

Children and Young Select Committee
Review of SLSCB
Outline Scope

Scrutiny Chair (Project Director):
Councillor Carol Clark
Scrutiny Officer (Project Manager):
Judy Trainer
Departmental Link Officer:
Martin Gray
Finance Link Officer:
N/A
Which of our strategic corporate objectives does this topic address?
Council Plan Objective – Ensure effective multi-agency safeguarding for the most vulnerable children and young people
What are the main issues and overall aim of this review?
Stockton-on-Tees Local Safeguarding Children Board (SLSCB) is the key statutory body responsible for overseeing and monitoring the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements for safeguarding children in the borough. It is important that Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, as the lead agency, takes steps to evaluate the effectiveness of SLSCB against the Ofsted inspection criteria. A rigorous and independent review by CYP Select Committee would enable us to assess the progress made by SLSCB to date and determine whether any additional actions are necessary in order to meet these criteria. SLSCB has not been subject to a specific Ofsted inspection to date, but the Council's self-assessment would indicate that whilst there are a number of strengths, there are still some areas we need to further improve.
The Committee will undertake the following key lines of enquiry:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is the outgoing Chair's view about the effectiveness of the Board?• What do Peer Reviews tell us about the effectiveness of the Board?• How is the LSCB held to account?• How effective has the LSCB been in monitoring and challenging the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements? What evidence is there that this challenge has led to changes in these arrangements and local working practices and relationships?• How effective is the LSCB Local Learning and Improvement Framework in sharing lessons from experience and driving service quality and development?

- How does the LSCB systematically ensure that the voice and feedback of children is embedded in local safeguarding arrangements at the individual and strategic levels? Does the approach enable children from diverse backgrounds and with different needs to share their voice?
- What information does the Board received in order to meet its statutory duties?
- How is disagreement/ professional challenge resolved?
- Are Governance structures fit for purpose?
- How does the Board deal with serious case reviews?
- How does the Board oversee early help services?
- What difference has the Board made?
- Why have we got four LSCBs across Tees?
- How is the Board financed?
- What interface does the Board have with other Boards?
- What do Ofsted judgements tell us about best practice?
- What does success look like?

Who will the Committee be trying to influence as part of its work?

Council Services and Commissioned Services, Voluntary and Community Sector, Local Safeguarding Board and Members agencies

Expected duration of review and key milestones:

12 months

What information do we need?

Existing information (background information, existing reports, legislation, central government documents, etc.):

SLSCB Learning and Development Framework
 SLSCB Annual Reports and Business Plan
 Ofsted Judgements
 Current Ofsted Guidance on SIF
 LGA Peer Review – Durham
 PEEL: Police Effectiveness 2015 Vulnerability Report
 Safeguarding Children – A Practical Guide for Overview and Scrutiny Councillors CfPS

New information:

National Review of LSCBs (imminent)
 Recent Inspections partners may have had around safeguarding

Who can provide us with further relevant evidence? (Cabinet Member, officer, service user, general public, expert witness, etc.)

Chief Executive

What specific areas do we want them to cover?

- How if the Board/ Chair is held to account?

Independent Chair of the SLSCB outgoing and incoming	- Effectiveness of current Board and aspirations for the future
All Key Partners and lay members	- Partners inspection feedback around safeguarding - Strengths and weaknesses of Stockton Board compared to others
Cabinet Member	- Views on effectiveness of Board
Key SBC Officers	- Views on effectiveness of Board - Background and Context - Effectiveness of partnership arrangements
Primary and Secondary Heads	- Effectiveness of information received from the Board
Ofsted (Paul Armitage)	- Best practice
How will this information be gathered? (eg. financial baselining and analysis, benchmarking, site visits, face-to-face questioning, telephone survey, survey)	
Committee Meeting discussion/ interviews	
The focus of the first two meetings will be to provide background and context and an assessment of the effectiveness of the current operation of the Board. The outgoing Independent Chair will be invited to provide views.	
Best practice visits to North Yorkshire and Leeds will then take place in July.	
The Committee will then have the opportunity to speak to the incoming Independent Chair in the Autumn and focus on best practice.	
How will key partners and the public be involved in the review?	
Key partners will be invited to contribute as outlined above.	
How will the review help the Council meet the Public Sector Equality Duty?	
The review will seek to ensure that there is no disadvantage to relevant services for protected groups.	
How will the review contribute towards the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, or the implementation of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy?	
The work is relevant to the Strategy vision, particularly in relation to create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities.	
Provide an initial view as to how this review could lead to efficiencies, improvements and/or transformation:	
Not applicable	

Project Plan

Key Task	Details/Activities	Date	Responsibility
Scoping of Review	Information gathering	December 15/ January 16	Scrutiny Officer Link Officer
Agree Draft Scope and Project Plan for discussions with SLSCB and at Tri Partite Meeting	Initial Scope and Project Plan agreed by Committee	13 January 2016	Select Committee
Tri-Partite Meeting	Meeting to discuss aims and objectives of review	14 January 2016	Select Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Cabinet Member(s), Corporate Director(s), Scrutiny Officer, Link Officer
SLSCB consider and comment on draft Scope and Project Plan	Input	21 January 2016	SLSCB Board
Publicity of Review	Determine whether Communications Plan needed	N/A	Link Officer, Scrutiny Officer
Obtaining Evidence		17 February 2016 23 March 2016 July – Visits 21 September 2016 12 October 2016	Select Committee
Members decide recommendations and findings	Review summary of findings and formulate draft recommendations	16 November 2016	Select Committee
Circulate Draft Report to Stakeholders	Circulation of Report	November 2016	Scrutiny Officer
Tri-Partite Meeting	Meeting to discuss findings of review and draft recommendations	TBA	Select Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Cabinet Member(s), Corporate Director(s), Scrutiny Officer, Link Officer
Final Agreement of Report	Approval of final report by Committee	14 December 2016	Select Committee, Cabinet Member, Corporate Director
Consideration of Report by Executive Scrutiny Committee	Consideration of report	17 January 2016	Executive Scrutiny Committee
Report to Cabinet/Approving Body	Presentation of final report with recommendations for approval to Cabinet	19 January 2017	Cabinet/ Approving Body