



**Northumberland**  
Strategic Safeguarding Partnership

**NSSP Annual Report**

**April 2019 – Sept 2020**

**Safeguarding Children in Northumberland**

**<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Children/Safeguarding.aspx>**

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## 1. Foreword by the NSSP Independent Chair

This is the first Annual Report of the Northumberland Strategic Safeguarding Partnership (NSSP). The NSSP was formed in response to the changes set out in Working Together 2018. In particular the need to step down Local Safeguarding Children Boards and replace them with locally arrived at partnership arrangements designed to safeguard children.

Everyone in Northumberland shares a commitment to and responsibility for safeguarding children. However, the statutory responsibility rests with the three safeguarding partners: the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), the Local Authority and the Police. During the 18 months of this report significant progress in developing the partnership has been undertaken, including a review of the membership of the NSSP. The NSSP is now a streamlined partnership and I must go on record to thank our lay members for their drive and dedication over the last three years to provide a resident of Northumberland challenge to all of our work. Also our relevant agencies who are now working with our sub-committees to drive forward the work of the partnership.

This report also highlights the work of the NSSP during the current coronavirus pandemic, quickly moving to weekly then fortnightly

meetings to monitor, scrutinise and to provide an information sharing opportunity for all partners. The meetings ensured quick identification of risk and actions agreed to mitigate the risks and the development of a Covid-19 performance framework to identify any areas where there was an increase and used this to plan for increased demand post Covid-19.

Many of our sub-committees who had an operational focus or looked at specific vulnerabilities during the pandemic met virtually developing new plans and establishing new actions. Face to face training had to stop due to the risk of transmission, virtual training provided by webinar and e-learning has quickly been established and the take up has been considerable.

Alongside these necessary changes, there has also been many lessons learned, the use of virtual meetings has been a considerable time saver, the weekly, then fortnightly meeting has also increased the progress of the NSSPs priorities and actions.

Looking forward to 2021-2022 alongside the potential increase in referrals and new safeguarding priorities, we must not lose sight of the successes developed and embedded during Covid-19 and cement these in the new normal moving forward.



Paula Mead, Independent Chair of Northumberland Strategic Safeguarding Partnership

## 2. Introduction

This Annual Report covers a period of time when the Northumberland Safeguarding Children Board ended, and the Northumberland Safeguarding Children Partnership started on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019. This change was required by statute in line with the implementation of the [Children and Social Work Act 2017](#).

For information regarding the demographics in Northumberland please access this link <https://tinyurl.com/y4rjyv6o>

The three Safeguarding Partners<sup>1</sup> are also required to publish an Annual Report that sets out what they have done as a result of the arrangements, including on local child safeguarding practice reviews, and how effective these arrangements have been in practice. It was agreed during this transition year the report would cover from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 until September 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 to ensure that the data requested for the annual report would be available to match the three partner's annual data reporting timescales would be available following quarter four. The annual report should also 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

The report will be published on the [NSSP Website](#)



<sup>1</sup> The Three Safeguarding Partners for Northumberland are Northumberland County Council, Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group and Northumbria Police

