

Member Report

Redcar and Cleveland Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2017/18



Public

To: Cabinet **Date:** 6 November 2018
From: Corporate Director for Children and Families **Decision type:** For information
Portfolio: Children **Forward Plan reference:**
Priority: A brighter future for our children
Ward(s):

1 What is the purpose of this report?

- 1.1 To inform Members of the Redcar and Cleveland Safeguarding Children Board (RCSCB) Annual Report. The RCSCB Annual Report outlines the effectiveness of work undertaken by all partner organisations, including the Local Authority, in respect of safeguarding children in Redcar and Cleveland.

2 What is the background to this report?

- 2.1 Section 13 of the Children Act 2014 requires each Local Authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) for their area and specified the organisations and individuals (other than the Local Authority) that should be represented on the Board.
- 2.2 Section 14 of the Children Act 2004 sets out the statutory objectives of the LSCB which are:
- a) To co-ordinate what is being done by each person or body represented on RCSCB for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area; and
 - b) To ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body to those purposes.
- 2.3 Redcar and Cleveland Safeguarding Children Board has a statutory duty to publish an Annual Report on the effectiveness of safeguarding children in Redcar & Cleveland. The report is presented each year to the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 2.4 The Redcar and Cleveland Safeguarding Children Board has an Independent Chair who meets with the Leader of the Council; the Lead Member for Children's Services; and the Chief Executive on a six-monthly basis, to provide assurance that the safeguarding arrangements in Redcar & Cleveland are effective in protecting vulnerable children and young people within the Borough.

- 2.5 Overall, the report demonstrates that the arrangements in place for safeguarding children in Redcar & Cleveland are robust and improving. There is evidence that partners have a shared commitment to safeguarding children and young people and practices have continued to improve during 2017/18.

3 Report Overview

- 3.1 The Redcar and Cleveland Safeguarding Children Board's Annual report sets out the achievements in 2017/18 and the priorities and challenges for 2018/19. It highlights progress made throughout the year against agreed priority areas that aim to achieve the following outcomes:

- Children and young people are safeguarded from harm.
- Children and young people in care have a good experience.
- Parenting standards are improved.
- Early Help reduces the need for statutory intervention.
- Competent, effective and efficient workforce.

- 3.2 Key activity of the Board throughout the year includes:

- Held a multi-agency Neglect conference in early May 2017, which considered how agencies identify and respond to neglect, highlighting the positive effects that practitioners can have upon the outcomes for children and young people in both the short and long term;
- Strengthened the links with education and training providers through the development of the Safeguarding in Education Network (SiEN) which was launched in June 2017;
- Undertaken a Multi-Agency Training Needs Analysis;
- Developed a joint RCSCB and MSCB Learning Improvement Framework which focusses on Enhancing Outcomes and Improving Practice;
- Held a 'Safeguarding in Sport' event for local sports clubs to raise awareness of safeguarding responsibilities and offer support and guidance;
- Undertaken a review of the 'use of restraint' in health, education and criminal justice settings, which provided assurance that appropriate policies and reporting procedures are in place;
- Re-commissioned Alter Ego's production of Chelsea's Choice, aimed at raising awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and healthy/unhealthy relationships. This has been delivered to all Year 8 students in Redcar & Cleveland;
- Supported Cleveland Police with the 'Voice of the Child – Stand Up to Child Abuse' Campaign and Conference in February 2018; and
- Reviewed and revised the Child Protection 'My Conference Pack' with young people from a local school.

- 3.3 The report also offers some statistical data to illustrate local and regional trends in terms of safeguarding children and young people:

- There has been a notable reduction in the number of Children Subject to a Child Protection Plan from 200 at 31 March 2017 to 156 at 31 March 2018.

- In line with national statistics, 'Neglect' continues to be the most common category of abuse for children subject to a Child Protection Plan. Work is ongoing to update the RCSCB Neglect Strategy which will include a greater emphasis on Adolescent Neglect;
- No children or young people have been the subject to a Child Protection Plan for a period of 2 years or more. This has been consistent for over 5 years;
- The number of looked after children has continued to increase from 235 at 31 March 2017 to 284 at 31 March 2018. Comparative data indicates that there has been a significant increase in the number of looked after children across the country, including the Tees Valley;
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) remains a priority for partners and continues to be progressed through the Tees Wide VEMT (Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing & Trafficked) process. A consistent theme amongst children and young people subject to the VEMT process is that the majority are white female with 14 – 17 year olds being the most prevalent age group;
- Parenting programmes have continued to be delivered to families aimed at supporting families and improving parenting standards. Over 320 families benefitted from such programmes in 2017/18;
- Following identification by the Board in 2016/17 that the majority of Early Help Assessments were undertaken by the Local Authority Early Help Team a multi-agency review of the Early Help Strategy has taken place in 2017/18; and
- The annual programme of multi-agency safeguarding training has continued in 2017/18 with over 900 places on taught courses being allocated to staff working within the Redcar & Cleveland area. E-learning continues to provide an important contribution to the learning and development programme with 35 e-learning courses available to partners.

3.4 In January 2017, Redcar and Cleveland Safeguarding Children Board was subject to an Ofsted Inspection under the Single Inspection Framework. The overall grading for the Board was 'Requires Improvement.' Ofsted made 8 recommendations, all of which the Board has made significant progress against during 2017/18, as demonstrated in rows 3.4.1 to 3.4.8 below.

3.4.1 Undertake as a priority a Section 11 Audit, to assure that organisations are discharging their duties to safeguard and promote children's welfare:

- *A Tees wide Section 11 Audit was undertaken in 2017/18 which provided assurance that organisations are discharging their duties to safeguard and promote children's welfare.*

3.4.2 Ensure that the Board both receives and tests information to satisfy itself on the quality of experiences and services for all vulnerable groups of children. This includes children who have disabilities, children who are privately fostered, young carers, children who are living in the area from other areas and oversight and challenge of the management of allegations against professionals:

- *The Board has ensured that during 2017/18 information/reports have been received in respect of children with disabilities, children who are privately fostered, young carers, children who are living in the area from other areas and oversight and challenge of the management of allegations against professionals (LADO).*

3.4.3 Ensure that the Board has effectively contributed to maximising operational partnership contributions to Early Help, in particular the undertaking of the role of lead professional:

- *At the request of the Board partners are presently undertaking a review of the Early Help Strategy with a particular focus on a multi-agency approach.*

3.4.4 Undertake an analysis of multi-agency training needs, to ensure that the training programme meets identified needs, and evaluate the impact of training on frontline practice after the events. This should include reviewing the effectiveness of training and awareness raising in relation to private fostering:

- *A multi-agency training needs analysis undertaken in 2017/18, which demonstrated that the training programme meets identified needs, including Private Fostering. From April 2018 post impact evaluations for all taught courses will commence aimed at establishing the effect of training on frontline practice.*

3.4.5 Improve the quality and methodology of multi-agency auditing activity to robustly test key areas of frontline practice and measure the quality of children's experiences and outcomes:

- *2017/18 has seen further development of multi-agency auditing process – information on audits undertaken in 2017/18 is included in Chapter 4.*

3.4.6 Ensure that performance data is used to systematically understand children's outcomes and experiences and to identify patterns and trends to form a robust assessment of the quality and effectiveness of services:

- *During 2017/18 the Board have continued to develop performance via the Tees Performance Framework.*

3.4.7 Engage and consult with a wider range of children and families in the delivery of RCSCB business priorities and planning:

- *Partners continue to engage and consult with children and families, in the delivery of RCSCB business priorities, as evidenced in Chapter 2 of the Annual Report.*

3.4.8 Improve the quality of the annual report to demonstrate that the RCSCB has undertaken a rigorous assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services, and that it identifies weaknesses and necessary actions:

- *Work has been undertaken with partners to improve the quality of the annual report.*

- 3.5 The priorities and challenges for 2017/18 reflect those included in the Business Plan (2016 – 2019), with a particular emphasis on:
- **Neglect** – Referrals and enquiries to Children’s Social Care in respect of Neglect and the number of Child Protection Plans under the category of Neglect remains a concern to the Board. As such a Neglect Conference was held in May 2017 which provided an opportunity to consider how agencies identify and respond to neglect. A multi-agency working group has reviewed and revised the Neglect Strategy, ensuring that Adolescent Neglect is specifically included.
 - **Early Help** – The multi-agency Early Help task and finish group met regularly in 2017/18 to assess how effective the Early Help model and procedures are in potentially diverting children away from statutory intervention. This led to the development of a Multi-agency Early Help Strategy which will be monitored in 2018/19.
 - **Domestic Abuse** – The Board recognise the impact on children witnessing domestic abuse, which remains a key priority for strategic leaders in Redcar and Cleveland. RCSCB will continue to work with the Community Safety Partnership to identify the questions and challenges in respect of this matter. Positively, it should be noted that a newly appointed Domestic Abuse Coordinator will join the Local Authority in December 2018, to support this work.
- 3.6 The recently published Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 (WT18) fundamentally changes the way that safeguarding in partnership will be delivered from 2019 onwards. WT18 sets out the requirements in respect of Multi-Agency Partnerships, which will replace LSCBs, in particular highlighting that:
- There is a shared responsibility between organisations and agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area; and
 - The responsibility for this join-up locally rests with the three safeguarding partners who have a shared and equal duty to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area.
- 3.7 The three safeguarding partners are identified as:
- the local authority;
 - a clinical commissioning group for an area any part of which falls within the local authority area; and
 - the chief officer for police for an area any part of which falls within the local authority area.
- 3.8 The three safeguarding partners should agree on ways to co-ordinate their safeguarding services; act as a strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging others, and implement local and national learning including from serious child safeguarding incidents.
- 3.9 The purpose of the local arrangements is to support and enable local organisations and agencies to work together in a system where:

- children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted;
- partner organisations and agencies collaborate, share and co-own the vision for how to achieve improved outcomes for vulnerable children;
- organisations and agencies challenge appropriately and hold one another to account effectively;
- there is early identification and analysis of new safeguarding issues and emerging threats;
- learning is promoted and embedded in a way that local services for children and families can become more reflective and implement changes to practice; and
- information is shared effectively to facilitate more accurate and timely decision making for children and families.

3.10 In order to work together effectively, the safeguarding partners with other local organisations and agencies should develop processes that:

- facilitate and drive action beyond usual institutional and agency constraints and boundaries; and
- ensure the effective protection of children is founded on practitioners developing lasting and trusting relationships with children and their families.

3.11 To fulfil this role, the safeguarding partners must set out how they will work together and with any relevant agencies. Relevant agencies are those organisations and agencies whose involvement the safeguarding partners consider may be required to safeguard and promote the welfare of children with regard to local need.

3.12 In response to WT18, consideration is being given to developing a South Tees Multi-Agency Safeguarding Partnership which aims to build upon and maximise existing arrangements in place both locally and across the South Tees. Work is ongoing to agree how this will look and further updates will be provided in due course.

3.13 The challenge for the Board is to ensure that the business of monitoring safeguarding practices in Redcar and Cleveland is robustly maintained as any new arrangements develop, whilst at the same time contributing to and shaping the future structure.

4 Who will this benefit and how?

4.1 Children, young people and their families living in the Borough will directly benefit from the continued development of Redcar and Cleveland Safeguarding Children Board. The Annual Report focuses on the performance of the Local Authority and its partner organisations to plan, develop and deliver the most efficient and effective safeguarding services to directly meet the needs of children and young people.

5 Who have we consulted?

- 5.1 All Redcar and Cleveland Safeguarding Children Board members and other relevant partners were involved in the production of the Board's Annual Report. The comments from all parties have been considered and included in the documents where appropriate.

6 How will it deliver our priorities and improve our performance?

- 6.1 The Redcar and Cleveland Safeguarding Children Board directly supports the Council's Corporate Plan and priority to 'provide a brighter future for our children', and in particular is pivotal to ensuring **children and young people are safe, protected from harm and neglect** and can grow up, able to look after themselves, and achieve their full potential.

The Board is committed to tackling the causes of neglect and abuse, as demonstrated by both the work of the Board in 2017/18, and the priorities going forward.

7 What are the risks and resource implications?

Type of Risk/ Implication	Applicable?	Details
Health and Safety	Yes	The work of the Redcar and Cleveland Safeguarding Children Board aims to ensure the safety of children and young people living in our Borough. The Annual Report highlights how partners work together to safeguard and protect children from risk of significant harm.
Social Value:	Yes	<p>The work of the Redcar and Cleveland Safeguarding Children Board is pertinent to providing opportunities for children, young people and their families facing social barriers; specifically through the principle of 'enabling communities and citizens to thrive'.</p> <p>The most effective safeguarding activity is built on a solution-focused model; where the strengths of families and the assets of the wider community are key to the delivery of successful outcomes for vulnerable children.</p>
Legal	Yes	<p>The following legislation has informed this report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Children Act 1989• Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018• Children and Families Act 2014
Financial	No	

Human Resources	No	
Equality and Diversity	Yes	<p>The areas of greatest significance with regards to those likely to benefit are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People and families on lower incomes • Looked After Children • People and families who are homeless <p>The potential effect on vulnerable people is a positive one; The Safeguarding Children Annual Report demonstrates the work undertaken by the Board to ensure all children and young people are appropriately safeguarded in Redcar and Cleveland.</p>
Carbon Footprint	No	
Other (please specify)	Yes/No	Members have a duty to safeguard the children and young people living in our Borough. If the content of the Report is not acknowledged, there is a risk that together we may not fulfil our statutory obligations.

