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**South Tyneside Safeguarding Children and Adults Partnership Annual Report**

**2022 - 2023**

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**Partnership Chairs Foreword**

The South Tyneside Safeguarding Children and Adults Partnership has continued to build upon the foundations of its evolving arrangements as a partnership that has been in development. That said it has faced challenges within the time of it coming together, not least the partnership agencies responding to the pandemic, the cost-of-living crisis and the ongoing workforce challenges that all agencies are finding themselves now responding to. Demand levels for partners has not eased and the financial challenges for our organisations, at a time of ongoing change means it is difficult. Nationally there is still a significant reform agenda for both children’s and adult social care, which clearly the partnership needs to be cognisant of and able to respond to.

Safeguarding remains a priority within South Tyneside remains a priority for all partners, but we know we still have more we can do and as a partnership we are committed to working together to making those improvements. In preparation for the Care Quality Commission (CQC) assurance of Local Authority Adult Social Care, a Local Government Evaluation(LGA) of the Partnership Arrangements was undertaken. Whilst this highlighted several strengths for us as a partnership, we are now working collectively on the areas where we know are areas of development for us including how we ensure we hear the voice of people more particularly within our partnership arrangements. We recognised last year, the need for greater use of performance information, data and intelligence to inform our strategic priorities and this is something we will and have been working on within our performance subgroup. This will be refined as we move forward, and we continue our learning.

The commitment to learning as a partnership is important to us as we take forward the recommendations from the safeguarding adult reviews and learning reviews that are carried out. These are tragic events for those involved and it is critical that as a partnership we assure ourselves about the quality of the reviews undertaken, the outcomes from them and that the learning is embedded across our partnership which can be the more challenging element of the review. Our training and development plan whilst generous is something that we will be continuing to monitor to ensure it aligns to the themes and intelligence from reviews, performance information so that we can have a targeted approach to raising safeguarding practice across the partnership.

The effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements within the partnership services is just as important as the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. The Ofsted inspection of the Local Authority Children’s Services highlighted this, the partnership now has an important role in ensuring it is supportive but also seeks assurance that the plans in place to drive the improvement of the services are happening in a timely manner and to the standard required. In the spirit of continuous learning, the partnership must also seek to reflect upon it’s own role in relation to seeking assurance from all partners about their role in safeguarding children and adults within South Tyneside and be confident that these arrangements are as robust as they need to. This role is a critical one to navigate particularly for our NHS providers who have other oversight mechanism but that said the partnership still has an important role in the assurance of safeguarding arrangements.

The year ahead will be an important one for the partnership as we continue our work, ensuring that we take forward the recommendations from the LGA evaluation as well as ensuring our strategic priorities and plans really do reflect what our data and intelligence is telling us. Given the evolving nature of arrangements, the changing landscape in which we are working it is only right that we continue to review our partnership and ensure that the model we have is the right approach to ensure we be confident we can as partners work effectively to safeguard children and adults in South Tyneside. Any review must ensure we take account of our strengths but most importantly for us to ensure that any change would mean that it has the greatest impact for children, young people and adults.

**Vicki Pattinson, Chair – South Tyneside Safeguarding Children and Adults Partnership**

**Partnership Arrangements and Key Priorities**

Working Together to Safeguard Children Guidance 2018 and the Care Act 2014 both set out requirements for all local safeguarding partners to work together to safeguard and promote the safety and wellbeing of local children and adults at risk of harm or abuse, including identifying and responding to their needs.

Whilst the responsibility for safeguarding is held equally between the Local Authority, NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB) and Northumbria Police for an Adult Board that responsibility remains with the Local Authority and includes those same statutory members, and any other partners the Local Authority considers, following appropriate consultation. The Partnership has representation on the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Community Safety Partnership.

South Tyneside Safeguarding Children and Adults Partnership (STSCAP) came together in September 2020 following consultation and planning with partners. Both children and adult safeguarding have the advantage of successfully working in collaboration on key areas of work, such as Learning and Improvement (now Practice Evaluation and Learning) and Workforce Development and Training. The collective Partnership arrangements aimed to strengthen the Think Family model across South Tyneside.

The arrangements recognised that the South Tyneside Safeguarding Children Partnership (STSCP) and South Tyneside Safeguarding Adults Board (STSAB) are underpinned by different legislation and statutory guidance, however the aim has been to make the most of the similarities and benefits that bringing safeguarding children and adults together can deliver whilst being explicitly aware of the need to ensure compliance in meeting the statutory duties and requirements of both.

The role of the Independent Scrutineer assigned to the Partnership continues to act as a critical friend and offers critical reflection to the partnership. The Scrutineer is there to provide assurance in judging the multi-agency effective to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and in the case of South Tyneside Adults in the local area.

To assist in their role the Independent Scrutineer has completed work which can be found in the report below:



STSCAP seeks assurances via the range of subgroups, meetings and evidence presented that safeguarding arrangements across the Partnership are effective in helping to keep children, young people and adults with care and support needs safe from abuse and neglect and achieving positive outcomes:

* STSCAP remains committed on the increased focus on practice across safeguarding issues for children and adults
* Learning from statutory case reviews and independent scrutiny findings have supported the ongoing development in this area

The STSCAP arrangements are subject to continual development and revision as the working arrangements come to fruition. This is expected to be met by all partners and relevant agencies raising issues as they arise in a dynamic way and on a regular basis. Examples of this in practice include have a standard agenda item at all Partnership meetings called Safeguarding Updates from Partners including safeguarding in action – good news stories. A similar format is included within the subgroup meetings of the Partnership. As a Partnership we continue to review and test how we are doing, challenging and holding one another to account. We do this by:

Tracking compliance with statutory duties

Scrutinising data and performance indicators

Seeking feedback from people who use multi-agency services

Working more effectively in partnership

Working in partnership we continue to work in an agile way, recognising the need to respond effectively to new agendas and ongoing challenges as well as address areas for improvement such as safeguarding performance information and data and seeking feedback from those who have accessed the services from multi-agency partners. This will be particularly important considering the Government’s Health and Care Reform Agenda, the introduction of the National Framework for Children’s Social Care; the introduction of the CQC Assurance Framework for Adult Social Care and other significant, anticipated legislative changes including, for example, the Adult Social Care Reform, the People at the Heart of Care White Paper and the police initiative of introducing Right Care Right Person.

