

The logo for Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board features the word "Durham" in orange, followed by a stylized graphic of a yellow figure with arms raised and a dark blue figure with arms outstretched, set against a white background.

Durham

Local Safeguarding Children Board

Annual Report

2014 / 2015

Safeguarding Children in County Durham

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

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Section 1: Foreword by Independent Chair



Welcome to my first Annual Report as independent chair of Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). The role of the chair is to bring independent scrutiny and challenge to the work of the LSCB Board. Since being appointed in September 2014 I have immersed myself in scrutinising the work and development of the LSCB and I am encouraged by what I have seen. I am looking forward to my first full year in 2015 and eager to progress the good work of partners in County Durham.

Over the last year we have reviewed and updated our vision to **‘Every child and young person in County Durham feels safe and grows up safe from harm’**. Our children and young people are at the heart of all we do and I have already challenged the Board to increase the ‘voice of the child’ in our plans and actions in the coming years and to understanding more fully the experience of the child or young person receiving help and support.

This Annual Report is intended to give local people an account of the Board’s work over the past year to improve the safety and wellbeing of children and young people across County Durham. The report reflects the activity of the LSCB and its sub-groups against its priorities for 2014/15. It covers the major changes and improvements of our partners’ service delivery, where they link with the Board’s overall strategies and the impact we have had. It will also report on the Serious Case Reviews and Child Death Reviews undertaken and identify the priorities we will take forward into 2015/16.

In 2014/15 we have improved performance in some key areas and responded to continued reforms and changes to public services. Where possible we have used these reforms and changes as an opportunity to learn more about each other’s priorities and challenges and to strengthen our partnership working.

2014/15 has also been a year of restructure and development for the Board and my thanks go to LSCB Business Unit for their hard work and dedication during a time of huge demand and tight deadlines. I would also like to thank the many partner agencies whose commitment and motivation helps deliver our shared priorities, develop new innovative initiatives and for the ongoing work to safeguard children in many different settings. It is through your hard working and effective teams that, at times, complex safeguarding issues are addressed and supported. I will continue to act as your critical friend, to scrutinise, challenge and seek continued improvement in services.

Lastly I would like to welcome our two new Lay Members, Helene Petch and Peter Harrison who give their valuable time and expertise to the work of the LSCB in County Durham.

Jane Geraghty
Independent Chair

Section 2: Introduction

The Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board has a statutory duty to prepare and publish an Annual Report which describes how our partners safeguard vulnerable children and young people in County Durham. Our primary responsibility is to provide a way for the local organisations that have a responsibility in respect of child welfare, to agree how they will work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in County Durham and to ensure that they do so effectively.

Section 3 of the report highlights some statistical information about County Durham and provides a local context for our work. This section gives information on national policy that shapes the work of the LSCB such as the increased national focus on Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). It provides information on our local challenges that drive local work and innovation. The section also provides information in relation to those young people who have been involved in Children's Social Care and Youth Justice Service.

In Section 4 we describe the local governance arrangements and structure of Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board, the linkages to other strategic partnerships across County Durham and working with other LSCBs. In Section 5 we highlight some of the achievements and the progress that has been made in the last year as well as reporting on the work undertaken against the 2014/15 priorities including Early Help; Information Sharing; parental issues of Domestic Abuse, Alcohol and Drug Misuse and Mental Health; tackling Child Sexual Exploitation; strengthening our engagement with children and young people; supporting the new arrangements for the delivery of children's services and the development and self-improvement of the LSCB Board.

Section 6 covers our Performance Monitoring Framework and Quality Assurance Plan as well as providing a brief overview of safeguarding privately fostered children, the use of restraint in secure centres, Serious Case Reviews and Child Death Reviews. Section 7 discusses our single and multi-agency training provision. The LSCB training programme has seen an increased collaboration with a range of organisations; Durham County Council; County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust; Tees Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust, Durham Constabulary and Barnardos; in the planning, design and delivery of training. This has strengthened and enhanced the quality of training while avoiding duplication and promoting the importance of inter-agency working. Lastly, Section 8 provides the priorities we will take forward into 2015/16.

The information in this Annual Report is drawn from a wide range of sources from across the Children and Families Partnership, Health and Wellbeing Board and Safe Durham Partnership. Together these Partnerships, (along with Environmental and Economic themes), work under the County Durham Partnership towards the overarching vision of an 'Altogether Better Durham'. The report demonstrates the extent to which the functions of the Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board, as set out in the national statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (March 2015) are being effectively discharged.

Section 3: The Local Context

3.1 Our Community

In 2014, there were an estimated 517,773 people living in about 228,000 households in County Durham, with 12 major centres of population including Durham City, Chester-le-Street, Newton Aycliffe, Consett and Peterlee. The county stretches from the remote rural North Pennine Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the West to the Heritage Coastline in the East and is the home to a range of treasures including Durham Cathedral and Castle, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Commonly regarded as a predominantly rural area, the county varies in character from remote and sparsely populated areas in the west to former coalfield communities in the centre and east, where villages tend to accommodate thousands rather than hundreds of people.

The number of children aged 0-15 in 2014 is 88,500 an increase of 200 (0.3%) since 2013. Despite recent increases in birth rates since 2001, this age group has declined by 6.1%, 5,700 fewer children. This is in contrast to national trends the number on children has increased by 3.5% over the same period.

By 2030, the number of children and young people aged 0-17 is projected to increase by 6.5%, reversing some of the declining trends seen prior to 2011.

Between 2001 and 2013, due to the increase in birth rate, the 0-4 age group in County Durham increased by 10.7%. As a result of an increase in the birth rate, it is expected that there will be in the region of 1,220 more primary aged pupils by 2023/24 than there were in 2013/14.



Growing up in poverty has a significant impact on children and young people both during their childhood and beyond. Almost a quarter of children in County Durham (23%) are living in poverty compared to an England average of one fifth (20.6%).

3.2 Key National Policy Drivers

Revisions to Working Together to Safeguard Children March 2015

Following consultation the government has updated and replaced the statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children published in 2013. The revisions include changes to:

- the referral of allegations against those who work with children
- notifiable incidents involving the care of a child
- the definition of serious harm for the purposes of serious case reviews



Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation

The focus on Child Sexual Exploitation continues to grow following the Jay Report into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham and the Casey Inspection Report of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, both of which were damning in their assessment of local services and governance.

In March 2015, HM Government released 'Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation'. The report sets out a range of measures aimed at preventing Child Sexual Exploitation through improved joint working and information sharing, better protection of vulnerable children, stopping offenders and supporting victims and survivors. In recognition of the harm caused to victims, Child Sexual Exploitation was elevated to a national threat with a requirement to adopt the PURSUE approach to combat it.

Female Genital Mutilation

Tackling Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) has risen in prominence in recent years and in 2014 clearer direction from central government about the safeguarding responsibilities of local agencies was issued. The government is clear that political or cultural sensitivities must not get in the way of uncovering and stopping this abuse. FGM should never be ignored, FGM is child abuse.

FGM is a hidden crime and identifying girls at risk of FGM is not straight forward because; it may be the only incident of child abuse, usually from what is otherwise a loving family; there are rarely reasons for routine examinations, so they are not routinely seen by people outside of the family and girls are unlikely to disclose FGM for fear of consequences to and from family members and the wider community.

A factor to be considered in County Durham due to its rural nature is the possible family isolation within the local community – Government research suggests that communities / families less integrated into British society are more likely to carry out FGM because they may be unaware it is harmful or illegal, are isolated and there are no support networks to tell them otherwise.



Troubled Families

In June 2014, the Government announced plans to expand the Troubled Families Programme (known as Stronger Families in County Durham) for a further five years from 2015/16 and to reach an additional 400,000 families across England.

For Durham this means an additional 4,330 families will be targeted. The expanded programme will continue to focus on families with multiple high cost problems and continue to include families affected by poor school attendance, youth crime, anti-social behaviour and unemployment. Offender management teams have embedded a 'Think Family' approach into their work and strong links now exist to promote and support the needs of families and children of offenders. This ensure a joined up approach to meeting families' needs and recognising and understanding the impact of adults' problems on a child's life. However, it will also reach out to families with a broad range of problems, including those affected by domestic abuse, substance misuse and

those with a range of physical and mental health problems. We know these are indicators of neglect and Durham LSCB is embedded in the work of Stronger Families and Think Family Programmes.

Counter Terrorism and Security Act

The Prevent Strategy is a cross-Government policy that forms one of the four strands of CONTEST: the United Kingdom's Strategy for Counter Terrorism. It includes the anti-radicalisation of vulnerable adults and children. Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism.

There is no obvious profile of anyone likely to become involved in extremism or a single indicator of when a person might move to adopt violence in support of extremist ideas. The process of radicalisation is different for every individual and can take place over an extended period or within a very short time frame. However, we do know young people are vulnerable to grooming and radicalisation. PREVENT includes work to identify and support those susceptible to violent extremism into appropriate interventions. These interventions are aimed to stop the vulnerable being radicalised. Those services working with children and young people (such as schools and Children's Services) continue to work with the Safe Durham Partnership, who oversees this priority.

Transforming Rehabilitation (Probation Reforms)

The Transforming Rehabilitation Programme sets out the Government's plans to transform the way in which offenders are managed in the community, in order to bring down re-offending rates. The key aspects of the reforms are:

- The creation of a new public sector National Probation Service to manage high risk offenders, (which took place in June 2014).
- The creation of 21 regional private sector Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs) managing all other offenders (which took place in February 2015).
- Every offender released from custody will receive statutory supervision and rehabilitation in the community.
- A nationwide 'through the prison gate' resettlement service will be put in place, meaning most offenders are given continuous support by one provider from custody into the community. Offenders are held in a prison designated to their area for at least three months before release.
- New payment by results incentives for CRCs to focus on reforming offenders.

Adult offenders managed by the new National Probation Service include all those who pose the highest risk of serious harm to the public – this group will include those subject to Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements. The new National Probation Service will continue to carry out assessments of the risk of serious harm posed by each offender and advise the courts and Parole Board accordingly. All other adult offenders will be managed and supervised by Community Rehabilitation Companies.

3.3 Our Local Drivers

Alcohol

Parental alcohol misuse – Parental alcohol misuse has a considerable negative effect on children, young people and the family. Children and young people experience poor outcomes due to parental alcohol misuse including foetal alcohol syndrome, school attainment, inferior health and wellbeing, neglect, greater likelihood of exposure to crime and alcohol-related domestic violence. In 2014/15 18.6% of initial child protection conferences in County Durham were as a result of parental alcohol misuse. Balance (the North East Alcohol Office) estimate that the number of children living with a parent(s) who drink at high risk levels in County Durham is 49,353.

Child Sexual Exploitation – Alcohol is a common vulnerability factor in incidence of child sexual exploitation and grooming. Alcohol increases risk taking behaviour, it can impair decision making processes and can reduce the ability to sense dangerous situations or people. This can also involve child victims and perpetrators exchanging sexual favours for alcohol. Young people often consume alcohol in private homes or

on or off the street, such as wooded areas and parks. Often this alcohol is purchased through 'proxy' sales, i.e. someone else purchasing the alcohol for them.

