Newcastle Safeguarding Children Board

Summary Minutes
Meeting held on 13 February 2019, 10.00am-1.00pm, Peacock Hall, RVI, Newcastle
Please note these are not full minutes. They are intended to provide an overview of discussions and decisions. Due to the confidential nature of some of the items discussed, it is not possible to publicly share full minutes.

The Newcastle Safeguarding Children (NSCB) is the multi-agency partnership responsible for ensuring that children and young people in Newcastle are safe and protected.

Operation Encompass: Next Steps

- A Home Office funded project: Children Affected by Domestic Abuse - November 2018 – March 2020
- Collaborative Partners: Operation Encompass; Barnardo’s, Northumbria Police
- The vision is to build on the very successful Operation Encompass (2014) initiative to provide enhanced support to children and families affected by domestic abuse, and to staff within schools, to enable appropriate support and safeguarding within the safe school environment; this is a pilot for national roll out
- PSHE products - delivery will be led by ‘School Safeguarding Liaison Officers’ (SSLOs), funding to recruit 12 – trained and supported delivery by Barnardo’s
- Will cover ALL schools, each SSLO will have responsibility for an appropriate cluster of schools (total 585 in force area)
- Whole School staff input – and hoping to achieve this using a cascaded training model – utilising key adults/designated safeguarding leads and LA trainers
- Trainers will be trained and supported by Operation Encompass, Barnardo’s and Northumbria Police and OPCC

NSCB Performance Scorecard
The NSCB performance scorecard provides the Board with a comprehensive multi-agency data set from which it can challenge partners and undertake ‘deep dives’ on particular areas of good or concerning safeguarding activity. Outcomes from these pieces of work contribute to service improvement and organisational development.

NSCB members were asked to highlight any key areas for further investigation: forced marriage was an area thought to need further discussion, although need better understand what dataset would be required and what the Safe Newcastle Board do as part of the Violence Against Women Group. The increase in 2nd and subsequent Child Protection Plans will be reviewed at the next performance review in August 2019.

All members acknowledged the pressure that the current multi-agency child protection system is under.
NSCB Strategic Priorities

The NSCB is consulting with partners on its key strategic priorities and actions for 2019/2022. Comments and suggestions can be sent to business support officer Andrea Semple andrea.semple@newcastle.gov.uk

- Protection refers to the activity that is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering or are likely to suffer significant harm
- Strong leadership is critical in the new safeguarding arrangements to be effective in bringing together various organisations and agencies. It is important therefore that Safeguarding Partners play an active role
- Positive change is supported through understanding what we are doing, reflecting on why we are doing it and how it might be done better

New Local Multi-agency Safeguarding Arrangements for Children

Development of the local arrangements is ongoing, to be published by the end of June 2019.

Responsibility for local join up rests with the three Safeguarding Partners (SPs); Newcastle City Council, Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group and Northumbria Police who have a shared and equal duty to ensure arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children are robust and effective.

- Local arrangements continue to include the current LSCB functions and SPs will agree who will be responsible for specific areas of the activity and identify people and resources to fulfil these
- A local partnership will continue to meet to support the SPs to fulfill their functions
- The SPs support the continuation of the current scrutiny arrangements with an additional independent triennial Peer Review aligned to the business planning cycle

The [Six] North East local authorities, clinical commissioning groups and Northumbria Police have established a North and South Strategic Forum the purpose of which to:

- Share information and experience in relation to current developments and opportunities that will result in improved joint working arrangements and practice for vulnerable adults and children
• Identify and share arrangements and practice models, where a more common whole system approach would improve outcomes for vulnerable adults, children, and partner agencies/practitioners

• Promote best practice methodologies, arrangements and practice to support, influence and inform coordinated strategic decision-making in relation to safeguarding

• A set of regional safeguarding procedures are being developed as part of the new arrangements. A launch of these will be held when they go ‘live’ in July 2019

MASH Education post

Schools have provided positive feedback about the benefits of having the (recent) education post sitting in the Children’s Social Care MASH.

Community Engagement Group

The group has developed practitioner guidance on Cultural Competence.

For more information about the work of Newcastle Safeguarding Children Board, training learning from practice and policy and procedures please visit: https://www.nscb.org.uk/