7.1 Equality analyses for Cabinet decisions are published alongside the reports in the 'Cabinet and committee papers section' of our website at www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/decisionmaking and should be read in conjunction with the recommendations in the report.

8 What options have been considered?

8.1 There are no options to be considered.

9 What is the reason for the recommended option?

9.1 That Cabinet are aware of the Redcar and Cleveland Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report and the future challenges facing all organisations in respect of safeguarding children and young people.

10 Recommendations

10.1 It is recommended that Members:

- Note the content of the Redcar and Cleveland Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report, highlighting the progress made by the Board during the period 2017/18; and
- Acknowledge the future challenges facing the Local Authority and partner organisations in respect of their duty to ensure all children and young people are appropriately safeguarded in Redcar and Cleveland.

11 Appendices and further information

- 11.1 Appendix 1- Redcar and Cleveland Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2017/18.
Appendix 2- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)
A copy has been placed in the Members' Library

12 Background papers

- 12.1 No background papers other than published works were used in writing this report.

13 Contact officer

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Redcar & Cleveland Safeguarding Children Board



Annual Report 2017/2018



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Forward by Jon Rush Independent Chair of Redcar & Cleveland Safeguarding Children Board

The aim of the Annual Report 2017-18 is to provide a summarised overview of the partnership working that has been undertaken to keep children and young people safe in our area.



I am continually impressed by the passion, thoughtfulness and desire that all our statutory and voluntary agencies have in supporting children and their respective families or carers. The Board has developed over the past 12 months with the focus being on understanding and monitoring the performance information, to enable us to assess how our joint approach is making positive impacts in the lives of our most vulnerable children and young people. The utilisation by organisations of the experiences of children, young people and family members has also assisted us in gaining a better understanding of what it feels like to be a child in care or involved in a child protection conference. This has assisted us in modifying services available to be more supportive.

However, we know that our services are not perfect and we need to make improvements to the services we offer, particularly to children with special educational needs and disabilities. Part of this will involve continuing to monitor how the services are commissioned as well as making sure that we are able to measure the level of need and demonstrate tangible improved outcomes.

The development of the Safeguarding in Education Network is worthy of particular mention as it has enabled us to reach out and support the various educational establishments across the area in prioritising safeguarding and their key role in identifying and assisting young people and their families. This is part of our wider priority of ensuring that Early Help is embedded within all our relevant organisations.

Finally, the next 12 months will involve changing the strategic framework of the Board as we move from a Local Safeguarding Children Board to the new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements, led by the Local Authority, Cleveland Police and South Tees Clinical Commissioning Group. My role and that of the current Board, is to make that transition as smooth and consistent as possible, whilst ensuring that we continue to safeguard children to the highest standards.

On a final note, I would like to thank the Business Unit for their contribution in administering and supporting all members of the Board.

Jon Rush

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Rush". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Summary

Redcar & Cleveland Safeguarding Children Board (RCSCB) was established in April 2010 and is a statutory body made up of organisations which work with children and young people. It is the key mechanism for agreeing how relevant organisations in the local area will co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and for ensuring the effectiveness of what they do.

Section 14 of the Children Act 2004 sets out the overarching objectives of LSCBs which are:

- a) To coordinate what is being done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area; and
- b) To ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.

Partners within RCSCB have agreed the following statement which demonstrates the shared vision for the children and young people of Redcar & Cleveland:

“Working together to ensure all Children and Young People in Redcar & Cleveland are appropriately Safeguarded”.

We work closely with other local strategic boards including the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Community Safety Partnership, Corporate Parenting and the Tees Safeguarding Adults Board.

All partners across Redcar & Cleveland are committed to ensuring that Children and Young People are listened to and that they are treated with respect and dignity regardless of their age, gender, ability, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or personal circumstances.

This Report is a summary of our work during 2017/18.

Overall we, the Board, believe that the arrangements in place for safeguarding children in Redcar and Cleveland are robust and improving. Partners have a shared commitment to safeguarding children and young people and over the last year practices have continued to improve.

We believe this because in 2017/18 we have:

Appointed two new Independent Lay-members.

Held a multi-agency Neglect conference in early May 2017, which considered how agencies identify and respond to neglect, highlighting the positive effects that practitioners can have upon the outcomes for children and young people in both the short and long term.

Strengthened the links with education and training providers through the development of the Safeguarding in Education Network (SiEN) which was launched in June 2017. (Further details in respect of the SiEN is included at Chapter 6)

Continued to develop and refine the Teeswide Performance Management Framework so we can assess ourselves locally, regionally and nationally. (Further information regarding this framework is included at Chapter 4)

Continued to support the Education Child Protection/Safeguarding Officer in the delivery of a Safeguarding Children in Education Conference. (further information is included at Chapter 3)

Re-commissioned Alter Ego’s production of Chelsea’s Choice, aimed at raising awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and healthy/unhealthy relationships. This has been delivered to all Year 8 students in Redcar & Cleveland.

Provided training to a multi-agency audience on a range of subjects including:

- Core Level 3
- Digital Technology and the Hazards Posed to Children
- Safeguarding Deaf and Disabled Children
- Domestic Abuse
- Early Help Assessment
- Neglect

(our training programme is discussed further in Chapter 5)

Undertaken a Multi-agency Training Needs Analysis

Undertaken a series of multi-agency audits in respect of safeguarding arrangements including:

- Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing and Trafficked (VEMT) processes
- Domestic Abuse

(our audits are discussed further in Chapter 4)

Undertaken a Teeswide Section 11 Audit

Participated in the development of a multi-agency Early Help Strategy which will be complete early 2018/19.

Developed a joint RCSCB and MSCB Learning Improvement Framework which focusses on Enhancing Outcomes and Improving Practice.

Continued to monitor and progress actions identified following our OFSTED inspection in January 2017.

Facilitated practitioner events to support learning from local and national Serious Case Reviews (SCR's) including Neglect and Intra-familial sexual abuse.

Held a 'Safeguarding in Sport' event for local sports clubs to raise awareness of safeguarding responsibilities and offer support and guidance.

Undertaken a review of the 'use of restraint' in health, education and criminal justice settings, which provided assurance that appropriate policies and reporting procedures are in place.

Supported Cleveland Police with the 'Voice of the Child – Stand Up to Child Abuse' Campaign and Conference in February 2018.

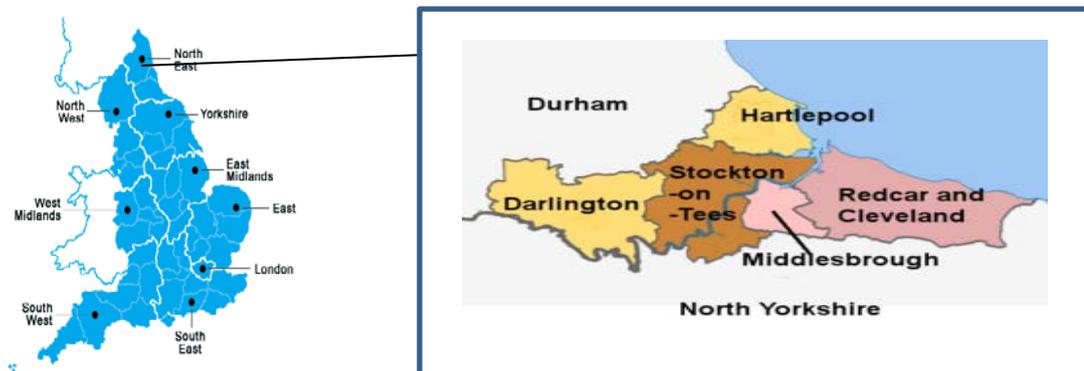
Reviewed and revised the Child Protection 'My Conference Pack' with young people from a local school.

Information about our work, plus advice and guidance is available on our website: <https://www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/SafeguardingChildrenBoard/Pages/default.aspx>

This report is formally the responsibility of the Independent Chair, Jon Rush. Its contents have been accepted by the RCSCB. In line with statutory guidance in Working Together 2015, it will be submitted to Chief Executive of the Council, the Leader of the Council, the local Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chair of the Health and Well-being Board.

Chapter 1 – About Redcar & Cleveland

Geographically, Redcar & Cleveland is the largest borough in the Tees Valley sub region in the North East of England with a population of around 135,000 the majority of whom (97.5%) are White British. Of these around 27,000 (20%) are children and young people.



The Borough includes urban communities on the edge of the ‘Teesside’ conurbation through to rural communities in the beautiful countryside of East Cleveland.

Many of the communities experience relatively high levels of urban and rural deprivation and health inequalities. Overall, Redcar & Cleveland is ranked the 49th most deprived borough out of 326 in England with 17.5% of the population living in wards that are among the most deprived 10% in the country.

For every 100 children and young people living in Redcar & Cleveland:

- 25** live in poverty.
- 69** achieve the expected standard at KS2 for reading, writing and maths.
- 42** leave school with a strong pass in English and maths.
- 15** will be persistently absent from Secondary School.
- 7** 16 to 18 year olds will Not be in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).
- 21** will be classified as obese by the age of 10-11.
- 65** 0 – 3 year olds will be accessing children’s centres.
- 45** 0 – 5 year olds will be accessing children’s centres.
- 96** eligible 2 year olds will be accessing their free childcare place.

For every 100 mothers:

- 2** will be aged under 18 years when they give birth.
- 20** will be smokers at the time of delivery.
- 25** will be breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks.

At 31 March 2018 there were:

- 156** Children/Young people on a Child Protection Plan.
- 284** Looked After Children (LAC).
- 5** Children/Young People Privately Fostered.

Education Provision in Redcar & Cleveland

The aim within Redcar and Cleveland is that all children and young people have the best start in life. The local authority provides support and challenge to schools, academies and colleges so that all children have the opportunity for an excellent education.

Key facts:

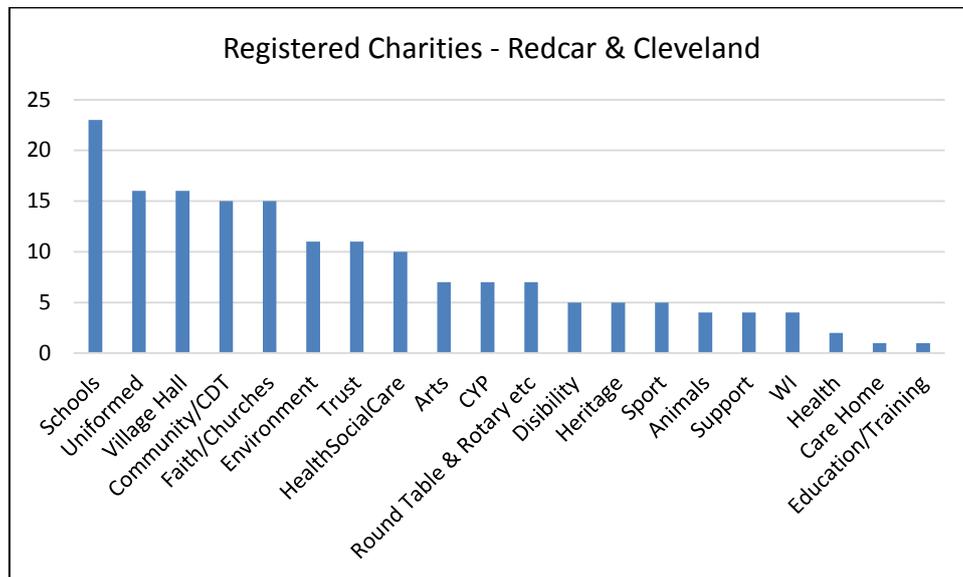
- 44** Primary Schools educating 11,306 pupils (Reception to Year 6). The schools vary in sizes from 65 to 536 on roll.
- 10** Secondary Schools educating 8,009 pupils (excluding sixth form). Most of these schools are academies.
- 3** Special Schools educating 306 pupils (Reception to Year 11).
- 1** Independent School.
- 1** Pupil Referral Unit with 32 pupils on roll, but over 85 regularly attend.
- 18%** of pupils are eligible for free school meals.
- 2%** of pupils first language is known or believed to be other than English.
- 19%** of the whole school population has a Statement/Education Health Care Plan or identified SEN Support (excludes Nursery and Sixth Form).
- 61%** of school age Looked After Children are educated in Redcar and Cleveland Schools.
- 94%** of Primary Schools are rated as Good or Outstanding.
- 58%** of Secondary Schools are rated as Good or Outstanding.

Further information in respect of Ofsted inspections is included in Chapter 4.

Voluntary and Community Groups in Redcar & Cleveland

There is a wide ranging network of Voluntary and Community Groups within Redcar & Cleveland including up to 170 registered charities with almost as many other groups who do not fall under this category. The types of groups range from; sports clubs, faith groups, voluntary managed groups, residents and community groups all of whom are offered support by Redcar & Cleveland Voluntary Development Agency (RCVDA).

The chart below highlights the range of registered charities within Redcar & Cleveland; however as highlighted it estimated that there are almost as many organisations who are not registered charities.



The support and advice provided by RCVDA to these groups ranges from start-up advice, governance, safeguarding, policy development, volunteer support, funding, representation, and providing networking opportunities.

