

Annual Report
Sunderland Local Children Safeguarding Board
2007-2008

INDEX

Foreword	4
Executive Summary	5
What is the Sunderland Local Safeguarding Board and what does it do?	6
National Context & Local Implementation	6
The Children Act (2004)	6
Every Child Matters	7
Sunderland Children's Trust	7
Working Together to Safeguard Children	8
Common Assessment Framework	9
Hidden Harm	9
Care Matters	9
Staying Safe	10
Local Context	10
LSCB Membership, Structures and Relationships and Budget	11
LSCB Budget Statement 2008-08	16
Proposed Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board Structure 2007/08	16
Review of the Business Plan 2007-08	17
A Commentary on what use we made of information 2007-08	20
Outcomes of the Improvement Development Agency (IDeA)	
Peer Review	21
Work carried over into the Business Plan 2008-09	22
Appendix One- LSCB Membership List	24
Appendix Two Report of Partner Agencies	26
• Children's Services Social Care, Safeguarding	26
• Children's Services, Standards Education Safeguarding Team	28
• City of Sunderland College	30
• Connexions Sunderland	32
• Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue	34
• Sunderland TCPT	35
• Health Housing and Adult Services	37
• National Probation Service - Northumbria	39
• Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Trust	41
• NSPCC	43
• City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust	45
• Northumbria Police	48
• Cafcass	50
• Sunderland Youth Offending Service	53

- **Early Years** 55
- **Sunderland City Council Housing** 56

Appendix Three- Key Statistics in Child Protection 58

Foreword

This past year has been challenging for the Board: the Joint Area Review (JAR) reported in 2007 and identified significant issues to be addressed some of which specifically focussed on areas of the Safeguarding Agenda. The Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) Peer Review work commissioned by the Council also made suggestions for areas relating to the Safeguarding agenda where alternative approaches might deliver dividends in delivering improvement. There has also been some change in Board Membership from a number of Partner agencies, with departures and new appointments.

The Board has reflected on these developments and engaged in a process of change, as a result, 2007/08 has become a year of transition. It is a measure of the commitment of partner organisations and members that through this period of turbulence they have continued to make progress across a number of important areas: establishment of a new Child Death Overview Panel Process; production and circulation of updated procedures and continued delivery of training to name but a few. At the same time they have vigorously taken forward the transitional development work. I am personally and professionally grateful to all for the contributions they have and continue to make. Their efforts are laying the ground work for a step change in how the Safeguarding agenda is approached and enhanced across Sunderland.

During the year, the Chair, Barbara Williams, Head of Safeguarding for Sunderland City Council, left the local authority and on behalf of all Board members I wish to thank her for the commitment she has demonstrated to the Safeguarding agenda locally over many years.

This Report has inadvertently grown, mainly as a result of some of the transition work underway. Essentially it is in three Sections, the national context for the Safeguarding Agenda and how we're implementing it, what we delivered during 2007/08 locally, and appendices with member organisations reports or information they wished to share. I would thank all Board members for their contribution but in particular, Lynne Thomas, Janet Newton and Jennifer Holmes. All inaccuracies are the responsibility of the Chair not the contributors! If you have any comments on content or format, please contact me through my secretary Eleanor Hardy (01915297188)

Nonnie Crawford
Interim Chair Local Children Safeguarding Board
June 2008

Executive Summary

Sunderland Local Safeguarding Board was established in October 2004. Its key responsibilities, as set out in the Children Act (2004) and in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2006) are to:

- Co-ordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority.
- Ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for that purpose.

Key areas that have been addressed in the last year (2007-2008) have included:

- The production of updated multi-agency child protection procedures
- Taking part in an IDeA Peer review process
- Undertaking a process of renewal and restructuring to ensure the Board is fit for purpose for the future
- Delivering a comprehensive multi agency child protection training programme
- 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

Key areas identified for taking forward during 2008/09 include:

- Establish the Independent Chair in post
- Establishing and communicating widely the Board vision, shared values and 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
- 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 Children Safeguarding Board Business Support unit solely dedicated to taking forward the work of the Board

What is the Sunderland Local Safeguarding Board and what does it do?

The Local Safeguarding Board is where senior staff from a range of organisations in Sunderland (public and third sector) come together to review and coordinate and check the quality of what all of us and our staff are doing to make Sunderland safer for children and young people in their homes, at school or out and about within their local community. It was set up in 2004 as a result of the implementation of the Children Act (2004).

LSCB functions include:-

- Developing policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children
- Raising awareness within communities and organisations of their responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and support them to do this
- Co-ordinating and evaluating inter-agency training and evaluating single agency training to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
- Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the Board and its partners in carrying out these legal duties
- Contributing to local planning for children and their families
- Undertaking Serious Case Reviews and advising the Board and its partners on lessons to be learned

The following sections examine the national and local context for the Board, look at how it is structured and how it relates to other agencies and partnerships within Sunderland. This Report then reviews what the Board delivered last year in relation to its 2007-2008 Business Plan, what the outcomes for children and young people locally were, its finances and its plans for 2008-2009. .

National Context & Local Implementation

• The Children Act 2004

The Children Act 2004 provided the legislative framework for wide ranging reform to support the Every Child Matters programme. It created Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) with specific duties identified within the Act:

- To co-ordinate local work to safeguard and promote welfare of children.
- To monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of what is done by the authority and their Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, and to advise them on ways to improve.

The roles and functions of the LSCB are taken from the guidance issued in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2006). Key to this is the duty placed upon named agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people set out in section 11 of the Act. Safeguarding and promoting welfare is defined in the guidance as:

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

Additional specific priorities are also identified by other national and local drivers. The Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) is the statutory partnership responsible locally for carrying out this work. Whilst the Board is aware of the wider preventative agenda which underpins all five of the Every Child Matters outcomes identified above, the core business is to coordinate and assure the quality and effectiveness of safeguarding activity across a range of partner agencies addressing a range of issues within the 'Stay Safe' agenda and this will always be our first priority.

- **Every Child Matters**

In Every Child Matters: Change for Children (2005) the Government set out the national framework for local change programmes to build services around the needs of children and young people so that working together we maximise opportunity and minimise risk. We know that the services that reach every child and young person have a crucial role to play in shifting the focus from dealing with the consequences of difficulties in children's lives to preventing things from going wrong in the first place. Within this agenda, the national (and local) intention is to progress five important outcomes for children and young people, namely that they should:

- Be healthy
- Stay Safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic wellbeing

The Government's model for achieving service integration is a Children's Trust. Sunderland Children's Trust delivers a set of arrangements through which partner organisations will work together to improve the well being of children and young people. It is concerned with achieving key outcomes through integrated planning and delivery of services for all children and young people in Sunderland.

Sunderland Children's Trust

The Children's Trust vision is "Working together to improve life chances and aspirations for each child and young person in Sunderland". This vision is being delivered through a framework of improving outcomes for all children and young people, developed around a service delivery model that will provide universal, targeted and specialist services. In Sunderland, our aim is that children and young people are at the centre of services provided for them. There is no sole provider of services and the achievement of the vision requires the continued development of key relationships between all partners across the city.

By listening to children and young people and carrying out an extensive needs assessment, the Children's Trust has identified ten priorities that it wants children and young people locally to achieve:

- 1. Be strong individuals, proud of their city and contribute to its future**
- 2. Be aware of how their behaviour affects others and the importance of staying out of trouble**
- 3. Make positive lifestyle choices**
- 4. Lead healthier lives**
- 5. Feel good about themselves**

6. Be safe in the community, at school and at home
7. Achieve in their education
8. Enjoy sport, leisure and play
9. Live in decent homes
10. Get the right training, further education and jobs

These priorities are contained in the Children and Young People's Plan 2007-2009. The Children's Trust Strategic Partnership has responsibility for driving forward their delivery and is accountable to the Children's Trust Board.

- **Working Together to Safeguard Children (2006)**

This national guidance for all agencies lays out their responsibilities regarding all aspects of safeguarding children. It incorporates findings from national and local inquiries such as the Kennedy report into 'Sudden Infant Deaths', the Bichard Inquiry which made recommendations following the deaths of Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman, and the Laming Inquiry into the death of Victoria Climbié.

This updated national guidance on which local procedures and priorities are based provided the Board with a number of challenges. In order to comply with the changes within the timescales set by the Government a number of task groups were established during 2006/7 and ran during 2007/2008. The main changes were as follows:

Work to be undertaken	Due date	Progress
Implementation of Child Death Review Panels	1.04.08	Sub regional arrangements in place across Sunderland, Gateshead and South Tyneside. Child Death Co – Coordinator appointed to support the process.
Allegations against professionals who work with children	1.10.2009	Procedures produced Local Authority Designated Officer, role currently undertaken by Human Resources Manager for Children's Services. Named Senior Officer and Senior Managers in 21 partner organisations.
Managing Individuals who pose a risk to children	1.04.08	Process Developed and awaiting approval from Children's Services Leadership Team in July 08.
Private fostering arrangements	July 2006	Covered through Case Management Procedures and Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board procedures

Sexual Exploitation Procedures	1.10.2006	Procedures already in existence but were updated and incorporated into the LSCB Safeguarding Children Procedures on 01.03.07.
Removal of Child Protection Register	1.4.2008	Appropriate arrangements have been put in place to monitor children who are the subject of a Child Protection Plan

- **Common Assessment Framework**

The Common Assessment Framework (CAF) is a key part of delivering frontline services that are integrated and focused around the needs of children and young people. The CAF is a standard approach to conducting an assessment of a child's additional needs and deciding how those needs can be met. Locally the CAF is being delivered as part of the Child Wellbeing Model. This model identifies levels of need for children and young people and provides thresholds for interventions. The principal focus of the Sunderland Safeguarding Board function and role relates to those children whose needs are not met due to compromised parenting. This report is geared towards reporting on the local actions underway to deliver positive outcomes.

The Board continues to have strategic responsibility for the wider preventative needs of all children and over the next three years will be establishing its strategic direction addressing this broader agenda.

- **Hidden Harm (Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs)**

This national report provides recommendations relating to the needs of children of problem drug users. It identifies that this group of children are often overlooked. Substance misuse has serious negative affects on children and young people and is associated with poor outcomes. It is estimated that there are between 250,000 and 350,000 children of problem drug users in the United Kingdom, 1 for every problem drug user (which would suggest potentially 1937 within Sunderland). The LSCB through its links with the Sunderland Children and Young People's Joint Commissioning group and the Risk and Resilience Forum are working to address this issue. Links are also established with the Safer Sunderland Partnership and with commissioners involved in the drugs and alcohol treatment agenda to ensure consideration is taken of the needs of children and young people. During 2007/08 some of this work was taken forward by the Hidden Harm subgroup.

- **Care Matters**

The White Paper, Care Matters (June 2007), set out to address the significant gap in experiences and achievements between children in care and their peers. It commits partners to change in relation to intervening earlier; strengthening the role of the corporate parent; reforming the placement system and providing a first class education for children in care. Although outcomes for children have improved in recent years, with all agencies in Sunderland having a clearer understanding of their corporate parent role, there are still

significant gaps between the outcomes for Looked after Children and their peers. The LSCB will continue to monitor, develop and influence the commissioning of services to reduce these inequalities.

- **Staying Safe: Consultation and Action Plan**

Between July and October 2007 the government consulted widely on “Staying Safe” the result of which was “Staying Safe: Action Plan” published in January 2008.

