

REDCAR & CLEVELAND SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT 2014



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

www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/safeguarding

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1. FOREWORD BY INDEPENDENT CHAIR

I am very pleased to be able to introduce the annual report on the work by the Redcar and Cleveland Safeguarding Children Board (RCSCB) to you. The report outlines the work done during 2013-2014 and highlights some of the achievements during the year.

The Board developed a number of priorities and the report describes some of the work that has been undertaken to meet these priorities. The priorities are:

- Quality of Work; clearly the Board needs to be assured that practice is of high standards and quality continues to improve
- Interagency Working; this is absolutely vital if children and young people are to be safeguarded
- Communication; communication has often been found wanting when cases have been reviewed and thus the Board needs to know that staff in all agencies communicate properly with each other and the Board communicates properly with agencies and the community
- Early Help; the Board has a responsibility to review early help arrangements to be sure that this help is effective and sufficient to ensure children and young people are helped as early as possible and avoid the need for child protection intervention
- Developments in Practice; practice always moves on and new areas of safeguarding concerns are identified. This includes the sexual exploitation of children and young people and the need for greater awareness of this issue and the development of effective intervention.

I am very pleased to report that the agencies involved with the RCSCB have continued their strong commitment to the work of the Board; despite the many challenges faced, especially in relation to resource reductions and re-organisation. The NHS has seen a total re-organisation with new structures and agencies having been developed. Other partners have also seen re-organisation or are planning changes these include the Police, Local Authorities and the Probation Service. The Board is keen to ensure that whilst these re-organisations are planned and implemented that these developments do not negatively impact on the services for children, young people and parents where abuse is a feature.

Clearly there are challenges for the Board, especially in relation to ensuring that the work in relation to safeguarding children is appropriately coordinated and prioritised. The Board is therefore involved in planning services and ensuring that its voice is heard when agencies plan changes or in the development of the Joint Needs Assessment in the borough.

I am particularly impressed with the work of Safe4Us, the young people's board, who have undertaken work on domestic violence in relationships between young people.

I would like to thank Alex Giles, Claire Herlingshaw (lay member), Dr Charles Cornford, and Jason Dickson who have left the Board during the year for their work and commitment to the RCLSCB.

Jan van Wagtenonk
Independent Chair

INTRODUCTION

All activity of Redcar and Cleveland Local Safeguarding Children Board (RCLSCB) has been revised in light of Working Together (2013) and all significant changes and developments are evidences in the RCLSCB Working Together Implementation plan Working Together (2013) requires each Local Safeguarding Children Board to produce and publish an Annual Report evaluating the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area.



WT 2013
Implementation Plan-

This Annual Report 2013-2014 sets out the work of multi-agency partners to ensure effective arrangements are in place to safeguard and protect vulnerable children and young people from abuse and neglect. The LSCB is a key statutory mechanism for agreeing how relevant organisations in Redcar and Cleveland will cooperate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the area. This is set out in Section 13 of the Children Act 2004 and Regulation 5 of the Local Safeguarding Children Board Regulations 2006.

This report will be submitted to the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, the local Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Redcar and Cleveland LSCB report is also shared with LSCB partner agencies to be discussed through their senior management teams to raise awareness of the achievements, priorities and future work plan.

This report sets out achievements in 2013/14 and priorities and challenges for 2014.

The statutory objectives of RCLSCB are to:

- Coordinate local work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
- Ensure the effectiveness of its work
- Safeguarding means to: undertake any activity which prevents a child's health, welfare or development being impaired, and includes activity to protect from abuse and other risks such as Child Sexual Exploitation.

The key question is "Are we making a difference?" The Board believes it is making a difference and this report will provide evidence of the commitment and determination of professionals and volunteers resulting in improvement for children.

The Board, chaired by an independent chair, is funded by the main partners and hosted and supported by Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council. The LSCB Chair works closely with all LSCB partners including the Corporate Director of People Services (under Section 18 of the Children Act 2004). The Director of People Services and the Assistant Director Children and Families have the responsibility within the local authority for improving outcomes for children, local authority children's social care functions and local cooperation arrangements for children's services in Redcar and Cleveland.

Statutory Partner Agencies (which includes all the health commissioning and provider organisations, the police, probation, schools and the Local Authority, have a statutory duty to co-operate with the Board and those accountabilities are defined in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013 and the NHS Accountability Framework.

The Board has no service delivery functions but is required to inform (through its co-ordination and effectiveness responsibilities) the commissioning intentions of partner agencies, It is also required to monitor, quality assure and evaluate the effectiveness of the services commissioned and delivered in the local area.

The achievements and progress made during 2013/14 are discussed in this report alongside the challenges facing the Board in 2014/15. The report includes information on a range of issues including;

- The provision of a wide range of evidence to demonstrate the extent to which the functions of the LSCB are being actively discharged
- An outline of how the Board intends to focus more on the provision of Early Help
- Work to ensure policies and procedures to keep children safe and safe recruitment are up to date
- An assessment of interagency training
- Information on what has been done to ensure that lessons have been learnt from Serious Case Reviews and lessons learnt about the prevention of future child deaths as identified by the Child Death Overview Panel
- How the Board scrutinizes arrangements to safeguard children placed in the secure estates and other settings

The report recognises the significant service restructuring that has and is taking place within different agencies. All partners are aware of the need to promote more effective ways of using finite resources to work with children, young people and their families. Particular changes include the introduction of Clinical Commissioning Groups, the full Shaping Our Future restructure and reconfiguration of the council's services and the planned changes to the Probation service

This year's report also builds on learning from national research including guidance on what makes a 'powerful' annual report and the 'Facets of an Effective LSCB.' In line with RCLSCB Quality Assurance and Learning Framework, this report intends to address three fundamental questions:

- What did we do?
- How well did we do it?
- What difference did we make to improve outcomes for children, young people and families?

What does effective multi-agency safeguarding practice look like?

The components of effective multi-agency safeguarding practice include:

- An understanding of risk factors when working with children and families and the ability to recognise such factors
- A recognition of the importance of family histories
- Appropriate sharing of information between agencies
- An understanding of each other's respective roles and responsibilities
- The capacity of agencies to work together in an integrated way towards agreed outcomes; this includes appropriate inter-agency communication
- Comprehensive and thorough assessments of families and the risks to children/young people
- Following through of agreed decisions and recommendations (whether Child Protection Plan, Child In Need plan etc.).
- The appropriate use of the 'step up' and 'step down' processes by all agencies
- The focus needing to always be on the child
- The importance of working in partnership with families, including birth fathers
- The importance of not taking an 'over optimistic' view of a family's functioning
- Confidence in relation to using the 'professional challenge protocol'
- Reflective analysis and supervision

RCLSCB's current view of safeguarding across Redcar and Cleveland is based on information from a wide range of sources and agencies. These include:

- Discussions at the RCLSCB and its sub-groups
- Reports from the Stay-Safe groups
- Multi-agency audits and other monitoring processes
- Inspections
- Case Reviews
- The Multi-Agency Integrated Dataset
- Previous Section 11 Audit Processes

The analysis and assessment of safeguarding practice across the multi-agency partnership is based on auditing processes, safeguarding data collection and reviewing processes, underpinned through the published Quality Assurance and Learning Improvement Framework.



FINAL QUALITY
ASSURANCE LEARNING

This document demonstrates the expectation of high levels of commitment and compliance in respect of safeguarding roles and responsibilities from partner agencies of the RCLSCB. Partner agencies are well aware of the breadth of the safeguarding agenda and indeed the balance to be struck between focussing on those children/young people considered to be most at risk of harm and thus needing protection, and the broader safeguarding responsibilities to all children and young people. The current RCLSCB view is that there are clear and definite strengths in relation to areas of our safeguarding practice. There are examples of good multi-agency collaboration and of multi-agency working. For example the RCLSCB multi-agency auditing process has accelerated throughout the year; undertaking a Looked After Child (LAC) audit, Child Protection (CP)/ Child in Need (CiN) and a Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing and Trafficked children and young people (VEMT) audit on a quarterly basis.