Alcohol consumption by young people – The amount of young people drinking in the UK is reducing (Health & Social Care Information Centre, 2014) and this is no different in County Durham. However, those young people who do drink alcohol are drinking more in volume and more frequently. Young people are more likely to experience poor outcomes due to their own alcohol consumption than any other age group. Alcohol related youth offending continues to be a focus for our Youth Offending Services and although we have seen reductions in this area we will continue to support interventions to reduce alcohol related offending by young people further.



Under-18 alcohol specific admissions – rates are significantly higher in County Durham than England. The rates are the 18th worst in the Country (LAPE, 2014).

Sexual health and teenage pregnancy – Evidence suggests that alcohol can contribute to misjudgements about sexual behaviour and alcohol consumption in young people is associated with an increased likelihood of having sex and at a younger age, of contracting sexually transmitted infections and teenage pregnancy. Teenage conception rates have reduced from 43.2 per 1,000 population of 15-17 year olds in 2012 to 33.7 in 2014, but remain higher than the national average of 27.7. (Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2014).

Domestic Abuse

The main parental risk factor leading to a child being made subject to a child protection plan is domestic abuse. In County Durham the levels of domestic abuse related incidents reported to the police have seen a continuous but small increase since 2009/10. Domestic abuse continues to be under-reported. Plans to build on the Central Referral Unit were developed as part of the Early Help Strategy and resulted in the implementation of a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) launched in March 2015.

In September 2013 Durham County Council commissioned Harbour to deliver a countywide domestic abuse service and a domestic abuse referral pathway was agreed and launched in December 2014 as part of the multi-agency 'Sorry's Not Enough' campaign. From April 2015 the countywide domestic abuse service was widened to provide a holistic service focussed on early intervention. The LSCB has links to the County Durham Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Group (DASVEG) and we will continue to promote the need for domestic abuse services to support children, young people and their families.



Our annual training programme in relation to domestic abuse focuses on improving the understanding of risk factors; equipping practitioners with knowledge and skills to undertake effective risk assessment and ensuring practitioners and managers are clear about referral pathways and key points of contact. Over the last year the LSCB were challenged to improve the links and with other Strategic Partnerships. This has had a positive impact on Domestic Abuse training. Both the LSCB training and the Safe Durham Domestic Abuse training has been aligned and brought together with a multi-agency set of trainers now delivering the training.

Information Sharing

This remains an important issue highlighted in learning from Serious Case Reviews both nationally and locally here in County Durham. We will continue to keep a focus on information sharing supporting and promoting good practice across multi-agency teams.

3.4 Our Children

Our approach is to ensure strong safeguarding culture and arrangements where the focus is firmly on the experience of the child or young person and their journey to getting early help and support. In planning, resourcing, designing and managing our work there are some key facts that are of importance to us.

Looked After Children

When children become Looked After there are significant challenges in providing them with placement stability and improved outcomes and in equipping them for life beyond the care system. We know that by understanding the reasons for children become Looked After enables agencies to target their early help and family support services. Reduction in the number of children Looked After is a good indicator of the impact of our early help strategy.

The percentage of Children in Need referrals that occurred within 12 months of the previous referral has reduced from 27.4% in 2013/14 to a provisional figure of 22.8% in 2014/15, which is better than the 2013/14 national rate of 23.4%.

Child Protection Plan

Provisional data at 31 March 2015 indicates that 377 children were subject to a Child Protection Plan, a rate of 37.6 per 10,000 population. This is a reduction from 45.1 in March 2014 and is better than the March 2014 England average (42.1).

The percentage of Child Protection Plans that lasted two years or more is provisionally 0.9%, which is an improvement from the

previous year (2.1%) and is better than the 2013/14 national average (2.6%).

The most frequent reason for children being placed on a child protection plan in 2014/15 was **Neglect** (68.8%) with **Physical Abuse** (16.7%) being the second most significant reason.

The LSCB continues to respond to the issues of neglect and its impact on children and young people’s wellbeing and outcomes. We have implemented the provision of specialist training for multi-agency practitioners supporting children identified as at risk or subject to neglect by their parent/carers. We have used improved national guidance and lessons learned from Serious Case Reviews to develop this training further and cover early help, child development and the long term impact of neglect on children.

As a Board we recognise the need to better understand the links between the impact of our training and professional practice on children’s outcomes.

Parental Risk Factors

Domestic abuse continues to be the main parental risk factor leading to children becoming subject of a Child Protection Plan, accounting for **36% of child protection conferences** recorded for 2014/15. Parental alcohol misuse, substance misuse and mental health, are the next most common.

Opposite - Number of conferences with specified parental factor (percentage of all conferences, initial and review with specific risk factor recorded) during 2014/15.

In 2012, domestic abuse was identified as a priority for the LSCB and is now embedded into the Board’s core activities. Specialist training continues to be provided for multi-agency practitioners and includes awareness raising sessions as well as more in-depth specialist sessions presented by specialist workers.

	Initial conference	Review conference
Parental factors relating to mental health issues	37 (4.32%)	143 (16.71%)
Parental factors relating to domestic abuse	42 (4.91%)	308 (35.98%)
Parental factors relating to alcohol misuse	22 (2.57%)	159 (18.57%)
Parental factors relating to substance misuse	32 (3.74%)	157 (18.34%)
Parental factors relating to risk to children	12 (1.4%)	60 (7.01%)

The Age of Children on a Child Protection Plan

Age	Total	%
Unborn	7	1.9
< 1	42	11.1
1 to 4	115	30.5
5 to 9	132	35.0
10 to 15	76	20.2
16 to 17	<6	1.3
TOTAL	377	100.0

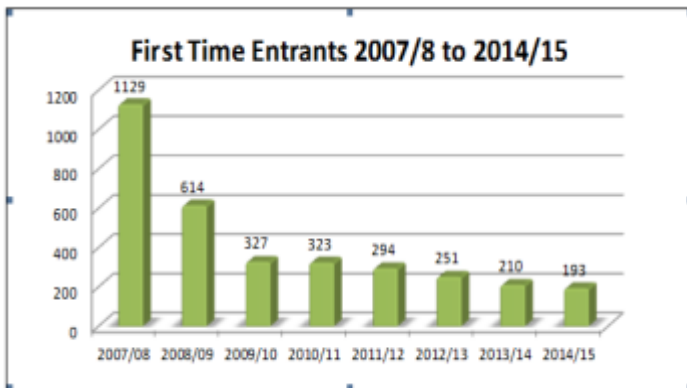
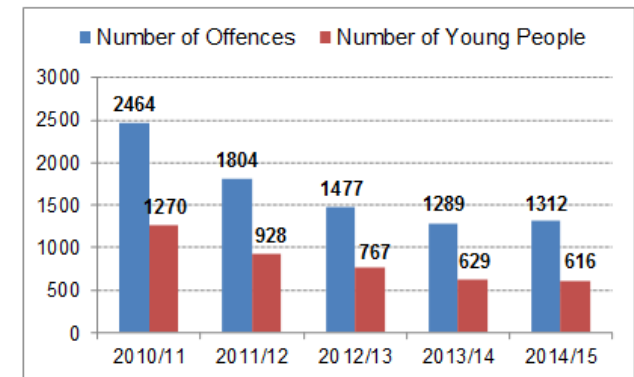
As shown in the table **43.5% of children** who were made subject of a Child Protection Plan **were under five years old**, (2014-15) indicating how vulnerable this age group is and indicating the importance of the Early Help strategy in engaging with families as early as possible.

The LSCB continues to support the voluntary and community sector through the provision of targeted safeguarding training to Early Year's providers. This has led to better identification of vulnerable families and children at risk. We have also incorporated lessons learned from Serious Case Reviews into our training in order to support practitioners and managers to improve their understanding and assessment skills.

Youth Justice

Since 2010-11 there has been a **46.8% decrease** in the number of offences committed (2,464 to 1,312) and a **51.5% reduction** over the same period in the number of young people offending (1,270 to 616).

2014-15 saw a fourth successive year reduction in the number of young people offending, however a slight increase in the number offences committed, when compared to the previous year. The graph to the right shows the year on year reduction in young people offending and the reduction, since 2010-11, in the number of offences.



As a result of our integrated pre court/out of court system which provides assessment and intervention at a young person's first point of contact with the youth justice system (first offence), we have reduced first time entrants (FTEs) and re-offending.

Between 2007/08 and 2014/15 we have achieved **82.9% reduction** in first time entrants, from 1129 in 2007/08 to 193 in 2014/15.

Locally County Durham Youth Offending Service has been a key member of the local probation reforms transitional arrangements.

Section 4: Local Safeguarding Children Board Governance and Structure

4.1 Local Safeguarding Children Board

Each local area is required by Law to have an LSCB. The LSCB is a statutory body established in legislation (Section 13 of the Children Act 2004) and works according to national guidance, the most significant being the latest version of 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015'.

Our primary responsibility is to provide a way for the local organisations that have a responsibility in respect of child welfare, to agree how they will work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the locality, and to ensure that they will do so effectively.

The functions of the LSCB are:

To develop policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area.

These could include:

- the action to be taken where there are concerns about a child's safety or welfare, including thresholds for intervention
- training of persons who work with children or in services affecting the safety and welfare of children
- the recruitment and supervision of persons who work with children
- the safety and welfare of children who are privately fostered
- having a clear strategy in place for tackling Child Sexual Exploitation
- co-operating with neighbouring children services and their Board partners

To raise awareness of both the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and action to so do

To monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of what is done by the local authority and their Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children **and advise them on ways to improve**

To participate in the planning of services for children in the area of the authority

To undertake reviews of serious cases and advising the authority and their Board partners on lessons to be learned

The LSCB does not commission or deliver direct frontline services and does not have the power to direct other organisations, which retain their own existing lines of accountability for safeguarding. However, the LSCB does have a role in quality assurance making it clear where improvement is needed and where appropriate reviewing and challenging existing procedures.

To fulfil this role, the LSCB uses data to:

- Assess the effectiveness of the help being provided to children and families, including early help
- Quality assure practice, including through joint audits of case files involving practitioners and identifying lessons to be learned
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of training, including multi-agency training

4.2 Linkages across other partnerships and services

The County Durham Partnership (CDP) is the overarching partnership for County Durham and is supported by five thematic partnerships, each of which has a specific focus:

- ***The Economic Partnership*** - Aims to make County Durham a place where people want to live, work, invest and visit whilst enabling our residents and businesses to achieve their potential
- ***The Children and Families Partnership*** - Works to ensure effective services are delivered in the most efficient way to improve the lives of children, young people and families in County Durham
- ***The Health and Wellbeing Board*** - Promotes integrated working between commissioners of health services, public health and social care services, for the purposes of improving the health and wellbeing of the people in the area
- ***The Safe Durham Partnership*** - Tackles crime, disorder, substance misuse, anti-social behaviour and other behaviour adversely affecting the environment and seeks to reduce re-offending
- ***The Environment Partnership*** - Aims to transform and sustain the environment within County Durham, maximising partnership arrangements to support the economy and the wellbeing of local communities.



4.3 LSCB Membership and Governance

The LCSB is a statutory partnership made up of local agencies. In County Durham there is a longstanding and high commitment amongst partner agencies to develop and improve arrangements to protect and safeguard children from harm and to share responsibility and accountability for those services. A membership list is attached at Appendix 1.

