



Final Annual Report

2018 / 2019

Safeguarding Children in Northumberland

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

Contents

1. Foreword by Independent Chair	3
2. Introduction	5
3. Thirteen years of inspections of the NSCB	5
4. Local Data	7
5. New Governance arrangements and Structure	9
6. Progress on LSCB priorities 2018/19	10
7. Performance Monitoring and Quality Assurance	11
8. The Use of Restraint – Safeguarding Young People in Secure Settings	12
9. Training and Communication.....	13
10. How effectively are children and young people being safeguarded in Northumberland?.....	14
11. Priorities for 2019-2020.....	17
Appendix 1 – NSCB Membership.....	19
Appendix 2 – NSCB Staffing and Budget.....	20

1. Foreword by Independent Chair

Welcome to the Final Northumberland Local Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB) Annual Report for 2018/19. This is my last report as the LSCB Independent Chair and I would like to thank all those involved in the progress the NSCB has made over my five year tenure. This report's timescale extends to September 2019 as the NSCB undergoes a transition into the Northumberland Strategic Safeguarding Partnership (NSSP) from this date.

I am continuing my role as Independent Chair of the Northumberland Safeguarding Children Committee (NSCC) until the 31st of March 2020 to support the transition into the new arrangements following the changes to Safeguarding Arrangements in the Children and Social Work Act 2017. You can read more about that on Page 9.

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 the County of Northumberland.

During this year all member organisations have continued to work in partnership across the safeguarding agenda and it is to the credit of the partners in Northumberland that they have continued to fully support the work of the Board and maintained a clear focus on the work we need to do during this transition period, while at the same time managing the changes to come.

The report reflects the activity of the LSCB and its sub-committees against the agreed priorities for 2018/19. It also reports on any Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) published and identifies the priorities and safeguarding work we will take forward into 2019/20.

The NSCB is a strategic body; much of the detailed work of the Board is taken forward by our various sub-committees/task and finish groups. These are the real workhorses for safeguarding and I must take this opportunity on behalf of the Board to recognise all members of these groups for their continued commitment.

It has been a busy year for the NSCB with a SCR and a number of Multi-Agency Deep Dive Reviews published. During the year, the Sanctuary Joint SCR was also published, and the NSCB also embedded the learning from a number of National Reviews such as the Joint SCR on Sexual Exploitation (SE) undertaken in Newcastle upon Tyne.

The recent Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) multi-agency response to Child Exploitation in Northumberland focussed on Sexual and Criminal Exploitation (S&CE). This allowed partner organisations and the NSCB to test their responses to children and young people who are drawn into these forms of exploitation. Pleasingly, it found no identified child or young person left at risk due to S&CE and the inspection team identified no priority actions, where immediate action was required to safeguard a child or young person.

The responsibility of safeguarding children and young people does not rest with a single agency, and this inspection highlighted the strong commitment demonstrated by all the Northumberland safeguarding agencies to working together to safeguard children.

It is particularly pleasing that inspectors found that children are being listened to, and their words are being recorded and acted upon. It is right that children's views and feelings should be at the

heart of what we are all doing.

The report also notes where further work is needed, and a number of these actions have already been completed. Going forward, we will build on those recommendations to continue to make further improvements to keep children and young people safe.

I would like to thank 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 who bring another layer of independent scrutiny to the work of the NSCB.

Paula M. Mead

Paula Mead NSCC Independent Chair



2. Introduction

Northumberland Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB) had a statutory duty to prepare and publish an Annual Report which describes how our partners safeguard vulnerable children and young people. This responsibility is now handed over to the Northumberland Strategic Safeguarding Partnership (NSSP), who will report on the same timescale, but following the financial year rather than the academic year, to allow for end of year data to be available.

Our primary responsibility is to provide a way for the local agencies 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.

The Annual Report 2018/19 demonstrates the extent to which the functions of the NSCB, as set out in the national statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (March 2018) are being effectively fulfilled.

3. Thirteen years of inspections of the NSCB

The NSCB was established in 2006 and has provided a scrutiny and oversight of safeguarding children in a robust manner.

The inspections of the NSCB during this time have been closely linked with those of the Local Authority and received its own inspection in 2016. These inspections have identified that the NSCB has been either good or outstanding in all inspections that relate to its work since its onset.



