



Gateshead Safeguarding Children Partnership

Annual Report 2021/22-23

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Foreword



Heather Pearson
Independent Scrutineer

This Annual Report covers an extended reporting period to re-align the Gateshead Safeguarding Children Partnership (GSCP) Annual Report to the financial reporting period from April 2023. As a result, the report covers a period of 18 months (September 21 – March 23).

During April 2022, I was delighted to be appointed as Chair and Independent Scrutineer for the GSCP arrangements. As such this is the first Annual Report for Gateshead that I have contributed to.

Prior to my appointment, Councillor Gary Haley fulfilled the role as Interim Chair. I am aware that Councillor Haley was considered a strong and respected Chair who, partners report, provided appropriate challenge to all services who have a duty to safeguard children and young people in Gateshead. I would like to thank him on behalf of the partners for stepping into the interim role and recognise the work he has driven during his time in role. Whilst Councillor Haley has stepped down as interim chair, he remains Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and is actively involved in holding the partnership to account.

Looking back over the 18 months there has been much to focus the partnership. During the latter half of 2021 there was a continued response to the impact and challenges of Covid. During 2022 partnership organisations responded to the growing cost of living crisis ensuring advice and support was available to families experiencing hardship. In July 2022 the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) transitioned to the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB). There has also been changes in the strategic leadership of the three statutory partners (Police, Local Authority and Integrated Care Board). I would like to thank the outgoing leads for their work in overseeing the arrangements including the strength of leadership in delivering the partnership response to the pandemic.

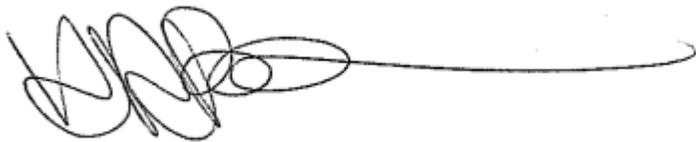
Whilst the partnership arrangements in Gateshead comply with the multi-agency obligations to safeguard children (as laid out in Working Together 2018) the new changes have offered the opportunity to review the current arrangements for how we deliver safeguarding across Gateshead. As such, we have commenced a review of the partnership arrangements which will focus and report on the following areas:

- Leadership
- Engagement of Relevant Agencies
- Outcomes for Children and Young People
- Quality Assurance and Information Sharing
- Learning from Local and National Reviews and Research
- Multi Agency Safeguarding Training and Workforce Development

In February 2023 we held an initial review workshop involving two of our Young Ambassadors, the leader of our Youth Council and GSCP Members. We discussed governance and structures, strengthening involvement of young people in our arrangements and what we felt were the issues that were of most concern currently. We aim to use the feedback to develop and strengthen the partnership during the review. We will utilise the outcome of the review to develop our partnership further and refresh our plan and priorities during 2023.

In my first year in role, I have been impressed at the commitment, energy and enthusiasm shown by partner organisations and those working in Gateshead to safeguard children and young people. I extend my thanks for the collective work delivered in this regard and to the welcome I have received.

I look forward to reporting further on the strengths and developments of the partnership in the year ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

1. INTRODUCTION

This is the third annual report for the Gateshead Safeguarding Children Partnership (GSCP). The three Safeguarding Partners¹ are required to publish an Annual Report that sets out what they have done as a result of the safeguarding arrangements, including on child safeguarding practice reviews, and how effective these arrangements have been in practice.

This should be published at least once in every 12 -month period, and include:

- evidence of the impact of the work of the *safeguarding partners* and *relevant agencies* (including training) on outcomes for children and families from early help to looked-after children and care leavers;
- an analysis of any areas where there has been little or no evidence of progress on agreed priorities;
- a record of decisions and actions taken by the partners in the report's period (or planned to be taken) to implement the recommendations of any local and national child safeguarding practice reviews, including any resulting improvements; and
- ways in which the partners have sought and utilised feedback from children and families to inform their work and influence service provision.

Last year's report covered a longer period from April 2020 to September 2021 with the intention that future Annual Reports corresponded to the academic year, however it was since agreed that reporting will remain on a financial year timeframe to allow data comparisons to be made. As such, this report also covers a longer period from September 2021 to March 2023. This report for 2021/2022-23 will be published on the GSCP website –

<http://www.gatesheadsafeguarding.org.uk/>

2. Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA)

Many local organisations and agencies have a duty under section 11 of the Children Act 2004 to ensure that they consider the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children when carrying out their functions. The responsibility for this join-up locally rests with the three safeguarding partners who have a shared and equal duty to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area.

Schools, colleges and other education providers have a pivotal role to play in safeguarding children too, alongside the other relevant agencies listed in regulations. Through safeguarding partnership arrangements, the safeguarding partners are required to ensure that they are fully engaged and involved.

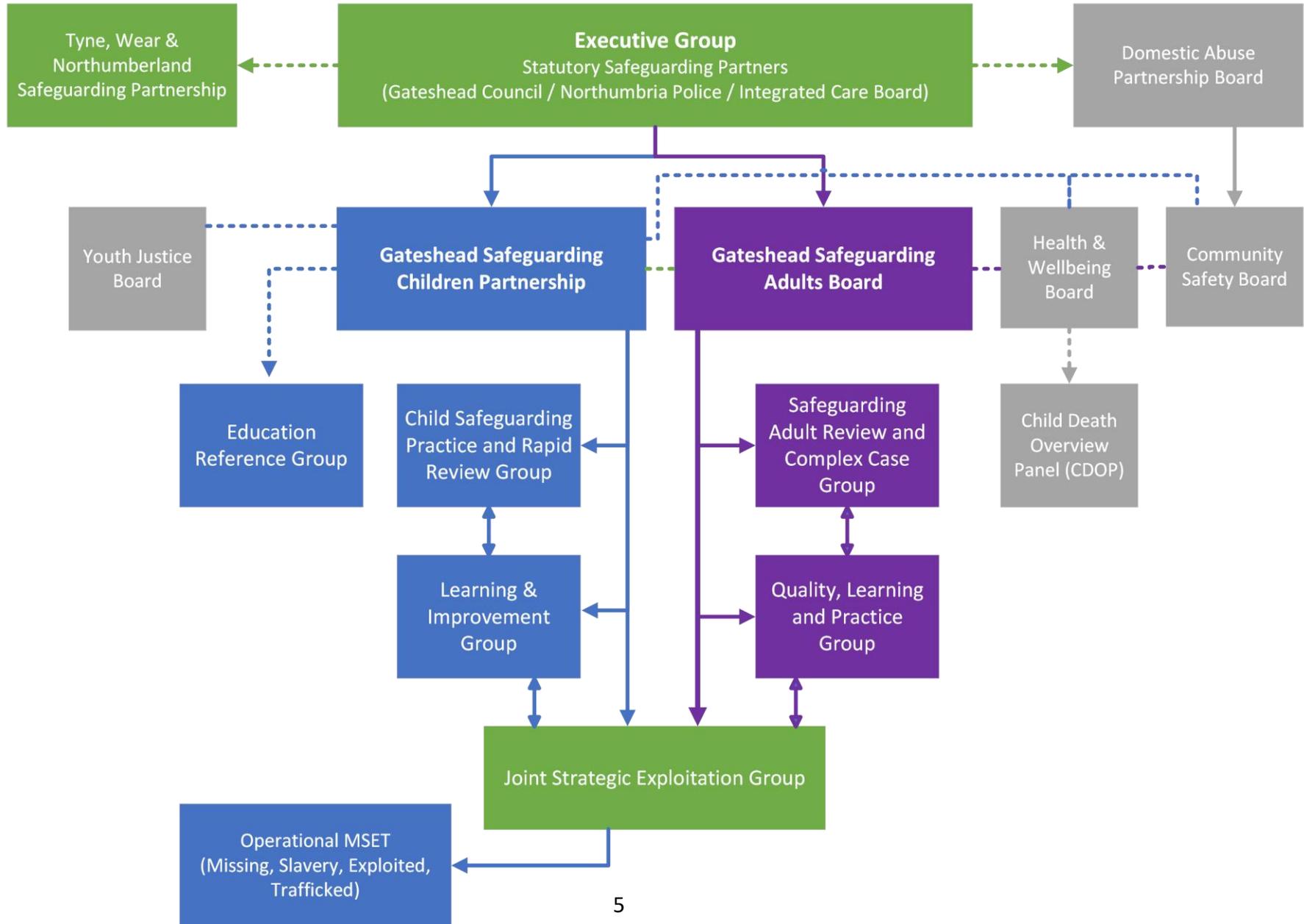
Working Together 2018 promotes the shared and equal duty of safeguarding partners, an emphasis on the child's experience and voice, and building a culture of reflection and learning.

The Gateshead Safeguarding Children Partnership (GSCP) was established in 2019, following the introduction of [Children and Social Work Act 2017](#) and statutory guidance [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018](#). The safeguarding arrangements and plan can be found here.

¹ The Three Safeguarding Partners for Gateshead are Gateshead Council, North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB) – formally Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group - and Northumbria Police.

The **Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements** for Children and Young People were reviewed in October 2022.

GSCP Structure



3. Independent scrutiny

The [Act](#) requires multi-agency arrangements are to be independently scrutinized, and the [guidance](#)² commits five paragraphs to explaining how scrutiny could take place. It notes that:

- The role of independent scrutiny is to **provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area**, including arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases. This independent scrutiny will be part of a wider system which includes the independent inspectorate's single assessment of the individual safeguarding partners and the Joint Targeted Area Inspections.
- Whilst the decision on how best to implement a robust system of independent scrutiny is to be made locally, **safeguarding partners should ensure that the scrutiny is objective, acts as a constructive critical friend and promotes reflection** to drive continuous improvement.
- The independent scrutineer should **consider how effectively the arrangements are working for children and families as well as for practitioners**, and how well the safeguarding partners are providing strong leadership and agree with the safeguarding partners how this will be reported.
- The published arrangements should **set out the plans for independent scrutiny; how the arrangements will be reviewed; and how any recommendations will be taken forward**. This might include, for example, the process and timescales for ongoing review of the arrangements.
- Safeguarding partners should also agree **arrangements for independent scrutiny of the report they must publish at least once a year**.

Current Independent Scrutiny Arrangements in Gateshead

The current Independent Scrutiny Arrangements in Gateshead are as follows:

- **Lay members x2** who attend both GSCP and SAB meetings;
- **The Section 11 audit** forms part of the independent scrutiny arrangements and feeds into the reporting requirements as set out in [Chapter 3 of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018](#) – this is carried out sub-regionally every two years – the same audit tool is used across six areas. Audit tool sent out at the same time and responses collated (Gateshead lead on this) – this could be themed audits, to help inform agreed regional priority areas of work.
- **Use of local authority and ICB scrutiny and health and wellbeing committees.**
- **Peer challenge** – including Regional ADCS and Tyne, Wear and Northumberland Safeguarding Partnership (TWNSP).
- **Engagement of children and young people** – via partnership agencies (including LA, ICB, Police).
- **Independent inspectorate's single assessment of the individual safeguarding partners and the Joint Targeted Area Inspections** – [Ofsted](#), [Care Quality Commission](#) (CQC), [Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services](#) (HMICFRS).

Based on all the learning nationally ([WOOD REPORT – SECTOR EXPERT REVIEW OF NEW MASAs](#)) and to develop our local arrangements, the GSCP considered the options and agreed a blended approach to independent scrutiny, which includes retaining lay members and developing regional peer review/challenge

² [Working Together 2018: Chapter 3 Paragraphs 31 to 35](#)

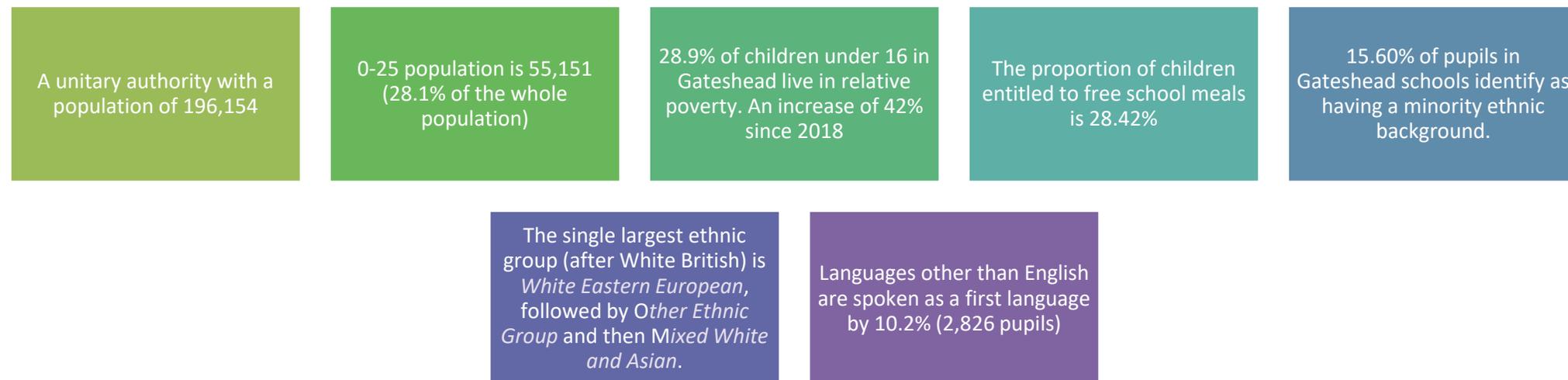
arrangements (linked to TWNSP and ADCS), as well as other scrutiny arrangements set out above. External inspections and reviews also offer scrutiny and challenge.

An Independent Scrutineer was appointed in April 2022. The scrutineer will have a clear remit around what they scrutinise and why. Key tasks of the scrutineer are to:

- 1 • Seek assurance in judging the effectiveness of the new multi-agency arrangements to safeguard children in.
- 2 • Assess whether the three safeguarding partners are fulfilling their statutory obligations (including mapping the Partnership work against the Six Steps of Independent Scrutiny)
- 3 • Act as critical friend, in order to scrutinise performance management, audit and ensure quality assurance mechanisms are effective.
- 4 • Arbitrate when there is disagreement between the three statutory safeguarding partners.

The chairing of the Partnership meetings forms part of the Independent Scrutiny role and will fulfil the objective to act as a constructive critical friend, promote challenge and reflection to drive continuous improvement (as set out in [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018](#)). It should also help in seeking assurance and assessing whether the three safeguarding partners are fulfilling their statutory obligations.

