

STOCKTON-ON-TEES LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT (Summary) 2012 / 2013

The SLSCB Annual Report outlines progress and developments over the last 12 months and sets out issues and challenges that member agencies of the Safeguarding Board will need to address over the next year. This briefing will provide you with a summary of the report.

The Annual Report 2012 / 2013 and Progress of the Business Plan in full is available from Pauline Beall, Safeguarding Business Manager: pauline.beall@stockton.gov.uk or from the web pages at <http://www.stockton.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/lscb/>

It is essential that member agencies ensure that the LSCB has the capacity to perform the tasks of monitoring and evaluating practice, to challenge, to hold to account, to disseminate learning and to seek assurance that all possible is being done to keep children and young people safe as this is one of the Boards primary functions. Challenges remain in ensuring that all agencies have in place the required level of supervision and training for all staff working with children and young people and that safeguarding remains the highest priority for all organisations at a time of significant change.

There have been significant organisational and structural changes within partner agencies since the last report which we envisage will continue due both to austerity measures across all partner organisations and changes to the NHS, Public Health moving from Primary Care Trusts to being a Local Authority responsibility and the introduction of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

I would like to thank members of the LSCB and their staff for their commitment and support in ensuring that safeguarding is kept at the top of the agenda and in reinforcing the message that safeguarding is everybody's business.




Colin Morris,
SLSCB Independent Chair

We're on the web
<http://www.stockton.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/lscb>

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**Who's
Responsible
for
Safeguarding
Children?**

**Everyone
Is!**

Multi Agency Training of the Children's Workforce

1655 people attended 82 full multi-agency safeguarding training courses and we provided 10 multi-agency CAF training courses to which 177 people attended. In line with our programme we also offered bespoke single agency safeguarding courses and CAF training and the statistics relating to these are 1359 people attended 45 sessions and 242 people attended 12 sessions respectively

With regard to e-learning we had 649 people completing e-learning courses. We envisage greater uptake of e-learning in the future for basic awareness training.

Learning from the past to improve the future

The evaluation of the work undertaken during 2012 – 13 and the evidence arising from the Ofsted Local Authority Arrangements for the Protection of Children inspection highlighted the need for the Board to review its Action Plan and identify actions for 2013 – 2014.

Examples of our priority actions for 2013 / 2014 are:

- The LSCB will be reviewing the way it challenges the council and partner agencies and addresses issues identified about the performance of safeguarding children services
- We will be instructing agencies to ensure that they give due consideration to a child or young person's ethnicity, culture and religion when undertaking assessments, in order to inform planning and interventions,
- We are establishing a method of engagement with children and young people who have been involved in the child protection process to ascertain their views and learn how we can collectively improve the services offered.
- In partnership with other agencies, and the Health & Wellbeing Board we will develop and implement an overarching strategy for early help and preventative services which ensures that there is a diverse, wide ranging and accessible early help offer and that all children and young people receive well-coordinated multi-agency help early in the emergence of problems.
- To produce a Learning, Scrutiny and Challenge Framework.
- To ensure that each child within the borough of Stockton-on-Tees is safeguarded from maltreatment, impairment of health or development is prevented, they are able to live in an environment that enables them to have safe and effective care and attain the best outcomes for them.
- Investigate and understand the reasons behind the rise in the number of children who are made subject to a Child Protection Plan
- Work with partners to develop a Tees approach to current and historic Child Sexual Exploitation
- Monitor the Action Plan developed in response to the recommendations of the January 2013 Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority arrangements for the protection of children.
- Ensure the revised statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children is implemented.

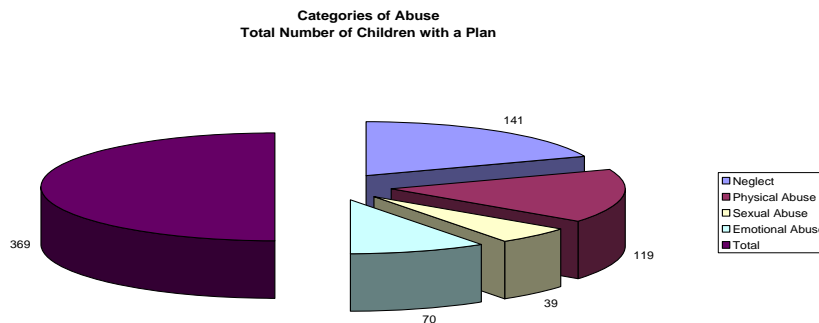
In addition to the annual scrutiny and challenge that takes place, each agency contributes to the Annual Report and this year they have focused on the following headings which they have provided narrative for from their agency / sectors perspective thereby demonstrating the work undertaken to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the borough:

- a) Leadership, Governance Arrangements and Involvement in the LSCB and its Task Groups
- b) Workforce
- c) Outcomes for Children, Young People and their Families:
- d) Engagement
- e) Involvement in Multi Agency Decision Making and Planning
- f) Challenging Performance of Colleagues and Partners
- g) Summary of 2012 / 2013 Key Safeguarding Achievements and Outcomes
- h) Issues and Concerns that have emerged during 2012 / 2013 which need to be addressed

Child Protection Activity

On the 31st March 2012 there were 273 children on the list of children subject to Child Protection Plans; over the 12 months to 31st March 2013 this had increased to 369 children from 164 families. 306 children were removed from the list and there were 402 new Plans made. This is a marked increase from previous years as illustrated above.

As of 31st March 2013, the categories of abuse and neglect, and the ages of children and young people subject to Child Protection Plans were as follows.



Categories	Age					Total
	Under 5	5 – 9	10 – 15	16 +	Unborn	
Neglect	62	33	37	3	6	141
Physical Abuse	64	30	22	2	1	119
Sexual Abuse	13	9	14	2	1	39
Emotional Abuse	19	25	24	2	0	70
Total	158	97	97	9	8	369

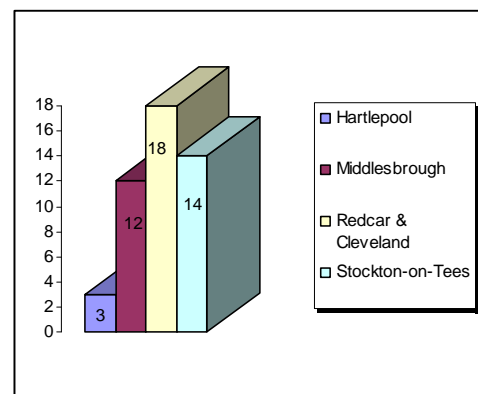
Child Deaths

The Tees LSCB’s Child Death Review Project covering Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees is managed by Redcar & Cleveland LSCB.

Regular reports are provided to each Board and a separate annual report approved by all four LSCBs is also produced which provides greater detail regarding any identified emerging themes.

During 2012 / 2013 37 deaths were recorded, 14 of which were in respect of children from Stockton-on-Tees Borough. Key recommendation from deaths reviewed during 2012 / 2013 were for awareness raising / campaigns in respect of:

- Safe Sleeping,
- Benefits of Smoke Alarms,
- Child Road Safety Awareness,
- Increase Risk Awareness for Young Drivers.
- Importance of First Aiders in Schools



Investigations of Allegations Concerning People working with Children

During 2012 / 2013 the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) received 133 referrals in relation to allegations concerning people working with children. 74 of which concluded with no further action after initial consideration. 92 of the referrals were resolved in less than one month and 21 were still ongoing at the end of the year.

The category of abuse the referrals related to were:

- Physical 51
- Sexual 36
- Neglect 6
- Misconduct 40

Private Fostering

During 2012 / 2013 the Council were made aware of eight new Private Fostering arrangements that were made in the Borough. Another eight Private Fostering arrangements were already in place from previous years which required ongoing statutory visits to be made and during the year 11 arrangements ended.

The five remaining arrangements will continue to receive support visits from the Council.

The Board received a report regarding Private Fostering which is also referred to at section [3.11](#) of the Annual Report; Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing and Trafficked. (VEMT) which assured them of the process carried out regarding the safety and wellbeing of this vulnerable group of children and young people.

Self Evaluation

The statements below are extracts from a brief self-assessment of the effectiveness of Stockton-on-Tees LSCB against the framework provided to LSCBs as referred to in 3.1 of the Annual Report:

Communication	Board Members are first or second tier officers who have direct links with operational teams and are well versed in ensuring professionals are clear about what is required of them individually, and how they need to work together to safeguard children.
Structure and Membership	There is a programme for LSCB members to attend a range of meetings to observe the effectiveness of front line child protection practices. The LSCB Chair meets with DCS and LA Chief Executive and presents assurance reports to the Council and its Scrutiny Committee with regard to the work of the Board and its ability to safeguard children.
Chairing, governance and accountability	The current independent chair was recruited in 2010 providing strong leadership to both the Board and the Executive Group and is actively involved in other aspects of the Boards work; local and sub regional.
Resources	All partner agencies endeavour to ensure that levels of staffing and expertise are sufficient to keep pace with need; that the right staff with the right skills and experience are in the right posts at all levels; and that these are supported by effective arrangements for workforce training, development and supervision.

Should you require clarification on anything contained within this summary Annual Report please don't hesitate to contact us.

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