Partnership working is outstanding; the NSCB is effective and adaptable in keeping pace with a safeguarding agenda. The Board is operating from a strong and well-established base including effective scrutiny, appropriate challenge and focus on relevant issues.

The NSCB is well informed about the key issues for children's services and safeguarding and robust arrangements are in place for sharing management information. A learning culture exists and the Board demonstrates the use of some imaginative methods to ensure that lessons from management reviews are widely disseminated.

In June 2019, Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission, HMI Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services and HMI Probation carried out a joint inspection of the [multi-agency response to children experiencing or at risk of SE and those experiencing or at risk of CE in Northumberland](#).

The Inspectors also considered the effectiveness of the multi-agency leadership and management of this work, including the role played by the NSCB. The inspectors found that the NSCB had undertaken appropriate challenges to statutory partners to improve services for children and young people and monitored the progress of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) development plan, return interviews, safety planning and the Local Authority improvement plan.

The NSCB undertakes regular multi-agency audits. A multi-agency audit in December 2018 into the safeguarding of disabled children led to the consideration of SE being incorporated into all assessments. These assessments would have been further strengthened by consideration of CE. Multi-agency audits completed by the partnership reflected the areas of development identified by inspectors during this inspection.

The communications undertaken by the NSCB also received some comments such as: the NSCB seven-minute briefings provide clear and succinct information for practitioners on various topics. Inspectors were given numerous examples of practitioners valuing these, which they said had increased their awareness and understanding of child S&CE.

The partnership has involved children in the development of innovative approaches to promoting public awareness of child sexual exploitation (CSE). 'Pass it on' involved children giving

information to other children on the risks to them of CSE. This has resulted in increased awareness, including an example of a child making a disclosure as a direct consequence of the campaign.

The identification of effective partnership working in the NSCB over a significant timescale highlights the effective positive working relationships between statutory partners, voluntary sector and lay members and the NSSP has strong foundations to build on.

4. 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. The County has a very diverse combination of communities ranging from some of the most sparsely populated rural areas in the country through to the larger towns; each area with its own needs and aspirations.



Northumberland is home to **316,000 people** and covers an area of 5,013 km², of which 96.7% is classed as rural.



In 2016 Children and young people aged 0 – 18 years, made up **18.65%** of the population



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 **120th 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 of **19.6%**, with **18.4%** of children under 16 years living in poverty.

Data source: Office for National Statistics (ONS)

Northumberland Safeguarding Snapshot 2018/19



3 Children were being looked after in a private fostering arrangement e.g. living with a family friend

There were **659** incidents where children were reported as missing from home

81% of schools inspected by Ofsted achieved good or outstanding for safeguarding

Children were present in 42% of all domestic abuse incidents

65% placed on a Child Protection Plan under the category of neglect

There were 23 Domestic Abuse incidents where the victim was aged 16/17

18.4% of children are living in poverty

58,926 Children under 18, 18.5% of the total population

100% of Children's Homes were rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted

88 children identified as being at risk of child sexual exploitation

2689 referrals made to the four locality early help hubs compared to 2234 the previous year

85% of eligible two year olds are in free early years provision



5. New Governance Arrangements and Structure

Following the Wood Review and the Children and Social Work Bill in 2016, **new safeguarding arrangements** were passed into law through the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

The [Children and Social Work Act 2017](#) places a duty on the three Safeguarding Partners for Northumberland: Northumberland County Council; Northumbria Police; and Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), to make arrangements to work together, and to work with any relevant agencies, for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in their area.

As part of the transition from a LSCB to the NSSP, the three Safeguarding Partners have to publish Northumberland Safeguarding Partnership Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements, which are available at the following [link](#); the Terms of Reference can be found [here](#) and the structure can be found [here](#). All of these links are available at: <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Children/Safeguarding/Info.asp> [x](#).

To support the transition process, the NSCB Independent Chair, will continue to chair the Northumberland Safeguarding Children Committee (NSCC) until March 2020 and support the transition into the new arrangements.

Provisions within the Children and Social Work Act 2017 will replace LSCBs with new local safeguarding arrangements, led by three **Safeguarding Partners** and supported by relevant agencies. It also places a duty on new Child Death Review partners to review the deaths of children normally resident in the local area.

[Vision, Aims and Principles of the NSSP](#)

The vision for the NSSP is:

- for all partner agencies in Northumberland to be at the forefront in terms of delivering effective safeguarding practice;
- to be recognised for the culture of review and reflective learning;
- to be positively acknowledged by children and young people for the work that supports their safety and welfare.