Staying Safe is a cross government strategy for improving children and young people’s safety and is intended to cover the full span of the Every Child Matters ‘Staying Safe’ outcome. Although it covers universal safeguarding activity and provision “Staying Safe” also focuses significantly on protecting vulnerable children and young people and responding when children and young people have been harmed. Its main aims are to:

- Raise awareness of the importance of safeguarding children and young people
- Promote better understanding of safeguarding issues, encouraging a change in behaviour towards children and young people, and their safety and welfare
- Ensure work in this area is coherent and effectively co-ordinated across government
- Reinforce existing activity by implementing a range of new commitments

The priority areas identified in Staying Safe aim to ensure single and multi-agency activity is planned to improve outcomes in:

- Improving practice in Children’s Services Social Care
- Reducing numbers of accidents involving children
- Addressing parental problems impacting on Children’s welfare
- Incorporating safety on the streets
- Meeting additional needs of disabled children
- Safeguarding children who are employed
- Safeguarding children who are involved with Youth Justice and Court Systems
- Action re young runaways and missing children
- Action re substance misuse by young people

In addition and in relation to children and young people who have been harmed, including self harm, the government intends to:-

- Highlight the role of the public in children and young peoples’ safety
- Ensure better safeguards for children entering and leaving the Country
- Develop and implement a range of guidance in relation to sexual exploitation
- Develop and implement a national policy around forced marriage

Local Context

Locally the LSCB has built on working with other strategic bodies, responsible for carrying out local plans which contribute to the safeguarding agenda. (E.g. the Children’s Trust and

the Children and Young People's Plan 2007-2009). It ensures a strategic overview on all the subcategories of the staying safe outcome, taking the lead in a number of areas. In particular closer links are being developed with the Safer Sunderland Partnership assuring their significant contribution to safeguarding children.

The table below identifies which local body has lead responsibility for the sub-categories of the 'Staying Safe' outcome as defined in Every Child Matters.

Some of the partnerships within Sunderland who contribute to the achievements of the sub categories of the "Staying Safe" outcome alongside the LSCB are detailed below:

Local Safeguarding Children Board	Children's Trust	Safeguarding Adults Partnership	CAMHS	Safer Sunderland Partnership	Risk and Resilience Forum
Safe from maltreatment, neglect, violence and sexual exploitation	Safe from Maltreatment, neglect, violence and sexual exploitation	Have security stability and be cared for	Safe from bullying and discrimination	Safe from bullying and discrimination	Safe from Maltreatment, neglect, violence and sexual exploitation
Safe from accidental injury and death	Safe from accidental injury and death			Safe from crime and antisocial behaviour in and out of school	Safe from accidental injury and death
Have security, stability and are cared for	Safe from bullying and discrimination				
	Safe from crime and anti social behaviour in and out of school				
	Have security stability and be cared for				

Although the LSCB has made links with these partnerships, work is required to strengthen the working relationships and collaboration and enhance delivery of the agenda. This will be a significant area of work over the next three years

LSCB Membership, Structures and relationships and budget (2007-08)

Membership

Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board serves the area defined by the boundary of Sunderland City Council. During 2007-2008, it had representatives (full list in Appendix A)

from each of the main agencies and professional bodies responsible for helping to safeguard and promote the welfare of children across the area as shown below:

- Sunderland City Council
 - Services for Disabled Children
 - Housing
 - Early years
 - Children's Services Standards
 - Children's Services Safeguarding
- Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust
- City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust
- Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Trust
- Northumbria Police
- CAFCASS
- Northumbria Probation Service
- Connexions
- Sunderland Youth Offending Services
- City of Sunderland College
- Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Services
- NSPCC

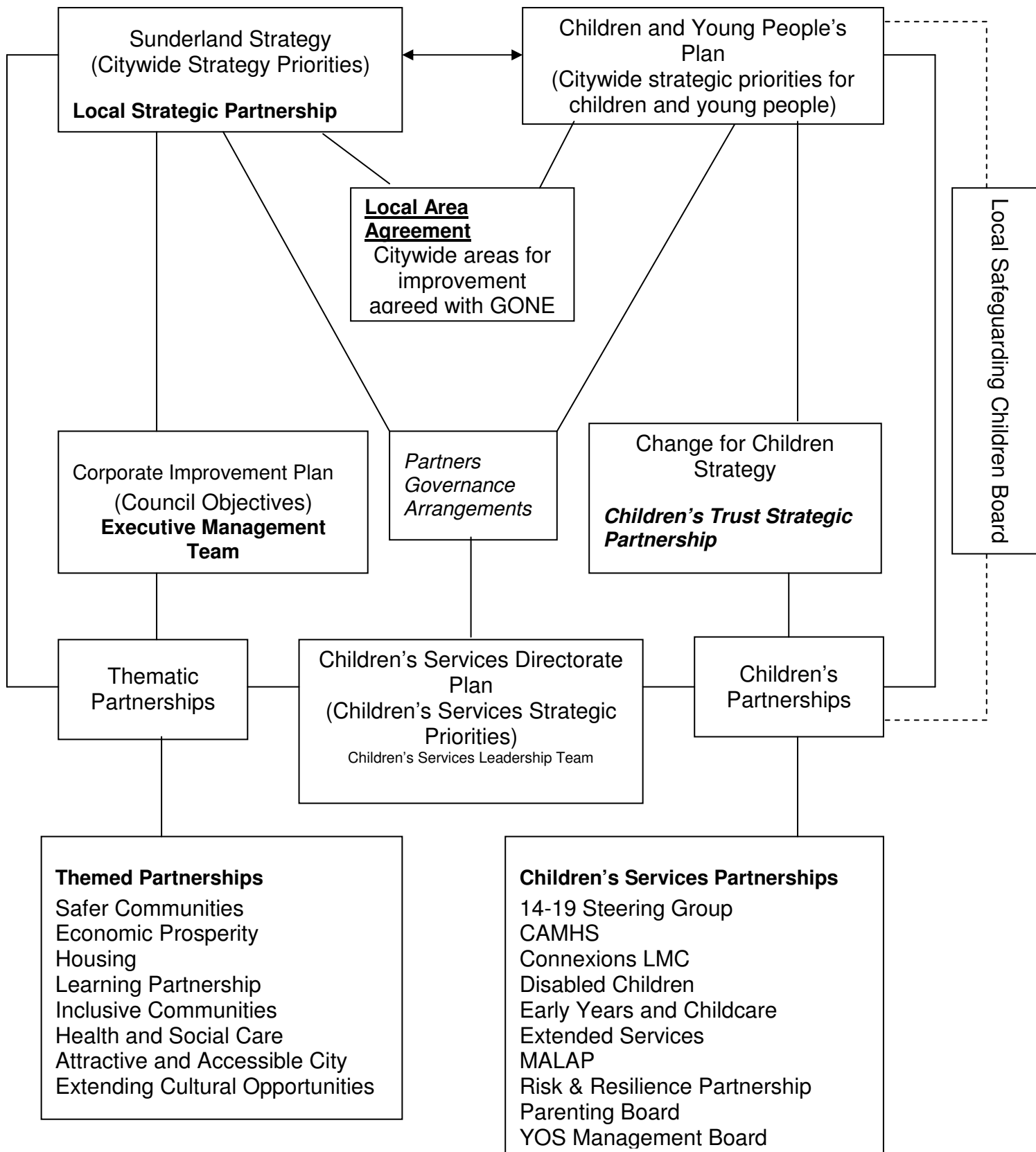
As part of Board internal review processes, a review of membership commenced in February 2007 and it is likely that there will be some reconfiguration early in 2008-2009.

Structures and relationships

There is a complexity in the reporting and structural arrangements as the Children Act 2004 requires that the LSCB not be subordinate to, or subsumed within Children's Trust arrangements in a way which might compromise its separate identity and independent voice. It has been statutorily set up to form a view about the quality of local safeguarding activity and challenge all local organisations as appropriate. This does require clear lines of communication between the LSCB and wider Children's Trust arrangements.

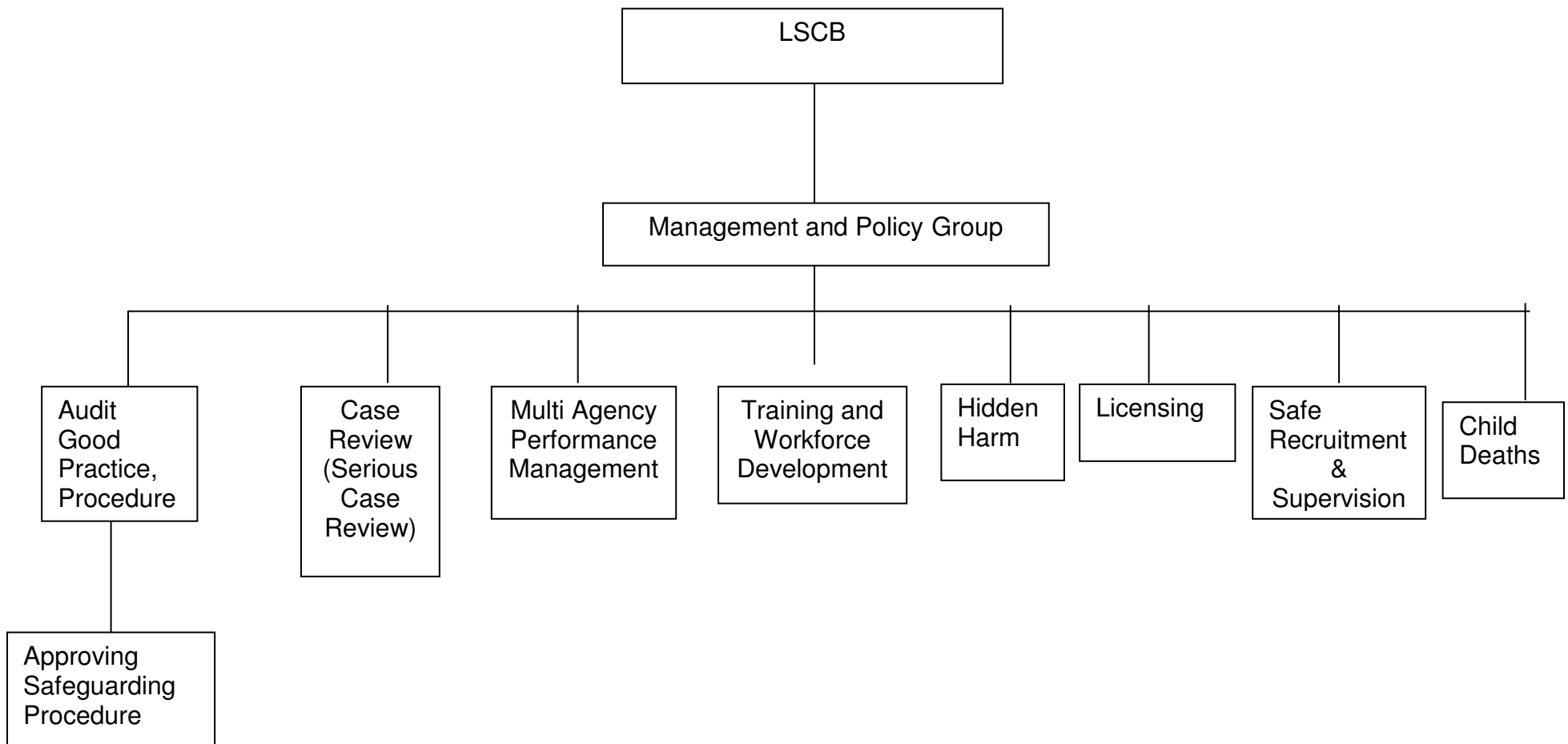
Locally there is still some work to be done to establish clarity over the relationship of the Children's Trust to the wider Sunderland Partnerships, and the range of partnerships and fora which relate to the Children's Trust. How the LSCB works as an independent Board within this complex and developing structure is still fluid and is part of the reason the decision to review and refresh working arrangements. This was identified by the IDeA in 2007/2008 when they undertook a piece of work with the council to assist in the development of safeguarding arrangements for children and young people. (detailed specifically in the 'Outcomes of IDeA' on page 21.)

The structure map overleaf is currently used within Children's Services and Children's Trust documents. It is an initial, albeit flawed; attempt to map the complexity of structures, reporting arrangements and plans that exist to take forward this agenda. It is arguable that if disaggregated into two or more separate diagrams, the clarity of the structures and processes would be enhanced. In the coming year (08/09) the LSCB will contribute actively in clarifying roles as this will support the safeguarding and children's agenda.

