

Stockton-on-Tees Local Safeguarding Children Board

Annual Report 2016 - 2017



Prepared by: Pauline Beall, SLSCB Business Manager
Approved by: SLSCB October 2017

Local Safeguarding
Children Board
L S C B
Stockton-on-Tees

Safeguarding Children is My Business,
Your Business, It's Everyone's Business!

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Chairs Introduction

It gives me great pleasure to introduce Stockton on Tees Local Safeguarding Children Board (SLSCB) Annual Report for 2016-17 to you and thank you for taking the time to read it. I have been the Independent Chair for a year now and am proud to have worked with the dedicated and professional members of the Board striving to make a positive difference to safeguarding children and young people. The same is true of the many practitioners I have met during the last year. I have been both heartened and humbled to see their passion to help children, families and carers.

On appointment I undertook a thorough review of where the Board was, speaking to members and other interested parties. I was assisted in this by the Ofsted inspection taking place and a scrutiny conducted by the Children and Young People Select Committee of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council. The Board has a lot of strengths highlighted in this report and those of the inspection bodies but also areas that could be improved. We took assurance from the Ofsted inspection in that their recommendations for improvement had already been identified by the Board and were in the process of being addressed.

To maximise the impact of the Board we have developed a way of working and indeed a culture of seeking assurance with regard to:

- Ensuring co-ordination
- Bringing effective challenge
- Enabling change

In all that is done by agencies and partners to deliver the best possible outcomes in child protection.

To facilitate this, at the Board Development Day, we agreed a vision, our values and priorities to be achieved. These are detailed in the report but in summary are:

- Preventing harm by ensuring the Board seeks assurance on effective multi and single agency responses to domestic abuse, mental well-being, substance misuse and early help
- Protecting vulnerable children by seeking assurance, in the same manner as above, with regard to vulnerable, exploited, missing and trafficked children
- Ensuring the Board's own development and impact by capturing the voice of the child, how information is shared, reviewing the effectiveness of the learning and improvement framework and conducting a governance review

I am delighted with how Board members have embraced the new ways of working and the progress we are making in achieving our purpose. The Board is very much aware of its role and has a renewed focus on impact which is discussed at each meeting.

Many examples of impact are covered in the report but I would like to highlight some of these:

- Scrutiny of and subsequent positive action taken to significantly improve police attendance at strategy meetings
- Ensuring a child focus in the new multi-agency [Domestic Abuse Strategy](#)
- Review and implementation of a joint training strategy with Hartlepool Safeguarding Children Board

- Scrutiny of increasing numbers of children on child protection plans or becoming a looked after child
- Health Trusts implementation of the Quality Care Commission Report 'Seen not Heard'

The Board has also had the benefit of the launch of the Tees-wide Performance Framework across all four Local Safeguarding Children Boards. This has allowed the Board to examine performance across a truly multi-agency spectrum and to ask challenging questions on the data as well as identifying and promulgating best practice. Examples include further work being commissioned to understand high levels of:

- Children going missing
- Being seen at hospital
- Being accommodated in bed and breakfast accommodation
- Under 16 conception rates

I shall look forward to further evidencing how the Board makes a positive difference, in how it works continues to grow in strength, in next year's report.

The future structural arrangements for ensuring effective multi-agency safeguarding in localities is changing as a result of the Children and Social Work Act 2017. Safeguarding Boards will cease to exist in April 2019 and will be replaced by a new arrangement agreed by the Local Authority, Police and Clinical Commissioning Group. In the meantime, the Board remains entirely focussed on continuing to develop itself and successfully fulfil its role. We will also ensure the best possible business continuity during this period of change and will seek assurance as to the effectiveness of any future arrangements.

I would like to conclude by repeating my thanks to all those on the Board and practitioners for all they do every day to make our children as safe as possible.



Dave Pickard

Independent Chair (from April 2016)

Stockton-on-Tees Local Safeguarding Children Board

SLSCB Lay Members Perspective

As one of the Lay Members on the LSCB I am there to give local perspective, independent of the agencies and professionals represented on the board and play a part in the oversight and scrutiny of decisions and policies made by the LSCB. At Stockton LSCB Lay Members are encouraged to join in discussions and challenge agencies regarding their safeguarding practices. Although it can be daunting to question senior professionals, we are welcomed in doing this and made to feel a valued and equal member of the Board.

Throughout 2016-17 I have seen Board Members from a wide range of agencies show a commitment to the welfare and safeguarding of children and young people. This is routinely demonstrated through the willingness of partner agencies to not only share best practice and areas for learning and improvement but to challenge and scrutinise each other to ensure positive outcomes for children, young people and their families in Stockton-on-Tees.

It has been a year of change and challenge for SLSCB. A new independent chair is in post, OFSTED have undertaken an inspection, the structure of the Board has been amended and the priorities of the Board have been reviewed and renewed. I look forward to continuing to contribute to SLSCB throughout the next year in which the Board will be expected to meet these challenges and address OFSTED recommendations whilst ensuring children and young people have their voices heard.



Leanne Bain
Lay Member

Annual Report & SLSCB Contact Details

The Stockton-on-Tees LSCB Annual Report 2016 – 2017, produced by the SLSCB Business Manager was approved by the Board in September 2017. In writing the Annual Report, information from a variety of sources and analysis of information presented to the Board and its Sub Groups has been brought together. Board Members who have contributed are thanked for their submissions.

Organisations working with Children and Young People can use this Report to develop their understanding of safeguarding in Stockton-on-Tees and the work the SLSCB is doing to support them and to be aware of the critical safeguarding issues relevant to their organisation.

The wider public can also use this document to develop their understanding and determine how there can be wider community engagement in safeguarding issues.

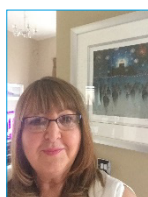
The Annual Report is published in relation to the preceding financial year and as required in legislation is submitted to the Chief Executive of the Local Authority, Leader of the Council, the Local Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board. It is also published on the SLSCB website: www.stockton.gov.uk/slscb

Should you require clarification on any matters please contact:

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Pauline Beall

SLSCB Business Manager

About SLSCB: The Statutory And Legislative Context

SLSCB was formally established in April 2006 in response to the requirements of the Children Act 2004 and its accompanying guidance at the time, 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (2006). SLSCB has a range of roles and statutory functions, details of which are below;

SLSCB will:

- Coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area; and
- Ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each person or body for those purposes (Section 14 Children Act 2004)

Regulation 5 (1) of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB) Regulations 2006 sets out the functions of the LSCB, in relation to the above objectives under section 14 as follows:

(a) Developing policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority, including policies and procedures in relation to —

- i. The action to be taken where there are concerns about a child's safety or welfare, including thresholds for intervention;
- ii. Training of persons who work with children or in services affecting the safety and welfare of children;
- iii. Recruitment and supervision of persons who work with children;
- iv. Investigation of allegations concerning persons who work with children;
- v. Safety and welfare of children who are privately fostered;
- vi. Co-operation with neighbouring children's services authorities and their Board partners;

(b) Communicating to persons and bodies in the area of the authority the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, raising their awareness of how this can best be done, and encouraging them to do so;

(c) Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of what is done by the authority and their Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, and advising them on ways to improve;

(d) Participating in the planning of services for children in the area of the authority;

(e) Undertaking reviews of serious cases and advising the authority and their Board partners on lessons to be learned.

Regulation 5 (2) which relates to the LSCB Serious Case Reviews function and regulation 6 which relates to the LSCB Child Death functions are covered later in this report.

Regulation 5 (3) provides that an LSCB may also engage in any other activity that facilitates, or is conducive to, the achievement of its objectives.

Working Together 2015 (Chapter 3: 16) states that the Independent Chair of an LSCB must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area.

This report is the Annual Review of the work of SLSCB for the business year 2016-2017 and is a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of safeguarding in Stockton-on-Tees.

The report will demonstrate the contributions made by SLSCB partner agencies toward the work of SLSCB and most importantly what difference has been made to the lives of children and young people within the Borough.

It will provide the public, practitioners and main stakeholders with an overview of how well children in Stockton-on-Tees are protected, and identify any gaps in service development and challenges ahead for the coming year.

The SLSCB Business Plan is reviewed regularly by the SLSCB Executive Group. The plan contains details of progress against priorities, actions, impact and outcomes as a result of completed work.

SLSCB Vision and Values

SLSCB has continually reviewed how it and the partners who make up its membership, work collectively and individually together however, this was reaffirmed with greater fervour with the introduction of a new SLSCB Chair. A commitment was given to renew the vision and build evidence as to what works well, what could be done better, and to identify key elements to focus upon in order to make a difference to children and young people in Stockton-on-Tees.

This is now an ongoing process building upon the philosophy of Ensuring Co-ordination, Introducing Effective Challenge and Enabling Change. The SLSCB motto has been retained and the vision and values of the Board have been strengthened.

Motto: *Keeping Children Safe is Your Business, My Business, It's Everyone's Business*

Vision: The Board will do all it can to ensure that children and young people in Stockton-on-Tees and those we are responsible for elsewhere are kept safe from harm.

Values: The wellbeing and safety of Children and Young People will be at the centre of all our activity.

We will work to gather in a spirit of mutual respect and constructive challenge to:

- Ensure co-ordination
- Bring effective challenge
- Enable change

We will be open in what we do and how we do it.

We will be a learning organisation and will develop in response to evidence and best practice.

We will work closely with other partners within the Borough, and where appropriate, further afield to deliver our vision and priorities.

Each Board member will fully contribute to achieving the vision and priorities of the Board.

Resources



To make SLSCB effective a myriad of resources are required, some of which can be recorded in financial terms however the majority come from the high level of human resources from each of the partner agencies involved. This is not only represented by attendance at SLSCB meetings but the actual work on the ground that staff are involved in to safeguard the children in the Borough.

The work carried out by SLSCB, whilst retaining its required independence, is complementary to and coordinated alongside those of other bodies within the responsibility of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council including the following:





- Stockton-on-Tees Community Safety Partnership
- Stockton-on-Tees Domestic Abuse Partnership
- Stockton-on-Tees Early Help Board
- Stockton-on-Tees Health and Wellbeing Board
- Stockton-on-Tees Multi Agency Looked After Partnership (MALAP)
- Hartlepool & Stockton-on-Tees Children’s Hub Board
- Tees Safeguarding Adults Board



The following should provide some insight into the resources applied.

Board Members & Attendance at Board Meetings

SLSCB Members *1	Title	Out of 12	Representing
Dave Pickard	LSCB Independent Chair	12	
Pauline Beall	Business Manager	12	
Leanne Bain	Lay Member	12	
Lesley Cooke*	Lay Member	8	
Deborah Wray	Lay Member	9	
Jane Humphreys* / Martin Gray	Director of Children's Services	11	
Shaun McLurg* / Rhona Bollands	Assistant Director - Safeguarding and Looked After Children / Chair SLSCB VEMT Sub-Group	9	
Peter Kelly* / Sarah Bowman-Abouna	Director / Assistant Director - Public Health	9	

*= left during 2016 / 2017.

SLSCB Members *1	Title	Out of 12	Representing
Diane McConnell	Assistant Director - Schools and SEN	10	 Stockton-on-Tees BOROUGH COUNCIL
Jane Edmends	Housing Services Manager	10	
Cllr Ann McCoy	Lead Cabinet Member - Children and Young People (Participating Observer)	10	
Neil Schneider	Chief Executive (Participating Observer)	4	
Elisa Arnold* / Margaret Harvey	Service Manager	6	 Cafcass
Alastair Simpson* / Anne-Marie Salwey	Detective Superintendent / Chair SLSCB LIPSG	12	 CLEVELAND POLICE
Alex Taylor* / David Woodward	Independent Schools - Deputy Headmaster, Yarm School	5	Education Establishments in Stockton-on-Tees
Claire Mason* / Gill Booth	Secondary Schools - Executive Headteacher, Ian Ramsey Academy (and Venerable Bede)	7	
Kerry Coe	Primary Schools - Head Teacher, St John the Baptist CE VC Primary School	8	
Joanna Bailey	Post-16 Education - Principal, Prior Pursglove and Stockton Sixth Form College	6	
Jean Golightly	Director of Nursing & Quality	3	
Trina Holcroft	Designated Nurse, Safeguarding Children & LAC	11	 Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Clinical Commissioning Group
David Charlesworth	Quality and Patient Safety Manager	5	 NHS England (Cumbria & North East)
Lindsey Robertson	Deputy Director of Nursing	11	North Tees and Hartlepool  NHS Foundation Trust
Elizabeth Moody	Executive Director of Nursing and Governance	12	Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys  NHS Foundation Trust
Julie Allan	Head of Area Cleveland Cluster, North East Division	8	 HM Prison & Probation Service

SLSCB Members *1	Title	Out of 12	Representing
Barbara Gill* / John Graham	Director of Operations - Durham Tees Valley	6	
Julie McNaughton	Accommodation Contracts Manager	6	thirteen
Steve Rose	Chief Executive Officer	8	 Voluntary & Community Sector

*= left during 2016 / 2017.

Some Board Members and their staff from the above agencies are involved in sub group meetings and associated work of SLSCB for which thanks are noted for their contribution.

SLSCB Income & Expenditure 2016 / 2017

Board partners are expected to contribute to the resource requirements of LSCBs and the following information shows the income and expenditure for the SLSCB budgets. Due to the financial pressures faced by all agencies, expenditure is kept to a minimum. Room Hire for training (printing & copying) in some SBC Buildings is covered as an 'in kind' cost as is accommodation and line management for the SLSCB Business Manager and Support Officer and staffing and oversight of the Child Protection Review Unit. It therefore does not show on any of the budget accounts. In-kind contributions are not calculated however they are acknowledged.

SLSCB Core Budget Account

INCOME	
CAFCASS	550
Catalyst	1,500
Local Authority	66,835
Local Authority journal from Children's Workforce	5,073
National Probation Service	915
Police	16,683
SBC Schools	25,000
Stockton-on-Tees & Hartlepool CCG	53,055
Sub Total	169,611
Brought Forward from 2015 / 2016	72,568
Total Receipts	242,179

EXPENDITURE	
Staffing (Direct & Indirect costs Business Manager(FT), Training & Development Officer (FTJS) ² Administrator (FT) ³ , SLSCB Chair ⁴	130,062
Training & Conferences	270
Travel and Transport	409
AILC Fee, Grants & Subscriptions	1,500
Multi Agency Training Account	30,000
Serious Case Review	
Early Help Awareness Raising & Support	10,000
Supplies and Support Services	
a) Independent Chair ⁵	628
b) Web Based Procedures	988
c) Performance Framework	7,300
d) General Running Costs ⁶	2,787
e) Safeguarding Events Campaigns ⁷	1,416
f) EDC Room Hire	2,000
Total Payments	187,361
Income – Expenditure to c/fwd.	54,819

SLSCB Multi Agency Training Budget 2016 / 2017

INCOME	
C/fwd. from SLSCB MA Training Account 2015/2016	15,873
Fees Generated	
SLSCB ⁸ (from 30088)	30,000
SBC	
Total Receipts	45,873
EXPENDITURE	
Hartlepool LSCB contribution to Joint Finance Training Pool ⁹	2,000
SBC Children's Workforce	5,000
Signs of Safety	4,472
Room Hire ¹⁰	266
E-learning Membership	6,000
Total Payments	17,738
Income – Expenditure to be c/fwd.	28,315

²Costs for Trainers and Training Administration are contained within the SLSCB Core Budget under the heading Training & Development Officer. This post is seconded to the SBC Training Unit.

