



Annual Report

2016 / 2017

Safeguarding
Children in
Northumberland

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1. Foreword by Independent Chair

Welcome to the third Annual Report published since I became the Independent Chair of Northumberland Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB).

It has been a privilege to work with our committed partners, who make up the NSCB, and to meet the dedicated front-line staff working in an increasingly complex and challenging environment. The opportunity to work alongside children and young people and to learn from their experiences has brought inspiration and strengthened my own commitment to ensuring that safeguards for them in Northumberland are as effective as they can be.

This year has been another year of progress for the NSCB following the rigorous Ofsted inspection in January 2016. The recommendations made by Ofsted were progressed and implemented as part of our Business Plan for 2016/17.

Whilst the inspection by Ofsted rated the NSCB as 'Good' there is no room for complacency. I will continue to scrutinise and challenge NSCB partner organisations. Where services have fallen short of the required standard, the board will ensure that improvements are made and mistakes not repeated. This requires a joined-up, multi-agency approach and a vigorous governance system holding agencies to account. The Board continues to provide this quality assurance and scrutiny.

This annual report provides local people with an account of the NSCB's work over the past year to improve the safeguarding

and wellbeing of children and young people across Northumberland. It reflects the activity of the NSCB and its sub-committees against the agreed priorities for 2016/17.

Looking forward, the Government has set out in the Children and Social Work Act 2017 changes to the way strategic safeguarding arrangements are coordinated and organised. While we await further detail, it is likely to present both opportunities and challenges. My intention is to ensure that, in Northumberland, we maintain a clear focus on the work we need to do during this transition period, while at the same time managing the changes that will come.

My thanks go to the many partner agencies for their hard work and dedication during a time of huge demand and whose commitment and motivation helps deliver our shared priorities. I would also like to thank and recognise the contribution of our Lay Members and the Children and Young People Portfolio Holder who bring another layer of independent scrutiny to the work of the NSCB.



Paula Mead NSCB Independent Chair

2. Introduction

The NSCB has a statutory duty to prepare and publish an Annual Report which analyses and assesses how our partners safeguard vulnerable children and young people. Our primary responsibility is to provide a way for the local organisations that have a responsibility in respect of child welfare, to agree how they will work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to ensure that they do so effectively.

Section 3 of the report highlights some statistical information about Northumberland and provides a local context for our work.

Section 4 describes the local governance arrangements and structure of NSCB, the linkages to other strategic partnerships across Northumberland.

Section 5 highlights some of the achievements and the progress that has been made in the last year as well as reporting on the work undertaken against the 2016/19 priorities.

Section 6 covers our Performance Framework and describes the multi-agency audits we have undertaken. It also provides an overview of Serious Case Reviews; Child Death Reviews and the use of restraint in Kyloe House National Secure Children's Home.

Section 7 outlines our multi-agency training provision and describes the marketing and communication activity undertaken by the NSCB.

Section 8 describes how children and young people being safeguarded in Northumberland.

Section 9 identifies the emerging priorities the NSCB may take forward into 2017/19.

The Annual Report 2016/17 demonstrates the extent to which the functions of the NSCB, as set out in the national statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (March 2015) are being effectively fulfilled.



The information presented in this Annual Report is drawn from a wide range of sources from across the Partnership. These include the Health & wellbeing assessment (JSNA); Lessons Learned from Local Serious Case Reviews; the Child Death Overview Panel Annual Report;

3. Local Data

Northumberland is the most northern county of England, it borders Cumbria to the west, County Durham and Tyne and Wear to the south and the Scottish Borders to the north. To the east is the North Sea.

Northumberland is the most sparsely populated county in England, with only 163 people per square mile.



Northumberland is home to **315,800 people** and covers an area of 5,013 km², of which 96.7% is classed as rural.



Between 2001 and 2015, the **0-15 population** in Northumberland has **fallen by 10%** compared to a national increase of 4.2% over the same period



The County has **11 major centres of population** including Alnwick, Amble, Ashington, Bedlington, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Blyth, Cramlington, Haltwhistle, Hexham, Morpeth and Prudhoe



Northumberland is ranked the 136th **most deprived area** out of 326 local authorities in England. 13.2% of the population live in one of the 10% most deprived areas of England compared to 16.98% in the North East and 9.9% across England (2015).



Child poverty in Northumberland is slightly better than the England average, with **18.9% of children** under 16 years living in poverty.



Local Safeguarding Data 2016/17

(Date of data 31/3/2017)

234 children were subject to a Child Protection Plan (40 per 10,000 population aged 0-18). (England average March 2016 43.1%)

The percentage of Child Protection Plans that **lasted two years or more is 8.8%.**

Children on a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time, within two years of the previous plan has **fallen to 1%.**

Neglect was the most frequent reason for children being placed on a Child Protection Plan in 2016/17 (46% of new plans), Emotional abuse was also high (44% of new plans).

56% of children who were made subject of a Child Protection Plan under five years old were made so due to neglect.

Mental health is the main factor identified in households where children became subject of a Child Protection Plan, **(73% of child protection plans in 2016/17).**

Domestic violence was also a factor (58% of child protection plans), plus **alcohol** (34%) and **drugs** (33%).

35% decrease
in children
subject to a
plan

601 cases discussed at a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC).

406 children are Looked After.

4 children are in Private Fostering arrangements.

37 children and young people were reported missing from home more than once.

130 Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) referrals were made. Of those targeted **73% are girls**. The average age of female victims was 13.5 years old, 12 years old for males.

Over 1558 early help plans completed with a successful outcome with a **57% increase** in the families receiving early help, which goes some way to explain the 35 % reduction of Child Protection plans.

Three Serious Case Reviews were completed during the year but remain unpublished due to criminal and care proceedings, **Impact:** Action plans and briefings have been undertaken to ensure that the learning from these reviews can be embedded with staff as soon as possible.

80 training courses delivered and attended by **1,462 staff**. Supporting practitioners to improve their learning, understanding and assessment skills.

406
children
are
Looked
After

Mental Health is
the main factor
why child
protection plans
are initiated

57%

4 Governance and Structure

Local Safeguarding Children Board

Each local authority area is required by law to have a Local Safeguarding Children Board. The LSCB is a statutory body established in legislation (Children Act 2004) and works according to national guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015'.

The Northumberland Safeguarding Children Board is chaired by an independent person and met bi-monthly in 2016/17 with two development sessions taking the total number of meetings to 8 per year.

Northumberland LSCB is supported by the LSCB Business Manager who is hosted by the Local Authority.

	 Northumberland Safeguarding Children Board	
What is safeguarding? Safeguarding is about keeping children and young people safe and protecting them from harm , while making sure they grow up in a safe environment.	What does the LSCB do? We promote the welfare of children and young people, safeguarding them from harm and protecting those children who are at significant risk of harm or neglect	What does it mean for me? Agencies including the Councils' Children and Young People's Services, the Police, Schools and Colleges and Health Services such as GPs, Hospitals and Health Visitors are all here to help

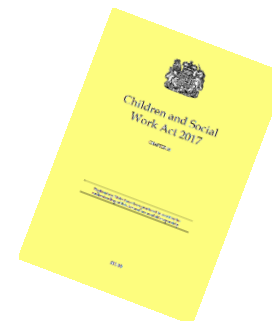


The functions of the NSCB are:

- *To coordinate local work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to ensure the effectiveness of what the member organisations do individually and together.*
- *To develop and agree inter-agency policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, consistent with Working Together to Safeguard Children, including:*
 - *The action to be taken where there are concerns about a child's safety or welfare, including thresholds for intervention;*
 - *Training of those working with children or in services affecting the safety and welfare of children;*
 - *Recruitment and supervision of persons who work with children;*
 - *Investigation of allegations concerning persons working with children;*
 - *The safety and welfare of privately fostered children;*
 - *Cooperation with neighbouring children's social care services authorities and their Board partners.*
 - *Participate in the planning of services for children in the local authority area;*