### 3. Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements for 2019-2020

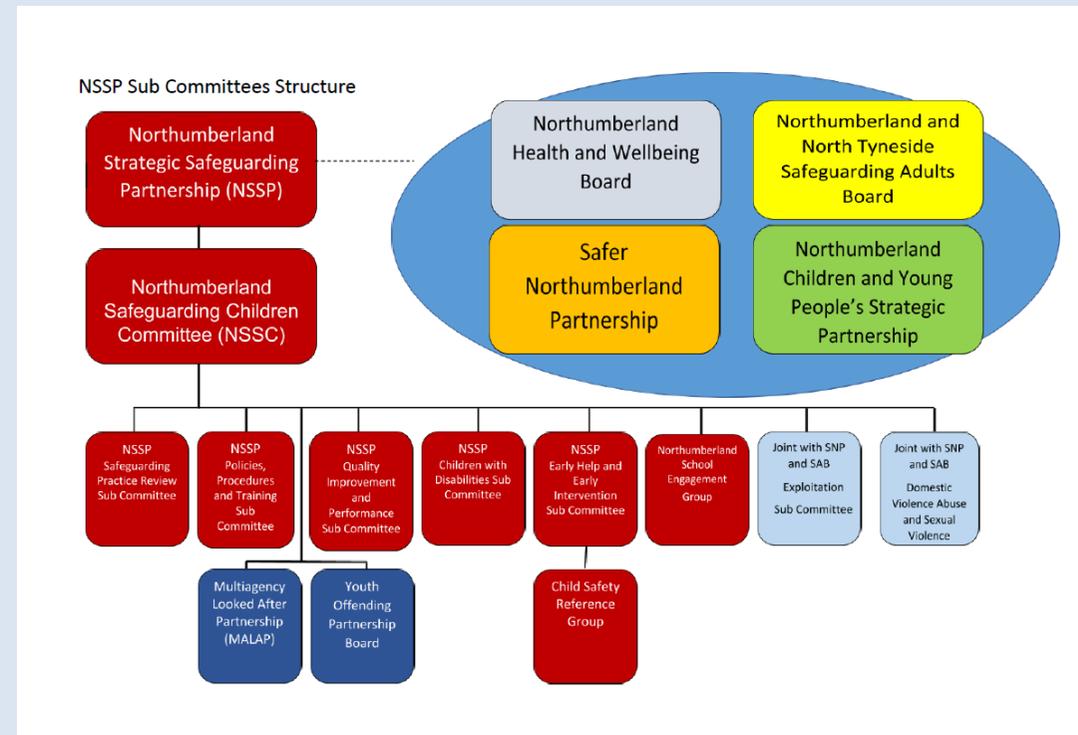
Any local organisations and agencies have a duty under section 11 of the Children Act 2004 to ensure that they consider the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children when carrying out their functions. The responsibility for this join-up locally rests with the three safeguarding partners who 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. Section 11 this year was undertaken sub regionally under the umbrella of the Tyne, Wear and Northumberland Safeguarding Partnership; this provided the opportunity for organisations that cover more than one Local Authority area to provide one locally adapted report and enabled some comparative work to be considered.

The NSSP arrangements transitioned into the Northumberland Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSSP) in 2019. The new arrangements and plan can be found [here](#). The Act also removed the statutory responsibility for the Child Death Review process from NSSPs and passed it to Local Authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups who are known as the Child Death Review Partners.

We retained the Independent Chair role to ensure that scrutiny remained in place during transition at the same time strengthening the audit framework and s11, s175 and primary care s11 audits.

The [North and South of Tyne Child Death Overview Panel](#).

As the CDR arrangements were robust North of Tyne it was agreed by the Child Death Review Partners that CDR would report annually to the Health and Well-Being Board, with annual report being provided to the NSSP for information. It was also agreed that the North of Tyne CDOP would combine with the South of Tyne CDOP from April 2020 to comply with the statutory guidance to review at least 60 child deaths per year.



#### 4. What have we achieved?

What we said we would do	How we said we would do this	How do we know we have done it?	Did we make a difference?	Rag rating
<p><b>Implement the <a href="#">Northumberland multi agency safeguarding arrangements plan</a></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the work of the NSSP</li> <li>Review the support arrangements to the NSSP</li> <li>Implement the requirements of the <a href="#">Children and Social Work Act 2017</a> and <a href="#">Working Together 2018</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safeguarding Partners consulted with the Partnership agencies, relevant agencies <sup>2</sup> and the NSSP Independent Chair</li> <li>Review the membership of the NSSP</li> <li>Options appraisal presented for decision making</li> <li>Raised awareness of changes to multi agency safeguarding arrangements</li> </ul>	<p><b>YES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agreed plan in place that meets statutory requirements</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Strengthen regional work and maximise the use of resources</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement the Business Manager Collaboration Plan</li> <li>Implement <a href="#">Early Adopter</a> regional work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safeguarding Partner attendance at Early Adopter work</li> <li>North and South of Tyne Child Death Overview Panel established</li> <li>Shared training pack developed based on learning from regional reviews</li> <li>Regional multi-agency scorecard, dataset and reporting templates agreed for implementation in 2020 following Covid-19</li> </ul>	<p><b>YES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training pack used to inform 2019-2020 training offer</li> <li>Learning from practice is embedded into future training for the workforce</li> <li>Shared learning undertaken across the region</li> <li>North and South of Tyne CDOP in place and functioning, <a href="#">annual report published</a></li> <li>Scorecard agreed and ready to roll out in October 2020</li> </ul>	

