



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.

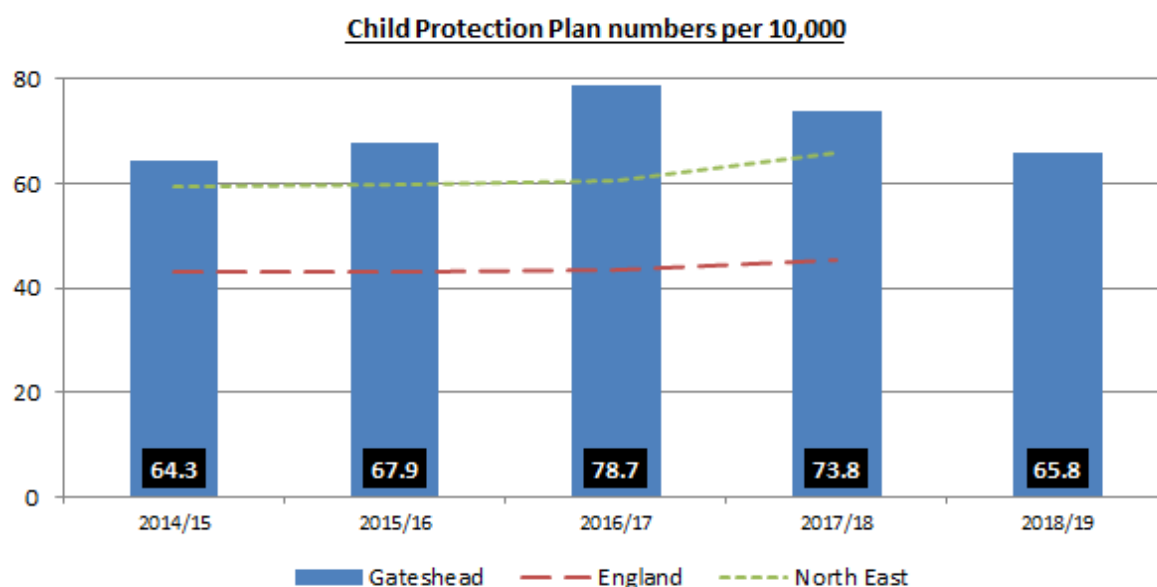
Some successful workshops have been held with schools, to help staff to understand thresholds to services, and the interface between Early Help and statutory services (including step-up and step-down). There is evidence of some excellent work amongst many senior leadership teams in schools.

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

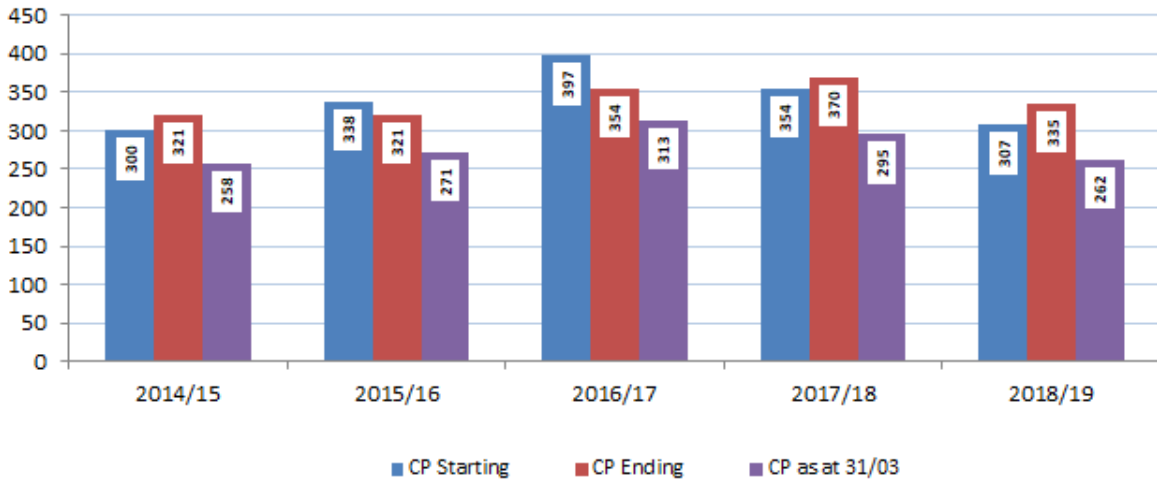
3.1 Performance Data

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.