The essence of safeguarding is:

- The strength and quality of multi-agency working
- The quality of information sharing and integrated working between agencies
- An understanding of respective roles and responsibilities between partners
- A shared understanding and agreement about thresholds
- Meaningful engagement with children, young people and their families
- The capacity to listen and respond to young people
- Ability to resolve professional differences

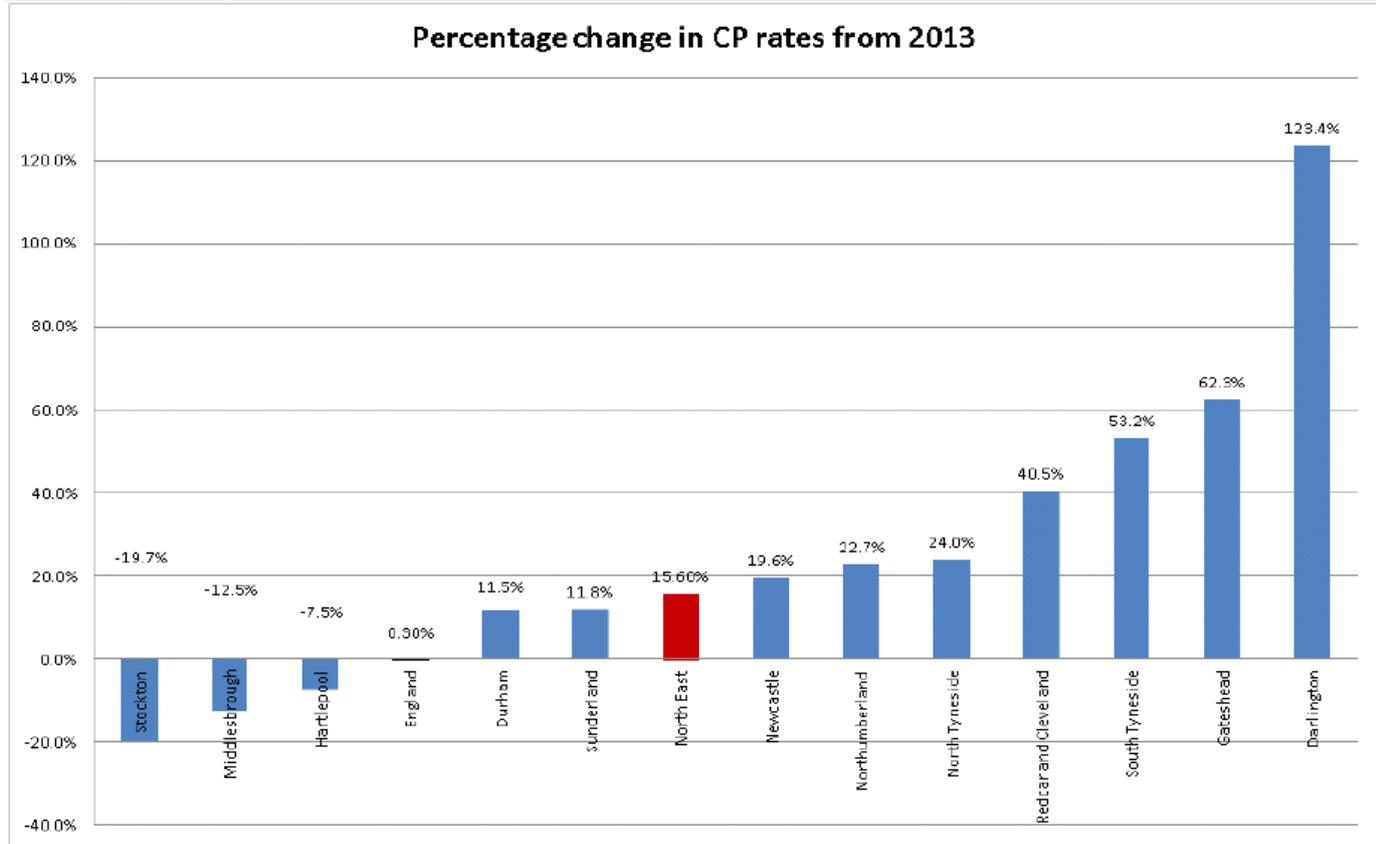
3. REDCAR AND CLEVELAND

Redcar and Cleveland's geographical area stands at 94.6 square miles out of the 3,317 square miles for the North East which makes it the biggest geographical local authority in Tees Valley. 23.2% of the population of Redcar and Cleveland is under the age of twenty. There are an estimated 16,000 0-19 year old males and 14,800 0-19 year old females in Redcar and Cleveland (2012 estimates) with an increase expected by 2020 (33,600). The biggest expected change is thought to be in the 5-9 years age group with the numbers increasing from 7,300 to 8,900. The latest Indices of Deprivation for 2010 suggests Redcar and Cleveland continues to experience relatively high levels of deprivation across the Borough. Redcar & Cleveland is ranked the 48th most deprived local authority in England. The level of child poverty in the Borough is significantly worse than the England average with 26.2% in Redcar and Cleveland of children aged less than 16 years living in poverty.

The number of children subject to a child protection plan continues to increase, there is an increase of 10 between the first and second quarter and following a small decrease of 4 in quarter 3, quarter 4 saw a further increase of 19..

Indicator	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Number of children subject to a CP plan.	192	202	198	217

Across the region there has been a rise all regional authorities are now higher than the previous year's figure.



The most prevalent category of abuse across the region is neglect. This is more prevalent in every authority compared to nationally (2013) with the exception of Newcastle. RCLSCB will prioritise the development of a Neglect strategy alongside the recent Ofsted recommendations for LSCBs .

R&C CATEGORY OF ABUSE	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Neglect	122 (63.5%)	125 (61.9%)	131 (66.2%)	145 (66.8%)
Physical abuse	19 (9.9%)	29 (14.4%)	24 (12.1%)	16 (7.4%)
Sexual abuse	5 (2.6%)	6 (3%)	1 (0.5%)	6 (2.8%)
Emotional abuse	42 (21.9%)	40 (19.8%)	38 (19.2%)	48 (22.1%)
Mixed categories	4 (2.1%)	2 (1.0%)	4 (2.0%)	2 (0.9%)

The consistent application of the LSCB Threshold/Continuum of Need document and the embedding of the Local Authority's Early Help offer is helping to ensure the response to all referrals received is managed in a consistent way.

4. REDCAR & CLEVELAND LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

In 2013 RCLSCB revised its Governance and Constitution arrangements to include the Director of Public Health. The Terms of Reference of all Sub Groups were revised in line with the revisions of Working Together 2013, to ensure the learning from each is transferred through all the relevant work streams and alignment to the Board's developing priorities. In consequence, the year saw an increased commitment from partner agencies and a greater throughput of work.

Following the review of RCLSCB Governance and Constitution, RCLSCB now has clear links to the Children and Young People's Trust Executive and the Cleveland Police and Crime Commissioner; as demonstrated in the LSCB partnership protocol. This protocol is currently being revised to demonstrate the links between RCLSCB and the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Local Family Justice Board Redcar and Cleveland Reducing Domestic Abuse Partnership. This reflects the importance and priority placed on safeguarding children and young people in Redcar and Cleveland and allows the Independent Chair to have influence at a strategic level. This has been especially helpful in raising the profile of partners' joint work on Child Sexual Exploitation, Information Sharing and compliance with the safe commissioning processes as all Board members agreed to use the safeguarding section in all contracts and commissioning.

5. REDCAR & CLEVELAND PRIORITIES PROGRESS

RCLSCB agreed an ambitious and specific Business Plan 2013-2016 which was designed to ensure increased scrutiny over safeguarding arrangements within and between agencies/organisations. Working Together 2013 contains the statutory requirements of each LSCB and RCLSCB produced an Implementation Plan which the Board has reviewed throughout the year. The actions from these documents were incorporated into the Board's Business Plan which has been subject to close scrutiny throughout the year to ensure progress is maintained. The amount of work undertaken has meant that this has proved to be a challenging process and the following sections of the report give illustrations of the progress made and those areas where more attention is required.

Priority 1: Quality of Work

The required outcomes for this priority were

- Evidence of quality safeguarding provision recognised
- Deep Dive audits will provide evidence that lessons have been learned, recommendations implemented and high quality supervision is available in all partner agencies of learning, recommendations and quality supervision is apparent in all organisations.
- The LSCB will have a robust Quality & Performance Management Framework to assist in understanding the manner in which agencies work both individually and together to safeguard the welfare of children and young people in Redcar and Cleveland.

