

Northumberland Safeguarding Children Committee

Meeting Minutes

9th March 2021, 2.00 – 4.30pm

Virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams

Present	Role	Initials
Paula Mead	Independent Chair, NSCC	PM
Karen Burns	Service Manager, Cafcass (annual attendance only)	KB
Sandra Clement	SPO, National Probation Services, attending for Paul Weatherstone	SC
Marion Dickson	Executive Director of Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Healthcare Professionals, NHCFT	MD
Alan Hartwell	Senior Manager, Performance, Education & Safeguarding, NCC	AH
Karen Herne	Senior Public Health Manager, Northumberland Public Health, NCC, attending for Liz Morgan	KH
Naomi Jones	Designated Doctor, Child Protection, CCG	NJ
Audrey Kingham	Director, Business Development, NCC	AK
Graham Reiter	Service Director, Children's Social Care, NCC	GR
Paula Shandran	Professional & Operational Lead Safeguarding Adults & Children, Safeguarding Service, NHCFT	PS
Jo Sharpe	Named Nurse Adult and Children's Safeguarding and Manager of the Safeguarding and Public Protection Team, CNTW, attending for Vida Morris	JS
Martyn Strike	Deputy Director of Offender Management, Northumbria CRC	MS
Margaret Tench	Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children, Northumberland CCG	MT
Jane Walker	Virtual School Headteacher, NCC	JW
Karen Wright	Strategic Safeguarding Manager, Safeguarding Adults, NCC	KW

Apologies Received	Role	Initials
Robin Harper-Coulson	NSCC Business Manager, NCC	RHC
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
Liz Morgan	Director of Public Health, NCC	LM
Guy Renner-Thompson	Elected Member, NCC	GRT
Phil Soderquest	Head of Housing and Public Protection, NCC	PSo
Annie Topping	Executive Director of Nursing Quality & Patient Safety, Northumberland CCG	AT
Paul Weatherstone	Head of North of Tyne, National Probation Services	PW

In Attendance		
Helen Bowyer	CYP Operational Commissioning Manager, Northumberland CCG	HB
Dorothy Chambers	Senior Manager - Specialist Services, First Contact and MASH, NCC	DC
Darran Hope	SORTED Team Manager, NCC	DH
Yvonne Hush	Public Health Manager, NCC	YH
Carol Leckie	Schools' Safeguarding Team Manager, NCC	CL
Karen Perry	Independent SILP Reviewer, Review Consulting Ltd.	KP
Lesley Pyle	Northumberland & North Tyneside Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Coordinator	LP
Alex Smith	Assistant Project Manager, NCC	AS
Adele Wright	Head of Service (Children's Social Care), NCC	AW
Sandra Blackwood	NSCC 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.</p>		
2.	<p>Minutes of Last Meeting, Matters Arising and Action Log (papers)</p> <p>The previous minutes of 12th January 2021 were accepted.</p> <p>The action log was reviewed and updated - see separate document.</p>		
3.	<p>Fiona - Child Safeguarding Practice Review (paper)</p> <p>KP gave a presentation summarising her report, and answered questions.</p> <p>PM challenged the idea that agencies work separately if there is a cataclysmic event, as in Northumberland, there is good evidence to show that agencies have worked well together during Covid e.g. meeting attendance and risk registers. KP clarified that in Fiona's case, each agency undertook their own risk assessment and RAG ratings of children.</p> <p>Work is already being done around the recommendations e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HB commented that consultation lines are available in CYPS and mental health teams. She will consider how best to advertise these to ensure all staff are aware of them. • HB informed the group of the creation of mental health Champions in children's social care teams. • GR noted work around supporting adolescents transitioning to Adult Social Care. • An audit could be considered; AH can include this on the multi-agency audit forward plan. <p>MT informed the group that the inquest is next week and the action plan and publication details will be discussed after this.</p> <p>The Committee thanked KP for her report and presentation. The review was endorsed.</p>		PM
4.	<p>Signs of Safety Implementation update (papers)</p> <p>AW presented the Signs of Safety Implementation Project Highlight Report; Signs of Safety will be introduced on 20th April.</p> <p>The multi-agency referral form (MARF) has been finalised; this will be available for online use.</p> <p>The Committee thanked AW for her update.</p>		