In recognition of the significant involvement voluntary and community groups have with children and young people across the borough the RCVDA is a full and active member of the RCSCB.

Chapter 2 – What Children, Young People and Families Have Told Us

Ensuring we involve and listen to children and young people is integral in working towards delivering positive outcomes for families within Redcar & Cleveland. Previous annual reports have highlighted the various forums and mechanisms in which we capture the voice of the child, which in turn influences how partners develop and deliver services these include:

- Children Accessing Hospital Services
- Visits and Direct Work with Children/Young People
- Child Protection Conference Packs (pg 12)
- Looked After Children’s Council – ‘Have Your Say’
- Youth Service Annual Survey
- (Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing & Trafficked) VEMT – ‘How safe do I Feel’ (pg 13)
- Viewpoint for Looked After Children (LAC) (pg 14)
- Annual Health Related Behaviour Survey
- All Age Disabilities Service – ‘Checkers’
- Parenting Programmes (pg 16)
- Early Help – Key working (pg 18)

These forums and mechanisms continue to be utilised and enhanced, however this year we will focus particularly on the work which takes place with Young Carers in Redcar & Cleveland.

Making Life Better for Young Carers

The Junction Foundation is commissioned to deliver assessment and support to young carers and their families across Redcar & Cleveland

The Junction Foundation provides a Young Carer-focused, whole family approach to making life better for young carers by helping to reduce the negative impact of their caring role. The service ensures that families are able to benefit from support without detrimental/negative effect on the young carers themselves, providing preventative care to their families, in the family home, continuing to support independence and reduce the need for commissioned social care and health services. The service delivers young carer-led support to individual young carers, assessing their needs, creating individual action plans and offering support through confidential flexible 1-1 support and group work.



The service has had contact with 283 Young Carers aged 5 to 18 between 1st April 2017 – 31st March 2018.

The ethos of The Junction Foundation is to keep services young carer focused. All young carers are entitled to an assessment, giving young carers the opportunity to speak confidentially and have their say on how they feel, how they are impacted upon in their caring role and what support they would like. A young carer focused assessment tool is used which is nationally recognised.

The Junction has an outcome focused approach and all young carers create their own set of outcomes which they would like to work towards, these could be, for example to understand their feelings, manage anger, reduce isolation or anything that the young carer identifies. These outcomes are recorded in an individual action plan and tracked on an outcome star. Outcomes are reviewed in 1-1 support on a regular basis and allow the young carer to track their journey.

Young carers are regularly consulted with for the future development of the service, all group activities are evaluated and young carers are asked what they would like to do in the future.

Young carers have been involved in development days about the future of The Junction, for example using 'keep, bin, change' themes.

Young carers have been involved in meeting and presenting to The Junction Board of Trustees and are regularly involved in interviewing and recruiting staff.

The Young Carers Group

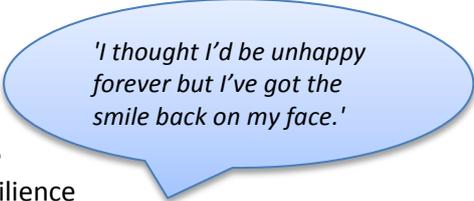
The Young Carers group meet fortnightly to work on projects around making life better for young carers in the borough. This could be through raising awareness, fundraising or looking at ways to support other young carers.

To date they have:

1. Formed a Young Carers Lead focus group to support the development and co-production of the service.
2. Been involved in staff recruitment at The Junction including the next CEO
3. Co-producing awareness raising literature for schools, Local authority staff and GP's
4. Been interview by BBC radio for Children in Need and created a short film for Children in Need which is on their website.
5. Started to work towards an ASDAN award in Peer Mentoring
6. Attended public award events
7. Developing a young carers school pledge

Putting Young Carers at the Heart of Their Support

The Junction uses a person centred approach which enables young carers to identify what they want to change, what outcomes they want to achieve. Recognising the emotional impact of young carers they also focus, where appropriate on building resilience and use an established resilience framework.



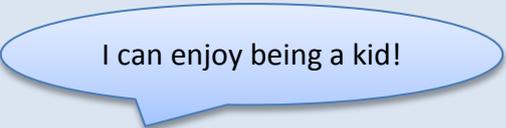
'I thought I'd be unhappy forever but I've got the smile back on my face.'

Case Study – Samantha (name changed)

Samantha is an 11 year old girl who cares for her mum who suffers with mental health problems.

Samantha has been receiving 1:1 support as requested from social care in order to explore her feelings around her caring role as she was presenting as very angry.

Initially Samantha and her support worker explored her feelings around anger including her triggers, one of which was her frustrations in regards to her mum. Samantha was feeling very frustrated that her mum was spending a lot of time in bed and some mornings unable to get up. Although there were some parenting issues to be addressed with her mum and for her to engage with mental health services there was also a lack of knowledge from Samantha in understanding how mental health issues can affect people and how they may present at times. Samantha was able to talk about these frustrations, develop more of an understanding and learn new ways to calm down and release her anger safely.



I can enjoy being a kid!

Samantha gained positive coping strategies and achieved her outcomes. In addition to this she is attending group activities to have a break away from her caring role and meet others in her situation. She has stated this makes her feel 'more normal' and 'I can enjoy being a kid'.

Young People's Substance Use Services

Also of note in 2017/18 was the involvement of young people in the development of the new, integrated, all age Recovery and Wellbeing Service which included widespread consultation and engagement. This included those who were accessing the previous service and other generic services. Examples of responses when asked for their priorities for the new service were:

Staff who are 'experts by experience'.

Access to mental health and talking therapies support.

Education, not 'fear tactics' or pressure.

The feedback was used to inform the design and the new service.

Safe4Us – Junior Safeguarding Children Board

The Safe4Us group acts as the Junior Safeguarding Children Board and continues to play a key role in ensuring that the views of children and young people are taken into account by the Board on matters relating to Safeguarding. The group also takes a lead role in some projects involving young people. In 2017/18 the group has gained 4 new members and are continuing to seek further members.



2017/18 was another busy year for Safe4Us who have been involved in many projects and topics, including an Easter Fair, Summer Fair and Christmas Fair and other community events.

The group continues to work on projects and are currently working on an Alcohol and Drugs Awareness Project. The Young People are making a poster to outline the effects of alcohol and drugs on the body to be used in schools.

Additional examples of how children and young people's voices are heard and have influenced practice in 2017/18 can be found throughout this report.

In 2017/18 however we saw a decrease in referrals and children subject to CP, whilst both CiN and LAC continued to increase.

Figure 2 – Referrals per 10,000 Population

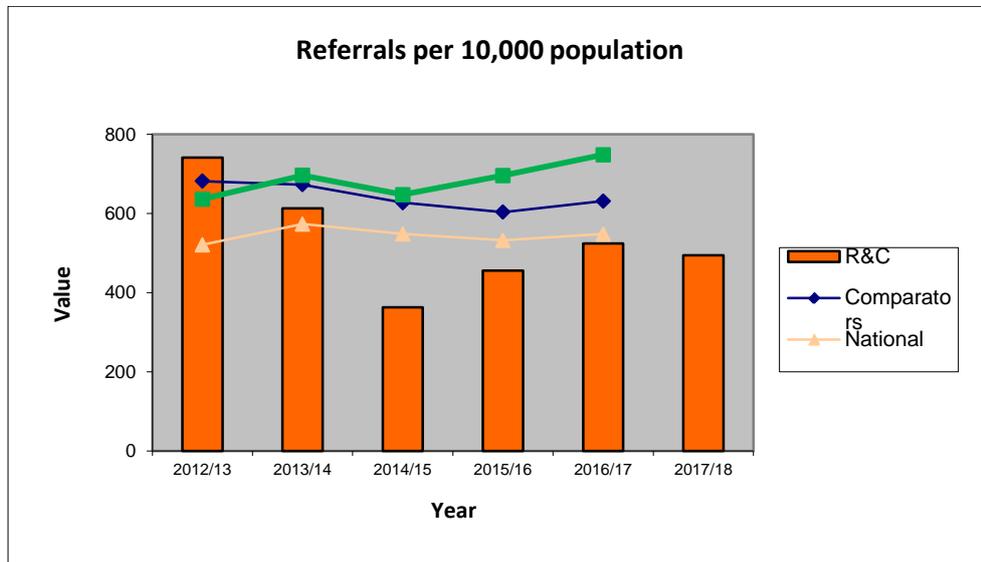
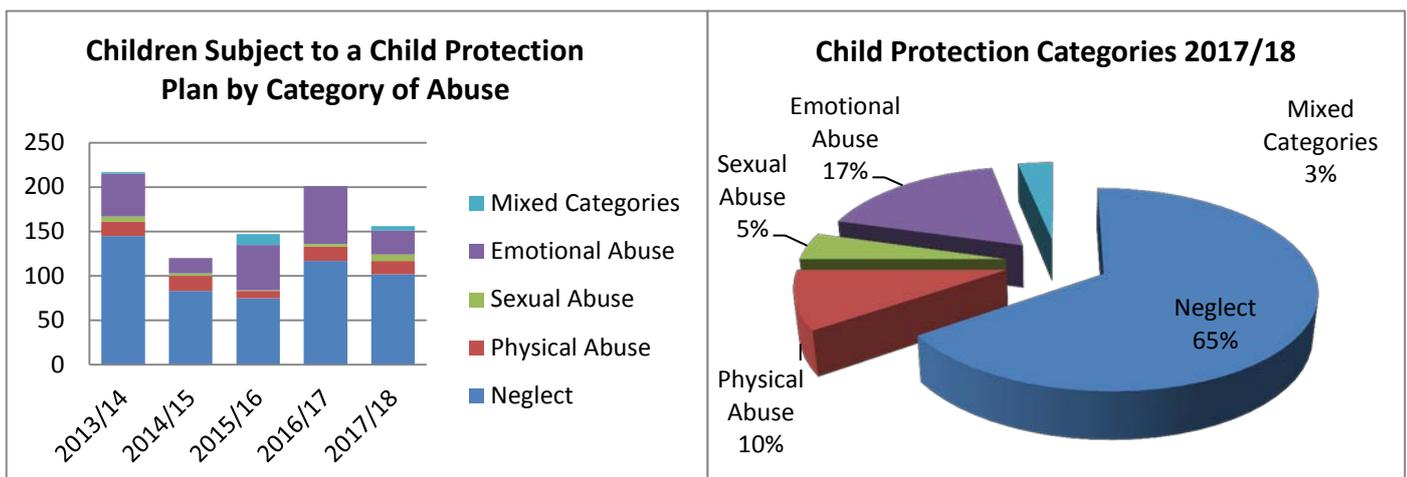


Figure 2 above highlights that whilst Referrals to Children’s services have shown an increase since 2014/15 referral rates per 10,000 have been below local, national and comparator authority rates.

For information the following local authority areas are included within the Redcar and Cleveland comparator grouping: Hartlepool, Halton, St Helens, Tameside, Wigan, Wirral, Barnsley, Doncaster, NE Lincolnshire and Rotherham.

Child Protection Plans

Figure 3 – Child Protection Plans



The charts included in Figure 3 above indicate that by far the biggest category of abuse for children subject to a child protection plan continues to be Neglect and this has been the case for a number of years. In recognition of this continued trend the Board is in the process of revising its Neglect Strategy ensuring particular attention is given to Adolescent Neglect. The Board also held a Neglect Conference in May 2017 aimed at re-enforcing the shared commitment of all partner agencies to re-

focus efforts to better identify children and young people experiencing neglect and to more effectively join up the support that can be offered to families.

Figure 4 – Child Protection Plans Lasting 2 Years or More

2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Figure 4 above clearly illustrates that in the last 5 years no children in Redcar & Cleveland have been the subject of a Child Protection Plan lasting 2 years or more.

