

CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

Meeting to be held in the Civic Centre (Committee Room No. 1) on Thursday 9th January, 2020 at 5.30pm

Membership

Cllr Crosby, Francis (Vice-Chairman), Hunt, Mann, Mc Keith, F. Miller, Rowntree, Samuels, Scanlan, P. Smith (Chairman), Tye and K. Wood

Coopted Members – Mrs. A. Blakey and Ms. J. Graham

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	No Items	
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	Report of the Chair of The Sunderland Safeguarding Children Partnership (copy attached)	

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Information contained in this agenda can be made available in other languages and formats on request

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E. WAUGH,
Assistant Director of Law and Governance,
Civic Centre,
SUNDERLAND.

19th December, 2019

Item 2

At a meeting of the CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in COMMITTEE ROOM 1 of the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on THURSDAY 28th NOVEMBER, 2019 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor P. Smith in the Chair

Councillors Crosby, Francis, Hunt, F. Miller, Rowntree, Tye and K. Wood.

Also in attendance:-

Ms Jill Colbert, Chief Executive Together for Children and Director of Children's Services, Sunderland City Council
Karen Davison, Director of Early Help,
Mr Jim Diamond Scrutiny Officer, Sunderland City Council
Mr. David Noon, Principal Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council
Ms Gillian Robinson, Scrutiny Officer, Sunderland City Council
Ms Jane Wheeler, Participation and Engagement Lead, Together for Children

The Chairman opened the meeting and introductions were made.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mann, McKeith, Samuels and Scanlan and on behalf of Anne Blakey, Jackie Graham and Luke Hall.

Minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee held on 3rd October, 2019

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee held on 3rd October, 2019 be confirmed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)

There were no declarations of interest made.

Together for Children Performance Update

The Chief Executive, Together for Children, submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided performance information in relation to Together for Children (TfC) in the context of the scope of service and performance indicators set out in the service contract with the Council.

(For copy report – see original minutes.)

Jill Colbert, Chief Executive Director of Corporate Services presented the report and together with Karen Davison, Director of Early Help, addressed questions and comments thereon.

Councillor Francis referred to KPI1 (% of Early Help cases that were closed with two or more successful outcomes) and asked if TfC were happy with the figure? Ms Davison replied that it was good news. The figure of 72.4% was above the target of 65% and that performance had remained consistently ahead of the target all year.

The Chair referred to the success of the Youth Offending Service over the years and believed there had been a number of changes to the service recently. With this in mind, she asked what was the current staffing position? Ms Colbert replied that the staffing structure had remained the same and advised that the service was commissioned through the Youth Justice Board.

Councillor Francis asked whether delays in the receipt of data from partner organisations had any impact on the performance figures. Ms Colbert replied that TfC worked closely with Northumbria Police and the NHS to ensure data transfers were as fast as possible. Delays generally revolved around access to GP records.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Crosby, Ms Davison confirmed that there would be children who had had more than 3 placements during the course of the 12 month period. What was important was being able to understand their experiences of those placements.

Councillor Francis referred to a wide disparity in the quality of PEPs and asked if this had been addressed. Ms Colbert replied that this was being addressed by the introduction of electronic PEPs (EPEPs) and their implementation had already seen performance improve in the October data. It was anticipated that as the roll out gathered pace, in conjunction with the Virtual School guidance, that performance would continue to improve. Ms Colbert advised that she would be happy to ask Linda Mason, Head Teacher of the Virtual School to discuss the effect of the EPEPs with the Committee.

There being no further questions for Ms Colbert or Ms Davison, Councillor Tye moved, and it was duly seconded, that the Committee establish a Task and Finish Group to review the governance and the scrutiny arrangements of Together for Children.

Accordingly it was:-

2. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the performance information provided to the Committee be received and noted, and
- ii) the Committee establish a Task and Finish Group to review the governance and the scrutiny arrangements of Together for Children.

Parenting Offer Update

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an update on the parenting offer delivered by Together for Children including the staff training provided over the last 2.5 years.

(for copy report and presentation – see original minutes)

Ms Davison, Director of Early Help presented the report and addressed questions and comments thereon.

Councillor K. Wood welcomed the report and in particular the success of the Triple P Stepping Stone Programme.

Councillor Hunt commended the re-introduction of the concept of universal services which avoided the potential for parents to feel stigmatised.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Rowntree regarding engagement with and support for parents, Ms Davison advised that this would be undertaken by social workers and would involve active encouragement and practical assistance in arranging appointments etc for their children if required.

Councillor Francis referred to paragraph 2.8 in relation to parenting interventions delivered by partner agencies such as CAMHS and asked if the CAMHS performance had improved. Ms Davison replied that TfC did not have access to the data in respect of these interventions and advised that the question would need to be directed to CAMHS. Councillor Francis suggested that representatives from CAMHS were invited to attend a future meeting of the Committee. This was agreed accordingly.

There being no further questions for Ms Davison or Ms Colbert, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the report be received and noted,
- ii) a presentation on the city-wide parenting offer delivered by TfC and partners be considered at a future meeting of the Committee
- iii) representatives of CAMHS be invited to attend a future meeting of the Committee to discuss performance information

Together for Children Customer Feedback Six Monthly Report

The Director of Quality and Performance, TfC submitted a report (copy circulated) attaching a copy of the TfC Customer Feedback Six Monthly Report for the period April to September 2019

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms Jane Wheeler, Participation and Engagement Lead, TfC presented the report in detail, highlighting the processes involved and any trends and themes arising.

The Chairman referred to paragraph 4.16 which detailed the main subject areas of elements upheld at stage two and stage three during the reporting period. She commented that a high percentage of the elements related to issues of communication. She suggested that this was something that shouldn't be hard to address and yet was appeared to become a trend.

There being no further questions or comments for Ms Wheeler, the Chairman thanked her for her attendance, and it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the information contained in the report be received and noted.

Annual Work Programme 2019/20

The Director of People, Communications and Partnerships submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided members with details of the Committee's work programme for the municipal year 2019/20

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Tye referred to the decision of the Committee to establish a Task and Finish Group to review the governance and the scrutiny arrangements of Together for Children and suggested that an informal meeting of the Committee was held to determine the scope of the review and the membership of the Group. The Chairman noted that in the short term this may prove difficult given the impending election and the Christmas break however she would speak to the Officers of the Scrutiny team to discuss the practicalities.

5. RESOLVED that the work programme be received and noted.

Notice of Key Decisions

The Director of People Communications and Partnerships submitted a report (copy circulated) providing Members with an opportunity to consider those items on the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions for the 28 day period from the 11th November, 2019.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

There being no questions or comments, it was:-

6. RESOLVED that the Notice of Key Decisions be received and noted.

The Chairman then closed the meeting having thanked members and officers for their attendance and contributions.

(Signed) P. SMITH,
Chairman.

Item 4

CHILDREN EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

9 JANUARY 2020

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE SUNDERLAND SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP

SUNDERLAND SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP - UPDATE

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To receive an update report from Sir Paul Ennals (Independent Chair) on the work of the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) and the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP).

2. Background

- 2.1 The Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) was a multi-agency Partnership which was responsible for coordinating what is done by each body represented on the Board for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority and ensuring the effectiveness of that work.
- 2.2 The Children and Social Work Act 2018 ended the requirement for local areas to have a Local Safeguarding Children Board. The Act established the statutory role of "Safeguarding Partners" who are the chief executive of the local authority and the clinical commissioning group and the chief of police. The Safeguarding Partners are required to work with agencies, known as "Relevant Agencies" they believe are essential to ensure children are safeguarded.

3. Current Position

- 3.1 The SSCP published its [multi-agency safeguarding arrangements plan](#) (MASA) as required in June 2019 with the intention of developing the arrangements through a 12 month transitional process until September 2020. In August 2019, the SSCP replaced the Local Safeguarding Children Board and all three Safeguarding Partners having equal and joint responsibility for local safeguarding arrangements underpinned by equitable and proportionate funding. Together, the Safeguarding Partners agree and implement new safeguarding strategies that will strengthen multi-agency working and improve the provision of safeguarding and child protection arrangements in the local area.
- 3.2 In order to achieve this, the Safeguarding Partners must set out how they will work together with all relevant agencies and make clear their arrangements for conducting local child safeguarding practice reviews. Local child safeguarding practice reviews have replaced serious case reviews under the new arrangements. The SSCP seeks to make a positive difference to children, young people, their families and their communities through our work in partnership. The SSCP has also committed to strengthening its working relationships with other partnerships and boards locally and across the

Northumbria police footprint. This will achieve a “think family” approach and economies of scale to make best use of resources.

- 3.3 Sir Paul Ennals, Independent Chair of the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Partnership will be in attendance to provide an update on the progress made during the last year and the changes that have been made since the introduction of the Partnership.
- 3.4 A copy of the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) Annual Report 2018-2019 is attached.

4 Conclusion

- 4.1 The report will provide members with an overview of the progress being made by the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board and Partnership. The report should provide assurance on the quality and effectiveness of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in Sunderland.

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 The Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the contents of the report and accept it as assurance of the current effectiveness of the local safeguarding children arrangements.

6 Background Papers

Independent Chair’s Report on Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board arrangements for 2018-2019.



SSCB ANNUAL REPORT

April 2018 – March 2019

**Safeguarding and promoting the
welfare of children and young people
in Sunderland**

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1. Foreword by Independent Chair

It has been a privilege to have chaired Sunderland's Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) for my second year. The Board brings together representatives from all the agencies which work to keep children safe in Sunderland. 2018-19 saw the Board settle comfortably into our new more streamlined arrangements; with strong senior engagement of all partners in strategic discussions at the Board, and ever-increasing levels of collaborative working within the Programme Boards.

It is important for us to have a clear picture of how safe children are within Sunderland, and we gather our information in a variety of ways. We have boosted our consultation directly with children this year, who have expressed clearly the areas where they continue to have anxieties. They do not always feel safe on the streets; they are concerned about online safety, and they want support in developing healthy relationships.

We also undertake regular multi-agency audits in areas of potential concern, set out in section 7, which allows us to dive deep into topics that may have been highlighted from our performance data or from individual case reviews.

We have been strengthening our analysis of performance data from across the agencies. The data shown in section 7 highlights how the levels of child protection activity tend to be high in Sunderland – we receive more referrals than many comparable areas, place more children on child protection plans, and look after more children. Data, however, is always fallible – the gap between Sunderland's data and those of our comparator authorities is not as wide as it appears, since our data shows some rises in our numbers in the last year, whilst not yet capturing mainly larger rises in our comparators.

Throughout the year TFC has been the subject of monitoring visits from Ofsted, to check on progress since the very critical inspection of 2015. Each report has been broadly positive, and the Board has worked with TFC to take forward any new issues identified by Ofsted. We have also contributed to the Improvement Board that was established to oversee progress, which has

been chaired by a Commissioner, Nick Whitfield, appointed by the Department for Education. The Improvement Board has charted steady positive progress, and a "deep dive" study commissioned by the Improvement Board was very positive about the work of the SSCB.

I reported last year on Ofsted's re-inspection of TFC, which reported in July 2018. That report showed improvement in 3 out of 5 of the areas monitored – adoption performance in particular was graded as "good". However, the overall grading just failed to lift children's services over the bar, and the overall grading remained as "inadequate". Amongst other things this report highlighted the potential difference between positive judgements made during 5 monitoring visits, and more critical judgements within a full inspection. During the course of 2018-19, the monitoring visits have produced a variety of conclusions, all of which the Board reviews. Together for Children has a Quality Improvement Committee on which I sit. As Chapter 14 of this report sets out, other partners who have also been inspected during the year have largely received positive reports.

Boards across the country have been responding to the recent Children and Social Work Act, changing the legal requirements for safeguarding. Our new arrangements, which take effect from August 2019, are now published; on the surface, much of the structure remains the same, but increasingly we are working closely with partners across the Northumbria region to ensure that safeguarding practice is as consistent and efficient as possible.

The mood is positive in Sunderland, despite the many challenges we all face. We are blessed to be supported by a strong Business Unit, very ably led by Lynne Thomas and supported by Nicola Morrow, Paul Jarps, Natasha Kerr and Vivien Turner, to whom we offer warm thanks.



