

Northumberland Safeguarding Children Committee

Meeting Minutes

24th September 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	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
Sheona Duffy for Vida Morris	Acting Team Manager Safeguarding and Public Protection / Named Nurse, CNTW	SD
Steve Gilbert	PDU Lead – North Tyneside and Northumberland PDU, National Probation Service	SG
Naomi Jones	Designated Doctor, Child Protection, CCG and Chair of the Disabled Children & Young People subcommittee	NJ
Jon Lawler for Liz Morgan	Public Health Consultant, NCC	JL
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
Lesley Pyle	Northumberland & North Tyneside Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Coordinator	LP
Graham Reiter	Service Director, Children's Social Care, NCC	GR
Paula Shandran	Professional & Operational Lead Safeguarding Adults & Children, Safeguarding Service, NHCFT	PS
Brian Smeaton for Alan Hartwell	Children's Improvement & Development Manager, Performance and Systems Support, NCC	BS
Phil Soderquest	Head of Housing and Public Protection, NCC	PSo
Leesa Stephenson for Margaret Tench	Deputy Designated Nurse Vulnerable People & Interim Designated Nurse for Children Looked After, Northumberland CCG	LS

Claire Wallace	Deputy Head of Safeguarding Children, HDFT	CW
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
Robin Harper-Coulson	NSSP Business Manager, NCC	RHC
Alan Hartwell	Senior Manager, Performance, Education & Safeguarding, NCC and Chair of the Quality, Improvement & performance subcommittee	AH
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 and Chair of the Early Help Early Intervention subcommittee	CJ
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
Margaret Tench	Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children, Northumberland CCG and Chair of the Safeguarding Practice Review Group	MT
Annie Topping	Executive Director of Nursing Quality & Patient Safety, Northumberland CCG	AT
Jane Walker	Virtual School Headteacher, NCC and Chair of	JW
Claire Wheatley	Chief Inspector Harm Reduction & Intel, Northumbria Police	CWh

In Attendance		
Adam Hall	Children's Services Residential Lead Manager (previous LADO), NCC	AH
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 July 2021 were accepted.</p> <p>The action log was reviewed and updated - see separate document.</p>		
3.	<p>Safeguarding Arrangements re. 0-19 Programme</p> <p>PM introduced CW to the group. CMC explained that the Local Authority's Public Health Department have entered into a section 75/partnership arrangement with Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust (HDFT) from 1st October 2021.</p> <p>CW gave a presentation on their 0-19 service and safeguarding assurance – attached with the minutes.</p> <p>The group thanked CW for attending and are looking forward to the new partnership. CMC noted that the workforce will be integrated to ensure children receive the services they need in a coordinated way. There will be a transfer in the services/systems from NHCFT; CW thanked PS for NHCFT's support during the handover to clinical leads. PM reiterated that this reflects how well agencies work together in Northumberland.</p> <p>The group also thanked CW for HDFT's commitment to safeguarding, as it was noted that her colleague Suzanne Lamb has been in touch to discuss representation at the subcommittees.</p>		
4.	<p>SPRG Update (paper)</p> <p>On behalf of MT, LS shared the update from the Safeguarding Practice Review Group. To note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAP - The second draft of the report will be discussed next week and hopefully finalised. • George - MT was asked to present the report at the next meeting, for sign-off. 		

