




Northumberland Safeguarding Children Board Meeting
19th January 2016, from 1.00pm – 4.00 pm
Northumberland Fire and Rescue Headquarters
West Hartford Fire Station, Cramlington

Present	Role	Initials
Paula Mead	Independent Chair, NSCB	PM
Alan Hartwell	Senior Manager, Education & Safeguarding Performance Team, NCC	AH
Deborah Reeman	Head Teacher, Prudhoe high School	DRee
Julie Dodson	Director, Voices	JD
Annie Topping	Director of Quality & Patient Safety, NHS Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group	AT
Sheila Askew	National Probation Service	SA
Daljit Lally	Executive Director Wellbeing & Community Health Services, NCC – also representing Andy Johnson, Director of Education	DL
Debbie Reape	Deputy Director of Nursing/Director for Child Health BU, Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	DR
Robert Arckless	Cabinet Member, NCC	RA
Ian Billham	Strategic Community Safety Manager, NCC	IB
Lisa Orchard	Detective Superintendent, Northumbria Police	LO
Anna English	Strategic Safeguarding Manager, Northumberland Safeguarding Adults Board	AE
Jane Bowie	Head of Safeguarding & Strategic Commissioning, Adult Services	JB
John Barnes	Head teacher, Astley High School	JBa
Catherine Joyce (deputising for Gillian Physick)	Action for Children	JA
Julie Young	Principal Housing Services Manager, NCC	JY
Karen Herne	Public Health Service Manager, Public Health, NCC	KH
Margaret Tench	Head of Quality & Safety (Children), Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children, NHS Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group – also representing Annie Topping, CCG	MT
Naomi Jones	Designated Doctor, Child Protection, Northumberland CCG	NJ
Julie McVeigh	Assistant Director, Barnardos East Region	JMcV
Rachel Farnham	Head of Children's Social Care, Wellbeing & Community Health Services, NCC	RF
Robin Harper-Coulson	Business Manager, NSCB	RHC
Saira Park	Business Support to NSCB, NCC	SP
Sue Reilly	Lay Member, NSCB	
Jan Grey (deputising for Vida Morris)	Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust	JG

Apologies received		
Carol Goodman	CAFCASS	CG
Liz Kelly	Director of Offender Management, Northumbria Community	LK

	Rehabilitation Company	
Deborah Brown	Policy and Team Manager, Community Safety Department, Northumberland Fire & Rescue Service, NCC.	DB

Item	Discussion and Actions Agreed	A	C
1	<p>Welcome, Introductions & Apologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PM welcomed members to the meeting. PM explained that it has been agreed that there will be a training item included on the agenda for every other NSCB. There will be PREVENT training as part of this meeting. Introductions were made and apologies noted, see above. 		
2	<p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No correspondence for discussion. 		
3	<p>Minutes of last meeting & Action Log</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Previous minutes were agreed as accurate Action log was updated (below) <div style="text-align: center;">  Action log 19.1.16.docx </div>		
4	Items to report and discuss		
4.1	<p>Early Help Hub Update</p> <p>The Early Help Locality Hubs are now rolled out to all four localities across Northumberland. The Hubs are part of the NSCB Early Help Strategy and fit with the key priority for the Board in relation to Early Help.</p> <p>They support a well-developed localised multi-agency early help offer and benefit all agencies involved in terms of coordination, early intervention, information sharing and best use of resource.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rachel Farnham updated Board members on the progress and development of the Early Help Locality Hubs. Data was provided to demonstrate numbers of referrals, destinations of those referrals and the impact on specialist children's social care services. High number of referrals in to the EH hubs are received from schools and health, including GPs and HVs. Data from the some of the hubs, particularly West hub have indicated high numbers of referrals from schools, children's services and health but lower numbers from other agencies. <p>Challenge: PM asked for clarification regarding the breakdown of agencies referrals.</p> <p>Action: RF advised that work is focussing on which cases should be referred, especially in the West and North, where the new Hubs have been set up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a good mix of agencies being allocated the referrals, with those agencies taking the lead. These are allocated based on the area of need identified, for example, cases highlighting issues relating to emotional mental 	RF	PM

