

Redcar & Cleveland Safeguarding Children Board

All change for the Safeguarding Children Board

5th August 2016



THE Redcar & Cleveland Safeguarding Children Board has said goodbye to their chair as he stands down after four years in the role.

Jan van Wagtendonk, who has 43 years of social work experience, confirmed he was retiring from the role after four years to allow for new blood to take over.

That comes in the form of Jon Rush, a former Chief Superintendent at Greater Manchester Police, and lay member of both the Adult and Children Safeguarding Boards in Cumbria.

Jon said: "It is a real privilege to be the new independent chair of Redcar and Cleveland Safeguarding Children Board. I would like to thank Jan for his hard work over the last four years as the Board has developed under his leadership.



Jan van Wagtendonk (left) handing over to new Independent Chair Jon Rush (Right)

"The priorities for me are continuing to develop the influence of the board in making real differences to the children and young people in our community and also working our way through the new structures that will evolve following the Wood review of Local Safeguarding Children Boards."

For Jan, his retirement from the Board is a fitting conclusion to a long and rewarding career helping to safeguard children which has included roles at Action for Children and as a Director of a therapeutic centre for abused children.

He said: "I am honoured to have been in this position at Redcar and Cleveland and greatly appreciated the support and assistance provided by the other agencies on the Board and their commitment to protect children from abuse.

"I am particularly pleased with the Safe4Us group of young people who have assisted the Redcar and Cleveland Safeguarding Children Board having designed campaigns around domestic violence experienced by adolescents, fear of crime, and E-safety.

"I know that professionals remain committed to safeguarding children and provide the best service possible and wish Jon the best of luck as Chair."

To find out more about the Redcar & Cleveland Safeguarding Children Board, go to: www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/safeguarding.