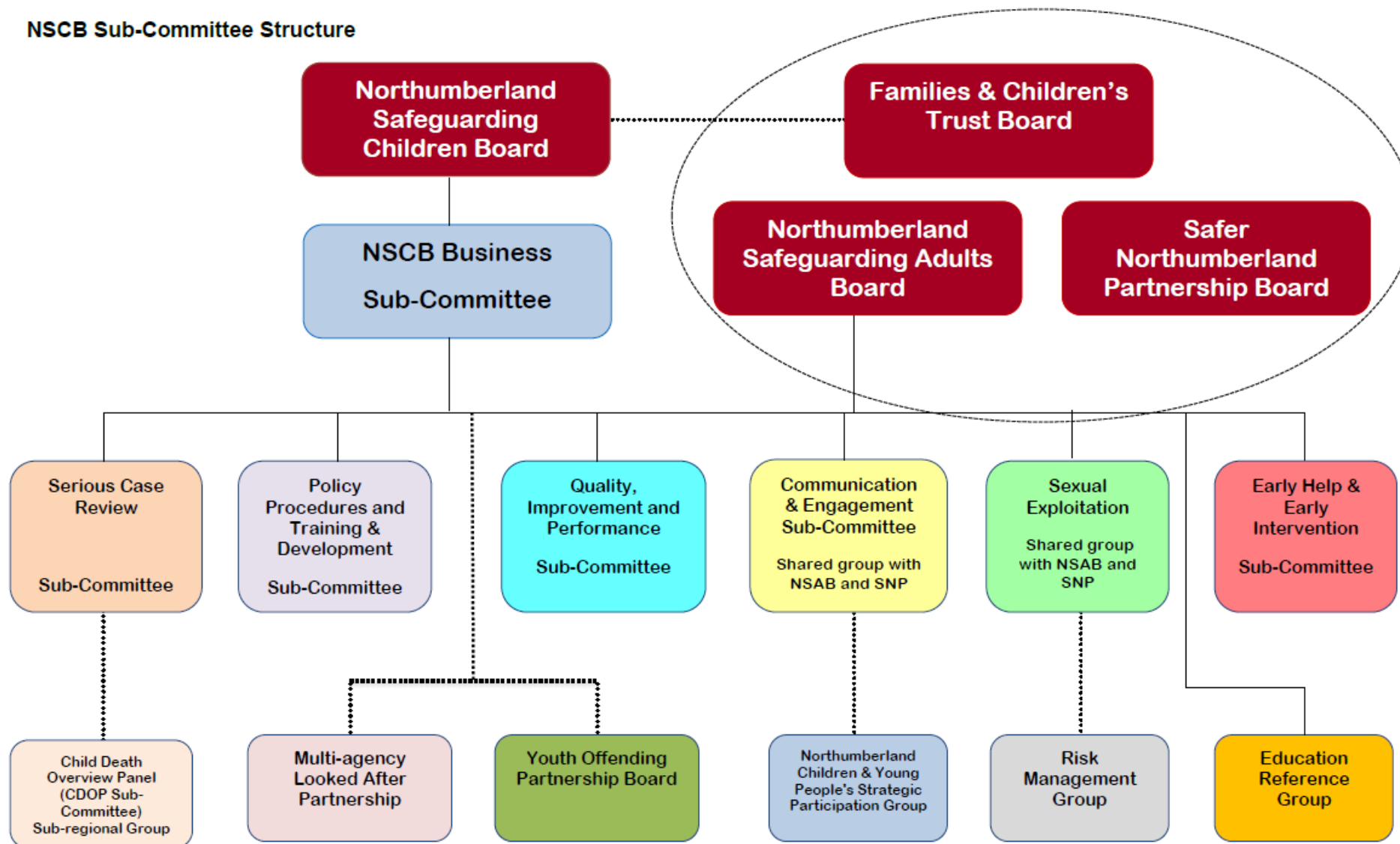
- *Communicate the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child;*
- *Develop procedures to ensure a coordinated response to unexpected child deaths;*
- *Monitor the effectiveness of what is done to safeguard and promote the welfare of children;*
- *Undertake reviews of serious cases and ensure lessons are understood and acted upon;*
- *Collect and analyse information about child deaths.*

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 received Royal Assent in April 2017 and sets out a new framework for improving the organisation and delivery of multi-agency arrangements to protect and safeguard children. In Northumberland the Clinical Commissioning Group, the Police and the Local Authority will investigate safeguarding models throughout 2017/18.



Please click image to open the Act

NSCB Sub-Committee Structure



Working across Partnerships

The NSCB works with a wide range of themed partnerships and Boards.

Each of the five thematic partnerships has a specific focus:

- ***The Families and Children's Trust (FACT)*** – Works to ensure effective services are delivered in the most efficient way to improve the lives of children, young people and families.
- ***The Health and Wellbeing Board*** – Brings together key partners from health and care organisations to work together to improve the health and wellbeing of local people.
- ***The Safer Northumberland Partnership*** – Works with all key statutory and voluntary partners and communities, to prevent and respond to issues of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour.
- ***Safeguarding Adults Board*** – Helps and safeguards adults with care and support needs assuring itself that safeguarding practice is person-centred and outcome-focused.
- ***Northumberland Children and Young People's Participation Group*** – Enables children and young people to have a voice that informs decisions and to be proactively involved in the delivery of those decisions.

The NSCB will continue to engage and challenge these partnerships where appropriate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Northumberland. We have strengthened our joint working with a range of partnerships on shared or similar priorities.

Examples include:

Safe Northumberland Partnership

We have developed close working relationships with SNP, working to identify a gap analysis on relation to domestic violence and developing and pursuing the aims of the Sexual Exploitation Strategy.

Safeguarding Adults Board

The Safeguarding Adults Board is also chaired by the NSCB Independent Chair and develops a shared strategy across Northumberland and North Tyneside. There are shared groups such as the Communications Sub Committee.

Northumberland Children and Young People's Participation Group.

The NSCB business manager is a member of this group, which provides the opportunity for the NSCB consult with children and young around the NSCB prioritises and to listen to the lived experiences of children and young people in Northumberland.

Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB)

The NSCB independent chair is a member of the HWBB during 2016-2017 the HWBB has endorsed the work of the NSCB agreeing to the Neglect and Early Help Strategies. The HWBB bring together key leaders from the local health and care system to improve the health and wellbeing of their population.

5 Achievements in 2016/17

- **Ofsted** rated the effectiveness of Northumberland LSCB as 'Good' in April 2016. In their inspection document Ofsted reported that: *'The NSCB plays an active and often dynamic leadership role in monitoring and shaping services for children'*.
- **Three Serious Case Reviews (SCR's)** were undertaken during 2016-2017, however due to ongoing criminal or care proceedings have not been published. The learning has been embedded through the prompt delivery on the action plans. **Impact:** This contributes to the professional development of staff and their understanding of local safeguarding concerns and themes.
- The **Child Protection Procedures** were reviewed by a multi-agency task and finish group. **Impact:** Providing an up to web based solution that is fully searchable and allows the user to access content from a wide range of devices.
- Trained over **1,600 taxi drivers in Child Sexual Exploitation** with safeguarding conditions now built into Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy. **Impact:** Taxi drivers will continue to receive training and can contribute to the police intelligence picture, also a taxi driver made an important referral to children's social care to ensure a baby was safeguarded.
- **Specialist Briefings** – Additional Learning Events Provided to Support NSCB Priorities and Partners' Neglect Strategy

Roadshows, Operation Encompass Briefings for schools, Child Development days for Northumbria Police, Self-Harm sessions for schools, safeguarding in Education sessions for schools, Designated Safeguarding Leads Roles and Responsibilities courses for schools, working with Attachment and Loss in Schools courses, Domestic Abuse course for a General Practitioners surgery, Thresholds Document Consultation Events for Schools. **Impact:** These specialist briefing sessions have enabled a wider variety of staff to receive information and guidance that can be incorporated into their working practices.