Sir Paul Ennals



2. Introduction

Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) have a statutory responsibility to publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area. The report should provide a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services.¹ The report is published to give the public assurance about how effective the safeguarding children arrangements are in the local area. In Sunderland the Annual Report is published on the [SSCB website](#).

Over the last year the SSCB has continued to strengthen the arrangements that were implemented following the full review of the SSCB in 2017. The new arrangements were established to achieve compliance with the requirements of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and the anticipated Working Together 2018.

Board meetings are now quarterly as are the SSCB Executive Group and both Programme Boards. The Chair is a member of the Children's Strategic Partnership and the Quality Improvement Committee established following the inspection of Together for Children – Sunderland (TfC) in April-May 2018. Regular meetings are held between the SSCB Chair and the Director of Children's Services, agency Chief Executives including the Chief Executive of the Local Authority, and the Chair of the Together for Children – Sunderland² Board. The Lead Member for Children³ is a Participatory Observer of the SSCB Board as required by statute.

In line with the new Board arrangements and the requirements of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 the SSCB is strengthening its engagement with schools and education bodies through the development of a Safeguarding Education Forum. Consultation with these bodies has identified a commitment from schools and education

bodies to strengthen their safeguarding children practice and engagement with the Board.

Following the publication of [Working Together 2018](#), the SSCB has reviewed and published its proposed multiagency safeguarding arrangements that will go live in 2019, including its proposed new plans for undertaking child practice reviews. The Plan includes proposals for further collaboration across the Northumbria area. The current SSCB arrangements will transition into the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP). The new arrangements and plan can be found [here](#).



¹ This is a statutory requirement under [section 14A of the Children Act 2004](#).

² [Together for Children – Sunderland](#) are commissioned by Sunderland Local Authority to deliver children's services on their behalf

³ [Lead member for Children](#)

3.1 Local Data

Sunderland is a city on the North East coast of England. The main built-up area of Sunderland historically developed around coal and shipbuilding industries and the Port. Outside the urban core lie two distinct sub areas. The south and west of the city known as the Coalfield area reflects the dominant industrial heritage. The second is Washington, a new town which has been part of the Sunderland district since 1974.

The child population in Sunderland is set out below with a comparison to regional and national figures:



Measure	Local	Regional	National
Live Births (2017)	2,903	27,488	646,794
Children aged 0-4 Years (2017)	15,100 (5.4%)	146,100 (5.5%)	3,384,900 (6.1%)
Children aged 0-19 years (2017)	60,600 (21.9%)	592,800 (22.4%)	13,169,100 (23.7%)
School children from minority ethnic groups (2018)	3,277 (8.3%)	42,598 (11.3%)	2,544,753 (32.3%)
School pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs (2018)	1,239 (3.1%)	10,707 (2.8%)	193,657 (2.4%)
Children living in poverty aged under 16 years	23.6%	22.6%	17%
Life expectancy at birth (2015-2017) BOYS	77.0	77.9	79.6
Life expectancy at birth (2015-2017) GIRLS	81.3	81.6	83.1

3.2 Baseline Information – Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children



Rate of referrals per 10,000 of the population

Sunderland – 856.80

North East – 601.70

Statistical Neighbour – 582.07

England – 552.50

Rate of Child in Need (CIN) per 10,000 of the population

Sunderland – 532.50

North East – 460.20

Statistical Neighbour – 443.74

England – 341.00

Rate of Child Protection Plans (CPP) per 10,000 of the population

Sunderland – 106.00

North East – 95.00

Statistical Neighbour – 99.80

England – 64.00

Rate of Children Looked After (CLA) per 10,000 of the population

Sunderland – 90.90

North East – 65.70

Statistical Neighbour – 60.60

England – 45.30

* Sunderland data 2018/2019. Statistical Neighbour, North East and National Data and National data as of October 2018 – via the Local Authority Interactive tool (LAIT)

3.3 Inspection outcomes and performance of Agencies in Sunderland and across the region (where relevant)

Agency	Inspectorate	Date of Inspection	Type of Inspection	Outcome
Together for Children - Sunderland	Ofsted	Apr- May 2018	Single Inspection	Inadequate
		Sep-18	Fostering	Good
		Sep-18	Adoption	Good
		Sep-18	Children's Home: CR	Outstanding
		Oct-18	Children's Home: MV	Outstanding
		Jun-18	Children's Home: RR	Good
	Care Quality Commission (CQC)	July-18	Support Services for Disabled Children	Good
Northumbria Police	HMICFRS	January 2019	Post Inspection Review - January 2019	Requires Improvement
City Hospitals	CQC	17 th April 2018	Quality of Care	Good
Northumberland Tyne and Wear Foundation Trust	Care Quality Commission (CQC)	16th April 2018	Quality of Care	Outstanding
Harrogate and District Foundation Trust	Care Quality Commission (CQC)	6th Nov to 9th Nov 2018	Use of Resources	Good

* Note the newly formed South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust (formerly South Tyneside Foundation Trust and City Hospitals Sunderland Foundation Trust) were not inspected under the new agency

General Practice



Education

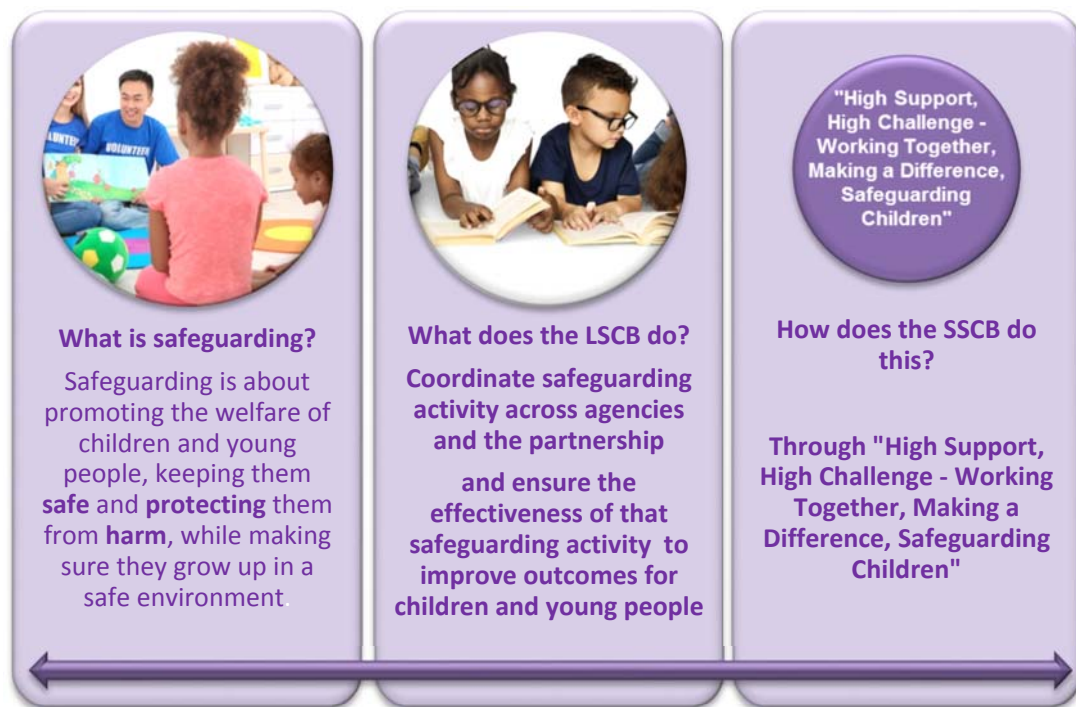
- 90% of the schools in Sunderland are rated as good or outstanding by Ofsted
- 202 children / young people were electively home educated in 2017/2018 – a rise of 40%
- 24.5 % of schools in Sunderland have rated themselves as fully compliant within the SSCB Section 157/175 Audit with 75.5% of schools rating themselves as partially compliant



4. Governance and Structure

Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board

Each local authority has been required to have an LSCB which is a statutory partnership established under [Section 13 of the Children Act 2004](#) and it works in line with previous statutory guidance '[Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015](#)'.



The Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) is chaired by an independent person and meets quarterly. The SSCB is supported by the [SSCB Business Unit](#).

The functions of the LSCB are:

- To develop policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area
- To communicate and raise awareness of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
- To monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of what is done by the local authority and their Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advise them on ways to improve
- To participate in the planning of services for children in the area of the authority
- To undertake reviews of serious cases and advising the local authority and their Board partners on lessons to be learned

The SSCB governance arrangements are set out in the SSCB Constitution. All Board and SSCB Group members are required to attend an SSCB induction session to ensure that they understand their roles, responsibilities and functions in undertaking work on behalf of the SSCB and their requirement to undertake all of their day to day functions with a focus on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people in Sunderland.

The SSCB, through the Chair and other Board members, is an active Children's Strategic Partnership Member, and has contributed significantly to the development of the Children and Young People's Plan for Sunderland.

4.1 The Children and Social Work Act 2017

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 removed the requirement for LSCBs, instead requiring local areas to have a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Partnership (MASA) led by the 3 Safeguarding Partners.

A “Safeguarding Partner” in relation to our local authority area is defined under the Children Act 2004 (as amended by the [Children and Social Work Act, 2017](#)) as:

- City of Sunderland Council
- NHS Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group
- Northumbria Police

The Government published new guidance in 2018 that set out how local areas should work to replace Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) with new safeguarding children partnership arrangements.

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 requires that as local safeguarding partners we set out arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children including identifying and responding to their needs.

Our Safeguarding Plan sets out our intention to work together, and with, wider partners to safeguard and promote positive outcomes for children and young people. The new Sunderland MASA Plan was published on 24th June 2019 and is available [here](#).

The Act also places a duty on new [Child Death Review \(CDR\) partners](#) to review the deaths of children normally resident in the local area. The CDR partners are the Sunderland City Council and Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group.

It is anticipated that the key focus of the revised safeguarding arrangements will be based on a dual “Think Family” basis where there will be a stronger connection between strategic and operational safeguarding functions that better aligns with safeguarding practice within the Partnership, demonstrating compliance, overview and evidencing impact for children and families.



4.2 Working across Partnerships and LSCBs

The SSCB works with a number of other Sunderland partnerships as set out below:

- [Children's Strategic Partnership \(CSP\)](#)
- The [Health and Wellbeing Board](#) (HWBB)
- The [Safer Sunderland Partnership \(SSP\)](#)
- Sunderland [Domestic Violence Partnership \(SDVP\)](#)
- Sunderland [Safeguarding Adult Board](#) (SAB)

Examples of this partnership working include:



Further collaborative working will be progressed with the Adult Safeguarding Board and other relevant partnerships in Sunderland. The more we progress towards a joint collaborative model the more we can add more substance and evidence to the 'Think Family' approach. In addition, we will be evidencing maximising the use of partner's time, commitment and wider understanding of safeguarding across the life course.

Sunderland is moving towards developing an integrated approach to safeguarding, bringing together the work of the 3 key partnerships (the Safeguarding Children Partnership, the Safeguarding Adults Board and the Safer Sunderland Partnership).

Each Partnership will have its own relevant structure sitting beneath their Board/Partnership as appropriate with key checkpoints built in to evaluate how effectively this model is working in achieving each arrangements' statutory functions. Reporting will be into the HWBB and its constituent partnerships as appropriate.

By the end of the September 2020 it is intended that the work of the 3 Boards will also be more integrated, perhaps through all the Boards meeting quarterly on the same day and structured in such a way that supports key shared safeguarding issues being discussed and addressed once rather than three separate times. This arrangement will be supported by a local integrated safeguarding hub approach across the relevant support staff.

The Chairs and Business Managers of the 3 Partnerships will meet quarterly within the new City Safeguarding Group, with a remit of ensuring effective coordination between the 3 Boards, agreement as to how to oversee cross-cutting safeguarding issues (such as domestic abuse, modern day slavery, serious violence etc), and resolution of any escalated issues.

The SSCB will continue to provide “**high challenge** and **high support**” to these partnerships where appropriate.

4.3 Cross Boundary LSCB work



The SSCB has worked with Gateshead, Newcastle, North Tyneside, Northumberland and South Tyneside LSCBs to strengthen regional and sub regional work.

