

Northumberland Safeguarding Children Committee

Meeting Minutes

12th November 2020, 1.00 – 3.00pm

Virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams

Present	Role	Initials
Paula Mead	Independent Chair, NSCC	PM
Alan Hartwell	Senior Manager, Performance, Education & Safeguarding, NCC	AH
Naomi Jones	Designated Doctor, Child Protection, CCG	NJ
Vida Morris	Group Nurse Director, North Locality Care Group, CNTW	VM
Graham Reiter	Service Director, Children's Social Care, NCC	GR
Donna Rose	Detective Chief Inspector Safeguarding, Northumbria Police	DR
Paula Shandran	Professional & Operational Lead Safeguarding Adults & Children, Safeguarding Service, NHCFT	PS
Margaret Tench	Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children, Northumberland CCG	MT
Jane Walker	Virtual School Headteacher, NCC	JW
Paul Weatherstone	Head of North of Tyne, National Probation Services	PW

Apologies Received	Role	Initials
Siobhan Brown	Chief Operating Officer, Northumberland CCG	SB
Karen Burns	Service Manager, Cafcass	KB
Robin Harper-Coulson	NSCC Business Manager, NCC	RHC
Tracey Horseman	Operational Manager, Social Work Learning and Development, NHCFT	TH
Catherine Joyce	Operational Director Children's Services, Action for Children	CJ
Audrey Kingham	Director, Business Development, NCC	AK
Cath McEvoy-Carr	Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Children's Services, NCC	CMC
Liz Morgan	Director of Public Health, NCC	LM
Lesley Pyle	Northumberland & North Tyneside Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Coordinator	LP

Phil Soderquest	Head of Housing and Public Protection, NCC	PS
Martyn Strike	Deputy Director of Offender Management, Northumbria CRC	MS
Annie Topping	Executive Director of Nursing Quality & Patient Safety, Northumberland CCG	AT
Karen Wright	Strategic Safeguarding Manager, Safeguarding Adults, NCC	KW

In Attendance		
Steve Baguley	Community and Education Lead, National Working Group	BD
Sandra Blackwood	NSCC Business Support, NCC (Minute Taker)	SBI
Paul Brownlee	Team Manager, Youth Justice Service, Northumberland Adolescent Service, NCC	PB
Saira Park	Safeguarding Children's Business Manager, Gateshead Council	SP
Kay Vincent	Professional Lead and Clinical Manager, 0-19 Community, NHCFT	KV

Agenda Item	Discussion and Action Agreed	A	C
	Standing Agenda Items		
1.	<p>Welcome, Introductions & Apologies for Absence PM welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted.</p>		
2.	<p>Minutes of Last Meeting, Matters Arising and Action Log (papers) The previous minutes of 15th September 2020 were accepted. The action log was reviewed and updated - see separate document.</p>		
3.	<p>Transitional Safeguarding</p> <p>Steve Baguley presented information on work that is being done by the National Working Group in 130 local areas, looking at exploitation and safeguarding in adolescents. He stated that he was aware of the excellent work around this in Northumberland.</p> <p>There are country wide issues on our understanding of the development of adolescents and our response to issues. Wider exploitation models need to be considered, including all criminal exploitation and online abuse.</p> <p>There is a hidden transition that we need to be aware of, which happens at the end of year 11, with a change in education provider and peer groups etc. There is a change in the duty of care; young people report this time to be like on a cliff edge.</p> <p>There is recognition that good transition prevents further problems - issues with transition often come up in safeguarding reviews.</p> <p>It is important to be aware of dehumanising language around criminal exploitation. Human rights models and consent should be considered. Also, the Crown Prosecution framework and Jenny Pearce models on how we view consent.</p> <p>There is work being done to recognise the issue of fluctuating consent. Professional curiosity should be used in cases where people consent to abuse.</p> <p>There is national guidance available for Safeguarding Adult Boards. Children's services are becoming more trauma informed. The concept of disruption is good in children's services. Other resources available: Care Act National Disruption Tool (Barnardo's) NRMs (can be updated at the point of transition) NICE Guidance (applies to transition) Adolescent Safety Framework</p> <p>There is a small working group looking at national priorities, tasked to provide guidance for Adult Social Care (ASC). They have had one meeting</p>		

