



Meeting: North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board

Date: 9 May 2016

Location: Langdale Centre

Present:

Richard Burrows (RB)

Independent Chair

Jacqui Old (JO)

Head of Education, Care and Safeguarding, NTC

Angela Yilmaz (AY)

Head Teacher, NTC

Pat Buckley (PB)

Children's Services Manager, NSPCC

Suzanne Armstrong (SA)

CAFCASS

Councillor Ian Grayson (IG)

Cabinet Member, NTC

Lesley Young Murphy (LYM)

NT CCG

Jan Hemingway (JH)

Designated Nurse, NT CCG

Jackie Coleman (JC)

Northumbria Police

Sheila Askew, deputy for Carina

National Probation Service

Carey (SA)

Dave Bowditch (DB)

Lay Member

Louise Watson (LW)

Legal Services, NTC

Kevin Buck (KB)

Interim Safeguarding Manager Children's Services, NTC

Mike Vincent (MV)

Designated Doctor, NHFT

Wendy Burke (WB)

Acting Director of Public Health, NTC

Jill Baker (JB)

Safeguarding, NTC

Jane Pickthall (JP)

Virtual head, RHELAC, NTC

Moira Banks (MB)

School Improvement Service, NTC

Pam Robertson (PR)

Tyne Met College

Pete Xeros (PX)

Youth Offending Service, NTC

Sharon Haggerty (SH)

Deputy Director of Nursing, NHFT

Rachel Nicholson (RN)

Public Health, NTC

Jan Grey deputy for Jane Carlisle

NTW

(JG)

Sue Burns (SB)

LSCB Manager, NTC

Clare Luery

Minutes, NTC

Apologies: Alison Tombs, Kath Robinson, Jill Prendergast, Liz Kelly, Carina Carey, Jane Carlisle.

	Item	Action
1	Welcome, introductions, apologies and correspondence	
a)	Declarations of Interest	

<p>b) Correspondence</p> <p>i) Letter from Designated Doctor for Looked After Children – The letter had also been sent to WB and she confirmed it had been responded to (relates to agenda item 6.1 proposals for 0-19 Children’s Public Health Services).</p> <p>ii) National Police Chiefs’ Council (NPCC) – Missing Persons - Missing Migrant Children The Chair referred the letter from the NPCC to the Joint Sub Group for their attention and JC will follow it up.</p> <p>iii) NHS England – Representation on Safeguarding Boards The Chair welcomed the representation from NHS England and confirmed Sharon Haggerty, the Deputy Director of Nursing will attend the NTSCB.</p> <p>iv) Child Protection – Information Sharing project update (CPIS) The letter from NHS England raises awareness of the progress of the project and it was agreed SB would contact SH to determine if there was anything further that was required of the Board.</p> <p>v) Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service (CPAS) – Safeguarding Arrangements The letter referenced the Goddard enquiry into Child Sex Abuse and the church’s assistance with the process. It also described the current safeguarding structures and the role of regional Safeguarding co-ordinators. Enquiries to be made to identify the relevant Safeguarding Coordinator and details passed to the Front Door service and LADO. It was confirmed a copy of the letter will be passed to Angela Glenn, Interim Service Manager of the Front Door Service.</p>	<p>There were no declarations and/or conflicts of interest declared.</p>	<p>JC</p> <p>SB</p> <p>SB</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>Minutes of the meeting of the LSCB held on 21 March 2016</p> <p>It was agreed that the minutes were a correct record subject to the following amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of Moira Banks in list of apologies • Item 6.1 CAF/CASS presentation – amend to read ‘the challenges of CAF/CASS were outlined briefly: Safeguarding and meeting the needs of children subject to the revised Public Law Outline’. Clarification that CAF/CASS work with both public and private law cases although a significant proportion is dealing with private law. • Item 3f Future delivery of Early Help and Children’s Social Care Service – amend to read ‘MV expressed his concerns about the planned changes and stated that concerns were increasing as more detail emerged. He referenced the proposed changes to the health visiting and school nurse service. MV also raised concerns on behalf of Dr Bateman in her capacity as LAC Designated doctor. Dr Bateman is concerned about the planned cuts and the impact this could have on the delivery of services as demand increases. LYM shared MV’s concerns over the proposed new structures and the importance of understanding the process. 	