The LSCB Business Managers for Northumberland, North Tyneside, Newcastle, Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland have produced the following in 2018-2019:

Data set and scorecard which can be amended as needed for local issues. This will allow for better cross region benchmarking etc

Standardised section 11 audit tool and process - analysis will also take place across the region thus freeing up local resources

Sharing learning from learning and serious case reviews and shared approach to the dissemination of learning through a corporate 7 minute briefing template etc.

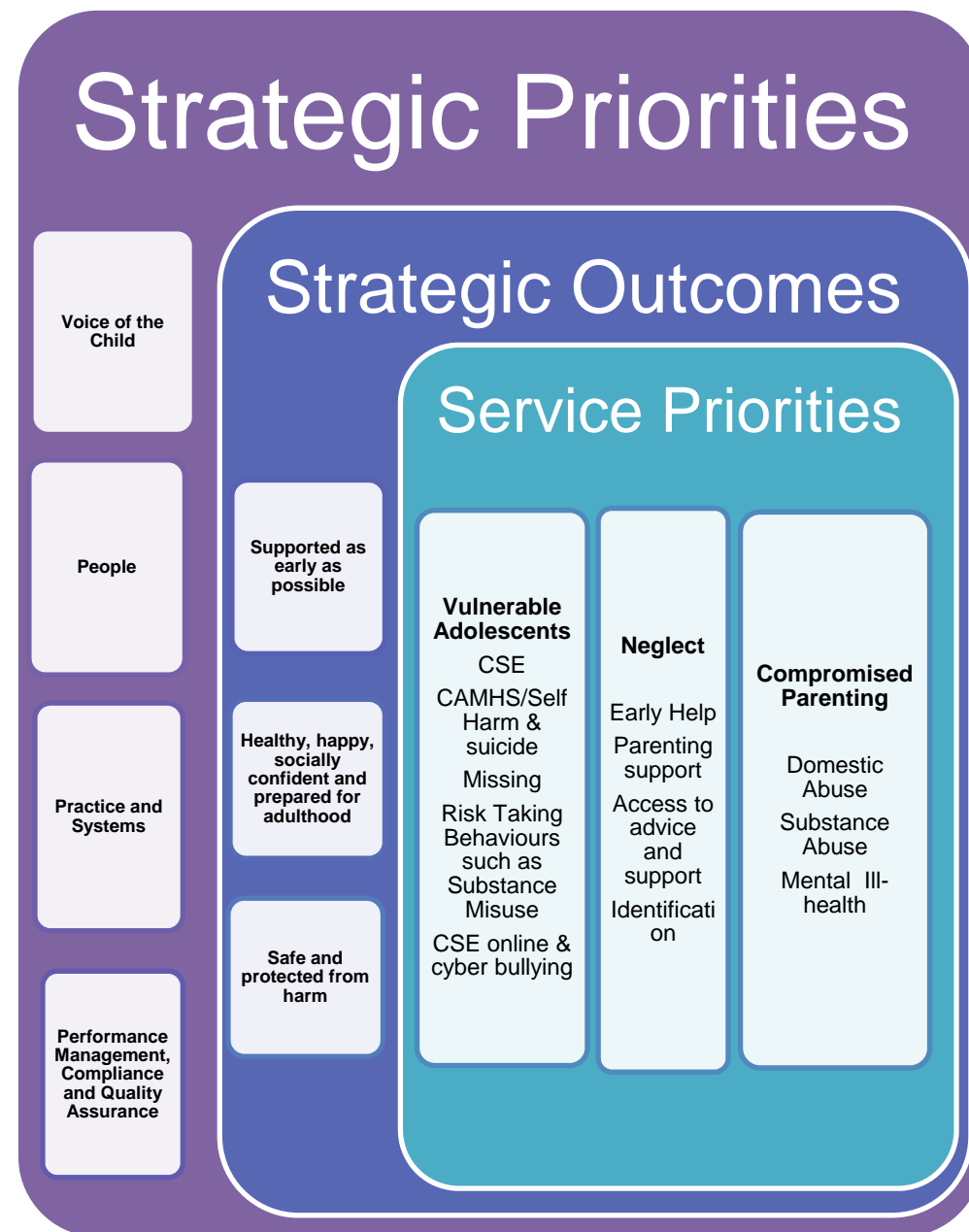
Safeguarding Training

PAN Safeguarding Children Procedures

The six areas were Early Adopters as part of the [DfE Early Adopters Programme](#). This programme is exploring which key safeguarding functions can be more effectively undertaken across a wider footprint, and which functions need to retain a place-based focus at local authority level.

During 2019-2020, further work will be completed on integrating functions across the Northumbria Police Force footprint, and a wider structure review will be undertaken in the spring of 2020.

5. SSCB Strategic and Business Plan 2019 - 2020 progress



The SSCB Strategic Plan sets out the Board's identified strategic and business priorities to inform its work. The SSCB Business Plan 2018-2019 was also in place until all tasks were achieved by quarter 2 of 2019 – 2020.

Achievements and progress on delivering the SSCB Business Plan 2018-19

- Launched new SSCB [Guide to Our Thresholds of Need](#) in November 2018 to assist practitioners in identifying a child's level of needs and indicate what the most appropriate referral pathway is to assess and meet those needs. Multi-Agency Workshop sessions have been delivered to embed the Guidance.
- Introduced [Safeguarding Staff Engagement Forums](#) for frontline staff on issues such as Domestic Abuse.
- Implemented a SSCB Workforce Development and Training Strategy, Competency-Based Framework for the Workforce and standards for a core curriculum for safeguarding children training
- Reviewed the increasing demand for safeguarding and child protection services and undertook work to safely turn the curve
- Undertook Interim Snapshot Evaluation of the MSET Operational Group – See Impact below

Impact –“ Police research, whilst single agency and based purely on whether MSET has led to a reduction in further crime, tends to demonstrate that despite areas for improvement, MSET plays an effective part of the safeguarding process, and combined with the expertise and range of supportive services embedded within the victim hubs, results in the obtaining of disclosures from young people that otherwise may not have been achieved - It appears that the involvement of MSET Operational Group does lead to positive outcomes for young people “– January 2019

6. Progress on the SSCB Service Priorities 2019-2020

Service Priority 1 – Vulnerable Adolescents

What do we mean by Vulnerable Adolescents?

- “Young people whose resilience and ability to manage their own emotional and social behaviour, relationships and environment is compromised by, for example, family context, neglect, and other risk factors, and whose behaviour creates harm to themselves and to others”
- This "Risk Taking Behaviour" includes activity such as drug and alcohol use and going missing etc

Vulnerable Adolescents

- 92.6 per 100,000 for admission episodes for alcohol specific conditions for under 18's compared to a National Rate of 32.9
- 154.6 per 10,000 for hospital admissions caused by injuries in children under 15 compared to a National Rate of 96.4
- 159.8 per 100,000 hospital admissions for mental health conditions compared to a National Rate of 84.7

The Vulnerable Adolescent Strategic Project Group (VASPG) has continued into 2018-2019. The VASPG analyses the SSCB Performance Scorecard measures linked to its agenda and provides challenge and scrutiny which informs the performance report submitted to the Board.

A full review of the MSET Operational Group has been undertaken to better focus the Group on measuring impact and outcomes. The operational group is responsible for ensuring the effectiveness of multi-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of those children and young people who have been identified as medium/high risk on the Child Sexual Exploitation Screening Tool. The Group also provides

advice, learning, signposting and additional support to those frontline workers responsible for medium/high risk young person. The SSCB [MSET Operational Group Escalation policy](#) has been strengthened following a review of its application.

MSET Risk Assessments

- In 2018/2019 566 risk assessments forms were submitted to pre-MSET for consideration of which 37 were discussed at MSET Operational Group (25 males:12 females)

Together for Children - Sunderland commission Barnardos to undertake Return Home Interviews for children who go missing from home or care. Regular reports from Barnardos are received into VASPG following a concern raised by the SSCB highlighting barriers to service effectiveness such as difficulty engaging, sharing of intelligence and instances where groups of young people are missing together.

Return Home Interviews (RHIs)

- Were completed in 92% of cases where they had been offered

Missing Episodes

- 1038 missing episodes were reported to police for 322 individuals, a reduction of 19%
- Missing episodes are categorised using the following classifications: High, Medium, Low and Not at Risk
- The biggest increase in 2018-2019 was seen in the Low Risk category with a rise of 321% from 28 to 118 missing episodes being classed as Low Risk

Service Priority 2 – Neglect and Poverty

What is Poverty?

- Relative poverty generally means that a person can't afford an "ordinary living pattern"—they're excluded from the activities and opportunities that the average person enjoys
- A household is in relative poverty (also called relative **low** income) if its income is below 60% of the median household income

What is Neglect?

- Child neglect is a failure to look after a child and could result in poor health or development
- Children (including unborn babies), need food, water, shelter, warmth, protection and health care to grow and develop
- Children need their parents or carers to love and care for them
- Neglect can also include physical abuse, emotional abuse and sexual abuse

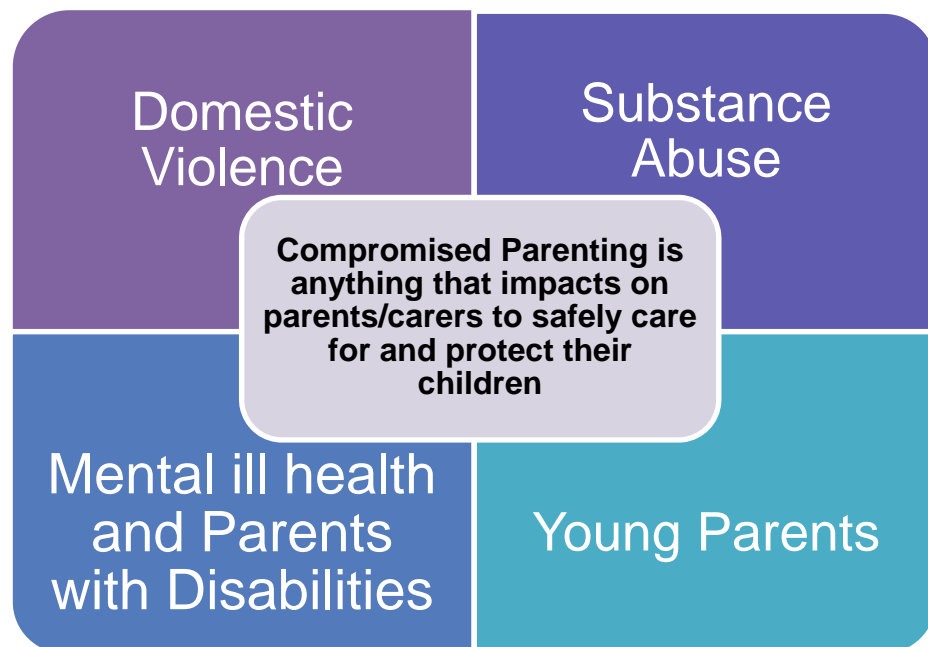
Neglect

- Continues to be the most frequent reason for children to be placed on a child protection plan in 2018-2019 (56.6%)

Work to tackle Neglect and Poverty

- Developed and launched the SSCB Neglect Toolkit in conjunction with the Children's Strategic Partnership, to ensure that children impacted on by neglect, receive assistance to minimise the impact as early as possible

Service Priority 3 – Compromised Parenting



Compromised Parenting

- 3216 Domestic Abuse incidents reported with a child present, an 8% rise from 2017-2018
- 2895 Operation Encompass referrals in 2018-2019
- 31.9 per 100,000 under 18 conceptions compared to a National Rate of 18.8
- Suicide rate of 10.6 per 100,000 compared to a National Rate of 9.6
- 966 per 100,000 admissions for alcohol related conditions compared to a National Rate of 632
- 119 substance misuse treatment starts with a child living in the household

What have we achieved?