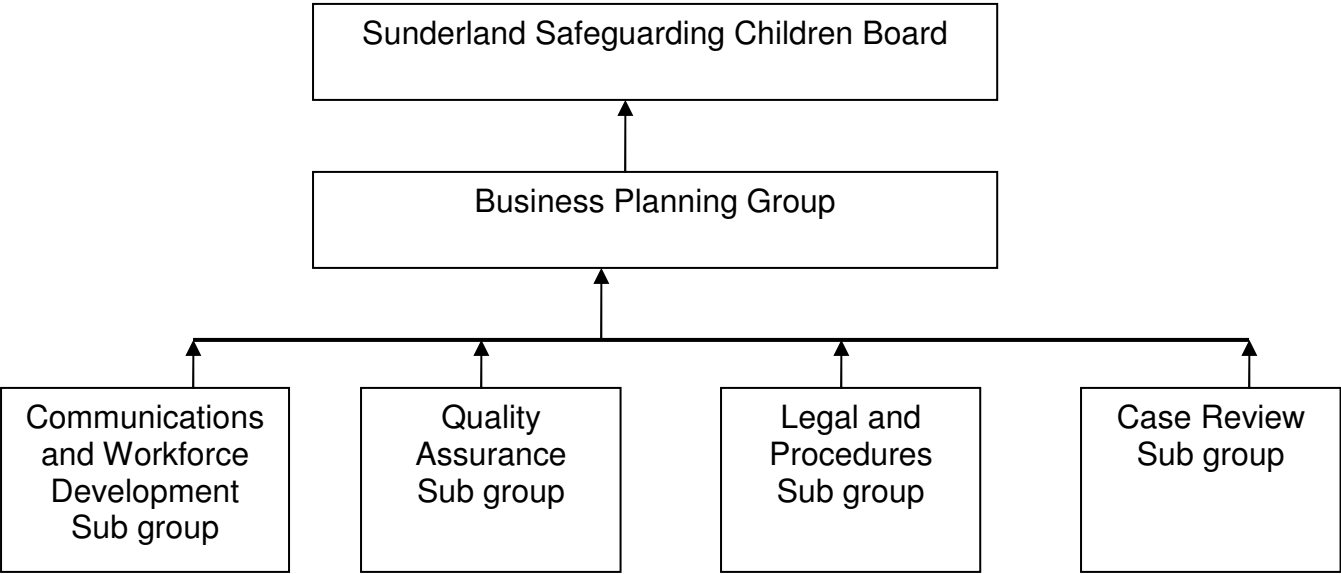


Sunderland Local Safeguarding Board 2007-08

During 2007/08 the LSCB has operated with a main Board and nine subgroups (identified below) but during the year a new shadow structure was identified (following page) which streamlines working arrangements to improve effectiveness and efficiency.



SSCB Structure



2007/08 Budget Outturn

Sunderland City Council LSCB Budget Statement (Final) - 2007/8

Funding Sources

Children's Services (inc previous Education income)	£126,044
TPCT	£24,761
Northumbria Police/Probation/CAFCASS	£5,100
	<u>£155,905</u>

Budget 2007/2008

Expenditure Description	Amount £	Total spend 2007/2008	SSCB overspend
Employee Expenses	£103,775	£95,628.86	
Car lease	£5,177	£5,152	
First Aid	£125	102.50	
Employee Insurances	£1,387	1387.00	
Training	£8,848	£7,759.66	
Hospitality/Catering	£198	£2,871.66	
Fixtures/Fittings	£340	£634.58	
Equipment/Consumables	£33	£333.09	
Staff travel	£1,068	£1,288.14	
Car Allowances	£12,070	£14,090.52	
Printing & Stationery	£7,204	£12,353.52	
Publications	£500	90.90	
Computer Equipment	£1,000	180.00	
Hardware/Software	£259	£3,129.41	
Computer Running Exp/Consumables	£500	£704.72	
Postage	£2,576	£3,391.98	
Telephones	£800	£814.28	
Subscriptions	£15	675.00	
Misc Expenses	£859	£3,520.18	
Subsistence	£600	£182.46	
Experts and Specialists	£3,571	2302.00	
Participation	£5,000	£4,387.05	
	£155,905	160979.74	£5,575.70

Employee Expenses 2007/08

Safeguarding and QA Unit Manager (JN)	£53,850.53
Safeguarding Training/Development Manager (LT)	£40,107.83
Business Support (50% salary - part year)	£1,671
	<u>£95,628.86</u>

Chair's Commentary on LSCB Budget Statement 2007/08

The budget statement above is not as clear as it might be about how the funds are used to support the work of an Independent Safeguarding Board. It does not sufficiently demonstrate an accounting of how the funds provided by partners are used to deliver the strategic intent required by Working Together (2006). A further issue is that real time budgetary spend was not monitored by the Board or any subgroup in real time during 2007/08 (e.g. quarterly reports).

There is a lack of clarity over how funds inputted by Children's Services have been used, with an unintended suggestion that they may have delivered both Children's Services Safeguarding Operational Business and LSCB strategic business. For example, it might have been more clearly accounted if only half of the Safeguarding and QA Manager's salary had been apportioned to the Board, recognising a dual role function in a single position. Then, if required, the Children's Services funding could also have been reduced by half of the Safeguarding and QA Manager's salary. Whatever the case, the Budget causes confusion in how it is currently constructed. This then clouds the issue of how Partners current contributions compare with the National averages for partners within Unitary Authorities (as identified within the 2006 Review of LSCBs).

There is absolutely no suggestion of any impropriety in the allocation of funds but rather a confusion which does not afford the Board a sound financial footing or assist in developing a stable platform extending over a three to five year Business Planning period. The Board has recognised that this is not a helpful position to be in and action is underway including the appointment of a permanent financial advisor to establish a more accurate accounting with strict separation between funds supporting Children's Services Business and funds supporting strategic Board Business. A formal Budget will be established and reporting frequency increased in the coming year. Additional changes also include establishment of a Safeguarding Board Business support unit solely dedicated to the work of the Board.

There are additional proposed changes:

Membership

The membership of the Board and its sub groups are being reviewed to ensure the appropriate statutory partners and other relevant partners are represented at the appropriate management level. Each subgroup will have a chair who will sit on the Business Planning Group, the engine of the Safeguarding Board.

Chairing and Independent Chair

There is currently an interim chair of the LSCB (Director of Public Health) with Paula Telford (Children's Services Manager, NSPCC) and Mick McCracken (Head of Safeguarding, Children's Services Social Care) acting as Vice Chairs. The LSCB has requested that an Independent Chair be appointed by September 2008 and this request is being facilitated through the appropriate process by the Director of Children's Services.

Safeguarding Business Support Unit

It is recognised that the provision of a dedicated Board Business Support Group would greatly facilitate the enhanced delivery of the strategic agenda and steps are underway to cost, achieve budget support for and recruit a team. This is a key plank of the transition work in establishing a robust support for delivering a step change in how the work of the Board is progressed and communicated across Sunderland.

Review of the Business Plan 2007-2008

- **Development of policies and procedures**

The LSCB undertook a six month working consultation on Safeguarding Children Procedures prior to revision and re-launch on 1st October 2007, a significant commitment of officer time and resource which impacted on the ability to deliver progress in other areas. These comprehensive procedures were widely distributed across the voluntary and statutory sectors and are available on line at www.sunderlandchildrenstrust.orh.uk/profs-safeguardboard. They have also been made available on CD Rom on request. All staff working with children and families in a paid or voluntary capacity have access to the LSCB Safeguarding Children Procedures, through the website or by CD Rom.

An extensive multi-agency training programme has been developed and delivered in line with the overarching LSCB Training Strategy. 13 different courses have been delivered over 36 sessions with over 1,000 multi agency staff attending.

As part of these enhanced procedures, within the City Council, policies and procedures are now in place for checking the suitability of all employees. Work has been progressed through the Safe Recruitment and Supervision sub group to ensure all agencies have safe recruitment practices in place.

Safer recruitment training has been delivered across the council and has also been extended to voluntary sector and partner agencies. 10 sessions were delivered during the year.

The LSCB Safeguarding Children Procedures incorporate clear guidance to all agencies, on procedures to be followed when allegations are made against people working with children and young people.

The AIM procedure is currently being updated to reflect changes in the model. Trainers have been trained and we have established multi agency engagement from all. Once the procedure is finalised and agreed by the LSCB training will be developed and delivered.

- **Communicating and Raising Awareness**

Within the City Council a Safeguarding Leads Group has been established to ensure key safeguarding messages are delivered to all Directorates and that all staff have an awareness

of safeguarding procedures, individual responsibilities and actions to be taken if there are concerns about a child or young person.

Key safeguarding messages are promoted on the LSCB website www.sunderlandchildrenstrust.org.uk/profs-safeguardboard. There have been approximately 150 visits per day to the Children's Trust website (where the LSCB website is contained) over the past year. It has not been possible to disaggregate whether hits were to the Children's Trust or to the procedures specifically, so we are not able to say how effective a route this is for staff and partners to access.

Young people in the Looked After and Child Protection systems contribute to their own planning process. Those individual perspectives now inform best practice and service development.

The LSCB procedures have been widely published and promoted across partner agencies. Aspects of the procedures are incorporated into LSCB training. A planned series of multi agency 'familiarisation sessions' did not take place in January/February 2008 due to poor key agency response however these have now been reorganised to take place throughout May 2008.

- **Monitoring and evaluation of effectiveness**

A multi agency audit tool is in place. This is used to learn lessons from a range of cases brought to the attention of the LSCB including those initially considered as potentially meeting the criteria for a Serious Case Review. Identified cases are audited on a quarterly basis.

A Section 11 Children Act 2004 self assessment tool is in place. Key agencies use this to assist in their own evaluation of their position and progress in meeting safeguarding requirements. These evidence the meeting of at least minimum standards across agencies and are used to inform LSCB priorities.

Every LSCB training course has an immediate participant evaluation processes, with generally positive comments returned. Evaluations are reviewed and comments acted upon to inform planning of future training.

Extensive performance data is collated and reported by Children's Services Performance and Information Team. Performance monitoring largely focuses on Children's Social Care and does not adequately represent multi agency performance. This is an area where improvement will be sought.

The Review and Monitoring Team within the Safeguarding Unit, Children's Services, monitor and report on multi agency performance within the Looked After and Child Protection contexts.

- **Planning and Commissioning**

The LSCB key Priorities for 2007/08 of Domestic Violence, Parental Mental Ill Health and Drug and Alcohol Misuse have been progressed with variable degrees of success:

- A joint Risk Assessment Tool and Guidance has been developed, which is now awaiting LSCB approval prior to roll out to be used widely by staff working with adults who have caring responsibilities for children.
- A successful joint LSCB/Domestic Violence event was held in 2007 leading to agreed actions, which will be progressed during 2008.
- All applications for new or variation of licence under the Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Act 2005 are received by the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Manager. The Licensing sub group of the LSCB has attempted to raise the profile of Safeguarding responsibilities within this legislation.
- A sound financial platform for taking the work of the LSCB forward has not yet been fully resolved. This presents a significant risk for the business of the Board.
- The Management and Policy sub group of the LSCB has monitored all actions in the 'Staying Safe' section of the Children and Young People Plan. This has been undertaken on a quarterly basis providing opportunity for the LSCB to challenge progress on a multi agency basis.
- **Functions relating to child deaths**

Sunderland, South Tyneside and Gateshead LSCBs have established a Joint Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP), supported by a coordinator working across the three areas. Gateshead has agreed to take the lead role in managing the coordinator post on a three year secondment. Overview panel representation has been established with chairing arrangements to be rotated on an annual basis.

The Regional Maternity Survey Office has provided data and basic information on all child deaths, to the coordinator, as they occur. Local arrangements to support the sub regional CDOP continue to be developed. Local and sub regional arrangements were in place for 1st April 2008. However, more work needs to be undertaken to ensure consistency and effectiveness of the process from notification to Overview Panel outcomes.

Key Statistics in Child Protection 2007-08 - A Commentary on our use of information

The Board has regularly considered the key statistics relating to Child Protection during 2007-08 as part of its quality assurance function and the latest versions of statistics available are attached as Appendix three. Taken as a whole, they demonstrate an overall

improvement in performance, albeit, we still over perform in relation to Children subject of a child protection plan compared to a national Peer Group of local authorities.