	<p>and a cross parliamentary meeting is planned. They are collecting learning from areas and the ASC response to transition. The adult/person centred approach can be applied to older adolescents.</p> <p>It's important for communication between partnerships on transition and multi-agency working.</p> <p>The group thanked Steve for the interesting and helpful presentation. He will also be speaking to the Safeguarding Adults Board.</p>		
4.	<p>SPRG Update (paper)</p> <p>MT updated the group on the ongoing cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniel – multiple fractures. Because of Covid restriction, there was no initial learning event. The draft report has been circulated and a virtual learning event has been arranged for 10th December. MT will lead on RHC's behalf and prepare a 2nd draft of the report. • Fiona – suicide. An external reviewer has been contracted, because of the complexities and a virtual learning event was held last month. Feedback from this was positive. The 2nd learning event is on 1st December. • CAP – suicide. This has been in the public domain, as parents sought publicity. The 3 Safeguarding Partners reviewed agency information. Bullying evidence was not at the level that would normally be reported; where concerns were known, they were acted upon. The partners have identified further questions for the agencies to respond to. Learning will be identified, and parents will need to be notified of the process. Anti-bullying week is coming up – agencies will discuss comms around bullying and discuss with the parents. • LB – Significant life changing head injury; she is still in hospital and the prognosis is poor. A Police investigation is ongoing as there are varying accounts of what actually happened whilst LB was in the care of her Dad. The family were not known to any agency apart from universal services. A child protection medical has been undertaken for the older child and there are no concerns This has been reviewed by the 3 Safeguarding Partners and there was no learning identified. • MT has undertaken an audit of 'hidden fathers' and the report and recommendations will be presented to the Quality, Improvement & Performance (QIP) subcommittee in February. 		
5.	<p>Proposed NSCC Priorities 2020-2022 (paper)</p> <p>AH, RHC and PM met previously to review the proposals following interrogation of the performance data and consultation with partners. PM presented the Review of Strategic Priorities October 2020.</p> <p>Draft Priorities:</p>		

	<p>1. Mental Health, Self-Harm and Suicide – including social media and bullying</p> <p>2. Neglect – This remained a priority as it continues to be most significant in Child Protection Plans (50%). Jan Tilson has been asked to do an audit to inform this process so we can focus on specific tangibles.</p> <p>3. Understanding how COVID-19 has impacted on safeguarding children and young people</p> <p>4. Safeguarding children who are less than 1 year old - including non-accidental head injuries and co-sleeping. This continues to be an issue</p> <p>5. Impact of Domestic Violence on children and adolescent to parent violence and abuse (APVA)</p> <p>There has been a lot of progress on the current priorities which have moved on significantly.</p> <p>VM commented that the number of priorities that can be dealt with during Covid needs to be a consideration.</p> <p>NJ noted that we need to consider child to parent violence as well as APVA, as it starts from a young age.</p> <p>MT noted that, following on from the SIRS work on fathers, the national panel are undertaking a 3rd thematic review on immobile babies and are keen on engagement and the assessment of fathers. MT asked that 'fathers' still be included as a subheading in the priority for safeguarding children under 1.</p> <p>GR noted that recent QA work within Children's Services has highlighted more effective engagement with fathers.</p> <p>MT informed the group of free resources from NHS England (ICON) on the prevention of non-accidental head injury. Coping with crying is now embedded in Northumberland – a DVD is shown to parents antenatally. ICON is new and includes intervention antenatally, postnatally and at the GP's 6-8 week check. Multi-agency roll out across Northumberland is planned: initial meetings have taken place; there is an implementation plan; and a launch is planned for the Spring. Coping with crying will continue until ICON is embedded.</p> <p>Action: PM and GR to finalise the priorities following comments.</p>	<p>PM & GR</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Regional MSET proposal (papers)</p> <p>Saira Park presented information on the MSET regional review.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The local pre MSET process is well managed and cases are appropriate, with good multi-agency working noted • There is still a gap with sharing information and the wider MSET, so the proposal is for a sub-regional MSET, with Northumberland joining up with North Tyneside. A T&F group will be set up to review the benefits • North Tyneside undertook their own review and have not been involved during this regional review / consultation 		

