

**REDCAR & CLEVELAND
SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD**



**REDCAR & CLEVELAND
SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD**

ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15

**WORKING TOGETHER TO ENSURE ALL CHILDREN IN REDCAR AND
CLEVELAND ARE APPROPRIATELY SAFEGUARDED**

www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/safeguarding

Foreword by Jan van Wagendonk Redcar and Cleveland Safeguarding Children Board Independent Chair

I am very pleased to be able to introduce the annual report on the work of the Redcar and Cleveland Safeguarding Children Board for the year 2014-2015 to you.

Last year's annual report identified a number of challenges for the coming year these included:

- Ensuring that, despite the pressures on organisations in relation to their resources, safeguarding children remains a clear priority for those agencies represented on the Board. All organisations have provided assurance that safeguarding these services remain a priority and the Board has challenged situations where this appears to have caused difficulties. For example the attendance of Police at Strategy Meetings has been challenged and solutions to this have been sought. The uses of Step Down processes have been evaluated to ensure families receive services when the child protection plan ends. The reduction in services related to domestic abuse has also been challenged.
- Concerns in relation to the reorganisation of the Probation Service have been raised. Despite RCSCB challenging this process, this went ahead. The two organisations are however represented on the Board and will report on their work in relation to safeguarding children.
- The Board has approved the Early Help Strategy which aims to ensure children, young people and their families are provided with support at the earliest opportunity to prevent escalation into child protection. Early Help audits are being undertaken and the results of these are now reported to the Board, including any action to address issues identified. There has been a large reduction in the number of child protection plans over the year; one of the reasons for this has been identified as the success of early intervention. Work is ongoing to identify all the factors effecting this reduction.
- RCSCB Threshold Continuum of Need has been approved and I have facilitated sessions with staff to ensure the system is working.
- Responding to child sexual exploitation has been a priority of the Board. Some of this work has been undertaken on a Tees wide basis and some are on a local level including identifying, intervening and investigating. Publicity has been given to this issue both in terms of encouraging those exploited to come forward and raising awareness in the community through the campaign *Say Something when You See Something*.
- A Single Assessment Framework has been introduced to help families identify their needs and a single front door to access help also helps families to have to tell their story once rather than keep repeating information.

This annual report outlines the work undertaken in more detail and the Business Plan 2013-2016 is also reported upon in relation to the outcomes achieved.

I would also pay tribute to the work of Safe4Us (Junior RCSCB) who have done a lot of work in relation to raising awareness of violence in young people's relationships, child sexual exploitation as well as organising a stall at the White Ribbon event. Their work is greatly appreciated.

The challenges for the RCSCB for this coming year include:

- Protecting vulnerable, exploited and missing children and ensuring staff and public have an understanding of the issues and know how to take action and where to get help
- Raising awareness of Female Genital Mutilation and ensuring services are available to intervene where necessary
- Auditing the quality of Early Help assessments
- Developing safeguarding policies in the voluntary sector
- Enhancing safeguarding supervision and access to support for schools.

I would like to express my thanks to all organisations and their staff that are committed to the work of the Board and ensure it functions well.

Contents

	Page No.
Introduction This section provides an overview of the statutory functions of RCSCB and outlines the framework of the report.	4
Chapter 1: Information about Redcar and Cleveland This section provides statistical details concerning Redcar and Cleveland, including geographical and demographical information. It also identifies specific information in relation to children and young people, as well as a summary of data extracted from RCSCB multi-agency dataset.	5-6
Chapter 2: About Redcar and Cleveland Safeguarding Children Board Provides an outline of governance arrangements within the RCSCB. The chapter identifies the structure of the Board, the role of the Independent Chair, the RCSCB Executive Group and the Board. It also details the roles of the RCSCB's sub groups.	7-8
Chapter 3: RCSCB's Business Plan Examines the progress made against RCSCB's Business Plan and outlines the work undertaken in relation to strategic priorities between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015.	9-13
Chapter 4: RCSCB's Sub Groups Provides information in relation to work from each of the RCSCB's sub groups.	13-20
Chapter 5: Future Challenges Looks at the continuing work and plans for the RCSCB and how the Board will look to develop over the coming twelve months to fulfil its statutory duties to ensure all children and young people in Redcar and Cleveland are appropriately safeguarded.	20
Appendix 1: RCSCB Self-Assessment Concludes the review of the last twelve months with an overview of the work of the RCSCB for the year and the changes which have occurred.	21-43

Introduction

Redcar and Cleveland Safeguarding Children Board (RCSCB) has a statutory duty to publish an Annual Report on the effectiveness of safeguarding children in Redcar and Cleveland. The report is presented each year to the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, the Police & Crime Commissioner and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Statutory Functions

Section 13 of the Children Act 2004 required each local authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) for their area and specified the organisations and individuals (other than the local authority) that should be represented on LSCB's.

The LSCB has a range of roles and statutory functions including developing local safeguarding policy and procedures and scrutinising local arrangements.

Section 14 of the Children Act 2004 sets out the objectives of the LSCB which are:

- a. To coordinate what is being done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area; and
- b. To ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.

This report sets out the achievements from 2014/15 and the priorities and challenges for 2016.

The key question for RCSCB is;

Are we improving outcomes for children and young people in Redcar and Cleveland?

RCSCB believe we are, and this report aims to provide evidence of the continuing commitment and determination of professionals and volunteers resulting in improvements for children and young people and their families.

Chapter 1: Redcar and Cleveland

Geographically, Redcar and Cleveland is the largest borough in the Tees Valley sub region. We have the second highest population at around 135,000, the majority of whom (98.6%) are white. The Borough includes urban communities on the edge of the 'Teesside' conurbation through to extremely rural communities in the beautiful countryside of East Cleveland. Throughout the Borough, inequality continues to be the greatest challenge that we face. Many of our communities experience relatively high levels of urban and rural deprivation and health inequalities. Overall, Redcar and Cleveland is ranked the 48th most deprived borough in England with 22% of our population living in wards that are among the most deprived 10% in the country. Inevitably, poverty and deprivation impacts on lives and opportunities for children and young people.

For every 100 children and young people living in Redcar and Cleveland

- 27 live in poverty
- 51 leave school with 5 or more GCSEs A*-C including English and Maths
- 8 will be persistently absent from Secondary School
- 90 will be in education, employment or training between the ages of 16 to 18
- 21 will be classified as obese by the age of 10-11

Child Protection Plans

Regional benchmarking data from 2013/14 showed that Redcar and Cleveland had the highest rate of children on a child protection plan per 10,000 population in the North East. The number of children subject to a child protection plan has since fallen from 185 in April 2014 to 120 in March 2015. RCSCB have asked for robust analysis to understand the rationale for this decline, and it has been reported that several factors have impacted on this including;

- The Local Authorities Implementation of the Best Start in Life review
- The Investment in Early Help services to identify problems, preventing escalation to potential safeguarding level
- The consistent application of the recently reviewed LSCB threshold criteria continuum of need.

The LSCB approved the updated [Threshold Criteria: Continuum of Need](#) in March 2014 to ensure consistent decision making and management of risk. The revised criterion was promoted through a series of drop in sessions and multi-agency workshops facilitated by the RCSCB.

A clearer understanding of the definition of Section 17 (CIN) and Section 47 (CP) Thresholds among all partners has resulted in the consistent application of the Criteria. This in turn has contributed to an appropriate reduction in the number of active Children in Need and Children subject to a Child Protection Plan.

The [Single Child and Family Assessment Local Assessment Framework and Protocol](#), has also been produced and approved by the Board. This aims to avoid duplication of assessment work and improve the experience of the child and their family as they now have to tell us their story only once. Analysis of the impact of this will be discussed at future practitioners' sessions facilitated by the RCSCB Chair.

Indicator	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Number of CAF's completed	184	154	207	171
		Of which 102 were early help agencies	Of which 152 were early help agencies	Of which 145 were early help agencies

Indicator	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Number of Children in Need	750	708	668	675

Indicator	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Number of children subject to a CP plan.	185	139	117	120

Category of Abuse	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Neglect	130 (70%)	94 (68%)	73 (62%)	83 (69%)
Physical abuse	13 (7%)	6 (4%)	15 (13%)	17 (14%)
Sexual abuse	6 (3%)	6 (4%)	0 (0%)	3 (3%)
Emotional abuse	34 (19%)	33 (24%)	29 (25%)	17 (14%)
Mixed categories	2 (1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Total	185	139	117	120

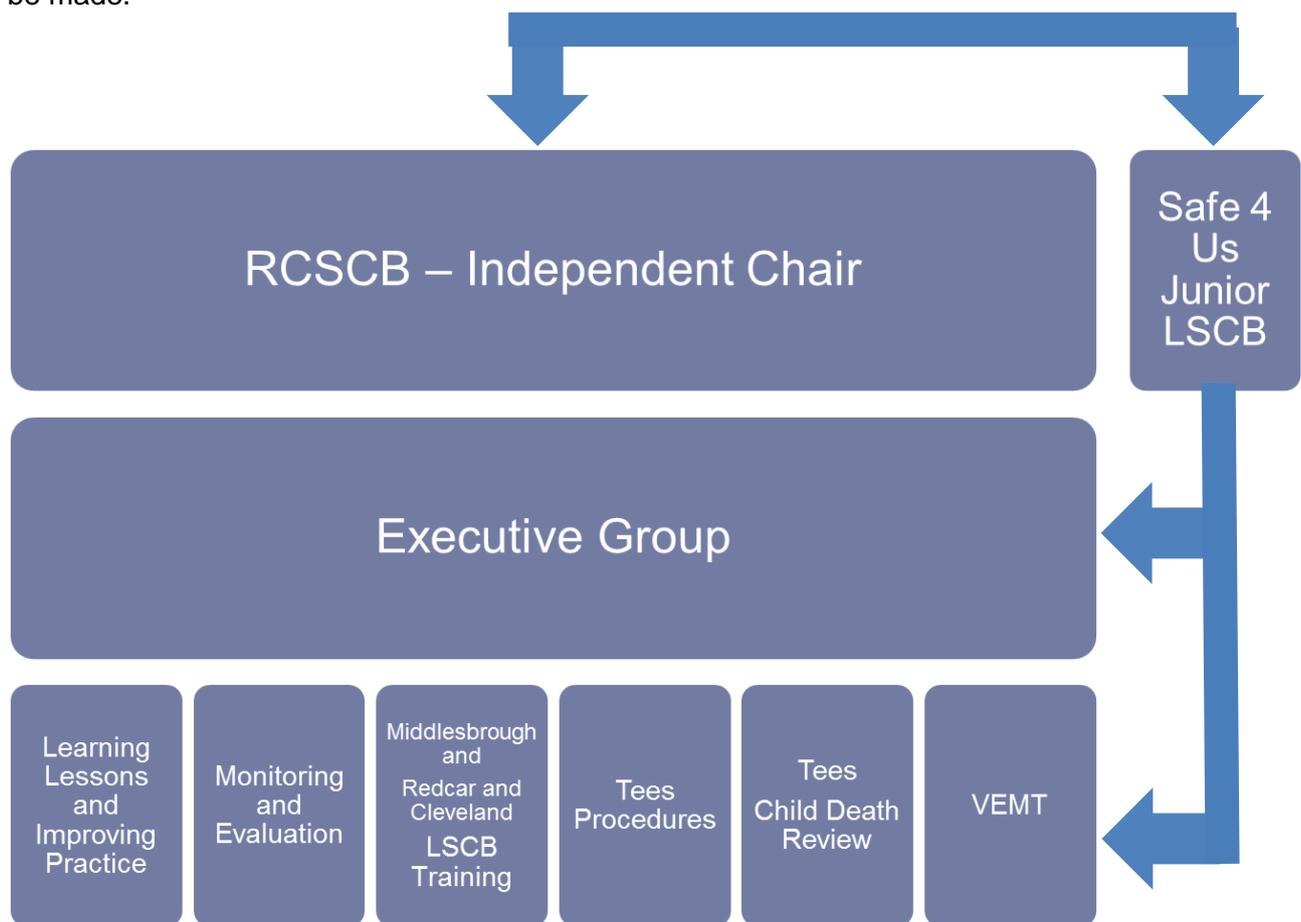
Indicator	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Numbers of Looked After Children	182	185	185	184
Indicator	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Numbers of new Looked After Children	22	20	23	18

Chapter 2: About Redcar and Cleveland Safeguarding Children Board

Redcar and Cleveland's Safeguarding Children Board (RCSCB) is the key statutory mechanism for determining how the relevant organisations in Redcar and Cleveland co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people and for ensuring the effectiveness of what partners agencies do.