This is a necessary but insufficient approach to assessing the quality of what is being delivered across the breadth of the Safeguarding Agenda in the city. It does not include multi agency information, nor does it accurately reflect either children and young people's perception, or those of parents, carers and foster carers in terms of their experience of our systems.

While information in relation to Child Protection has been made available, we have not considered quarterly or annual information in relation to Licensing and Gambling, Hidden Harm, Sexual Exploitation or a range of other relevant areas. Neither have we cross tabulated what we consider and what might be reported through the Safer Sunderland Partnership, the Risk and Resilience Board, the Children's Trust Strategic Partnership, a number of the Scrutiny Committees and other City wide reporting mechanisms. We have little information over the awareness and understanding of roles across wider communities (e.g. faith communities, communities of interest, third sector fora) about information they may have or seek.

It is also not clear if the strategic value of the information we have received has been appropriately considered in relation to what it means in terms of assuring the Safeguarding Agenda locally and what additional action we may request to be taken by agencies. It is clear this is an area for strategic development during 2007-08 and will be identified within the work plan carried forward.

Outcomes of IDeA Peer Review with Sunderland City Council

During 2007/08, the IDeA, through their Regional Associate and the National Adviser for Children and Young People, were invited by Sunderland City Council to participate in a piece of work to support the Council in developing its safeguarding arrangements for children and young people. Although the impetus for this work arose from the Joint Area Review (JAR) carried out in Sunderland in Spring 2007, it was agreed that the activity would focus on a peer review process designed to assist Sunderland City Council in assessing progress in the development of a high quality safeguarding framework for children, young people and families in the Sunderland Council area.

An area of specific focus was the quality assurance of key procedures for safeguarding and assuring the wellbeing of children and young people, including the role of the Local Safeguarding Children Board. Following a process of consultation and challenge with members of the LSCB, officers of the council, elected members and staff engaged in safeguarding work across a range of agencies, the IDeA team made the following suggestions in relation to the safeguarding agenda:

- *"Production of an outcomes-based business plan should be a priority for the LSCB to help to focus the Board on key priorities. Once in place, this*

plan would form a good basis for regular communication of LSCB activities to Board members and could be used as the basis of a regular newsletter to all involved in safeguarding.

- *Sunderland may wish to re-consider the status of the chair of the LSCB in the light of the change in personnel of the Head of Safeguarding*
- *LSCB members needed to develop a wider understanding of each others and the LSCB's responsibilities, including links with the CRDP and Safeguarding Partnership*
- *There was a need for accountability and scrutiny for safeguarding to be clarified, so that all Children's Trust partners, LSCB members and elected members fully understood their responsibilities*
- *Regular, brief reports to the LSCB against outcomes in the Business plan, would help to focus LSCB members attention on key data and provide a regular check on the performance of the LSCB*
- *Senior staff could consider ways of making data and investigative analysis more easily accessible directly to staff at all levels particularly bundled to relate to locality working. This would help staff to be more aware of comparisons in performance and to seek further improvements, based on the authority's well established 'golden thread' performance management culture.*
- *The members of the IDeA team from the City of York and Telford and Wrekin councils both had shortened, easily accessible packages illustrating procedures and providing guidance in joint working. Sunderland LSCB might like to look at these packs with a view to preparing a similar shortened, illustrated version for Sunderland staff to complement the comprehensive procedures document"*

This work was delivered at the same time as the LSCB was engaged in an internal programme of organisational development. A number of the suggestions are already being progressed and some action has been reported in this annual report. Others require consideration through the wider political process and we will see taking them forward through due process as priorities in the business plan for 08/09. A Board development programme is under construction and will commence delivery through 08/09 and subsequent years. The nature of accountability and scrutiny requires discussion and clarification both for Board Members, throughout Children's Services and the Council more widely and through the auspices of the Sunderland Partnership. We welcomed the opportunity offered by the peer review process and look forward to reporting in the 2008/09 Board Report on how we have integrating its findings into our own working arrangements.

Work carried over to 2008 – 2009 Business Plan

The areas identified below fall out of the review of the 2007/08 Business Plan but additional outcomes based actions will also be identified as a result of the Board development programme. The overall plan is to deliver a different approach to Business Planning so that by March 2009 a three year to five year costed forward plan has been established out of which will naturally be identified the annual business plans and their links to those plans of other Boards and Partnerships (e.g. Safer Sunderland Partnership, Risk and Resilience Board, Adult Safeguarding Board).

- **Development of Policies and Procedures**

The LSCB has not yet accessed and evaluated agencies supervision arrangements. This is being progressed and will be finalised when arrangements for the Local Authority Designated Officer have been determined.

- **Communicating and Raising Awareness**

A strategic approach to communicating the safeguarding agenda both across partner agencies and across Sunderland has not been progressed and is a significant action for the year 08/09. We have had limited success in small awareness raising initiatives.

- **Monitoring and evaluation**

The Joint Area Review report (2007) identified areas for improvement in relation to which we need to improve our evaluation of the performance of all agencies in safeguarding children. This will be progressed to ensure all agencies working with children and young people are performing effectively and meeting national and local targets.

- **Planning and Commissioning**

We need to strengthen arrangements for evaluating Licensing and Gambling applications. All applications must give regard to 'Child Protection' and further work needs to be undertaken to ensure AND assure understanding and awareness of safe practices in relation to these applications.

Appendix One

SUNDERLAND LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD 2007-2008

MEMBERSHIP LIST For full contact details contact Jennifer Holmes, Children's Services 0191 5661625

Organisation	Role	Name
Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust	Director of Public Health	Nonnie Crawford
Children's Services	Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Manager	Janet Newton
Childrens Services	Interim Assistant Head of Safeguarding	Mary Scholes (Deputy Yvonne Hamilton)
Sunderland City Council	Legal Services -Senior Solicitor	Jane Hedley (Deputy Joanna Bonar)
Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust	Designated Nurse, Child Protection	Nicki Walker-Hall
CAFCASS	Service Manager	Margaret E Harvey
Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust	Designated Doctor	Dr Jan Welbury
Connexions		Ray Reay (Deputy Chris Wilkinson)
National Probation Service – Northumbria	District Manager	Karin O'Neill
St Paul's CE Primary School	Headteacher	Yvonne Gray
Northumbria Police – Sunderland Area Command		DCI John Lingwood (Deputy DI Paul Foggin)
NSPCC	Children's Service Manager	Paula Telford
Children's Services	Safeguarding Children Development Officer	Lynne Thomas
Sunderland Youth Offending Services	Operating Manager	Guy Kirk
Tyne & Wear Fire & Rescue Service	Youth Issue Officer	Rebecca Richardson
Services for Disabled Children	Strategic Manager	Steve Fletcher (Deputy Margaret Lucas)
Sunderland City Council	Domestic Violence Policy Coordinator	Sharon Kane
City of Sunderland College	Head of Division Student Support	John Austin (Deputy Rachel Wiles)
Sunderland City Council	Homelessness Coordinator	Claire Foster (Deputy Peter J Smith)
North East Strategic Health Authority	Portfolio Manager	Debbie Edwards

Organisation	Role	Name
Sunderland Royal Hospital	Divisional Director of Family Care	Peter Sutton
Children's Services	Early Years and Child Care Manager	Rachel Putz
Cherry Knowle Hospital	Head of Nursing for Forensic, Children, Young People and Specialist Services	Mandy Thompson
Sunderland City Council	Head of Service – Standards	Lynda Brown (Deputy Sandra Mitchell)
Sunderland City Council Adult Services	General Manager	Marilyn Wilkie
Children's Services	Head of Safeguarding	Mick McCracken
Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust	Assistant Director Provider Services	Joy Akehurst

Appendix Two

Report of Partner Agencies

Children's Services Social Care, Safeguarding

Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Unit

The work of the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Unit during 2007-08 focussed on progressing key priorities in the Children and Young People's plan, the LSCB Business Plan and the Safeguarding Service Plan.

Progress was significant in developing and strengthening robust Quality Assurance arrangements and ensuring the accuracy of data in relation to Child Protection and Looked After processes.

We have improved the involvement of Looked After Children in contributing to service development – for example by being involved in key senior officer appointments and 100% Looked After Children contributed to their own Looked After Reviews during 2007-08.

The Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Unit developed arrangements for the commissioning of an independent advocacy service, which from 1st April 2008 has been delivered by a voluntary sector partner.

Improvements have been implemented which strengthen the quality assurance functions of the Independent Reviewing Officer role. Data collection is in place to record and report on a range of Quality Assurance issues in relation to child protection processes including quality of agency reports and contributions, and quality of protection plans and recording of significant parental factors e.g. Domestic violence, drug and alcohol misuse.

Janet Newton
Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Manager
Board member, Children's Services, Safeguarding

Services for Disabled Children

All Social Workers and Assistant Childcare Workers within Services for Disabled Children have all undertaken the Statutory Child Protection training, all of the above workers have undertaken the Multi Agency LSCB training to familiarise them with the new LSCB Procedures.

We have one hard copy of the Procedures available and all workers are aware of how to access to the Procedures on the Intranet.

The Learning Disability Nurses, Quest Team and Support Services all have copies of the LSCB procedures.

Services for Disabled Children have a residential home and a Short Break home. All staff undertake training specifically for residential staff in addition to the local safeguarding training.

Both establishments have a hard copy of LCSB procedures as well as internet access.

With regards to first aid, all residential staff have undertaken the 4 day First Aid training to ensure that they comply with home standards (national minimum standards).

Both homes have an anti bullying policy in place to ensure children are safe.

All senior staff within Services for Disabled Children have undertaken the safe Recruitment and Selection process.

Margaret Lucas
Services Manager, Services for Disabled Children
On Behalf of Steve Fletcher Strategic Manager, Disabled Children
Board Member Children's Services, Safeguarding

Services for Looked After Children

The Children's Homes Procedures and Guidance have been updated to be consistent with SSCB Procedures. Each home has access to the SSCB Procedures on the intranet as well as a hard copy.

Ofsted inspections of children's homes in mid 2008 found that one section of the SSCB procedures relating to referrals was not fully compliant with Children's Homes Regulations 2001. This has now been revised.

In order to improve safeguarding practice within the children's homes, a substantial programme of single-agency training for all staff in the service has commenced and will be completed by December 2008.

An Ofsted inspection of the adoption service has just been concluded. The service has been judged good in Staying Safe and good overall.

Nick Murphy, Residential Services Manager, Services for Looked After Children
On Behalf of Peter Andrews, Interim Assistant Head of Service, Safeguarding
Board Member, Children's Services, Safeguarding

Children's Services – Standards, Education Safeguarding Team

The Education Safeguarding Team acts on behalf of Children's Services offering advice, support, guidance and training to Schools, Nurseries, Additional Learning Environment and Central Services, to support them in discharging their statutory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of young people to whom they are responsible, in accordance with Education Act 2002, section 175, and Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education DCSF07.

All establishments and central services that work with children have at least one trained designated person/nominated deputy who take the lead role on safeguarding the welfare of young people. Regular single agency training is provided by the Education Safeguarding Team and multi agency training by SSCB training working group.

All staff that come into contact with the young people in our establishments undergo awareness-raising training every 3 years clarifying their roles and responsibilities, as outlined in their safeguarding policy, in order to meet with national standards.

This year, 2007/8, we have worked hard to broaden our remit and run awareness-raising sessions for teaching supply agencies, visiting music teachers, school crossing patrol staff, caretakers, year four student teachers at Sunderland University, the housing group Gentoo, Pupils First and, with the support of our vulnerable adult colleagues, all seven hundred and fifty taxi drivers and escorts in the city.

To monitor performance of our establishments a robust safeguarding self-assessment audit tool was introduced in 2007 to measure their position in relation to safeguarding requirements. Establishments are supported by visits from the Education Safeguarding Team and action plans to ensure compliance.

Safer recruitment and selection since 2006 has been another initiative where the Education Safeguarding Team with our HR colleagues has taken the lead. 94% of head teachers and 69.8% of governors have received training and have passed an online assessment. We are now extending this training to members of our establishment's senior leadership teams.