**Strategic Delivery Plan**

STSCAP’s Strategic Delivery Plan details key focus areas for the period of 2021- 2024, STSCAP established three strategic priorities detailed in the Plan:

Effective Safeguarding

Focus on Practice

Prevention and Early Intervention

These priorities inform the Partnerships local actions to safeguard children and adults in South Tyneside and are underpinned by the Care Act’s six key principles of safeguarding:

**What is Safeguarding?**

Safeguarding means protecting people’s right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organisations working together to prevent both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect, while at the same time making sure that the individual’s wellbeing is promoted and supporting people in making informed decisions.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

Protecting children from maltreatment

Preventing impairment of children’s health or development

Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care

Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

Key principles for effective safeguarding of children:

Multi-agency partners and organisations have a duty under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 to ensure that they consider the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children when carrying out their functions.

Multi-agency partners and organisations have a duty under The Care Act to ensure that they consider the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of adults when carrying out their functions.

Safeguarding adult duties apply to an adult who:

Has care and support needs (whether the Local Authority is meeting any of those needs)

As a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect

Is experiencing, or at risk of experiencing abuse or neglect

**Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP)**

Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) is a core objective for the Partnership, which is incorporated within the strategic plan and all subgroup activity. There is a continued commitment to work together to achieve person-led and strengths based frontline practice, across all agencies. Fundamental to its role, the Partnership seeks to promote the principles of MSP through its communications, quality assurance measures, and learning and development. From a workforce development perspective, the principles of MSP continue to be embedded across all learning packages, the emphasis being on the importance of person led interventions to achieve desired outcomes.MSP will continue to be a focus across all parts of the Partnership.

The 2022-23 data highlighted some improvement across MSP. In 22-23 95% of these who provided a response believed their outcome was either Fully or Partially achieved. 5% did not believe their outcomes was achieved in 22-23 a slight improvement on 21-22.

Looking ahead to next year, whilst MSP will continue to be a Partnership priority, as highlighted in the recent review of partnership arrangements, there is a need to focus upon involving and hearing the voices of people who use services, to ensure the Partnership remains grounded in the reality for people and frontline staff.

**Statutory Partners contribution to MSP 2022-23**

**NORTHUMBRIA POLICE**

**Northumbria Police actively promote, ‘Making Safeguarding Personal,’ and this is reflected in our Policy and Procedures along with the Victims Code of Practise whereby the views of our victims are recognised and considered when decisions are made regarding safeguarding and any investigation. The recent force wide “Vulnerability Matters” campaign will increase and improve identification & recognition of all forms of vulnerability ensuring victims views are captured. A Think Family Approach is also embedded to ensure the effects on family members are considered to inform bespoke safeguarding interventions.**

**NHS NORTH EAST AND NORTH CUMBRIA INTEGRATED CARE BOARD**

**The newly formed ICB (Central) established the post of a Named Nurse to work in conjunction with Named Doctors in Primary care to target the required safeguarding support for general practice and community care. As part of this the Named Nurse targeted those areas under MSP that required focus whichincludes Domestic Abuse, Self-Neglect and fmaiies with complex leads (which includes both children and vulnerable persons of non-school age). This led to prioritisation of work, particularly in terms of vulnerable women and victims of Domestic Abuse. Furthr funding was committed in the support of posts hosted at the South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust of Domestic Abuse Health Advisor, but with the portfolio to act as a resource for guidance, support and supervision of doctors in practice, in addressing the needs of vulnerable people in this context.**

**The NHS TITO (training programme for Primary Care) has addressed the need to enhance practice standards of which MSP is core to the delivery and is reflected further in the context of adult safeguarding modules delivered by NHS Staff at a multi-agency level.**

**ADULT SOCIAL CARE**

**Making safeguarding personnel is a key component of what constitutes an appropriate adult safeguarding response. In ST Council and adult social care, the views of the person are central to the approach and interventions we undertake. We work with people from a strengths-based perspective working with them, not doing to.**

**Over the last 12 months we have been considering our safeguarding operating model and we have undertaken focused activity on capturing the views of the person, with the purpose of understanding their experience of the adult safeguarding process, what we do well and considering how we can improve. We have received some powerful feedback from people with lived experience which has been fed into the partnership to help shape the partnerships approach to considering how we are working with people who are missing, sexually exploited or trafficked, as well as through a transitional safeguarding lens.**

**Making safeguarding personnel remains a key priority for ST Council and adult social care and we will continue to capture feedback and experiences to improve the work we do.**

**Children and Families Social Care Ofsted Inspection**

Ofsted visited South Tyneside Local Authority Children’s Services 5th to 9th December 2022, and the 14th and 15th February 2023.