The NSCB was graded by Ofsted in its last inspection as ‘Good’ and whilst we wish to retain this effective and robust local arrangement, there is a drive over the next three years to work more effectively together. Within Northumberland, this would be in partnership with the Safeguarding Adults Board and the Community Safety Partnership; sub-regionally, with neighbouring Local Authority areas, currently being driven forward by the Strategic Safeguarding Partners from all six Local Authority areas. The goal over time is for this sub-regional Strategic Partnership to take over responsibility from the NSSP.

Many issues that keep children and young people safe from harm are not restricted by geographic and organisational boundaries and a sub-regional approach will ensure that children and young people are kept safe and protected by strong regional approaches to complex safeguarding issues that cover more than one Board or Local Authority area of responsibility.

6. Progress on LSCB priorities 2018/19

The Priorities were set at two NSCB development days with all partners considering local data, emerging national and local themes, audit, SCR and Domestic Homicide Review findings.

Following a voting exercise and challenge the following priorities were agreed (they are not listed in any particular order and should be considered as having equal status within all work to progress the multi-agency safeguarding response to children young people and their families):

1. **Further promoting preventative and early help approaches**
2. **Neglect**
3. **Working with fathers**
4. **Improving focus on the child's experience of services and better embedding it in practice**
5. **Impact of Domestic Violence and Abuse on children**

It was also agreed that S&CE and safeguarding children with disabilities would also remain part of the core work of the NSCB.

The progress of the priorities has been monitored and scrutinised by the Quality, Improvement and Performance (QIP) Sub-Committee and all the priorities are set out in the NSCB Business Plan [here](#).

Significantly, the Business Plan identifies that the priorities have made significant progress during the year and the NSSP have agreed that the priorities will continue until March 2020 to ensure further progress can be embedded.

[Learning Point](#)

The NSCB have also been working to implement learning from Serious Case Reviews, focused on the issue of Neglect. This two minute video asks you to re-think 'did not attend' notifications.

(Shared with permissions of Nottinghamshire LSCB)



[Learning Point](#)

Neglect Video: Michelle's Story, this is the story of Michelle and her experience of neglect as she was growing up. Click the picture to watch the video.



7. Performance Monitoring and Quality Assurance

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

Where gaps are identified, implications for the NSCB are considered and any agreed actions are monitored through the NSCB and the QIP Sub-Committee.

All the NSCB Sub-Committees (aligned to priorities) have an agreed and monitored action plan. Performance and progress is reported at the sub-committees level and analysed at the QIP Sub-Committees and exceptions are reported to the NSCB for challenge and action.

Ongoing Quality Assurance

- 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 LSCB training
- Multi-agency audit reports to inform the LSCB Board of the **quality of work** being undertaken and its impact on outcomes for individual children and young people
- Overview of **multi-audits** to monitor and review practice

During the year, the NSCB has presented multi-agency case file audits into Child Sexual Abuse, concealed Pregnancy, Safeguarding Disabled Children and Young People and Neglect.

The learning from audits has been shared in training and through the [seven minute guide](#) process.

SCRs are published on the Northumberland LSCB website for a period of 12 months. There is currently one published SCR: [Natalie](#).

Outcomes and findings feed into our performance structures to promote a culture of continuous learning and improvement across the partner agencies of the LSCB.

The CDOP for North of Tyne share their key learning from child deaths. They monitor and challenge agencies for the completion of recommended identified actions and publish a separate annual report. Find out more information about [Child Death Reviews](#).



8 The Use of Restraint – Safeguarding Young People in Secure Settings

In conjunction with Northumberland County Council, Northumberland LSCB monitors the use of restraint at [Kylloe House](#) National Secure Children's Home. Many of the young people are placed by Local Authorities outside of the Northumberland area.

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



The number of incidents fluctuates during 2018-2019. This is reflective of the number of admissions and discharges from the Home and the chaotic and violent behaviour, including self-harm, initially presented by some of the young people admitted. The number of high level interventions demonstrates the nature of the locked service and the need for young people to use “fight” rather than “flight” when discussing their frustrations, thoughts and challenges. In comparison to other secure services, Kylloe House has low numbers of incidents recorded. Staff will use other defusing methods to support the young person, including agreed support strategies, which may include planned time out of the direct living environment. There are no prone incidents during the reporting period.