³This allocation is included in internal transfers to Democratic Services. The service is commissioned from SBC.

⁴Capped at £15,000.

⁵Includes a payment from March 2016.

⁶Covers ICT costs 6 + 1685 and meeting refreshments 808.

⁷1330 & 76.

⁸£3,000 Ring Fenced for Signs of Safety.

⁹£2,000 was paid for room hire for Joint S&H Training from the SLSCB Core budget therefore only £2,000 was transferred to the Joint Training Budget administered by Hartlepool.

¹⁰Room Hire for training (printing & copying) in some SBC Buildings is covered as an 'in kind' cost and therefore does not show on any of the budget accounts. NB.

Amelia's Journey - 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017

Amelia's journey is a reflection of one of the many children that were brought to the attention of the organisations providing services for children in Stockton-on-Tees.

Resulting from this intervention Amelia has grown in confidence and is reaching her potential in school. She is showing that she now trusts adults and has formed a strong attachment to her paternal great grandmother. Amelia presents as relaxed in her home environment, loves to show off her new dance moves and is described as a delightful child by her teachers and social worker.

During 2016 / 2017, 2,782 referrals were received, 2,236 of which led to measures being taken to protect a child. When looked at in comparison with the number of children living in Stockton-on-Tees (42,891) this is a small percentage.

The level of services required however to provide a safe environment for the children who are seen to be most vulnerable increases year on year and why, the organisations need to effectively work together to provide joint solutions as to how best they can do this with reducing resources.

¹Amelia is not the real name of the child referred to.

Amelia – Date of Birth: 01.09.2010

Safety Concerns raised 01.04.16	Referral received from Cleveland Police 02.04.16 following Domestic Abuse incidents. This resulted in father being arrested and remanded in custody.		
Addresses lived at during the year: - 2		Amelia has resided in 2 properties – with parents and paternal great grandmother during this period.	
Meetings held about her during the year: - 4 1. Strategy meeting 2. Planning meetings 3. Legal meeting		No of agencies involved with her during the year: 12 1. Children’s Social Care 2. Health 3. Education 4. Cleveland Police 5. Durham Police 6. HMP Durham 7. HMP Hull 8. Drug and alcohol services 9. Probation 10. Housing 11. Harbour 12. Legal	
No of professionals involved in her life during the year: 14	School attainment during the year: 83.7% - 93.3%:	No of times Amelia was spoken to during the year by non-teaching professionals: 18	Health checks made / attended during the year: 3
Status / Childs wellbeing at 31.03.17	Amelia remains with paternal great grandmother in Redcar. Mother’s whereabouts is unknown; Father has been released from prison and is in the process of being assessed as a carer for his child. If this proved to be a negative assessment, paternal great grandmother will be supported in applying for a legal order to secure Amelia’s long term plan.		

Safeguarding in Stockton-on-Tees

What do we know about deprivation in Stockton-on-Tees?

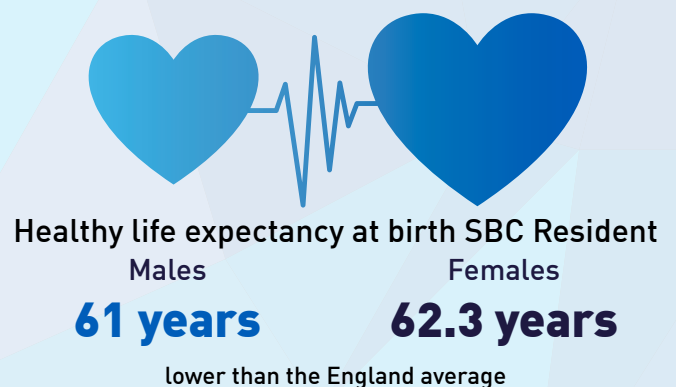
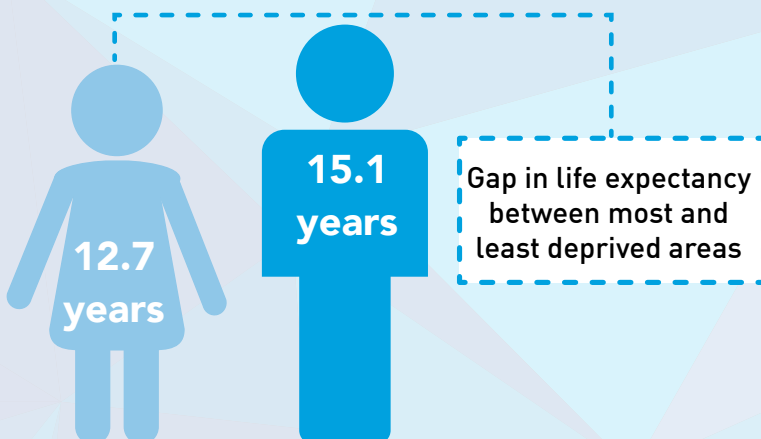
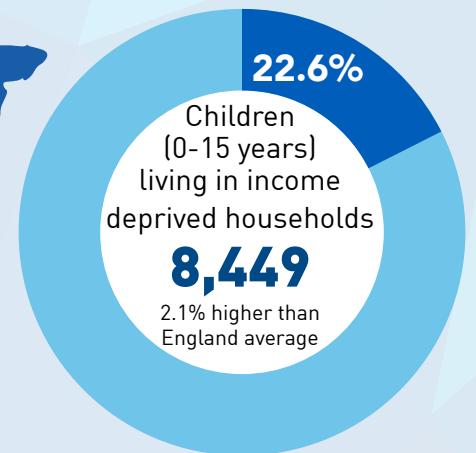
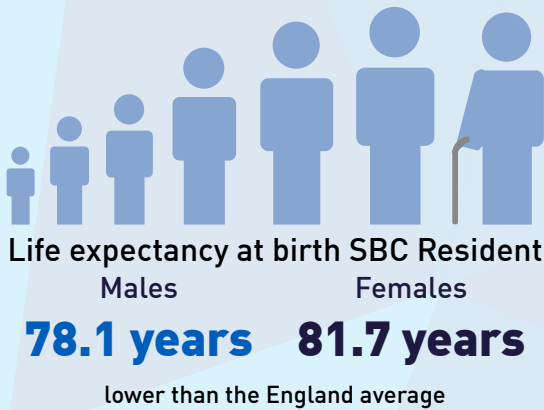
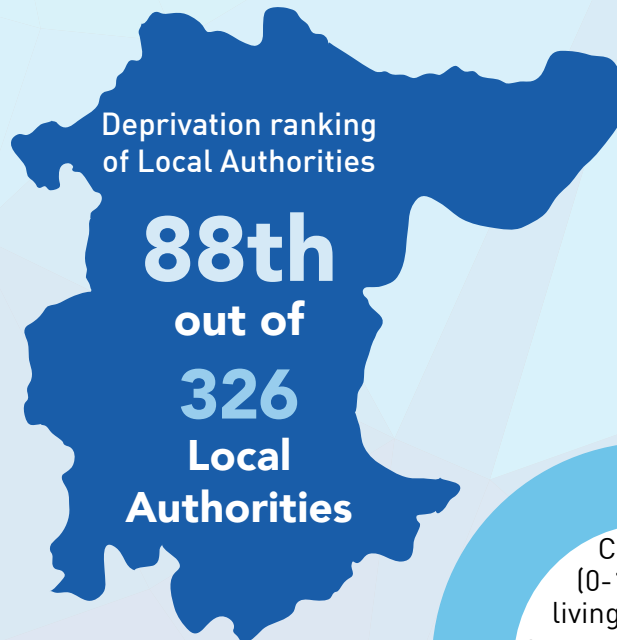
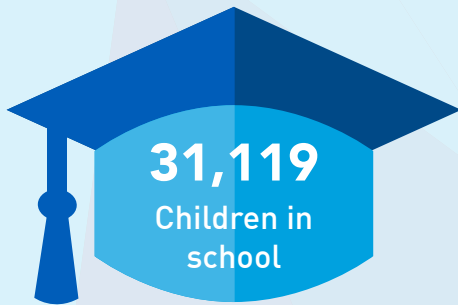
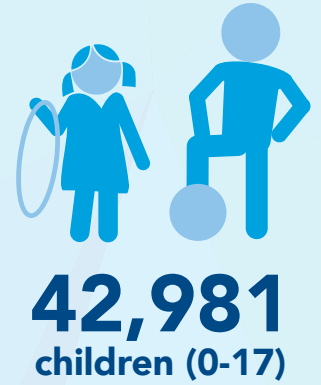
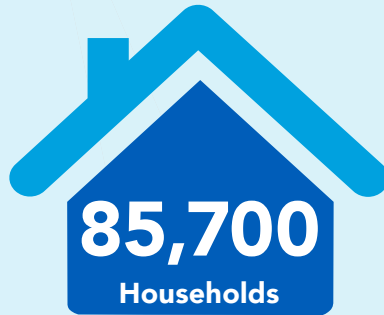
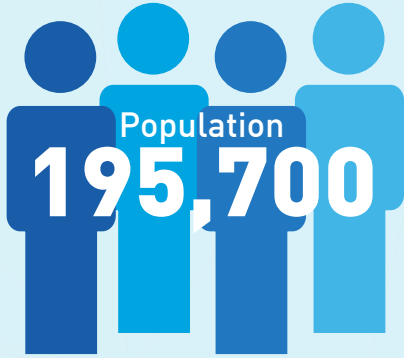
One of the priority areas for the Board is identifying and addressing the impact of neglect on children and young people. It is therefore important to have an understanding of the socio-economic composition of Stockton-on-Tees. Whilst neglect can occur across all social groups the evidence suggests disadvantage and poverty are strong contributing factors to all forms of maltreatment including neglect

The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2015 shows that Stockton-on-Tees is estimated to be the 88th (out of 326) most deprived Local Authority in England. This means that the Borough is more deprived than the national average. Children growing up in disadvantaged homes are likely to have more diminished life chances than those from more affluent backgrounds.

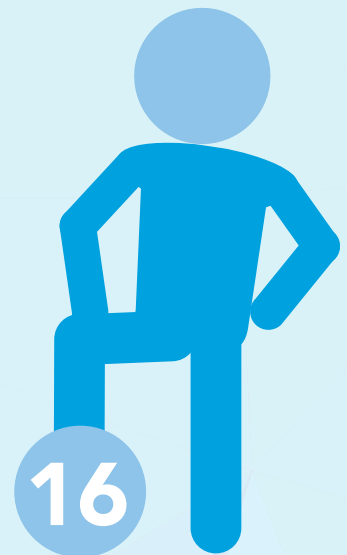
Stockton-on-Tees also has some of the highest inequalities in the country, where residents from the most deprived areas have a life expectancy that is approximately 15 years (males) and 13 years (females) lower than those from the least deprived areas. The extent of these inequalities in health remain one of the biggest challenges to the health and wellbeing of our Borough and societies with greater inequality have poorer health overall.

Stockton-on-Tees

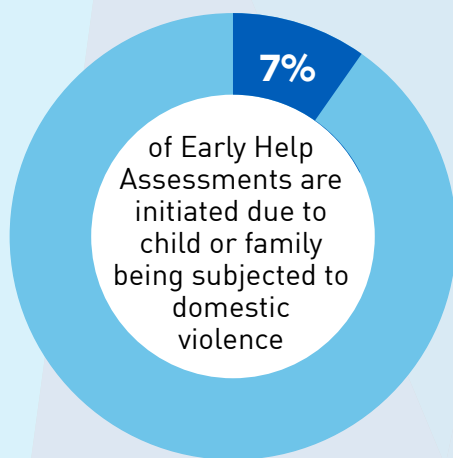
Our Borough 2016/2017



Safeguarding and Child Protection 2016/2017



Children referred to the Channel Programme in the year-to-date



Looked After Children were first time entrants to the youth justice system



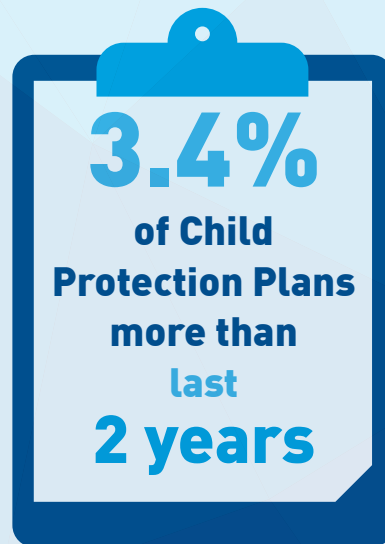
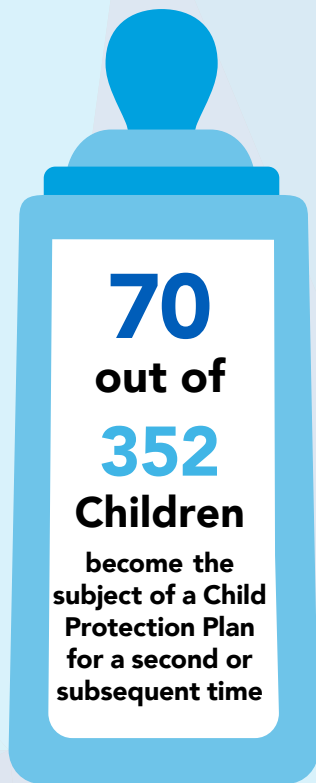
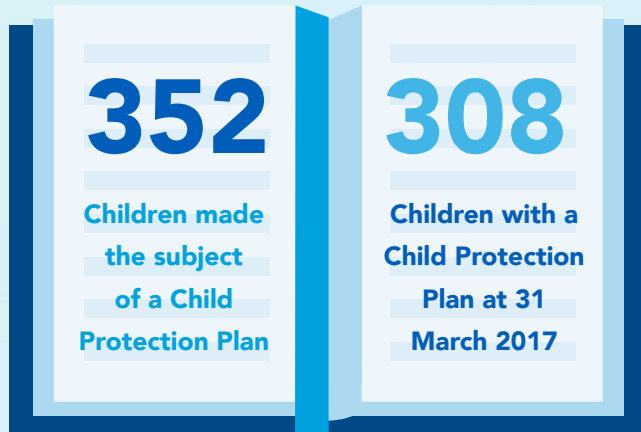
Children were first time entrants to the youth justice system



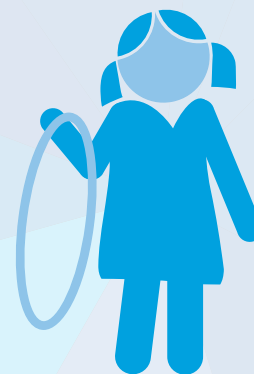
Children and Young People's Services 2016/2017



2,782
Children referred to
Children's Services



434
Looked After Children at 31 March 2017



182
become Looked After during the year



2,063
Child in Need at 31 March 2017



2,236
become a Child in Need during the year

Life expectancy and health life expectancy (2014-16 to be released in September 2017)					
		Stockton		England	
		Males	Females	Males	Females
2013-15	Life expectancy at birth	78.1	81.7	79.5	83.1
2013-15	Healthy life expectancy at birth	61	62.3	63.4	64.1

Life expectancy Gap (2014-16 to be released in September 2017)			
		Stockton	
		Males	Females
2013-15	Gap in life expectancy between most deprived and least deprived areas	15.1 years	12.7 years