<sup>2</sup> Relevant agencies are those organisations and agencies whose involvement the safeguarding partners consider may be required to safeguard and promote the welfare of children with regard to local need

What we said we would do	How we said we would do this	How do we know we have done it?	Did we make a difference?	Rag rating
<b>Contributed feedback to a regional Section 11 Audit Tool that was undertaken in 2019-2020</b>	Assurance provided that all partner agencies are compliant with their statutory safeguarding children duties under <a href="#">Section 11 Children Act 2004</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sub-regional Section 11 presented to the NSSP in 2020 following collation across the sub region</li> </ul>	<b>YES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partners reported ease of use and findings will be tested as part of either local or sub-regional challenge events.</li> <li>The report provides assurance to the NSSP that safeguarding is robust and compliant in Northumberland the three safeguarding partners and all relevant agencies responded alongside British Transport Police CAFCASS North East Ambulance Service who provided their own sub regional s11 reports.</li> </ul>	
<b>Contributed feedback to a regional Section 175 Audit Tool that was undertaken in 2019 -2020</b>	Assurance provided that Schools and education providers in Northumberland are compliant with their statutory duties under <a href="#">Section 175 of the Education Act 2002</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>S175 safeguarding standards audit-schools continue to engage with the process, 100% in place and have had an annual review.</li> </ul>	<b>YES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All schools in Northumberland have not just completed their audits, but have been subject of an annual review which established that all school s are compliant with the set standards.</li> </ul>	
<b>Strengthened the audit function within the NSSP</b>	Identified Multi-Agency audits required for 2019-2020 and established a governance framework for completion and reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reports provided to the NSSP as part of the Performance and Audit Framework at each NSSP during the year.</li> </ul>	<b>YES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Audit reports have included, Safeguarding Disabled Children and Young People, Voice of the Child, Neglect (Follow Up Audit), Early Help Impact audits,</li> </ul>	

What we said we would do	How we said we would do this	How do we know we have done it?	Did we make a difference?	Rag rating
			(Every three months) Children Living with Domestic Violence	
<b>Contributed to the development of a safeguarding children procedure manual covering the North and South of Tyne</b>	Assurance provided that Partnership members who cover the North and South of Tyne practice within one shared safeguarding procedure manual Children and their families will be subject to the same guidance and procedures across the six areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Procedures live online at <a href="https://www.proceduresonline.com/nesubregion/index.html">https://www.proceduresonline.com/nesubregion/index.html</a></li> </ul>	<b>YES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The same procedures are available to all front line staff across six LA areas, for organisations like CNTW and the Police, it mean there is one manual for the area they cover.</li> </ul>	
<b>Oversee the implementation of the new regional <a href="#">Missing, Slavery, Exploitation and Trafficking (MSET) Framework</a></b>	Regional Framework localised, implemented and embedded across the workforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All six areas to follow the same procedures for MSET. Following South Tyneside's model.</li> </ul>	<b>In progress</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the main the same procedures are being followed in all six areas, however they are under review.</li> <li>Since the local review MSET have strengthened the focus on preventative risk management within pre-meet, seeing a significant reduction in young people progressing to full MSET. In the last calendar year we have held 13 pre-meets and only 8 full MSET meetings.</li> </ul>	
<b>Oversee learning reviews into referred</b>	Learning identified from practice that was added to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seven minute guide available for the workforce,</li> </ul>	<b>YES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Seven minute guides are</li> </ul>	