5. Gateshead Local Area Context



6. Performance data - window on the system

September 2021-September 2022

Contacts

- **6029 Contacts received by IRT**
- Direct comparisons are not available to the last 12 months due to a change in the Social Care system

Referrals

- **2244 Contact received by CSC**
- 16.9% Increase (291) compared to last 12 months
- 15% increase in rate of referral to 572.4 per 10,000 (stat neighbour average 536)
- 16.9% Repeat Referrals

Child Protection

- **645 Section 47s initiated**
- 3% decrease (17 less) than the last 12 months
- **379 children subject to an ICPC**
- 12% increase (41 more) than last year
- 85% of ICPCs completed within 15 working days
- **322 children were subject to a Child Protection Plan (new)**
- 5% increase (15 more) than the last 12 months
- 27.3% made subject to a plan for a second or subsequent time, more than last year (21.2%)
- 5.6% made subject to second plan within 12 months, increase compared to last year (2.6%)
- **195 children were on child protection plans during the time (ongoing)**
- 21% decrease (51) compared to last year
- 20% decrease in rate to 49.7 per 10,000 (stat neighbour average 55)
- **Emotional Abuse is the main reason for child protection plans**
- 0.8% of plans ended after 2 years, down from 5.3% in the previous 12 months

April 2022 - March 2023

Contacts

- **5862 Contacts and referrals received by IRT**
- This is compare to 5432 for the same period the pervious year

Referrals

- **2054 Contact received by CSC**
- 7.7% decrease (171) compared to the previous 12 months
- 6.0% decrease in rate of referral to 533.5 per 10,000 (stat neighbour average 595)
- 21.1% Repeat Referrals

Child Protection

- **665 Section 47s initiated**
- 9.3% decrease (67 less) than the previous 12 months
- **317 children subject to an ICPC**
- 7.8% decrease (27 less) than the same period last year
- 86.6% of ICPCs completed within 15 working days
- **300 children were subject to a Child Protection Plan (new)**
- 11.8% decrease (40 less) than the previous 12 months
- 28.0% made subject to a plan for a second or subsequent time, more than last year (26.5%)
- 7.3% made subject to second plan within 12 months, increase compared to last year (4.1%)
- **212 children were on child protection plans during the time (ongoing)**
- 8.6% decrease (20) compared to last year
- 7.0% decrease in rate to 55.1 per 10,000 (stat neighbour average 57)
- **Emotional Abuse is the main reason for child protection plans**
- 0.9% of plans ended after 2 years, down from 2.9% in the previous 12 months

<p>Children in Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •227 children entered care, 24% more than the previous 12 months (183) •10.6% of children in care at the end of September 2022 had been in care previously, a decrease compared to the previous year (16.4%) •504 children were in care at the period end •17.2% more than last year •17.8% increase in the rate of children in care to 128.6 per 10,000 (stat neighbour av. 99) •Most children remain in Gateshead Council Placements, better than comparator authorities 	<p>Children in Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •229 children entered care, an increase of 10% (21) on the previous 12 months •9.6% of children entering care at the end of March 23 had been in care previously, a decrease compared to the previous year (15.4%) •529 children were in care at the period •An increase of 9.3% (45) on the same period 12 months ago •This was also an increase in the rate of children in care to 137.4 per 10,000 (stat neighbour av. 101) •Most children remain in Gateshead Council Placements, better than comparator authorities
<p>Stability of Placements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •1.6% of children have experienced 3 or more placements, was 4% last year •72% of children in long term stable placements, last year was 70% 	<p>Stability of Placements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •4.0% of children have experienced 3 or more placements, was 7.9% last year •78.5% of children in long term stable placements this is an increase from last year (69.0%)
<p>Leaving Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •19.1% decrease (35) in children leaving care compared to last year •33% were made subject to a special guardianship order, was 30% last year •12.6% of children were adopted, the same as last year. 	<p>Leaving Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •11.0% increase (18) in children leaving care compared to last year •33.0% were made subject to a special guardianship order, was 26.8% last year •14.3% of children were adopted, an increase compared to 9.19% for the same period last year.

7. Business Plan

The Gateshead Safeguarding Children Partnership (GSCP) Business Plan sets the strategic direction for the GSCP. The plan identifies specific priorities for action and is clear about roles and accountability. GSCP agreed the following priorities for 2019-2022:

<p>Strategic Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Protecting vulnerable children and young people •Leadership •Learning
<p>Thematic Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Voice of the child •Mental health & emotional wellbeing •Child exploitation & children who go missing

8. What have we achieved and what impact have we seen?

The following information seeks to evidence the work going on across the whole partnership, and the impact of that work.

8.1 Strategic Priorities

Protecting Vulnerable Children and Young People

Police

In support of community safety plans Northumbria Police has developed a vulnerability assessment tracker (VAT) within the Multi-Agency Exploitation Hub. While in its early stages of development the performance data is at this time primarily Police centric, the aim is to host relevant multi agency data which will be a big step forward in supporting safety plans. Work has progressed on Information Sharing Agreements (ISA) with the future aim for all hub partners to drive a more connected intelligence picture to allow for effective contextual safeguarding. Also, developed is an internal threat reduction group meeting at a senior management level which is linked to the Force tasking and coordination process driving the 4P policing activities (Prevent, Protect, Prepare & Pursue) in response to exploitation. This is supplemented with analytical support desk within the Force Intelligence Department dedicated to Modern Slavery, Human Trafficking as well as Child Sexual Exploitation and County Lines identifying any current or emerging trends and hotspots. A weekly meeting between all partners to discuss individuals raised as being at potential risk or at current risk of exploitation takes place.

Starting in April 2021, Northumbria Police's Prevention Through Education Team undertook a campaign raising awareness about the sharing of self-generated indecent images among children. Since then, and up until July 2022, the team has visited schools throughout the Force area, including 4 (1 SEN) in the Gateshead area where a total of 661 KS3 students received the team's "Sharing Images" lesson. Feedback from schools was that the inputs were informative, relevant, and 'allowed the children to speak and share in a safe way'.

In further support of this work, a short video – an introduction to the phenomenon of sharing indecent images, the consequences, and how to get help and support – was produced and sent to all schools with KS3+ students Force wide in October 2021. It is now hosted on Northumbria Police's YouTube channel and has been viewed over 2,600 times. Communications through the Force's social media channels was also used to spread the message about how sharing indecent images can affect young people's lives. The feedback received was very positive resulting in further requests for inputs covering other pressing concerns this area will continue to be developed and has been aligned to the Harm Reduction and Communities Team.

North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB)

The former Newcastle Gateshead CCG transitioned to an Integrated Care Board in July 2022 therefore reference will be made to the ICB throughout this document. The safeguarding children team has continued to fulfil their duties as a statutory partner of the Gateshead Safeguarding Children Partnership (GSCP), working with multi-agencies on a range of key topics such as children's mental health, child exploitation, and the continued promotion of ICON across primary care, acute trusts and the Local Authorities. ICON is a programme aimed to reduce the incidence of abusive head trauma which seeks to educate parents and carers (particularly males) that crying in infants is normal and suggests ways to cope during this phase.

One of the ICB safeguarding nurse advisors is working with primary care and maternity services to set up SIRS, sharing information relevant to safeguarding. This process encourages proportionate and relevant information sharing between midwifery and primary care where the prospective father/partner is registered at a different practice to inform risk assessment and future safeguarding. This was highlighted as good practice in a national review and further work from an IT perspective is being explored in the Foundation Trusts to facilitate implementation planned for the end of the year.

The safeguarding team has worked with colleagues to ensure the health needs of unaccompanied asylum-seeking families and vulnerable individuals entering the country are met, this work continues. The ICB supported a local offer of response to peer on peer abuse in schools, has participated in learning reviews and dissemination of learning and has gained approval from the partnership to progress a prevent and protect model to minimise the risks of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS).

The majority of meetings have continued to be held virtually which has allowed greater participation of GPs to safeguarding meetings including child death review meetings where their contributions have proven valuable.

Development of Family Hubs

Gateshead is one of the 75 areas who have benefitted from additional funding 2022-25 to transform our local services into a Family Hub model that will join up locally the planning and delivery of family services with the aim of improving access, connections between families, professionals, services and providers, putting relationships at the heart of family support. Additional funding is also available to develop and improve our Start for Life offer and support for infant feeding, parent infant relationships and perinatal mental health, parenting support and the home learning environment.

Learning Disability & Autism

- Development autism hub – secured funding which will result in an offer across Gateshead to support people and families - mix of a physical and virtual offer.
- The hub links with the Early Help Service in the local authority and the development of a locality-based model on PCN footprints.
- Good practice guidance re LD health checks has been developed and shared with primary care and schools. Annual calls were made to GP practices to support the uptake of health checks and a raising awareness video was commissioned.
- LD postcards produced to be given to YP and parents to connect them to GP for health checks and flu vaccination.
- EHCP review templates have been updated and termly audits are undertaken of the plans.
- Clear linkage now seen for SEND through a bi-monthly board meeting and delivery of awareness sessions.
- A Speech and Language Therapy review has been completed. High level teaching assistants to be employed.

0-19 Service - Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust (HDFT)

As highlighted in the previous annual report Safeguarding Transformation in 5-19 continued across the 0-19 (25) contracts with all areas undertaken structural change with new processes in place. The background to the 5-19 Transformation work within Gateshead is that the School Nursing Service encountered

increasing difficulties to meet the requirements of the service specification and deliver on its public health priorities whilst managing the growing demand of safeguarding activity particularly in the context of preparing for and being the 'health' representative at statutory safeguarding meetings.

The Covid19 Pandemic compounded this existing challenge with a surge in the safeguarding activity which led the Gateshead management team to examine ways to release demand and relieve capacity within the existing school nursing team whilst continuing to provide a high quality, safe and efficient service to children, young people, and their families.

Recruitment to support the model was undertaken with further recruitment of a Band 6 'Floating' Safeguarding Nurse a new post that commenced in January 2022 to support the North of the footprint. This post provided support into the Gateshead Transformation Model providing some resilience within the new model. A robust preceptorship to support skill mix has proven successful and reduced safeguarding risks. The 5-19 transformation progress has freed up capacity within 0-19 service to target the most vulnerable children with outstanding health needs enhanced 0-19 and safeguarding integration.

An incremental implementation of the model in Gateshead was undertaken before the complete live date on 6th December 2021.



This enabled a stepped approach to implementing the safeguarding aspects of the Transformation model and allowed for the focus to remain upon the safeguarding aspects of the model before moving to look at other Public Health workflows.

During 2022 HDFT has been members of the local Embassy Hotel Meeting working closely with other partners is delivering safe and effective services to children and their families living within temporary accommodation in Gateshead. This forum provides contributes to protecting vulnerable children and their families in identifying, responding to, and escalating risk when appropriate. The Named Nurse Child Protection and a Locality Manager are taking an integrated approach to managing and responding to risk as well as providing advice and guidance to staff members working into the Embassy Hotel.

South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust (STSFT)

The Children and Young Peoples Primary Care Network (CYP-PCN) is a new development for the Gateshead area. The team comprises of Children Wellbeing Practitioners and Cognitive Behaviour Therapists who offer support to children, young people and their families on an individual basis and through group sessions within their local areas. They have started working within Family Hubs and linking with professionals from different agencies and voluntary

services. The team will also offer early interventions through indirect support in the community consisting of advice, guidance, consultation, training, health promotion and special events. This innovation aims to improve access for children, young people and their families. They work alongside colleagues within the adult team within the PCN, comprising of community development workers and peer support workers.

Gateshead Sexual Health service recognises that vulnerable children and young people may need additional support to manage their sexual health and prevent unplanned pregnancies. With this in mind, the service has a dedicated Specialist Mobile Outreach Nurse for young people and hard to reach adults. The Specialist Nurse aims to meet patient need by providing innovative and flexible ways of working. Examples include longer appointments, desensitisation visits and outreach appointments in the home, school or a suitable community venue. If a young person or child is working with a professional with whom they have a trusting relationship, a collaborative approach is often used. To illustrate this partnership working, over the last year the Specialist Nurse has worked with health colleagues such as the Family Nurse Partnership; Maternity Services; School Nurses; GP's and Health Visiting. In terms of our local third sector agencies referrals were received from The Pause Project; North East Young Dad's and Lads Project; Young Women's Outreach Project, Changing Lives and Positive Futures. Gateshead Council also works jointly with the Outreach Service and referrals were received directly from Children's Services and the Young Women and Girl's Exploitation Advocate as a result of the Specialist Nurse representation at the Missing, Slavery, Exploitation and Trafficked sub group.

The safeguarding team have continued to work in collaboration with multi-agency partners throughout the recovery phase and longer term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure safeguarding measures are in place and learning is shared to support and protect children and families. Safeguarding supervision sessions have been reviewed to ensure that delivery remains impactful and meaningful. A new model for safeguarding visibility has been implemented to increase face to face presence in areas to further support staff in their safeguarding practice and offer safeguarding supervision.

The Domestic Abuse Health Advocates (DAHA) continue to work alongside the safeguarding team to support staff in the identification and response to any disclosure of DA. The DAHA's are specialists working with victims of DA, targeting ward areas, ED and community in supporting staff to recognise and respond to DA. The increased visibility of the DAHA's across the Trust has resulted in increased DA referral activity. Recent DAHA feedback from both patients and staff include:

"Thank you, I do not know what I would have done if you had not been here to support me"

"Thank you so much you have been amazing in supporting me"

"The DAHA on duty came down to ED and was so kind and helpful and just offered to help with anything we needed. This was so kind, thoughtful and really welcomed"

Probation Service

A key priority for Gateshead and South Tyneside Probation Service is to keep children and young people safe. We do this through collaborative work with partnership agencies, especially police and children's services. We have made significant improvements in how we gather information both pre and post sentence, specifically in relation to Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding Checks. We have built on existing relationships with Gateshead YOS to ensure the best outcomes for young people reaching the age of 18 to ensure the correct service is in place and young people do not transfer to Probation Service just because they have reached an arbitrary figure.

Gateshead Council

Children and their families have access to a well-established, extensive Early Help offer which responds to their needs at the earliest opportunity. Our ambitious service is accessible to our families within their local communities and integrated with voluntary sector and community services. This ensures that our families have help and support as soon as need emerges and when children's needs change arrangements for step up and step down are well understood.

When risks are identified there is a prompt response within the front door service and there are timely actions that aim to support the reduction of risks. We continue to evidence in case file audits that management oversight of referrals is strong and the rationale for the decision making is understood. Social workers are skilled and knowledgeable about what actions they need to take to ensure that they gather the right information to inform decision-making.