IMD Deprivation rank (produced every 5 years, next update is 2020)		
		Stockton
		2015

Children living in poverty (produced every 5 years, next update is 2020)				
		Stockton		England
		Number	%	%
2015	Children (0-15) living in income deprived households	8449	22.6	19.9

Theme	Measure	2016/17 Outturn
Demographics	Number of people living in the Borough (Mid 2016 ONS population estimates)	195,700
	Number of babies born	2,243
	Number of children (0-17) in the Borough (Mid 2016 ONS population estimates)	42,981
	Number of households	85,700
	Number of children in schools	31,119
	Number of children eligible for free school meals	5,164

Theme	Measure	2016/17 Outturn
Safeguarding	Number of children becoming a Child in Need during the year 2016/17	2,236
	Number of Children in Need at 31 March 2017	2,063
	Number of children becoming Looked After during 2016/17	182
	Number of Looked After Children at 31 March 2017	434
	Number of children referred to Children's Services during 2016 / 2017	2,782
	Number of children made the subject of a Child Protection Plan	352
	Number of children with a Child Protection Plan at 31 March 2017	308
	Number of Child Protection Plans lasting 2 years or more	11 out of 327 plans ceasing (3.4%)
	Number of children becoming the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time	70 out of 352 becoming the subject of a plan in the year (19.9%)
	Number of children referred to Children's Services due to risks associated with domestic abuse (9.3% of total referrals)	7.1%
	Number of reported domestic abuse incidents witnessed by children	649
	Number of reported domestic abuse incidents witnessed by children within 12 months of a similar incident in the year-to date	384
	Number of children witnessing a domestic abuse incident in the year-to-date	12
	Early Help Assessments initiated due to child or family being subjected to domestic violence	80 (7%)
	Number of children referred to the Channel Programme in the year-to-date	16

Theme	Measure	2016/17 Outturn
Safeguarding	The number of children living in a household with an adult referred to the Channel Programme in the year-to-date	2
	The number of crimes where children are recorded as victims of violence against the person offences	724
	The number of crimes where children are recorded as victims of sexual offences	150
	The number of children who are first time entrants to the youth justice system in the year-to-date	67
	The number of Looked After Children who are first time entrants to the youth justice system in the year-to-date	8

What we have done in 2016 / 2017

Ofsted Inspection

During 23 May to 16 June 2016 SLSCB was subject to inspection by Ofsted. The outcome of which was that it was found to require improvement which we have taken on board and put in place remedial actions to address the recommendations made.

The report stated that *'The Board has very good understanding of its strengths and weaknesses. SLSCB meets its statutory functions. It benefits from appropriate multi-agency membership, very good attendance and strong commitment, including from three lay members who bring independent challenge to the Board's work.'*

A key strength of SLSCB is the work of the sub-groups, especially those working across other Teesside local safeguarding children boards, including the vulnerable, exploited, missing and trafficked group (VEMT), which adds strength and challenge to safeguarding children, the shared procedures sub-group and the child death overview panel (CDOP). The Board has been instrumental in shaping services for children and young people in Stockton-on-Tees, including those for domestic abuse and promoting the safety of children in public settings, and has been influential in the introduction of the multiagency children's hub.'

Recommendations were made to address the shortfalls identified by Ofsted, many of which had already been identified by the Board itself who had started to address the issues.

1. Ensure that quality assurance and performance management processes provide clear analyses, so that the SLSCB has a clear understanding of the effectiveness of partner agencies.

Response: Development of Tees LSCBs Performance Framework is addressing this recommendation through data collection and analysis. This will be further enhanced when the Deep Dive reports are presented.

2. Ensure that the joint Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees threshold document is effectively used and understood by partner agencies.

Response: Audits have taken place of development of the Hartlepool & Stockton Childrens Hub (CHub).

CHub report presented to SLSCB May 2017 which demonstrates increased awareness of thresholds reflected in reduction in the number of inappropriate referrals.

3. Ensure that the views of children and young people help to influence the work of the Board and the safeguarding practice of all partner agencies.

Response: Reports presented to SLSCB in March 2017 identified improvements in how the revised operational framework for capturing the voice of the child is helping to improve practice.

Restructuring within SBC Children's Social Care has moved the lead for this to create a more structured approach and methodology to be applied.

All SLSCB reports now include a section for completion regarding the voice of the child.

4. Undertake an analysis and evaluation of need to inform the Stockton-on-Tees and Hartlepool 2017–18 joint training programme.

Response: Training Needs Analysis carried out. Review of training and how priorities are identified is taking place. New training group established in 2017 to take this forward.

Greater collaboration to take place between Sub Groups Chairs in particular Training and LIPSG.

5. Ensure that the annual report for 2015–16 is succinct, and includes a clear analysis of performance and the effectiveness of partner agencies in undertaking their safeguarding functions

Response: New format for 2015 / 16 was applied.

Performance

2016 / 2017 saw the introduction of a bespoke Performance Management Framework (PMF) across the four Tees LSCB areas. This required a great deal of collaboration between the many partner agencies involved in safeguarding children, including the four Local Authorities, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), NHS Foundation Trusts and Police, but the end result is a real improvement in the quality of performance information available to the Board.

In terms of performance levels, the LSCB PMF has highlighted a number of strong performances in Stockton-on-Tees compared to the other Tees LSCB's and both regional and national averages, and some potential safeguarding issues:

- **LSCB 01** - Vaccination rates.

Generally positive trend and better than Tees averages.

- **LSCB 02** - Conception rates.

Generally positive trend and better than Tees averages but remains significantly worse than national averages.

- **LSCB 03** - Completed assessments.

High comparative volume of assessments completed in Stockton-on-Tees (more than twice any other Tees LSCB area).

Stockton-on-Tees has comparatively low percentages in certain factors: alcohol misuse; drug misuse; domestic violence; mental health; learning disability; physical disability. In contrast, Stockton-on-Tees is well above Tees and national averages for: physical abuse; sexual abuse.

- **LSCB 04** - Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETS).

Very strong performance on tracking NEET status, with very few “not knowns”.

- **LSCB 05 - 06** - Children in families placed in B&B or hostels accommodation.

Stockton-on-Tees has a much higher use of hostel accommodation (St James' Hostel is designed for families) than other Tees authorities.

- **LSCB 08 – 10** - Children in Need, Child Protection Plans, Looked After Children.

Trends are generally increasing across the Tees area, with Stockton-on-Tees above the Tees average for new Children in Need cases. The rates of children at each level without a history of Early Help Assessment appear very high, but Stockton-on-Tees are reducing slowly each quarter and are a good deal better than the Tees average.

- **LSCB 13** - Early Help Assessments. High comparative volume of assessments completed in Stockton-on-Tees (nearly twice any other Tees LSCB area), with a large rate of active Early Help Assessment's.
- **LSCB 18** - Children presenting at hospital emergency departments.

North Tees NHS Trust has much higher rates of accidental and deliberate child injuries in the “other” categories.

- **LSCB 19** - Missing children.

Stockton-on-Tees remains a huge outlier on children reported missing, with almost half of all cases of children missing four or more times in the last six months being from Stockton-on-Tees addresses. A recent report to Tees Strategic VEMT Group suggested that children are reported as missing more readily in Stockton-on-Tees than elsewhere in the Tees area, for example when they are late to return or where their likely whereabouts is known (being with friends or girl/boyfriends).

The first year of this system has led to analysis being requested to try to understand why there are such differing levels of data from each of the areas against particular indicators. The results of which is leading towards greater commonality of recording, enabling true comparison to take place and the opportunity for us to learn from each other.

Achievements & Next Steps

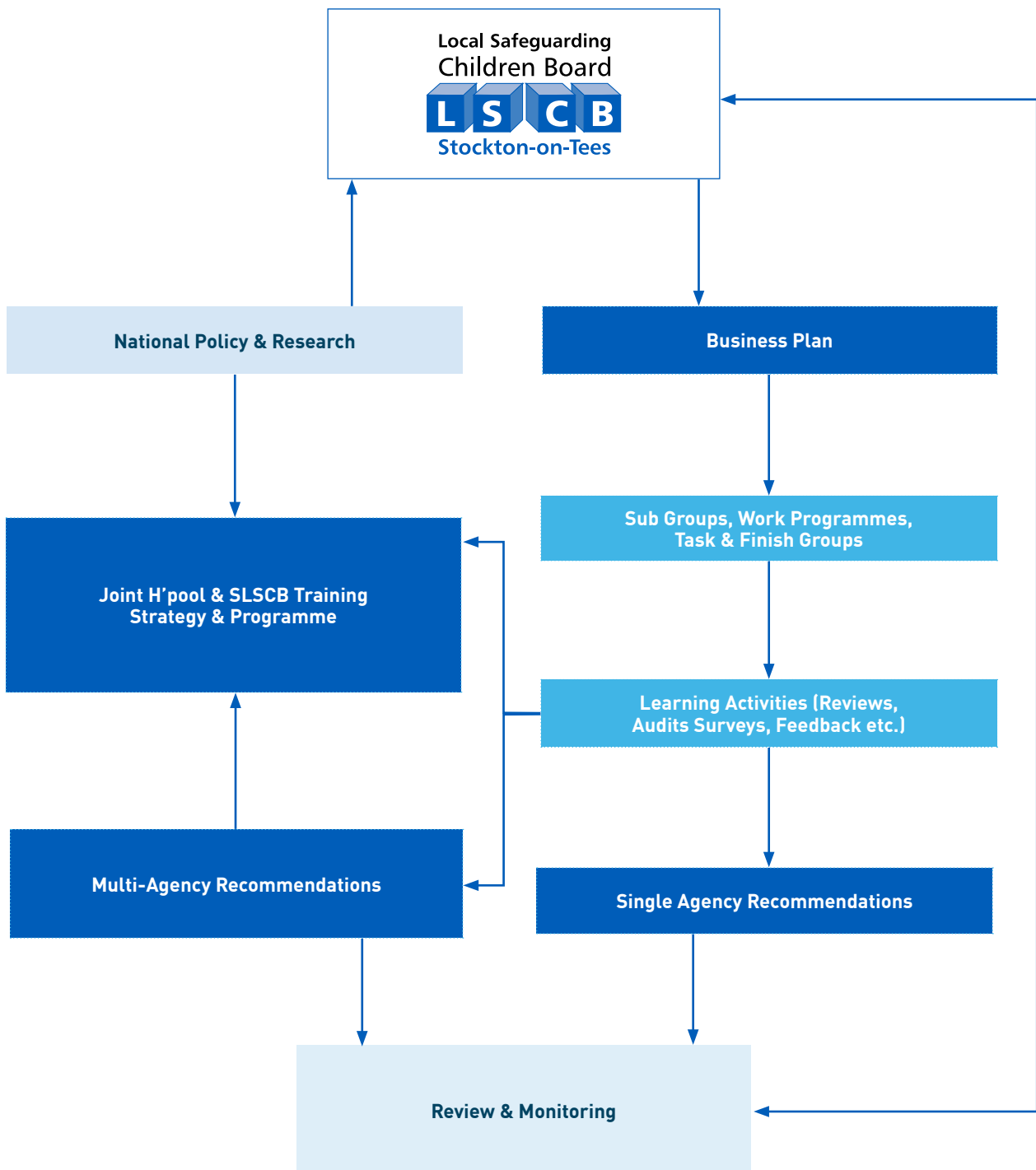
SLSCB ensures that it:

- reflects on the quality of safeguarding provision across services in Stockton-on-Tees;
- challenges and scrutinises practice; and
- learns from this reflection and scrutiny, by:
 - sharing good practice to promote understanding of what works well;
 - ensuring rigorous, objective analysis when things go wrong so that lessons are learnt and services improved to reduce the risk of future harm to children.

The outcome of which are used to promote improvements in practice and, ultimately, better outcomes for children and young people.

Lessons learnt from these activities may be single agency or multi-agency issues; they will impact on training programmes; and they will inform the business planning cycle for the Board. In line with this process the Board monitors and challenges partner agencies to ensure that learning is disseminated across organisations and that actions are taken to embed learning in practice:

The following provides an overview of work undertaken during 2016 / 2017 and what is required next.



The Voice of the Child

SLSCB had previously recognised this was an area of work that needed improvement and that the voice of the child should be at the heart of everything we do. From this premise we reflected on practice and identified improvements that could be made.

A framework for 'Voice of the child' which includes action at strategic, operational and individual levels was introduced:

- a. Strategically - as partnerships we agreed to ensure that we engage with existing representative structures, are pro-active in seeking the views of children and young people in the work we do, and that we commit to reporting on outcomes.
- b. Operationally - individual services and organisations committed to ensuring their own processes to seek the voice of the child when taking decisions, and reporting on this activity, and to collate examples as evidence.
- c. Individually - ensuring that the voice of the child is sought and listed to when undertaking any assessment / review / care planning, and is a fundamental part of our work on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

A variety of methods are now used to engage children, listen to their views and act upon what they say. Three strands which are proving to be the correct step towards improvement are Mind of my Own (MOMO)', Signs of Safety and Graded Care Profile 2. Other developments including restructuring in some service areas to provide a greater focus on the voice of the child are also taking place.

MOMO is a new app which was rolled out by Stockton-on-Tees Children's Services during 2016 / 2017, which, which lets young people in care or receiving support to express their views to their worker.

It can be really hard for young people to tell us how they are feeling especially when they are going through a difficult time so the MOMO app has really helped professionals understand how young people are feeling and enables them to give us their views and opinions. This then helps us develop effective plans that support their needs and wishes.

Once a young person submits a MOMO to the worker of their choice this is quickly responded to and helps to open up communication with our young people.



Check out the app at www.mindofmyown.org.uk

Signs of Safety is a strengths-based, safety organised approach to child protection work that is being used by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Children's Services to assist in their assessment, decision-making and planning for children who may be open to statutory services.

It brings about:

- Active encouragement of participation and engagement in meetings for children (where appropriate), family members and agencies.
- Meetings that consider and challenge whether information is relevant to the concern being raised.
- The child's voice and presentation being central and direct work undertaken to attempt to capture their wishes and feelings.
- Judgements being made, on a scale of 0-10 that considers how serious the situation is for the child
- Plans that review current and present risk and most importantly what impact and how meaningful these interventions are having for the child.
- Accountability for all of those involved around delivering the plan.
- No surprises for family members around what could happen if significant concerns persist.

A key aspect of the Signs of Safety within Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council's Children's Services is that it can be used flexibly so that its principles and ways of working are used within a different range of interventions for children of all ages regardless of the severity of the concern.



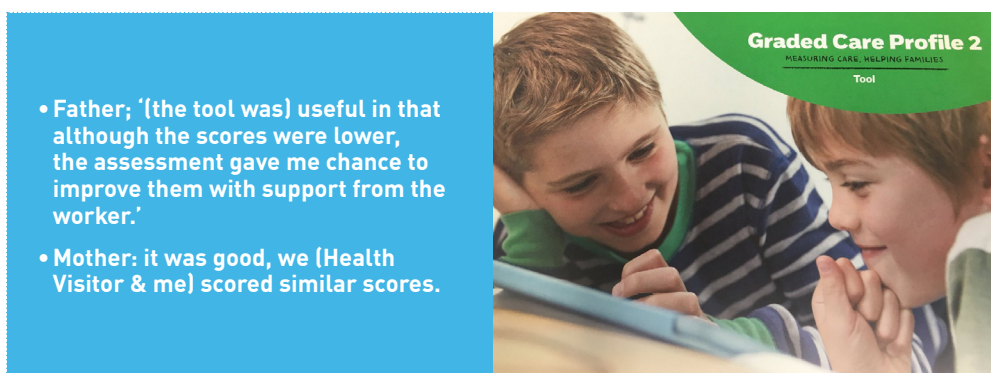
Graded Care Profile 2 is an early help assessment tool which helps parents and workers identify indicators of neglect.