- **Operation Encompass** launched across Northumberland Schools. It aims are to safeguard and support children and young people who are involved in or affected by incidents involving domestic abuse. **Impact:** Following such an incident, children will often arrive at school upset and unprepared. Operation Encompass aims to ensure that appropriate school staff are made aware early enough to support children in the best way possible.
- A partnership led by the Care Commission Group and Youth Service, have been involved with a group of young people (The A team) in supporting development of resources for young people regarding **child sexual exploitation**, funding was obtained through National Health Service England. This has received local and national awards, providing evidence of participation with young people and positive multi-agency working. **Impact:** a child contacted his youth worker regarding a situation of sexual exploitation using the materials resulting in a successful investigation safeguarding many young people.
- Introduced monitoring of **Coping with Crying** in relation to children subject to a plan at initial conferences to ensure

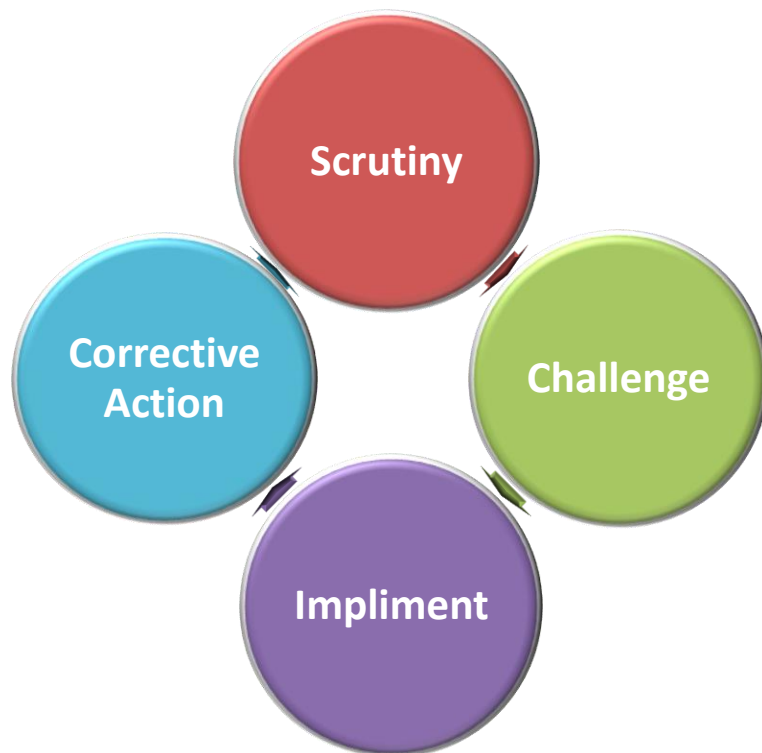
parent have had the opportunity to view the video, ask questions and understand how to manage crying and to avoid non-accidental head injuries. **Impact:** The Coping with Crying programme is helping to keep babies safe from non-accidental head injuries. Parents who have seen the film are more likely to react positively towards their baby's crying and feel confident seeking help and support when needed.

- Northumbria Police were successful in their application for Innovation Fund funding and recruited a Health worker into Operation Sanctuary, **Impact:** Victims of **sexual exploitation** can receive support from health as promptly as possible.
- The Local Authority supported by the NSCB and partners have now embedded **Early Help Hubs** within all localities, **Impact:** 57% increase in families receiving early help.
- Improving our response to **Allegations against Staff** the process now requires the referrer to complete a referral document; this has significantly reduced the time which is required for the Designated Officer to establish information, and to enable a prompt discussion with the police. **Impact:** This provides a “smarter” decision making process, ensuring the target to hold any strategy meetings within three days is maintained.
- Introduced a robust **multi-agency auditing methodology** ratified by the NSCB and Internal audit to strengthen the accuracy of findings **Impact:** Reducing demands on partner administration during audit participation.

- **NSCB Website** restructured and procedures easier to locate. **Impact:** Safeguarding information, strategies and guidance documents are now easier to find and more accessible.
- **80 training courses** delivered and attended by 1,462 staff. **Impact:** This supports practitioners, improving their learning, understanding and assessment skills.
- **1702** course completions for the Awareness of Child Abuse and Neglect courses, **Impact:** Supports practitioners and volunteers to improve their learning and understanding.
- Development of the “Learn Together” Learning Management System **e-learning**. **Impact:** Providing partners with the opportunity to offer a range of safeguarding e-learning to all staff through unlimited licenses of all developed packages.
- Challenge made by the Independent Chair supported Northumberland County Council to make Safeguarding Children and Adults training mandatory for all Council staff. **Impact:** over **10,000** people many of them who live in Northumberland have basic knowledge of safeguarding process and awareness of the signs and indicators of child and adult safeguarding.
- **Young carers focus group** sessions led by VoiCeS culminated in a report [Is Anyone Listening](#) which focused on young people's experiences or early help assessment and support.

Professional Challenge

The LSCB challenge log was modified in 2016 and is embedded into minutes of the NSCB and its sub-committees. These are followed through until resolution. For example, the police have been subject to a challenge concerning attendance at strategy meetings and initial child protection conferences (ICPCs). Attendance at ICPCs has been resolved through the new post of police safeguarding advisor and criteria for attendance at strategy meetings have been agreed and established within the Child Protection Procedural Manual.



A continued challenge from the Independent Chair is to improve the voice of the child. This has resulted in collaborative work with children's groups, the voluntary and community sector, through the work of the Northumberland Children and Young People's Participation Group.

The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) challenges agencies if agreed actions are not progressed within timescales and escalation processes are in place. Following a thematic review during the development of their annual report, the CDOP challenged the NSCB in regard to co-sleeping due to their findings regarding modifiable factors in children's deaths. This direct challenge resulted in a communications strategy to ensure people working with families were able to raise the issue with parents.

To view the CDOP annual report please click the image



Similarly, the Board monitors actions for learning following a Serious Case Review to ensure actions are progressed and implemented.

The LSCB have undertaken a challenge event to hold organisations to account following the Section 11 audit and multi-agency audits.

Professional challenge also takes place at a senior level through regular formal meetings between the LSCB Independent Chair, Northumberland County Council Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services.

6 Progress on LSCB priorities 2016/17

LSCB Priorities 2016/17

Northumberland LSCB held two development days in July 2016 to review progress on the current priorities; consider key challenges; and to set its future priorities.

In setting the priorities for 2016/19 the Board considered a number of presentations and information sources which resulted in reaffirming the following strategic priorities:



Priority 1 – Improving focus on the child's experience of services and better embedding it in practice

Therefore we wanted to focus on the following:

Listen to and engage with children, young people and their families in order that we might better be able to see things from their point of view

Recognise and address issues that impact on children's lives such as poverty and acting as young carers

Create opportunities for children, young people and their families to engage with and contribute to what the Board seeks to achieve

Making sure that care planning for the child is robust, timely and sensitive to their needs and that they understand what decisions are being made about them and the reasons why

Promote working together arrangements to ensure that when children need help, the help they receive is joined up, has clear purpose and direction and that children, young people and their families are partners in this journey

To achieve this priority, it was essential to find methods to engage with all children and young people, not just those from vulnerable groups, but also young people accessing universal services. To do this the NSCB supported the development of the Northumberland children's and young people strategic participation group. This group provides a strategic lead, direction and focus for children and young people's participation across Northumberland, improving practice and communication.

This group has links to all of the participation groups working with agencies across Northumberland and the NSCB has benefited from utilising already developed relationships, such as the Voices making Choices and the A team below.



This has enabled the NSCB to see safeguarding from a variety of viewpoints. The NSCB in 2016-2017 has been attended on three occasions by young people presenting their views regarding Domestic Violence, a child sexual exploitation campaign [#ItCouldHappenToMe](#) and a campaign to [“Pass it On”](#) alongside a number of other child lead campaigns.



NSCB partner organisations responded to the section 11 audit and the challenge event and were able to identify good practice and compliance with the Standard 4 – *“Service development takes into account the need to safeguard and promote welfare and are informed, where appropriate, by the views of children and families”*.

