

# Annual Report

2016 / 2017

Safeguarding Children

in County Durham

[www.durham-lscb.org.uk](http://www.durham-lscb.org.uk)



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## 1. Foreword by Independent Chair

Welcome to the third Annual Report published since I became the Independent Chair of Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). 2016/17 has been another year of progress for Durham LSCB following the rigorous Ofsted inspection in February 2016. The recommendations made by Ofsted were progressed and implemented as part of our Business Plan for 2016/17.

Whilst the inspection by Ofsted rated Durham LSCB as 'Good' there is no room for complacency and I will continue to scrutinise, challenge and ask the difficult questions of partner organisations. This is a fundamental role of the Independent Chair and I will continue to do this constructively and to seek constant improvement in services. I am repeatedly encouraged by all the good work I see delivered by our partners in County Durham.

This annual report provides local people with an account of the LSCB's work over the past year to improve the safeguarding and wellbeing of children and young people across County Durham.

The report reflects the activity of the LSCB and its sub-groups against the agreed priorities for 2016/17. It also reports on the Serious Case Reviews and Child Death Reviews undertaken and identifies the priorities we will take forward into 2017/18.

As always, the children and young people of County Durham are at the heart of all we do and our vision of **'Every child and young person in County Durham feels safe and grows up safe from harm'** continues to drive us forward.

We have continued to increase the visibility and the 'voice of the child' in our plans and actions, and to understanding more fully the experience of the child or young person receiving help and support.



Our work has been recognised by Investing In Children and as part of the Children Commissioner's National Takeover Challenge we have worked with young people to develop an interactive Annual Report for Young People.

My thanks go to the many partner agencies for their hard work and dedication during a time of huge demand and whose commitment and motivation helps deliver our shared priorities.

I would also like to thank and recognise the contribution of our Lay Members and the Children and Young People Portfolio Holder who bring another layer of independent scrutiny to the work of the LSCB.



*Jane Geraghty  
Durham LSCB Independent Chair*

## 2. Introduction

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. 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 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.

Section 4 describes the local governance arrangements and structure of Durham LSCB, the linkages to other strategic partnerships across County Durham.

Section 5 highlights 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 2016/17 priorities.

Section 6 covers our Performance Monitoring Framework and describes the multi-agency audits we have undertaken. It also provides an overview of Serious Case Reviews; Child Death Reviews and the use of restraint in Aycliffe Secure Services Centre.

Section 7 outlines our multi-agency training provision and describes the marketing and communication activity undertaken by the LSCB.

Lastly, Section 8 identifies the priorities Durham LSCB will take forward into 2017/18.

The Annual Report 2016/17 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 fulfilled.



*The information presented in this Annual Report is drawn from a wide range of sources from across the County Durham Partnership. These include the County Durham Integrated Needs Assessment; Lessons Learned from local Serious Case Reviews; the Child Death Review Annual Report; the Local Child Sexual Exploitation Profile; the Safe Durham Partnership Strategic Assessment and a range of Durham LSCB strategy documents and action plans.*

### 3. Local Data

County Durham stretches from the rural North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the west to the Heritage Coastline in the east and is the home to a range of national treasures including Durham Cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The county has a very diverse combination of communities ranging from some of the most sparsely populated rural areas in the country through to the larger towns and Durham City; each area with its own needs and aspirations.



In 2015, there were an estimated **519,695 people** living in County Durham



Between 2001 and 2015, the **0-17 population** in County Durham has **fallen by 5.9%** compared to a national increase of 4.2% over the same period



The County has **12 major centres of population** including Durham City, Chester-le-Street, Newton Aycliffe, Consett and Peterlee



Although levels of deprivation in County Durham have improved we are ranked the **75th most deprived area** out of 326 local authorities in England



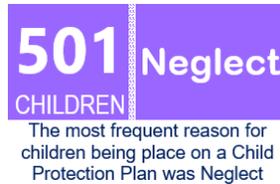
**Child poverty** in County Durham is higher than the England average, with **22.5% of children** under 16 years living in poverty



Data source: Office for National Statistics (ONS)

## Local Safeguarding Data 2016/17 (Provisional Data)

**501 children** were subject to a Child Protection Plan (50 per 10,000 population aged 0-18).



The percentage of Child Protection Plans that **lasted two years or more is 1.5%**.

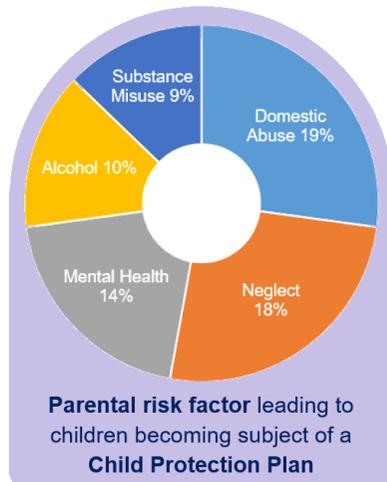
Children on a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time, within two years of the previous plan has **fallen to 4%**.

**Neglect** was the most frequent reason for children being placed on a Child Protection Plan in 2016/17.

**78.1% of children** who were made subject of a Child Protection Plan under five years old were made so due to neglect.

**Domestic abuse** continues to be the main parental risk factor leading to children becoming subject of a Child Protection Plan, accounting for **19% of child protection conferences** recorded for 2016/17.

Neglect (18%), Mental Health (14%), Alcohol (10%) and Substance Misuse (9%) are also significant factors.



**376** cases discussed at a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC).

**815 children** are in the Looked After system.



**5 children** are in Private Fostering arrangements.

**37 children** and young people were reported missing from home more than once.

**138** Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) referrals. Of those targeted **80% are girls**. The average age of victims is 12 years old.

**Online Grooming** is the most common model of CSE.

**Over 1160** early help plans completed with a successful outcome with a **40% increase** in the families receiving early help.

**31** separate actions identified from the Section 11 audit.

**3 Serious Case Reviews** and 1 Learning Lessons Review with seven learning events throughout the year for practitioners.