In July 2015 SLSCB submitted a bid to become a pilot site for GCP2 and were successful. SLSCB believed in the improved concept of this early help work and that all of our partners had the workforce that could embrace and take it forward in our long term endeavours to tackle neglect.

The results of the national pilot are due out however we are already noticing an early indication of the success it has been and can be. The NSPCC in recognition of the work by Stockton-on-Tees carried out as part of the pilot are also suggesting to other LSCBs who are interested in using Graded Care Profile 2 to contact us as they seeing us as trail blazer. We added an additional element of intensive support and supervision for those using the tool which has seen staff embrace it which we believe has made the additional impact.

SLSCB is pleased that earlier than expected this is now part of mainstream assessments and is being used as another tool in the identification and approach to tackling neglect.

It is acknowledged that we may not see the long term results for quite a few years but by making it part of the Early Help interventions now we may be able to move away from early indications of neglect not being recognised and poor practice of recurring episodes of neglect being looked at in isolation and not as a continuum. Neglect is not something that is always easily evidenced but can be a myriad of issues that impact on each other.



• Father; '(the tool was) useful in that although the scores were lower, the assessment gave me chance to improve them with support from the worker.'

• Mother: it was good, we (Health Visitor & me) scored similar scores.

Graded Care Profile 2
MEASURING CARE, HELPING FAMILIES
Tool

The voice of the child is an integral part of each of these tools and we have welcomed the improvements made to date which we will continue to build upon in the future.

Child Death Overview Panel

The Tees Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) reviews the deaths of children from the Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Stockton-on-Tees and Redcar & Cleveland Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) areas. Tees CDOP is a sub group of the 4 Tees LSCBs.

The role of the CDOP is to ensure that wherever child deaths occur, and under whatever circumstances, scrutiny of the cases result in recognised improvements that can be made to practice to improve the quality of care, as well as the safety of children. CDOP also identifies any relevant strategic issues and ensure that these translate into action within or between agencies. CDOP ensures that the team looking after children have the opportunity to discuss and reflect on the death, learn any lessons, and implement any helpful changes to practice or to systems of care.

The value of child death review, and the necessity for its coordination and scrutiny by a Child Death Overview Panel, has been understood nationally and remains a core component of the latest version of Working Together (2015).

Tees CDOP is Chaired by the Director of Public Health, Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland, and the business management functions are undertaken by the Redcar and Cleveland Safeguarding Children Board Business Support Team.

Cases Reviewed by CDOP 1 April 2016 – 31 March 2017

During 2016-17 Tees CDOP reviewed 44 child deaths making a total of 344 reviewed over the 9 years of operation. The Tees Panel met 7 times during the year and reviewed an average of 6 cases per meeting.

LSCB	Neonatal	Older Children	Total
Hartlepool	2	1	3
Stockton	5	10	15
Middlesbrough	3	13	16
Redcar & Cleveland	5	5	10
Total	15	29	44

The table below shows the respective ages of the children when they died. In total 44 child deaths were reviewed during 2016/17.

LSCB	Neonatal < 4 Weeks	4- 52 Weeks	1 - 4 Years	5 - 9 Years	10 - 14 Years	15 up to 18 Years	Total
Hartlepool	2					1	3
Stockton	6	3	2		2	2	15
Middlesbrough	3	9	1		2	1	16
Redcar & Cleveland	5	3	1	1			10
TOTAL	16	15	4	4	4	5	44

Total Child Deaths 2016 / 2017

The table below shows comparative numbers of **total child** deaths for the current and previous 3 years.

LCSB	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	Total
Hartlepool	5(2)	9(4)	7(3)	11(8)	32
Stockton	17(7)	12(0)	12(3)	16(8)	57
Middlesbrough	9(4)	13(5)	16(4)	12(2)	50
Redcar & Cleveland	5(2)	7(3)	8(2)	9(4)	29
Total	36	41	43	48	168

*Numbers in brackets denote unexpected deaths.

Rapid Response Meetings Held in 2016 / 2017

Following the successful implementation of the Rapid Response Process in 2015/16 a Rapid Response meeting is now held following unexpected deaths (with the exception of Neo-natal deaths).

An unexpected death is defined as the death of an infant or child which was not anticipated as a significant possibility for example, 24 hours before the death; or where there was an unexpected collapse or incident leading to or precipitating the events which lead to the death.

The purpose of the Rapid Response Meeting is to:

- To help work out the provisional cause of death and identify any risk factors pertaining to that death
- To explicitly consider whether there are any safeguarding issues for surviving siblings, potential future siblings and other associated children
- Identify any urgent action to be taken by any agency
- To signpost to appropriate help and support for family/friends and staff where necessary
- To help gather information for Tees Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) in a standard format

A total of 17 rapid response meetings were undertaken in 2016-17 as, follows:

- 8 for Stockton
- 5 for Hartlepool
- 3 for Redcar and Cleveland
- 1 for Middlesbrough

5 unexpected deaths did not have a Rapid Response meeting.

Issues of Note

- Once again all Tees LSCBs supported the Safer Sleep Campaign by The Lullaby Trust which took place 13 – 18 March 2017.
- The Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy Protocol (SUDI) was revised nationally in 2016/2017 and as a result the Tees process is undergoing review. The amended Tees protocol is in draft form and will be finalised in early 2017/18.
- The four Tees Directors of Public Health have agreed to fund the costs of Tees CDOP in 2017/18.

Future Challenges

- Consider the impact of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 upon CDOPs nationally.
- Consider funding arrangements from 2018 onwards.
- Work with Child Bereavement UK to develop advice and guidance aimed at ensuring bereavement services are available for all families across the Tees

- Consideration of how we share the lesson learned from Child Deaths.
- Considering how we can ensure families are aware of and involved in the CDOP process.



Children with a Disability

The Ofsted Inspection Team acknowledged that the support for children and young people with complex care needs and disabilities was good in Stockton-on-Tees and that they benefited from a specialist social work team. They felt that the staff were confident and skilled and when young people need transition to adult social care services they are allocated a worker promptly and they receive an assessment with individualised support to prepare for independence or transfer to adult social care.

The Disabled Children Social Work team uses a range of approaches to ensure that the views and wishes of children and young people with disabilities can be captured. For children and young people who are non-verbal, have profound and multiple disabilities or communication difficulties the most appropriate method of communication may be used with the child or young person. This may include:

- The use of signing.
- The use of symbols or pictures.
- The use of PECS (Picture Exchange Communication System).
- Liaison with professionals skilled in understanding the child or young person's communication (e.g. school staff, care staff for short breaks).
- The use of specialist communication systems (e.g. dynavox).

To help shape and develop services, data from 'The Children and Young people's Disability Register Stockton-on-Tees is used. This is a confidential record of information about children with disabilities living in Stockton-on-Tees. The register is voluntary and parents or carers must send the information for their child to be on the register and consent to the inclusion of this information in the register. Those who register receive information and updates about services and events and are informed about ways they can get involved in developments.

The Local Offer is also available which provides information about the services available for children and young people with special education needs and disabilities and their families in Stockton-on-Tees. The Local Offer can be found on: www.stockton.gov.uk/localoffer.

Children's Hub (Hartlepool & Stockton)

The Children's Hub which is a single point of entry to Children's Social Care became operational on 1 June 2016. It is a partnership between:

- Hartlepool Borough Council
- Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
- Cleveland Police
- North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust
- Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust

Although it has its own Management Board, SLSCB requests and receives updates regarding activity of the Children's Hub to ensure that it is meeting requirements and providing appropriate services to children and their families.

A number of Qualitative Audits have been undertaken over the first 6 months of the Hub becoming operational.

The first Audit undertaken by Stockton Borough Council staff was in response to the recommendation in the Ofsted SIF report regarding the lack of evidence of management decision making on the Children's Hub referrals.

As a result of this recommendation new processes were put in place and an audit of cases in November 2016 confirmed that management oversight was now evident in all of the Children's Hub cases that went to the Social Work Assessment Teams.

This was not the case however of all cases that went to Early Help. A further more recent audit of referrals to the Children's Hub to the Early Help Team did identify that in all cases there was now management oversight evident.

Since the Children's Hub was established regular meetings have taken place with the Children's Hub staff and school representatives, including attendance at the termly Safeguarding Schools Forum. The Designated Education Officer role in the Children's Hub (DEO) also has been contacted on a regular basis to give advice on cases and guidance on when to refer cases into the Children's Hub. Further work will continue in order that schools understand thresholds more fully and also referrals to the Early Help Service. A similar process has been undertaken with the Community & Voluntary Sector Safeguarding Forum.

An External review of the Children's Hub arrangements is planned to take place in 2017 / 2018 and colleagues from North Yorkshire Local Authority have agreed to undertake the review with a view to making any recommendations which will improve the processes within the Hub and with partners.

Child Protection Conferences and Reviews – Independent Review Unit

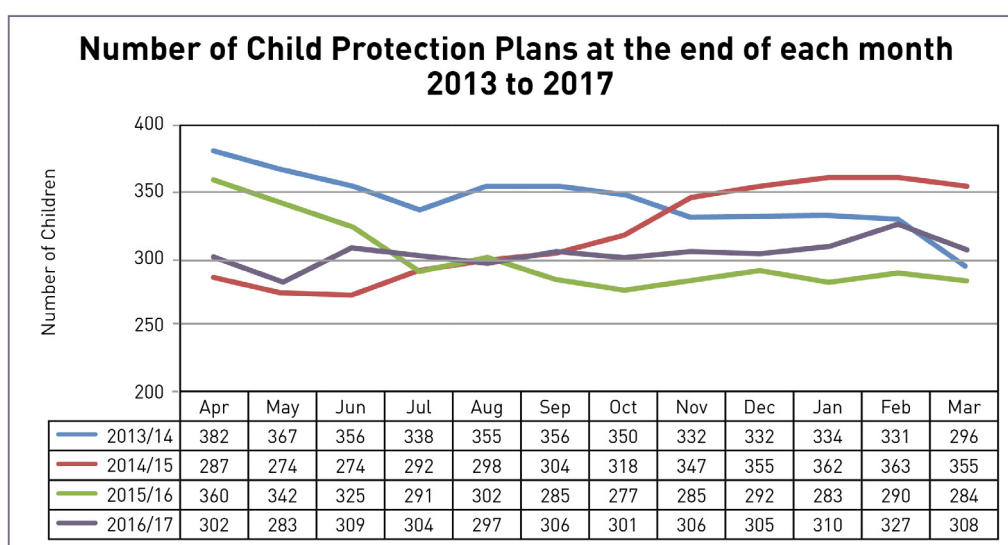
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council employs Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) which is a statutory requirement set within the framework of the IRO handbook, Department for Children, Schools and Families (2010) and linked to revised Care Planning Regulations and Guidance which were introduced in April 2011. Although this is an independent unit which sits within Children’s Social Care, SLSCB receives exception reports from this team and an annual assurance report which is subject to challenge and scrutiny by the Board to oversee the services provided to ensure appropriate actions are taken to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the most vulnerable children in the Borough.

The responsibility of the IRO is to offer overview, scrutiny and challenge with regard to case management. The IRO has a key role in relation to the improvement of Care Planning for Looked After Children (LAC) with particular emphasis upon challenging drift and delay. Advocacy and key attention to the child’s legal rights should also be primary considerations.

In Stockton-on-Tees the IRO’s are also responsible for Chairing Child Protection Case conferences. The statutory requirements for individual services to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; are set out in Working Together, A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children (March 2015). The chair of a Child protection Conference needs to be accountable to the Director of Children’s Services, and should be a professional, independent of operational and/or line management responsibilities for the case.

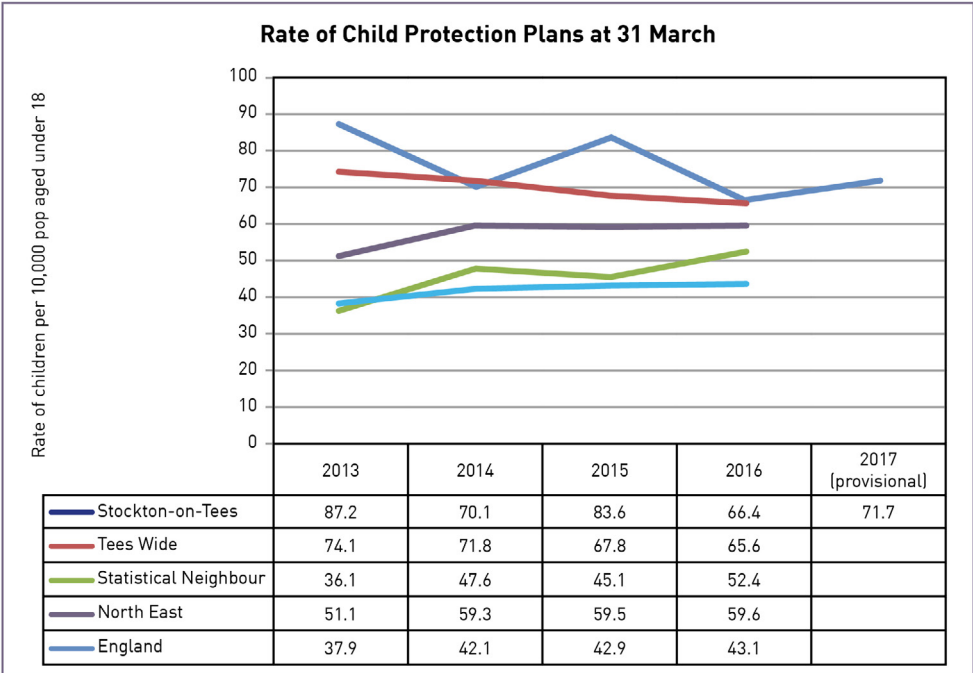
Child Protection Activity

The chart below shows the monthly number of Children subject to Child Protection Plans (CPP) over the last 4 years.



The total number of children with a child protection plan on the 31 March 2017 was 308, this equates to 71.6 per 10,000 children under the age of 18yrs. This is an increase of 8.5% from 284 from the previous year, a rate of 66.9 per 10,000 children.

The chart below shows Child protection rate per 10,000 over the last five years.



This next table shows the active plans at 31 March 2017 by age and latest category of the abuse. Neglect being the highest category, hence the reason for it being one of the Boards priority areas.