5.	<p>Child Safeguarding Learning Review - George Report</p> <p>Deferred to the next meeting</p>		
6.	<p>Risk Register (paper)</p> <p>This document was originally created to deal with specific risks around Covid-19 lockdown; as lockdown has ended, this can now be signed-off. Action: Partners to review their risks and confirm that they are happy for the document to be noted as complete.</p>	All	
7.	<p>Update on SAB following peer review</p> <p>PM provided the group with the outcome following the peer review of the joint North Tyneside and Northumberland SAB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was agreed that the joint arrangement had worked well however the pandemic had highlighted the importance of 'place' to both LS's therefore it was decided to separate. On that basis Northumberland will consider a joint Adults and Children's Board (a model adopted by several areas nationally, including Darlington and South Tyneside), as there is a lot of joined up working and cross-over of priorities. • Richard Burrows (Independent Scrutineer for South Tyneside) has been asked to facilitate development sessions to collect the views from partners, understand the challenges and plan the arrangements going forward; dates will be sent out soon for face to face sessions in November. 		
8.	<p>Annual Reports (papers)</p> <p>a) DVA & SV Busines Group subcommittee</p> <p>LP presented the final Domestic Violence and Abuse & Sexual Violence Business Group update, as this group has now disbanded and a new Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board (DALP) created. She also presented information on the DA Act and Duties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The statutory definition of DA will be finalised 1st October; all policies are being updated. • Northumbria is part of the pilot for Tackling Offenders. • Nicole Jacobs is the DA Commissioner and there are numerous surveys re. progress of DA arrangements which were initiated by the multi-agency Northumberland DA Bill 2020 Implementation Task Group, convened from January to June 2021. • A DA Needs Assessment is in place; this will inform the development of our Strategy. It is to be in place by 31st October, although the MHCLG have confirmed this week that we may have to consult with a draft and then publish 5th Jan 2022. • The draft Strategy and Needs Assessment will be going to DALP in October. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subgroups will support the Board e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data & Performance - to better inform our Needs Assessment and monitor the effectiveness of the Strategy. There are challenges around data collection and support is being requested nationally. Increases noted e.g., alcohol and serious harm, and deep dives will be carried out to understand this. • Providers - to support service user forums, to measure impact and collect the voice of the service user. Covid-19 has impacted on service delivery and the waiting list (Acorns) has increased. <p>The group thanked LP for her work. GR noted that Northumberland is in a very good position to respond to and implement the DA Strategy.</p> <p>b) Designated Officer</p> <p>AH presented the report for 2020-2021 and discussed the action plan. Assurances were provided - all actions have been achieved and there has been a handover to the new LADO (Carol Glasper), who will continue to develop the hybrid working model.</p> <p>c) NHCFT Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk</p> <p>d) Q1 Safeguarding Children & Adults & Acute Liaison Learning Disability Report</p> <p>PS presented key highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steady increase in safeguarding referrals, as expected. • The Acute Trust Frequent Attenders pathway has resulted in a reduction in patients e.g., care plans are in place at A&E for adults and will be introduced for 16-17 year olds. • Training – ongoing virtual offer. • 0-19 figures will transfer to HDFT. • Safeguarding Strategy refreshed and signed off for the next 3 years. <p>LC asked if there was Police representation at the frequent attenders' meetings. PS noted this was sporadic, so LC will discuss that someone attend regularly from the Street Triage team.</p> <p>PS was thanked for the helpful and comprehensive information.</p>		
<p>9.</p>	<p>Diversity Strategy (paper)</p> <p>LC presented information on Diversity, Equality and Inclusion from Northumbria Police and the locally developed Strategy. The partnership vision has been signed off by the 6 Local Authorities.</p> <p>It is a wide ranging piece of work; LC asked where the workstream should</p>		

	<p>fit. PM suggested that this may best be led by the Health and Wellbeing Board as it involves all three partnerships (NSSP, SAB and SN) however it would need to be agreed with the DPH. LC was advised to approach LM.</p> <p>LC asked what data is being collected by the safeguarding partnership around the protected characteristics. BS will email LC on what data NCC collects. This was also raised at the recent SAB meeting and KW is writing to partners to ask about data. Action: KW to ask NSCC partners what data is being collected.</p>	<p>KW</p>	
<p>10.</p>	<p>NSCC Measures (paper)</p> <p>BS presented the data (to the end of June). He noted that AH had met with partners to establish the collection of additional data to support the priorities. As a result of this, a Teams site will be set up, where partners can input their data and reports; the spreadsheet will then update the dashboard and this will be reviewed by the Quality, Improvement & Performance (QIP) subcommittee, before being presented to the NSCC.</p> <p>A few things noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority 1 – increase in referrals over the past year and an increase in child self-harm. Referrals have been responded to and the average waiting time has reduced. • CSC can flag the referral if mental health is a factor; this was 29% in the last quarter. • School exclusions have noted an increase in bullying. • There have been 2 suicides. • Priority 2 – double the number of referrals to the Trust in Q1, although this was down last year as a result of Covid. • CPPs – neglect = 75-80%. • Priority 3 – referrals reduced by 13%. • Reduction in the number of strategic discussions and initial CPPs. • Increase in the referrals of unborn babies. • Priority 4 – 21% increase in interventions since the new post in NSEC. • DA incidents peaked in the summer but have now reduced. • Increase in MARAC referrals. • 538 open cases in CSC where DA is a factor. • Police have seen a 19% increase in DA incidents where a child is involved (6% force wide), a 9% increase in repeat incidents. and a 32% increase in arrests (decrease seen force wide). <p>PM thanked BS for the update and noted that it was good to see alignment with the priorities.</p> <p>Update on audits BS noted that several audits were presented to the QIP subcommittee:</p>		