	<p>Catherine Taylor commented that as the clinical lead for health visiting and school nursing she is keen to work in partnership with the local authority to develop integrated teams. She expressed concern at the level of reduction in budget for health visiting and school nursing services and the potential impact this could have on safeguarding.</p>	
<p>3</p> <p>Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2016</p> <p>a)</p> <p>b)</p> <p>c)</p> <p>d)</p> <p>e)</p> <p>f)</p> <p>g)</p>	<p>(Item 3b) Operation Encompass – The project is scheduled to begin in early June. JC added a similar scheme was being rolled out to GP surgeries in Northumberland. SB advised there had been some issues around secure emails to schools but school staff have been positive in relation to the project. Training has been undertaken by key staff and publicity information made available via PCC funding.</p> <p>(item 6.4) Prevent – Discussions are ongoing and the Chair indicated he will speak with the Local Authority to further explore implications for the LSCB and coordinated approach across Safer North Tyneside, the Adult Board and the LSCB.</p> <p>(item 5.1) Joint Sexual Exploitation sub group across partnerships – JC stated discussions had taken place in the vulnerable Adolescents sub group which focused on CSE and missing children, about the need for the sub group to continue now there is a Sexual Exploitation sub group. There was a discussion about other vulnerable groups and how these would be addressed. It was agreed these decisions were part of a wider discussion to be addressed through recommendations arising from the Annual Report. JO referred to a teleconference booked with staff from DfE in relation to CSE and suggested JC join these discussions. JO will provide the necessary details for JC.</p> <p>(item 5.3) NTSCB Annual Training Report – The report will be submitted to the next meeting.</p> <p>(item 5.4) Section 11 SB confirmed 37 completed returns had been received from schools. A summary report is being prepared to better illustrate the data. Discussions with schools around the timing of requests for this years self assessment has taken place and feedback indicates May/June is not a convenient time in the school calendar. SB proposed the request will be sent out in October/November for completion mid January. Information will then be ready for inclusion in the annual report. The Chair commented this would enable learning to be put into practice. This was agreed.</p> <p>(item 6.2) Multi Agency Looked After Partnership (MALAP) SB confirmed Russell Pilling had now left the Authority. As previously agreed, a report will be submitted to the LSCB in July. An amalgamation of the MALAP and the Corporate Parenting Committee is being considered by the local authority to enhance the oversight of services to looked after children.</p> <p>(item 6.3 QILP) The Chair referred to workforce data availability and stated</p>	<p>RB</p> <p>JO/JC</p>

h)	<p>it was important the Board is sighted in instances where partners are dependent upon agency staff. He will pick this up with JO outside of the meeting.</p> <p>(item 5.5) NTSCB Timings of future meetings Not all had responded to the email requesting preference around day and time of meetings. SB confirmed that most respondents had indicated they would prefer a 1pm start on Mondays. As it will be difficult to change the date in the short term due to member's existing commitments it was agreed the meetings this year will commence at 1pm.</p>	RB/JO
4	<p>Membership</p> <p>a) Business Group – SB to chair the Business Group on an interim basis</p> <p>b) NHS England representation – Sharon Haggerty is joining the LSCB.</p> <p>c) Barnardos – Julie McVeigh had indicated Barnardos will no longer be represented on the LSCB. Discussions are underway with the Voluntary and Community Sector to strengthen and refocus local membership. Action RB to write to Julie.</p>	
5	<p>Private Fostering Annual Report</p> <p>Victoria Manser, Private Fostering Lead in the local authority attended to present the annual report on the arrangements for privately fostered children in North Tyneside. It was confirmed that there are only three known such arrangements in North Tyneside as at March 2016. During 2015/16 nine arrangements were assessed although six did not continue.</p> <p>In accordance with the review of National Minimum Standards (NMS) details were set out of progress against the Statement on Private Fostering, Notification, Safeguarding and Promoting Welfare, Advice and Support and Monitoring Compliance. These standards aim to better focus private fostering on promoting a more proactive approach to identifying arrangements.</p> <p>An action plan has been produced following case file audits completed which had identifies areas of good practice and of improvement. Private fostering remains part of safeguarding training with North Tyneside. IG requested the Board receive a copy of the action plan to raise awareness of those areas requiring improvement.</p> <p>During discussion of the report it was noted that there were no formal links with the Port of Tyne. This was recognised as a wider issue than just in connection with private fostering.</p> <p>The Chair suggested the Local Authority should consider the priority given to private fostering and commented on difficulty accessing relevant information on the Council website via the search facility. He noted that this report helped the Board to form a clear view of the efforts the Local Authority were making, but advised that future reports could helpfully provide more information and evidence as to the impact of “action plans”.</p>	