<p>5.</p>	<p>Mental Health update (paper)</p> <p>YH, HB and DH presented a summary of key points from their Children & Young People’s Mental Health and Wellbeing in Northumberland report.</p> <p>KH noted the fantastic work by the Trailblazing programme. Parental anxiety can have an impact on children, so more reassurances e.g. school testing etc., should help to decrease anxiety. There have been 8 positive cases; hopefully community transmission for Covid will stay low.</p> <p>NJ asked whether access to school based services is through the Hub or signposting directly to schools. Action: HB to double check that it is via the Hub.</p> <p>The Committee gave thanks to the amazing work that is being done, which is much appreciated.</p>	<p>HB</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>SPRG Update (paper)</p> <p>MT updated the group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniel - Following the second learning event next month, there will be a report for sign-off • Fiona - SPRG will monitor the action plan • CAP – There will be learning from the findings rather than a full report; this will be shared with the parents as appropriate • LB • BB • Fathers audit complete and to be shared 		
<p>7.</p>	<p>Annual Reports (papers)</p> <p>a) MASH</p> <p>DC presented an update about MASH, which has been in place since 2018. Only one review has been done; a second one is planned, by an independent reviewer.</p> <p>Neil O’Toole will take over DC’s role from 15th March. The group congratulated DC on her new role as Quality Assurance Lead and thanked her for all the work done for the MASH.</p> <p>b) Children’s Triage Audit</p> <p>The group thanked DC for the positive audit.</p> <p>c) Exploitation Subcommittee</p> <p>The group thanked CW for presenting the report on behalf of Lynne Colledge and noted that this is a good multi-partnership, multi-agency group.</p>		

	<p>d) Aaron Joint Learning Review</p> <p>CL gave a summary of the joint learning review and gave thanks to RHC, KW and SB for their help.</p> <p>CL noted that it is important to reflect on the good practice and the positive changes within services e.g. CPVA pathway, development of the MASH, MSET and work around exploitation.</p> <p>MT noted that Sharron Brennan and Leigh Graham attended the CCG's GP safeguarding leads network re. MSET as it was difficult for GPs to attend the roadshows, and it was very well received.</p> <p>KW is engaging with Health to ensure that the Suicide and Self Harm strategy and pathway has been refreshed in a multi-agency way (recommendation 5). This will be shared with partners once signed-off.</p> <p>CL confirmed that the action plan will be monitored by the SPRG subcommittee. The School Engagement group also has oversight and KW noted that it will also be monitored by the SARC. There will be a joint action plan, for Bobby and Aaron, and carousel events planned to share learning and link in with other reviews.</p> <p>PM asked about the decision for publishing. MT informed the group that she and RHC met with Aaron's Mum initially and she suggested that there needs to be some feedback to the family. As this wasn't a Serious Case Review, and there isn't a requirement to publish learning reviews, guidance was requested from the NSCC. The group agreed that suicide cases can be identifiable, so can consider publishing learning, shared with other similar cases.</p> <p>The group thanked CL and endorsed the report.</p>		
<p>8.</p>	<p>Demand Level Trends and JTAI Action Plan (papers)</p> <p>JTAI Action Plan</p> <p>AH presented the progress update for March (monitored quarterly).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None of the actions are in the red. • Some actions still need accelerating; those in the orange and yellow section. • Some actions have been highlighted in bold; these have made sufficient progress to move up a colour. • It is nearly 2 years since the JTAI inspection. There has been some delay in the actions, due to Covid. • As we are now on track, the action plan will be reviewed at every other meeting. <p>Update on Demand and Audit Activity</p> <p>AH presented data, up to w/c 1st March.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is still an ongoing review of the scorecard, hence no full performance report available. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in DV incidents noted, but on closer inspection it was realised that the monthly data was being divided by 4 rather than 4.5 (calendar month), so 115 to 117/week instead, which is negligible. Compared to pre-lockdown, the number of DV incidents are roughly the same and even similar to 2 years ago. • Decrease in referrals to CYPS to pre-lockdown levels; more information will be provided in the next report. • Increase in the number of contacts to children's social care and the number of safeguarding children's referrals (352 safeguarding referrals from NHCFT during quarter 3 - a 22% increase on the same quarter the previous year, predominantly made by NSECH and midwifery). • QIP have added an extra quality assurance to the audit framework and updated the forward plan. • For the proposed Fiona audit, young people could be asked to help develop an audit tool. Action: PM and MT to discuss. 	PM & MT	
9.	<p>Northumbria Police MASA funding contribution</p> <p>PM thanked Northumbria Police for their contribution; they provided a breakdown and analysis of how they were delivering funding to the six Local Authorities. Northumberland CCG have also made a significant contribution. PM noted that there is now more balance and buy-in from partners.</p>		
10.	<p>Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner (paper)</p> <p>PM discussed the letter dated 25th January. It mentions forms of abuse and neglect and ensuring pathways are in place to deal with radicalisation etc. The JTAI helped raise our awareness of these issues.</p> <p>CMC has asked GR to review our pathways. Any child reported to have been radicalised etc. is managed within our safeguarding framework. GR reported that no children have been referred via NRM. Exploitation concerns go via MSET. Our out of court disposal process, which looks at alternative disposals to prevent unnecessary criminalisation, is working effectively.</p> <p>CW noted that the NRM is usually Police led. More clarification is needed on who completes the referral and work will be done to raise awareness of NRM with partners. Action: CW will share information once further work has been done.</p>	CW	
11.	<p>Children, Young People and Families Plan - significant issues for C&YP in Northumberland</p> <p>GR reported that the main focus - considering effective communication - is ongoing.</p>		