**84 training courses** attended by a total of **1,520** staff. **11,889** e-learning courses completed.

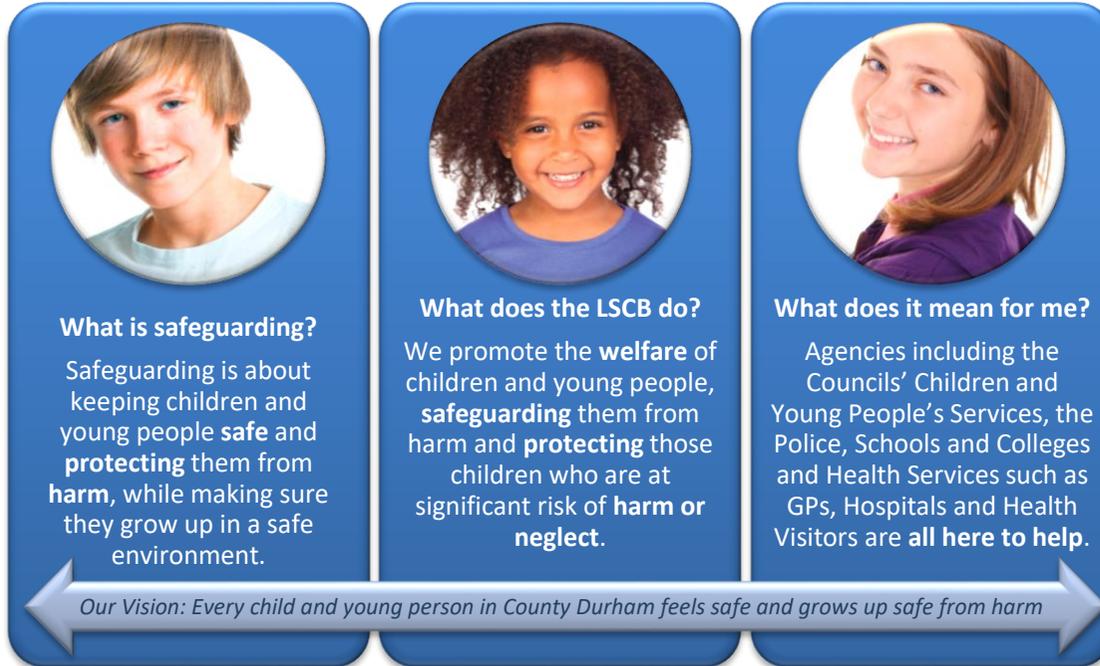


e-learning completed 6

## 4. Governance and Structure

### Local Safeguarding Children Board

Each local area is required by Law to have a Local Safeguarding Children Board. The LSCB is a statutory body established in legislation (Children Act 2004) and works according to national guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015'.



**What is safeguarding?**  
Safeguarding is about keeping children and young people **safe** and **protecting** them from **harm**, while making sure they grow up in a safe environment.

**What does the LSCB do?**  
We promote the **welfare** of children and young people, **safeguarding** them from harm and **protecting** those children who are at significant risk of **harm or neglect**.

**What does it mean for me?**  
Agencies including the Councils' Children and Young People's Services, the Police, Schools and Colleges and Health Services such as GPs, Hospitals and Health Visitors are **all here to help**.

*Our Vision: Every child and young person in County Durham feels safe and grows up safe from harm*

The Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board is chaired by an independent person and met bi-monthly in 2016/17. The Board will move to quarterly meetings for 2017/18 with two development sessions taking the total number of meeting back to six a year. Durham LSCB is supported by the LSCB Business Unit which is hosted by the Local Authority.

The functions of the LSCB are:

- **To develop policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area**
- **To communicate and raise awareness of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children**
- **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 local authority and their Board partners on lessons to be learned**

The governance and effectiveness arrangements form the formal agreement between the Board and all partner agencies. It outlines accountability; key purposes; functions and tasks; membership; and agreed standards and expectations of LSCB members.

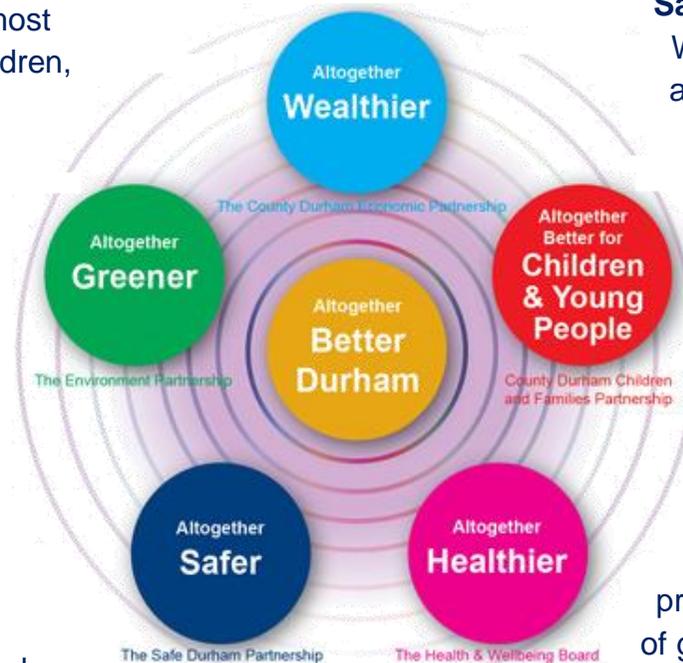
The Children and Social Work Act received Royal Assent in April 2017 and sets out a new framework for improving the organisation and delivery of multi-agency arrangements to protect and safeguard children. In Durham the established Chief Officers Safeguarding Group will continue to have this as a standing agenda item and will develop and progress local arrangements and future safeguarding models throughout 2017/18.

## Working across Partnerships

Durham LSCB works with a wide range of themed partnerships. Together they form the overarching County Durham Partnership and work towards an 'Altogether Better Durham'.

Each of the five thematic partnerships has a specific focus:

- **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.
- **The Health and Wellbeing Board** – Promotes integrated working between commissioners of health services, public health and social care services, to improve health and wellbeing.
- **The Safe Durham Partnership** – Tackles crime, disorder, substance misuse, anti-social behaviour and to reduce re-offending.
- **The Environment Partnership** – Improves, transforms and sustains the environment to support the economy and the wellbeing of local communities.
- **The Economic Partnership** – Works to make County Durham an area where people want to live, work, invest and visit; whilst enabling residents and businesses to achieve their full economic potential.



Durham LSCB will continue to engage and challenge these partnerships where appropriate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in County Durham.

We have strengthened our joint working with a range of partnerships on shared or similar priorities. Examples include:

### Safe Durham Partnership

Working together in respect of domestic abuse, alcohol misuse, substance misuse and counter terrorism (PREVENT duty). Aligning and improving work within sexual violence, sexual exploitation and female genital mutilation.