"Decisions by managers to step up and down to early help services are appropriate. Partner agencies have a shared understanding of thresholds, augmented by the daily multi-agency triage meeting, which includes the early help service. Proportionate checks are undertaken with professionals; they work closely together and collaborate well". **Ofsted Focused Visit (September 2021)**

When children need a response out of hours the Emergency Duty Team provide a collaborative and supportive approach ensuring that contingency plans are shared via the alert system. This ensures that children continue to be protected at evenings and weekends. When children need help there is a prompt and effective response and despite the increase in demand there is a well understood response to the contacts received. Everyday police referrals are triaged by multi agency professionals with representatives from police, early help, specialist support team - this is to ensure that consistent thresholds are applied. In relation to referrals made to IRT the majority are completed within 2 working days (97.2% YTD)

We have continued to invest in the work that we do with our multi-agency partners and have increased our capacity by providing support to schools through a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) supervisors role. We know this has strengthened our relationships with DSL's in schools and is reflected in the quality of the referrals we are now seeing. We also know from our performance management system that our conversion rates from contact to referral has increased from 24% in 2019/20 to 31% in 2021/21, and 33% from April to September 2022/23. This rise is thought to be the result of the work with multi agency professionals in relation to quality of referrals and threshold criteria

We have continued to support our families where there are unborn babies and have changed our [local process](#) to avoid undue pressure on parents in the early stages of pregnancy by placing unborn babies on CP plans too early. This has resulted in a decrease in child protection plans for unborn babies compared

to the number seen at 31st March 2021, and a more co-ordinated and planned response to this. At the end of March 2023, there were 7 unborn children subject to a child protection plan, this is the same as March 2022 (7) and compares to 19 at the end of March 2021.

We have good multi-agency attendance at Child Protection Conferences and have continued to strengthen this with family group conference workers now attending meetings. This approach helps ensure that family solutions can be progressed at the right time. We continue to evidence that the right decisions are being made for children who are subject to child protection plans. The majority of meetings are timely. Children made the subject of CPP at ICPC was 82.0% for Apr 22 to Mar 23 (from 89.5% in the same period the previous year), 86.6% of ICPCs held within 15 working days timescales for the period April 22 – Mar 23 compared to 90.5% for the same period last year within timescales.

Children continue to have safe plans in place where ICPC's take longer than 15 days. For the period Apr 22 – Mar 23, 28.0% of children (84) experienced a second or subsequent child protection plan. This is compared to 90 (26.5%) in the same period previously.

Development of Pre-Birth Team

- Our Pre-Birth service was formally launched in October 2022 with a dedicated team providing all families (where a child has been previously removed from the parent's care) with multi-disciplinary intensive intervention.
- If a new-born baby is unable to be cared for by either birth parent, the pre-birth team will work and focus on avoiding delay in creating permanence plans with the help of a robust pre-birth assessment and a greater focus on the importance of effective collaborative relationships.
- Whilst the pre-birth service is in its infancy, we have continued to engage with the Startwell program to support our families.
- It is anticipated that the introduction of prebirth model will reduce the number of newborn babies coming into care, by placing more value upon the birth parents and wider family by working with them at earlier stages and avoiding multiple social workers changing involvement.
- Whilst we believe this will support our offer to our families and help retain babies within their family unit, it is too soon to be able to demonstrate the impact of this.

Family Group Conferencing

Investment in the Family Group Conference (FGC) Team has resulted in the expansion of the team to a complement of 5 Family Group Conference coordinators offering FGC facilitation and a mediation service.

The additional capacity enabled a named FGC link to be identified for all children's service areas. The context of this approach is to strengthen relationships and give direct support and guidance to colleagues with a view to FGC intervention at the earliest possible opportunity.

FGC Co-ordinators work within the principles and standards of the Family Rights Framework and retain the family at the centre. Empowerment and ownership of the family's plan is key in achieving positive outcomes.

Where families take part in FGC, the feedback remains positive and results in less need for repeated service involvement. Families feedback retains the “ownership” the process affords to families and appreciation for the respectful approach from the team. A family led approach is being driven through the team who demonstrate a real passion and belief in the outcomes for families.

Leadership

Police

There is a commitment from Northumbria Police to invest in leadership of the Safeguarding DCI's and Superintendents who will all complete the Public Protection and Safeguarding Leadership programme ran by the College of Policing.

North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB)

The information sharing meetings initiated by the Designated Nurse at the start of the first lockdown have continued with provider organisations including both Local Authorities, Police, Foundation Trusts, 0-19 years' service and education. This has provided an opportunity to discuss how services are being delivered locally, what is happening on the ground and has facilitated the escalation of issues at an early stage as well as acting as a support mechanism for staff to share what it has felt like for them.

The Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children has continued to chair the Learning and Improvement sub-group which analyses information from a variety of sources such as data, audits, learning reviews, to inform future practice, identify priorities for training, promote good practice and disseminate learning. The Designated Nurses Looked After Children were successful in obtaining funding from NHSE to carry out work with care leavers leading to a variety of projects to enhance services and opportunities for them as explained in the voice of the child below. The Designated Nurses continue to attend regional and national strategic meetings to raise areas for development, share good practice and disseminate learning. The team has set up a professionals safeguarding network which includes, designated and named professionals and safeguarding advisors. This provides a platform to share issues in a safe place, it encourages learning across a wider ICB footprint which creates opportunities to develop regional pathways to promote consistency.

Gateshead Council

Corporate support for children's social work is overseen by committed and knowledgeable leaders. Political oversight through scrutiny continues to be seen as a priority. The Chief Executive, Lead Member for Children's Social Care and wider council members have invested in the senior leadership team creating a single Director for Children Services and Lifelong Learning.

The Director of Children's Services and Deputy Director for Social Care have visibility of the services by chairing performance clinics, undertaking case file and thematic audits and holding responsibility for audit moderations which is providing an opportunity to review practice across all service areas.

There has been corporate investment in children's social care services through additional senior leadership capacity which includes a dedicated principal social worker post and quality assurance lead; and additional social work capacity to ensure continued manageable caseloads for social workers.

The Lead Member for Children plays a pivotal role in challenging senior officers. The Lead member took part in an LGA peer review of corporate parenting arrangements in another local authority and brought back learning from this experience which will be shared in the service. The Lead Member meets regularly with looked after children and care leavers to hear their voice and holds fortnightly portfolio meetings to scrutinise and challenge performance and share ideas.

Gateshead's Lead Member for Children and Young People is also the Lead Member for the regional care leavers board which support increased opportunities for benchmarking, regional collaboration and constructive challenge. His work has led to changes and improvements in our offer for care leavers and work on our preparation for adult life training.

The new Corporate Parenting Board provides challenge to ensure that we are the best corporate parents we can be. Multi-agency attendance is good and the membership has been strengthened with young ambassadors (who are care experienced) sitting on the board. Elected members have made pledges to looked after children and care leavers and have worked closely with officers to develop services, including the initiative to develop and invest in the Young Ambassador programme which has enabled officers to consider the voice of the child when developing services. Another elected member initiative which is underway is the exploration of financial incentives for local people to become foster carers which if successful will increase foster care choice for our children and help us maintain children in the local area.

The social work practice model has been updated and refreshed to support positive change for our families that can be sustained. The 'Narrative approach' ensures that our language is accessible and understood by our families. The approach is a strength based, solution focused approach to children's social work which draws on all the tools, techniques, methods, and models from strength-based, person-centred practice. Through this approach we support children, young people and families are supported to recognise and build on their own strengths contributing and collaborating in their own plans and outcomes.

Multi-agency partnership working continues to be a strength in Gateshead, as highlighted in this annual report.

The Governance arrangements for overseeing and developing services for children with SEND have recently been reviewed and refreshed with strong involvement of all key partner agencies.

There is strong learning culture and clear evidence that the Gateshead Safeguarding Partnership provides a platform for learning through rapid reviews, child safeguarding practice reviews and its learning and improvement group (attended by deputy strategic director and other senior leaders) – more info re LIG included in [learning and improvement section](#).

0-19 Service - Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust (HDFT)

During the Summer of 2021 the Named Nurse Child Protection (NNCP) undertook a review of the performance within the IRT focused upon the quality and performance within the Integrated Referral Team (IRT). The report demonstrated the valued contribution and impact of the Safeguarding Nurse Child

Protection (SNCP) has upon children, young people, and their families in addition to multi-agency working. It was recognised that the role of the SNCP has developed significantly within the IRT since the role was established in 2018 having a unique specialism within this setting.

IRT activity has increased progressively during 2021-22. The data demonstrates a 14.3% (from 3524 to 4028) increase in the number of families discussed in IRT triage in comparison to last year. The number of families escalated to UP or UPP is an increase by 23.7%. Those families discussed in triage that were escalated to safeguarding increased by 23.3%. Challenges to manage this surge in activity and case complexity include the limited resilience within the IRT has been challenging within Gateshead. During 2022 and to continue into 2023 this post will be undertaken on a rotational basis between 2 SNCP working within Gateshead.

Safeguarding Health leads from the local acute Trust and 0-19 community services continue to meet in an interface meeting which has provided a bridge between the acute and community services.

Youth Justice Service - Gateshead Youth Justice Board

Gateshead Youth Justice Board meets bi-monthly and has representation from statutory and non-statutory partners. Gateshead Youth Justice Board ensures appropriate Youth Justice Services are in place within the local authority area. The board agenda has several key standing items including finance, performance, and cases of concern. There are several examples where challenges have been escalated to partner organisations through the board to better meet the needs of children and young people. Development sessions have taken place with the board regularly to provide the opportunity for board members to develop their understanding of the important role they have in supporting and challenging the Youth Justice Service.

The purpose of the Performance Subgroup is to inform and supplement the delivery of youth justice provision in Gateshead and enable the Gateshead Youth Justice Board to effectively fulfil the statutory duties as set out in the practice guidance for England and Wales: [Youth justice service governance and leadership](#). Members of the group are accountable to the Gateshead Youth Justice Board and clear terms of reference are in place.

Probation Service

We have a strong leadership, working with a team of committed and engaged staff, delivering analytical reports to sentencers, using links with police and children's service to enable practitioners to use information to inform their assessments keeping families, children and young people safe.

Safeguarding issues in schools survey

Gateshead Safeguarding Children Partnership are reviewing how we work with schools and colleges locally (including academies and independent schools) and how we tailor our approach to what analysis indicates are the risks to children and young people in Gateshead.

To help us with this, the Education Reference Group (ERG) developed a [survey](#) for schools to use to indicate the prevalence of issues they are seeing, and how we can tackle them. We asked how GSCP could improve engagement and there is also a section at the end for any further comments or queries.

This was sent to all schools (including academies and independent schools) on 26th January and closed on 11th February 2022.

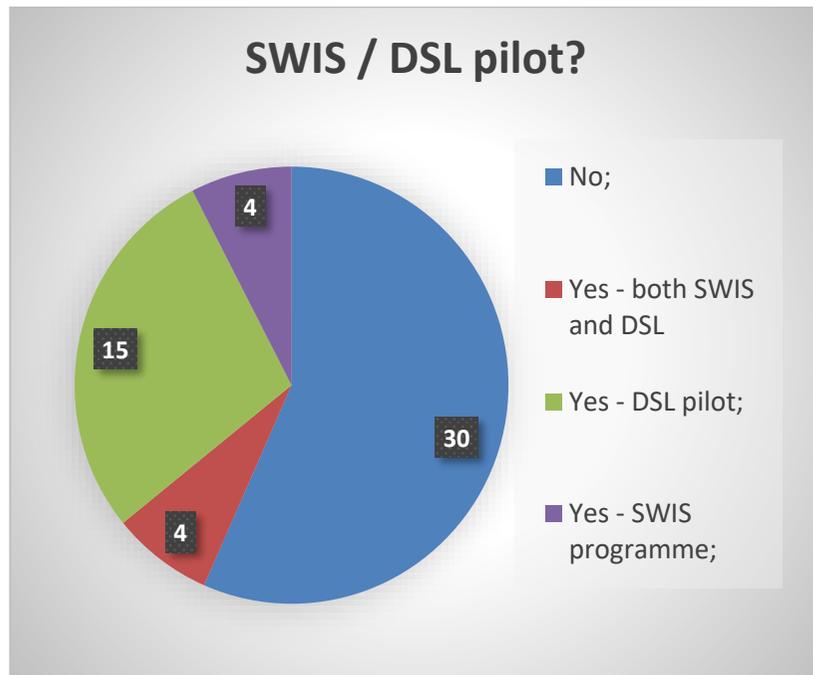
In Gateshead, there are:



There were 53 responses to the survey overall:

The majority of responses were from primary schools/academies at 79% but there are more of these in Gateshead (43 out of 68 schools responded). 9% responses from special schools (5 out of 7 schools), and 8% from secondary schools/academies (4 out of 10 schools). The college made up 2% (we only have one college!).

We asked “Is your school currently part of the [Social Worker in School \(SWIS\) programme](#) or Supervision for [Designated Safeguarding Leads \(DSL\) pilot](#)?”



great opportunity for dialogue and support with referral process.

The DSL supervision pilot has been a real support and I would recommend this being offered more widely to schools

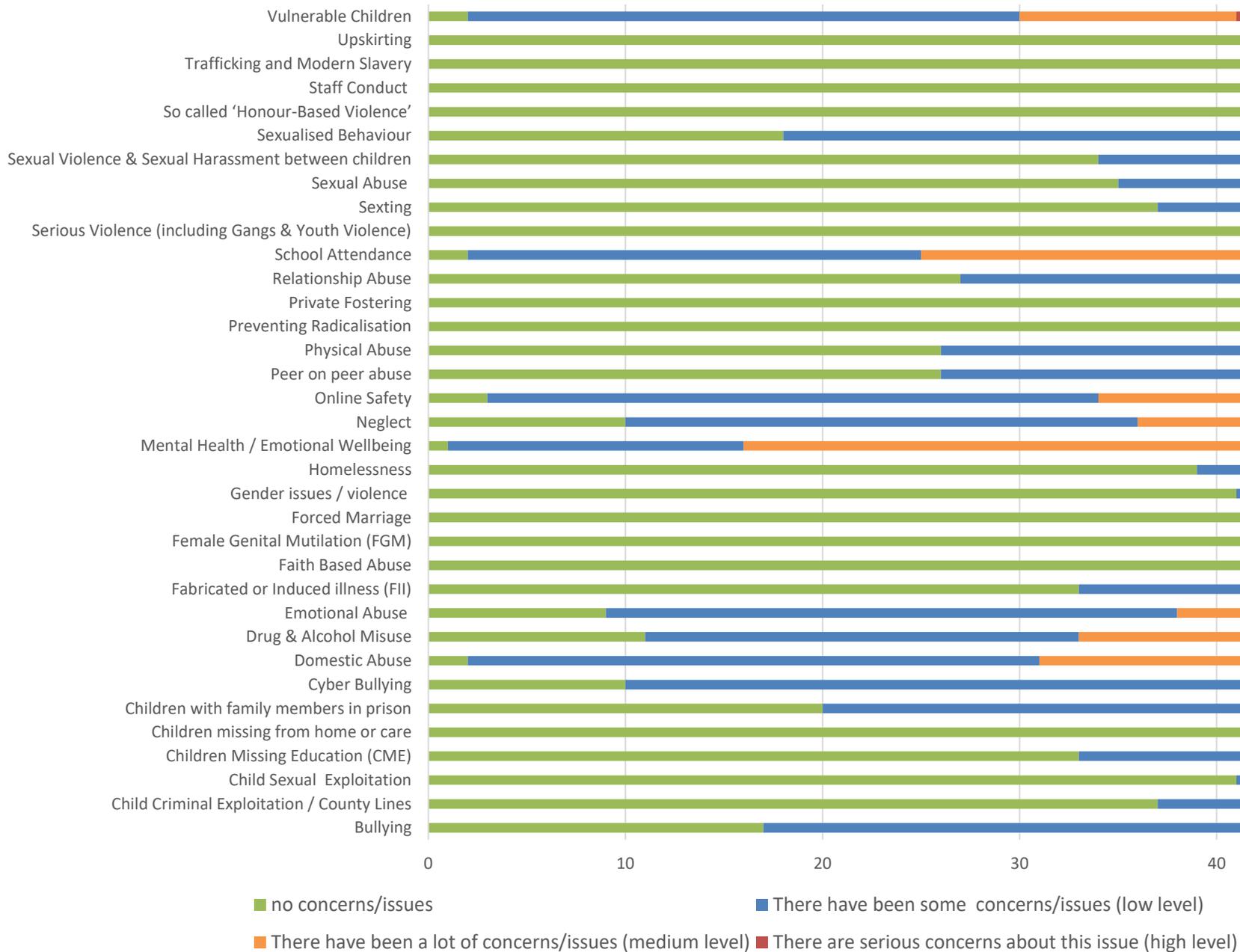
Gives a better understanding of the challenges faced and why decisions are taken under different sets of circumstances. All schools would benefit from this close level of co-operation.