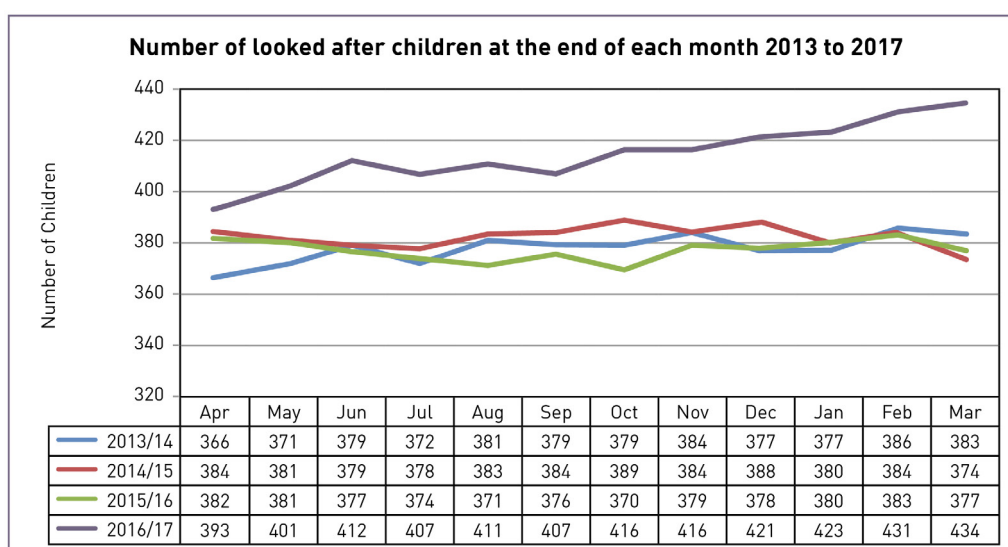
Categories	Age					
	Under 1 (including unborns)	1-4	5 – 9	10 – 15	16 +	Total
Neglect	34	52	47	38	2	173
Physical Abuse	10	9	9	8	1	37
Sexual Abuse	3	3	5	6	1	18
Emotional Abuse	11	23	23	22	1	80
Total	58	87	84	74	5	308

Looked After Children Activity

On the 31 March 2017 there were 434 children and young people who were looked after. This is a substantial increase from the 31 March 2015 where the number of looked after children was 377.

Of the 434 placements, 303 were inside the local authority boundary and 131 were outside the local authority boundary.

The chart below shows the monthly number of Looked After Children (LAC) over the last 4 years.



The last few years have shown Stockton-on-Tees rate of LAC per 10,000 is higher than the North East and England averages, but it is in line with the Tees Valley.

As can be seen in the chart below, LAC numbers over the last few years have remained fairly stable but this year there has a significant rise. Stockton-on-Tees numbers have not gone up in isolation and this upward trajectory can be seen across the Tees Valley. Although Stockton-on-Tees rates remain significantly higher than the England average it is encouraging to note that over the last two years they have reduced against the Tees wide comparator. The increasing number of children subject to being placed on a CPP or becoming LAC has been the subject of scrutiny by the Board during the year resulting in a request from the Board for an in-depth analysis to be conducted which will be reported on in next years report.

Looked After Children Rates per 10,000 (Children age under 18)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017 (provisional)
England	59	60	60	60	60	
North East	78	80	81	81	84	
Tees Wide	84.5	88.75	91	87.5	96.5	113
Stockton	80	86	90	88	88	101
Middlesbrough	111	114	111	113	120	143
Hartlepool	85	92	100	82	105	131
Redcar & Cleveland	62	63	63	67	73	86

At the time of writing the SLSCB Annual Report the National and North East Data was not yet available for 2016 / 2017

Summary and impact

The IRO Service has had a very busy and productive year. The number of children who have entered or left the care system has significantly risen this year and comparative to national data Stockton-on-Tees continues to have significantly higher numbers of LAC and CP.

Stockton-on-Tees have significantly improved performance of those children on Child Protection Plans lasting 2 years or more and are now below the England average.

Whilst there is no comparative data for LAC review timescales Stockton-on-Tees continues to do well in this area, likewise timeliness of CP reviews is really good and above both the regional and national figures.

Of major concern is the IRO's high caseloads, this needs to be reduced to ensure effective quality and efficiency of service.

The programme of work completed throughout the year has included the development and implementation of a number of new systems and processes. Likewise a number of new performance reports have been created to support the function of the unit and ensure reliable and effective management performance reporting.

The IRO service has continued to strengthen the challenge function of the role over the last year and has raised a number of issues that have needed intervention at senior management level, resulting in positive outcomes and timelier change for a young person.

IRO's have provided critical analysis of service provision and practice and highlighted specific issues and service challenges that require improvement. This has included gathering views from children and young people.

More detailed information is available in the SBC Review Unit Annual Assurance Report which is available on the SLSCB website.

Reducing the Impact of Domestic Abuse on Children

A report presented to the Stockton-on-Tees Health & Wellbeing Board provided a background to past domestic abuse arrangements within the Borough. It detailed developments that had taken place since 2013. However, following more recent discussion focusing on the cross-departmental and organisational activity identified as being required to prevent and respond to domestic abuse, it was acknowledged that, whilst there is considerable work being carried out by a range of partnerships, organisations and individuals, there needed to be a single partnership in place to bring this work together. This work was heavily informed by the Board including holding a thematic on this subject in January 2017. At this thematic the Board was successfully able to influence that future work would concentrate on children subject to or witnessing Domestic Abuse. The Board is clear in its responsibility to hold to account the steering group referred to below to account in its delivery of safeguarding children.

As such, it was therefore proposed that a Domestic Abuse Steering Group be established reporting to the Stockton-on-Tees Health & Wellbeing Board, with a wider working protocol to be developed between the Safer Stockton Partnership, Local Safeguarding Children Board, the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board, the Adults Health & Wellbeing Partnership, the Children & Young People's Partnership and the Health & Wellbeing Board to provide clarity regarding decision-making and reporting mechanisms, based on the existing protocols between both Safeguarding Boards and the Health & Wellbeing Board. This was established and a more co-ordinated approach to this matter is now taking place. A co-ordinated Domestic Abuse Strategy with work streams is due to be launched in 2017.

To reduce the impact of domestic abuse on children by working restoratively with families the partnership which includes SLSCB have agreed that:

Children who are abused or who witness domestic violence and abuse at home are at increased risk of youth violence and of both suffering and perpetrating intimate partner violence in adulthood. Exposure to abuse or neglect, particularly in the early years, can have a profound effect on the physical development of the brain as well as on the emotional and social development of the child.

Children affected by the trauma associated with domestic abuse experience poorer physical, emotional, mental health, educational and employment outcomes and their potential to enjoy healthy, happy respectful relationships. Without early and comprehensive intervention, the impact is life-long.

In 2016 *Operation Encompass* was established in 139 nurseries, schools, academies and colleges across Stockton on Tees to forge stronger safeguarding communication between police and schools.

Between April and June 2016 there have been 193 (involving 274 children) domestic abuse incidents where children were present; 96% of these children were not currently gaining support from social care. In 17% of the cases the child was identified as the perpetrator.

The *Schools Health Education Unit* (SHEU) surveyed 2,621 year 8 and 10 pupils in Stockton-on-Tees during 2016. It was reported that 1 in 3 pupils do not know what to do if they experience controlling / abusive behaviours and 1 in 5 pupils think it is ok to send 'sexting' text or images. Safeguarding our children's vulnerabilities is paramount. Our role in safeguarding extends to awareness raising and protecting our children from accessing inappropriate internet content and to risky online behaviour, including sharing provocative images. We will work together to promote safe access and raise awareness of risky behaviours.

Too many of our young people are experiencing forced marriage, it is estimated that there are 5,000 cases each year in England. The majority are young women and girls (85%) aged between 16 and 25 who as a result often suffer domestic abuse in its entirety.

Honour Based Violence (HBV) is committed when it is perceived that a family member has brought shame on the family and/or community. There is often some degree of collusion from family and/or community members. We will work with our communities and colleagues in the voluntary sector to establish the extent of these issues within our Borough.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) involves procedures to partially or totally remove the external female genitalia for non-medical reasons. As a safeguarding issue, we will work with the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) to ensure appropriate protocols for FGM are implemented.

We will respond to the above evidence to ensure that we are protecting our children and young people from becoming victims or perpetrators of domestic abuse now or in their future lives.

SLSCB were pleased to be able to influence the development of the [Domestic Abuse Strategy](#) and were able to ensure there was an increased focus within it of the impact of domestic abuse on the child and multi-agency work that took place with Operation Encompass. It felt there was an over-focus on victims in the draft version and that children who witness domestic abuse are sometimes forgotten victims.

Early Help

An Early Help Operating Model report, was agreed during 2016 / 2017 which proposed a new approach to early help in Stockton-on-Tees following previous updates to the SLSCB and other partnership bodies. This new approach was agreed as being required in order to address a number of identified issues, one of which was failure to work within a whole system approach (adoption, application and ownership) of the Common Assessment Framework tool (CAFs) which had been the subject of challenge and criticism from the Board to some partner agencies.

Outline of the model

Elements of the proposed model included the explicit focus on three key layers which correspond to the three levels of need as identified in the Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees threshold document:

- **Universal and primary prevention:** those functions and services which are available to all, and where the focus is on primary prevention - preventing difficulties emerging.

- **Secondary prevention:** placing a much bigger emphasis on identifying vulnerable children, young people and families and ensuring there are specific preventative programmes and actions in place to reduce risks.
- **A targeted approach:** based on Early Help Assessment, the development of an early help hub, and a strong emphasis on case management and the delivery of targeted evidence based practice.

Operating model

The implementation of the model is based on the establishment of an Early Help Hub (there was already a form of 'hub' through the involvement of Harbour services), a more cohesive set of early help service responses, and the development of a set of pathways for specific issues and client groups based on the key issues and needs which together result in the most demand on other services.

The inclusion of a focus on 'school readiness', was agreed as a requisite for this approach as this has a significant impact on child development.

Regular monitoring reports are presented to SLSCB to track progress of this revised approach to Early Help and Assessment.

Education Establishments in Stockton

Safeguarding in Education Establishments is taken very seriously in Stockton-on-Tees and collaborative work takes place to provide support and continual improvement in this area.

The mechanisms in place to communicate the key messages of the Stockton Local Safeguarding Board to all education providers include:

- Education representatives on the SLSCB prepare an e- bulletin after SLSCB meetings to brief on the key messages, share and signpost resources and provide updates on safeguarding practice. This **Safeguarding Briefing** is cascaded to all education providers;
- Termly half day forums are held for all education providers to provide training, discussion and to communicate key actions about safeguarding best practice. These **Safeguarding Forums** are offered free to senior leaders in education settings across Stockton-on-Tees;
- Each school receives an annual assessment of its performance against a range of performance criteria in the **Stockton School Improvement Challenge Framework**. Attendance at the Safeguarding Forum is monitored and if providers fail to attend, a challenge criterion is triggered and the governors or academy trust and the Director of Children's Services are informed;
- An **action plan** is prepared for education providers after each Safeguarding Forum to ensure compliance against key initiatives;
- Template proformas and policies are issued for use by education providers. File audits are beginning to be held to ensure compliance with appropriate record keeping and policy.

The Safeguarding Forums for schools and colleges is delivered every term and attendance is very strong. The agendas include key objectives for education as well as messages from the Safeguarding Board.

The evaluations from the sessions remain very positive:

- *We have a student in Y10 who is going to Travistock Clinic and considering changing from boy to girl so information from primaries was very relevant.*
- *Interesting to hear from CAHMS and the training offered to staff.*
- *Real life scenarios really useful the Head Teacher who led us through the incident 'fracas outside newsagents' and subsequent Facebook/online stuff. At first read was 'Oh my God what would we do?' Learning about how it was handled and resolved was very helpful.*
- *Thank you for clarity about which VEMT form to complete and which threshold document to use when making Safer referrals.*
- *The event was very informative and useful.*

Evaluation of 2016 / 2017

2016 / 2017 held some significant challenges in Stockton-on-Tees schools. The suicide of a pupil at Northfield School in January 2017, raised questions about alleged bullying at the school and implications due to two previous deaths of students linked with the school. The suicide was the subject of a learning review through LIPSG and the school was subject to an unannounced Ofsted safeguarding inspection in April 2017. The Ofsted report concluded:

Safeguarding arrangements are effective. Leaders and managers have developed the curriculum effectively to meet pupils' personal development needs and to ensure their welfare and safety.

The Local Authority's work was commented upon:

The local authority has worked closely with the school and provided support for leaders as they have reviewed and improved the curriculum for pupils' personal development and welfare. This has enabled the school to develop strong links with other agencies, including counselling and mental health services, and has increased the support available for pupils with mental health needs.

Clearly, the work around *Future in Mind* is important to the development in Stockton-on-Tees of provision to meet children's emotional health and well being. Mental health First Aid training has also been widely delivered.

The inspections of other schools and settings in Stockton-on-Tees were also very favourable. All inspections recorded positive outcomes for safeguarding. A sample extract is below from a primary school inspection:

You have developed a strong team of knowledgeable and well-trained staff to manage safeguarding and child protection work. The team has good procedures in place to share and review the information you hold on vulnerable pupils. Good records are maintained which show that you take timely action to protect children when concerns arise. Your curriculum is regularly adapted to ensure that pupils are well informed about

how to protect themselves. The curriculum also has strong elements that develop pupils' understanding of equalities and the rights of the individual. As a result, there are very few incidents of bullying or prejudicial behaviour in the school.

Next steps for 2017 / 2018

- Deliver the Growing Up in Stockton-on-Tees Survey to benchmark the 2016 survey carried out with over 2,000 year 8 and year 10 pupils.
- Ensure the work of the Children Hub continues to link closely with education through the Designated Education Officer role and close working within Children's Services. Revised arrangements for senior leadership team meetings to include both education and social care staff have been put in place for the coming year.
- Ensure the exclusions in Stockton-on-Tees are reduced.

The Impact of Parental Mental Health on Children's Health and Well-being Sub Group (IPMHonCH)

Background

As part of the SLSCB development day it was agreed that parental mental continued to impact significantly on children's health and well-being and it was identified as a root cause of child neglect. This raised the question as to what do we know about the impact of parental mental health on children and is the board assured that organisations are considering this issue when they are delivering services to parents with mental health issues.

It was agreed that a LSCB sub group would be set up to address these questions and seek assurance that this important area is being addressed effectively to safeguard children.

The first meeting was held in February 2017 and these have continued 6 weekly throughout this reporting period.

Challenges

An initial challenge was to make sure the membership was appropriate and that the focus and purpose of the group was clear. It is important to avoid duplication as there is a lot of work being undertaken to address mental health issues in children and adults however the focus of this group was to address the impact of parental mental health on children.

What has been done?

During the short period of meetings held the following areas have been progressed:

- Membership has been revised and is now determined
- Clear terms of reference have been agreed and shared with Stockton's executive group
- A scoping exercise has been undertaken to highlight what current services are available

- Consideration has been given to avoiding duplication of other work which is already established
- A speaker from the '*Future In Mind*' transforming mental health services for children is to be invited to a future meeting
- An audit is to be undertaken to evidence the effectiveness of assessments and signposting to services such as early help

Impact

- Clear focus on the purpose of the group has been fermented
- The Group have been encouraged that the proposed way forward will make a difference to how services are delivered, will safeguard children and will improve information sharing across agencies
- What needs to happen in 2017 / 2018?
- Group will delegate the undertaking of an audit
- Findings to be considered to inform future development of pathways/training, to enable changes in practice
- Identified themes, areas for learning will be fed through to LIPSG
- Need to develop an effective way of sharing issues/ identified learning with other sub groups where root causes of child abuse and neglect are multi-factored, i.e. domestic abuse and substance misuse

Learning and Improving Practice Sub Group (LIPSG)

Background

The purpose of LIPSG is to drive forward learning, to enable change in practice to better safeguard children. The process of LIPSG has continued with some revisions taking place throughout the year to widen opportunities for learning

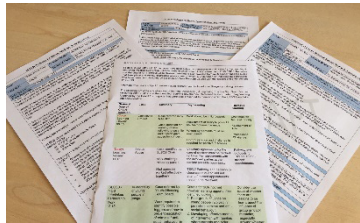
Current process

- Cases are submitted for consideration of learning reviews or serious case reviews
- Themes from audits are identified and where further training is required this is fed into the joint training group
- Learning from national events and case reviews is disseminated to organisations as appropriate
- Themes identified from audits are highlighted and inform the joint training group
- Where specific cases are reviewed learning is disseminated through bespoke training packages to target specific staff groups

What work has been done?