	<p>The Chair offered support to the Local Authority recognising that efforts to promote awareness need to be increased particularly in terms of presence and access to information on partner websites and at all points where services and professionals come into contact with children and families/carers. He added the Board shared responsibility for raising awareness in this field and suggested the Board should review activity with a report back to the LSCB in six months time. In the meantime JO confirmed access to private fostering information on the Council’s website will be looked at as a matter of urgency.</p> <p>Action: It was agreed that private fostering is discussed by the Business Group with a view to reporting back progress on raising its profile to the LSCB in six months time. VM to forward the action plan to be circulated with the NTSCB minutes. JO agreed to review access to private fostering information via the Council’s website.</p>	<p>Bus Gp</p> <p>VM</p> <p>JO</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Inspection Readiness</p> <p>Outcome of Local Authority Peer Review</p> <p>JO presented the outcomes of the recent Peer Review and thanked the Board and partners for their contribution which had been very positive and helpful. The scope of the challenge was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effectiveness of early help • Effectiveness of contact, referral and assessment • Effectiveness of safeguarding • Ofsted readiness <p>Five themes were reported against – effective practice and the voice of the child; outcomes and continual improvement; working together; workforce capacity and managing resources and vision and leadership.</p> <p>The review identified headline strengths which were in brief:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Local Authority is on an ambitious journey with strong commitment to improve children’s outcomes • There is strong commitment to partnership arrangements particularly with the Police and health service • The workforce is passionate and remains loyal • The Head of Health, Education, Care & Safeguarding takes decisive action <p>Areas for development were identified as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance and case auditing need to drive accountability • A need for wider partnership commitment • Workflow and structure at the Front Door needs reviewing • Need for a sufficient strategic resource to lead the improvement programme 	

	<p>JO stated that an action plan had been developed following the review and although there was recognition around the good work there were still improvements to be made. Once the action plan is complete it will be submitted to the LSCB for consideration.</p> <p>The Chair acknowledged the significance and transparency around the Local Authority sharing the peer review with partners. Work will be carried on outside of the meeting to reflect areas of parallel learning which will crossover to the LSCB as the review also considered and commented on the LSCB.</p> <p>Action A copy of the action plan to be submitted to the Board/date to be identified</p>	<p>JO/SB</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>Learning Review report and recommendations – “David and Michael”</p> <p>The Chair advised that the Learning Review is an alternative review process to a Serious Case Review, when it is considered that the criteria for a SCR is not met, but that there may be important lessons and improvements that can identified for joint working. In this regard he advised members the Learning Review needs to be given equivalent status and consideration by the LSCB. It was noted there is no requirement to publish the review although it will be circulated widely and used for learning</p> <p>Nicki Pettitt the Lead Reviewer attended the meeting and presented the Terms of Reference, Project Plan and Report Overview to the Board and outlined the Significant Incident Learning Process (SILP) which had been used to undertake the review.</p> <p>The review concerned two children who had suffered neglect for a sustained period until they were removed from their parent’s care in 2013.</p> <p>The process involved a number of agencies and professionals who were involved with the family over a number of years. Due to the historical nature of the review it was found that many staff had now moved on from employment with various partners, so it had not been possible to involve them in the review process, but all agencies were represented and involved.</p> <p>The themes emerging within the review were highlighted briefly as :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impact of neglect over time – and the need for staff to be confident in recognising neglect and its impact in terms of “persistency and severity” i.e effective information sharing/recording across agencies and between professionals and being able to recognise indicators of potential neglect/harm should minimise the risk of the wider and ongoing picture not being seen. • The impact of thresholds not supporting or being supported by recognition of the accumulative impact of neglect over time. • Lack of engagement and the effect on the children. There was an element of hope over experience. 	

