



Northumberland Safeguarding Children's Board Meeting
16th May 2017, 1.00 – 4.00pm

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

Present	Role	Initials
Paula Mead	Independent Chair, NSCB	PMead
Annie Topping	Director of Nursing Quality & Patient Safety, Northumberland CCG	AT
Brian Smeaton	Children's Improvement and Development Manager (<i>on behalf of Alan Hartwell</i>)	BS
Margaret Tench	Designated Nurse, CCG	MT
Cath McEvoy	Service Director, Children's Services, Wellbeing & Community Health Services, NCC	CM
John Barnes	Seaton Valley Federation	JB
Julie Young	Strategic Housing Manager, NCC	JY
Peter Storey	T/Superintendent 7738	PS
Deborah Brown	Community Safety, Fire & Rescue	DB
Natalie Caush	Deputy Director (North of Tyne), CRC (<i>On behalf of Lindsay Blackmore</i>)	NC
Trish Grant	Named Nurse, Safeguarding Children, Northumbria Healthcare NHS Trust (<i>On behalf of Debbie Reape</i>)	TG
Vida Morris	Group Nurse Director In Patient Care, Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust	VM
Lynsey Wafer	Principal Lawyer, Northumberland County Council	LW
Naomi Jones	Designated Doctor, CCG	NJ
Karen Hughes	Manager, National Probation Service Northumberland	KH
Carol Leckie	Team Manager - Health and Wellbeing	CL

Apologies Received	Role	Initials
Daljit Lally	Deputy Chief Executive/DCS	DL
Andy Johnson	Director of Education	AJ
Anne Graney	Quality and Safety Manager, Cumbria and North East	AG
Alan Hartwell	Alan Hartwell, Senior Manager Performance: Education & Safeguarding, Adult's and Children's Performance Service	AH
Debbie Reape	Interim Director of Nursing, Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	DR
Jill Scarr	Independent Lay Member	JS
Sue Reilly	Independent Lay Member	SR
Ian Billham	Strategic Community Safety Manager, NCC	IB
Nicholas Greenly	Independent Lay Member	NG
Deborah Reeman	Prudhoe Community High School	DR
Barry Frost	Headteacher, Nunnykirk Centre for Dyslexia	BF
Julie Dodson	Director, Voices	JD
Robin Harper-Coulson	Business Manager, NSCB	RHC
Catherine Joyce	Operational Director Children's Services, Action for Children	CJ
Paul Hedley	Chief Fire Officer and Head of Service, Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service	PH

In Attendance		
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Rebecca Bray	NSCB Business Support Officer - Minute Taker	-
Karen Rees	Lead Reviewer for the Natalie SCR	KR
Nicki Pettitt	SCR reviewer	NP

Agenda Item	Discussion and Action Agreed	A	C
1	<p>Welcome, Introductions & Apologies.</p> <p>Welcome, introductions and apologies were noted, see above.</p>		
4.1	<p>Natalie SCR – Karen Rees</p> <p>KR gave a brief introduction and went through the key points in the draft Natalie report that all board members were sent in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>KR started off with a brief summary of the context behind this report and explained the SILP (significant incident learning process) process used to carry out the review. The SILP process is made up of the following principles; proportionality, learning from good practice, active engagement of practitioners involved, engaging families, systems methodology and avoidance of hindsight bias.</p> <p>KR then went on to explain the scope of this report and the identification of the various areas covered in the report.</p> <p>KR advised the board members that the initial scoping event and collection of agency reports took place in Nov 2016, the first learning event was held Jan 2017 and the re-call event was held 24th Feb 2017. This report has been to the SCR for discussion. There is yet to be family engagement due to ongoing criminal proceedings. Once the criminal proceedings are complete, the reviewer will need to seek the family views.</p> <p>KR discussed the key episodes in the report are; history of father and knowledge by agencies, parental relationship and family life and Domestic incident Aug 2014.</p> <p>The analysis by theme for this report covers History forming assessment, understanding domestic abuse and role of father, think family.</p> <p>LW firstly asked for DOB to be clarified, although this will not be published on report anyway.</p> <p>LW also advised that a fact finding hearing at court has taken place, father culpable of injury to Natalie, mum not culpable but criminal proceedings are ongoing for both parents, cannot finalise outcomes until criminal</p>	KR/NP	