In the most recent Ofsted Inspection Kylloe House was rated as ‘Good’ with the inspection team noting:

- There are high-quality relationships between staff and young people. Staff are excellent role models for young people; they provide good support and guidance and encourage positive social skills and behaviour, which form the foundations for the good-quality individualised work undertaken.
- Healthcare, including mental health care, is of a good quality, ensuring that young people's needs are assessed, planned for and met.
- Good-quality work is undertaken to help, guide and support young people to make progress and return to community living.
- A stable, knowledgeable and well-led staff team is supported by managers who have high aspirations for young people.

9. Training and Communication

During 2018-19, there was a broad multi-agency training offer available to NSCB partner organisations. This was managed by the NSCB Training and Development Officer. During the year, she responded to the NSCB's needs, providing training and learning across a wide range of learning events, and she developed several eLearning courses through the Learning Together Learning Management System. The numbers accessing training again increased alongside the wider prospectus.

"My knowledge and understanding of attachment and ACEs has been greatly enhanced (again). I have thoroughly enjoyed these 2 days and delivery of the course was engaging and kept me focused. The chance for professional dialogue was invaluable. I am leaving enthused about ways to support pupils further in the schools I work with. Thank you."

Key learning from multi-agency case reviews and NSCB case audits were embedded into training quickly. In response to unmet demand, an additional carousel event was provided, sharing learning from the 'Kirsty', 'Natalie', Molly' and 'Olivia' SCRs and there were learning events around the County addressing the learning from Operation Sanctuary and the 'Sarah' DHR.

To support the NSCB priority related to Early Help and Prevention, a second multi-agency training programme was provided to complement and support the safeguarding training offer. This brings together some existing training (e.g. Introduction to Early Help) with many new learning events relating to emotional health and wellbeing, including tools and techniques for working with children and families. For detailed information please see the [NSCB Multi-Agency Training Annual Report 2018-19](#).

Marketing and communications work is delivered through the NSCB website and through email campaigns; the NSCB supported local and national campaigns.

Printed materials to **raise awareness of safeguarding** children were distributed to contact points such as Customer Access Points, GP surgeries, Libraries, Children Centres, Day Nurseries, Police Stations and the Voluntary Sector.

The [NSCB website](#) is the main access point for safeguarding information and materials. Content is refreshed regularly with the Posters, Guidance and Seven-Minute Guides.



10. How effectively are children and young people being safeguarded in Northumberland?

This section addresses one of the key questions for all LSCBs: ‘How effectively are children and young people being safeguarded in their area?’ 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 multi-agency audit process, 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:

- Between 17 and 21 June 2019, Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission, HMI Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services and HMI Probation carried out a [joint inspection](#) of the multi-agency response to children experiencing or at risk of SE and those experiencing or at risk of CE in Northumberland.

The findings highlighted 21 key strengths and 14 areas for improvement; a robust action plan has been established to ensure the areas of improvement will be taken forward and this will be monitored by the NSSP.

- The [Care Quality Commission’s inspection of Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust](#) found that the overall rating

for services was ‘Outstanding’ and the action plan has been completed.

- In March 2018 [Inspectorate of Constabulary of Northumbria Police Peel inspection](#), Northumbria Police were judged at ‘Good’ overall, with ‘Requires Improvement’ in Protecting Vulnerable People. The Northumbria Police representative presented the findings to the NSCB and their Safeguarding Operating Model Force Improvement Programme will be scrutinised by the NSCB.

Following this inspection, Northumbria Police had their [Child Protection Inspection Revisit](#) in January 2019, which highlighted that the Inspectorate found that there is a ‘continuing commitment’ amongst officers and staff with regards to their child protection responsibilities. The force has also made some specific improvements against the 2018 recommendations, particularly in relation to missing children.

HM Inspector of Constabulary Phil Gormley said:

“I am encouraged by the force’s commitment to protecting children from harm. I look forward to seeing further improvements implemented in due course.”

- [The Northumberland and Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust were inspected by CQC](#) in April 2018 and were graded ‘Outstanding Overall’ with ‘Good’ for ‘Are services Safe’.
- The majority of schools, child minders and day care settings inspected by Ofsted in 2018-2019 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 Northumberland CCG undergoes annual internal audit of safeguarding to provide assurance the organisation is ‘safe’

from a safeguarding perspective. During the period covered by this report, the CCG received substantial assurance (the highest grade) following an audit in to how learning from case reviews and serious incidents is shared and embedded.