	<p>health are being picked up by Children & Young Peoples Service (CYPS), meaning the child is being seen earlier.</p> <p>Challenge: DR queried whether all partner agencies are engaged with and accept allocated referrals through the Hub.</p> <p>Action: RF confirmed that agencies are attending the Hubs, they are offering to take referrals and then feeding back to the Hubs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data re 'reason for referral' includes category 'health'. <p>Challenge: PM stated that its important for the board to understand the referrals for 'health' category i.e. does it pertain to children's or parents health; physical or emotional?</p> <p>Action: RF advised that she had queried this with Mary Connor who explained that it is linked to the outcome plan and therefore uses the same headings.</p> <p>DR said it would be useful to have a breakdown re GP's and HV's</p> <p>ACTION: RF will ask Mary to find out more information about what this refers to and will update at next board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact – A proxy indicator, which demonstrates the growing confidence in the Hub model, is the decreasing number of referrals to the social work teams from the Hub since it was first established. These data suggest that the right support is being provided at the right time, and more appropriate referrals are being made to children's social care teams. Further evaluation with partners is currently being undertaken to get feedback on the impact of the Hub. There are also plans to progress getting feedback from parents about how they found the process. <p>Next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Hubs need embedding further in the rural areas to ensure that children are receiving support at the appropriate level. One of the key challenges, as the Hubs develop, will be to monitor that sufficient and commensurate resource is invested in the Early Help offer in each locality by all agencies in order to ensure support for the growing number of referrals. This particularly applies to emotional health and wellbeing and family support for 5-12 year olds, which accounts for a significant number of referrals. It is anticipated that the resource invested in coordinating the Hubs will need expanding as they continue to grow. 	<p>RF</p> <p>RF</p> <p>RF</p> <p>RF</p>	<p>DR</p> <p>PM</p>
<p>4.2</p>	<p>Supporting Families Annual Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The aim of presenting the report is to give the Board an overview of the Supporting Families Partnership work of identifying and supporting families to 'turn around' over the previous twelve months. RA commented that he'd found the report very encouraging, very positive, especially given the difficulties when troubled families agenda was first introduced. 		

4.3	<p>Performance & Statistical Information: - Alan Hartwell (<i>Standing agenda item</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AH summarised performance report and headlines. • The prevalence of self-harm in social work assessments was raised in the last NSCB report. There have been difficulties in obtaining more detailed information on A&E repeat admissions relating to self-harm. <p>Action The NSCB P&QA officer is following this up with the CCG/Northumbria.</p> <p>Challenge: Jan Grey stated the need to differentiate between cases of accidental and non-accidental self-harm when analysing the data, as they are clearly separate issues. The NHS code them separately.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November's NSCB Performance report included a number of questions in relation to various sections of the report. It was agreed in the meeting that a log of responses to these questions was made, to provide the assurance that these are tracked and responded to. This can be found in Annex A of the performance report. • Attendance at Child Protection Conferences and Reviews continues to be monitored to identify any areas of concern. An update on Q3 data will be provided in the March NSCB Performance report in line with the request it be reported quarterly. • S11 - A challenge event will be undertaken with a clear focus on the voice of the child and recommendations from recent Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) on the cases Eve and Kirsty. This means the board can quality assure particular issues from a range of perspectives. Focusing on the recommendations of SCRs will enable the NSCB to monitor and challenge each other on how well the recommendations have been embedded in all organisations. • Police attendance at Strategy meetings continues to be monitored. Revised criteria on agenda. • There continues to be a lag in registering EHAs; Octobers figure reported in November was 80 EHA, October's figure reported in December was 91. • Assessment of approach to Prevent - The Prevent strategy is now drafted with an expectation that all three boards i.e. SNP, NSCB and NSAB will receive regular reports about progress of action plan. • A separate training strategy for prevent is being drawn up to ensure training is delivered at appropriate level to all NCC staff, schools, contractors and partners in line with prevent duty which came into force July 2015. • Carol Leckie is currently compiling a spread sheet which confirms all schools already trained in prevent and those still to do. We are also seeking numbers from ESR and learning together to capture other staff training to help identify the delivery plan. The figures will be available for the next report. <p>Statistical Quiz – members took part in a short quiz which included figures re LAC, CP and SW caseload.</p>	AH	JG
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<p>4.4</p>	<p>Challenge: NSCB Budget – partner contributions – Paula Mead</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PM stated partner contributions to NSCB an important issue. • The report includes NSCB contributions and comparisons with other LSCB's. It presents a breakdown in relation to population data for each Local Authority area to prompt discussion. • Statutory guidance. "Working Together to Safeguarding Children 2015", Chapter 3, para 19 states, <i>"All LSCB member organisations have an obligation to provide LSCBs with reliable resources (including finance) that enable the LSCB to be strong and effective. Members should share the financial responsibility for the LSCB in such a way that a disproportionate burden does not fall on a small number of partner agencies"</i>. • The guidance states therefore that no one partner should shoulder the burden for the LSCBs budget, however it stops short of instruction or setting percentage rates amongst core partners. It remains the case in Northumberland that the major financial contribution for LSCB's functions comes from the Local Authority.. • PM asked for members agreement that they will, as a matter of urgency, raise this with the appropriate person in their organisation – all agreed • Members agreed to Northumberland County Council taking forward negotiations with NSCB organisations <p>Action: all members to raise this issue with appropriate person within their organisations, as a matter of urgency.</p>	<p>PM</p>	<p>PM</p>
<p>4.5</p>	<p>Prevent Strategy – Anna English</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anna English (Adult Safeguarding Manager) chairs the PREVENT Thematic Group. In Northumberland, we share a 3 board approach regarding our duties re PREVENT (NSCB, NSAB and Safer Northumberland Partnership) • The Northumberland Prevent Strategy and Action Plan establishes the multi-agency partnership approach adopted within Northumberland to reduce the risk of terrorist attacks as defined by the Terrorism Act 2000, and in particular to prevent the radicalisation of vulnerable adults and children into extremism. • The Action Plan will cover a period of three years, and will be refreshed annually. The Plan will align with the Safer Northumberland Partnership Plan, the business plans of the Northumberland Safeguarding Adults Board, the Northumberland Safeguarding Children's Board and the Northumberland Local Area Agreement. <p>Action: AE requested members to have a look at the draft strategy and action plan, consider it from NSCB perspective and forward any comments.</p>	<p>All</p>	<p>AE</p>
<p>4.6</p>	<p>Police attendance at strategy meetings – update on the criteria – Lisa Orchard</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of this report is to discuss the issue of attendance of Northumbria 		