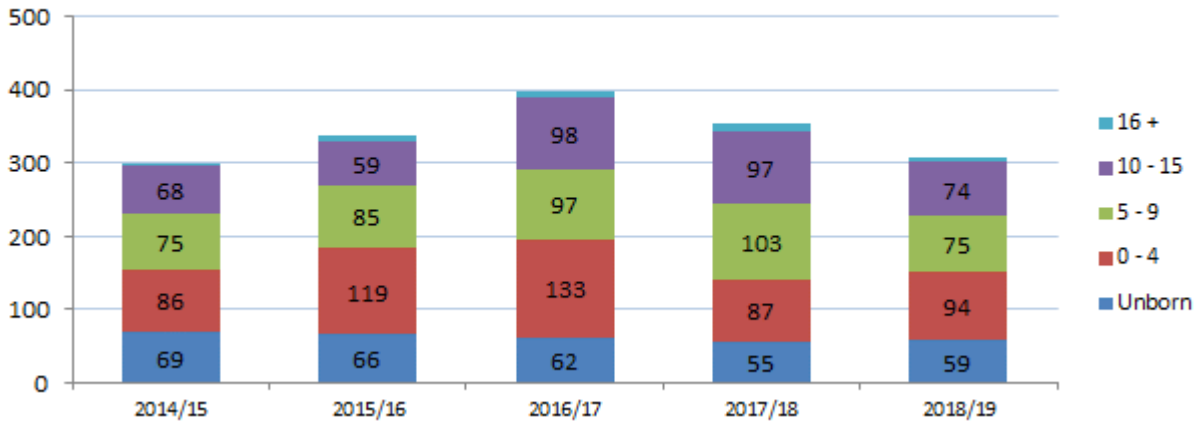


At year end there were **262** children from Gateshead subject to a Child Protection Plan, which is a rate of 65.8 per 10,000, which is higher than the England rate of 43.3 per 10,000 reported in 2016-2017. However, it is in line with the North East rate of 65.7 and a decrease of 8 per 10,000 on the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