- Initiated a whole city approach to Domestic Abuse through the establishment of the SSCB led Domestic Abuse Strategic Project Group (DASPG). During 2017-2018 the Group has:
- Supported streamlined working and reduced silo working across partnerships through a collective approach
- Benchmarked Sunderland against the Violence against Women and Girls National Statement of Expectations and developed a plan to improve our collective response to children, young people, adults and families impacted on by domestic abuse
- Consulted with professionals and providers to inform future work and a commissioning strategy
- Planned engagement and consultation sessions with frontline staff and providers to seek their views to inform the work of the Group
- Operation Encompass: The Next Step is a collaboration between Northumbria Police and Northumbria OPCC, Operation Encompass, and Barnardos. Its vision is to build on the very successful Operation Encompass initiative, to provide enhanced support to children and families affected by domestic abuse, and to staff within schools, to enable appropriate support and safeguarding within the safe school environment.
- **IMPACT - in 2018-2019 there have been 2895 Operation Encompass referrals made. All schools in Sunderland are signed up to Operation Encompass. Feedback from schools is positive and they feel it strengthens their ability to safeguard children**

7. Performance Monitoring and Quality Assurance

During the past 12 months the Performance & Quality Assurance Programme Board has embedded the systems and processes that the SSCB need to consider, to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of multiagency practice in respect of safeguarding and promote the welfare of children and young people in Sunderland.

Where gaps are identified, implications for the SSCB are considered and any agreed actions and risks are escalated to the SSCB and monitored through the SSCB Risk Register.

The Performance and Quality Assurance Programme Board has;

- Implemented the Single Agency Audit Monitor – to provide a level of assurance to the Programme Board as to the actions for agencies following Inspection outcomes
- Contributed to the development of a regional performance dataset and templates
- Supported the collation of Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls data for Domestic Abuse Strategic Project Group (DASPG)
- Overview of a set of key performance indicators in relation to 'Demand' on services within Sunderland
- Drafted new Exception report format to Board which is more visually effective

Whilst the SSCB dataset is comprehensive the SSCB Performance Reports to the Board highlight exceptions only

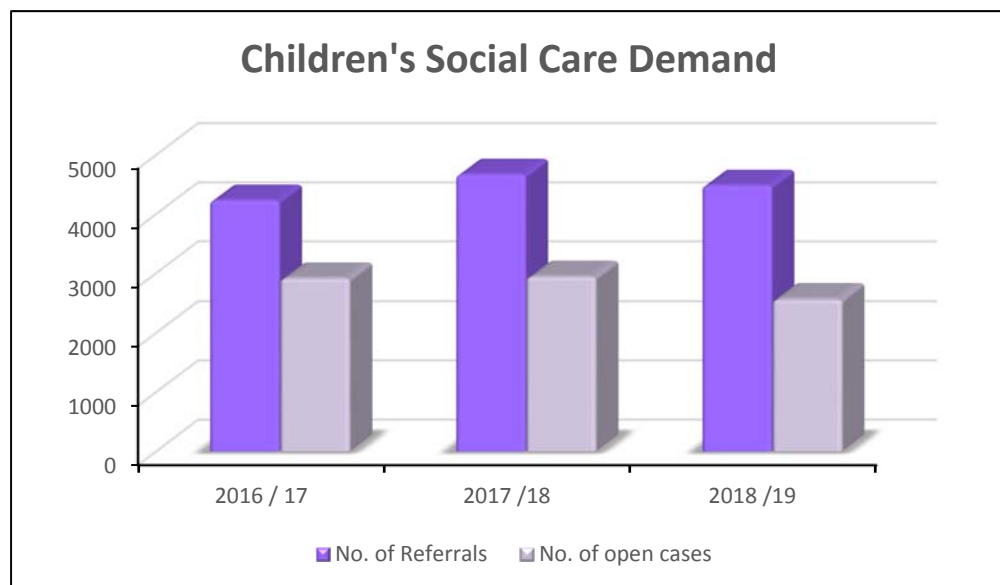
Impact - To ensure a focussed approach to identifying good performance and areas where improvement is required

Quality Assurance

- Ensure that schools are meeting their statutory obligations regarding safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children
- Carry out multi-agency audits and identify lessons to be learned and make recommendations which are compiled into a Learning and Improvement Matrix - shared with the Learning and Workforce Development Programme Board
- Multi-agency audit reports to inform the SSCB of the quality of work being undertaken and its impact on outcomes for individual children and young people
- The SSCB Data Scorecard has been streamlined to ensure that performance reporting and analysis is aligned to the SSCB Strategic and Service priorities

Impact - The Audit Cycle and Learning and Improvement Matrix has led to improvements in the appropriateness of referrals from key agencies such as health agencies and in the quality of responses to referrals by Children's Services however the quality of assessments and plans need to be improved

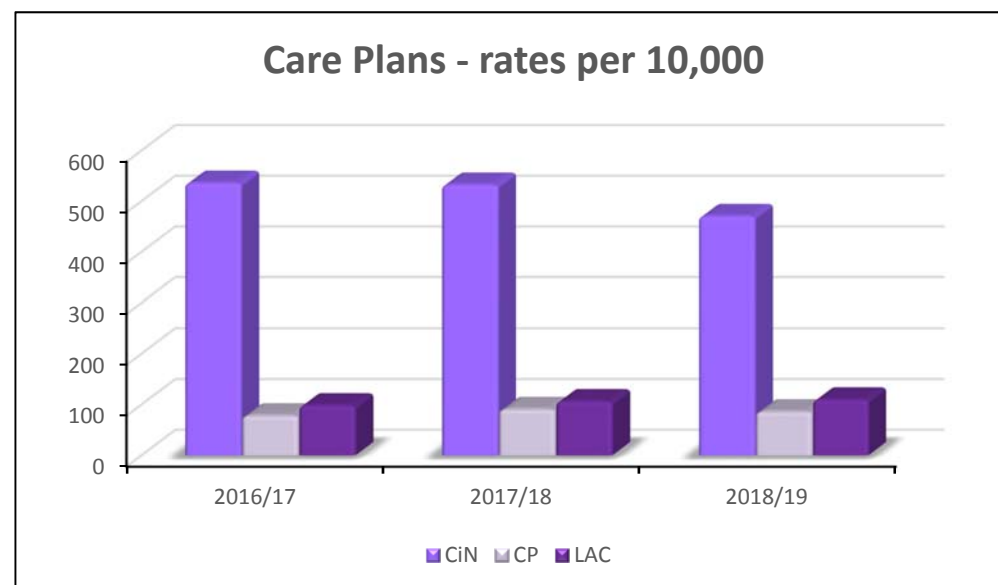
Performance:



2018-2019 saw a reduction in the number of referrals received by Together for Children by 4% to 4480. The number of open cases to social care also saw a reduction of 13% compared to 2017/2018. Northumbria Police are the highest referring agency into TfC at 29.9%

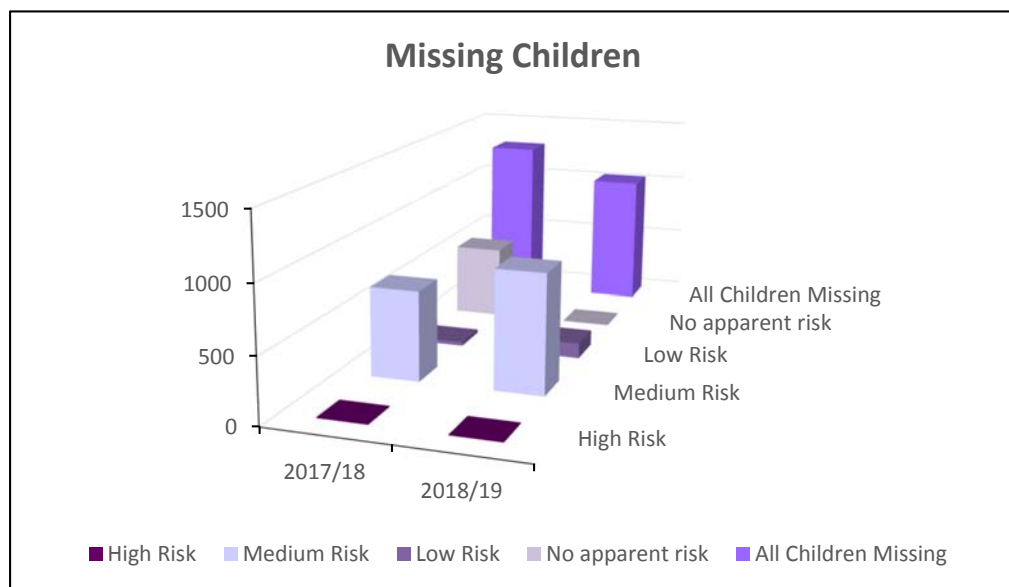
% of all referrals to CSC from different agencies:

Individual (self, relative, carer/acquaintance)	7.5%
Education (schools/early years and other providers)	19.5%
Health (G.P, Health visitors, School Nurses, Other Primary Health Care Services)	18.7%
LA Services	10.8%
Other Service	7.2%
Police	29.9%
Other	6.4%



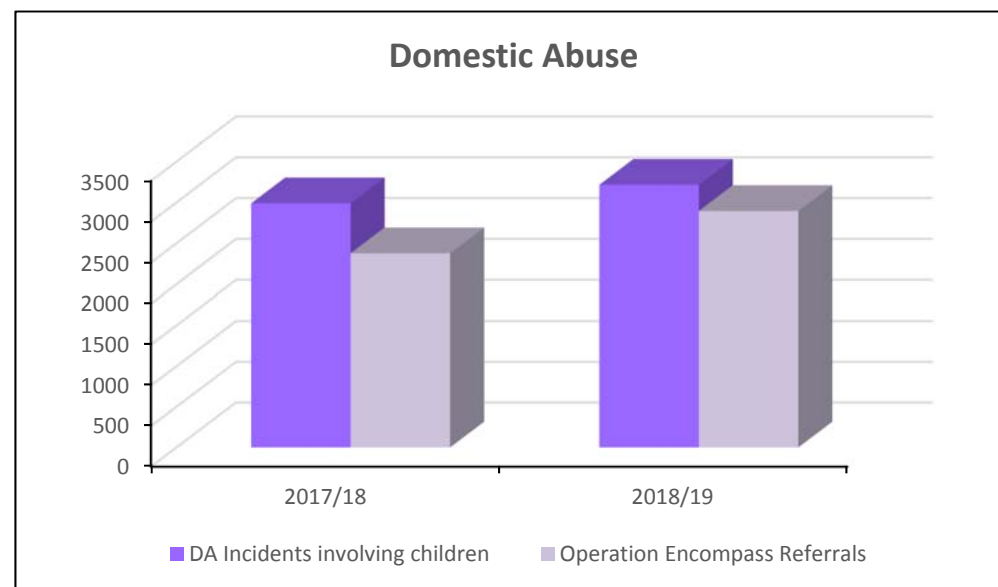
The rates of Children in Need (CIN), Child Protection Plan (CPP) and Looked after Children (LAC) remain higher than statistical neighbour and national averages. The rate of CiN has seen a significant rate decrease of 61.9 and the rate of CPP has decreased by 4.6. However, the rate of LAC has seen a rate increase of 3.4, continuing a trend of yearly rate increases.

Further analysis of performance across Demand Indicators will be carried out in October 2019 when the statistical neighbour, north east and national data is updated and available via the Local Authority Interactive tool (LAIT).



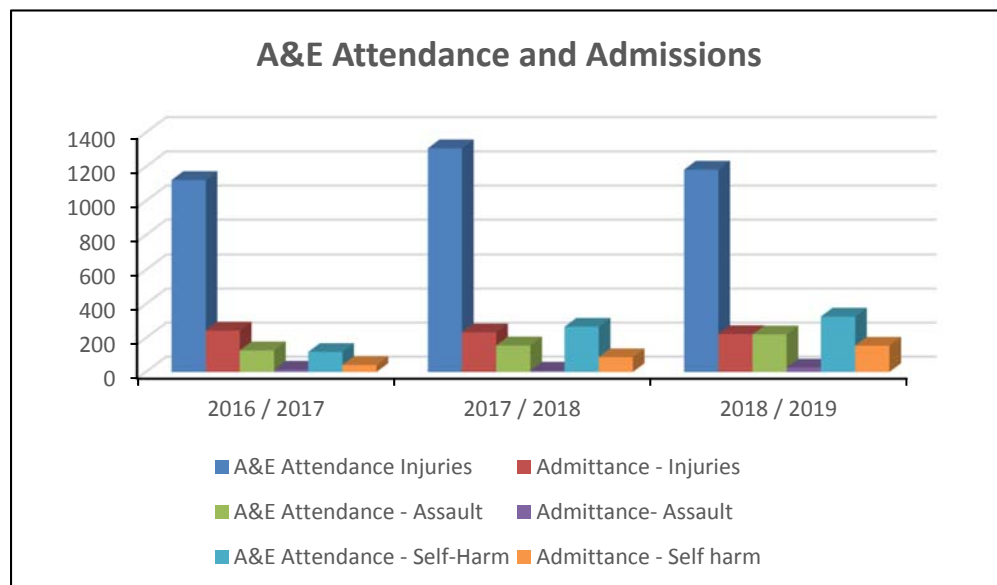
2018/2019 saw the first full year of data using the risk categories of high, medium, low and no apparent risk (previously absent). This equated to significant changes to the categories used.