Durham LSCB has a Governance and Memorandum of Understanding in place and forms the formal agreement between the Board and all partner agencies. It outlines the accountability arrangements; key purposes; functions and tasks of the LSCB; membership; and agreed standards and expectations of LSCB services. The document also sets out the wider links with other key strategic partnership groups such as the Children & Families Partnership; the Health & Wellbeing Board and the Safe Durham Partnership.

In line with national requirements, the Board continues to be chaired by an independent person, an arrangement that has been in place since 2011. The Chair has a crucial role in making certain that the Board operates independently and secures an independent voice for the LSCB. Jane Geraghty became the new Independent Chair of the board in October 2014, and a new vice chair Gill Findley (Director of Nursing Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield CCG and North Durham CCG) took up post in May 2015.

The LSCB Business Unit has been realigned to Planning and Service Strategy within the Local Authority to develop the links with other partnership structures and strengthen the joint working on a range of strategies such as the County Durham Domestic Abuse Strategy, the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy and the Early Help Strategy.

4.4 LSCB Board Meetings

The Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board meets bi-monthly and attendance is monitored and reported annually as part of the Board's governance and effectiveness arrangements. Throughout 2014/15 the Board has been well supported by partner agencies. The membership of the Board is made up of the senior strategic leaders and managers of the partner agencies.

Action plans against priorities and performance are reported, monitored and challenged. Progress on Child Death Reviews and Serious Case Reviews are updated and completed Serious Case Reviews are published on the LSCB website for a period of 12 months. The findings and recommendations are disseminated to partners and any action plan coming out of a review is also monitored by the Board.

4.5 Learning and Improvement

Durham LSCB continually monitors the quality, timeliness and effectiveness of multi-agency practice through the LSCB Performance Management Framework. Where gaps are identified, implications for the LSCB are considered and progressed through business planning and the work of sub-groups.

We will continue to:

- Monitor partner compliance with the statutory requirement to have effective safeguarding arrangements in place (section 11)
- Apply the national Children Safeguarding Information Performance Framework, based on an 'Outcomes Based Accountability' approach asking three questions:
 - How much did we do?
 - How well did we do it?
 - Did it make a difference?
- Develop a series of scorecards for priority areas, e.g. CSE
- Develop a multi-agency Audit and Quality Assurance forward plan designed to provide much more information about the quality of work being undertaken and its impact on outcomes for individual children and young people.

Outcomes and findings feed into our learning and improvement structures to promote a culture of continuous improvement across the LSCB.

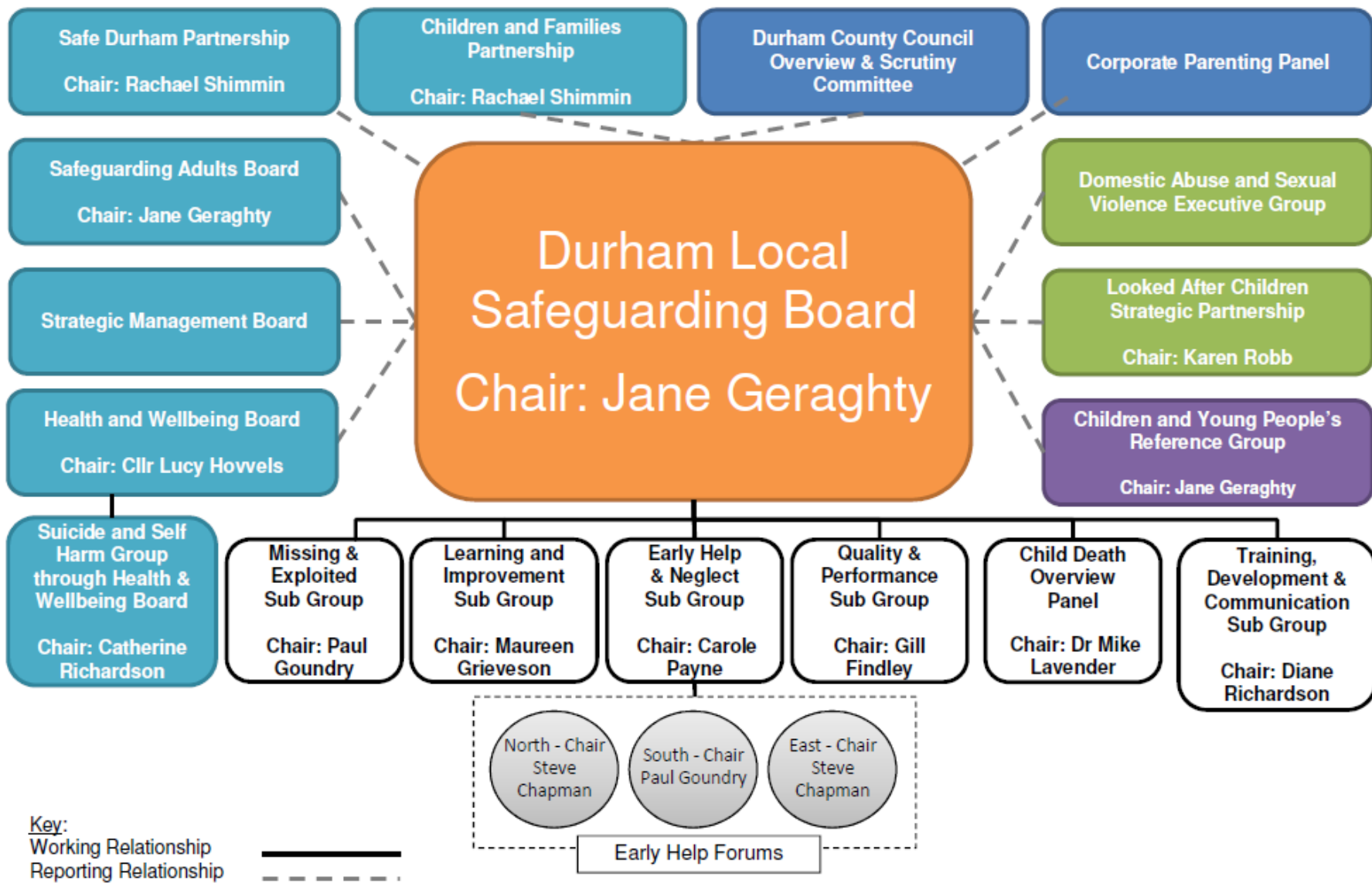
In 2014 we have undertaken a range of steps to develop our practice to improve our effectiveness, building on and addressing the outcomes of our LSCB self-assessment and the feedback arising from the Local Government Association review of October 2014.

We continue to implement the recommendations from Serious Case Reviews and host learning events where key messages and the lessons learnt from the Serious Case Reviews we have published are shared with practitioners and agencies.

Child Death Overview Panel for Durham LSCB and Darlington LSCB Boards share key learning from child deaths. Action plans implemented and reviewed by the Child Death Overview Panel at each meeting.

4.6 LSCB Structure & Links to other Strategic Groups

Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board Structure



4.7 Sub Groups

The LSCB has in place a number of sub-groups, taking forward the priorities of the Board.

Missing and Exploited Sub-Group (MEG) – This group focusses on monitoring activity and improving services and responses to reported missing and absent children and Child Sexual Exploitation.

Learning and Improvement Sub-group – This group considers serious incidents, commissions serious case reviews, oversees and monitors progress on agreed actions for specific local cases.

Quality and Performance Sub-group – This group oversees the quality and standards of safeguarding practice across the partnership to ensure that the LSCB fulfils its statutory function. Performance is monitored and analysis of the effectiveness of procedures is undertaken. The group also plans and monitors the LSCB audit programme.

Early Help and Neglect Sub-group – This group reviews and improves the referral pathways and access to help and support for families at an earlier stage of need and thereby reduce the number of families entering the system in crisis. This group supports three Early Help Locality Forums for a range of multi-agency practitioners.

Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) – This is a joint group of both Durham and Darlington LSCBs. It has responsibility for reviewing the available information on all child deaths.

Training, Development and Communications Sub-group – This group reviews, plans and develops delivery of multi-agency training programmes using information from Learning Lessons Reviews, Serious Case Reviews and complaints as well as national and regional guidance. Lastly, this group has responsibility for the development and delivery of a LSCB Communication Strategy.

In addition are the following groups with links to the LSCB Board.

Children and Young People's Reference Group – This group has been set up to actively engage with children and young people and seek their views on a range of safeguarding issues.

Suicide and Self Harm Group – This group is a sub-group of the Health and Wellbeing Board with a relationship to the LSCB and tackles the causal factors for suicide, attempted suicide and self-harm, which incorporates children and young people.

Looked After Children Strategic Partnership – This group has a reporting relationship to the LSCB; it aims to improve educational achievements; to improve post 16 services and to improve the health and emotional well-being of looked after children and young people.

4.8 Equality and Diversity

The LSCB strives to promote equal access to safeguarding services, particularly for those children who are unable to communicate, due to their age, disability or first language, with those people or services that are able to protect them.

Policies and procedures of the LSCB are subject to an equality impact assessment to ensure that new policies and procedures do not discriminate on any basis.

Equality and diversity, challenging discrimination and values underpins the delivery of all LSCB training. LSCB training considers a broad range of issues such as parental mental illness, parental learning disability, substance misuse, child neglect, CSE and children who are deaf or disabled. It also recognises the impact of social disadvantage such as poverty, poor housing and worklessness. Durham LSCB also strives to ensure that its courses are open and accessible to all and create an environment where participants feel able to challenge and be challenged in a safe and constructive way.

The LSCB has a complaints review system in place for child protection conferences to ensure that where there is concern raised by parents and carers and young people, they will be treated with respect, are listened to and their views taken into account.

4.9 Working with other LSCBs

Durham LSCB works collaboratively with other Local Safeguarding Children Boards to share learning and agree safeguarding policies and procedures which impact on children and families and cross our Local Authority boundaries. This includes Cross Boundary Procedure for North East England LSCBs (children who move from one authority area to another), Child Deaths, Serious Case Reviews and lessons learned.

There is invaluable work across the region promoting good practice in areas such as training, policies and procedures and lessons learned. We are an active member of the LSCB Regional Business Managers Group. Our regional priorities will focus on key issues of child sexual exploitation and neglect.

Section 5: Achievements and progress against 2014/15 Priorities

5.1 LSCB Priorities 2014/15

The 2013/14 Annual Plan identified the following priorities:

- Early Help
- Information Sharing
- Parental issues of Domestic Abuse, Alcohol and Drug Misuse and Mental Health
- Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation;
- Strengthening our engagement with children and young people
- Supporting the new arrangements for the delivery of children's services
- Development and self-improvement of the LSCB Board

5.2 Achievements and Progress Highlights

- Development of the Early Help Strategy and sharing with the Children and Families Partnership
- The introduction of a County Durham Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
- Development and implemented the 'Collaborative working and information sharing between professionals to protect vulnerable adults and children' information sharing protocol
- Developed a Safeguarding Framework to improve links with Health & Wellbeing Board, Children & Families Partnership and Safe Durham Partnership and to align Domestic Abuse, Alcohol and Drug Misuse and Mental Health work
- Development of a CSE Strategy and delivery plan
- Developing and implementing a CSE audit and sharing the information through other council and partnership structures
- Supported 'Never Do Nothing' training (a safeguarding standard for voluntary and 3rd sector organisations)
- Set up a Young People's Reference Group for the LSCB

- The LSCB and the Safe Durham Domestic Abuse training has been aligned and brought together with a multi-agency set of trainers now delivering the training
- LSCB support to Childrens Services innovations funding bid, training programmes, single assessment and Think Family
- Reviewed the leadership of the LSCB and appointed new Chair, Vice-Chair and Business Manager
- Appointed two new Lay Members to act as an independent voice
- Review of the governance of LSCB sub-groups, each of which is now chaired by a LSCB partner member
- Developing a new LSCB website, with input from young people

5.3 Challenge and Impact

Here we provide examples of challenges raised by the LSCB, the resulting progress and the impact this has had on delivery of services and improvements in safeguarding.