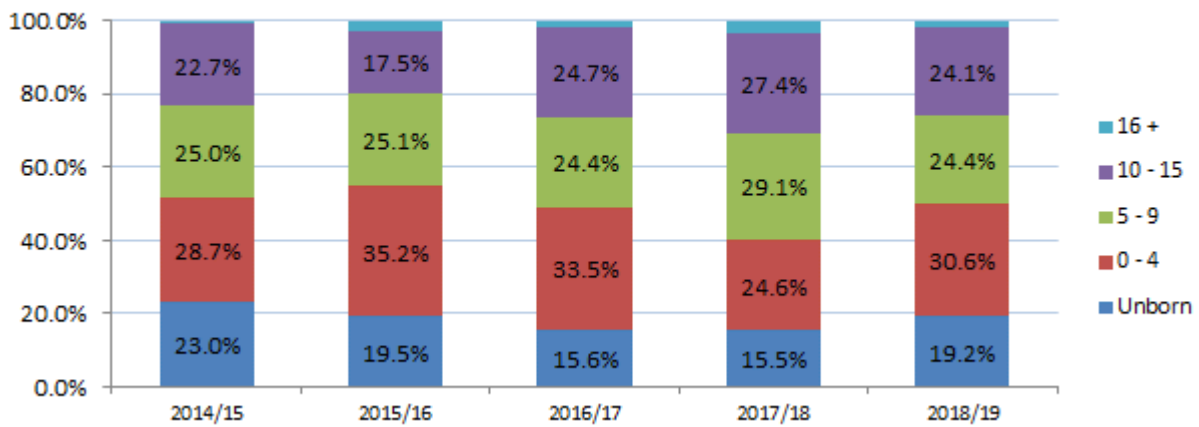
Child Protection Numbers



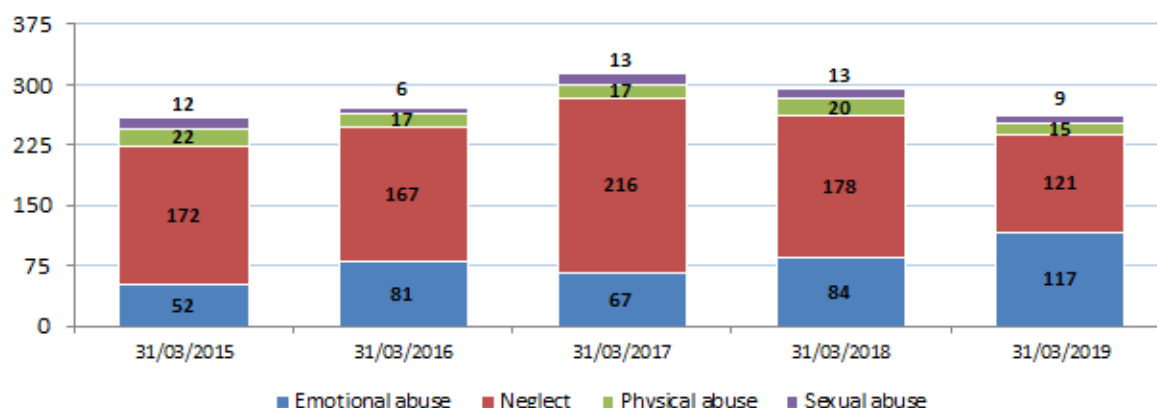
Age of Children when placed on a Child Protection Plan (Apr-Mar)



