



Gateshead local safeguarding children board

NEWSLETTER- Winter 2009

Welcome to the second Gateshead LSCB Newsletter. The aim of this newsletter is to provide a brief overview of the work of the Gateshead LSCB and two of the sub groups. Future issues of the newsletter will focus on particular aspects of the work of the board in more depth.

Our vision is that every child should grow up in a loving and secure environment, which is free from abuse, neglect and crime enabling them to enjoy good health and fulfil their social and educational potential.

WHAT IS THE LSCB?

The LSCB meets three times per year and is made up a number of statutory partners including Gateshead Council, Gateshead Primary Care Trust, Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust, Northumbria Police, Northumbria Probation, Strategic Health Authority and CAF/CASS.

In addition, an executive board meets six times per year and is made up a smaller number of members including the Designated Doctor and Designated Nurse for child protection, the Detective Inspector for Public Protection, the District Manager of Northumbria Probation, the LSCB Business Manager, the Head of Litigation for Gateshead Council, the Service Manager for Safeguarding and the Head of Service for Children, Families and Young Offenders.

Currently, Alison Walton, Director of Children and Young People, Gateshead Council chairs both the LSCB and LSCB Executive. Following the publication of Lord Laming's report earlier this year and the subsequent Government response, Gateshead LSCB will be independently

chaired from January 2010 by Paul Moffat who is the Director of Family Services for Northumberland County Council. Members of Gateshead LSCB are looking forward to working with Paul in the coming year.



Paul Moffat

WHAT ARE THE LSCB SUB-GROUPS?

As of November 2009, the sub groups in operation are:

- Hidden Harm Sub Group
- Local Child Death Review Sub Group
- Licensing Sub Group
- Performance Management
- Policy and Procedures Sub Group
- Practice Review Sub Group (formerly Serious Case Review)
- Workforce Development Sub Group

There are also currently two LSCB working groups:

- Missing and Exploited Children Group (MEG)
- E-safety

This newsletter focuses on the work of the Workforce Development and Policy & Procedures Sub Groups

LSCB WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SUB GROUP

The Workforce Development Sub Group meets bi-monthly and is currently chaired by Ken Youngman, Service Manager Strategy, Gateshead Council.

The Workforce Development Sub Group of the LSCB is responsible for ensuring that multi-agency training on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is provided, and that it meets local needs.

The purpose of the training is to develop and promote shared understanding amongst safeguarding partners around the tasks, processes, principles, roles and responsibilities for safeguarding children promoting their welfare that results in better outcomes.

Gateshead LSCB runs a comprehensive programme of child protection training, which is available, free of charge, for all professionals working in Gateshead with children, young people and their families.

The training programme can be found on the LSCB website

<http://www.gatesheadcyptrust.co.uk/partnership/lscb/index.htm>

Additional events are also hosted throughout the year.

Members of the group recently hosted a very successful event for area based working staff on 25 November 2009. The event, held at the Dryden Centre, was aimed at managers and practitioners from the area based working teams and aimed to clarify policies, procedures, roles and responsibilities around safeguarding. Safeguarding is everybody's business, not just those professionals working in frontline child protection teams in the police, health and social care.

If there are any subjects that you feel should be covered by the LSCB Inter-Agency Child Protection Programme, please contact Louise Gill, LSCB Business Manager.

LSCB POLICY & PROCEDURES SUB GROUP

The Policy & Procedures Sub Group of the LSCB meets bi-monthly to ensure that the Gateshead LSCB Inter-agency Child Protection Procedures are robust, current and fit for purpose. The group is chaired by Ron Cruikshanks, the Detective Inspector of Gateshead Public Protection Unit (which

includes the Child Abuse Investigation Unit)

The procedures can be accessed via the LSCB website, or directly at http://www.gatesheadcyptrust.co.uk/docs/cyp_partnership/LSCB/full-updated-procedures.pdf

It is important that the procedures are only accessed online, as they are frequently updated and you may be using out-of-date information if you print them or save a copy.

The group considers new national guidance from Government to decide whether local procedures should be changed. The group also considers local and regional events that may lead to changes in local procedures, such as serious case reviews.

If there are any areas of the procedures that you feel need to be clearer, or any particular matter that you feel should be covered in the procedures, please contact Louise Gill, LSCB Business Manager.

The work of the LSCB and partner agencies is very much determined by steer from central Government. *Working Together to Safeguard Children*, the guide to inter-agency working in safeguarding, is being re-written as a consequence of inquiries following the death of Baby P. The re-write of *Working Together* is due for publication in December 2009 and is likely to impact on national and local practice.

USEFUL CONTACTS

If you have concerns about the safety or welfare of a child, you should contact Gateshead Council Children, Families and Young Offenders Referral and Assessment Team on **(0191) 433 2515**. You will also be asked to follow up your referral in writing.

If you require more information about the work of Gateshead LSCB you can contact Louise Gill, LSCB Business Manager on **(0191) 433 8010** or by e mail at louisegill@gateshead.gov.uk

<http://www.gatesheadcyptrust.co.uk/partnership/lscb/index.htm>