

**Northumberland Safeguarding Children Committee
Meeting Minutes**

12th March 2020, 1.00 – 4.00pm

**Northumberland Fire and Rescue Headquarters,
West Hartford Fire Station, Cramlington, NE23 3JP**

Present	Role	Initials
Paula Mead	Independent Chair, NSCC	PM
John Barnes	Executive Head Teacher, Seaton Valley Federation of Schools	JB
Siân Bufton	Assistant Director Children's Services, Barnardo's	SBu
John Gibson (for Vida Morris)	Clinical Community Manager, CYPS, CNTW	JG
Joanne Hancox (for Sheila Askew)	Probation Officer, National Probation Service (North East)	JH
Robin Harper-Coulson	NSCC Business Manager, NCC	RHC
Alan Hartwell	Senior Manager, Performance, Education & Safeguarding, NCC	AH
Dean Jackson	Service Director, Education and Skills, NCC	DJ
Naomi Jones	Designated Doctor, Child Protection, CCG	NJ
Catherine Joyce	Operational Director Children's Services, Action for Children	CJ
Cath McEvoy-Carr	Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Children's Services, NCC	CMC
Sue Reilly	Independent Lay Member	SR
Graham Reiter	Service Director, Children's Social Care, NCC	GR
Donna Rose (for Sav Patsalos)	Detective Chief Inspector Safeguarding, Northumbria Police	DR
Jill Scarr	Independent Lay Member	JS
Kirsty Shotton (for Marion Dickson)	Team Lead Safeguarding Adults, Professional Lead MCA DoLs & MHA, NHCFT	KS
Martyn Strike	Deputy Director of Offender Management, Northumbria CRC	MS
Margaret Tench	Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children, Northumberland CCG	MT
Jan Tilson	IRO Safeguarding Manager, NCC	JT
Annie Topping	Director of Nursing Quality & Patient Safety, Northumberland CCG	AT
Lynsey Wafer	Principal Lawyer, Corporate Services, NCC	LW

Karen Wright	Strategic Safeguarding Manager, Safeguarding Adults, NCC	KW
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Apologies Received	Role	Initials
Sheila Askew	Senior Operational Support Manager, NPS, North of Tyne	SA
Deborah Brown	Community Safety Department Policy & Team Manager, Northumberland Fire & Rescue, NCC	DB
Karen Burns	Service Manager, Cafcass	KB
Cllr Wayne Daley	Cabinet Member for Children's Services	WD
Marion Dickson	Interim Executive Director of Nursing and Midwifery, NHCFT	MD
Nick Greenley	Independent Lay Member	NG
Tracey Horseman	Operational Manager, Social Work Learning and Development, NHCFT	TH
Shirley May	CYPS Community Clinical Manager, CNTW	SM
Vida Morris	Group Nurse Director, North Locality Care Group, CNTW	VMs
Sav Patsalos	Detective Chief Superintendent, Northumbria Police	SP
Liz Morgan	Director of Public Health, NCC	LM
Lesley Pyle	Northumberland & North Tyneside Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Coordinator	LP
Paula Shandran	Professional & Operational Lead Safeguarding Adults & Children, Safeguarding Service, NHCFT	PS
Phil Soderquest	Head of Housing and Public Protection, NCC	PS
Jane Walker	Virtual School Headteacher, NCC	JW

In Attendance		
Anne Lambert (for Tracey Horseman)	Learning and Development Coordinator, NCC	AL
Sandra Blackwood	NSCC Business Support, NCC (Minute Taker)	SBI