Figure 5 – Subsequent Child Protection Plans

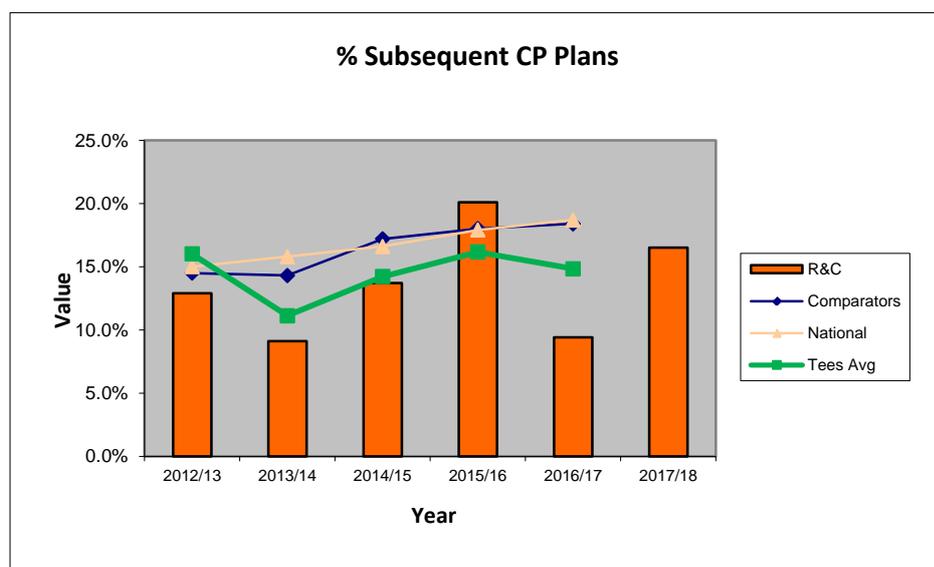
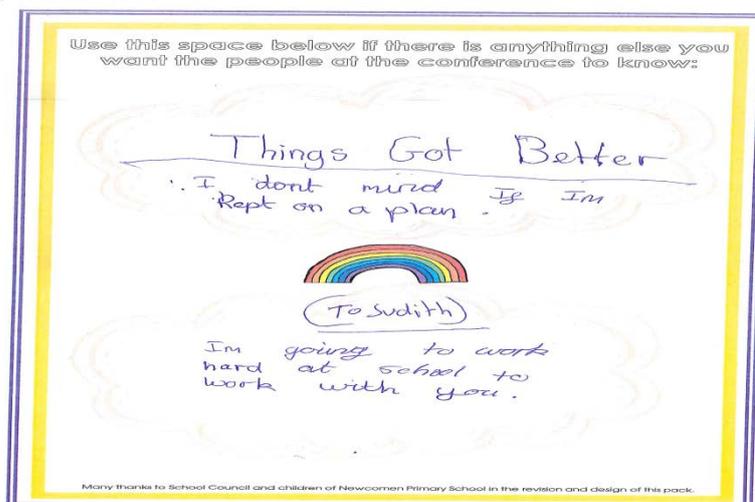


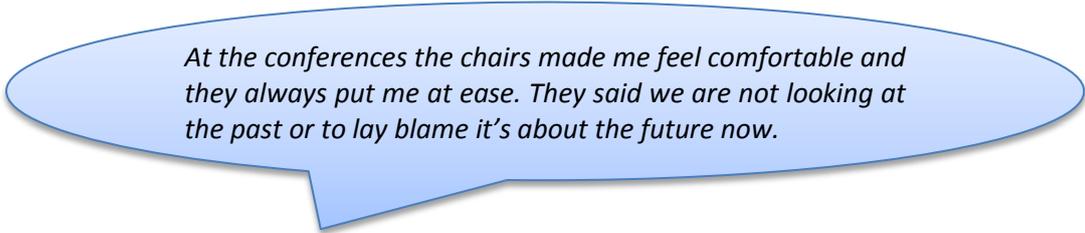
Figure 5 above demonstrates that following a significant decrease in 2016/17 the percentage of children subject to a second or subsequent plan (within two years) has increased from 9.5% to 16.5%. Redcar & Cleveland trends have previously mirrored those locally and nationally, however comparative data for 2017/18 is not yet available.

Social workers continue to use “my conference pack” with children and young people to gather their views before each conference. The ‘My Conference Pack’ was redesigned in 2017/18 by a working group including children from one of the local primary schools. This pack provides a child centred opportunity for direct work with children and allows social workers to engage with the children in preparation for conference. The information contained within the pack is summarised by the Chair and shared with parents and



professionals at the meeting. This allows parents and partner agencies to understand the views of the child and brings their voice to conference.

We also continue to value the participation by families using the child protection process in shaping and improving practice in order to provide the best and most helpful service. It remains challenging to obtain feedback from families following child protection meetings and over time we have used different methods including questionnaires sent out to parents' and feedback received through the complaints and compliments procedure. 83% of people who returned child protection questionnaires said they understood what they need to do and by when. The following comment was received, one from a family:



At the conferences the chairs made me feel comfortable and they always put me at ease. They said we are not looking at the past or to lay blame it's about the future now.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

The identification of and multi-agency response to CSE continues to be progressed through the Tees Wide VEMT (Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing & Trafficked) process.

Individual children are discussed in detail at the Redcar & Cleveland multi-agency VEMT Practitioners Group (VPG) which meets on a monthly basis. In 2017/18 the average number of individual children discussed on a quarterly basis was 66. The majority of these children were considered to be vulnerable to the risk of CSE and classified as medium risk. The remaining children were discussed due to risks associated with missing episodes or experiencing some form of actual exploitation.

A consistent theme amongst children and young people discussed at VPG is that the majority are white female. The main age range of children discussed at VPG was 11 – 17 years old with 14 – 17 year olds being the most prevalent age group.

A case file audit in respect of VEMT processes was undertaken by RCSCB in 2017/18 providing assurance that each child currently identified at risk of sexual exploitation from information available through the VEMT strategy has an assessment of their needs and that actions are taken accordingly. Further information is included at Chapter 4.

In 2017/18 the VEMT process was further developed by the inclusion of a 'How safe do I feel' questionnaire which is completed with all children before they become 'closed' to VEMT ensuring that their views are captured and considered before removal from the VEMT process.

As in previous years Alter Ego's production of Chelsea's Choice was re-commissioned. This theatre in education production aims to raise awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and healthy/unhealthy relationships. This has been delivered to all Year 8 students in Redcar & Cleveland for the last 4 years.

OUTCOME 2 - CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE HAVE A GOOD EXPERIENCE

The number of Looked After Children (LAC) at the end of 2017/18 was 284 an increase from 235 at the end of 2016/17. Early indications are that this increase was in part due to a decrease in the number of children and young people leaving care, as opposed to a significant increase in the number coming into care. Comparative national data indicates that other local authorities across the country, including the Tees Valley, have also seen a corresponding increase in the number of Looked After Children.

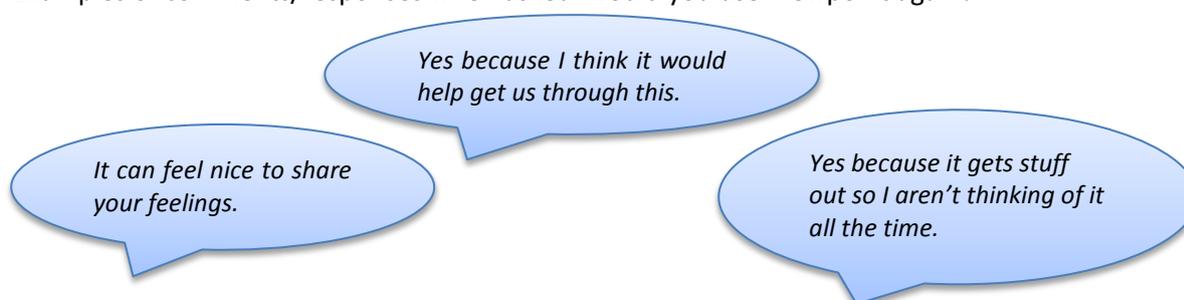
As highlighted in the 2016/17 annual report there are a variety of examples of partnership working which are evident throughout daily practice and strategic planning:

- Redcar and Cleveland Multi-Agency Looked After Partnership (MALAP)
- Looked After Children Team – based within Children’s Services
- TARGET Leaving Care Team – allocation of personal advisor
- Staying Put – allowing for a care leaver aged 18+ to stay on in their foster placement

Viewpoint for Looked After Children

The views and experiences of looked after children and young people are undertaken using Viewpoint questionnaires which are usually carried out 1:1 with a worker either at home or school with children aged between 4 and 17 years. The App based programme asks children and young people a series of age appropriate questions which cover views about; their relationship with Foster Carers and Social Worker, school, friendships, family contact, explores their understanding of why they are in Care and that they have a care plan as well as the things they like/dislike. The information is shared directly with the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) who will use the viewpoint answers to inform the LAC Review.

Examples of comments/responses when asked ‘would you use Viewpoint again?’:



Case Study – Children aged 6, 8 and 11

The children told their IRO via Viewpoint that they did not want to live in their current placement and gave reasons for this. The information was passed to the Social Worker and IRO. The Social Worker made a series of visits to the children to discuss their concerns. Regular meetings were in place to evaluate the placement, support the children and their Foster Carers and try to move forward positively together. The children were subsequently placed with a different foster carer when the children shared their concern that things were still difficult despite efforts to overcome the barriers.

LAC Health Assessments

When a child or young person is looked after there is a statutory requirement for them to have an Initial Health Assessment, (IHA) carried out by a registered medical practitioner within 20 working days of becoming looked after. Thereafter children under the age of 5 should have a Review Health Assessment (RHA) every six months and those over the age of 5 a review health assessment every year.

The local authority is required to inform South Tees CCG within 5 working days of the child becoming looked after so that the IHA can be arranged and completed within these timescales. In addition they must provide written consent for the child’s health assessment from the child’s parent. The CCG commission South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust to undertake Initial Health Assessments which are arranged by paediatric services within STHFT in conjunction with the Trust LAC nursing service. Thereafter the RHA is requested by the LAC nursing service and is carried out by the child’s Health Visitor or School Nurse as appropriate.

The LAC team provides advice and support to practitioners and works directly with the most complex young people and has a specific role to support staff in local authority care homes. They are also responsible for the quality assurance of RHAs which are carried out by the Health Visiting and School Nursing service.

Initial Health Assessments 2017/18

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Number of Children who became looked after	32	22	20	46
Notification within 5 working days	24	17	10	20
Medical consent within 5 working days	21	15	10	14
Offered 1st appointment within 20 working days of becoming looked after	19	20	13	21
Child had IHA undertaken at 1st appointment	31	19	15	34
Cancelled by Social Worker /child not brought	1	3	5	12

The above chart demonstrates that of the 120 children who became LAC in 2017/18, 71 (59%) were notified to STHFT within then the required 5 working days. In 50% of cases medical consent was provided within 5 working days and 60% were offered a first appointment within 20 working days of becoming looked after. 82% of these children had their IHA undertaken at their first appointment.

Social workers within Redcar & Cleveland do make every effort to meet the agreed timescales in respect of IHA's, however there are occasions when it is difficult to gain parental consent and this can cause delays in an Initial Health Assessment being undertaken. The adherence to the timescales in respect of IHA's continues to be monitored.

Review Health Assessments 2017/18

Under 5's	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
No. Total children	18	15	16	17
% received within timescales	89%	73%	94%	94%
Number of RHAs returned by STHFT LAC Service due to quality issues	0	0	1	1

Over 5's	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
No. Total children	50	40	38	50
% received within timescales	96%	95%	87%	90%
Number of RHAs returned by STHFT LAC Service due to quality issues	0	0	1	1

It is pleasing to note that in Quarter 4 attendance for a RHA within timescales for children aged under 5 was at 94% and for those over 5 was at 90% demonstrating that in the majority of cases timeframes are being met. Those out of timescale receive timely reminders.

Additionally it is pleasing to note that all of those LAC children receiving a RHA 100% are registered with a GP, a Dentist and an Optician.

Work is ongoing to develop a robust data set in respect of the health needs of looked after children.

OUTCOME 3 - PARENTING STANDARDS ARE IMPROVED

As highlighted in Outcome 1 in the last 5 years there have been no children subject to a Child Protection Plan for more than 2 years (figure 4). This data provides some assurance that positive progress has been made within families to reduce the risk and improve potential outcomes for Children and Young People.

Parenting programmes have been held throughout 2017/18 aimed at supporting families and improving parenting standards.

Parenting Programme	Participants 2017/18
Family Links, Parenting Puzzle Programmes	85 parents
Freedom	114 women
Points on Parenting	41 parents
Parenting Work in the Home	81 families
Total	321

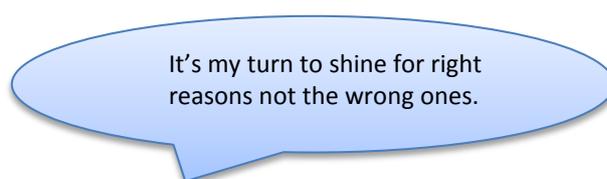
Points on Parenting Programme

In 2017/18 a new bespoke parenting programme, *Points on Parenting (PoP)* commenced. The programme was developed following information from Children's Social Workers that the evidence based Parenting Puzzle programmes did not cover aspects of parenting required by the families receiving support within the social care arena. Parenting Puzzle did not provide Social Workers with sufficient evidence about the parent's knowledge; their understanding and ability to implement change or about the child's experiences within the home environment.

PoP was developed in-house; utilising the experience and knowledge of the specialist support services, parenting team. Its content is based on the effective methods developed by the team when delivering parenting work in the home. This has ensured the content and structure of the programme meets the needs of our most disadvantaged families.

As highlighted above 41 parents have attended the programme in 2017/18.

The following comment was received from a parent following completion of the programme:



PoP continues to evolve. The next programme is scheduled to start on 10th September 2018.

Parenting Work in the Home

The specialist support services parenting team deliver parenting work in the home working with the parents of children who are open to Children's Social Care. Parenting work is delivered in the home in cases where Points on Parenting (PoP) is not considered an appropriate intervention or in cases where the Court has directed parenting work must be delivered on a 1:1 basis in the family home. On completion of the parenting work a review and closure meeting is held with the children's social worker in respect of the parenting work.

Between 1st April 2017 and 31st March 2018 the team have received 81 referrals for 1:1 parenting work.

OUTCOME 4 - EARLY HELP REDUCES THE NEED FOR STATUTORY INTERVENTION

Whilst we can quantify the numbers of children/families subject to an Early Help Assessment, and how many 'Front Door' contacts result in an Early Help referral, we need to further develop our indicators to fully assess or analyse this particular outcome. As a yearly snapshot, the table below demonstrates the breakdown of the results in all the 8345 contacts received by Children's Social Care in 2017/18. 31.8 % resulted in a referral for Early Help support which may result in a one off intervention, or a whole family early help assessment (EHA).