### Children and Families Partnership

Joint working to increase the voice of the child through work that includes the student voice survey and the takeover challenge.

### Health and Wellbeing Board

Greater integration of the self-harm and suicide prevention agenda and the development of a range of guidance and support packages aimed to reduce self-harm and suicides.

 **More Information:** Find out more information about [County Durham Partnership website](#)

## 5. Achievements against 2016/17 Priorities

- **Ofsted** rated the effectiveness of Durham LSCB as 'Good' in May 2016. In their inspection document Ofsted reported that: *'Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board is an ambitious and reflective Board whose effectiveness and functioning has significantly improved since the peer review of October 2014'*.
- A **new methodology for SCRs** developed with learning events to over 700 staff. **Impact:** This contributes to the professional development of staff and their understanding of local safeguarding concerns and themes.
- Launch of new online **Child Protection Procedures**. **Impact:** Providing a web based solution that is fully searchable and allows the user to access content from a wide range of devices.
- Interactive **Annual Report for Young People**. **Impact:** To put children at the heart of the development and production of an annual report that provides general safeguarding information from a young person's perspective.
- Trained over **1,800 taxi drivers** in CSE with safeguarding conditions now built into Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy. **Impact:** Taxi drivers will continue to receive training and can contribute to the police intelligence picture.
- **Specialist Briefings** – Exploitation, Grooming and Radicalisation / Intervene to Protect a Child / Understanding Victims of Rape and Sexual Abuse Masterclass. **Impact:** These specialist briefing sessions have enabled a wider variety of staff to receive information and guidance that can be incorporated into their working practices.
- Updated **CSE Local Profile** **Impact:** Provides partners with the most up-to-date information and used to coordinate work to protect and support victims while disrupting offenders.
- Developed a range of **tackling neglect toolkits**. The Neglect Practice Guidance and Practice Toolkit / 0-19 Level of Need / Home Environment Assessment Tool; all rolled out. **Impact:** These toolkits will help practitioners identify the indicators of neglect or poor home conditions and the adverse impact these may have on outcomes.
- Updated **single assessment procedures** reflecting the added focus on neglect and hidden harm. **Impact:** It brings together a range of staff, expertise, knowledge and skills to meet needs at the earliest possible opportunity to keep children and young people safe from the risk of adverse outcomes.
- **Domestic abuse workers** based in One Point and part of Early Help Forums are now well established. **Impact:** Improved multi-agency work to reduce the effect of hidden harms on children and young people.
- Developed a **self-harm support pathway** and a self-harm education package for all staff including schools and GP's. **Impact:** Provides a consistent threshold for intervention and support for a range of staff to implement and utilise.
- Introduced **web-based multi-agency auditing**. **Impact:** Reducing demands on partner administration during audit participation.
- Website restructured with 13,591 users **97,907 website hits** and 11,158 awareness raising materials circulated. **Impact:**

Safeguarding information, strategies and guidance documents are now easier to find and more accessible.

- **84 training courses** delivered and attended by 1,520 staff. **Impact:** This supports practitioners, improving their learning, understanding and assessment skills.
- Virtual College 'total package' of **e-learning** purchased. **Impact:** Providing partners with the opportunity to offer a range of safeguarding e-learning to all staff through the unlimited licenses of the total package.
- Over 6,000 people have completed the **PREVENT duty** counter terrorism e-learning. **Impact:** raising the awareness of the PREVENT duty and providing resources for education staff to incorporate PREVENT into their policies and procedures.

## Professional Challenge

The LSCB has a role as a responsible authority for monitoring licence applications under the Licensing Act 2003. We challenge applicants on their actions to protect children and young people and instigate a licensing review for failure to uphold licensing objectives.



A continued challenge from the Independent Chair is to improve the voice of the child. This has resulted in collaborative work with children's groups, the voluntary and community sector, the police cadets and Area Action Partnerships. A direct impact of listening to young people is the continued inclusion of the self-harm priority for 2016/17 and the community visits undertaken.

The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) challenges agencies if agreed actions are not progressed within timescales and escalation processes are in place. Following a thematic review the CDOP have challenged STP leads / Clinical Network in relation to the findings for maternity services. The findings of the thematic review have also been shared with the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Similarly, the Board monitors actions for learning following a Serious Case Review to ensure actions are progressed and implemented.

The LSCB have introduced challenge clinics to hold organisations to account following the Section 11 audit and multi-agency audits.

Professional challenge also takes place at a senior level through a Chief Officers Safeguarding Group which includes the LSCB Independent Chair, Durham County Council, local Clinical Commissioning Groups, local NHS Foundation Trusts and Durham Constabulary. This forum allows the opportunity to challenge and share information on safeguarding issues including:

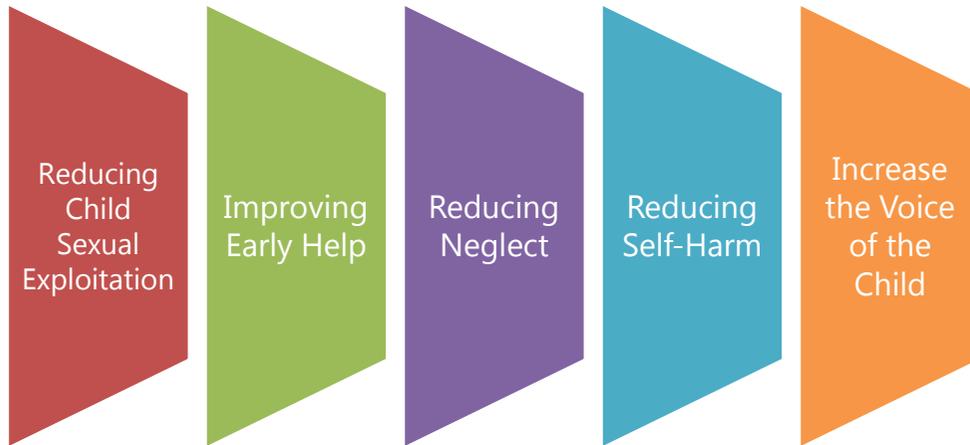
- Lessons learnt and themes from Serious Case Reviews
- Quality, impact and development of frontline practice
- Outcomes of multi-agency audits and action plans
- Emerging safeguarding concerns or trends

## Progress on LSCB priorities 2016/17

### LSCB Priorities 2016/17

Durham LSCB held a development day in February 2016 to review progress on the current priorities; consider key challenges; and to set its future priorities.

