and this was approved by the SAB in April 2018. This guidance is relevant for all cases of Adult Sexual Exploitation, regardless of whether the individual meets the Safeguarding Adult definition. The Practice Guidance includes our Gateshead referral pathway, allocation process, screening tool and case management procedure. A series of awareness raising sessions have been held about sexual exploitation procedures in Gateshead for front line practitioners from a number of different partner organisations.

The SAB was successful in obtaining funding from the Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner Supporting Victims Fund to support training in sexual exploitation. Ten full day sessions and ten bespoke half day sessions were delivered by Changing Lives on behalf of the SAB. Recipients included A&E and security staff at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Adult Social Care staff from Gateshead Council, front line practitioners from The Gateshead Housing Company and supported living workers from the Home Group. Three sessions were held to examine the recommendations from the Newcastle Joint Serious Case review on Sexual Exploitation.



Subsequently, in response to Recommendation 10 from the Newcastle Joint Serious Case Review a 'Sexual Exploitation and Grooming Risk Identification Checklist' was launched throughout the urgent care settings in November

2018. The aim of this tool is to be used by practitioners that have 'time limited' contact with patients (Emergency Care/ Walk in Centre Staff), to help them quickly identify risk of sexual exploitation and grooming.

The Adult Missing, Sexually Exploited and Trafficked (AMSET) Group was established to provide a multi-agency forum for partners to discuss Adult Sexual exploitation referrals and cases in Gateshead. The multi-agency group is also responsible for analysing trend information, mapping hotspot areas and sharing good practice. The AMSET collaborates closely with the police led multi-agency Sanctuary sexual exploitation hub South of Tyne. The AMSET group has received interest from colleagues throughout the region and beyond in terms of tackling sexual exploitation.

- **Hate Crime Champions**

The Gateshead Council Community Safety team, on behalf of the Community Safety Partnership, have launched a hate crime champion scheme. This is in recognition that the impact of hate crime on an individual and their family can often be devastating, affecting social, psychological and physical wellbeing. There are now over 100 Champions in Gateshead, acting as a point of contact, who understand the different ways to report and advise on the support that is available to victims.



Hate Crime Champions within the Queen Elizabeth Hospital

- **Self-Neglect**

A multi-agency one day workshop was held in May 2018 on self-neglect, facilitated by an independent expert on the subject. Feedback from the workshop was gathered and draft practice guidance was subsequently produced for front line practitioners. This will be published once the multi-agency policy and procedures have been revised in 2019/20.

- **Responding to high number of drugs deaths**

Operation Salvator was ran within the Central Area Command between October 2018 and March 2019. This was a pro- active operation designed to tackle the supply of class A drugs and associated harm. The strike phase of

this operation was mounted in March 2019 and resulted in 34 arrests. As part of this Operation a number of vulnerable adults who had been “cuckooed” in their own properties were identified and safeguarded by police and local authority partners working alongside housing associations.

- **Housing**

The SAB worked alongside colleagues within Gateshead Council and The Gateshead Housing Company (TGHC) to assist in raising awareness about the new ‘Duty to Refer’ within the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017. A workshop was held for Board members and information was disseminated widely.

The Northumbria Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) Gateshead Local Management Centre have worked in partnership with TGHC to develop the strategy and approach to meeting housing needs for vulnerable offenders and potentially victims of offending. They have developed a partnership whereby service users are housed, helping to contain and manage risk and subsequently protect victims. This strategy includes supporting victims of multiple traumas including mental health, drug use, alcohol related difficulties and domestic abuse. The CRC see many of their service users as ‘hidden victims’ as often it is their offending that becomes the key identifier or label and their underpinning experiences and traumas, or victimisation is not met.

TGHC recruited an officer with specific responsibility to develop and maximise their approach to safeguarding and raise awareness across the organisation. TGHC were invited to attend a Northern Housing Company (NHC) seminar in Leeds to present to other social landlords on best practice approaches in Safeguarding.

- **Claire’s Law**

In December 2018 Northumbria Police ran a publicity campaign to highlight Claire’s law (Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme) which allows disclosures to the public about their partners domestic violence history in order to assist them in making safe relationship choices. Since the campaign the numbers of applications for disclosure have doubled and in the first three months of 2019 there has been a month on month increase in the number of disclosures made in the Gateshead Area. This has helped in safeguarding Gateshead’s vulnerable domestic abuse and sexual exploitation victims.

➤ **Community Engagement and Communication**

- **Safeguarding Conferences**

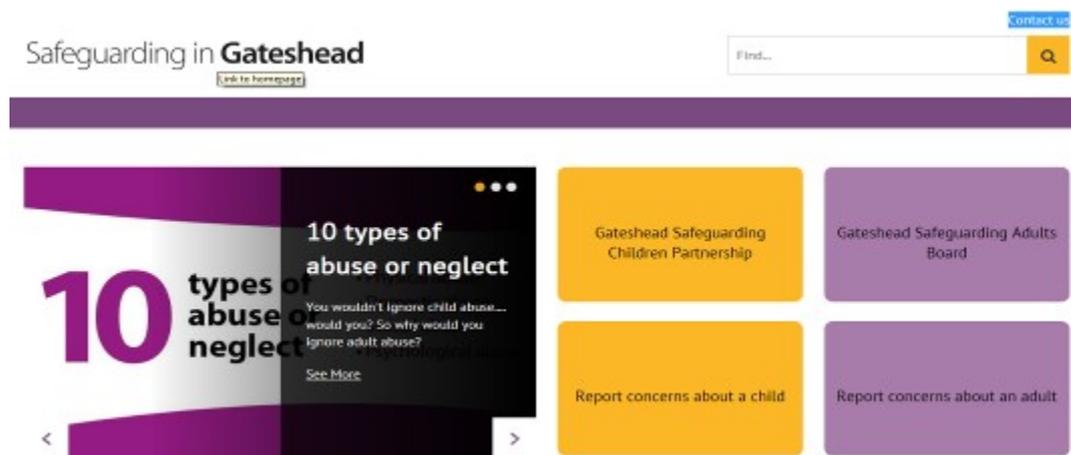
Gateshead NHS Foundation Trust – A Safeguarding Conference was held at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Education Centre in September 2018. The Conference was organised by the Children and Adult Safeguarding Teams within Gateshead NHS Foundation Trust as a collaborative project to raise

awareness of the diverse range of areas covered by Safeguarding and that Safeguarding is 'Everyone's Responsibility'. Speakers included Jasvinder Sanghera talking about honour-based violence and forced marriage and the Brook Foundation providing comprehensive information about online safety. 102 delegates attended the conference from a wide variety of disciplines within the Trust along with colleagues from the Local Authority, Housing, Police and Probation services.

South Tyneside Foundation Trust - In March 2019, the Safeguarding Adults and Children team organised a multi-agency "Think Family" Safeguarding Conference. This featured a number of external speakers, was very well attended and received positive feedback.

- [Safeguarding in Gateshead website](#)

The SAB and the LSCB developed and launched their bespoke safeguarding website www.gatesheadsafeguarding.co.uk. We have received excellent feedback from partners in Gateshead and beyond.



The website includes:

- ✓ information about the Board
- ✓ policy, procedures and practice guidance
- ✓ details about Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) and an online SAR referral form
- ✓ practical information and advice, including publications and our training directory
- ✓ news and updates
- ✓ a direct link to the Gateshead Council website online safeguarding adults concern form

- [Launch of the @GatesheadSafe twitter account](#)

The SAB and LSCB launched their twitter account in February 2019. The account is very active and at the time of writing the annual report (June 2019) the @GatesheadSafe account had 232 followers and over the previous 28 days had experienced 5,463 tweet impressions. The twitter account allows the

SAB and LSCB to share news stories, launch new publications, promote events and link with partners locally, regionally and nationally.

- **Safeguarding Adults Champion Scheme**

The Practice Delivery Group developed the Safeguarding Adults Champion Scheme. The scheme provides a link between the SAB and our voluntary, community and statutory services in Gateshead. Safeguarding Adults Champions are named individuals within organisations that operate in Gateshead. Gateshead Safeguarding Adults Champions will be responsible for:

- Raising awareness about Safeguarding Adults within their organisation;
- Ensuring that all staff, volunteers and service users within their organisation are aware of the Gateshead Multi-agency safeguarding adult policies and procedures;
- Disseminating updates on key legislation, policies, training and other information
- Being a single point of contact within your organisation for Safeguarding Adults information and advice

In return for signing up, Safeguarding Adult Champions can expect:

- Bespoke awareness raising sessions;
- Invitation to an annual Safeguarding Adults Champions event;
- Information regarding learning and training opportunities; and
- Regular Safeguarding Adults update

- **Posters and Visual media displays**

The Practice Delivery Group produced new posters and visual media displays for TV screens. The group wanted these publications to focus upon raising awareness about the 10 categories of abuse and include information about how to report. Partners can download these resources from the Safeguarding in Gateshead website.



➤ Improved Operational Practice

• GP Toolkit

Newcastle Gateshead CCG has worked very actively with the 30 GP Practices in Gateshead to develop a new GP Toolkit for Adult Safeguarding and Public Protection, in order to provide clear guidance to enable front line practitioners to offer support to the vulnerable individuals they work with on a daily basis.

• Development of the Gateshead Multi-Agency Adult Referral Team (MAART)

The MAART in Gateshead evolved from the previous adult MASH which had been funded via the Home Office Police Innovation Fund. The Gateshead Multi Agency Adult Referral Team (MAART) co-locates Northumbria Police and Adult Social Care in order to improve the initial response to adult concerns in relation to vulnerable adults. The role of the MAART is to bring together key partners and forge stronger links with other agencies which enables information to be shared quickly and effectively and allows better informed decisions to be made by social care. MAART provides an early intervention for residents of Gateshead who are experiencing chaotic lifestyles, multiple exclusions and negative social outcomes for themselves, families and communities but do not meet eligibility criteria under the Care Act and are not engaging with services. The MAART held a multi-agency workshop in December 2018 to define the terms of reference.

• Adult Social Care front door

A Local Authority multi-disciplinary core project team worked on the Adult Social Care Front Door work programme to improve efficiencies, particularly in relation to call waiting times. This was the establishment of online forms, and some small telephony changes:

- 12th November 2018 – Adult Social Care Initial contact, Care Review and General Enquiry forms went live
- 10th December 2018 – Safeguarding Adult concern form went live

All forms can be accessed via the Gateshead Council website. The Safeguarding Adult Concern form can also be accessed via the Safeguarding in Gateshead website. Performance data illustrates significant improvements in efficiency at the Adult Social Care front door.

• NEPO Portal for Procurement of SAR Chairs

Gateshead instigated the need for a regional approach for the procurement of SAR Chairs and Authors due to the limited number of providers operating in the North East. The North East Procurement Organisation (NEPO) portal for the procurement of Independent Chairs of Safeguarding Adult Reviews, Serious Case Reviews and Domestic Homicide Reviews went live on April 1st 2019. A final meeting took place on 13th March 2019 in Newcastle to finalise the process with the 12 participating localities. Approved providers on the portal include a mix of sole traders and organisations. Providers can join the

portal at any time and will only be required to go through the comprehensive tendering process once.

➤ **Implementing Mental Capacity Act (MCA) / Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)**

• **Maintain compliance with Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards**

Gateshead Council, as DoLS Supervisory Body, continues to remain legally compliant with the judgement despite the national challenges and evidence to suggest there are significant backlogs elsewhere, both regionally and nationally.

Gateshead Council has continued to invest in the DoLS staff team responsible for the processing and managing of all DoLS applications by increasing ability to meet most of our demands “in-house”, thereby improving efficiency.

• **Practical Application of MCA work**

Throughout 2018/19 a task and finish group has been working to revamp the training with respect to Mental Capacity, with a focus upon it’s practical application. This has been in response to recommendations from local and national Safeguarding Adult Reviews and a general recognition that practitioners require more practical tools and guidance to support them.

• **Preparation for implementation of Liberty Protection Safeguards**

The landscape with respect to the proposals for the introduction of the Liberty Protection Safeguards via the Mental Capacity (Amendment) Act 2019 continues to be fluid and ever changing and is being closely monitored by partners within Gateshead. The Local Authority Strategic Lead for MCA / DoLS is the Chair of the regional DoLS steering group and is also on the national DOLS Leads group.

Our Performance 2018/19

Safeguarding Adults Headline Performance

A summary of the headline performance information is provided below.

- **Volume of Concerns and Enquiries**

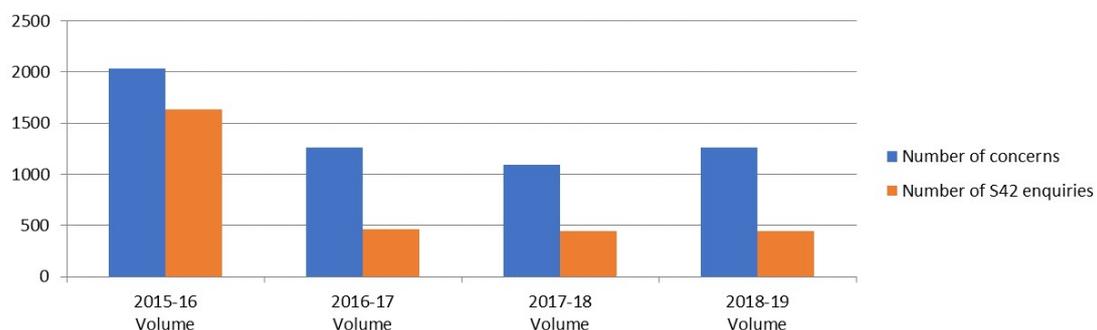
For a Concern to progress to a Section 42 Enquiry it must meet the statutory criteria. The Safeguarding duties apply to an adult who:

- Has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs)
- Is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect
- As a result of those care and support need is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect

In 2018/19 there were 1262 Safeguarding Adult Concerns which led to 442 Section 42 Safeguarding Enquiries. In percentage terms, 35% of Concerns led to a Section 42 Enquiry. The number of concerns progressing to an enquiry is similar to the 2017-18 NE (36.4%) and England (33.4%) averages.

The graph below illustrates that the volume of S42 Enquiries has largely remained static over the last three years. There has been a slight fluctuation in the volume of concerns. Partners at the Quality and Assurance Group and Executive Group believe that the fluctuation can be attributed in part to audit of the provider concern process and further strengthening of adult social care 'front door' arrangements. Both of these ensure that cases are progressed into safeguarding if they meet the statutory criteria

Volume of concerns and S42 enquiries



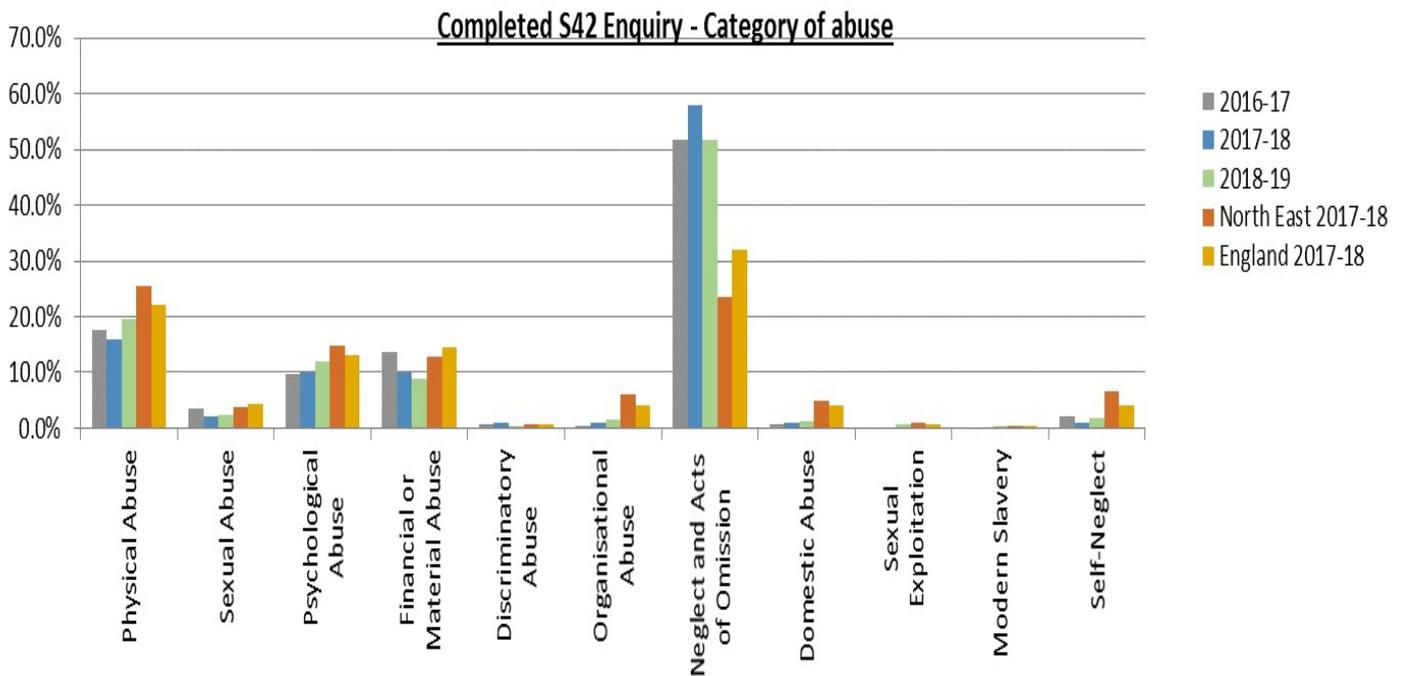
- **Categories of Abuse**

Utilising a count of completed Section 42 Enquiries, and allowing for multiple recording of abuse, the most common category of abuse in Gateshead continues to be Neglect and Acts of Omission which represented 51.7%. This was followed by Physical Abuse (19.6%) and Psychological (14.95%).

Neglect and Acts of Omission in Gateshead continues to be an outlier compared to North East and England averages, however it does show a drop from the 58.0% of last year. The Quality and Assurance Group subsequently commissioned a case file audit of Neglect and Acts of Omission cases in May 2019 which demonstrated a recording issue. This will be rectified and reported upon in the 2019/20 annual report.

The new categories of abuse introduced by the Care Act represented relatively small volumes in 2018/19:

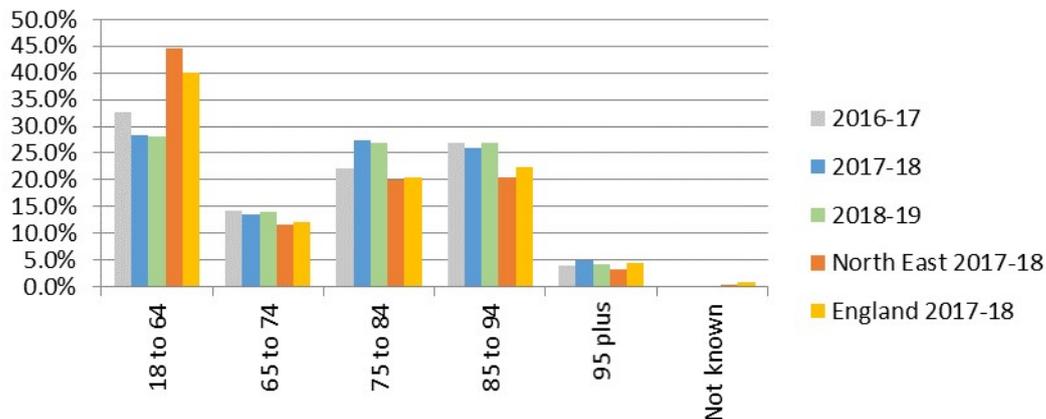
- Domestic Violence – 8 cases, 1.3%
- Modern Slavery – 1 case, 0.2%
- Self Neglect – 10 cases, 1.7%



- Age

In Gateshead, 72% of Concerns were raised for adults aged 65 and over.

Concerns: percentage of individuals by age



Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)

For the period April 2018 to March 2019 Gateshead Council received 2121 Deprivation of Liberty Safeguard applications. This was a slight increase in activity from the previous financial year (2113) and compared to activity from previous years represents a continued levelling out of the demands placed on local authorities in meeting statutory obligations.

The highest rate for DoLS applications remains with those over the age of 65. Within Gateshead this represents 1853 applications (87% of all applications) for those aged over 65 and 268 for those under 65.

There were 339 applications which have not been authorised, due to various standard reasons. The primary reason for non authorisation of a DoLS was down to a 'Change in Circumstances', which took place in 244 cases.

Our demographics remain in accordance with previous data with predicted higher percentages of those 85+ being more likely to be subject to DoLS authorisations, (39%) and those more likely to be female (59%).

Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs)

The SARCC Group is responsible, on behalf of the Gateshead SAB, for statutory SARs introduced by the Care Act 2014. The SAB has produced a SAR Practice Guidance note to provide a framework for SARs in Gateshead. All reviews and enquiries are reported back to the SAR Group for scrutiny and challenge. Learning from reviews is fed into the Quality and Assurance Group and Training Group when there are specific actions or learning that needs to be taken forward.

During 2018/19 the SAR referral form was placed online, providing an accessible and secure mechanism for partners to refer SARs.