The Ofsted report was published on the 10th May 2023   <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/44/80557>

Judgement

The impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families - Inadequate

The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection - Requires improvement to be good

The experiences and progress of children in care and care leavers - Inadequate

Overall effectiveness – Inadequate

There continues to be a significant amount of commitment to progress with the multi-agency Improvement Plan and notable improvements have been evidenced. The Partnership will continue to seek the relevant assurances including updates following the Ofsted monitoring visits which commence in November 2023.

**Practice Priorities**

Due to the significant and sustained pressures placed upon the Partnership Business Unit and in agreement with the Executive Board this practice priority has just recently commenced.

The Executive Board have identified that **multiagency information sharing** is a clear priority for the Partnership. This is based on the analysis and findings from some of the recent national reviews and demand issues that are currently faced across the Partnership. Given that the subject of information sharing is vast the priority will be addressed through a children and adults safeguarding lens at both a strategical and operational perspective. In March 2023 work commenced on the agreed third Practice Priority – multi-agency Information sharing. This took the format of the development of a multi-agency survey. The survey will be used to gain the base line from which to develop the methodology to develop the multi-agency priority in such a way that it is useful to all partners as well as highlighting good practice and sharing useful resources.

**Learning from Statutory Reviews**

In accordance with the Care Act 2014 Safeguarding Adult Boards / Partnerships have a statutory duty to carry out Safeguarding Adult Reviews. There is a requirement to undertake reviews when an adult in its area has died as a result of abuse or neglect, and there is a concern about how the partner agencies have worked together to safeguard the adult.

**Children**

During 2022-23 there were no Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

**Adults**

In 2022-23 the Partnership concluded 2 Safeguarding Adult Reviews. The initial findings and learning from both of these cases was disseminated across well attended multi-agency learning events, facilitated by the Independent Authors. The Practice Evaluation and Learning (PEL) subgroup are overseeing the action plans from these reviews via a bespoke action plan monitoring group. Progress is shared with the Executive Board ensuring that all recommendations and supporting evidence meets the requirements of the recommendations. The 7-minute briefings with links to the full reports are available at: [Local Safeguarding Adult Reviews - South Tyneside Council](https://southtyneside.gov.uk/article/19245/Local-Safeguarding-Adult-Reviews).

In addition a 3rd SAR was completed using the SAR in Rapid Time methodology. The final analysis based on the response of partners to the specific questions highlighted from the learning from this case are due later this year.

**What did we learn?**

**What are we doing as a result?**

A review of the self-neglect policies and procedures to ensure that they are inclusive of the Mental Capacity Act; Executive decision-making and guidance around actions to be taken around the refusal of treatment by those adults deemed to have capacity. In addition these policies will also highlight how multi-agency professionals escalate concerns and raise professional differences regarding personalised/holistic care

A re-review and re-launch of the self-neglect guidance and toolkit

Seeking assurance from Health and Social Care operational and strategic managers that workloads are manageable and supervision of cases involving adults at risk ensures that plans are implemented, and the outcomes reviewed

Seeking assurance that communication pathways are clear and understood by partners and care providers in terms of their involvement, monitoring and reporting of high-risk people

Planning in progress for a Community Awareness Raising Campaign. This is to be built into Adult Safeguarding Week (20-24 November 2023)

Seeking assurance and evidence that all multi-agency practitioners and managers know the procedure for escalating concerns and raising professional standards

Seeking assurance and evidence from Health and Social Care Commissioners that there are appropriate services for individuals experiencing longstanding, fluctuating and ongoing mental health issues

Development of an audit of decision-making surrounding referrals of adult safeguarding concerns and of the outcomes of referrals and enquiries

An audit of self-neglect cases to be undertaken to determine if mental capacity assessments, where necessary, are being recorded at an acceptable and appropriate standard

**Key Priorities 2022 / 2023**

| **Priority: Continue to effectively safeguard and prevent abuse and neglect of children and adults** | | |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **What we said we would do** | **What we did** | **Outcome** |
| Revise and update the STSCAP website to ensure that reporting a concern and referral pathways for adults or children are clear for both professionals and members of the public. | Worked with the ICT Team to achieve the following:   * Add additional text to the home page (Worried About Someone – Safeguarding) * Reviewed and analysed the search terms used by visitors when visiting the safeguarding pages * Analysed and made improvements to key customer journeys, to make sure users following alternative paths are successfully signposted to how to report a concern * Reviewed and updated information on the safeguarding partnership pages, eliminating duplication * Ensured that how to report a concern and the link was clearly visible and also added to the Policies and Procedures websites (hosted externally):   <https://www.southtynesidesafegurdingapp.co.uk>  <https://www.proceduresonline.com/nesubregion/> | The STSCAP landing page and corresponding pages received a total of **4,159** views. Although difficult to gain further analysis the views made on the landing page are to be monitored in order that a comparison can be made in 2023 -24. |
| Ensure the Threshold guidance for children and adults is clear for all multi-agency partners. | **Children:** The Threshold of Need and Multi-Agency Referral Form was revised and consulted on at events in December 2022. Final documents were circulated in January 2023 and additional awareness raising sessions are built into the Family Hub awareness raising sessions, as well as bespoke twilight sessions aimed at schools. Both documents will be reviewed in September 2023.  **Adults:** The Multi-Agency Threshold Tool was updated to ensure it was compliant with national good practice and reformatted to easily illustrate the various levels of need and actions required. | Although it is too early to measure the outcomes of impact the current analysis of the Threshold of Need is suggesting the following – 3-5 year olds are the most common ages to be the subject of an Early Help Plan, although the biggest cohort can be found in the 5-10 age category. There is a shift in the demographics as more families with older children are being supported under the improved 0-19/25 Family Help model launched in December 2022.  701 assessments have been completed by the Early Help Family worker team in 2022-23, giving an average of 58 assessments being completed per month. The service works with a family for an average of 6 months. 65% of assessments were carried out within 6 weeks, rising to 88% completed within 8 weeks.  Adult social care received 3293 (excluding police) safeguarding contacts into the service, through use and consideration of the STCASP adult safeguarding threshold tool alongside experienced practitioners, 1254 (38%) of those concerns progressed to a s42(1) to further establish if the safeguarding duty applied and after such 359 (28%) progressed to a s42(2) enquiry. 88% of all the s42(2) enquiries undertaken resulted in the risk being removed or reduced. 86% of people involved in a s42(2) enquiry were asked about their desired outcomes and 95% of those people believed their outcomes had been fully or partially achieved. Neglect and Acts of Omission remains the most likely abuse type in 2022-2023, however enquiries into Self-Neglect and Domestic abuse have more than doubled in 2022-2023.Work is in progress to improve the threshold tool so that we can have a clearer understanding of its application. |