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

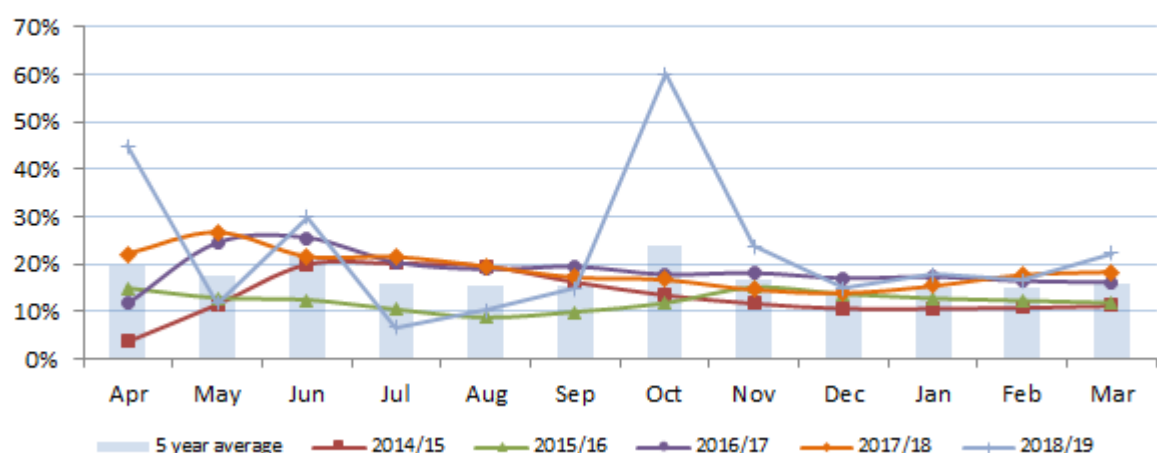


Child Protection Category at month end



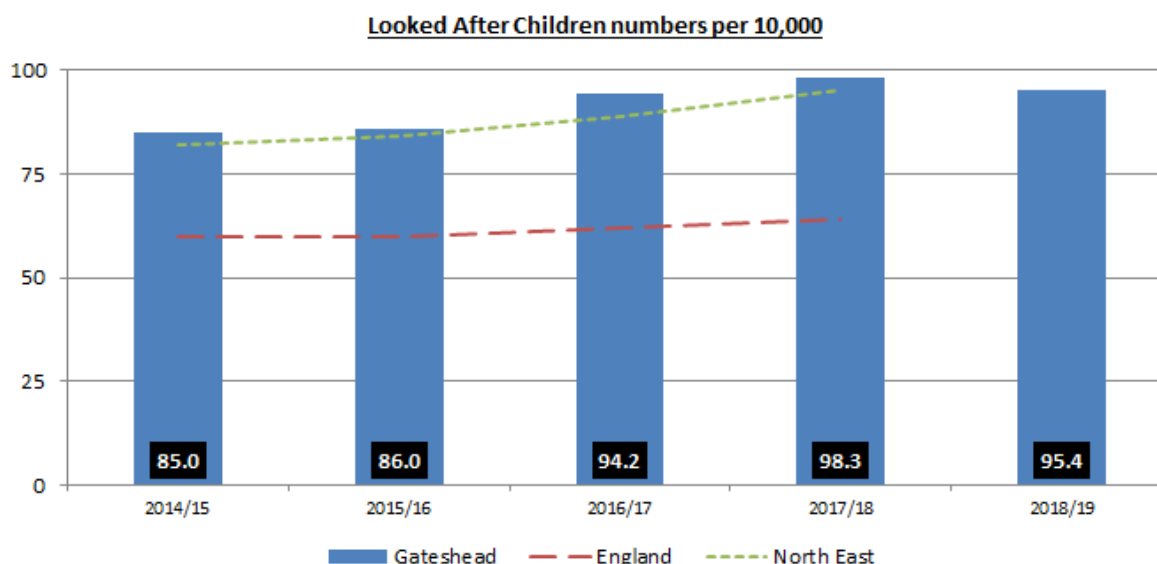
The category of neglect remains the highest at 46.2% of all plans; however, this is a significant drop from the figure reported at the end of March 2018, when the proportion of plans on neglect stood at 60.3%. Emotional abuse now accounts for 44.7% of plans, which is an increase on the 28.5% of plans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

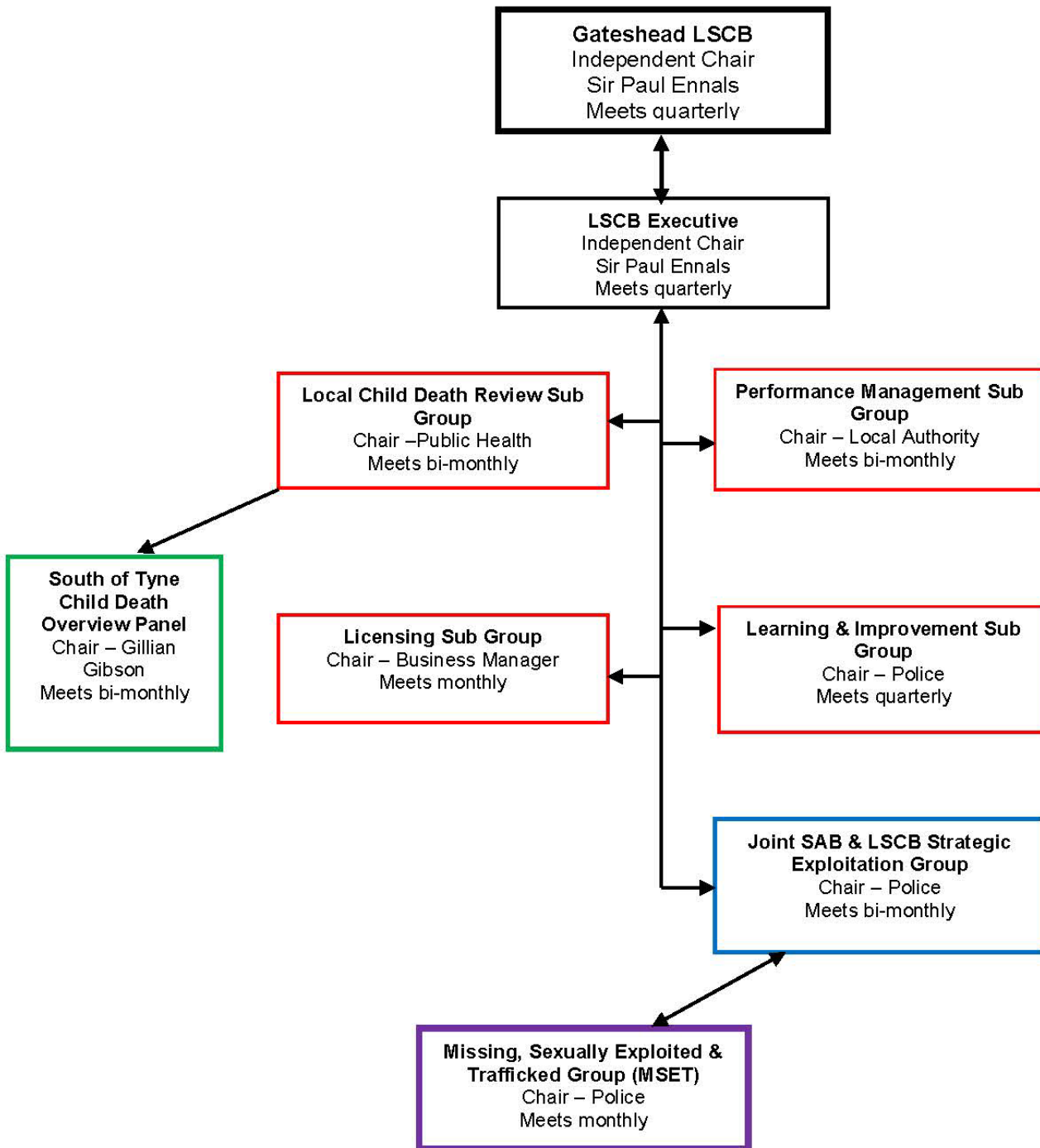
"This event was fantastic. The range of knowledge of the speakers was mind blowing and really got the point across." (ACEs Conference)