During 2018/19 the SARCC received 6 Safeguarding Adult Referrals. Of those:

- 0 progressed to a SAR
- 2 resulted in other reviews
 - Drug Related Death review
 - Joint report was requested by CCG, Gateshead Council and Gateshead NHS Foundation Trust
- 1 case formed part of a serious provider concern process
- 2 cases are still being considered as further information is required
- 1 case required no further action
- **Winnie Smith Appreciative Inquiry**

In March 2019 the SARCC group completed an appreciative inquiry that was instigated in 2017. Winnie Smith is the pseudonym chosen by the Adult at the centre of this inquiry. Winnie has been involved in all stages of the inquiry, supported via an advocate chosen by herself and her social worker.

The inquiry was instigated following a significant and sustained period of abuse and neglect experienced by Winnie. She alleged that she had been held for approximately two years by her perpetrators in a property in Gateshead, during which she was regularly abused. When she was found by the police she was so malnourished that she was hospitalised for a month. She had to be sedated during the evenings to assist her to sleep. Two years after she was found, Winnie resides within 24/7 residential care and is subject to a Deprivation of Liberty Safeguard. The effect of the abuse and neglect upon Winnie has been profound.

Organisations that work within the safeguarding adult arena increasingly talk about the challenges of working with complex cases. The life of Winnie Smith was, and continues to be, complex. Winnie experienced significant levels of abuse and neglect as a child and this continued into adulthood. Winnie has been involved with a myriad of services, both statutory and non-statutory, throughout her life and professionals have struggled to identify her health and social care needs. Winnie has at times been a prolific user of services, and at other times has determinedly refused to engage.

The Inquiry identified some elements of good practice and some areas for future consideration. The inquiry recognises that some improvements have already been made within Gateshead and that operational practice has evolved. Key challenges emanating from the inquiry have been included within the Gateshead SAB Strategic Plan 2019/24:

- Explore how partners can understand and respond to the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in adulthood
- Develop a shared approach to missing
- Enhance our approach to managing risk. This is to include:
 - Understanding perpetrator motivations
 - Person Centred approach v managing risk
 - Identifying and responding to coercive and controlling behaviour
- Explore the use of 'vulnerability' markers
- Understand health diagnosis in the context of the practical application of the Mental Capacity Act

Gateshead Safeguarding Adults Board

Strategic Plan 2019-2024

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Introduction

This is the second Strategic Plan for the statutory Gateshead Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) post implementation of the Care Act (2014) on April 1st 2015.

The Gateshead SAB remains committed to making Safeguarding in Gateshead person-led and outcome focussed whilst ensuring that there is an underpinning ethos of prevention. The Board have worked hard to ensure that they are Care Act compliant and have demonstrated via internal and independent scrutiny that we deliver quality services.

The Gateshead SAB continues to provide strategic leadership for our approach to responding to statutory duties detailed within the Mental Capacity Act. As such we are preparing for imminent changes to legislation proposed via the Mental Capacity (Amendment) Bill which includes the abolition of the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) and the subsequent introduction of Liberty Protection Safeguards.

The challenges faced by the Board are evolving. Since the commencement of our last Strategic Plan in 2016 we have seen challenges in relation to the stability of the care market, a growth in mechanisms for responding to complex cases and extensive learning from national, regional and local Safeguarding Adult Reviews. This is combined with uncertainties caused by continued austerity and Brexit.

As part of the consultation process for this Strategic Plan an anonymous responder said:

'In this very challenging economic climate keep up the good work as a lot of what you do goes unnoticed, but it is vital to the individuals that are being safeguarded'

The national and local policy landscape is constantly changing, and we will review the Strategic Plan on an annual basis to ensure that the Strategic priorities remain right for Gateshead. We have a strong commitment from its members to implement the Strategic Priorities identified within this plan. This five-year Strategic Plan is supported by annual Business Plans to enable the Board to prioritise and focus activity.

Policy Context

The Care Act 2014 has enshrined in law the principles of Safeguarding Adults, which will ensure that the most vulnerable members of society are afforded appropriate support and protection, and help them to live as independently as possible, for as long as possible. Chapter 14 of the Care and Support Statutory Guidance issued under the Care Act replaces the No Secrets document as the statutory basis for all safeguarding activity. The Care Act sets out the Safeguarding Adult responsibilities for Local Authorities and their partners and places a duty upon Local Authorities to establish SABs.

A corner stone of the Care Act is the general responsibility placed on all local authorities to promote wellbeing. The Care Act emphasises the assumption that individuals are best placed to judge their own wellbeing, and that protection from abuse and neglect is fundamental.

The Care Act identifies six key principles which underpin all adult safeguarding work, and which apply equally to all sectors and settings:

- **Empowerment** – people being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and give informed consent
- **Prevention** – it is better to take action before harm occurs
- **Proportionality** – the least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented
- **Protection** – support and representation to those in greatest need
- **Partnership** – local solutions through services working with their communities
- **Accountability** – accountability and transparency in safeguarding practice

Schedule 2 of the Care Act (2014) stipulates that SABs must publish a Strategic Plan each financial year, identifying how the Boards and their members will protect adults in their respective areas from abuse and neglect.

Gateshead Safeguarding Adults Board

Our vision

Our vision for Adult Safeguarding in Gateshead is:

'Everybody in Gateshead has the right to lead a fulfilling life and should be able to live safely, free from abuse and neglect – and to contribute to their own and other people's health and wellbeing'

In Gateshead we believe that Safeguarding is everyone's business. This means - whoever you are, wherever you are and whatever position you hold – you have a responsibility to take action to help protect our local residents when you hear about allegations of abuse or neglect.

We know you share our vision and it is practiced by all our partner organisations. Safeguarding cannot be fully delivered by agencies acting in isolation – and can only be achieved by working together in partnership to help protect and support adults at risk of, or experiencing, abuse or neglect.

Governance arrangements

The Gateshead SAB became a statutory body in April 2015, assuming the strategic lead and overseeing the work of Adult Safeguarding arrangements in Gateshead. We have commissioned an Independent Chair to enhance scrutiny and challenge. The Board has a comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding, which provides the framework for identifying roles and responsibilities and demonstrating accountability. We have developed strong links with the Local Safeguarding Children's Board, Health and Wellbeing Board and the Community Safety Board.

In law, the statutory members of a SAB are defined as the local authority, the local police force and the relevant clinical commissioning group. However, in Gateshead, we recognise the importance the contribution made by all of our partner agencies and this is reflected by the wider Board membership (correct as of April 2019):

- Gateshead Council
- Northumbria Police
- Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) (on behalf of NHS England, North East Ambulance Service and incorporating GP lead for Adult Safeguarding)
- Lay Member
- Gateshead NHS Foundation Trust
- South Tyneside Foundation Trust
- Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust
- Gateshead College
- The Gateshead Housing Company
- Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
- Northumbria Community Rehabilitation Company
- National Probation Service
- Oasis Community Housing
- Advocacy Centre North

The SAB is supported by four Sub-Groups:

- **Practice Delivery Group** (Chaired by a senior manager from The Gateshead Housing Company)

The role of the Practice Delivery Group is to ensure that the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Adults policy and procedures and supporting practice guidance continue to be fit for purpose. The Group has responsibility for keeping up to date with national policy changes that may impact upon the work of the SAB. The Group also has responsibility for the development and implementation of the Communication and Engagement strategy and implementation of the Dignity Strategy.
- **Safeguarding Adult Review and Complex Case Group (SARCC)** (Chaired by a senior nurse from Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group)

The Safeguarding Adults Review Group (SARCC) will consider Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) referrals, commission reviews and subsequently monitor their progress. The SARCC may also oversee discretionary reviews into cases that do not meet the criteria for a SAR, where the group feel there are multi-agency lessons to be learned. It will collate and review recommendations from SARs and other reviews, ensuring that achievable action plans are developed and that actions are delivered. The SARCC also provides a forum to discuss complex Safeguarding Adult cases that require additional scrutiny and support.
- **Quality and Assurance Group** (Chaired by a senior manager from the Local Authority)

The Quality and Assurance Group have developed and implemented a Quality and Assurance Framework that provides a structure for scrutinising activity that is undertaken by Board member agencies and relevant services or organisations. The group monitors and scrutinises the quality of activities to ensure that the interventions offered are person-centred, proportionate and appropriate. The Quality and Assurance Group is responsible for updating and analysing the performance dashboard. They also consider lessons learned that are identified nationally, regionally and locally from any cases requiring a SAR, Serious Case Review or any other review process relevant to the Safeguarding Adults agenda.
- **Strategic Exploitation Group** (Chaired by a senior officer from Northumbria Police)

The Strategic Exploitation Group is a sub-group of both the SAB and the Local Safeguarding Children's Board. The group is responsible for overseeing all work with respect to sexual exploitation, modern slavery, criminal exploitation, trafficking, missing and female genital mutilation in Gateshead.

A SAB Executive Group, which includes the Sub Group Chairs, meets on a quarterly basis to monitor the effectiveness of the Board and to discuss emerging themes, risks, good practice and learning opportunities.

Developing the Strategic Plan

The Gateshead SAB Strategic Plan 2019-24 has been developed in consultation with a variety of stakeholders. It is underpinned by performance information, learning from reviews and feedback from members of the general public and safeguarding adult service users. Targeted consultation includes:

- Board member consultation
- Online survey which was circulated to all Sub Group members, key stakeholders, commissioned providers and members of NCVS who support voluntary organisations within Gateshead
- Face to face consultation with:
 - Shared Lives carers
 - Young women in supported housing provision
 - The Gateshead Housing Company residents

Strategic Priorities and Key Challenges

The consultation process identified that the five SAB Strategic Priorities that had been in place since 2016 remained fit for purpose for 2019-24, those are:

- Quality Assurance
- Prevention
- Communication and Engagement
- Operational Practice
- Mental Capacity

1. Quality Assurance

The SAB will continue to prioritise Quality Assurance in its widest sense. This will enable the Board to demonstrate quality and effectiveness at both strategic and operational levels. It aims to support a better understanding of how safe adults are locally and how well local services are carrying out their safeguarding responsibilities in accordance with the Care Act and the Gateshead Multi-Agency Policy and Procedures. In particular, the Board will ensure that quality is driven by learning.

Key Actions 2019 - 24 include:

- Develop training for front line practitioners that is guided by learning from reviews and inquiries
- Develop and implement annual Quality Assurance challenge event utilising the regional Quality Assurance Framework
- Enhance our multi-agency approach of sharing learning with front line practitioners
- Revise the Safeguarding Adults Review Policy and Practice Guidance to include a strengthened approach to practical application of learning

2. Prevention

Prevention is one of the six Principles of Safeguarding. Within Gateshead we have prioritised preventative work and have produced a range of practice guidance notes and bespoke training courses to support our front-line practitioners. The Board would like to see Prevention at the forefront of all Policies, Procedures and Practice Guidance and woven into practice.

Key Actions 2019 - 24 include:

- Strengthen and embed our Multi-Agency Adult Referral Team (MAART) as a mechanism for supporting vulnerable residents who do not meet the statutory criteria for Safeguarding Adults
- Support closer integration of public services, including the work of Public Sector Reform and the Gateshead Care Partnership
- Become Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) / Adult Attachment informed
- Revise the Self-Neglect Practice Guidance note and deliver updated multi-agency practitioner training
- Revise the Financial Abuse Practice Guidance note, taking into account the issues arising from implementation of Universal Credit
- Strengthen multi-agency arrangements for Modern Slavery in Gateshead; to include awareness raising, responding to pre-planned and unplanned incidents and quality assurance
- Raise awareness about Criminal Exploitation
- Build community resilience so that our residents are better equipped to keep themselves safe from harm

3. Community and Engagement

The Safeguarding Adults Board has made significant improvements in Making Safeguarding Personal to ensure that those adults involved within the safeguarding process have their wellbeing promoted and, where appropriate, that regard is given to their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs when deciding any action. Consultation has demonstrated that there continues to be a lack of understanding about Safeguarding within the wider community, which can impact upon the effectiveness of Safeguarding Adults as a whole.

Key Actions 2019 - 24 include:

- Effectively communicate and champion our good practice
- Enhance communication and engagement with partners and providers who are not routinely engaged with the Board and Sub-Groups
- Promote Safeguarding Adult key messages within our communities
- Widely promote our Safeguarding website and social media presence
- Implement our Safeguarding Adult Champion Scheme and develop Safe Reporting Centres
- Develop a safeguarding adult resource library which includes communication and engagement tools, including visual media aids

4. Operational Practice

Whilst this is a Strategic Plan, the SAB must ensure that operational practice is fit for purpose. Whilst significant improvements have been introduced by the SAB and our key partners we know from our quality assurance processes and the sharing of best practice nationally and regionally that further improvements can always be made.

Key Actions 2019 - 24 include:

- Work with the Health and Wellbeing Board and Community Safety Board to improve how our partner organisations identify and respond to complex cases
- Refresh the SAB Multi-Agency Policy and Procedures by enhancing accessibility and simplifying the procedures
- Enhance our approach to managing risk, to include:
 - Understanding perpetrator motivations
 - Person centred approach v managing risk
 - Identifying and responding to coercive and controlling behaviour
- Improve communication flow with referrers, providers and Adult at risk after a concern has been submitted
- Strengthen multi-agency transition arrangements
- Develop a shared approach to missing adults, including consideration of the use of 'vulnerability markers'

5. Mental Capacity

Understanding and applying the Mental Capacity Act is central to the Safeguarding Adults process. It remains one of our most common areas for improvement in Gateshead, and beyond. Legislative changes are again on the horizon with the proposed Mental Capacity (Amendment) Bill which will reform the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) and replace them with Liberty Protection Safeguards. The agenda will continue to evolve as new ways of working and case law is embedded into practice. Practitioners need tools and guidance to support them with the practical application of the Mental Capacity Act within everyday safeguarding, assessment and care provision.

Key Actions 2019 - 24 include:

- Understand, and effectively respond, to changes within the Mental Capacity Act (Amendment) Bill
- Develop a mechanism for assuring that the proposed Liberty Protection Safeguards are effectively implemented within Gateshead
- Develop and implement a programme of awareness raising for front line practitioners, providers, partners and the wider public about the application of the Mental Capacity Act
- Explore how a health diagnosis supports the practical application of the Mental Capacity act



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Gateshead
local **safeguarding**
children board

Gateshead LSCB

Annual Report

2018-2019



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1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

Foreword – Sir Paul Ennals, LSCB Independent Chair

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to chair the Children’s Safeguarding Board for a further year – indeed, for its last year, since in July 2019 we published our plans to become the Gateshead Safeguarding Children Partnership. The essentials will remain – the engagement of all agencies who are working with children and families, the commitment to work together to improve outcomes, and to hold each other to account. “High support, high challenge” remains our approach. The new arrangements, however, streamline our systems somewhat, allow us to focus more directly on local practice, and build on the collaboration across the Northumbria region.

The year has been very constructive, with significant progress being made on several fronts. Just after the year ended, Ofsted inspected the council’s Children’s Social Care; the judgement of “good” was a proper reward for their hard work, and the report was very praiseworthy of the quality of partnership working in Gateshead.

I am grateful to all partners for their input, and particularly to the Business Manager Saira Park and her assistant Joe Lowrey for all their hard work. The children and families of Gateshead can be grateful for their commitment.



Sir Paul Ennals
Independent Chair, Gateshead LSCB



2. SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

2.1 Purpose of report

As set out in *Working Together to Safeguard Children*, 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

A major focus of work during 2018-2019 has been around developing our new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements (MASA) and safeguarding plan – [link to safeguarding plan](#)

Current safeguarding arrangements within Gateshead are robust and well respected. Outline plans for a more streamlined structure and system were agreed in principle by statutory partners during 2018-19, subject to final approval. Since then, real progress has been made in strengthening regional collaboration across Northumbria, with the support of DfE Early Adopter funding. This programme is exploring which key safeguarding functions can be more effectively undertaken across a wider footprint, and which functions need to retain a place-based focus at local authority level.

The proposals for implementation in September 2019 represent a transitional process. Some streamlining is proposed to the current arrangements, with greater integration between the children and adult boards; however, much of the current structure will be retained for at least 12 months.

During the course of 2019-20, further work will be completed on integrating functions across the Northumbria footprint, and a wider structure review will be undertaken in the spring of 2020. It is envisaged that in September 2020 new arrangements will be introduced.

Considerable work has also been undertaken between LSCB meetings by our sub groups, task and finish groups and highly committed members.

2.3 Progress against last year's objectives

Our Business Plan was monitored by LSCB Executive. By year end all of our priorities were signed off or due to be signed off imminently.

In terms of **Leadership** we strengthened our links with our local communities, education settings 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 continued with work to engage children and young people with the work of the Board.

2.3.1 Early Help & Early Intervention

The Early Help (EH) Strategy has been updated, with input from LSCB. Ofsted commented positively about the EH strategy and the EH service, and their impact on children and their families.

“Early help arrangements in Gateshead are a strength. There is a coherent multi-agency strategy which underpins the delivery of these services.” OFSTED

Children and families are benefiting from a broad range of targeted family support delivered by well-trained, skilled staff. Partners are well engaged in the delivery of the early help offer, completing a high number of early help assessments. Pathways into targeted early intervention are clear and the threshold is appropriately applied.

Higher risk cases are escalated swiftly to children’s social care or are stepped down when risks are reduced. Early help workers stay involved with their families when cases step up to statutory services. This means that children and families are benefiting from consistent support from a worker with whom they have established effective relationships. The service is making a positive difference to families and is reducing the number of children needing statutory help and support.

During the last year Early Help has developed a robust performance management framework and workbook, modelled on that of children’s social care. It has also developed a comprehensive data dashboard which details performance. The Early help team are able to evidence low re-referral rates into Tier 3 services which are measured at 6 and 12 monthly intervals. The Early help team have also gathered strong qualitative feedback from families.

Scrutiny for the performance and effectiveness of Early Help is provided through Early Help performance clinics, Gateshead LSCB (performance sub group), Children’s Services Portfolio meetings, Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Health and Wellbeing Board.

Following the Team Around the School pilot in 2017/18, the programme has been extended to include more schools. Gateshead is the regional lead for the Reducing Parental Conflict Programme and has strongly reinforced Early Help as “everyone’s business”.

Domestic Abuse is highly prevalent in the experience of children who are referred to children’s services. A review of the existing service was completed in July 2018 and a single domestic abuse team is now in place to respond across Early Help, Safeguarding and Care Planning and the IRT. This new service ensures a consistent response to those who are referred by social workers. Children and adults are now seen by the same service.

- **Operation Encompass**

A total of **85** schools in Gateshead participate in the Operation Encompass model for sharing information on domestic abuse incidents the morning after an incident where children are part of the family involved, with **1,113** notifications made during 2018-2019.

Since the restructure of the service, the new domestic abuse team have introduced a dedicated twenty-four hour, seven day a week telephone line and mail box which makes it easier for service users to access support. A referral pathway and operational procedures have been developed and the service is currently developing a child/young person friendly risk indicator checklist.

Governance of Domestic Abuse is through the Community Safety Board and the LSCB, as well as the council’s own governance arrangements.

- **Integrated Referral Team (IRT) - Front Door**

The local authority has recently restructured its front door, supporting an effective response to referrals. Professionals appropriately contact the integrated referral team (IRT) when they are concerned that a child needs help or protection.

“The front door is strong and effective, and thresholds are well understood.” OFSTED

The co-location of the police, early help and health 0–19 service, with the addition of other partners through virtual arrangements, supports effective screening, triage and referral systems. The daily screening of all police notifications, including children who are missing and domestic abuse concerns, is effective and means that children receive an appropriate and timely response, with the swift identification of services.

The introduction of an Edge of Care Team now provides timely support to families in crisis, including out of hours, intensive intervention to prevent family breakdown. It delivers a systemic approach which focuses on strength-based relationships.

2.3.2 Voice of the child

Views of children and young people have been sought and fed back via partner agency engagement and surveys.

The LSCB held an event with young people in January 2019. Further events will be held during 2019-2020 (as well as attendance at Children and young People’s events being held by partner agencies, where appropriate). The Voice of the child is an overarching priority in the new arrangements – more information about the Young People’s event and other consultations is included at appendix 5.

2.3.3 Child Sexual Exploitation & Missing Children

The process for reviewing young people who are missing, sexually exploited or trafficked has been reviewed. The name of the MSET group has been redefined to incorporate all types of child exploitation (Missing, Slavery, Exploitation, Trafficking). The Exploitation Framework has also been updated and is now shared regionally. This means a more consistent approach to risk assessment and disruption across the region. A comparable structure for adults has been established and is being piloted (AMSET), with progress and learning shared. The shared children and adults approach is anticipated to improve the quality of partnership scrutiny at the point of transition into adulthood of some very vulnerable young people.

The protocol for responding to missing children has been updated, and all children who go missing will now be offered a Return Home interview (RHI), regardless of how long they have been missing or how often. The RHI form has been reviewed and updated, to ensure push and pull factors are considered and to allow for more narrative (including any previous missing episodes). Guidance notes for completion are available for workers who complete RHIs. RHIs are now recorded on Carefirst (the social care system).

2.3.4 Communication & engagement with the frontline (including schools)

Distribution lists have been reviewed and updated, so that information can be targeted to the right people. LSCB members are proactive in ensuring information is shared within their own agencies.