The actions undertaken by RCLSCB in achieving these outcomes consisted of collecting appropriate data in the LSCB dataset with context surrounding the statistics regarding work undertaken and outcomes as well as reviewing the section 11 tool, with less process issues to be assessed and more quality assurance evidenced. Multi-agency audits were also undertaken which encompassed both the results of individual agencies audits, in respect of

child safeguarding work and also multi-agency audits. Information is obtained from a variety of sources including:

- Audits
- Serious Case Reviews/Management Reviews
- Self Assessment
- Concerns and complaints from children and families.

Developing an effective performance framework is a major task for the Board starting from a low baseline. However the Board clearly recognises the need to ensure a broad view of quality and performance and the challenges involved in securing the right information and data. The RCLSCB Quality Assurance and Learning Framework will ensure practice develops through training and learning which will improve outcomes for children, young people and their families which are demonstrated through the multi-agency audits.

The Board is grateful for the assistance offered through the Learning Lessons and Improving Practice Sub group in helping to develop the Performance framework and continue to give priority to this work. The focus this year has been on developing the RCLSCB dataset, at the close of the year indicators had been agreed between Health and Social Care, Police and Education indicators are to be added. The RCLSCB receive quarterly updates on the dataset with prior consideration through the Monitoring and Evaluation Sub Group and child protection trends and statistics are also reported on a quarterly basis. These reports have highlighted areas of potential risk and enabled the Board to request specific 'deep dive' analysis. In recent meetings the Board has examined the significant increase in the number of children subject to child protection plans. The Board were concerned about the high numbers and were interested in the feedback from the Safeguarding Practice Diagnostic and the Service Improvement Plan to assure the Board of the progress made in managing risk more effectively. The Board has been reassured that more effective assessment and first-line management is in place delivering more effective outcomes for young people. The Board also requested further work is undertaken in relation to:

- Restraint of children in the juvenile justice system and schools. This has included challenging the Youth Offending Service to obtain and provide figures on the number of restraints on Redcar and Cleveland Children as well as raising the issue nationally with the Youth Justice Board as there is concern both in relation to the number of restraints and the methodology which include restraints which forces compliance through inducing pain in the child.
- Police attendance at Strategy meetings
- The appropriateness of Section 47 referrals and whether agencies have a common threshold
- The role of the National Principal Social Worker
- Elective Home Education
- Exploration of a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

The Board has identified the need to ensure a clear understanding of the number and nature of child protection plans. Detailed reports have been received at all full Board meetings and this has allowed the Board to develop more rigorous lines of enquiry resulting in the Board requiring more information about practice in relation to when Domestic Violence occurs as a factor. Information provided has included child protection plans per locality area as well as the duration, length, category and age of children broken down by locality. Service user feedback, including that of children and young people, has been requested for future Board reports.

The Section 11 Audit tool has been reviewed in conjunction with Hartlepool LSCB to aid partners working across LSCB areas. The section 11 audit was sent for completion at the end of the year and reporting on the findings will follow in the next reporting period.

Priority 2: Interagency Working

The required outcomes for this priority were

- 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.
- To have an agreed action plan for the establishment and development of the MASH
- To reflect the expected quality standards in respect of the LSCB and adopt a number of quality assurance statements regarding the effectiveness of interagency working and identified measures to provide that assurance.

The actions undertaken by RCLSCB in achieving these outcomes consisted of

- Developing the LSCB Threshold Criteria/Continuum of Need. This maps the safeguarding process and framework that illustrates the journey to ensure agencies know the referral routes and processes of the child and family through safeguarding. It also aims to ensure Children, Young People and their families receive a consistent standard of support at the appropriate time according to their circumstance. Through consultation sessions held with partners the indicators from the process and the measures of each indicator were agreed.
- A joint procedure was produced with partners in respect of the operational interface between safeguarding children and safeguarding vulnerable adults, this document will be reviewed in the coming year as the Special Education Needs Service and the Adults and Children's Disability teams are merged.
- The LSCB training plan continues to be wide ranging focusing on delivering training which meets local needs highlighted through analysis of the single agency's training audits. The LSCB Training Strategy demonstrates the LSCBS commitment to evaluating the impact of training on staff by undertaking the LSCB Training Quality Assurance programme.



Final SOUTH TEES
LSCBs TRAINING STR

- Funding for the work of the RCLSCB has been agreed for 2014-2015 from the main partners. NHS England is still considering its financial contribution.
- RCLSCB have approved its Communication Strategy.



Communications
Strategy 2014 _2_.pr

This details the expectations of partners sharing pertinent information from the Board to members of their organisation. The South Tees Information Sharing Agreement is being reviewed and a proposed Tees Information Sharing Agreement is being presented to a future RCLSCB.

- An independent reviewer was commissioned to conduct an options appraisal regarding potential development of a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) across Tees and visits have been undertaken with RCLSCB Members to a MASH which has been rated as Good by Ofsted. It is anticipated referrals will be considered on a multiagency basis, which will ensure children young people and families receive the appropriate support in accordance with their circumstance.

- The data sources have been determined through the Integrated dataset and Section 11 returns will be analysed which will help determine joint standards. The standards will ensure all organisations provide a consistent level of service in relation to the continuum of need document and all learning develops practice through training and improves outcomes for children, young people and their families which is demonstrated through the multi-agency audits.

The Board is aware that there is some auditing activity which takes place within statutory partner agencies that is not reported. It has been agreed the Monitoring and Evaluation Sub Group will now collate these audits to add to the body of safeguarding information held by the Board to give a clearer indication of the effectiveness of safeguarding across Redcar and Cleveland with multi-agency auditing contributing to the whole picture. Undertaking multi-agency case audits is one of the key ways that a Safeguarding Children Board can determine how effective safeguarding is at practice level. Multi-agency case file audits are conducted on Child Protection cases, Child in need, Looked After Children and those identified to be Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing and Trafficked; one audit is undertaken on each every quarter. Relevant themes have been chosen, these have included children-missing and children at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation. Significant work was undertaken in this year to develop and agree the respective multi agency audit tools and agree the process and next year there will be significant progress made in the number of audits conducted. The audits have identified particular challenges in regard to accessing education files when a child has moved out of statutory education and the Board is considering ways of addressing this in the future. The Monitoring and Evaluation Sub-group maintains a rolling action log and monitors progress of actions in relation to audit recommendations.

We are confident that the coming year will see further improvement with a focus on:

- The RCLSCB Dataset and a focus of specific outcomes
- An increase in, and better collation of, auditing activity providing the Board with a greater understanding of the quality of practice which will be reinforced through the RCLSCB Quality Assurance and Learning Framework
- Improved analysis through the Monitoring and Evaluation Sub-group highlight exception reporting to the Board

Priority 3: Communication

The required outcomes for this priority were to ensure RCLSCB fulfil its statutory obligation to communicate and raise awareness of its activity. All organisations have agreed they work in focus towards achieving the clear aim of ensuring all children in Redcar and Cleveland are appropriately safeguarded and have prioritised initiatives to be progressed. RCLSCB is committed to creating a wider community awareness of Redcar and Cleveland LSCB.

RCLSCB developed a comprehensive Communications Strategy to improve communication with partners and practitioners and are developing the use of social media to further enhance this work. It is recognised that the publicity of and general awareness raising of safeguarding issues continues as a key role for the RCLSCB and the monthly e-bulletin is circulated to all partner organisations to upload to their intranets and also to all Voluntary and Community Groups in the Borough. Each school receives the e-bulletin and relevant information is extracted and shared with the pupils. The e-Bulletin is also published on the RCLSCB Website and it contains links to articles on the website, other news from partner agencies and learning from local, regional and national Serious Case Reviews.

As part of the Redcar and Cleveland Children and Families Service Improvement Plan there has been a requirement to significantly improve communications with both practitioners and those people who use services. This has included the need to ensure awareness of young people's needs and wishes. Evidence will feature in future reports to the Board, however

meanwhile the Board has attached significant priority to improving its own communications through the e-bulletin and attending team meetings where good progress has been made.

Throughout the coming year the RCLSCB aims to develop its communications with the assistance of the newly appointed Lay Member who has graduated from the Junior Board. RCLSCB website was reviewed to ensure all relevant material from each sub group is accessible and it has been widened to link with the Family Information Service.

The Tees Procedures website contains all safeguarding policy and procedures from the 4 Tees areas and this coming year work will be undertaken to review how this site is presented.

