

**STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES**  
**Working arrangements between Stockton on Tees'**  
**Health and Wellbeing Board and Local Safeguarding Children Board**

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**Statement of Intent**

Both Stockton on Tees Health and Wellbeing Board (SHWB) and Stockton-on-Tees Local Safeguarding Children Board (SLSCB) recognise that the health, wellbeing and safety of the children and young people of Stockton on Tees is of the utmost importance and are committed to working together to achieve the best possible outcomes for them.

**The Roles of Each Board**

Stockton on Tees Health and Wellbeing Board (SHWB)

SHWB is a committee of the Council and has a statutory duty to: identify needs through the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), agree a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy to meet those needs and support integrated working. SHWB has established a Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing Group (CYPHWBG) to ensure a clear focus on the needs of children and young people. Much of the day-to-day work will be undertaken by this group under the supervision of the SHWB. The Board will seek to improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people in all domains, including the prevention of neglect and abuse with a specific focus on early help.

Stockton Local Children Safeguarding Board (SLSCB)

SLSCB is an independent, statutory body with responsibility to co-ordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people in the area and to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by them for those purposes. Previously the SLSCB worked with the Stockton Children's Trust to promote the safety and wellbeing of children and young people across wider domains. Under the new organisational arrangements the Stockton Children's Trust role is now undertaken by the SHWB and the CYPHWBG.

The Roles of Partner Organisations

Both Boards have a responsibility to work in partnership with other organisations, most of which are common to both Boards. They will ensure that the views and needs of partner organisations are recognised and incorporated into their joint working arrangements. There are a wide range of organisations involved in fulfilling the partnership functions, both from the statutory and third sector.

**Expectations that the Boards will have of each other**

*Cooperation:*

In addition to any formal duty to cooperate the Boards will seek to ensure the closest possible cooperation in order to achieve their aims.

*Positive Input:*

The promotion of the health and wellbeing of children and young people is complex and demanding; both Boards will expect its partners to offer positive and constructive input based on mutual trust and respect.

*Critique:*

This is the process of giving positive critical input, which is consistent with the expectations of cooperation and positive input in order to optimise the effectiveness of both Boards.

**Statement of Principles: Stockton-on-Tees' Health & Wellbeing Board and Local Safeguarding Children Board.**

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*Support, Expertise, Experience and Information sharing:*

Both Boards and their supporting officers has knowledge, expertise and experience that is of value to the other and which will be openly shared in order to achieve the agreed outcomes

*Scrutiny / Hold to Account:*

The roles of each Board in relation to formal scrutiny differ. Using the principles outlined above the Boards will hold each another to account for their contribution to the safety, health and wellbeing of children and young people. Additionally they will accept joint accountability for specific issues requiring cooperation and joint action.

*Raise Issues of concern:*

In addition to assurance and accountability processes the Boards, using the processes described above, will raise issues of individual and joint concern. These will be addressed through ongoing dialogue and through formal reporting.

*Dialogue:*

The Boards will use both routine and ad hoc opportunities to promote discussion and consultation, especially with children and young people, about their actions and planning arrangements.

*Development:*

Both Boards will seek to improve their effectiveness through an ongoing process of development, where appropriate this will be undertaken jointly when this is considered to be beneficial.

*JSNA and JHWBS:*

The SHWB will request the SLSCB to contribute to the development of these strategies. The SLSCB will critique the strategies to ensure that prevention of child neglect and abuse is optimised.

**Ways of Working**

In order to optimise the benefits for the children and young people of Stockton on Tees, the Boards will commit to working collaboratively. These collaborative arrangements will have both formal and informal elements, facilitated by the joint membership of the Boards. In addition the Chairs of both Boards will maintain a dialogue in order to identify and develop shared issues.

Consultation and engagement between SHWB and SLSCB will include the presentation of the SLSCB Annual Report to SHWB. Similarly, the SHWB will engage SLSCB in an ongoing contribution to the JSNAs development and delivery of the SHWB Strategy.

Care will be taken to ensure that the constituent members of both Boards work together to avoid duplication, address areas of potential service deficit, and by identifying specific leads for those identified work streams.

Signed on behalf of:	Stockton-on-Tees Health & Wellbeing Board	Stockton-on-Tees Local Safeguarding Children Board
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