The LSCB and Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) have developed and launched a new bespoke safeguarding website www.gatesheadsafeguarding.co.uk. Child protection referrals are submitted online via the website and information is kept updated. We have received excellent feedback from partners in Gateshead and beyond.

The website includes:

- Information about reporting concerns and online child protection referral form
- information about the safeguarding boards
- policy, procedures and practice guidance
- practical information and advice, including publications and our training directory
- advice and support for parents and carers
- news and updates

We are continuously reviewing information on the website and have updated the section for advice and support for parents and carers which now also includes safer sleeping advice (learning from regional serious case reviews).

As well as the new website, we are also able to communicate via social media. The LSCB and SAB launched a twitter account (@GatesheadSafe) in February 2019. The account is very active and it is an excellent way to engage with other safeguarding partnerships, the Voluntary and community sector (VCS), and the local community. The twitter account allows the safeguarding boards to share news stories, launch new publications, promote events and link with partners locally, regionally and nationally.

Communication with frontline staff has improved. School staff, social workers and early help workers have all reported they feel more involved and aware of the work of the LSCB.

Gateshead NHS Foundation Trust – A Safeguarding Conference was held at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Education Centre in September 2018. The Conference was organised by the Children and Adult Safeguarding Teams within Gateshead NHS Foundation Trust and was chaired by Sir Paul Ennals. Speakers included Jasvinder Sanghera talking about honour-based violence and forced marriage and the Brook Foundation providing comprehensive information about online safety. Gateshead's LSCB business manager and sanctuary social worker also stepped in at the last minute (due to a planned speaker having to drop out) and took the opportunity to talk about the MSET process, screening tool and risk assessment. 102 delegates attended the conference from a wide variety of disciplines within the Trust along with colleagues from the Local Authority, Housing, Police and Probation services. Feedback was extremely positive.

2.4 Board effectiveness

We continue to collaborate with LSCBs across the region regarding future safeguarding arrangements. The final shape of arrangements across all 6 areas will be determined by how much agreement can be reached on integrating the safeguarding processes and how we can coordinate delivery around some specific safeguarding issues

The LSCB Business Managers across the 6 areas have a workplan for developing integrated tools and further integration of processes – performance datasets, QA frameworks, policies & procedures,

training, practice review arrangements, and CDOP arrangements are being considered, in light of new statutory guidance.

More information about the new safeguarding plan and regional collaboration can be found at section 5.

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.

The LSCB Business Manager's role is crucial to the work of the Board to ensure compliance with statutory requirements and drive delivery of the Board's Business Plan. The Business Manager provides a link between the Board, sub groups and other partnerships. The LSCB Chair also chairs the SAB and this further strengthens joint working and 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 significant number 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 staff to ensure that the sessions lead to improved outcomes and provide the Board with best value for money.

2.5 Summary of sub group progress

At the Executive group meeting held in January 2019, members agreed both the training and policies & procedures sub groups should be streamlined and joined with the learning & improvement group, in readiness for the proposed new structure.

At year end we had five 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

The LSCB Missing, Slavery, Exploitation and Trafficked Sub Group (MSET) also reports into the Strategic Exploitation Group.

The **Education Reference Group (ERG)**, continued during 2018-19. The group includes wide representation from primary and secondary schools, and from all parts of the borough, including our Jewish schools.

It is sometimes difficult for all members to attend every meeting, due to school commitments, however use of email ensures good communication and engagement between meetings and members remain committed.

Feedback has been positive, and several key issues such as domestic abuse, child exploitation, and training have been discussed. The group have also been involved in testing out the new regional safeguarding audit tool for schools.

The reference group provides a means whereby school concerns can be brought to the board, issues discussed within the Board can be brought to the attention of schools, and schools can increase the level and quality of their multi-agency working. A lot of work happens outside of the ERG meetings, including seeking feedback on multi-agency strategies and procedures; members of ERG are also included in any task & finish projects to ensure education input.

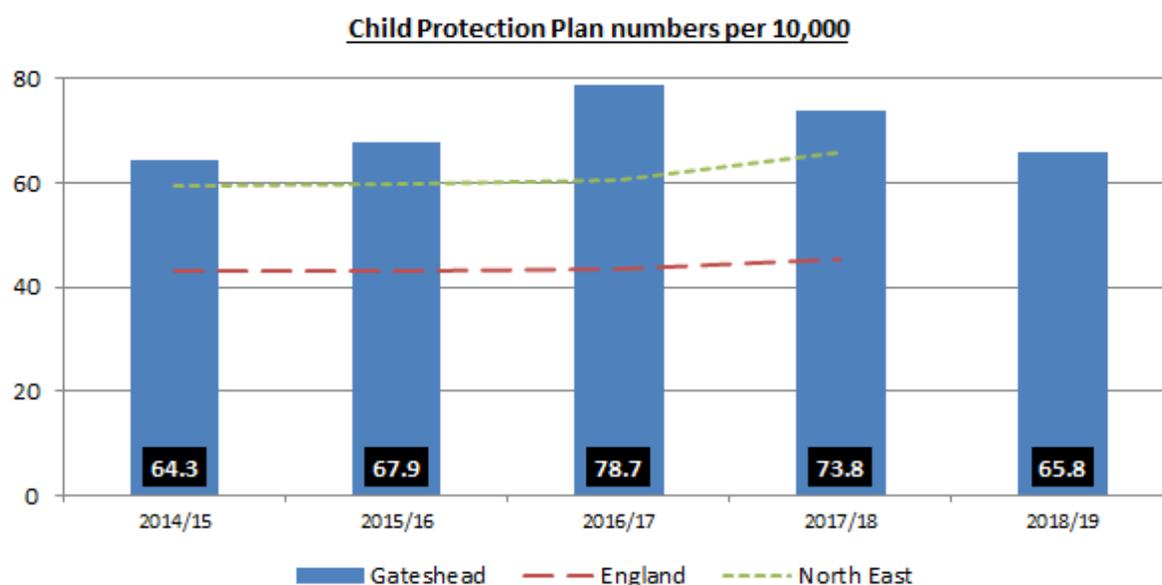
Some successful workshops have been held with schools, to help staff to understand thresholds to services, and the interface between Early Help and statutory services (including step-up and step-down). There is evidence of some excellent work amongst many senior leadership teams in schools.

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.

3. PERFORMANCE DATA AND INFORMATION

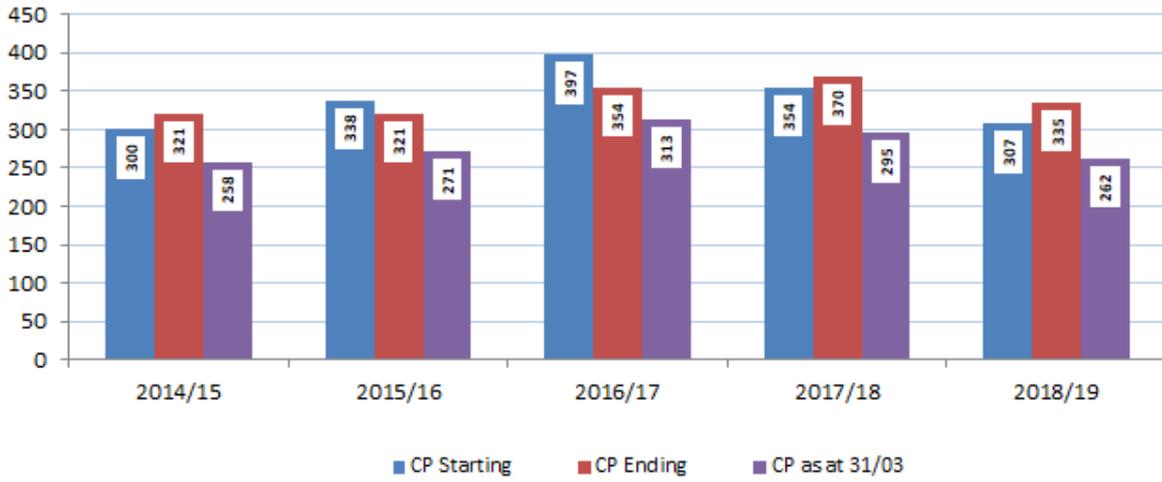
3.1 Performance Data

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.

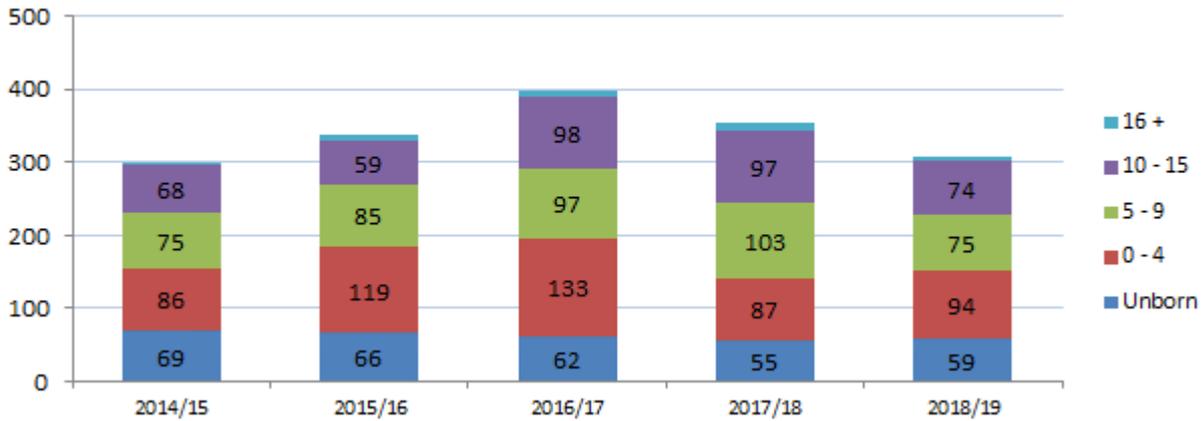


At year end there were **262** children from Gateshead subject to a Child Protection Plan, which is a rate of 65.8 per 10,000, which is higher than the England rate of 43.3 per 10,000 reported in 2016-2017. However, it is in line with the North East rate of 65.7 and a decrease of 8 per 10,000 on the previous year in Gateshead.

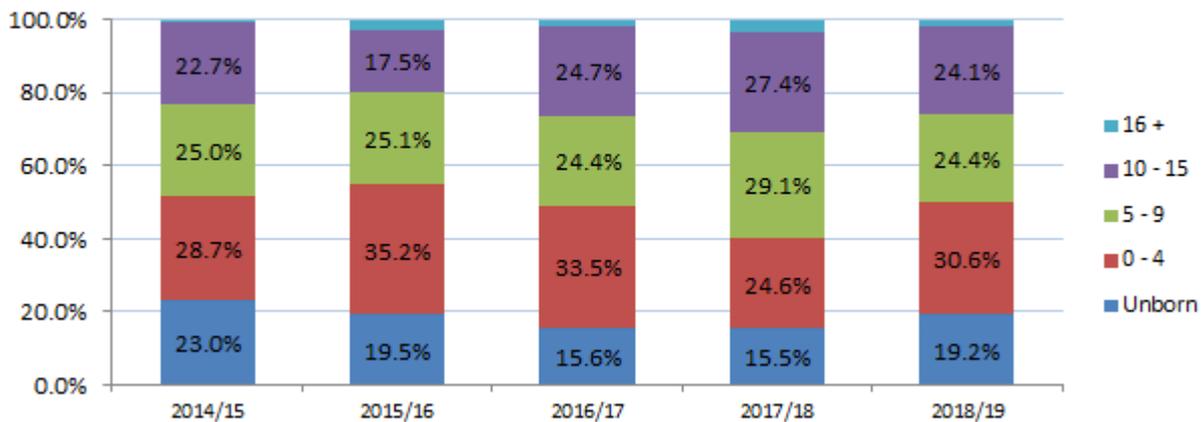
Child Protection Numbers



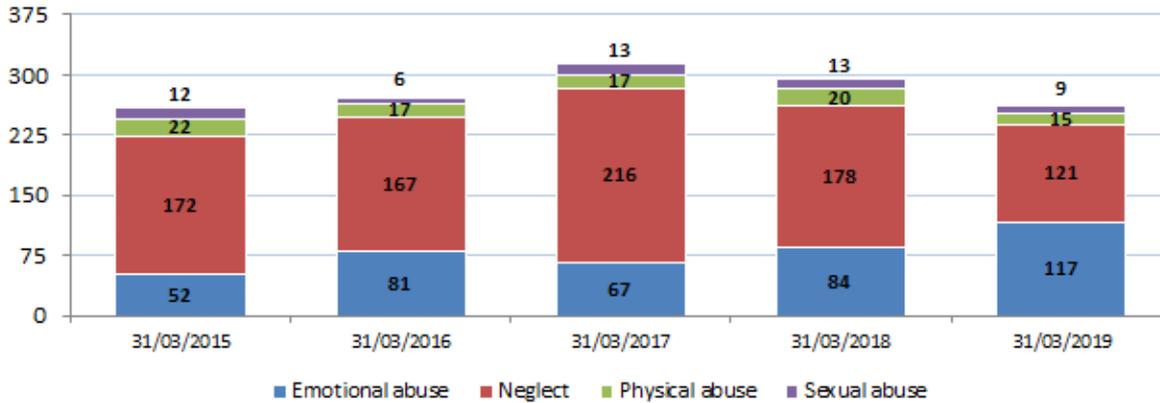
Age of Children when placed on a Child Protection Plan (Apr-Mar)



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

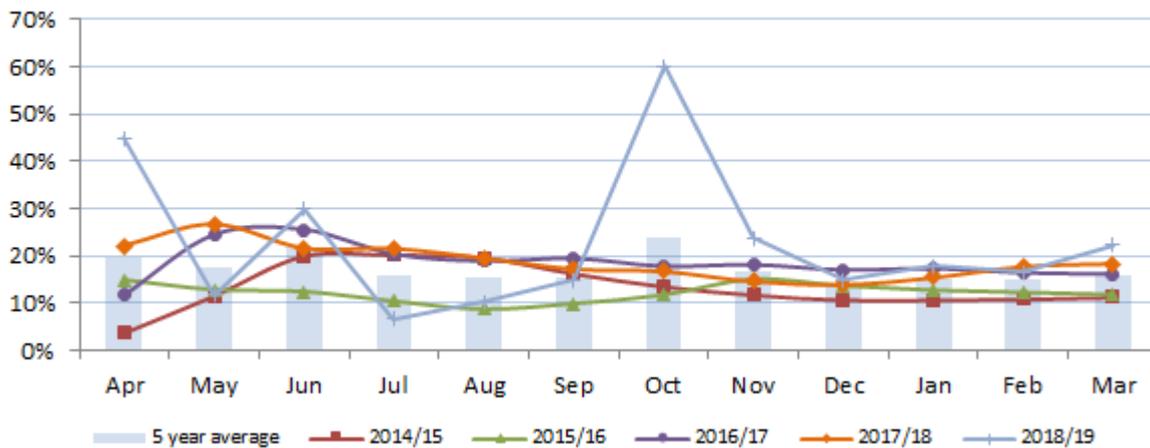


Child Protection Category at month end



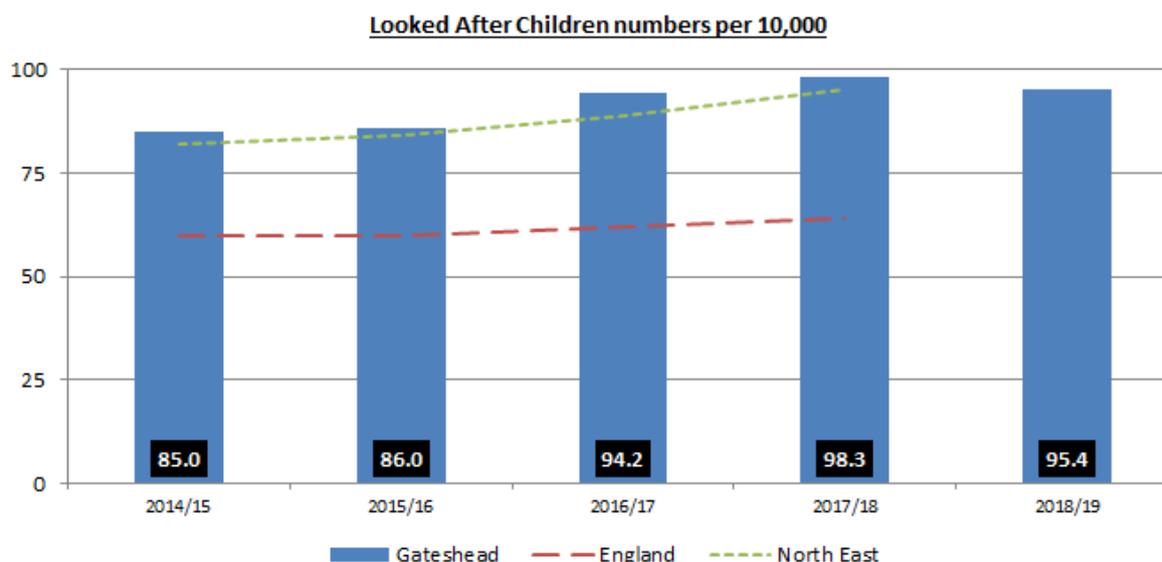
The category of neglect remains the highest at 46.2% of all plans; however, this is a significant drop from the figure reported at the end of March 2018, when the proportion of plans on neglect stood at 60.3%. Emotional abuse now accounts for 44.7% of plans, which is an increase on the 28.5% of plans listed under emotional abuse in March 2018.

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



There was a small increase noted in the numbers of children who became subject to a plan for a second or subsequent time (69 of 307 plans that started in 2018-2019 or 22.5%) and work is underway to understand this. October 2018 saw 15 out of 25 children being made subject to a plan for a second or subsequent time although this did include one family group of 4 siblings and 4 family groups of 2 siblings.

This reporting period also saw a small decrease in the number of children who are Looked After by Gateshead Council. At year end the rate showed a 3% decrease from the previous year end and the rate is still higher than the England rate of 64, but is in line with the North East rate of 95. 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.



Other data to note included:

- Child Concern Notifications and contacts to Children's Social Care decreased from previous years by 38%; the number of referrals also decreased by around 10.4%.
- A high number of assessments undertaken by Children's Social Care identified mental health (33.2%) and domestic abuse (34.2%) 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 2017-2018 (51.1%) whereas the socially unacceptable behaviour rate (14.4%) is higher (8.4%).
- There was a 4.6% decrease in Child In Need (CIN) Assessments being completed in 2018-2019 compared to 2017-2018, and there was also an increase in CIN assessments being authorised within timescales. The % of CIN assessments completed in timescales (89.4%) is higher than the latest reported national average (82.7%) and regional average (81.9%). There was a 4.2% decrease in Section 47 investigations but a similar percentage of these progressed to Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC). Of those cases going to ICPC, 83.7% went on to require a Child Protection Plan, which indicates multi-agency agreement on the way to progress these cases
- 96.5% of ICPCs were held within the 15 day timescale (well above the regional average of 82.9% and national average of 76.9%). 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
- In the 2018-19 period **54** children and young people have been supported to share their views for child protection conferences. This has been facilitated using Mind of My Own or paper-based tools. 32 were for initial CPC and 22 were for review CPCs.

3.2 Summary of thematic information

3.2.1 Missing children

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

In total, there were **917 episodes** in 2018-2019 where a young person from Gateshead was reported missing or absent to police. **610 (66.5%) of these episodes were children/young people looked after by Gateshead Council.** There were 841 missing/absent episodes in 2017-2018 (of which 493 or 58.6% related to Looked After Children) therefore this represents a **9% increase year on year** on the total episodes and an **23.7% increase in missing from care episodes.**

During 2018-2019 All children who went missing or absent on two or more occasions in a six month period or for a single episode lasting more than 24 hours were offered an Independent Return Home 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 **407** requests for a return interview in 2018-2019 (as the 917 missing episodes relate to a smaller number of individuals as a small cohort of young people were reported missing more than once). All children who met the criteria were offered a RHI, however not all chose to accept the offer. 218 interviews were carried out (54%), 176 young people refused (43%) and 13 interviews were no longer required or not appropriate (3%). This equates to 54% completion rate.

The procedure has been reviewed and updated and now all children who go missing will be offered a return home interview.

3.2.1 Child Exploitation

The MSET sub group of the LSCB also has oversight of cases where there are concerns about child exploitation. There were **46 cases** discussed at MSET due to concerns about them in 2018-2019, **8** of which were discussed on more than one occasion

This is a **42% decrease** from 2017-2018 when there were 79 cases discussed (20 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 sexual exploitation or criminal exploitation due to the overlap between the concerns, but an MSET risk assessment was carried out for each case that was discussed and disruption plans put in place.

It is thought that this decrease represents improved screening and assessment of risk, rather than decreased incidence of exploitation. Police Child Concern Notifications (CCNs) are now picked up as part of the Police Triage and Integrated Referral Team Process. The Police MASH officers advise of concerns regarding exploitation and missing, during triage, and invite the worker to consider MSET referrals and risk assessment. This has led to more appropriate referrals to MSET, focussing on high

risk cases. It has also meant that lower risk cases that do not meet criteria for MSET can be managed appropriately to manage risks and work done to disrupt exploitation and try to prevent concerns escalating. More detail on the work of the MSET is set out in Appendix 4.