Development with social media will allow direct communication between the RCLSCB and those responsible for looking after children and young people. As part of the Board's communications strategy we have been keen to explore innovative ways to communicate with young people, parents and carers. The Board recognises that young people in particular will be influenced by messages from many different sources and is delighted that with the considerable help of a Lay Member it is anticipated a RCLSCB Facebook or Twitter account will be launched in the coming year.

There are several ways that the RCLSCB currently links with children and young people,

- Safe4Us, The Junior LSCB
- Some parents and carers are aware of the Safe4Us/RCLSCB and may look for information on the web site.
- Schools and colleges have direct links and will see the RCLSCB ebulletin and/or hear of the RCLSCB from their representatives.
- Children and young people may also have connections through health services, youth offending services etc.
- Finally there are formal groups of young people, School Councils and the Children in Care Council.

RCLSCB is keen to develop better links with children and young people so that we can hear directly from them about their concerns and gain an impression of what life is really like for children and young people in Redcar and Cleveland.

Information sharing remains a critical issue from Serious Case Reviews both national and local. It is recognized that agencies cannot be complacent and that further work is required to ensure that practitioners across all agencies are aware of their responsibilities to share information where appropriate. In addition a focus needed to be maintained to ensure lessons were being learnt and agreed procedures are being followed.

Priority 4: Early Help

RCLSCB recognized early help as the key priority area for making significant impact on outcomes for children. Working Together identifies this as an area where LSCBs need to bring more challenge to partners to demonstrate that families are receiving help at an earlier stage before matters escalate. The LSCB now has responsibility to scrutinise the availability of early help for children and their parents. This year has seen significant investment in service alignment for families who require extra help before problems escalate to the point of needing statutory intervention and progress in respect of this will be included in the next reporting period.

The required outcomes for this priority were

- Publication of clarified and 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

- Appropriately skilled and trained workforce receiving appropriate supervision and accountability to enable them to manage changing demands.
- Frontline workers, families and community have a good understanding of processes which inform their decision making and increases awareness of inappropriate behaviour towards children.
- Families will receive a clear standard of service across Tees in line with Tees procedures.
- The LSCB training is quality assured and demonstrates it improves working practices and outcomes for children, young people and their families, which is reinforced through the multi agency audits.

The actions undertaken by RCLSCB in achieving these outcomes consisted of

- The LSCB training plan is designed in line with the needs of the workforce. The training sub group have developed the quality assessment tool to continuously improve training to ensure it improves working practices and outcomes for children, young people and their families. Disseminating learning from Quality Assurance work and triangulating the evidence in respect of training closes the loop and has improved communication with frontline teams regarding the outcome of case file audits. A procedure is being considered for immediate action to be taken if an audit raises any concerns about possible ongoing risks to a child's safety. Findings and recommendations from multi-agency audits have been incorporated into LSCB multi-agency safeguarding training and used to inform good practice guidance.
- The Child Protection/ Child in Need, Looked after Children and Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing and Trafficked (VEMT) audit tools have all been developed with partners and each multi-agency audits have been undertaken assessing how the Child's voice was captured in practice and the Monitoring and Evaluation Sub Group are exploring how to further include the family's views in the audit process. Through the use of National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS) the young person's voice is to be captured in the Child protection reports presented to Board.
- RCLSCB has published the Communication Strategy which seeks to ensure all organisations have clear lines of communication and understand their responsibilities of ensuring messages are communicated throughout their agencies.
- Multi-agency practitioner drop ins have been held exploring the Step down process and further sessions have been arranged in the current year to discuss the Threshold/ Continuum of Need Document. Data is included in the LSCB dataset to create a deeper understanding of Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and what the outcomes relating to this means.

Priority 5: Developments in Practice

The required outcomes for this priority were to

- Develop a strategic multi-agency response to meet the needs of the VEMT children within our area.
- Gain an understanding of the local picture to formulate an appropriate response.
- Safeguard and promote the welfare of VEMT children and those at risk.
- Support services will be aware of interrelating factors and risks

The actions undertaken by RCLSCB in achieving these outcomes consisted of

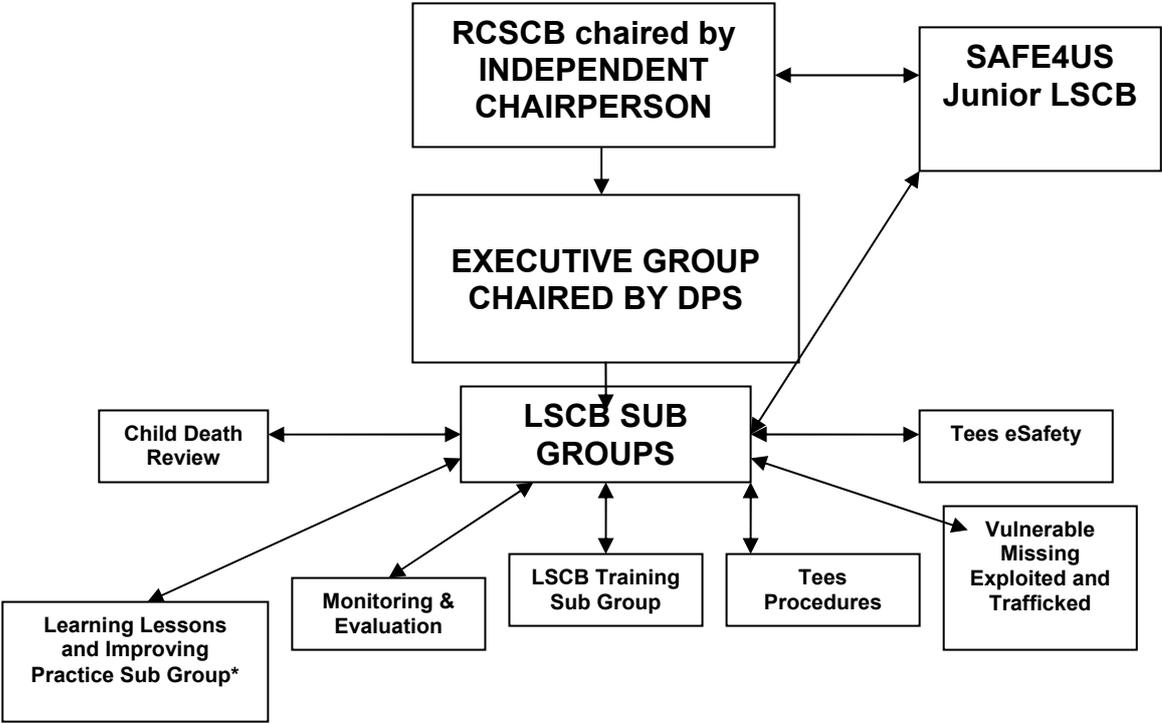
- An additional work stream was commissioned during the year to consider how the RCLSCB should address the growing national and local concerns about child sexual exploitation. Initially a Teeswide Strategic group was established and chaired by a Detective Superintendent from Cleveland Police and this recommended that the approach should be a common one across the four Tees LSCBs. Subsequently a Redcar and Cleveland VEMT Sub Group was formed with an additional VEMT Practitioners Group also operating.
- It was also agreed that Child Sexual Exploitation Champions would be established as a reference point in each agency to provide knowledge, expertise and advice. Child Sexual Exploitation awareness training was provided by Sexual Exploitation of

Children on the Streets (SECOS) and approximately 100 staff attended from all partner agencies including the police, social care, education, health, probation and voluntary and community groups. This was complemented by table-based work on how a Child Sexual Exploitation strategy could be implemented across Tees with a localised more detailed plan sitting underneath.

- RCLSCB VEMT Sub Group have led on developing Child Sexual Exploitation pathways across Tees, a risk assessment tool and an intelligence gathering method has led into the current year. During the year the Board received a report on mapping the recommendations from the Rochdale Serious Case Review in respect of Child Sexual Exploitation and they have also mapped actions with the report from the Children's Commissioner in respect of 'See Something Say Something' and accelerated progress is planned over the next reporting period in relation to this.
- The data in respect of Vulnerable, Missing, Exploited and Trafficked Children is being closely monitored by the Board and Multi-agency Case File audits are planned throughout 2014-2015.

6. REDCAR & CLEVELAND LSCB SUB GROUPS

The LSCB has in place a well-established number of standing subgroups which have clear terms of reference which interlink and take forward the priorities of the Board. The Board meets every two months and each sub-group provides regular progress reports to the Board.