	<p>GR noted that a lot of work has been done in Northumberland and he agreed with keeping the pre MSET local and joining up with North Tyneside on a regional strategic approach. Admin support is a concern.</p> <p>More work needs to be done on the detail e.g. there still needs to be agreement on how outcomes are recorded.</p> <p>PM expressed concern that the MSET, although an operational group of the safeguarding partnership in 5 local areas, North Tyneside does not have a strategic Exploitation sub-group to inform MSET.</p>		
<p>7.</p>	<p>DC&YP - Covid update (paper)</p> <p>NJ presented the annual update from the Disabled Children & Young People’s subcommittee, including an update about the multi-agency response to support DC&YP during the COVID pandemic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The action plan was delayed because of Covid; a 2 year work plan is now in place for next year • A dashboard has been developed • Covid has a potential long term impact on safeguarding SG, with children not being in school, pressures on families, health and wellbeing, poverty. Sam Barron has supported schools in getting children back in • There has been an increase in children being electively home educated (90), although some may return after Covid. 20 of these have an EHCP • Virtual contact/appointments during Covid have advantages, but they marginalise the voice of the child and it is a concern that we may not be seeing children enough • Services have resumed but there is a backlog of assessments / therapies • Practice guidance was developed • Issues are recognised and agency assurances are noted in the recovery plans, although this stage has not yet been implemented due to the 2nd Covid wave. Assurance has also been provided at the subcommittee meetings <p>JW noted that our electively home educated figures are low compared to other areas e.g. Bradford has over 700 since September. No issues re. risk have been identified in Northumberland.</p> <p>GR noted that face to face contact is important and is being done for a vast majority of social care visits. The range of disabilities is understood by the workforce and SEND development work will feed into the work of the DC&YP subcommittee.</p> <p>PM thanked NJ for driving the DC&YP agenda forward.</p>		

<p>8.</p>	<p>Reports (papers)</p> <p>The following papers were provided for assurance and information, and the group were asked to read them before the meeting.</p> <p>a) YOS Strategy Board – Justice Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Speech & Language Therapist has been seconded, as 40% have some issues with communication • GR noted that the Youth Justice Board do good work around out of court disposals. PB confirmed that from the beginning of the year, there has been a 95% decrease of youths going into the formal criminal system • Workload has decreased during Covid but is now getting back to normal • The primary focus is safeguarding young people and preventing wider harm to others and harm to themselves, which fits in with Steve’s presentation on transitional safeguarding. Contextual safeguarding issues and criminal exploitation are being dealt with <p>PB was thanked for providing a good strategic and operationally detailed plan, showing quantitative improvements around offending.</p> <p>b) CNTW Safeguarding and Public Protection annual report</p> <p>VM noted some highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New case review report writer • Progress of systems being realigning with the North Cumbria locality • National session with Lord Carlile re. PREVENT • Funding for two posts within MASH • Continue to work with Channel Panel chairs/Police - CNTW has the highest referrals into the Channel agenda <p>VM pointed out that CNTW provide a range of assurances to the NSCC. AH noted that although it was comprehensive, the report didn’t provide details on the tracking of incident outcomes (p12). VM provided reassurance that data is available monthly, quarterly and 6 monthly and can provide information to the QIP.</p> <p>Action: VM to provide 2019-20 outcomes / analysis of practice to the next QIP meeting.</p> <p>PM presented a challenge in that as well as reporting on what went well, it is useful for Annual Reports to reflect on what didn’t go so well and what is being worked on.</p> <p>VM noted that there are training challenges and capacity issues around responding to partner agency requests. She will ensure that future annual reports are more inclusive.</p>	<p>VM</p>	<p>PM</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Demand Level Trends and JTAI Action Plan (paper)</p> <p>A full performance report was not available because of the QIP and NSCC</p>		

	<p>meetings not aligning, so AH presented an update on demand levels (data to 31st October).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S47 levels are low; activity on existing and new cases is being tracked and will be reviewed if levels remain low • LAC numbers are higher than before lockdown but have plateaued since June (these have increased in other areas) • Child Protection numbers have fluctuated – 470 mid-April and 400 for the last 6 weeks • Police data for DA incidents has shown a slight decrease this month • All councils are undertaking a national exercise around demand levels • GR noted that Early Help referrals didn't increase from September, as expected, due to proactive preventative work with families by the youth service and the Community Hub • Delays with the court processes have prevented the movements of LAC, which has had an impact on placements <p>The group liked the visual report and found it helpful to get an overview on demand.</p> <p>The JTAI Action Plan was updated last month following challenge by partners. There are challenges with virtual working, but the group were reassured that actions are being progressed.</p>		
<p>10.</p>	<p>0-19s Workforce, Capacity and Pressure – Kay Vincent (paper)</p> <p>KV presented highlights from the Health Visiting Caseload Profiles report June 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families continue to be supported in the early months e.g. non mandatory 3-4 month review • School entry review has been introduced, providing a robust handover for the School Nurse • Service delivery was adapted for Covid impact and no staff were redeployed. MT mentioned a letter received from Public Health England (attached with the minutes) which asks that nurses should not be redeployed; this provides assurance around redeployment. KV noted that this also applies to the SEND/special SN team and Marion Dickson is supporting teams • Since September, face to face delivery of the Healthy Child programme is offered. Virtual consultations and telephone support are also provided • Since March, although there have been no group sessions or drop in clinics, the offer continues but is being provided in a different way • The Health Visitor Partnership Plus programme is embedded • Caseload review is done annually and also reviewed at every vacancy or sickness 		

