



Gateshead local safeguarding children board

NEWSLETTER- Summer 2009

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

Since 2006 Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) have been responsible for coordinating the work of key local organisations in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and ensuring such work is effective. Gateshead LSCB has been in operation since 2006.

The protection of children and young people has always been a core commitment of all partners who work together in Gateshead. As an Area Child Protection Committee we developed robust and secure systems to protect Gateshead children. The 2004 Children Act emphasised the importance of this work by establishing statutory Safeguarding Boards and by emphasising the need for the LSCB to be independent in its activities.

The LSCB will take responsibility for this core inter-agency child protection work whilst embracing the wider safeguarding duties established in the Children Act 2004.

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.

WHO SITS ON 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

WHAT DOES THE LSCB DO?

Chapter 3 of *Working together to safeguard children* (2006) defines an LSCB as "the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how the relevant organisations of each local area will co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in that locality, and for ensuring the effectiveness of what they do"

The core functions of an LSCB include to develop effective policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, training people who work with children or in services affecting the safety and welfare of children, recruitment and supervision of people who work with children, communicating and raising awareness, planning and commissioning,

reviewing all child deaths in the locality and Serious Case Reviews.

The work of Gateshead LSCB is carried via a number of sub groups and working groups, which are attended by senior strategic and operational professionals from all agencies in Gateshead working with children, young people and their families.

As of August 2009, the sub groups and working groups currently in operation are:

- E Safety Working Group
- Hidden Harm Sub Group
- Local Child Death Review Sub Group
- Licensing Sub Group
- Missing and Exploited Children Group (MEG)
- Performance Management
- Policy and Procedures Sub Group
- Practice Review Sub Group (formerly Serious Case Review)

LSCB ANNUAL FORUM

Gateshead LSCB hosts an annual forum each spring for professionals working with children, young people and their families. In March 2009 over 100 professionals attended a one-day event on 'Safeguarding in BME Communities', which was hosted in conjunction with the NSPCC. Previous events have focused on E Safety and Neglect.

The LSCB is about to start planning the 2010 Annual Forum. If any professionals have any subjects or themes, which they feel, should be considered then they should contact Louise Gill, LSCB Business Manager on louisejill@gateshead.gov.uk

LSCB INTERAGENCY CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING

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.

LSCB INTER-AGENCY CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES

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 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.

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 louisejill@gateshead.gov.uk

The LSCB website can be found at <http://www.gatesheadcyptrust.co.uk/partnership/lscb/index.htm> and information on the Children and Young People's Partnership can be found at <http://www.gatesheadcyptrust.co.uk/partnership/index.htm>