In the development of the Early Help Strategy we challenged partners to improve the early help responses within the Central Referral Unit. The impact of this challenge was the development of a successful police innovation funding bid resulting in the implementation of a County Durham Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) launched in March 2015.

A recommendation of the Local Government Association (LGA) peer review challenged the LSCB to improve the links with wider strategic partnership structures. Over the last year we have clarified and improved the LSCB Board's relationship to other strategic partnerships across County Durham. This has already resulted in closer working arrangement such as the Domestic abuse worker now based in the MASH; the development of a Domestic Abuse Referral Pathway and alignment of Training Programmes, the LSCB training and the Safe Durham Domestic Abuse training has been aligned and brought together with a multi-agency set of trainers now delivering the training.

We have contributed into the draft County Durham Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy and the draft Safe Durham Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy. In addition we have been able to utilise wider partnership resources and structures to improve an LSCB response, for example; we have linked the LSCB Self-Harm priority to the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) sub-group who are already addressing this issue. This has had the added impact of improving the visibility and influence of the LSCB Board.

A challenge from the Chair of the LSCB was to improve the voice of the child. This has resulted in collaborative work with 'Investing in Children' and the development of the Young People's Reference Group for the LSCB. These young people have met with members of the

LSCB on a number of occasions and their views have been taken into account in the LSCB work plan and our priority setting arrangements. An example of a direct impact of listening to these young people is the inclusion of the self-harm priority for the LSCB 2015-16.

Partners were also challenged in relation to work on Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) which resulted in a CSE audit taking place to identify numbers and risk factors.

Responding to Working Together guidance's stating volunteer staff need to be aware of their responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children the LSCB have proactively supported the 'Never Do Nothing' training across County Durham. Never do nothing is a safeguarding standard for voluntary and 3rd sector organisations to promote good practice in the safeguarding of children and young people. It provides guidance for individuals; staff, volunteers, carers, etc as well as providing a framework for delivery of safeguarding within any organisation, within any sector – so that no-one is left in any doubt as to what action to take when they have a concern about the welfare of a child or young person in County Durham.

Challenge also takes place at a very senior level through a Chief Officers Safeguarding Group which includes the County Council's Chief Executive, Independent Chair of the LSCB, Corporate Director of Children and Adults Services, Chief Officers of the Clinical Commissioning Groups, the local NHS Foundation Trust and Police Constable as well as other senior managers. This forum allows the opportunity to challenge and share information to ensure line of sight on safeguarding issues including:

- Child Sexual Exploitation and the commitment to provide additional resources from the Police
- Ensure training programmes are joined up with the LSCBs
- Ensure quality of front-line practice
- Share outcomes of multi-agency audits and action plans

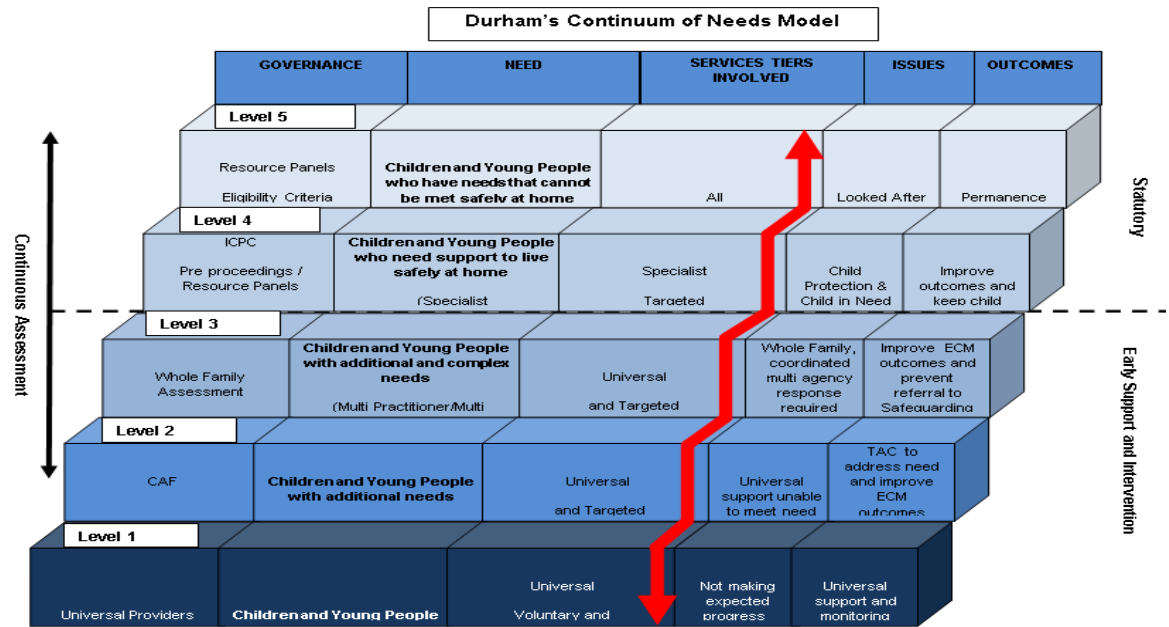
5.4 Progress on LSCB priorities 2014/15

Early Help

The LSCB recognises early help as a key priority area for making significant impact on outcomes for children. 'Working Together 2015' identifies this as an area where LSCBs need to bring more challenge to partners to demonstrate that families are receiving help at an earlier stage and before matters escalate. Partners have responded to the challenge to develop strategies that shape and deliver services in a number of new ways. These include: The Early Help Strategy; a strong continuum of needs framework and the local authority re-design of children's services.

We have worked alongside the Children and Families Partnership to help develop an Early Help Strategy and Action Plan. Our role will continue to be one of challenging partners as to what changes they are making to the way they deliver services to children and families to make them more child centred, more responsive and available at a much earlier point to prevent problems escalating.

The Durham Continuum of Needs Model is designed to reflect the fact that children and young people's needs and those of their families exist along a continuum. The model recognises that needs may change over time and is based on the principle that children and young people's welfare and safety is a shared responsibility and should be a seamless positive journey. Regardless of which 'step' children, young people and families are identified on they will be supported at the earliest opportunity and continue to be supported by the relevant services as they move up and down the staircase.



Through the Stronger Families' programme we have engaged with our offender management structures. Durham Constabulary, Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company, Youth Offending Services and Anti-social Behaviour Teams are all fully involved in this work. The second phase of the 'Troubled Families' programme will identify and support families over a wider range of need, one being 'Parents and Children Involved in crime or anti-social behaviour'. This will enable teams to reach not only families where there is a young person involved in crime or anti-social behaviour, but to include adult offenders who have parenting responsibilities.

In terms of safeguarding arrangements outcomes for children and families it is expected that more families will receive help at an earlier point and be empowered to take control of their own lives, avoiding the need for statutory intervention. We look to see a reduction in the number of Children In Need, Look after Children and children subject to a Child Protection Plan.

Impact of the Early Help Strategy can be seen through a range of activity; the development of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH); Early Help Forums are now up and running across the County. The forums will be used as a line of communication between the LSCB and front line practitioners; 'Never Do Nothing' training (a safeguarding standard for voluntary and 3rd sector organisations); the new single

assessment practice guidance underpins the work across children's services and is now in use alongside a range of practice tools. Multi agency audits continue to be driven by the LSCB and a new audit process within children's services was introduced in June 2014.

Early Help has started to be recognised in everyday practice as crucial to achieving positive outcomes for children and their families. Early Help is now written into many policies, plans and strategies across the Durham partnership.

Information Sharing

This remains an important issue highlighted in learning from Serious Case Reviews both nationally and locally here in County Durham. In 2014 the LSCB developed and implemented an information sharing protocol called 'Collaborative working and information sharing between professionals to protect vulnerable adults and children.' This protocol has also been shared with wider safeguarding arrangements and has been approved by both the LSCB and the Safeguarding Adults Board and endorsed through single agency governance arrangements.

The protocol captures the existing guidance on information sharing and signposts professionals that their safeguarding responsibilities carry with it an expectation that information sharing is the norm. The main emphasis is to ensure information is shared to enable children to be better safeguarded and families offered early help. The protocol is supported by a guidance document for professionals, which is made available as part of LSCB training. In 2015 we will review and revise the protocol to ensure compliance with the latest version of 'Working Together' published in March 2015 and the Care Act 2015.

Parental issues of Domestic Abuse, Alcohol and Drug Misuse and Mental Health

Domestic abuse continues to be the main parental risk factor leading to children becoming subject of a Child Protection Plan. Parental alcohol misuse, substance misuse and mental health, are the next most common. These parental risk factors are discussed in greater depth in section 3.3 'Our Local Drivers'.

Probation reforms have led to a greater focus on rehabilitation and tackling the critical pathways of offending. It is no surprise these align directly with the parental risk factors above. The National Probation Service and Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company continue to become more involved in this area of work as they adapt delivery of services to improve the management of offenders in areas such as 'Through the Gate' provision (rehabilitation and resettlement in the community); exit strategies after statutory supervision and pathways into mainstream services and transitional arrangements for young people who offend. Other project such as the 'Checkpoint' (offender diversion scheme) contribute to tackling parental issues of Domestic Abuse, Alcohol and Drug Misuse and Mental Health and as a result impact positively on the outcomes for children.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Child Sexual Exploitation can have a serious long-term impact on every aspect on children's lives, health and education. It damages the lives of families and carers, which can lead to family break-ups.

There are strong links between sexual exploitation and those young people who are reported missing from home. Recent analysis conducted by Tasking and Coordinating (Missing From Home Summary Report – Early Findings February 2015) highlighted a range of risks associated with missing including sexual exploitation, mental health, alcohol or drugs issues with motivation for missing including family conflict or relationship issues. The offender profile is one of 'street grooming' and use of social media to exploit children.

We have developed a CSE Strategy and Action Plan to detect, prevent and disrupt all forms of Child Sexual Exploitation including online child abuse as well as contact offences. The Missing from Home (MFH) and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) procedures focus on early identification and prevention meaning we identify children at risk and work to reduce this risk, rather than waiting for harm to occur before we act.

Durham was successful in a bid to the Governments Children's Social Care Innovation Fund 2014/15 for a therapeutic support programme at Aycliffe Secure Centre for children who have been sexually exploited. This will offer targeted support in helping young people deal with trauma and in making the transition from the secure setting into more independent living.

We have also developed a CSE Disruption Toolkit allowing practitioners to highlight to the police risk factor behaviour around potential perpetrators. The use of this toolkit continues to be promoted in presentations and awareness raising events.