The LSCB Business Manager has reviewed how child exploitation is recorded on the Social Care System and is continually working with the management information team to improve recording to ensure data is accurate and up-to-date. This review has also looked at the way risk assessments are recorded, how we can improve the quality of risk assessments and how they inform care planning. This work was carried out alongside the wider review of the whole social care system, and will inform the specification for the new system, which is currently going through procurement process.

3.2.2 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 2018-2019 the LSCB was notified of the deaths of 5 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 children 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.

3.2.3 Pupil Exclusions

The increasing numbers of pupils being excluded from schools; primary and secondary is a national issue. However, within Gateshead the rates of secondary exclusions would appear to be even greater than both regional and national averages over recent years.

This issue was identified by the LSCB and officers were asked to carry out research to identify why exclusions were increasing at such a rate and more importantly how this could be addressed. This work was led by Service Manager for Education Support Service and a report presented to LSCB in the spring 2017. The report identified a number of factors were likely to be driving up secondary exclusions. A key outcome was that a range of children's services, Early Help, health and school professionals would need to try to address the issue by working more closely together.

A conference in the summer of 2017 resulted in a number of actions being implemented, monitored and evaluated in relation to the reduction of secondary permanent exclusions across the borough.

The following academic year 2017/18 showed a significant decline of 32% in secondary permanent exclusions. The autumn and spring terms of the academic year 2018/19 has again shown a slight increase in secondary permanent exclusions but not to the extent of previous years.

Subsequently, a further conference 'Gateshead's Response to Timpson' is planned for the autumn term 2019 to build on the actions from 2017. The conference seeks to highlight good practice in the areas of leadership, building resilience and alternative provision.

The LSCB and The Council's Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee will continue to receive regular updates on exclusions.

4. SUMMARY OF LEARNING FROM INSPECTIONS AND REVIEWS

4.1 Inspections of partner agencies in 2018-2019

A number of Board partner agencies were inspected or had recent inspections published in 2018-2019:

Northumbria Police: PEEL (police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy) Assessment.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) visited Northumbria Police in January 2019 for a post inspection review, following the original inspection in January 2018. The inspection, part of a national programme of thematic inspections of all forces in England and Wales, sought to examine all aspects of response of all the organisation, including leadership, governance, partnerships, initial contact, investigations, decision making, management of those who pose a risk to children and the detention of children and young persons.

HMICFRS inspection found a clear commitment to protecting children and recognised examples of good work across the organisation, with good engagement with partner agencies across the six local authorities. This continues to be the case in 2019, showing the force's commitment to reviewing and improving its approach to child protection.

Gateshead Council – Ofsted inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS)

An Ofsted inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) across children's social care services took place in April 2019 which looked at early help, social work, commissioning of services and education. The LA was rated **Good**. Ofsted reported that children and families in Gateshead are benefiting from a good-quality service from skilled and passionate staff who care deeply about them, there are well-established and developed strategic partnerships which are supporting effective multi-agency working and Children's services have been effective in helping partners to understand the threshold to services – [link to full report](#)

Gateshead LSCB was not subject to a Joint Targeted Inspection in 2018-2019 by Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission (CQC), Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary (HMIC) and Her Majesty's Inspector of Prisons (HMIP).

Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group

NHS England has a statutory duty to undertake an annual assessment of CCGs. This is done under the auspices of the Improvement and Assessment Framework (IAF), with the overall assessment derived from CCGs' performance against the IAF indicators, including an assessment of CCG leadership and financial management. Newcastle Gateshead CCG received a rating of **Outstanding** for 2018/2019.

Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust

In 2018, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) conducted an inspection of Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust (NTW) services and once again rated them as **Outstanding**. NTW are one of only four Mental Health and Disability Trusts in the country to be rated as such, as at 1 April 2019. The CQC reported the leadership, governance structures and culture within the trust were used to effectively drive and improve the delivery of high quality person-centred care and the trust worked collaboratively with other organisations to ensure the highest provision of care for patients – [link to full report](#)

Schools

A number of our **schools** were inspected by Ofsted in 2018-2019 and, once again, no safeguarding concerns were identified. Overall 33% of our schools are outstanding, which is higher than the national average of 21.6%.

Of 70 primary, junior, infant and nursery schools (including primary special schools), 34% are outstanding, 60% are good and 6% require improvement. Of 10 secondary schools and academies 3 are outstanding, 3 are good, 2 require improvement and 1 is rated inadequate. 100% of Gateshead's maintained secondary schools are good. One re-brokered academy has not yet been inspected. 50% of the total number of special schools are outstanding and the others are good. The Pupil Referral Unit has recently academized and has not yet been inspected - [link to access Ofsted ratings and reports for all schools and colleges in Gateshead](#)

4.2 Learning from reviews in 2018-2019

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 SCR commenced during 2018-19 (initiated March 2018), but a decision was made, following advice from the police, to put the SCR on hold due to ongoing criminal proceedings. The National Panel and Ofsted were informed and agreed with our decision.

In 2018-2019, five Serious Incident Notifications were submitted to Ofsted/Department for Education. Two cases were subject to Rapid Review. None of these cases met the criteria for a SCR; however, it was agreed that further learning could be gained from carrying out a learning review for one of the cases, using systems methodology. The National Panel agreed with our recommendations.

Durham LSCB have carried out a SCR of a case that was previously open to Gateshead. The report has now been published – [link to report](#)

Despite the fact that no formal reviews were required in 2018-2019 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 7 children and young people where potential lessons were identified.

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 4.

Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group held 2 workshops in July and September 2018 to consider the recommendations and findings from the [Newcastle Joint Serious Case Review](#). A wide range of health agencies and services were invited across Newcastle and Gateshead as were key partners from the LSCB; the session was led by the Named GP for Newcastle and Clinical Director for Children, Young People and Families. An action plan was formulated from these sessions some of which included the use of an existing sexual exploitation risk assessment tool to be more widely introduced and utilized by GPs, North East Ambulance Service, Pharmacists and maternity services to include this

in their ante natal assessments. This work is progressing and the impact will be evaluated in the next reporting period.

Safeguarding Board Business Managers across the region have developed a regional learning resource – [link to regional learning resource](#)

5. NEW MULTI-AGENCY SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS - PLANS TO DATE AND GOING FORWARD

Local – it is anticipated that the key focus of the revised safeguarding arrangements will be based on a dual 'Back to Practice'/ 'Think Family' basis where there will be a stronger connection between strategic and operational safeguarding functions that better aligns with safeguarding practice within the Partnership, demonstrating compliance, overview and evidencing impact for children and families.

There is the potential to strengthen the current MSET arrangements both at a local and regional level with greater alignment with Operation Sanctuary.

In addition, further collaborative working will be progressed with the Adult Safeguarding Board and the Community Safety Board. The more we progress towards a joint collaborative model the more we can add more substance and evidence to the 'Think Family' approach. In addition, we will be evidencing maximising the use of partner's time, commitment and wider understanding of safeguarding across the life course.

It is important to consider the current and/or future arrangements within the organisations of the three statutory partners which may influence any local plans and /or arrangements.

[Link to Safeguarding Plan 2019-2020](#)

Regional – the Business Managers across the region have made considerable progress on securing robust integrated and collaborative arrangements. These have included:

Safeguarding Policies and Procedures – an agreed shared regional set of safeguarding policies and procedures. This will ensure greater levels of consistency across the region in terms of practice and provide some level of efficiency in relation to costs, maintenance and review.

Next Steps: Following the success of this piece of work the next steps are to explore the development of a regional joint multi-agency threshold / effective help document and referral form.

Performance dataset and score card – Led by the Sunderland LSCB Business Manager on behalf of the region a draft dataset and procedure has been developed and shared for consultation, it is anticipated this dataset and report will be introduced during 2019. This will provide more substantial opportunities for comparative analysis, trends, themes, gaps and strengths in provision from which a regional approach can be taken.

Next Steps: improve the quality of the narrative and analysis and explore what elements of the performance dataset could be undertaken regionally and within which areas. Develop the role and actions of the local quality assurance process to align with the potential of a regional thematic approach to areas of data / performance.

Learning from Serious Case reviews and learning reviews – successful regional collaboration has resulted in the production of a regional electronic learning resource based on the theme of vulnerabilities in babies. The resource allows access to all materials produced across the region on this theme. This is both a cost and time effective resource in terms of increasing the level of shared learning across all areas.

Next steps: Develop additional regional learning resources across both children and adults.

Section 11 Safeguarding Audit – a shared S11 audit tool has been agreed across the region. It is anticipated that this will take place at the same time in each area. This will be a great saving of time for those partners who work across the region. Having one audit tool will allow for both a local and regional comparison and analysis of findings. The regional themes can then support the development of future regional priorities.

Next steps: consider building the S11 audit into wider multi-agency audit process and develop a similar model for a regional Section 175 audit for schools and GPs.

Missing, Slavery, Exploitation and Trafficking – there has been an agreed regional approach to the running of MSET groups, incorporating adult exploitation. The areas of transitions and involvement of adult cases of concern needs to be strengthened in order to be a robust regional approach.

Next Steps: explore the possibility of developing one regional strategic MSET group. This group would have oversight of the trend, hotspots and data analysis across the region from which agreed collaborative actions could be implemented and monitored.

Local Safeguarding Practice Review Guidance - work is in progress on developing an agreed shared procedure. There is already a joint commissioning platform for securing independent chairs and authors where required.

Next steps: consideration to be given to a shared regional approach to the approval and learning from reviews. The regional resource is a good starting point that has the potential to be developed.

Domestic Abuse Prevention - mapping work has already been completed to explore the potential for a shared prevention regional strategy. Proposals for a joint public awareness campaign are expected September 2019.

Next Steps: explore the opportunities for the shared commissioning of domestic abuse programmes and sharing of resources.

Domestic Abuse is just one of the issues common across the region. Additional issues that could be tackled include neglect, early help and children in custody.

Multi-Agency Training – as safeguarding training is common to all Safeguarding Partnerships there is a real opportunity to take a regional approach. This could be a ‘hub and spoke’ model whereby one area co-ordinates the training offer with the potential for the other local areas, the spokes, delivering bespoke local training dependent upon local needs.

6. 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 most cases better. If we add this to the learning from our audits, from our consultations with young people, and from the performance data, we can feel optimistic of the safety of our children. This is a significant 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 outstanding, and that no schools in the area have been identified by Ofsted as having weaknesses relating to safeguarding. However, one school has been rated inadequate and some have been rated as requiring improvement during the course of this year. 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.

External inspections paint a positive picture of the quality of services operating across Gateshead. The Council's inspection of Children's Social Care was rated as "good" in April 2019. The most current inspection reports for the hospital trusts, the CCG, the mental health trust and the police have all been positive. 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.

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, obesity, and hospital admissions for injuries and for self-harm, all remain high.

The safeguarding data presents an improving picture. We had a reduction in the number of contacts and notifications, to bring us closer to the averages. The improvements that have been introduced to the front door have been bearing fruit – numbers of children on child protection plans have decreased, as have the numbers of children in care, though both these figures remain higher than the average. The timeliness of assessments and conferences remains high.

We remain concerned about the numbers of children with mental health issues, and the time it can take for them to access effective services. The rates of domestic abuse remain high within Gateshead, though there have been important improvements made to the services available. We know that nationally there is concern about increases in Child Criminal Exploitation – whilst we have not seen firm evidence of this within Gateshead as yet, we need to ramp up our preparation. The numbers of children reported missing has increased, though we believe this is more down to improvements in our recording practices.

At a time when all public agencies face great uncertainty and continued significant reductions in funding, it remains crucial that we keep a collective eye on the safety of our children. Partners in Gateshead remain committed to this.

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 LSCB business manager 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, child 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.

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.

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 workforce development team and business manager on behalf of the Board, and informed by LSCB priorities and learning from local, regional and national case reviews. 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, and areas of the Learning & Improvement Framework.

APPENDIX 2 – 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 2018-2019.

Income 2017-2018 (£)	
Gateshead Council	58,440
Newcastle Gateshead CCG	44,023
Northumbria Police	5,000
National Probation Service	932
Cafcass	550
Northumbria CRC	250
TOTAL	109,195

In 2018-2019:

- **£74,131** was spent by the LSCB in salaries and on-costs for the LSCB Business Manager and business support post.
- **£16,053** 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 Chair
- **£8,500** was spent on the multi-agency training programme
- **£6,191** was spent on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) conference – costs were shared with SAB and Public Health

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

Funding new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements

Safeguarding partners will be required to provide equitable and proportionate funding to the new Gateshead Safeguarding Partnership. The funding needs to be sufficient to cover all elements of the arrangements, including the cost of local child safeguarding practice reviews.

In order to support the transitional plans the budget for 2019-2020 will remain the same as previous year. Future funding will be reviewed in January 2020.

APPENDIX 3 – TRAINING REPORT

The 2018-2019 LSCB training programme saw the delivery of 39 training events with 918 professionals and volunteers attending classroom-based training. The table below provides a comparison.

	Number of learning events	Face-to-face attendees
2016-2017	59	1109
2017-2018	60	1166
2019-2019	39	918

The following sessions were delivered in the reporting period:

Title:Course	Number of sessions delivered	Number of People
ACEs Conference	1	200
Child Protection Awareness (LSCB)	7	150
Common Assessment Framework (LSCB)	1	22
Effective Child Protection Conferences and Core Groups (LSCB)	2	37
Female Genital Mutilation (LSCB)	1	19
Foetal Alcohol Syndrome (LSCB)	2	39
Introduction to Child and Adolescent Mental Health (iCAMH) (LSCB)	2	36
Neglect (LSCB)	3	64
Responding to Allegations of Abuse Against Professionals/Volunteers who work with Children (LSCB)	2	29
Safeguarding Babies from Abuse & Neglect (LSCB)	1	23
Safeguarding Children and Young People in the Digital Age (LSCB)	2	46
Safeguarding Children for Health and Social Care Professionals (LSCB)	3	59
Sandstories (LSCB)	2	37
The Challenges faced by Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (LSCB)	1	21
Trustees Safeguarding Training	2	20
Working with Disguised Compliance (LSCB)	1	23
Working with Hostile or Uncooperative Families (LSCB)	1	21
Young people at risk of sexual exploitation	1	21
Young People who Self Harm (LSCB)	4	51
	39	918

The total actual attendance at LSBC courses during 2018/19 was 86%, this represents an improvement in attendance from 80% in 2017/18 and 78% in 2016/17

This year has seen the phenomenally successful Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) conference with 200+ multi-agency partners benefitting from experts in the field of Adverse Childhood experience. Encouraging agencies to develop a universal and proportionate approach to identifying and responding to ACEs as part of understanding a person or family situation.

Trustee safeguarding workshops - Workforce Development across Newcastle and Gateshead arranged this training alongside the Newcastle and Gateshead Safeguarding Adult and Children's Boards and CVS. The sessions were for anyone who has a trustee role within a voluntary or community sector organisation. Two sessions were held, with good attendance and positive feedback; some have asked for additional workshops re writing policies, which we are exploring.

Training has been introduced on 'Young People at Risk of Sexual Exploitation'. This has raised awareness of how perpetrators target and groom young people to exploit them. This training has also provided information on how referrals can be made into the various services available to support the young people at risk of exploitation.

Responses from impact evaluation questionnaires highlighted the positive impact that the training had on learners' thinking and practice.

"This will influence my practice through understanding what ACE's our service users experienced as a child and how this can impact on decision making, relationship building etc in adult life." (ACEs Conference)

"I have learned so much from today, reflective working, diffusing or thinking about difficult situations and self-nurture" (Working with Hostile Families)

"I will be more mindful when working with children and young people that their behaviours may be the result of ACE's. Also it was good to learn that there can be recovery from them. (ACEs Conference)

"Better understanding of the challenges faced and their reluctance to trust and engage due to fear" (Challenges Faced by Asylum Seeking Children)

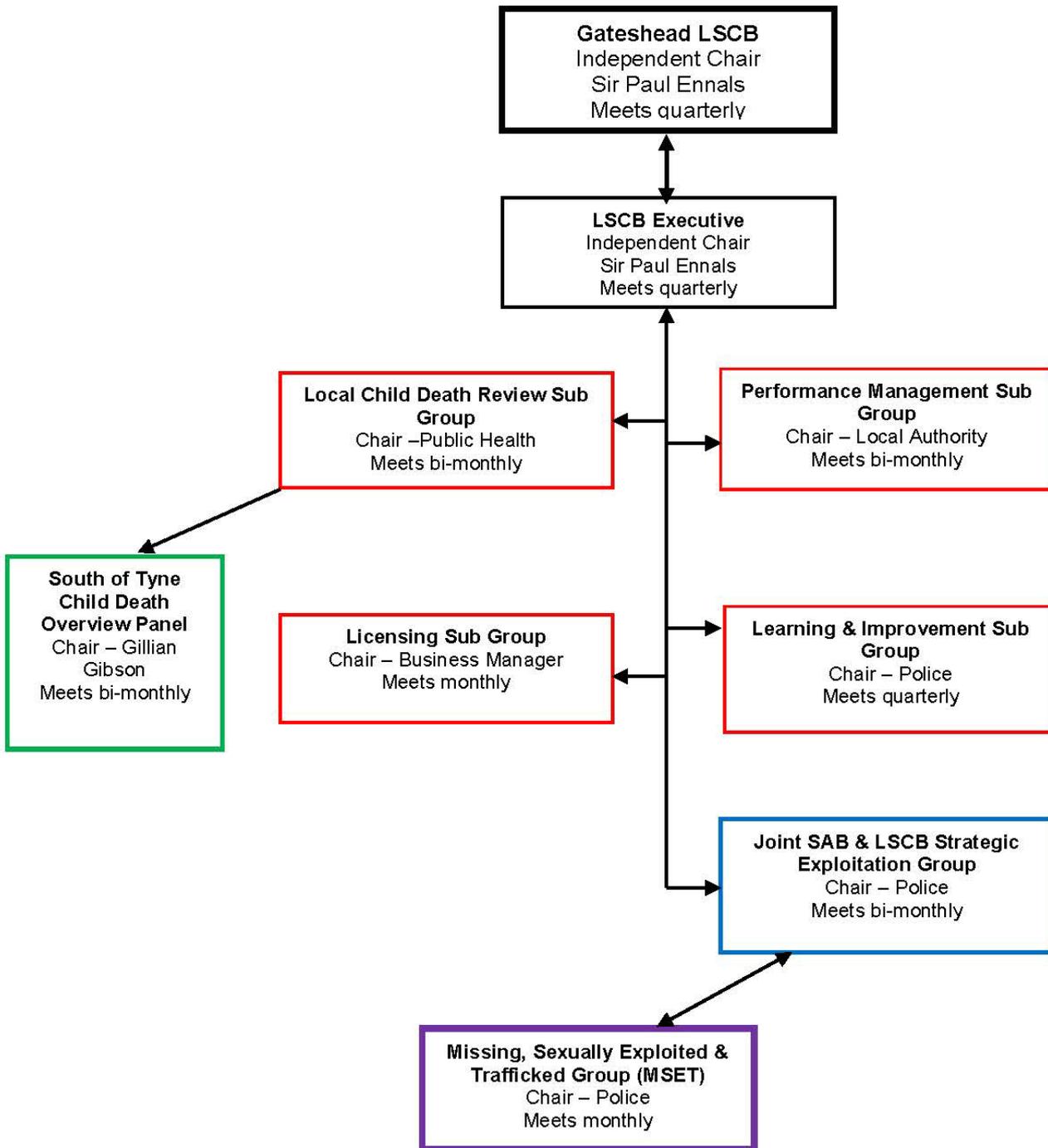
"This event was fantastic. The range of knowledge of the speakers was mind blowing and really got the point across." (ACEs Conference)

The LSCB Training Sub-Group worked throughout the year to develop and implement ad-hoc bespoke training courses. It was decided to disband this group from January 2019, with training and learning integrated within the remainder of the Sub-Groups to ensure the programme is receptive to and supports the LSCB priorities for 2019-2020.

Multi Agency trainers continue to deliver a number of LSCB courses sharing their knowledge and experience to support effective working together to safeguard children and young people.

APPENDIX 4 – SUB GROUP ACTIVITY

At 31 March 2019 Gateshead LSCB had five sub groups, one of which was shared with the Safeguarding Adults Board and operated the following structure.



All sub group chairs provide an update at each meeting of the LSCB Executive Group, reporting on progress and plans for the future.

Joint SAB & LSCB Strategic Exploitation Group (SEG)

The Strategic Exploitation Group is a sub-group of both the Safeguarding Adults Board and the Local Safeguarding Children's Board. The group is responsible for overseeing all work with respect to sexual exploitation, modern slavery, trafficking and female genital mutilation in Gateshead.

The **Missing, Slavery, Exploitation and Trafficking Group (MSET)** is a sub group of the SEG. In 2018-2019 there were **46** cases discussed at MSET, 8 of them more than once. 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.

Regional Review of MSET / Risk Management Group (RMG) – North & South of Tyne Strategic Safeguarding Forum asked for a review of current arrangements in each area, with a view to aligning the process across the region. A development session was held, with the aim to agree on the single name of this meeting, what a successful risk assessment toolkit should look like, the terms of reference in relation to who should be discussed and why, the escalation process, the governance and reporting mechanism to the safeguarding boards and the chairing arrangements. A regional framework was agreed, in principle, based on the model currently used South of Tyne.

