

TITLE OF REPORT: Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) for Children and Young People 2022-2024

REPORT OF: Helen Fergusson, Strategic Director, Children's Social Care and Lifelong Learning

SUMMARY

The MASA document sets out how we will work together and with other agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in Gateshead. The term 'children' used throughout the document refers to both children and young people. We are committed to the aspirations and content set out in these arrangements 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 safeguarding 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.

The MASA document has been reviewed and updated for 2022-2024, including strategic functions and responsibilities, structure and terms of reference.

Purpose of Report

To update OSC following review of MASA.

Background

There is a shared and collective responsibility between organisations and agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Gateshead.¹

Responsibility for this joined up approach locally rests with three **Statutory Safeguarding Partners** who have a shared and equal duty to have in place robust arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Gateshead.

The Gateshead Multi-agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) for Children and Young People sets out how the Safeguarding Partners will work together, and with other agencies, to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in Gateshead.

¹ Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as: protecting children from maltreatment; preventing impairment of health or development; ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe care; and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

A safeguarding partner in relation to a local authority area in England is defined under the Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017) as:

- The Local Authority
- a clinical commissioning group (now known as ICB) for an area any part of which falls within the local authority area
- the chief officer of police for an area any part of which falls within the local authority area

The three Safeguarding Partners with delegated responsibility in Gateshead are:

- Strategic Director (DCS) of Children's Services – Gateshead Council
- Director of Nursing – North East & North Cumbria Integrated Care Board
- Designated Chief Superintendent – Northumbria Police

Recommendations

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the contents of the MASA, including statutory responsibilities and strategic functions.

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