Durham Constabulary has become the first Force in the UK to adopt a new training package aimed at protecting children from abuse. 'Intervene to Protect a Child' (IPC) is a new and proactive training tactic which has had significant success in the United States. Early successes in Durham indicate the potential this training can have on protecting children from abuse. The Transforming Rehabilitation agenda (probations reforms) have enabled offender managers greater collaboration with Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs and Missing and Exploited Group. Hundreds of police officers and other agency staff such as teachers, neighbourhood wardens and probation officers have been trained in this innovative technique. In 2014/15 we have also:

- Carried out LSCB audits for both CSE and missing children incidents to assess child protection practice and improve outcomes for children who go missing
- Undertaken an audit of responses for named suspects



- Developed a CSE marketing strategy
- Created the 'ERASE' brand (Educate and Raise Awareness of Sexual Exploitation) to tackle child sexual exploitation (ERASE offers parents and carers advice on how to communicate with their children about who they speak to on-line and off-line)

Agencies continue to work together to tackle CSE and planned actions for 2015/16 include:

- A dedicated ERASE team will be piloted and launched in August 2015 and will include a Detective Sergeant, two PCSOs and an Admin Support Officer. This team will focus on early identification of young people at risk and suspected offenders and use problem solving tactics to address CSE
- Widen our training and awareness to those services not traditionally associated with safeguarding e.g. taxi drivers
- Development and launch of an 'ERASE' website
- Develop transitional arrangement with Safeguarding Adults Board for those young people reaching their 18th birthday, who remain vulnerable to sexual exploitation
- Develop stronger relationships with communities through Area Action Partnerships (AAP), raising awareness of CSE and how to report concerns or intelligence of CSE
- Actively engage young people within identified vulnerable groups at risk of CSE (for example, lesbian, gay, bisexual or transsexual, and special needs) that face additional barriers around reporting and support

Strengthening our engagement with children and young people

The LSCB actively engages and seeks the views of children and young people on wider safeguarding issues.

We have continued to improve the way we involve young people, throughout 2014/15 we have worked collaboratively with 'Investing in Children' to set up a Young People's Reference Group for the LSCB. These young people have met with members of the LSCB on a number of occasions and their views have been taken into account in the LSCB work plan and our priority setting arrangements.



Staff from the LSCB have conducted community visits alongside these young people to see first-hand their concerns. A direct impact of listening to these young people has been the inclusion of the self-harm priority for the LSCB 2015-16.

Working with young people and local communities is a key area for the LSCB to take forward into 2015/16. This direct link to young people in their own communities and understanding the 'voice of the child' has brought a positive and different perspective into the LSCB Board, listening to what young people tell us and acting upon it. We will continue and widen our engagement with young people and will work towards achieving Investors in Children status in 2015.

We will also create a more cohesive link with Area Action Partnerships to encourage communities to be more 'safeguarding of children and young people' focused and promoting safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Supporting the new arrangements for the delivery of children's services

Durham County Council Children's Services is on a journey of major transformation and has completed two phases of that work. The vision is being delivered through a transformational change programme.

The programme consists of three main phases:

1. Piloting of new service forms – reflection and learning 2009/12
2. Service transformation, policy and procedure development – 2013/14
3. Service reform based on learning from phases 1 and 2 – 2015/16

Phase 1 and Phase 2 have already been delivered.

Durham was successful in a bid to the Government's Children's Social Care Innovation Fund 2014/15. The funding will allow Children's Services to build on the progress they have already made to date and accelerate developments more quickly than we would otherwise have been able to do without this significant additional investment. The Project is underpinned by a significant programme of workforce development designed to create a new culture by developing new skills and attitudes, through training, mentoring, clinical consultation and challenge.

The main innovative elements of Durham's Project are:

- Creation of 10 integrated teams (Families First) across the County, focussed on early help and significantly increasing the range, access, quality and effectiveness of services for the whole family across the continuum of need
- Creation and development of third sector alliances to build community capacity and sustainable change for families
- An intensive workforce development programme to support the new teams and the whole workforce



- Significantly enhanced service user engagement to change the relationship between professional and service user

Working alongside these arrangements is an aligned model of universal services, such as schools, community health services and voluntary and community sector organisations. It is their role to ensure that need is identified at the earliest point, so that early help can be provided. These services are already engaged through three Early Help Forums.

Three child protection teams will continue working with children subject to Child Protection Plans and children in care proceedings and a Looked After Children's Team will work with children with permanence plans. We hope to see:

- A reduction in the number of Look after Children
- A reduction in the number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan
- More Children and families receiving Early Help
- Improved social work practice

An independent evaluation will commence in March 2016.

Development and self-improvement of the LSCB Board

The LSCB Board recognises the importance of self-improvement, to be effective it needs to continuously learn from its own experiences and that of others. Building on and addressing the outcomes of our LSCB self-assessment and feedback arising from the LGA review of October 2014 we have:

- Revised our performance indicators and implemented a new dataset to better reflect priorities
- Appointed two lay members
- Strengthened the scrutiny / challenge role and developing a framework for evidencing impact and difference
- Strengthened the engagement and participation of children and young people in the work of the Board
- Clarified the Board's relationship with other partnership forums
- Improved the visibility and influence of the Board
- Strengthened the engagement and participation of frontline staff including involvement in audit work

We have undertaken a range of steps to develop our practice and values to improve our effectiveness - keeping the child's journey at the forefront of what we do. In addition, we have clarified our business objectives and aligned our LSCB operations against our objectives.

Section 6: Performance Monitoring and Quality Assurance

6.1 Performance Monitoring and Quality Assurance

Durham LSCB's primary responsibility is to provide a way for local organisations that have a responsibility in respect of child welfare, to agree how they will work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the locality, and to ensure that they will do so effectively. Our Performance Monitoring Framework and quality assurance plan monitor and developed these arrangements.

In the last year we have continued to monitor and develop Section 11* auditing covering the following organisations:

- Durham Constabulary
- North Tees and Hartlepool Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Tees Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust
- County Durham Youth Offending Service
- Durham County Council Children's Services
- Durham Dales Easington and Sedgefield Clinical Commissioning Group
- North Durham Clinical Commissioning Group
- Hassockfield Secure Training Centre (up to Oct 2014)
- National Probation Service (Durham)
- Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company
- Children and Families Court Advisory Support Services
- County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust

We have also carried out LSCB audits for both CSE and missing children incidents to assess child protection practice and improve outcomes for children who go missing and undertook an audit of responses for named suspects.

*Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places duties on a range of organisations and individuals to ensure their functions – and any services that they contract out to others – are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The LSCB provides a statutory function of auditing the Board’s partner organisations to ensure their compliance to this statute.

6.2 Quality Assurance Forward Plan

In 2015/16 we will:

- Develop an on-line version of Section 11 audits
- Review governance arrangements
- Review Memorandum of Understanding
- Develop consistent use of auditing tools and processes
- Identify and develop areas for auditing
- Develop reporting formats to include case studies and make the voice of the child more visible
- Develop additional ‘Quality’ reporting to include areas such as complaints, serious case reviews and child death overview monitoring

6.3 Safeguarding Privately Fostered Children

The LSCB Board monitors the local arrangements for safeguarding children who are privately fostered. The Board includes specific data in its ‘Top Ten’ performance indicator list and on an annual basis is provided with a full report setting out the Local Authority’s strategy and specific arrangements to raise awareness in the community, monitor and support children and young people who are in such placements.

6.4 The Use of Restraint – Safeguarding Young People in Secure Settings

County Durham is among a small number of Councils who have secure services within its boundaries. In 2014/15 the Youth Justice Board (YJB) took the decision to close Hassockfield Secure Training Centre, this means only partial data for this centre can be provided. The LSCB also monitors the use of restraint at Aycliffe Secure Services Centre. Many of the children are placed by Local Authorities outside the area

and by the criminal courts. Since 2011 and in line with Working Together guidance we have reported on the use of restraint in the two secure settings within County Durham.

Hassockfield Secure Training Centre

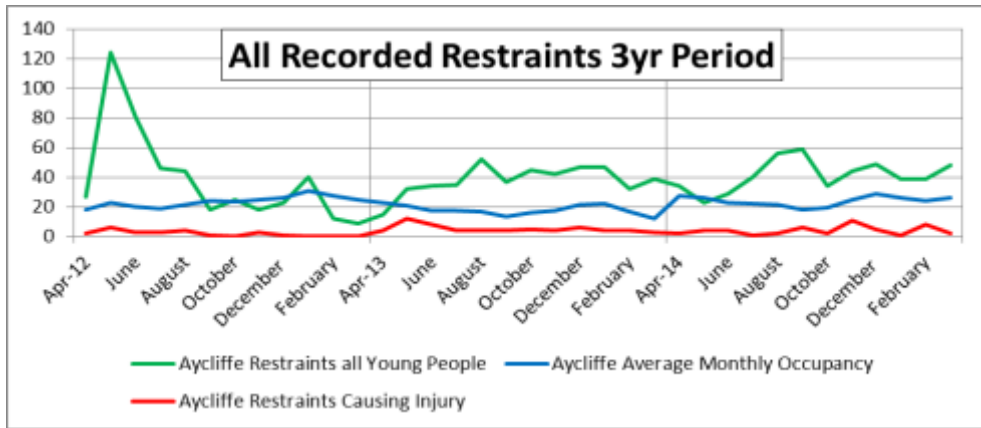
Month	Hassockfield Restraints all Young People		Hassockfield Restraints Causing Injury		Hassockfield Average Occupancy	Hassockfield Occupancy at 1 st of Month
	2013-14	2014-15	2013-14	2014-15	2013-14	2014-15
April	89	61	17	6	45	55
May	65	19	9	1	42	43
June	75	32	11	4	42	37
July	43	47	6	3	42	38
August	45	28	3	5	45	41
September	45	36	5	3	42	32
October	58	18	3	0	50	32
November						
December						
January						
February						
March						
TOTAL	420	241	54	22		
Average per month	60	34.4	7.7	3.1	44	39.7

Table 1: Total Incidence of Restraints and Restraints causing Injury: (April 2014 – Nov 2015 & the previous period for comparison.)

This centre was closed in November 2014. Hassockfield catered for up to 58 young people, male and female. Young people lived in four separate house blocks with three of the 'house' blocks having two residential living units.

During the last reporting period, up to the point of closure, the gender occupancy ratio was consistently a little over 2:1 (annual totals - male 232:109 female). However, incidents of restraint by gender were closer to 4:1 (annual totals - male 19:50 female).