	<p>proceedings complete.</p> <p>VM - Through the report it is evident there is no history on father and no-one spoke to father, had professionals thought to speak with grandmother?</p> <p>NP/KR - No-one had any thoughts, as only known to universal services, signs from 6 month sibling check good bond etc.</p> <p>KR - 6.9 talks about professional curiosity, healthy scepticism, but not always goes far enough. All routine practice questions were asked - excellent practice.</p> <p>In terms of recommendations single agency to draw on their own recommendations and update actions - NSCB could seek assurances of these?</p> <p>MT advised already using learning within CCG and now including in single agency training, used in a case studies format.</p> <p>MT advised clare's law is now in DA training, op-encompass is on going with GP's, action plan is on-going.</p> <p>PM advised next step is to await criminal proceedings to complete, accepted report as is, contact police and then family once all criminal proceedings are complete, and any necessary addendum will need to be reviewed and accepted.</p> <p>KR & NP thanked all members of CR committee, and those that completed the agency reports in timely manner, practitioners and to other local authority who have contributed information.</p>		
2	<p>Correspondence - Chair</p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>		
3	<p>Minutes of last meeting & matters arising & action log from 29th March 2017.</p> <p>The minutes were briefly discussed but not reviewed in a lot of detail – Any issues of inaccuracies to be sent to Rebecca Bray by 31st May 2017, after which date the minutes will be accepted as a true record.</p> <p>Action log updated, see separate document.</p>	ALL	
4.2	<p>SIF update –Cath McEvoy</p>		

	<p>CMc advised that the SIF has been reviewed and caseloads appear to be increasing again, there has been an increase in referrals and also more assessments that lead to no further action. There is now a workload waiting list which has been developed by the principal social worker, and the pressures in central/south east areas remain an issue.</p> <p>The first placement has happened for the fostering to adopt.</p> <p>PS advised that there have been an increasing number of CCN's, although this is not unusual or uncommon, it is possibly just a cycle there is no other reason for it and there have not been any changes in recording.</p> <p>CMc discussed plans to look at possible social work academy, and the remaining issue around recruitment, including recruiting social workers from other areas and then deciding to stay. There is even now a struggle to fill positions with agency staff. To try and support the ASYE's there has been an over recruitment of senior practitioners.</p> <p>PM advised that the board are assured that children's social care are doing everything you can to try and overcome the social worker recruitment issue.</p>		
4.3	<p>Suicide Prevention Strategy - Liz Morgan</p> <p>LM briefly discussed the prevention strategy that was circulated to members prior to the meeting.</p> <p>One of the actions as part of a large mental health review was to rewrite a new suicide prevention strategy. In context the number of suicides is higher than the average, and higher in the north east although not the highest. The age bracket of 10 - 34. The target is to reduce the number of suicides by 10% by 2020.</p> <p>Pages 14 - 17 of this strategy detail actions based on the national SP strategy, all of which are relevant to Northumberland. This document has been circulated widely for comments.</p> <p>Requesting two things from today's board members;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Endorsement of strategy 2. Endorsement of high-level actions <p>PM asked about partnership is this in place? NSCB and NSAB?</p> <p>LM advised this has gone to stakeholders, mental health network, PHE, NTW and also MT and AEm and the partnership to monitor the action plan.</p> <p>VM noted that this was a great document, gives clear strategic direction, and public awareness raising.</p>		