- Consideration of the child's world – the two agencies that had decision making power seem to have the least contact and there was limited information on relationships within the family
- Escalation of professional disagreements – an earlier escalation would have been useful and challenge can be a very positive experience if there is a formal process to follow.
- Role and views of the extended family – the paternal grandmother was not contacted early on and this may have been a missed opportunity.

The LSCB was asked to consider the learning identified as a result of the SILP methodology used .The wider systems learning identified was in summary form:

- The need for all professionals to be confident in providing both high support and high challenge in their work with children and families. The maintenance of respectful uncertainty in their interactions and the recognition of lack of engagement or disguised compliance.
- The wider family members can hold significant information
- A rigorous focus on the child when anger or threats are made by an adult
- All agencies ensure frontline staff are properly supervised, difficult conversations can take place and there is constant review as circumstances change.

SA agreed to check input from the Probation Service and pass on any relevant information to NP. SB indicated another attempt to contact the grandparent would be made in order to discuss the report.

The Board agreed that subject to the amendments highlighted that the report met the terms of reference and was assured that the review process was well managed and of robust quality.

The review contained three recommendations for the LSCB and these are in summary

Recommendation 1 – the LSCB prioritise the planned revision of the neglect strategy

Recommendation 2 – the LSCB develop a procedure to raise and resolve professional disagreements to include concerns about thresholds and challenges on drift and delay.

Recommendation 3 – ensure all professionals are aware of their ability and responsibility to ask for a strategy meeting

It was agreed that further consideration needs to be given to the recommendations and NP agreed to make the wider systems learning SMART in relation to ensuring a more informed focus on neglect at all stages of the child's journey through services, especially in the light of the current development of early help and intervention arrangements

	<p>The Chair thanked NP for her work and it was agreed the final copy of the report with amendments would be forwarded to members.</p> <p>Action: The Board endorsed the Learning Review as amended and agreed it met the terms of reference. The Case Review sub group to further consider how the lessons could be further shared across front line joint working arrangements The Case Review sub group to formulate a SMART action plan and monitoring/reporting arrangements as to progress and impact RB to write to each board member formally noting agreed learning and actions.</p>	<p>Case Review sub group</p> <p>RB</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>Northumbria Police Safeguarding Department</p> <p>A paper was circulated which outlined Northumbria Police’s review of their safeguarding arrangements and the creation of a Safeguarding Department to coordinate the response and delivery of policing services to the most vulnerable members of the community. The future approach to safeguarding will be based on common principles of information sharing, joint decision making and coordinated intervention. Currently it is business as usual and a report will be submitted to the Board as the work progresses.</p> <p>JC added that the Police are investing in safeguarding with the Safeguarding Department of around 80 staff which will incorporate the PVP’s and Sanctuary .</p> <p>The Chair welcomed the changes which demonstrate the Police’s commitment to safeguarding and felt that members would look forward to receiving further details</p>	<p>JO</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>Case Review Update and Notifications</p> <p>There were two Notifiable Incidents to report.</p> <p>One involved two girls and the abduction of a younger child and the other related to an 18 month old child that had been seriously injured. Both matters had been reported to OFSTED by the local authority in accordance with procedure.</p> <p>The Case Review sub group will consider the cases at its meeting on 12 May 2016.</p> <p>Action: Board members advised to contact SB directly for more information if required.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>Concordat for Children in Custody</p> <p>A letter had been received from the Home Office setting out details of a proposed Concordat on children in custody. The letter referred to the duties</p>	