| **Priority: Prevention and Early Intervention** | | |
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| **What we said we would do** | **What we did** | **Outcome** |
| Ensure statutory protocols for Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs) are current and all partners are aware of the process. | SAR Protocol updated further to add clarity around the governance and role of the Executive in making the final decision based on the recommendation of the Practice Evaluation and Learning (PEL) subgroup.  The Independent Scrutineer has undertaken a review of the process and produced a report.    Shared the CSPR panel guidance for safeguarding partners.  The role of the Executive Board has been clarified. | Members of the PEL subgroup have provided positive feedback in terms of the clarity shared in the revised SAR protocol to support them in making an informed decision.  Highlights from the report include; The process for considering referrals and determining whether they meet the threshold for review has been well administered and supported by all concerned. It has also demonstrated the capacity to adapt and develop. |
| Multi-agency partners are clear on their safeguarding roles and responsibilities in terms of the statutory review process. | Multi-agency briefing sessions continued to be offered around SARs and CSPRs and included the process and the role of multi-agency partners. In addition, the statutory processes are included throughout most courses within the multi-agency safeguarding training offer.  The SAR protocol and how to use it has been included on the agenda at the Care Home Managers Forum, with 20+ attendees.  SARs and Quality Markers workshop facilitated by SCIE. | Greater clarity required of the PEL subgroup members in terms of what constitutes serious harm and the practical guidance around undertaking CSPRs.  3 CSPR briefings were held with an overall attendance of 13 partners. 1 SAR briefing session was held with 4 attendees. The evaluation was positive in terms of their improved understanding f the process and how to submit a SAR referral.  Session held on 13/07/2022 – attended by 46 professionals. |
| Ensure multi-agency online safeguarding policies and procedures for children and adults are up to date and relevant to front line practice. | Complied with safeguarding policies and procedures updates with the input from the relevant multi-agency partners.  Promoted online links throughout all multi-agency training.  Briefing sessions offered to support familiarity with both safeguarding policies and procedures websites, including how to navigate them.  In addition the Person in a Position of Trust (PiPoT) policy and procedure has been developed. | Adults: in 2022/23 there were 10100 users and 18,000 events (link to another page, opening a form etc). The most popular chapters included:   * Consent in relation to safeguarding * Safeguarding, what it is and why it matters * Managing Risk * Female Genital Mutilation * Whole Family Approach * Domestic Abuse * Mental Capacity * MAPPA   Children:  **2022 - 2023**: 47 users (46 new users), 78 page views  **2021 - 2022**: 53 users (52 new users), 81 page views  **2020 - 2021**: 18 users (18 new users), 34 page views  **2019 - 2020:** 1361 users (1359 new), 3616 page views  Multi-agency briefing sessions planned for delivery across 2023/24. |