- During this reporting period there has been continued submissions of cases which has dominated the direction of meetings due to the volume of work this creates

- Learning has been disseminated to agencies which has involved summaries of cases reviewed, learning and bespoke pieces of training stemming from them has informed the joint training programme
- Eight cases subject to consideration, 3 initially referred in the previous year, none of the 8 met the criteria for a SCR
- Presentation to SLSCB clarifying the purpose of LIPSG, it's functions and revision of these
- Change of LIPSG chair from January 2017
- Revision of the purpose and function of LIPSG, revised terms of reference



Challenges

- Due to the volume of cases submitted to LIPSG and the time taken to consider these cases the focus has predominantly led to learning lesson reviews
- There is a danger that some cases when being considered turn into learning lesson reviews as members request more information to inform their decision
- Seeking assurance that agencies are aware of LIPSG purpose and wider scope

Impact

- Bespoke training has been developed and delivered to practitioners with positive feedback
- Each organisation feeds back learning relevant to them which has resulted in changes to policies and procedures
- Linked partnership working with the safeguarding children board and youth offending board resulted in shared learning and a specific piece of work is being commissioned to look at groups of young people and criminal behaviours
- Police practice revised due to learning lessons
- Reinforced Safe sleep babies campaign
- Presentation to the SLSCB increased awareness of purpose of LIPSG

Themes from learning

- Assessment of parental ability to protect and written agreements to be made explicit
- Impact of domestic abuse, substance misuse, parental mental health individually and collectively

- Professional's response to indicators of neglect
- Child's voice
- Over reliance on parental reporting
- Ante-natal Team around the family meetings
- Decision making-influences of this
- Professional challenge
- Children do not DNA they are not brought for appointments

What needs to be done?

Broaden opportunities for learning from a variety of sources which include:

- Inspections of different organisations will be fed into LIPSG to inform other agencies of potential learning for their own organisation
- Consideration and decisions of cases will be more timely allowing for more work to be undertaken on multi-agency case file audits
- LIPSG will inform the training group of pertinent recurring themes arising from LIPSG from learning reviews, audits, inspections, national learning
- Where bespoke training is required this will be developed and delivered or where necessary commissioned from specific organisations

Looked After Children

SLSCB receives reports and updates from Officers regarding Looked After Children and Care Leavers and is a member of the Multi Agency Looked After Partnership (MALAP). During 2016 / 2017 the Strategy for 2017 / 2019 was agreed and the Board paid particular attention to ensure that this vulnerable group of young people had the same level of safety and wellbeing of other children in the Borough.

Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy 2017-19



It endorsed the statement in the strategy which reads:

“Every single child in the Borough is important to us. So we are determined to give each and every one of them as many opportunities as we can to help them be the very best they can be in life. We’ll do all we can to protect those children who need our care and we’ll keep striving to provide the best in education.

*To give them the confidence to grow into valued, respected and included members of the community. Our promise is that not one child in this Borough will be knowingly forgotten or let down. **We’re on with it.**”*

SLSCB was particularly interested to make sure there was as little disruption and moves for the children as could be managed to keep them safe and to address issues regarding the high number of ‘missing episodes’ which made Stockton-on-Tees an outlier in data terms. A full report on this was commissioned which will be reported to SLSCB during 2017 / 2018.

Performance Measures		2017/18			2016/17		2015/16	
		Target Bands	Jun	Short Trend	Target	Provisional	Outturn	Regional Outturn
Children in Care cases which were reviewed within required timescales	RY	Green: 95%+ Amber: 91% - 94% Red: <=90%	96.8%	↑	>=95%	94.4%	93.4%	No longer published in SFR
Short-term stability of placements of looked after children: number of placements	YD	Green: 0% - 9% Amber: 10% - 12% Red: >=13%	1.6%	↓	0-9%	7.5%	9.4%	SFR yet to be published
Longer term stability of placements of looked after children: length of placements	EP	Green: >=65% Amber: 60% - 64% Red: <=59%	77.6%	↓	>=60%	74.7%	69.4%	SFR yet to be published
Timeliness of placements of Children in Care for adoption following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption	Q	Green: 70%+ Amber: 66% - 69% Red: <=65%	100.0%	↔	>=70%	80.0%	50.0%	SFR yet to be published
Average time (in days) between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, for children that have been adopted during the period - A1 indicator	Q	Green: <=593 Red: >593	1005	↔	547 2011-14 National Threshold	646	675	SFR yet to be published
Average Time (in days) between a Local Authority receiving Court Authority to Place a Child and the Local Authority deciding on a match to an Adoptive Family - A2 indicator	Q	Green: <=223 Red: >223	150	↔	152 2011-14 National Threshold	170	361	SFR yet to be published

Source: Business Support & Information Service

Data as at: 06/07/17

Operational practice is to be reviewed with the emphasis on 'Staying put / Staying close' during 2017 / 2018 to address some of the areas of concern. Improvements have already been made with regard to the high number of recorded missing episodes. Early indications show that staff in Children's Homes in Stockton and the Police, were recording late returns as a missing episode which was unduly inflating the figures compared to neighbouring boroughs.

Board Members are confident that Looked After Children and Care Leavers in Stockton are safe and well cared for. This was also reflected in the Ofsted inspection report.

" When children and young people do become looked after, they are provided with good placements that meet their immediate need for protection. Placement stability is good. When children need legal permanence, care proceedings progress through court in a timely way. However, permanence planning is not considered soon enough for all children.

Collective actions of services that work with care leavers across the Council ensure that they are well supported to develop the skills that they need to move on to independence. The Council is in touch in a meaningful way with all but one care leaver. With the exception of three young people in custody and one young person who refuses to engage, all care leavers live in suitable accommodation and remain in contact with services until they are at least 21. More care leavers move on to education, employment or training, including the proportion moving on to university, than similar groups nationally."

Managing Allegations Against Staff, Volunteers & Carers

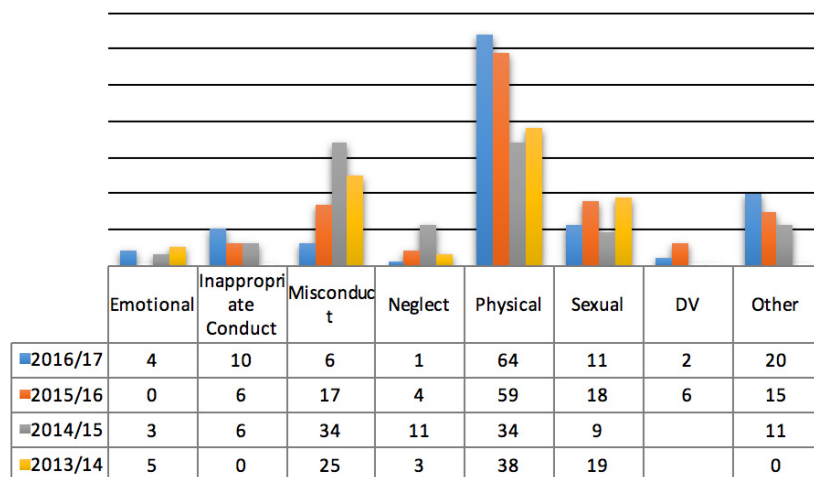
SLSCB receive an annual report from the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), regarding allegations against staff, volunteers and carers, which provides an overview of the work undertaken during the year. The data sets out performance across key criteria including timescales and outcomes of cases when allegations are made. Where data highlights trends or gaps in performance evidence is provided to show how these issues are being addressed by the referring agency. Case studies are also provided to demonstrate the impact of the LADO role and the effective use of the allegations procedures alongside the development of good working relationships with other organisations.

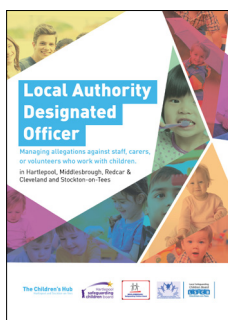
The largest number of referrals to the LADO continued to be allegations of physical abuse, with **64** referrals, with sexual and inappropriate conduct accounting for **11** and **10** recorded referrals respectively.

Of the **64** physical referrals, **32** came from Education, **13** from Children’s Residential Homes and **9** from Nurseries. Foster carer’s accounted for with **2** referrals, as did Health, the remainder were single referrals including referrals related to individuals from child-minding, Social work and a passenger assistant.

Of the **32** linked to schools only one resulted in dismissal, **2** allegations were proven to be malicious, **19** were unfounded, **7** were finalised as Being Unsubstantiated. The remainder resulted in management advice and guidance, training or were unsubstantiated.

In relation to Children’s residential homes of the **13** recorded there were no dismissals, with **4** unfounded, **4** cases of Management Advice and guidance, **2** were found to be malicious; the remainder were unsubstantiated, warnings, one written and one final written warning





The full report, including learning, is available on the SLSCB website.

To raise awareness of the LADO a leaflet was produced in Stockton-on-Tees on behalf of all of the Tees LADO's.

SLSCB were assured during their challenge and assurance discussion with the LADO that ongoing work is taking place, in line with statutory requirements, with agencies who under report allegations or do not appear to take the necessary steps to safeguard children.

Tees Procedures Procedure Group (TPG)

Background

The main function of the TPG is:

- To have responsibility for coordinating the development of local procedures, protocols and guidance for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children on behalf of the Tees LSCBs prioritising those identified by the Tees LSCBs.
- To establish a maintenance and updating process of the electronic Tees Wide Procedures.
- To undertake focussed pieces of work, co-opting additional professionals as required.
- To establish processes that will promote consistency by all LSCB partner member organisations in their response to, and management of, safeguarding children issues, ensuring the child is the central focus.
- To develop and recommend to LSCBs procedures and guidance that avoid confusion, duplication and ensure staff across local partners can readily understand their responsibilities. Where ever possible, staff will be directed to National Guidance and Directives so that the specific role LSCBs have in relation to the development and implementation of procedures is fulfilled.

Chairing, Membership and Attendance

The responsibility for chairing TPG has remained with the Assistant Director, Safeguarding and Looked After Children, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council throughout this period.

From February 2017, responsibility for chairing TPG transferred to the Assistant Director, Children's Services, Hartlepool Borough Council. In line with the established terms of reference, the responsibility to provide the deputy chair transferred to Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and the Service Manager Fieldwork therefore formally joined TPG with effect from February 2017 in order to fulfil this role.

To coincide with these changes, responsibility for providing business support to TPG also transferred from Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council to Hartlepool Borough Council.

Although there have been a number of changes in membership throughout the year, overall there continues to be strong representation from each LSCB and agency/sector. The meetings continue to be well attended with positive contributions from all members.

Work Programme

New / Revised procedures agreed during 2016/17 are:

- Assessing and Responding to the impact/experience of Domestic Abuse on Children
- Breast Ironing
- Children and Babies leaving the UK
- Complaints against the LSCB
- Dangerous Dogs Procedure & Risk Assessment Tool
- Dual Process/Double Protection (clarification of procedure)
- Fabricated and Induced Illness (FII) Chronology
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) – Guidance for Health Professionals
- Impact of Parental Substance Misuse Procedures and Guidance
- Interface Protocol Between Safeguarding Children and Safeguarding Adults
- Making a Referral to Children’s Social Care
- Recording Professionals
- Sudden Unexpected Death of a Baby
- Quoracy at CP Conferences, Reviews and Core Groups

Work underway at the end of March 2017 includes:

- Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) Procedures
- Child in Need (CiN) Procedures
- Child Protection Medical Assessments
- Cross Boundary Procedure (CP transfers)
- Health attendance at CP Reviews and Core Groups
- Parental Mental Illness
- Parents Recording Professionals
- Safeguarding Disabled Children
- Unborn Baby Procedures

The Tees LSCB’s Safeguarding Procedures website (<http://www.teescpp.org.uk>) continues to be monitored and updated as appropriate. An analysis of website ‘traffic’ or usage is currently underway.

Current Position

The functioning of TPG was considered as part of the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Single Inspection Framework (SIF) inspection undertaken by Ofsted in May/June 2016. The functioning of TPG was identified as a key strength.

This provides further evidence that TPG continues to function effectively and 2016/17 has been another positive and productive year. There is a clear structure in place to ensure that work is progressed in a timely manner and this provides a firm foundation for TPG going forward into 2017/18.

As I step down, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of TPG for their contribution throughout my time as chair. Their hard work and support has been greatly appreciated.

Chair Tees Procedures Group

Shaun McLurg

Assistant Director, Safeguarding and Looked After Children

Private Fostering

During 2016 / 2017 the number of children / young people identified as being subject to a new 'Private Fostering' arrangement was 14. SLSCB received details of the Private Fostering Annual Report and were appraised of the activity undertaken by partners to raise awareness

	Stockton-on-Tees			
	2014	2015	2016	2017
Number of children under Private Fostering arrangements in the Borough at 31 March	0	1	3	5
Number of new notifications during the year	4	2	9	14
Number of new arrangements that began during the year	3	2	9	14
Number of arrangements that ended during the year	7	1	7	12
Number of cases where action was taken in accordance with requirements for carrying out visits	2	2	7	7
Number of cases where this action was taken within 7 working days of receipt of notification of the Private Fostering arrangement	2	2	9	5



Facebook and Twitter are used as a medium to try and increase awareness of Private Fostering with tweets and messages being released at least once a month. Schools are also asked to look out for any potential situations of Private Fostering especially, when children are being registered or the school are notified of a change of address.

If you care for someone else's child, who is not a close relative, for more than 28 days you need to let us know. www.stockton.gov.uk/privatefostering

Training

Hartlepool and Stockton LSCBs collaborate to provide multi-agency safeguarding children training and have a joint training group chaired by the Deputy Director Nursing, North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust. In September 2016 the Board received the joint training and assurance report. This report gave details of the training needs analysis that had been conducted and details of the aims listed below, which were agreed by the Board.

The aim of the training group is to:

- Plan, develop and deliver **multi-agency safeguarding children training** that meets the priorities for both LSCB's, including shared learning and good practice across both LSCB areas.
- Commission external training providers who can provide specific themed specialised training courses.
- Meet the priorities and outcomes of **SCR's/Learning Review** for both LSCB areas (as they often result in similar training courses with similar key messages being delivered).
- Undertake **quality assurance** of all training materials and delivery and also, to analyse the impact of learning on working practices.
- Assess training requirements through a multi-agency training needs analysis and review of historical training data.
- Utilise the SLSCB Trainer, front line practitioners from various agencies and commission services, ensuring the relevant skill base, knowledge and experience to **facilitate quality learning** and development activities is provided.