In setting the priorities for 2016/17 the Board considered a number of presentations and information sources which resulted in reaffirming the following strategic priorities:



Click on the tab take you to the priority sections in the annual report.

**ERASE EXPLOITATION**

- **Online Grooming** is the most common model
- Of those young people targeted **80% are girls**
- The **average age** of victims is **12 yrs old**

## Priority 1 – Reducing Child Sexual Exploitation

### What is Child Sexual Exploitation?

- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a form of **child abuse**
- It can happen to anyone who is **persuaded, bullied or forced** into having **sex or sexual activity** such as taking and sharing naked photos of themselves
- This can be in return for things like **alcohol, money, drugs** or other gifts
- It can happen **online and face to face**
- It **ruins lives** and has serious **long-term effects** on young people and their families

Multi-agency work is coordinated through the LSCB Missing and Exploited group. Its remit is to monitor partner activity and improve the services and responses to reported missing and absent children and the multi-agency response to Child Sexual Exploitation.

Over the past year partner agencies have been subject to various inspections such as Ofsted, HMIC, CQC and peer reviews. Where inspectors have looked at partnership arrangements to protect children from sexual exploitation they have reported good and robust partnership working and systems.

The 2016 analysis of CSE in County Durham identified strong links between sexual exploitation and those young people who are reported missing from home. The motivation for going missing include family conflict, alcohol or drug misuse or relationship issues.

Following consultation in 2016 the DfE have recently revised the definition for Child Sexual Exploitation.

*Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.*

In response the Missing and Exploited group have refreshed and published the Durham LSCB Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy and reviewed all LSCB training and materials to ensure messages tackling sexual exploitation remain consistent.

#### Some of the work we are doing to tackle CSE

- Support the **ERASE brand** - website, media campaign Erase team, young peoples conference, education
- Taxi Licensing – over **1800 drivers trained** and safeguarding included as part of taxi license conditions
- CSE Local Profile / Audits / CSE Strategy to provide partners with the most **up-to-date information** and to protect and support victims while disrupting offenders
- Widened CSE **training and awareness** to Area Action Partnerships (AAP's) Housing, Schools and Colleges, Other Council Services, Voluntary Sector etc
- Refreshed the CSE **Risk Assessment Tool**

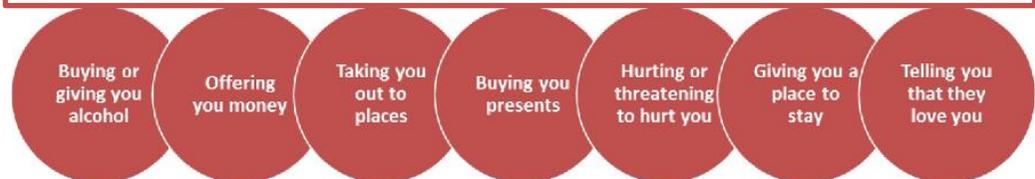
#### CSE – Planned work for 2017

Research will be undertaken by the ERASE Team on push and pull factors (motivations) of missing young people in County Durham. This will include a review of return interviews and will also assess the quality of the intelligence gathered.

Hot spot locations will be identified and will be used to inform targeted prevention work under Operation Makesafe. This expands the awareness work conducted with taxi drivers and will focus on hotels, bed & breakfasts and takeaway outlets.

The LSCB will support the police funded Child Advocacy Centre pilot which is aimed at children who are victims of sexual abuse and is intended to improve the victim's journey from report to court and beyond. At the centre of the pilot will be a new 'team around the child' to provide a seamless therapeutic service.

In **school sessions** young people told us that these were some of the things that people use to **manipulate** a young person in to **sexual activity**



 **More Information:** Find out more information about [Missing and Exploited Children](#)

## Priority 2 – Improving Early Help

### What is Early Help?

- Early Help is a phrase we use to explain one of the ways to **support families** who are **having a hard time**
- Every year many families face difficulties; **talking about problems** and **getting help** before things get worse really does work
- Families can **learn new skills** to tackle every day problems
- Getting early help means **less children and families** get to a point where they **feel they can't cope anymore**

The majority of children and young people in County Durham will grow up and reach their potential in a supportive environment. However, some children, young people and their families face difficulties and problems. The Early Help and Neglect sub group reviews and improves the referral pathways and access to help and support for families and supports three Early Help Locality Forums.

Over the last year the Neglect Practice Guidance; 0-19 Level of Need; Home Environment Assessment Tool; Outcome Framework and Practice Toolkit have all been refreshed and updated.

- **40% increase** in the families receiving early help
- Over **1160 early help plans completed** with a successful outcome



Early Help has been embedded as a key principle in a broad range of partnership work and has many cross cutting themes and objectives promoted by the LSCB. The impact of this can be seen through a range of activities in Children's Centres, One Point, Families First services and the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) delivering early help as mainstream work.

The Early Help Forums are now well established providing an effective line of communication between the LSCB and frontline practitioners. They facilitate collaborative working as well as identifying gaps in early help provision for children and families.

Early Help will be removed as a priority in 2017/18.

### Some of the work to support Early Help

- **Joint working** of PCSOs and One Point Service
- Drug & Alcohol Service delivering **Strengthening Families** Parenting Programme with One Point practitioners
- CAMHS and One Point Youth Workers delivering **Relax Kids** (emotional wellbeing) within Schools
- **Domestic abuse** workers aligned to a One Point Hub to support the effective joint working with children and families
- Learning shared from **Early Help Audits** (Team and the Family / School referrals into First Contact / Chronologies)
- Speech and language **learning workshop** for over 80 members of Early Help Forums

 **More Information:** Find out more information about [Early Help](#)

## Priority 3 – Reducing Neglect

### What is Neglect?

- Child neglect is a **failure** to look after a child and could result in **poor health** or development
- Children (including unborn babies), need food, water, shelter, warmth, protection and health care to **grow and develop**
- Children need their parents or carers to **love and care** for them
- Neglect can also include **physical abuse, emotional abuse and sexual abuse**

Neglect is a long term, chronic form of harm to children and is the greatest single cause of children needing protection and care in County Durham.



Parental issues of domestic abuse, mental health, alcohol misuse and substance misuse continue to be key issues known collectively as Hidden Harm factors.

Durham LSCB has strong links to the Drug and Alcohol Harm Reduction Group and have contributed to the closer working of treatment services supporting children, young people and their families. We have 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.

Durham LSCB continues to challenge partners to improve responses to Neglect.