We are very grateful to be part of the Supervision for Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) pilot: this is certainly helpful for unopened cases and families we are worried about but don't meet threshold;

The use of the SWIS and TAS has been a huge success in school. Further multi agency working in schools would be a huge benefit to help combat issues on the front line.

Helps to have a named contact to consult with when cases are different or particularly challenging.

We asked what issues are you seeing in school?



Summary of analysis:

- Mental health and emotional wellbeing come out as an area of serious concern - significant increase in issues (exacerbated by lockdown)
- School attendance - schools report this (along with refusal to attend) as being a significant area of concern and want the LA to provide leadership and guidance
- Vulnerable children have high number of concerns across all levels with only 2 schools reporting no concerns
- Sexualised behaviour, online safety, bullying, cyber bullying and neglect have also seen an increase in concerns.
- Low level and medium level concerns are being managed by the school working with families and other services to try and prevent concerns escalating – schools would like more support
- Schools are also seeing issues around contextual safeguarding and more complex issues – schools who are part of SWIS / DSL pilot report increased confidence in managing these cases
- Schools are reporting an increase in several concerns post-pandemic; these themes of concern are being seen across the whole partnership and have been identified in a number of local, regional and national reports re impact of the pandemic, including increase in domestic abuse and drug and alcohol concerns

Are there any other areas you think we should be focussing on?

Summary of the responses:

School attendance

- schools report this (along with refusal to attend) as being a significant area of concern and want the LA/GSCP to provide leadership and guidance

Education for parents on physical chastisement

- some schools seeing increase in reports from children about being hit by parents - Some guidance for parents on laws to educate parents.

Support for male students

- schools seeing an increase in young males with aggressive tendencies, lack of emotional resilience and warning signs or indicators of CCE but with few avenues to access support - seems to be a gap in support for males.

Understanding the impact of social media on vulnerable young people

- particularly in relation to the areas of on-line sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, sexualised behaviour, mental health and wellbeing.

Peer on Peer abuse

- This is a specific focus of the DSL pilot

Issues re families who fall short of statutory intervention / don't meet threshold

- or who have been assessed and then NFA or stepped down to Early Help

Racism and homophobia

- sessions in school delivered by specialists

Poverty and impact of the pandemic on families

- this is covered in the Health & Wellbeing Strategy

A report was shared with GSCP in May and work immediately progressed to support schools with issues identified as high concern, in particular re school attendance, drug awareness and mental health (some examples included in [mental health section](#)). The Education Reference is developing an action plan to take this forward.

Learning and improvement

The Learning and Improvement Group (LIG) meets quarterly and is chaired by Designated Nurse for Safeguarding. It is very well attended and has strong representation from safeguarding partners and other relevant agencies.

Rapid Review held (Oct 2021) following child death to consider the potential for identifying improvement (focusing on our response to neglect).

Rapid review highlighted the need to review and strengthen our multi-agency response to neglect, with a particular focus on housing, including revisiting and refreshing tools and resources available to support assessment and intervention. Several actions were agreed and taken forward, overseen by the LIG. It was not felt that a LCSPPR would identify any additional learning; the national panel agreed with this decision and commended our rapid review for its focus on neglect.

Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review – Baby Alfie

An independent reviewer was identified in September 2021 to undertake the review and a multi-agency learning review workshop was held in October 2021. The final report was presented and agreed by the Gateshead Safeguarding Children Partnership at the February meeting. It was then shared with the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) Panel and What Works Centre for Children's Social Care (WWCSC) and published on our website (in line with

[statutory guidance](#)). Learning from the LSCPR was shared across the partnership. An action plan was developed and is overseen by the LIG, with regular updates to GSCP.

Review following death of Care Leavers

There were 2 deaths in 2021 of care-experienced young adults. As there were no suspicions of abuse or known safeguarding concerns, the circumstances of the deaths did not meet the criteria for a review under usual thresholds (Safeguarding Adults/Domestic Homicide/Drug Related Death Review). However, GSCP recognises that young people who have grown up in care are far more likely to die in early adulthood than other young people and agreed to carry out an informal review using a reflective learning workshop to review services and interventions offered to both care leavers. The aim of the workshop, held in November 2022, was to seek reassurance around the support currently offered to care-experienced young people (window on the system) and identify any learning/gaps. These have since been shared with partners.

Adoption breakdowns – Emerging theme

GSCP recognised a pattern emerging - children placed with family when babies or very young, then breakdown during teenage years. In August 2022, the LIG agreed to carry out learning review (using current case) to consider multi-agency approach (including support from mental health services) for the children and adoptive parents. The review meeting took place in December 2022 and learning has been shared with partners.

Some other areas which have been discussed within the LIG over the year have been:

- Early Help - CAF/TAF Process - learning reviews identified cases where support could have been offered earlier by partners. Good opportunity to review, redesign and relaunch CAF/TAF process across the partnership.
- Safeguarding and Obesity Assessment Tool – [tool](#) and [guidance](#) developed (following learning from neighbouring authority).
- Learning from National Thematic Reviews – Local Learning and gap analysis - It was Hard to Escape (CCE), Out of Routine (SUDI), Myth of invisible Men (NAI).
- Exploitation Training for taxi drivers – this one-to-one training is still mandatory for new licence applications, gap identified re refresher training. Children’s Society offered support with training and outreach and are linking up with licensing and the exploitation hub.
- Perplexing presentations / FII – new multi-agency practice guidance and process developed based on RCPCH guidance and best practice.
- [Ages and Stages](#) - guide put together in response to learning. It provides staff with a comprehensive guide to supporting young people in their journey into adulthood. Multi-agency practice shorts are being planned.
- Developed [Pathway of care](#) regarding a birth mark including Congenital dermal melanocytosis (Mongolian blue spots MBS) or suspected medically induced injury (following birth etc).
- Learning Reviews on individual cases which did not meet the criteria for a review under usual thresholds but it was felt multi-agency learning could be beneficial. Three have undertaken in March 2023 by working groups and reported to the LIG.

Some of the briefings and resources developed and shared across whole partnership over the last year (including front line services and schools) – all accessible via the resource’s library section of our procedures

- ❑ [National Review - Arthur and Star – Summary \(SLIDES\)](#)
- ❑ [Independent Care Review – Summary \(SLIDES\)](#)
- ❑ [Professional Curiosity - 7 Minute](#)
- ❑ [Transitional Safeguarding - 7 Minute](#)
- ❑ [Multi-agency safeguarding and domestic abuse](#) - summary of CSPR Panel briefing
- ❑ [Practice Briefing: Urine Toxicology](#) – action from Baby Alfie review
- ❑ [What meeting am I attending](#) - This guide aims to support schools understanding of their role in multi-agency meetings held in relation to safeguarding and child protection.

Learning from other reviews

All national reviews and regional case reviews are discussed at GSCP and any learning relevant for Gateshead is implemented. This includes reviewing our procedures and training offer and making changes, where necessary. As we share regional safeguarding procedures, we can make sure this is implemented across the six areas.

Procedures

Our shared regional multi-agency safeguarding procedures are available [online](#) and managed by tri.x; we can make updates to the manual twice each year.

If procedures need to be updated following learning from a case review, these can be implemented immediately. Any amendments to procedures/protocols agreed locally are also shared across the six areas and incorporated into the shared procedures, where possible. This offers consistency for partner agencies working across the wider region.

The GSCP Business Manager also helps manage other online procedures (Children’s Social Care, Children’s Homes, Foster Carer Handbook) so can ensure any learning is incorporated within these too.

Police

In response to the National Vulnerability Action Plan audit key themes were identified including Early Intervention and Prevention – which highlighted the importance of adopting the principle of professional curiosity where potential indicators of vulnerability can be identified at an early stage presenting an early opportunity for early intervention.

Responding to incidents where vulnerability is identified has the potential to uncover layers of complexity.

The Voice of the Child is a golden thread which runs through all our interventions including Children’s Safeguarding Partnership boards and subgroups. Audit, deep dive, and review work (which includes recommendations and learning from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews) always contains a focus on the child’s experience and there is a commitment from all to ensure children are heard in ongoing improvement work

0-19 Service – Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust (HDFT)

A clear structure of safeguarding supervision facilitates safe and effective practice within Gateshead. With the development of new and specific roles (such as Band 6 Safeguarding and Strategy Nurse Roles) supervision arrangements have been extended to provide tailored supervision and management oversight of cases within the Transformation model during 2022.

This ensures that in cases where the decision is made to ‘Opt Out’ as no target intervention is required from HDFT have management oversight to support continuous quality improvement and assurance.

During 2022 Safeguarding supervision arrangement have been extended to Locality Managers lead by a Specialist Nurse Child Protection.

Transformation Audits Feb – March 2022

- During February – March 2022 the Named Nurse in Gateshead commenced the Transformation Impact Audit which contributed to the footprint wide audit of Transformation.
- The Gateshead area was audited by another Named Nurse from within HDFT contract area to support a more independent audit of the local Transformation model and strengthen objectivity.
- This supports an early evaluation of the Transformation work and areas of improvement to be identified early with subsequent action.

Mystery Shopper Audits: Jan 2022

- Mystery shopper audits have been carried out to evaluate learning from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews across health staff and their managers.
- Previous Carousel learning events have been held internally to share learning from CSPRs.
- This audit was to evaluate the effectiveness of using events such as these to share learning.

Training:

- During November 2021 the Named Midwife Safeguarding QEH delivered bespoke training to Gateshead practitioners providing a refresher as well as highlighting new aspects of the local Badger System.
- This was in response to taking forward improvements in the sharing of information between the Maternity and 0-19 health Services.

South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust (STSFT)

All levels of safeguarding training have been reviewed to ensure they are aligned to both adult and children intercollegiate document. Level 3 face to face “Think family” training has been amended to reflect learning from recent scoping’s, SAR’s, DHR’s, CSPR’s and learning reviews. Slido is now being used to ensure that face to face sessions are more interactive and those delivering training can obtain training evaluations in real time.

A bi-monthly newsletter is shared with all STSFT employees via both the team brief and through the safeguarding champion’s forum. This newsletter highlights learning from SARs/DHRs & CSPRs and incorporates any regional / local updates inclusive of 7-Minute Briefings. The newsletter is held on the Trust intranet site.

North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB)

The ICB has participated in local learning reviews the outcomes of which have been shared with colleagues in primary care and the acute trusts. National learning is also shared widely within primary care through a weekly bulletin disseminated to all practices by the ICB and the safeguarding team has developed a quarterly safeguarding newsletter which is disseminated to primary care.

The safeguarding team has continued to deliver level 2 and level 3 single agency safeguarding children training (to primary care) and supports multi-agency training in Gateshead with colleagues from the local authority and acute foundation trust. 7-minute briefings are used to share information and the resources from the GSCP business manager are disseminated to colleagues. The safeguarding team has commenced monthly lunchtime learning sessions on various topics which any practice staff can join, and these are recorded and uploaded onto GP team net (resource platform) for staff to access.

The Designated Nurse (Newcastle Gateshead) is a member of the North and South of Tyne Child Death Overview Panel representing the South of Tyne. Relevant learning from child deaths is disseminated to colleagues across the South of Tyne. Following the death of a child with asthma, it was unknown by professionals that the child also had food allergies exacerbating the asthma. This resulted in further discussions about asthma management and non-recurrent funding has been sought to support a pilot in Gateshead to improve the care of children and young people with asthma and allergies who are ‘not brought’ to their asthma reviews at their GP surgery. The CYP&F team are working within a Primary Care Network (PCN) to look at a transformational way of undertaking asthma and allergy reviews. The plan is to work with schools within the PCN footprint to identify children and young people who require asthma reviews and to undertake the review within the school setting as opposed to the CYP attending the practice.

Gateshead Council

The Quality Assurance Framework was refreshed in 2022 and sets out a single framework that continuously drives improvement in the quality of practice which in turn leads to improved outcomes for children and families. The framework sets out our integrated Performance Management and Audit Frameworks. It builds on the work described within the Research in Practice paper “Building a quality culture” and the learning from Local Authorities who have effectively used this approach to drive improvement and achieve better outcomes for Children and Young People.

The service has now embedded practice standards and updated the practice system. There are individual service performance standards which clearly articulate the practice expectations of social workers and assist to ensure a consistency of practice across the whole service. Children and families' views are

captured as part of the auditing process. Plans and assessments all have a section to gather the views of children and their families. Most assessments and plans are written in the narrative practice style and place the child at the centre of the work.

Practice Weeks are held as part of the framework to both assure the quality of work and to influence front line practice by facilitating reflection on case direction, work undertaken and case recording. Reflection and feedback provided to practitioners at the time to encourage learning.

During practice week, learning audits and observations are completed alongside the social worker or practitioner and are completed by Practice Leaders. Learning audits are only part of the process, direct observations of social work practice and feedback from families ensure that learning is holistic process. Findings from practice week are shared across the service at an individual level with the social worker and widely at practice clinics and any actions are tracked and progressed.

A programme of thematic audits is in place and will be widened to include the Early Help service in 2022/23. Feedback from scheduled audit activity is shared through the Quality of Practice Clinics, where good practice and areas of learning are discussed, and improvements identified. Practitioners provide feedback on learning from the audits undertaken which demonstrates their own learning. Evidence from audits has seen an increase in chronologies and eco-maps being used as direct work tools which is meaningful for our families.

