

First draft December 2012

Protocol of Understanding between the Safer Stockton Partnership ('the Partnership') and Stockton-on-Tees Local Safeguarding Children Board (the 'Board')

1. The Partnership and the Board both cover the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees and each body operates within its statutory framework. In particular, paragraph 3.83 of 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (2010), the statutory guidance for LSCBs, states that "the LSCB should make appropriate arrangements at a strategic management level to involve others in its work as needed".
2. There are strong networks of overlapping membership between the two bodies, with at least the following organisations represented on both:-
 - (a) Cleveland Police
 - (b) Durham Tees Valley Probation Trust
 - (c) HMP Holme House
 - (d) Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (with the Corporate Director for Children, Education and Social Care currently serving as Vice Chair of the Partnership)
 - (e) Stockton Youth Offending Service

and that these overlaps will help to ensure that the two bodies have good channels of communication.

3. The two bodies have a number of obvious areas of common interest, including
 - (a) reducing domestic violence
 - (b) the work, including resourcing and performance, of Stockton Youth Offending Service
 - (c) offending by and victimisation of children and young people in general
 - (d) reducing the misuse of alcohol and drugs
 - (e) reducing prostitution

and it is acknowledged that these areas can also be of interest to other bodies including Stockton Health & Wellbeing Board, Stockton Economic, Regeneration and Transport Partnership etc.

4. It is acknowledged that the Board will lead on certain types of crime most closely pertaining to its care role, including
 - (a) child abuse in all its forms including child sexual exploitation
 - (b) Forced Marriage and 'honour based violence' in as far as they relate to juveniles.
5. It is acknowledged that the Partnership will lead on other forms of crime and anti-social behaviour involving juveniles, whether as perpetrators, victims or both.
6. Either body may formally refer issues to the other at any time, using the LSCB Business Manager or the Head of Community Protection at Stockton Council as their initial point of contact.

7. The two bodies will strive for a harmonious and constructive relationship in the best interests of all the people of Stockton-on-Tees.

8. The Partnership is committed to a major programme of consultation with local people about its medium term priorities, which takes place every three years (next due in 2013), and the issues connected with children and young people. The results of this consultation will be made available to the Board.

Signed Geoff Lee Chair of the Partnership

Signed Colin Morris Chair of Stockton LSCB