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

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

Licensing Sub Group

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.

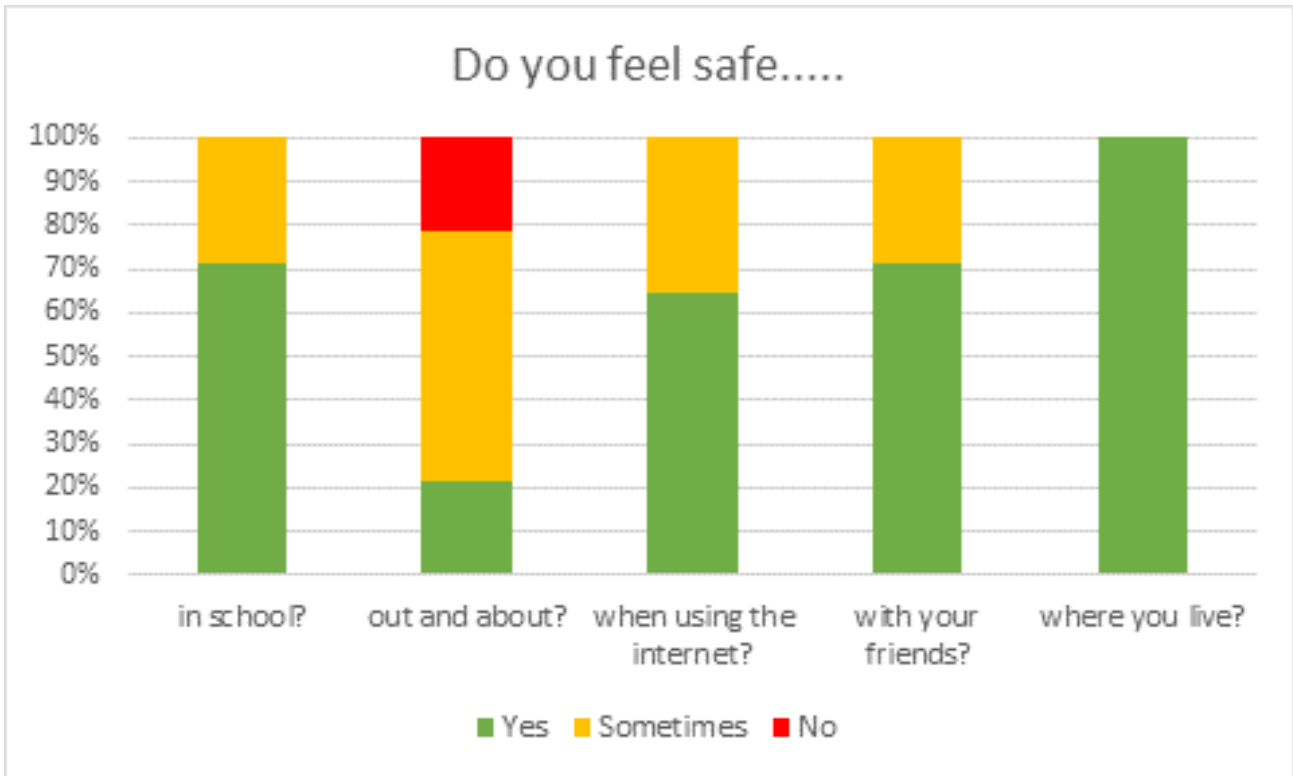
All young people could recall an assembly or presentation on the Kooth app/website. When asked how they would find out information, although some would search online, they said it is wrong to assume that young people always want web-based info, should use different ways to get information out. More needs 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