	<p>Police at strategy meetings and to make proposals about agreed criteria where an officer will attend.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This has been discussed at NSCB previously as well as at the other LSCB's regionally. Police have also meeting with Heads of Service across the region and the proposed criteria amended as part of this consultation. <p>Proposals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Safeguarding Advisors continue to attend and contribute to all Initial Conferences. The Central Referral Unit (CRU) will assess requests by Children's Services, and identify if an officer should attend and which officer i.e. CAVA or MAPPA or if a strategy discussion should take place. The criteria for attendance at strategy meetings will be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where there is a criminal investigation - Challenge: <i>NJ asked this be amended to 'Where there is a criminal investigation or potential criminal investigation'</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where there is a risk of sexual exploitation; To discuss missing children (depending on the circumstances); Death of a child; To discuss concerns regarding the potential for concealed pregnancy; Complex strategy meetings – Challenge: <i>definition of 'complex' needs clarified, this needs to include FII, domestic abuse, bruising to immobile babies and any others as identified in Serious Case Reviews or Case Reviews</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registered Sex offender involvement; Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) cases; Professional judgement in consultation with CAVA supervision; <i>An escalation process will be put in place - LO explained this would allow agencies who disagree with a decision for police not to attend a strategy meeting to escalate concerns, and hoped this would reassure members.</i> Strategy discussions take place in all other cases to ensure the relevant information has been shared. Databases will be maintained to provide relevant data to demonstrate the contribution by Northumbria Police to partners – this should distinguish between discussions, report provided or attendance at meetings or CPCs Introduce a multi-agency audit process to provide assurance if this is agreed that this process is not having a negative impact on the safety of children – this will need to include audit on the quality of information provided IT solutions are sought in consultation and conjunction with partners to arrange for these meetings to be carried out remotely where appropriate to minimise 		<p>NJ</p> <p>MT</p>
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	<p>travelling and officer time.</p> <p>Members agreed to proposed criteria, pending the amendments as above. Action: LO to amend the proposed criteria and circulate to members</p> <p>There were some concerns re how the criteria will be applied. Members agreed that this will be monitored by Quality, Improvement & Performance Sub-Committee. Action: AH to include this as standard item on the QIP agenda.</p>	<p>LO</p> <p>AH</p>	
<p>4.7</p>	<p>Standards in Education- Carol Leckie</p> <p>Purpose of this report is to provide assurance to the NSCB regarding the QA process for safeguarding standards in schools and education settings.</p> <p>CL informed there has been a big improvement over the last few years of schools engaging with safeguarding. Schools reporting they now feel they are a part of NSCB. JD said that she is a Governor of a First School and she can see evidence of this ‘on the ground’.</p> <p>Since January 2015 the Education and Skills Service has implemented preventative measures to provide assurance that the safeguarding standards of all schools and education settings meet the requirements of the NSCB.</p> <p>Those measures are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • development of a team manager’s role (Carol Leckie, Schools’ Health and Wellbeing) to provide a support service to education settings and to the NSCB as part of the organisation re-structure of the Education and Skills Service in January 2015; • the creation of an Education Reference Group for the NSCB chaired by Virtual Headteacher Jane Walker and includes representation from all school phases and education partnerships, including academies, Northumberland College and alternative providers; • nominating John Barnes (Headteacher of Astley High School) and Deborah Reeman (Headteacher Prudhoe Community High School) as a schools’ representative member of the Board; • a half termly bulletin for education settings – <i>Safe to Learn</i> –introduced as part of the NSCB’s communication strategy; • development of training on Governing Bodies’ Safeguarding Roles and Responsibilities, already delivered to 53 governors representing 33 different schools, with a target to deliver to 180 schools by January 2017; • embedding Local Authority school improvement Education Partnerships to ensure that School Improvement Partners monitor and challenge safeguarding requirements to meet Ofsted and NSCB requirements. <p>There is evidence that this framework has successfully identified emerging concerns about safeguarding standards allowing the Service to intervene early to avoid</p>		