Structure of RCSCB

[RCSCB Governance and Constitution document](#) was reviewed and updated in 2014. RCSCB is a strong multi-agency partnership which has robust reporting arrangements between the Board, the Executive and the Sub Groups. The Board ensures that partners are held to account for progress to be made.



The terms of reference for each of [RCSCB's sub groups](#) are interlinked to ensure they connect to support RCSCB's Quality Assurance learning and improvement framework. A report in relation to the work undertaken by each of RCSCB's sub groups is reported in Chapter 4.

Partnership Arrangements

In 2014 RCSCB revised the [partnership arrangements](#) to ensure it has clear reporting links to the relevant partners, to ensure they are committed to working together, they respect each other's roles and responsibilities, to encourage a culture of mutual challenge and mature professional accountability and to maintain an effective interface with regular communications.

Reporting Lines



This increased partnership working has enabled the RCSCB to gain wider support in achieving the priorities and for continuous development in specific work streams. Examples of this over this year have included information received from the Corporate Parenting Board and challenges posed in relation to the reduction in the time it takes to progress cases to court. RCSCB have linked in with the Reducing Domestic Abuse Partnership (RDAP) and are now delivering Domestic Abuse training in response to the issues they have identified and the concerns that RDAP have raised in respect of the reduced support from the Police to the Sanctuary Scheme have been escalated from RCSCB to the Police Crime Commissioner. It has also recently been identified that issues in respect of quality assuring cases of Looked after Children (LAC) will need to be discussed with the Corporate Parenting Board as partner organisations are unable to contribute to multi-agency audits if the child has been placed out of area.

Chapter 3: Business Plan

[Redcar and Cleveland Safeguarding Children Board's Business Plan \(2013-16\)](#) identifies five priorities. It was designed to ensure increased scrutiny over safeguarding arrangement within and between agencies/organisations.

Each priority has been linked to the evidence contained in the RCSCB dataset and the priorities and dataset will be developed and further aligned in 2015.

Significant progress has been made across all area of RCSCB's Business Plan. All of RCSCB's sub groups have produced work plans which have supported the implementation of the overarching plan.

Priority 1: Quality of Work

The desired outcomes in respect of this first priority were:

- Evidence of quality safeguarding provision is recognised.
- RCSCB multi-agency audits will provide evidence that lessons have been learned, recommendations implemented and high quality supervision is available in all partner agencies.
- [RCSCB Quality Assurance, Learning and Improvement Framework](#) is fully implemented and assists in understanding the manner and quality in which agencies work both individually and together to safeguard the welfare of children and young people in Redcar and Cleveland.
- The opportunities for learning from the Serious Case Review which is being undertaken in Redcar and Cleveland are maximised to reduce the risk of children being seriously harmed.

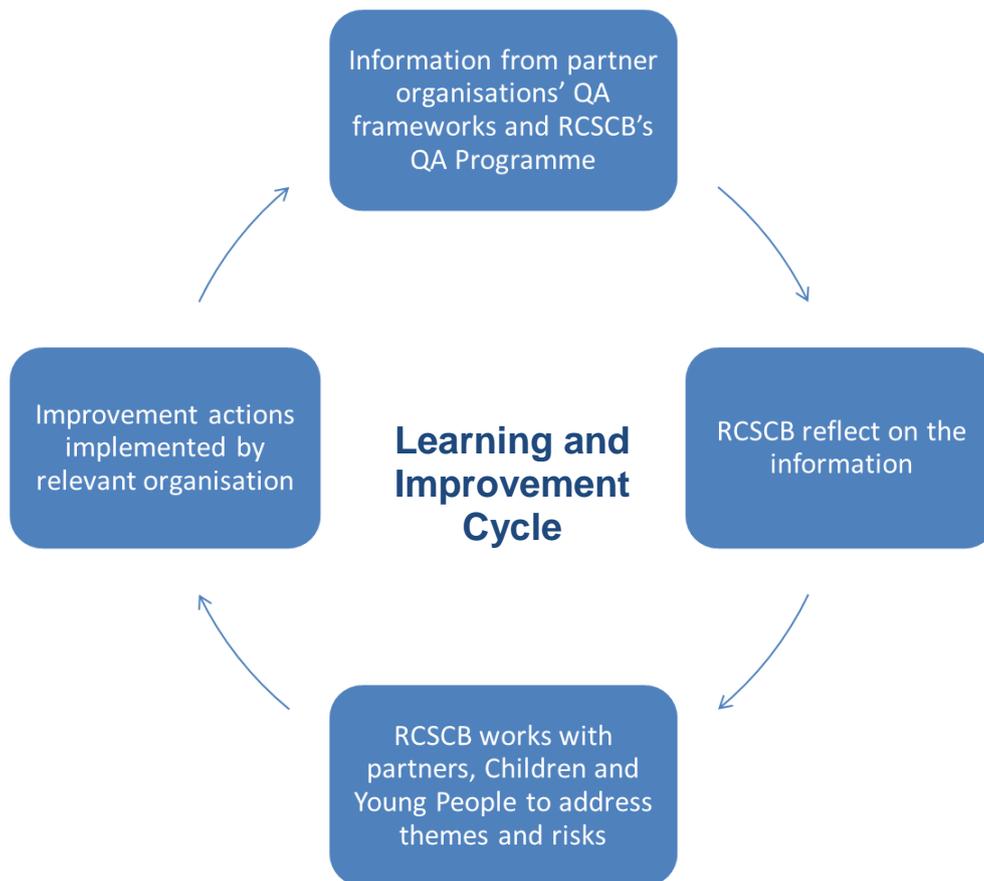
The actions undertaken by RCSCB in achieving these outcomes consisted of analysing the multi - agency data contained in the RCSCB dataset, alongside evaluating the progress of partners in relation to their Section 11 Action Plan.

The outcome from benchmarking operational practice to several national serious case reviews, feedback at child protection multi-agency audits and evaluating the outcomes from the Section 11 report highlighted the lack of safeguarding supervision in schools. It has been agreed for the Board to support development of undertaking safeguarding group supervision with schools; progress in relation to this will be reported in 2015-16.

[RCSCB's Quality Assurance, Learning and Improvement Framework](#) was published in 2014. This framework underpins the safeguarding assurance activities that are undertaken, including multi-agency case files audits, learning and serious case reviews and benchmarking. This Framework has also set the foundations for the culture of multi-agency learning to grow and provides the mechanism to enable RCSCB to ensure all sources of learning is considered, recognised and used to drive change to improve outcomes for children and their families.

Learning from cases, locally, regionally and nationally and the impact on practise is at the heart of RCSCB. Significant work has been undertaken to benchmark local practice to a number of Serious Case Reviews. This benchmarking has highlighted some areas for developments in practice, including improving the information sharing between GPs and social care, the lack of safeguarding supervision in schools has also been challenged and the Board are considering strategies in which to address this.

RCSCB transfer the findings from audits and reviews into training and development to which is evaluated for future impact on practise. This is demonstrated in RCSCB's learning cycle shown below:



In relation to Early Help, Redcar and Cleveland's Early Help Service was established in April 2014. This service brings together a broad range of Level 1 (Universal) and Level 2 (Targeted) services. The Early Help teams also work in partnership with specialist social work teams to support delivery of some of the Level 3 and 4 (Specialist and Safeguarding) services. Redcar and Cleveland's Early Help Strategy (2014-2016) sets out how the service intends to further improve the way in which Early Help is provided across Redcar and Cleveland.

A multi-agency practice clinic was established in 2014 to undertake regular audits of the Early Help Assessments (CAFS) undertaken. It has been agreed that the findings from these audits will be reported to RCSCB Monitoring and Evaluation sub group. Progress against this will be reported in 2015-16.

Priority 2: Interagency Working

The required outcomes for this second priority are:

- The safeguarding processes that are experienced by children and families are well coordinated and cohesive.
- All organisations are committed to safeguarding and will have sufficient monies to establish this.
- The policies and procedures which are used in the safeguarding process are compliant with the legislative framework and are fit for purpose and are consistent in their application.
- Publication of a comprehensive LSCB information sharing framework incorporating all partners.

- All organisations on RCSCB met the agreed standards within the Section 11 and evidence is provided for assurance.
- Embed a strategic multi-agency response to meet the needs of the Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing and Trafficked (VEMT) children within our area.
- Gain an understanding of the local picture in relation to VEMT to formulate an appropriate response.
- Safeguard and promote the welfare of VEMT children and those at risk. Support services will be aware of inter-relating factors and risks.

In respect of achieving these outcomes, RCSCB Threshold Criteria: Continuum of Need has been produced and the RCSCB Independent Chair led a series of practitioner workshops to discuss professional's experience of working with the revised criteria. Whilst the overall opinion of peoples working experience of using the Threshold Criteria: Continuum of Need was positive, several issues were identified to which organisations responded to and a report outlining this was published and distributed through the RCSCB e-bulletin.

The Adults and Children's Interface document was reviewed approved and published on RCSCB Website. This sets out the operational process of services considering the needs of the whole family.

Redcar and Cleveland Local Authority have undertaken a comprehensive review of their front door arrangements, resulting in a new 'First Contact Team' being established in autumn 2014. Practitioners reported at the sessions with RCSCB Independent Chair that this team provides a single, clear pathway into Children and Families Service, so that residents and professionals know how to contact them if they need help or advice.

Redcar and Cleveland have embedded the use of the Step-Down process more firmly into their working practice to ensure that the child and their family continue to receive an appropriate level of support through Early Help when they no longer need social care. RCSCB has undertaken several audits that have provided some assurances that Early Help is helping to prevent situations from deteriorating, making it less likely those families will need to re-enter the Social Work Service.

RCSCB's dataset is continuously being reviewed and developed. A set of collective outcomes has been agreed which has been matched to RCSCB's priorities.

All partner organisations provided safeguarding assurance reports to RCSCB that demonstrated that despite budget cuts and structure reviews, safeguarding children is still a priority for them.

RCSCB recognise that the participation and involvement of children and young people in decision making about their own welfare is key to ensuring that their needs are met and outcomes are improved. Redcar and Cleveland's Child in Need (CiN) and Child Protection (CP) plans have been recently reviewed following a multi-agency working party to discuss the development of a simpler and more effective template. The new template has been agreed by the Board and both the CIN and CP plan templates will mirror each other. Initial feedback to RCSCB Monitoring and Evaluation Sub Group in relation to these has been positive.

The collaboration of RCSCB with children young people and their families has increased as the audit tools have been revised to ensure that current strategies such as the National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS) and Viewpoint are utilised to incorporate the views of the child.

The effectiveness and consistency of interagency working across Tees has significantly developed this year. All potential collaborative working is pursued through the Regional LSCB network meetings; this also supports Tees Safeguarding procedures in ensuring all families receive a clear standard of service across Tees.

Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing and Trafficked (VEMT) champions have been identified in all organisations to drive awareness and increasing early identification of the number of children at risk of VEMT. The work undertaken by the RCSCB's VEMT sub group have enabled the outcomes in relation to VEMT be achieved, this is reported on in Chapter 4.

Priority 3: Communication

This priority was set to achieve the following outcomes:

- A creation of a wider community awareness of Redcar and Cleveland LSCB policy which will focus on the work of the Board, policy and practices both locally and nationally.
- Improving information for and communicating with children and young people.

In order to achieve these outcomes the work undertaken includes a Lay Member being appointed to the Board following his graduation from our Junior Board, Safe 4 Us. This lay person is supporting RCSCB with reviewing the website and making it more accessible to the community. RCSCB are considering developing a social media site, which the lay member is also keen to support.

RCSCB's monthly e-bulletin continues to be circulated to all partner organisations and voluntary community groups and it is also published on partner's internal intranet sites. The e-bulletin contains developments from RCSCB including the learning from reviews, audits, published safeguarding procedures and it also highlights LSCB training courses.

Due to the small BME population in Redcar and Cleveland, the opportunities for developing awareness and consultation is limited; however links have been made with the Cultural Diversity lead in Middlesbrough and further work will be undertaken this coming year.