The Early Help and Early Intervention sub-committee introduced ensuring the Voice of the Child added as standard enquiry in all thematic audits. Evidence that the voice of the child or young person's voice was not referenced in early cases (15%) so a system was developed to ensure feedback is given to authors who do not complete forms correctly to ensure this figure shows improvement.

The Health Related Behaviour Questionnaire Summary report, involving 3,500 young people in years 8 and 10 was shared with all Northumberland Partnership Boards and groups to ensure that children's views could be used to shape service provision and enable Boards to understand children's experience of services and perceptions of personal safety.

Priority 2 – Further promoting preventative and early help approaches

Therefore we wanted to focus on the following:

The NSCB is committed to providing help and support to as many families as possible at the level of need. Currently too many families are having to be referred through children's social care in order to access early help services,

The Council and partners are working to improve preventative approaches and access to early help through increasing the number of early help assessments, team around the family and early help plans.

The NSCB has an Early Help and Early Intervention sub-committee which is providing a steer to this work and promoting the links between early help and safeguarding services.

The majority of children and young people in Northumberland will grow up and reach their potential in a supportive environment accessing universal services.

However, some children, young people and their families face difficulties and problems. The Early Help and Early Intervention sub-committee reviews and improves the referral pathways and access to help and support for families and supports four Early Help Locality Hubs.

The four Early Help Hubs are now well established providing an effective line of communication between the NSCB and frontline practitioners. They facilitate collaborative working as well as identifying gaps in early help provision for children and families. The hubs received 3,016 referrals during 2016/17 majority of which came from either Central or SE Northumberland (1,865).

Early Help has been embedded across a broad range of partnership work and has many cross cutting themes and objectives promoted by the LSCB.

The impact of this can be seen through a range of activities across Council, Health and Voluntary services within in Children's Centres, Social Care, Health & Education based settings and latterly involvement from Northumbria Police, who are all delivering early help as part of their respective mainstream work.

It is fair to comment with over 1558 early help plans completed with a successful outcome this priority is clearly being met. This is an increase of 57% over the improving statistics of 2015-2016 in families receiving early help. This goes some way to explain the 35 % reduction of Child Protection plans and demonstrates families are getting the help they need at as earlier point as possible.

Priority 3 – Consolidating partnership working with education settings on the safeguarding agenda

Therefore we wanted to focus on the following:

For the second year the Education & Skills Service led on the LSCB's priority to improve partnership working with schools on the safeguarding agenda. There is strong evidence that schools are better engaged in the work of the NSCB.

Schools and other education settings have individual responsibilities to keep children safe but they are also key partners in raising awareness, building resilience with pupils and their families and providing other preventative interventions.

We will therefore continue to build capacity in schools to keep children safe in education and consolidate their engagement with the NSCB.

During 2016-2017 the representation from schools on the NSCB has increased from one head teacher to three and school representatives have joined other NSCB sub committees, including sexual exploitation and Early Help.

The Education Reference Sub-Group has continued to effectively engage schools with the NSCB. Local partnership representatives have shown their commitment through regular attendance to participate in termly workshops with agendas set by the group and involving visiting professionals from partner agencies. Themes explored include early help, the role of the principal social worker, partnerships with health and domestic violence.

The Education & Skills Service has continued to deliver training to governors on their safeguarding roles and responsibilities, with numbers receiving training increasing by nearly 100% on the previous academic year. Included in this training is the governors' duty to ensure schools engage with the NSCB and follow the NSCB's policies and procedures.

In partnership with colleagues from the NSCB the Education & Skills service took an active role in the consultation events held to review the Thresholds of Need document and supported the roll out of the revised guidance. Attendance at the events was very good, with 135/179 schools/academies sending at least one representative to one of the locally held meetings. Their feedback is evident in the finalised document, and acknowledges the valuable contribution which schools make to the threshold process.

The implementation of the 2014 Code of Practice for children with special educational needs and disabilities has introduced a new culture of person-centred planning into all schools. The voices of all children who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) have influenced the support arrangements for their education and pathways into adulthood. There is therefore evidence that the child's experience of services is embedding in practice, with 699 transfers from statements to EHCPs being completed from September 2014 to March 2017 (of which 95.62% were completed within timescale), and an additional 463 new referrals for EHCPs now complete. Referrals are received at an average rate of 25.5 per month, creating continuous opportunity to focus on children and their journeys through support services from ages 0-25.

For the second consecutive year 100% of schools completed an annual review of their mandatory section 175 safeguarding standards audit within timescale which provides reassurance to the NSCB that prevention is understood and being promoted in our schools.

The Schools' Safeguarding and Wellbeing team continued to support schools to develop a preventative Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum. A long-standing commissioning arrangement with Public Health meant that the support was integrated, dynamic and free of charge to schools. The resources are all on-line and therefore readily accessible to schools and partner agencies. The team won a national award for its revised multi-agency relationships and sex education curriculum.

The team manager for Schools' Safeguarding and Wellbeing has played a significant part in the roll out of Operation Encompass. Since April 2017 and to date over 100 head teachers and safeguarding leads have had face to face training and over 500 school staff have had face to face training. The team manager continues to support this work and is a key member of the multi-agency steering group which will monitor the continued roll out of this initiative. Early indications are that the programme is very valuable and supports safeguarding very vulnerable children in school.

The Education & Skills service continues to use the section 11 audit tool to drive improvement and we know that progress is being made to raise awareness regarding domestic violence amongst service staff, a thorough review of the service's Single Central Record has been completed and safer recruitment training has been delivered to all managers and senior staff involved in appointment panels.

Arrangements for identifying and finding children missing from education have been reviewed and are a strength of the service. For each month from April 2016 to March 2017 100% of children reported as missing were found within a four-week period. The service's arrangements also identify and track children who are not educated in school full time and therefore considered to be vulnerable learners, and children whose parents have chosen to electively home educate.

Northumberland's Virtual School for Looked After Children is part of the Education & Skills Service. The Virtual School Head teacher, publishes an annual report which comprehensively demonstrates how support to vulnerable looked after learners is effective and that outcomes are improving. Education outcomes in 2016 were good and are improving:

- we know we have been successful because our looked after learners make progress from the point that they enter care, school placement stability is good and we are skilled at developing clear vocational and academic pathways into further education, employment and training which improves life chances;
- Northumberland has sustained its record of no permanent exclusion of a looked after child since 2008;
- our looked after learners at Key Stage 1 out-performed their non-looked after peers nationally and their Northumberland peers in mathematics and therefore twice as likely to achieve age-related expectations in Key Stage 1 than all looked after learners nationally in all three measures;
- Northumberland looked after children are twice as likely to succeed in the basics than looked after pupils nationally, with 29.2% achieving the standard in Northumberland compared to the national average of 17.5%.

- more of our learners are progressing into further education in sixth forms and colleges than ever before and almost 100% of pupils who completed accredited courses in Year 11 have been engaged in further education, training or employment since September 2016;
- For the second consecutive year 100% of our Year 13 pupils progressed to University, having achieved excellent A 'level results. The three students achieved 10 A 'levels between them, which includes 3 A* and 3 A grades;
- Reducing school moves to improve placement stability was already good and has improved significantly this year. Only 10.71% of all looked after children have made 1 school move in the last 2 years, compared to 18% in 2015;
- the % of persistent absentees has fallen for the third consecutive year and by 2 percentage points since 2015. Overall absence rates for looked after children (nationally) has decreased very slightly from 4.0% in 2015 to 3.9% in 2016. At 3.8% Northumberland's performance is better than the national average;
- Northumberland's looked after children make good progress from their starting point of date of entry into care. There is convincing evidence that the Pupil Premium Plus continues to have a positive impact on progress and therefore achievement, with PEPs demonstrating that the grant was successful in supporting pupils to achieve their learning objectives.

Priority 4 – Improving support to especially vulnerable children and high risk adolescents

Therefore we wanted to focus on the following:

NSCB understands high need households to mean those family units that we know from experience are more likely to face difficulties in general and specifically in terms of prioritising and meeting the needs of the children and young people who live in them.