What we said we would do	How we said we would do this	How do we know we have done it?	Did we make a difference?	Rag rating
cases	training courses and disseminated through 7-minute briefings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training and development Officer now a key member of the Learning Review Process to implement training as soon as identified.</li> </ul>	available <a href="#">here</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the ILAC and JTRAI inspection inspectors commented positively on the availability and use of seven minute guides across the workforce.</li> </ul>	
<b>Introduce the Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review Model</b>	We would develop a sub-regional model and roll this out to all partners and our sub regional partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The process would be in place and be used. It would also be used within all six Local Authority Areas</li> </ul>	<b>YES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Model in place, being used and provides robust processes for rapid review, and Information gathering, decision making and reporting. The National panel have provided feedback stating they like the reporting template, which they find easy to follow and understand the rationale of decisions made.</li> </ul>	



## 5. NSSP Strategic Priorities for 2019-2020

The NSSP agreed five priorities to improve outcomes through the partnership arrangement. The NSSP strategic priorities are detailed below; they are not listed in any particular order and should be considered as having equal status within all work to progress the multi-agency safeguarding response to children, young people and their families.

1. Further promoting preventative and early help approaches
2. Neglect
3. Working with fathers
4. Improving focus on the child's experience of services and better embedding it in practice
5. Impact of Domestic Violence on children

### Further promoting preventative and early help approaches

Northumberland County Council has undertaken the following over the last year to develop our prevention and early help approaches:

- Developed and delivered a new prevention and intervention pathway for our children's centre offer including the introduction of the new case recording system linked to the other social care recording systems in children's social care which provides consistent evidence based offer for families across the county and will allow us to measure impact.
- Reviewed the multi-agency early help locality hub arrangements leading to a suggested revision to these going forward.

- Developed the early help and targeted youth service offer to provide a more preventative approach.
- Revised and introduced a new out of court disposal panel working closely with the police to prevent young people to become involved in the youth justice system. This includes leading on a multi-agency protocol to prevent the criminalisation of LAC.
- Continued to build on and develop relationships in localities with a range of partners including schools and the VCS to deliver early help services based on local need.
- Together with partners revised the Early Help Assessment based on the Signs of Safety model to be launched in September

The Early Help, Early Intervention Sub-committee has driven multi-agency developments with some significant outcomes.

- There is better integration with the early intervention work in Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND). In particular, liaising with the Education Welfare Service and Inclusion Service to scrutinise exclusions data on a half termly basis and thereby identify children and young people at risk of exclusion/those who have SEND and exclusion/those with repeated exclusions in order to take action.
- Supporting the development of the Return to School Hub and monitoring vulnerable learners through the pandemic are further examples of services working together to intervene early following additional emerging vulnerabilities.

- Improving access and wait times for children's mental health support, this year the development of a graduated mental approach based on the Thrive model has clarified the offer for the universal sector school health for targeted support Primary Mental Health Worker (PMHW) service and specialist support in Cumbria Northumberland and Tyne and Wear (CNTW), Children and Young People Service (CYPS) and urgent risk support CNTW Universal Crisis team. All services have reviewed their acceptance criteria and clarified clinical pathways. The wait times for PMHW and CYPS have reduced to average 4 week wait times – due to new 4 week wait times through trailblazer programme.
- There has been an increase of training to schools staff and wider early help universal workforce of children's mental health.
- An increase of targeted group work using Friends for Life evidence based interventions, a designated senior mental health lead in schools coordinator employed, additional clinical psychology support to work with Educational psychology service and the development of a peer mentor programme.
- Additional work undertaken to support the Covid response. Virtual offer, activity packs, proactive contacting of families, multi-agency planning for reintegration into school.
- Northumberland Communities Together which was established to support residents and community volunteers throughout Covid-19 has an evolving children's pathway -

so far 78 families have been referred for follow up check ins or supports from community, early help, and other services.

## Neglect

The neglect strategic priority is intrinsically linked to the promoting preventative and early help approaches however during the year significant progress was made across the workforce,.

- Offered assessment and analysis training to staff to support their work with families around neglect.
- Developed and embedded [Signs of Safety](#) (SoS) practice model to focus on harm and safety plans that clarify the impact of neglect and abuse and indicators of change.
- Neglect tool kit used within early help to assess and support families.
- Operation Endeavour (children missing) - continues to be well received by all schools, and alternative provision and the model developed in Northumberland is now being rolled out across North Tyneside as they have recognised it as good practice

## Working with fathers

- Embedding the SoS model focuses practitioners work on the whole family network and exploring the whole extended family including fathers and male partners.