The framework will be used by all LSCBs in the region to ensure a more consistent approach and improve referrals into Team Sanctuary.

The Gateshead embedded social worker attends MSET to ensure that there is early effective sharing of information and an efficient referral and allocation into the team and partners.

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. Disruption 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.

The LSCB Business Manager and Social Worker for Sanctuary South have visited schools and attended team meetings to provide training and support use of the screening tool. This included sessions to GPs and other health staff. A number of workshops and roadshows are planned for 2019-2020.

Work will also continue with regard to 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 child exploitation, modern slavery 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 child exploitation and missing and trafficked children.

Learning & Improvement Sub Group

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 7 cases over the last year (and continued the work from some reviews initiated in the previous year). Two cases were subject to Rapid Review, none of these cases met the criteria for a SCR; however, it was agreed that further learning could be gained from carrying out a learning review for one of the cases, using systems methodology.

The sub group considered a range of SCRs 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

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 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 46 applications in 2018-2019, an increase from 2017-2018 when there were 37 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 LSCB had cause to submit representations against 3 premises who had applied for review of their licence due to concerns regarding the sale of alcohol to children under 18.

A Responsible Authority Group was set up during 2018-2019 – [list of Responsible Authorities](#)

This group brings together all of the responsible authorities in Gateshead, in order to share information and consider applications against all four of the licensing objectives:

- the protection of children from harm.
- the prevention of crime and disorder.
- public safety.
- the prevention of public nuisance.

This group may supersede the Licensing Sub Group in 2019-20. This 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 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)

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 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.

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 5 children who were resident in Gateshead in 2018-2019. 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 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.

It has been agreed that Gateshead CDRG will be part of a wider piece of work in 2019-2020 as the CDOP South of Tyne links with CDOP North of Tyne to hold a regional event and explore current child death themes. There is also consideration being given to future arrangements and how learning is shared, both regionally and nationally.

The workload of the group is determined by regional and national events and the group will continue to respond as appropriate in 2019-2020. Changes to legislation and statutory guidance 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

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.

During 2018-19, work was carried out to refine and develop the set of performance indicators and produce a dashboard.

The LSCB continued to receive performance and data reports on the 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.

Regionally, the Business Managers and Local Authority Performance Leads for all areas have developed a proposal for a shared regional dataset, scorecard and reporting templates.

The dataset has been developed to support the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements (MASA) to have a clear, robust understanding of how children and young people are safeguarded across the individual areas but also on a wider regional footprint.

This regional approach will support analysis and comparison across the 6 areas and will facilitate sharing learning and undertaking work on a wider footprint where relevant and making it easier for agencies covering more than 1 area

The full dataset proposal will be shared with each LSCB/MASA by July 2019 for all Boards to agree the draft. Once it is agreed the next stage will be consultation with relevant partners including the police, health trusts, CCGs and any other relevant service. This will be done on a regional basis wherever possible.

Policy & Procedures Sub Group

The LSCB commissions Tri.X, an external provider, to host the online LSCB Inter-Agency Child Protection Procedures Manual as part of a sub-regional agreement with Sunderland and South Tyneside LSCBs.

In 2018-2019 the sub group was able to manage the online LSCB Inter-Agency Child Protection Procedures on behalf of the Board.

Task and finish groups were set up in order to review and update procedures including FGM and bruising in non-mobile children protocol.

LSCB Business Managers across 6 Northumbria Police area LSCBs have reviewed procedures as part of the regional work. New shared regional procedures will go live in September 2019.

APPENDIX 5 - VOICE OF THE CHILD

LSCB Event

Gateshead Youth Assembly, Gateshead Youth Council, One Voice Youth Network and the Local Safeguarding Children's Board worked together to deliver a priority setting event for young people and LSCB members. This event integrated members of the board with a range of children and young people. Discussions took place in round table discussion, themed around the Boards priorities and safety in the community.

Early Help – summary

From the Early Help table, there was some confusion about what 'early help' is as they didn't recognise the term. However once it was explained, all young people could give examples. Young people want to get help before it gets 'too bad' especially around emotional wellbeing. There was a bit of discussion about the use of social media to promote Early Help. The feeling was that most young people use Instagram, Snapchat and YouTube, but a specific advert wouldn't work because people tend to skip those. The young people also mentioned attending PSHE lessons or in assemblies. The PSHE would be better because there are set topics, so any information or key messages could fit in with those. Also, it was felt that teachers would be best at delivering the message rather than a council worker or, even better, an older young person would probably make the young people listen.

Mental health emotional wellbeing – summary

Young people said they have access to counselling facilities in school. They said there is usually a named person they can speak to in school, however they would like to have the option to choose someone they are comfortable with to speak to.

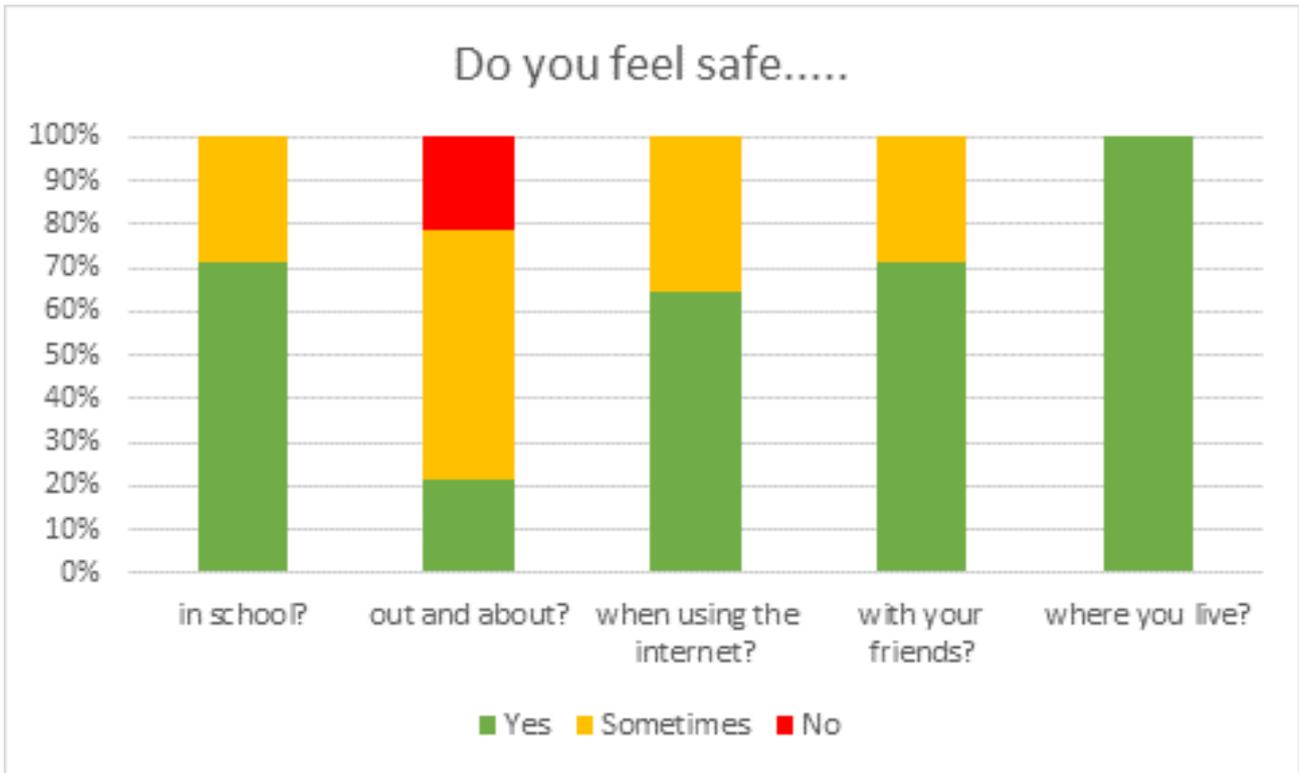
All young people could recall an assembly or presentation on the Kooth app/website. When asked how they would find out information, although some would search online, they said it is wrong to assume that young people always want web-based info, should use different ways to get information out. More needs to be done to encourage young males to talk about problems and services should remove stigma, perhaps sessions could be offered in private settings. No young people had heard of the 'single point of access'.

Safety in the Community – summary

The discussion on the 'safety in the community' table was mainly about anti-social behaviour and alcohol. There were certain areas that young people avoided (parks and metro stations in the main). We found the discussion about alcohol and how most 15 or 16 year olds get alcohol bought by their parents quite interesting, it seems some parents felt it would be safer for young people to drink indoors, rather than on the street. They also think it is easier to source cigarettes than alcohol ("everyone knows someone dodgy who can get them tabs").

We asked young people at the event to identify if they felt safe:

- In school
- Out and about
- When using the internet
- With their friends
- Where they live

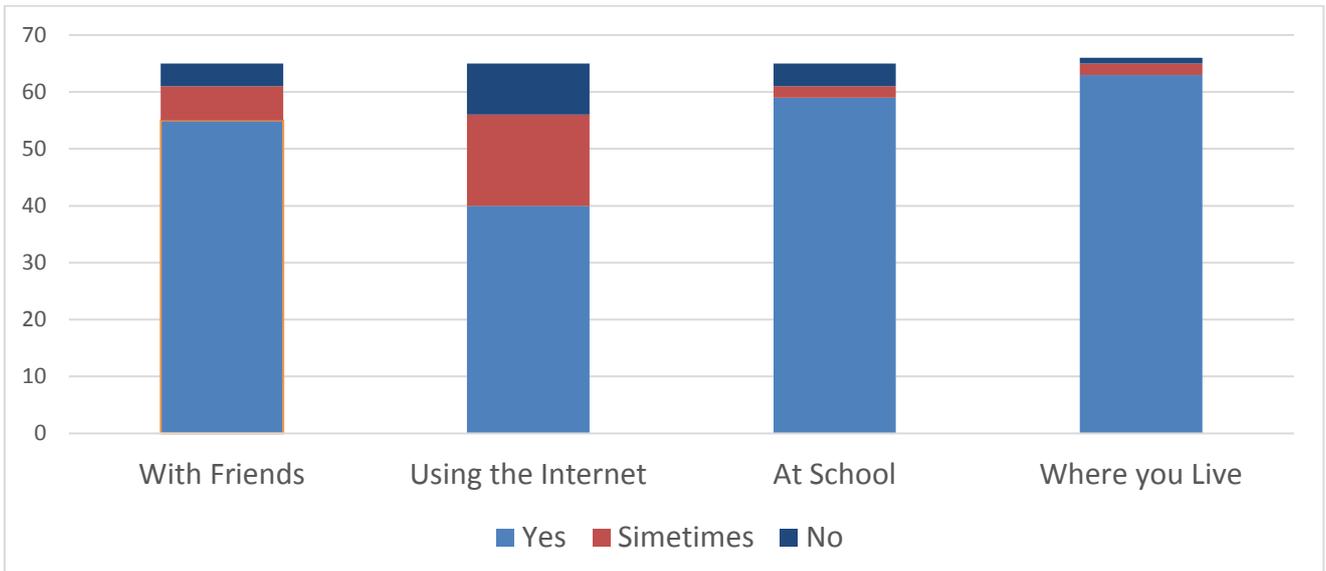


Further events will be held during 2019-2020 (as well as attendance at CYP events being held by partner agencies, where appropriate). Voice of the child is a priority in the new arrangements.

Fostering Fun Day

Gateshead foster families were invited to attend the annual fostering fun day. Various activities and workshops were available. Members of One Voice Youth Network (Gateshead’s Children in Care Council) planned and delivered a consultation activity for younger children, with support from the Children’s Rights Officer, and agreed to include a question about safety. **65** children took part and were asked their views about safety - See chart below.

[Do you feel safe...](#)



Internet Safety was the biggest concern for children at the event. Whilst many children were aware of how to keep themselves safe online, many children commented that they felt that the internet was dangerous. Some talked about not being allowed to use the internet as they might get into trouble. We are exploring further training for foster carers about safe internet use and will be refreshing guidance around internet safety.

Gateshead Youth Assembly (GYA)

GYA had another busy year in 2018/19. A copy of the GYA annual review is available via this link and the edited highlights (relating to safeguarding) are below:

- GYA continued to deliver a drop-in session for Refugee and Asylum seekers to engage with parents in order to engage with young people. GYA held a Christmas Party to over 200 people and distributed over 100 gifts to refugee and asylum seekers, with help from charity '[peace of mind](#)'. Families also went home with a big bag of culturally appropriate groceries to help over the school holidays.
- GYA are working with Gateshead Young Women's Outreach Project to develop signposting information for LGBTQ+ young people.
- GYA are delivering a range of courses around confidence and self esteem with the support of engagement officers.
- GYA wrote to CEOP to try and engage with them about the information given to young people in schools around online safety, they received a fairly bland email back not really answering their questions, so they are doing it themselves. GYA are working on a package for schools, probably in the form of a PowerPoint for assemblies – it is hoped that this will be developed and taken forward with help from the Education Reference Group (as this links to recommendations from the Durham SCR)
- One of GYA members is a St John Cadet trainer and is designing a session for young people around what to do if their friends are in danger through alcohol and drugs when they are out and about.
- GYA have worked with QE Gateshead on their 15 steps initiative, looking at the way things work for children and young people when they are admitted to hospital and how improvements can be made.

Action Plan

Thematic Priorities

Action	Lead Officer	Target Date	Comments	Outcome
Voice of the child				
Receive reports throughout the year regarding partner engagement with young people including case studies and examples of good practice.	Business Manager (all Board members to contribute)	ongoing	This will continue in 2019-2020	
Through new or existing arrangements seek the views of children on safeguarding issues and represent these to the LSCB.	Business Manager (all Board members to contribute)	March 2019	Views of children and young people sought and fed back via partner agency engagement and surveys.	
Host an engagement event with Board members and young people and seek the views of young people on LSCB priorities.	Business Manager	November 2018	Event held in January 2019. Further events will be held during 2019-2020 (as well as attendance at CYP events being held by partner agencies, where appropriate).	
Ensure that consideration is given to capturing the Voice of the Child when establishing the new arrangements in Gateshead	Independent Chair and Business Manager	March 2019	Voice of the child is overarching priority in the new arrangements.	
Communication & engagement with the frontline (including schools)				
Review and develop LSCB's communication & engagement Strategy	Business Manager	October 2018	Communication and engagement for the new safeguarding partnership to be developed in 2019-2020	

Action	Lead Officer	Target Date	Comments	Outcome
Review LSCB Communications to ensure the right information is being disseminated to the right people.	Business Manager	September 2018	Distribution lists have been reviewed and updated, meaning that information can be targeted to the right people. LSCB members are also proactive in ensuring information is shared within their own agencies.	
Develop and maintain LSCB website and information updates to ensure appropriate information is being disseminated correctly.	Business Manager	Ongoing	New website shared with SAB – child protection referrals are submitted online via the website. Information is kept updated.	
Raise awareness of the LSCB across the children's workforce and local communities.	Business Manager (all board members to contribute)	ongoing	As well as new website, we are able to communicate via social media. Active twitter account which is used daily. Excellent way to engage with other safeguarding partnerships and local community.	
Audit the LSCBs effectiveness in providing key safeguarding messages to frontline staff.	PQA Chair	March 2019	Communication with frontline staff has improved. Schools staff, social workers and early help workers have all reported they feel more involved and aware of the work of the LSCB.	
Early Help & Early Intervention				
Monitor the impact of the new Early Help Strategy and re-model of services and receive assurances on the impact on safeguarding children (including new domestic abuse service)	Service Director Early Help	March 2019	Early Help Strategy has been updated, with input from LSCB. Ofsted commented positively about the EH strategy and the EH service, and the impact on children and their families.	
Evaluate the effectiveness of different aspects of the child's journey into help and services, the quality of the decisions made by individual agencies and the quality of multi-agency processes.	PQA Chair & L&I Chair	March 2019	During the last year Early Help has developed a robust performance management framework and workbook, modelled on that of social care. It has also developed a comprehensive data dashboard which details performance.	

Action	Lead Officer	Target Date	Comments	Outcome
			Scrutiny for the performance and effectiveness of Early Help is provided through Early Help performance clinics, LSCB, Children's Services Portfolio meetings, Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Health and Wellbeing Board.	
Mental health & Emotional Wellbeing				
Receive assurances that mental health services commissioned for children in Gateshead are adequate in terms of safeguarding, including waiting times.	Executive Director, Patient Safety and Designated Nurse, CCG	Ongoing	Regular reports to LSCB – this continues to be priority for safeguarding partnership in 2019-2020	
Through good links with the Health & Wellbeing Board (HWBB), continue the LSCB oversight of CAMHS and the "whole system" approach to emotional Wellbeing, specifically with regard to emotional resilience for CYP.	Independent Chair & Business Manager	March 2019	Good links with HWBB, through membership and sharing of information. This will continue in 2019-2020.	
Child Sexual Exploitation & Missing Children				
The Strategic Sexual Exploitation Group and MSET group will raise awareness of and develop best practice guidance relating to Child Sexual Exploitation and Missing Children (regional collaboration)	Strategic SEG Chair & Business Manager	March 2019	MSET process and Exploitation Framework updated and now shared regionally. This will mean consistent approach to risk assessment and disruption across the region. AMSET established and being piloted, with progress and learning shared.	
The Strategic Sexual Exploitation Group will oversee multi-agency support for children and their families through MSET and Return Home Interview arrangements.	Strategic SEG Chair	March 2019	Missing protocol updated, all children who go missing will be offered RHI, regardless of how long they have been missing.	
Develop regional C/SE strategy (regional collaboration)	Business Manager (via BM Network)	March 2019	This is being included with the regional work that is ongoing.	

Action	Lead Officer	Target Date	Comments	Outcome
Ensure that missing children interviews are being undertaken in a timely manner and that information is being used to help disrupt and prevent further exploitation.	Strategic SEG Chair	Ongoing	RHI form reviewed and updated, to ensure push and pull factors are considered and allows for more narrative (including any previous missing episodes). Guidance notes for completion are now available. RHIs are now recorded on carefirst.	
Complete an audit of the effectiveness of multi-agency working in improving outcomes for children identified as at risk of CSE	PQA Chair	March 2019	This will be completed during 2019-2020 but will focus on child exploitation (including sexual and criminal).	

Strategic Priorities

Action	Lead Officer	Target Date	Comments	Outcome
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 2019	<p>Current safeguarding arrangements within Gateshead are robust and well respected. The new arrangements are designed to offer us the opportunity to work more effectively and with joint purpose to protect children and young people at both a local and regional level.</p> <p>Real progress has been made in strengthening regional collaboration across Northumbria, in 2018-19. During 2019-20, further work will be completed on integrating functions across the Northumbria footprint, and a wider structure review will be undertaken in the spring of 2020.</p>	

Action	Lead Officer	Target Date	Comments	Outcome
			It is envisaged that in September 2020 new arrangements will be introduced.	
Challenge				
Further strengthen joint working between boards (e.g. the SAB, HWB and CSB) in particular re those areas of work that cross over, such as domestic abuse, mental health and PREVENT	LSCB Independent Chair and Business Manager	March 2019	<p>The proposals for implementation in September 2019 represent a transitional process. Some streamlining is proposed to the current arrangements, with greater integration between the children and adult boards.</p> <p>During 2019-20 we will be progressing and developing our collaborative work with the Safeguarding Adults Board as well as across other key partnerships (including the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Community Safety Partnership). This is reflected in the new plan.</p>	
Receive assurances that services operate with a "think family" approach where there is adult mental health, substance / alcohol use and domestic abuse and this is impacting on children's safety	Executive Director, Patient Safety and Designated Nurse, CCG	March 2019	The commitment to maximising the 'think family' approach is reflected in the new safeguarding plan. Business Manager is a member of the Substance Misuse Strategy and Drug-related Deaths Oversight Group	
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 and Business Manager	Ongoing	A number of cases have been reviewed by L&I sub group, with procedures and training being updated, and lessons disseminated across agencies. There is SCR which is currently on hold due to criminal proceedings.	

Gateshead LSCB Annual Report 2018-2019

Action	Lead Officer	Target Date	Comments	Outcome
Implement and embed the findings of any Board or partner agency inspections and cascade the learning as appropriate	Relevant LSCB Executive members and Business Manager	Ongoing	Reports re inspections have been presented at LSCB, and learning/actions cascaded. This has resulted in some changes to processes, which LSCB has supported.	

Working together to keep children safe in Gateshead



Multi-agency safeguarding arrangements now published!

 [Read our NEW Safeguarding Children Partnership Plan \[422.57KB\]](#)

Background

Every Local Authority area has an independent Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). LSCBs are responsible for ensuring agencies work together to safeguard children and for ensuring how effectively this happens.

The Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) has fulfilled this role for Gateshead and has supported professionals, and all who work with children, to improve safeguarding practice and services by delivering training, auditing practice, developing and publishing safeguarding procedures, undertaking reviews into serious cases and publishing learning. However, LSCB's will soon be replaced.

Changes

[Children and Social Work Act 2017](#) replaces LSCBs with new local safeguarding arrangements led by the three named statutory safeguarding partners; local authorities, chief officers of police, and clinical commissioning groups (health).