	PM confirmed that this is endorsed by NSCB.		
4.4	<p>Performance & Statistical Information: - AH (Standing agenda item)</p> <p>BS (on behalf of Alan Hartwell) discussed the performance report circulated to members prior to the meeting. The QIP sub-group met on 26th April to look at the KPI's and prepare the report of the board. BS opened with some good news in that the number of children and young people involved in RMG where missing is identified as a factor has decreased.</p> <p>BS advised that there are currently 12 PI's which do not have a target set will be discussed at the next QIP meeting and resolved.</p> <p>There were two KPI's which were escalated for discussion these were;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● % of return interviews undertaken within 72 hours of the person being found ● Average time to complete care proceedings. <p>BS advised that the 72 hours is three calendar days therefore friday causes an issue for the target to be met.</p> <p>CMc highlighted the average time for care proceedings as the 26 weeks is currently not being met, and the current average is 32 weeks.</p> <p>LW did advises that it is still the legacy cases that are causing issues, the straightforward cases are completed in less than 26 weeks.</p> <p>CMc discussed the figures and the importance of the correct cases going to court with the correct paperwork and high quality information. Social work staff have a greater understanding of court work, and the communication between the social workers and legal department is much stronger. CMc believe Northumberland have come a long way in a short time, but there are still a number on legacy cases on-going.</p> <p>LW also advised that the case tracking is much stronger, and legal have a much better working relationship with social workers, and the court teams.</p> <p>BS also advised there is a new system to monitor conferences which is now live. SMc to carry out an audit.</p>	AH - QIP	
4.5	<p>Case Reviews (Standing agenda Item) – Margaret Tench:</p> <p>MT provided an update on current and ongoing cases:</p>	SMc	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kirsty. Criminal proceedings complete. Father pleaded guilty, case against mother dropped. Visit undertaken to father 14 th March 2017. Further meeting held and agreed an addendum to be produced to reflect father’s information. Mother challenging current care proceedings and therefore it has been agreed publication of the report will be after this process has concluded. ● Molly. Report discussed CRC and amendments agreed. Final report to NSCB for sign off 29th March 2017. Publication delayed until after adoption proceedings finalised. ● Natalie. Re-call event held, final report to extra-ordinary CRC 24th March 2017. Version 3 to follow in one week, plan for NSCB sign off 16th May 2017. Criminal proceedings not due to begin until October 2017. ● B family. Ofsted informed of NSCB decision not to progress to SCR. Action plan in place, reviewed CRC 2nd March 2017. Newcastle SCB informed of this. ● CL. Meeting arranged with independent author to undertake review. ● DJ. Proposal to undertake learning event (not SCR) and minutes of extraordinary meeting submitted to National Panel, awaiting response. ● LB. Baby died co-sleeping with parent, CDOP Rapid Response recommended review required due to information known to agencies previously. Extra-ordinary meeting held February 3rd. Awaiting outcome of post-mortem to determine if cause of death established as well as outcome for internal agency reviews. To be discussed further when all information available. ● Learning and Development Officer now member of CRC and has already updated multi-agency training as learning has been identified. ● Communications meeting held with leads from provider organisations. Timeline shared regarding current cases and likely publication dates. <p><u>Summary of planned work over the next period:</u></p>		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide addendum to Kirsty report to reflect learning following interview with father, plan for publication after challenge to care proceedings complete. ● NSCB to sign off Molly and Natalie reports then plan for publication. ● Agree review of DJ case. ● Complete CL review. ● Discuss LB case when more information available. ● Plan a multi-agency audit of CSA cases. ● Consider how best to share learning from all cases reviewed 		
4.6.	<p>S175's Update</p> <p>CL provided a brief update of the S175 audits. This report provides an update to partner agencies of the NSCB on the current status of the Education and Skills S11, progress on completion of S175 audits by schools, any identified areas of concern or gaps and an overview of key areas addressed in the last 12 months.</p> <p>The Education and Skills S11 was first completed by a senior manager and team manager in 2015. In recent months the service completed a deep dive activity, which looked at key priority area including domestic violence, disabled children and neglect. An evaluation was made across all areas and an action plan produced. This will be monitored every three months by the senior manager to ensure progress is being made in areas where any concerns were identified.</p> <p>Initial actions identified following the deep dive (with completion before 31st may 2017) were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● to raise awareness re: domestic violence amongst staff by producing and sharing a 'Ten Things You Need to Know About Domestic Violence' document; ● to complete a thorough review of the services single central record, competed April 2017; ● to deliver safer recruitment training to all managers and senior staff who are involved in appointment panels (booked for mid May); ● to share the update neglect strategy with managers and to ensure that staff have had sight of the new strategy. 		

