



**NORTHUMBRIA  
POLICE**

Newcastle  
City Council 

**NHS**

North East and  
North Cumbria

## **NEWCASTLE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP**

### **MULTI-AGENCY SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN NEWCASTLE**

**2023**



## Contents

Welcome!.....	3
1. What are the Newcastle multi-agency safeguarding arrangements for children and young people?.....	4
2. Who are the safeguarding partners? .....	4
3. Responsibilities of the safeguarding partners .....	5
4. Leadership, Governance and Accountability.....	6
5. Relevant Agencies.....	7
6. Geographical Area.....	9
7. Strategic Priorities .....	9
8. Components of Newcastle multi-agency safeguarding arrangements for children and young people .....	10
9. Voice and Engagement .....	11
10. Funding Arrangements .....	11
11. Business Support.....	11
12. Review of the Arrangements.....	12
13. Information Sharing .....	12
14. Dispute Resolution.....	12
15. Independent Scrutiny .....	13
16. Structure Chart .....	14

## Welcome!

Welcome to the Newcastle upon Tyne Multi-agency Safeguarding Arrangements for Children and Young People.

The multi-agency safeguarding arrangements we originally published in June 2019 have been independently reviewed, which has informed the revision of how we will fulfil our statutory responsibilities.

We are committed to improving positive outcomes for all children and young people in Newcastle and are proactive in driving forward improvements to reduce the risk of abuse and neglect.

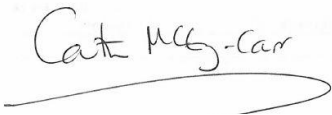
Our ambition is to provide help and support to children, young people, and families at the earliest opportunity to ensure that low level emerging need is identified and responded to in a timely way.

In Newcastle we have a proven track record of strong partnership working. It is our intention to continue to build upon the excellent work already achieved.

As Safeguarding Partners, we are committed to improving how we all work to safeguard our children and adopt a flexible approach to change and improvement.

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.

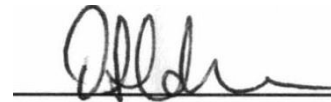
The term 'children' used throughout the document refers to both children and young people.



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Safeguarding Children Partnership

## **1. What are the Newcastle multi-agency safeguarding arrangements for children and young people?**

- 1.1. There is a shared and collective responsibility between organisations and agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Newcastle<sup>1</sup>.
- 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) the Integrated Care Partnership 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, North East and Cumbria Integrated Care Partnership
  - c) Chief Constable, Northumbria Police

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<sup>1</sup> 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 Children, Education and Skills, 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 its Executive Group and subgroups, which are made by representatives from the Statutory Partner and relevant agencies. Subgroups report directly to the Executive Group 3 times per year or as required. There are twice yearly development sessions.
- 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. The Safeguarding Partners work together with local partners and partnerships through the Newcastle Strategic Partnership Group to strengthen our approach to working across the life course and reducing the likelihood of harm to children, young people, and adults. The Strategic Partnership Group considers cross cutting safeguarding and community safety issues for the City as a whole. The group will meet quarterly and will report into its' constituent partnerships as appropriate.
- 4.6. The Safeguarding Partners may delegate decision making to the subgroups 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, 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.
- 4.8. The Partnership has broader working arrangements with Wellbeing for Life Board, City Futures, North and South of Tyne and the wider region through the Tyne, Wear & Northumberland Safeguarding Partnership to ensure an effective joined-up response to reduce the risk of harm to children and to improve outcomes.

## Working Relationships with Other Partnership Boards

### Safeguarding Adults Board (NSAB)

- Representation of the NSCP on the NSAB
- Areas of joint working; joint partnerships business meetings
- Annual cross partnership themed discussion

### Domestic Abuse Partnership

- Annual Assurance Reporting to Executive

### Safe Newcastle Board

- Twice yearly reporting on cross cutting issues
- Joint partnerships business meetings
- Annual cross partnership themed discussion

### Youth Offending Team Partnership Board

- Notification of serious incidents to the NSCP and reports presented
- Cross partnership working

### Multi-agency Public Protection Arrangement Strategic Management Board (MAPPA)

- Learning from MAPPA Serious Case
- Reviews disseminated
- Annual report shared with the NSCP

### Child in Care Multi-Agency Partnership (CICMAP)

- Twice yearly reporting to the NSCP on the strategic plan LAC
- Annual report shared with the NSCP

### Child Death Overview Panel

- Periodic learning events
- Presentation of the annual report to the NSCP

### City Futures Board (CFB)

- Presentation of Safeguarding Partners' Annual Report to the WFLB

### Tyne, Wear and Northumberland Safeguarding Partnership

- Meetings attended by the Safeguarding Partners and the Independent Chair
- Contribution to joint regional priorities and workstreams

### Other relevant boards

## 5. Relevant Agencies

5.1. Relevant agencies<sup>2</sup> are those organisations and agencies whose involvement the Safeguarding Partners consider is required to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Newcastle and must act in accordance with the arrangements.