Work with children and young people in Redcar and Cleveland has progressed significantly this year, which has been supported by our Junior Board, Safe 4 Us, this is reported on in Chapter 4.

RCSCB is keen to develop better links with different faiths and cultures so that we can hear directly from them about how we can improve our services to them.

Priority 4: Early Help

The desired outcomes in relation to this priority were:

- Monitoring of agreed thresholds of intervention to ensure children and their families receive appropriate coordinated support at the right time which will help prevent safeguarding concerns.
- Evidencing the child's journey to improve service delivery.
- Skilled and trained workforce who receives appropriate supervision and accountability to enable them to manage changing demands. Will have the evidence of staff learning having taken place.
- Frontline worker, families and the community have a good understanding of processes which informs their decision making and increases awareness of inappropriate behaviour towards children.

To support achieving these outcomes, it recently been agreed that the outcomes and themes from the Early Help Assessments are to be presented to RCSCB Sub Group Monitoring and Evaluation. This will ensure the Board has a full understanding of the issues in relation to the experiences of families requiring early help services.

Early Help Assessment training is being delivered on a multi-agency basis to help ensure families receive a clear standard of support and are clearly signposted to further support if required.

A RCSCB's event for voluntary and community groups was held in September 2014. This explored opportunities to increase the links with statutory and 3rd sector organisations. It is anticipated that this work will be developed further in the next year as RCVDA will lead on reviewing and developing safeguarding policies across the voluntary and community sector.

Priority 5: Developments in Practice

The desired outcomes in relation to this priority were:

- RCSCB is closely aligned with Reducing Domestic Abuse Partnership (RDAP) and work streams are interlinked to ensure all organisations are aware of issues in relation to Domestic Abuse and the effects on Children and Young People.
- Staff are aware of issues in relation to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).
- To have an agreed action plan for the establishment and development of a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

The alignment with RCSCB and the Reducing Domestic Abuse Partnerships has developed to ensure the work streams are complimentary. RCSCB consider the issues reported to the partnership and the Domestic Abuse training is adapted accordingly.

The issues in relation to Female Genital Mutilation have been discussed at RCSCB and an initial scoping meeting was held with all the appropriate partners to identify the potential risk of this occurring to children in Redcar and Cleveland (according to NSPCC Research). The work undertaken in relation to the progression of this issue will be reported on in the forthcoming year.

We are proactively exploring opportunities to further develop a multi-agency approach to front door arrangements. There is a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) working group involving Hartlepool and Stockton who are looking to develop a North Tees MASH. Redcar and Cleveland is observing the progress and work being undertaken by the group with a view to potentially rolling this out into the South Tees area which would include Middlesbrough.

Chapter 4: Redcar and Cleveland Safeguarding Children Board Sub Groups

Learning Lessons and Improving Practice Sub Group

Learning Lessons and Improving Practice Sub Group (LLIPSG) is a standing sub group of RCSCB, which ensures the Board is best prepared to respond to referrals under Chapter 4 of Working Together 2013, provide advice to the Independent Chair on whether the criteria for conducting a Serious Case Review (SCR) have been met, and to oversee and quality assure all SCR's undertaken by the RCSCB. It is distinct from a Serious Case Review Panel which is commissioned by the Serious Case Review Sub Group to manage the process when a decision has been made to undertake an SCR.

RCSCB's Quality Assurance, Learning and Improvement Framework has been produced and published. This provides a range of options available that will be suitable for different types of cases requiring review. This supports effective learning, which will ultimately improve practice and outcomes for children and families.

Benchmarking against a Learning Review completed in a neighbouring LSCB has been complete and reported to the LSCB Executive. This led to the Audits in respect of the Early Help Assessment (CAF) process being reported to the RCSCB's Monitoring and Evaluation group.

Members of this sub group have also benchmarked current practice against a historic Serious Case Review and assurance has been provided to the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council.

Assurance has been gained that the recommendations have been addressed from the domestic homicide in a neighbouring authority, as organisations were involved that serve Redcar.

Benchmarking against the learning points from Khan, Williams and Pelka Serious Case Reviews are partially complete and a work plan is in place to address the outstanding issues. The group are currently benchmarking operational practice to the learning and recommendations from a Serious

Case Review which was undertaken in a neighbouring authority and reporting on the outcomes for practice in respect of this, will follow next year.

Vulnerable Exploited, Missing and Trafficked (VEMT) Sub Group

RCSCB's VEMT Sub Group is a well-established multi-agency partnership that continues to meet every six weeks.

Failures by services to protect children and young people from child sexual exploitation continue to be highlighted nationally following the Rotherham report published on 21st August 2014. The report gave 15 recommendations which the RCLSCB VEMT Sub-Group have considered and a benchmarking exercise was undertaken. The outcome was positive as RCSCB's VEMT procedures and processes met 12 of the recommendations fully and 3 recommendations were partly achieved. The sub group have carried forward work streams to ensure full compliance can be reported in the next year.

Ofsted published a report titled, *The sexual exploitation of children: it couldn't happen here, could it?* (November 2014). The RCSCB VEMT Sub Group have completed a benchmarking exercise against the fifteen recommendations and have identified that three of the recommendations are partially achieved and work is continuing to ensure all of the recommendations are met and a report will be submitted to RCSCB.

A further report has recently been published, *Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation* (March 2015), and the VEMT Sub group are considering a response. A letter from Department of Health, Home Office, Department for Communities and Local Government and Ministry of Justice has been received in respect of the Governments response to chronic failures to protect children from sexual exploitation in Rotherham. This letter lists the principles for multi-agency working that every agency should follow to protect children from CSE. The RCSCB VEMT Sub Group is evaluating their performance against the following 5 principles and report finding to the RCSCB:

- **Integrated working (e.g. co-location)** – Close collaboration in multi-agency working is essential in developing 'real time' risk assessments to enhance decision making. A truly integrated approach helps to break down cultural barriers, leading to greater understanding and mutual respect among different agencies.
- **Joint risk assessments** – these ensure clear and sufficient information about particular cases and joint plans for individual interventions.
- **A victim focused approach** – the needs of the victim must be at the forefront of our approach not systems and processes.
- **Good leadership & clear governance** – strong leadership can often bind different organisations together to develop a shared culture.
- **Frequent review of operations** – to continue to drive improvement of service.

Robust governance continues from the Tees Wide Strategic Group who takes responsibility to produce Tees Wide procedures and protocols providing a consistent and quality assurance response to VEMT. The group have recently developed a Tees Wide quality assurance framework and data will be collated determining how resources may be utilised and commissioned to prevent CSE and support those affected by CSE. The Tees Wide Strategic Group are leading on the completion of a VEMT Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and the data will assist in the identification of prevalence of CSE from a Tees prospective and any gaps in the provision of services.

The work plan embeds the priorities of the RCSCB VEMT Sub Group and VPG Operational group; there are three main principles:

- **Identify:** Identifying and safeguarding children who are at risk
- **Intervene:** Making it more difficult to exploit children
- **Investigate:** Identifying offenders, disrupting and stopping their activity

The RCSCB sub group continue to measure their effectiveness and aim to continually improve performance by partners against the three main principles identified above; by benchmarking their procedures and processes against relevant reports including, Rotherham Inquiry and subsequent advice and guidance issued by Ofsted and Government e.g. *the sexual exploitation of children: it couldn't happen here, could it?* and tackling Child Sexual Exploitation.

A Barnardo's SECOS (Sexual Exploitation of Children on the Streets) worker has been commissioned to work in the First Contact team to provide direct case work with children and young people who are at risk of sexual exploitation, as well as providing advice to staff and training through the LSCB. It is the intention that this will embed the specialism and result in an up-skilling of the existing workforce to deal with child exploitation.

The project to authorise read only access for Cleveland Police to Children's Social Care electronic records has now been completed. The Police are now able to access children's social care records at all times, assisting them in identifying if the child is subject or at risk of CSE, accessing all appropriate information available to enable a risk assessment of the child or young person's situation.

VEMT Practitioners Group (VPG)

The VPG is a multi-agency operational group that work collaboratively to safeguard children who are vulnerable, missing, and at risk of being sexually exploited or trafficked. Practitioners share information and intelligence to ensure there is a clear focus on early identification of CSE and appropriate interventions to safeguard children and young people.

Professionals at the VPG meetings work together to determine the appropriate support needed to meet the individual child's needs, using the [Teeswide Risk Assessment Tool](#) providing evidence based practice and consistency in risk management for the child.

Chelsea's Choice

RCSCB commissioned a theatre production *Chelsea's Choice*, which was delivered in February 2015 to all Secondary School's reaching approximately 4699 students. The production demonstrates to males and females, the methods used by adults to groom children for the purposes of sexual exploitation.

To measure the effectiveness of Chelsea's Choice in raising awareness of CSE, a questionnaire was devised by the Junior RCLSCB, Safe 4 Us and students completed the questionnaire before and after the sessions. [The analysis from these questionnaires](#) were delivered to RCSCB' Safeguarding Conference which was held in February 2015. The post questionnaires will be considered which will provide a full evaluation of the productions effectiveness of raising the awareness of CSE.

Safe 4 Us

Safe4Us have had a busy year and they have been involved in many important projects and topics, each of which has been presented to the Board. These include:

- CSE/ VEMT Training
- Teen Domestic Violence Campaign – including taking part in a short film played on ITN News.
- Interviewing
- Disability Project Support
- Community Gala Planning and Delivering
- Mentoring and Volunteering
- CSE Questionnaire's
- Recruitment
- Presentations
- Promotion Stall at 'White Ribbon' Event

Safe4Us were asked to be involved in supporting the work in relation to VEMT and CSE. Safe4Us decided that they needed to evaluate if Redcar and Cleveland's young people were aware of what Child Sexual Exploitation and Grooming is and the dangers involved. Prior to undertaking this piece of work, the members of Safe4Us took part in Child Sexual Exploitation and grooming awareness training.

Safe4Us designed Pre-Questionnaires asking young people to answer honestly, their knowledge on the subjects. The group collated the information from the 1651 completed questionnaires and delivered the findings to the LCSB Conference in February 2015. The presentation highlighted many issues and the need for more work to be carried out to inform and safeguard Redcar & Cleveland's young people.

Following the delivery of 'Chelsea's Choice' in all schools, students will be asked to complete a Post-Questionnaire and the group will compare the findings with the previous answers, this will be presented to RCSCB and a report will be completed for each school.

Monitoring and Evaluation Sub Group

This Sub Group is responsible for the mapping and collation of evidence on the assurance frameworks and processes implemented by partner agencies to demonstrate the quality of their safeguarding practices. The publication of RCSCB's Quality Assurance, Learning and improvement framework has led to a robust improvement in the analysis of safeguarding assurance measures being presented to the Board. The assurance frameworks used by partner agencies as evidenced in their Section 11 returns have been reported on and actions for improvement are included on the Section 11 action plans.

Monitoring and Evaluation are responsible for conducting the cycle of RCSCB multi-agency case file audits in respect of LAC, CP/CiN, and VEMT. Recommendations from the audit have resulted in several improvements in practice including;

- Improved information sharing and involvement with GPs and Social Care
- LAC children staying with their family GP wherever possible
- The records of discussions in respect of VEMT have been reviewed to evidence the level of risk

Members of the Monitoring and Evaluation Sub Group also receive the outcomes from single agency safeguarding audits and Early Help Assessments (CAFs). This information provides an overview of the safeguarding effectiveness across all levels of intervention.

The importance of robust safeguarding supervision has been highlighted to RCSCB as a significant factor that offers safeguarding assurance, from both the Monitoring and Evaluation Sub Group and the Learning Lessons and Improving Practice Sub Group. As a consequence, this issue was stressed to be an important factor in the specification and contract for the school nursing service prior to the service going out to tender. The lack of safeguarding supervision in schools was also identified and strategies to address this are being considered.

RCSCB's [Working Together 2013 Implementation plan](#) was progressed by this sub group. All actions of this plan have been completed with the exception of the lack of representation of Police at strategy meetings. This action is continuing to be challenged by RCSCB Independent Chair and will be escalated to the Police Crime Commissioner if necessary.