	2017/18	2018/19	Change (Volume)	% change
All children reported missing	1288	1038	-250	-19%
High	7	5	-2	-29%
Medium	688	911	223	32%
Low	28	118	90	321%
Individuals	293	322	29	10%



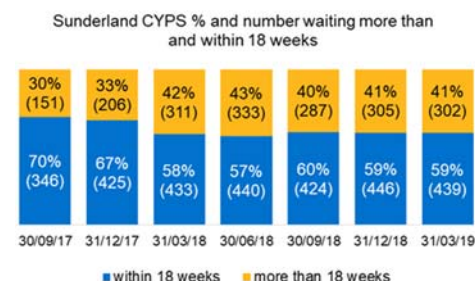
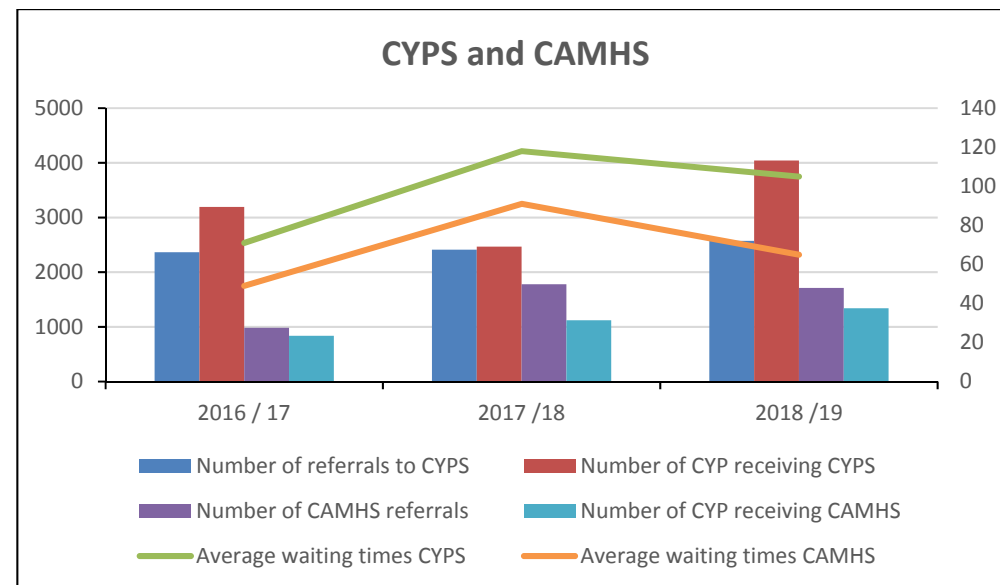
The number of Domestic Abuse (DA) incidents recorded with a child present saw an 8% increase, this is in line with the overall Northumbria Police force increase of 7%. Arrests associated with DA have increased by 16% which is in line with the overall force increase of 20%.

A few projects are currently being undertaken in the city which are fed into the Domestic Abuse Strategic Project Group (DASPG) which include: Change that Lasts, the Pause Project, the Family Nurse Partnership Adapt Model, Reducing Parental Conflict, Operation Encompass – the next steps and the Early Adopters DA bid. A DRAFT Sunderland's Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Needs Assessment 2019 has been written and shared with the group. The Needs Assessment highlights the economic and social costs of domestic abuse which equated to around **£315,000,000** per annum in Sunderland.



2018 / 2019 saw a reduction of the number of children and young people attending A&E and subsequently being admitted for unintentional and deliberate injuries. However, the numbers of children and young people attending A&E for assault and self-harm have increased significantly by 41% and 22.5%. The severity of the injury due to assault or self-harm have seen the admission rate for both increase by 225% (18) and 78% (68).

Work undertaken by P&QA PB was undertaken regarding possible correlation between waiting times for mental health services and the number of children and young people attending A&E for self-harm. Two audits identified no correlation and good practice by both TfC and NTW NHS Foundation Trust and the other practitioners involved with the young people. The Safer Sunderland Partnership (SSP) have been asked to investigate trends and analysis in relation to the increase and severity in the number of assaults.



The level of demand for both Children and Young People Service (CYPS) and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) remain high. Referral rates for both services have remained stable and the number of children and young people receiving CYPS rose by 63.8% in 2018 / 2019. However, the waiting times for CYPS service continues to be over 100 days.

In quarter 3 and 4 of 2018 / 2019 there was a significant reduction in the waiting times for the CAMHS Service to 14 days. The number of children receiving a CAMHS service increased by 19%. The improvement in service delivery is the result of recruitment to a number of key posts and new service offers in place such as online counselling.

Multi-agency Audits

The Performance & Quality Assurance Programme Board (P& QA PB) received updates on several formal audit processes in addition to looking to partners and other Boards for assurance across the SSCB priorities. This enables the Board to identify where improvements can be made, to identify good practice and to be assured about safeguarding across the city.

The SSCB partially implemented its Multi-Agency Audit Cycle 2018-2019 completing 5 Multi-Agency Audits:

- Section 175 / 157 (of the Education Act 2002) Audit
- SSCB Missing, Sexually Exploited and Trafficked Operational Group (MSET) Minutes
- Emotional Wellbeing
- Mystery Shopper – Serious Case Review
- Mystery Shopper – Guide to our Thresholds

2018 - 2019 also saw the further development of the Single Agency Audit Plan which has enabled the SSCB Audit Cycle to align with single agency plans, avoid duplication and enable multi-agency themes to be brought to the Programme Board's attention. In 2018 - 2019 reports from Together for Children were discussed in relation to the following audits:

- Step up - step down procedures between Children's Social Care and Early Help
- Re-referrals to Children's Social Care

The Emotional Resilience Audit found examples of good practice by both TfC Children's Social Care and NTW NHS Foundation Trust but also the other practitioners involved with the young people

In fulfilling their Statutory function, the Board is required to ensure that schools, about their duty under either Section 157 / 175 of the Education Act 2002, are meeting their statutory obligations regarding safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. One of the methods by which this task is executed is by asking schools to self-evaluate under a framework of benchmarks and then sharing results with the Board – commonly known as the “Section 157/175 Audit”. This audit provides schools with an opportunity to reflect upon their own safeguarding practice and procedures.

The Section 175 / 157 audit conducted in 2018/19 saw 108 / 118 schools made a return of the self-assessment audit tool equating to a 92% return rate.

The self-assessment rates made by the schools in November 2018 were;

- 25% fully compliant
- 63% partially compliant
- 11% partially compliant with some non-met categories
- 1% schools submitted audits completed by external companies

The learning from the 2018 Audit will be fed into the 2019-2020 Section 157/175 Audit which will be undertaken across the North and South of Tyne LSCB Areas

8. Learning and Improvement

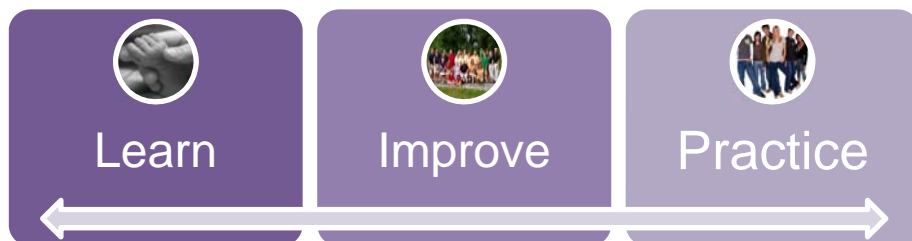
In 2018-2019 3 cases were brought to the attention of the SSCB, where children died or were seriously harmed. The Board is undertaking a serious case review for one of these cases and undertook a learning review for another. One case is being progressed through the Child Death Review Process.

The Board developed its own hybrid model for serious case reviews which has a clear focus on the involvement of staff and families in the process. The process is challenging but supportive of staff and agencies to facilitate the most effective learning and improvement process.

Learning from local SCRs has led to the development of guidance for bruising in immobile babies, a neglect toolkit, and training delivered to support staff working with resistant, hostile and uncooperative parents. Because of learning reviews and audits, work is planned to review and update conference report templates and develop a neglect strategy. The SSCB also worked with regional colleagues to develop learning materials regarding babies.

The SSCB has also identified audit work that is required in 2019-2020 following a complaint from a family in respect of how a child protection conference was conducted.

Further evidence of the outcomes of Learning and Improvement activity can be found [here](#).



The SSCB collates the findings from learning and improvement activity into a Learning and Improvement Matrix to ensure an overarching record and response to the findings. Repeat learning/findings are monitored to ensure that if one approach to addressing findings is not successful an alternative approach can be made. This allows for a streamlined model for learning activity and measuring impact and ensures that improvements can be appropriately collated and evidenced.

Learning and Improvement Matrix

- The Learning and Improvement Matrix is a document comprising the key learning / recommendations from SSCB Multi Agency Audits, Serious Case Reviews (SCR), Learning Reviews (LR) and relevant multi-agency inspections and / or peer reviews.
- The Learning Improvement Matrix includes for each recommendation: Source of recommendation i.e. SCR, lead Programme Board / Project Groups and Lead Officer and timescale for completion
- The Matrix allows for each programme Board / Project Group to 'own' the learning recommendations specific to the Programme Board / Group. Each action is cross referenced as appropriate to the SSCB Business Plan 2017 – 2019 and the Children's Strategic Partnership (CSP) Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2017 – 2020. This will aid with cross partnership working and reduce duplication on cross cutting issues.

9. SSCB Policy and Procedures



Sunderland, South Tyneside and Gateshead LSCBs adopted a sub-regional approach consortium for producing safeguarding procedures for children in 2016 resulting in a strengthened, more consistent approach to safeguarding across the sub region as well as to promote a more efficient and succinct approach in terms of the procedures.

The sub regional procedures are web-enabled ensuring that they are a highly accessible tool for use by practitioners. Information to highlight the profile and use of the on-line procedures and the local resources to support front line practitioners was disseminated across all three Local Authorities. They are also highlighted within SSCB training, SSCB member induction etc.

The LSCB Business Managers across the region have made considerable progress on securing robust integrated and collaborative arrangements developing Pan Safeguarding Children Policies and Procedures ready to go live in 2019. This will ensure improved consistency across the region in terms of practice and provide some level of efficiency in relation to costs, maintenance and review.

The current SSCB procedures can be found at - <http://www.proceduresonline.com/nesubregion/>

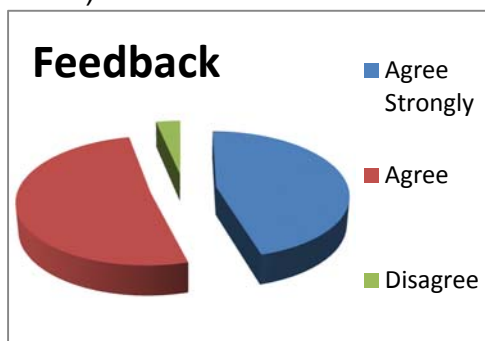
New and updated SSCB procedures and guidance in 2018 - 2019

- Dangerous Dogs and Safeguarding Children
- Child Sexual Abuse in the Family Environment
- Modern Day Slavery
- Missing, Sexually Exploited and Trafficked (MSET) Operational Group Escalation Procedure
- Forced Marriage
- E-Safety
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)
- Domestic Abuse Pathways

10. Training and Workforce Development

SSCB offered 9 core courses in 2018- 2019 including SSCB Guide to Our Thresholds of Need Workshop, Missing, Sexually Exploited and Trafficked (MSET) Workshop and Modern-Day Slavery training. A total of **37 courses** were delivered in 2018/19. The courses were attended by a total of **832 staff**.