Agenda Item	Discussion and Action Agreed	A	C
	Standing Agenda Items		
1.	<p>Welcome, Introductions & Apologies for Absence</p> <p>PM welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. Apologies are noted above.</p>		
2.	<p>Correspondence – Chair</p> <p><u>Financial Contributions</u> The Committee thanked Probation for their recent letter stating their financial commitment to 2020/21, at the same level of funding to the Partnerships as in 2019/20.</p> <p><u>Coronavirus</u> The Committee discussed Coronavirus/Covid-19 further to an email from Northumbria Police asking about the Local Safeguarding Partnership meetings and minimising close contact with groups of people where avoidable. CMC provided the group with an update on the Local Authority’s (LA) contingency plans for the continuing safeguarding of children (and adults) at this challenging time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexibilities with: Social Worker responsibilities and caseloads, foster carers’ abilities, staff roles and responsibilities, and combining workforces. • Currently, Northumberland does not have any confirmed cases of Covid-19. • Emergency guidance is being pushed through nationally and locally, to help us manage risks, and these are being assessed on a daily basis; currently waiting for the Government decision following their COBRA meeting this afternoon. A discussion on risk managing secure units is taking place soon, with other units. • Handwashing guidance has been widely distributed and advice has been given to GPs e.g. triaging calls to reduce face to face contact. • Within the NCC and CCG, the ability of staff to work from home has been discussed. <p>NHCFT are also having daily meetings to discuss the challenges of risk managing the coronavirus. Face to face meetings are being minimised where possible, with participants dialling in. A person will be automatically swabbed and tested for the virus if they are admitted to hospital with a respiratory infection. Mobile testing hubs are being considered e.g. Rake Lane. LW also commented that discussions have taken place for staff contingencies and sharing resources. All routine court hearings will be postponed.</p> <p>The committee were assured that risks are being managed to ensure our children will be kept safe.</p> <p><u>ILAC Inspection 2020</u> CMC provided the group with an update following the recent inspection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ofsted report was circulated on 2nd March. • This is the LA’s 3rd inspection in 15 months. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The quality of frontline practice staff was assessed, and the outcome is reassuring. There was positive feedback about the multi-agency partnership and feedback about the inspection from staff was good. The continuous improvement process continues. <p>The Committee congratulated the LA on their improvement journey, supported by the various partners.</p>		
3.	<p>Minutes of Last Meeting, Matters Arising and Action Log</p> <p>The previous minutes of 9th January 2020 were accepted.</p> <p>The action log was reviewed and updated - see separate document.</p>		
4.	<p>Update on safeguarding / Board changes</p> <p>Further to national changes, PM, with RHC and the Safeguarding Partners, have been reviewing the NSCC membership; the refreshed list will be shared once finalised.</p>		
5.	<p>Reports (papers)</p> <p>a) Policies, Procedures & Training subcommittee update</p> <p>On behalf of TH, AL presented the PP&T report. The recent Ofsted inspection noted that training was of good quality and had an impact/changed practice. There is good agency commitment to the co-delivery of training courses. Capacity issues are a challenge.</p> <p>The Committee thanked AL for her report.</p> <p>b) Multi-agency training report</p> <p>RHC presented the report on the Training and Workforce Stream; the Tyne, Wear & Northumberland Safeguarding Partnership (TWNSP) requested this be presented to the local committees in the first instance. The group agreed that multi-agency training is very beneficial, and the options need further consideration. Action: RHC to provide a grid or key questions and forward to agencies for them to respond to the options by return email to RHC.</p> <p>Disabled Children & Young People subcommittee annual report</p> <p>NJ presented the DC&YP report and a summary of the DC&YP multi-agency audit. The lack of staff using the word neglect and the value of capturing data on restraint were raised as concerns and discussed. PM challenged that previously it had been noted that the Royal College of Nursing guidance states that staff are encouraged to be specific about the issues that they have assessed constitute neglect, rather than use the word per se as too vague.</p> <p>The Committee thanked NJ for her commitment to the subcommittee that seems to be making a real impact. Found the audit very helpful.</p>	RHC All	PM
6.	<p>Performance and Audit Report (paper) – Alan Hartwell</p> <p>AH presented his report. To note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As there were no comments to the proposed NSCC audit forward plan for 2020/21 (agreed previously by the Quality, Improvement & 		