All establishments have a current Child Protection/Safeguarding policy outlining their internal procedures in managing safeguarding, the well being of young people, and allegations against employed and volunteer staff. These policies contain clear thresholds for referrals using SSCB safeguarding procedures, in accordance with section 9.2 Guidance for Educational Professionals, updated

inline with new SSCB procedures October 07. Guidance is available centrally to support policy development and ensure consistency.

We continue to develop good working relationships with partner agencies across the city embedded by:

- Our contribution to all present working groups of the SSCB and small task groups developing new initiatives. AIM, file audits approving policies, etc., and our significant role in the development and delivery of multi agency training
- The significant role we play in the management of allegations against education professionals and volunteer staff
- Our contribution to MAPPA and NON MAPPA meetings
- Our contribution to MARAC meetings lead by the Police Public Protection Unit when they become operational July 08

Pam Gartland
Education Safeguarding Manager

Yvonne Gray
Head Teacher Representative
On behalf of Lynda Brown Board Member Children's Services, Standards.

City of Sunderland College

City of Sunderland College (CoSC) is fully committed to Government guidance statutory and non-statutory on Safeguarding matters. The Education Act 2002 requires governing bodies of further education colleges to ensure that their functions are carried out with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults.

CoSC has since its inception in 1998 had a governor approved policy and established procedures for dealing with Child Protection issues. These documents reflect locally established procedures that have been agreed by the statutory Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB). CoSC continues to make a positive contribution city wide. The Director of Student Support, the manager with lead responsibility for Child Protection matters actively participates on the SSCB and relevant sub groups influencing the city's approach to safeguarding children.

CoSC's Governing Body meets its statutory requirements and there is keen debate and discussion during the consideration of the annual report. Each year the governors review and approve procedures dealing with:

- raising awareness of issues relating to the welfare of children and young people and the promotion of a safe environment for the children and young people learning within the College;
- aiding the identification of children and young people at risk of significant harm, and providing procedures for reporting concerns;
- establishing procedures for reporting and dealing with allegations of abuse against members of staff;
- the safe recruitment of staff.

The Governors robustly challenge its annual Safeguarding Review and are committed to improving ECM outcomes for all of its learners.

2007-2008 - CoSC's procedures have been reviewed by the manager with lead responsibility. The procedures have been reviewed and modified to enable ease of implementation, Policy and procedures are in compliance with Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board procedures. Single Agency Safeguarding Awareness training, based upon materials provided by the Education Safeguarding Team is now a mandatory activity for all staff and there are an increased number of Designated Personnel. Both of these measures were introduced following the 06-07 annual Governing Body review in July 07.

In practice there are 6 staff undertaking the role of a designated person dealing with Child Protection and Multi Agency Panel for the Protection of Vulnerable Adults (MAPPVA) referrals from staff. The Student Support Directorate, working alongside the Learning Support Directorate, has a centre-based approach.

Designated Personnel dealt with 45 Child Protection / Vulnerable Adult Cases. In addition there is constant dialogue and requests from the partner agencies in the city and wider region.

There have been 11 cases relating to students disclosing suicidal thoughts, most of which involved parents being contacted and brought into College. 10 cases relating to vulnerable adults ranging from potential issues of neglect to serious allegations of abuse. A further 40 cases were of a general safeguarding nature, ranging from individuals supported through the Child in Need Procedure within the City to individual disclosures made to staff which were referred on.

All staff have access to appropriate materials via the college's intranet and via the Student Support Directorate team.

CoSC has a clear staff development plan for Safeguarding including single agency and multi agency requirements.

Mandatory Single Agency Safeguarding Awareness training, has been received by more than 750 college staff since December 2006 delivered internally by senior Student Support Directorate staff.

Significant numbers of CoSC staff have also received additional pertinent training some delivered by the SSCB multi-agency training team and others from external sources. As an example: due to rising concern relating to self harm, CoSC's response was to arrange a Self Harm Workshop for 20 staff using an 'expert' external consultant.

2008-2009 - The Student Support Directorate continues to work closely with the HRM Directorate on staffing matters and to consider mechanisms to improve dissemination and further raise awareness of safeguarding processes among new and existing staff. A joint implementation plan is being prepared to inform and enhance the awareness raising process.

John Austin, Head of Division, Student Support
Board Member, City of Sunderland College Hylton Centre

Connexions Sunderland

Child Protection/Safeguarding Children Local Guidelines 2008

Please refer to the Connexions Tyne and Wear Child Protection Procedures (Section A Provision of Information, Advice, Guidance and Personal Support to Young People - AP.003 Child Protection Procedure) This is housed electronically in the Intranet Quality section.

Priorities at Disclosure:

Personal Advisers, IAAs and Key Workers must explain Confidentiality and its limitations.

Personal Advisers, IAAs and Key Workers must support young people, as far as possible, throughout the process.

Priority Sunderland Contacts:

Designated Person 4432938	Chris Wilkinson	Area Co-ordinator
Designated Person 4432926	Liv Slingsby	Lead PA
4432994	Faye Gething	Lead PA

Children's Services

Duty Social Worker 8.30am to 5.15pm Monday to Thursday
5661500

8.30am to 4.45pm Friday Fax
5661501

Emergency Duty Service Outside above hours, weekends and public holidays
5289110

Priority Actions:

1. If disclosures occur in schools or college, **their** Designated Person (DP) **must** be advised immediately and **they** will complete the appropriate documentation.

The Connexions DP **must** be kept informed and the PA or Key Worker **must** provide information to complete the form **Child Protection/POVA/Safeguarding Concern (A.F.006)** for internal records.

2. If the disclosure occurs in other settings, the Connexions DP **must** be informed immediately and documentation completed. If the decision is to refer to Social Services, the PA or Key Worker **must** complete the **Referral for Child in Need Assessment (CIN2b)**, in consultation with the Connexions DP.

All incidents of domestic violence must be recorded

Support to Staff

There is the opportunity for staff to contact the Connexions DP or their line manager to debrief, if a particular situation has caused concern.

Staff can also contact the Connexions DP if they have concerns about a case, but are unsure whether the young person should be referred to Social Services or may require medical or more specialist support.

Forms

Copies of blank documentation can be found in designated areas in local centres. Completed forms will be forwarded to Sunderland for safe storage in Room 21

Chris Wilkinson, Area Coordinator, Connexions
On behalf of Ray Reay, Board Member Connexions

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

All Fire and Rescue Authorities have a statutory duty under Section 6 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 to promote fire safety, which includes working with other agencies and local partners to create safer communities. Sections 5, 11 and 12 of the Act also give them wider powers to provide a service which responds to local priorities.

The National Framework for the Fire and Rescue Service 2008 – 11 requires all Fire and Rescue Authorities to have regard to the Fire and Rescue Strategy for Children and Young People in all work with children and young people. The National Framework forms the basis of all future performance assessments of Fire and Rescue Authorities.

Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 also places a duty on a range of public sector bodies to make arrangements for ensuring that their functions are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service's (TWFRS) work with children and young people is underpinned by the statutory arrangements above and as such has in place robust training arrangements in addition to their own Child Protection Policy and Procedures which compliments Local Authority arrangements.

Training arrangements are detailed below (effective April 2008):

- Level 1 - All TWFRS personnel are given basic awareness in child protection via an E - Learning package (provider: E - academy).
- Level 2 – All Community Safety personnel, in addition to Level one are given a 2 day training course in 'Effective work with young people' (provider: FPM Training).
- Level Three – Specialised Community Safety personnel, in addition to Level one and two are trained in CALM (provider: CALM Ltd).
- Level four – All Duty Officers are given a half day training course on the child protection procedures / made aware of Local Authority child protection procedures and informed of out of hours referral systems (delivered in – house).

Rebecca Richardson
Youth Issues Officer
Board Member Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust

Each NHS body has a duty to put in and keep in place arrangements for the purpose of monitoring and improving the quality of health and work to standards set out in the Health and Social care standards and planning framework.

In respect of Core standard 2 – Health care organisations protect children by following national child protection guidance within their own activities and in their dealings with other organisations.

- Health organisations can evidence a high level of multi-agency working particularly in certain staff groups, with active participation in and the provision of reports for conferences, core groups and multi-agency meetings by Health Visitors, Midwives and School Nurses. There is a need for all staff groups to become more proactive.
- In a recent audit of PCT employees over 85 % stated they were aware of and had access to the LSCB procedures and over 80% had undertaken induction training, knew how to access advice and support and had access to child protection supervision.
- The Mental Health Trust has recently audited their child protection arrangements and whilst the report is awaited early indications show that their merger and recent changes have resulted in some confusion for staff regarding the professionals undertaking Named and Designated roles – the appointment of a Lead for Safeguarding who has named Nurse responsibility as well as revision of the Child Protection policy should hopefully address this – further audit is planned.
- Where concerns have been raised that health staff may not be fully compliant with the procedures i.e. inappropriate referrals, audit has taken place to evidence this and actions taken to address the issues.

In respect of Standard 5 of the NHS:

- There is consistent representation from each health trust at SSCB and active participation by the Designated Nurse in the Business Planning group. There are Named professionals within each health Trust who along with the Designated professionals are active in sub groups, with many other professionals active within the working parties. The Named Professionals roles need strengthening and are being reviewed currently
- The LSCB procedures are available to Health staff via the internet with a robust system for ensuring that all staff are informed of updates to the procedures. Health's safeguarding policies include information from 'What to do if you are worried a Child is Being Abused' (2006) and are accessed through each Trust's intranet these are reviewed and updated annually. The current policy for the PCT does not include clear lines of accountability this is being addressed currently.

- The assessment framework is an integral part of the assessments made by primary health staff working with children and families on a regular basis.
- There is a clear single agency training strategy in place for 2008, a further strategy for 2009-2012 based on the *Common Core of Skills and Knowledge for the Children's Workforce (2005)* is already under development, if fully adopted this will ensure that health's workforce can receive the correct level of training, a competency test is being introduced into the evaluation process. The data base to monitor compliance with the strategy is under further development. In future we should be able to access more meaningful data allowing us to target specific groups who are less compliant. Staff are made aware through the training about the increased vulnerabilities of certain clients, e.g. disabled children. Health is active in the development, delivery and attendance of Multi- Agency training
- A number of specific targeted services are available for Looked after Children, the transient population and teenage pregnancy, the PCT are currently looking at the services required for Youth Offending and Children misusing substances.
- Some health staff have accessed training regarding the CAF within the pilot site area; there remains a training need, the CAF needs embedding into practice. The recent roll out has caused a level of confusion; planned communications should help to clarify this.
- Safer recruitment and vetting procedures are in place within each health trust, carried out as part of the recruitment process, references are always taken up.

Nicki Walker-Hall
 Designated Nurse Child Protection
 Sunderland Teaching PCT
 Board Member, Health

Health, Housing and Adult Services

1. The Health, Housing and Adult Directorate work collaboratively with other Council Departments/divisions in the delivery of the safeguarding children agenda through a regular council safeguarding leads meeting.

In Health, Housing and Adult Services there is an identified lead for Safeguarding Children at a senior level. In each division there is one identified manager who is termed a Safeguarding Children “Champion”.

The role has been created in response to the requirement for the Council to discharge responsibilities regarding the safeguarding of children which requires every member of staff in the Council to play a part in the safeguarding of children. The roles and responsibilities are as follows:

Health, Housing and Adult Services Safeguarding Lead

- Member of the Local Safeguarding Board
- Member of council’s Safeguarding Leads Group
- Chair of the Adult Services Safeguarding Children Group
- Support and advice as required on safeguarding issues for Adult Services Champions

Responsible for –

1. Reporting to the Adult Services Senior Management Team on the safeguarding agenda and action plan/s
2. Ensuring that Adult Services have systems and processes in place which reflect the safeguarding requirements of the organisation
3. Cascading relevant information to the safeguarding champions

Safeguarding Champions

- Members of Adult Services Safeguarding Children’s Group representing individual division
- Members of LSCB sub groups
- Minimum training on Introduction on Working Together to Safeguard Children a 1 day course

Responsible for –

- Cascade of relevant safeguarding children information to staff
- Resource for staff who may have a safeguarding issue
- Oversight of appropriate level of training for staff within the division
- Resource for voluntary sector commissioned services who may seek initial guidance
- Ensuring staff know how to access advice and support within the existing systems / guidelines with safeguarding and child protection issues

- Acting as contact person for Children's Services on issues which involve both services
- Maintaining high profile of Safeguarding Children
- Retaining for reference "Working Together Guidance 2006" and Local Safeguarding Children's Board Procedures
- Informing safeguarding lead of safeguarding issues
- Logging any issues and actions taken
- Participating in Section 11 audit of safeguarding

Safeguarding Children's Group

Purpose:

- To ensure that the necessary protocols / systems and processes are in place to discharge safeguarding children responsibilities
- To review audit systems
- To develop new protocols or systems in response to any change
- To work closely with Children's Services when necessary on joint protocols / systems
- To highlight concerns and take or propose necessary action to address safeguarding issues / concerns.