### Some of the work to tackle Neglect

- Domestic abuse **outreach workers** in One Point, Families First teams and the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
- Audit of agency cooperation where **substance misuse** is identified as a parental risk factor contributing to a Child Protection Plan
- Provision of **specialist training** for multi-agency practitioners supporting children identified as at risk or subject to neglect by their parent or carers
- Utilised improved national guidance and **lessons learned** from Serious Case Reviews to develop a range of practice guidance
- Operation Encompass providing **information to schools** and **timely care and support for the child** when a domestic abuse incident has occurred the previous evening and the child was in the house

Where the right support and intervention is provided to a child or young person it can have a dramatic effect on them and their life opportunities.

*I know it was \*\*\*\* that got me in care but when I first met you I knew I could trust you; **everything in my life changed**. You helped me understand more about the situation I lived in.*

*You helped organise appointments with CHAMS and school, so I can have extra support for me to cope.*

*I've **laughed** and **cried**, thank you for **listening** to me and reminding me how to stay on the **right track**.*

*You have also made me think of what I would like to be - a social worker, just like you. You are my **inspiration**.*

***Thank you** for being my guardian angel 😊😊*



## Neglect – Planned work for 2017

Durham LSCB recognise that although good progress has been delivered by services to tackle neglect too many children and young people continue to suffer the consequences of growing up in neglectful circumstances.

It is important to remember that **neglect can be fatal** to a child

A greater emphasis on neglect is needed and the LSCB has responded to this. As early help interventions are now embedded into mainstream work the Early Help and Neglect sub group will refocus specifically on neglect.

A new Tackling Neglect Strategy and delivery plan will be developed and be aligned to four strategic objectives:

- **Understand Neglect** – To understand the local picture of neglect; to raise awareness of neglect and the thresholds for intervention.
- **Early Identification** – To improve the recognition and assessment of neglect for children to ensure the most appropriate response is given.
- **Effective Provision** – To offer effective, evidence based interventions that reduce neglect before statutory intervention is required and to act decisively where these do not result in change for the child.
- **Family Focus** – To use the experience of our families and the voice of the child in the development and delivery of services.

 **More Information:** Find out more information about [Neglect](#)

## Priority 4 – Reducing Self-Harm

### What is Self-Harm?

- **Self-harm** is when you hurt or damage your own body on purpose. It's usually a way of **cop**ing with **emotional stress**
- Over half of people who die by **suicide** have self-harmed before
- Self-harm is linked to **anxiety and depression**, this can be a build-up of intense feelings
- The number of **10-24 year olds** admitted to hospital because of self-harm in County Durham is **lower** than the England average (*Public Health Profiles*)

In previous annual reports we reported that the inclusion of the self-harm priority occurred as a direct impact of listening to young people.

We have made links with the County Durham Health and Wellbeing Board's work to tackle the underlying factors for suicide, attempted suicide and self-harm.

Young people say that **conflict with family** members, teachers, **boyfriends and girlfriends** are common reasons for self-harm. This often makes young people feel **pushed away**, left out, feel **embarrassed or ashamed** about self-harming themselves, and that they fear **being judged**.

The Self-Harm sub group has developed a self-harm support pathway, practice guidance and training package for practitioners in line with the 0-19 level of need threshold document.

The pathway is aimed at practitioners and tackles the causal factors for suicide, attempted suicide and self-harm issues.

The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) has reviewed its service provision to develop a Single Point of Access. The referral criteria covers children, young people up to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday with mental health needs or distress which is impacting upon their day-to-day functioning and cannot be resolved with appropriate intervention by universal and targeted services.

Self-harm will be removed as a priority in 2017/18.

### Some of the work to tackle Self-Harm

- Development of a **self-harm support pathway**
- Development of a **guidance on standards** for education concerning self-harm
- Development of an agreed **education package** for all staff including schools and GP's
- Development of an agreed **mind-ed package** for all staff
- Developed a **universal package** for schools for all staff

 **More Information:** Find out more information about [County Durham Suicide Prevention](#)

## Priority 5 – Increase the voice of the Child

### What is the Voice of the Child?

- The **voice of the child** is a description we use to make sure that services take **young people's views and opinions** into account when they plan services
- Staff working with children and young people want to know **what they think** and how things can be made **better for them**
- Our message to all children and young people involved in services is *'all the people working to keep you safe will always consider what you say and **how you feel**'*

Over the last two years Durham LSCB has continued to increase the visibility and the 'voice of the child' in our plans and actions, and to understand more fully the experience of the child or young person receiving help and support.

In 2016 this work was recognised by 'Investing In Children' and the Children and Young People's Reference Group.

Young people have shared their experience of services in workshop and conference events such as lesson learned events, the suicide prevention conference and the ERASE conference.

*'They provided a more **thought provoking human element** and a deeper comprehension of their far reaching experiences'*



The LSCB met **young people** in their **local areas** to learn more about what is important to them.



As part of the Children Commissioners Takeover Challenge we have worked with young people to develop an interactive LSCB Annual Report for Young People. Written in clear language, it provides general safeguarding information from a young person's perspective. The work has received a gold commendation from the commissioner.



We have directly engaged with a range of young people to provide the content for each of the sections. Groups within secondary schools and the police cadets have acted as an editor's group; providing feedback and shaping how the final document looks. You can read a copy [here](#).



## 6. Performance Monitoring and Quality Assurance

Durham LSCB continually monitors the quality, timeliness and effectiveness of multi-agency practice through the Performance Management Framework.

Where gaps are identified, implications for the LSCB are considered and any agreed actions are progressed through the business planning arrangements and the work of the LSCB sub-groups.

LSCB action plans against priorities and performance are reported, monitored and challenged.

### Ongoing Quality Assurance

- Monitor **partner compliance** with the statutory requirement to have effective safeguarding arrangements in place (Section 11)
- Carry out **multi-agency audits** and identify lessons to be learned and make recommendations for future improvement and feeding into LSCB training
- Produce a series of multi-agency audit reports to inform the LSCB Board of the **quality of work** being undertaken and its impact on outcomes for individual children and young people
- Use a series of **performance scorecards** for priority areas

Serious Case Reviews are published on the Durham LSCB website for a period of 12 months.

Durham LSCB continue to implement the recommendations from Serious Case Reviews.

We host learning events where key messages and the lessons learned from the published Serious Case Reviews undertaken are shared with practitioners and agencies.