Learning Lessons and Improving Practice

*This is a standing sub committee to ensure the RCLSCB 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 SCRs undertaken by the RCLSCB. It is distinct from a Serious Case Review Panel which is commissioned by the Serious Case Review Sub Committee to manage the process when a decision has been made to undertake an SCR. This year has also seen RCLSCB commission a Serious Case Review.

RCLSCB’s Learning Lessons and Improving Practice (LLIP) Sub Group was established to improve the quality, consistency and impact of all Learning Reviews and SCRs as part of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) for safeguarding children and young people. This Sub Group will ensure that recommendations arising from Learning Reviews and SCRs are implemented and the desired outcomes are audited to ensure learning is embedded throughout all organisations which improves outcomes for children, young people and their families. The LLIP Sub Group has developed a learning and improving practice framework for undertaking individual SCR and Learning Reviews. This framework outlines a range of options available that will be suitable for different types of cases requiring review. This will support more effective learning, ultimately improving practice and outcomes for children and families.

The LLIP Sub Group is also responsible for ensuring learning from Tees SCRs and Learning Reviews and selected pertinent Regional and National Reviews and Domestic Homicides are taken forward by relevant agencies. The individual agencies will provide subsequent assurance to the LLIP sub group and ultimately to Redcar and Cleveland Board that changes have been embedded in order to prevent further similar incidents. The LLIP subgroup will

seek assurance from agencies that they have taken lessons forward and that lessons have been learnt and embedded in practice. Where further audit is required this will be formally passed to the LSCB Monitoring and Evaluation Sub Group who will provide progress reports to LLIP.

Safe4Us

RCLSCB has continued to actively seek the views of children and young people on wider safeguarding issues. During 2012/13 the Junior LSCB work focused on fear of crime (including knife crime) and this year their work in relation to Domestic Abuse in young people's relationships was selected to be part of an ITV Broadcast. Members of Safe4Us, alongside the newly appointed lay member; a graduate from the junior board, are supporting RCLSCB to use social media to support the Communication Priority of the Board.

Monitoring and Evaluation

A comprehensive review of agency performance, quality assurance and audit findings is summarised in this report and outlines the breadth and depth of work being undertaken to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of children and young people in Redcar and Cleveland. Particular efforts have been made to increase the number of children who have an interview within 72 hours of returning home after having gone missing. Good progress has been made in Redcar and Cleveland to establish local processes for this vulnerable group of children ahead of recent national guidance.

Further analysis audits have taken place in areas identified by the Board as requiring further examination. This has included audits of children subject to more than one child protection plan and a review of the timeliness of these plans. Single agency practice audits are now linked to the Monitoring and Evaluation work plan and multi-agency case files audits are completed to ensure the Board is informed of the learning from these and issues requiring further attention.

LSCB Training

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 partner agencies more specialist knowledge on issues such as the Potentiality for Adult Mental Ill Health to Impact on Children (PAMIC): An Assessment and working with highly resistant families and other topics in addition to the Core level 3 and update safeguarding training which meets the accreditation criteria for Health Professionals.

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 and to "think family". 'Working Together 2013' identifies the need to have a well trained workforce with an appropriate knowledge base. Addressing Child Sexual Exploitation has been a high priority for the board as has learning lessons from serious case reviews. From 2014 RCLSCB became responsible for providing Domestic Abuse training and the impact of this on improving outcomes for children, young people and their families will be reported in a future report.

Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing and Trafficked (VEMT)

This RCLSCB sub group currently meets on a monthly basis and receives feedback from the 4 task groups which sit underneath; Communications Group, Data Sharing and Analysis Group, VEMT Practitioners Group and the Looked After Children Group. A Child Sexual Exploitation draft Strategy has been developed and was presented to the LSCB Executive Group and the Tees Strategic VEMT Group. A draft communication strategy has also been developed and we are working closely with our communications team to raise awareness within Redcar and Cleveland.

The RCLSCB VEMT sub group have facilitated 4 workshops with the aim of raising awareness of VEMT in the borough and embedding the new processes of the VEMT Practitioners Group (VPG). Additionally, awareness has been raised throughout Redcar and Cleveland's school's cluster group meetings and awareness continue to plan to raise awareness to focused groups including Health and GP's.

The VPG has been operating since June 2013 during which time there have been 45 referrals received for children and young people. The purpose of this group is to identify, intervene and investigate those children and young people who meet the criteria for VEMT. The group addresses the risks for the victims, from the perpetrators and this is achieved by the use of the risk assessment tool informed by improved sharing of information and police intelligence. It allows for the identification of local 'hot spots' for the children and young people and perpetrators who target children across the Tees area. The group have developed a referral form, pathway and risk assessment tool all of which are to be submitted for consideration by the Tees Strategic VEMT Group with an aim of rolling the documents out across the region.

Continuing to raise awareness of VEMT across the Tees is a priority for 2014-2015 which will promote the model based on 3 core principles agreed in Redcar and Cleveland; Identify, Intervene and Investigate. The VEMT work plan will continue to drive increasing awareness to ensure everyone working with children and young people can identify the warning signs and behaviours which may indicate sexual exploitation and the nationally recognised typical vulnerabilities in children and young people prior to being sexually exploited.

E-Safety

E-safety has featured highly on the LSCB partners' agenda for several years. This sub group is a Teeswide group which meets on a 6 monthly basis to gain updates from across the Tees region and to continuously develop the e-Safety strategy across the Tees Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB). The strategy is underpinned by minimum standards and supporting guidance and its primary focus of the strategy is to safeguard children in their use of digital technologies, at school, in the home and in the community. In order to do this comprehensively, the strategy establishes minimum standards for how the children's workforce and wider members of staff, including volunteers, within schools, libraries and the voluntary sector use digital technology. Given the rate of change in the electronic environment the strategy, standards and guidance are reviewed regularly to take into account those developments and any published national guidance.

The e-safeguarding landscape rapidly changes and the past year has been very challenging in keeping abreast with advances in technology, the emergence of new environments and risks to children and young people. The increased use of Apps and mobile technologies to access the internet has also heightened concerns as supervision becomes more difficult for parents. The risk of children being sexually exploited online is part of the LSCB e-safeguarding training to raise awareness with professionals. Training is delivered to parents and young people in collaboration with the Child Protection Education Officer in consultation with the VEMT Chair. There has been consultation with children and young people from schools in Redcar and Cleveland in the development of e-safety and specific safeguarding policies within their schools, which was showcased at the Tees LSCB e-safety Conference in October 2013.

The Tees e-Safety Sub group responds to national and local developments and makes recommendations to the Boards to ensure that they benefit from the widest based experience and can maintain a Teeswide approach to this rapidly changing environment.

Tees Safeguarding Children Boards Procedures Group

The Tees Procedures Group was established to pool knowledge and skills to develop a Teeswide resource that will enable the organisations responsible for the safeguarding of children in the Tees area to meet the requirements of Legislation, National Guidance and Directives. This collaborative group provides consistency across Teesside in relation to procedures, guidance and standardise practice. Examples of Procedures that have been updated 2013-104 are:

- Response of the Local Authority to Referrals
- Self-Harm section further updated with flowcharts
- Tees Referral Form amended to include details of parents.
- Paediatric Assessment for all Children Subject to CP Plan

As a priority of this group a task and finish group has been established to update the Tees Procedures website and reporting in relation to this will be included in a future report.

Tees Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

The role of the CDOP has been partly to ensure that wherever child deaths occur, and under whatever circumstances, scrutiny of the cases yields insights that can drive up the quality of care as well as the safety of children and partly to identify relevant strategic issues and ensure that these translate into action within or between agencies. CDOP try to ensure that the teams 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 Review Project (CDRP) was set up to support the work of the Tees Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) in reviewing the deaths of children from the Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Stockton-on-Tees and Redcar & Cleveland Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) areas.

Tees CDOP met 6 times in 2013/14 and discussed 53 cases which is in line with the national average from previous years. In addition the CDOP members took part in a Development Session to improve the functioning of the child death review process. The business of these meetings and the collation of national statistics form the basis of the CDOP Annual Report which is published on its' website: <http://www.tees-cdrp.org.uk>.

A comprehensive Independent Review was carried out during this year and substantial changes have been made to staffing and chairing arrangements from April 2014. Staffing support has been reduced and incorporated into the existing Redcar & Cleveland LSCB staff team. The membership of CDOP and panel meeting dates can be found in the CDOP Annual Report.