	<p>and responsibilities of both local authorities and the police in respect of the transfer of children, who have been charged and denied bail, from police custody to local authority accommodation.</p> <p>The aim of the Concordat is to ensure a clear understanding of duties and effective collaboration between the police and local authorities. PX welcomed the proposals and suggested he provide a response as to the current position in North Tyneside.</p> <p>RB noted that whilst the response was a matter for the respective partners the partnership had demonstrated in the past an awareness of and interest in issues relating to the detention of children in different forms of custody, and he was sure that this would be or may be key information that is reported into the board by partners.</p> <p>Action : The Chair to write to both the Local Authority and the Police for their views.</p>	RB
11	<p>North of Tyne Child Death Overview Panel Quarter 4 Report</p> <p>The report stated the panel had met twice in the period and reviewed 12 cases occurring within the three LSCB areas. Two of these were from North Tyneside.</p> <p>It was noted that of the four cases with modifiable factors within the scope of the North of Tyne Panel one was due to co-sleeping and WB expressed concern that this continues to be an issue.</p> <p>The Chair asked members for any further comments and were they assured that CDOP was functioning. He felt that the issues re how best to and where modifiable factors were coordinated and prioritised would benefit from clarification in the context of current discussions as to how respective partnerships could coordinate and share initiatives.</p> <p>The NTSCB accepted the report.</p>	
12	<p>Financial report</p> <p>The NTSCB considered the 2016/17 partnership contributions. It was noted that the contribution from Probation (NPS and CRC) was subject to further clarification in the light of the split and NPS determination of a ratio for contributions which left it to the LSCB to pursue with the CRC. The report also set out the forecast expenditure for 2016/17 based on current assumptions.</p> <p>The Local Authority has increased its contribution for 2016/17 in view of a need to increase capacity to improve the quality and impact of core activities required to meet statutory responsibilities. The increase in resources will also better evidence the effectiveness and improvement of joint working arrangements to protect children and promote their welfare in North Tyneside. The creation of a part time LSCB administrator post will</p>	

	<p>offer additional administrative and organisational support for the Board and assist in releasing Board manager time.</p> <p>It was confirmed that the post is a permanent position. The Chair welcomed any suggestions around maximising resources.</p> <p>The chair asked the board to consider identified risks and there was discussion and it was agreed to review expenditure and any developments such as the commissioning of a SCR that has an impact on the bottom line</p> <p>Action: The Board endorsed the proposals in the report and the Business Group to progress</p>	<p>Bus Gp</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>Current and future commissioning of health visiting and school nursing services North Tyneside Council</p> <p>WB submitted a report to update the Board on proposals for a fundamental service redesign which had been agreed by the LA Cabinet in March 2016. The proposals include the development of an integrated preventative and early intervention service for children and young people aged 0-19 years.</p> <p>The proposals reflected the shift in commissioning responsibilities for children’s public health services to local authorities and significant national cuts to local authority ring fenced public health grants. The new service model will integrate provision for children from the antenatal period to the age of 19.</p> <p>On 11 April 2016 Cabinet agreed to proceed with a competitive procurement exercise for the new service with the aim to award a new contract from 1 October 2016. A procurement steering group has been established and consultation has begun with stakeholders.</p> <p>WB commented that in terms of the letter received from the Designated Doctor (item 3b)i) there should be no change and safeguarding will remain a key priority.</p> <p>It was confirmed that the procurement exercise was in respect of the health element of the service. It was questioned how a reduction in the numbers of staff would not equate to a reduction in level of service. It was confirmed that the skill mix, staff working in a more flexible way and economies of scale will deliver the proposed new service and that this was intended to mitigate this risk.</p> <p>The Chair queried what other forums and opportunities were available to enable designated professionals and partners to better understand the proposals. It was confirmed that consultation was an ongoing process and JB added that Head Teachers were being briefed. Members agreed it was important that as the LSCB had oversight and a role to evaluate the effectiveness of early intervention arrangements, board members needed to be well sighted on the change process and the boards role. WB confirmed the procurement process was taking place in accordance with statutory guidance.</p>	