Members of the Monitoring and Evaluation Sub Group are responsible for considering the RCSCB multiagency dataset on a quarterly basis. The data is assessed for any issues or trends prior to full discussion at Board. The data provided is constantly challenged and reviewed to provide safeguarding assurance in respect of RCSCB priorities and required outcomes. Developments to the data this year have included the change in reporting timeliness of initial health assessment and Personal Education Plans (PEPs), both of these issues are currently under scrutiny at Board.

Members have identified further assurance data that has been added to the dataset to monitor quality and effectiveness of safeguarding systems and practice: this includes the addition of data from the Youth Offending Service and the Drugs and alcohol service for young people.

LSCB Training Sub Group

Redcar and Cleveland LSCB is responsible for providing multi-agency training for Redcar and Cleveland LSCB and Middlesbrough LSCB. The LSCB Training Plan has a range of courses that offer practitioners from all agencies more specialist knowledge on issues such as the Potentiality for Adult Mental Ill Health to Impact on Children (PAMIC). Raising awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation has been a high priority for the Board this year and the numbers of training courses delivered in respect of this were increased. In addition to the Core level 3 and update safeguarding training; (which meets the accreditation criteria for Health Professionals), other LSCB training provided includes Early Help Assessment and Domestic Abuse training.

The [LSCB's training strategy](#) ensures that LSCB courses reflect national and local guidance around the importance of early help, the need for adult and children staff to collaborate and coordinate their actions. All training provided is quality assured by the LSCB Training Sub Group and impact evaluations are undertaken to assess the impact of the training on practice and whether it has contributed to improving outcomes for children, young people and their families.

RCSCB Safeguarding Conference 2014

RCSCB commissioned Chelsea's Choice to be performed in each of our secondary schools across the borough at the end of February, and parents and carers were invited to a free performance of 'Chelsea's Choice' at The Heart Redcar. Practitioners from all agencies were provided with the opportunity to view this at Redcar and Cleveland Safeguarding Children Board's first ever Safeguarding Conference which was held in February 2015. The conference was well attended with 150 delegates from all partner organisations, including the voluntary and community sector. Feedback and analysis from the evaluations has been excellent. In addition to viewing Chelsea Choice, delegates were offered an opportunity to meet the Board, whereby questions were asked and members of Safe4Us presented the findings from their Child Sexual Exploitation questionnaire.

Feedback received included:

- *This is a great conference arena to engage such a multitude of services. I hope the networking opportunities are fluid enough to effectively circulate, however the list enclosed I expect to be beneficial as I build up my network. I leave the conference a wiser professional, inspired and engaged - thank you!*
- *Issues raised and being brought out through Chelsea's choice opened up disclosures. This need to raise the profile and be on everyone's agenda. We have a duty to protect, educate and keep young people safe. Powerful, disturbing, Emotional!!*
- *It was fantastic to see the young people presenting their findings and being so proactive in the Safeguarding of the community.*
- *If there was an outstanding box I would have ticked it.*
- *This was hugely emotive, informative and it was clear from the audience response that even the most senior safeguarding professional were impacted upon.*
- *This event was a huge success and brought to attention the safeguarding of children as a priority in the problems facing our communities these days and the clear ways that awareness-communication delays an important way forward for the future safeguarding of all exploitation of children.*

The training annual report and further information in respect of the conference can be found on the [RCSCB Website](#).

Tees Procedures

The main function of Tees Procedures Group is to:

- To have responsibility for coordinating the development of local procedures, protocols and guidance for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children on behalf of the Tees LSCBs prioritising those identified by the Tees LSCBs.
- To establish a maintenance and updating process of the electronic Tees Wide Procedures.
- To undertake focussed pieces of work, co-opting additional professionals as required.
- To establish processes that will promote consistency by all LSCB partner member organisations in their response to, and management of, safeguarding children issues, ensuring the child is the central focus.
- To develop and recommend to LSCBs procedures and guidance that avoid confusion, duplication and ensure staff across local partners can readily understand their responsibilities. Where ever possible, staff will be directed to National Guidance and Directives so that the specific role LSCBs have in relation to the development and implementation of procedures is fulfilled.

The change in the Chair of this Sub Group was used as an opportunity to review the representation from each LSCB and confirmation of the representation was sought and obtained via the respective LSCB chairs. There is currently good representation from each LSCB and agency/sector. The meetings continue to be well attended with positive contributions from all members.

The members of this Sub Group reported that whilst some good work had been produced, it was acknowledged that a number of the draft procedures presented to LSCBs for approval had required a significant number of amendments prior to sign off, which had resulted in a degree of delay on occasions. A commitment was therefore made within the group that a 'right first time' approach would be adopted and that draft procedures would not be presented to LSCBs until the members had thoroughly reviewed and agreed these.

A review of the existing work programme was also undertaken in order to ensure there was clarity about the focus of all outstanding work, who was leading on this and the expected timescale for completion.

Procedures agreed during 2014/15 are as follows:

- Child Abuse & The Internet: Safeguarding Children & Young People
- Fabricated or Induced Illness by Carers
- Assessing and Responding to the Impact of Parental Learning Disability on Children
- Assessing and Responding to the Impact/experience of Parental Substance Misuse on Children
- Referrals & Assessment - Anonymous Referrals
- Outcome of S47 Enquiries
- Tees LSCBs Information Sharing Protocol
- Private Fostering
- GP Information Proforma for Strategy Meetings
- Immobile Babies

Work currently underway includes:

- Allegations Management – draft procedures circulated to LSCBs for approval but further amendments now requested by TEWV. Draft revisited by TPG and to be recirculated to LSCBs for approval.
- Recording principles – circulated to LSCBs for approval but not agreed by HSCB due to existence of more detailed guidance. This has now been agreed by TPG and will come out to LSCBs for approval.
- Dual process i.e. use of CP process and LAC/Court/PLO process – work underway to develop consistent procedures across Tees.
- Police guidance for making domestic abuse referrals to children's social care – agreed to consider prior to this being brought back to LSCBs for consideration.
- Core Group guidance - agreed to try to develop consistent procedure/practice guidelines across Tees.

In addition, following approval from all four LSCBs, a review of the Tees LSCB's Safeguarding Procedures website has been commenced. The aim is to make the website more user-friendly and the structure to more closely reflect Working Together 2013. Significant progress has already been made in relation to this and further updates will follow in due course.

Tees Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

The role of the CDOP is to ensure that wherever child deaths occur, and under whatever circumstances, scrutiny of the cases result in recognised improvements that can be made to practice to improve the quality of care, as well as the safety of children. CDOP also identifies any relevant strategic issues and ensure that these translate into action within or between agencies. CDOP ensures that the team looking after children have the opportunity to discuss and reflect on the death, learn any lessons, and implement any helpful changes to practice or to systems of care.

The value of child death review, and the necessity for its coordination and scrutiny by a Child Death Review Panel, has been understood nationally and remains a core component of the latest version of Working Together. The Tees Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) reviews the deaths of children from the Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Stockton on Tees and Redcar & Cleveland Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) areas.

2014-15 has been the first year following the independent review of Tees CDOP functions. A new chair has been appointed and the revised staffing arrangements have been combined with the RCSCB Business functions. This review has led to a full review of operational procedures to ensure the process operates in a SMART manner. The RMSO annual report which contains details and numbers of child deaths reviewed regionally can be accessed on the CDOP Website.

2014-15 was the first year that Tees CDOP operated in accordance with the revised Terms of Reference. Each hospital already has a neonatal unit whereby neonatal death review meetings are held and the outcomes of these meetings are captured on Form C's and shared with CDOP. These forms C's are now considered at the Tees CDOP Pre-Agenda meeting with Public Health, the Designated Doctor for Child Deaths, NHS England, Clinical Commissioning Group and the CDOP Business Manager. The outcomes from the pre-agenda are fed into the Tees CDOP. The neonatal death review meetings are cross chaired from each hospital to provide additional external peer review and scrutiny. Tees CDOP, therefore, no longer scrutinise the neo-natal deaths in such detail allowing them to be more focussed on improved outcomes.

During 2014-15 Tees CDOP reviewed 28 child deaths making a total of 259 reviewed over the 7 years of operation. The Tees Panel met 6 times during the year and reviewed an average of 5 cases per meeting. This is very similar to the national picture where CDOPs met 6 times a year and reviewed an average of 7 cases per meeting.

During this time 4 cases took more than a year to review and one of these had modifiable factors identified as internal communications within the hospital. This has been a reoccurring theme in

reviewing child deaths across Tees and assurance that actions have been taken to address this have been sought.

The other delays in reviewing cases has been due to late receipt of the Form C's and internal reviews being undertaken, prior to CDOP being able to review the cases. The issue in relation to receiving the Forms C's in a timely manner has been addressed and the recently appointed CDOP Administrator has implemented robust systems to ensure these are received within timescales.

The CDOP annual report which contains details and numbers of deaths reviewed can be accessed on the [CDOP Website](#).

Chapter 5: Future Challenges

The priorities in relation to RCSCB Business Plan are scheduled to continue until 2016. Whilst there has already been a significant amount of progress made in all of the priority areas, expectations of the LSCB continue to increase with no additional resources. RSCSB welcome the challenges posed in the spirit of improvement and continuously engaged in a rigorous self-assessment.

We need to develop the existing priorities and the following work has been initiated:

A mapping tool has been sent to all schools in Redcar and Cleveland to determine, what awareness teachers have in relation to VEMT and FGM, what training, assessment tools are currently in use, how they are delivered, the frequency, age range of students and the number of students who have been made aware of these issues. This information will be used to ensure children and young people have the necessary skills to identify CSE, FGM and those at risk of it and know how and where to get help if they find themselves in a dangerous situation.

A Missing Children task and finish group have met to review the missing from home and absent from education data, with the aim of identifying patterns and hot spots. The group will meet again in May when data systems from children's social care and education will be compatible. This will enable the RCSCB VEMT Sub group to identify patterns of missing children across the Borough and to take action to disrupt perpetrators where patterns emerge.

Over the next year and beyond the LSCB and partners providing safeguarding services face a number of challenges including

- Safeguarding Supervision in Schools
- Understanding the reduction in the number of Child Protection Plans
- Early Help Assessments
- Voluntary and Community Groups; Safeguarding policies
- Developing training and awareness for the faith and BME Community
- Female Genital Mutilation; scoping awareness of the issue across
- Serious Case Review



**SELF-ASSESSMENT
FOR
REDCAR & CLEVELAND
SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD**

**Last Updated: April 2015
By Deanne Taylor
LSCB Business Manager, following consultation with all LSCB members**

Redcar and Cleveland Safeguarding Children Board Members and what each organisation contributes:

Cleveland Police

Cleveland Police deliver all policing services to the Redcar & Cleveland area including initial response to calls for assistance, investigation of offences, and specialist services to ensure appropriate safeguarding of vulnerable people (in particular children) and protection of life.

The priority for the police will always be to protect individuals. Officers and staff responding to any incident or report will consider the risks to children and other vulnerable people and take appropriate action. This will include initial assessment and referring cases with key information to the Local Authority Children's Services for consideration. The Police often deal with families in crisis situations for example Domestic Abuse reports and will always consider children within the family to ensure initial safety and identification and response to other identified risks. The Police are directly involved in multi-agency strategy meetings to ensure a professional partnership response to risks and threats to children within the community.

The Police also have the lead role in managing those individuals who pose the greatest risk to children. Specialist Police teams are involved in the daily management of Sex Offenders in the community – working directly with other agencies (including those involved in the MAPPA Multi agency Public Protection Arrangements) to minimise the risks individuals pose to children. The recently formed CEOP team (Child Exploitation and On line protection team) tackle those offenders who offend on the internet and seek to view / distribute indecent images of children on line.

Coast & Country Housing

Coast & Country support the activity of the RCSCB by Membership at Board level through our Assistant Chief Executive. This allows us to participate in Board meetings, gain access to issues and information that can be shared across our organisation for the purpose of improving safeguarding in the area we work. It has also allowed networking, awareness raising and joint learning to be developed. We use our organisational training and learning plans to accommodate the work that is needed to continue safeguarding joint working and promotion. We are involved in serious case review work and use learning from this to ensure our internal policies and practices are appropriate and adequate – this includes pathways to referral, information sharing, and regular reviews-. We have a unique position as the largest social landlord in the area with statutory access to 10,000 households every year as part of our gas safety obligations. This has been utilised to incorporate safeguarding alerts for front line staff through an initiative called 'Something's Not Right' this has been a successful initiative and members of the Board have received awareness training and reporting of outcomes from this.