Data intelligence is used to inform targeted areas for deep-dive investigations and performance clinic discussions. Given our rise in Children Cared for, we have recently undertaken a detailed Looked After Children Analysis, focusing on key characteristics and trends to help inform and lead discussion to understand increasing demand.

Gateshead Council – Workforce Development Team

Gateshead Council's Workforce Development team ensure there is a robust training programme available for all Children's Social Care Staff, as well as Foster and Kinship Carers. The training programme and information regarding courses for Gateshead Council staff is all available on our new learning management system, Learning Hub. This includes the booking of face to face and virtual training as well as the completion of e-learning. The platform also holds links to external webinars, resources, TED Talks and more. All Children's Social Care staff and carers have access to this as well as the multi-agency training programme.

The system can set training as mandatory and track compliance for staff, add the training direct into the delegates calendar, send out electronic evaluations and allows staff to download certificates.

The training programme is a combination of internally delivered short courses & briefings to the use of external training providers. The training in 2021-22 looked at Domestic Abuse, Trauma Informed Practice, Working with Shame and Parental Conflict. The main focus this period was our narrative approach, writing to the child.

Between September 2021 and March 2023, 83 training events were delivered to workers and carers across Children's Social Care, this is slightly down from last year as the training programme was paused for 3 months while the new learning hub was built. At total of 1086 spaces were filled from a possible 1834.

In addition to the service specific training staff have also had access to the corporate training programme covering topics from Leadership and Management, Remote Working, Productivity & Wellbeing, Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity with specialist training on Trans-awareness, LGBTQ+, Jewish Cultural Awareness and Multi-Culture awareness.

Gateshead Council – Youth Justice Service

Gateshead Council launched a new learning management system in May 2022. The Learning hub is the central point to access all learning and development opportunities available to council employees. The hub provides face to face, virtual training, E-learning, and resources. The Youth Justice Service has been working with the councils Workforce Development Team to ensure the training and development needs are met. Mandatory and desirable training has been sourced centrally and delivered in a number of ways including Youth Justice Service specific or as part of Children’s Social Care. There are several current joint training initiatives including trauma informed approaches, narrative practice and reflective supervision which all support collaborative working and maintain consistently high standards across all services

Probation Service

All staff undertake mandatory Child Safeguarding, Adult Safeguarding and Domestic Abuse training.

Multi-agency Training

The Gateshead Safeguarding Children Partnership, Safeguarding Adults Board and Gateshead Community Safety Board have produced a comprehensive joint training programme which is free for partner agencies operating in Gateshead. The training programme and information regarding courses can be accessed via the [GCSP website](#).

We have recently updated our learning system to the **learning hub**. This enables multiagency partners easy access all multi-agency virtual or face to face multi- agency course. The system can set training as mandatory and track compliance for staff (external agencies must request this function), add the training direct into the delegates calendar, send out electronic evaluations and allows staff to download certificates.

Virtual Training has continued to be developed and is offered via Microsoft teams delivered as 90 minutes to 3 hour sessions or blended session for the longer training course.

There has been a welcome return to face-to-face training which has been received well by some practitioners as it has facilitated the building of multi-agency networking. Most of the training has been facilitated by members of the Partnership and more specialist training has been commissioned focusing on safeguarding risks and the Board’s priorities.

As part of a rolling programme, the training focused on Child Neglect, Child Criminal Exploitation, Safeguarding Disabled Children, and Invisible Men.

Between September 2021 and September 2022, 55 GSCP training events were delivered to workers across the partnership, this is slightly down from last year as the training programme was paused for 3 months while the new learning hub was built but extra dates have been added 2022-23 to cover the lost session

Evaluation of the training has been carried out through evaluation forms which were initially sent out electronically via Microsoft forms but are now sent out from the learning hub. The evaluation measures not only the increase in knowledge during the training but asks learners to identify how they will use the training in their role to improve outcomes for children and young people.

The clear benefits of multi-agency training remain evident in the positive feedback received, both for training delivered by partners and specialised training providers.

-  *Gained enough knowledge to be able to deliver some level of education in schools and know where to signpost for support (Knife Crime Awareness Social workers in school)*
-  *It was interesting to hear from others on the course from different backgrounds, i.e. dietician, environmental health, midwives and community support networks. I was surprised at the high numbers of deaths, as you don't hear of these just the more complex cases on the news. (Neglect training, charity worker)*
-  *It will help when considering children's capacity, particularly when this changes when they turn 16 (Introduction to Mental Capacity children's services, Early Help Team)*
-  *Very engaging with an emphasis on applying learning- will recommend to colleagues (Introduction to child and young people's mental health, Newly qualified social worker)*

Despite increasing pressures on partner agency staff, we have a skilled pool of trainers who deliver a lot of our sessions "in house", but we also have the resources to commission specialist sessions when appropriate. We continue to carry out work to ensure that our training has an impact on frontline staff to ensure that the sessions lead to improved outcomes and provide the partnership with best value for money.

8.2 Thematic Priorities

Voice of the child

Police

The Voice of the Child is a golden thread which runs through all our interventions including Children's Safeguarding Partnership boards and subgroups. Audit, deep dive, and review work which includes recommendations and learning from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews which always contains a focus on the child's experience and there is a commitment from all to ensure children are heard in ongoing improvement work.

0-19 Service - Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust (HDFT)

Deep Dive Supervision audits continue to audit service response in capturing the voice of the Child. These audits form the basis of the Gateshead Audit Cycle and will continue into 2023.

Safeguarding Training highlights the importance of capturing the voice of the Child and lived experiences.

5-19 Transformation Impact audits included reviewing the VOC and has impacted upon the local action plan in driving forward local improvements.

North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB)

Consultation was held with care experienced young people in Gateshead (and Newcastle) to identify unmet health needs.

Funding secured from NHS England afforded the opportunity for young people to engage with Digital Voice and produce a representation of their thoughts in a digital format - <https://youtu.be/H0aKQGtQ7KM>)

This has been shared widely and a follow up panel event was undertaken with key stakeholders and interested parties.

Key outcomes have been:

- 1 Pilot of free travel passes for care experienced young people
- 2 Improved information on care experienced young people's health needs in safeguarding training to GP's
- 3 Improved mental health support at time of transition (indirect but linked)
- 4 Ongoing plans to improve support to care leavers in managing their health needs

Gateshead Council – Youth Justice Service

Young people have attended Gateshead Youth Justice Board meetings to tell their story and outline their experiences of the Youth Justice Service. This has offered the opportunity to board members to understand the journey of the child through the criminal justice system and it has also helped them to understand how their agencies have had an impact on a child's life. By meeting with a young person face to face it has been possible to ask questions about service delivery and areas for improvement. The circumstances of some of our most complex young people are discussed anonymously within the Youth Justice Service board meeting and members provide challenge and partnership working to ensure the needs of the young people are met.

Gateshead Council - SEND Youth Forum

In Gateshead we believe that the voice, opinions and experiences of children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) are very important. The services they get should be informed by their experiences – they are the people that use them! We have set up a forum for young people with additional needs so that they can tell us about the issues that affect their life and help us to make changes and improvements. Gateshead SEND Youth Forum meets regularly throughout the year and is part of the wider Gateshead SEND Children and Young People's Network.

What have the Gateshead SEND Youth Forum been involved in?

The Gateshead SEND Youth Forum have had a great year so far, getting involved in many valuable and interesting projects. Their feedback has been heard at a local and a national level.

'My Voice Counts' Children and Young People's SEND Conference:

- Members of the Forum joined the national 'Youth Voice Matters' SEND Children and Young People's Conference.
- The conference was organised by the Council for Disabled Children and developed by children and young people with additional needs, aiming to promote participation and encourage youth voice.

National SEND Review Consultation:

- The Forum took part in a session discussing the government SEND Review Green Paper and gave feedback about their experiences of education.
- Feedback from the group was sent to the government's SEND Review team and will be used to inform changes to the national SEND system.
- Each Forum member received a certificate and an Amazon voucher as a thank you for taking part.

Gateshead SEND Participation Strategy:

- The Forum has recently co-produced Gateshead Council's Participation Strategy which aims to improve participation of children and young people with SEND in Gateshead.

For further information about the Forum, please click here → [Gateshead SEND Young People's Forum](#)

For accessible minutes from meetings in 2021, please click here → [Gateshead SEND Youth Forum Accessible Minutes 2021](#)

For accessible minutes from meetings in 2022, please click here → [Gateshead SEND Youth Forum Accessible Minutes 2022](#)

For accessible minutes from meetings so far in 20223, please click here → [Gateshead SEND Youth Forum Accessible Minutes 2023](#)

For Gateshead's SEND Participation Strategy 2023 – 2026, please click here → [Gateshead SEND Participation Strategy](#)

Gateshead Youth Assembly (GYA)

GYA has been around since 1999 and while every year is a distinct group, they generally follow similar paths, the young people peer researchers, assess, design, deliver then evaluate a whole range of personal development and social action projects. Alongside this they work as the link between Gateshead's young people and decision makers and to this end senior decision makers are regularly invited to GYA to discuss current issues and themes.

One Voice – Children in Care Council

One Voice is the council for children and young people in the care of Gateshead Council. They meet weekly and act as the link between children and young people in care and the decision makers in Gateshead Council. One Voice has a broad remit, from meeting decision makers, helping to deliver schemes for younger children, creating and delivering training to foster carers, social workers, and decision makers, taking part in the recruitment and selection of children's social care staff and sometimes, just a space to chill out, meet friends and destress. Delivered by the Children's Rights and Engagement (CRE) team and supported by Virtual School and AYSE Academy, One Voice provides a forum for the young people who are experts by experience to support other young people.

Young Inspectors

Young Inspectors meet weekly and have been working with the ICB on initiatives including the Big Orange Book, Children and Young Peoples strategy and mental health for young people. They have also been busy helping to design and deliver the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) summer programme and Halloween party as well as being part of the group helping to design a HAF teenage offer. They also spend time chilling out and relaxing, creating and delivering personal development sessions and at the end of 2022 successfully bid to The Key for money to have a range of social times which they will review and post online. They will compare luxury versus budget activities and assessing whether they are worth the money.

Young Ambassadors

Aisha, Jake and Mariceu took up their 6 hour per week posts as Gateshead's first Care Experienced Young Ambassadors. It was originally planned that these posts would be for 12 months, however we have extended them to 18-month contracts. It is planned the Aisha, Jake and Mariceu will be involved in the recruitment of their replacements in July 2023.

They have had an action-packed year from visiting Parliament to delivering sessions to young people directly. The ambassadors are each linked to two workstreams of the Corporate Parenting Partnership. Aisha leads on participation and placements and accommodation; Jake leads on education and health; and Mariceu leads on leaving care and activities and leisure.

Harry Vincent works full time in Gateshead Council's SEND Team as the Special Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) Young Ambassador/ Business Admin Apprentice. This is a post funded by non-recurrent funding, sourced by the local NHS Integrated Care Board. Harry is using his lived experience of Gateshead's SEND system to help raise awareness and understanding of the issues young people with SEND face.

Youth Parliament

In January 2022 Gateshead's Young People were invited to run for, and then elect our Member of the UK Youth Parliament. Five young people ran for election, campaigning in school and online for the votes of their peers. At the end of the election Ibrahim Al-Hafidh from Whickham School was elected and has, for the first year of his two-year term, represented his Gateshead peers in a variety of projects from poverty, cost of living crisis and climate change. He also took part in the UKYP Annual Sitting which sees MYP's from across the UK taking over the Houses of Parliament and conducting debates and votes in the chamber, which was televised, and you can find footage on the UKYP website. Ibrahim will produce a report on his first year which will be published on the Council's website.

Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Design Sprint

Gateshead Council was invited to be part of a small group of local authorities to work with young people to design a HAF programme that would be attractive to young people. There is plenty of evidence to say that HAF programmes are very attractive to children, but the stats show that it falls off once those children go to secondary school. Working with Gateshead's HAF team, the CRE team, along with staff from the library service recruited a dozen young people to work with academics from Northumbria University and the other local authorities. Over two days in October and two very long days in November (in London) our young people designed a HAF offer that would appeal to young people. Simple things like having WIFI and not starting at 10am mixed with attractive activities, life skills and food that is decided and cooked by the young people themselves were common requests. In 2023 these young people will continue this work by running a pilot teen HAF in February with the hope that we can roll out a full scheme in Easter and at the summer.

Big Red Bus Adventure

BRBA is the name we gave to our joint HAF project. Working with the Virtual School, Gateshead Youth Council, the Play Service and the North East Bus Preservation Trust we designed and delivered a young person led Easter and Summer playscheme where our young volunteers in GYA, One Voice and Young Inspectors came together to deliver high quality playschemes for children in the care of Gateshead.

Mental health and emotional wellbeing

"We will improve the emotional health and wellbeing of children, young people and families, who will thrive through access to the right support at the right time in the right place." (Gateshead's vision statement for Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing)

Gateshead updates the children and young people's mental health and emotional wellbeing local transformation plan on an annual basis. The transformation plan provides a framework to improve the emotional wellbeing and mental health of all children and young people across Gateshead. The aim of the plan is to make it easier for children, young people, parents and carers to access help and support when needed and to improve mental health services for children and young people. The plans delivery is led by the multi-agency children and young people's mental health, learning disability, autism and emotional wellbeing

transformation group who meet bimonthly. The full plan is available at: [Gateshead Children and Young People Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing local transformation plan 22-23 - NENC Newcastle Gateshead \(icb.nhs.uk\)](https://www.icb.nhs.uk/gateshead-children-and-young-people-mental-health-and-emotional-wellbeing-local-transformation-plan-22-23).

Successful implementation of the plan will result in:

- An improvement in the emotional wellbeing and mental health of all children and young people
- A multi-agency approach to working in partnership, promoting a trauma informed approach to mental health of all children and young people, providing early intervention and meeting the needs of children and young people with established or complex problems
- All children, young people and their families will have access to local mental health care based upon the best available evidence and provided by staff with an appropriate range of skills and competencies.
- The plan is based on the five themes within Future in Mind. The aims for each theme are described below.

Resilience prevention and early intervention

Our aim is to act early to prevent harm by investing in early years and supporting families to build resilience through adulthood.

Improving access to effective support

Our aim is to change how care is delivered and built around the needs of children, young people and their families.

Accountability and transparency

Our aim is to drive improvement in the delivery of care and standards of performance to ensure we have a much better understanding of how to get the best outcomes for children, young people and families, to ensure value from our investment.

Caring for the most vulnerable

Our aim is to dismantle barriers to access and reach out to children and young people in need.

Developing the workforce

Our aim is that everyone who works with children, young people and their families is ambitious for every child and young person to achieve goals that are meaningful and achievable for them.

Our work will be underpinned by and aligned to the Thrive Model (The AFC–Tavistock Model for CAMHS) which removes the emphasis from services and re-focuses support to the needs of the child or young person. The Thrive model also ensures a more flexible, multi-agency response across the whole system that reflects our collaborative approach.