	Role of Fathers, Review of Strategy Meetings, and Cocaine in Pregnancy; re-audits may be planned. There will be a neglect multi-agency audit.		
11.	<p>6 monthly scrutiny of LA Improvement Plan</p> <p>GR updated the group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An annual self-assessment has been completed; the next conversation with Ofsted is in the next couple of months. • A continuous improvement plan has been developed. • Priorities are being monitored via groups, providing monthly reports. There are no specific issues. 		
12.	<p>Children, Young People and Families Plan - significant issues for C&YP in Northumberland</p> <p>PM attended the recent Children & Young People Strategic Partnership meeting, where Gill Finch presented a paper on peer on peer sexual abuse and contextual safeguarding. She noted that GR is the lead on Staying Safe and provides the link to the NSCC.</p>		
13.	<p>New Police Staffing Structures and Safeguarding Department (paper)</p> <p>LC gave a presentation following restructure within Northumbria Police over the past 12 months.</p>		
14.	<p>Forward Plan – setting of next meeting’s agenda (paper)</p> <p>The agenda for the next meeting (16th November 2021) was reviewed and the Forward Plan updated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary Connor will be asked to present the Family Hub proposal, along with the Early Help Strategy. • PM to bring the final NSSP annual report, for sign-off. • PM to provide an update from the development day. 		
15.	Information Items		
15.1.	<p>Northumberland and North Tyneside Safeguarding Adults Board Minutes (paper)</p> <p>The minutes of the 22nd June 2021 meeting were provided with the agenda.</p>		
15.2.	<p>Bobby Action Plan (paper)</p> <p>This document is to note content and completion of a joint learning review action plan.</p>		

<p>15.3.</p>	<p>Early Help Report (paper)</p> <p>To note content; there has been a lot of good work and Mary Connor will provide an update at the next meeting.</p>		
<p>15.4.</p>	<p>Past Cases Review 2 Briefing Paper: Church of England Diocese of Newcastle (paper)</p> <p>This document is to note content.</p>		
<p>16.</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>None.</p>		
<p>17.</p>	<p>Dates and Times of Future Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16th November 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	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Lynne Colledge					✓	
Marion Dickson	A	✓	Jill Wood	Jill Wood	Paula Shandran	
Steven Gilbert			✓	Tanya Graham	✓	
Robin Harper-Coulson	A	A	A	A	A	
Alan Hartwell	✓	✓	Brian Smeaton	✓	Brian Smeaton	
Audrey Kingham	✓	✓	A	✓	A	
Cath McEvoy-Carr	A	A	A	A	✓	
Liz Morgan	Karen Herne	Karen Herne	✓	✓	Jon Lawler	
Vida Morris	✓	Jo Sharpe	✓	Claire Thomas	Sheona Duffy	
Graham Reiter	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Donna Rose	✓					
Phil Soderquest	Julie Stewart	A	Julie Stewart	Julie Stewart	✓	
Martyn Strike	✓	✓	✓			
Margaret Tench	✓	✓	✓	✓	Leesa Stephenson	
Annie Topping	A	A	✓	Claire Coyne	Claire Coyne	
Paul Weatherstone	Sandra Clement	Sandra Clement	Sandra Clement			
Claire Wheatley		✓	✓	Lynne Colledge		
Karen Wright	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

✓ = Attended DNA = Did not attend A = Apologies