

TITLE OF REPORT: LSCB Annual Report 2018-19 and Safeguarding Plan 2019-20

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

Purpose of the Report

1. To present the 2018/19 Annual Report of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB), and to provide an overview of the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements for children in Gateshead.

Background

2. 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 LSCB Annual Report 2018-2019 and MASA Safeguarding Plan 2019-2020

3. The [LSCB Annual Report 2018-2019](#) 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.
4. 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.
5. 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](#)

6. 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.
7. 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

8. The OSC Committee is asked to note the contents and make any comments.

Contact: Paul Ennals – Independent Chair
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