Redcar & Cleveland Voluntary Development Agency (RCVDA)

Redcar & Cleveland Voluntary Development Agency (RCVDA) role on the Safeguarding Children Board is to represent the wider Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS).

The Voluntary and Community Sector is diverse and complex and it is important that safeguarding is promoted throughout the sector. We work closely with the Safeguarding Children Board to promote the Safe network standards to the sector and we advise VCS organisations on all areas of safeguarding. RCVDA also organise safeguarding conferences and deliver training tailored to specific needs of organisations. One of our key roles is to support the development of policy and good practice across the sector. RCVDA also consult with the VCS regarding key strategy documents and feed this back in to the consultation process to ensure that the sectors views are reflected in these key documents. RCVDA also disseminate information from the board to the sector including information on training opportunities.

Primary Schools

As primary school educational representative I contribute to the LSCB by presenting the primary school perspective on child protection and safeguarding matters. As a head teacher and nominated person for CP, I work closely with children, their families and other agencies and am consequently in a position of sharing first-hand the practicalities experienced on a regular basis in school. I also feedback any concerns or questions from colleagues to the board. I have presented at CP training for governors with the LA CP officer, Pete Davies.

Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council – Education

The Education and Skills service within the Local Authority promotes, ensures and monitors safeguarding procedures across all schools and academies in Redcar & Cleveland. The service also contributes as a full partner to the strategic direction and operational work of the RCSCB.

Lay Member

As the lay member I am not part of any particular organisation and offer a non-professional insight into board topics.

Cumbria and North East NHS England

NHS England's role on the LSCB is to represent those services directly commissioned by Cumbria and North East NHS England; Primary Care (General Practice, NHS Dentistry, Pharmacy and Optometry) and Health and Justice. Membership at the Board is via the Deputy Director of Nursing. Information from the LSCB is shared across primary care and NHS England works closely with the Designated Professionals within the CCG to improve the quality of safeguarding practice across primary care and supporting those primary care practitioners to actively engage with the safeguarding process and agenda. NHS England also provides system oversight of health and can work with other providers across the healthcare economy.

Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust

Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV) provides a range of Mental Health, Learning Disability and Eating Disorders services for the 1.6 million people living in County Durham, the Tees Valley, Scarborough, Whitby, Ryedale, Harrogate, Hambleton and Richmondshire.

Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust support the activity of Redcar and Cleveland Safeguarding Children Board (RCSCB) by undertaking the following:

- It is a member of RCSCB and various Sub Groups to ensure there is a regular contribution to the work of the board.
- It has a safeguarding children team who provide safeguarding children training (in line with the intercollegiate document 2014), specialist safeguarding children supervision to all those professionals working directly with children on a child protection plan and also for those parents/carers who care for children subject to a child protection plan. It is also available to all professionals' who require specialist safeguarding supervision.
- The team supports inexperienced practitioners through the safeguarding children process from the sending of the referral to attending the child protection conference and writing the report.
- The Trust has dedicated safeguarding Children Link professionals who are part of a network as professionals who have received more safeguarding children training and are able to support staff in the work place in safeguarding issues. They attend bi-monthly meetings and information is sent to them on a regular basis about updates and changes within safeguarding children.
- All staff receives safeguarding children basic awareness at the Trust induction and from that point they are signposted to the next training appropriate to their role.

People Services, Redcar and Cleveland Council

We pride ourselves on our inter-agency working and have established effective Local Safeguarding Children's Board (RCSCB) arrangements. The Council's Chief Executive, drawing on the support and knowledge of RCSCB partners and, where appropriate, the Lead Member holds the Chair to account for the effective working of the RCSCB. The RCSCB Chair works closely with all RCSCB partners and particularly with the Director of People Services. The Chief Executive meets regularly with the Independent Chair, the DCS and the Assistant Director of Children and Families to discuss safeguarding matters.

A robust safeguarding training programme is provided through the LSCB. It is the intention that this will embed the specialism and result in an up-skilling of the existing workforce to ensure all children in Redcar and Cleveland are appropriately safeguarded.

The Durham Tees Valley Probation Community Rehabilitation Company Limited

DTV CRC Probation Services manages offenders subject to statutory supervision, who are assessed by the National Probation Service as posing Low to Medium risk of harm at point of allocation, and who are not at that point in time a MAPPA eligible offender.

DTV CRC supports the RCSCB with regular senior management attendance. Relevant information from the meetings is cascaded through the organisation. A Probation Manager is allocated to the audit process, and to the Strategic VEMT group. Training opportunities from the Board are circulated via the CRC Training Manager. Attendance at such training is encouraged. Learning from Serious Case Reviews and Domestic Homicide Reviews is taken forward across the organisation.

Child Safeguarding remains a high priority for the DTV CRC and despite the significant changes over the past year; focus has been maintained on the well-being of children and their safeguarding from harm. This includes attendance at Strategy, Case Conference and Core Group meetings where the service is involved, as well as information sharing and multiagency working across relevant cases. All staff are trained at least to Level 1 Safeguarding, and further Risk of Harm Training is planned for the coming year, encompassing Child Safeguarding, and the impact of Domestic Abuse in the wider family context as well as in intimate relationships.

Cleveland Fire Brigade

Cleveland Fire Brigade support the activity of the RCSCB by Membership at Board level, which will be through our Head of Fire Prevention going forwards following an internal restructure This will allow us to participate in Board meetings, gain access to issues and information specific to Redcar and Cleveland, to support our activities with the other Local Safeguarding Boards and the Tees wide Board, including the Communications and Training Sub Groups.

This has allowed us to access appropriate training for our staff, and ensure that our safeguarding policies and procedures are developed in line with good practice.

We have recently been involved in serious case review work and use learning from this to ensure our internal policies and practices are appropriate and adequate – this includes pathways to referral, information sharing, and regular reviews.

Public Health - Redcar and Cleveland Council

Public Health provide local leadership to health and wellbeing boards, leads the development of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and commissions a range of services – including the 5 to 19 Healthy Child Programme (0 to 19 from October 2015, when the commissioning responsibility for Health Visiting transfers), school health services, drugs and alcohol services and sexual health services. Safeguarding requirements are fully detailed in all commissioning arrangements. Public health teams also provide public health advice to CCGs locally. The service also contributes as a full partner to the strategic direction and operational work of the R&CLSCB.

South Tees Hospitals NHS FT

South Tees Hospitals NHS FT is a large combined acute and community trust providing services to the people of Teesside and the Hambleton and Richmondshire area of North Yorkshire.

The trust has two main hospital sites, The James Cook University Hospital in Middlesbrough and The Friarage Hospital in Northallerton. In addition the trust has a number of smaller community hospitals including three, East Cleveland, Redcar and Guisbrough Primary care hospitals, in the Redcar and Cleveland area. Services for children and families include midwifery, urgent care and accident and emergency services as well as a range of in-patient services with children and young people being seen throughout the organisation. The community service provided by the trust include Health Visiting and School Nursing services. The trust has a safeguarding children team who provide advice support training and supervision to practitioners working with children and families, as well as providing advice to partner agencies on the health implications of safeguarding issues.

The trust is commissioned to undertake initial and review health assessments for looked after children.

The trust is an active board member, contributing to the various sub groups and work programmes including through the provision of five days of trainer time for multiagency training each year.

Safeguarding Children practice within the trust is monitored via the trust Safeguarding and Looked after children Governance group which reports to the Integrated Governance committee every six months. The Board of Directors receives an annual report in respect of both safeguarding and looked after children.

South Tees Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)

The CCG is responsible for ensuring that the organisations from which they commission services all provide safe systems that safeguard children from abuse.

The CCG has both a Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children and Looked After Children and a Designated Doctor for Safeguarding Children in post, in accordance with the statutory requirement (*'Accountability and Assurance Framework: Safeguarding Vulnerable People in the Reformed NHS -2013*). The CCG's Executive Nurse has board level responsibility for Safeguarding Children, supported by the Designated Nurse and Designated Doctor who provide expert professional advice to both the Executive Nurse and the CCG.

The Designated Nurse attends the LSCB meetings in a professional advisory capacity, and also attends the Learning and Improving Practice Sub Group and is a member of the Tees wide strategic groups (Tees Procedures, Vulnerable, Missing, Exploited and Trafficked (VEMT) and Child Death Overview Panel CDOP)) The Designated Doctor for Safeguarding Children also fulfils the role of Designated Doctor for CDOP.

The work of the team is augmented by the position of a Safeguarding Children's Officer (SCO), an experienced Health Visitor with significant operational safeguarding children practise within the health economy. This post is hosted by NHS North East Commissioning Support (NECS). The SCO attends the Monitoring and Evaluation Sub Group and the LSCB Training Task Group.

South Tees Youth offending Service

Youth Offending Teams (known as the Youth Offending Service in South Tees) were established through the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The act states that the local authority, the police, probation and health services must work together *'to prevent offending and re-offending by children and young people under the age of 18, and to ensure that custody for them is safe, secure and addresses the causes of their offending behaviour'*.

South Tees YOS offers a court service, supervision and interventions during the day; evenings and weekends ensuring the needs of children families and the community are met. Staff are flexible, using community facilities and home visits and working with families to support young people away from offending.

South Tees YOS has a staff team of case managers, support workers and administrators with a range of seconded, expert staff from Police, Probation and Health. We also directly employ specialist posts to lead our work in key areas of service delivery. Our staff have a broad and diverse mix of skills and expertise to intervene to prevent offending by young people.

Young people in the criminal justice system are especially vulnerable. Many have been in care or have had a child protection plan, have special educational needs, poor communication skills or emotional and mental health needs. This is especially true of many young people in custody. YOs staff are skilled at assessing and managing risk and vulnerability and work with partner agencies to keep young people safe.

The YOS Manager is a member of both Redcar and Cleveland and Middlesbrough Local Safeguarding Children's boards and the YOS works with partners on a number of specific task groups to improve outcomes for young people:

National Probation Service (NPS)

The Probation Service has experienced significant change during the last twelve months with the establishment of the National Probation Service (NPS) and Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRC's) on 1 June 2014, replacing Durham Tees Valley Probation Trust. Cleveland NPS remains under Public Sector management and now oversees those offenders who pose a high risk of serious harm to the public, ensuring that all offenders entering the probation system are assessed and effectively managed to protect the public. This includes assessing and identifying any safeguarding issues and putting into place a supervision plan for each offender which will include monitoring children with whom the offender has, or may have contact with, liaising with Children's Services and contributing to Safeguarding Procedures through attendance at Child Protection conferences and reviews.

All operational staff within probation receive training in safeguarding and attend regular training provided by the LSCB within Cleveland area. In addition the Head of Cleveland NPS is a member of the LSCB and ensures that there is good communication within the organisation about safeguarding and child protection issues.

Finally Cleveland NPS, as a responsible authority within MAPPA, contributes to the assessment and management of some of our most high risk and dangerous offenders, including sex offenders, where again close liaison and communication takes place with Children's Services.

Cafcass

Cafcass contributes by attending board meetings, sub-groups as appropriate. We will present items at the board meeting when appropriate. We have a representative on the Tees area wide procedure group and will feedback on policies and procedures.

Ofsted Measure:

THE GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS ENABLE LSCB PARTNERS (INCLUDING THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING BOARD AND THE CHILDREN'S TRUST) TO ASSESS WHETHER THEY ARE FULFILLING THEIR STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES TO HELP (INCLUDING EARLY HELP), PROTECT AND CARE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Position in Redcar and Cleveland:

Redcar and Cleveland LSCB was established as a single LSCB in 2010. The current Independent Chair was appointed in 2012. RCSCB currently has one lay member has been recruited from Safe4US (Junior LSCB). Their role will be to review the communication strategy from the LSCB and develop it with Young People in the Borough.

Evidence

- RCSCB Governance and Constitution
- RCSCB Communication Strategy.

The partnership agreement between the LSCB and the Corporate Parenting Board, Children's Trust and Community Safety Partnership has been reviewed post April and the agreement now includes the Health and Well Being Board, Family Justice Board, Reducing Domestic Abuse Partnership and Police Crime Commissioner.