- Practice days and audits have identified evidence of inclusive work with fathers and male figures.
- Early help services have had a specific focus on gathering the voice and views of fathers which are highlighted in assessments and recording, and improvements noted in subsequent QA.
- Following a Local Serious Case Review in Northumberland after a baby suffered significant and life-changing injuries which were felt to be non-accidental in nature the Sharing Information Regarding Safeguarding (SIRS) pilot was initiated. The case review highlighted that services was unaware of key relevant background information regarding the baby's father and that this information could have been instrumental in safeguarding her. The Northumberland CCG and Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (NHCFT) safeguarding service commenced a pilot, in collaboration with maternity services and GP practices in Northumberland to share information regarding fathers that are registered with a different GP practice to the pregnant women.
- The aim of the SIRS pilot was to gather information for prospective fathers which may impact on their parenting ability to identify safeguarding concerns, implement correct pathways of care and provide additional support or escalation proportionate to the concern in order to safeguard the unborn. This is the first project of this nature in the UK; other areas rely solely on maternal and paternal self-report (which this pilot has evidenced is not always honest). The pilot demonstrated that

professionals must maintain a healthy scepticism and respectful uncertainty to see beyond what may be being presented by parents. Professional curiosity, good information sharing with a 'think family' approach has resulted in the right information being available to provide robust assessment of risk and inform appropriate levels of intervention to prevent harm. This practice has now been embedded throughout Northumberland with a view to incorporate North Tyneside in future.

### **Improving focus on the child's experience of services and better embedding it in practice**

- The Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) judged the experience of children to be well represented in children's social care work and records. Children were engaged using a range of direct tools and their voices and views captured in assessments and plans.
- [Mind of my own](#) (MOMO) is used to capture the views of children and incorporate them in planning and meetings.
- Signs of Safety (SoS) tools such as words and pictures are used in more cases to help children understand their family story.
- Later life letters were identified by the ILACS as an area for improvement and subsequently the completion of this task has transferred to trained and skilled permanence workers.

- The participation service works with a range of children including young carers, disabled children and looked after children and care leavers to gather their views. This includes offering a meeting to every child over the age of eight coming into care and providing formal advocacy for looked after children and others open to the social work service.
- Pop up activities extended, twenty locations enjoying weekly pop ups from health trainers, 0-19, NCT, libraries and community with a focus on fun, enrichment and physical activity, also food provision at many.
- Following on from two successful summer camps (2018, and 2019), six targeted "summer camp" pop ups – with twenty four places at each in partnership with schools and community.
- Free e-learning training offer developed for community sector under Northumberland Communities Together which includes ACEs training, safeguarding, Prevent. Recognising and Responding to domestic violence/abuse
- Operation Encompass - all schools in Northumberland engaged and protocol for secure information sharing with alternative providers. The police were supported to roll out 'Operation Encompass - the next steps' to all Northumberland Schools and we were only two of all LAs in the North East who got every school to attend training and engage with the new model.

## **Impact of Domestic Violence on Children**

- Commissioned Acorns to provide therapeutic support and counselling for children who have been affected by domestic violence.
- Delivered the Recovery Toolkit for Children through our early help localities for children who have been affected by domestic violence.
- Capacity building of the training delivery team training staff in the impact of domestic violence on children.

## 6. Learning from Practice, Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.

The NSSP has undertaken four [rapid review meetings](#) following [serious child safeguarding incident notifications](#) being made by Northumberland County Council. These rapid reviews led to decisions to convene two learning reviews and two local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPR). The [Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel](#) has agreed with each of the NSSP's decisions. In addition, the Partnership has undertaken two learning reviews jointly with the Northumberland Safeguarding Adult's Board into two young adults. These are due for publication in the autumn of 2020; however the learning is being embedded on identification.

LCSPRs when completed are published on the Northumberland NSSP website for a period of 12 months. There is currently one published review: Natalie. Outcomes and findings feed into our performance structures to promote a culture of continuous learning and improvement across the partner agencies of the NSSP. This has been enhanced by the NSSP training and development officer becoming a member of the practice review group so all learning can be quickly embedded into training.

