

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
MULTI-AGENCY SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS
FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
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WELCOME

Welcome to the Newcastle upon Tyne Multi-agency Safeguarding Arrangements for Children and Young People. The document sets out how, we, the Safeguarding Partners will work together and with other agencies, to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in Newcastle. The term 'children' used throughout the document refers to both children and young people.

We are committed to improving positive outcomes for all children and will be proactive in driving forward improvements to reduce the risk of abuse and neglect. Our ambition is to provide help and support to children, young people and families at the earliest opportunity to ensure that low level emerging need is identified and responded to in a timely way.

In Newcastle we have a proven track record of strong partnership working. The previous Newcastle Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB) received a judgement of 'good' as part of the most recent Ofsted inspection of children's services, in April 2017. It is our intention to continue to build upon the excellent work already achieved through the NSCB.

The new arrangements reflect a transitional process with some streamlining of the NSCB arrangements, however, much of the current structure will be retained over the next 12 months to enable a smooth transition. During 2019/2020, work will continue to look at integrating functions across the Northumbria footprint, with a

wider structure review being undertaken in early 2020. It is envisaged that by September 2020 new arrangements will be fully implemented.

The current structure and functions of the NSCB will transition into the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, which come into effect on the 24th June 2019. This document sets out areas that will be part of the transitional arrangements and those that will be subject to review.

The Safeguarding Partners are committed to improving how we all work to safeguard our children and will adopt a flexible approach to change and improvement over the transitional year.

Publication of the new arrangements signals our ambition to develop an equitable and robust partnership and reaffirms our local commitment to improve outcomes for all children in Newcastle.

Ewen Weir, Director of People,
Newcastle City Council



Chris Piercy, Executive Director of
Nursing, Patient Safety and Quality
Newcastle Gateshead Clinical
Commissioning Group



Scott Hall, Detective Chief
Superintendent, Northumbria Police



1. WHAT ARE NEWCASTLE MULTI-AGENCY SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE?¹

- 1.1 There is a shared and collective responsibility between organisations and agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Newcastle².
- 1.2 Responsibility for this joined up approach locally rests with three Safeguarding Partners who have a shared and equal duty to have in place robust arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Newcastle.
- 1.3 The Newcastle Multi-agency Safeguarding Arrangements for Children and Young People sets out how the Safeguarding Partners will work together, and with other agencies, to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in Newcastle.

2. WHO ARE THE SAFEGUARDING PARTNERS?

- 2.1 A *safeguarding partner* in relation to a local authority area in England is defined under the Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017) as:
 - (a) the local authority
 - (b) a clinical commissioning group for an area any part of which falls within the local authority area
 - (c) the chief officer of police for an area any part of which falls within the local authority area
- 2.2 Lead partners for the safeguarding arrangements in Newcastle are:
 - (a) The Chief Executive Officer, Newcastle Local Authority
 - (b) The Chief Officer, Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group
 - (c) Chief Constable, Northumbria Police

¹ HM Government. (2018), *Working Together to Safeguard Children*. DfE.

² Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as: protecting children from maltreatment; preventing impairment of health or development; ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe care; and tacking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SAFEGUARDING PARTNERS

- 3.1 To promote the commissioning of services in a coordinated way and the co-operation and integration between universal services and specialist support services.
- 3.2 To co-ordinate their safeguarding services; act as a strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging others; and implement local and national learning, including from serious safeguarding incidents.
- 3.3 Make children's safeguarding personal through working collaboratively and creatively with children and families.
- 3.4 Lead on system change to develop and implement new and innovative ways of working.
- 3.5 Continue to develop learning and improvement activity to continually improve systems and multi-agency practice.
- 3.6 Provide robust scrutiny, challenge and assurance to stakeholders in relation to the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements in Newcastle.
- 3.7 Drive an even stronger partnership with schools, colleges, early years, childcare and local agencies.
- 3.8 Have in place arrangements to review all deaths of children normally resident in Newcastle (*Newcastle City Council and Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group*)
- 3.9 Promote equality of opportunity to meet the diverse needs of children through consultation with them and parents about strategic priorities.
- 3.10 Publish local safeguarding arrangements and report on the effectiveness of these at least once in every 12-month period, seeking assurance from agencies that they are fulfilling their safeguarding responsibilities, which will be available in the public domain.

4. LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- 4.1 Responsibility for local join up rests with the three Safeguarding Partners who have a shared and equal duty to have in place arrangements to work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children when carrying out their responsibilities.
- 4.2 The three Safeguarding Partners with delegated responsibility in Newcastle are:
 - (a) Director of People, Newcastle City Council
 - (b) Executive Director of Nursing, Patient Safety and Quality, Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group
 - (c) Detective Chief Superintendent, Northumbria Police
- 4.3 The Safeguarding Partners will discharge their broader responsibilities through the Newcastle Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) and its sub groups; these are made up of those relevant agencies set out in statutory regulation (*appendices 1, 2 & 3*). Sub groups and task and finish groups will report directly to the NSCP on a quarterly basis.
- 4.4 In situations that require a clear, single point of leadership all three Safeguarding Partners will decide who leads on specific arrangements or issues.
- 4.5 A city safeguarding business group that consists of the Chairs of the NSCP, NSAB, Safe Newcastle Board and the YOT Partnership Board will meet to consider cross cutting safeguarding and community safety issues for the City as a whole. This is one of the ways in which the Safeguarding Partners will work more closely with partnerships across the City to strengthen our approach to working across the life course and reducing the likelihood of harm to children, young people and adults. The group will meet every six months and will report into its' constituent partnerships as appropriate.
- 4.6 The Safeguarding Partners may delegate decision making to the NSCP and its sub groups to ensure their responsibilities are fulfilled in a timely way.
- 4.7 Newcastle City Council provides legal, communications and media advice to the Safeguarding Partners and the NSCP, however,

individual organisations reserve the right to seek advice provided by their organisation. Newcastle City Council also acts as the Data Controller for Freedom of Information requests.

5. RELEVANT AGENCIES³

- 5.1 Relevant agencies are those organisations and agencies whose involvement the Safeguarding Partners consider is required to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Newcastle (*appendix 1*) and must act in accordance with the arrangements.
- 5.2 Where a Relevant Agency has a national remit, such as the British Transport Police and Cafcass, memorandums of understanding will set out how they will contribute to the local arrangements (*appendix 13*).

6. GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

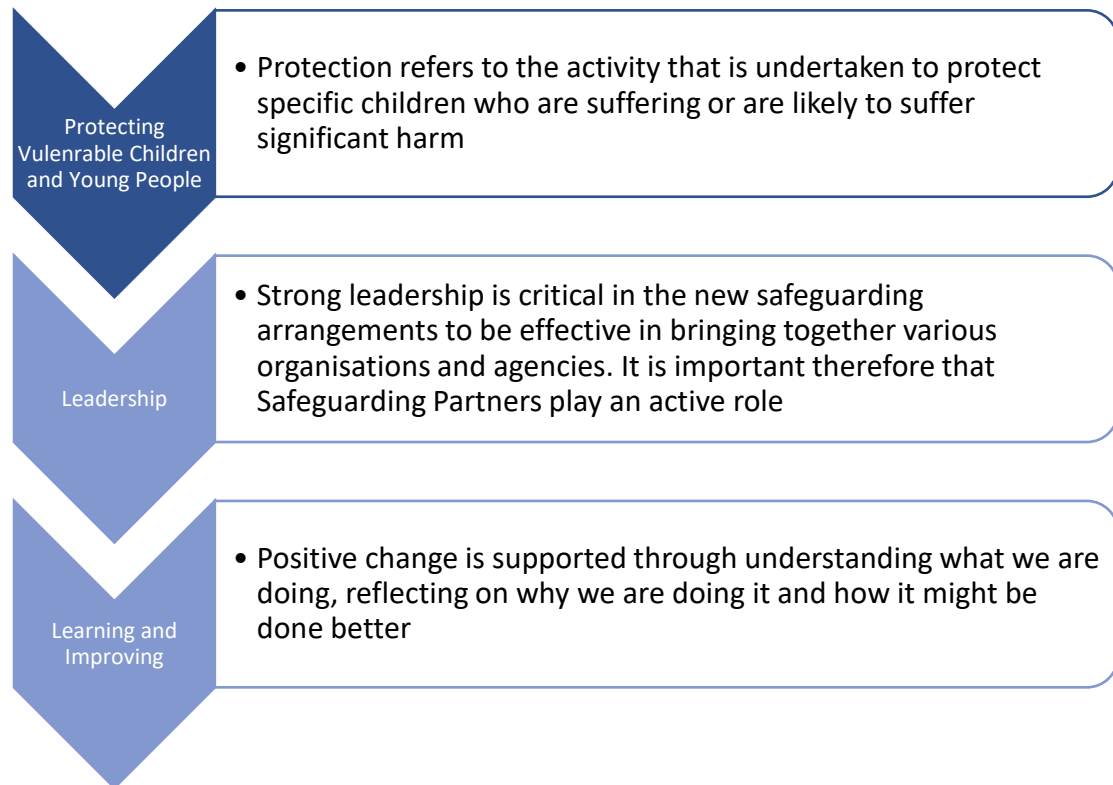
- 6.1 The boundaries of the new arrangements are the same as those for Newcastle City Council. However, over the last two years safeguarding partners have been strengthening joint working across the Northumbria region⁴ through the implementation of a North and South of Tyne Strategic Safeguarding Forum (the Forum)⁵, supported by Early Adopter Funding from the Department for Education and the current Safeguarding Children Board Business Manager Network.
- 6.2 In February 2019 members of the Forum agreed to develop wider geographical arrangements, with a local focus, and ones that create the opportunity to broaden a regional footprint alongside other safeguarding partnership arrangements. Work on this will continue during 2019 with regional collaboration through the Forum and Business Managers Network.