- 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.

Multi-agency audit framework

Audits undertaken

- Early Help
- Neglect
- Child Sexual Abuse
- Missing, Exploited, Slavery and Trafficked Risk De-escalation
- Voice of the Child
- Safeguarding Children with Disabilities

All of the audits have had a robust action plan and have driven forward change across all partner organisations.

Performance data and trends

- National pressures in recruitment to social work roles continue to be addressed in Northumberland; caseloads have reduced over the year from 22.1 in 2017-2018 to 18.9 for this year, this continues to be monitored by the NSSP.
- Social Work Assessments in Northumberland on Children, Young People and their Families in 94% of cases are completed within 45 days; this is a 10% improvement on the regional average

- Referrals to the four locality based Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs have increased to 2,689 compared to 2,234 the previous year.
- 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 QIP Sub-Committee.
- Issues raised have been actively challenged and scrutinised by the NSCB and the NSSP, a recent rise in Child Protection plans during August 2019, was raised and the Local Authority are undertaking a data analysis to provide reassurance to the NSSP
- 100% of Children's Homes inspected by Ofsted in 2018-2019 were rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding'.
- 85% of schools inspected by Ofsted in 2018-2019 achieved 'Good' or 'Outstanding' for safeguarding.
- In the Missing, Exploited Slavery and Trafficked (MSET) Group lead by Northumbria Police, of the 41 young people that were discussed in 2017-2018, only 13 of the cases were re-referred into MSET for discussion in 2018-2019, meaning the risk had substantially reduced in 68% of these cases.

Conclusions

The NSCB has played an active and dynamic leadership role in monitoring and shaping services for children over the last thirteen years. The governance of the NSCB has been identified as 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 SE, re-establishing the responsible authorities meeting, early help and reviewing our response to child sexual abuse. The governance arrangements of the NSSP have built on these strengths and moving forward, the NSSP has strong foundations to build from.

The sub-committees, such as the S&CE Sub-Committee, the Prevent Strategy group and 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 has continued to improve during the year through the use of key indicators set, which will be further enhanced by the development of a regional performance framework to enable the NSSP to monitor effectively the delivery of its priorities.

During this change process, the NSCB lead on the responsibility in ensuring children and young people were continued to be safeguarded in Northumberland 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 scrutinised these changes and assured itself that practice and multi-agency working is appropriate and safe.

- The NSCB, and more latterly the NSSP, has reviewed the information and intelligence considered by the NSCB throughout 2018/19 and analysed through this annual review process that overall the direction of travel is appropriate, good progress is being made and they have undertaken the transition into the new arrangements set out by the Children and Social Work Act 2017.
- 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 Well-being Board (HWBB), 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 HWBB and the Families and Children's Trust and published on the Safeguarding Board website.

11. Priorities for 2019-2020

In 2017-2018, the NSSP, at the Partnership development day, agreed that the following priorities and priority actions would be the focus of the NSSP for 2019-2020:

Further promoting preventative and early help approaches

The NSSP 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 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 NSSP has an Early Help and Early Intervention (EHEI) Sub-Committee which is providing a steer to this work and promoting the links between early help and safeguarding services.

Neglect

Neglect and the damage to children from neglect has been a feature in both local and national SCRs. It has been identified as a feature in national and local SCRs, and locally in learning reviews and multi-agency audits, resulting in neglect being identified as a priority by the Board.

Neglect may be a factor or a direct cause of death or severe injury in children and young people, and it has been identified as a prevailing or risk factor when there is hidden harm relating to physical and sexual abuse. Current evidence strongly suggests that all forms of neglect are particularly associated with damage to the child's lived experience and their physical and emotional wellbeing.

Working with fathers

In Northumberland, since 2009, there have been a number of cases where the role of the father or significant males has not been clearly understood. There have been a number of cases reviewed by the SCR Committee where parents had different GPs, with mother and children at one GP practice and the father or significant male at another, sometimes in another Local Authority area. In one case, Child Concern Notifications regarding domestic violence in a previous relationship had been historically supplied to another Local Authority by the Police and were not known to Northumberland. During SCR investigations, evidence of engagement with fathers and significant males are often missing from records. Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 refers throughout to parents, not mothers in isolation, and defines the statutory guidance to gain parents' views and to understand their capacity to provide care.