During 2013-14 Tees CDOP reviewed 53 child deaths, 8 of which were children from Redcar and Cleveland, making a total of 231 reviewed over the 6 years of operation. Reference is made in the annual report to national statistics on child death review, the latest of which are from 2012/13. The Tees Panel met 6 times during the year and reviewed an average of 9 cases per meeting. The Tees CDOP Procedures for Unexpected Death give agencies a comprehensive understanding of their role in the child death review process and how this fits in with the review as a whole. Following the procedures means that investigations into any child death should be comprehensive and identify any lessons which can prevent future deaths. As already highlighted the Procedures are being updated to ensure the inclusion of specific tests during post mortem examinations where children die suddenly and have a history of allergies. We need the Redcar and Cleveland figures here

Any lessons learned in Tees which may be of benefit to other areas are circulated through the CDOP national network and other areas also share important messages this way. It is important that families should be offered appropriate support around the death of their child

and CDOP regularly updates the list of resources available locally and publishes this on its website: <http://www.tees-cdrp.org.uk>. Deaths in schoolchildren are relatively rare but CDOP has also identified organisations which can help staff support other children in their school through the bereavement process.

Other issues which have been highlighted in the national data collection from CDOPs which are relevant to Tees CDOP cases include safe sleeping, smoking and road safety. Health promotion issues that have been highlighted during Tees CDOP reviews include road safety, substance misuse and late presentation with malignancies. Tees CDOP has established a good working relationship with the local Coronial service so that relevant information can be shared to the benefit of both processes.

The LSCB continues to work on a range of issues as part of its ongoing work but has agreed to focus additional work in 2014/05 on the same 5 overarching priorities with the overarching objective of working together to ensure all children in Redcar and Cleveland are appropriately safeguarding. The RCLSCB integrated dataset is will be used to target resources and evidence improved outcomes.

7. ISSUES AND CHALLENGES FOR REDCAR AND CLEVELAND'S LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

Expectations of the LSCB continue to increase with no additional resources. The new inspection regime sets high standards for LSCBs. We welcome these in the spirit of improvement and are currently engaged in a rigorous self-assessment. We know we need to develop further our data collection, increase the involvement of frontline staff in case audit and hear more from young people about how well our work matches with their priorities.

We also need to develop the existing LSCB scrutiny of safeguarding checks within the system for Looked after Children, Accommodated Children and Care Leavers. Reports on these areas of work were brought to the LSCB in 2013-14 and further work is being developed.

RCLSCB is also considering how we ensure effective assessment of the quality and impact of the recently reconfigured Early Help Service.

An Independent Review into the Tees CDOP arrangements was carried out late in 2013. In the light of available resources and the requirement of all services to review their position and maximise savings, the purpose of the review was to explore alternative models which meet statutory requirements and provide an effective service. The new arrangements are being implemented during the early months of the financial year 2014/15 and current support staff and the Independent Chair will leave their posts at the end of June 2014.

RCLSCB recognises, and greatly appreciates, the work done by partners across all services to ensure the smooth implementation of all safeguarding procedures including the Child Death Review processes and hopes to enjoy their ongoing support and commitment to ensure that all those who are required to, play their full and proper part in the process.

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

- Providing 'Early Help' early enough - partners being able to evidence the difference for children, particular the LSCB need to receive assurance that those who are most vulnerable receive the help they need before things escalate into child protection.
- Implementing the Single Assessment Framework, Single Front Door and the revised Threshold-Continuum of Need Document.
- The new Ofsted Inspection Framework for safeguarding children, those looked after and care leavers - Inspection/review of LSCBs – ensuring the LSCB is ready for

inspection and can provide good evidence of effective multi-agency arrangements and evidence of impact on improving safeguarding outcomes for children and young people in Redcar and Cleveland.

- Responding to and assessing the challenges to safeguarding arrangements posed by the reform of the Probation service
- Continued pressures on the public sector and all partners who support the Board financially may have an impact on the level of funding available to the Safeguarding Children Board to enable it to continue the level of work it needs to undertake to discharge its statutory functions.



REDCAR & CLEVELAND LSCB BUSINESS PLAN

PRIORITY AREA 1: QUALITY OF WORK						
OUTCOME	ACTION REQUIRED	TIMESCALE	PROGRESS	LEAD	IMPACT	RAG RATING
1.1 Evidence of quality safeguarding provision recognised	LSCB Business Manager to ensure data is collected in the LSCB dataset and context surrounding the statistics is provided regarding work undertaken which demonstrates the achievement of the agreed collective RCLSCB outcomes.	November 2014	Quarterly Report presented and data is added to and developed at Board's request.	Monitoring and Evaluation Task Group	Information to benchmark to provide the ability to measure quality and set targets. Data will be reviewed to be able to focus on quality and areas for development.	



REDCAR & CLEVELAND LSCB BUSINESS PLAN

PRIORITY AREA 1: QUALITY OF WORK						
OUTCOME	ACTION REQUIRED	TIMESCALE	PROGRESS	LEAD	IMPACT	RAG RATING
1.2 RCLSCB Multi-agency audits will provide evidence that lessons have been learned, recommendations implemented and high quality supervision is available in all partner agencies of learning, recommendations and quality supervision is apparent in all organisations.	Multi agency VEMT, LAC and CP/CiN LSCB audits continue to be conducted on a quarterly basis. The overview reports containing the learning and recommendations from these. Themes may be identified from the multi-agency LSCB audits or the Section 11 audits, which highlight the need for additional thematic audits or data collection for assurance.	September 2014	VEMT, LAC and CP/CiN a multi-agency LSCB audits are scheduled each quarter and the Monitoring and Evaluation Group are responsible for ensuring the recommendations are met. A CAF Practice Clinic has been established to include all Early	RCLSB Business Manager	Case files will be audited to evidence areas of good practice and also areas for development. The outcomes of the CAF audits will reports the learning and developments undertaken and provide assurance to the Board that children, young people and their families are	



REDCAR & CLEVELAND LSCB BUSINESS PLAN

PRIORITY AREA 1: QUALITY OF WORK						
OUTCOME	ACTION REQUIRED	TIMESCALE	PROGRESS	LEAD	IMPACT	RAG RATING
	Audits will be undertaken to encompass both the results of individual agencies audits in respect of child safeguarding work and multi-agency audits. Individual audit results should be reported to Monitoring and Evaluation		<p>Help Managers and Health Visitor Clinical Leads.</p> <p>CAF audits are regularly undertaken and the findings are to be reported to the Monitoring and Evaluation Group to help provide assurance to the Board that CAFs are appropriately being implemented and the outcomes for children and young people are improving.</p>		receiving help and support at the earliest opportunity.	



REDCAR & CLEVELAND LSCB BUSINESS PLAN

PRIORITY AREA 1: QUALITY OF WORK						
OUTCOME	ACTION REQUIRED	TIMESCALE	PROGRESS	LEAD	IMPACT	RAG RATING
1.3 RCLSCB Quality Assurance, Learning and Improvement 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.	<p>Safeguarding Assurance Information is obtained from a variety of sources including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Audits ➤ Serious Case Reviews/Management Reviews ➤ Self-Assessment ➤ Concerns and complaints from children and families. ➤ IRO data information 	September 2014	The Quality Assurance and Learning has been published and the data sources and reporting requirements have been determined and are reflected appropriately in LSCB governance and terms of reference of each LSCB Sub Group.	<p>RCLSCB Business Manager</p> <p>Learning Lessons and Improving Practice Chair</p> <p>Monitoring and Evaluation Task Group</p>	<p>Quality Data which will provide the ability agree a set of collective positive outcomes for Children Young People and their Families.</p> <p>The LSCB training and improved outcomes for children, young people and their families will be demonstrated through the LSCB multi-agency audits.</p>	



REDCAR & CLEVELAND LSCB BUSINESS PLAN

PRIORITY AREA 1: QUALITY OF WORK						
OUTCOME	ACTION REQUIRED	TIMESCALE	PROGRESS	LEAD	IMPACT	RAG RATING
1.4 The opportunities for learning from the Serious Case Review which is being undertaken in Redcar are maximised to reduce the risk of Children being seriously harmed	The Serious Case Review Panel frequently reviews the process and poses appropriate challenge to evoke the learning.	December 2014	The Independent Lead Reviewer and Chair have been appointed and the learning events are scheduled.	RCLSCB Business Manager	LSCB assured of improvements in interventions, process and procedure which will reduce the risk of children being harmed.	