The training courses received very positive feedback with **95% of attendees** agreeing or strongly agreeing that the training improved their understanding and knowledge of the subject (see Graph 1 below).



The SSCB training was supplemented with a 'Think Family' Conference held in March 2019 at Rainton Meadows, attended by **102 partners** from Sunderland. The photograph above is of the event.

Impact – “I liked the fact that it was multi-agency and we were expected to move around so that we could work with partner agencies we may not have worked with before. I liked using the scenarios which generated discussion”

Impact – “I will use the thresholds document in family support meetings as sometimes there are conflicting opinions, so this will be useful”

E-learning Courses

SSCB provide access to a full range of e-learning courses through the Virtual College.



E learning courses available include:

- Safeguarding Children and Young People from Abuse by Sexual Exploitation
- Awareness of Domestic Abuse and Violence
- Awareness of Child Abuse and Neglect
- Safeguarding Children with Disabilities

During 2018-2019:

- **1,312** new e-Learning accounts added
- **5,193** e-Learning modules completed
- **97%** of those completing evaluations stated they would recommend the course to other people

11. Marketing, Communication and Raising Awareness

The SSCB developed a new website that went live in August 2018. The website was custom built for the LSCB and future proofed for the move to a new multi-agency safeguarding arrangement by September 2019.

The [SSCB website](#) is the main access point for safeguarding information and materials.

Since its launch the new SSCB Website has seen a significantly improved usage compared to the previous website – up 37%:

- 2,064 Individuals visited the website
- 14,374 pages were viewed in total
- 1 minute 45 seconds was the average time spent on the pages viewed
- Twitter and Facebook were the main social media channels users accessed the webpage from
- Users used the following websites to access the SSCB website:
 - Google – 444 / Bing – 110
 - Together for Children - 100
- The website is accessed mainly via desktop (72.5%) and mobile (24.6%) with tablet used the least (2.9%)
- Top ten most viewed pages within the period were:
 - Home Page – 7636 views
 - Workforce Development – 1068 views
 - E-Learning – 826 views
 - About us – 678 views
 - Training Offer – 630 views
 - How to make a referral – 494 views
 - Children and Young People's page – 422 Views
 - Publication of Reports – 340 views
 - Serious Case Reviews – 294 views
 - Contact us – 128 views

Campaigns we supported in 2018/19

- National Child Sexual Exploitation Day - March 18th 2019
- Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation (IICSA)
- Child Safety week
- Safer Internet Day
- Young Carers Awareness Day



Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA)

Sunderland SCB has supported the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA), providing the project with information on how we protect children and young people in Sunderland.

We have also promoted the Truth Project which by hearing from victims and survivors of sexual abuse as children, who were let down by organisations that should have protected them, we can help to understand how and why children were failed and find better ways to protect children in the future.

Social Media

- **Twitter:** @SunderlandSCB
- **Joined:** 29.05.2018
- **Followers:** 142 (as of 08.07.19)
- **Tweets:** 216 (as of 08.07.19)
- **Impressions** (number of times users saw a tweet): over 25k
- **Engagements** (number of times users interacted with a tweet; liked, retweeted, commented): 470



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13. Future Service Priorities

The Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board agreed the following priorities and priority actions on when to build the first MASA Business Plan for 2019 - 2020:

Vulnerable Adolescents

- CSE
- Risk Taking Behaviours such as Substance Abuse
- CAHMS/Self-harm and suicide
- Missing
- CSE online and cyber bullying

Neglect & Poverty

- Early Help
- Parenting support and the best start in life
- Access to advice and support
- Identification

Compromised Parenting

- Domestic Abuse
- Substance Abuse
- Mental ill health

14. Professional Challenge

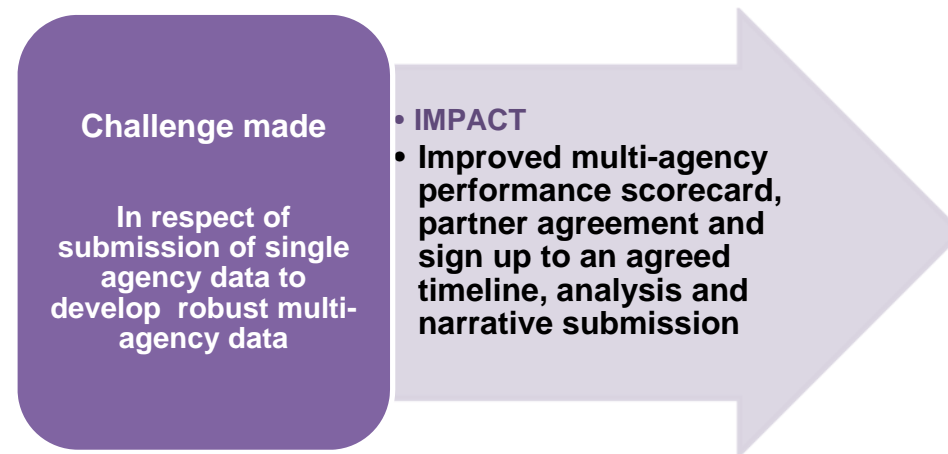
Safeguarding children is the responsibility of all professionals and volunteers working with children, young people and their families. This includes making and acting on appropriate professional challenge. The SSCB also has a responsibility to ensure that it acts as a critical friend to agencies and relevant partnerships in respect of their work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and their families.

There has been an improved response to undertaking professional challenge across the partnership over the last year as the SSCB Resolution of Professional Differences process is being followed. Agencies report that partners are more receptive to professional challenge and there has been limited recourse to using the Board's process for professional challenge on operational activity.

The SSCB Chair uses the SSCB Mission of “high support and high challenge” to support and enable partners to take accountability and responsibility for their work and actions. The Chair's influence is demonstrated both within and outside of formal meetings and has included changes in frontline delivery, engagement with children and improved multi-agency working.

Examples of Professional Challenge

Partners have robustly challenged each other and debated about whether the criteria are met when considering cases for serious case reviews. This includes debating whether there were issues about how partners worked together.



15. How safe are children and young people in Sunderland?

It is never possible to say categorically that all children are safe. However, we can reach some conclusions through examining what external scrutiny of our services within Sunderland tells us, what public health data tells us of the overall health and wellbeing of Sunderland's children, what our own multi-agency performance data tells us, what we learn from the reviews and consultations we undertake, and what children and young people themselves tell us.

We know that 90% of Sunderland's schools are still rated good or outstanding, better than the average for local authorities, and this plays an important part in keeping children safe. Good schools are normally safe schools, and schools play a vital role in helping children learn how to keep themselves safe, as well as providing us with a great opportunity to check on how children are doing.

We know too that many of the child health indicators in Sunderland remain worrying; our rates of childhood obesity and early death are high. We have seen real reductions in rates of smoking in children, and smoking amongst expectant mothers, but the figures remain much too high. Child poverty rates remain higher than average, and the introduction of Universal Credit during the year provided new challenges to many families.

Sunderland City Hospital is rated as "good" by the Care Quality Commission; the Northumberland, Tyne and Wear Mental Health Trust (NTWMHT) is rated "outstanding"; the community child health services provided by South Tyneside Foundation Trust were rated as "good".

Northumbria Police have been subject to various inspections; overall their services in support of children and young people are well considered.

Children's Social Care Services have been provided by the new company, "Together for Children" (TFC), since April 2017. Ofsted's re-inspection of TFC reported in July 2018. That report showed improvement in 3 out of 5 of the areas monitored – adoption performance in particular was graded as "good". However, the overall grading just failed to lift children's services over the bar, and the overall grading remained as "inadequate". Separate more recent inspections of fostering services and adoption services have both been rated as good. Two of TFC's children's homes have been rated as outstanding, and the other is rated as good. The Quality Improvement Committee for TFC, on which I sit, continues to monitor all aspects of the safety of the children of Sunderland, and can point to real progress being achieved in many areas.

The safeguarding data in this report paints a complex picture. Last year I reported that all areas of child protection activity were showing rapid rises. This year we are seeing some changes. Improvements to the operation of the front door is resulting in reductions in contacts and referrals, though these are both still too high, and further work is necessary – especially with the police – to improve processes. Our rates of child protection cases, and children in care, remain very high, but the gap between ourselves and our statistical neighbours seems to be narrowing.

The new Early Help programme is bedding in, with increased support from partners. In a world where statutory budgets continue to decrease for all agencies, effective joint working is ever more necessary to reduce the flow of children and families who enter crisis. This service is now proving its worth, and partners are increasingly recognising its value.

Health data has shown a reduction in the previously exceptionally high rates of A&E attendance for injuries, but there has been a large increase in rates of self-harm, which are being investigated. Mental health data shows a significant increase in the numbers of children receiving mental health services, and a welcome reduction in waiting times.

We believe that our systems for monitoring children at risk of CSE, or missing, are increasingly robust, and the small reduction in the numbers of children identified at risk of CSE is likely now to indicate our improvements in safety, rather than simply changes in reporting.

Overall, we are seeing steady but gradual improvement in the quality of the range of child protection services – the front door, assessments, area teams and specialist services. Health services are improving too. We remain concerned about the numbers of children with mental health issues, and the time it can take for them to access effective services. The rates of domestic abuse remain high within Sunderland, though there have been important improvements made to the services available. We know that nationally there is concern about increases in Child Criminal Exploitation – whilst we have not seen firm evidence of this within Sunderland as yet, we need to ramp up our preparation.

I am required in this report to identify any areas of weakness regarding safeguarding practice within the partnership and identify the causes of such weaknesses. In common with many of my fellow Independent Chairs across the country, I conclude that the most significant safeguarding risks are due to the budget decisions of the Government. All partners have faced deep reductions in their budgets - particularly the council, but the impact on all agencies remains relentless. Government policies have made it increasingly hard for agencies to prioritise early intervention, despite the knowledge of practitioners and academics that this is the most effective way forward. The expectation of Government

that services can continue to operate at the same level as in the past, on up to 50% less funding, is naive. I give credit to partner agencies for the efforts they are all displaying in responding to these pressures, and the willingness of the partnership to work together in these challenging times.

The children and families of Sunderland are fortunate in the staff who work for the agencies who seek to keep them safe. No-one can say that children are all safe, but I can say that the partnership is doing its level best to give them all the best chance possible.



Sir Paul Ennals

Appendix 1 – SSCB Board Membership

DESIGNATION	AGENCY
SSCB Independent Chair	SSCB
Chief Executive	Sunderland City Council
Director of Children's Services	Sunderland City Council
Council Lead Member	Sunderland City Council
Chief Executive	Together for Children – Sunderland (The organisation to whom the local authority has delegated children's social care functions)
Chief Executive	Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group
Chief Superintendent	Northumbria Police
Director of Nursing, Midwifery and AHPs	South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust
Executive Director of Nursing & Patient Experience	Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust
Group Nurse Director	Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust
Executive Director	Gentoo

Item 5

CHILDREN EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

9 JANUARY 2019

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE, COMMUNICATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

OFSTED MONITORING VISIT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES - FEEDBACK

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To report on the outcome of the latest Ofsted monitoring visit of children's services in Sunderland.

2. Background

- 2.1 On 15 and 16 October 2019, Ofsted undertook a monitoring visit of children's services in Sunderland.
- 2.2 The Ofsted monitoring letter summarising the findings of the visit was published on 16 December 2019. A copy of the letter is attached for information.

3. Current Position

- 3.1 Jill Colbert (Chief Executive of Together for Children) will be in attendance to report on the feedback.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 The Scrutiny Committee is requested to consider and comment on the report.

5 Background Papers

Ofsted Inspection Letter into Children's Services in Sunderland (16 December 2019)

16 December 2019

Jill Colbert
Chief Executive
Together for Children
Sunderland
Sandhill Centre
Grindon Lane
Sunderland
SR3 4EN

Dear Jill

Monitoring visit of Sunderland children's services

This letter summarises the findings of the monitoring visit to Sunderland local authority children's services on 15 and 16 October 2019. This visit was carried out by Her Majesty's Inspectors, Neil Penswick and Peter McEntee.