| **Priority: Focus on Practice** | | |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **What we said we would do** | **What we did** | **Outcome** |
| Undertake a multi-agency audit focused on children who have undergone a Single Assessment with no further action taken. | The choice was made to reflect issues raised in the Solihull JTAI and CSPR panel report into the deaths of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson.  The multi-agency audit tool was revised and supported by multi-agency partners. | This multi-agency audit exercise offered assurance that risks of harm to children are understood, referred and responded to through an appropriate pathway. The quality of partnership safeguarding working and the application of thresholds was good, and the quality of partnership conversation is effective. Appropriate weight is given to the child and family voice in understanding the lived experience of children.  See Evidence 1  Completed within the given timescale. The findings and analysis have informed future audit cycles for children and adults. |
| Improve engagement with missing adults – strengthen the understanding and multi-agency practice in response to missing adults. | South Tyneside is the regional lead on missing adults with Northumbria Police.  Pilot of Return Home Conversations undertaken by the Police Triage Team September to December 2022.  Improved reporting processes resulting in the top 3 missing adults now discussed between the Police and Adult Social Care in order that appropriate support can be put in place. | Missing adults data now shared at the Strategic Exploitation group and Performance Management and Evaluation subgroup.  Missing Adults Briefing Sessions delivered and attended by 58 professionals. Evaluations highlighted a greater awareness of the protocol and how to implement it. |
| Continue to improve front line multi-agency practice in safeguarding children from financial abuse. | Financial abuse of adults was addressed within Practice Priority 2. It identified a gap in front line practitioners’ knowledge and practice around financial abuse of children. | Safeguarding Children from Financial Abuse is now included in the multi-agency safeguarding training programme (facilitated by The Children’s Society). In 2022-23 there were 39 multi-agency attendees. |
| Create awareness of new safeguarding areas of concern. | Hosted a session around Predatory Marriage which was delivered by a daughter with lived experienced. This session was opened up to regional partners. | 113 professionals attended, including Registrars, and literature was produced.  See Evidence 2. |
| Maintain the link with the local Mosque and offer sessions around Safeguarding Children and Adults. | Delivered safeguarding awareness session to teachers within the Madrasa and volunteers at the Mosque. | Madrasa has a Designated Safeguarding Lead for children. Contact details around what to do if you are worried about a child or an adult are displayed within the communal areas of the Mosque. |
| Develop a range of resources to support practitioners with self-neglect issues. | Engaged with a regional group and produced a range of self-neglect resources. | Production of regional learning resource that fits with the national SAR Analysis Review and recommendations.  North East Webinar held 22nd November during National Safeguarding Adults week attended by over 900 delegates from across the North East and attendees from several national organisations.  Animation film available <https://youtu.be/nKLzuQBvpFY> |
| Involve the voice of people in the co-production of safeguarding materials. | Working alongside Your Voice Counts (advocacy service) produced an easy read leaflet to describe categories of abuse.  Co-production of awareness raising films around Peer-on-Peer abuse with Sunderland University Media Students. | Evidence 3  Suite of 7 films available.  Evidence 4 - Feedback |
| Actively participate in Safeguarding Adults Week 2022. | In partnership with the Ann Craft Trust brought together a range of national, reginal and local events for practitioners. | Successful regional collaboration covering a range of safeguarding topics, including Making Safeguarding Personal, Transitions, Domestic Abuse & Older People, organisational abuse and closed cultures. fire safety and self-neglect.  Evidence 5 – Adult Safeguarding Week Plan |
| Actively participate in Child Safety Week 2022. | Key topics identified from performance information. Successful programme of events delivered on key local issues which included online safety, knife and weapon crime awareness, substance misuse and physical abuse. | Evidence 6 – Child Safety Week Plan |
| Actively participate in Child Exploitation Awareness Day March 2023. | Raised the issue of Child Exploitation encouraging everyone to **Think, Spot and Speak out Against Abuse** and adopt a zero tolerance to adults developing inappropriate relationships with children, or children developing inappropriate relationships with other children. | Evidence 7 – Child Exploitation Day |

| **Priority: Develop a clear transition policy and procedure across children and adults services** | | |
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| **What we said we would do** | **What we did** | **Outcome** |
| Develop an incremental and thematic approach. | NWG Transition training completed by staff across both service areas 12/10/22.  Local session 14/10/22 (A tale of two services)  Legal session 26/01/2023  Multi-Agency involvement March – June 2023 Development of transition model / good practice guidance co-produced with those with ‘lived experience’ July – September  November 2023 – Official launch of South Tyneside Transition Protocol | Work very much remains in progress. The greatest benefit to date is the collaborative networks that have developed across the children and adults workforces. |

| **Priority: Enhance learning and improvement to positively influence and enhance multi-agency safeguarding practice** | | |
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| **What we said we would do** | **What we did** | **Outcome** |
| Ensure that the multi-agency safeguarding training programme for children and adults reflects the needs of the multi-agency workforce and reflects learning from reviews and current safeguarding issues prevalent at the time.  Collaborate with the National SAB Manager Network to examine the possibility of producing a National Suite of Films around the 10 types of abuse. | Developed an effective multiagency safeguarding training programme for 2022-23. This offered a range of opportunities to engage in learning, including face to face sessions; virtual training; briefing sessions and a comprehensive accredited E-Learning offer.  Held the annual MSET Roadshows using a hybrid model – face to face and a virtual session.  The virtual session focused on safeguarding in sport and supported with the input of Tanni Baroness-Grey Thompson and a gymnast with lived experience.  The face-to-face session dealt with what we know about exploitation to date.  Agreed arrangements to work with Sunderland University animation students who will produce a suite of films. National SAB Manager Network facilitating a Steering Group and Task and Finish groups. | Evidence 8 – Multi-Agency Safeguarding Training Annual Report.  Total of 3532 attendees across 2022-23 engaged with various methods of training.  New trainer for the Partnership commenced in February 2023.  Significant improvements have been made to the quality and multi-agency input into the training material. A key focus going forward is on evaluating the impact of the training.  Evidence 9 – MSET Roadshow Evaluation  A total of 142 multi-agency professionals attended.  Further action to develop a half-day MSET training course.  The suite of films will be shared nationally across networks to raise the profile of the types of adult abuse. Timescale to start September 2023 and films launched February 2024. |

| **Priority: Continue to develop the Multi-Agency performance monitoring, quality assurance and scrutiny arrangements** | | |
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| **What we said we would do** | **What we did** | **Outcome** |
| Continue to improve the multi-agency performance frameworks and reporting mechanism across children and adults Performance Management and Evaluation (PME) subgroups | Maintained and reflected on the reporting by exception model into both PME subgroups. Developed a Practice Evaluation and Learning tracking sheet for identified reviews. | Evidence of greater scrutiny and challenge around the multi-agency performance data at a local and regional level.  The sharing of multi-agency safeguarding data is improving but there is work ongoing to develop a more robust safeguarding scorecard for the Partnership. |
| Continue to support the role of the Independent Scrutineer in line with the needs of the Partnership. | Independent Scrutineer meets with the STSCAP Business Manager on a regular basis, as well as attending key subgroups to observe processes and outcomes. | Evidence of scrutiny and challenge as highlighted in the Independent Scrutineer Report.  Evidence 10 – Independent Scrutineer Annual Report |