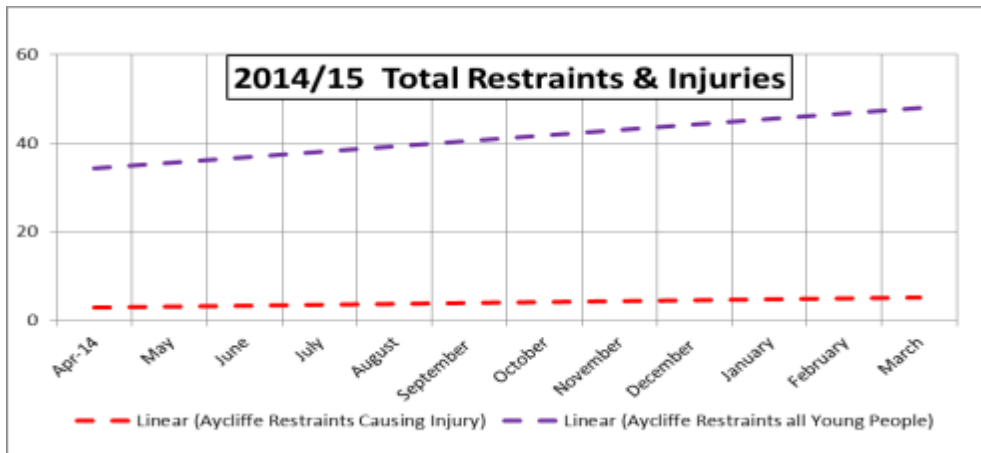
Aycliffe Secure Services Centre



Aycliffe Secure Services Centre is licensed by Ofsted for up to 42 places. The centre has five secure children’s homes and a step-down facility with 24 beds commissioned by the Youth Justice Board. Local Authorities can also commission places for young people on welfare grounds if the courts decide that young people meet the legislative criteria required to place them in a secure setting.

The trend of restraint incidents has stayed consistent with a very slight downward direction of travel during the three year period shown in graph above. Peaks most often occurring around late Summer and the Christmas holiday periods.

The trend of restraint incidents leading to injury has also maintained a consistent level but with a slight upward trend in the 2014/15 reporting period.



The trend over the course of the reporting period (2014/15) defies the longer term trend with an upward direction, however, during this period there have been 107 Restrictive Physical Intervention (RPI) incidents relating to a single individual. As a statistical outlier, incidents relating to this young person represent 22% of all the incidents at the centre during the reporting period. This rate of incidence is high, even amongst other high incidence individuals.

Overall, there was a total of 111 different young people at Aycliffe between April 2014 and March 2015. 74 young people (66.7%) were required to be restrained in this period. Nine young people were responsible for 50% of the RPI’s with 12 young people being restrained ten or more times during their stay at Aycliffe.

6.5 Serious Case Review Function

We have commenced five Serious Case Reviews in 2014/15. There are a number of recurrent themes running through these reviews:

- Parental misuse of substances or alcohol
- The role of males within a family setting / household who have contact with children and young people
- Multi-agency engagement with safeguarding processes
- Information sharing

These themes are reflected in national findings for Serious Case Reviews published in 2014/15.

We continue to implement the recommendations from Serious Case Reviews both multi-agency and single agency recommendations. Action plans are reviewed by the Learning and Improvement Group bi-monthly.

In 2015 we will host a range of learning events where key messages and the lessons learnt from the Serious Case Reviews we have published will be shared with practitioners and agencies. We will also present progress against Serious Case Reviews action plans.

The LSCB will continue to challenge agencies to demonstrate that they have implemented the learned lessons.

6.6 Child Death Review Function

There are two interrelated processes for reviewing child deaths:

1. Rapid Response by a group of key professionals who come together for the purpose of enquiring into and evaluating each unexpected death; *and*
2. An overview of all deaths up to the age of 18 years (excluding both those babies that are stillborn and planned terminations of pregnancy carried out within the law) in Durham and Darlington areas, undertaken by a panel

Child Death Review Notifications

There were 31 child death reviews in County Durham between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015. Of the 31 child deaths there were:

- 25 Rapid Responses (this is a process for gathering key professionals to enquire into and evaluate circumstances of an unexpected death)
- 20 deaths that have been or will be considered at a Local Case Discussion meeting (for most unexpected deaths a local case discussion takes place when all the information has been gathered and all agencies involved with the child and family before and at the time of their death are invited to the meeting.)
- 17 deaths reviewed at Panels during 2014/15 (the Child Death Overview Panel's purpose is to conduct an overview of all child deaths)
- 21 child deaths are ongoing reviews and will be brought forward to 2015/16

Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

Between April 2014 and March 2015 there were six Child Death Overview Panels in which 44 cases were reviewed. At each Child Death Overview Panel, the Designated Doctor for Child Deaths presents the circumstances of each death to the multi-agency panel. The case is reviewed in detail and recommendations/actions logged for monitoring purposes.

The CDOP were of the view that there were 15 deaths in which modifiable factors may have contributed to the death. These factors are defined as those which, by means of locally or nationally achievable interventions, could be modified to reduce the risk of future child deaths.

Out of the 44 Child Death Reviews completed, nine Local Case Discussions were presented at the Child Death Overview Panel.

Timescale for Child Death Review Completion

Out of the 44 completed reviews, 20% were completed in less than six months. This is an increase from 9% in 2013-14. A large majority of reviews that were 'carried forward' from an earlier period were completed during 2014/15. We will continue to work together to complete reviews in a more timely way.



Key learning from child deaths

A thematic review was undertaken during the 2014/15 operating period of all child deaths and the findings presented at the Child Death Overview Panel and Durham LSCB and Darlington SCB Boards. As a result an action plan was formulated and is reviewed by the Child Death Overview Panel at each meeting to ensure that all actions have been completed.

The following themes were identified:

- Perinatal and infant deaths

- CTG training (electronic foetal monitoring during labour)
- Consultant presence on obstetric wards
- Awareness of risk factors to prevent Sudden Infant Death (SIDs)

- Other child deaths

- Mandatory training in paediatric resuscitation
- Consultant assessment in children with complex health problems
- Emergency care plans for children with complex health problems

6.7 Policy and Procedures

Durham LSCB proactively reviews policies and procedures as systems change and are developed. These form part of the work undertaken with Early Help, Children Services Transformation and Child Sexual Exploitation to name a few.

Others include:

- Updated Single Assessment Framework and thresholds document to support new ways of working and focussing on early help
- Re-alignment of LSCB sub-groups to match priorities
- Safeguarding Framework - Improved links with Health & Wellbeing Board, Children & Families Partnership and Safe Durham Partnership
- Taking forward recommendations of LGA peer review
- Strengthening the influence of the board in key areas, particularly schools
- Clarification of the role and contribution of students attending child protection conferences

Building on the outcomes of our LSCB self-assessment and feedback arising from the LGA review we have aligned our LSCB operations against our objectives and re-aligned the LSCB sub-groups to match priorities. The Policy and Procedures group was disbanded in January 2015 as part of this re-alignment and the policy and procedures function has passed to the LSCB Business Unit.

As the new arrangements for the delivery of Children Services continue to be implemented in County Durham we will review and update our procedures accordingly. These will include Child Protection Procedures; Single Assessment Procedures; Missing Children Procedures and Families First Procedures.

Section 7: Training

7.1 Single and Multi-Agency Training Provision

All agencies working with children either directly or indirectly are required to provide training in order to carry out their own roles and responsibilities. This includes being able to recognise and raise concerns about children's safety and welfare. The current LSCB training group work plan includes a requirement to monitor single-agency training, undertake a training needs analysis and evaluate the impact of both single-agency and multi-agency training.

We have reviewed the Domestic Abuse training programmes of the LSCB training and the Safe Durham with the result that Domestic Abuse training has been aligned and brought together with a multi-agency set of trainers now delivering the training.

In March 2014 the LSCB Board agreed that it had a significant role in supporting the Local Authority in the delivery of training relating to the transformation of Children Services. During the year the LSCB training programme has seen an increased collaboration with a range of organisations; most notably the County Council's Learning and Development Team; County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust; Tees Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust, Durham Constabulary and Barnardos; in the planning, design and delivery of training. This has strengthened and enhanced the quality of training while avoiding duplication and promoting the importance of inter-agency working.

7.2 Training Programme

The purpose of the LSCB multi-agency training is to support staff and volunteers to achieve better outcomes for children and young people by fostering:

- a shared understanding of the tasks, processes, principles, roles and responsibilities outlined in national guidance and local arrangements for safeguarding children and promoting their welfare
- more effective and integrated services at both the strategic and individual case level
- improved communication and information sharing between professionals, including a common understanding of key terms, definitions and thresholds for action
- effective working relationships, including an ability to work in multi-disciplinary groups or teams

- sound child focused assessments and decision-making
- learning from Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) and reviews of child deaths

All new and existing courses were updated in line with Durham's Single Assessment procedures.

7.3 Courses delivered in 2014/15

A total of **84 courses** were held throughout the year and were attended by **1,580 staff and volunteers**. The courses with the highest total attendance over the year were:

- Safeguarding Processes
- Assessment and Intervention
- Engaging with Families
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Neglect

Overall, 75.2% of the 84 courses delivered were filled to capacity; of those participants offered a place 16.4% cancelled and 11.1% did not attend without notice. Of those applicants attending a LSCB training course, 72.8% were offered a place on the course they applied for, however 19.9% of these applicants still cancelled their places indicating that access to preferred courses is not the cause of cancellations.

Courses were well attended by services such as One Point, Durham County Council Children Services, County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust and the Voluntary Sector. Attendance from Police, School staff and Adult Services (who all have key objectives in protecting children) has been low and this low attendance will be addressed in 2015/16.

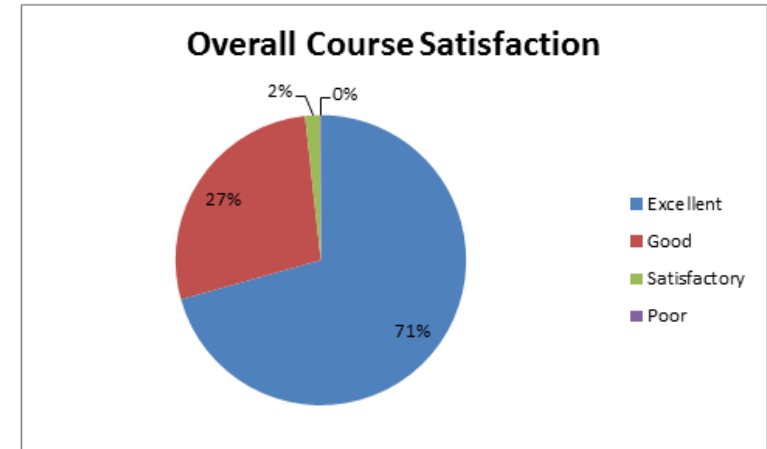
7.4 E-learning

Currently three e-learning courses are available on the Durham LSCB website; Awareness of Child Abuse and Neglect (ACAN), Safeguarding Children from Abuse by Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and PREVENT – Counter Terrorism awareness. Over the last year **1,707 people** have accessed and passed the ACAN course and **2,090 people** have accessed and passed the CSE e-learning.

7.5 Training Evaluation

Evaluation sheets for all training delivered by Durham LSCB are completed at the end of each training session. The training courses received very positive feedback with 71% of attendees marking the training they received as excellent. The chart opposite illustrates overall satisfaction levels of the courses delivered throughout 2014/15.

Follow up evaluations are carried with staff in the three months after attending a training session to assess the longer term benefits of training. 100% of those surveyed stated that the training had fulfilled their personal objectives set within the training and 81% of those surveyed agreeing that the learning from their training had improved outcomes for their clients.



'The course gave a clear picture of the process and actions needed by other professionals prior to the case being allocated to a social worker.'

'I feel able to explain the purpose of my assessment to the family which promotes their confidence to share their circumstances with me.'

'I am now more able to support the child / young person as I am now more aware of the long term effects Neglect has on them.'