Evidence

- RCSCB Partnership Agreement

Reporting arrangements to and from the RCSCB and RCSCB Executive are established and are fully embedded; each Sub Group reports progress reports on a 6 monthly basis to the RCSCB Executive and a comprehensive end of year report is presented to the LSCB, which demonstrates the outcomes achieved.

The Quality Assurance and Learning Improvement Framework outlines how each RCSCB Sub Group interlink and sets out the Quality Assurance audit programme.

CDOP have responded too several issued raised for RCSCB and progress reports on the outcomes are reported to all Tees Boards.

Evidence

- RCSCB Quality Assurance and Learning Improvement Framework

The LSCB Independent Chair, Business Manager, Corporate Director of People Services meet on a 6 monthly basis with the Leader of the Council, Chief Executive RCBC to provide Safeguarding Assurance.

Evidence

- Minutes of Board/Executive Meetings
- Chief Executive Briefings
- Reports

Additional Reports are provided to RCSCB :

- Child Protection Quarterly Statistics
- LADO report
- Private Fostering
- Family Justice Board
- SLAC Action Plans
- Fostering/ Adoption Annual Reports
- TEWV Safeguarding Annual Report
- South Tees Hospital Safeguarding Annual Report

Reporting arrangements from Schools and Academies and Redcar College are in place through representation on the Board from a Primary Head Teacher and Secondary Head Teacher who feeds the issues into the Schools, Colleges in Partnership meeting.

RCSCB have agreed a joint interface document with the Adult Safeguarding Board.

Evidence

- Children and Adults Interface Document

A Working Together 2013 Implementation Plan was produced to ensure RCSCB are fulfilling in their statutory obligations. Specific tasks were been added to the work plan following issues that were identified through the Safeguarding Practice Diagnostic.

Evidence

- Working Together 2013 Implementation Plan and Progress reports

The following LSCB Sub Groups assist RCSCB with discharging its wider responsibilities:

- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Learning Lessons and Improving Practice (LLIP)
- Safe4Us
- Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing and Trafficked (VEMT)
- LSCB Training Sub Group
- Tees Procedures
- Tees Child Death Overview Panel
- Tees eSafety

Information on the RCSCB Website is presented in line with the LSCB Sub Groups. Each Sub Group comprises of multi- agency membership and all are chaired by partner agencies of the Board. Each Sub Group has terms of reference and a work plan, which is determined by the overarching RCSCB Business Plan and approved by the RCSCB Executive.

Evidence

- Work Plans
- Progress Reports
- Minutes of Executive
-

RCSCB have agreed a section which is included in all contracts with commissioned services to ensure children's safeguarding is a priority.

Action(s) Required:

- All previously identified actions has been implemented

Ofsted Measure:

THE LSCB EFFECTIVELY PRIORITISES ACCORDING TO LOCAL ISSUES AND DEMANDS AND THERE IS EVIDENCE OF CLEAR IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED THAT ARE INCORPORATED INTO A DELIVERY PLAN TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES

Position in Redcar and Cleveland:

The RCSCB Business Plan 2013-2017 has been published and progress against the 5 priorities is reported to the Board on a 6 monthly basis. The LSCB priorities are reviewed at the board with a small group exercise on an annual basis. The RCSCB Business Manager has attended Social Care Team Meetings to consult on the LSCB prioritises and further consultation has occurred with small voluntary and community groups to ensure they are fit for purpose.

Evidence

- RCSCB Business Plan
- Team Meeting minutes
- Safeguarding event for Voluntary and Community groups

The RCSCB has produced a Data Set to inform the setting of priorities, the agreed outcomes and service planning. This Data Set is analysed quarterly to influence future service delivery and data is reviewed and developed when appropriate.

Evidence

- RCSCB Dataset
- Minutes of Monitoring and Evaluation Sub Group
- RCSCB Minutes

The RCSCB Quality Assurance, Learning and Improvement Framework has been produced. All LSCB Sub Groups share learning including CDOP in relation to child deaths.

Evidence

- RCSCB Quality Assurance, Learning and Improvement Framework
- CDOP and LSCB Minutes

The Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing and Trafficked LSCB Sub Group has become embedded which was progressed in response to a Tees CSE court case. Local awareness campaigns regarding VEMT have been progressed with the See Something Say Something campaign in targeting local take-aways, taxi firms, bed and breakfast and hotels.

The LSCB Training Sub Group considers the local needs of our community when delivering training. RCSCB link in with the Reducing Domestic Abuse Partnership (RDAP) to ensure local issues are being addressed.

The Education representative on the LSCB Training Sub Group targets schools for specific training where there are high numbers of Child subject to a Child Protection Plan.

Evidence

- VEMT minutes
- RDAP minutes

- Training Sub Group Minutes

The RCSCB has supported the Safeguarding Practice Diagnostic of Children's Safeguarding Services in Redcar and Cleveland and progress against the Service Improvement Plan is reported to Board.

Evidence

- LSCB minutes

RCSCB's Sub Group Monitoring and Evaluation are responsible for conducting multi agency case file audits in respect of Looked After Children, Child Protection/ Child in Need and VEMT. An audit, chaired by the LSCB Business Manager is conducted on each on a quarterly basis, and an overview report is presented to RCSCB with recommendations to improve practice. These recommendations are also communicated to the other RCSCB Sub Groups to disseminate the learning. There is a proposal being presented to develop the multi-agency audits to include families in reviewing how they felt their case was managed.

Evidence

- LSCB Audit reports
- Audit Recommendation reports
- Progress reports
- Monitoring and Evaluation minutes
- Multi-agency audit schedule
- LSCB minutes

LSCB Training includes issues identified in practice from multi agency audits, reviews and LSCB drop ins are held on a quarterly basis in response to local, regional and national issues and needs.

RCSCB have developed a robust Quality Assurance Programme for the LSCB training to ensure training impacts positively on outcomes for children, young people and their families. Improving working practices through training and utilizing the LSCB Multi Agency audits demonstrate improvements have been embedded.

The identified area for improvement in respect of developing the interface between LSCB and practitioners has been undertaken. This was initiated with LSCB drop ins, LSCB attending team meetings and the facilitated sessions between practitioners and the LSCB Independent Chair.

Evidence

- Team meeting minutes
- Progression recorded on Business Plan
- Response to the facilitated sessions

Action(s) Required:

- RCSCB Executive are planning a Safeguarding Conference which will include a meet the Board session so frontline staff can discuss key issues around working with children and families in Redcar and Cleveland with Board members.

Ofsted Measure:

REGULAR AND EFFECTIVE MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF MULTI-AGENCY FRONT-LINE PRACTICE TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN IDENTIFY WHERE IMPROVEMENT IS REQUIRED IN THE QUALITY OF PRACTICE AND SERVICES THAT CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES RECEIVE. THIS INCLUDES MONITORING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF EARLY HELP

Position in Redcar and Cleveland:

RCSCB has supported the exploration and considerations of developing a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

The RCSCB Business Plan 2013-2017 is in place and the RCSCB Annual Report produced for 2013 – 2014.

Evidence

- LSCB Minutes
- RCSCB Annual Report and Business Plan

Multi agency drop-in sessions held to discuss the step down process; these sessions were observed by the LSCB Independent Chair and Business Manager. They highlighted the lack of communication regarding some issues arising from the LSCB and the Independent Chair raised challenges to the Board in respect of this. Further multi agency workshops were held to discuss the RCSCB Threshold, Continuum of Need document. As a result of wide discussion at the Board in respect of Early Help the First Contact Manager attended team meetings with School Nurses and Health Visitors. The data around Early Help is included in the LSCB dataset. Staff from the Local Authority's Early Help Service are located in the First Contact team to aid assessment of the referrals and to ensure statutory services are only offered where necessary; this is being piloted and evaluations will be presented to the Board.

Child Protection Conferences are being observed on an ad hoc basis by the Corporate Director of People Services.

Evidence

- Drop-in flyers and attendance sheets
- RCSCB Dataset
- LSCB minutes

LSCB Multi-agency audits are conducted on a quarterly basis in respect of VEMT, LAC, CP and CiN. These multi-agency audits include reviewing whether the voice of the child was considered in practice. Tools such as Viewpoint and NYAS are utilised to capture this information.

Audits in respect of CAFs (Early Help Assessments) are being completed by the Early Help Practice clinic; assurances have been requested by Monitoring and Evaluation Sub Group.

Evidence

- Audit reports
- Monitoring and Evaluation minutes
- LSCB minutes

Quarterly statistics are presented to the LSCB in respect of a break down of the number of children involved and consulted on regarding their conferences. These statistics are challenged by the LSCB and further audits have been conducted, for example in relation to the number of children subject to CP Plans and a second or subsequent time.

Evidence

- LSCB dataset
- LSCB minutes
- Audit reports

LSCB Training Sub Group undertakes a robust Quality Assurance programme.

The Professional Challenge procedure has been agreed and an audit is being undertaken to assess whether those referrers whose referral was not accepted were happy with the outcome, and if they were not, whether this was pursued.

RCSCB has developed a joint Section 11 (Children Act 2004) with Hartlepool LSCB to support agencies to complete an audit of compliance with Section 11. Section 11 Audits are subject to a robust audit of evidence and the findings were collated by the Business Manager and presented to the Board in May LSCB. The Section 11 Action Plan was agreed and progress will be reported to the Monitoring and Evaluation group before being presented Board.

Due to the lack of safeguarding assurance gained from voluntary and community groups from the Section 11 Audit, targeted safeguarding training has been delivered and further strategies are being explored to strengthen the assurance gained.

Evidence

- Section 11 Audit tool
- Section 11 overview report
- Section 11 Action Plan
- Monitoring and Evaluation minutes
- LSCB minutes

The scrutiny of the RCSCB Data Set informs the setting of priorities and service planning.

The Learning Lessons and Improving practice map operational practice in Redcar and Cleveland against national pertinent Serious Case Reviews. Recommendations from these have had impact on other work streams; therefore findings from these are fed into the other LSCB Sub Groups. Current practice has also been mapped against a historic Serious Case Review and findings were reported to the Chief Executive.

Evidence

- Learning Lessons and Improving Practice Sub Group minutes
- LSCB minutes
- LSCB executive minutes
- Chief Executive briefing minutes
- All LSCB Sub Group minutes
-

Action(s) Required:

- A Meet the Board session is scheduled for the RCSCB Safeguarding Conference in February, this will allow frontline staff to discuss key issues around working with children and families in Redcar and Cleveland
- Development Safe Network tools across the voluntary and community groups.

Ofsted Measure:

PARTNERS HOLD EACH OTHER TO ACCOUNT FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE SAFETY AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE (INCLUDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE LIVING IN THE AREA AWAY FROM THEIR HOME AUTHORITY), FACILITATED BY THE CHAIR

Position in Redcar and Cleveland:

As data was initially not forthcoming from YOS in relation to receiving data regarding the number of restraints used on children in secure settings who originally reside in Redcar and Cleveland, the Youth Justice Board were invited to speak to RCSCB. Following this challenge the data is now regularly received. RCSCB supported TEWV in challenging the YJB regarding the issue of using pain induced methods of restraints. It has been reported that this issue has been taken up nationally.

In addition to Section 11 all partners provide their Safeguarding Assurance reports including schools who are presenting their expectations and evidence in preparation for Ofsted.

The number of children placed out of area by location is monitored by RCSCB through the dataset. RCSCB Data Set helps to inform the setting of priorities and service planning. This Data Set is regularly analysed to influence future service delivery.

The lack of Police attendance at Strategy meetings has been challenged at Board and progress in relation to this is being monitored.

Evidence

- LSCB dataset
- LSCB minutes
- Section 11 Action Plan and progress updates

RCSCB Professional Challenge procedure in place and an audit is being undertaken to assess whether this is being used.

Independent Chair has observed practitioner step-down Drop –Ins.

Independent Chair has also facilitated sessions with practitioners to discuss their experience of using the Threshold Criteria: Continuum of Need document. Issues in relation to this have been reported to Board and all organisations are responding accordingly.

Practice in CDOP has been challenged and reviewed. CDOP are now operating reciprocal Chairing arrangements in respect of neonatal deaths. All impacts from the challenges posed from CDOP are reported to each Tees LSCB.