	<p>Performance (QIP) subcommittee), this was approved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues escalated to the NSCC were discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LA audit on repeat CPPs will be presented to the Quality, Performance & Audit Group when completed. • Discrepancies between domestic abuse incidents and arrests are being looked into; there may be coding disparities by the Police - DR will provide AH with a breakdown of the data. DR also confirmed that DV incidents will be split into localities. • Data on children missing from home is being reviewed; DR explained that the child may be reported missing by the LA and when the Police attend, the child is found, hence false positives captured. <p>PM thanked AH for his report; the format was very helpful.</p>		
7.	<p>JTAI Action Plan (paper) – Alan Hartwell</p> <p>AH presented the progress update, showing positive improvements by several actions; the action plan is being monitored by the Sexual & Criminal Exploitation subcommittee.</p>		
8.	<p>Individual agencies' JTAI Improvement Plans – All</p> <p>Northumberland CCG (MT) JTAI is a standing agenda item at the CCG's internal safeguarding meetings. Training and 7-minute guides are discussed. The JTAI identified the need for a Mental Health Nurse Advisor for MASH and the CCG have identified funding for a Band 7 Nurse. MT asked JG if they could share their job description (they have a part time Band 7 member of staff in Newcastle). Action: MT to liaise with Jo Sharpe at CNTW.</p> <p>Probation (MS) Increased communication between the MASH and CRC has been very positive.</p>	MT	
9.	<p>JTAI update – Mental Health</p> <p>All agencies will be asked in turn to provide assurance on how they are driving improvements on the current JTAI themes. JG provided an update for NTW:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcomes from a recent audit have prompted significant changes in the referrals into CYPS. Clinical Team Leads are now involved in this process and a random sample are audited each month. • Case load management is reviewed on a monthly basis. • Training is regularly reviewed. • Ongoing training continues e.g. APVA and suicide training is to be revisited by all staff. • Risk assessments are shared. • There is ongoing multi-agency working; two staff have been seconded into YOT and SORTED. <p>The Committee thanked JG for his update and also thanked the CCG for leading on the audit process which had been very productive.</p>		
10.	<p>Safeguarding Practice Review Group Update (papers)</p> <p>MT presented the update from the SPRG subcommittee.</p>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Caitlin report will be brought to the next NSCC meeting for sign-off. There has been positive feedback from the learning events and the use of the SILP methodology. <p>RHC presented the joint learning review for Bobby; the presentation and report were circulated to the group prior to the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RHC will be meeting Bobby's Mum in 3 weeks' time to discuss the report. Agencies to identify SMART actions and assurances to be provided. Learning will be widely distributed. <p>PM stated that support had been provided by Barnardo's bereavement service to Bobby's siblings in view of suicide contagion issue that public health had raised at NSAB. RHC had provided contact and support to mum</p> <p>Publication was discussed and the group agreed that the information was too identifiable. Action: RHC to redact the report so that a brief summary and recommendations can be shared with professionals (similar to the Natalie SCR). Thematic learning will be collated for the two suicides that are being jointly reviewed between Adults and Children's Social Care with consideration then given to publishing this.</p>	RHC	
11.	<p>Forward plan – setting of next meeting's agenda (paper)</p> <p>The agenda for 29th June was reviewed. To include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee's priorities (Siobhan Brown is leading on these). Action: RHC to email the Safeguarding Partners to ask if they will set these or whether they want to delegate this to the NSCC. RHC's MSET review report. <p>Action: The group to inform RHC of any other agenda items that need to be included.</p>	RHC All	
12.	Items to Report & Discussion		
12.1.	<p>Joint Partnership and Board paper (paper) – Robin Harper-Coulson</p> <p>RHC brought to the group's attention the request to rename the Sexual and Criminal Exploitation subcommittee to the Exploitation subcommittee, to incorporate Modern Day Slavery and Trafficking, along with Sexual and Criminal Exploitation. This request is being presented to all 3 Boards and the SAB were in agreement.</p> <p>The Committee agreed.</p> <p>PM meeting with Chair of SNP on 9th April to discuss which Board will have primacy of the Exploitation subcommittee and will report the decision to the next NSCC.</p>	PM	
12.2.	<p>Northumbria Police Problem Profile</p> <p>DR provided an update.</p>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Problem Profile was prepared at the end of the year but was mainly focussed around Sexual Exploitation; this has since been broadened to develop our understanding of Criminal Exploitation, by collecting multi-agency data. This new Profile has recently been provided to RHC. • It is clear that agencies do not currently use flags or markers for Criminal Exploitation; terminology also differs and there is no legislation to ensure standardisation. • The LA and Police are working together, rating intelligence data and doing early problem solving. • Preventative work is currently being done in Blyth with the Get Connected programme. <p>The group discussed the usability of the Profile; it is only accurate on the day of data collection and is updated as and when. All agencies need to ensure efficiency in data sharing to ensure this profile is accurate and up to date for Northumberland.</p>		
13.	Information Items		
13.1.	Annual reports (none)		
13.2.	Northumberland and North Tyneside Safeguarding Adults Board Minutes (17th December 2019)		
13.3.	Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust - Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk Quarterly Report (Q3 19-20)		
14.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>As this was SR's last meeting, before she retires, the Committee thanked her for her valuable commitment and participation in her role as a lay member.</p>		
15.	<p>Dates and Times of Future Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 29th June and 8th October 2020 <p>All diarised for 1-4pm at West Hartford Fire Station, Cramlington, NE23 3JP</p>		