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

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



## Multi-agency Audits

Within this business year Durham LSCB introduced web-based multi-agency auditing system to reduce demands on partner's administration function during audit participation.

A Section 11 Audit is Durham LSCB's primary audit to examine the safeguarding arrangements within agencies and provides the Board with assurance that agencies are doing what they can to ensure the safety and welfare of children and young people.

This year's Section 11 audit utilised the new web-based system, and included responses from GPs for the first time.

Agencies identified a total of 31 separate actions compiled into a Section 11 action plan to be monitored by the LSCB Board. The responses received provide the LSCB with an overview of what the main issues and challenges are for agencies and also outlines key areas of service development.

### Section 11 Audit Findings

- All 11 LSCB partner agencies that contributed to the Section 11 audit were able to identify a senior designated individual with responsibility for their safeguarding arrangements
- Agencies provide appropriate resources; time, funding, supervision and support; to frontline practitioners to enable them to fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities effectively
- Agencies confirmed that guidance and training on information sharing are made available to existing and new staff as part of their induction and on-going training

- Clear commitment to safe recruiting: ensuring staff who have contact with children, young people and families are properly selected and have appropriate checks, records of which are maintained in line with current legislation and guidance
- All GP Practices that responded confirmed they have a clear accountability framework, covering individual, professional and organisational accountability for safeguarding children
- All Schools that responded confirmed they have a regular cycle of professional development to ensure staff are up to date with child protection training and procedures

### Other multi-agency audits undertaken

- Child Sexual Exploitation Cases
- Impact of Neglect Training
- GP Safeguarding Audit (as an addition to Section 11)
- Strategy to Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC)
- Information Sharing in Child Protection where substance misuse is a parental risk factor
- Early Help
- Core Group
- Cafcass

 **More Information:** Find out more information about [Performance Management and S11 Audit](#)

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

In conjunction with Durham County Council, Durham LSCB monitors the use of restraint at Aycliffe Secure Services Centre. Many of the young people are placed by Local Authorities and Courts outside of the Durham area. Since 2011 and in line with Working Together guidance we have reported on the use of restraint.

County Durham is amongst a small number of Local Authorities who have secure services within its boundaries.

Aycliffe Secure Services Centre houses a changing population of young people (aged 11-17) with complex and challenging behaviours. They have been referred through the courts because they are a risk to themselves or others, or because there is a concern about their involvement with criminal activities.

Injuries as result of restraint are graded using the set criteria below:

**Level 1 – Minor Injury** - no medical treatment such as red marks on the skin, welts, superficial cuts and scratches, bruises which do not require medical treatment, including first aid

**Level 2 – Minor Injury** - requiring medical treatment such as significant cuts, scratches, grazes, bloody noses, concussion, serious bruising and sprains where medical treatment is given by staff/nurse

**Level 3 – Serious Injury requiring hospital treatment** - includes serious cuts, fractures, loss of consciousness and damage to internal organs.

There were a total of **683 incidents which required restraint** during 2016-17; an increase of 198 incidents compared to last year. It reflects the increasing vulnerability, trauma and mental health concerns of the population. While the total number of restraint incidents have increased **the proportion of injures has reduced.**

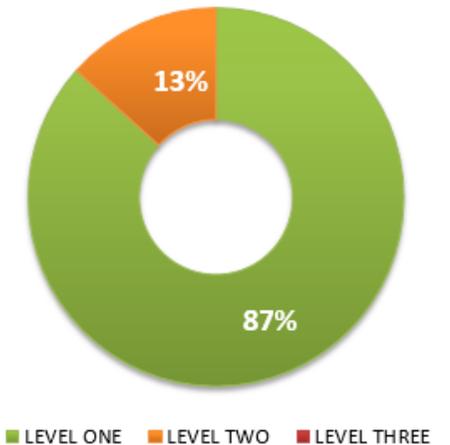
The incidents of restraint in 2016-17 led to **75 injuries** to young people. **87%** of injuries were graded at **level 1**, with the remaining **13% at level 2.**

**There were no level 3 restraint related injuries.**

A robust Restraint Minimisation Strategy has seen the implementation of a range of alternative approaches to minimise the use and impact of restraint. This includes intensive individual supervision with young people to understand the causes and effect of their behaviour; positive reinforcement techniques; coping mechanisms and de-escalation techniques that the young person feels will work.

Although the figure for the total injuries as result of restraint remain static, the majority of injuries are now recorded at level 1. This shows the positive impact of these alternative approaches.

**No. of Injuries by Level**



 **More Information:** Find out more information about [Aycliffe Secure Services Centre](#)

## Serious Case Reviews

Durham LSCB have instigated three Serious Case Reviews in 2016/17 and one Learning Lessons Review.

We have delivered five Learning Lessons events throughout the year for practitioners and agencies with two other specific events covering Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA).

These Learning Lessons events have provided time for professional reflection of key messages and recurrent themes running through the published Serious Case Reviews.

### Recurrent themes of published SCRs

- Dealing with families with long term and complex needs
- Public Protection Unit – sex offenders and risk
- Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) – information sharing, roles & responsibilities and risk management
- Early Help
- Neglect
- Team Around the Family (TAF)
- Hidden male

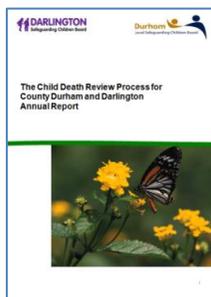
The LSCB continue to implement the recommendations from Serious Case Reviews both multi and single agency recommendations. Action plans are monitored by the LSCB Business Unit and reviewed by the LSCB Board through the six-monthly update report.

We will continue to host a range of learning lessons events following Serious Case Reviews publication to contribute to the professional development of staff and improve their understanding of local safeguarding concerns and themes.



 **More Information:** Find out more information about [Serious Case Reviews](#)

## Child Death Overview Panel



It is the responsibility of the Local Safeguarding Children Board to ensure that a review of every death of a child normally resident in their area is undertaken. A joint Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) has been agreed by Durham LSCB and Darlington LSCB and is a sub-committee of both Durham and Darlington LSCBs.

### Interrelated processes for reviewing child deaths

- **Rapid Response** by a group of key professionals who come together for the purpose of enquiring into and evaluating each **unexpected death**; and
- 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

There were 32 child death reviews in County Durham in 2016/17.

Of the 32 deaths there were:

- 18 Rapid Responses – this is a process gathering key professionals to enquire into and evaluate circumstances of a sudden and unexpected death.

