

Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board

**Annual Report 2007 – 2008
and Business Plan 2008 - 2009**

Jan van Wagtendonk

Independent Chair of Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board

Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)

- The Children Act 2004 required each Local Authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) by April 2006
- The LSCB is the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how the relevant organisations in each local area will cooperate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and for ensuring the effectiveness of provision
- Chapter 3 Working Together to Safeguard Children 2006 clarifies Role, Objectives and Accountabilities and Functions
- Replaced non statutory functions – Area Child Protection Committees (ACPC)

LSCB Role:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development
- Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care

LSCB Objectives

- To coordinate local work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
- To ensure the effectiveness of that work

LSCB Accountabilities

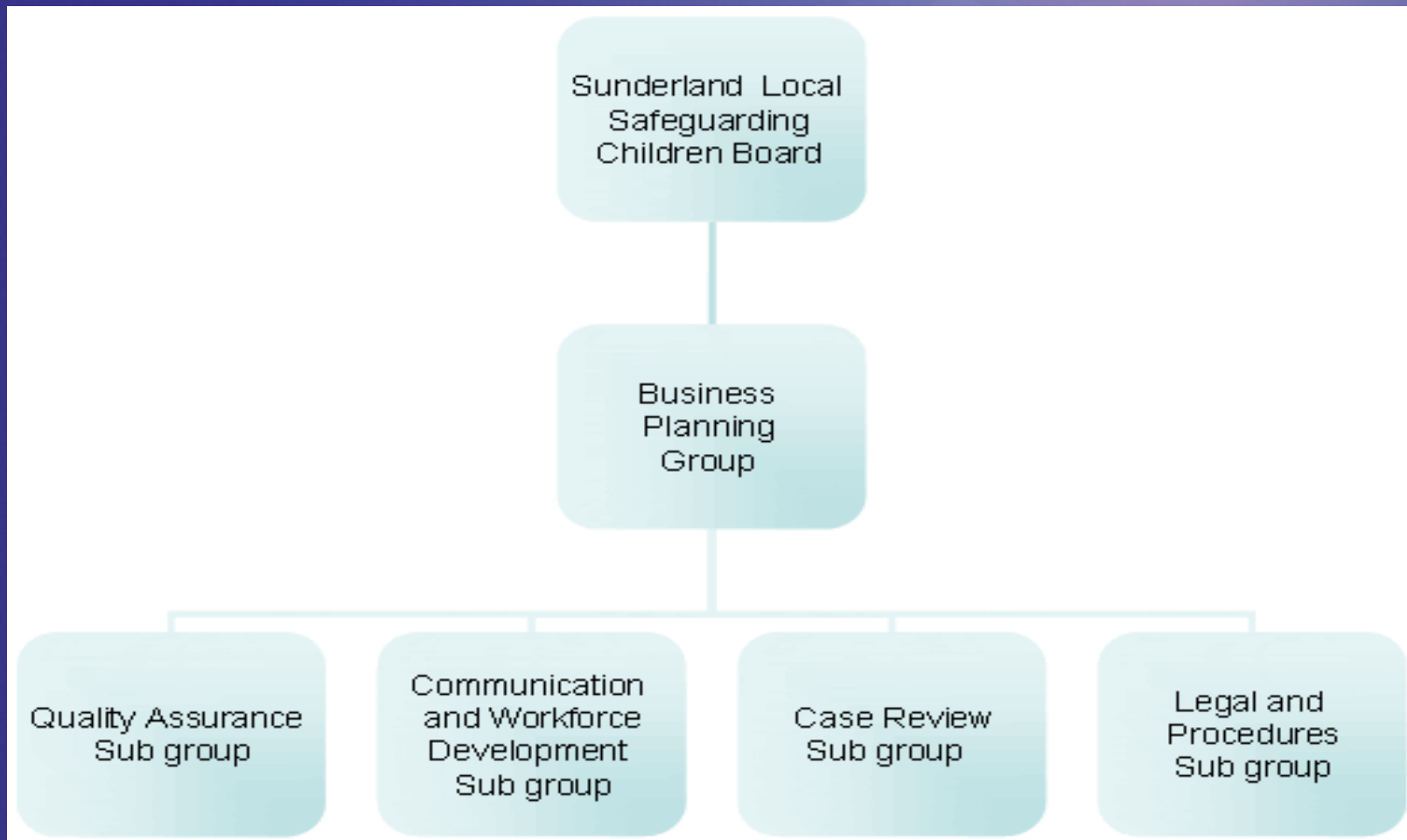
- LSCB is NOT accountable for individual agencies work. All Board partners retain their own lines of accountability for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children
- Part of wider Children's Trust arrangements
- Director of Children's Services responsibilities in relation to SSCB

