

**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.