This is a complex agenda, involving issues such as poverty, crime, anti-social behaviour housing, environment, health and developmental issues, substance misuse, mental health, domestic violence and other factors that can be seen to increase risks to children and young people. The Troubled Families programme is providing an impetus and framework to be intervening in the lives of children where poor outcomes are the result of these factors. The Family Recovery team is playing a major role in turning around the lives of very complex and troubled families.

We also know that adolescents face particular risk, such as sexual exploitation, substance misuse, self-harming behaviour, bullying, mental health problems, eating disorders and identity issues that we have a number of ongoing work streams.

In 2016-2017 due to a number of suicides in Northumberland. The NSCB worked with Public Health and CYPS to develop a communication strategy to ensure young people were able to access support services and helplines.

The North of Tyne CDOP undertook an audit over the last three years to review suicides to look for patterns and highlight the levels of suicide in young people North of Tyne.

Public Health also developed a Suicide Prevention Plan and ensured children and young people were included in the strategy.

The NSCB training programme has been adapted to provide learning awareness of and how to support resilience and emotional well-being for young people.

During the year we attempted to make sure the needs of children and young people with disabilities was represented in each sub-committee's agenda. However, this became clear that at best this was tokenistic and although much effort was put into maintain the focus of children with disabilities it was not always effective.

During the year, it was clear that the existing Vulnerable Adolescents Sub Committee was duplicating the work of many other groups, such as the Youth Offending Service (YOS) management board safeguarding young people involved in crime, Multi agency Looked after partnership (MALAP) safeguarding looked after children, so the sub-committee was closed with plans for the YOS board and MALAP reporting directly to the NSCB.

From October 2017 there will be in place a specific Safeguarding Children with Disabilities sub-committee, with links into all other sub committees that will ensure these vulnerable young people's difficulties are better understood and met.

Priority 5 – Reviewing our response to sexual exploitation

Therefore we wanted to focus on the following:

In the past two years the nature and extent of child sexual exploitation (CSE) has become much better understood although with a recognition that there is opportunity for further development at this stage and that over the next few years we should expect to know more.

A Police led Sexual Exploitation Investigation has established that young people in the North East are as at risk from CSE as in other more high-profile parts of the country but we would want:

Continue to develop a targeted training programme in relation to SE in Northumberland

Ensure that SE becomes a key priority for established multi-agency group's community and faith groups.

Develop peer lead training programmes in partnership with the youth service and youth organisations.

The Sexual Exploitation (SE) sub group was implemented and is undertaking delegated functions on behalf of NSCB and Adults Boards (NSAB) and Safer Northumberland Partnership (SNP). The committee has been in place for over one year with bi-monthly meetings taking place to date. There is a high level of commitment by all agencies, including the voluntary sector. The main aim of the group is to influence and oversee implementation of the SE Strategy at a strategic level.

The SE Sub- committee has achieved many action points during the year, such as:

- Strengthening the NSCB Risk Management Guidance and the Vulnerability Checklist.
- Northumberland Adolescent Service has reviewed the 'Return Interview' process to have a stronger focus on SE, an audit has been undertaken to demonstrate its effectiveness.
- Agreed a training action plan. This is now included within core multi-agency training.
- Mandating as part of the licence application process SE training for all taxi and private hire drivers 1600 existing Northumberland taxi drivers received this training
- Presentation delivered by Senior Children's Services Manager to 120 teachers at Head Teachers conference. SE included in quarterly school's newsletter.
- Including SE in all GP mandatory training and a presentation to GP safeguarding leads' network undertaken.
- Ensuring the views of young people are sought. A recent SCR conducted by Bristol LSCB following Operation Brooke included the views of young people who had been victims of CSE. Work has been undertaken by Northumberland Youth Service with young people to develop information for peers including leaflets, posters and cards regarding safeguarding.
- Developing and circulating a briefing paper for front line staff. This includes information from local complex abuse strategy meetings and the regional police problem profile and represents an accurate picture of sexual exploitation in the area.
- Police data analysts presenting the regional police problem profile.

7 Quality, Improvement and Performance

The NSCB continually monitors the quality, timeliness and effectiveness of multi-agency practice through the Performance Management Framework.

Where gaps are identified, implications for the NSCB are considered and any agreed actions are progressed through the business planning arrangements and the work of the NSCB sub-groups and any agreed actions are progressed through the business planning arrangements and the work of the NSCB sub-groups.

NSCB action plans against priorities and performance are reported, monitored and challenged at each sub-committee, the NSCB Business Group, then at the NSCB.



Monitor partner compliance with the statutory requirement to have effective safeguarding arrangements in place (Section 11)



Carry out multi-agency audits and identify lessons to be learned and make recommendations for future improvement and feeding into NSCB training



Produce a series of multi-agency audit reports to inform the NSCB Board of the quality of work being undertaken and its impact on outcomes for individual children and young people



Use a series of performance scorecards for priority areas

One of the achievements this year was the development of a performance scorecard with multi-agency key performance indicators based on the Board's priorities and in keeping with statutory guidance.

This has not been without challenges; however, progress has been made in the presentation of partner data and analysis to go alongside the Local Authority data.

The "new" performance scorecard was presented to the NSCB in November 2016 and received endorsement by the NSCB.

The Quality, Improvement and Performance Sub-Committee also set the parameters of and views the results of audit prior to being presented to the NSCB.

During the year there have been a number of multi-agency audits.

In 2016 the NSCB introduced web-based section 11 multi-agency auditing system to reduce demands on partner's administration function during audit participation.

A Section 11 Audit is the NSCB's primary audit to examine the safeguarding arrangements within agencies and provides the Board with assurance that agencies are doing what they can to ensure the safety and welfare of children and young people.

The Section 11 audit utilised the web-based system, and the return was 100%.

The S.11 audit included serious case review recommendations and identified that all partner organisations had these in place or would conclude training in relation to the role of fathers by July 2016.

For 2017 the NSCB agreed that the section 11 (S.11) audit would rotate on a two yearly basis from a full S.11 audit to a structured focussed review.

In 2017 we are undertaking a focussed review of four key areas identified by the NSCB from data analysis, serious case review findings and current research.

The four areas are: -

- The response to children living with domestic violence
- Child sexual abuse
- Safeguarding children with disabilities
- Neglect

The return rate has been again very high and results will be reported to the NSCB in September 2017 alongside a S.175 audit from the Education Service and a GP focused S.11 audit.

There will be a challenge event in October 2017 chaired by the Senior Manager Governance, Risk and Audit, Northumbria Healthcare Trust to ensure that the challenge is robust and quality driven and afforded a level of independent scrutiny.

These three audits will provide an indication of how well organisations are working to keep children safe. The full S.11 audits will be repeated every two years with a focussed S.11 audit undertaken in the years in between. Agencies will be asked to develop action plans to address any areas requiring improvement.

Sample of multi-agency audits undertaken,

- Quality and impact of the Early Help Assessment (EHA) process in Northumberland.
- [Is Anyone Listening](#) focused on young people's experiences or early help assessment and support
- Attendance and Reports to Child Protection Conferences Audit
- Core Groups
- Records of parents and children's views in EHA
- Self-Harm in Northumberland
- Domestic Abuse in Northumberland - April 2014 to September 2016
- Thresholds audit and consultation 2016
- Coping with Crying Audit
- North of Tyne Child Death Overview Panel: Suicide in Young People 2008-16
- Regional Problem Profile findings and recommendations
- Northumberland CSE Problem Profile

The Use of Restraint – Safeguarding Young People in Secure Settings

In conjunction with Northumberland County Council, Northumberland LSCB monitors the use of restraint at Kyloe House National Secure Children's Home. Many of the young people are placed by Local Authorities outside of the Northumberland area. Since 2011 and in line with Working Together guidance we have reported on the use of restraint. Northumberland is amongst a small number of Local Authorities who have secure services within its boundaries.