The visit was the third monitoring visit since the local authority was judged inadequate for overall effectiveness for a second time in July 2018. Following a judgement of inadequate at a previous inspection, in July 2015, Sunderland city council set up Together for Children (TfC) to deliver children's services functions on behalf of the council.

Since the last inspection, there have been some improvements in the management of the public law outline and care proceedings. However, the pace of improvement remains too slow. While clear care and legal pathways are now in place, there are continued weaknesses in management oversight and the quality of social work practice. As a result, some children receive a good and timely response, but too many children experience delays in legal action being taken when it is needed. No children were seen to be at immediate risk of harm during this visit.

Areas covered by the visit

Inspectors reviewed the progress made in the social work response to children who are at significant risk of harm and where legal action is being considered to safeguard them. This included the quality and impact of pre-proceedings activity, decision-making about entering care and the subsequent robustness of children's

social care intervention. Inspectors also looked at management decision-making, oversight and social work supervision.

The visit considered a range of evidence, including electronic case records, performance management data, audits and quality assurance reports. In addition, inspectors spoke to a range of staff, including managers, social workers and other practitioners.

Overview

Since the last monitoring visit, significant work has been undertaken to further improve the infrastructure and resources of children's services. There has been additional and much needed financial investment, as well as recruitment to all senior management posts and further recruitment of permanent social workers. A new senior management panel is beginning to improve the consistency of decision-making on whether to initiate the public law outline and care proceedings. New monitoring systems are in place to track social work progress following the decisions of the panel. However, these do not sufficiently focus on ensuring that the subsequent actions are being taken in a timely way. The limited capacity of local authority legal services, multiple changes of social worker and poor management oversight have contributed to drift and delay for children.

There is insufficient focus on early permanence planning for some children. Too much emphasis is placed on rehabilitation to a parent even when this is unlikely and inadvisable given the history. This is leading to further delay for some children in achieving stability. When arrangements are made to look after children under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989, it is not always clear that there have been discussions with parents and that they have given consent for this to occur. These arrangements are currently being reviewed by TfC.

TfC has improved its communications with the council and partner agencies and is more transparent about its progress and where it needs to improve. However, the performance and progress reporting does not always focus on what this means for the children concerned. Quality assurance audits remain poor and gives a misleading picture on the experiences of children, the variability of social work practice and weak management oversight. TfC acknowledges the weaknesses, and a new audit system had been introduced a few days before this visit. However, it is too early to see the progress of this system.

All the social workers and managers who met inspectors reported that Sunderland is an improving place to work. They report that they have confidence in senior managers and in their commitment to continue making improvements in children's social care.

Findings and evaluation of progress

Since the last monitoring visit, there has been an increased focus on improving the management of children's services in Sunderland. There has been an increase in the finances available for TfC from an additional government grant and further investment from the council. There is now a full complement of permanent senior managers, which is the first time this has happened since 2015. A higher number of permanent social workers is reducing the use of short-term staffing. Additional family support workers have been recruited to support social workers in carrying out non-statutory duties. Caseloads have decreased and are more manageable. Strategic partnerships are starting to improve, and new arrangements are being developed following the advice of a Department for Education-appointed improvement adviser. This has also resulted in other agencies being more engaged and supportive of the work to improve children's services in Sunderland.

While there is some early evidence of improvement in the quality of social work practice, inconsistencies and weakness remain. Quality assurance auditing has not yet improved. Inspectors sampled recent case audits. Most failed to identify key weaknesses in the quality of practice or the impact of these deficits on children and families. Where weakness was identified, actions were not identified to remedy issues, and the children's cases were not raised with senior management. This gives TfC and its partners a false impression of the actual quality of frontline practice. TfC is aware of these issues and a new audit system was introduced before this visit, but it is too early to see evidence of its impact.

Decision-making when children need to enter care is improving, but not for all children. A senior management panel now reviews the concerns and identifies the work needed, as well as timescales. For some children, this has resulted in timely actions being taken to ensure that they are protected. However, this is not consistent. Inspectors saw delays in children's cases coming to that panel, subsequent actions not then being taken in a timely manner, and changes being made to authorised plans without any further decision-making meetings. Since April 2019, the police have frequently used their powers of protection to remove children to ensure their safety. Inspectors sampled some of these cases and identified that such actions were appropriate in those circumstances. However, most of the children and their families were open to social care due to complex parenting issues. In some cases, there was clear evidence that TfC could have acted earlier, which would have prevented the incident that led to police protection. Senior managers had not reviewed these cases individually or thematically, and this is a gap in learning to improve practice and children's experiences.

Inspectors sampled some cases where, in partnership with parents, children had been accommodated under section 20 of the Children Act 1989. Discussions with the parents were limited, and, in a small number of cases, there was no evidence that the parents had given consent. Senior managers are currently reviewing all

the cases of children who are in care under this legislation. When very young children enter care, early permanence and twin-tracking are not always considered proactively. In some cases, when it was proved not possible for children to go home, there were critical delays in progressing actions in the courts. There were several babies who had been recently accommodated for their own safety. Care planning focused on work with parents to address long-standing issues, including drug and alcohol dependency, mental health and abusive relationships and where previous children were in the process of being adopted. While this support for parents is positive, there was a lack of wider consideration of the child's needs beyond a return to their parents.

When children do become subject to pre-proceedings, many experience delays in their plans progressing. This is due to high social worker turnover and weaknesses in the operational management oversight in ensuring essential work is done with the requisite urgency. An additional factor results from capacity issues with the local authority legal services. Systems to monitor children's progress are not effective. The current system does not ensure that reviews take place or that the required actions are taken in a timely manner. Letters sent as part of the public law outline process vary in quality. Letters do not specify well enough what needs to be done to improve the child's circumstances, by who and when, what support is needed and what further actions may occur if progress is not achieved.

Feedback received from the Child and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) is that there have been some improvements in proceedings work. However, there remain issues in some cases with the timeliness of work pre-proceedings, the quality of the social work and the quality of applications to the court. CAFCASS gave positive feedback about the willingness of TfC senior managers to talk to partners agencies and address practice deficits.

Supervision of social workers remains inconsistent. Most social workers are receiving monthly supervision, although, for some, there have been gaps of several months between sessions. The quality of supervision varies, with some supervision failing to address weaknesses in practice and lacking in specificity about what actions need to be taken and within what timescales in order to drive progress in children's plans.

All the workers who met inspectors were very positive about working for Sunderland and about the changes that have been happening since the last monitoring visit. Those who had recently been recruited by TfC described this as a good career move to a highly supportive environment. Staff know the children well and spoke with enthusiasm about their work. They spoke about the increased opportunities to work directly with children and parents and how they are supported to utilise many and varied social work tools to help improve children's lives.

I am copying this letter to the Department for Education. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Neil Penswick
Her Majesty's Inspector

**REPORT THE DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE, COMMUNICATIONS AND
PARTNERSHIPS**

**WORKING GROUP INTO CHILDREN SOCIAL CARE FRONT DOOR -
FEEDBACK**

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To consider feedback from the Working Group's meeting into the operation of the children's social care front door.

2. Background

- 2.1 In setting its work programme for the year, the Committee agreed to establish a working group to look at the operation of the children's social care front door.

3. Current Position

- 3.1 On 21 November 2019, members of the Working Group visited the Sandhill Centre. The members in attendance included Cllr Pat Smith, Cllr Paula Hunt, Cllr Karen Wood, Cllr Phil Tye and Cllr Pam Mann. Also, in attendance were Jill Colbert Lisa Briggs, Majella Tallack, Paula Steel, Paul Moffat and Jason Bennet.
- 3.2 The meeting involved a discussion around the operation of the front door of the children's social care system and a demonstration of the Liquid Logic system. The following issues were raised: -
- Members looked at the various stages and processes of the new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) which had recently been introduced to improve the front door of the service (a diagram setting out the process is attached). The MASH provides a single point of contact for all safeguarding concerns regarding children and young people. A central feature of the MASH is that it provides an opportunity to make the most of partners expertise when a case first presents itself to the front door – whether by phone call email or referral from a partner organisation. It was noted that the system operated at 3 different levels and that all contacts were Rag Rated (Red/Amber/Green).
 - The service was seeing a high number of contacts at the front door – estimated at around 13,500 over the last 6 months. Over 59% of these are passed on from the Police. These can be varied in nature and 32% of these are converted to a referral. This means that a lot of time and effort is spent processing referrals. All emergency cases are acted on immediately.

- The new process allows advice and support to be drawn from a wide range of partners to ensure that a fully informed decision can be made. Partners include the police, schools, health and mental health and domestic abuse specialists. MASH meetings are held on line to allow for a speedy decision to be made.
- The criteria for deciding if a case is Red/Green/Amber is contained in a threshold document which is shared with partners and is available on line. The correct assessment of a referral is a key part of the operation of the front door.
- Concerns have previously been raised by Ofsted over the way decisions are evidenced. There have also been concerns over the number of referrals being made by the Police and the quality of the information provided by them. It is felt that systems were now in place to ensure that all decision-making processes are fully documented, and case history fully accounted for. Work is going on with partners including the police to ensure that they follow the criteria set out in the threshold document and that cases are dealt with at the correct level. This involves developing a common understanding of the criteria and processes set out in the threshold document.
- Members were provided with a demonstration of the Liquid Logic system and examined several case studies. Though there had been delays in its introduction, it was felt that the Liquid Logic system was now operating successfully and was improving the decision-making process. It also allowed for better management supervision of cases and quality assurance.
- Two new members of staff had been appointed to provide training and support for staff operating the Liquid Logic system. It was noted that Liquid Logic was widely used in the UK and that new staff joining the TfC usually had experience in its use. Otherwise training and support was available.
- It was noted that at this stage there was no client portal but this option would be examined once the new system had been established.
- In the event of a major IT failure, extensive business continuity measures were in place to allow the front door to continue to operate.
- It was noted that links between TfC and schools were continuing to be developed and it was pleasing that schools were choosing to buy in additional services from TfC.

- In conclusion, Members suggested that it would be useful to have the opportunity to speak with staff operating at the Front Door and meet with partner organisations such as the police in order to obtain their views on the system.

4. Recommendations

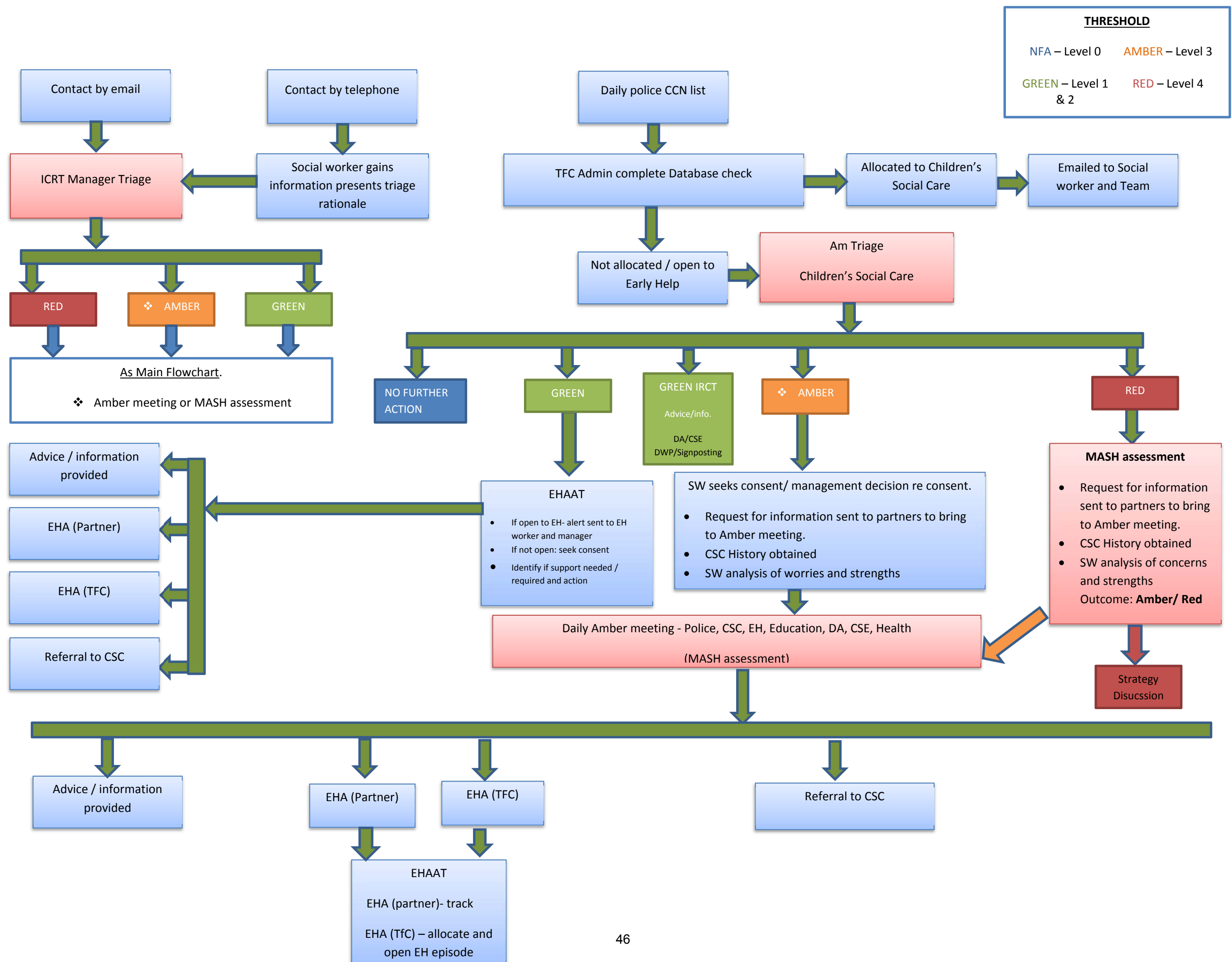
- 4.1 That the Committee consider the feedback report of the Working Group.