Police

Northumbria Police have continued to provide a Street Triage Service investing in training front line officers, this commitment is open to Children across Gateshead. The CNTW nurses and police officers who work on the service deploy to incidents of children in MH crisis. In the last 12 months our Street Triage officers have undertaken training in ACE's, learning disabilities and child exploitation to ensure they have a more holistic understanding of children's presenting behaviours.

The Street Triage service also ensure they are sighted on the impact of parental mental ill health on children and young people's mental health and make safeguarding referrals for children impacted by a parent or carers mental health crisis, utilising a think family approach.

Learning from CSPR's as well as regional and national JTAI inspections is a focus for Northumbria Police, raising awareness of recommendations and identified learning will continue to be a fluid process. The role of our Criminal Justice Liaison and Diversion Nurses in Custody who can support children who are suspected of an offence with their mental health is fully embedded. The importance of seeing an incident through the eyes of a child and hearing the voice of the child to understand their lived experience to ensure that our officers focus on Mental Health triage and interventions for Children rather than taking a Criminal Justice approach wherever possible.

There is now a police officer in Central Harm Reduction with dedicated responsibility for mental health. This is allowing a more co-ordinated, timely and effective police response to some of the most vulnerable individuals.

Struggling children whose poor mental health has pushed them towards self-harm and substance abuse have been provided support by Northumbria Police through early intervention and education this area has been led by a Detective Chief Inspector for Safeguarding

0-19 Service

Holistic Health Needs assessments assessing the mental health and emotional wellbeing of children and young people are used to identify individual needs and provide a targeted response or to signpost to a more appropriate service. The quality of health needs assessments is incorporated into audit activity and reviewed as part of the Transformation model.

Information sharing processes between the acute trust and community services in relation to mental health are well embedded. The SNCP based within the IRT is also involved in the triage of cases and acts as a link between the wider 5-19 service as appropriate if low level intervention is identified.

Gateshead Council – Youth Justice Service

YJS have good strategic partnership with ICB which has resulted in some additional funding to purchase support from North-East Counselling to directly work with young people open to Youth Justice, provide case consultations to staff and deliver training in relation to some of the themes that present when working with the young people within the youth justice service.

North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB)

There continues to be a reported theme of children presenting with mental health issues, some from a very young age. Comparisons have been made from the previous years with similar numbers however staff felt they were seeing more children due to the reduced footfall and attendance to Emergency Departments generally during the pandemic. The Designated Nurse has explored this further with CNTW (both in October 2020 and December 2021) and it was acknowledged that children were continuing to experience heightened anxieties for several reasons including where parental mental health was impacting on the children, particularly with the imposed lockdown measures, leading to some services offering alternate and reduced provision. Assurance was gained from CNTW that robust processes were in place to oversee the needs of these children whilst waiting to access the services.

Crisis and Trauma:

- An integrated trauma informed care model has been procured which will be embedded within children's social care to assess and review the child's needs and how these can best be met.
- Data and business case for additional funding for 24/7 crisis and home treatment support for children and young people has been pulled together and in the process of being reviewed
- A paper has been drafted around the model of need and capacity for psychiatric liaison in acute provision for CYP
- Crisis and urgent response meetings are arranged with partners to develop and review existing service offer
- A new provider collaborative has been agreed with NHSE for specialist-inpatient services

Education:

- MH leads identified for primary and secondary schools and schools taking up the DfE MH leads training
- RISE Mental Health support team (MHST) are delivering evidence-based interventions for CYP with low-moderate mental health problems in schools as well as offer a longer-term support via Healios who deliver virtual therapeutic one to one support
- VCSE commissioned to deliver mental, physical health and emotional well-being awareness raising sessions within schools and master-classes have been organised and led by consultants and specialist nurses to train school staff.

Transitions:

- 95% of children and young people now have a transitions plan from children's mental health services to adult mental health services
- A piece of work is being conducted across health and social care looking at key transition points across the life-course to better meet the needs of young person and their families
- A pilot is being developed to test out improvements from secondary care to primary care transitions.

Review of the Single Point of Access (SPA):

- The SPA was put in place to make it easier for children and young people to get the help they need at the right place and at the right time.
- The service is delivered through a lead provider model, whereby a person is referred to the appropriate service to meet their needs, whilst freeing up clinical time for those children and young people who require clinical support.
- The SPA has been operating for a few years so ICB have agreed to review the service and conduct an evaluation of the model by learning from people's experiences and those of partners who refer into the service in order to strive for continuous development and improvement to the offer for our children, young people and their families.

Child exploitation and children who go missing

Operational MSET

The Operational Group sits under the Safeguarding Children's Partnership and considers high and medium risk cases of children who are believed to be at risk of Missing, Slavery or Exploitation or are being Trafficked. The Operational Group meets monthly and for each case on the agenda a multi-agency Safeguarding, and disruption plan is formulated

The Operational Group also considers intelligence from across the partnership in order to identify any locations or perpetrators of concern linked to Missing and Exploitation. The group does not replace existing child protection procedures but works to reduce risk for those cases which require a multi-agency contextual safeguarding approach to reduce harm.

From September 2021 to March 2023 there have been 104 cases brought to pre-MSET for consideration. Of those cases, 22 progressed to Operational MSET full panel. 5 children were heard more than once in MSET full panel. Child A on 7 occasions, Child B, C D E on 2 occasions each.

Work has been undertaken to increase the awareness and identification of exploitation within Children's Services. This has led to a reduction in cases being presented to Pre MSET as risks are being identified and discussed at an early stage within front door services.

Case study: Male (16 years old) who was highlighted through the MSET process following 44 reported missing episodes in a previous 2-month period. Concerns were raised around the missing episodes his association with the homeless community an increase in substance misuse and criminal activity, as well as potential exploitation with flags around new clothes, trainers and his protective nature over his laptop. Following the meeting distraction methods were agreed and put in place and a referral into the NRM process was made. Since the meeting there has been no further missing incidents no arrests and he is complying fully with measures put in place.

MSET workshops were held in April 2022 and October 2022 to increase front line practitioner's awareness of the operational MSET processes, the Exploitation Hub, the updated missing protocol, and to support recognition of child exploitation within front line practice.

- ☞ Training highlighted importance of multi-agency approach to supporting children and disrupting exploitation
- ☞ I had little knowledge of MSET. I now have better understanding of signs of exploitation and what to do (and procedures to follow) if I have concerns.

Slides are accessible via the resource library: [MSET – Slides](#) & [Missing Protocol - Slides](#)

Strategic MSET – Joint Strategic Exploitation Group (JSEG)

Strategic MSET (JSEG) is a joint group of the adults and children’s safeguarding partnership. The Strategic JSEG meets on a quarterly basis and has strong representation from both partnerships. The Police chair of the Strategic Group is a consistent chair across the Northumbria Police Force footprint (6 LA areas) which promotes sharing of learning and best practice and connectivity across the region in identifying emerging trends or concerns.

- ❑ Across 2021-22 we have seen rising numbers of Missing adults and children following the end of COVID lockdowns.
- ❑ Police Missing data and themes are fed into and monitored in the Gateshead Joint Strategic Exploitation Group, recognising the links between children going missing and exploitation. This work has been strengthened by building links with the LA Return home interview coordinator sharing themes around Missing children.
- ❑ Gateshead were successful in receiving funding for a Young Women and Girls Worker and this person will work closely with the Operational MSET cohort building trusted relationships with exploited young people.
- ❑ Gateshead CSC have strengthened links with Northumbria Police Missing Coordinator who now features regularly in care team meetings for looked after missing children in Gateshead, supporting Safety Planning and Joined up risk assessments.
- ❑ Across 2022 we have seen a rise in the numbers of missing children presenting with complex and risky presentations. This has required the partnership to work closely together at both an Operational and Strategic Level to collectively manage risks to young people and ensure effective safety plans for young people.
- ❑ A weekly complex case panel was established which is supported by all partners and ensures we are working across the partnership to keep children at risk of Missing and Exploitation safe.
- ❑ The Exploitation Hub has introduced the Vulnerability tracker which is now collating data in relation to exploited children and adults and there are closer working relationships with SPOCS from Gateshead LA attending the Weekly Hub Exploitation Meetings. This has helped strengthen region wide working in respect of Exploitation, recognising that victims and offenders’ cross boundaries.
- ❑ Gateshead led on a region wide training input delivered by the Children’s Society to upskill practitioners to recognise the signs of an emerging form of harm - Child Financial Exploitation – this was attended by 375 attendees from across the north east region and included partners from across children and adult services (operational and strategic).
- ❑ The JSEG has also heard updates in relation to learning from other areas - Several SAR and CSPR’s have been shared allowing Gateshead partnership to reflect on their practice and build on their forward plan. The JSEG also heard an update in respect of school’s survey which helped to understand some of the key issues which were impacting on children within schools.

Some other areas which have been discussed within the JSEG over the year have been:

- ❑ Modern Slavery – Northumbria Police Modern Slavery problem profile, [Modern Slavery Annual Report](#) and regular updates from Changing Lives re Liberty Project.
- ❑ Out of Harm’s Way – [report](#) looking at how young people in the care system are put at risk of exploitation. Considered implications locally.
- ❑ Children’s Home Providers - discussion about safeguarding checks for new providers (learning from neighbouring authority)
- ❑ Independent Inquiry Child Sexual Abuse ([IICSA](#)) - Discussed how we can consider the learning from a Gateshead perspective.

- ❑ Operation Eclipse - Learning shared from the multi-agency County Lines operation (in a neighbouring authority) which focuses on the issue of cuckooing
- ❑ Criminal Exploitation in Gateshead - Discussion at a strategic level about our response to criminal exploitation in Gateshead
- ❑ Homes for Ukraine - Overview of the safeguarding checks and support for hosts / refugees within Gateshead – Business Managers part of strategic and operational groups to ensure focus on safeguarding and escalate any concerns
- ❑ Update on the work of the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) and their preventative education workstreams
- ❑ Lads like us - Overview of [Lads Like Us](#) which is a non-profit organisation helping men to heal from adverse childhood experiences. Training will be rolled out across the region and Barnardo's/Lads Like Us were key speakers at our conference re contextual safeguarding in January 2023.

Both Operational and Strategic MSET continue to have strong partnership commitment and effective working practices to help support the safety of children and young people in the Gateshead area.

Gateshead Council

Work has been completed to redesign services and teams within social care to better meet the needs of children at risk of contextual safeguarding. This ensures that risks are responded to children have appropriate and effective support.

The team take referrals from children from our front door (IRT) where the presenting issue is linked to child (Teen) – parent relational challenges due to contextual safeguarding concerns such as:



Assessments use a theoretical model to assess the push – pull factors placing the young person at risk of harm or exploitation. When children require support, this is intensive and delivered by an expert adolescent Social Worker and expert adolescent Advocate.

The model of practice is systemic, strength based, using a trauma lens to understand the family dynamic and relational issues within the family and wider support network. The team feeds into the regional exploitation hub facilitated by police and the local MSET arrangement.

There has been recent success in securing funds from the Young Women and Girls Fund for a young women and girls exploitation worker to implement intervention and training specifically to females at risk of exploitation in Gateshead. The post has now been appointed to and over the coming months a programme of work will be delivered into social care teams, into schools and across the wider partnership.

IMPACT

- There is a close working partnership with our police colleagues to prevent children going missing. In the past 12 months 14% (88 of 622) of Children in our Care had a missing incident reported this is up from 10% for the same period last year.
- Missing procedures have been strengthened which has successfully ensured that, based on the most recent missing episode, 100% of missing children have been offered a return Home Interview.
- Systems to monitor and assess the impact of work with vulnerable adolescents, those missing from home and children at risk of exploitation need to continue to be strengthened.

Police

Central Harm Reduction have built and maintain close links with the Missing From Home Coordinators, and the LA with daily contact to share information on repeat and concerning missing people. This enables more effective response to missing people at an operational level. It also allows professional challenge to decision making partners ensuring incidents are dealt with applying appropriate risk rationale.

Northeast and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB)

The ICB employs an exploitation safeguarding nurse who is based in the exploitation hub. This allows for sharing of information between agencies and the nurse signposts individuals to services and carries out one to one work depending on need. The nurse attends pre-MSET and MSET meetings and obtains information from primary care to inform risk assessments and case management. The exploitation nurse delivers training to colleagues across the ICB both internally and externally which has included delivering training to staff from the local hotel who accommodate vulnerable children and families entering the country. The sessions have received excellent feedback as reported below.

Feedback from primary care attendees at single agency level 3 safeguarding children training

What will you put into practice?

- 🗨 Communicating a safeguarding concern to other multidisciplinary members involved in patient care
- 🗨 "Respectfully disagree"
- 🗨 Mindful of radicalisation in online groups, always think about Prevent and do not hesitate to ask
- 🗨 Adolescent to parent domestic abuse - being more aware of this
- 🗨 The formalised questioning for young sexually active, useful reminder about the age of consent, ringing police directly as well as referring to CSC in cases of statutory rape. More robust consideration of Gillick competence

Feedback from practitioner attendees at the exploitation training:

- 🗨 The presentation was excellent – it was so powerful and definitely makes you think. As you know I was near to tears when you read the poems – they are very hard hitting
- 🗨 Really good to have this presentation from a health perspective, very interactive which keeps you engaged, and so powerful
- 🗨 The training was excellent, I feel more confident now in spotting the signs. The poems really brought it home. I felt I could ask questions without being made to feel silly, and I really liked how interactive it was. It was fun but I learned lots

0-19 Service - Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust (HDFT)

HDFT safeguarding team in Gateshead are members of MSET. The Named Nurse Child Protection is a member of the Strategic Exploitation Group.

Vulnerability MSET flags are in place on health records to identify risks and provide some level of data in relation to the number of children across Gateshead at risk of exploitation. The flagging system is to be reviewed with the aim of developing a more accurate profile in Gateshead and contribute to the development of a local partnership profile within the area. The Named Nurse Child Protection has taken up 'Contextual Safeguarding' as a thematic lead and will work to take forward improvements in profile development and review standards across the footprint.

Internal and external training opportunities in relation to contextual safeguarding are shared with practitioners.

Multi Agency Exploitation Hub

The Hub was launched in November 2021 and has proven to be a great asset across the region and is an excellent opportunity to pull together cross border cases which transcend geographic boundaries and age-related services. It brings together not only all 6 Local Authorities (Gateshead, Newcastle, Northumberland, North Tyneside, South Tyneside, Sunderland), both Children and Adult services, but also Health and several third sector organisations across the area. There are no other similar collaborations or coordinated services which expand across the area with the intended benefit of safeguarding vulnerable adults and children.