escalation.

In January 2015 the NSCB adopted a process in partnership with the Education Service to respond to critical safeguarding incidents involving schools and education settings. This would include an Ofsted inspection where safeguarding is judged to be inadequate, a serious case review or case review involving the setting, a complaint through Ofsted's whistleblowing team or a member of the public, or an incident which raises questions about safeguarding standards in a setting.

Summary since January 2015:

Safeguarding standards audits	100% submitted to the Education service with action plans by July 2015
Sampling to quality assure safeguarding standards audits	20% of school submissions were sampled to review quality of content and feedback provided and were found to meet the required standards of the Section 175/11
Intervention re critical incident	None (no critical incidents occurred)
Investigation – Ofsted whistleblowing complaint (all individual cases referred by parents)	13 (4 primary and 9 secondary) With none requiring significant support
Investigation – information from member of public	2 (1 primary and 1 secondary) With none requiring significant support
Action plans being monitored by LA/NSCB/setting within agreed timelines	15 – as above. On completion of investigation any actions identified by the LA are recorded and schools contacted within an agreed period to monitor completion (normally 1 month)
Triggered by Schools Intervention and Support Programme	None

In all of these circumstances the self-assessment audit tool is used as a vehicle to intervene in a setting on behalf of the NSCB, to support an investigation if appropriate and to generate an action plan for improvement which is monitored by the setting and the Service within agreed timelines.

Actions for 2016

1. Completion of actions identified in the Education and Skills Service Section 11 audit, November 2015.
2. S175 online tool has been finalised, due to go live February 2016
3. Influencing Partnership Co-ordinators in each Education Partnership so that local procedures are known, understood and promoted in schools/academies – this will be via Education Reference Group

	<p>JB commented that he is pleased that S11 has been changed to S175 for schools, as it will be more relevant, using the same language as schools which will help make it easier to complete.</p> <p>RF commented that there is some good evidence re impact included in the report.</p>		
5	Information Items		
5.1	<p>Business Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Content noted and no issues raised</i> 		
5.2	<p>Safeguarding Adults Board Meeting Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Content noted and no issues raised</i> 		
6	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Police – CSE problem profile – agreed this will be included on agenda for discussion at next SE Sub-Committee scheduled for 4th February 2016</p>		
7	<p>Development / training session – PREVENT</p> <p>Session delivered by Michelle Redfern, Northumbria Police.</p>		
8	<p>Dates and Times of Future Meetings</p> <p>Next meeting: 1st March 2016, 1:00-4:00pm</p> <p>Future meetings: 31st May 2016, 26th July 2016, 27th September 2016, 29th November 2015.</p>		