The three safeguarding partners will assume the responsibilities for safeguarding arrangements that currently sit with LSCBs and will have a shared and equal duty for new safeguarding arrangements and for working together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Gateshead.

The Safeguarding partners in Gateshead are:

- **Gateshead Council**
- **Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group**
- **Northumbria Police**

[Working together to safeguard children](#) requires that as local safeguarding partners the Council, the Police and the CCG publish arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children – our new arrangements and plan are available on our website

www.gatesheadsafeguarding.org.uk

Transitional Arrangements

The [Gateshead Safeguarding children Partnership Plan](#) sets out the transitional arrangements for Gateshead from September 2019 and will come into effect for 12 months from September 2019.

During the course of 2019-20, further work will be completed on integrating functions across the Northumbria footprint, and a wider structure review will be undertaken in the spring of 2020.

Please email SairaPark@gateshead.gov.uk or telephone 0191 433 8010 if you have any queries

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GATESHEAD
**safeguarding
children**
partnership

Gateshead's Safeguarding Plan

2019-2020



Gateshead's Safeguarding Plan 2019

Summary:

Current safeguarding arrangements within Gateshead are robust and well respected. Outline plans for a more streamlined structure and system were agreed in principle by statutory partners during 2018-19, subject to final approval. Since then, real progress has been made in strengthening regional collaboration across Northumbria, with the support of DfE Early Adopter funding. This programme is exploring which key safeguarding functions can be more effectively undertaken across a wider footprint, and which functions need to retain a place-based focus at local authority level.

The proposals for implementation in September 2019 represent a transitional process. Some streamlining is proposed to the current arrangements, with greater integration between the children and adult boards; however, much of the current structure will be retained for at least 12 months.

During the course of 2019-20, further work will be completed on integrating functions across the Northumbria footprint, and a wider structure review will be undertaken in the spring of 2020. It is envisaged that in September 2020 new arrangements will be introduced.

We are committed to the aspirations and content set out in this plan and will engage widely to ensure its success. We are also committed to the need to respond flexibly and creatively to new challenges as they arise.

Our new arrangements are designed to offer us the chance to work more effectively and with joint purpose to protect children and young people and support those who most need our help into adulthood. We agree and state our intention to ensure these plans help us continue to promote and improve the safety, welfare and health of children and families in Gateshead.



Caroline O'Neill

Caroline O'Neill
Strategic Director
Care, Wellbeing and Learning
Gateshead Council



Scott Hall

Scott Hall
Detective Chief Superintendent
Safeguarding
Northumbria Police



Chris Piercy

Chris Piercy
Executive Director of Nursing
Patient Safety and Quality
Newcastle Gateshead CCG

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Introduction

The Children and Social Work Act (2017) set out provisions which replaces Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB) with new flexible working arrangements led by 3 safeguarding partners (local authorities, chief officers of police and clinical commissioning groups), and places a duty on those partners to make arrangements to work together with any relevant agencies for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children within the area.

Under the new legislation, the responsibility for Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) has also changed. Responsibility for SCRs will move to a National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (the Panel).

The Panel will commission and publish reviews of serious child safeguarding cases which it thinks raise issues that are complex or of national importance. Local safeguarding partners will still be required to complete local reviews where the partners believe there are lessons to be learned.

The Government published new guidance in 2018 that set out how local areas should work to replace Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB) with new partnership arrangements.

This plan sets out the transitional arrangements for Gateshead from September 2019.

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 requires that as local safeguarding partners we set out arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children including identifying and responding to their needs.

A safeguarding partner in relation to our local authority area is defined under the Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act, 2017) as:

- Gateshead Council
- Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group
- Northumbria Police

Our Safeguarding Plan sets out our intention to work together and with wider partners to safeguard and promote positive outcomes for children and young people.

Over the last two years safeguarding partners have been strengthening the levels of joint working across the Northumbria region via a Safeguarding Forum supported by Early Adopter Funding from the Department of Education. The region covers the 6 local authority areas of Northumberland, North Tyneside, Newcastle, Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland; 5 CCGs of Northumbria, North Tyneside, Newcastle & Gateshead, South Tyneside, and Sunderland; and 1 Police region.

In February 2019 members of the Forum agreed on a hybrid model as the preferred option for future safeguarding developments. This reflected a wider framework with a local focus but one that creates the opportunity to adopt a wider regional footprint in partnership with

other safeguarding partnership arrangements. Often described as more of an 'evolutionary' model rather than 'revolutionary'.

The plan is based on a proven track record of working in partnership to improve outcomes.

An Ofsted inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) across children's social care services took place in April/May which looked at early help, social work, commissioning of services and education. The LA was rated **Good**. Ofsted reported that children and families in Gateshead are benefiting from a good-quality service from skilled and passionate staff who care deeply about them, and there are well-established and developed strategic partnerships which are supporting effective multi-agency working.

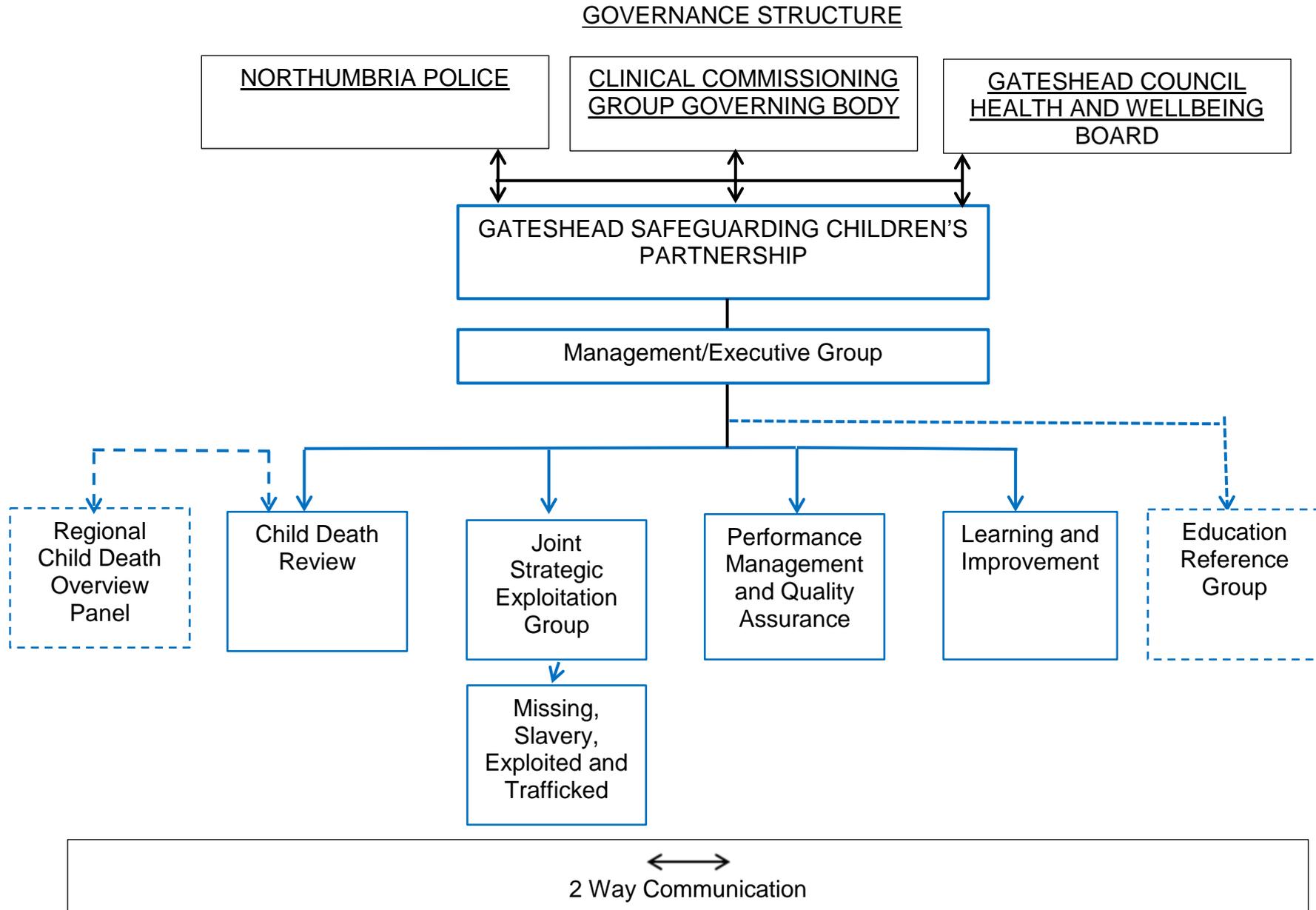
In the revisit to Northumbria Police in January 2019, HMICFRS identified that the Force is making sustainable improvements in child protection and safeguarding outcomes.

In 2018, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) conducted an inspection of Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust (NTW) services and once again rated them as **Outstanding**. NTW are one of only four Mental Health and Disability Trusts in the country to be rated as such, as at 1 April 2019. The CQC reported the leadership, governance structures and culture within the trust were used to effectively drive and improve the delivery of high quality person-centred care and the trust worked collaboratively with other organisations to ensure the highest provision of care for patients.

Queen Elizabeth Hospital (Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust) was rated **Good** in 2015; currently awaiting inspection report for 2019.

Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust (0-19 service) was rated **Good** in 2019.

Structure: The diagram below is illustrative of the potential structure going forward.



We are committed to maximising the ‘Think Family’ approach by progressing and developing our collaborative work with the Safeguarding Adults Board as well as across other key partnerships. These include those relevant Boards within the three of the statutory partners, the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Community Safety Board. We believe this will better reflect the wider safeguarding context. We are committed to the aspirations and content set out in this plan and will engage widely to ensure its success. We are also committed to the need to respond flexibly and creatively to new challenges as they arise. The new arrangements are designed to offer us the opportunity to work more effectively and with joint purpose to protect children and young people at both a local and regional level.

At the heart of our work is one simple concept: ***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***

Priorities going forward

The current priorities of the Safeguarding Board were agreed over a one year period 2018-19, having previously been over three years. Due to breadth of these priorities it is suggested to keep them the same for the next 12 months but to include the transitional arrangements with the actions for 2019-2020.

The current priorities that could be adapted are:

- Voice of the child
- Early Help & Early Intervention
- Mental health & Emotional Wellbeing
- Child Exploitation & Missing

Transitional Arrangements

The Gateshead Safeguarding children Partnership Plan will come into effect for 12 months from September 2019. The document sets out areas that will be a key part of the transitional arrangements and ones that will be subject to review and assessment of impact in Spring 2020.

Safeguarding Partners and Relevant Agencies

Leadership, Governance & Accountability

Strong leadership is critical for the Gateshead Multi-agency safeguarding arrangements to be effective in bringing together various organisations and agencies.

All three safeguarding partners have equal and joint responsibility for local safeguarding arrangements underpinned by equitable and proportionate funding.

Locally, the lead representatives have delegated their functions to the:

- Strategic Director (DCS) of Care, Wellbeing and Learning – Gateshead Council
- Director of Nursing and Quality Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group*

- Designated Chief Superintendent – Northumbria Police

These safeguarding partners have the responsibility and authority for ensuring full participation with the children and young people's multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, though the lead representative remains accountable for any actions or decisions taken on behalf of their agency.

****The CCG will continue to represent NEAS/ NHS England / NTW / GHFT and STFT as part of their formal role***

The lead representatives, or those they have delegated their authority to, are able to:

- Speak with authority for the safeguarding partner they represent
- Take decisions on behalf of their organisation or agency and commit them on policy, resourcing and practice matters
- Hold their own organisation or agency to account on how effectively they participate and implement the local arrangements

Membership of the Safeguarding Children Partnership

The core membership of the Partnership:

- Independent Chair (during transitional period)
- Gateshead Council Chief Executive or nominated deputy
- Chief Constable or nominated deputy
- CCG Chief Executive or nominated deputy
- (all deputies will be part of the senior management team in their organisation)
- Chair of the Safeguarding Adults Board
- Director of Public Health

Relevant Agencies

The strength of local partnership working is predicated on the safeguarding partners working collaboratively together with relevant agencies, whose involvement the safeguarding partners consider is required to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The Gateshead Safeguarding Children Partnership will engage local organisations and agencies to collaborate and provide targeted support to children and families. The local approach also enables joint identification of, and response to existing and emerging needs, and to agreeing priorities to improve outcomes for children and young people.

The Child Safeguarding Practice Review and Relevant Agency (England) Regulations 2018 sets out the list of relevant agencies that are required to work under the auspices of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

It is important to note that:

- although safeguarding partner organisations are not referred to in the regulations, their staff are subject to the Children's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA)

- that certain key agencies are not listed in the regulations, as their functions are commissioned or otherwise overseen by one or more of the safeguarding partners – for example, GPs, dentists and mental health service providers are already represented variously through the inclusion of CCG’s NHS England and Foundation Trust.
- the list of relevant agencies is intentionally focussed at a strategic, agency-based level – it is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all bodies and individuals which come into contact with children

There are relevant agencies in Gateshead who can actively contribute to helping and protecting children. The list of local agencies (appendix) may change overtime to reflect the journey of travel.

Other organisations and agencies not identified in the relevant agency regulations will be included in the local safeguarding arrangements. Examples of these include the Fire and Rescue Service, Gateshead Housing Company and the voluntary and faith sector.

Where a relevant agency has a national remit such as the British Transport Police and CAFCASS the safeguarding partners will collaborate and take account of that agency’s individual responsibilities and potential contributions towards a number of local safeguarding children arrangements.

It is envisaged that subgroups will include representation from the three statutory partners with the added value of the partners who are currently involved. During the transitional year each agency will have the opportunity to be included on the sub groups.

Early year’s settings, schools, colleges and other education providers

Early years providers play a crucial role in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, as defined by their duties under Section 40 of the Childcare Act 2006. There are robust arrangements in place at a strategic and operational level to engage with early years providers to ensure they are fulfilling their safeguarding responsibilities, for example through section 11 Safeguarding audits and statutory Ofsted Inspection reports.

Safeguarding partners also acknowledge the pivotal role that schools, colleges and other educational providers play in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, as detailed in the statutory guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018.

There are well established, collaborative relationships with schools and colleges, which are built on a variety of open and transparent partnership arrangements across Gateshead. These include the primary and secondary Head Teacher Forums. There is an Education Reference Group which we hope will continue to provide a key safeguarding reference point for the Partnership as well as having a standing agenda item for feeding back any relevant information to and from the Partnership Board.

Geographical Area

The boundaries for the Gateshead Safeguarding Children Partnership will be those of Gateshead Council. However, work will continue with the regional collaboration via the Business Managers network and the North and South Regional Safeguarding Forum as outlined on pages 14-16.

Strategic Partnership Arrangements in Gateshead

All three Strategic Partners will sign up to an updated Memorandum of Understanding that will help to clarify key issues and outline the process for escalation of concerns to other key Boards. This clarity and understanding will ensure that the partners are aligning their work and resources and supporting each other by delivering on a 'Think Family' approach to secure better outcomes.

The Partnership will deliver against an agreed work plan related to agreed strategic priorities and will report accordingly to the other aligned partnerships as well as their own, e.g. Health and Wellbeing Board, Community Safety Board, CCG Governing Body, Police and the regional Safeguarding Forum.

The long-term Independent scrutiny of the Gateshead Partnership is yet to be determined. It has been agreed to maintain the role of the Independent Chair for the 12 month transitional period.

The Safeguarding Partnership will be made up of:

Safeguarding Children Partnership Board – led by the three safeguarding partners and additional key multi-agency partners.

- Independent Chair
- Director of Children's Service or nominated deputy
- Chief Constable or nominated deputy
- CCG Chief Executive or nominated deputy
- (all deputies will be part of the senior management team in their organisation)
- Chair of the Safeguarding Adults Board
- Representation from Community Safety Board
- Director of Public Health
- (Community & Voluntary Sector)
- Education representation Nominated Headteacher / rep from Education Reference Group
- Gateshead Housing Company
- National Probation Service
- Community Rehabilitation Community
- Youth Justice Service

The purpose of the Board is to be the decision making body to oversee the agreed multi-agency plan to protect children and young people. The Board will review progress and assess strengths and areas for developments. This will include the oversight of the regional performance score card as well as other regional developments.

The Board will have a fixed core membership drawn from organisations across the safeguarding partnership in Gateshead, the list of relevant agencies as set out in Working Together 2018, and with the additional flexibility to co-opt other relevant professionals to discuss certain agenda items as and when appropriate.

Management / Executive Group – made up of representation of the three statutory partners and Chairs of the sub groups. The key aim of the group will be to keep the business of the Partnership on track and monitor the progress and impact measures against each priority. They will meet on a quarterly basis.

Sub Groups will include:

Learning and Improvement Group – focus on co-ordinating the outcome of any scrutiny and assurance activity, oversight and learning from Child Safeguarding Practice Review / Safeguarding Adult Reviews and to potentially contribute to the regional Learning and Improvement Framework

Learning and Improvement Group Cases that require a practice review will be referred on to the Learning and Improvement Group that will have responsibility for commissioning an Independent Reviewer. The Learning and Improvement Group will be responsible for maintaining oversight of the practice review and reporting progress to the Children’s Safeguarding Partnership.

Other cases that are not notifiable incidents but present opportunities for learning will be referred directly to the Learning and Improvement Group for them to consider whether a single agency review or local learning review would be appropriate.

A copy of all published reports will be sent to the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and the What Works Centre for Children’s Social Care within seven days of being published.

The purpose of the Learning and Improvement Group is to promote a culture of continuous multi-agency learning and improvement through coordination of the review of serious cases and the development and communication of training, guidance, resources and tools. The group will ensure a process exists for evaluating the effectiveness and impact of the findings and recommendations from practice reviews, performance management activity and multi-agency learning, including any areas for development from single and multi-agency inspections by regulatory bodies.

The commissioning and delivery of interagency training and learning events will be overseen by the Learning & Improvement Group and will be informed from a variety of sources. These will include, learning from local and national serious safeguarding practice reviews; other local quality assurance functions such as multi-agency case audits; and changes in national guidance or legislation.

The content of all courses will be evaluated to measure the extent of acquired learning. The Learning and Improvement Group will dip sample and audit single and multi-agency training in order to assure that the content is valid, up to date and delivered by persons with appropriate knowledge and skills – this will be achieved using task & finish group.

Joint Strategic Exploitation Group (JSEG) – The Joint Strategic Exploitation Sub Group is a sub group of both the Gateshead Safeguarding Children Partnership (GSCP) and Gateshead Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB).

The remit of the group is to lead on the development of strategic work in relation to exploitation, including Child Sexual Exploitation and Adult Sexual Exploitation, modern slavery, trafficking, and criminal exploitation.

The group will contribute to the safeguarding of children, young people and adults vulnerable to exploitation and improve outcomes by:

- Considering the implications of new policy, legislation, research and guidance.
- Exploring best practice on a regional basis and, where possible, aligning procedures
- Developing practice guidance for responding to incidents
- Developing a preventative approach
- Developing learning and improvement opportunities
- Establishing the current provision of support for victims

The group will have oversight of the Missing, Slavery, Exploitation and Trafficked Group (MSET) and the Adult Missing, Sexually Exploited and Trafficked Group (AMSET).

The group will develop and maintain links with other relevant partnerships.

Missing, Slavery, Exploited and Trafficked (MSET) – the local group will continue but strengthen the link with adults at risk of exploitation in order to give the same level of scrutiny to adult cases. This in turn will help to develop a local exploitation profile that can be fed into the regional work around exploitation.

Performance Management & Quality Assurance Group – this sub group is the key to keeping the partnership focused on safeguarding issues of a local, regional and national interest. It will lead on the multi-agency audits, quality assurance of all partners, scrutiny of external inspection reports, and input from children and young people. In addition, it will also assess the effectiveness of the help (including early help) being provided to children and families.

The PMQA will report up to the Children’s Safeguarding Partnership on what is working well and what is not so that there is a clear line of sight on the quality and effectiveness of practice.

PMQA is to be attended by Senior Managers (or Assistant Directors) across the statutory safeguarding partners, and relevant agencies and chair/ deputy chair across various partnership forums.

There are two main functions of PMQA;

- 1) to seek assurances from agencies operating in Gateshead that they are safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and
- 2) to act as a critical friend to agencies working with children.

To achieve this the PMQA will oversee a multi-agency key performance indicator set, single & multi-agencies audits and will work with Youth Council, Children in Care Council and other youth groups to ensure children are part of the quality assurance processes.

All groups will meet on a quarterly basis and the current effective arrangements for the distribution of papers etc. remain.

Rapid Review Group – A local Rapid Review Group will be established to receive and consider whether notifiable incidents meet the criteria for a local or national child safeguarding practice review. The aim of this rapid review is to enable safeguarding partners to:

- gather the facts about the case, as far as they can be readily established at the time. discuss whether there is any immediate action needed to ensure children’s safety and share any learning appropriately
- consider the potential for identifying improvements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- decide what steps Gateshead Safeguarding Children Partnership should take next, including whether or not to undertake a child safeguarding practice review.

The Rapid Review Process (see Appendix x) shows how cases should be referred to the Rapid Review Group and how that group will respond within 15 working days of becoming aware of the incident. All recommendations will be shared with the Panel, Department for Education and OFSTED.