The Health, Housing and Adult Safeguarding Children arrangements will be reviewed annually to ensure compliance with statutory duty to safeguard children.

Conclusion

The work of the Directorate Safeguarding Children's Group to date has produced an action plan which has ensured that questions about safeguarding children are included in the assessment documentation of each division to ensure the capture of essential information.

A clause has been added to Health, Housing and Adult Service contracts which identify the requirements around safeguarding children to providers of council services. They also have contact names and numbers for the Directorate Champions for initial advice. A protocol is currently under development with Children's Services to support working with children who care for parents with a disability and working together with relevant services where there are concerns about families where the adult is receiving a service from the Directorate.

Marilyn Wilkie

16th June 2008

Board Member, Adult Services, Mental Health

National Probation Service, Northumbria

Northumbria Probation Area works in partnership with other agencies, most notably those charged with a “duty to co-operate” by the Criminal Justice Act 2003, to deliver its public protection responsibilities.

The Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) have been established in Northumbria since 2003 with Northumbria Probation taking a lead role in managing the arrangements. The systems remain robust and have the capacity and flexibility to include all relevant offenders whatever level of risk they pose. During 2007/8 of the total number of cases managed within MAPPA by Level 2 or 3 meetings across Sunderland, 47% were specifically flagged as involving child safeguarding issues.

The MAPP arrangements across Northumbria are overseen by a Strategic Management Board (SMB) which is responsible for revising the MAPP arrangements in response to legislative and wider criminal justice changes, for progressing the SMB Annual Business Plan and for the production of an annual report.

There are six local MAPPA Strategy Groups each of which is coterminous with the Police Public Protection Units located in the Basic Command Units. In Sunderland the meeting is chaired by the Probation District Manager and is attended by local senior managers of the statutory and duty to co-operate agencies who are likely to be involved in the operational management of risk through their involvement in MAPPA meetings.

The group has responsibility for driving forward local initiatives for example:

- MAPPA training/awareness raising requirements.
- Establishing local single points of contact for MAPPA within each of the duty to co-operate agencies.
- Taking forward any issues of appropriate attendance or representation at meetings.
- Ensuring a multi-agency local dimension to the management of risk.
- The recently received revised MAPPA Guidance extends the inclusion criteria for MAPPA offenders, introduces a MAPPA Serious Case Review procedure and provides KPIs and general standards for MAPPA. These will be issues for the Local group to take forward in 2008-09.

The Safeguarding Children Policy and Strategy 2007 has replaced the Child Protection Policy and Strategy for Northumbria Probation Area. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is the focus of the new policy and there is comprehensive guidance provided for staff which has been promoted through training events over the past year. In addition the Probation Service is represented on the Governance Board of the Child Index Implementation Project (Contact Point) for Gateshead Council by the Area Manager (Public Protection).

As an enhancement of our contribution to public protection, Northumbria Probation Area became a ViSOR user on the 21st January 2008 and now has the facility to add information to the ViSOR record held on offenders under probation statutory supervision. ViSOR is a confidential database which can hold intelligence and factual information on sexual and violent offenders, together with potentially dangerous persons who do not have convictions.

Karin O'Neill
District Manager, Wearside
Board Member, National Probation Service - Northumbria

Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Trust

Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Trust are fully committed to the principals set out in the government guidance “Working together to Safeguard Children (2006) and the Children Act 2004”.

The Trust was established on 1st April 2006 and at that time employed nearly 7000 staff with an annual budget of more than £280m.

The Trust provides Mental Health, Learning Disability and Neuro Rehabilitation services for a population of approximately 1.4 million and also some specialist regional and national services. Local communities served include the whole of Northumberland, Newcastle, North Tyneside, and Gateshead, South Tyneside, Sunderland and some service provision for North Easington.

Services are provided in peoples homes, in health centres, clinics, schools, community mental health centres, specialist units and centres across the north east. In patient services are provided on a number of hospital sites including:

- St Nicholas Hospital, Gosforth
- St Georges Park, Morpeth
- Northgate Hospital, Morpeth
- Newcastle General Hospital
- Prudhoe Hospital
- Walkergate Park Hospital, Newcastle
- Monkwearmouth Hospital, Sunderland
- Cherry Knowle Hospital, Ryhope

The Trust has a statutory responsibility to provide a Safeguarding Children Team comprising of Named Doctor and Head of Safeguarding/ Named Nurse to act as coordinators and support staff in all localities of the Trust in their responsibilities for safeguarding and protecting children.

The Trust covers a vast geographical area and is linked with seven Local Safeguarding Children Board's (LSCB). Each LSCB has responsibility for the population of a specific geographical area with its own procedures and infrastructure of interagency working arrangements.

In Sunderland Locality representation at meetings is:

- Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB)
- SSCB sub group meetings
- NSF Health Safeguarding meeting
- Named Nurse meeting
- NTW Trust Safeguarding Children Committee
- NTW Sunderland locality Safeguarding Children Group

Training:

Trust staff are provided with induction, mandatory. single agency and multi agency training in order to be trained in recognition, referral, interagency working, have access to supervision etc plus link with the Designated Doctor and Designated Nurse for the health community.

Trust staff also co facilitate specific multi agency training in relation to Safeguarding.

Monitoring Arrangements:

The Trust is required to meet Core Standard 2 within the Standards for Better Health (DOH 2004)

Healthcare organisations protect children by following national guidelines within their own activities and in their dealings with other organisations.

The Trust has defined and implemented effective processes for identifying, reporting and taking action on child protection issues, in accordance with the Protection of Children Act 1999, the Children Act 2004, “Working together to safeguard children” (DoH 1999) and “Safeguarding children in whom illness is induced or fabricated by carers with parenting responsibilities”

The Core Standard is monitored on a monthly basis within the Trust Integrated Governance Safety Domain group.

As a further enhancement to ensure Safeguarding Children is given paramount importance, the Trust this year has invested in a Safeguarding Team to ensure its responsibilities for Safeguarding Children are discharged in a robust and effective manner. Responsibilities include: implementation, maintenance and further development of effective and efficient systems for the detection, prevention, surveillance, investigation and control of harm and abuse to children, in partnership with the Designated Nurse and other Safeguarding Children leads.

Jan Grey

Head of Safeguarding/Named Nurse

On behalf of Mandy Thompson Board Member, Health, Head of Nursing for Forensic, Children, Young People and Specialist Services.

NSPCC

The purpose of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) is to end cruelty to children. Our vision is of a society where all children are loved, valued and able to fulfil their potential. Clearly the NSPCC cannot end cruelty to children on its own and we seek to work in partnership with other agencies and individuals.

We seek to achieve cultural, social and political change - influencing legislation, policy, practice, attitudes and behaviours for the benefit of children and young people. This is achieved through a combination of service provision, lobbying, campaigning and public education.

The NSPCC places a responsibility on all its employees to do everything possible to ensure that children are kept safe from harm, and that they all contribute to the purpose of the NSPCC.

The NSPCC's core values are based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. They are:

- Children must be protected from all forms of violence and exploitation
- Everyone has a responsibility to support the care and protection of children
- We listen to children and young people, respect their views and respond to them directly
- Children should be encouraged and enabled to fulfil their potential
- We challenge inequalities for children and young people
- Every child must have someone to turn to

The NSPCC provides direct services for children throughout England, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Channel Islands through our services for children and young people, including Help Line services. The NSPCC is committed to complying with legislation and guidance regarding the safeguarding of children, even where it is not under a duty to do so, in order to achieve best practice.

As the only UK children's charity with statutory powers that enable it to take action to safeguard children at risk of abuse, the NSPCC recognises its responsibility to demonstrate good practice and compliance with statutory guidance related to child protection.

The NSPCC has a portfolio providing evidence of the NSPCC's compliance with paragraph 2.13 of the statutory guidance under section 11 of the Children Act 2004 including:

- Senior management commitment to the importance of

Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare

- Statement of the agency's responsibilities towards children
- Clear line of accountability within the organisation for work on Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children
- How service development takes account of the need to safeguard and Promote welfare and is informed, where appropriate, by the views of children and families
- Staff training on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children
For all staff working with or, depending on the agency's primary Functions, in contact with children and families
- Safe recruitment
- Effective inter-agency working to safeguard and Promote the welfare of children
- Information sharing

Paula Telford
Children's Services Manager
Kaleidoscope
Board Member, NSPCC

City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust. Directorate of Paediatrics.

1. Introduction

This highlight report outlines the safeguarding activities carried out by the City Hospitals Sunderland Foundation Trust (CHSFT) during the year 2007/08 as well as highlighting the plans for 2008/09.

2. 2007/08

Dr Kim Barrett, Consultant Paediatrician and Julie Goulden, Child Protection Trainer delivered the first of an ongoing training programme of safeguarding training to all staff involved in the care of children. The pilot session was delivered at Sunderland Eye Infirmary and brings the level of awareness of child protection to level 2. The training package was newly developed and included direct training as well as a more interactive and experiential approach. The course was well received by all in attendance however a pre and post training questionnaire is being developed to formally evaluate the effectiveness of the course.

Also carried during 07/08 was a child protection training event held for Sunderland GPs during one of their TITO sessions. It was held at the Stadium of Light with approximately 170 GPs and 80 other primary care professionals in attendance. Again, Dr Barrett delivered this, in conjunction with other members of the child protection team within primary care.

The Named Nurse for CHS, whilst it is acknowledged that she has not had dedicated time for safeguarding duties, does carry out such duties and has conducted a twice yearly Climbie audit into our safeguarding procedures and processes. The audits demonstrate that our processes and practices are sound and there is a plan to expand the scope of the audit to ensure recommendations from serious case reviews are also regularly monitored.

The Named Nurse has provided real time support to practitioners on a case by case basis to ensure safe and appropriate responses to issues of child protection.

The Paediatric Named Nurse and Named Doctor work well and regularly together, specifically on issues around training for example additional training delivered to band 7 ward managers to ensure they can supervise staff in providing safe practice on the ward and departmental areas.

A recent audit into the AA serious case review has demonstrated that practices and behaviours have been changed as a result of the recommendations. All

children that required it had social services involvement in the discharge planning process and discharge letters are timely processed with 5 days, informative and appropriately shared with other professionals.

Midwifery staff regularly contribute to the Hidden Harm workshop aimed at non health/midwifery professionals and engage in regular meetings with the child protection advisors regarding practice.

The Trust includes child protection awareness at both the corporate induction as well as mandatory training for all staff, including junior doctors. Numbers of staff trained last year total 3010 staff. Comprehensive training records are held including details of the trainee's base ward and department and can be shared if requested. We will be looking to include ward specific training reports within the Clinical Governance arena for next year.

3. 2008/09

Named Doctor will be rolling out the training piloted within the Eye Infirmary to all groups of medical staff as well as delivering a more specialist level of training to Paediatricians. It is our goal to ensure that all medical staff, and other professionals on the front line, have undergone the new training course by November 2008. This will be a huge undertaking, one which has never been achieved before and will be challenging. However, the Trust and professionals involved recognise the importance of delivering this training and are dedicated to making it happen.

A full review of Community Paediatrics has commenced and the Safeguarding service will be reviewed as part of this process with consideration given to widening the service's remit to include vulnerable children in a wider sense.