The NSSP collates the findings from LCSPRs, repeat learning/findings are reviewed and further audit and scrutiny is undertaken to have a broader view of the findings.



## 7. Workforce Development and Training

### Child protection training

The multi-agency training programme has continued to provide a significant number of learning opportunities on a wide range of safeguarding subjects this year and has broadened the offer to address emerging national and local issues.

The carousel format for larger-scale learning events proved successful once more, providing workshops on criminal and sexual exploitation, working with the trauma of sexual abuse and Signs of Safety. This was then followed up by further, more in-depth training on County Lines which has been extremely well-evaluated by the workforce and have triggered information sharing and referrals relating to local situations.

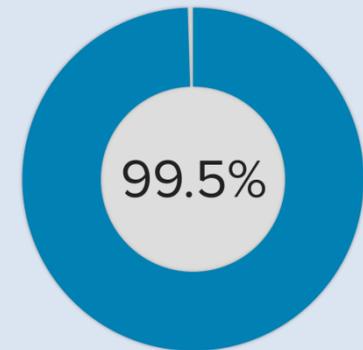
A total of 72 individual courses were delivered in 2019/20. The courses were attended by a total of 1327 people.

#### Multi-Agency Child Protection

*"I wanted to say a massive thank you to both trainers for the best Level 3 safeguarding training I've attended (and I've attended a few). Interesting, relevant and pitched at just the right level. And made all the better for it being multi-agency. Thank you."*

*Health Practitioner*

The training courses received very positive feedback with 99.5% of attendees stating the training met their needs.



### Local Authority Designated Officer Training

The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) has provided 21 training sessions on The LADO Role and Safe Working Practices, delivered to teams/services including schools and colleges (including SEND settings) alternative education providers, sports groups, specific residential staff and school transport providers. A total of 1015 staff have benefitted from this training.

### Early Help/Prevention Programmes

During its second full year of delivery, the Early Help and Prevention Multi-Agency Training Programme has continued to develop and broaden the training offer for the children and families' workforce. The programme has maintained its focus on mental and emotional well-being, in-keeping with the purpose of supporting Northumberland's Mental Health in School's Trailblazer.

There have been 80 individual learning events provided to 986 people covering the following curriculum

Introduction to Early Help	Lead Professional Training
Motivational Interviewing	Solution Focused Approach
Outcome Star	Neglect Toolkit
Anxiety in Children & Young People	Hidden Sentence
Self Harm	Bereavement and Loss
Sexual Identity & Sexual Orientation	Low Mood in Children
Introduction to Attachment	Introduction to Resilience
Introduction to ADHD	Introduction to Autism
APVA Briefing	RESPECT APVA Toolkit
Gambling Awareness	English Unlocked
Reducing Parental Conflict	RPC Training for Trainers
Domestic Abuse Awareness	SORTED Substance Misuse
Child Development	

### E-learning Courses

The following e-learning continued to be offered free-of-charge to anyone working with children and families in Northumberland via the NCC Learning Together platform. The Signs of Safety and Criminal Exploitation modules were newly added to the offer in 2019-2020.

E-learning course	Course Completions
Safeguarding and Child Protection for Children's Workforce	474
Criminal Exploitation	302
Signs of Safety	38
Prevent	222
Female Genital Mutilation	43
Child Sexual Exploitation	46
Safeguarding Children with Disabilities	20
Emotional Abuse	27
Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding Children	18
Child Protection Processes	47
Honour Based Violence and Forced Marriage	8
Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking	9
Early Help for Children and Families	22
Private Fostering	178
MAPPA	7
TOTAL	1461

Since the start of the pandemic the NSSP has had to rapidly change its training offer to virtual training programme of webinars and e-learning. There have been 288 people who accessed webinars and an extra 543 e-learning completions.

"I just wanted to say that coming from another Local Authority area this is a really clear and thorough offer of training."