	<p>The group thanked KV and reassured her that the implications of lack of socialisation will be a focus within our priority of safeguarding children under 1.</p>		
11.	<p>Workforce, Capacity and Pressure</p> <p><u>Northumbria Police</u> DR provided an update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Gold Command structure is still in place • 9 cases/day of Covid: 70 -100 staff are off work • Back up plans are in place; responding well in order to provide the same service • No issues with PPE stock • Morale is high • Reporting levels have returned to pre Covid levels, with no significant decrease. The night-time economy has decreased with recent lockdown restrictions but there are normal levels of crime reporting • Compliance issues continue; using engage, explain and enforce, with some enforcement to comply • No difference in demand re. CCNs / child referrals <p><u>National Probation Services</u> PW updated the group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restructure ongoing - NE region created (Northumbria, Cleveland and Durham) • Infrastructure is being created from scratch • Significant changes but maintaining work capacity <p>No other issues were reported. AH noted that agencies provided assurances around workforce, capacity and pressure at the 24th September QIP meeting.</p>		
12.	<p>Children, Young People and Families Plan - significant issues for C&YP in Northumberland</p> <p>GR provided feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan is progressing, developed with and by children. • There are 6 priorities • The subgroup is working on the actions and putting developments in place e.g. consideration around safe places to go and resources for children / families on our website <p>This will remain a standard agenda item so that the group continues to be updated on progress.</p>		
13.	<p>Forward plan – setting of next meeting’s agenda (paper)</p>		

	<p>The agenda items for the next meeting (12th January 2021) were discussed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MASH 12 month review report (Dorothy Chambers) – to be deferred to March • CCG Safeguarding Annual Report (Annie Topping) • Annual Report - Children Missing from Education (Jane Walker) – to provide an update from September’s return to school following Covid restrictions • Early Help Strategy/EH Locality Report – check with Mary Connor • Children’s Triage Audit (Dorothy Chambers). This ties into the MASH review - to be presented in March • Board Priorities / Scrutiny – PM and GR • PP&T annual report – check when this is being presented • LA Improvement plan – GR • Increased cocaine use in pregnancy – Paula Shandran to present 		
14.	Information Items		
14.1.	<p>Northumberland and North Tyneside Safeguarding Adults Board Minutes</p> <p>The minutes of 24th June 2020 were sent with the agenda.</p>		
14.2.	<p>CDOP mid-year report (paper).</p> <p>PM stated that whilst the governance now sits with the HWBB, the NSCC need to continue to keep an oversight of it during Covid as focus of HWBB is on the pandemic.</p>		
15.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p><u>Multi-agency audit plan</u> AH informed the group that this has now been populated with names of lead professionals and will be provided for information with the minutes.</p>		
16.	<p>Dates and Times of Future Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12th January 2021 <p>Virtual: 1-3pm via Microsoft Teams</p>		

Name	9.1.20	12.3.20	29.6.20	15.9.20	12.11.20
Paula Mead	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sheila Askew	✓	Joanne Hancox	Joanne Hancox	Joanne Hancox	Paul Weatherstone
Karen Burns	✓	A	✓	A	A
Marion Dickson	A	A	A	✓	Paula Shandran
Robin Harper-Coulson	✓	✓	✓	✓	A
Alan Hartwell	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dean Jackson	✓	✓	✓	Now Audrey Kingham	
Audrey Kingham					A
Cath McEvoy-Carr	✓	✓	✓	✓	A
Liz Morgan	A	A	DNA	A	A
Vida Morris	✓	A	✓	✓	✓
Graham Reiter	✓	✓	✓	A	✓
Donna Rose	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Phil Soderquest	DNA	A	A	A	A
Martyn Strike	✓	✓	✓	✓	A
Margaret Tench	A	✓	A	A	✓
Annie Topping	A	✓	✓	A	A
Karen Wright	✓	✓	✓	✓	A

✓ = Attended DNA = Did not attend A = Apologies