



Gateshead
local safeguarding
children board

Gateshead LSCB

Business Plan

2018-2019





Our vision is that every child should grow up feeling safe and in a loving, secure environment, free from abuse, neglect and crime, enabling them to enjoy a happy and healthy childhood in which they can fulfil their social and economic potential

Role of the Business Plan

The Gateshead LSCB Business Plan sets the strategic direction for the LSCB. The Business Plan also reinforces the specific role of the LSCB to **lead, challenge** and support **learning**. The plan identifies specific priorities for action and is clear about roles and accountability.

The Gateshead approach

Due to the expected changes to statutory guidance, the LSCB agreed that the business plan for 2017-2018 should cover only one year, unlike the previous three-year plan. There have been considerable delays in finalising the new statutory guidance so it was agreed the LSCB would continue with the same approach for 2018-2019.

This document provides a focus for 2018-2019 to build on the progress made in the previous year and to drive forward work to prepare Gateshead for the new safeguarding arrangements which will be established in 2019 in line with new legislation. This document will enable the Board to continue to focus on the specific role and remit of LSCBs in ensuring that the welfare of children is safeguarded and protected, as set out in *Working Together* (2015) and the Children Act 2004.

This Business Plan emphasises the role of Gateshead LSCB in **leading** the safeguarding agenda, in **challenging** the work of partner organisations, and in committing to an approach which **learns** lessons, embeds good practice and which is continually influenced by the views of children and young people.



2018-2019 Action Plan

In 2018-2019 the focus will continue to be on the three strategic business priorities:

- **Leadership**
- **Challenge**
- **Learning**

There will also be a focus on five thematic priority areas:

- **Voice of the child**
- **Communication & engagement with the frontline (including schools)**
- **Early Help & Early Intervention**
- **Mental health & Emotional Wellbeing**
- **Child Sexual Exploitation & Missing**

In addition, we will continue to work to prepare for the implementation of new legislation and guidance around statutory strategic arrangements for safeguarding.

We will do the following to deliver our priorities:

In relation to **Voice of the child** we will improve the way we capture the voice of the child and how its is heard by services and the LSCB so that we can learn from what young people are telling us and our partner agencies. We will evaluate the effectiveness of different aspects of the child's journey into help and services, the quality of the decisions made by individual agencies and the quality of multi-agency processes.

In relation to **Communication & engagement with the frontline (including schools)** we will

In relation to **Early Help** we will continue to challenge progress of the Early Help Strategy and receive assurance about the impact on safeguarding children. LSCB will monitor how early help arrangements are working and if this is reducing the need for escalation.

In relation to **Mental health & Emotional Wellbeing** we will continue to receive assurances on the implementation on the new model for delivering Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (known as EMIL) and receive assurances that mental health services commissioned for children in Gateshead are adequate in terms of safeguarding and services for adults operate with a "think family" approach. We will ensure we liaise with Health & Wellbeing Board and any other groups to ensure work is joined up and reduce risk of duplication.

In relation to **Child Sexual Exploitation & Missing** we will seek to ensure that those children and young people who are likely to be exploited or go missing can be identified and supported appropriately and to ensure the workforce understand the particular vulnerabilities of these children and young people.

Action Plan

Action	Lead Officer	Target Date
Voice of the child		
Receive reports throughout the year regarding partner engagement with young people including case studies and examples of good practice.	Business Manager (all Board members to contribute)	ongoing
Through new or existing arrangements seek the views of children on safeguarding issues and represent these to the LSCB.	Business Manager (all Board members to contribute)	March 2019
Host an engagement event with Board members and young people and seek the views of young people on LSCB priorities.	Business Manager	November 2018
Ensure that consideration is given to capturing the Voice of the Child when establishing the new arrangements in Gateshead	Independent Chair and Business Manager	March 2019
Communication & engagement with the frontline (including schools)		
Review and develop LSCB's communication & engagement Strategy	Business Manager	October 2018
Review LSCB Communications to ensure the right information is being disseminated to the right people.	Business Manager	September 2018
Develop and maintain LSCB website and information updates to ensure appropriate information is being disseminated correctly.	Business Manager	Ongoing
Raise awareness of the LSCB across the children's workforce and local communities.	Business Manager (all board members to contribute)	ongoing
Audit the LSCBs effectiveness in providing key safeguarding messages to frontline staff.	PQA Chair	March 2019
Early Help & Early Intervention		
Monitor the impact of the new Early Help Strategy and re-model of services and receive assurances on the impact on safeguarding children (including new domestic abuse service)	Service Director Early Help	March 2019