³ HM Government (2018) The Child Safeguarding Practice Review and Relevant Agency (England) Regulations 2018

⁴ The region covers the 6 local authority areas of North and South of Tyne: Northumberland, North Tyneside, Newcastle, Gateshead, South Tyneside, and Sunderland; the 5 Clinical Commissioning Groups for those areas; and Northumbria Police.

⁵ Tyne, Wear & Northumberland Safeguarding Partnership from September 2019

7. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES (Appendix 4)



8. COMPONENTS OF NEWCASTLE MULTI-AGENCY SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- 8.1 The core components of the Newcastle Multi-agency Safeguarding Arrangements for Children and Young People are:
- Developing procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children (<http://newcastlescb.proceduresonline.com/>)
 - Training of persons who work with children or in services affecting the safety and welfare of children and evaluating the impact of training on practice
 - Communicating to persons and bodies in Newcastle 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
 - Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of what is done by partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advise them on ways to improve
 - Facilitate and co-ordinate an education safeguarding partnership to enable all schools, colleges, and other educational providers

in Newcastle to be fully engaged, involved and included in the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements⁶

- (f) Participate in the local planning and commissioning of children's services to ensure they take safeguarding children into account
- (g) Commission local child safeguarding practice reviews of cases where a child has died or has been seriously harmed in circumstances where abuse or neglect is known or suspected and advising on lessons that can be learned (*appendix 8*)
- (h) Understand the efficacy of child death review arrangements and the impact on practice. The current North of Tyne Child Death Overview Panel will continue to meet during the transitional period (*appendix 9*)
- (i) Acting as Responsible Authority for the purposes of section 13(4) (f) of the Licensing Act 2003 and section 13(4) (f) of the Gambling Act 2005.
- (j) Contribute to joint working and learning at a regional level to improve safeguarding arrangements for children and young people
- (k) Take an interest in those groups of vulnerable children and young people at risk of harm from contextual safeguarding e.g. sexual exploitation, domestic abuse

9. VOICE AND ENGAGEMENT

- 9.1 The new safeguarding arrangements will continue to engage with children who experience services.
- 9.2 Partners remain committed to improve engagement with children and families at an individual, service and strategic level.
- 9.3 Partners will make use of the existing systems, groups and forums to gather the views of children and families to encourage children to have their say, share their views and experiences, challenge and support local decision makers and shape and influence strategic planning, commissioning and service provision.
- 9.4 The Safeguarding Partners will ensure an annual young people's event is facilitated by the NSCP