PRIORITY AREA 2: INTERAGENCY WORKING

OUTCOME	ACTION REQUIRED	TIMESCALE	PROGRESS	LEAD	IMPACT	RAG RATING
<p>2.1 The safeguarding processes that are experienced by children and families are well coordinated and cohesive.</p>	<p>To populate the timetable of the Quality Assurance events throughout the year.</p> <p>To develop a suite of documents which provide safeguarding assurances in relation to the journey of the children, young person and their family.</p> <p>Reports to LSCB to assure them of relevant actions, performance, awareness and responsibilities.</p>	<p>September 2014</p>	<p>The Quality Assurance, Learning Improvement Framework provides a timetable of Quality Assurance events occurring throughout the year.</p>	<p>Monitoring and Evaluation</p>	<p>LSCB assured of improvements in process and experience for children and young people and their families</p>	
	<p>RCLSCB to agree a set of collective outcomes we want to focus on influencing and achieving.</p> <p>To continuously develop the LSCB Dataset to ensure it contains the relevant data to match our agreed LSCB outcomes.</p>	<p>September 2014</p>	<p>Full 2013-2014 dataset being presented to July Board and discussions being opened in respect of required outcomes.</p>	<p>RCLSCB Business Manager</p>	<p>RCLSCB will have a collective vision which is focused on improving positive outcomes for children, young people and their families.</p>	

PRIORITY AREA 2: INTERAGENCY WORKING						
OUTCOME	ACTION REQUIRED	TIMESCALE	PROGRESS	LEAD	IMPACT	RAG RATING
	When undertaking Quality Assurance exercises, RCLSCB to consider how to increase the collaboration with children, young people and their families.	October 2014	Learning Lessons and Improving Practice and the Monitoring and Evaluation Sub Groups have started to consider how to involve the children, young people and the families in the audit process.	LSCB Business manager	LSCB assured of improvements in process and experience for children and young people and their families.	
2.2 All organisations are committed to safeguarding and will have sufficient monies to establish this.	All organisations to provide briefing reports to the Board demonstrating the impact of the budget cuts and structural reviews; to provide that assurances that safeguarding is a priority.	September 2014		LSCB independent Chair	The LSCB will gain additional assurances that safeguarding our young people is still a priority	

PRIORITY AREA 2: INTERAGENCY WORKING						
OUTCOME	ACTION REQUIRED	TIMESCALE	PROGRESS	LEAD	IMPACT	RAG RATING
2.3 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.	A mechanism to be established to ensure the procedures are kept up to date within the National Policy Framework	August 2014	The process and governance of Tees Procedures has been reviewed and improvements on ensuring timescales are adhered to have been suggested.	Chair of Tees Procedures Task Group	Families will receive a clear standard of service across Tees in line with Tees procedures. Workforce access procedures which is in line with current guidance and legislation.	
	The learning from the CAF audits undertaken to be reported into the Board via Monitoring and Evaluation	October 2014	A report of the themes, learning and developments is scheduled for Monitoring and Evaluation July 2014	Monitoring and Evaluation	Processes across the Board will be reviewed in light of broader learning.	

PRIORITY AREA 2: INTERAGENCY WORKING						
OUTCOME	ACTION REQUIRED	TIMESCALE	PROGRESS	LEAD	IMPACT	RAG RATING
	Maximise effectiveness and consistency by working across Tees. Any potential collaborative working to be developed and pursued.	December 2014	Aspects of training and developments of the section 11 document have been completed in consultation with the Tees LSCBs. A regional LSCB network meeting has recently been established which is chaired by and Assistant Director of Children's Services. Independent Reviewer has been commissioned to review the possibility of developing a MASH across Tees.	LSCB Business manager	Families will receive a clear standard of service across Tees in line with Tees procedures.	

PRIORITY AREA 2: INTERAGENCY WORKING						
OUTCOME	ACTION REQUIRED	TIMESCALE	PROGRESS	LEAD	IMPACT	RAG RATING
2.4 Publication of a comprehensive LSCB information sharing framework incorporating all partners.	Review the information sharing agreement currently in place and develop a revised framework. Retain current practice until this is completed.	August 2014	An initial draft has been presented to the 4 Tees LSCB for consideration	LSCB Business Manager	Board members and practitioners will have a clear understanding of their role and responsibility regarding ensuring appropriate information is shared at the earliest opportunity.	
2.5 All organisations on RCLSCB met the agreed standards within the section 11 and evidence is provided for assurances.	RCLSCB to agree the Section 11 action plan to improve the standard of evidence providing assurance for the section 11 standards.	August 2014	Section Overview report and action plan to be presented to the Board in July	LSCB Business Manager	The standards will ensure all organisations provide a consistent level of safeguarding assurances.	
2.6 Embed a strategic multi-agency response to meet the needs of the Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing and Trafficked (VEMT) children within our area.	Designate a lead for VEMT within all organisations to drive strategy and ensure awareness is raised, increasing the number of children at risk of VEMT are identified.	July 2014	LSCB Tees Sub group and local sub groups established. Tees Strategy agreed with local work plans underpinning.	Service Manager Social Care Detective Superintendent Cleveland Police	Indication of scale and clear pathways of support All practitioners are aware of VEMT group and young people are referred to the group which ensures resources are targeted to decrease their vulnerability Appropriately trained workforce which has increased awareness	

					and understanding. All practitioners are aware of VEMT group and young people are referred to the group which ensures resources are targeted to decrease their vulnerability	
2.7 Gain an understanding of the local picture in relation to VEMT to formulate an appropriate response	VEMT data to be incorporated into LSCB dataset. Progress Operations Shield. For consistency in information sharing across Tees.	August 2014	VEMT Quality Assurance framework agreed and VEMT data is incorporated into LSCB dataset	Service Manager Social Care		
	Map needs and gather information on risk factors of VEMT children to provide a local picture, including local trends, improved outcomes and intelligence gathering	October 2014	VEMT group has made significant progress which is reflected in their work plan.	Service Manager Social Care		
2.8 Safeguard and promote the welfare of VEMT children and those at risk Support services will be aware of interrelating	Ensure training is available for professionals to identify the risk factors/ signs of vulnerable children, e.g. Education (including	August 2014	Barnados have been providing the training however there is a vacancy	LSCB Business Manager		

factors and risks	<p>Further Education) and youth settings, school nurses, CAMHS staff, youth offending team, police, probation, social care including Leaving Care team, foster carers, supported lodgings, Integrated Youth Support Service, housing staff etc</p> <p>An awareness campaign of See Something Say Something is being launched focusing on Bed and Breakfasts, hotels and Take away establishments across Tees.</p>		<p>in the staffing; alternative trainers are being sought. VEMT is scheduled in the LSCB drop-ins each quarter. Awareness sessions are being held on a individual service basis. Awareness sessions for young people in schools are being considered.</p>			
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PRIORITY AREA 3: COMMUNICATION

OUTCOME	ACTION REQUIRED	TIMESCALE	PROGRESS	LEAD	IMPACT	RAG RATING
<p>3.1 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</p>	<p>Need to utilise the role of the lay members and the possibility of widening their responsibilities</p>	<p>October 2014</p>	<p>A lay member has been appointed following their graduation from the Junior LSCB Safe4Us. They are currently undergoing the DBS checks. They are keen to support the LSCB in developing communication links via social media. The 2nd Lay member, linked to Safe4Us has recently resigned and an advert has been published.</p>	<p>LSCB Business Manager</p>	<p>Greater ownership of the LSCB responsibilities</p>	
	<p>Explore existing structures within faith groups operating across Tees.</p>	<p>October 2014</p>	<p>Meetings held with individual sectors of the faith community including the Plymouth Brethren School which have been linked to LSCB training</p>	<p>LSCB Business Manager</p>	<p>Increase awareness of Safeguarding opportunities and numbers of participants on LSCB safeguarding training</p>	

PRIORITY AREA 3: COMMUNICATION

OUTCOME	ACTION REQUIRED	TIMESCALE	PROGRESS	LEAD	IMPACT	RAG RATING
3.2 Improving information for and communicating with children and young people.	To explore the possibility of developing communication from and to the LSCB and Safe4Us via social media.	December 2014	The newly appointed Lay member has agreed to support in this task	LSCB Business Manager	Increase awareness of the LSCB work and priorities and increase in whistle blowing in the community	
	Further development of the LSCB website.	December 2014	Ongoing and quality bench marked against other LSCBs	LSCB Business Manager	Promotion and greater access of Redcar and Cleveland LSCB	

PRIORITY AREA 4: EARLY HELP						
OUTCOME	ACTION REQUIRED	TIMESCALE	PROGRESS	LEAD	IMPACT	RAG RATING
4.1 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.	Continue dialogue to agree what Early Help means to different organisations	September 2014	LSCB Chair has observed the Practitioner drop ins which have focused on the discussions of the Threshold/ Continuum of Need document Additional Step-Down drops in have been arranged and an audit of intervention post the reviewed Threshold document is being reported to the LSCB via the Monitoring and Evaluation Group.	Assistant Director Children and Families	Agencies will know the referral routes and processes Children young people and their families receive a consistent standard of support at the appropriate time according to their circumstance.	
4.2 Evidencing the child's journey to improve service delivery	Consider how the LSCB audits can be expanded to involve the children and families views.	October 2014	A VEMT/ LAC and CP/CiN audit is being undertaken on a quarterly basis and the	LSCB independent Chair	LSCB assured of improvements in process and experience for children and young people and their families.	