Kyloe House National Secure Children's Home houses a changing population of young people (aged 11-17) with complex and challenging behaviours.

There were a total of **29 incidents which required restraint** during 2016-17; a decrease of 15 incidents compared to last year.

The incidents of restraint in 2016-17 led to 1 injury to a young person.

A robust Restraint Minimisation Strategy has seen the implementation of a range of alternative approaches to minimise the use and impact of restraint. This includes intensive individual supervision with young people to understand the causes and effect of their behaviour; positive reinforcement techniques; coping mechanisms and de-escalation techniques that the young person feels will work.



 **More Information:** Find out more information about [Kyloe House National Secure Children's Home.](#)

Serious Case Reviews

The NSCB have instigated three Serious Case Reviews (SCR) and these were completed during the year and presented to the NSCB. Two remain unpublished due to criminal and care proceedings. The other was published on NSCB website the 10th of August 2017 which is outside the parameters of this report

Action plans are monitored by the NSCB Business Unit and reviewed by the NSCB Board through the Serious Case Review Sub Committee and is a standing agenda item on the NSCB agenda.

To ensure that learning from Serious Case Reviews and Multi-Agency Deep Dive Reviews is embedded into training immediately the NSCB Training and Development Officer is a member of the Serious Case Review Committee.

Although the Serious Case reviews are unpublished we have embedded learning into core training and thematic learning events and reviewed procedures.

These various forms of training have provided time for professional reflection of key messages and recurrent themes running through the published Serious Case Reviews. The LSCB continue to implement the recommendations from Serious Case Reviews both multi and single agency recommendations.


Following publication there will be a number of learning events to ensure that Serious Case Reviews to contribute to the professional development of staff and improve their understanding of local safeguarding concerns and themes.

Serious Case Reviews are published on the NSCB website for a period of 12 months.

Outcomes and findings feed into our learning and improvement structures to promote a culture of continuous improvement across the NSCB.

Assurance is sought from partners annually that changes to practice following serious case reviews remain embedded in all partner organisations.

The audit schedule is adapted following serious case reviews to ensure the safeguarding system is monitored and scrutinised through audit and challenge events.

 **More Information:** Find out more information about [Serious Case Reviews.](#)

Child Death Overview Panel

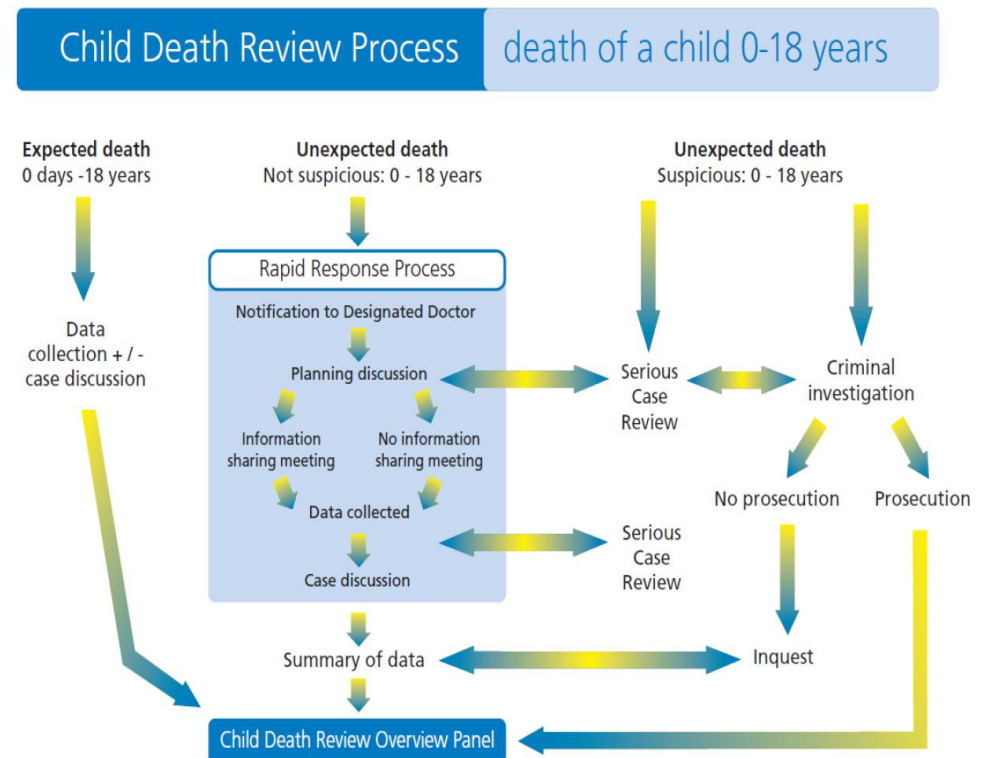
It is the responsibility of the Local Safeguarding Children Board to ensure that a review of every death of a child normally resident in their area is undertaken. A joint Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) has been agreed by Northumberland North Tyneside and Newcastle upon Tyne LSCBs.

North of Tyne CDOP undertakes the review process locally for all children normally resident in Northumberland, North Tyneside and Newcastle. Every death of a child is a tragedy and the panel's task is to learn from the circumstances of every death to:

- Identify any changes which can be made that might help prevent further deaths
- Share the learning regionally and nationally, with other CDOPs and agencies involved in the process.
- Identify trends and target interventions to prevent further deaths, the review process is not about allocating blame but is about learning lessons to prevent deaths in the future.
- Of the 14 cases reviewed in 2016/17 from Northumberland modifiable factors were identified in ??? cases.
- A modifiable factor is identified as something which: "may have contributed to the death of the child and which, by means of locally and nationally achievable interventions, could be modified to reduce the risk of future child deaths".

- Rapid response meetings took place in 100% of the cases.
- All parents were informed about the CDOP process following the introduction of procedures to ensure this occurs.

Interrelated processes for reviewing child deaths



Each year, the panel takes a close look at deaths where modifiable factors occur, in order to learn lessons for the future.

In 2016-2017 the following themes were identified:

Theme
Consanguineous parents, a union between two individuals who are related as second cousins or closer
Co-sleeping with alcohol use by parents
Maternal Smoking

Policy and Procedures

The updated online Northumberland LSCB Multi-Agency Child Protection Procedures were launched in February 2017.

They provide a web based solution that is fully searchable and allows the user to access content from a wide range of devices.

Website link - <http://northumberlandlscb.proceduresonline.com/>

Professionals should add the link above into work related phones, smartphones, tablets and computers to link directly to the procedures when needed.

Register for updates – Please [register for updates](#) and you will be automatically updated on any future child protection procedural changes and any new national or local guidance.

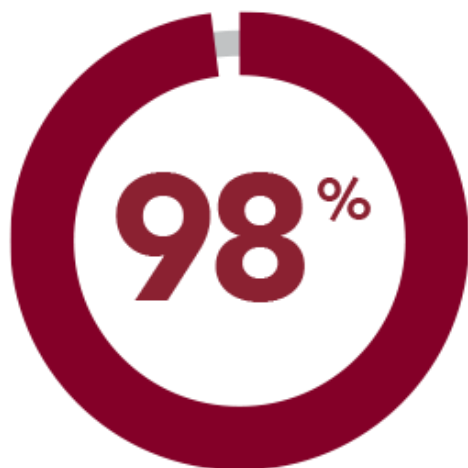
Feedback on the new procedures – If you have any comments, updates or feedback on the new procedures, you can let us know by completing the [procedures feedback form](#).

Procedures updated in 2016-2017 include

- Multi-agency thresholds
- Unborn thresholds
- Early help strategy
- Sexual exploitation strategy
- Initial child protection conferences
- Child protection review conference
- Children missing education
- Children moving across boundaries
- Harmful sexual behaviour
- Designated Officer flowchart previously LADO
- NSCB agency roles and responsibilities

8 Training and Communication

Northumberland LSCB offered over 20 core training courses in 2016-2017, to see the [full prospectus please click here](#)



A total of **80 courses** were delivered in 2016/17. The courses were attended by a total of **1,462 staff and volunteers**.