Contact Outcome 2017/18

Outcome	Total	%
Progress to Referral	1351	16.2%
Link to Existing Referral	1	0.01%
Provision of info/advice	3631	43.5%
Refer to other agency	1	0.01%
NFA	708	8.5%
CP Transfer from OLA	3	0.04%
Early Help	2650	31.8%
Total	8345	100.0%

Work is ongoing to develop this data with regard to trends over the coming years and establish the impact of Early Help and whether it does reduce the need for statutory intervention.

The Referral and Early Help Assessment forms are under review to ensure they are capturing the relevant data. The need to make improvements to these forms was identified in a series of meetings and consultations with staff at various levels. As a result, a Task and Finish group has been set up with relevant representatives including the System Development Team.

Early Help Key Worker Team

The number of whole-family Early Help cases open to the Local Authority Key Workers at the end of March 2018 was 154 which included 357 individual children and young people. This equates to an average caseload of approximately 17 children and young people per Key Worker; however this does fluctuate across the year, as the table on page 18 shows. The request for services often involves a minimum of weekly contact.

The table below demonstrates that there was an average of around 470 individuals supported on a Council-led Early Help plan with a Key Worker, at any one time across the year 2017/18.

Open and Active Cases (EH Key workers)				
	Families		Children & Young People	
	Total No	Per FTE	Total No	Per FTE
April 17	237	10	585	24
May 17	240	10	579	24
June 17	224	10	534	24
July 17	246	11	579	26
August 17	237	11	546	25
Sept 17	227	11	517	25
Oct 17	219	10	495	24
Nov 17	209	10	466	21
Dec 17	166	8	366	17
Jan 18	140	10	308	22
Feb 18	147	7	326	16
March 18	154	7	357	17

This has decreased significantly compared to last year when there was on average of 600 at any one time. The Ofsted report in respect of the Local Safeguarding Children Board emphasised the need to galvanise partners in the early help offer and provided a specific recommendation, of:

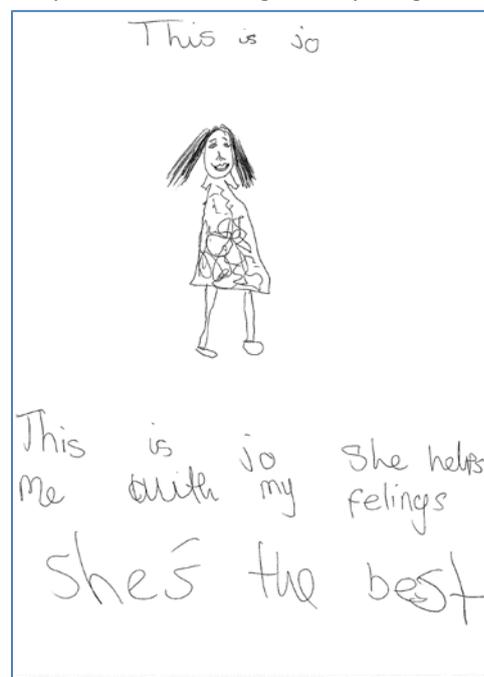
“ensure that the Board has effectively contributed to maximising operational partnership contributions to Early Help, in particular the undertaking of the role of lead professional.”

In response to this a renewed vision for Early Help locally has been agreed with partners and is described in the multi-agency Early Help Strategy due to be published in August 2018.

Health colleagues including Health Visitors and Early Years Senior Practitioners are starting to take on the role of lead practitioner where there is a child under 5 and a family with a range of needs requiring a whole family assessment; and there have been initial conversations with partners about committing to a multi-agency decision making processes at the front door for Early Help referrals. An Early Help Hub Manager has been appointed to lead this development. Cleveland Police continue to support the Early Help Troubled Families agenda with a nominated Police Officer providing an invaluable conduit for information sharing.

There have been a number of other key developments within the Early Help Key-working team this year including:

- The working agreement with the Youth Offending Service (YOS) was reviewed by the Keyworker Manager and YOS manager. Systems are in place to share information on cases currently open to both teams to ensure a coordinated response to working with young people and families
- Team Around the Family (TAF) packs have been jointly created for both younger children and older young people and have been circulated across the Early Help Team. They are being actively used by the staff within the Keyworker team in particular, to capture the voice of the child and help inform their Early Help Assessment (EHA)
- The Keyworker manager has revised the case file audit tool in order that it can be useful for the wider Early Help Service. This way all areas in Early Help can be audited.
- The Early Help quality assurance framework has been reviewed.
- The team have embedded the use of chronologies in their practice so that all cases open to Key-working have an updated chronology which staff maintain during their work with the family. This will be very useful if a case has to step-up to social care, as it provides the most significant events for the child or young person as a timeline for the next worker to gain a summarised insight into the family.



Young person's picture and description of their Key Worker

OUTCOME 5 - A COMPETENT, EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT WORKFORCE

We can demonstrate that as a Board we have delivered multi-agency safeguarding training to a wide variety of staff (as highlighted in Chapter 5). The offer of taught courses continues to be positively received and in 2017/18 over 900 places were allocated to staff working within the Redcar and Cleveland area.

Of particular significance in terms of course allocations in 2017/18 was:

- 244 places were allocated to staff from within Redcar & Cleveland education settings, 72 of these staff attended the Core Level 3 training.
- Voluntary sector, community, charitable and faith groups accessed 185 places with Core Level 3 and Suicide and Self-Harm training being the most popular.
- Redcar & Cleveland Children's Services accessed 271 places covering a variety of safeguarding themes including Core Level 3, CSE, Risk Assessment & Analysis, Disguised Compliance and Suicide and Self-Harm training. This was an increase of more than 50%, with 179 places having been allocated in 2016/17.
- Public Health, which in Redcar and Cleveland includes Health Visiting and School Nursing, accessed 43 places with the most popular course being Neglect.

Redcar and Cleveland Children's Services

As the lead agency within child protection, Children's Services is proactive in developing a workforce fit for the 21st century, with this in mind the Local Authority has researched, designed, delivered and evaluated different programmes to develop the workforce. The following programmes are a selection to demonstrate how they are developing a competent, effective and efficient workforce:

- **Step Up To Social Work**

This is an intensive, fourteen months full-time, employer-led training programme for trainee social workers, with all course fees paid, and the benefit of a £19,833 bursary to support delegates for the duration of the course. Redcar and Cleveland is currently planning the next cohort to start in January 2020, this programme will support with developing newly qualified social workers into the workforce and support with building a competent, effective and efficient workforce.

- **Signs of Safety**

Signs of Safety is currently being implemented across social work and early help services. Signs of Safety is an innovative, solution focused and strengths based approach. It will provide a framework that enables more collaborative work with families and provides the tools to help children and young people better explaining how they feel and what they want to happen. Simply Signs of Safety is the co-creation of hand drawn pictures and short text passages to provide coherent strength based narrative which helps understanding of difficult to talk about past events e.g. how come the things are the way they are? For the children and the wider family.

- **Continuing Professional Development (CPD)**

To ensure that the workforce is fit for purpose and is competent, effective and efficient a wide range of CPD opportunities are offered, these range from academic qualifications such as the Practice Educators Award, to bespoke training in areas such as wellbeing, health and safety training and social care training.

- **Evaluation**

To ensure that the most appropriate training is delivered to meet the needs of the service and staff to ensure that they are a competent, effective and efficient workforce, all training is evaluated.

Support to Education Establishments

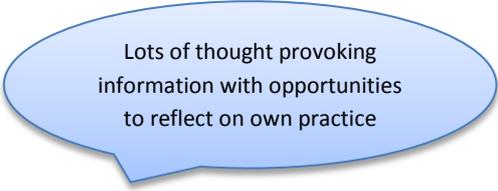
The role of the Child Protection Safeguarding Officer for Education has continued to develop in 2017/18 providing support, advice and guidance to Schools within Redcar and Cleveland. The Officer also delivers single agency safeguarding training within Redcar and Cleveland to child minders, private nurseries, further education providers, school governors and the youth service.

The Child Protection Safeguarding Officer for Education organised the 2nd 'Safeguarding Children in Education Conference' in November 2017 which, as in 2016, proved very successful with 123 representatives from 92% of schools within Redcar & Cleveland attending. The aim of the event was to support schools in their safeguarding responsibilities and promote the welfare of children within Redcar and Cleveland. The RCSCB Chair attended and once again facilitated the event. Presentations included:

- Domestic abuse
- Digital Safety
- Children Missing Education & Attendance and Welfare
- Private Fostering
- Radicalisation

- RCSCB Update

The event was very well evaluated by attendees who clearly value the opportunity to attend and network with colleagues.



Lots of thought provoking information with opportunities to reflect on own practice



Wide variety of information – some new, some updated and some refreshed, all appreciated.

Chapter 4 – Performance and Audit

The overall objective of RCSCB is to ensure that all children in Redcar & Cleveland are appropriately safeguarded. In order to achieve this, RCSCB is committed to understanding the quality and effectiveness of safeguarding services, providing scrutiny, challenge and support to partner agencies where appropriate.

This is underpinned by the Learning & Improvement Framework which was reviewed and revised in 2017/18.

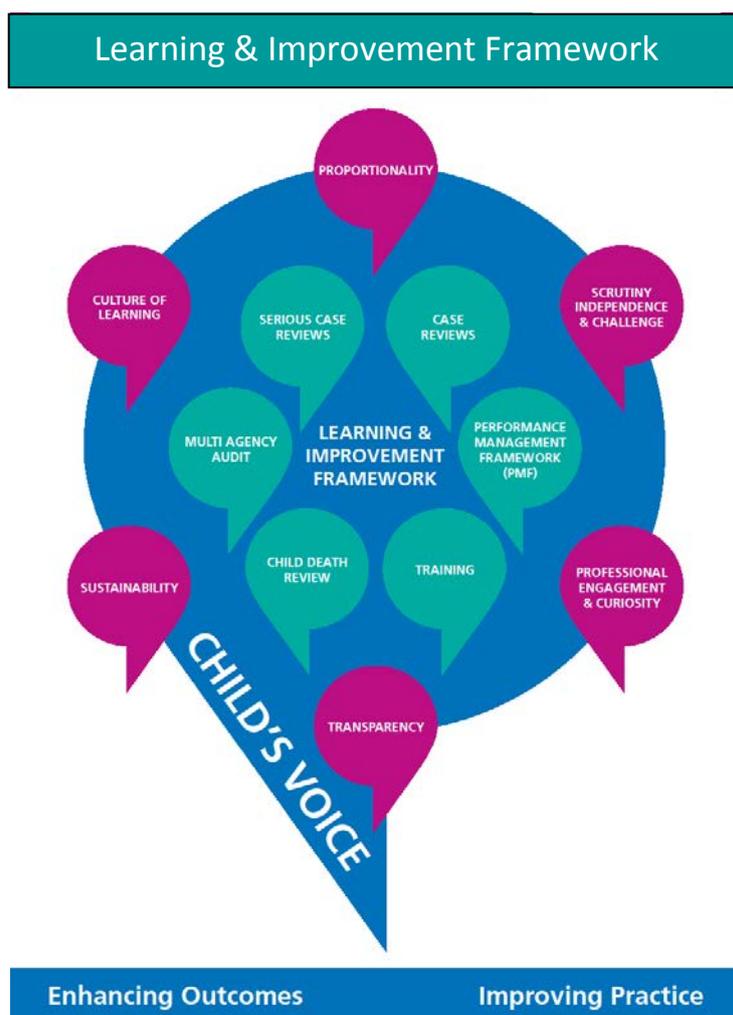
Learning and Improvement Framework

The Framework sets out a structure within which the Boards priorities are delivered. It is underpinned by two main aims:

1. To make the voice of the child and family central to everything that we do,
2. To achieve the two outputs of;
 - Enhancing outcomes for children and their families, and
 - Improving practice.

These aims will be achieved by:

- Consolidating what works well, and
- Improving what needs to improve.



Consideration of performance data, findings from single and multi-agency audits, Section 11 audits and lessons learnt from National and Local Serious Case Reviews contribute to this ongoing cycle of learning and improvement.

Performance Management

2017/18 saw the continued development and implementation of the Tees Performance Management Framework (TPMF) which saw the four Tees local Safeguarding Children Boards working together on the delivery of the Framework (TPMF) aimed at ensuring:

- improved monitoring and accountability of partners to the Boards;
- improved decision making and prioritisation;
- better outcomes for children and young people as a consequence of improved understanding of need and prevalence;
- efficiency savings in some partners only having to provide information once instead of four times and consistency as to the type of information collected.

The primary purpose of providing performance information to the Boards is to stimulate debate, engaging Board members in discussion with a view to making improvements in practice, delivery and outcomes.

Use of the TPMF in 2017/18 has initiated further work regarding:

- *Domestic Abuse*
The presence of the elements of the Toxic Trio (domestic abuse, mental health, alcohol/substance misuse) in assessments was highlighted.
As a result a multi-agency audit was undertaken the findings from which are included below.
- *Early Help*
The low numbers of children becoming subject to CiN, CP and LAC with evidence of an Early Help Assessment was raised.
As a result an audit of cases will be undertaken in 2018/19.