## 8. Performance Monitoring and Quality Assurance

Children missing from home 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020

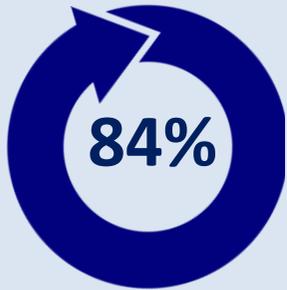
**268**

Children living in private fostering arrangement 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020

**8**

Number of children adopted

**21**



84% of schools good or outstanding April 2019 to March 2020

Number of contacts with children's social care	<b>11263</b>
% leading to social care involvement	<b>28.3%</b>
Number of children in Need in April 2020	<b>1388</b>
Number of children with a CP plan in April 2020	<b>462</b>
Number of children who left care 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020	<b>136</b>
Number of children who entered care 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020	<b>203</b>

<p>Children at risk of sexual exploitation</p> <p><b>241</b></p>	<p>Children present during % of DV incidents</p> <p><b>45%</b></p>	<p>% of children place on child protection plan for neglect</p> <p><b>46%</b></p>	<p>Number of referrals made to the 4 early help hubs in comparison to 2689 last year</p> <p><b>4584</b></p>	<p>% of eligible two year olds in free early year's provision</p> <p><b>98%</b></p>
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## 9. How effectively are children and young people being safeguarded in Northumberland?

This section addresses one of the key questions for all Partnerships: ‘How effectively are children and young people being safeguarded in their area?’ It provides an overall picture of the progress being made to improve services and outcomes for children and young people across the whole safeguarding system (from universal services through early help to statutory intervention).

### Monitoring and Reviewing

Many key processes and specific services are subject to independent monitoring and reviewing which provides a useful external measure of how well safeguarding is being carried out in Northumberland. This section considers the evidence provided from a number of sources.

The NSSP has considered the following factors in assuring itself that practice and multi-agency working is appropriate and safe:

Findings from external inspections:

- Ofsted ILACS report Jan 2020 - “Good partnership work and a wide range of effective resources provide early help services that are a strength. “



- “Early help is of good quality and engages children and families in purposeful assessments that recommend what interventions and services will best meet their needs. As a result, children’s experiences improve and the need for statutory intervention is avoided.”
- The Local Authority Troubled Families Spot Check was held in February 2020, consisting of a desk-top review and a site visit. We passed the audit of cases checked to ensure we are making claims correctly and the team was particularly impressed with our frontline workers, partnership approach, and our approach to data, specifically how we are beginning to use Tableau for insight and analysis.

Ofsted Joint Targeted Area Inspection on Exploitation identified that the 'The NSSP receives a wide range of performance data, which it interrogates and uses to provide appropriate challenge. For example, an audit which focused on the application of thresholds within the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in recognition that section 47 rates were high, found that thresholds were understood and applied correctly.

This demonstrates that action is taken to understand practice and to inform action to improve.

The CCG led on the health aspects of the Joint Targeted Area Inspection looking at criminal exploitation. Inspectors were impressed Operation Endeavour (nationally for schools only) included sharing information with GP practices. "All general practices and schools in Northumberland routinely receive information through Operation Endeavour, an initiative about children who are missing. This initiative strengthens information-sharing about children and families of concern, as many children who are missing may not be known to early help services or children's social care".

Between 17 and 21 June 2019, Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission, HMI Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services and HMI Probation carried out a joint inspection of the multi-agency response to children experiencing or at risk of sexual exploitation and those experiencing or at risk of criminal exploitation in Northumberland.

Northumbria CRC was inspected by HMIP in October 2019: the inspection raised no concerns about the safeguarding practice of Northumbria CRC staff. The outcome of the JTAI

of 2019 required all agencies to flag the importance of a family approach to case work and for staff to demonstrate a greater professional curiosity. Both these topics have been covered in practice development workshops.

During both the JTAI/ILAC inspections the NSSP provided a critical friend role, supporting all organisations involved in both inspections.

The [Care Quality Commission's inspection of Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust](#) found that the overall rating for services was 'Outstanding' and the action plan is now completed.



Northumbria Police had their [Child Protection Inspection Revisit](#) in January 2019, published in April 2019, which highlighted that, The Inspectorate found that there is a 'continuing commitment' amongst officers and staff with regards to their child protection responsibilities. The force has also made some specific improvements against the 2018 recommendations, particularly in relation to missing children.

