

Northumberland Safeguarding Children Committee

Meeting Minutes

13th July 2021, 2.00 – 4.00pm

Virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams

Present	Role	Initials
Paula Mead	Independent Safeguarding Scrutiny and Assurance Chair, NSCC	PM
Lynne Colledge for Claire Wheatley	D/Chief Inspector Safeguarding, Northumbria Police and Chair of the Exploitation subcommittee	LC
Claire Coyne for Annie Topping	Deputy Director of Quality and Patient Safety (Northumberland CCG)	CC
Tanya Graham for Steve Gilbert	Senior Probation Officer – North Tyneside & Northumberland PDU, National Probation Service	TG
Alan Hartwell	Senior Manager, Performance, Education & Safeguarding, NCC and Chair of the Quality, Improvement & performance subcommittee	AH
Naomi Jones	Designated Doctor, Child Protection, CCG and Chair of the Disabled Children & Young People subcommittee	NJ
Audrey Kingham	Director, Business Development, NCC	AK
Liz Morgan	Director of Public Health, NCC	LM
Graham Reiter	Service Director, Children’s Social Care, NCC	GR
Julie Stewart for Phil Soderquest	Strategic Housing Manager, NCC	JS
Margaret Tench	Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children, Northumberland CCG and Chair of the Safeguarding Practice Review Group	MT
Claire Thomas for Vida Morris	Associate Director Safer Care, CNTW	CT
Jane Walker	Virtual School Headteacher, NCC and Chair of	JW
Jill Wood for Paula Shandran/Marion Dickson	Named Midwife Safeguarding, NHCFT	JWo
Karen Wright	Strategic Safeguarding Manager, Safeguarding Adults, NCC	KW

Apologies Received	Role	Initials
Marion Dickson	Executive Director of Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Healthcare Professionals, NHCFT	MD
Steve Gilbert	PDU Lead – North Tyneside and Northumberland PDU, National Probation Service	SG
Robin Harper-Coulson	NSSP Business Manager, NCC	RHC
Tracey Horseman	Operational Manager, Social Work Learning and Development, NHCFT and Chair of the Policies, Procedures and Training subcommittee	TH
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
Vida Morris	Group Nurse Director, North Locality Care Group, CNTW	VM
Lesley Pyle	Northumberland & North Tyneside Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Coordinator and Chair of the DVA&SV Business Group	LP
Paula Shandran	Professional & Operational Lead Safeguarding Adults & Children, Safeguarding Service, NHCFT	PS
Phil Soderquest	Head of Housing and Public Protection, NCC	PSo
Annie Topping	Executive Director of Nursing Quality & Patient Safety, Northumberland CCG	AT
Claire Wheatley	Chief Inspector Harm Reduction & Intel, Northumbria Police	CW

In Attendance		
Anne Lambert	Learning and Organisational Development Coordinator, NCC	AL
Jan Tilson	Independent Reviewing Officer Safeguarding Manager, NCC	JT
Sandra Blackwood	NSSP Business Support, NCC (Minute Taker)	SB

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 apologies were noted (see above).</p>		
2.	<p>Minutes of Last Meeting, Matters Arising and Action Log (papers)</p> <p>The previous minutes of 13th May 2021 were accepted.</p> <p>The action log was reviewed and updated - see separate document.</p>		
3.	<p>SPRG Update (paper)</p> <p>MT provided the group with updates from the Safeguarding Practice Review Group.</p> <p>MT challenged the capacity in undertaking reviews (only 3 people (from the Local Authority (LA), CCG and Education) undertook the 3 days SILP (Serious Incident Learning Process) training. Six reviews have taken place and one member is now currently off sick.). MT suggested that the NSSP might want to consider funding similar training for extra staff from different disciplines, to ensure additional capacity and expertise to enhance the existing resource.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group agreed that the training is cost effective in the long run and ensures quality of reports; capacity needs constant review as roles/staff can change. It will be beneficial to have additional partners. • LC noted that Northumbria Police can contribute as they have been approached by another LA to undertake training for appreciative inquiries. • KW, MT and a few others have recently undertaken appreciative inquiry training. • KW has raised the issue of being at full capacity with CMC. Action: PM to escalate this issue to the 3 Safeguarding Partners, for them to discuss/approve as matter of urgency, a plan going forward. • Action: Partners to inform SB of names of staff to put forward who can help undertake reviews. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiona – Consideration being given on how we involve young people; MT and KW are looking to do some work over the summer around collecting the views of service users (over the age of 14 years), using the appreciative inquiry approach. • CAP – Carol Leckie is writing a draft report. • LB – MT is leading on the roll out of ICON this month (one of the 	<p>PM</p> <p>All</p>	<p>MT</p>

	<p>recommendations).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BB – MT completed a father’s audit which has been widely shared with the subgroups. She challenged agencies during the PP&T subcommittee meeting to evidence how they consider and engage fathers. • George – Meeting tomorrow to reconsider the need for a formal safeguarding practice review, following the response by the National Panel. MT suggested she prepare a report pulling out learning and recommendations and have a learning event rather than a review event. 		
<p>4.</p>	<p>Daniel Report (paper)</p> <p>MT gave a presentation on the overview of Daniel and the final draft of the Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review was shared with the agenda.</p> <p>In relation to the lack of appropriate notice given by the prison of father's release, TG noted that the safeguarding process is that prisons should inform social care and probation when a perpetrator is being released. She suggested that consideration for release be discussed in all child protection meetings, in preparation.</p> <p>GR noted that improvements are being seen with the use of Signs of Safety. It is important to keep pushing challenge and professional curiosity. He reminded that Core groups have multi-agency responsibility.</p> <p>JT suggested a noncompliance process or reiterating the expectations of multi-agencies re. commitment and expectation to the Child Protection Plan. JT is doing some work around conferences (which are now taking place virtually) as expectations have shifted. JT will ensure that expectations are linked into the planned workshops taking place this year.</p> <p>LC informed the group that Daniel’s parents are under criminal investigation and need to be reinterviewed (there was a delay in court paperwork). Once the legal process is over, LC will ensure Northumbria Police link in with MT and KW so that MT can consider speaking to the parents, as is normally done.</p> <p>The group thanked MT for the good, balanced report.</p>		
<p>5.</p>	<p>Annual Report 2020-21</p> <p>PM updated the group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The annual report runs from September to September and statutory responsibility falls to the 3 Safeguarding Partners. • PM is collating information, as an independent scrutineer. • Neglect is still an area of concern. • PM thanked those who had already contributed to the request for information. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After reading the Wood report and the National Panel’s deep dive analysis of last year’s annual reports, it is clear that rather than descriptions of what we are doing, they want to know impact and outcomes; this could be from audits, case studies, data etc. • For those partners who are yet to respond with information for the annual report, PM asked that they focus on what they have been doing to evidence the actions. 		
<p>6.</p>	<p>Business Plan / capacity issues</p> <p>PM informed the group that a new Business Plan for 2021-24 needs to be written, tackling the priorities.</p> <p>PM has flagged up the risk of decreased capacity to the Partnership, as a result of changes from Board to Partnership, and RHC’s absence. She recommends that the 3 Safeguarding Partners commission a strategic plan which they can monitor over the next 3 years.</p> <p>GR noted appreciation of KW’s assistance during RHC’s absence. He is looking at temporary support but it may be a challenge finding someone appropriate.</p>		
<p>7.</p>	<p>Annual Reports (papers)</p> <p>a) Independent Reviewing Service</p> <p>JT presented the IRO Service annual report, which has also been to the Corporate Parenting Panel.</p> <p>PM confirmed that although it is the Corporate Parenting Panel’s responsibility, as Looked After Children (LAC) are our most vulnerable group, it is good for us to continue to get assurances around safeguarding in the wider sense.</p> <p>Assurances were provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stable workforce. • LAC plans are reviewed and progress is noted. • Service delivery has been maintained to a high standard throughout the pandemic. • Increased attendance at LAC reviews – staff and some young people prefer the virtual meetings. There has been a decrease in child attendance across the regions, but this has been seen over the past 4 years. A regional working group is reviewing this. • IRO specific training by Edgehill University was very useful and exciting. Nine staff attended, which was followed up by a training day and workshops. • Embedding the child’s promise. • Promoting the voice of the IRO in court’s paperwork. • Consulting with children - confident they can share views of their plan. 		

	<p>The group thanked JT for her report.</p> <p>b) Policies, Procedures & Training subcommittee</p> <p>AL presented the annual report on behalf of TH.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This year, face to face courses were moved to virtual programmes. There are less hours involved re. delivery (courses condensed) but it still takes time to prepare and administer. • The breadth of offer was maintained, which was a credit to the trainers. • Access to eLearning increased, especially for schools. • With a reduction in AL's time, this focus is on planning this year's programme around the Board priorities. • Impact of training on practice is a standard evaluation. Looking to assess longer term impact re. sexual exploitation training. PM suggested that this data will be useful to see. AH advised that impact could also be assessed by IROs as LAC are vulnerable to exploitation and JT noted that CPPs are monitored every 6 weeks. JT and AL will discuss whether a specific audit by IROs would be valuable (GR noted that we need to ensure the audit fits in with other LA and partnership work outside of this meeting). • Additional multi-agency training is also through the EHEI subcommittee via the Early Help & Prevention training programme. • Some staff prefer the virtual programme. It works for information based courses but for skill based ones, these need to be face to face. <p>The group thanked AL for presenting the report.</p>		
<p>8.</p>	<p>Briefing on Operation Encompass Next Steps (paper)</p> <p>JW presented the briefing paper on Operation Encompass, next steps. This has been a huge success and all schools have been onboard. The PCC obtained further funding to broaden the programme and this has provided schools with tools e.g. School Safeguarding Liaison Officers (SSLOs) who can offer to support and safeguard children.</p> <p>Acknowledging this is difficult to measure, PM challenged that whilst the programme may provide welcome support, does that translate into better outcomes for children e.g. increased resilience or better mental health outcomes via reduction in referrals to CAMHS or better qualifications. JW suggested considering a piece of work with schools and reviewing current research to underpin this. Action: JW to discuss with the Schools Engagement Group.</p> <p>GR commented that this challenge could be taken back to the new Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board (DALP), for them to judge the impact in response to the new DA Act. Action: GR to discuss at the DALP</p>	<p>JW</p> <p>GR</p>	<p>PM</p>

	meeting.		
9.	<p>Performance and Audit Report (paper)</p> <p>AH presented the new look Nssp Priority Dashboard, which was pulled together by Brian Smeaton using data that was available or easily collectable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This doesn't replace the North & South of Tyne Scorecard, which is being reviewed by the strategic partnership. Previously, AH presented an interim report and it was agreed to try something new. • The dashboard looks at quantifiable multi-agency measures under each priority, including data from Children's Services. • Work is still ongoing to identify broader measures to track the priorities. • Some data has only recently been captured in the updated version of ICS, so there will be no trend seen. <p>The group liked the new format; it provided clarity and was explicit around our priorities. More qualitative approaches will be considered. AH informed the group that the QIP subcommittee have a new workplan and Dorothy Chambers is taking the lead on the multi-agency audit forward plan, which should help drive our quality of practice activity.</p> <p>NJ noted that because the Covid priority underpins all the other priorities, it is especially important to include 2019 data. She asked whether more data around capturing Covid specifics is required.</p> <p>JS noted that she can contribute to priority 4 re. homeless families and children and will work with BS.</p> <p>LC noted that she can pull data around the street triage service (contacts for under 18 year olds), for priority 1.</p> <p>KW wants to explore the use of this dashboard for the SAB.</p> <p>PM noted that this dashboard will be reviewed in more detail at next week's Nssp Subcommittee Leads Review of NSCC Priorities meeting. AH suggested colour coding and cross referencing against this and measures previously suggested, although some aren't quantifiable; we will capture the additional measures on the dashboard if not previously identified.</p> <p>The group asked AH to pass on their thanks to Brian.</p>		
10.	<p>JTAI Action Plan (paper)</p> <p>AH presented the draft progress update and this was circulated during the meeting. It captures LA updates and will be further discussed with LC and MT before being reported to the Exploitation subcommittee.</p>		

	AH noted good progress; there are no actions in red or orange. He assured the group that actions in green are still continuously monitored.		
11.	<p>6 monthly scrutiny of LA Improvement Plan</p> <p>GR informed the group that the finalised annual self-assessment needs to go through the oversight/scrutiny processes.</p> <p>There is good, consistent progress and the self-assessment and improvement plan will be brought to the next meeting.</p>		
12.	<p>Children, Young People and Families Plan - significant issues for C&YP in Northumberland (paper)</p> <p>GR discussed his paper and it was recirculated following the meeting, as the embedded documents couldn't be accessed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within the overarching plan is a priority that children feel safe and supported. • Finding ways of communicating and evaluating, which are meaningful to young people and their families. • Healthy relationship work is progressing. • During the Impact day (22nd June), work was showcased, including a publicly available padlet. <p>PM noted that the real engagement is impressive.</p>		
13.	<p>Forward plan – setting of next meeting's agenda (paper)</p> <p>The agenda for the next meeting (24th September 2021) was reviewed and the Forward plan updated.</p> <p>LM informed the group that the 0-19 service, previously delivered through a section 75 arrangement with NHCFT, has gone out to consultation and Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust (HDFT) will be delivering this; a representative has been invited to attend the next meeting to provide assurances around this new safeguarding arrangement.</p>		
14.	Information Items		
14.1.	<p>Northumberland and North Tyneside Safeguarding Adults Board Minutes (paper)</p> <p>The minutes of 23rd March 2021 were sent with the agenda. KW noted that the SAY project is now up and running and information on this has been added to the adults and children's webpages.</p>		
14.2.	Child Protection Conferences and Fathers (paper)		

	This document is to note the content of a dip sample/audit looking specifically at the father's contribution to conferences within the social work assessment, the Conference and the subsequent plan.		
15.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>None.</p>		
16.	<p>Dates and Times of Future Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24th September 2021 2-4pm via Microsoft Teams 		

Name	12.1.21	9.3.21	13.5.21	13.7.21	24.9.21	16.11.21
Paula Mead	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Marion Dickson	A	✓	Jill Wood	Jill Wood		
Steven Gilbert			✓	Tanya Graham		
Robin Harper-Coulson	A	A	A	A		
Alan Hartwell	✓	✓	Brian Smeaton	✓		
Audrey Kingham	✓	✓	A	✓		
Cath McEvoy-Carr	A	A	A	A		
Liz Morgan	Karen Herne	Karen Herne	✓	✓		
Vida Morris	✓	Jo Sharpe	✓	Claire Thomas		
Graham Reiter	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Donna Rose	✓					
Phil Soderquest	Julie Stewart	A	Julie Stewart	Julie Stewart		
Martyn Strike	✓	✓	✓			
Margaret Tench	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Annie Topping	A	A	✓	Claire Coyne		
Paul Weatherstone	Sandra Clement	Sandra Clement	Sandra Clement			
Claire Wheatley		✓	✓	Lynne Colledge		
Karen Wright	✓	✓	✓	✓		

✓ = Attended DNA = Did not attend A = Apologies