'Greater understanding and knowledge of parental mental health, able to offer better advice when speaking to affected parents on the phone, understand what they are going through and their stresses and concerns better.'

'This course is applied on a daily basis, every hour of every day to change the lives of clients.'

'More comfortable when involved in core groups.'

'Gave me new ideas of activities to carry out with parents around children's needs.'

'I am wiser on how to get the child's views on the process.'

Comments from evaluation surveys 2014-15

7.6 Future Training

In 2015/16 several new courses will be offered. These are:

- LADO – Local Authority Designated Officer training. This two hour briefing is designed for Senior Nominated Officers within organisations that have responsibility for safeguarding issues including managing allegations against staff and volunteers
- Forced Marriage, Honour Based Violence and Female Genital Mutilation – This one day course will be delivered in collaboration with County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust and HALO (honour based violence and forced marriage project)
- Child Sexual Exploitation and Online Grooming – This full day aims to increase awareness of child sexual exploitation of internet abuse, online grooming and abusive images of children and provides staff with a greater understanding of the issues and processes so that children and young people can be safeguarded
- Child Sexual Exploitation training sessions will be developed specifically for taxi drivers operating in the Durham area
- Aligned Domestic Abuse training (amalgamated LSCB / Safe Durham training)
- Hidden Sentence – Funded by Think Family, this covers the impact of prison on children and families

Section 8: Future Priorities

The LSCB will continue to tackle child protection and safeguarding issues and support partners providing child safeguarding.

8.1 LSCB Priorities 2015/16

The Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board has agreed the following priorities for 2015/16:

- Reducing Child Sexual Exploitation
- Improving Early Help
- Reducing Neglect (contributory factors are Domestic Abuse; Alcohol misuse; Substance misuse; parental mental health)
- Reducing self-harm and improving young people's self-esteem
- Increase the voice of the Child
- Ensuring that each agency is accountable for delivery of its own safeguarding responsibilities

8.2 Priority areas of work

Alongside the identified priorities above the LSCB has highlighted priority areas of work for 2015/16, these are:

- Supporting and challenging the new Children's Services Transformation arrangements for the delivery of children's services
- Improving the performance and quality assurance information to support and improve performance on the Board's priorities
- Strengthening our engagement with children and young people especially those from vulnerable communities such as Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual and Transgender, young carers, Gypsy Roma Travellers, young people who offend and special needs children and young people
- Building on the Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) training offered to health professional and develop an Female Genital Mutilation Strategy / Practice Guidance
- Work with the County Durham Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Group (DASVEG) to promote the need for domestic abuse services to support children, young people and their families
- We will continue to keep a focus on information sharing supporting and promoting good practice across multi-agency teams
- Continue a programme of self-improvement

8.3 Plan on Page

Our 'Plan on a Page' (within our Business Plan 2015-18) identifies actions for our 2015-16 strategic priorities.

Outcome and Business Priorities	Objectives for 2015-18	Actions in 2015-16
Reducing Child Sexual Exploitation	Ensure services are targeted, responsive and effective	1) Deliver taxi driver awareness sessions to taxi drivers in County Durham
	Embed the prevent, protect and pursue agenda into practice and service	2) Promote the Erase website 3) Increase soft intelligence of perpetrators
Improving Early Help	Ensure services support families at an earlier stage to prevent child protection intervention	4) Embed the Early Help Strategy into practice 5) Review the understanding of the early help agenda across services
	Reduce the number of young people subject to child protection plans	6) Refresh the governance and focus of the Early Help Forums
Reducing Neglect (contributory factors are Domestic Abuse; Alcohol misuse; Substance misuse; parental mental health)	Ensure that services are targeted, responsive and efficient for children suffering from neglect	7) Refresh Early Help Strategy to include Neglect and Hidden Harm 8) Engage thematic partnerships (Safe Durham / Health and Wellbeing / Children and Families) and align joint actions on Neglect
	Reduce the impact of neglect contributory factors on the outcomes of children and young people suffering from neglect	
Reducing self-harm and improving young people's self-esteem	Ensure services are targeted, responsive and effective	9) Review the services for children and young people who self-harm
		10) Review the services for children and young people who experience poor self esteem
Increase the Voice of the Child	Views of children and young people are used to inform services and best practice	11) Embed the learning from the young people's reference group into service provision and practice
Ensuring that each agency is accountable for delivery of its own safeguarding responsibilities	Continued development of Leadership, Challenge and Learning (as below)	
Leadership	Ensure collective leadership across all agencies	12) Deliver new LSCB business plan
	Increase access of data and analysis and improve understanding	13) Embed Performance Management Framework
Challenge	Expand collective learning and improvement	14) Conduct SCR Lessons Learned events
	Develop effective policies and procedures across all agencies	15) Update the Child Protection Procedures and ensure document control process is in place
Learning	Develop effective systems, processes and polices through audits	16) Partners to implement recommendations from audits to ensure they are fulfilling their statutory obligations
	Use evidence of impact to challenge	17) Challenge agencies to demonstrate lessons learnt following a Serious Case Review
Learning	Ensure that the skills and knowledge of practitioners is effective, using learning from Serious Case Reviews	18) Publish SCR reports
		19) Continue to analyse impact of training 20) Progress the thematic tool for SCRs

These actions will be assigned to the appropriate sub groups and be monitored and reviewed quarterly by the LSCB Board.

Appendix 1 – LSCB Membership

Durham LSCB Membership

- The Board is chaired by an independent person commissioned by the Durham County Council Chief Executive
- National Probation Services – represented by the Head of Durham
- Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company – represented by Head of Services County Durham and Darlington
- North Durham, Dales, Easington & Sedgefield Clinical Commissioning Groups – represented by:
 - Director of Nursing (Vice-Chair of Durham LSCB)
 - Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children and Looked After Children
- NHS England – represented by the Deputy Director of Nursing
- Tees, Esk & Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust – represented by the Associate Director of Nursing (Safeguarding)
- County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust – represented by:
 - Associate Director of Patient Experience & Safeguarding
 - Designated Paediatrician
 - Head of Children and Families
- North Tees & Hartlepool Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust – represented by the Deputy Director of Nursing
- Cafcass (County Durham) – represented the Service Manager
- County Durham Council represented by:
 - Corporate Director, Children & Adults Services
 - Head of Children’s Services
 - Head of Adults Care
 - Head of Education
 - Strategic Manager - Youth Offending Service
 - Director of Public Health County Durham
 - Housing Solutions Manager
- National Offender Management Service – represented by Public Protection Manager

- Durham Constabulary – represented by the Force Lead for Safeguarding (Superintendent Level)
- The Voluntary & Community Sector – represented by the Voluntary Sector x2 Representative
- Schools represented by:
 - Durham Association of Secondary Heads
 - Durham Association of Primary Heads
 - Durham Association of Specialist Schools
- Further Education – Head of Student Services, Bishop Auckland College
- Lay Members – represented by two members of the community whose role is to support stronger public engagement in local child safety issues and to challenge the LSCB on the accessibility by the public and children and young people of its plans and procedures
- Lead Member – represented by the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People Services
- Faith Communities – represented by the Safeguarding Lead for Durham Diocese

LSCB Advisors

The Board is advised by:

- A member of Durham County Council Corporate & Legal Services nominated as the Board's legal advisor
- Durham LSCB Business Manager
- Head of Planning and Service Strategy, Children and Adult Services, Durham County Council
- Strategic Manager Policy Planning and Partnerships, Children and Adult Services, Durham County Council

Appendix 2 – LSCB Staffing and Budget 2014/16

Staffing:

The LSCB is supported by the following officers:

- LSCB Business Manager
- LSCB Quality & Performance Co-ordinator (deputises for Business Manager)
- LSCB Strategy and Development Officer
- LSCB Training Co-ordinator
- LSCB Admin Co-ordinator
- LSCB Administrator

LSCB Budget

The financial year runs from 1 April to 31 March in each year. Budget management is the responsibility of the Durham LSCB Business Manager and financial reports will be presented to the Board at six monthly intervals.

The majority of the budget relates to staffing costs, this includes costs associated with the independent chair. Other major costs relate to training and Serious Case Reviews.

The financial contributions from partner agencies in 2014/15 were as follows:

Partner	Contribution
Durham County Council	£171,604
Clinical Commissioning Groups	£95,097
Tees, Esk & Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust	£2,680
County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust	£2,680
North Tees & Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust	£2,680
Durham Constabulary	£29,285
Durham Tees Valley Probation Trust	£2,680
Hassockfield Training Centre	£2,680
Further Education Colleges	£1,400
NHS England	£2,000
Cafcass	£550
Total	£313,336

The financial contributions from partner agencies in 2015/16 are as follows:

Partner	Contribution
Durham County Council	£171,604
Clinical Commissioning Groups	£95,097
Tees, Esk & Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust	£2,680
County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust	£2,680
North Tees & Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust	£2,680
Durham Constabulary	£29,285
Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company	£1,340
National Probation Service	£1,340
Further Education Colleges	£2,100
Cafcass	£550
Total	£309,356

Appendix 3 – Partner updates in the wider partnership

Stronger Families

In April 2012, the Government launched the Troubled Families Programme, known locally as the Stronger Families Programme, to incentivise local authorities and their partners to turn around the lives of over 120,000 families by May 2015. Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board, the Children and Families Partnership and Safe Durham Partnership work jointly on this agenda.

Phase 1 of this programme aimed to work with families where children are not attending school, young people are committing crime, families are involved in anti-social behaviour and adults are out of work. The County Durham Stronger Families Programme met the target in March 2015 to turn around its targeted number of 1,320 families by May 2015. Families have received help and support delivered with a 'Think Family' multi-agency approach coordinated by a Lead Professional and a Team Around the Family utilising a single multi-agency care plan in order to reduce duplication and maximise impact.

Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs)

The two Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) that cover Durham are:

- NHS Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgfield Clinical Commissioning Group (DDES)
- NHS North Durham Clinical Commissioning Group (covering Derwentside, Chester-le-Street and Durham)

Both CCGs' Directors of Nursing and the Designated Professionals are active Board members and also support the LSCB chairing a LSCB sub-group. In addition, CCGs are active members of the Safe Durham Partnership Board and multi-agency strategic groups for Domestic Abuse, Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) and the strategic group for Looked After Children.

The CCGs have mandatory safeguarding children training well established for their staff. In addition, annual education sessions are offered to the CCG governing bodies regarding their corporate safeguarding responsibilities.

The CCGs have continued to support primary care in their safeguarding responsibilities by ensuring that training is delivered through Protected Learning Time (PLT) events. The CCGs audited the impact of the safeguarding training in the 2014 to 2015 academic year which has indicated

that 47% of attendees who had previously attended safeguarding children training had used the knowledge gained over the last year. 28% of the total attendees stated that their practice had changed procedures as a result of the training.

CCGs have also continued to support GP Practice safeguarding leads through the programme of quarterly development sessions. These are led by the Designated Professionals, are well attended and are generally evaluated positively.

North Durham CCG led the development of the ChildSafe Trigger Tool which provides a systematic way of ensuring all correspondence regarding trauma in children is looked at by GP Practices from a safeguarding perspective. The information then forms part of the whole picture of the child's life and experience.

