

**Northumberland Safeguarding Children Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

**16<sup>th</sup> November 2021, 2.00 – 4.00pm**

**Virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams**

<b>Present</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Initials</b>
Paula Mead	Independent Safeguarding Scrutiny and Assurance Chair, NSCC	PM
Louise Cass-Williams for Lynne Colledge	D/Chief Inspector Safeguarding, Northumbria Police	LCW
Aileen Galloway	Named Nurse Child Protection for 0-19 Service Northumberland, HDFT	AG
Steve Gilbert	PDU Lead – North Tyneside and Northumberland PDU, National Probation Service	SG
Alan Hartwell	Senior Manager, Performance, Education & Safeguarding, NCC and Chair of the Quality, Improvement & performance subcommittee	AH
Karen Herne for Liz Morgan	Senior Public Health Manager, NCC	KH
Catherine Joyce	Operational Director Children's Services, Action for Children and Chair of the Early Help Early Intervention subcommittee	CJ
Carol Leckie for Jane Walker	Schools' Safeguarding Team Manager, Virtual School, NCC	CL
Cath McEvoy-Carr	Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Children's Services, NCC	CMC
Graham Reiter	Service Director, Children's Social Care, NCC	GR
Paula Shandran	Head of Safeguarding Children & Adults & Acute Learning Disability Liaison Service, NHCFT	PS
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
Karen Wright	Senior Manager, Safeguarding Adults, Adult Services, NCC	KW

<b>Apologies Received</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Initials</b>
Siobhan Brown	Chief Operating Officer, Northumberland CCG	SBr
Lynne Colledge	D/Chief Inspector Safeguarding, Northumbria Police and Chair of the Exploitation subcommittee	LC
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
Naomi Jones	Designated Doctor, Child Protection, CCG and Chair of the Disabled Children & Young People subcommittee	NJ
Audrey Kingham	Interim Senior Service Director, Education and Skills, NCC	AK
Liz Morgan	Director of Public Health, NCC	LM
Vida Morris	Group Nurse Director, North Locality Care Group, CNTW	VM
Lesley Pyle	Northumberland & North Tyneside Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Coordinator	LP
Guy Renner-Thompson	Elected Member, NCC	GRT
Annie Topping	Executive Director of Nursing, Quality and Patient Safety, Northumberland CCG	AT
Jane Walker	Virtual School Headteacher, NCC and Chair of the Schools Engagement Group	JW

<b>In Attendance</b>		
Mary Connor	Head of Service Children's Social Care, NCC	MC
Kay Vincent	General Manager, 0-19 Northumberland, HDFT	KV
Sandra Blackwood	NSSP Business Support, NCC (Minute Taker)	SB

Agenda Item	Discussion and Action Agreed	A	C
	<b>Standing Agenda Items</b>		
1.	<p><b>Welcome, Introductions &amp; Apologies for Absence</b></p> <p>PM welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted (see above).</p>		
2.	<p><b>Minutes of Last Meeting, Matters Arising and Action Log (papers)</b></p> <p>The previous minutes of 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021 were accepted.</p> <p>The action log was reviewed and updated - see separate document.</p>		
3.	<p><b>SPRG Update (paper)</b></p> <p>MT shared the update from the Safeguarding Practice Review Group. To note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MT is retiring next month so a new Chair needs to be identified. PM noted that MT will be a big loss. This is an important subcommittee and it may be helpful to have the Designated Nurse as Chair, as they will be independent from events.</li> <li>• CAP – meeting tomorrow to discuss the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft of the report, written by CL. A comms process will be discussed. CMC noted that it was previously agreed to involve the parents; CL will update CMC, GR and PM after the meeting tomorrow on this consideration.</li> <li>• ICON has been launched and will probably be evaluated after 6 months; the CCG will lead on this. There may be a national evaluation tool, otherwise, something will be developed locally, with the 0-19 Harrogate service.</li> <li>• KW noted that the SAB is taking the lead on the joint learning review of the recent suicide of a young man; the first scoping meeting is taking place this week and KW will provide updates to the NSCC and SAB.</li> </ul>	<b>CL</b>	
4.	<p><b>Child Safeguarding Learning Review - George Report (paper)</b></p> <p>MT presented the George Learning Review.</p> <p>One of the recommendations was around supervision and for CNTW to consider whether safeguarding supervision is required when both parents are known to services and mother is pregnant or there are children in the household regardless of section 47/CiN. <b>Action:</b> CT to follow up and provide the NSCC with CNTW's view on supervision.</p>	<b>CT</b>	