	<p>Actions to be completed before the end of the academic year include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● a review of how the service scrutinises the quality of work carried out with disabled children, based on an audit of current practice within services. <p>The Education and Skills Service has implemented preventative measures to provide assurance that the safeguarding standards of all schools and education settings meet the expectations of the NSCB. Those measures include :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Education Reference Sub-Group, chaired by Senior Manager Jane Walker, which continues to meet termly under the same Terms of Reference but in a revised format as a series of workshops designed to promote learning on safeguarding themes identified by the group members. Attendance at the group remains healthy and there has been positive feedback from all partners in relation to improved communication. Recent contributions have been from Cath McEvoy (Service Director) and Adele Wright (Principal Social Worker). ● There is positive feedback from schools regarding the half termly bulletin for education settings – <i>Safe to Learn</i> –introduced as part of the NSCB communication strategy. This is used by schools to provide staff with regular safeguarding updates, supporting them to meet the training requirements outlined in DfE statutory guidance <i>Keeping Children Safe in Education</i>. ● The service contributed to the Local Authority Ofsted inspection of <i>services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers and the LSCB (or SIF)</i> with positive feedback about to the contribution made to the local authority’s approach to tackling sexual exploitation and supporting schools to deliver high quality PSHE. ● Schools continue to use the S175 as an integral part of their ongoing review process, with governing bodies using the audit as part of their evaluation of safeguarding. By April 2017 58% of schools had already started their annual review for the academic year to July 2017 which is very encouraging. ● The Education and Skills Service use schools’ audits as part of their quality assurance process and they are also a valuable resource when an investigation is being carried out triggered either by a complaint to Ofsted or the Local Authority. Since June 2015 38 complaints have been 		
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	<p>investigated in this way, resulting in 3 referrals to social care. The remaining 35 were all resolved in school, and the actions identified for improvement were monitored by the Education service. None of the 35 complaints required the intervention of other agencies to resolve.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Safeguarding and Wellbeing Team manager 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 (2015 - 2016 up to 55 governors, 2016 - 2017 currently 95 governors). Included in this training is their duty to ensure schools engage with the Board and follow the Board's policies and procedures. ● At the request of schools an up to date safeguarding policy template, in line with the latest statutory, Ofsted and DfE guidance, is shared with schools through the NSCB pages on the NCC website. ● The Education and Skills Service has representation on all sub groups of the safeguarding board and can evidence their contribution to all sub group action plans. ● In partnership with colleagues from NSCB and Children's Services the service took an active role in the consultation events held to review the thresholds document and will support the roll out of the revised guidance in the events currently being planned. Attendance at the events was very good, with 135 schools/academies sending at least one representative to one of the locally held meetings. Their feedback is evident in the finalised document. ● The team manager for Schools' Safeguarding and Wellbeing has played a significant part in the roll out of Operation Encompass. 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 manager continues to support this work and will be 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. 		
<p>4.7</p>	<p><u>Operation Encompass</u></p> <p>CL provided a brief report to the board to provides an update to partner agencies of the NSCB on the current status of the Operation Encompass.</p> <p>Supported by Northumbria Police and Northumberland County Council</p>		

	<p>staff Operation Encompass went live in Northumberland on 3rd April 2017. Prior to going live meetings were held to ensure that the appropriate model of notification was put in place to meet Northumberland needs, discussions were held to ensure appropriate levels of security could be assured in terms of email addresses and training across Northumberland was provided to head teachers and whole school staff.</p> <p>Between Monday 3/4/2017 and Friday 28th April there were 127 notifications, an average of 7 a day, with the majority of these being from the south east and central areas. The feedback from the first week, when the calls were received by the central admin team based at Foundry House, was very positive. Notifications from the police were being received well before 10am and the schools have reflected that the information received has been extremely valuable, particularly in cases where they had no knowledge of any home issues.</p> <p>A small number of schools (10/178) still need training and if there are notifications for them they come to the Safeguarding and Wellbeing Team Manager, who follows these up with the schools.</p> <p>A multi agency steering group has been established to monitor the implementation of Operation Encompass. This is chaired by Patrick Boyle (Senior Manager Social Care) and includes colleagues from health, the police, education, children’s and adult social care, schools and the police. The group will meet monthly initially (3 months) to monitor the implementation and will then meet quarterly.</p>		
5.	<p><u>Information Items</u></p> <p>No information items</p>		
6	<p><u>The Promise - Cath McEvoy</u></p> <p>CMc briefly discussed The Promise will board members, which was shared for information.</p> <p>The promise is for everyone who works with our looked after children and care leavers and the aim is we want to know what difference we have actually made and we want everyone working with LAC and care leaves to commit to helping them achieve their best. The Promise had a formal launch in April and the CPAG are monitoring the effectiveness of it. Feedback surveys will be conducted to look at effectiveness and measure the impact. Saira Park is happy to provide posters etc. if required.</p>		