**The Partnership Development Session**

Following information provided around the Council and its vision for 2023-24, the current context and implications for the Partnership and Independent Scrutiny reflections members were asked to reflect on how the Partnership can use the information from a strategic perspective to inform the sense of direction and priorities going forward. Comments/suggestions included:

The Partnership has worked hard to balance arrangements

The Partnership is now very aligned and feels reflective of communities

More focus is needed on practical issues as opposed to always questioning Partnership and Leadership

Embrace the difference between adult and children’s services

Need more clarity on the front line – still work in progress

Focus on Transition

Leadership -enabling direction and focus

From each individual session feedback was gained from partners in terms of the potential implications, opportunities and challenges for the Partnership going forward. An action plan was developed to support and inform the work of the Partnership going forward during 2022-23. It was acknowledged that the partnership arrangements are still quite unique in the region and as such future work will continue to be focused on strengthening the collaborative model whilst at the same time ensuring the statutory requirements for adults and children are met.

**Multi-Agency data and information – the highlights**

The past twelve months have offered little respite from the significant and sustained pressures placed upon the broad range of services across the partnership, and the heightened risk of these to safeguarding adults and children from abuse or neglect. Most partners continued to be faced with ongoing recruitment and retention challenges alongside high demand, placing extreme pressure on services. Alongside this, our collective services supporting adults, children and families across South Tyneside have continued to see the new challenges presented post-pandemic and more recently the impact of the cost-of-living crisis. This has been reflected in the notable increase in late referrals in terms of complexity where cases are not referred until at crisis point.

**Please see separate adult and children Annual Performance Report for 2022-2023**

** **

**Highlights from the subgroups**

**Executive Board**

The Executive Board undertakes the overall safeguarding responsibilities which include the statutory and strategic functions, as well as the oversight of the Safeguarding Children and Adults Partnership. The membership consists of the three key statutory partners: The Local Authority; NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board; Northumbria Police

With the increasing development of the Partnership the Executive have increased the meeting schedule to bi-monthly to ensure an increased focus and consistency is able to be maintained. For 2022 -23 the Executive Board met on seven occasions. Highlights include:

* Assurance sought around the conditions of social housing in South Tyneside following the sad death of a young child due to the mould and poor housing condition
* Agreed the Partnership Escalation and Challenge Protocol
* Agreed the third Practice Priority -Multi-Agency Information Sharing
* Continue with the conversation around future Partnership budgets and contributions
* Consider the impact of the LGA review undertaken in March 23 of the Partnership arrangements for adult safeguarding
* Considered the impact and requirement of the Partnership related to national initiatives such as the introduction of the CQC Adult Assurance Framework; outcome of the national consultation of the Children’s Social Care National Framework

**The Practice Partnership**

The aim of the Practice Partnership is to strengthen the focus on practice ensuring a direct link with practitioners to influence and fully understand frontline practice from both a practitioner and child and adult perspective. Members of the Partnership are expected to consider solutions and disseminate learning from shared good practice across the partnership and community and identify, agree, and support with the development and dissemination of the learning from the Practice Priority Themes. All partners are expected to raise safeguarding issues that their organisation is experiencing as well as share examples of good practice. As part of the development of the Partnership members views are sought in terms of the structure and proportionality of the agenda across adults and children to ensure fairness and transparency. Key highlights include.

* Attended an ‘Extraordinary’ Partnership meeting to highlight increased demand and pressures across all service areas and discuss possible solutions.
* Regular updates in terms of the development of the ICB and the implications on local safeguarding arrangements

**Policies and Procedures**

The aim of the Policy and Procedures subgroup is to develop and maintain up to date multiagency policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and adults in South Tyneside. These have been successful and effective virtual groups for some time.

Successful virtual sessions have been held for partners to raise the awareness of the online regional safeguarding policies and procedures across children and adults.

There has been an increased uptake with the online safeguarding policies and procedures, particularly from single agencies.

A link to the online safeguarding policies and procedures is included at all multiagency training sessions.

[North and South of Tyne Safeguarding Children Partnership Procedures Manual (proceduresonline.com)](https://www.proceduresonline.com/nesubregion/)

[South Tyneside Safeguarding Children and Adults Partnership APPP – South Tyneside Safeguarding Children and Adults Partnership APPP (southtynesidesafeguardingappp.co.uk)](https://www.southtynesidesafeguardingappp.co.uk/)

**Practice Evaluation and Learning Subgroup (PEL)**

The aim of the subgroup is to:

* Make recommendations to the Executive Board to undertake Safeguarding Rapid Reviews, Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews or Safeguarding Adult Reviews in line with national guidance
* Initiate Safeguarding Rapid Reviews, Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Safeguarding Adult Reviews in line with Working Together 2018 and the Care Act 2014, and monitor their progress
* Oversee and ensure action plans and learning from any of the above reviews are embedded and evaluated for impact on multi-agency practice.

In addition the subgroup has the authority to determine and agree multi-agency learning reviews should any cases not meet the statutory criteria but clearly highlight learning for multi-agency partners.

To support PEL members awareness raising sessions were built into subgroup meetings. These highlighted the purpose, criteria and required compliance of both statutory processes.

In 2022-2023 no SARs, CSPRs or Appreciative Enquiries were published.

**Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPR)**

There has been one case referred for consideration of a CSPR. This case met the CSPR threshold and work is in progress to process through the statutory process.

**Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SAR)**

5 cases have been referred for consideration of a SAR.