Evaluate the effectiveness of different aspects of the child's journey into help and services, the quality of the decisions made by individual agencies and the quality of multi-agency processes.	PQA Chair & L&I Chair	March 2019
Mental health & Emotional Wellbeing		
Receive assurances that mental health services commissioned for children in Gateshead are adequate in terms of safeguarding, including waiting times.	Executive Director, Patient Safety and Designated Nurse, CCG	Ongoing
Through good links with the Health & Wellbeing Board (HWBB), continue the LSCB oversight of CAMHS and the "whole system" approach to Emotional Wellbeing, specifically with regard to emotional resilience for CYP.	Independent Chair & Business Manager	March 2019
Child Sexual Exploitation & Missing Children		
The Strategic Sexual Exploitation Group and MSET group will raise awareness of and develop best practice guidance relating to Child Sexual Exploitation and Missing Children (regional collaboration)	Strategic SEG Chair & Business Manager	March 2019
The Strategic Sexual Exploitation Group will oversee multi-agency support for children and their families through MSET and Return Home Interview arrangements.	Strategic SEG Chair	March 2019
Develop regional C/SE strategy (regional collaboration)	Business Manager (via BM Network)	March 2019
Ensure that missing children interviews are being undertaken in a timely manner and that information is being used to help disrupt and prevent further exploitation.	Strategic SEG Chair	Ongoing
Complete an audit of the effectiveness of multi-agency working in improving outcomes for children identified as at risk of CSE	PQA Chair	March 2019

In addition, we will do the following to maintain a focus on our strategic priorities linked to our specific role to **lead, challenge** and **learn**:

In relation to **leadership** we will work to ensure that our future arrangements are fit for purpose and enable the new body which will be established to oversee strategic safeguarding arrangements in Gateshead to build on the work of the LSCB and strengthen the position in Gateshead further.

In relation to **challenge** we will continue to strengthen on our links with other partnerships (e.g. the Safeguarding Adults Board, Health and Wellbeing Board and Community Safety Board) and influence their agenda via our own work plan and membership.

In relation to **learning** we will continue to review cases where there are lessons to be learned through the Learning and Improvement Sub Group (and Serious Case Review Panel when necessary). We will also implement and embed the findings of any relevant inspections of the Board and partner agencies and cascade the learning across partner agencies.

Action	Lead Officer	Target Date
Leadership		
Work to ensure that future arrangements are fit for purpose and enable the Gateshead Safeguarding Children Board to build on the work of the LSCB and strengthen the position further.	LSCB Independent Chair and Business Manager	March 2019
Challenge		
Further strengthen joint working between boards (e.g. the SAB, HWB and CSB) in particular re those areas of work that cross over, such as domestic abuse, mental health and PREVENT	LSCB Independent Chair and Business Manager	March 2019
Receive assurances that services operate with a “think family” approach where there is adult mental health, substance / alcohol use and domestic abuse and this is impacting on children’s safety	Executive Director, Patient Safety and Designated Nurse, CCG	March 2019
Learning		
Review cases where there are lessons to be learned and ensure lessons are disseminated and actioned as appropriate	Chair of Learning & Improvement Sub Group and Business Manager	Ongoing
Implement and embed the findings of any Board or partner agency inspections and cascade the learning as appropriate	Relevant LSCB Executive members and Business Manager	Ongoing



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