During the transition process, the Independent Chair will be the decision point regarding child safeguarding practice reviews and any recommendations for serious case reviews.

Plans to Date and Going Forward

Local – it is anticipated that the key focus of the revised safeguarding arrangements will be based on a dual ‘Back to Practice’/ ‘Think Family’ basis where there will be a stronger connection between strategic and operational safeguarding functions that better aligns with safeguarding practice within the Partnership, demonstrating compliance, overview and evidencing impact for children and families.

There is the potential to strengthen the current MSET arrangements both at a local and regional level with greater alignment with Operation Sanctuary.

In addition, further collaborative working will be progressed with the Adult Safeguarding Board and the Community Safety Board. The more we progress towards a joint collaborative model the more we can add more substance and evidence to the ‘Think Family’ approach. In addition, we will be evidencing maximising the use of partner’s time, commitment and wider understanding of safeguarding across the life course.

It is important to consider the current and/or future arrangements within the organisations of the three statutory partners which may influence any local plans and /or arrangements.

Regional – the Business Managers across the region have made considerable progress on securing robust integrated and collaborative arrangements. These have included:

Safeguarding Policies and Procedures – agreed shared regional set of safeguarding policies and procedures. This will ensure greater levels of consistency across the region in terms of practice and provide some level of efficiency in relation to costs, maintenance and review.

Next Steps: Following the success of this piece of work the next steps are to explore the development of a regional joint multi-agency threshold / effective help document and referral form.

Performance dataset and score card – this has been agreed and will be introduced during 2019. This will provide more substance opportunities for comparative analysis, trends, themes, gaps and strengths in provision from which a regional approach can be taken to address.

Next Steps: improve the quality of the narrative and analysis and explore what elements of the performance dataset could be undertaken regionally and within what areas. Develop the role and actions of the local quality assurance process to align with the potential of a regional thematic approach to areas of data / performance.

Learning from Serious Case reviews and learning reviews – successful regional collaboration has resulted in the production of a regional electronic learning resource based on the theme of vulnerabilities in babies. The resource allows access to all materials produced across the region on this theme. This is both a cost and time effective resource in terms of increasing the level of shared learning across all areas.

Next steps: Develop additional regional learning resources across both children and adults.

Section 11 Safeguarding Audit – a shared S11 audit tool has been agreed across the region. It is anticipated that this will take place at the same time in each area. This will be a great saving of time for those partners who work across the region. Having one audit tool will allow for both a local and regional comparison and analysis of findings. The regional themes can then support the development of future regional priorities.

Next steps: consider building in the S11 audit into wider multi-agency audit process and develop a similar model for a regional Section 175 audit for schools and GPs.

Missing, Slavery, Exploitation and Trafficked – there has been an agreed regional approach to the running of MSET groups, incorporating adult sexual exploitation. The areas of transitions and involvement of adult cases of concern needs to be strengthened in order to be a robust regional approach.

Next Steps: explore the possibility of developing one regional strategic MSET group. This group would have oversight on the trend, hotspots and data analysis across the region from which agreed collaborative actions could be implemented and monitored.

Local Safeguarding Practice Review Guidance - work in progress on developing an agreed shared procedure (flow chart at appendix 1 being used to help develop regional framework). There is

already a joint commissioning platform for securing independent chairs and authors where required.

Next steps: consideration to be given to a shared regional approach to the approval and learning from reviews. The regional resource is a good starting point that has the potential to be developed.

Domestic Abuse Prevention - mapping work has already been completed to explore the potential for a shared prevention regional strategy. Proposals for a joint public awareness campaign expected June 2019.

Next Steps: explore the opportunities for the shared commissioning of domestic abuse programmes and sharing of resources.

Domestic Abuse is just one of the issues common across the region. Additional issues that could be tackled include neglect, early help and children in custody.

Multi-Agency Training – as safeguarding training is common to all Safeguarding Partnerships there is a real opportunity to take a regional approach. This could be a ‘hub and spoke’ model whereby one area co-ordinates the training offer with the potential for the other local areas, the spokes, delivering bespoke local training dependent upon local needs.

An option paper has gone to the Forum but no discussion / decision has taken place as yet.

National and Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews - The Learning and Improvement sub group will have responsibility for the local process for identifying and making decisions on whether to undertake reviews, how lessons are learnt and embedded in the online safeguarding policies and procedures. The sub group will manage the arrangements for commissioning and publishing national and local child safeguarding practice reviews. During the transition process, the Independent Chair will be the decision point regarding child safeguarding practice reviews and any recommendations for SCR.

The National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (the Panel) is responsible for identifying and overseeing the review of serious child safeguarding cases which, in its view, raise issues that are complex or of national importance. The Panel will also maintain oversight of the system of national and local reviews and how effectively it is operating.

Scrutiny and Assurance

The new safeguarding arrangements will continue to reflect the current commitment and healthy culture of challenge and scrutiny already evident within the current local safeguarding arrangements. The current Board has evolved into an environment that is conducive to robust scrutiny and constructive challenge.

Locally, there is a culture of challenge and holding partners to account. There are embedded systems and processes for professional challenge and there is evidence of scrutiny and assurance arrangements in place at all levels across our safeguarding partner organisations.

There is an ongoing drive and commitment to ensure continuous improvement leading to better outcomes and experiences for our children, young people and families. The North East-Northumbria early adopter status has provided opportunities to further test and develop innovative approaches to scrutiny and assurance. These are outlined on pages 5-6.

Independent Scrutiny

The independent scrutiny function as set out in Working Together 2018, which will provide the critical challenge and appraisal of Gateshead's safeguarding partnership arrangements in relation to children and young people. The three safeguarding partners are responsible for determining local arrangements including involving other agencies. The role of independent scrutiny will form part of these arrangements and do the following:

- Provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of services to protect children and young people
- Assist when there is disagreement between the leaders responsible for protecting children in the agencies involved in multi-agency arrangements
- Support a culture and environment conducive to robust scrutiny and constructive challenge

The three key partners will develop a range of key questions in terms of the scrutiny function.

Whilst the decision on how best to implement a robust system of independent scrutiny is to be made locally, safeguarding partners should ensure that the scrutiny is objective, acts as a constructive critical friend and promotes reflection to drive continuous improvement.

Funding Arrangements

Safeguarding partners will be required to provide equitable and proportionate funding to the Gateshead Safeguarding Partnership. The funding needs to be sufficient to cover all elements of the arrangements, including the cost of local child safeguarding practice reviews.

In order to support the transitional plans the budget for 2019-2020 will remain the same as previous year. Future funding will be reviewed in January 2020.

Business Support – The Safeguarding Partners will provide joint funding for business support to the Partnership to ensure its effective functioning, including training.

The Local Authority will provide legal and communications advice to the Safeguarding Partners and the Partnership, however, individual organisations reserve the right to seek advice provided by their organisation.

Voice and Engagement

The ambition within the new safeguarding arrangements is to continue to engage with the ‘experts by experience’, all those children and young people who experience services, particularly the harder to engage. This remains one of our priorities.

Partners remain committed to continue and improve engaging with children, young people and families at an individual, service and strategic level. We will make use of the various systems, groups and forums in place to gather the views of children, young people and families.

We will work with established groups and forums to encourage children and young people to have their say, share their views and experiences, challenge and support local decision makers and shape and influence strategic planning, commissioning and service provision. Emerging issues, themes, and outcomes of engagement will be shared with the Safeguarding Partnership.

Multi-Agency Thresholds

The multi-agency threshold guidance outlines Gateshead’s processes involved in decision-making when determining the level of support a child and family may require.

This document has the potential to evolve as part of the transitional arrangements in terms of the way partners work collectively to support families.

Annual Report and Review

In order to bring transparency for children, families and all practitioners about the activity undertaken, the Safeguarding Partnership will publish an annual report. The report will include what the Partnership has done as a result of the new arrangements, including child safeguarding practice reviews, and how effective these arrangements have been in practice. The report will also include:

- Evidence of the impact of the work undertaken by the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies, including training, and an analysis of the difference it has made for children and families from early help to looked after children and care leavers
- An analysis of any areas where there has been little or no evidence of progress on agreed priorities
- A record of decisions and actions taken by the partners in the report’s period (or planned to be taken) to implement the recommendations of any local and national safeguarding practice reviews, including any resulting improvements
- Ways in which the partners have sought and utilised feedback from children and families to inform their work and influence service provision

The report will be submitted to the relevant agencies and Boards for additional scrutiny and will be available on the Safeguarding Partnership website

Dispute Resolution

All agencies working with children and young people in Gateshead remain subject to the pan regional Safeguarding Procedures and its Escalation Policy – *‘Resolution of professional disagreements between workers relating to the safety of children’*.

The Safeguarding Partnership all relevant agencies will be expected to adhere to the policy.

Where necessary, the statutory safeguarding partners may escalate to the Leader of the Council, the Chair of the CCG and the Chief Constable of GM Police. The Independent Chair should escalate to the relevant Secretary of State only as a final resort.

Whistleblowing Procedures provide an additional important route for staff to raise concerns in a safe process that protects their position, if this is a concern. The Children’s Safeguarding Partnership will each adhere to their own whistleblowing procedures.

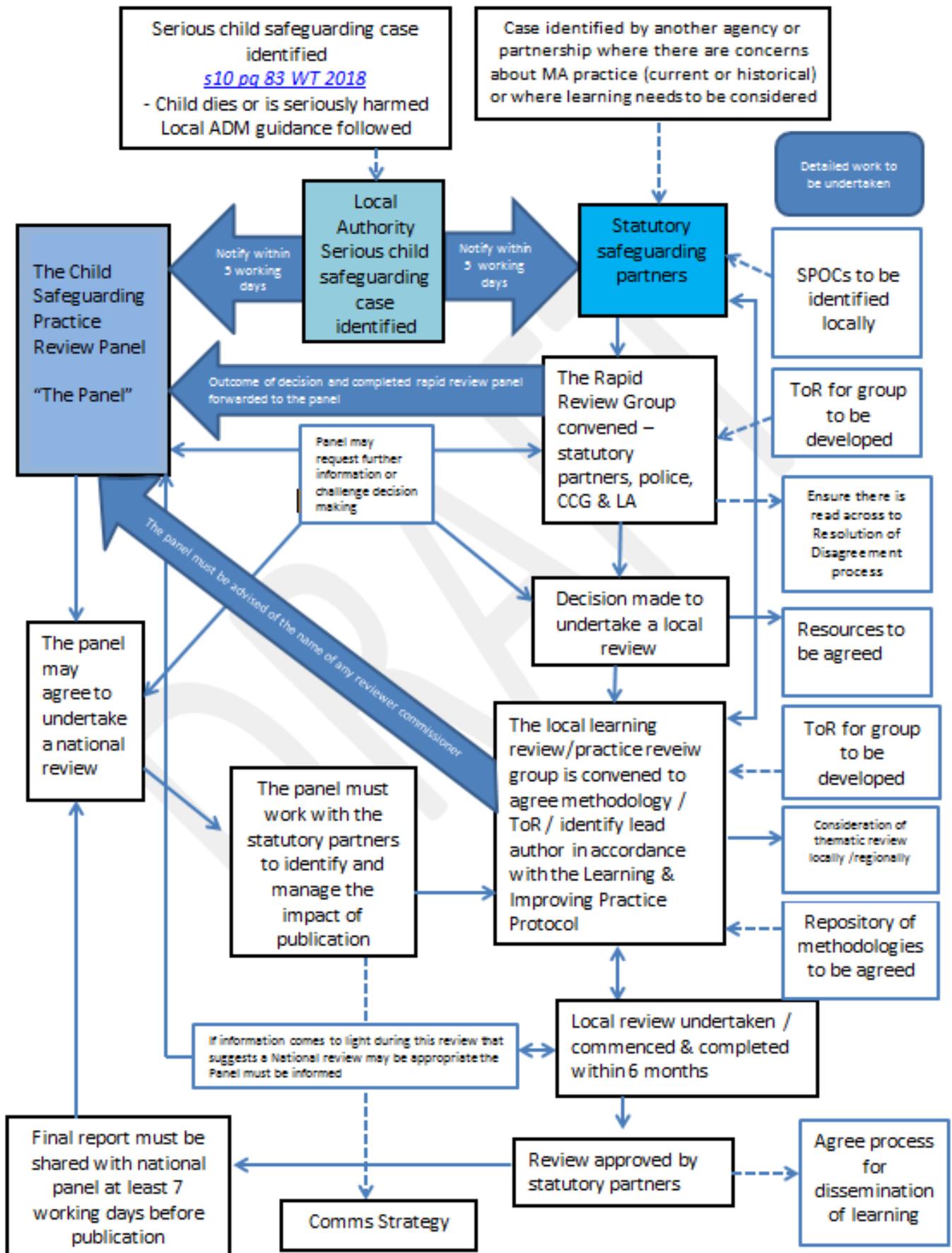
Information Sharing

The Partnership members shall keep confidential any information obtained because of inter-agency co-operation unless disclosure of the information is necessary to discharge the functions of the Safeguarding Partners as set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) and the local safeguarding arrangements.

Safeguarding partners may require any person, organisation or agency to provide them, any relevant agency, reviewer or another person or organisation or agency, with specified information. This must be information which enables and assists the Safeguarding Partners to perform their functions to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Gateshead, including local and national child safeguarding practice reviews.

The person or organisation to whom a request is made must comply with such a request and if they do not do so, the Safeguarding Partners may take legal action against them. As public authorities, Safeguarding Partners must be aware of their own responsibilities under the relevant information law and have regard to guidance provided by the Information Commissioner’s Office when issuing and responding to requests for information.

Appendix 1: Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews



Appendix 2: Serious Incident Notifications and the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Rapid Review Process

1. SERIOUS INCIDENT NOTIFICATIONS¹

Where Gateshead Council knows or suspects that a child has been abused or neglected they must notify the national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (the Panel) if –

- (a) the child dies or is seriously harmed in the local authority's area, or
- (b) while normally resident in the local authority's area, the child dies or is seriously harmed outside England

Serious harm includes (but is not limited to) serious and/or long-term impairment of a child's mental health or intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development. It also includes impairment of physical health.

Gateshead Council will notify any event that meets the above criteria to the Panel and the Safeguarding Partners **within five working days** of becoming aware that the incident has occurred and will also notify the Secretary of State and Ofsted where a looked after child has died, whether abuse or not neglect is known or suspected.

Others who have functions relating to children should inform the Safeguarding Partners of any incident which they think should be considered for a child safeguarding practice review. Contact details and notification forms to notify incidents to the Panel are available from <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/report-a-serious-child-safeguarding-incident>

2. REFERRAL

Agencies should inform the Chairperson of the Gateshead Safeguarding Children Partnership, Learning & Improvement Group, of any serious incident which they think should be considered for either a national or local Child Safeguarding Practice Review, using the *Referral Form*.

3. RAPID REVIEW

When notified about an incident the Safeguarding Partners will ensure that a Rapid Review of the case is promptly undertaken.

The Rapid Review will be completed within 15 working days of notification.

4. INITIAL SCOPING, INFORMATION SHARING AND THE SECURING OF RECORDS

All relevant agencies who have (or had) involvement with the subject child or family will be required to contribute to a Rapid Review. An initial scoping of agencies' intervention will, therefore, need to be completed and other relevant information rapidly gathered using the *Initial Scoping and Information Sharing* form.

¹ 16C (1) of the Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017)

The purpose of the initial scoping and information sharing is to gather the basic facts about the case, including determining the extent of agency involvement with the child and family. More detailed information will be sought if the Rapid Review concludes the case has the potential to identify national or local learning and a decision is made to recommend a national Child Safeguarding Practice Review, a local Safeguarding Practice Review or an alternative learning review.

The *Initial Scoping and Information Sharing* form will be sent out to all relevant agencies **within 2 working days** of receiving the referral, along with an accompanying letter that briefly outlines the referral and explains the purpose of this initial scoping document.

Agencies should prioritise completion of the form and return it **within 5 working days** of receiving it to the Safeguarding Partners' business support officer.

All agencies must secure all records/files in relation to the case, so they are not accessible to agency personnel other than through a nominated representative. Where access to the records is required for ongoing case work this must be agreed and monitored by a relevant manager.

5. SETTING THE DATE OF THE RAPID REVIEW MEETING

The Safeguarding Partners business support officer will convene a Rapid Review Meeting and invite key partners who have operational knowledge to attend.

The date of the Rapid Review Meeting will be set as soon as the *Initial Scoping and Information Sharing* form has been sent out. The Rapid Review Meeting will be scheduled **between 7 and 13 working days** of receiving the referral. This will allow for analysis of the initial information to establish the key events in the child's life and inform the Rapid Review Meeting whilst also allowing enough time to prepare the necessary documents for the Panel.

6. DOCUMENTATION

The following documents will be shared with all those attending the Rapid Review Meeting:

- Gateshead Council *Serious Incident Notification* form to the Panel
- Completed *Referral Form* that initiated the process;
- Copies of the completed *Initial Scoping and Information Sharing* templates from relevant agencies
- Where relevant Child Death Review Rapid Response Meeting minutes

Wherever possible the documentation will be shared with participants in advance of the meeting. However, it is recognised that it may on occasion be necessary to share documentation at the meeting.

7. THE RAPID REVIEW MEETING

The Rapid Review Meeting will:

- Review the facts about the case as presented in the documentation;
- Discuss whether there is any immediate action needed to ensure children's safety and share any learning appropriately;
- Consider the potential for identifying improvements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children;

- Decide whether to recommend a National or Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review. If the decision is not to proceed with a formal Child Safeguarding Practice Review, the meeting will also consider whether an alternative form of learning review is appropriate. In some cases, the Rapid Review process may identify key local learning that can be quickly acted upon, removing the need for further review

The *Rapid Review Meeting* record will be completed and agreed at this meeting.

8. CHAIRING THE RAPID REVIEW MEETING

The Rapid Review Meeting will be chaired by a member of the Learning & Improvement Group as and when required.

9. SHARING THE OUTCOME OF THE RAPID REVIEW

Within 2 working days of the Rapid Review Meeting, the completed *Rapid Review Meeting* record will be sent to the Panel and the attendees, by the business support officer, together with a covering letter to the Panel.

Other agencies (including the agency who made the referral) will be informed of the outcome of the Rapid Review.

The recommendation of the Rapid Review Meeting will be shared with the Case Review Group chairperson, so if required they can oversee the commission and progress of the review.

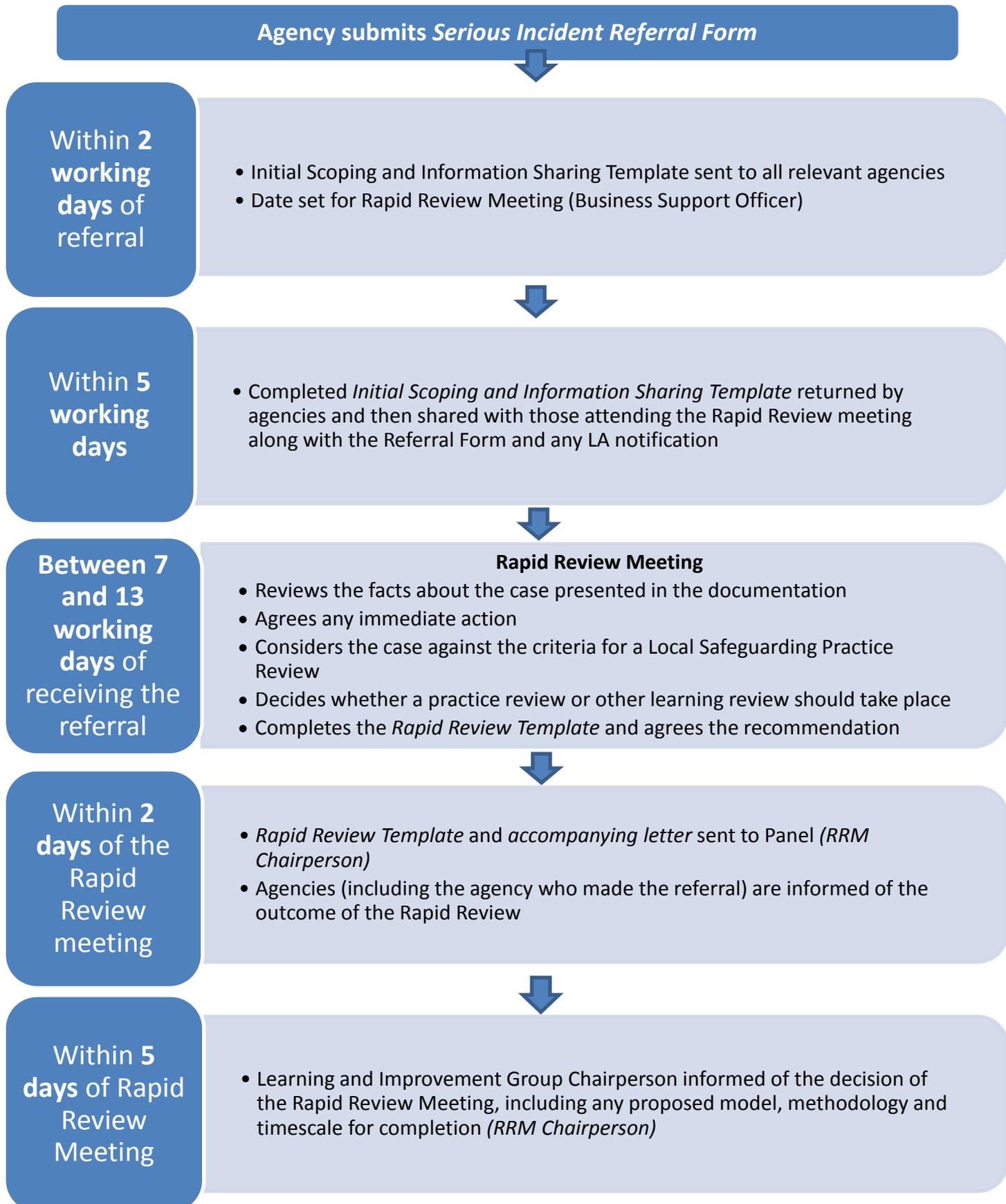
10. KEY CONTACTS

Saira Park, Business Manager, 0191 433 8010, sairapark@gateshead.gov.uk

Joe Lowrey, business support officer, 0191 433 joelowrey@gateshead.gov.uk

National Panel Mailbox.NationalReviewPanel@education.gov.uk

Overview of the process to decide whether to convene a Local Safeguarding Practice Review or alternative learning review and the associated timescales



Appendices – to be added

- Appendix 3 – Safeguarding Children Partnership terms of reference – to follow (draft ready for consideration)
- Appendix 4 – Partners’ Memorandums of Understanding – to follow
- Appendix 5 – Learning & Improvement Group terms of reference – to follow (draft ready for consideration)
- Appendix 6 – Performance Management & Quality Assurance terms of reference – to follow (draft ready for consideration)
- Appendix 7 – implementation plan
- Relevant agencies

Add links to:

- Strategic Priorities 2019-2022 – to follow
- Tyne, Wear & Northumberland Safeguarding Plan – to follow (once agreed)
- Learning and Improvement Framework – to follow (workstream BMs)
- Training Programme – to follow
- Child Death Overview Panel Guidance – to follow (workstream of forum)
- Information Sharing Agreement 2019 – to follow
- Media Protocol 2019 – to follow

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TITLE OF REPORT: The Prevention Green Paper – ASH Consultation Recommendations

REPORT OF: Alice Wiseman, Director of Public Health

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to ask Cabinet to endorse measures proposed by Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) in response to the consultation on the Prevention Green Paper “Advancing our health: prevention in the 2020s – consultation document”.