The ChildSafe Trigger Tool was audited in April and May 2014 and showed it was generally embedded within primary care practice in North Durham. The ChildSafe Trigger Tool has been included as good practice in the updated national Royal College of GPs Safeguarding Children Toolkit.

The CCGs have strengthened the quality requirements within the NHS contract, requesting NHS provider Trusts to provide evidence of their training, policy and safeguarding activities and assurance that actions and any learning has been taken forward. The information is considered through clinical quality review groups, where CCGs and designated professionals are positioned to question and acknowledge practice.

The CCGs both evidence their commitment to the safeguarding of children in County Durham through a safeguarding declaration on their website and a safeguarding children strategic delivery plan. Both CCGs have a link on the front page of their websites to the LSCB procedures.

Durham Constabulary

Durham Constabulary continued to support schools in raising awareness around CSE and online safety to young people, including offering training at conferences and events. Durham Police also organised young people's conferences, which included learning from a range of agencies around CSE, internet safety and healthy relationships and respect. Safeguarding and Neighbourhoods have merged Commands ensuring the accurate education of children and their parents/carers around safeguarding issues is included in the Mini Police, Junior Neighbourhood Watch, Jet and Ben lessons, School Carousels and by Neighbourhood Teams who engage with young people.

The Police continue, in partnership with the LSCB, to monitor and improve practice when tackling CSE. In summer 2015 we will see the implementation of a dedicated multi-agency team (ERASE Team) which will focus on early identification, problem solving and offender disruption to reduce the number of children who are frequently reported Missing From Home and reduce the risk of Child Sexual Exploitation.

Durham Police are the first Force nationally to pilot pioneering training and techniques to spot warning signs around those who may pose a risk to children by providing an understanding of how sex offenders operate. The training and tools will continue to be developed and multiagency training offered in 2015 and 2016.

The Durham Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and Durham Constabulary continue to work closely with a range of other agencies to improve outcomes for young people. In December 2014 the PCC held a 'One Year On' Regional Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy. Since its launch work there has been a number of achievements including employing a worker from Harbour to work within the MASH who engages victims at critical times to offer support and help. The strategy will also focus more closely on child sexual exploitation.

In January 2015 the Force launched its 'through the eyes of a child' campaign to focus officers attending domestic abuse incidents to consider what life is like for the children in that family. In support of this initiative officers are required at every domestic abuse incident to wear body worn cameras, speak with any children in the home and view their living conditions including bedrooms and to capture their voice and act upon any concerns. At the same time the Safe Durham Partnership has increased the numbers of its Independent Domestic Abuse Advocates to improve the support we give to victims. A New Domestic Abuse Team will launch in September 2015, focusing on those standard and medium risk victims to make sure they and their families are supported and to ensure perpetrators are disrupted using tools such as domestic violence protection orders and notices and perpetrator programmes.

County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust

This update provides an overview of the activity and developments which has been undertaken within the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (CDDFT) around safeguarding children during the 12 month period April 2014 to March 2015.

Safeguarding Children Training – During 2014/15 the Safeguarding Training Team undertook a review training needs analysis is in line with the Safeguarding Children and Young People: roles and competences for health staff, Intercollegiate Document 2014 and refreshed the Safeguarding Children Training Strategy to reflect the changes identified.

Central Referral Unit (CRU) Durham – All domestic abuse cases are reviewed by the Police within the CRU and cases screened as medium and high are circulated to Health Visitors, School Nurses, Family Nurse Partnership and Midwives by the safeguarding teams.

Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Durham – A bid has been drafted to increase the health resources within the MASH.

SystemOne – This is being developed as an information management system for the safeguarding team. This will increase efficiency within the team allowing enhanced information exchange at an operational level. Systems and policies have been developed and it is planned for implementation by September 2015.

Policies and Procedures – A full review of Safeguarding Children Policies and Procedures has been undertaken in line with the publication of Working Together 2015.

Safeguarding audits – A supervision audit has been completed which has informed the policy development and provides assurances around quality of supervision. In addition a Key Performance Indicator (KPI) audit was completed which identified the level of compliance with regard to Safeguarding KPI's. The audit also allowed staff to comment and provide feedback on the various safeguarding services. The feedback from staff was generally positive and complimentary towards the staff and services involved.

Safeguarding model - Safeguarding team and Family Nurse Partnership – The FNP safeguarding model is now well embedded into practice and follows guidance in the FNP manual.

Acute Senior Nurse Safeguarding role – The team currently has 1 WTE Acute Senior Nurse Safeguarding Children (SNSC) who provides safeguarding advice, support, training and supervision to both Durham and Darlington Acute sites and allied health professionals, including the Sexual Health Team. Several audits are on-going as part of this role. Task forces have been established for Emergency Departments on both hospital sites. A safeguarding link group has been implemented and meets bi monthly to promote good communication between Neonatal Unit, Maternity, Paediatrics and Specialist Nurses. Acute SNSC ensures staff awareness/ updates are provided regarding policy and practice by delivering regular briefings. Acute SNSC works very closely with Consultant Paediatricians and is the key link between Acute sites and community.

Female Genital Mutilation – A time limited task and finish group including the Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator, Named Nurses and Specialist Midwife are leading the development of Trust wide protocols and pathways regarding Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

CP-IS (Child Protection Information Sharing) – CP-IS focuses on improving the protection of children who have previously been identified as vulnerable by Children's Services when they visit the following NHS unscheduled care settings:

- Emergency Departments
- Walk-in Centres

- Out of Hours GPs
- Minor Injuries Units
- Paediatric Wards
- Maternity Units
- Ambulance Services

The project will link the IT systems of NHS unscheduled care to those used by child protection teams, to enable minimal information on a restricted set of children to be shared.

- Those with a Child Protection Plan
- Those classed as Looked After (i.e. children with full and interim care orders or voluntary care agreements)
- Any pregnant woman whose unborn child has a pre-birth protection plan.

A project team has been established to take CP-IS forward for the Trust and a project plan is being prepared.

Looked After Children (LAC) – There are a number of updates under this subject as follows:

- **Initial Health Assessments:** The number of IHA's being completed within the statutory 20 working day timescale, has increased from 7.6% to 72.2%. Improvements to date have been influenced by multi-agency implementation of the Initial Health Assessment Escalation policy this is on-going
- **Review Health Assessments:** Performance for RHA's 2014-15 has been reported by Local Authority at Durham 92.3% which is much higher than the 86% target
- **Teenage Initial Health Assessments** flow charts have been developed and implemented to ensure all young people are offered an Initial Health Assessments with a Paediatrician and if declined this is followed up
- **On-going LAC audit:** health care plans are audited to ensure standards are maintained following briefing sessions being provided to staff to ensure a high quality of assessments
- **Policy update:** The Adoption Policy has been updated and is awaiting ratification

- **Joint LAC and Safeguarding Supervision Policy** This has been updated to include recommendations from School Nurse and Health Visitor Service Specification awaiting ratification
- **Reorganisation:** Following reorganisation the LAC processes and practices have been standardised across Durham and Darlington to ensure equity of care across the County. The LAC administrators are now to be co-located for Durham and Darlington to ensure continuity and provision is maintained for working week
- **Working Relationships:** Close working relationships have been developed with the Local Authority and CCGs joint working a number of work streams for example gap analysis of the new promoting the health and wellbeing of looked after children (2015)
- **Fostering and Adoption Panels** have representation from the LAC nurses in Durham and Darlington. There is also representation on the Placement Resource Panel.

National Probation Services and Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company

The Ministry of Justice 'Transforming Rehabilitation' programme of Probation reforms split probation services into two new organisations during 2014/15. These are:

- A new public sector National Probation Service (NPS) dealing with all those who pose the highest risk of serious harm to the public.
- Twenty one regional private sector Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs) managing all other offenders
- Extending statutory supervision and rehabilitation to those offenders sentenced to less than 12 months in custody
- Reorganising the prison estate to provide 'resettlement' prisons and a nationwide 'through the gate' resettlement service

Offenders managed by the new National Probation Service include all those who pose the highest risk of serious harm to the public – this group will include those subject to Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements. The new National Probation Service will continue to carry out assessments of the risk of serious harm posed by each offender and advise the courts and Parole Board accordingly.

All other offenders are managed and supervised by Community Rehabilitation Companies.

In response to these reforms partners have been working together to mitigate identified risks and issues including; migration and splitting of local probation services and systems; working arrangements for statutory and non-statutory responsibilities, timely agency access to offenders in resettlement prisons and 'through the gate' provision.

Durham Tees Valley Probation Trust contract with the Ministry of Justice ended 31 May 2014. Probation staff were identified and aligned to either the National Probation Service or the Community Rehabilitation Company with the migration and splitting of probation services and systems taking place 1 June 2014.

The public sector Community Rehabilitation Company provided probation services until the end of January 2015 before a mobilisation phase transferring over to ARRC (Achieving Real Change in Communities). ARRC is a local mutual with members including Durham Tees Valley Probation Trust, Local Authorities, Housing Association and Private Investors. The Contract Packaged Area for our local area covers the existing Durham Tees Valley Probation Trust boundaries (Durham and Cleveland).

Our focus now turns to the implementation of the CRC Service Delivery Model. As this becomes available partners within the County Durham Partnership will continue to updated as we adapt delivery of services to improve the management of offenders

Below is a simple explanation of 'Who does what':

Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company Limited (CRC): The CRC delivers contracted offender management rehabilitation services in the community and will be the main point of day to day contact for partners, organisations and service uses.

ARRC (Achieving Real Change in Communities): The ARCC are small group of investors who own shares in Durham Tees Valley CRC. They won the Ministry of Justice contract for offender management rehabilitation services in the Durham Tees Valley area and direct the CRC to deliver the contract.

National Probation Service (NPS): The NPS is a statutory criminal justice service that supervises high-risk offenders released into the community. The local NPS Durham Area is co-terminus with the Durham Constabulary area and will be the main point of contact for partners, organisations and service uses.

National Offender Management Service (NOMS): The NOMS Contract Management Team work on behalf of the Ministry of Justice to monitor / review compliance of the contract. The Ministry of Justice are the commissioners of the contract.

Durham LSCB Annual Report 2014 / 2015 - Safeguarding Children in County Durham

The Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board has a statutory duty to prepare and publish an Annual Report which describes how our partners safeguard vulnerable children and young people in County Durham. Our primary responsibility is to provide a way for the local organisations that have a responsibility in respect of child welfare, to agree how they will work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in County Durham and to ensure that they do so effectively.

Over the last year we have reviewed and updated our vision to ***'Every child and young person in County Durham feels safe and grows up safe from harm'***.

This Annual Report gives an account of the Board's work over the past year to improve the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. The report reflects the activity of the LSCB and its sub-groups against its priorities for 2014/15. It covers the major changes and improvements of our partners' service delivery, where they link with the Board's overall strategies and the impact we have had. It also reports on the Serious Case Reviews and Child Death Reviews undertaken and identifies the priorities we will take forward into 2015/16.

Please ask us if you would like this document summarised in another language or format.

 Braille  Audio  Large print

العربية Arabic (中文 (繁體字)) Chinese اردو Urdu

polski Polish ਪੰਜਾਬੀ Punjabi Español Spanish

বাংলা Bengali हिन्दी Hindi Deutsch German

Français French Türkçe Turkish Melayu Malay

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