The Designated Doctor for Child Protection is retiring this year and whilst we will be sorry to lose her skill and expertise this does offer us the opportunity to review our safeguarding roles, responsibilities and workloads. It is hoped that the Trust does not experience a gap between the current post holder leaving and the commencement of a replacement however, this cannot be guaranteed and contingency plans to cover the Designated Doctor role will have to be made, possibly with the involvement of our partner agencies.

It will be a priority for clinicians and managers of the Safeguarding service to build and maintain close working relationships with key members of Sunderland PCT.

A project will soon be started to review how CHS stores records and information about children, both physically and electronically. This meeting will involve Senior Nurse Child Protection, staff from Medical Records, IT, administration and Named Doctor with a view to ensuring that our practices are compliant with Lord

Laming's recommendations. This will be quite a substantial task to complete because of the complexities involved with electronic systems and because Paediatric services are geographically widespread.

The role of Named Nurse will also be reviewed over the year to assess the amount of protected time required to fulfil the remit of the role. This will be to ensure that where possible her time will be protected to carry on delivering reactive, real time support to professionals but also that she has adequate time to look more strategically at Safeguarding activities.

4. SUMMARY

Members of SSCB are asked to note the contents of the report and comment accordingly.

Peter Sutton
Divisional Director of Family Care
Board Member, Health, City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust

Northumbria Police

Sunderland Area Command Public Protection Unit is responsible for the provision of Police Child Protection Services. The unit is headed by a Detective Inspector who manages three Detective Sergeants, nineteen Detective Constables and nine police staff.

Child abuse investigations are primarily the responsibility of one Detective Sergeant and seven Detective Constables. However, throughout 2007-08 the PPU has developed a more holistic approach to the investigation of offences against all vulnerable persons. As a direct result of this, officers from the Child Protection Team have worked with colleagues from Domestic Abuse Teams and with Offender Management Officers (within MAPPA and non-MAPPA processes).

The Child Protection Unit also acts in an advisory capacity to police and other agencies in relation to the investigation of criminal allegations involving children. In 2007 staff conducted an average of eight ABE (Achieving Best Evidence) interviews with children and young people every week. One hundred and fifty four initial case conferences were attended and one hundred and fifty eight strategy meetings. Ninety nine persons were arrested as a result of allegations to the unit. Police Officers in Sunderland submitted an average of 400 notifications (CHABS) to the Unit every month.

At a strategic level the Area Command is an active participant in the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board with representation at board level and throughout the sub-group structure. Staff from the Child Protection Team have also provided inter-agency training into aspects of criminal investigations. The support and commitment to partnership arrangements remains solid.

In the year ahead the strategic direction within Sunderland Area Command will be twofold:-

- 1) To broaden the scope of investigations conducted within the Child Protection Team. Presently, intra-familial matters are referred to the unit. It is expected that the unit will grow in establishment to encompass extra-familial abuse. Sunderland Area Command has been vocal in lobbying within the Force for this development.
- 2) To fundamentally connect vulnerability investigations and provide better victim care and preventative measures. The Unit acknowledges that Safeguarding Adults work does have an impact for children and young people. Similarly, the link to domestic abuse investigations is well understood. PPU staff are also involved in harm reduction strategy development particularly around drugs and alcohol abuse. In 2008 Sunderland PPU will

- a) Launch Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) commencing in July and held on a fortnightly basis, the aim will be to provide bespoke services to high risk victims (including their families). Police have undertaken to drive this new process forward and will actively seek the participation of SSCB partners.
- b) Support a Specialist Domestic Violence Court (SDVC) at Sunderland Magistrates Court. Working with Victim Support Services and the Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) this will be a further step towards achieving justice for victims of crime (and their children) whilst also supporting the family. At present a SDVC pilot has begun to operate on Tuesday afternoons. Work is underway to formalise this process in 2008.

Sunderland Area Command is a key partner within the Safer Sunderland Partnership and has a strong commitment to taking forward that work. The crime prevention and reduction work conducted there is fundamentally important to our role in safeguarding children. There is a challenge for Sunderland Police in broadening the work of our staff to meet the challenge of placing protection at the centre of future Partnership Plans, Partnership Strategic Assessments and acknowledging the safeguarding of vulnerable persons at the heart of the National Intelligence Model process in future strategic assessments.

John Lingwood

DCI Public Protection Unit

Board Member, Northumbria Police

CAFCASS

Safeguarding is our number one National Standard

Value statement:

Cafcass' primary purpose is to safeguard the welfare and represent the interests of each child or young person referred to us. This means Cafcass will safeguard against harm, safeguard a child's right to maintain important attachments, safeguard a child's right to fully participate in our work with them, and safeguard a stable and secure life for the children and young people we work with as far as we can.

Safeguarding work will take place within the framework of the DfES definition, set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2006) - 'the process of protecting from abuse or neglect, preventing impairment of their health and development, and ensuring they are growing up in circumstances with the provision of safe and effective care which is undertaken so as to enable children to have optimum life chances and enter adulthood successfully.'

- Cafcass will continuously analyse and assess the risks to individual children in all family court cases referred to us until our involvement ceases.
- The Cafcass safeguarding policy framework, including toolkits such as that for Domestic Violence will be followed at all times.
- Cafcass will be explicit about its safeguarding focus, and the specific risks we are working to eliminate for each child. This applies to our role in public law cases where we are critiquing local authority work and to our role in private law cases where we carry out a primary social work role.
- A continuous risk identification process will be applied to all cases, using a unified risk assessment tool in which all staff will be trained. This tool will be available from September 2007.

Cafcass as a safeguarding agency

Cafcass values the importance of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, including their active involvement, in all aspects of our work, throughout the organisation and in partnership with children and young people and their families, and with other safeguarding agencies. We want all the children with whom we work to have a secure identity and a safe base, from which they will be able to flourish throughout their childhood. All of the organisation's activities, policies and procedures will contribute to these objectives.

Cafcass Safeguarding Framework

The Safeguarding Framework was originally produced in spring 2006 and was open for consultation until August 2006. The document was then revised in response to the comments received through the consultation process and the current version was published in March 2007. Copies of the framework have been distributed to all teams and additional copies can be printed from the intranet.

Any further suggestions can be addressed to elizabeth.hall@cafcass.gov.uk and will be held for when this Framework is updated.

Safeguarding Framework - key points to remember:

- All Cafcass staff **must comply** with the Safeguarding Framework.
- Section 1 of the Safeguarding Framework sets out **Cafcass' role as a safeguarding agency** and our duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- Section 2 of the Safeguarding Framework sets out **how we safeguard children and families**. This includes procedures for risk assessment; safe working in direct work with children; the domestic violence policy; referrals; and child welfare.
- Section 3 of the Safeguarding Framework sets out **how Cafcass works with other agencies to safeguard children**. This includes inter-agency structures; our role at child protection conferences; the Serious Case Review procedure; and the information sharing procedure.
- Section 4 of the Safeguarding Framework sets out **our commitment to staff welfare**. Staff can always get independent and confidential support from the Confidential Care Advice line, tel: 0800 917 8452
- Cafcass meanings for accountability and defensible decision making are set out at 1.14 of the Safeguarding Framework. The "defensible decision" is about the quality of thinking, judgement and action in each case.
- The Safeguarding Framework integrates Cafcass' commitment to diversity.
- The promotion of children's rights is key to safeguarding the welfare of children. Safeguarding does not work in the absence of the child's perspective and participation.
- The Safeguarding Framework is complemented by a Resources Pack which includes all the forms you are likely to use.

Risk Assessment

While always Cafcass' core practice, there is now a statutory duty to undertake risk assessment. Cafcass has put together guidance on the completion of risk

assessments as a result of Section 16a implementation, and a reporting template to use should a stand alone report be required. [Click here](#) for more information.

Serious Case Reviews

[Click here](#) to access information on Cafcass participation in Serious Case Reviews and related material.

Margaret Harvey, Service Manager

Board Member, Cafcass

Sunderland Youth Offending Service

As part of Children's Services Sunderland Youth Offending Service (YOS) has a responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children and young people and works in partnership with others to achieve this in line with relevant legislation and guidance e.g. Children Act 1989 and Children Act 2004, working together.

In response to the Working Together to Safeguard Children document issued in April 2006, the YOS works towards the 5 Every Child Matters 5 outcomes, Be Healthy, Staying Safe, Enjoy and Achieve, Make a Positive Contribution and Achieve Economic Wellbeing.

Sunderland YOS carries out an assessment of all young people who have either committed an offence or are at risk of offending (prevention). The assessment document used within the YOS is the ASSET (core YOS work) and ONSET (prevention). The main purpose of the ASSET/ ONSET is to assess three areas of risk, i) risk of offending, ii) risk of serious harm to the public and, iii) vulnerability (safeguarding). The YOS delivers interventions to young people that address the risk of offending and the risk of harm they pose to the public. The YOS will refer young people to relevant services who present as vulnerable (safeguarding).

Sunderland YOS works within the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements ensuring relevant risk management arrangements are in place to safeguard and protect the public.

It is recognised that senior management commitment to safeguarding is important and that is demonstrated through the Head of Service attendance on the LSCB. The Strategic Management Team (SMT) of the YOS have representation on the sub groups of the LSCB and are responsible for feeding information to and from the YOS.

The YOS promotes the LSCB procedures and has them available for staff via the internet (electronically). The YOS strategic management team have oversight of all young people who represent any of the 3 risks outlined above and manage these risks through the YOS High Risk Strategy process. This process monitors the assessment of risk (safeguarding) and how this will be managed, including referrals to relevant services (Children Social Care).

Training and Development

Team Managers maintain an overview of the young people who are presenting with risks in any of the 3 area and monitor the delivery of intervention programmes through the YOS High Risk Strategy process, monthly supervision and day to day informal supervision.

All practitioners including volunteers, who work directly with children and young people are required to undertake Safeguarding training, including refreshers, via the Sunderland LSCB training programme.

Staff are therefore trained to recognise the signs of abuse and neglect, including how and who to raise concerns with. Staff understand their role and responsibilities and the roles and responsibility of other organisations. Staff participate in multi-agency forums to consider individual children, as appropriate.

Information sharing: Information sharing protocols govern young people at risk of offending or at risk of harm to themselves or others. Staff are aware of the protocols and understand when to share information.

The YOS operates within the Safer Recruitment procedures and all staff are required to have enhanced CRB clearance prior to working in the YOS.

Guy Kirk
Youth Offending Service Manager
Board Member, Sunderland Youth Offending Service

EARLY YEARS

During 2007–08 the Early Years team merged with the Extended Services and Attendance teams to form the Extended Services and Attendance (ES&A) Group. The ES&A Group provides information, advice, guidance and training to Early Years and Childcare (0-16 years) providers, Children's Centre Services, Extended Services and Attendance support and guidance to families and schools. The new ES&A Group reviewed and modified its safeguarding procedures in line with the 9.2 guidance for education professionals. Designated people in each section of the ES&A group have been identified and attended designated people training. Awareness Raising training is about to be delivered for all staff within ES&A, and appropriate in depth training for each job role. ES&A staff are members of 3 LSCB subgroups: Training and Workforce Development; Hidden Harm and Audit Good Practice and Procedures.

All Early Years workers in Early Years settings and Childcare (both Maintained and Private, Voluntary and Independent providers) are signposted to the multi-agency child protection training through the ES&A training manual which is issued 3 times a year. During 2007–08 26 staff from the PVI sector and 8 staff from the Maintained sector attended Safeguarding training.

Every Early Years setting and Childcare provider has a safeguarding policy and ES&A and staff provide advice and guidance which includes advice and support on safeguarding issues. ES&A are currently working with the PVI sector on issues relating to safer recruitment. ES&A are working with the Education Safeguarding Team to adapt their safeguarding audit tool to Early Years settings which will strengthen the procedures for monitoring settings on their implementation of safeguarding practice.

Rachel Putz, Early Years and Child Care Manager
Board Member, Children's Services, Extended Services

Sunderland City Council Housing Service

The Housing Service of Sunderland City Council operates in the Health Housing and Adults Services Directorate. We work in partnership with agencies on many levels to ensure that we are fulfilling our duties, and public protection responsibilities in its widest context in relation to Safeguarding.