7	<p><u>Any other Business</u></p> <p>1. Safeguarding Checks/DBS Letter to Headteachers and governing bodies. CL briefly discussed the DBS letter circulated to members prior to the meeting, which was addressed to headteachers and chairs or governors, as assurances that all staff members from education/skills and children's social care have been appropriately checked and assessed as being suitable to work with children. Education & skills now have a central register, seeking letter to be ratified on behalf of Andy Johnson. PM ratified letter and advised of positive step.</p> <p>2. NSCB Board logo Some draft ideas were tabled to members of the NSCB. CMc advised more options would be sought and tabled in due course.</p>	RHC	
8	<p><u>Dates and Times of Future Meetings:</u></p> <p>Next meeting: 25th July 2017</p> <p>Future meetings: 26th September 2017, and 28th Nov 2017.</p> <p>All meetings are diarised for 1-4pm at West Hartford Fire Station, Cramlington, NE23 3JP</p>		

Name	31.05.16	13.07.16	26.07.16	27.09.16	29.11.16	18.01.17	29.03.17	16.05.17
Paula Mead	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Robin Harper-Coulson	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	A
Sue Reilly	✓	A	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	A
Ian Billham	✓	DNA	A	✓	✓	✓	A	A
Julie Young	✓	A	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓
Annie Topping	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A	✓
Andy Johnson	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	A	A
Sharon Dunbar	✓	✓	✓	DNA	✓	DNA	DNA	DNA
Julie Dodson	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A

Barry Frost	✓	A	A	A	✓	A	Zoe Frais	A
Sheila Askew	✓	✓	✓	✓	DNA	✓	✓	DNA
Paul Woods	✓	✓	✓	✓	DNA	DNA	DNA	DNA
Alan Hartwell	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Brian Smeaton
Liz Kelly <i>(Replaced by Lindsay Blackmore)</i>	✓	A	A	✓	A	DNA		
Lindsay Blackmore							✓	Natalie Caush
Karen Herne <i>(Replaced by Liz Morgan)</i>	✓	A	✓	✓				
Liz Morgan					✓	✓	✓	✓
Anne Graney	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A
Deborah Brown	A	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Naomi Jones	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Deborah Reeman	A	✓	A	A	✓	A	A	A
Catherine Joyce	A	✓	✓	A	✓	DNA	✓	A
Robert Arckless	A	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	A	
John Barnes	A	A	A	✓	DNA	A	A	✓
Carol Goodman	A	A	✓	A	DNA	A	DNA	DNA
Margaret Tench	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Daljit Lally	A	✓	✓	A	✓	DNA	A	A
Debbie Reape	A	✓	✓	✓	DNA	✓	Jane Abbott	Trish Grant

Vida Morris	A	✓	A	DNA	DNA	DNA	✓	✓
Julie McVeigh	A	✓	A	✓	DNA	A	DNA	
Cath McEvoy				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jan Grey	Leesa Stephen son		✓		✓	✓	A	A
Anna English					✓	✓	✓	A
Jill Scar					A	✓	✓	A
Nicholas Greenly					A	✓	✓	A
Gill Physick						✓	A	
Peter Storey						✓	Phil Mordue	✓
Lynsey Wafer						✓	A	✓

✓ = Attended DNA = Did not attend A = Apologies