PRIORITY AREA 4: EARLY HELP						
OUTCOME	ACTION REQUIRED	TIMESCALE	PROGRESS	LEAD	IMPACT	RAG RATING
			questions focus on how the Child's voice was captured. The involvement of children, young people and their families is being considered.			
<p>4.3 Skilled and trained workforce who receives appropriate supervision and accountability to enable them to manage changing demands.</p> <p>Will have evidence of staff learning having taken place.</p>	<p>Continuously ensure LSCB training is fit for purpose and quality assured.</p> <p>Sample interviewing of staff who have attended training to evidence practice has changed.</p> <p>Training Standards adopted throughout all organisations.</p> <p>Review the mandatory Training and Induction requirements for staff working with Children, Young People and their</p>	October 2014	The Training Plan is based on the local needs analysis which includes the Single Agency training audits. The Training Task Group have adopted Quality Assurance Programme for LSCB Training to ensure appropriate training is available for the workforce which	LSCB Training Task Group	The impact on LSCB training will be demonstrated through positive practice which is evidenced through the multi-agency audits overview reports. The Impact assessments will also demonstrate positive outcomes for children, young people and their families.	

PRIORITY AREA 4: EARLY HELP						
OUTCOME	ACTION REQUIRED	TIMESCALE	PROGRESS	LEAD	IMPACT	RAG RATING
	Families.		improves outcomes for children			
4.4 Frontline workers, families and the community have a good understanding of processes which informs their decision making and increases awareness of inappropriate behaviour towards children.	LSCB Communication/ Information Sharing strategy to link with the Threshold/ Continuum document. Ensure services are visible and accessible by promoting and advertising Early Help from statutory agencies, the 3 rd sector and communities.	Sept 2014	A Safeguarding event for the Voluntary and Community Groups has been postponed until September 2014. This event will also explore increasing the links with statutory and 3 rd sector organisations.	LSCB Business Manager	Families will receive a clear standard of service across Tees in line with Tees procedures. All organisations have clear lines of communication and understand their responsibilities of ensuring messages are communicated throughout their agencies.	

PRIORITY AREA 5: DEVELOPMENTS IN PRACTICE						
OUTCOME	ACTION REQUIRED	TIME SCALE	PROGRESS	LEAD	IMPACT	RAG RATING
5.1 RCLSCB is closely aligned with Reducing Domestic Abuse Partnership (RDAP) and work streams are	RCLSCB governance arrangements to be reviewed to include RDAP	December 2014	Safe4Us have developed an awareness campaign regarding	LSCB Business Manager Detective Superintendent Cleveland olice	LSCB Training in relation to Domestic Abuse contains the most relevant local material to ensure	

PRIORITY AREA 5: DEVELOPMENTS IN PRACTICE						
OUTCOME	ACTION REQUIRED	TIME SCALE	PROGRESS	LEAD	IMPACT	RAG RATING
interlinked to ensure all organisations are aware of issues in relation to Domestic Abuse and the effects on Children and Young People.			domestic abuse in young people; the new definition of Domestic Abuse includes 16-18 year old		children, young people and their families receive the appropriate support.	
5.2 Staff are aware of issues in relation to Forced Genital Mutilation.	Tees procedures to consider if a referral pathway needs to be developed to provide clear guidance on intervention	December 2014	The Halo Project have attended meetings with school head teachers to increase awareness in schools	LSCB Business Manager	All organisations have clear lines of communication and understand their responsibilities when Forced Genital Mutilation is identified.	
5.3 To have an agreed action plan for the establishment and development of the MASH	Establish a task and finish group which will clarify the development process and produce the plan. A model to be agreed for implementation either across North/South Tees and to establish whether it will be in respect of children and/ or adults.	December 2014	An independent reviewer has been commissioned to conduct an options appraisal regarding potential development of a MASH across Tees.	Detective Superintendent Cleveland Police	All referrals will be considered on a multiagency perspective which will ensure children young people and families receive the appropriate support in accordance to their circumstance.	

APPENDIX 1

R&C LSCB MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE – APRIL 2013 – FEBRUARY 2014

ORGANISATION/ PROF	NAMES	April	June	August	October	December	February	EXPECTED	ATTENDED
Independent Chair	Jan van Wagtendonk	√	√	√	A	√	√	6	5
R&C Adult & Children's Services	Barbara Shaw	√	√	√	√	√	√	6	6
Children's Services - R&C Children's Social Care	Chris Daniel	√	√	A	A	√	√	6	4
Director of Public Health	Julia Weldon	A	X	X	X	X	X	6	0
Redcar & Cleveland - Education & Skills	John Anthony	A (rep. att)	A (rep. att)	A (rep. att)	X	X	X	6	3
R&C Community Safety Partnership	Simon Dale	A (rep. att)	A	X	X	X	X	6	1
CAFCASS	Janice Deakin	X	√	√	A	A	A (rep. att)	6	3
Designated Consultant Child Protection CCG	Dr K Agrawal	A	√	√	A	√	√	6	4
Designated GP – M'bro. PCT	Dr Charles Cornford (resigned April 2013)	A						1	0
Designated Nurse for Safeguarding – NHS Tees	Alex Giles (retired May 2013)	√						1	1
Desig. Nurse S'guarding Children/LAC STees CCG	Karen Hedgley (from June 2013)	A (rep. att)	√	√	A (rep. att)	√	A (rep. att)	5	5
Dep. Director of Nursing– NHS England	Bev Walker (from June 2013)		√	A	√	√	√	5	4
South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Helen Smithies	√	√	√	√	√	√	6	6
Tees, Esk & Wear Valleys NHS Trust	Chris Stanbury	√	√	√	√	A (rep. att)	√	6	6
Cleveland Police	Jason Dickson (resigned June 2013)	X	√	√	√	A (rep. att)	A	6	4
DTV Probation Trust	Keith Norman	√	√	√	A	√	√	6	6

ORGANISATION/ PROF	NAMES	April	June	August	October	December	February	EXPECTED	ATTENDED
					(rep. att)				
Community Information Officer, RCVDA	Karen McGarritty	√	A	√	A	√	√	6	4
Coast and Country Housing	Veronica (Ronny) Harris	A	√	√	√	X	X	6	3
Adult Services – RCBC	Nikki Sidgwick	√	√	X	√	√	A	6	4
South Tees Youth Offending Service	Allison Brown	√	A	A	√	A	√	6	3
Redcar & Cleveland BC	Cllr. Joan Guy	√	√	X	A	√	√	6	4
RCBC – Primary Schools	Sue Porteous	√	√	√	√	√	√	6	6
RCBC Secondary Schools	Neil Appleby	√	√	X	√	√	√	6	5
Lay Member	Claire Herlingshaw (resig. Oct. 2013)	√	√	A	A			4	2
Lay Member	Julie Conner	√	√	A	√	√	√	6	5
LSCB Business Manager	Deanne Taylor	√	√	√	√	√	√	6	6
LSCB Administrator	Ann Snowdon	√	√	√	√	√	A	6	5
Cleveland Fire Brigade	Steve Walton	ATTENDS AS AND WHEN REQUIRED							

Key:

A Apologies received – no representative
A (rep. att) Apologies received – representative attended
X Did not attend & no apologies received