Benefits of the Exploitation Hub

Hub Weekly Meeting

- A single weekly meeting between all partners to discuss individuals raised as being at potential risk or current risk of exploitation.
- The meeting provides an overview across the six Local Authorities, highlighting cross border.
- There are no geographic or age related (or any other) boundaries allowing a "whole systems" approach with all LA's in the region and Health with 3rd sector integration.

Performance Framework

- The joint performance framework is being supported by the data within the vulnerability assessment tracker (VAT).
- Development of the VAT is continuous however at present the performance data remains primarily Police centric at this time.
- The aim is to host relevant multi agency data which will be a big step forward and supports recent recommendations (such as *I/CSA*)

Information Sharing Agreement (ISA)

- Work has progressed on the (ISA). Following extensive review work a new version is currently being circulated for agreement.
- The future aim is for all hub partners to drive a more connected intelligence picture to allow for effective contextual safeguarding.

Threat Reduction Group

- The police have developed an internal threat reduction group meeting at a senior management level.
- This meeting is linked to the Force tasking and coordination process and coordinates the 4P policing activities and response to exploitation across the various area commands and units within the region (Prevent, Protect, Prepare & Pursue).

Analytical support

- Analytical Threat desks within the Force Intelligence Department are dedicated to Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking and Child Sexual Exploitation (as well as County lines and other strategic threat areas) - analyses all data, incl the VAT, to identify any current trends, hotspots or emerging trends.
- Problem profiles for MSHT & CSE are being currently being progressed by the analysts

Coordination of work with Police colleagues across the Force

- the Hub staff are subject experts for Modern Slavery, Human Trafficking, complex Child Sexual Exploitation, NRM and the S45 defence.

Support of national initiatives & established relationships with regional teams

- OP Aidant (NCA led intensification periods), County Lines Intensification periods, national CSE Awareness

Safe Space - Utilisation of the Hub by all partners as a 'safe space' for vulnerable individuals

- None police / local authority identifiable building with additional facilities such as office space, meeting rooms and a large living area as well as witness interview room (ABE suite)
- Provides a space where time can be spent to meet and build the trust of individuals without the stigma of attending a police or local authority branded building
- Place of safety of unaccompanied migrant children taken into police protection under S46(1) Children Act 1989 – OP Innerste (we are seeing an increase in migration which will only grown given the current war crisis)
- Initial safe space for MDS victims – for period when appropriate accommodation is being sourced.
- Potential use for children taken into police protection. There is currently no out of hours provision for children in PP (younger children may get immediate access to foster carer but no current provision for older children) - we have had incidents of children sleeping on police station front office floors.

Continued work to support women fleeing exploitation

'Grab bags' containing everyday essential items are being offered to women fleeing exploitation to help them break free from the cycle of abuse.

Together with partners, officers from Northumbria Police's Multi Agency Exploitation Hub, are helping women and children fleeing all forms of exploitation including modern slavery, human trafficking, abusive relationships, and county lines.

Most women in these coercive situations flee with only the clothes on their back and have no access to funds. Our officers work in conjunction with the local authorities, Soroptimist Groups, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and The Salvation Army to provide help and support to these women.

The bags, provided by the local Soroptimists are given to victims who have come forward to police after leaving their homes without any belongings.

All the items within the bags – including clothing, hygiene products, make-up, and a purse – are new and have been purchased from funds raised/donated - helping victims take that initial step knowing they have support waiting for them.

"The grab bags contain all of the essentials that someone will need until secure and safe accommodation and other financial support is acquired for them. Often these people flee in the middle of the night, and it can make it difficult to access immediate support – this is where we come in.

Speaking to these women and hearing their journeys you quickly understand the fear and pressure they felt to stay within the realm of their exploitation. Their bravery is inspiring.

I want other women in these situations to hear us when we say that we're here ready to help and your safety, dignity and welfare is our top priority."

Detective Chief Inspector Sharon Chatterton (Multi Agency Exploitation Hub)

Return Home Support – for children who go missing

A Return Home Support Worker (RHSW) role is now established within the Specialist Support Team as a dedicated resource. The Return Home Support Worker works to quickly build rapport with young people who have been reported missing, offer a safe space to talk about why they went missing, what happened while they were away and any remaining concerns they may have.

The Return Home Support Worker gathers intelligence and advocates on behalf of young people to help understand how we can effectively safeguard them and prevent further missing episodes.

The Return Home Support Worker has established strong links with our residential homes and spends time weekly in the homes to interact with our young people on an informal basis to strengthen trusting relationships.

Since the appointment of the Return Home Support Worker, RHI engagement rates have improved along with evidence of high-quality interventions.

The Return Home Support Worker has a regular presence in our Children's Homes and Young people have requested her support at CAMHS and other wellbeing related appointments.

RHI engagement rates have risen to 65% compared to 48% in August 2021, which is evidence of improvement but still with further work to do.

Young people have shared intelligence in relation to concerning activities in the community such as underage alcohol sales which have been reported to the relevant authorities who have responded accordingly.

A particular area for development is where our Return Home Support Worker is unable to establish contact with a young person following a missing episode.

Our RHSW has been proactive in strengthening relationships with our Children's Homes and this has had an impact on increased participation. In order to further improve engagement, this approach will now be extended to supported accommodation staff and private providers.

"Since having the Return Home Support Worker in post we have had consistency and support for our young people, which I believe has helped protect and safeguard them. The RHS Worker goes over and above to get to know our young people and support them."
(Children's Home Manager)

"It is apparent in the RHI that (Return Home Support Worker) has developed a good rapport with the young people she visits. The RHI's have been informative and helpful with associates/locations whilst missing. This information can then be used by police in any future missing episodes."
(Police Missing from Home Co-ordinator)

Operation Endeavour

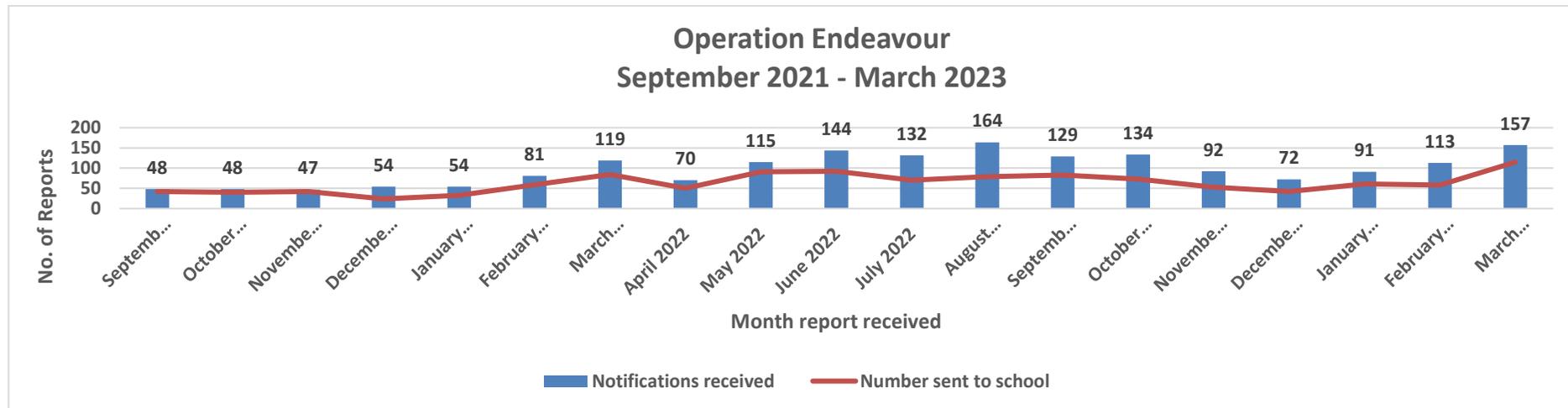
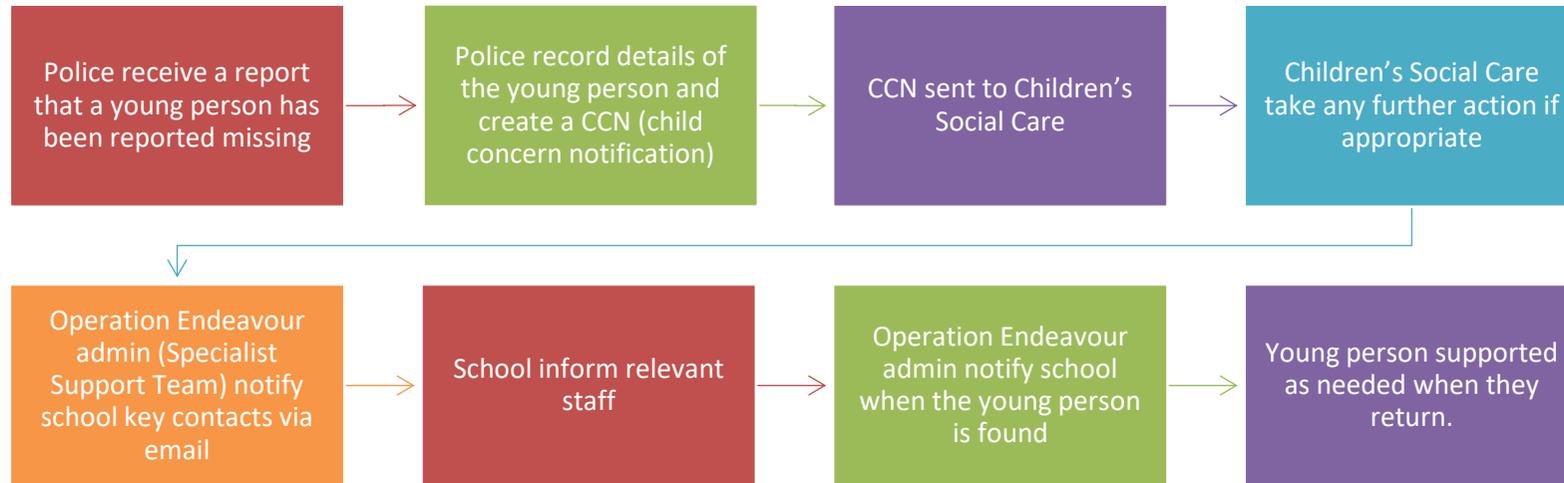
Operation Endeavour is a joint operation between Gateshead Children's Services and Northumbria Police to safeguard children and young people at risk of harm from going missing. This is an innovative project in which schools and colleges are participating.

Operation Endeavour aims to support children and young people who go missing from home. Children who go missing from home are at risk of significant harm and they may be vulnerable to sexual exploitation, violent crime, gang exploitation, or to drug and alcohol misuse.

As a result, following any report of a child going missing to the Police, the Police will contact Children's Social Care who will then communicate relevant and necessary information to nominated school staff. Each school has members of staff (key adults) who have been fully trained in liaising with the Police and Children's Social Care when required, and will ensure that the necessary support is made available to the child or young person following their return

See:  [10 things you should know about Operation Endeavour \[277.37KB\]](#)

Operation Endeavor Process



* Data for January 2022 is only up to 19/1/22 due to change in reporting system.

9. Summary of other thematic info

Domestic Abuse

Domestic Abuse Service update

Our in-house Domestic Abuse Team is a highly skilled and specialist team offering:

Practical and emotional one-to-one support for adult victims of domestic abuse

Groupwork (Freedom Programme, START & Moving On)

Bespoke direct work with child victims of domestic abuse (children who have experienced DA in their home environment)

Bespoke direct work with young people who are in (or at risk of) abusive relationships themselves

Bespoke direct work with perpetrators of abuse (Behaviour Change programme)

Domestic Abuse Workers provide practical and emotional support to those affected by domestic abuse. The role of Domestic Abuse Worker is to identify risk factors, empower victims to make informed choices and promote strategies that manage risk. Whilst all Domestic Abuse Workers work with adults, young people and children, within the team there are 2 specialist children's workers who offer bespoke, one-to-one interventions with children and 1 specialist young people's worker who supports young people experiencing (or at risk of) domestic abuse in their own relationships.

The Domestic Abuse Team works with in excess of 200 victims of domestic abuse at any given time, currently 187 adults and 61 children/young people. In the period September 2021 - March 2023, there have been 2740 referrals to the Domestic Abuse Team, 1868 in the 12 month period April 2022 – March 2023.

Where there are children in the family, all DAT intervention has a direct or indirect impact on the children. Direct work with children takes a therapeutic approach and is usually very specific. This may cover aspects such as:

Age specific safety planning

Dealing with feelings

Healthy relationships

Goal setting

Positive gender work

Rebuilding relationships
(between the child and the non-abusive parent)

Children are always considered as part of the safety planning. A children's risk assessment is undertaken, any safeguarding concerns addressed, and other services are drawn on where appropriate utilising counselling services, CYPS, the Emotional Well-Being Team, or the PCC funded *Bright Eyed and Bushy Tailed* programme. Parents are supported to open up conversations with their children about their experiences. There is a strong focus on repairing bonds with the non-abusive parent whilst discussing appropriate and safe contact arrangements as required or supporting clients to access legal advice to gain prohibited steps or child arrangements orders as required.

All 3 group work programmes (Freedom, START, Moving On) consider parenting and the impact of DA on children. Moving On is entirely focussed on the impact domestic abuse can have on parenting and repairing relationships.

One of our Domestic Abuse Workers has recently undertaken the specialist 'Responding to young people affected by domestic abuse' YPVA qualification and in September 2022, we have implemented a dedicated offer of support for young people who are in (or at risk of) abusive relationships themselves. This offer has strong links with the wider contextual safeguarding work in relation to missing and exploitation.

Some feedback:

- ☞ I will tell my children about you when they are older and how you helped me through the dark times.
- ☞ Because of you I have found the inner strength to motivate myself to better myself and my children's future and make them proud.
- ☞ My son told me she helps him to stop worrying as much and it makes him feel good because he can talk to someone about stuff that he can trust.
- ☞ The anxiety in my belly has gone, I feel validated and like I have more power over my situation.
- ☞ She (DAT worker) really was a beacon of support when I needed it most and for that, I am forever grateful.
- ☞ You were a source of comfort and great counsellor. As a result, this has brought her and the girls to a point where they are not just surviving but thriving.
- ☞ I'm grateful for the time you took with me and the patience you had, listening to me arcane and despair at a time when no one really "Heard" me.... You "Heard" me.

Behaviour Change Programme

The Behaviour Change Program is a flexible one to one program which is built around three core theories:

Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, where the use of violence is attributed to learned behaviours aimed to achieve specific outcomes, work is completed to alter patterns of thought in order to change future behaviour;

Psychodynamic approaches, where abusive partners are educated to recognise the feelings and emotional disposition that precipitate violence to support them to divert and de-escalate; and,

Pro-feminist approaches which look at societal, familial and personal views and how these have been influenced by patriarchal values to create expectations around gender roles.