In 2016/17:

- 1,100 e-learning sessions were completed
- 144 people attended bite size lunchtime training sessions
- 87 multi agency training sessions were delivered to 1630 people



Observations at training sessions were undertaken by senior practitioners to ensure that the training course content and delivery met the quality standards of the LSCB's.

The evaluation of training was measured by way of an evaluation form that was distributed to all delegates on completion of the training. A subsequent impact evaluation questionnaire was reviewed, resulting in a mix of impact on working practices evaluation forms being sent out to practitioners and line managers of attendees 3 months after classroom based training courses to gather information on the impact of the knowledge acquired and how this is implemented in their working practices.

To improve the delivery and take up of training a review is being carried out for 2017 / 2018 to streamline the courses focussing on the priority areas of the Boards and where the greatest impact of learning is required. The anticipated outcome is to reduce the number of courses and introduce some conference events. During 2016 / 2017, 1,774 places out of 2,334, were taken up. Some of the courses provided had similar areas covered and had ran for some time, which may be one of the reasons for low take

up alongside pressures to release staff to attend training. The number of courses provided also over stretched the trainers leaving them little time to reflect and review the course content. It is felt this proposed approach will enable more focused learning to take place and increase the impact of lessons learned.

We will also be reviewing the arrangements we have for e-learning to try and improve the offer.

Some comments captured within the evaluations of training included:

I have a better understanding of the importance of reflecting every aspect of the voice of the child and the full picture in a referral form, as previously I would not include parts that I thought social care would already have access to. Now I am much more thorough in the information I include to allow the social care team to make a full assessment based on all the facts as I have them. (Headteacher)

This training day was extremely informative and gave me confidence and a clearer understanding of my role as Safeguarding Children designated lead. It also highlighted to me current legislation and guidance available and raised my awareness of multi-agency working and information sharing.
(Business Manager – Sports & Recreation)

The most important thing I learnt from the e-learning was that it reminded me of the importance of safeguarding and refreshes me on topics that I am particularly familiar with. Some statistics were of interest and were a shock
(Residential Care Officer)
(Early Years Leader)

Vulnerable Exploited Missing and Trafficked (VEMT) Sub Group

What did we do in 2016 / 2017?

Stockton-on-Tees LSCB Strategic VEMT and VEMT practitioners groups contributed to a review of the Tees LSCB CSE Strategy and Action Plan and the Tees Quality Assurance Framework.

- Reviewed Children's homes location risk assessments
- Reviewed the VEMT strategic sub group and VPG terms of reference and group membership
- Reviewed and updated all documentation in relation to missing and return interviews
- Contributed to Stockton's SIF Ofsted inspection
- Contributed to Stockton's SIF OFSTED action plan
- Introduced independent missing/return interviews
- Undertook 6 monthly single agency themed Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) audits
- Introduced quarterly multi agency audits focussed on those children subject of VEMT
- Undertaken a specific piece of work around missing children (based on July 2016 data)
- Supported increased early intervention support

- Contributed to the Tees Commissioning Group
- Appointed a 12 month VEMT Co-ordinator on a secondment basis
- Appointed a permanent data analyst
- Improved data reporting
- Reviewed every child subject of VEMT for 26 weeks plus

Challenges / Changes

We were aware that we lacked analysis and independence in relation to our missing children, an issue that was highlighted in our SIF Ofsted inspection undertaken in June 2016. In response, we commissioned Barnados to undertake all missing from home return interviews for our Looked After Children (LAC) to offer a level of independence. In addition all missing from home and care documentation was reviewed and updated to provide better information and analysis. This helped to inform care planning and more effective service delivery.

Impact

Whilst there have been some fluctuations over the past year the numbers of children subject of VEMT have gradually decreased and appear to have settled at around 20. As of Quarter 4 i.e. 31 March 2017 there were 20 children subject of VEMT. The breakdown was as follows:

Date	Total Number of Children / Young People Subject to VEMT	Age Breakdown	Ethnicity Breakdown	Category Breakdown	Case Status
March 2017	20 (15 females, 5 males)	0 x 11 year olds 2 x 12 year olds 6 x 13 year olds 2 x 14 year olds 3 x 15 year olds 6 x 16 year olds 0 x 17 year olds 1 x 18 year old	20 x White British (15 females, 5 males)	9 x CSE (6 high risk, 3 medium risk) 2 x Missing 6 x Vulnerable	9 x LAC 4 x CP 2 x CiN 2 x Early Help

The decrease in numbers is likely to be as a result of improved understanding and awareness of CSE preventative work being undertaken at an earlier stage and placing the very high risk young people out of Borough thus disrupting negative local influences and creating an environment where meaningful work can be undertaken.

Themed CSE single agency case file audits undertaken in quarter 4 i.e. February 2017 evidenced improvement in practice compared to the previous CSE case file audits undertaken. Of the 8 randomly selected cases 6 were judged to be good and 2 required improvement. No child was assessed as being unsafe and the 'voice of the child' was heard in all cases.

A piece of work undertaken in relation to missing children by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council's former Director of Children's Services, Jane Humphreys, evidenced that children were safeguarded and indeed many children were 'overly reported' as being missing which would indicate one reason why Stockton-on-Tees numbers of missing children are higher compared to neighbouring Local Authorities. Work has subsequently been undertaken with all children's home staff to review how we respond to children missing from placement.

What needs to happen in 2017 / 2018?

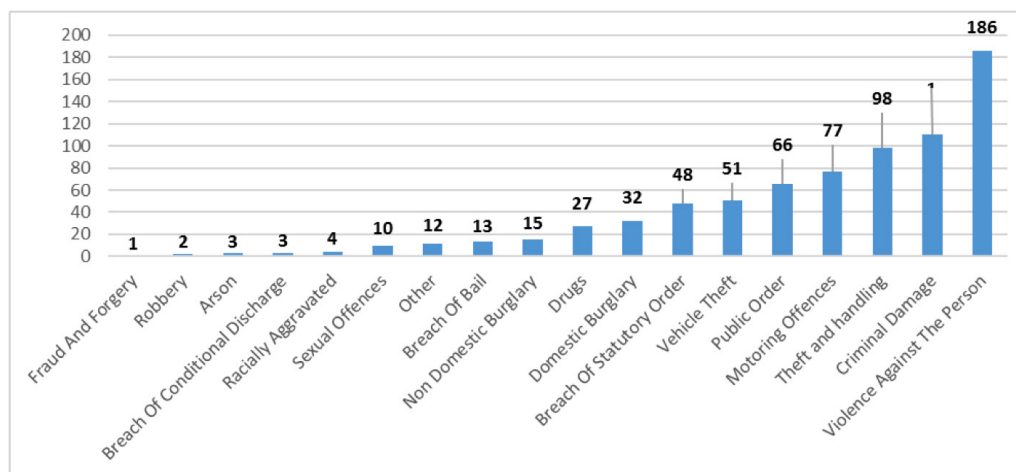
- Further focus on the voice of the child – it is planned that multi agency CSE audits will be undertaken in September 2017 focusing on those children who have been subject of VEMT and have since been removed. Young people will be spoken to on a 1-1 basis so we can listen and learn from their experiences.
- Agree appropriate Teeswide commissioning of services
- Focus on early help and intervention to reduce the numbers of children at higher risk
- Implement the SIF OFSTED action plan
- Improve the quality of running and missing from home return interviews – it is planned that all such interviews will be undertaken in the future by workers from Stockton-on-Tees Council's Youth teams. These workers are highly skilled in managing risk and in building positive working relationships with young people.

Youth Offending

The Youth Offending Team (YOT) partnership provides SLSCB with an annual assurance report in addition to their involvement with the work of the Board. The report for 2016 / 2017 which is available on the SLSCB web pages covers youth crime levels and type, partnership performance, national and local reforms and emerging issues.

In 2016/17, there were 758 offences committed by 290 10-17 years olds. This represents a 9% increase in the number of offences on the previous year, although fewer young people were involved. In 2015/16, there were 695 offences by 337 young people.

Offence Types 2016/17:



The peak age for offending for males was 13-17 years old and for females, 13-16 years old. 4% of offences were committed by BME young people.

4% of young people committing an offence were Looked After Children (LAC)¹² (actual number 12), which is a similar proportion to 2015/16 although the actual number of LAC offenders is lower (12 compared to 14 in the previous year).

Of the 290 young people who committed an offence in 2016/17, 108 (37% of the cohort) were assessed by the YOT. The most common tool used is AssetPlus, which is the mandated YOT assessment. It is a strengths based holistic assessment based upon desistance theories and is used for all statutory assessments. A shortened assessment tool is used for Triage cases.

Over half (57%, actual number 61) of the YOT cohort were assessed as having medium and above safety and wellbeing concerns; with 27 young people (25%) having high to very high levels (22 males and 6 females).

Where concerns are identified, plans are put into place to respond to the concerns and risks, often in partnership with other agencies, and are actively monitored by managers.

The YOT is required by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) to undertake a CSPPI process in response to any serious safeguarding or public protection incidents of young people in the community who are supervised by the YOT.

The CSPPI criteria are prescribed nationally: safeguarding incidents are a death of a young person, an attempted suicide or where the young person is a victim of rape. Public protection incidents cover murder, manslaughter or rape or further serious offending when under MAPPA arrangements.

During 2016/17, the YOT has notified or has been notified of 6 CSPPI incidents: five relating to the murder / manslaughter of a local adult male and one relating to a serious safeguarding incident of a young person in custody experiencing a serious mental health crisis.

¹²12 months continuous looked after status.

In respect of the public protection incident, the YOT Management Board and SLSCB have undertaken a joint learning exercise; the findings of which are due to be presented to LIPSG on 21st September 2017 for partnership discussion.

During 2016/17, the YOT was reviewed and from April 2017, will be reshaped to align it with targeted early help services to deliver a broader range of integrated services to young people and families. This is based on the premise that many of the young people that the YOT works with are amongst the most vulnerable due to their circumstances and are at greater risk of achieving poorer outcomes in life. Integrated delivery will help to ensure that a broader range of young people are safeguarded, and that the public and victims of crime are protected from harm.

Some of our other achievements

- ✓ All of the Councils Children's Homes, including those developed as part of the joint venture with Spark of Genius, were rated good or outstanding.
- ✓ £31million secured to invest in school and nursery buildings across the Borough.
- ✓ 62.4 per cent of young people across Stockton-on-Tees attained five A*-C grades including English and Maths.
- ✓ The joint multi agency Children's Hub with Hartlepool providing advice and guidance on services and support for children, young people and families was established.
- ✓ 99% of early years provision were rated good or outstanding.
- ✓ 4.7% young people were either Not in Education, Employment or Training or Not Known, compared to a national average of 5.7%.
- ✓ Concordat for Children in Custody alongside a Tees Vulnerable People in Custody Group report was considered and an action plan for improvement was developed.
- ✓ Findings from the CQC Children Looked After and Safeguarding Review (Hartlepool) was discussed to consider the implications for services in Stockton-on-Tees. Assurance was obtained around the CAMHS DNA pathway, and the LAC Nurse/Named Nurse arrangements. This was a productive piece of work from which learning was shared to improve local circumstances.
- ✓ 700 taxi drivers and private hire firms received training so they can help protect vulnerable adults and safeguard children.
- ✓ The Youth Offending Team was praised by the Youth Justice Board for its "excellent performance", particular reference was made to safeguarding work.

The Year Ahead – 2017 / 2018

The embedded working approach introduced during 2016 / 2017 will remain, focusing on:

- Ensuring co-operation and co-ordination between agencies
- Effective challenge and scrutiny of policies, practice and performance
- Enabling change to improve outcomes

In addition the Board will continue with its two operational priority areas of:

- a) **Preventing harm:** tackling the root causes of neglect, with a focus on domestic abuse, drugs and alcohol and parental mental health
- b) **Protecting vulnerable children:** reducing the risks of children and young people who are VEMT or at risk of being VEMT

It will also continue to build upon its third priority area - **business improvement**.

Work will also include the following, which is not in any particular order and in some cases is already underway as we produce the 2016 / 17 Annual Report:

- Review and propose preferred footprint option for the new Safeguarding Partnership that is required from the Children & Social Work Act 2017
- Continue to request Operational Assurance Reports as a means of facilitating effective scrutiny and challenge
- Champion the Graded Care Profile 2 Assessment Tool
- Request assurance of effectiveness of the Hartlepool & Stockton-on-Tees Children's Hub
- Recognise the importance of ensuring Children Missing Education are monitored / seen to avoid them being 'lost'
- Challenge all agencies to share learning from single agency audits highlighting that this is not solely the function of Children's Social Care
- Monitor improvements and the impact made, following the appointment of the VEMT Co-ordinator
- Highlight and share good practice related to the 'Future in Mind Programme' that will take place within schools to support mental wellbeing of children
- Continue to ask 'So What' and 'Why' in order to establish the impact of work taking place with children and their families

Safeguarding Statements from Partner Agencies

Catalyst

The Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector in Stockton-on-Tees is composed of around 800 active organisations of which 600 have regular contact with Catalyst, the VCSE infrastructure body, mostly through its eBulletin but also through a wide network of meetings, briefings and consultations. An open invitation is made to the VCSE Safeguarding Forum which is a bi-monthly meeting aimed at discussing developments, training needs and requirements around the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. VCSE representatives on the SLSCB are required to attend this Forum in order to feedback Board discussions to the sector as well as getting information to take back to the Board.

The Safeguarding Forum has addressed a variety of issues and cascaded information to the whole sector following presentations and discussion amongst those attending. In particular the past year has seen detailed work around Early Help and the Children's Hub; the problems of DBS registration in the VCSE and Child Sexual Exploitation in the Borough including the work of the VEMT Group.

One of Catalyst's core services is to provide an annual programme for training, development and service improvement which is promoted as the VCSE Centre of Excellence and includes training around safeguarding provided through the SLSCB. The online training is especially helpful and receives very positive feedback from both large and smaller agencies. Larger VCSE agencies delivering public sector services where safeguarding training is a pre-requisite of their contract will often provide free places to smaller organisations.

Steve Rose

Chief Executive, Catalyst

Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees (HAST) Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)

HAST CCG has remained committed to the work of Stockton-on-Tees Local Safeguarding Children Board (SLSCB) and this has been demonstrated by the continued attendance and contribution at Board meetings by the Director of Nursing and Quality and the Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children and Looked After Children.

The CCG members have worked closely with partner agencies, contributing to the development of the Board priorities and seeking assurance from colleagues that they are effectively discharging their responsibilities to safeguard children and young people. The Designated Nurse was supported by the whole CCG Safeguarding and Clinical Quality Team when participating in the Ofsted single inspection carried out at the end of May 2016.

Membership and attendance by HAST CCG at SLSCB sub groups has continued and the Designated Nurse as Vice Chair of the Learning Improving Practice Sub-Group (LIPSG) presented an overview of this group, as it was identified that practitioners would benefit from a greater understanding of the purpose and work of the group. Following this presentation awareness and understanding increased and a review and refresh of the groups' purpose and focus was undertaken.

As Chair of the 4 Tees LSCB Performance Management Framework group the CCG Director of Nursing and Quality has been fundamental in implementing and coordinating the progress of the Performance Management Framework which has allowed for improved scrutiny of data, promoted constructive challenge, which has generated useful discussions and subsequent actions to focus on the outcomes for children and families.