2 cases met the SAR threshold. The themes of the cases include self-neglect, morbid obesity and mental health concerns. These cases have recently concluded and the final reports have been written. There have been 2 successful multi-agency learning events, attended by a total of 81 multi-agency partners.

The subgroup supported the introduction of a new methodology, SAR in Rapid Time. This was the first time that a SAR in Rapid Time methodology had been used but the first step towards the agreement of the Partnership to try out a range of different proportionate methods of learning.

In addition, the Partnership continue to be proactive in the regional SAR Champions network resulting in a regional SAR Library and Quality Marker Checklist which has attracted national interest.

**Performance Management and Evaluation (PME) – Children and Adults**

These groups receive, monitor, and analyse multiagency performance data on a quarterly basis in line with statutory returns which help inform the Practice Evaluation and Learning Group highlight strategic issues and provide the Partnership with additional information for further consideration. To date key pieces of work have included:

* A greater emphasis across the region around neglect and self-neglect due to the increased numbers in cases identified within the regional multi-agency data. This resulted in the production of a self-neglect animation and supportive 7-minute briefings
* A clear rationale for the topic of Financial Abuse as a practice Priority given the increase in the data around this subject
* An agreement and implementation to Report by Exception in terms of Safeguarding issues

**Overall Attendance Headline Figures for April 2022 to March 2023**

Face to Face Training 750

Virtual Training 164

Briefing Sessions/Roadshows 517

E-Learning (children and adults) 2101

**Total 3532**

Comparison with 2021/22 figures (please note face-to-face training had not been reintroduced following the Covid-19 Pandemic restrictions)

Virtual Training 978

Briefing Sessions/Roadshows 799

E-Learning (children and adults) 975

**Total 2752**

**Note:** the reintroduction of face-to-face training sessions regained popularity again and became a preferred option for many partners.

**Workforce Development and Training**

The aim of the subgroup is to develop a Multi-Agency safeguarding training programme across children and adults and to implement a robust quality assurance process across all the training:

* The hybrid multiagency safeguarding training programme, which includes a mixture of face-to-face, virtual courses and briefing sessions continued to be very well received. This included a proactive response to themes triggered or made more evident from national and local safeguarding issues and the impact of the cost-of-living crisis. This included awareness raising around exploitation of children and adults; Missing Adults Protocol; Predatory Marriage; Knife Crime Protocol and multiagency responsibilities for safeguarding Adults and Children.
* The accredited E-Learning offer remains for all multiagency partners who work with adults, children and families in South Tyneside including the Third Sector.
* The streamlined application process via an online booking system continues to be successful.
* The automated certification process continues to be an effective system for both the business unit and the course delegates who once they have completed and submitted the online evaluation will receive their certificate.
* The biggest challenge since August 2022 has been the maintenance and delivery of the training programme due to the retirement of the trainer. Despite attempts to recruit to the post there was no success until late February where an interim trainer from an agency was appointed. The interim trainer was appointed as a permanent full-time member of staff in March 2023.
* The support offered by the range of multiagency partners in supporting with the delivery of the training has been very effective. This approach has enhanced the learning experience which is clearly reflected within the course evaluations.

**Strategic Exploitation Group (Children and Adults)**

This group ensures that the Partnership has a strategic oversight and assurance that appropriate actions have been taken in response to the exploitation of children, young people, and adults at risk in South Tyneside. The group seeks assurance from the operational progress of the South Tyneside Missing, Slavery, Exploited and Trafficked (MSET) subgroup. Through a ‘live’ multiagency action plan the group can contribute and measure the impact of partners actions against the key elements of the plan. These include:

* Prevention creating an increased awareness and understanding of Exploitation with children, young people, parents, vulnerable adults, their families, and multiagency partners
* Developing a robust multiagency Exploitation data set
* Support the improvement of Multi-Agency responses to the identification of exploitation, missing and trafficked incidents.
* Improve multiagency disruption activity with the Police
* Improve Multi-Agency working to increase the effectiveness of prosecution

To date there has been tangible evidence of progress with the multiagency exploitation data set and the increased awareness by all partners of the range of exploitation of adults and children. Good progress was made with raising the profile of the missing adult’s protocol which included a successful pilot that ran from October – December 2022 that involved Northumbria Police Street Triage with follow ups with CNTW nurses.

Multi-Agency working around Transitional Safeguarding has made and continues to make significant progress. There have been two multiagency events held with a focus on the expectations of both service areas and their roles within transitional safeguarding and the legal parameters. The third session will focus on the role of multiagency partners in transitional safeguarding.

**Pre-Missing, Slavery, Exploited and Trafficked (MSET)**

The pre-MSET was set up to ensure that robust and appropriate screening is undertaken on cases put forward for consideration at MSET.

All Stage 1 Screening Tools are considered by representatives from Children and Families Social Care, The Missing Team and South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust.

All other paperwork is considered with representation from various departments within Northumbria Police and this part of the meeting is chaired by the Missing From Home Coordinator, Northumbria Police.

Adult Social Care is a key representative on Pre-MSET to offer the appropriate support, advice, and guidance to those young people 17+ who remain vulnerable and at risk of exploitation. In addition, work is currently progressing around the process to address missing adults.

The Pre-MSET process was strengthened during the Covid-19 Pandemic, with robust discussions held and assurances provided that appropriate safeguarding measures are put in place where necessary meaning a reduction in the number of full MSET meetings.