⁶ Department for Education. (2018), *Keeping Children Safe in Education*. Crown

10. INDEPENDENT SCRUTINY

10.1 The independent scrutiny function set out in *Working Together (2018)*, provides a framework for critical challenge and appraisal of the effectiveness of the Newcastle Multi-agency Safeguarding Arrangements for Children and Young People. The role of independent scrutiny seeks to:

- Be objective and act as a constructive critical friend
- Provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of services to protect children and young people
- Assist when there is disagreement between the leaders responsible for protecting children in the agencies involved in multi-agency arrangements
- Support a culture and environment conducive to robust scrutiny, constructive challenge and promote reflection to drive continuous improvement

10.2 The long-term independent scrutiny function of the NSCP is yet to be determined, therefore the current Safeguarding Children Board scrutiny functions, including the role of the Independent Chairperson, will be maintained during the transitional period. A future model will be considered from Spring 2020 taking into consideration emerging best practice. These include:

- The views of children and young people
- Challenge provided by the Independent Chairperson; and Newcastle City Council Health and Scrutiny Committee
- Partner surveys on the effectiveness of the partnership
- Partner members role description
- Annual partner challenge event and 'practice review' week
- Partnership complaints policy, challenge log and risk register
- Multi-agency inspection of safeguarding arrangements for children e.g. Ofsted, CQC⁷
- Independent triennial Peer Review

⁷ Ofsted, (2018), *Inspecting Multi-agency Safeguarding Arrangements*.

11. FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS

- 11.1 Safeguarding partners are required to provide equitable and proportionate funding to cover all elements of the arrangements.
- 11.2 The current partner pooled partner budget for 2019/2020 will remain the same as the NSCB 2018/2019 during the transitional period. However, partners may be requested to make additional contributions to Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews as they arise.
- 11.3 Future funding arrangements will be reviewed in January 2020, although it is recognised that the current arrangements are unlikely to make any financial efficiencies in the short term.

12. BUSINESS SUPPORT

- 12.1 The Safeguarding Partners provide joint funding for business support to the NSCP.
- 12.2 The Safeguarding Partners jointly fund the dedicated training officer post.

13. LINKS WITH OTHER PARTNERSHIPS

- 13.1 The Safeguarding Partners work together and with local partners and partnerships, including the Wellbeing for Life Board, Safeguarding Adult Board and Safe Newcastle Board those across the North and South of Tyne and the region, to ensure an effective joined-up response to reduce the risk of harm to children and to improve outcomes. Detail of the broader working arrangements are set out in the Partnership Framework (*appendix 5*).

14. REVIEW OF THE ARRANGEMENTS

- 14.1 The Newcastle Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements for Children and Young People will be reviewed in September 2020. Any proposed amendment to the arrangements will be in consultation with the wider partners.

15. INFORMATION SHARING

- 15.1 The NSCP members shall keep confidential any information obtained because of inter-agency co-operation save to the extent that disclosure of the information is necessary to discharge the functions of the

Safeguarding Partners as set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) and the local safeguarding arrangements (*appendix 12*)

- 15.2 The Safeguarding Partners may require any person, organisation or agency to provide them, any relevant agency, reviewer or another person or organisation or agency, with specified information. This must be information which enables and assists the Safeguarding Partners to perform their functions to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Newcastle, including local and national child safeguarding practice reviews.
- 15.3 The person or organisation to whom a request is made must comply with such a request and if they do not do so, the Safeguarding Partners may take legal action against them.
- 15.4 As public authorities, Safeguarding Partners must be aware of their own responsibilities under the relevant information law and have regard to guidance provided by the Information Commissioner's Office when issuing and responding to requests for information.

16. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- 16.1 All agencies working with children and young people in Newcastle remain subject to the Regional Safeguarding Procedures and its Escalation Policy – '*Resolution of Professional Disagreements Between Workers Relating to the Safety of Children*'.
<http://newcastlescb.proceduresonline.com/>
- 16.2 The NSCP and all Relevant Agencies will be expected to adhere to the policy.
- 16.3 Where necessary, the Safeguarding Partners may escalate disputes to the Chief Officers.
- 16.4 Whistleblowing procedures provide an additional important route for staff to raise concerns in a safe process that protects their position. Safeguarding Partners and the wider partnership will adhere to their own whistleblowing procedures.

17. NEWCASTLE MULTI-AGENCY SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS STRUCTURE CHART