The development of detailed Deep Dive reports in respect of specific areas such as Early Help, Domestic Abuse, Mental Health and Substance Misuse has not developed as intended and work is ongoing to consider how best to progress this.

Audit

The Monitoring and Evaluation Sub Group meet regularly and are tasked with considering both performance data and the quality of and adherence to safeguarding policy and procedures. The group undertakes a series of multi-agency audits based on Board priorities, emerging themes and areas highlighted in both local and national Serious Case Reviews (SCR's). During 2017/18 the following audits were undertaken:

VEMT Processes

Following on from the live audit reported on in 2016/17 Annual Report a case file audit in respect of VEMT processes was undertaken in 2017/18 aimed at seeking assurance that each child currently identified at risk of sexual exploitation has an assessment of their needs and that actions are taken accordingly.

The audit demonstrated that the following was evident:

- Identification of risk from a non-familial source,
- Factors that increase resilience were identified and built upon,

- There was a multi-agency approach,
- Partnerships with key people in the life of the young person were developed and built upon,
- Purposeful professional only meetings had taken place aimed at supporting multi-agency reflection, support and challenges in cases where risk was not reducing,
- Up to date risk assessments were in place,
- The young person's voice was captured and considered,
- The young person was seen alone,
- The 'how safe do I feel' survey had been undertaken in all closed cases audited.

The auditors made a number of recommendations which have resulted in the following improvements:

- Practitioners ensure cross referencing of VPG actions within any other assessments/plans and record relevant progress.
- A 'Voice of the Child' section has been added to the child's profile so this important information can be easily identified.
- Agency updates state specifically whether the child was seen alone or with others to ensure this is evident in the child's profile.

Domestic Abuse

This audit was undertaken in respect of cases where domestic abuse was recorded.

This audit provided assurance that in 100% of the cases audited there was evidence of awareness of the toxic trio elements (domestic abuse, mental health, alcohol/substance misuse) when agencies are managing domestic abuse cases and in 60% of the cases these elements were clearly recorded. In 100% of the cases the child, victim and perpetrator are offered support, where appropriate however there was a variable level of engagement. In 80% of the cases there was evidence that the outcome for the child was positive as a result of agency intervention, reducing risks to the child. 80% of the cases audited provided assurance that the voice of the child, where appropriate, is gathered and recorded.

The auditors made a number of recommendations which once fully complete will result in the following improvements:

- Information will be shared appropriately by all agencies to support the wellbeing and safety of the child/young person.
- GPs to be actively involved in multi-agency audits.
- A review of support available for victims or perpetrators to access domestic abuse intervention programmes to encourage better engagement.

Continued monitoring of these recommendations will take place in 2018/19.

Section 11 Audit

Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places a statutory duty on key agencies to make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The Section 11 Audit is an opportunity to consider the safeguarding arrangements within these agencies and provides the Board with assurance that agencies have appropriate arrangements in place, highlighting both areas for improvement and good practice.

A Teeswide Section 11 Audit was undertaken in 2017/18 which involved all relevant agencies undertaking a self-assessment based on the Section 11 standards. Agencies completed an audit tool

which requested ratings against the standards along with evidence of compliance or actions planned to achieve compliance.

The audit found that across the Tees area as a whole there were no major areas of concern identified in respect of the Section 11 returns.

In respect of returns from the Redcar & Cleveland area it was noted that the return from Redcar and Cleveland Council was very concise and detailed providing excellent evidence against the standards.

Action Plan updates were received from those agencies who had identified areas that had not fully met the standards at the time of the self-assessment:

- Redcar & Cleveland Council
- Cleveland Police
- South Tees YOT
- TEWV

The information contained within these updates provided assurance that appropriate action had been taken to ensure the standards were now being met.

Schools and Academies Safeguarding Audit

Alongside the Section 11 Audit the first Annual Redcar & Cleveland Schools and Academies Safeguarding Audit was undertaken in 2017/18. The audit tool was developed to incorporate section 175 and 157 of the Education Act 2002 and 'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016'. The aim of the audit was to ensure that schools are fulfilling their statutory obligations about safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

All schools and academies in Redcar and Cleveland were invited to undertake the audit with 39 out of 63 (61%) returning a completed audit tool.

Work is presently ongoing to consider the findings from this audit and further details will be included in the 2018/19 Annual Report.

Learning from Local and National Serious Cases/Learning Reviews

Learning from cases, locally, regionally and nationally and the impact on practice is at the heart of RCSCB and is led by the Learning and Improving Practice Sub Group (LIPSG).

There are presently no SCR's ongoing in Redcar and Cleveland; however a Learning Review was undertaken in 2017/18 in respect of Child Not Brought to medical appointments. The Learning Review was instigated following an audit undertaken by Redcar & Cleveland Council which raised concerns in respect of an individual case which had not progressed into Children's Social Care (CSC) as the auditors would have expected.

The Learning Review was undertaken in the form of a Learning Event with relevant practitioners attending to consider issues pertinent to the case and undertaking an analysis of decision making.

Key issues were identified by participants, in respect of both this case and the referral process in general, which have contributed to the following improvements:

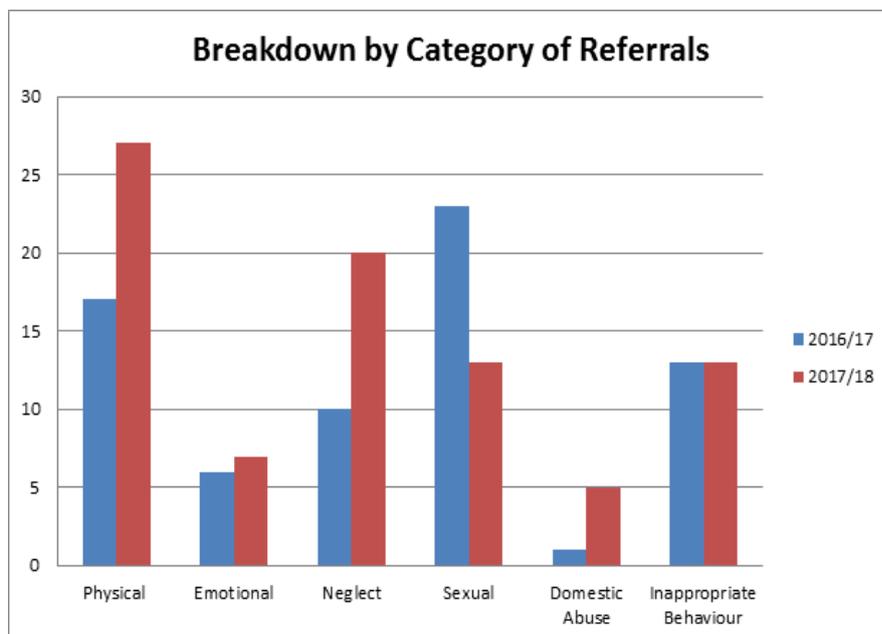
- Revision of the Safer Referral Form and advice for practitioners on its completion, including ensuring the consequences and risks associated with non-action are recorded. Reference to consideration of agreed Thresholds to be made in all cases.
- Communication both within partner organisations and with First Contact is promoted and encouraged as a means to supporting.

Continued monitoring of these recommendations will take place in 2018/19.

Allegations Against Professionals

In 2017/18, the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) received 86 referrals relating to possible allegations or concerns. 77 of these have been completed and nine cases remain open. This is an increase from 2016/17 when the LADO recorded 70 referrals.

Of these 86 referrals 40 (46.5%) met the LADO threshold to progress a referral. The remaining 46 enquires (53.5%) did not meet the threshold; however advice and guidance was offered. This is an increase of 14 referrals meeting the threshold (16.3%) from the 2016/17 reporting period



The main category of abuse for LADO referrals has continued to be physical. As illustrated in the chart above the referrals in respect of neglect has increased in 2017/18 and referrals in respect of sexual concerns have decreased. Whilst the increase in referrals under the category of might be reflective of the work undertaken in recent years in to raise awareness of Neglect there is no apparent explanation for the decrease in referrals for sexual concerns, therefore this will be monitored by the LADO.

As in 2016/17 the greatest number of referrals received by the LADO came from Redcar and Cleveland Children and Families Directorate, who were responsible for 40% of the referrals. Education establishments were responsible for 24 of the referrals recorded, an increase on previous years, with both teaching and non-teaching staff included in the allegations. Other referral sources included Ofsted, children's homes, other Local Authorities and other council service areas.

As in previous years education staff and volunteers have been subject to the highest number of allegations, which can be explained by the frequent and prolonged direct contact this profession have with children and young people.

Reviewing Child Deaths

The Tees Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) reviews the deaths of children from the Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Stockton-On-Tees and Redcar & Cleveland LSCB areas and is a sub group of all four LSCBs.

The role of the CDOP is to ensure that wherever child deaths occur, and under whatever circumstances, scrutiny of the cases result in recognised improvements that can be made to practice to improve the quality of care, as well as the safety of children.

Tees CDOP is Chaired by the Director of Public Health, Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland, and the business management functions are undertaken by the RCSCB business support team.

Total Child Deaths 2017/18

The table below shows comparative numbers of **total child deaths** in the Redcar & Cleveland area for the current and previous 3 years.

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
7(3)	8(4)	9(4)	7 (3)

**Numbers in brackets denote unexpected deaths*

Rapid Response

A Rapid Response meeting is held following an unexpected child death.

An unexpected death is defined as *'the death of an infant or child which was not anticipated as a significant possibility for example, 24 hours before the death; or where there was an unexpected collapse or incident leading to or precipitating the events which lead to the death'*.

The purpose of the Rapid Response Meeting is to:

- To help identify the provisional cause of death and identify any risk factors pertaining to that death.
- To explicitly consider whether there are any safeguarding issues for surviving siblings, potential future siblings and other associated children.
- Identify any urgent action to be taken by any agency.
- To signpost appropriate help and support for family/friends and staff where necessary.
- To help gather information for (CDOP) in a standard format.

A total of 16 rapid response meetings were undertaken in 2017/18, three of which were from the Redcar & Cleveland area.

Cases Reviewed By Tees CDOP 1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018

During 2017-18 the Tees CDOP reviewed 45 child deaths in total, seven of which were from the Redcar and Cleveland area. **Note the number of child deaths reviewed in 2017/18 is different to the number of actual child deaths. This is because CDOP reviews do not always take place in the same year as the child died.**

Neonatal	Older Children	Total
3	4	7

The table below shows the respective ages of the children when they died.

Neonatal < 4 Weeks	4- 52 Weeks	1 – 4 Years	5 – 9 Years	10 – 14 Years	15 up to 18 Years	Total
3	1	1	0	0	2	7

Areas of Note

- Once again all Tees LSCBs supported The Lullaby Trust's Safer Sleep Campaign which took place 12 – 16 March 2018.
- The Tees protocol for Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy Protocol was finalised in 2017/18.

- The Named GP for Safeguarding joined the Tees CDOP in 2017/18 ensuring that appropriate lessons are shared with GPs across the Tees.

The full CDOP Annual Report can be found at: <http://www.tees-cdrp.org.uk/>

Ofsted Inspections of Educational Establishments in Redcar & Cleveland

RCSCB has a responsibility to ensure that all children in schools and academies are safe and will challenge schools and academies on the effectiveness of their policies and procedures.

As highlighted in Chapter 1, 94% of Primary and 58% of Secondary Schools are rated as Good/Outstanding.

During 2017/18 Ofsted has made positive comments about safeguarding at a number of schools and academies:

Pupils say that they feel safe. The vast majority of pupils who responded to Ofsted's questionnaire said that they know whom to speak to if they have any concerns.

You and your deputy manage a demanding caseload of child protection work very professionally. You work effectively in partnership with other agencies and, when necessary, provide robust challenge to external partners to ensure that the necessary actions are taken to protect children at risk.

Pupils are safe because you ensure that all adults who work in the school are carefully vetted, receive regular training and understand the procedures to follow if they have a concern. Governors ensure that thorough checks are made on the security of the site and that risk assessments are completed for the wide range of activities in and beyond the school. All parents who responded to Ofsted's questionnaire are confident that the school is a safe and secure place.

Chapter 5 – Learning and Development

As highlighted the work of the Board is underpinned by the Learning and Improvement Framework. The framework supports learning, aimed at improving practice and outcomes for children and families.

2017/18 saw the continuation of the delivery of learning and development delivered on a multi-agency basis and co-ordinated by RCSCB on behalf of both Redcar & Cleveland and Middlesbrough Safeguarding Children Boards.

One of the priorities identified for 2017/18 was to undertake a Training Needs Analysis. This was carried out and the overwhelming response was that the multi-agency training provided was of a high standard, relevant, appropriate and comprehensive. The priorities identified by agencies reflected the existing training programme and were taken into account when developing the 2018/19 training programme

The annual programme of multi-agency training makes use of both commissioned and in house trainers. A comprehensive, wide range of training which incorporated the needs of the local area was arranged and delivered. The programme included taught courses, briefing sessions and e-learning and is developed taking the following into account:

- National Guidance – “Working Together to Safeguard Children” (2015)
- Local requirements as determined by both LSCBs and through discussion at the Training Sub Group.
- Local demand (including consideration of the 2016–2017 LSCB multi-agency Training Programme uptake) as identified by the Training Sub Group
- The outcomes from the Single Agency Training Audits and Training Needs Analysis.
- Current research
- Lessons from both local and national Serious Case and Learning Reviews
- National and local policy developments.