**Missing, Slavery, Exploited and Trafficked (MSET)**

MSET is responsible for ensuring the effectiveness of multiagency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of those children, young people and adults who have been identified as medium/high risk on the Exploitation Framework for Screening, Assessment, Safeguarding and Disruption, and Review. In addition, the group provides advice, learning, and signposting to additional support to those frontline workers responsible for medium/high risk young people / adults. A representative from Adults Social Care supports the MSET process with advice and intervention, where appropriate with young people aged 17+.

During 2022 -2023 there have been a total of 3 MSET meetings. Key areas of concern identified:

* Missing episodes increasing vulnerability to exploitation
* Exploitative online activity including the sharing of explicit images and unsafe relationships
* Alcohol and substance misuse

**In addition to the Partnership subgroups the Safeguarding Business Unit organise and facilitate the Designated Safeguarding Leads Meeting for schools and the Multi-Agency cost of living group**

**Multi-Agency Cost of Living Crisis/Fuel Poverty**

The multiagency catch-up meetings are set up to provide partners with the opportunity to raise safeguarding concerns that have become apparent due to the impact of the cost-of-living crisis. The role of the Safeguarding Partnership in this group is to seek assurances in terms of multiagency actions / safeguarding concerns / themes and impact and to provide additional support, advice and guidance. With the creation of the ‘Warm Spaces’, now rebranded as ‘Welcoming Places’ the Safeguarding Business Unit has delivered safeguarding awareness sessions with a particular emphasis on the increased risk of exploitation to children and adults.

**Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) Forum**

The Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) network facilitates and promotes a culture of safeguarding as everybody’s business. It provides a networking opportunity for DSLs in education settings to keep abreast of the latest safeguarding updates and guidance nationally and locally. A key agenda item is for schools to highlight safeguarding issues that they are facing. The Forum is the key educational link into the South Tyneside Safeguarding Children and Adults Partnership. The DSL Forum currently meets six times a year.

To date the following key areas have been included within the forum:

* Child Practice Reviews e.g., Child Q – highlighted the inappropriate strip searching of children on school premises.
* ICT Updates – including E-Safety around Tik Tok trends / Apps such as Huggy Wuggy
* Prevent Duty
* Keeping Children Safe in Education
* Peer on Peer abuse

**Partner Highlight Reports – What have we done? What will we do next?**



**Looking ahead to 2023-24**

This annual report references progress of the collaborative model which we must seek to nurture and grow over the coming year. These include, for example:

* Continually reflect, revise and improve the Partnership Governance arrangements and Development with a particular focus on the statutory duties and responsibilities the Partnership has in terms of Safeguarding Adults Boards, Safeguarding Children Partnerships and Making Safeguarding Personal
* Continue to promote an effective engagement and co-production approach with people in the local community
* Continue to strengthen our approach with schools and the college in terms of their inclusion and participation as equal partners
* Continue to ensure that we draw on a wide variety of national and local information sources to support evidence-based decision making
* Continue to promote and embed Think Family across the Partnership
* Enhance the Partnership’s assurance role within the range of regulatory inspections across all organisations
* Progress recommendations from the LGA Peer Review
* Maintain oversight of the post inspection Improvement plan for Children and Families social care and seek the relevant assurances.

**Appendix A – Representation at STSCAP Meetings 2022-2023**



**Appendix B – Contributions and Summary of 2022-23**

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**Appendix C - Glossary of Terms**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ASC | Adult Social Care | NHS NENCB ICB | NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board |
| APVA | Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse | NPS | National Probation Service |
| CDOP | Child Death Overview Panel | P&P | Policies and Procedures |
| CDR | Child Death Review | PEL | Practice Evaluation and Learning |
| CFSC | Children and Families Social Care | PME | Performance Management and Evaluation |
| CPC | Child Protection Conference | S42 | Section 42 Enquiry |
| CPP | Child Protection Plan | S47 | Section 47 Enquiry |
| CSE | Child Sexual Exploitation | SAR | Safeguarding Adults Review |
| CSPR | Child Safeguarding Practice Review | SBP | Strengths Based Practice |
| CSU | Children’s Standards Unit | SiPT | Safeguarding in Partnership Team |
| IRO | Independent Reviewing Officer | STH | South Tyneside Homes |
| ISIT | Integrated Safeguarding Intervention Team | STSCAP | South Tyneside Safeguarding Children and Adults Partnership |
| MDS | Modern Day Slavery | STSFT | South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust |
| MSET | Missing, Slavery, Exploited and Trafficked | WD&T | Workforce Development and Training |
| NEAS | North East Ambulance Service | WT2018 | Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) |

**Appendix D – Contacts**

**STSCAP Email:** [**STSCAP@southtyneside.gov.uk**](mailto:STSCAP@southtyneside.gov.uk)

**STSCAP Tel: 07483 406 311**

**Jackie Nolan, STSCAP Business Manager**

**Tel: 0191 424 6513**

**Mobile: 07881 510 758**

**Email:** [**Jacqueline.nolan@southtyneside.gov.uk**](mailto:Jacqueline.nolan@southtyneside.gov.uk)

**Leah Collinson, STSCAP Business Development Officer**

**Tel: 0191 424 4086**

**Email:** [**leah.collinson@southtyneside.gov.uk**](mailto:leah.collinson@southtyneside.gov.uk)

**Julie Sloanes STSCAP Learning and Development Advisor**

**Tel 0191 424 6519**

**Email :** [**Julie.Sloanes@southtyneside.gov.uk**](mailto:Julie.Sloanes@southtyneside.gov.uk)

**Lynn Hodson, STSCAP Business Support Officer**

**Tel: 0191 424 6512**

**Email:** [**lynn.hodson@southtyneside.gov.uk**](mailto:lynn.hodson@southtyneside.gov.uk)

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