<p>12.</p>	<p>DA Bill (paper)</p> <p>LP and AS provided the group with an update on the progress of the DA Bill and implications for Northumberland.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bill was discussed at the House of Lords yesterday and should be approved at the end of April. • A number of options have been considered and option 3 agreed i.e. a standalone partnership. This can be reviewed in a year. The first meeting will take place at the end of April/beginning of May. • A Task Group is meeting fortnightly, with key partners. • The Needs Assessment and development of a DA Dashboard are progressing. • There is an expectation for the local Boards' Strategy to be published by 1st August, which is unrealistic - this has been fed back. It will also be a challenge for a full Needs Assessment to be in place by then, although the DVA & SV Business Group already has a Needs Assessment, Strategy and Action Plan, so we are not starting from scratch. <p>The Committee thanked LP and AS and asked that the Children's and Adults' Boards be kept up to date.</p>		
<p>13.</p>	<p>Forward plan – setting of next meeting's agenda (paper)</p> <p>The agenda for the next meeting (13th May 2021) was reviewed. Partners were asked to consider future meetings and to let SB know of any papers that need to be presented.</p>		
<p>14.</p>	<p>Information Items</p>		
<p>14.1.</p>	<p>Annual Channel/Prevent report (paper)</p> <p>The report notes changes to the Channel process and details on referral numbers.</p>		
<p>14.2.</p>	<p>CPVA Pathway (paper)</p> <p>The updated pathway was provided with the agenda.</p>		
<p>14.3.</p>	<p>Northumberland and North Tyneside Safeguarding Adults Board Minutes (paper)</p> <p>The minutes of 15th December 2020 were sent with the agenda and there are no issues to report.</p>		
<p>15.</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p>		

	<p>Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel</p> <p>PM has received a letter and briefing, which relates to a thematic analysis of rapid reviews reported during the initial COVID-19 outbreak and research and intelligence gathering. These will be attached with the minutes, for all to consider the recommendations and managing risks, and provide any feedback. The documents have already been circulated to the SPRG; hopefully this will be part of the National Panel’s review of work under 1s, in June.</p> <p>KH asked the group for intelligence on whether any children have died from Covid as Public Health are not aware of any. MT noted that CDOP have had no Covid related child deaths. Action: KH to discuss with NJ.</p>	<p>KH</p>	
<p>16.</p>	<p>Dates and Times of Future Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13th May 2021 <p>Virtual: 2-4pm via Microsoft Teams</p>		

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

✓ = Attended DNA = Did not attend A = Apologies