Where cases were subject of a Serious Case Review a robust action plan was developed and monitored by the CDOP and LSCB Business Unit with updates reported to the LSCB Board.

### Thematic Review of Child Deaths

The CDOP conducted a thematic review of all child deaths where there were modifiable factors discussed by CDOP between April 2014 to May 2016. This is the second thematic review by the CDOP.

Recurrent themes were identified as follows:

Age group	Theme
Perinatal and infant deaths	CTG training
	Escalation policies
	Resuscitation of neonates
	Communication between professionals and units on the transfer of neonatal care
Child deaths	Mandatory training in paediatric resuscitation
	Emergency care plans for children with complex health problems

 **More Information:** Find out more information about [Child Death Reviews](#)

## Policy and Procedures

A new online version of the Durham LSCB Multi-Agency Child Protection Procedures were launched on the 18 January 2017.

They provide a web based solution that is fully searchable and allows the user to access content from a wide range of devices.

**Website link** - [www.proceduresonline.com/durham/scb](http://www.proceduresonline.com/durham/scb)

Professionals should add the link above into work related phones, smartphones, tablets and computers to link directly to the procedures when needed.

**Register for updates** – Please [register for updates](#) and you will be automatically updated on any future child protection procedural changes and any new national or local guidance.

**Feedback on the new procedures** – If you have any comments, updates or feedback on the new procedures, you can let us know by completing the [procedures feedback form](#).

### Other procedures updated in 2016/17 include

- Refreshed Early Help and Neglect Strategy
- Updated Collaborative Working and Information Sharing
- New Neglect Practice Guidance
- Updated 0-19 Level of Need Thresholds Document
- New Home Environment Risk Assessment Tool
- New Child Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Tool
- Updated Child Sexual Exploitation intelligence information submission form
- Updated Missing Children Procedures



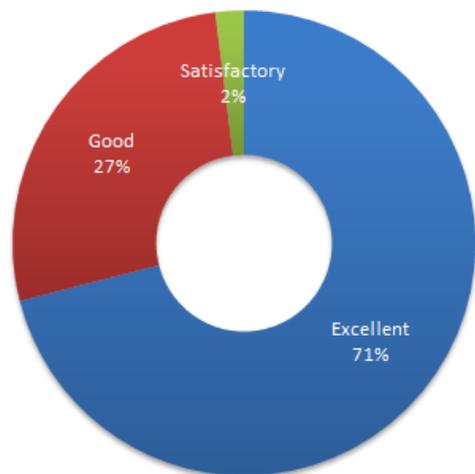
### NEW – Durham LSCB Child Protection Procedures

The new online procedures provide a web based solution that is fully searchable and allows the user to access the content from a wide range of devices.

[Find Out More](#)

## 7. Training and Communication

Durham LSCB currently offer 13 core courses including Engaging with Families, Safeguarding Processes and Intervention, Neglect and Child Sexual Exploitation. The LSCB has also hosted training sessions on Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), Hidden Sentence and Exploitation, Grooming and Radicalisation.



A total of **84 courses** were delivered in 2016/17. The courses were attended by a total of **1,520 staff and volunteers**.

The training courses received very positive feedback with 98% of attendees marking the training as good or excellent.

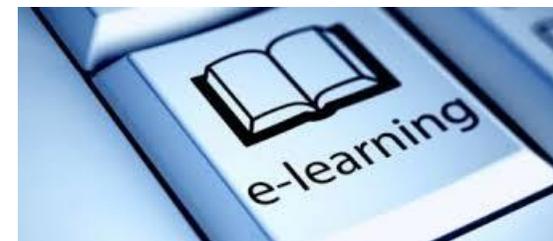
*'In a recent referral following this course, I now feel confident in asking challenging questions at home visits.'*

*'The importance of looking at the situation through the child's eyes. What it's like for them living in those neglectful environments.'*



*'This training day has helped me to understand the single assessment process and what a good assessment looks like.'*

The range of e-learning courses available to partners of Durham LSCB has increased due to the purchase of the Virtual College 'total package'.



Courses include:

- Safeguarding Children and Young People from Abuse by Sexual Exploitation
- Safeguarding Children Refresher Training
- Awareness of Child Abuse and Neglect
- Collaborative Working: A Whole Family Approach

The total package provides partners with the opportunity to offer up-to-date safeguarding training via e-learning to all staff through the unlimited licences available for each course. Since the new courses became available in April 2016:

- **5,675** courses have been completed
- **93%** of those completing evaluations stated they would recommend the course to a friend or colleague

 **More Information:** Find out more information about [LSCB Training Programme](#)

## Marketing and Communications Activity

Marketing and communications activity for 2016/17 has focused on distribution of LSCB materials, the LSCB Website and local campaigns such as ERASE and the national Child Abuse campaign.

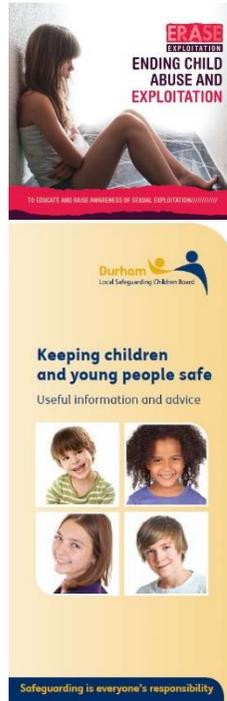


Durham LSCB printed materials to raise awareness of safeguarding children were distributed to contact points such as GP surgeries, Children Centres, Day Nurseries, Customer Access Points and Libraries.

The LSCB website was migrated to Durham County Council servers in June 2016 and all content was refreshed.

### Website stats - July 2016 to end of March 2017

- 13,591 **users**
- 30,265 **sessions**
- 97,907 **page views**
- 29.83% **bounce rate** (this is good as a low bounce rate means that the landing page effectively causes visitors to view more pages and continue on deeper into the web site)

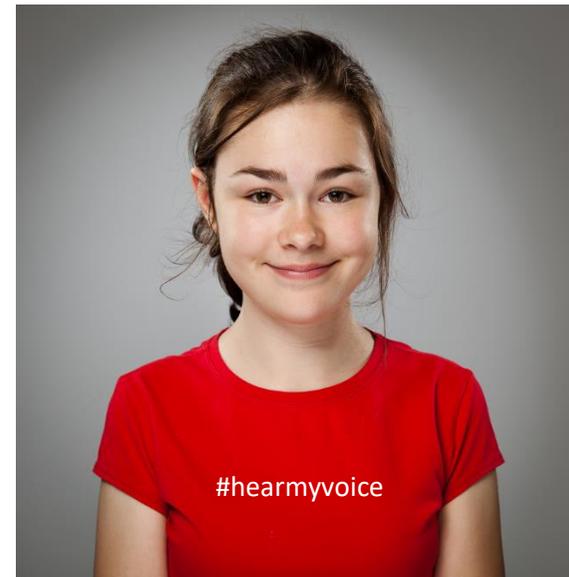


This year also saw the development and introduction of the Annual Report for Young People as part of the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge.