	<p>PM expressed frustration and challenge to agencies that straightforward and well-established learning about the risks of bruising in immobile babies continues to be a cause for concern. CMC agreed, adding her concern regarding the findings about fathers and strategy meetings that perhaps a different approach is needed in our learning and multi-agency working.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b> All agencies to consider the recommendations and give thought to what can be done differently to prevent these recurring issues.</p> <p>MT noted that the report does not need to be published, as it did not meet the criteria for a formal review, although the issues are none the less just as serious as our previously defined Serious Case Reviews.</p> <p>The group thanked MT for her report.</p>	<p>All</p>	<p>PM</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p><b>Annual Reports (papers)</b></p> <p><b>a) NSSP Annual Report 2020-21</b></p> <p>PM presented the annual report, which she wrote this year from the perspective of an independent scrutineer. She thanked all those partners who contributed. To note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following a national review of the quality of annual reports last year, recommendations were taken on board.</li> <li>• There is evidence that the work of the partnership adds value but more work can be done.</li> <li>• Progress has been made on the priorities (reviewed half-way through the year), apart from neglect, which will need a continued focus.</li> <li>• Covid has had implications on all services, however the partnership did a good job of maintaining and delivering safe and effective services.</li> <li>• There is good engagement and partnership working, which is making a difference.</li> <li>• We need to continue to evaluate impact and ensure practice is evidence based.</li> <li>• The report will be presented to the Health &amp; Wellbeing Board in February and for Scrutiny in January.</li> <li>• As it has been endorsed by the NSCC and safeguarding partners, the report will be published on the website and can be shared; a young person friendly version is being prepared, which schools can then disseminate.</li> </ul> <p><b>b) CNTW Annual Report for Safeguarding and Public Protection 2020–21</b></p> <p>CT gave a summary of the report.</p> <p>The group thanked CT for the helpful and comprehensive information and</p>		

	<p>were pleased to see the priorities are in line with those of the NSSP.</p> <p><b>c) Health Visitor Caseloads annual report 2021</b></p> <p>KV presented the 0-5 Caseload Profiling (presentation attached with the minutes).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skill mix model is used. There is a shortage of skilled staff nationally; HDFT have a recruitment event this Thursday.</li> </ul> <p>The group thanked KV for her informative report.</p>		
6.	<p><b>JTAI Action Plan (paper)</b></p> <p>AH presented the updated action plan (to the end of September). It is continually monitored by the Exploitation subcommittee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is only one item not green and an update will be discussed at this Friday's Quality, Improvement &amp; Performance meeting.</li> <li>• Text in purple writing shows those actions that have recently moved to green.</li> </ul> <p>The group noted the progress made. As it has been in place for a couple of years, the group agreed that this action plan should be signed off at the next meeting.</p>		
7.	<p><b>Northumberland Annual Engagement Meeting</b></p> <p>GR provided an update following Ofsted's annual conversation re. scrutiny of the Local Authority's (LA) self-assessment as part of their inspection framework.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was positive feedback on the work by the LA, with no priority of concerns.</li> <li>• Ofsted's next contact will involve a 2 day focussed visit sometime next year, which may be on permanence planning, children in care in placements, and the front door (Children's Social Care focussed but may involve other partners if they have been involved in those children being inspected).</li> </ul>		
8.	<p><b>Children, Young People and Families Plan - significant issues for C&amp;YP in Northumberland</b></p> <p>The subgroup is not meeting until Friday; they are looking at how to best communicate to children and young people within the Plan.</p> <p>CMC noted that there will be work on reviewing the priorities and ensuring that children understand what we are doing. It is important that all agencies are engaged in the process.</p>		

	<p>Safeguarding is a priority within the Plan. AH noted that targets are reviewed quarterly and these are positive. The indicators are also covered within the NSSP's priority work.</p> <p>AH noted that work is being done with the Youth Cabinet on what information is wanted and how this is effectively shared/communicated, as this is a commitment in the Plan. Challenges are being discussed at the Head Teachers' Partnership meeting.</p>		
<p>9.</p>	<p><b>Early Help (EH) Annual Report and Family Hub proposal (paper)</b></p> <p>MC provided the group with information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jackie McCormick (JMc) prepared the Family Hub proposal.</li> <li>• Children's Centres have been closed for the majority of the pandemic but a lot of the work continued in other ways and there is learning from this. The buildings are now opening up.</li> <li>• The virtual delivery model has been successful, especially in the rural areas.</li> <li>• Packs were delivered in Central area and this interaction helped to engage families.</li> <li>• The Prevention and Intervention programmes have been reviewed (pathway launched just before the pandemic). Work is being done with the Early Intervention Foundation looking at evidence based and impact of developed programmes. Also working with Northumbria and Newcastle Universities re. grants.</li> <li>• Tiny Talkers was successfully developed and Henry revamped.</li> <li>• The duty work system was successful – families were supported at a lower level e.g., sleep issues, so no need for EH intervention or a social worker – evidence of the impact of this is being collected.</li> <li>• Northumberland Communities Together has developed links as well, supporting families at a lower universal level.</li> <li>• Referrals into EH have increased significantly during the pandemic.</li> <li>• Following Andrea Leadsom's 'The Best Start for Life' report, we are moving towards Family Hubs, based on the 0-19 model, with co-location of agencies in the Centres. This will allow the joint development of programmes and better information sharing. There has been some funding.</li> <li>• Co-locating may be more difficult in rural areas, so the model may look different in each locality.</li> <li>• The first Family Hub Steering group took place recently, with over 30 multi-agency professionals.</li> <li>• Involved in regional work (DfE funding), with Redcar and Cleveland, to develop bigger centres for collaboration.</li> <li>• Some Midwives have already moved in; will also be accommodating colleagues from Primary Mental Health.</li> <li>• The Family Hubs will be launched from next April.</li> </ul> <p>PM challenged MC to explain the difference of Family Hubs to Sure Start</p>		<p><b>PM</b></p>

	<p>Children’s Centres. MC explained that Family Hubs differ from Sure Start in that they incorporate a wider age range: 0-5 year olds for Sure Start and 0-19 model in the Family Hubs (the Children’s Centres in Northumberland have been using this model since 2017 (0-25 years if SEND)).</p> <p>PM thanked MC for the Early Help &amp; Early Intervention work. JMc’s case study for the annual report showed positive and helpful work.</p> <p>MT asked about the involvement of fathers/partners in the family hubs. MC noted that birth registrars were coming into the Centres before the pandemic, as a way to engage fathers, and this will continue. Work is also being incorporated around healthy relationships; as part of the new domestic abuse (DA) commissioning, providers will be asked to pick up the delivery of the DA programmes and EH staff in the hubs will deliver them.</p> <p>GR noted that the EH offer is strong. The virtual delivery of programmes has meant more flexibility with times, allowing for the inclusion of fathers e.g., dads joined in with the Incredible Years programme which was run on evenings. Learning will continue from this.</p> <p>MT suggested we look at commissioning wider services and how 0-19 services engage. KH confirmed that this will be looked at, along with the massive skill mix within services. MC noted that the delivery of services is clearly mapped in the annual report, showing what can be provided to support families.</p>		
<p><b>10.</b></p>	<p><b>Early Help Strategy (paper)</b></p> <p>CJ and MC presented the renewed multi-agency EH Strategy and noted that information was collected from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two development sessions held for multi-agency partners in September - these were well attended and a signs of safety approach was used.</li> <li>• A questionnaire provided to schools - the response was less successful.</li> <li>• Community Hubs engaging with families.</li> </ul> <p>The resulting Strategy is shorter and more visual and a detailed workplan, with the objectives and priorities, will be developed for the EHEI subcommittee. More work is being done on aesthetics and the foreword before the document is finalised.</p> <p>The group thanked CJ and MC and said they liked the new approach.</p>		
<p><b>11.</b></p>	<p><b>Forward Plan – setting of next meeting’s agenda (paper)</b></p> <p>The agenda for the next meeting (11<sup>th</sup> January 2022) was reviewed and the Forward Plan updated. To include:</p>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feedback from the development session on 23<sup>rd</sup> November – KW.</li> <li>• Brief presentation from the SAB (annual report) – KW.</li> <li>• AH suggested that the Performance and Audit report be presented every other meeting; the new report format, to include our new indicators, will be ready for the March meeting.</li> </ul>		
<b>12.</b>	<b>Information Items</b>		
<b>12.1.</b>	<p><b>Northumberland and North Tyneside Safeguarding Adults Board Minutes (paper)</b></p> <p>None available.</p>		
<b>13.</b>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p><b>Feedback from NE Regional Roundtable: Safeguarding Practice Reviews</b></p> <p>GR updated the group following a meeting last week with the National Panel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The focus of the Rapid Review process was reiterated – it is about collecting good quality information, analysis and easily disseminated learning, and not providing the National Panel with realms of irrelevant information. The purpose of the practice review needs to be clear i.e., will it add to learning (there may be national learning already available that can be used)?</li> <li>• There are work strands around: risk assessments and decision making; information sharing; elective home education, suicide, DA; child sexual abuse; and bruised babies. AG noted that Sunderland is working with the National Panel on cumulative risk (HDFT footprint).</li> <li>• Good practice was noted re. SIRS in Northumberland; this may be adopted nationally.</li> </ul> <p>Following this, our Rapid Review and internal processes will be reviewed; the SPRG will lead on this work and GR will discuss with Adele Wright (SPRG subcommittee Chair).</p> <p><b>Retirements</b></p> <p>MT was thanked for being a committed and valued member, and for her role as Designated Nurse; she will be a huge miss. VM is also leaving and we send our thanks; she will also be a huge miss.</p> <p><b>Public Health</b></p> <p>KH noted that the health related behavioural questionnaire is in schools and feedback will be analysed January/February.</p> <p>There is also annual data from the child measurement programme</p>		



	<p>published today which shows that the North East has an increase in obesity e.g., 4% increase in reception aged children (usually 1%). Prior to the pandemic, we were the only area in the North East with good healthy weight at reception. Childhood obesity could become a safeguarding issue.</p> <p><b>Ofsted review into sexual abuse in schools and colleges</b>          KW noted that she has responded to ministers and is working with JW around our response to a survey due at the end of this month. There are virtual events for our statutory safeguarding partners.</p> <p>PM wished everyone a Merry Christmas and thanked partners for their input over the past year.</p>		
<p>14.</p>	<p><b>Dates and Times of Future Meetings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022 2-4pm via Microsoft Teams</li> </ul> <p>22<sup>nd</sup> March 2-5pm, 23<sup>rd</sup> June 9-12pm, 22<sup>nd</sup> September 9-12pm and 15<sup>th</sup> December 9-12pm</p>		

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

✓ = Attended DNA = Did not attend A = Apologies