The delivery of taught courses to a multi-agency audience is fundamental to the principles of the training programme aimed at promoting the achievement of improved outcomes for children and young people by bringing people together to promote:

- A shared understanding of the tasks, processes, principles, roles and responsibilities outlined in national guidance.
- More effective and integrated services at both strategic and individual case level.
- Improved communication between professionals including a common understanding of key terms, definitions and thresholds for action.
- Effective working relationships, including an ability to work in multi-disciplinary groups or teams.
- Sound child focussed assessments and decision making.
- Learning from Serious Case Reviews, reviews of child deaths, multi-agency audits and any other learning reviews.

Demand continued in 2017/18 for taught courses with 22 unique courses being delivered; multiple delivery of a number of courses resulted in 62 taught sessions being delivered covering the following subject areas:

- Core Level 3 & Core Level 3 Update
- Safeguarding Adolescents
- Attachment Theory

- Communicating with Children, including hearing and considering the voice and views of the child
- Safeguarding in a Digital Age
- Disguised Compliance – including toxic trio and professional challenge
- Domestic Abuse – general awareness
- Safeguarding Children & Young People Within a Culturally Diverse Environment
- Emotional Abuse
- Fabricated and Induced Illness
- Female Genital Mutilation, Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence
- Neglect
- The Impact of Parental Mental Ill Health on Parenting
- The Impact of Parental Substance Misuse on Parenting
- Recognition and Response to Physical Abuse
- Risk Assessment and Risk Analysis
- Risk Assessment and Risk Analysis Workshop
- Child Sexual Abuse – Victims and Perpetrators
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Suicide and Self Harm
- Safeguarding the Unborn and New born Baby, from conception to six weeks old

In addition to the 62 courses, ‘Bite Size’ awareness sessions were held, covering four subject areas:

- Private Fostering
- Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing & Trafficked (VEMT)
- Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)
- Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs)

The one day Core Level 3 course continued to be very popular with the number of courses included in the annual programme increasing from 12 to 14.

Feedback from taught training courses continues to be positive including:

‘Challenged my opinions that exploitation only happens to young people who have pre-existing vulnerabilities.’
Core Level 3 Update Training

‘Superb training delivered enthusiastically and effectively with engaging discussion and relevant information. Cannot stress how interesting and professional the delivery was. Thank you’
Core Level 3 Training

The success of the delivery of multi-agency learning and development is testament to the commitment and flexibility of staff from agencies across Redcar & Cleveland and Middlesbrough in the delivery of taught courses. This enables training to be delivered by suitably experienced qualified trainers at low cost and allows for funds to be used for the commissioning of specialist training courses.

A comprehensive Quality Assurance programme takes place for taught courses which are reviewed and approved at the Training Sub Groups.

E-learning continues to provide an important contribution to the learning and development programme and is available free of charge to all partners and voluntary agencies across Redcar & Cleveland. 2018/19 will see the further development of our E-learning programme when all four Tees Safeguarding Children Boards and the Tees Safeguarding Adult’s Board will join forces to deliver Teeswide E-learning available to those working with both children and adults. This development will result in a significant increase in the number safeguarding courses available.

Chapter 6 – How are We Doing as a Board

As highlighted in the 2016/17 Annual Report the Board was subject to an Ofsted Inspection under the Single Inspection Framework (SIF) in January 2017. The overall rating for RCSCB was 'Requires Improvement'.

Ofsted made 8 recommendations, all of which the Board has made significant progress against during 2017/18 as detailed below:

1. Along with our colleagues across the Tees we undertook a Section 11 Audit in 2017/18 which was aimed at providing assurance that organisations are discharging their duties to safeguard and promote children's welfare (further information is included at Chapter 4).
2. The Board has received and tested information to satisfy itself on the quality of experiences and services for vulnerable groups of children. This included children with disabilities, children who are privately fostered, young carers, children who are living in the area from other areas and oversight and challenge of the management of allegations against professionals (LADO).
3. The Board has effectively contributed to maximising operational partnership contributions to Early Help, in particular the undertaking of the role of lead professional. As a result of this partners are presently undertaking a review of the Early Help Strategy with a particular focus on a multi-agency approach.
4. We have undertaken an analysis of multi-agency training needs, to ensure that the training programme meets identified needs (as evidenced in Chapter 5). We continue to evaluate the delivery of our training and from April 2018 will be undertaking post impact evaluations for all taught courses to establish the effect of training on frontline practice.
5. We have developed our multi-agency auditing activity to robustly test key areas of frontline practice and measure the quality of children's experiences and outcomes. (as evidenced in Chapter 4)
6. During 2017/18 we have continued to develop performance data to systematically understand children's outcomes and experiences and to identify patterns and trends to form a robust assessment of the quality and effectiveness of services. (as evidenced in Chapter 4)
7. Partners have continued to engage and consult with children and families in the delivery of RCSCB business priorities (as evidenced in Chapters 2 and 3).
8. Work has been undertaken with partners to improve the quality of the annual report, aimed at demonstrating rigorous assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services, identifying weaknesses and necessary actions.

The Ofsted recommendations were embedded into our Business Plan, ensuring they are integrated into the everyday work of the Board with regular monitoring taking place.

Challenge Register

Board members are committed to ensuring a robust and transparent process of professional challenge both at an operational and strategic level. In recognition of this the Board has continued to utilise the Challenge Register which details all challenges made at Board, Executive and Sub Group meetings ensuring clear accountability and monitoring takes place until the issue is resolved. This includes not only challenging agencies represented on the Board, but also ensuring that where necessary the Board challenges agencies whose work influences or impacts the effective safeguarding of children in Redcar & Cleveland.

In 2017/18 the following challenges were recorded and acted upon:

- Police Attendance at Strategy Meetings – Police attendance at Strategy meetings has varied over recent years with some periods of significant improvement; however in 2017/18 attendance reduced which resulted in it once again being placed on the Challenge Register. Improvement has been evident and once this is sustained this challenge will be signed off and removed from the Challenge Register.
- Operation Encompass – Resourcing of Operation Encompass in terms of the dedicated South Tees officer has impacted upon the notification processes from Cleveland Police to partners. Assurance is required from Cleveland Police that the Domestic Abuse notification process will continue to be robust and effective whilst this post is vacant. The recruitment to this post is being progressed as a priority.

Safeguarding in Education

As highlighted in the 2016/17 report, in recognition of the importance of educational establishments role in supporting the children and young people in their care the decision was made to establish a new sub group of the Board known as the Safeguarding in Education Network (SiEN). Chaired by the RCSCB Vice Chair the first meeting of this group took place in June 2017.

The purpose of the group is to facilitate communication across the education/training sector on safeguarding issues and to disseminate relevant information in respect of learning from audits and serious case reviews.

The objectives of the Safeguarding in Education Network are to:

- Support and strengthen the safeguarding culture within educational and training establishments across Redcar & Cleveland, providing an opportunity to share both good practice and learning.
- Ensure that RCSCB is aware of key safeguarding issues and challenges faced by educational establishments.
- Ensure that emerging safeguarding issues are communicated effectively to all education establishments.

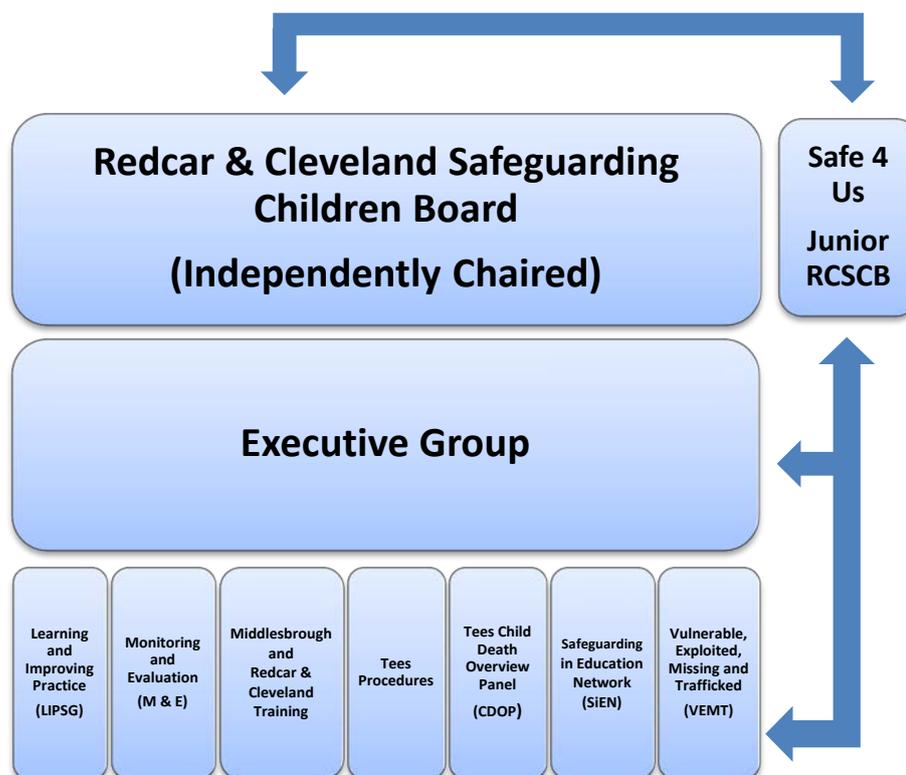
The group met 3 times in 2017/18 with representatives from 75% of education establishments in attendance covering Primary, Secondary, Special, Pupil Referral Units, Further Education and Training Providers within Redcar and Cleveland. Other regular members of the group include representatives from First Contact, Early Help, LADO, School Nursing & Health Visiting, the Safeguarding and Child Protection Safeguarding Officer for Education and Cleveland Police.

Topics discussed have included:

- Early Help Strategy development;
- Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS);
- Core Group Meetings;
- Police Child Protection Processes;
- Safer Referral Process;
- Ofsted Inspections – sharing good practice;
- Health related behaviour survey;
- General overview of roles and responsibilities within Social Care;
- Overview of RCSCB learning and development.

Board Structure

The structure of the Board is detailed below.



Board meetings take place every two months and are well attended demonstrating the commitment of all partners. Sub-groups also meet on a two monthly basis and there is positive representation from member agencies. Further information in respect of the membership and functions of Sub Groups is included at **Appendix 1**.

Board Attendance

The Board met 6 times in 2017/2018, and also held a Business Planning Development session. The table below highlights the attendance rate by agency for the full 6 meetings in 2017/18:

	Attendance Rate
Independent Chair	100%
Redcar & Cleveland Council	100%
Redcar & Cleveland Elected Lead Member	100%
NHS Clinical Commissioning Group	83%
South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	100%
Tees Esk & Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust	83%
Cleveland Police	100%
Primary Education Representative	83%
Secondary Education Representative (post vacant for 2 meetings)	66%
Special School Education Representative (joined Board in Jan 18)	33%
CAFCASS	33%
Lay Members (post vacant for 2 meetings)	50%
National Probation Service	66%
Community Rehabilitation Company	66%
Youth Offending Service	83%
Coast & Country Housing	100%
Voluntary Sector	83%

Cleveland Fire Brigade (CFB) is also a member of the RCSCB, however attends on an 'as required basis'. No specific requests for CFB to attend in 2017/18 were made. A representative from CFB regularly attends Hartlepool LSCB and receives all papers from RCSCB.

Financial Arrangements

Board partners contribute to the financial requirements of RCSCB and the table below shows the income and expenditure for 2017/18.

INCOME 2017/18		
Total From Partner Agencies	£133,650	
Middlesbrough LSCB Training Contribution	£30,000	
CDOP Contribution to Salaries	£22,100	
2016/17 Carry Forward	£42,948	
	£228,698	
EXPENDITURE 2017/18		
Staffing (including on costs)	£104,000	
Independent Chair	£16,037	
Supplies and Services	£4,245	
Tees Procedures	£3,950	
Safe4Us – Junior Safeguarding Children Board	£2,000	
Serious Case/Learning Reviews	£672	
Training Provision (Redcar & Cleveland & Middlesbrough)	£32,000	
Tees Performance Management Framework	£8,000	
Neglect Conference	£2,207	
	£173,111	
SUMMARY		
	Total Income	£228,698
	Total Expenditure	£173,111
	Carry Forward to 2018/19	£ 55,587

In-kind contributions from partner agencies are not calculated however they are acknowledged. This includes human resources and financial services, meeting venues, provision of trainers and supporting the Child Death Overview processes.

Chapter 7 –The Priorities and Challenges for Next Year

As a Board, we are committed to continuous improvement. This chapter sets out our areas for development and challenges for the year ahead. Whilst more information is contained within the Business Plan, our main areas of development for 2018-19 are as follows:

Early Help

The formation of the Children and Young Persons Partnership Board has, amongst other areas of activity, monitored and embedded our approach to Early Help across the area. Whilst this is still work in progress, the Board will be looking for a decrease in the high level of referrals and enquiries to Children's Social Care (CSC). In the shorter term, the Board will want to see a higher proportion of enquires to CSC, which do not reach the threshold for statutory intervention, being referred to Early Help.