"When professionals refer a child, they should include any information they have on the child's developmental needs and the capacity of the child's parents or carers to meet those needs. This information may be included in any assessment, including the early help assessment" Para 20.

The need to work with both parents continues throughout the process of any case, either at child protection or early help.

It is important to note that most fathers want to have active input with parenting their children, and most children want contact with their fathers. The need to engage fathers more in the safeguarding process is one of the most pressing reasons for policy and practice to address and challenge the risk of gender inequalities and gendered biases among agencies. Men need to be regarded as core to assessment and planning for children's needs, whether they have parental responsibility; this approach should be embedded within all assessments of children's needs, early help provision and safeguarding.

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

In ensuring that children and young people are protected and kept safe, we need to be able to understand how they see and experience the things that happen to them and to consider the world from their perspective.

Impact of Domestic Violence on children and young people

Domestic violence and abuse has been recognised nationally as having a significant impact on both individuals and families, including affecting a woman's ability to care for her children.

Research evidence shows that children experiencing domestic violence and abuse can be negatively affected in every aspect of their functioning, safety, physical and mental health and well-being, school attendance and achievement, economic wellbeing and emotional development. The effects may continue into adulthood, affecting their ability to form peer friendships and healthy partner relationships of their own. In the most extreme cases, children are at risk of serious injury or death because of domestic violence and abuse. For many children, experience of living with domestic violence and abuse is the underlying factor in other needs for which they come to the notice of services and individual organisations.

Child Sexual and Criminal Exploitation, Missing and Gangs and Groups, including County Lines

In the past years the nature and extent of CSE has become much better understood and the NSSP has a developing knowledge of gangs and groups including County Lines. Following the JTAI it is clear that the NSSP has to lead on developing an understanding of and responding to the emerging threat of CE in Northumberland.

Appendix 1 – NSCB Membership

Independent Chair, NSCB

Northumberland County Council Children’s Services

Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Children's Services

Service Director, Education and Skills

Service Director, Children's Social Care

Senior Manager, Performance - Education & Safeguarding

Independent Reviewing Officer/ Safeguarding Manager

Northumberland County Council

Cabinet Member for Children’s Services (Observer)

Head of Housing & Public Protection

Strategic Safeguarding Manager, Northumberland Safeguarding Adults Board

Director of Public Health

Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group

Chief Operating Officer

Director of Nursing, Quality & Patient Safety

Designated Nurse

Designated Doctor, Northumberland

Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Executive Director of Nursing and Midwifery

Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust

Group Nurse Director North Locality Care Group

Northumbria Police

Detective Chief Superintendent

Detective Superintendent

Northumbria Rehabilitation Company

Deputy Director, North of Tyne

National Probation Services

Head of North of Tyne

Barnardo’s North East

Assistant Director Children’s Services, North of Tyne

Action for Children North East

Operations Manager

CAFCASS

Service Manager

CVS Network

Chief Executive

Lay Members

Three lay members

Schools

Executive Head teacher, Seaton Valley Federation of Schools,

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:

- LSCB Business Manager
- LSCB Business Support

LSCB Budget

The financial contributions from partner agencies are as follows:

Partner	2018-2019
Northumbria Police	£5,000
NHS Northumberland CCG	£10,000
Northumbria Healthcare NHS Trust	£5,000
CAFCASS	£500
National Probation Service	£250
Northumbria Rehabilitation Company	£250
Northumberland County Council	£101,665
Total Contributions	£122,665

Expenditure	2018-2019
NSCB Manager	£ 50,394
Business Support Officer	£20,551
Non-Pay related costs	£16,800
Total staffing costs	£87,745
Insurance - Employers Liability / Third Party	£368
Hire of facilities	£540
Printing & Stationery	£287
Professional Services, Tri.x procedures, Independent Chair and SCR Authors	£33,292
Travel Allowances and Subsistence	£433
None Staffing Costs	£34,920
Total expenditure	£122,665

Northumberland LSCB Annual Report 2018 / 2019 – Safeguarding Children in the 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 the 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 the County of Northumberland and to ensure that they do so effectively.

The children and young people of the County of Northumberland are at the heart of what all LSCB partners do and our vision of **‘Every child and young person in the 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 2018/19. 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 2019/20.

A copy of this report is available on

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