Behaviour Change Workers deliver bespoke, one-to-one interventions to break the cycle of abuse, promote safety for victims and children, and ultimately reduce the multiple negative impacts of domestic abuse. The role of the Behaviour Change Worker is to work collaboratively with Domestic Abuse Workers, Social Workers, Lead Practitioners, Police and other professionals to provide bespoke interventions with those who demonstrate abusive behaviours.

2 of the 16 BCP modules are specifically focused on the impact of domestic abuse on children these cover issues such as parent-centred behaviours, boundaries, fathering circles, in addition to looking at the specific effects that living with domestic abuse has on children.

There have been 195 referrals to the programme in the period September 2021 - March 2023, (113 in the 12 month period September 2021 – September 2022; 122 in the 12 month period April 2022 – March 2023). The program is currently in the process of being assessed for RESPECT accreditation, this is the national gold standard for domestic abuse perpetrator programs. An initial site visit took place in September 2022, and it is hoped that final accreditation will be achieved by June 2023.

The program is also being independently evaluated by Newcastle University who have undertaken interviews with clients, relevant professionals, victim/survivors and practitioners and will also be reviewing relevant data sources.

The BCP team are developing a training program for the wider work force around work with abusive partners to create greater confidence and engagement with perpetrators of domestic abuse in all areas of the system.

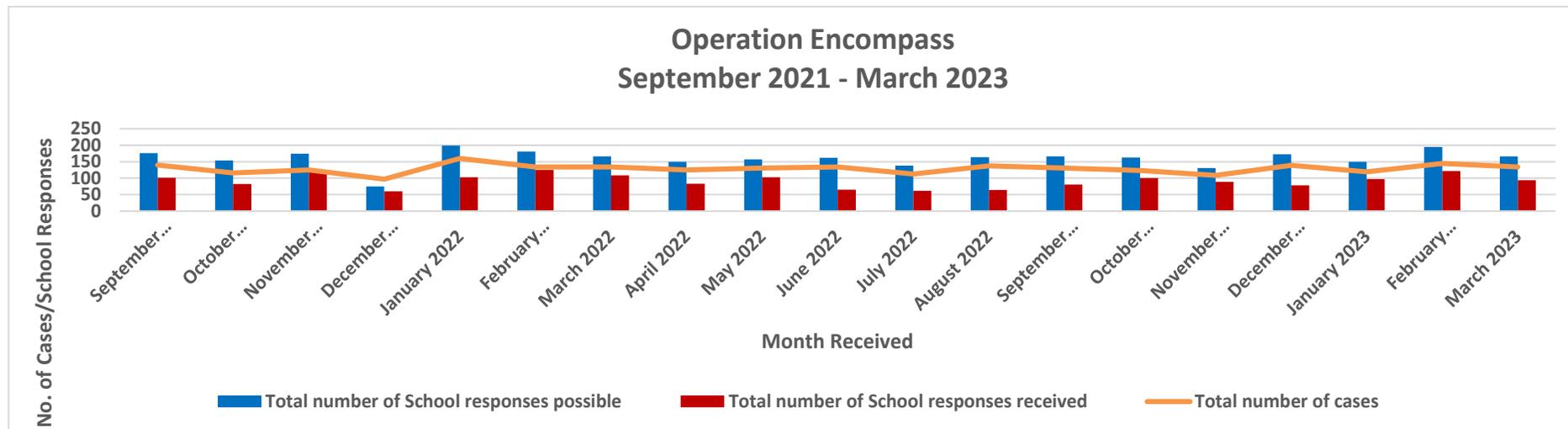
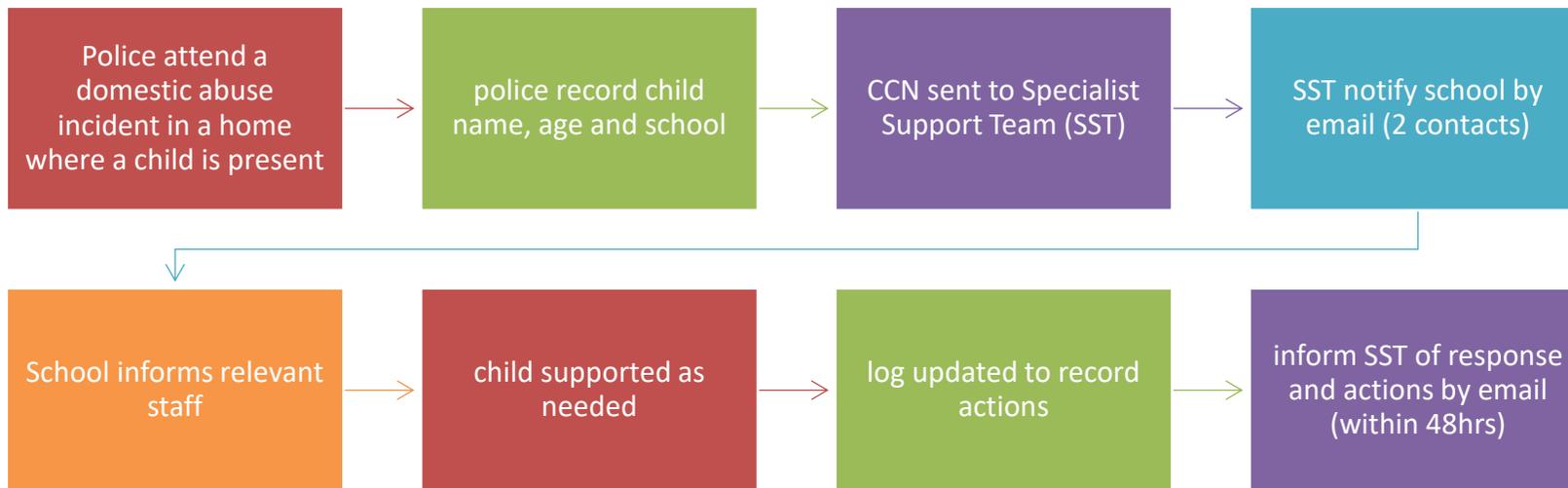
Some feedback:

- ☞ This is all about what I did wrong, and I absolutely accept that now, that weighs heavy but now I am in the right place to listen to what people need.
- ☞ Behaviour Change Programme has changed my relationship with my children, it has prepared me for when the contact starts again, and I don't think I was ready for that before this.
- ☞ This has been a massive emotional learning experience; it's informing my behaviour all the time.

Operation Encompass

Operation Encompass is a police and education early information safeguarding partnership enabling schools to offer immediate support to children experiencing domestic abuse. Operation Encompass ensures that there is a simple telephone call or notification to a school's trained Designated Safeguarding Lead/Officer (known as Key Adult) prior to the start of the next school day after an incident of police attended domestic abuse where there are children related to either of the adult parties involved. Information is shared with a school's Key Adult (Designated Safeguarding Lead or Officer) prior to the start of the next school day after officers have attended a domestic abuse incident. This sharing of information enables appropriate support to be given, dependent upon the needs and wishes of the child.

Operation Encompass Process:



Early Help

Children and their families have a substantial early help offer delivered through our children's centres. The offer comprises of a whole-family intervention (Targeted Family Support), parenting programmes, reducing parental conflict programmes, Team Around the School (TAS) model, community (Beacon Lough) co-location and an online offer.

There are eight recognised Children's Centres in Gateshead, including our three main sites at Deckham, Chowdene and Blaydon. Children's Centres staff also deliver the offer at nine community/VCS locations throughout the borough. An early help worker and a social worker is based in the High Fell ward alongside VCS partner Edbert's House. The Play Service provide a community outreach function weekdays and on a Saturday for children and young people with SEND, referred by CWD colleagues.

Our practice in Early Help is centred around the importance of developing high quality and trusting relationships. A priority for 2023 is to further embed the Practice model and the Quality Assurance Framework which has been revised in children's social care.

Impact of Early Help is demonstrated by:

- Supporting Families Programme Outcomes Target in 2021/22 – 100% of all outcomes achieved since introduction of programme in 2015.
- Children's needs are met at the earliest possible stage, since March 2022, 88.98% of cases closed to Early Help have not returned to Tier 3 statutory services (almost 9 out of 10 children are not re-referred), a measure of sustained change.
- Only 9% of families completing their Team Around the Family (TAF) support plan with an outcome of 'all needs met' are referred to children's social care within 12 months of closure to the Early Help Service.
- Clear procedures/thresholds in place – patterns regularly reviewed in Early Help Performance Clinics;
- IRT/Early Help facilitate joint training on thresholds (Level 3 Safeguarding)
- 62.1% of of EHAs (407) are completed by services external to Gateshead Council
- 66.1% of EHAs completed are initiated from outside of the Early Help Service which positively demonstrates the partnership application of the Early Help strategy.

Future plans:

- Gateshead is one of 75 Upper Tier Local Authorities selected for funding to implement a network of Family Hubs between 2022-25.
- Gateshead will receive new 'Turnaround' funding to work with 92 children and young people (aged 10-17 years) at risk of entering the youth justice system between 2022-25.
- Gateshead triaged 1,899 referrals as the regional referral gateway for the Reducing Parental Conflict Programme, exceeding the referral target set by DWP by 13% and posting a programme start rate (parents/carers) of 73%. The LA has applied for and received a new DWP grant totalling almost £60K over 2 years to train facilitators in some of the programmes offered so that interventions can continue to be delivered as part of a local RPC offer.
- The updated partnership Gateshead Early Help Strategy will be published in Summer 2023.

Permanent exclusions 2020/21

During 2021/22 there were 50 young people permanently excluded from secondary schools, an increase of 19% from the previous year. There were no primary permanent exclusions.

Number of secondary permanent exclusions since 2016/17 academic year:



Reasons for permanent exclusions in 2021/2022:

Reason	Number
Physical assault (pupil)	5
Physical assault (adult)	6
Verbal abuse (pupil)	0
Verbal abuse (adult)	0
Bullying	1
Racist incident	1
Sexual misconduct	0
Drug/alcohol	4
Damage	0
Theft	0
Persistent disruptive behaviour	31
Inappropriate use of social media	0
Other	2

Permanent exclusion rates nationally and in Gateshead:

	2019-2020	2020-2021	Autumn term 2021-2022
National suspension rate	0.06	0.05 (-0.01)	0.03
Gateshead suspension	0.11	0.14 (+0.03)	0.04

The rate of permanent exclusion over the three-year period (autumn term 2021-2022) is significantly above the national average.

Research highlights that pupils who are excluded are at greater risk of having poorer educational outcomes, more fragile to criminal and sexual exploitation and have reduced life chances.

In 2021-2022

- boys represented the highest number of permanent exclusions that were issued and upheld. They are approximately three times more fragile to permanent exclusion than girls. This is a trend continued from the previous year.
- none-SEN pupils represent the highest group of pupils that were issued with a permanent exclusion that was upheld.
- Key Stage 3 was the phase where most permanent exclusions were issued and upheld. This is a trend continued from the previous year.
- In 2021-2022 persistent disruptive behaviour was cited on the greatest number of permanent exclusions issued and upheld.

10. Child deaths

The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) is a multi-agency panel which aims to scrutinise the circumstances surrounding each child's death and where appropriate, provide challenge to the agencies involved to further enhance the learning, as well as make recommendations to the appropriate agencies to improve service delivery and patient experience.

The CDOP will in each case classify the cause of death, identify contributory factors, identify any modifiable factors (those which can be changed through national or local interventions) and make recommendations to prevent future similar deaths, or improve the safety and welfare of children in the local area and further afield. Ascertain why a child has died by a thorough but proportionate review of the facts and circumstances surrounding the death.

[Child Death Overview Panel – Annual Report \(2021–2022\)](#)

This is the second annual report of the joint North and South of Tyne Child Death Overview Panel (N&S Tyne CDOP), which contains a summary of the activity carried out by the panel across the 6 LA areas represented: Gateshead, Newcastle, Northumberland, North Tyneside, South Tyneside and Sunderland.

In 2021/22 there were a total of **91 child death notifications** across Northumberland, North Tyneside, Newcastle, Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland (North and South of Tyne), 13 for Gateshead. The highest number of child deaths were below the age of 27 days. A child is most at risk of death within the first year of life, and particularly within the first 27 days of life.

There was a total of **73 child death reviews**, 9 for Gateshead.

Modifiable factors

The review process is required to identify deaths where modifiable factors occur, in order that agencies learn lessons, improve practice and ultimately prevent further deaths. A modifiable factor is defined as something which: *“may have contributed to the death of the child and which, by means of locally and nationally achievable interventions, could be modified to reduce the risk of future child deaths”*.

There were 4 out of 9 (44%) modifiable factors identified in the Gateshead reviews. Of the 73 cases reviewed in 2021/2022, modifiable factors were identified in 28 cases (38%) NCMD national data³ shows the North East rate was 34% and the national rate was 37%.

It is worth noting that the child death process also creates an opportunity at the meetings held before the panel review (Joint Agency Response Meetings, Morbidity and Mortality and Child Death Review Meetings) for services to identify other smaller, micro-changes to practice, e.g. a need for workplace training or amendments to internal policies and procedures.

³ [NCMD Child death review data release 2022](#)

Examples of action taken to reduce child deaths across the CDOP footprint

Primary Care

- As a result of a child's death a primary care practice introduced a system to highlight vulnerable young people who were not requesting repeat prescriptions for long term mental health conditions. The preliminary findings after a six-month review identified five such cases.
- When primary care has undertaken pieces of work as above, the learning is shared with other practices via GP TeamNet, email and peer review sessions.

Midwifery

- The maternity service in Northumberland completed a gap analysis of ongoing public health workstreams to ensure the modifiable factors were being addressed. An area of focus was safe sleeping practices, and as a result the maternity service planned their educational 'Theme of the Month' around safe sleeping practices.
- This includes educational displays in all staff areas throughout the service, an update of the Head of Midwifery monthly newsletter, a parent education drive with information shared via social media platforms and also in patient facing areas in the maternity units.
- An online survey was shared with parents to gather data regarding the information midwifery staff were providing, whether this was adequate, and which areas needed further development (interestingly this was around safe bed sharing practices...).
- The results of this survey fed into the gap analysis and action plan and as a result patient information has been updated and will be transitioned onto BadgerNet from April 2022.

NCMD Webinars

- The 58 CDOPs contribute data nationally which is then used to develop themed reports and inform professionals and policy makers, highlights from this work includes:**
- 1. Continued sharing of real-time child death data with NHS England to support and inform the national response to COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2. Child Mortality and Social Deprivation Report May 202, supported by a webinar
- 3. Suicide in Children and Young People Oct 2021, supported by a webinar
- 4. Child deaths in England after Covid-19 infection during the first pandemic year
- 5. How to complete a reporting form effectively, supported by a webinar
- 6. The Role of the Key worker, supported by a webinar
- 7. Safety notices shared on super strong magnets and baby slings: these come about when the NCMD receive a notification of a child's death and they believe the risk to other children is great enough to warrant a national alert.

See: [CDOP Annual Report 2021-2022](#) for more information