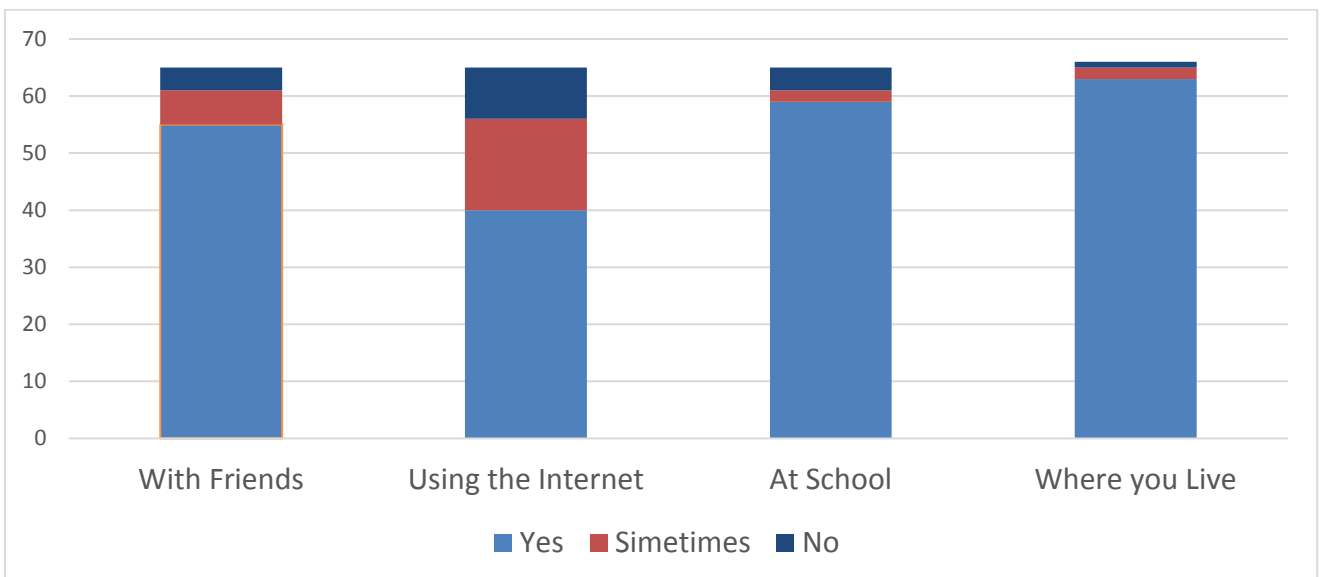


Further events will be held during 2019-2020 (as well as attendance at CYP events being held by partner agencies, where appropriate). Voice of the child is a priority in the new arrangements.

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	

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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.	

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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.	

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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.	