Neglect

The number of referrals and enquiries to Children's Social Care and the percentage of Child Protection Plans under the category of 'neglect' has remained a concern to RCSCB.

In May 2017 the Board launched a new Neglect strategy via a well-attended conference and workshop. However, further work is still needed to modify and embed our approach to Neglect across the area. Due to the strong links to Middlesbrough and the likely structure of future safeguarding arrangements, it is intended to merge the two local strategies.

Domestic Abuse

Whilst a significant amount is now known about the numbers of children witnessing domestic abuse and the percentage of children who are present at reported incidents of domestic abuse, the Board is keen to ensure that the plight of, and impact on, children witnessing domestic abuse remains a key priority for strategic leaders in Redcar and Cleveland. The RCSCB has worked with the Community Safety Partnership to identify the questions and challenges for these strategic groups in relation to such children in Redcar and Cleveland and to ensure that children are supported. We are also considering the links between Domestic Abuse, Mental Health and Alcohol/Substance Abuse.

Additional Challenges

Utilisation of Community; Child and Family Experiences

The Board recognises that partners gather information from children, families and the community about their experiences of specific services or in shaping priorities. Whilst there is not a systematic process of gathering and analysing this information the Board has recognised and promoted how this is used to modify and develop service delivery improvements.

Children and Social Care Act (2017)

The enactment of the Children and Social Care Act, which abolishes Local Safeguarding Children Boards, will fundamentally change the way that safeguarding in partnership is delivered. The challenge for the Board is to ensure that the business of monitoring safeguarding practices in Redcar and Cleveland is robustly maintained as the strategic framework develops, whilst at the same time contributing to and shaping the future structure.

Shared Responsibilities and Relationships Between Strategic Boards

During 2017/18 RCSCB strengthened its relationship with other strategic Boards, via regular attendance from Board members at all strategic Boards and feedback of key items at the RCSCB meeting. The development of a shared Teeswide protocol was put on hold due to the changing face of safeguarding arrangements across the area but the regular meetings of all Chairs and Business Managers of LSCB's and Adult Safeguarding Board in the area has supported strategic co-ordination.

Outcomes and Impact

During 2017-18 the process of embedding and utilisation of the Tees Wide Performance Framework has assisted us in understanding and monitoring our activity. In addition to scrutinising the data pertinent to their area and highlighting and responding to issues and exceptions, each Sub- group has looked for assurance from the data and information that outcomes for children and young people in Redcar and Cleveland have been improved. The initial scrutiny of the data by the Monitoring and Evaluation Sub-Group has enabled the Board to prioritise analysis of key areas.

Learning and Development

The Board continues to promote a culture of learning and development. This culminated in a new joint Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland Learning and Improvement Framework. We undertook a multi-agency training needs assessment and reviewed our training strategy. Multi- agency training is now commissioned which avoids overlap with training delivered already on a single agency basis. The utilisation of a partnership survey was put on hold to ensure that whatever survey process was put in place would recognise the new safeguarding arrangements and avoid duplication.

Chapter 8 – Key Messages

Within the new Working Together Guidance (July 2018), children are clear about what they want from an effective safeguarding system, which should guide the behaviour of practitioners.

Children have said that they need:

- vigilance: to have adults notice when things are troubling them,
- understanding and action: to understand what is happening; to be heard and understood; and to have that understanding acted upon,
- stability: to be able to develop an ongoing stable relationship of trust with those helping them,
- respect: to be treated with the expectation that they are competent rather than not
- information and engagement: to be informed about and involved in procedures, decisions, concerns and plans,
- explanation: to be informed of the outcome of assessments and decisions and reasons when their views have not met with a positive response,
- support: to be provided with support in their own right as well as a member of their family,
- advocacy: to be provided with advocacy to assist them in putting forward their views
- protection: to be protected against all forms of abuse and discrimination and the right to special protection and help if a refugee.

In order to support this the Board would like to convey the following key messages;

For children and young people:

- If someone is hurting you or upsetting you tell an adult you trust like a teacher, family member or one of your friend's parents.
- We are listening and your voices are the most important of all voices. We think we are getting better at listening to you but we are continuing to work on new ways of hearing you.
- Your wellbeing remains at the heart of our child protection systems.
- We want to hear from you about how services can be improved to ensure your wellbeing, to prevent you being harmed, and to protect you.

For the community:

- You are in the best place to know what is happening to children and young people and to report your concerns if you think something is happening.
- Protecting children is everybody's business. If you are worried about a child, contact First Contact on Tel: 01642 771500.

For RCSCB partners and organisations:

- The protection of children is paramount. How do decisions that your agency makes affect children and young people?
- You are required to assure RCSCB that you are discharging your safeguarding duties effectively and ensuring that services are commissioned for the most vulnerable children.

- Are you making sure that the voices of all children and young people are informing the development of services?
- Take notice of the voices of vulnerable children. Listen and respond, particularly if they disclose abuse.
- Children and young children may not always verbalise their feelings. Be aware of other non-verbal ways they may indicate to you that they are distressed or worried.
- Use your representative on the Board to make sure the voices of children and young people and front line practitioners are heard.
- Ensure your workforce is able to contribute to the provision of safeguarding training and to attend training courses and learning events.
- Know the priorities of RCSCB and take these into account. Share responsibility in the delivery of the Board's work.
- Be prepared to evidence your agency's safeguarding processes via the Section 11 audit and via assurance reports to the Board.
- RCSCB needs to understand the impact of any organisational changes on your capacity to safeguard children and young people.

For schools:

- Make sure that you are compliant with the processes which all schools, in the maintained, non-maintained or independent sector, must follow to safeguard their pupils.
- In particular ensure that you are familiar and compliant with 'Safeguarding Children in Education' guidance
- Be aware of and compliant with safer recruitment processes.

For practitioners:

- Make sure that you attend safeguarding courses and learning events required for your role and that you are constantly up to date with changes in safeguarding practice, guidance and legislation. These change all the time.
- Be familiar with, and use, the multi-agency tools designed for you: e.g. our 'Threshold Guidance'. Just because certain issues such as Child Sexual Exploitation, Trafficking, County Lines, Modern Slavery, Female Genital Mutilation and other similar concerns are rare in our community, does not mean that they are not present. Indeed, they may be even harder to spot.
- Be 'professionally curious' with other practitioners and when working with children and young people.

For everyone:

'If you see something, say something'

Appendix 1 – Sub Group Functions and Membership

LEARNING AND IMPROVING PRACTICE SUB GROUP (LIPSG)

LIPSG is a standing sub group of RCSCB, which ensures the Board is best prepared to respond to referrals under Chapter 4 of Working Together 2015, provide advice to the Independent Chair on whether the criteria for conducting a Serious Case Review (SCR) have been met, and to oversee and quality assure all SCR's undertaken by RCSCB.

In addition to SCRs the group also organises and manages other forms of learning reviews where the criteria for a Serious Case Review are not met, but where in the opinion of the sub group such a case review would have benefit.

The group also:

- Provide assurance to RCSCB, member agencies and OFSTED that recommendations arising from Serious Case Reviews have been actioned.
- Consider the implications of learning from Tees SCRs and Domestic Homicide Reviews.
- Review the Quality Assurance, Learning and Improvement Framework on a biennial basis.
- Ensure that voice of child/family is considered in all such cases.

The group met 5 times in 2017/18 with the following agencies being represented on the group:

- Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
- South Tees NHS Foundation Trust
- Cleveland Police
- Tees Esk Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust
- South Tees Clinical Commissioning Group

MONITORING & EVALUATION (M&E) SUB GROUP

M&E is a standing sub group of RCSCB, and is responsible for the mapping and collation of evidence on the assurance frameworks and processes implemented by partner agencies to demonstrate the quality of their safeguarding practices.

M&E is responsible for conducting the cycle of RCSCB multi-agency case file audits.

M&E considers the Tees Wide Performance Management Framework on a quarterly basis. The data is assessed for any issues or trends prior to full discussion at Board. The data provided is constantly challenged and reviewed to provide safeguarding assurance in respect of RCSCB priorities and outcomes.

The group met 6 times in 2017/18 with the following agencies being represented on the group:

- Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
- South Tees NHS Foundation Trust
- Cleveland Police
- Tees Esk Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust
- National Probation Service
- South Tees Youth Offending Service
- South Tees Clinical Commissioning Group

SAFEGUARDING IN EDUCATION NETWORK

This group was newly established in 2017/18 the purpose of which is to facilitate communication across the education/training sector on safeguarding issues and to disseminate relevant information in respect of learning from audits and serious case reviews.

The objectives of the Safeguarding in Education Network are to:

- Support and strengthen the safeguarding culture within educational and training establishments across Redcar & Cleveland, providing an opportunity to share both good practice and learning.
- Ensure that LSCB is aware of key safeguarding issues and challenges faced by educational establishments.
- Ensure that emerging safeguarding issues are communicated effectively to all educational establishments.

The group met 3 times in 2017-18 with representatives from 75% of educational establishments in attendance covering Primary, Secondary, Special, Pupil Referral Units, Further Education and Training Providers within Redcar and Cleveland.

VULNERABLE EXPLOITED, MISSING AND TRAFFICKED (VEMT) SUB GROUP

A Tees wide approach to tackling issues of Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing or Trafficked (VEMT) children and young people has been developed in recent years. This involved the establishment of the Tees Strategic VEMT Group which is underpinned by a VEMT Sub Group and VEMT Practitioners' Group (VPG) in each of the four areas.

All four VEMT Sub Groups adopted a number of common principles and ways of working in order to ensure a degree of consistency across Tees supporting the overall objectives of the Tees Strategic VEMT.

The overall purpose of the VEMT Sub Group is to ensure a local multi-agency response to sharing information, monitoring risk and analysing data for children and young people who may be vulnerable, exploited, missing or trafficked.

The group met 8 times in 2017/18 following agencies being represented on the group:

- Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
- Cleveland Police
- South Tees Youth Offending Service
- The Voluntary Sector
- South Tees Clinical Commissioning Group
- South Tees NHS Foundation Trust
- Tees, Esk & Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust
- National Probation Service

TRAINING SUB GROUP (Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland)

The Training Sub Group is responsible for agreeing and implementing a multi-agency training programme across Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland as detailed in Chapter 6.

The group ensures that learning from local and national Serious Case Reviews is reflected within training courses and also considers changes in practice and its relevance to training plans.

The group met 5 times in 2017/18 with the following agencies being represented on the group:

- Middlesbrough Council
- Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council

- South Tees Clinical Commissioning Group
- Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust
- Cleveland Police
- South Tees NHS Foundation Trust
- Barnardos
- Health Visiting & School Nursing Service, Harrogate District Foundation Trust
- South Tees Youth Offending Service

TEES PROCEDURES GROUP (TPG)

This Tees Wide group has the following functions:

- To have responsibility for coordinating the development of local procedures, protocols and guidance for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children on behalf of the Tees LSCBs prioritising those identified by the Tees LSCBs.
- To establish a maintenance and updating process of the electronic Tees Wide Procedures.
- To undertake focussed pieces of work, co-opting additional professionals as required.
- To establish processes that will promote consistency by all LSCB partner member organisations in their response to, and management of, safeguarding children issues, ensuring the child is the central focus.
- To develop and recommend to LSCBs procedures and guidance that avoid confusion, duplication and ensure staff across local partners can readily understand their responsibilities. Where ever possible, staff will be directed to National Guidance and Directives so that the specific role LSCBs have in relation to the development and implementation of procedures is fulfilled.

The group met 8 times in 2017/18 with the following agencies being represented on the group:

- The four Tees Local Authorities
- The four Tees Local Safeguarding Children Boards
- National Probation Manager
- Cleveland Police
- Hartlepool and Stockton on Tees (HaST) Clinical Commissioning Group
- North Tees NHS Foundation Trust
- Tees Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust
- South Tees NHS Foundation Trust
- CAFCASS

TEES CHILD DEATH OVERVIEW PANEL (CDOP)

As a sub group of the 4 Tees LSCBs the Tees Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) reviews the deaths of children from the Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Stockton-On-Tees and Redcar & Cleveland Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) areas.

Tees CDOP is Chaired by the Director of Public Health, Middlesbrough and Interim Director of Public Health, Redcar and the business management functions are undertaken by the RCSCB business support team.

The role of the CDOP is to ensure that wherever child deaths occur, and under whatever circumstances, scrutiny of the cases result in recognised improvements that can be made to practice to improve the quality of care, as well as the safety of children. CDOP also identifies any relevant strategic issues and ensure that these translate into action within or between agencies. CDOP ensures that the team looking after children have the opportunity to discuss and reflect on the death, learn any lessons, and implement any helpful changes to practice or to systems of care.

The group met 7 times in 2017/18 with the following agencies being represented on the group:

- Public Health, Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council and Middlesbrough Council
- Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
- Social Care Hartlepool Borough Council/Middlesbrough Council
- South Tees NHS Foundation Trust
- North Tees NHS Foundation Trust
- Cleveland Police
- North East Ambulance Service
- Tees Esk & Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust
- South Tees Clinical Commissioning Group
- Independent Lay Member
- Teesside Coroner

SAFE4US – JUNIOR RCSCB

The Safe4Us group acts as the Junior Safeguarding Children Board and plays a key role in ensuring that the views of children and young people are taken into account by the Board on matters relating to Safeguarding. The group also takes a lead role in certain projects involving young people.

The group meets fortnightly during the school term.