Evidence

- Monitoring and Evaluation minutes
- LSCB/ Executive minutes
- CDOP review and proposed TORs

Action(s) Required:

- A Meet the Board session has been scheduled for the RCSCB Conference in February this will allow frontline staff to discuss key issues around working with children and families in Redcar and Cleveland with Board members

Ofsted Measure:

SAFEGUARDING IS A PRIORITY FOR ALL OF THE STATUTORY LSCB MEMBERS AND THIS IS DEMONSTRABLE, SUCH AS THROUGH EFFECTIVE SECTION 11 AUDITS

Position in Redcar and Cleveland:

Section 11 Audit undertaken in March 2104. Section 11 Audits are subject to a robust audit of evidence and the findings are collated by the Business Manager and presented to the Board. A peer challenge event occurred at the Board in May, regarding the evidence referred to in each organisations section 11. The Board members reviewed the evidence and produced an agreed Action Plan; progress in relation to this is being reported to the Board.

RCSCB adhere to safer recruitment procedures and DBS numbers are collated from all Board members. All RCSCB members contribute to the discussions at Board and all Board members have signed a membership agreement which includes the Nolan principles of public life.

Board members attend RCSCB Safeguarding training where appropriate.

Engagement and contributions to the work of the Board from partners. Partner’s non engagement with LSCB Sub Groups is reported to the LSCB Chair.

A Child Sexual Exploitation peer challenge event was held at the April 2014 LSCB which demonstrated members’ awareness of the issues surrounding VEMT and tested the board’s compliance against statutory guidance.

Feedback of external inspections report into RCSCB. For example CQC inspection of CCG. HMCI inspection at Cleveland Police, Ofsted inspections in schools.

A safeguarding event for Voluntary and Community groups was held in partnership with Safe Network in September 2014. This strengthened the safeguarding assurances we receive from these groups.

Single Agency Safeguarding Audits/Reports are considered at the Monitoring and Evaluation Sub Group.

Ofsted Measure:

Evidence

- Section 11 report and Action Plan
- LSCB/LSCB Executive minutes
- Members agreements
- Quality Assurance and learning Improvement Framework
- Minutes from Tees Procedures
- Tees Procedures web site
- Safeguarding Conference for Voluntary and Community Groups
- Monitoring and Evaluation minutes

Action(s) Required:

- Follow up Board members who have not submitted their DBS as requested
- Consider Induction sessions being held to provide information for new Board and sub- group members to provide an understanding of RCSCB and their role.

Ofsted Measure:

ALL LSCB PARTNERS MAKE A PROPORTIONATE FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE CONTRIBUTION TO THE MAIN LSCB AND THE AUDIT AND SCRUTINY ACTIVITY OF ANY SUB GROUPS

Position in Redcar and Cleveland:

RCSCB budget reports are presented to the Board or LSCB Executive. The LSCB Training Sub Group also reviews the joint budget at each meeting. RCSCB also receive resources in kind, through trainers and Sub Group Chairing and participation.

Evidence

- Budget Reports
- LSCB/ LSCB Executive minutes
- LSCB Training Sub Group minutes
-

Action(s) Required:

- All actions previously identified have been addressed

Ofsted Measure:

THE LSCB HAS A LOCAL LEARNING AND IMPROVEMENT FRAMEWORK WITH STATUTORY PARTNERS. OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING ARE EFFECTIVE AND PROPERLY ENGAGE ALL PARTNERS

Position in Redcar and Cleveland:

RCSCB's Quality Assurance and Learning and Improvement Framework has been produced following a long period of consultation with all LSCB Sub Groups.

The LSCB Training Quality Assurance programme includes observing training to ensure it adheres to standards; current learning and recommendations are included and follow up questionnaires are undertaken to assess how training has improved practice to ensure children in Redcar and Cleveland are appropriately safeguarded.

Learning Lessons and Improving practice Sub Group have benchmarked current working practices to a historic Serious Case Review and three national pertinent Serious Case Reviews to transfer appropriate learning.

A robust learning and improvement framework is in place which includes a regular programme of

multi-agency file audits. Such audits are undertaken regularly, with areas for development and good practice identified. Agencies report to the LSCB on changes made as a result of this. Learning arising from reviews and audits are embedded into training and disseminated through regular drop in sessions.

Recommendations from multi-agency audits are fed into each Sub Group and transferred into training to ensure learning is shared on a multi-agency basis. The LSCB Business Manager attends Team Meetings to discuss the LSCB priorities and work plans.

Evidence

- Quality Assurance, Learning and Improvement Framework
- Training Quality Assurance programme
- Minutes Training Sub Group
- Minutes Learning Lessons and Improving Practice
- Mapping of recommendations
- Audit overview reports

Action(s) Required:

- Consider developing observations of practice.

Ofsted Measure:

SERIOUS CASE REVIEWS ARE INITIATED WHERE THE CRITERIA SET OUT IN STATUTORY GUIDANCE ARE MET AND IDENTIFY GOOD PRACTICE TO BE DISSEMINATED AND WHERE PRACTICE CAN BE IMPROVED

Position in Redcar and Cleveland:

Serious Case Reviews are initiated as appropriate. Dialogue with the national panel has resulted in reviewing the procedures and a set process regarding how rationale is evidenced and documented has been agreed across Tees.

RCSCB are currently in the process of finalising a SCR, the learning from this was disseminated through the learning events which were undertaken to support the production of the report.

RCSCB benchmarked current operational practice to historic SCR; this was reported to the Chief Executive.

A Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Peer Challenge event was held at the VEMT Sub Group and also at RCSCB held in April 2014 regarding benchmarking Redcar and Cleveland against the Rochdale recommendations, If Only Someone had Listened and additional statutory guidance to Working Together; Safeguarding Children who are Sexually Exploited.

Evidence

- Correspondence with National Panel
- Learning Lessons and Improving Practice Sub Group minutes
- VEMT minutes
- Sub Group progress reports to the LSCB Executive
-

Action(s) Required

- To ensure the learning from RCSCB's SCR is disseminated through all appropriate training and the impact of this is captured through the audits.

Ofsted Measure:

SERIOUS CASE REVIEWS ARE PUBLISHED

Position in Redcar and Cleveland:

Ofsted Measure:

Serious Case Reviews are published as appropriate and Tees Operational Procedures have been agreed by all local Learning Lessons and Improving Practice Sub Groups.

Action(s) Required:

- RCSCB’s SCR will be published once the family have had an opportunity to contribute to it.

Ofsted Measure:

THE LSCB ENSURES THAT HIGH-QUALITY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES ARE IN PLACE (AS REQUIRED BY WORKING TOGETHER TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN) AND THAT THESE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES ARE MONITORED AND EVALUATED FOR THEIR EFFECTIVENESS AND IMPACT AND REVISED WHERE IMPROVEMENTS CAN BE MADE

Position in Redcar and Cleveland:

LSCB Tees Procedures provides organisations with a comprehensive set of procedures which ensures that safeguarding concerns and referrals are handled sensitively, professionally and in ways that support the needs of the child.

LSCB Sub Group Tees Procedures is held 6 weekly and Tees procedures are updated, written and reviewed when required.

All LSCB Training sign posts the Tees Procedures Website.

Evidence

- Tees Procedures minutes
- Tees Procedures website
- LSCB minutes
- LSCB Executive minutes
- Revised Tees Procedure TOR

Action(s) Required:

- Tees Procedure website to be reviewed to ensure it incorporates procedures and guidance is located in as separate section.

Ofsted Measure:

THE LSCB MONITORS AND UNDERSTANDS THE APPLICATION OF THRESHOLDS LOCALLY

Position in Redcar and Cleveland:

The RCSCB Continuum of Need, Threshold Guidance has been developed and produced on the RCSCB website. The RCSCB Independent Chair has observed multi agency drop-ins regarding the step down procedure and further drop ins have been held which focused on the threshold document.

The LSCB dataset is constantly being reviewed and developed and now incorporates additional data as per the agreed required outcomes.

Multi-agency audits are regularly being undertaken to identify learning.

The TAF/CAF (Early Help Assessment) process is being audited within Early Help to ensure the services are focused around the child; this is also in line with the recommendation the learning review from another local authority.

The audits in relation to the CAF (Early Help Assessment) process are to be shared with RCSCB Monitoring and Evaluation group.

The need to develop Early Help Assessment training arose from a learning review which was

undertaken in a neighbouring LSCB. RCSCB worked in partnership with the Early Help Service to ensure this is now delivered.

The LSCB Independent Chair facilitated sessions with practitioners from all organisations to discuss their experience and understanding of the Threshold Criteria. The concerns that were raised have been reported to the Board and all organisations will respond appropriately.

Evidence

- RCSCB Threshold / Continuum of Need
- LSCB dataset
- Audit reports and recommendations
- Monitoring and Evaluation minutes

Action(s) Required:

- An audit of cases entering the Local Authority for Early Help to be undertaken.

Ofsted Measure:

THE LSCB UNDERSTANDS THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF THE LOCAL ISSUES IN RELATION TO CHILDREN MISSING AND CHILDREN AT RISK OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND OVERSEES EFFECTIVE INFORMATION SHARING AND A LOCAL STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Position in Redcar and Cleveland:

The VEMT Tees Strategic group/ and the local VEMT operational group which regularly reports to RCSCB Executive and Board.

RCSCB VEMT Sub Group is a robust group which has achieved many outcomes including

- Encouraged robust licensing arrangements across the borough.
- All organisations have identified champions of VEMT to ensure they constantly raise awareness of the VEMT throughout their organisations.
- Strategic working across Tees.

Data from the VEMT Practitioners group is included in the LSCB dataset.

RCSCB's Monitoring and Evaluation Sub Group identified the need to undertake an audit in respect of return home interviews and the VEMT risk assessments.

The peer challenge event held at Board in April 2014 helped to ensure partners are fully aware of local issues.

RCSCB VEMT has benchmarked operational practice against several SCR's in relation to CSE. The outcomes of these have been reported to the LSCB and the Health and Well Being Board.

Evidence

- VEMT minutes
- VEMT progress reports
- LSCB dataset
- LSCB minutes
- HWB minutes

A Tees publicity campaign was launched 'Say Something if you See Something' which focussed on taxi firm, takeaway establishments and hoteliers. A further campaign (Helping Hands) is being developed focussing on community awareness.

Regional training delivered by SECOS in partnership with Cleveland Police. SECOS also provide local casework support. Local CSE pathway, risk assessment, strategy and tool has been agreed and published.

RCSCB commissioned the theatre production 'Chelsea's Choice', which is being presented to all Secondary Schools in Redcar and Cleveland to raise CSE awareness amongst young people. Safe 4 Us (Junior LSCB) produced a questionnaire to identify the level of awareness in relation to CSE both

pre and post the production. The outcome of this is being presented at RCSCB Safeguarding Conference in February.

RCSCB are conducting multi-agency case files audits of VEMT cases on a quarterly basis. Children Missing Education and Elective Home Education have been included in the LSCB dataset.

The Tees Information Sharing protocol has been revised and approved.

A monthly ebulletin is sent to all community and voluntary groups which includes information from VEMT LSCB Sub Group.

Evidence

- Training Programme
- Media Campaign
- Tees CSE procedures website
- RCSCB ebulletin

Action(s) Required:

- The outcomes of the audits in respect of the return home interviews and VEMT risk assessments to be presented to Board.

Ofsted Measure :

THE LSCB USES CASE FILE AUDITS INCLUDING JOINT CASE AUDITS TO IDENTIFY PRIORITIES THAT WILL IMPROVE MULTI-AGENCY PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE WITH CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Position in Redcar and Cleveland:

RCSCB's Monitoring and Evaluation Sub Group conduct CP/CiN, LAC and VEMT case file audits on quarterly basis and a timetable of Quality Assurance events are detailed in the Quality Assurance and Learning Improvement Framework.

Audit overview reports are presented to the Monitoring and Evaluation Sub Group and organisations respond where appropriate so a full report can be presented to RCSCB to share the recommendations.

The recommendations from the audits are compiled as themes and reoccurring recommendations are reported to the LSCB and appropriate outcomes are referenced in LSCB Training. Progress of the recommendations are monitored and tracked at Monitoring and Evaluation.