5. Glossary

None

6 Background Papers

None



SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2019-2020

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE, COMMUNICATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The report sets out for members' consideration the work programme of the Committee for the 2019/20 municipal year.

2. Background

- 2.1 The work programme is designed to set out the key issues to be addressed by the Committee during the year and provide it with a timetable of work. The Committee itself is responsible for setting its own work programme, subject to the coordinating role of the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee.
- 2.2 The work programme is intended to be a working document which Committee can develop throughout the year, allowing it to maintain an overview of work planned and undertaken during the Council year.
- 2.3 In order to ensure that the Committee is able to undertake all of its business and respond to emerging issues, there will be scope for additional meetings or visits not detailed in the work programme.
- 2.4 In delivering its work programme the Committee will support the Council in achieving its corporate outcomes

3. Current position

- 3.1 The current work programme is attached as an appendix to this report.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The work programme is intended to be a flexible mechanism for managing the work of the Committee in 2019-20.

5 Recommendation

- 5.1 That Members note the information contained in the work programme.

Contact: Sarah Reed, Strategic Director of People, Communications and Partnerships

REASON FOR INCLUSION	6 JUNE 19	4 JULY 19	5 SEPT 19	3 OCT 19	31 OCT 19 - CANCELLED	28 NOV 19	9 JAN 20	6 FEB 20	5 MARCH 20	2 APRIL 20
Policy Framework/ Cabinet Referrals and Responses										Scrutiny Annual Report (JD)
Scrutiny Business	Together for Children Business Plan (Jill Colbert)		Theme: Cross Cutting Ofsted Monitoring Visit Feedback (Jill Colbert)	Theme: Cross Cutting Domestic Abuse Services & Impact on Children and Families (Karen Davison)		Theme: Cross Cutting Early Help Parenting Provision (Karen Davison)	Theme: Pre School Years Children's social care improvement activity and updates (Sunderland Children Safeguarding Partnership – (Sir Paul Ennals)	Theme: Post 16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEET • SEND Strategy/16-25 SEND Outcomes • Emotional Health and Mental Well Being 	Theme: Cross Cutting Child Sexual Exploitation/ Missing Children – Progress (Abbey Adair) Health outcomes (Lorraine Hughes)	Theme: Cross Cutting Partnership and impact on outcomes for children and families
Performance / Service Improvement		Ofsted Improvement Plan – Update (Karen Davison) Children's Services Complaints (Simon Marshall)	Ofsted Improvement Plan – Detailed Update (Jill Colbert) Together for Children – Performance Monitoring Report (Jill Colbert)	Portfolio Holder Update		Together for Children – Performance Monitoring Report (Jill Colbert) Children's Services Complaints Report (Jill Colbert)	Ofsted Monitoring Feedback (Jill Colbert) Operation of Front Door WG – Feedback (JD)	Ofsted Improvement Plan – Update (Jill Colbert)	Ofsted Improvement Plan - Update (Jill Colbert)	Together for Children – Performance Monitoring Report Ofsted Improvement Plan – Update (Jill Colbert)
Consultation / Awareness Raising	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 19-20	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 19-20	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 19-20	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 19-20	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 19-20	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 19-20	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 19-20	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 19-20	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 19-20	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 19-20

CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF KEY DECISIONS

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE, COMMUNICATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Members with an opportunity to consider the items on the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Holding the Executive to account is one of the main functions of Scrutiny. One of the ways that this can be achieved is by considering the forthcoming decisions of the Executive (as outlined in the Notice of Key Decisions) and deciding whether Scrutiny can add value in advance of the decision being made. This does not negate Non-Executive Members ability to call-in a decision after it has been made.
- 2.2 To this end, the most recent version of the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions is included on the agenda of this Committee. The Notice of Key Decisions is attached marked **Appendix 1**.

3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 In considering the Notice of Key Decisions, Members are asked to consider only those issues where the Scrutiny Committee or relevant Scrutiny Panel could make a contribution which would add value prior to the decision being taken.
- 3.2 In the event of Members having any queries that cannot be dealt with directly in the meeting, a response will be sought from the relevant Directorate.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 To consider the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions at the Scrutiny Committee meeting.

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Cabinet Agenda
-

The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

Notice is given of the following proposed Key Decisions (whether proposed to be taken in public or in private) and of Executive Decisions including key decisions) intended to be considered in a private meeting:-

Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter	Address to obtain further information
190906/402	To consider expansion proposals by an existing Council tenant in respect of a strategic property and the associated capital funding and revised lease term proposals.	Cabinet	Y	During the period from 14 January to 29 February 2020.	Y	This report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter	Address to obtain further information
190925/406	To recommend to Council that changes to polling districts and polling places are agreed.	Cabinet	Y	14 January 2020	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
190910/405	To approve revisions to the city's Unauthorised Encampment Policy 2018.	Cabinet	Y	14 January 2020.	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
191205/425	To agree changes to the Community Care Support Scheme (part of Local Welfare Provision) to provide successful applicants with more choice	Cabinet	Y	14 January 2020	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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191205/426	To approve the procurement of a direct payment employment support service	Cabinet	Y	14 January 2020	N	This report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
191205/427	To agree to review the Council's Waste Management policy in light of recent public consultation on National Resources and Waste Strategy	Cabinet	Y	14 January 2020	Y	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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191210/430	To approve the Third Capital Review 2019-2020 (including Treasury Management).	Cabinet	Y	14 January 2020	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
191210/431	To approve the Third Revenue Review 2019-2020.	Cabinet	Y	14 January 2020	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
191210/432	To approve the Council Tax Base 2020-2021	Cabinet	Y	14 January 2020	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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191210/433	To recommend to full Council for approval the Local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2020-21	Cabinet	Y	14 January 2020	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
191210/434	To approve a Pension Guarantee Arrangement	Cabinet	Y	During the period 14 January to 31 March 2020.	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
191210/435	To note the Revenue Budget 2020/2021 to 2023/2024 – Update and Provisional Revenue Support Settlement	Cabinet	Y	14 January 2020	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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191212/436	To approve the Council's participation in a procurement exercise through the North East Procurement Organisation to establish a Regional framework arrangement for Post-Mortem Examination services.	Cabinet	Y	14 January 2020	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
191212/438	To consider and recommend to Council the Feed and Food Law Service Plan to be used by the Public Protection and Regulatory Service of the Neighbourhoods Directorate	Cabinet	Y	14 January 2020	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
191216/440	To approve the adoption of Core Strategy and Development Plan	Cabinet	Y	During the period 11 to 30 January 2020	N	Not applicable.	Core Strategy and Development Plan, Planning Inspector's Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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191212/429	To consider the recommendations of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee following a scrutiny review into oral health.	Cabinet	Y	During the period 14 January to 30 March 2020.	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
191212/437	To consider the response to be made to any notification given by Durham County Council under section 88K Water Industry Act 1991 regarding a proposal for variation of an existing community water fluoridation scheme to include the City of Sunderland area.	Cabinet	Y	During the period 14 January to 30 March 2020.	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
190813/380	To seek approval to develop a strategic framework and action plan to enable the development of more resilient communities, including a more vibrant Social Enterprise sector.	Cabinet	Y	During the period 11 February to 30 March 2020.	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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170927/212	To approve in principle the establishment of a new police led Road Safety Partnership (Northumbria Road Safety Partnership) embracing the Northumbria Force Area.	Cabinet	Y	During the period 11 February to 30 March 2020.	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
181024/312	To receive an update report on the Regional Adoption Agency proposals and to agree the next steps	Cabinet	Y	During the period from 11 February to 31 March 2020.	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
191009/412	To approve the funding for specialist and move on accommodation for people with mental health needs with Home Group.	Cabinet	Y	During the period from 11 February to 30 March 2020.	Y	This report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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190823/385	To approve the proposed Governance Arrangements for the Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Advanced Manufacturing (CESAM) and related matters.	Cabinet	Y	During the period from 11 February to 30 April 2020	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
191008/409	To approve the disposal of the former Gillbridge Police Station, Sunderland.	Cabinet	Y	11 February 2020	Y	This report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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191024/417	To seek approval for the City Council to enter into a partnership arrangement to establish a new Voluntary Community Sector Infrastructure Support Service for Sunderland	Cabinet	Y	11 February 2020	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
191105/421	To approve Sunderland's Empty Homes Strategy.	Cabinet	Y	11 February 2019	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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191105/424	To note the Core Strategy and Development Plan: update on development including authorisation of draft Supplementary Planning Documents for consultation in relation to South Sunderland Growth Area, Planning Obligations, Homes in Multiple Occupation and Biodiversity.	Cabinet	Y	11 February 2020	N	Not applicable.	Draft South Sunderland Growth Area Supplementary Planning Document; Draft Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document; Draft Homes in Multiple Occupation Supplementary Planning Document Scoping Report; Draft Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document Scoping Report.	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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191205/428	To agree Sunderland's Housing Delivery and Investment Plan	Cabinet	Y	11 February 2020	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
191213/439	To approve the updated business plan for Siglion LLP and related matters.	Cabinet	Y	During the period from 11 February to 30 March 2020.	Y	This report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
190114/325	To procure a contractor to undertake works at Jacky Whites Market and associated properties in The Bridges Shopping Centre.	Cabinet	Y	24 March 2020	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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	To approve the Five Neighbourhood Investment Plans	Cabinet	Y	24 March 2020	N	Not applicable	Cabinet report Investment Plans	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

Note; Some of the documents listed may not be available if they are subject to an exemption, prohibition or restriction on disclosure.

Further documents relevant to the matters to be decided can be submitted to the decision-maker. If you wish to request details of those documents (if any) as they become available, or to submit representations about a proposal to hold a meeting in private, you should contact Governance Services at the address below.

Subject to any prohibition or restriction on their disclosure, copies of documents submitted to the decision-maker can also be obtained from the Governance Services team PO Box 100, Civic Centre, Sunderland, or by email to committees@sunderland.gov.uk

Who will decide;

Cabinet; Councillor Graeme Miller – Leader; Councillor Michael Mordey – Deputy Leader; Councillor Paul Stewart – Cabinet Secretary; Councillor Louise Farthing – Children, Learning and Skills; Councillor Geoffrey Walker – Health and Social Care; Councillor John Kelly – Communities and Culture; Councillor Amy Wilson – Environment and Transport; Councillor Rebecca Atkinson – Housing and Regeneration.

This is the membership of Cabinet as at the date of this notice. Any changes will be specified on a supplementary notice.

Elaine Waugh,
Assistant Director of Law and Governance

16 December 2019