The training courses received very positive feedback with 98% of attendees marking the training as good or excellent.

The training enabled me to attend MARAC conferences with confidence, it has also prevented myself and my colleagues becoming “risk adverse” and making inappropriate referrals.

The quality of the training is high standard with key messages and learning points for participants to take away with them.

Voluntary Sector Training on Behalf of NSCB

VoiCeS Northumberland continue to provide a range of safeguarding training for the voluntary and community sector, using training materials developed and updated regularly in line with NSCB quality assurance standards.

E-Learning

During this final year of the contract with Virtual College, there were 1702 course completions for the Awareness of Child Abuse and Neglect.

The completion of additional Virtual College safeguarding e-learning modules was as follows:

Awareness of domestic violence	45
Early child development	23
Young people's development in social care settings	14
Hidden harm	44
Parental mental health	30
Sexual exploitation	65
Short breaks for disabled children	14
Self-harm and suicidal thoughts in young people	47
Working with disabled children	24

Achievements and Future Planning

Throughout this training year, the NSCB trainers have maintained the depth and breadth of the multi-agency training programme. The Ofsted validation has endorsed its quality and effectiveness.

We have made a successful transition to online booking for most learners and one of the key tasks in 2017-18 will be to build up the suite of e-learning available to partner organisations via Learning Together.

Communications Activity

The Communication and Engagement sub-committee has now become a multi-board sub-committee reporting to the following boards,

- Northumberland Safeguarding Children Board
- Northumberland Safeguarding Adults Board
- North Tyneside Safeguarding Adults Board
- Safe Northumberland Partnership

The two Adults Boards are now a joint Board and North Tyneside is an active contributor to the communication programme.

The work of the sub-committee was focused on the development and distribution of awareness raising materials, and the development of the LSCB Website.


Printed materials to raise awareness of safeguarding children were distributed to contact points such as GP surgeries, Children Centres, Day Nurseries, Customer Access Points and Libraries across Northumberland and made available for printing from the NSCB website.

The materials content is driven by the findings of SCRs, CDOP modifiable factors, national and local

priorities or research.

This year they have included,



 **More Information:** Find out more information about [Communication campaigns](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Children/Safeguarding.aspx)

9 How effectively are children and young people being safeguarded in Northumberland

This section addresses one of the key questions for all LSCB's: 'How effectively are children and young people being safeguarded in Northumberland?' It provides an overall picture of the progress being made to improve services and outcomes for children and young people across the whole safeguarding system (from universal services through early help to statutory intervention).

Monitoring and Reviewing

Many key processes and specific services are subject to independent monitoring and reviewing which provides a useful external measure of how well safeguarding is being carried out in Northumberland. This section considers the evidence provided from a number of sources.

The NSCB has considered the following factors in assuring itself that practice and multi-agency working is appropriate and safe:

Findings from external inspections:

- The Local Authority was judged to be 'requires improvement' by Ofsted in April 2016 and a service improvement plan is being implemented and progress scrutinised by the NSCB.
- During the Local Authority inspection reported in April 2016 no children and young people were referred to the Local Authority as being at immediate risk of significant harm.
- The Care Quality Commission's inspection of Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust found that the overall rating for services was 'Outstanding' and an action plan is being implemented.
- In the last Inspectorate of Constabulary inspection of Northumbria Police and the force was deemed to be good in Vulnerability and prepared in all aspects for Honour Based Violence.
- The Northumberland and Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust were inspected by CQC in September 2016 and were graded Outstanding Overall with Good for 'Are services Safe'
- Partner compliance with statutory duties to ensure arrangements are in place to effectively safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people
- The Section 11 audit undertaken in 2016 by partners represented on the Board indicated improved compliance since the previous audit in 2015.
- The majority of schools, child minders and day care settings inspected by Ofsted in 2016 were rated 'good' or better.
- The number of Third Sector organisations attending NSCB training and working as partners of the NSCB continues to grow.
- The Education and Skills Service continues to monitor safeguarding standards in education settings i.e. schools, academies, alternative providers, Free Schools and independent schools through a section 175/157 safeguarding standards audit tool

Performance data and trends

- Capacity pressures in social work teams continue to be addressed evidenced through reducing caseloads, increasing statutory visits and improved timeliness of completing assessments.
- The Risk Management Group has updated the Vulnerability Check List has strengthened the Signs of Safety approach, the identification of sexual exploitation (with a focus on the potential additional layers of vulnerability around the LGBTQ community) and includes other vulnerabilities such as radicalisation and extremism and the need to highlight to adult care to support the smooth transition to adulthood, particularly around S117 aftercare.
- Children and Young people subject to a child protection plan for two or more years has reduced
- The introduction of a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub is making great progress, internal audits are in place and reported to the NSCB about referral decisions.
- A performance report is provided to each main Board meeting and its key messages are assessed both in the meeting and followed up, with Board members and within the Quality and Improvement Performance (QIP) Sub-Committee.
- In the 2016 section 11 audit, the NSCB had 100% compliance by partners with 93% of audit questions were classified as meeting the minimum requirement, many of these exceeded the minimum expected.

- Data on attendance and reports at CP conferences reveals improvement in the provision of reports. The QIP sub group recommending greater use of video links to enable GPs to participate.
- Numbers subject to a CP plan have reduced to 234 below the England average, with Early Help Assessments increasing by 57% during the same period.
- The numbers of children with child protection plans has reduced to 46% however remains the highest percentage of CP plans, with children under 5 with Child Protection Plans being recorded at 56%.

Conclusions

The NSCB plays an active and dynamic leadership role in monitoring and shaping services for children. Ofsted identified that governance is a strength and partnerships across adults and children's service are well established. The NSCB partners challenge each other and hold each other to account. The NSCB has taken a lead in establishing strategic developments, such as sexual exploitation, radicalisation, early help and neglect.

The sub-committees, such as the sexual exploitation sub-committee, the prevent strategy group and child death overview panel (CDOP) have joint accountabilities. This has further promoted a joined up approach with partners and neighbouring local authorities, which prevents duplication in a time of scarce resources. The scrutiny of a range of data from key partners, such as social care, education, police and health through the use of key indicator set and dashboard are in place to enables the Board to monitor effectively the delivery of its priorities.

Assessing and managing risk is a key responsibility in safeguarding children and young people and the NSCB has been absolutely clear that this must be maintained appropriately and safely during the period of 'whole system change' and accompanying restructuring being undertaken by many partners. The NSCB has considered the following factors in assuring itself that practice and multi-agency working is appropriate and safe:

A review of the information and intelligence considered by the NSCB throughout 2016/17 and analysed through the annual review process suggests that overall the direction of travel is appropriate, good progress is being made to realise partnership objectives and that it is being managed carefully and safely.

Part of the NSCB's role is to hold other strategic bodies to account for their role in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. The NSCB complies with its statutory responsibilities in accordance with the Children Act 2004 and the Local Safeguarding Children Board Regulations 2006. The Board has an established relationship with the Health and Wellbeing Board and Families, Children Trust Board (FACT), Northumberland Safeguarding Adult Board (NSAB), Family Justice Board and Safer Northumberland Partnership (SNP) through cross membership and sharing of reports.

This report will be formally presented to the Chief Executive of Northumberland County Council, The Police and Crime Commissioner and senior managers of partner organisations who work with children and young people in Northumberland, shared with the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Families and Children's Trust and published on the Safeguarding Board website. 9 Emerging Priorities

10. Emerging Priorities

In 2016-2017 The Northumberland Safeguarding Children Board agreed the following priorities and priority actions for would be the focus of the NSCB for a three year 2017-2019 period.

- **Improving focus on the child's experience of services and better embedding it in practice**
- **Further promoting preventative and early help approaches**
- **Consolidating partnership working with education settings on the safeguarding agenda**
- **Improving support to especially vulnerable children and high risk adolescents**
- **Reviewing our response to sexual exploitation**

This annual report provides the opportunity for the NSCB to review these priorities and discuss the emerging priorities from our serious case reviews and audits, it is clear that we have some emerging priorities and these will be discussed by the NSCB in September 2017.