<p><b>Education and childcare</b></p> <p>Within Newcastle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All maintained schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Academies</li> </ul> </li> <li>• All maintained nursery schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All independent schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newcastle College</li> <li>• Newcastle University</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Community Family Hub</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Criminal Justice</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newcastle Youth Justice Service</li> <li>• The Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass)</li> <li>• National Probation Service</li> <li>• Northumbria Community Rehabilitation Company</li> </ul>	<p><b>Health</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North East and Cumbria Integrated Care Partnership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary Care</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Newcastle Public Health Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NHS England</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust</li> <li>• The Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Private providers</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The North East Ambulance Service</li> </ul>	<p><b>Police and Immigration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Northumbria Police</li> <li>• UK Border Agency</li> <li>• British Transport Police (Memorandum of Understanding)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Local Government and Social Care</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newcastle Children’s Social Care</li> <li>• Newcastle Adults Social Care</li> <li>• Your Homes Newcastle</li> </ul>	<p><b>Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service</b></p>		<p><b>Voluntary, Community and Faith Organisations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NSPCC</li> <li>• The Angelou Centre</li> <li>• The Children’s Society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Streetwise</li> <li>• Changing Lives</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Newcastle Council for Voluntary Service (NCVS)</li> <li>• Newcastle United Foundation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diocese of Newcastle</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Nexus</b> <i>(Transport for Tyne and Wear)</i></p>			

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.

<sup>2</sup> HM Government (2018) The Child Safeguarding Practice Review and Relevant Agency (England) Regulations 2018



## **6. Geographical Area**

6.1. The boundaries of the safeguarding arrangements are the same as those for Newcastle City Council. However, over the last two years safeguarding partners across the region have been strengthening joint working arrangements through the Tyne, Wear and Northumberland Regional Partnership, supported by the regional Safeguarding Children Partnership, Business Manager Network.

## **7. Strategic Priorities**

7.1. The Statutory Partners work with the wider partnership to consider known and emerging safeguarding issues affecting young people in Newcastle to develop a set of strategic objectives on an annual basis.

7.2. The Partnership's strategic aims are reviewed annually and for 2021 – 2024 they are:

- Children feel safe in school and in their communities
- Children have good mental and physical health and can access support when needed
- Children are well cared for, and grow up free from abuse and neglect
- Children have a strong voice in informing the NSCP's work, particularly in scrutiny activity

## **8. Child Death Overview Panel**

8.1. Following the Children and Social Work Act 2017 the responsibility for ensuring reviews of child death are carried out is now held by the "child death review partners". In the North East the partners of 6 Local Authority areas have combined to create a regional body called the North and South of Tyne CDOP.

8.2. The CDOP is the final assurance point once all multi-agency information has been collected, collated and analysed at a local level via a Child Death Review Meeting which includes professionals who have known the child and family. The aim of the CDOP is to review deaths to identify potential safeguarding or local health issues that could be modified to protect children from harm and, ultimately, save lives.

## 9. Components of Newcastle multi-agency safeguarding arrangements for children and young people

9.1. The core components of the Newcastle Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements for Children and Young People are:

- a) Developing procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children (<http://newcastlescb.proceduresonline.com>)
- b) Provide safeguarding training to persons who work with children or in services affecting the safety and welfare of children and evaluating the impact of training on practice
- c) 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
- d) 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
- e) 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 arrangements
- 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
- h) Understand the efficacy of child death review arrangements and the impact on practice. The current North and South of Tyne Child Death Overview Panel will continue to meet during the transitional period
- 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 or criminal exploitation, domestic abuse

## **10. Voice and Engagement**

- 10.1. The new safeguarding arrangements will continue to engage with children who experience services. The NSCP will work alongside established groups of young people in the city, such as Child Friendly Newcastle, 12 – 16 Group and 16+/Care Leavers and will continue to use creative methods to get the views of children and families. There is a commitment to improve and evidence how we hear and respond to the voice of the child and vulnerable communities.
- 10.2. Partners remain committed to improve engagement with children and families at an individual, service, and strategic level.
- 10.3. 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.
- 10.4. The Safeguarding Partners will ensure an annual young people's event is facilitated.

## **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 Partnership's budget is agreed on an annual basis 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 every year.

## **12. Business Support**

- 12.1. The Partnership funding includes provision of Business Manager, business support and a training, learning and development officer to the NSCP.

### **13. Review of the Arrangements**

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

### **14. Information Sharing**

14.1. The NSCP members shall keep confidential any information obtained through 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).

14.2. 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.

14.3. 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.

14.4. 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.

### **15. Dispute Resolution**

15.1. All agencies working with children and young people in Newcastle remain subject to the Regional Safeguarding Procedures and its Escalation Policy – ['Resolving Multi Agency Professional Disagreements and Escalation'](#) within the [North and South of Tyne Safeguarding Children Partnership Procedures Manual](#).

15.2. The Safeguarding Partners and all Relevant Agencies will be expected to adhere to the policy.

15.3. Where necessary, the Safeguarding Partners may escalate disputes to their chief officers.

15.4. 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.

## 16. Independent Scrutiny

16.1. 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.

16.2. 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

16.3. NSCP ensures independent scrutiny is applied to review arrangements, and this includes:

- Independent Scrutineer
- TWNSP Independent Scrutiny Framework
- Section 11 Audit
- The views of children and young people
- The views of families
- The views of frontline practitioners
- Challenge provided by Newcastle City Council, Health Scrutiny Committee
- Partner surveys on the effectiveness of the partnership
- Partner members role description
- Multi-agency inspection of safeguarding arrangements for children e.g., Ofsted, CQC
- Independent triennial Peer Review

## 17. Structure Chart