Evidence

- Monitoring and Evaluation Sub Group minutes
- Audit schedule
- RCSCB Quality Assurance and Learning Improvement Framework
- Audit Recommendations

Ofsted Measure:

THE CHAIR RAISES CHALLENGES AND WORKS WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITY AND OTHER LSCB PARTNERS WHERE THERE ARE CONCERNS THAT THE IMPROVEMENTS ARE NOT EFFECTIVE

Position in Redcar and Cleveland:

LSCB Chair has posed challenges to the Board and the impact of which is demonstrated below.

Challenge	Outcome
Lack of IRO Capacity	Outcome Increase in IRO time
Lack of specialist medical support to LAC	Data included in LSCB dataset

Use of pain induce restraints	Youth Justice Board presentation at Board also data included in LSCB dataset. Organisations responded to the letter sent from the RCSCB to provide assurance in relation to restraint and de-escalation techniques used.
Use of CAF (Early Help Assessment) procedures	Audits presented to M&E Sub Group on a quarterly basis
Lack of police presence at strategy meetings	This challenge is being escalated appropriately.
Lack of Education and Police representation at Sub Groups	Attendance has improved and members are engaging with the work plans.

As a request from the Chair all organisations have presented a safeguarding assurance report to the Board despite undergoing restructures.

CDOP chair challenged the ambulance trust as they did not follow the protocols in relation to transporting dead bodies. The CDOP chair also challenged practice in social care and health in relation to the stages in transition to adulthood and the discrepancies in care the families receive. A progress report in respect of the outcomes from the challenges that CDOP pose are reported to each Tees LSCB.

Training Sub Group Chair is challenging the charging policy across Tees in relation to commissioned services.

A challenge posed regarding continuous fragmentation of services; further assurances have been sought.

Evidence

- LSCB minutes
- Safeguarding Assurance Reports
- CDOP minutes
- Training Sub Group minutes

Ofsted Measure:

PRACTITIONERS AND MANAGERS WORKING WITH FAMILIES ARE ABLE TO BE INVOLVED IN PRACTICE AUDITS, IDENTIFYING STRENGTHS, AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT AND LESSONS TO BE LEARNED

Position in Redcar and Cleveland:

Practitioners and managers are both involved in the LSCB Multi agency audits. Managers are involved in performance meetings and recommendations from audits are shared with practitioners to gain a response before the overview report is shared to the Board. Discussions are held with practitioners when Learning Reviews are being undertaking to attempt to gain a context around decision making.

The current Serious Case Review involved having practitioners learning events which introduced new theories and perceptions to the case.

The training Sub Group conducts impact evaluations on practice from both the attendee and their manager.

Progress against the Safeguarding Practice Diagnostic Action Plan has been reported to Monitoring and Evaluation

There are now safeguarding liaison links with monitoring and evaluation and reoccurring themes of areas of development are reported which may trigger audits to help understand and improve practice e.g. TAF/CAF (Early Help Assessment)

Evidence

- Audit Reports
- Audit Recommendations
- Minutes from the Serious Case Review Learning event
- Monitoring and Evaluation Progress report
- Training Impact evaluations
- Monitoring and Evaluation minutes

Ofsted Measure:

THE EXPERIENCES OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ARE USED AS A MEASURE OF IMPROVEMENT

Position in Redcar and Cleveland:

NYAS and Viewpoint are used to feed children's views into child protection conference and RCSCB's multi-agency audits. The progress regarding increase in number of children and young people participating in their conferences has been reported to LSCB

The work of the Junior LSCB Safe4Us in respect of domestic abuse amongst peer relationships was broadcast on ITV.

Recent recruitment of a graduate from the junior LSCB Safe 4Us to the LSCB. Opportunity to utilise his IT skills to further develop communications with children and young people in Borough.

Evidence

- Child protection quarterly reports
- Safe4Us presentation at Board and posters
- LSCB audit tools

Action(s) Required:

- Development of the newly recruited lay member and use of their IT to develop communication with young people via social media.

Ofsted Measure:

THE LSCB IS AN ACTIVE AND INFLUENTIAL PARTICIPANT IN INFORMING AND PLANNING SERVICES FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES IN THE AREA AND DRAWS ON ITS ASSESSMENTS OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF MULTI-AGENCY PRACTICE. IT USES ITS SCRUTINY ROLE AND STATUTORY POWERS TO INFLUENCE PRIORITY SETTING ACROSS OTHER STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS SUCH AS THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING BOARD

Position in Redcar and Cleveland:

There is liaison between the Reducing Domestic Abuse Partnership and the LSCB are developing Domestic Abuse training in line with joint priorities. The LSCB partnership protocol has been reviewed and includes; the Corporate Parenting Board, Children's Trust Executive, Health and Well Being Board, Police Crime Commissioner and Local Family Justice Board. The LSCB contributes to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) via information from CDOP regarding Child Deaths and information from the VEMT LSCB Sub Group.

The LSCB Chair meets with the Leader of Council/Chief Executive and Lead Member twice a year.

Evidence

- RDAP meeting minutes
- LSCB/ LSCB Executive minutes
- LSCB partnership protocol
- Chief Executive minutes

RCSCB makes challenges as appropriate, around training and the outcomes from the single agency

training audit.

The Working Together Implementation Plan sets out requirement that RCSCB receive updates from Local Family Justice Board via CAF/CASS.

The Director of Public Health is a new member to RCSCB and RCSCB Executive.

The LSCB has led on CSE campaigns which have been developed through VEMT; targeting local bed and breakfasts, taxi firms and hotelier. VEMT champions are identified in all organisations to improve awareness.

CDOP have recognised the local hospice service and letters of commendation have been sent from the CDOP Chair as excellent practice has been identified in the cases discussed.

Evidence

- Single Agency training audit
- LSCB/ LSCB Executive minutes
- VEMT minutes
- CDOP minutes

Ofsted Measure:

THE LSCB ENSURES THAT SUFFICIENT, HIGH-QUALITY MULTI-AGENCY TRAINING IS AVAILABLE AND EVALUATES ITS EFFECTIVENESS AND IMPACT ON IMPROVING FRONT-LINE PRACTICE AND THE EXPERIENCES OF CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE, FAMILIES AND CARERS

Position in Redcar and Cleveland:

The RCSCB multi-agency Training Plan, Brochure and Strategy is published on the LSCB website. The LSCB operates a robust Quality Assurance Process for LSCB training. Annual single agency training audits are completed and the LSCB training is developed, based on agreed training standards.

The Core level 3 training has been amended in response to evaluations.

RCSCB have increased the use of in-house trainers. A support the trainer network event has been arranged.

The level of participants is assessed to ensure appropriate courses are being delivered to the targeted workforce.

Data for the LSCB training is triangulated as the participants evaluations are assessed alongside the trainer and training content which impacts of the future delivery of the training
Impact evaluations are conducted 6 months after the training to evidence any improved outcomes.

Single agency training is quality assured in line with the LSCB training standards and the single agency training audit informs the LSCB training needs analysis which determines the LSCB training plan.

Evidence

- Training Plan
- Training Strategy
- Quality Assurance Process
- LSCB Training Minutes
- Single Agency Training Overview report
-

Ofsted Measure:

ALL LSCB MEMBERS SUPPORT ACCESS TO THE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN THEIR AGENCIES

Position in Redcar and Cleveland:

The single agency training audit ensures there is a lead in each organisation driving the LSCB safeguarding training strategy. The expectation is for all practitioners in all organisations working with children and young people to attend the core level 3 training and have updates on a 3 yearly basis.

The learning from LLIP Sub Group and the recommendations from the audits undertaken by the Monitoring and Evaluation Sub Group highlight any amendments to future training requirements. DBS training has been offered for all Board members to attend.

As the Section 11 audit highlighted the lack of Safeguarding assurances received from the Voluntary and Community sector, a Safeguarding conference was held in September 2014 and further awareness sessions will be arranged in partnership with Safe Network.

The level of attendees to LSCB training is assessed to ensure appropriate training is being provided and accessed.

The flyers circulation group is regularly reviewed to ensure appropriate people receive details of LSCB training.

Evidence

- RCSCB Training Strategy
- Communication Strategy
- Training Plan
- LSCB Training Quality Assurance Framework
- Single agency training audit
- Sub Group minutes

Ofsted Measure:

THE LSCB, THROUGH ITS ANNUAL REPORT, PROVIDES A RIGOROUS AND TRANSPARENT ASSESSMENT OF THE PERFORMANCE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF LOCAL SERVICES. IT IDENTIFIES AREAS OF WEAKNESS AND THE CAUSES OF THOSE WEAKNESSES, AND EVALUATES AND WHERE NECESSARY CHALLENGES THE ACTION BEING TAKEN. THE REPORT INCLUDES LESSONS FROM MANAGEMENT REVIEWS, SERIOUS CASE REVIEWS AND CHILD DEATHS WITHIN THE REPORTING PERIOD

Position in Redcar and Cleveland:

RCSCB Annual Report has been published for 2013/14.

Section 11 has been completed and progress against the Action Plan is being presented to the Board in November 14.

Local Benchmarking has occurred with a local Learning review and challenges have been posed to education.

RCSCB are currently undertaking a serious case review and organisations have responded immediately to lessons identified.

Safeguarding assurance reports have been provided from all organizations to provide assurance to the Board that the focus on safeguarding has not lapsed despite the reorganizations that have occurred across organisations.

Evidence

- Quality Assurance and Learning Improvement Framework
- Serious Case Review Minutes
- LLIPSIG minutes
- RCSCB/ Executive minutes
- Training Sub Group minutes

Ofsted Measure:

THE LSCB IS LIKELY TO BE OUTSTANDING IF, IN ADDITION TO MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A GOOD JUDGMENT, IT PROVIDES EVIDENCE OF BEING A HIGHLY INFLUENTIAL STRATEGIC ARRANGEMENT THAT DIRECTLY INFLUENCES AND IMPROVES PERFORMANCE IN THE CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN. THAT IMPROVEMENT IS SUSTAINED AND EXTENDS ACROSS MULTI-DISCIPLINARY PRACTICE WITH CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

Position in Redcar and Cleveland:

RCSCB consistently promote the procedures and recommend improvements to this.

The LSCB has high training standards and demonstrative evidence of improved outcomes.

RCSCB operates a robust VEMT Sub Group which has identified evidence of improved outcomes Robust Quality Assurance and Learning Improvement framework.

RCSCB has a cycle of multi-agency audits with monitoring of recommendations, which impacts on continuous learning.

Evidence

- Quality Assurance and Learning Improvement Framework
- LSCB Audit reports
- LSCB Dataset
- Training Sub Group minutes
- Learning Lessons and Improving Practice Sub Group minutes
- Training Standards
- Training Sub Group minutes
- LSCB Minutes
- LSCB Executive minutes
- Monitoring and Evaluation minutes

Ofsted Measure

ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCE IS EXCEPTIONAL AND HELPS THE LOCAL AUTHORITY AND PARTNERS TO PROPERLY UNDERSTAND THE IMPACT OF SERVICES, THE QUALITY OF PRACTICE AND THE AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Position in Redcar and Cleveland:

Monitoring and evaluation tight work plan; regular progress reports are presented to LSCB Executive.

There are 3 Quarterly multi agency audits and findings are reported alongside recommendations for improvement.

LSCB Training evaluates any impact on practice, from both the practitioner and managers perspective.

Evidence:

- Monitoring and Evaluation Sub Group minutes
- LSCB Executive minutes
- LSCB minutes
- Audit reports
- Audit recommendation frameworks
- Training Sub Group minutes
- Impact evaluations

Ofsted Measure:

THERE IS A COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF TRAINING FOR MANAGERS AND PRACTITIONERS THAT IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO MULTI-AGENCY IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES. THE LSCB CREATES AND FOSTERS AN EFFECTIVE LEARNING CULTURE LOCALLY THAT EXTENDS TO FRONT-LINE PRACTITIONERS

Position in Redcar and Cleveland:

The Level 4 Risk Assessment training has been piloted by the LSCB; an evaluation being undertaken as to whether this is a multi-agency course.

Single agency training audit being reviewed before circulating to help identify specific gaps.

LSCB training gap analysis undertaken which identified the lack of level 5 training delivered and joint collaborative level 5 training is being explored across Tees.

RCSCB Board Members attend LSCB training where appropriate.

Evidence:

- LSCB Training Sub Group minutes
- Single Agency Training Audit and Report
- Training Plan