Background

2. In November 2018, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) published a document setting out a vision for putting prevention at the heart of our nation's health, “Prevention is better than cure” (DHSC, 2018). This paper was a precursor to the subsequent publication of a Green Paper on prevention.
3. The All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Smoking and Health commissioned ASH and the UK Centre for Tobacco and Alcohol Studies to write a response to this document. The response, “Delivering the vision of a ‘Smokefree Generation’”, was published by the APPG in February 2019.
4. The APPG response detailed ten recommendations that would support the ambition of achieving a “smokefree generation” by 2030 ie.one where the average adult smoking rate is 5% or below (see Appendix 2).
5. While many of the recommendations detailed in the APPG report subsequently appeared in the Prevention Green Paper, two key measures did not. These are:
 - To require manufacturers and importers of cigarettes to include Government mandated pack inserts to support quitting.
 - To increase the age of sale from 18 to 21.

These recommendations are evidence based and proportionate to the risks to health posed by tobacco use.

6. These two additional measures have already been endorsed by the Royal College of Physicians, Cancer Research UK, British Heart Foundation, UK Centre for Tobacco and Alcohol Studies, Association of Directors of Public Health, Faculty of Public Health, British Medical Association, British Lung Foundation, British Thoracic Society, Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership, Fresh, Breathe 2025, Royal Society of Public Health, Primary Care Respiratory Society, and the National Centre for Smoking Cessation and Training.

7. In 2015, the Gateshead Health and Wellbeing Board was one of 129 endorsing organisations of the ASH “Smoking Still Kills” (SSK) report. That report, and the level of support it received, was crucial in ensuring that a new Tobacco Control Plan for England was published by the Government in 2017.

Proposal

8. Recognising the opportunity presented by the consultation on the Green Paper to strengthen the Government’s tobacco control strategy, ASH is again seeking Gateshead’s endorsement for the two recommendations set out above.

Recommendations

9. It is requested that Cabinet endorse the recommendations set out above.

For the following reason:

To help to improve the health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities in health in Gateshead.

Policy Context

1. The proposals support the Council's strategic approach of Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives.

Background

2. In November 2018, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) published a document setting out a vision for putting prevention at the heart of our nation's health, "Prevention is better than cure" (DHSC, 2018). This paper was a precursor to the subsequent publication of a Green Paper on prevention.
3. The All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Smoking and Health commissioned ASH and the UK Centre for Tobacco and Alcohol Studies to write a response to this document. The response, "Delivering the vision of a 'Smokefree Generation'", was published by the APPG in February 2019.
4. The APPG response detailed ten recommendations that would support the ambition of achieving a "smokefree generation" by 2030 ie.one where the average adult smoking rate is 5% or below (see Appendix 2).
5. While many of the recommendations detailed in the APPG report subsequently appeared in the Prevention Green Paper, two key measures did not. These are:
 - To require manufacturers and importers of cigarettes to include Government mandated pack inserts to support quitting.
 - To increase the age of sale from 18 to 21.

These recommendations are evidence based and proportionate to the risks to health posed by tobacco use.

6. These two additional measures have already been endorsed by a range of organisations set out in paragraph 6 of the main report.
7. In 2015, the Gateshead Health and Wellbeing Board was one of 129 endorsing organisations of the ASH "Smoking Still Kills" (SSK) report. That report, and the level of support it received, was crucial in ensuring that a new Tobacco Control Plan for England was published by the Government in 2017.

Consultation

8. The Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing has been consulted on the proposals.

Alternative Options

9. The alternative option would be to not support the recommendations of ASH but this is not considered advisable as its proposals would help to improve the health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities in health in Gateshead.

Implications of Recommended Option

10. Resources:

- a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Corporate Resources confirms there are no financial implications arising from this report.
 - b) **Human Resources Implications** – There are no specific implications arising from this report.
 - c) **Property Implications** - There are no property Implications arising from this report.
11. **Risk Management Implication** – There are no risk management implications arising from this report.
12. **Equality and Diversity Implications** - The proposals would help to reduce inequalities in health in Gateshead
13. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.
14. **Health Implications** - The proposals would to improve the health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities in health in Gateshead.
15. **Sustainability Implications** – There are no sustainability implications arising from this report.
16. **Human Rights Implications** - There are no human rights implications arising from this report.
17. **Area and Ward Implications** - The proposals would benefit residents in all areas and wards within Gateshead.

Background Information

18. Nil

**Recommendations from Delivering the Vision of a 'Smokefree Generation' -
The All Party Parliamentary Group on Smoking and Health response to
'Prevention is better than cure'**

Creating a smokefree generation:

- Making the Polluter Pay
- Reducing the affordability of tobacco (tax and illicit trade)
- Retail licensing
- Surveillance of tobacco industry behaviour
- Mass media and social marketing campaigns
- Reducing children's exposure to smoking on screen
- Age of sale legislation

Helping smokers quit:

- Tobacco dependence treatment in the NHS
- Access to alternatives to smoking
- Government mandated pack inserts to encourage quitting

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TITLE OF REPORT: Proposals for School Term Dates 2020/21

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

Purpose of the Report

1. The report asks Cabinet to approve the School Term Dates for 2020/21

Background

2. In order to allow schools, parents and other stakeholders to plan into the future, it is necessary to agree school term dates a significant period in advance.

Proposal

3. It is proposed that the calendar for 2020/21, attached as Appendix 2 to this report, be approved.

Recommendations

4. It is recommended that Cabinet agrees the calendar of School Term Dates for 2020/21 as set out in appendix 2.

For the following reasons:

- (i) To allow future planning to take place.
- (ii) Make effective and efficient use of LA resources.

CONTACT: Jeanne Pratt extension 8644

Policy Context

1. This proposal supports the Council's strategic approach of Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives.

Background

2. The Education (School Day and School Year) (England) Regulations 1999 (SI 1999 No. 3181) require schools to have at least 380 half-day sessions (190 contact days with pupils) and (195 days for staff) in each school year. This is consistent with the 195 days a year required by a teacher's statutory conditions of service: the additional five days are for continual professional development. The term dates for Community Voluntary Controlled and Special schools are determined by the Council, whilst Voluntary Aided schools and Academies are decided by the governing body of each school. This means that governing bodies of Voluntary Aided schools and Academies can depart from the local authority (LA) term dates if they wish. Many Voluntary Aided schools can and do depart from those dates determined by the LA and there is no requirement to consult the LA, however, such schools are required to act reasonably when setting their dates.
3. Given the continuing development of the DfE Academy conversion process it is possible that some schools may develop and determine different term date calendars following changes to their school status. Whenever possible any such changes will be published by the LA.
4. The Local Government Association (LGA) Standing Committee on the School Year have previously circulated proposed School Term Calendar with a view to encouraging local authorities towards a degree of standardisation of dates. This is based on the following principles:
 - Start the school year on a September date as near as possible to 1 September.
 - Equalise teaching and learning blocks (roughly 2x7 and 4x6 weeks).
 - Establish a two-week spring break in early April irrespective of the incidence of the Easter Bank Holiday. (Where the break does not coincide with the Bank Holiday the date should be, as far as practicable, nationally agreed and as consistent as possible across all local authorities.)
 - Allow for the possibility of a summer holiday of at least six weeks for those schools which want this length of break.
 - Identify and agree annually designated periods of holiday, including the summer holiday, where Head Teachers are recommended not to arrange teaching days.
5. The proposed term dates in Appendix 2 are based on a discussion with most neighbouring LAs.
6. The proposal starts the term on the 7th September 2020 which avoids broken school weeks as outlined in the 2019/20 report and is in line with the term dates for Newcastle and South Tyneside LAs. This also fixes the spring bank holiday in line with the Local Government Association strategy establishing a two-week spring break in early April, ~~Page 226~~ covers two bank holidays. It allows 2 continued professional development (CPD) days in term time requiring the 3

remaining training days to be completed as twilight sessions. It is important to achieve, as near as possible, a match with neighbouring LAs. Parents resident in Gateshead and who work in other LAs or have children in other LA schools and vice versa can make better arrangements for their childcare and have regard to a wide range of personal and domestic requirements. Conflicting dates also work against the effective and efficient use of resources between LAs when collaborating on joint events or on the delivery of truancy sweeps.

Consultation

7. The proposed dates have been shared with other local authorities in the region, Gateshead Head Teachers, Teachers' JCC membership, Unison, GMB and other representatives, the Diocesan Bodies and the Cabinet Members for Children and Young People.
8. The trade unions previously asked the Council to consider delaying a return in September 2020 by a further week resulting in a 7-week summer holiday and avoid broken weeks. This was consulted on and the majority of schools who responded agreed to this proposal.

Alternative Options

10. In theory there are many options that can facilitate arriving at a school term calendar which allocates 190 teaching (contact with pupil) days and 5 continued professional development days. Normally it is not viewed helpful to develop what could result in a broad range of choices, as it is contrary to the principle of trying to achieve a degree of regional and national alignment.

Implications of Recommended Option

11. Resources

- a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Corporate Resources confirms that there are no financial implications as a result of this report.
- b) **Human Resources Implications** - advance notice of school term dates enables parents and other stakeholders to consider a broad range of domestic and personal arrangements.
- c) **Property Implications** - None

12. Risk Management Implication - None.

13. Equality and Diversity Implications – Every effort is made in setting dates to take account of holiday requirements created and a result of faith.

14. Crime and Disorder Implications - Evidence does show the potential for an increase in youth crime and disorder and antisocial behaviour during periods when young people are not in school. The Council seeks to address this 'risk' by collaborating with partners to offer activity programmes during common holiday periods.

15. Health Implications - None

16. **Sustainability Implications** – None.

17. **Human Rights Implications** – None.

18. **Area and Ward Implications** - All.

19. **Background Information-**

The Education (School Day and School Year) (England) regulations 1999(SI 1999 No 3181)

Gateshead Agreed Term and Holiday Dates
 Academic Year 2020/21
 193 TERM DAY ENVELOPE

 Bank Holiday  Holiday

	AUGUST 2020	SEPTEMBER 2020	OCTOBER 2020	NOVEMBER 2020	DECEMBER 2020	JANUARY 2021
Monday	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25
Tuesday	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26
Wednesday	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27
Thursday	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28
Friday	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29
Saturday	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30
Sunday	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24 31
			7		7	

	FEBRUARY 2021	MARCH 2021	APRIL 2021	May-21	JUNE 2021	JULY 2021
Monday	1 8 15 22	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26
Tuesday	2 9 16 23	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27
Wednesday	3 10 17 24	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28
Thursday	4 11 18 25	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29
Friday	5 12 19 26	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30
Saturday	6 13 20 27	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31
Sunday	7 14 21 28	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25
	6		6	6		7

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	AUGUST 2021	SEPTEMBER 2021
Monday	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27
Tuesday	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28
Wednesday	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29
Thursday	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30
Friday	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24
Saturday	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25
Sunday	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26

Proposed return on Tuesday 6 September 2021

The number of term days shown is 193. Schools must keep 1 day back from the 193 above until late in the summer term for possible election purposes leaving 192 days in term. Schools will therefore need to identify 2 PD days from the term dates above and need to determine a further 3 PD days from twilight sessions or designated holidays. (Pupils must be taught for 190 days (380 sessions))

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TITLE OF REPORT: Nomination of Local Authority School Governors

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

Purpose of the Report

1. Cabinet is asked to nominate Local Authority Governors to schools seeking to retain their Local Authority governor in accordance with The School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations.

Background

2. Schools - The School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations require all governing bodies to adopt a model for their size and membership. The regulations prescribe which categories of governor must be represented and what the level of representation is for each. The Local Authority's nomination is subject to the approval of the governing body. If approved, the nominee is appointed by the governing body.

Proposal

3. It is proposed that Cabinet approves the nominations to schools as shown in appendix 1.

Recommendations

4. It is recommended that Cabinet:
 - (i) approves the nomination for reappointment of a Local Authority Governor to ensure the School Governing Body has full membership; and
 - (ii) notes the term of office as determined by the schools' Instrument of Government.
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CONTACT: John Finch

extension: **8626**

Policy Context

1. Schools

In accordance with The School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations, local authorities can nominate any eligible person as a Local Authority governor. Statutory guidance encourages local authorities to appoint high calibre governors with skills appropriate to the school's governance needs, who will uphold the school's ethos, and to nominate candidates irrespective of political affiliation or preferences. A person is disqualified as a Local Authority governor if they are eligible to be a Staff governor at the same school.

Consultation

2. The Cabinet Members for Children and Young People have been consulted.

Alternative Options

3. The alternative option would be to make no nomination/appointment to the vacancies, leaving governing bodies under strength and less likely to demonstrate the correct configuration.

Implications of Recommended Option

4. Resources:

a) **Financial Implications** - The Strategic Director, Corporate Resources confirms there are no financial implications arising from this report.

b) **Human Resources Implications** - None

c) **Property Implications** - None

5. **Risk Management Implication** - None

6. **Equality and Diversity Implications** - None

7. **Crime and Disorder Implications** - None

8. **Health Implications** - None

9. **Sustainability Implications** - None

10. **Human Rights Implications** - None

11. **Area and Ward Implications** - None

12. **Background Information**

The School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations.

13. Local Authority Governor Nominations

Schools

In accordance with the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012, the following Local Authority governors are nominated for a period of four years (as stipulated in the individual Instruments of Government) with effect from the dates stated below:

School	Nomination	Date from
Roman Road Primary School	Mr Gary Carr	13 th November 2019
St Peter's Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School, Low Fell	Cllr Martin Gannon	23 rd November 2019
Swalwell Primary School	Cllr Dorothy Burnett	7 th December 2019
Windy Nook Primary School	Cllr Rachel Mullen	15 th December 2019
St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School, Whickham	Mrs Lee Ann Moir	27 th November 2019

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REPORT TO CABINET
17 September 2019

TITLE OF REPORT: Petitions Schedule

REPORT OF: Mike Barker, Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update on petitions submitted to the Council and the action taken on them.

Background

2. Council Procedure Role 10.1 provides that any member of the Council or resident of the borough may submit a petition to the Leader of the Council, to another member of the Council nominated by the Leader, to the Chief Executive or a Strategic Director.

Proposal

3. Cabinet is asked to note the petitions received and actions taken on them.

Recommendations

4. It is recommended that Cabinet note the petitions received and action taken on them.

For the following reason:

To inform Cabinet of the progress of the petitions.

CONTACT: Mike Aynsley extension: 2128

APPENDIX 1

Policy Context

1. The information is provided in accordance Council Procedure Rule 10.2 whereby progress of petitions is to be reported regularly to meetings of the Cabinet. The procedure supports the Council Plan.

Background

2. Council Procedure Rule 10.1 provides that any member of the Council or resident of the borough may submit a petition to the Leader of the Council, to another member of the Council nominated by the Leader, to the Chief Executive or a Strategic Director.

Consultation

3. This report has been prepared following consultation as set out in the schedule.

Alternative Options

4. There are no alternative options.

Implications of Recommended Option

5. Resources:

a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Corporate Resources confirms that there are no financial implications arising from this report.

b) **Human Resources Implications** – Nil

c) **Property Implications** - Nil

6. **Risk Management Implication** - Nil

7. **Equality and Diversity Implications** - Nil

8. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – Nil

9. **Health Implications** - Nil

10. **Sustainability Implications** - Nil

11. **Human Rights Implications** - Nil

12. **Area and Ward Implications** - Borough wide

Background Information

13. Petitions schedule attached.

APPENDIX 2

PETITIONS SUBMITTED TO GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

DATE RECEIVED	REF	FROM	ISSUE	FORWARDED TO	ACTION TO DATE
14.02.18 Submitted to Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance	01/18	Petition from GMB	Petition against the proposed parking restrictions on Shearlegs Road, Albany Road and Park Road	Strategic Director, Communities and Environment	The petition has been received in response to the Council's transport consultation on proposed waiting restrictions in the Shearlegs Road area. The petition will be considered together with other representations received.
15.03.19 Submitted to the Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance	04/09	Petition from residents of Rowlands Gill	Petition requesting the removal of road humps in Rowlands Gill.	Strategic Director, Communities and Environment	As with all major schemes, officers carry out post completion surveys and an independent safety audit. This work has commenced and officers will be in a position to respond to the petitioners once this is completed.
21.03.19 Submitted at the Council Meeting by Councillor McHugh	05/09	Petition from residents of Gateshead	Petition requesting that affordable homes are built on the Council Nursery site at Whickham Highway	Strategic Director, Communities and Environment	The planning application for this site includes a condition that at least 15% of the housing built across the wider housing site (including Persimmon land) is affordable. Currently further options are being considered for the Council part of this site, Cabinet members and ward members will be kept advised of progress.

<p>05.04.19 Submitted to Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance</p>	<p>06/09</p>	<p>Petition from residents of Church Rise, Whickham</p>	<p>Petition requesting permission to undertake tree management work on a tree in St Mary's Church cemetery, Whickham</p>	<p>Strategic Director, Communities and Environment</p>	<p>An officer met with the lead petitioner and two signatories on site to establish the petitioners' concerns regarding the tree. The specific concerns were reported to the Cabinet members for Communities and Volunteering and Transport and Environment. Views were sought from ward councillors, tree officers and planning teams and a response was provided to the lead petitioner on how a resolution may be found. The lead petitioner did not accept the proposal and requested an amendment to the initial demand, requesting that the tree is felled rather than reduced in height.</p> <p>Felling the tree is not recommended as it does not meet our criteria and would have a significant impact on the local landscape. A resolution cannot be found and the lead petitioner has been informed of the proposal to close the petition. (Ward members were consulted on this proposal). The lead petitioner has asked that his comments are noted by members: <i>'Our opinion is that the tree has grown too big considering its proximity to our bungalows and will continue to grow making the situation worse year on year.'</i></p> <p>It is recommended that the petition is closed and that Street Scene continue to</p>
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					monitor the position.
Submitted to the Strategic Director, Communities and Environment	09/19	Petition from residents of streets adjoining Ellison Road, Dunston	Petition against proposed 'No Waiting and No Loading at Any Time Restrictions' at Ellison Road and adjoining roads.	Strategic Director, Communities and Environment	<p>The petition has been received in response to the Council's transport consultation on proposed 'No Waiting and No Loading at Any Time Restrictions' at Ellison Road.</p> <p>The petition will be considered together with other representations received.</p>
04.09.19 Submitted to the Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance 239	10/19	Petition from residents of Winlaton	Petition against proposals to put double yellow lines on roads in Winlaton.	Strategic Director, Communities and Environment	<p>The petition has been received in response to the Council's consultation on a proposed order to introduce a 20mph speed limit zone in Winlaton. The order will include the provisions of no waiting and limited waiting restrictions, a loading ban and a one-way system.</p> <p>The petition will be considered together with other representations received.</p>

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