To ensure consistency across the Safeguarding agenda we have a dedicated representative who attends the Local Safeguarding Children's Board, Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board and the MAPPA Strategy Group. This facilitates a coordinated approach to strategic planning, information sharing, changes to working practices and service developments in line with the Safeguarding agenda. Regular reports recommending improvements to internal working arrangements are also made to the Housing Senior Leadership Team (SLT) as and when necessary. The latest recommendation to SLT is asking for the Housing Service to commit to the mandatory training of all front line staff in Safeguarding Children, MAPPA and Safeguarding Adults. The Report also asks for consideration to be given to further training to supervisors and Managers at a more advanced level as appropriate.

At an operational level front line staff across the Housing Service also play a pivotal role in making referrals and being involved on an individual case by case basis where we can play a role. This is particularly relevant in CIN2b referrals made to Children's Services where an existing protocol exists between the two agencies. We are currently working in partnership with Centrepont to enable us to develop protocol with the Mental Health Partnership also. Also we attend many MAPPA case conferences to help re-house high risk offenders safely in the community to ensure any risk posed to the community and the offender can be managed appropriately and sustained in the long term.

The representative for the Housing Service is currently hoping to engage partner agencies working within the City such as Registered Social Landlords and private landlords who are part of the Council's Accreditation Scheme to encourage them to participate in training events for staff and perhaps even have a safeguarding champion within their organisations. This will aid communication and mean a dedicated named contact to facilitate filtration of information as and when necessary.

Claire Foster, Homelessness Coordinator
Board Member, Sunderland City Council, Development and Regeneration

Appendix three

KEY STATISTICS IN CHILD PROTECTION ()

Statistics	Year Ending 31 st March 06	Year Ending (12 months) 28 th Feb 2007	Year Ending 31 st March 08*
No of Children on Child Protection Register at End Period	268	199	199
No of Recorded S47 Investigations During Year	711	560	506
No of Children Subject of Conferences During Year	342	275	289
No of Registrations During Year	327	250	263
No of De-registrations During Year	290	350	275
No of Enquiries to the Register During Year	1930	2027	1673

*un audited

<i>Duration of Children on CPR*</i>	As 31 st March 2006	As 28 th Feb 2007	As 31 st March 2008*
< 3 months	88	61	59
3 < 6 months	55	30	36
6 < 12 months	87	52	61
12 < 18 months	27	32	32
18 < 21 months	2	3	1
21 < 24 months	3	12	0
2 < 3 years	6	9	9
3 + years	0	0	0

Number of Children Registered and De-registered from CP Register during each Quarter

	Children Registered	Children De-registered	Children on CPR at end Period
June 2004	51	38	188
September 2004	51	40	200
December 2004	91	71	220
March 2005	74	64	230
June 2005	102	66	267

August 2005	63	54	264
December 2005	67	105	249
March 2006	89	71	268
June 2006	76	66	278
September 2006	43	89	232
December 2006	53	87	198
March 2007	62	50	209
June 2007	89	48	249
September 2007	64	79	234
December 2007	49	67	218
March 2008	57	81	199

Children subject of a Child Protection Plan per 10,000 compared to peer group

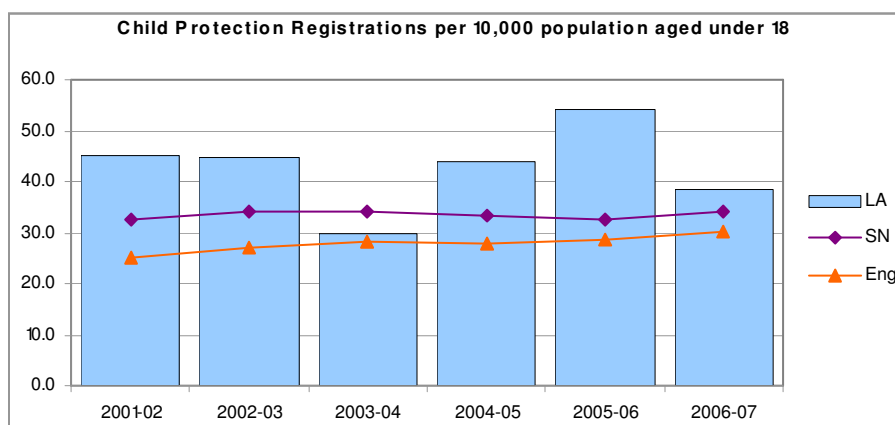
Figure 1

Data source: DCSF - CPR3

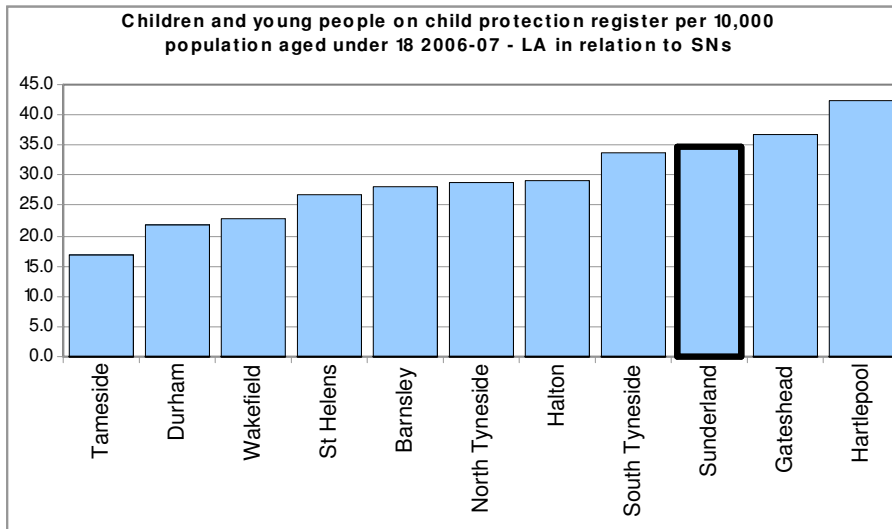
<i>Rate per 10,000</i>	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Sunderland	45.0	44.9	30.0	43.9	54.3	38.5
Peer group	32.6	34.1	34.2	33.2	32.7	34.1
Eng	25.0	27.2	28.1	27.7	28.5	30.1

Sunderland Children subject of a Child Protection Plan per 10,000

Figure 2



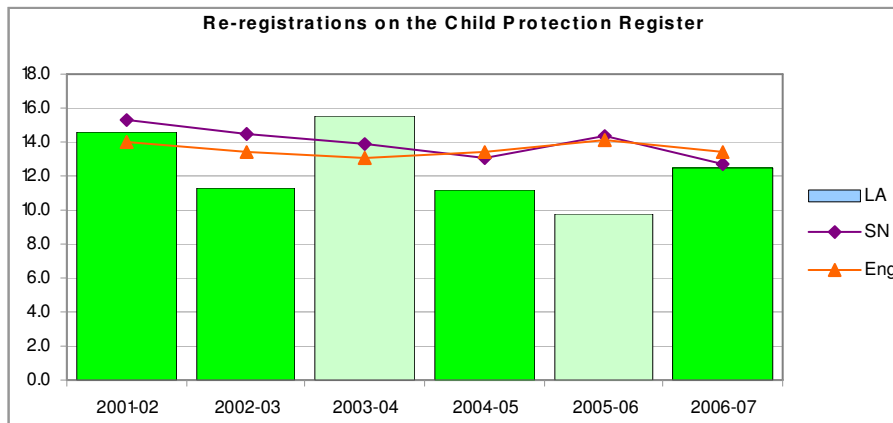
Sunderland compared to peer groups 2007-08



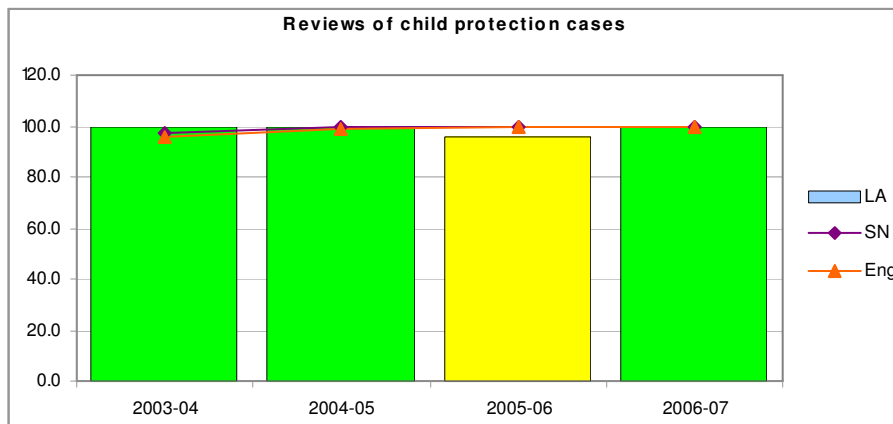
Children on the Child Protection Register: Sunderland's peer group over time

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Gateshead - 390	26.6	27.6	36.2	36.7
Wakefield - 384	25.0	25.3	20.3	23.0
Durham - 840	31.3	19.1	17.2	21.8
Barnsley - 370	41.6	36.7	39.9	28.1
Hartlepool - 805	29.8	34.8	35.8	42.4
South Tyneside - 393	26.9	33.6	26.0	33.7
St Helens - 342	36.2	31.1	37.5	26.7
Halton - 876	19.4	32.6	31.2	29.0
North Tyneside - 392	38.9	28.3	24.1	28.8
Tameside - 357	50.2	24.1	19.7	16.8

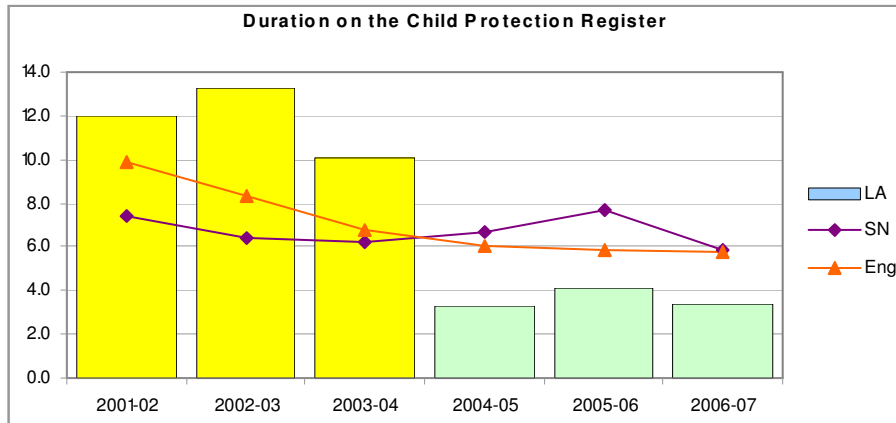
PAF A3% of Re-registration over time



PAF C20% of CP reviews undertaken within appropriate timescales over last 12 months



PAF C21 of De-registrations over the last 12 months % de-registered after >2 years



CATEGORY OF ABUSE Children on Register at March 2008 End by Gender, Age Group, & Registration Category (CPR3 Table 1)

	1. Boys	1. Boys	1. Boys	1. Boys	1. Boys	Total Boys	2. Girls	2. Girls	2. Girls	2. Girls	2. Girls	Total Girls	Total	%
	1. Under 1	2. 1 - 4	3. 5 - 9	4. 10 - 15	5. 16 +		1. Under 1	2. 1 - 4	3. 5 - 9	4. 10 - 15	5. 16 +			
eglect	5	20	22	9	1	57	10	24	18	9	1	62	119	59.80%
hysical	4	3	3	1		11	2	6	3	3		14	25	12.56%
exual	1	1	1		1	4	1	3	1	2		7	11	5.53%
motional	1	8	5	7		21	1	6	5	11		23	44	22.11%
	11	32	31	17	2	93	14	39	27	25	1	106	199	100.00%

Ethnic Origin of Children on Register at Period End (CPR3 Table 2)

Ethnic Origin	Children
Mixed Any Other Mixed Background (White & Any Other)	2
Mixed White & Asian	3
Not Yet Defined	1
Other Ethnic Group - Other	3
Undeclared/Unknown	1
White British	189
Sum:	199