Impact of work carried out over the reporting period 2016-2017

- Clearer focus on main priorities of the Board has resulted in the development of a new sub group looking at the impact of parental mental health on children which the Designated Nurse Chairs
- Completed Section 11 audits were scrutinised by partner agencies offering effective challenge and the sharing of good practice which was presented back to the Board
- The Designated Nurse presented an overview and provided assurance of the progression of the Hartlepool CQC Children Looked After and Safeguarding review which has resulted in many changes in practice following recommendations made. This learning was transferred across Stockton-on-Tees, one of which includes the initiation of face to face meetings between Health Visitors and GPs to highlight any concerns about children known to them
- The Children's Hub was launched in June 2016 which was supported by the Board and this has encouraged more effective multi-agency working. The Director of Nursing and Quality and the Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children are members of the Strategic Children's Hub meeting
- Operation Encompass was launched and work has started to look at how this can be extended to include Primary Care and Community Services. The first phase of this is to look at information sharing between GPs, Health Visitors, School Nurses and Midwives
- The Board received feedback from child neglect medicals which has resulted in some changes to the procedure such as flexibility to the timing of referrals based on the child's health needs assessment and a revision of the audit tool
- The training programme had been revised following a needs analysis and feedback from Board members. This will now focus more upon the key Board priorities which reflects the common root causes which exist when children are suffering from abuse and neglect
- GP Peer engagement sessions have been delivered to Lead GPs for safeguarding children by the Named GP and Designated Nurse. Topics covered include: Domestic Abuse, refreshing the child protection process, information sharing, learning from serious case reviews and fabricated induced illness. A variety of topical monthly safeguarding bulletins (including Female Genital Mutilation, Child Sexual exploitation, Information Sharing, Private fostering, toxic trio, Looked After Children) have been produced by the Named GP and circulated to primary care as well as e-bulletins circulated by SLSCB. These have been extremely well received and are valued by primary care colleagues.
- The Designated Doctor Safeguarding Children retired during this reporting period and efforts made to appoint to this role have so far proven unsuccessful. Discussions are ongoing to consider alternative

ways of recruiting to this position. The Director of Nursing and Quality and Designated Nurse has provided leadership, support and input to mitigate against any potential risks during the year.

What needs to happen in 2017 / 2018

- Further progression from the sub groups to evidence that the work carried out is having an impact on safeguarding children and identified and disseminated learning is improving practice
- Processes to be further developed and embedded to allow for robust information sharing between GPs, Health Visitors, Midwives and School Nurses following an incident of domestic abuse
- Further development of the reporting mechanisms of the performance management framework to be used to inform the work of the Board in gaining assurance around impact and outcomes of services
- Following the publication of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 the Board will need to decide on the future arrangements of safeguarding children partnerships
- Successful appointment to the role of Designated Doctor Safeguarding Children

Trina Holcroft

Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children and Looked After Children

NHS England

NHS England is committed to the work of Stockton-on-Tees Safeguarding Children Board and working with our partners to ensure that all health services safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.

NHS England, as the statutory commissioner of primary care (GPs, Dentists, Pharmacists and Opticians) and specialised services, is responsible for ensuring these services meet all required safeguarding standards. These standards include essential safeguarding training for all staff and how staff must listen to children and young people to improve the services they deliver. We monitor these standards regularly, through contract monitoring, or via co-commissioning arrangements with Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) specifically in relation to GPs, and work with organisations to make improvements to the care they deliver. Below is the work undertaken by NHS England North (Cumbria and the North East) during 2016/17:

- NHS England (North Region) safeguarding assurance tool completed and audited across all Cumbria and the North East CCGs. The tool supported CCGs to demonstrate compliance with national safeguarding standards.
- Inclusion of Child Sexual Exploitation / Sexual Abuse (CSE / CSA) lead within standard NHS national contract from April 2016. This requires all NHS Trusts to have an identified CSE lead to support implementation of national guidance and ensure voice of child is central to health services.
- Distribution of NHS England CSE pocket guides to all frontline health staff including GPs, Pharmacists and Dentists.

- Launch of NHS England Safeguarding App to all frontline health staff
- Promotion of national “Seen and Heard” campaign to all frontline health staff
www.seenandheard.org.uk.
- Continued promotion and implementation of health pathway regarding Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and mandatory reporting.
- Distribution of NHS England FGM pocket guides to all frontline health staff including GPs, Pharmacists and Dentists.
- A north regional Prevent conference was held in December 2016 to raise awareness of Prevent with evaluation from attendees being very positive
- Delivery of a series of executive master classes to raise awareness of Prevent; slavery and human trafficking at a senior level within health organisations and ensure that there was confidence in understanding the requirements under the new statutory duty.
- Dissemination of information relating to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) to all NHS organisations to ensure awareness of duties in relation to the inquiry and management of allegations.
- Regular liaison with IICSA to promote the “Truth Pilot” across Cumbria and the North East to all health providers and primary care staff.
- Ongoing communication to all Cumbria and the North East LADO’s to ensure allegations involving those professions managed via NHS England (GPs; Pharmacists; Dentists and Opticians) are referred to the NHS England Safeguarding Lead for investigation in accordance with safeguarding policies and procedures.
- Hosting of the 2016 north regional safeguarding conference for designated and named professionals.
- Input into serious case reviews and domestic homicides across Cumbria and the North East, including commissioning of specialist advice where needed.

Bev Reilly

Director of Nursing, NHS England

Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service Cleveland

What happened / took place during 2016 /2017

There has been considerable change since 2014 with the formation of the National Probation Service and CRC’s including a further change on 1 April 2017 when we became HMPPS (Her Majesty’s Prison and Probation Service). However, despite these constant changes in structure, staffing arrangements and processes, Cleveland NPS has remained one of the highest performing areas within the country and the North East. As with all organisations, finances are difficult and we have experienced resource reductions resulting in the loss of a Deputy Head of Area in January. But additional staff are currently

being recruited and trained to ensure that we continue to protect the public and reduce re-reoffending by delivery of sentences of the Courts and supporting rehabilitation by helping offenders to reform their lives. For example, all new staff are directed to attend local LSCB training and all staff are directed to attend the signs of safety training to ensure clarity of practice around the family and the child.

Challenges faced / Changes Made

Our mission remains to protect the public, support victims and reduce re-offending with public protection as one of our highest priorities and this includes safeguarding of children. The transition to the new structures within NPS Cleveland have been managed with due care and attention to ensure that the transition to new working arrangements has not affected our focus on managing risks associated with children through the following:

- Divisional Delivery plan in place with a strategic focus on engagement, compliance and quality
- Nominated divisional lead for safeguarding children
- Nominated Cleveland middle manager lead for safeguarding
- Probation staff attendance at joint safeguarding training
- Completion of mandatory NPS training on child protection
- Attendance at Child protection case conferences and core group meetings
- Use of agreed information exchange template to ensure strong communication between agencies
- Introduction of changes in respect of recalls where by the Head of Area can now introduce additional licence conditions when assessing the risks posed and risk of recall to custody. This allows a quicker response to poor behaviour or risk escalation and ensures the we prioritise public protection while maintaining consistency, quality and value for money.
- Deployment of Probation Service Officers which will allow Probation Officers the time to manage offenders
- Court Inspection in January 2017 which identified some good local practice in respect of the delivery of enforcement proceedings and oral reports.

Analysis of Impact from changes / learning

In order to assure ourselves that cases are being managed effectively, we have introduced six monthly case audits where all cases with a named child(ren) at high or very high risk are audited by managers. This has proved to be a very positive exercise with the recent audit identifying some strong links between agencies. In addition managers complete regular monthly reviews of all child protection cases.

What needs to happen / be done in 2017 /2018

- Managers will continue to provide regular case sampling within Cleveland NPS
- Continue to work collaboratively with DTV CRC to ensure effective local operating processes and the sharing of responsibility to protect children and adults.
- Increase and maintain NPS Cleveland's staff rate of attendance at LSCB training events
- Ongoing achievement of the Divisional action plan which identifies objective to develop an effective measuring tool for recording the impact on safeguarding children from NPS
- New staff will be directed to undertake LSCB training as identified by their line manager
- Staff will attend signs of safety training to ensure all staff are aware of their importance of their work surrounding the family and the child

Other comments:

NPS staff continue to use the OASys risk of harm assessment tool which provides an in depth assessment of individual offenders, including a specific focus on child safeguarding as well as structured and detailed risk management plans. Probation continue to attend a range of meetings which contribute to the safeguarding of children including MAPPA, MARAC, Strategic VEMT and Child protection conferences. Safeguarding children remains an important priority and all staff are aware of the importance of recording the voice of the child in all of their work with families and children.

Julie Allan

Head of Area Cleveland Cluster, Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service

Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust

The Trust has a Safeguarding and Public Protection team which consists of the safeguarding children team, safeguarding adult team and MARAC advisors.

There is a quarterly Safeguarding and Public Protection meeting chaired by the Executive Director of Nursing and Governance. This reports to the Trust Quality and Assurance Committee on a 6 monthly basis however an exception report goes to this meeting monthly on any safeguarding issues that require escalation. This group has 60% of the Trust Board attending.

The Executive Director of Nursing and Governance is a member of the Trust Board and provides the Trust Board with regular updates.

The safeguarding children team provides:

- Training for all staff which is compliant with the Intercollegiate Document (2014): Safeguarding Children and Young People: Roles and competencies for health care staff.
- Specialist safeguarding children supervision - the Tony Morrison model is used. 3 monthly specialist safeguarding supervision is mandatory for all those working with a child subject to a child protection

plan, or with parents caring for a child subject to a child protection plan. It is also available for cases not within child protection but are of concern.

- The team also operate a duty system to ensure that there is always a member available to give advice and support staff when they call with a concern/issue.
- The Trust is a member of the LSCB and sub-groups.
- The safeguarding children team have an audit programme and also engage within multi-agency audits.
- The safeguarding children team also have quality requirements which are set by the commissioners and these are reported on a quarterly basis through Quality Review Groups.

Thirteen (Housing)

Safeguarding children is the action we take to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. It is everyone's responsibility in Thirteen and everyone who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play.

We recognise that one child dies at the hands of another person every week and in many areas including the Tees Valley, levels of child neglect are on the increase. As many as one child in six is exposed to violence and research highlights the clear link between domestic abuse and safeguarding in the home. The increase in the use of social media means children face new threats of on line grooming and cyber bullying. More children than ever before are expressing their own anguish and distress by self-harming.

A new threat is the availability of easy to access websites where vulnerable young people are given a series of tasks to complete, with the final task to commit suicide.

Against this background is a reduction in the funding of public services for the last seven years, child protection systems are under increasing pressure and many of the poorest families have been affected by austerity measures and welfare reform.

Thirteen will continue to regularly review our approach to meet these challenges and are committed to working with Stockton's Local Safeguarding Children Board (SLSCB) and the requirements of any Commissioning Body. We will continue to report safeguarding concerns in line with SLSCB procedures and timescales.

Linda Minns

Head of Governance

What happened / took place during 2016 /2017

Implementation of Safeguarding E- Learning

The commitment to learning and development has continued, with 565 operational staff successfully completing the Cylix safeguarding training.

Children's Hub

Thirteen is a virtual partner and our main contribution has been the responding to requests for financial information, where children and young people are under threat of losing their home. The anticipated requests to support cases where neglect has been identified have not materialised.

Leaving Care Properties

Thirteen have provided leased properties to Children's Services in order to facilitate move on accommodation from children's residential homes for young people, as a stepping stone into independent living. This enables the Children's Service Team to continue to provide support to young people whilst preparing them for their own tenancy. Currently there are four properties that are tenanted by young people and discussions are ongoing regarding the procurement of further properties.

Challenges faced

The legislative framework is clear that 'safeguarding is everyone's business' and that creating an effective safeguarding culture requires a clear line of accountability from Board to operational officers.

Thirteen faces a significant amount of challenges, work with children and young people is becoming more complex, there are increasing social and health inequalities, threats posed by cyber-crime, radicalisation, modern slavery, peer on peer abuse and human trafficking. The sheer breadth of safeguarding has increased significantly in the last three years.

In addition, some neighbourhoods face the significant impact of welfare reform, with income in many households reducing year on year, rents in the private sector increasing, and the culmination of these factors is an increasing threat of eviction and high stress levels in households. The demand for rising safeguarding interventions is taking place against a background of reduced income and funding for Registered Housing Providers.

Changes made

Thirteen first published its group wide policy and procedures in January 2016 with a commitment to regularly review. To ensure as an organisation we continue to meet our Section 11 commitments under the Children Act (2004) and keep pace with all the ongoing change in this area of business an external consultant was recruited to undertake a high level review of existing policies and procedures, review the arrangements for safeguarding risk management and recommend improvements to current policy, procedures and practice.

The safeguarding review highlighted a large number of areas of good practice, however a number of development areas were identified which can be summarised as follows:

- Policies and procedures need updating to need to reflect Child Sexual Exploitation guidance published in (2017) and other changes related to new guidance
- Revised policy and procedures need to be sufficiently flexible to accommodate further changes that are appearing on the horizon
- Safeguarding policies and procedures need to be closely aligned to the Safeguarding Board pathways and procedures for Local Authorities in which Thirteen operates
- Central performance monitoring and quality assurance need to be improved

A strategic decision was made by the Leadership Team that Safeguarding was the accountability of the Governance Team moving forward. The areas of development and learning highlighted in the report have all been assimilated into an Action Plan and work is currently ongoing to address all the actions identified.

Analysis of Impact from changes / learning

The first draft of the consultant's report was completed in February 2017 and the final draft agreed in April 2017. The findings are currently being addressed, though it is very early to review the impact. Next year's report will be much more detailed in this area.

What needs to happen / be done in 2017 /2018?

The work and findings of the consultant are integral to the delivering of change and improvements in the business area. The following represents the areas of work that will be addressed in 2017/18:

- Improvement in Governance and Accountability
- Revised policy and procedures
- Workforce training and development
- Centralised ICT solution for reporting and recording
- Making safeguarding personal

Tees LSCB's Child Protection Procedures

Tees Local Safeguarding Children Boards' Procedures

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Are you a concerned...
Parent, Carer, Child, Young Person, Member of the Public **Please Click Here**

DfE: Working Together 2015

This is the statutory guidance from the Department for Education on inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children that all professionals should refer to.

To download a copy of this guidance please [click here](#). For local procedures, protocols and guidance please use the tabs at the top of this page.

Welcome to the Tees Local Safeguarding Children Boards Procedures Website

Safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility and the Tees Local Safeguarding Children Boards bring together people who work with children and their families to ensure that the safety and welfare of children is at the heart of their work. We lead the work to safeguard children across our regions.

The aim of the Tees Local Safeguarding Children Boards is to make sure those who work with children and their families do it well and keep children safe. The Boards are attended by professionals from the local authority, health services, the police, the probation service, the Child and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS), schools, the voluntary sector and many others.

Mandatory Reporting of FGM

A new [mandatory reporting duty](#) for Female Genital Mutilation is being introduced on the 30th October 2015. The duty will require regulated health and social care professionals and teachers in England and Wales to report known cases of FGM in under 18-year-olds to the police.

Please keep up to date with safeguarding children procedural changes and guidance by accessing the Tees LSCBs Child Protection Procedures on a regular basis - <http://www.teescpp.org.uk/>

Stockton-on-Tees Local Safeguarding Children Board

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We're also on the web - <http://www.stockton.gov.uk/slscb>