They include,	
Child sexual abuse (CSA)	Our recent SCR Molly and a further SCR yet to be published highlighted issues relating to CSA, the discussion in learning events has highlighted that our eye due to National and local police lead operations has been drawn towards Child sexual exploitation. We cannot lose that focus on CSE, but need to be sure we do not lose sight of interfamilial CSA
Neglect	Neglect remains our highest percentage of child protection plans, The NSCB may decide to understand neglect to have a better view of the local picture of neglect; raise awareness. The Neglect strategy sets an ambitious target to further improve Early Identification Improve the recognition and assessment of neglect. We need to ensure that there is effective provision to provide effective support that helps reduce neglect and finally have a family focus to ensure that the experience of our families and the voice of the child helps shape our services.
The Children and Social Work Act 2017 – new local safeguarding and child death review	The Children and Social Work Act (The Act) received Royal Assent on 27 April 2017. The Act (see http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/16/contents/enacted) will, when brought into force, amend the Children Act 2004 to put into law the key recommendations of the Wood Review of the role and functions of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) . The provisions of the Act will strengthen the statutory framework

<p>arrangements.</p>	<p>around multi-agency working by placing a duty on three safeguarding partners, namely the local authority, chief officer of police and clinical commissioning group (CCG) to make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their area and identify and respond to the needs of children. The provisions of the Act also allow greater flexibility for local areas to determine how they arrange their services to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the area.</p> <p>The provisions in the Act will also enable the establishment of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel. This Panel will make decisions on whether to undertake reviews of serious child safeguarding cases which are complex or of national importance. The safeguarding partners for each local area will carry out reviews of serious child safeguarding cases, which raise issues of importance in relation to that area. Child death reviews will become the responsibility of the child death review partners, namely local authorities and CCGs.</p> <p>The Department for Education is undertaking comprehensive consultations from July to December 2017 on the proposed content of the regulations and statutory guidance that will support the new arrangements set out in the Act.</p> <p>The government will issue further communications to confirm the expected timescales for the publication of regulations and guidance, which will be the trigger for local areas to begin more detailed planning for their arrangements. LSCBs must continue to undertake their statutory functions, as they are legally required to do, until the new safeguarding partner and child death review arrangements are in place.</p> <p>The task for the NSCB and the three partners is to investigate what the new legislation will mean for them, thinking through what the future safeguarding and child death arrangements may operate in practice, considering what is working well in the area, and what could be improved.</p>
<p>Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)</p>	<p>The NSCB has been involved and briefed on the introduction of a safeguarding hub for Northumberland. This multi-agency first point of contact is an important development to safeguarding children and young people in Northumberland. The NSCB's role will continue to monitor and scrutinise the effectiveness of these arrangements to safeguard and protect children and young people</p>
<p>Children with Disabilities</p>	<p>Research has found that disabled children are three to four times more likely to be abused and neglected than non-disabled children and more likely to experience multiple types and occurrences of abuse. The NSCB identified in 2016-2017 that this work required a sub-committee to take forward this emerging theme. The sub-committee meeting for the first time in October 2017 chaired by the Designated Doctor for the CCG.</p>

Working with Fathers	<p>SCRs and audit continue to highlight that parents and children's views are missing from all agencies EHA or safeguarding referrals and assessments. The NSCB also identified that father's views were missing in a SCR and developed an addendum to ensure they were present in the learning.</p> <p>A failure to know about men has been a feature in many serious case reviews, where information about men has not been passed on or pursued by caseworkers. Little is known about fathers or other men in the household, their relationships with the mother and the extent to which they are involved with the children. There tends to be a focus on mothers, who are seen as the primary caretakers, and exclude or at least make little effort to include fathers.</p>
Resilience and emotional Well being	<p>Following the numbers of suicide in Northumberland this emerging need is linked to the suicide strategy and work being led by Public Health.</p>

These emerging priorities will be added to and discussed at the September NSCB and the business plan will be updated in light of these discussions

Appendix 1 – LSCB Membership

Northumberland LSCB Membership

Independent Chair, NSCB
Assistant Director, Barnardo's East Region
Associate Director, Adult Services - Safeguarding & Strategic Commissioning, Northumberland County Council
Chief Executive, Northumberland County Council
Children's Services Manager, Action for Children
Children's Services Manager, Barnardo's
Deputy Director of Nursing, Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
Deputy Head SA National Probation Service,
Designated Doctor, Child Protection, NHS Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group
Detective Chief Inspector, Northumbria Police.
Director of Education and Skills, (Director of Children's Services) Northumberland County Council,
Director of Nursing Quality & Patient Safety, NHS Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group
Director of Offender Management, Northumbria Community Rehabilitation Company
Director, Voices
Executive Director Wellbeing & Community Health Services, Northumberland County Council
Group Nurse Director in Patient Care, Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust
Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children and Looked After Children, NHS Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group.
Head Teacher, Astley High School
Head Teacher, Nunnykirk Centre for Dyslexia
Head Teacher, Prudhoe High School
Lay Members (3)
Lead Member of Children Services, Cabinet Member, Northumberland County Council
North of England Manager Action for Children
Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust Senior Manager,

Policy and Team Manager, Community Safety Department, Northumberland Fire & Rescue Service, Northumberland County Council.
Principal Housing Services Manager, Northumberland County Council
Public Health Senior Manager, Public Health, Northumberland County Council
Quality and Safety Manager, Cumbria and North East sub-region NHS England, NHS England
SAPP Manager, Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust,
Senior Head of Service: A1 North and South of Tyne and Cumbria; the National Commissioning Team
Senior Manager, Education & Safeguarding Performance Team, Northumberland County Council
Strategic Community Safety Manager, Northumberland County Council

NSCB Advisors

The Board is advised by:

- On request, a member of Northumberland County Council Corporate Legal Services nominated as the Board's legal advisor
- The Northumberland LSCB Business Manager

Appendix 2 – LSCB Staffing and Budget

Staffing

The LSCB is supported by the following officers:

NSCB Business Manager

NSCB Business Support Officer

LSCB Budget

The financial contributions from partner agencies are as follows

Income

Partner	2016/17 Contribution
Northumbria Police	£5,000
NHS Northumberland CCG	£10,000
Northumbria Healthcare NHS Trust	£5,000
CAFCASS	£550
National Probation Service	£250
Northumbria Rehabilitation Company,	£250
Northumberland County Council	£92,999
Total	£21050

Expenditure

Description	Cost
Expenditure	
Salaries	
Business Support Officer	15,957
NSCB Manager	61,562
Staffing Total	77,519
Non-Pay	
Insurance - Employers Liability / Third Party	116
Hire of facilities	2,676
Printing & Stationery	791
Professional Services Independent Chair and SCR Authors	25,572
Tri.X Procedures	7,375
Non-Staffing Total	36,530
Total	114,049

Northumberland LSCB Annual Report 2016 / 2017 - Safeguarding Children in County of Northumberland

Northumberland Safeguarding Children Board has a statutory duty to prepare and publish an Annual Report which describes how our partners safeguard vulnerable children and young people in County of Northumberland. Our primary responsibility is to provide a way for the local organisations that have a responsibility in respect of child welfare, to agree how they will work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in County of Northumberland and to ensure that they do so effectively.

The children and young people of County of Northumberland are at the heart of what all LSCB partners do and our vision of **'Every child and young person in County of Northumberland feels safe and grows up safe from harm'** continues to drive services forward.

This Annual Report gives an account of the Board's work over the past year to improve the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. The report reflects the activity of the LSCB and its sub groups against its priorities for 2016/17. It covers the major changes and improvements of our partners' service delivery, where they link with the Board's overall strategies and the impact it has had. It also reports on the Serious Case Reviews and Child Death Reviews undertaken and identifies the priorities to be taken forward into 2017/18.

A copy of this report is available on

<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Children/Safeguarding.aspx>