FUNCTIONS:

- Developing relevant policies & procedures
- Training people who work with children
- Ensuring appropriate recruitment and supervision arrangements
- Investigations of allegations against people working with children
- Ensuring the safety & welfare of children privately fostered
- Raising awareness of the safeguarding agenda
- Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of work done by the Local Authority and board partners
- Involvement in service planning and commissioning
- Range of responsibilities in relation to child deaths
- Undertaking Serious Case Reviews where relevant criteria are met

Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board

Structure of SSCB



Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board

Recent Review

- Independent Chair – now appointed
- Dedicated Business Unit – interviews for staff in progress
- Revised sub group structure – now operational
- Focus on accountability (organisations and individuals), quality assurance and outcomes for children – links being made with other partnerships

Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board

Website - www.sunderlandchildrenstrust.org.uk/profs-safeguardboard

- Procedures
- Membership
- Multi agency SSCB Training
- Bi-monthly Newsletter
- Information about the work of the Board

Statutory Representation

- Local authorities that are children's services authorities
- Housing authorities
- Strategic Health authority
- Primary Care trusts
- NHS Trusts and Foundation Trusts
- Designated and named professionals
- Child and adolescent mental health services
- Adult Mental Health services
- Police
- Probation service
- Youth Offending teams
- Connexions Service
- Schools and further education institutions
- Children and Family Court support and advisory Service (CAFCASS)
- Voluntary and Private Sectors
- Faith communities

SSCB Annual Report 2007 – 2008 and Business Plan 2008 – 2009

LSCB's have a requirement to produce an Annual Report outlining:

- Statutory responsibilities of the Board
- Key areas of work progressed
- Activities to be taken forward in following year

- **SSCB Annual Report 2007 – 2008 and Business Plan 2008 - 2009**

- Sets out SSCB position in taking the Every Child Matters agenda forward and working arrangements between SSCB and Children's Trust Strategic Partnership
- Progress towards meeting new statutory requirements:
 - Child Death Reviews
 - Ending of Child Protection Register
 - Person Posing a risk to children

SSCB Annual Report 2007 – 2008 and Business Plan 2008 – 2009

- Key areas of progress in 2007 – 2008
 - Production of Multi-agency Safeguarding Children Procedures available at <http://www.sunderlandchildrenstrust.org.uk/profs-safeguardboard.asp>
 - Taking part in an IDeA (Improvement and Development Agency) Peer Review Process
 - Undertaking review and restructure to ensure the Board is fit for purpose
 - Delivering a comprehensive multi agency child protection training programme

Key areas of progress in 2007 – 2008 continued

- Working to ensure that all agencies meet the standards as set out in Section 11 of the 2004 Children Act in respect of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children
- Beginning work on a performance management system to ensure that partner agencies can evidence their effectiveness in terms of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children
- Establishing and developing links with wider partners and community to raise awareness of children's safeguarding issues
- Engaging in and responding to national consultations and self assessing against the reports of national reviews on publication

SSCB Annual Report 2007 – 2008 and Business Plan 2008 – 2009

Key areas to progress in 2008 – 2009

- Establish the Independent Chair in post - now achieved
- Establishing and communicating widely the Board vision, shared values and a three to five year Safeguarding Strategy for Sunderland
- Enhanced delivery of the core business in co-ordinating and quality assuring across Sunderland that which is delivered for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in Sunderland

Key areas to progress in 2008 – 2009 continued

- Delivery of a separate and clear budget with an appropriate financial framework behind to ensure a stable platform to take forward the work of the Independent Board
- Establishment of a Local Safeguarding Children Board Business Support Unit solely dedicated to taking forward the work of the Board

Questions and Discussion