	<p>The Chair stated that the overriding interest for the Board is to pay attention to any impact on safeguarding arrangements, and that this placed an emphasis on the QILP/PMQA arrangements. It was noted that a discussion on the proposals had taken place at the last Board meeting. RB felt that this was to some extent new ground for the LSCB so it was important to recognise learning. He noted that similar learning was taking place in other areas and one outcome has been for the LSCB partnership to work with commissioners in order that safeguarding expectations and risks were specified in more detail.</p> <p>JH commented that the process was happening very quickly and suggested it would be helpful to see an impact assessment. IG stated it was important the Board feels reassured and confirmed he would come back to a future meeting to give assurance over the potential impact on the proposals following discussions with the professionals concerned.</p> <p>JH requested clarification on a question which had been raised previously at the steering group around qualified nursing staff. WB responded that there was limited detail in the commissioning specification and it is the responsibility of bidders as to how they deliver the service.</p> <p>MV commented that the reduction in funding would have an indirect impact on children in North Tyneside and the reduction of national funding would have a potentially significant effect on the safety of children in North Tyneside. This met with some agreement and members noted that the pressures on partners and resources meant that as a board we needed to make sure we were sighted on risk and impact.</p> <p>The chair summarised by stating that discussions had concentrated on the Board's role in considering risk around the proposals as well as some learning for our role and how we engage with the commissioning process around joint working and safeguarding.</p> <p>Action : IG to report back to a future meeting of the Board on the impact and any risks around the proposed new arrangements for the Children's Public Health Service 0-19 years. WB to provide a copy of the Impact Assessment to members.</p>	<p>IG WB</p>
<p>14</p>	<p>QILP Report</p> <p>The report outlined the plan to prioritise the audit that was recommended by the recent Peer Review in relation to cases where no further action is taken. The end of year performance data will be available for the next NTSCB meeting on 18.07.2016</p>	<p>QILP</p>
<p>15</p>	<p>The Children and Young People's Mental Health Strategy</p> <p>Rachel Nicholson attended to present the Children's and Young People's Mental Health strategy. She outlined the vision to achieve a cultural change to promote positive mental health and strategies for building resilience in</p>	

	<p>children and young people. The outcome is to help children and young people in North Tyneside to be happy, resilient and less likely to suffer mental ill health. The strategy has been informed by Future in Mind which is the government’s vision for children and young people’s mental health and requires a transformation plan to be developed. It was added that North Tyneside CAMHS Transformation Plan uses a Thrive evidence based model.</p> <p>In terms of local prevalence and current need it was stated that most children and young people in North Tyneside have good mental health. From 2013 figures the estimated prevalence of any mental health disorder in 5 -16 years was lowest than most other areas in the north east and below average for England. However around 9.5% of those between 5 -16 in North Tyneside are estimated to have mental health problems although there is a gap in accurate data nationally. The prevalence of mental health problems is significantly higher in looked after children and care leavers.</p> <p>Details were given of the strategic group established to oversee the action plan, arrangements for a professional workshop and links with the 0-19 review and locality teams.</p> <p>It was commented that the strategy was a move to a more preventative model of early intervention.</p> <p>RB summarised and thanked Rachel for the report. He felt that as a board we may need to consider, how as with the former item re early help, we were assured that children were protected effectively, and that we were sure children’s mental and emotional health needs were being responded to in a timely way.</p> <p>Action: The Board noted the Children and Young People’s Mental Health Strategy RB to ask the Business Group and QILP to ensure that we are sighted on performance and quality of mental health interventions, especially in respect of self harm and suicide, and that as the early help response develops we are sure that assessment and interventions, as well as the preventative efforts to recognise and respond appropriately.</p>	
16	<p>Sub group minutes</p> <p>The minutes of the Business group, QILP, Training sub group and Case Review to be circulated with the minutes.</p>	
17	<p>Significant organisational development or change that may impact on commitment to joint working and the Board</p> <p>There were no updates</p>	
18	<p>NTSCB Forward plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NTSCB Annual Report (July) • IRO Annual Report (July) • LADO Annual Report (July) • Children Looked After overview (July) 	
19	<p>Any other business</p>	

	None	
20	Dates and venues future meetings 18 July 2016 @1pm 26 September 2016 @1pm 21 November 2016@1pm	