Name	22.01.19	14.03.19	16.05.19	25.07.19	24.09.19	9.1.20	12.3.20	29.6.20	8.10.20
Paula Mead	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Sheila Askew	✓	Mark Lennox	✓	✓	✓	✓	Joanne Hancox		
John Barnes	✓	A	✓	DNA	✓	DNA	✓		
Deborah Brown	✓	Charlotte Sayers	✓	✓	✓	✓	A		
Sian Bufton/Emma Ramsay	✓	✓	A	✓	A	A	✓		
Karen Burns	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	A		
Wayne Daley (observer)	DNA	A	A	A	A	DNA	A		
Marion Dickson	Jane Smyth	A	A	Paula Shandran	Elaine Henderson	A	A		
Anna English	Karen Wright	Karen Wright	Karen Wright	Karen Wright	Karen Wright	Karen Wright	Karen Wright		
Nicholas Greenley	A	✓	A	✓	DNA	A	A		
Scott Hall	Steve Ammari	Steve Ammari	Steve Ammari	Louise Cass-Williams	Steve Ammari	Donna Rose	Donna Rose		
Robin Harper-Coulson	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Alan Hartwell	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Dean Jackson	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		

Naomi Jones	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Catherine Joyce	✓	✓	Lindsey Kirk	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Cath McEvoy-Carr	✓	✓	✓	A	A	✓	✓		
Liz Morgan	✓	✓	✓	Karen Herne	Karen Herne	A	A		
Vida Morris	✓	✓	Leesa Stephenson	✓	✓	✓	A		
Vikkie Morton					✓	✓	DNA		
Sue Reilly	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Jill Scarr	✓	A	A	✓	A	A	A		
Phil Soderquest	DNA	DNA	A	Julie Stewart	A	DNA	A		
Martyn Strike	✓	✓	A	Mark Ryland	A	✓	✓		
Margaret Tench	✓	✓	✓	A	A	A	✓		
Jan Tilson	Karen MacDonald	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Annie Topping	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓		
Lynsey Wafer	✓	✓	✓	A	A	✓	✓		

✓ = Attended DNA = Did not attend A = Apologies