HM Inspector of Constabulary Phil Gormley said:

*"I am encouraged by the force's commitment to protecting children from harm. I look forward to seeing further improvements implemented in due course."*

In 2019 Northumbria Police formed Harm Reduction units led by a Chief Inspector, enabling a problem solving approach to supporting victims including vulnerable adults, working closely with adult safeguarding and mental health services.

[The Northumberland and Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust were inspected by CQC](#) in April 2018 and were graded 'Outstanding Overall' with 'Good' for 'Are services Safe'.

- The vast majority of schools, child minders and day care settings inspected by Ofsted in 2019-2020 were rated 'Good' or better.
- 80% of local authority Children's homes are rated Good or better
- The Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) undergoes annual internal audit of

safeguarding to provide assurance the organisation is 'safe' from a safeguarding perspective. During the period covered by this report, the CCG received substantial assurance (the highest grade) following an audit in to how learning from case reviews and serious incidents is shared and embedded.

- The CCG also complete a s175 audit with primary care and this is in the process of being completed,
- Safeguarding has been included as a mandated requirement as part of the primary care commissioned services for 2020/21, and this will further enhance the current safeguarding systems and processes in GP practices
- The CCG has employed a Named Nurse Primary Care (senior nurse working full time) instead of a Named GP (working on a sessional basis). This is the first such role in the region and has greatly enhanced the service available to primary care including having access directly to patient information systems allowing the nurse to undertake research for meetings such as MARAC and MAPPA ensuring appropriate information is shared and timely feedback to GP's with alerts placed on the systems.
- The Education and Skills Service continues to monitor safeguarding standards in education settings i.e. schools, academies, alternative providers, Free Schools and independent schools through a section 175/157 safeguarding standards audit tool.

## 10. Appendix 1 – NSSP Membership

### Members

#### Independent Chair

#### **Northumberland County Council**

Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Children's Services  
 Service Director, Education and Skills  
 Service Director, Children's Social Care  
 Head of Housing and Public Protection  
 Director of Public Health

#### **Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group**

Executive Director of Nursing, Quality & Patient Safety  
 Chief Operating Officer

#### **Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust**

Executive Director of Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Healthcare Professionals  
 Professional & Operational Lead Safeguarding Adults & Children

#### **Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust**

Group Nurse Director North Locality Care Group  
 Named Nurse for Adult and Children Safeguarding

#### **Northumbria Police**

Detective Chief Inspector Safeguarding

#### **Northumbria Community Rehabilitation Company**

Deputy Director North of Tyne

#### **National Probation Services**

Head of North of Tyne  
 Senior Operational Support Manager North of Tyne

### **CAFCASS**

Service Manager

### **Advisors to the NSSP**

NSSP Business Manager  
 Strategic Safeguarding Manager, Safeguarding Adults Board  
 Designated Doctor  
 Designated Nurse  
 Senior Manager Performance: Education & Safeguarding  
 Sub-Committee chairs as required

## 11. Appendix 2 – NSSP Staffing and Budget

### Staffing

The NSSP is supported by the following officers:

NSSP Business Manager  
NSSP Business Support

### NSSP Budget

The financial contributions from partner agencies are as follows:

Partner	2019-2020
Northumbria Police	£5,000
NHS Northumberland CCG	£10,000
Northumbria Healthcare NHS Trust	£5,000
CAFCASS	£500
National Probation Service	£250
Northumbria Rehabilitation Company	£250
Northumberland County Council	£89,697
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>£110,697</b>

Expenditure	2019-2020
NSSP Manager	£ 50,394
Business Support Officer	£19,551
Non-Pay related costs	£20,054
<b>Total staffing costs</b>	<b>£89,999</b>
Insurance - Employers Liability / Third Party	£80
Hire of facilities	£161
Printing & Stationery	£155
Professional Services, Tri.x procedures, Independent Chair and SCR Authors	£19,291
Travel Allowances and Subsistence	£1011
<b>None Staffing Costs</b>	<b>£20,698</b>
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>£110,697</b>