It was officially launched by the Young Person's Police, Crime and Victims Commissioner - Nathan Gaskill - also part of the Takeover Challenge.



An updated version will accompany the full LSCB Annual Report.



Plans for 2017/18 include a poster campaign promoting the hashtag

**#hearmyvoice**

as a simple way for young people to express their views on social media.

 **More Information:** Find out more information about [LSCB Leaflets and Posters](#)

## 8. Future Priorities

The Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board agreed the following priorities and priority actions for 2017/18:

### Neglect

- **Understand Neglect** – See the local picture of neglect; raise awareness and thresholds for action
- **Early Identification** – Improve the recognition and assessment of neglect
- **Effective Provision** – Refine effective and successful support that helps reduce neglect
- **Family Focus** – Use the experience of our families and the voice of the child in services

### Working Together

- **Thresholds** – Strengthen agreed levels of action across the partnership
- **Focused Intervention** – Making sure children receive focused intervention
- **Remove Barriers** – Understanding the lessons learned and improving outcomes
- **Improve Information Sharing** – Remove the barriers to local sharing of information

### Empowering Young People

- **Voice of the Child** – Every child has a voice within the child protection process
- **Empower Young People** – To recognise abuse, feel confident to report concerns
- **Visibility and Support** – Obtain the child's story and support is child focused
- **Peer Support** – Develop skills for young people to support other young people

### Child Sexual Exploitation

- **Preventing CSE** – Making it more difficult to exploit children and young people
- **Protecting children and young people from CSE** – Identifying and safeguarding those children and young people at risk
- **Pursuing perpetrators of CSE** – Identifying, arresting and prosecuting offenders

## 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**
- **Designated Paediatrician**
- **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
  - Head of Children and Families
- **North Tees & Hartlepool Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust** – represented by the Deputy Director of Nursing
- **Harrogate & District NHS Foundation Trust** – represented by the Deputy Director of Nursing
- **City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust**
- **Cafcass (County Durham)** – represented by the Service Manager
- **County Durham Council** represented by:
  - Corporate Director, Children and Young People’s Services
  - Head of Children’s Services
  - Head of Adults Care
  - Head of Education
  - Strategic Manager - Youth Offending Service
  - Director of Public Health County Durham
  - Strategic Manager for Housing
- **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 Representative

- **Schools** – represented by:
  - Durham Association of Secondary Heads
  - Durham Association of Primary Heads
  - Durham Association of Special Schools
- **Further Education** – represented by the Head of Student Services, Bishop Auckland College
- **Lay Members** – represented by three members of the community whose role is to support stronger public engagement in local child safety issues. They also have a remit to challenge the LSCB on the accessibility by the public, children and young people of its plans and procedures
- **Lead Member** – represented by the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People Services (participant observer)
- **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
- The Durham LSCB Business Manager
- Head of Planning and Service Strategy, Durham County Council
- Strategic Manager Policy Planning and Partnerships, Durham County Council

## Contact Details

<a href="#">Durham LSCB</a>	03000 265 770
<a href="#">Durham County Council</a>	03000 260 000
<a href="#">Durham Constabulary</a>	101
<a href="#">County Durham &amp; Darlington NHS Foundation Trust</a>	0191 333 2333
<a href="#">North Durham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)</a>	0191 389 8600
<a href="#">Durham Dales, Easington &amp; Sedgefield CCG</a>	0191 371 3222
<a href="#">Tees, Esk &amp; Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust</a>	01325 552 000
<a href="#">North Tees &amp; Hartlepool Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust</a>	01642 617 617
<a href="#">Harrogate &amp; District NHS Foundation Trust</a>	01423 885 959
<a href="#">City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust</a>	0191 565 6256
<a href="#">NHS England North</a>	0113 825 1609
<a href="#">Cafcass (County Durham)</a>	0300 456 4000
<a href="#">Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company</a>	0808 168 4848
<a href="#">National Probation Service North East Division</a>	01325 246 260
<a href="#">National Offender Management Service</a>	0300 047 6325
<a href="#">Schools and Colleges</a>	web link only
<a href="#">Voluntary and Community Sector</a>	web link only

## Appendix 2 – LSCB Staffing and Budget

### Staffing

The LSCB is supported by the following officers:

- LSCB Business Manager
- LSCB Quality & Performance Coordinator
- LSCB Strategy and Development Officer
- LSCB Training Coordinator
- LSCB Admin Coordinator
- LSCB Administrator
- LSCB Admin Apprentice

### LSCB Budget

The financial contributions from partner agencies are as follows:

Partner	2016/17 Contribution	2017/18 Contribution
Durham County Council	£171,604	£171,604
Clinical Commissioning Groups	£95,097	£95,097
Tees, Esk & Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust	£2,680	£2,680
County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust	£2,680	£2,680
North Tees & Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust	£2,680	£2,680
Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust	£2,680	£2,680
Durham Constabulary	£29,285	£29,285
Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company	£1,340	£1,340
National Probation Service	£2,032	£2,032
Further Education Colleges	£2,100	£2,100
Cafcass	£550	£550
<b>Total</b>	<b>£312,728</b>	<b>£312,728</b>

## Durham LSCB Annual Report 2016 / 2017 - Safeguarding Children in County Durham

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 and young people in County Durham and to ensure that they do so effectively.

The children and young people of County Durham are at the heart of what all LSCB partners do and our vision of **'Every child and young person in County Durham feels safe and grows up safe from harm'** continues to drive services forward.

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 2016/17. It covers the major changes and improvements of our partners' service delivery, where they link with the Board's overall strategies and the impact it has had. It also reports on the Serious Case Reviews and Child Death Reviews undertaken and identifies the priorities to be taken forward into 2017/18.

### Equality and Diversity

Durham 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.

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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A copy of this report is available on [www.durham-lscb.org.uk](http://www.durham-lscb.org.uk)



**Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility**