

**NEWCASTLE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP
(NSCP)**

**MULTI-AGENCY SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS
(MASA) FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN
NEWCASTLE**

2025



Contents

Foreword	4
1. Introduction	5
2. Our Shared Responsibility	6
Our Safeguarding Principles:	6
Our Child-centred Approach:	7
Our Work with Parents and Carers:	8
How we Safeguard and Promote the Welfare of all Children:	9
Our Information Sharing Arrangements:	9
3. Geography of our MASA arrangements:	10
Our arrangements cover	10
4. Our Statutory Safeguarding Partners	11
5. Our Strategic Leadership and Accountability Arrangements	11
a. The Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSP)	11
In Newcastle the Lead Safeguarding Partners are the:	12
LSP Annual Meeting:	13
Escalation of Issues to LSPs:	14
b. Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSP):	14
In Newcastle the Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSPs) are the:	15
DSP - Annual Partnership Review:	16
c. Partnership Chair:	17
6. Relevant Agencies:	18
What are Relevant Agencies required to do?	18
Working with Schools, Colleges, Early Years and Other Education Providers:	19
7. Working with the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector (VCSE)	20
8. Independent Scrutiny:	20
9. Funding:	22

10.	Reporting:	22
11.	Dispute Resolution:.....	22
12.	Our Partnership Governance Structure:	23
	Partnership Development Session	24
	Scrutiny and Assurance Group.....	24
	Partnership Leads Group (PLG).....	24
	Practice, Learning and Communication Group	25
	Relevant Agencies Engagement Group	25
	Education Engagement Group	25
	'PREM' (Strategic and Operational) –	25
	Local Case Review Group.....	26
	Gateshead and Newcastle Safeguarding Children Partnerships Joint Case Review Group	26
13.	Our Business Planning, Strategic Priorities and Business Resources:.....	26
14.	Business Resource:	27
15.	Additional Functions of the Multi-agency Safeguarding Arrangements:	28
	Our Continuum of Help and Support Framework:	28
16.	Our Early Help Offer:	29
17.	Our Management of Risk Outside the Home.....	30
18.	Residential Children's Homes	31
19.	Our Learning and Development Framework (including Training):	31
20.	How we use performance information to shape our work:	32
21.	Our Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) Pathway:.....	32
	Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP):.....	33
	Deaths of Care Leavers:.....	34
22.	Work with Wider Partnerships and Boards:.....	34
APPENDIX ONE		38
RELEVANT AGENCIES		38

Foreword

Welcome to the Newcastle Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) for children and young people.

In September 2019, the Newcastle Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) introduced local Multi-Agency Safeguarding Children Arrangements to reflect legislative changes to the Children Act 2004, as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017. This legislation replaced Local Safeguarding Children Boards with more flexible arrangements which were to be determined locally. The arrangements set out our approach to delivering requirements in line with this legislation and the statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018). These Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements have been reviewed and revised in compliance with the publication of Working Together (2023), the updated statutory guidance that describes the role and responsibilities of safeguarding partners and the requirements of safeguarding children's partnerships.

In Newcastle we have well established relationships across statutory organisations and wider partners. We care deeply about meeting the needs of our city's children and young people. We know that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Through our refreshed arrangements, we are committed to making sure that everyone involved in safeguarding (including early years settings, schools, colleges, health services, police, community organisations, housing, youth justice) and that all services working with children understand their role in safeguarding, and take action to make a positive difference for the children and young people we support.

As a partnership we never stand still and when new issues or policy changes arise, we constantly consider how we can transform and redesign our ways of working at the earliest opportunity to ensure our safeguarding arrangements help to prioritise children's wellbeing and safety, ensuring that information about a child and their family is shared effectively and that risk of harm is correctly identified and understood in order to keep children safe and provide help and support to children, young people, and families.

This document sets out how we work together as a partnership to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in Newcastle.

The term 'children' used throughout the document refers to both children and young people.

We thank you for taking the time to read our Newcastle Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements and encourage you to access our comprehensive partnership website.

A full description of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements can be found at GOV.UK's [Working together to safeguard children](#)

Pam Smith
Chief Executive
Newcastle City Council

Samantha Allen
Chief Executive
Northeast and Cumbria Integrated Care Partnership

Vanessa Jardine
Chief Constable,
Northumbria Police

1. Introduction

As outlined in Working together to Safeguard Children 2023, this paper details the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements for children in Newcastle, as agreed by the Newcastle Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) and scrutinised by an independent scrutineer.

It covers the following:

- Our arrangements to work together to identify and respond to the needs of children in the area
- Our arrangements for commissioning and publishing local child safeguarding practice reviews
- Our arrangements for independent scrutiny of the effectiveness of the arrangements
- Who our three safeguarding partners are their delegates and our partnership chair
- Our geographical boundaries
- Our relevant agencies who we work with, why these organisations and agencies have been chosen and how they collaborate and work together to improve outcomes for children and families
- How our schools (including independent schools, academies, and free schools), colleges, early years and childcare settings, including other educational providers (including alternative provision) are included in our safeguarding arrangements
- The involvement of youth custody and residential homes for children
- How we use data and intelligence to assess the effectiveness of help that we provide to children and families, including early help
- How our multi-agency training is commissioned, delivered and monitored for impact and how we undertake multi-agency and inter-agency audits
- How our arrangements are funded
- Our pathway for undertaking local child safeguarding practice reviews, setting out the arrangements for embedding learning across organisations and agencies
- How our arrangements include the voice of children and families, including how to escalate concerns and how any disputes will be resolved, including whistleblowing procedures
- How our local threshold document in place aligns with our arrangements
- Annual reporting and reviewing of our arrangements
- Other functions of our safeguarding arrangements

2. Our Shared Responsibility

Working Together 2023 identifies the requirement for multi-agency join up and cooperation at all levels to protect children from abuse, neglect and exploitation.

“Nothing is more important than children’s welfare. Every child deserves to grow up in a safe, stable, and loving home. Children who need help and protection deserve high quality and effective support. This requires individuals, agencies, and organisations to be clear about their own and each other’s roles and responsibilities, and how they work together.”

In Newcastle our organisations and agencies that work with children and families play a significant and often statutory role in relation to safeguarding children and many of our organisations and agencies have a duty to ensure their functions are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Newcastle City Council, Northumbria Police and the Northeast and North Cumbria ICB (our three Statutory Safeguarding Partners) have a joint and equal duty to have in place robust arrangements to work together as a team to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Newcastle and include and develop the role of our wider organisations and agencies (Relevant Agencies) in the process.

Our Safeguarding Principles:

Our safeguarding principles are as those set out in the Children’s Social Care National Framework those being:

- children’s welfare is paramount
- children’s wishes and feelings are sought, heard, and responded to
- children’s social care works in partnership with whole families
- children are raised by their families, with their family networks or in family environments wherever possible
- we work with other agencies to effectively identify and meet the needs of children, young people, and families
- we consider the economic and social circumstances impacting children, young people, and families

Our Child-centred Approach:

The right of a child or young person to be heard is included in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and reinforced by national legislation and guidance. Children and young people are able to offer a different perspective to that of the adults around them.

We recognise the importance of ensuring children in Newcastle are at the heart of the work we do and that they are given the opportunity to inform strategies, policies and practice guidance that relates to safeguarding them.

We know from Working Together 2023 that children are clear about what they need from an effective safeguarding system:

- **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, exploitation, and discrimination, and the right to special protection and help if a refugee

Our partnership in Newcastle includes services and organisations who work directly with children and young people in the city, and we use creative methods to ensure that we capture views and feedback relating to the work of our services. We also make use of existing systems, groups and forums to gather the views of children and families and encourage children to have their say, share their views and experiences, challenge and support our decision makers and shape and influence strategic planning, commissioning and service provision. This is also reflected within the related functions of the independent scrutiny role. There remains an ongoing commitment to strengthen, improve and evidence how we ensure we seek, capture and respond to feedback from all children and young people in Newcastle.

We have considered the national feedback, together with what our children in Newcastle have told us and we use this to inform our practice.

Our Work with Parents and Carers:

Working Together 2023 outlines that effective partnership working with parents and carers happens when practitioners build strong, trusting and cooperative relationships and empowers families to participate in service design and values their contributions and feedback.

One of the North East Integrated Care Board goals is 'Giving our children and young people the best start in life' which includes a commitment to listening to people's lived experiences of using health and care services.

Children's Social Care places a strong emphasis on engaging and collaborating with parents and carers to build a supportive and inclusive environment for children. This engagement is achieved through various structured activities, such as biannual practice weeks and monthly practice audits and observations, where feedback is gathered directly from parents and carers. These mechanisms allow parents and carers to share their experiences, insights, and suggestions, which are then utilized to enhance the quality of services provided. By actively listening to the voices of families, our service better understands their needs and can tailor approaches, accordingly, ensuring that the support offered is both effective and empathetic.

To further support this collaborative approach, we have fully embedded multi-agency relational practice training, and bespoke masterclasses open to all practitioners. These training programs equip staff with the skills necessary to work 'with' families, rather than doing 'for' or 'to'. Practitioners are encouraged to consider the social discipline window in their interactions and approaches, which helps in striking the right balance between high support and high challenge. This framework ensures that all voices—especially those of children and their families—are heard and valued. By fostering a culture of mutual respect and understanding, our service aims to create partnerships that lead to better outcomes for all involved.

In Newcastle there is a strong focus on how we work with children and their families using **relational and restorative practice**, under the banner of 'Family Valued'. This is a whole system, whole city approach promoting relational working, **building and maintaining meaningful and respectful relationships**, as opposed to focussing solely on policy and process.

This recognises that successful outcomes for children depend on strong partnership working between parents/carers and the practitioners working with them. Our practitioners take a child-centred approach to meeting the needs of the whole family.

How we Safeguard and Promote the Welfare of all Children:

- We develop policies procedures by proactively identifying and responding to new and emerging safeguarding issues
- We communicate to practitioners across organisations and services the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, raising awareness of how this can best be done and encouraging all to do so
- We monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of our arrangements and what we do as safeguarding partners and relevant agencies and look for ways to improve
- We coordinate responses to serious incidents and unexpected child deaths
- We collect and analyse national and local information about safeguarding practice reviews and advise on lessons learnt
- We reflect and make recommendations in the planning and development of services for children in Newcastle

Our Information Sharing Arrangements:

We have learned from national and local learning reviews from cases that missed opportunities to record, understand the significance of, and share information in a timely manner can have severe consequences for children.

We advise that such information sharing is also essential for the identification of risk and/or patterns of behaviour when a child is at risk outside of the home, including from adults or other children and/or young people. In Newcastle, we promote that proactive information sharing should be as early as possible to help identify, assess and respond to risks or concerns about the safety and welfare of children. This may be when problems are first emerging or where a child is already known to statutory safeguarding partners (Police, ICB or Local Authority). Sharing information about any adult with whom that child has contact, which may impact on the child's safety or welfare is also critical.

We view the Child Protection – Information Sharing (CP-IS) service as an essential information sharing system for early identification, effective intervention, and better outcomes. CP-IS is a national initiative designed to enhance safeguarding by enabling secure, timely information exchange between children's social care and health providers. It focuses on children subject to a Child Protection Plan, Looked After Children, and unborn children with protection plans.

In Newcastle, CP-IS is fully operational in unscheduled care settings, with ongoing expansion into scheduled care such as GP practices, community health, and mental health services. The local dataset includes all relevant children, with daily updates from social care to maintain accuracy and ensure alerts are visible in health systems.

Key responsibilities are shared across agencies: Newcastle City Council manages data uploads; the North East & North Cumbria Integrated Care Board oversees NHS implementation; and NHS providers ensure frontline functionality and staff training. Data

sharing complies with GDPR and safeguarding legislation, and CP-IS alerts are integrated into NSCP's broader multi-agency framework.

The Data Protection Act 2018 and UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) supports the sharing of relevant information for the purposes of keeping children safe. Fears about sharing information must not be allowed to stand in the way of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

Further advice and guidance relating to when and how to share information can be found:

[Working together to safeguard children](#)

[Report a concern about a child or young person](#)

[Information Sharing](#)

3. Geography of our MASA arrangements:

The Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017) identifies that every local authority, ICB and constabulary in England must be covered by a multi-agency safeguarding arrangement.

Our arrangements cover



Using government and local information that describes people in the local area supports the Partnership's ability to understand the lived experience of families living in Newcastle.

The largest five-year age group in Newcastle is 20-24, with 40,541 people out of a total population of 311,976 (ONS MYE 2023). The population is growing, with 3,056 births registered in 2022. There are 53,747 children aged under 16 in Newcastle (ONS 2023 aged 0-15), making up 17.2% of the total population, while 46,581 (14.9% are aged 65 and over). Out of the younger population 33,191 are under the age of ten (ONS 2023).

Newcastle has people from lots of different backgrounds, beliefs and places. There are 148 different first languages spoken in schools, and 23.2% of pupils have a first language other than English.

Parental income has a big effect on educational achievement, which is concerning since about 38% of children in Newcastle live in poverty. 14.6% of households with dependent children have no person with at least a Level 2 qualification or equivalent rising to 33.9% in some wards, higher than for the North East (10.9%) and for England overall (10.1%). 90% of 16- to 17-year-olds are in education or training.

While 74% of people aged 16-64 in Newcastle do some kind of paid work, 36.1% of children are eligible for free school meals, higher than the 29.2% average for similar areas. Nationally, Newcastle ranks third in need, behind Manchester (42.7%) and Knowsley (40.3%), but ahead of Birmingham (38.4%) and Liverpool (33.2%). For 2023/24, planned spending on Social Work and Commissioning in Newcastle was £15,356,325, compared to an average of £20,669,622 across all Metropolitan Boroughs.

4. Our Statutory Safeguarding Partners

A *safeguarding partner* in relation to a local authority area in England is defined in statute, under the Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017), as the Local Authority, the Integrated Care Partnership for an area any part of which falls within the local authority area and the Chief Officer of police for an area any part of which falls within the Local Authority area.

In Newcastle, this is Newcastle City Council, the Northeast and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Northumbria Police.

As the statutory safeguarding partners we ensure that organisations and agencies in Newcastle are clear about how we work together to safeguard children and promote their welfare. We do this by following the principles set out in Working Together 2023 that are set as our objectives below.

5. Our Strategic Leadership and Accountability Arrangements

a. The Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSP)

In accordance with Working Together 2023 the Lead Safeguarding Partners, (LSPs,) have an equal and joint responsibility for local safeguarding arrangements, which is underpinned by equitable and proportionate funding.

Working Together 2023 outlines the joint functions of the LSPs including to:

- Set the strategic direction, vision, and culture of the local safeguarding arrangements, including agreeing and reviewing shared priorities and the resource required to deliver services effectively.
- Lead their organisation's individual contribution to the shared priorities, ensuring strong governance, accountability, and reporting mechanisms to hold their delegates to account for the delivery of agency commitments.
- Review and sign off key partnership documents: published multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, including plans for independent scrutiny, shared annual budget, yearly report, and local threshold document.
- Provide shared oversight of learning from independent scrutiny, serious incidents, local child safeguarding practice reviews, and national reviews, ensuring recommendations are implemented and have a demonstrable impact on practice (as set out in the yearly report).
- Ensure multi-agency arrangements have the necessary level of business support, including intelligence and analytical functions, such as an agreed data set providing oversight and a robust understanding of practice.
- Ensure all relevant agencies, including education settings, are clear on their role and contribution to multi-agency safeguarding arrangements

In Newcastle the Lead Safeguarding Partners are the:

- Chief Executive Officer, Newcastle Local Authority
- Chief Officer, Northeast and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB)
- Chief Constable, Northumbria Police

The LSP for Northeast and North Cumbria ICB performs this function in 14 local partnership areas (areas). The LSP for Northumbria Police performs this function in 6 local partnership areas. Each of our LSP's are responsible for discharging their own statutory and legislative duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. As leaders of their organisations and the statutory safeguarding partners, it is for LSPs to assure themselves that the arrangements are effective and keep children safe and this includes systems of assurance and accountability within each of their organisations. Appropriate arrangements are required to ensure that Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSP's) meet to jointly discharge their responsibilities under Working Together (WT) 2023, and this is undertaken annually.

LSP Annual Meeting:

In the Local Authority Areas covering Sunderland, South Tyneside, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland, the LSPs are:

- Chief Executive, Local Authority (x 6)
- Chief Executive, Northeast and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB)
- Chief Constable, Northumbria Police

An annual meeting of the LSPs for the above region will enable delivery of the following objectives by LSP's:

- To ensure that the voice of children is heard and considered as part of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.
- To set strategic direction, vision, and culture of the local safeguarding arrangements, including agreeing and reviewing shared priorities and the resource required to deliver services effectively.
- To agree shared priorities, ensuring strong governance, accountability and reporting mechanisms to hold their delegates to account for the delivery of agency commitments.
- To review and sign off key partnership documents, published multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, including plans for independent scrutiny, shared annual budget, yearly report and local threshold document.
- To provide shared oversight of learning from independent scrutiny, serious incidents, local safeguarding practice reviews, and national reviews, ensuring recommendations are implemented and have a demonstrable impact on practice.
- To ensure multi-agency arrangements have the necessary level of business support, including intelligence and analytical functions, such as an agreed data set, providing oversight and a robust understanding of practice.
- To ensure all relevant agencies, including education settings are clear on their role and contribution to multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.
- To consider the areas in which a collaborative response to safeguarding priorities is desirable and to agree appropriate resourcing to support this work.

In addition to the wider geographic oversight, in order to ensure that accountability is clear, strategic decisions are achievable and deliverable, progress is driven at all levels and to discharge the joint functions for Newcastle, the LSPs will have regular oversight, involvement and engagement in Newcastle specific arrangements.

In Newcastle, the LSPs have identified the delegated safeguarding partner (DSP) responsibility for their organisation and strong communication channels exist to support the Lead Safeguarding Partners and these include:

- Invitations to key partnership events, sessions and meetings
- Consultation relating to important partnership decision making (including decisions that impact arrangements and/or services, Business Plans/Plan Reviews and Annual Reports)
- Written and verbal briefings relating to key partnership activity with the Scrutineer, Partnership Chair and/or Business Manager
- DSP briefings using existing mechanisms within the statutory partner organisation
- Tabling key issues using existing mechanisms already in place in Newcastle – for example existing strategic meetings that all or relevant LSPs attend
- Escalation of risk and issues that cannot be resolved by DSPs

Escalation of Issues to LSPs:

In order to ensure LSPs have oversight of any significant concerns that impact on the efficiency and effectiveness of the partnership arrangement the DSPs, /Partnership Chair and/or the Independent Scrutineer can escalate concerns to all or relevant LSPs.

However, such action would only be undertaken after matters had been fully discussed with all or relevant DSPs and a resolution had not been agreed. In such circumstances all involved DSPs may brief their respective LSPs on any relevant issues, and any such escalation would only be undertaken with the full knowledge of all or relevant DSPs.

At all stages of escalation pathways the LSPs and their delegates can consider making use of key stakeholders in Newcastle who may assist on developing a resolution (this can include Police and Crime Commissioners, Mayors, Lead Members or Independent persons). If the matter remains unresolved between the three safeguarding partners and their local networks, if deemed relevant, they can consider the next stage of escalation to the Secretary of State.

b. Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSP):

In accordance with Working Together 2023, each LSP should appoint a Delegated Safeguarding Partner, (DSP,) for its agency. DSPs should be of sufficient seniority to be able to speak with authority, take decisions on behalf of the LSP and hold their sectors to account. The DSPs should have the authority to carry out these functions, while ultimate accountability remains with the LSP as the individual responsible for the delivery of the statutory duties of the safeguarding partners.

Strong, joined-up leadership and clear accountability is critical to effective multiagency safeguarding and the LSPs and DSPs in Newcastle are committed to arrangements that focus on continuous learning and improvement with a clear line of sight on frontline safeguarding practice. All leaders will promote a shared commitment to work together to improve outcomes for children and their families.

In Newcastle the Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSPs) are the:

- Director of Children and Families, Newcastle City Council
- Chief Superintendent Newcastle Area Commander, Northumbria Police
- Director of Nursing (North), Northeast and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB)

Working Together 2023 outlines the joint functions of the DSP to include:

- Delivery and monitoring of multi-agency priorities and procedures to protect and safeguard children in local area.
- Close partnership working and engagement with education (strategic/operation) and other relevant agencies.
- The implementation of effective information sharing arrangements, including data sharing and joint analysis
- Delivery of high quality and timely rapid reviews and LSCPRs, with impact from local and national reviews and scrutiny clearly evidenced in annual reports.
- Provision of multi-agency safeguarding training and development
- Seeking of and responding to children and families about experiences of services and co-designing with different communities and groups

As outlined in the arrangements, the LSPs and DSPs have regular interaction and communication to ensure that the LSPs have sufficient oversight and detail on key topics and issues to maintain their statutory responsibilities. The methods of doing so are outlined within this document (LSP Section).

The arrangements ensure that the DSPs have the oversight of quality and compliance of the delivery of agreed shared priorities and to seek assurance that multi-agency practice is reviewed and operating well. Where this is not evident, the DSPs will utilise capacity and resource from their own agencies to engage, respond and improve operational systems and practice.

In order to fulfil statutory responsibilities, the DSPs will meet as a group a **minimum** of four times per year. Additional meetings can be diarised to deal with emerging issues and/or concerns or at the request of an LSP or DSP to deal with an extraordinary matter.

These will be agreed by the Partnership Chair in conjunction with DSPs and coordinated by the NSCP Business Manager. This is sufficiently frequently to undertake the joint functions as outlined in Working Together 2023.

The DSPs jointly develop and implement the partnership business plan, identify and agree partnership strategic priorities and utilise the independent scrutiny role to support develop and strengthen the partnership arrangements.

The DSPs identify specific areas for scrutiny and assurance activity relating to either strategic or operational partnership working to provide insight into current practice and potential areas for improvement. This reporting will provide assurance evidence and focus for identifying the future strategic objectives that will lead to operational improvements.

DSP - Annual Partnership Review:

The partnership arrangements will be subject to annual review by the DSPs (in consultation with the LSPs). The Annual Partnership Review provides the opportunity to also review progress in relation to the business plan and ensure that three key functions are in place within the partnership:

- The Partnership Chair has authority, is decisive and enables resource allocation, and risk escalation to lead safeguarding partners
- A rigorous and effective independent scrutiny function provides assurance regarding the strength and quality of partnership working and challenge to the safeguarding partners by defining potential improvements to safeguarding partnership practices.
- The business management function has adequate resources and capacity to support the partnership chair

It further provides the opportunity for engaging relevant agencies and other partner organisations in the development of partnership arrangements and share related information. The focus of the annual review will include:

Review of Strategic Direction in Newcastle

Strategic Statements

Strategic Objectives

Strategic Information and Analysis

Review of Partnership Working in Newcastle

Scrutiny and Assurance Summary

Review of Partnership Arrangements in Newcastle

Review of Business Plan Activity
Annual Report
Learning Report - Summary Position of Reviews and Learning Pathway Activity
Threshold Updates Summary

Review of Allocated Resources in Newcastle

Partner Contributions
Funding and Resource Arrangements

The annual review will also link to regional LSP activity and coordination of the wider safeguarding activity of partners.

c. Partnership Chair:

In line with Working Together 2023, in order to support delivery of these functions, the statutory safeguarding partner LSPs appoint one of the three DSPs as the Partnership Chair and the arrangements are in line with Working Together 2023 requirements in that the role of Partnership Chair and that of Independent Scrutiny are separate functions.

The role of Partnership Chair will be rotated on a two-year cycle between the three statutory safeguarding partners (Northumbria Police, Northeast and North Cumbria ICB, Newcastle City Council). The Director of Children and Families for Newcastle City Council will undertake this first period in role at the commencement of the new arrangements (January 2025). The Deputy Chair for the first period will be the Chief Superintendent, Area Commander for Newcastle, Northumbria Police.

Working Together 2023 identifies the functions of the Partnership Chair role as:

- To develop strategic links, support and hold to account all LSPs in fulfilling their safeguarding duties for children.
- Ensure that local arrangements are designed to work collaboratively and effectively by encouraging and supporting the development of partnership working between the LSPs, DSPs, independent scrutiny role and NSCP sub-groups.
- Chair the meetings of the DSPs, including any additional meetings convened as a response to specific and exceptional circumstances, with the help of the business manager and independent scrutiny role.
- Offer appropriate challenge to ensure that the partners are accountable, and that the local arrangements operate effectively.

In order to support the Partnership Chair there will be regular communication between the Partnership Chair, the Independent Scrutineer and Business Manager with regular meetings set up and coordinated by the Business Manager.

6. Relevant Agencies:

Relevant agencies are those organisations and agencies whose involvement the safeguarding partners consider are required to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children. A list of organisations that meet the criteria to be included as a relevant agency is set out in The Child Safeguarding Practice Review and Relevant Agency (England) Regulations 2018.

Appendix One contains a list of organisations that are identified within the regulations as a relevant agency and outlines the organisations and services that have been identified as requiring to work with the statutory safeguarding partners in Newcastle.

In Newcastle we work in a flexible, collaborative way across statutory safeguarding partners and relevant agencies work to ensure we are focused on joint identification and response to existing and emerging needs, and to agree priorities to improve outcomes for children in Newcastle. Our relevant agency organisation and services are represented within our governance arrangements and the work of the subgroups.

The relevant agency organisations and services that operate in Newcastle evolve and change over time and we have built reviews of our arrangements to ensure that changes are reflected in updated published arrangements.

What are Relevant Agencies required to do?

When identified as a relevant agency an organisation must act in accordance with these Newcastle MASA Arrangements, and this includes:

- having a clear understanding of their organisational responsibilities in relation to safeguarding children in Newcastle and how the organisation will discharge them
- co-operating with the statutory safeguarding partners to improve, implement and monitor effectiveness of our safeguarding arrangements
- sharing information and data about safeguarding issues and concerns affecting the children involved in their organisation and contribute to our local priorities
- ensuring our MASA arrangements are fully understood, and rigorously applied within their organisation.

Within our governance structure in Newcastle we have an assurance reporting programme that includes requiring and supporting all relevant agencies to undertake a “Section 11 Audit” on a bi-yearly cycle (Section 11 of the 2004 Children Act sets out the provision

for Local Children Safeguarding Partnerships to undertake a self-assessment audit of how organisations and services are meeting standards to safeguard children and young people).

Working with Schools, Colleges, Early Years and Other Education Providers:

Working Together 2023 identifies the pivotal role that schools, colleges, early years, childcare settings and other educational providers (including alternative provision) have to play in safeguarding children and promoting their welfare.

In Newcastle we acknowledge the complexities of engaging with just over 100 schools in our area (including alternative education, private schools and further education providers), as well as over 380 childcare providers and have strengthened our arrangements to create an environment which enables strong communication with our settings in order that they are fully engaged, involved and included in the local safeguarding arrangements. We know that our schools offer a universal service and are therefore well placed to spot any early indicators of safeguarding concerns alongside supporting their emotional health and wellbeing, helping them achieve their potential and potentially being the first trusted adult to whom children or families may share worries or concerns.

At a strategic level, the Assistant Director, Education and Skills, Newcastle City Council is a member of the DSP Group. There are strong links between the safeguarding partnership, the Promise Board and the [Newcastle Children and Young People's Strategic Children's Partnership](#) to ensure alignment of strategic decision making. There are strong systems in place to ensure engagement and collaboration at operational level including through partnership development sessions, subgroups and learning events.

The Newcastle Education Safeguarding Partnership (NESP) group was established within the partnership arrangements after the publication of Working Together (2018) and brought together representatives from the education and childcare sector. This group has been reviewed and refreshed in line with Working Together (2023) guidance and has been developed further as the Education Engagement group. Members of this group represent "education" in its broadest sense, rather than acting as a voice for their own setting. The aim of the group is to ensure the education sector is included in the development of strategies, practice guidance and other areas of partnership work.

In addition to requirements in line with Working Together (2023), the statutory guidance [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) and Early Years Foundation [Stage](#) (EYFS) statutory framework both set out additional safeguarding duties and expectations on schools, colleges and other education providers and should be read alongside [Working Together \(2023\)](#) and this document.

7. Working with the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector (VCSE)

Voluntary, charity, social enterprise (VCSE) and private sector organisations (including sports clubs and organisations) and agencies play an important role in safeguarding children through the services they deliver. The staff, students and volunteers in these settings play an important role in building relationships, identifying concerns and providing direct support for children, families and communities.

VCSE partners are represented across the partnership subgroup structure and are seen as a vital partner in the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in Newcastle.

In addition to requirements in line with Working Together (2023), [Keeping Children Safe in Out of School Settings](#) sets out the safeguarding arrangements that these providers should have in place, including expectations on how to manage safeguarding concerns and the importance of familiarising themselves with local arrangements and referral routes.

8. Independent Scrutiny:

In line with Working Together (2023), the safeguarding partnership is required to have an independent scrutineer function that is separate and distinct from the functions of the Partnership Chair to provide assurance and challenge to the statutory safeguarding partners through a range of scrutiny methods. The decision on how best to implement a robust system of independent scrutiny has been made locally with the aim that the system we have put in place leads to objective and rigorous analysis of our arrangements.

In Newcastle an independent scrutineer has been appointed to provide safeguarding partners and relevant agencies with rigorous, effective support and challenge at both strategic and operational level. The role supports the partnership drive for continuous improvement and assurance that arrangements work effectively for children, families and practitioners and adds value to the work of the partnership. This role contributes to a wider system of assurance and accountability including:

- Assurance and accountability action undertaken at the request of the three statutory safeguarding partners
- Wider partnership activity (such as quality assurance, performance management and learning frameworks)
- Independent inspectorate inspections

Working Together (2023) outlines the key functions of scrutiny to include:

- Provide safeguarding partners and relevant agencies with independent, rigorous, and effective support and challenge at both a strategic and operational level.
- Provide assurance to the whole system in judging the effectiveness of the multi- agency safeguarding arrangements through a range of scrutiny methods.
- Ensure that statutory duties are being fulfilled, quality assurance mechanisms are in place, and that local child safeguarding practice reviews and national reviews are analysed, with key learning areas identified and effectively implemented across the safeguarding system.
- Ensure that the voice of children and families is considered as part of scrutiny and that this is at the heart of arrangements through direct feedback, informing policy and practice.
- Be regarded as a 'critical friend' and provide opportunities for two-way discussion and reflection between frontline practitioners and leaders. This will encourage and enable strong, clear, strategic leadership.
- Provide independent advice when there are disagreements between agencies and safeguarding partners and facilitate escalation procedures.
- Evaluate and contribute to multi-agency safeguarding published arrangements and the annual report, alongside feeding into the wider accountability systems such as inspections.

Independent scrutiny is a key partnership activity, providing objective and rigorous analysis of local arrangements. Scrutiny will be evidenced based and will consider the impact both the Lead and Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSP's) are making through their strategic oversight and leadership. It will also focus on involvement of children and their families in shaping strategic decision making and practice together with feedback from practitioners. The three safeguarding partners are committed to considering and acting upon feedback from the independent scrutineer, which will initially be provided to the DSP Group.

The specific functions of scrutiny will be as set out within the Working Together to Safeguard Children (December 2023) statutory guidance (page 37), and scrutiny plans and schedules for delivery will be agreed each year by the LSP and DSPs.

The Partnership will also receive assurance of the effectiveness of arrangements through:

- Section 11 related audits (education only S175 Audit) in accordance with regional arrangements.
- quarterly performance data via the Partnership's data report and focus dashboards
- single agency evidence of impact of improvements made following learning reviews
- completed activity from the performance framework
- Multi agency and single agency audit outcomes

In addition, future assurance activity will reflect feedback from children, young people and their families

9. Funding:

Funding contributions from the statutory safeguarding partners should be equitable and agreed by the LSPs and will be reviewed by Lead Safeguarding Partners every year with LSPs agreeing on the level of funding needed to deliver our multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. This includes consideration of the required business and analytical support, independent scrutiny, infrastructure, and core functions including local children safeguarding practice reviews, multi-agency training and learning events.

It is the responsibility of the LSP to ensure that adequate funding is allocated and spent in line with agreed priorities.

In Newcastle the is funding arrangement is agreed on and reviewed on an annual basis and reported on within the NSCP Annual Report.

10. Reporting:

In line with the requirements outlined in Working Together (2023) these arrangements are widely promoted and published on the [NSCP Website](#) together with our NSCP [Annual Report](#).

11. Dispute Resolution:

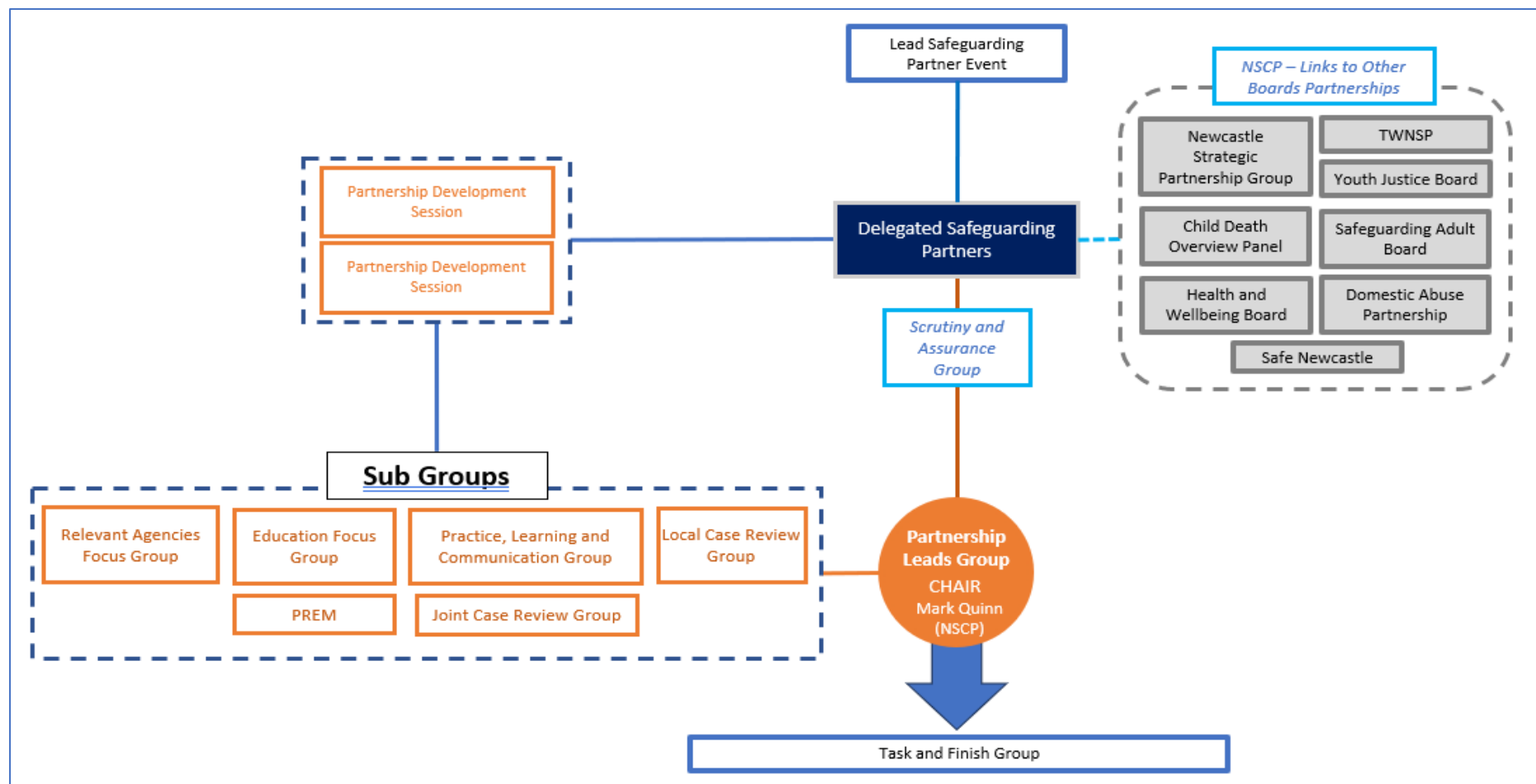
The statutory safeguarding partners and relevant agencies must act in accordance with these arrangements and are expected to understand each other's differences of views and resolve issues between relevant individuals and/or organisations. However, there are occasions that issues may require the need to utilise the partnership dispute resolution process to escalate an issue to the LSPs.

In Newcastle the partnership resolution process is the Regional Safeguarding Procedures Escalation Policy – '[Resolving Professional Differences and Escalation](#)' within the [Safeguarding Children Partnership Procedures Resource](#).

Whistleblowing procedures provide an additional important route for staff to raise concerns in a safe process that protects their position. Safeguarding Partners and the wider partnership should utilise their organisation whistleblowing procedures.

12. Our Partnership Governance Structure:

The NSCP operates under a subgroup structure with the DSP Group providing strategic direction for the partnership in line with national, regional and local objectives and priorities. The arrangements outlined below identify the safeguarding partnership structure which seeks to ensure partners work together and respond to the needs of children in the area



Partnership Development Session – a twice-yearly partnership development session where senior leaders from statutory partner and relevant agencies come together to consider the effectiveness of our safeguarding arrangements and to evaluate and improve services for children across Newcastle. These sessions ensure multi-agency safeguarding arrangements are fully understood and rigorously applied within both statutory and relevant agency organisation

Scrutiny and Assurance Group – this group oversees scrutiny and assurance workstreams in line with the business plan, strategic priorities and key assurance activity. The activity is led by the Independent Scrutineer and is aligned to the work of the DSP and PLG groups with a focus on:

- Performance Information.
- Audit Activity
- Assurance activity involving work with and feedback from children, young people, families and practitioners
- Additional assurance activity at request of DSL Group including in response to national, regional or local emerging themes, patterns and trends

Partnership Leads Group (PLG) – this group of partnership leads meet a minimum of four times a year to maintain progress of partnership plans and priorities and to coordinate all partnership activity ensuring work is prioritised and actioned in a timely way. It is Chaired by the NSCP Business Manager. The group acts as the point of identification and collaboration of safeguarding activity including:

- Agreeing the Partnership's Delivery, and Forward Plans, Audit and Learning Cycles and reporting mechanisms
- Identification of emerging issues, patterns and trends that have or could have an impact on safeguarding arrangements.
- Ensuring that planned work is prioritised, actioned, analysed and reported on to strengthen safeguarding arrangements (including but not limited to multi agency audit and learning activity, section 11 and 175 audit work, preparation of annual report, reviews of policy, procedure and practice, and inspection planning
- Ensuring that cooperation between partners is maintained by sharing progress and insights from the priority workstreams to promote partnership working.
- Overseeing the work of individual subgroups ensuring co-ordination and delivery of workstreams against agreed plans and assuring that activity evidence positive outcomes and impact to children and young people

The PLG can agree the requirement of additional task and finish subgroups to complete specific priority workstreams or urgent issues or situations which require a response in addition to the existing schedule of work. Upon agreement, such groups are convened by a nominated lead and are intended to ensure the prioritisation and completion of delivery of agreed work. To manage the Partnership's resource capability no more than two such groups should be in delivery at the same time. Any increased requirement should be escalated to the DSP group as it may impact upon the capacity of partners and delivery of agreed strategic priorities.

Additional members may be assigned by the DSPs to support responses to emerging or urgent concerns

Practice, Learning and Communication Group – this group meets a minimum of four times a year and coordinates practice and learning activity for the partnership. This includes developing and strengthening policy and practice reflecting local learning and regional and national safeguarding requirements, ensuring effective communication of key messages across the partnership and where relevant wider partners, families and communities.

Relevant Agencies Engagement Group – this group meets a minimum of twice a year and seeks to strengthen communication between all relevant agencies and the statutory partners and act as a core group of representatives from relevant agencies. These representatives will support the ongoing development of partnership arrangements, and information in relation to emerging safeguarding issues, themes, patterns and trends. As with the Education Engagement Group, whilst it is not possible to gain representation from every organisation this group will support the development and assurance of partnership arrangements and the strengthening of practice across the wider safeguarding partnership environment.

Education Engagement Group – this group meets a minimum of four times a year and the membership is reflective of education settings across Newcastle. The redevelopment of this group strengthens the role of education within the partnership arrangements. The aim of the group is to ensure the education sector is included in the partnership development of strategies, practice guidance and other areas of partnership work.

'PREM' (Strategic and Operational) – PREM stands for Partnership Reduction Exploitation Missing and is a Police led, multi-agency problem solving meeting to reduce identified risk and harm of exploitation and missing episodes. It is chaired by a Detective Inspector and considers operational referrals for specific individuals identified as at risk. There is also joint children's and adults safeguarding strategic meeting which includes agencies from across the partnership. This group is chaired by a Detective Chief Inspector from Northumbria Police and the focus is on improving outcomes for children, young people, and adults at risk of or experiencing exploitation by ensuring robust and effective arrangements for issues such as human trafficking, criminal and sexual exploitation, modern slavery, and missing persons. It also involves developing and monitoring performance data, maintaining

partnerships addressing related issues like forced marriage and domestic abuse, and contributing to regional collaboration on exploitation and trafficking.

Local Case Review Group – this group meets on an “as required” basis and has named representatives from the statutory safeguarding partner agencies. The group is formed on receipt of a referral to undertake procedures related to the GSCP/NSCP [Learning and Improvement Pathway](#) which outlines the both partnership’s processes for referring, responding to and publishing outcomes relating to serious child safeguarding incidents and other incidents which partners identify as requiring a statutory response and/or presenting learning opportunities

Gateshead and Newcastle Safeguarding Children Partnerships Joint Case Review Group – this group is a joint Gateshead and Newcastle arrangement and is responsible for sharing and reviewing information from local reviews to identify learning applicable to Gateshead and Newcastle Safeguarding Children Partnerships. This group also coordinates strategic responses across the partnership’s geographic boundaries where it is agreed that there might be multi-agency learning which could be applied to future practice.

13. Our Business Planning, Strategic Priorities and Business Resources:

Business Plan:

In Newcastle, the DSP Group together with Relevant Agencies develop a two-year business plan. The business plan includes our overarching vision, principles and focuses safeguarding partnership activity on key elements of safeguarding that we identify as priority actions to keep children safe in Newcastle.

Our Partnership Leads Group (PLG) coordinate, prioritise and deliver the work to achieve the strategic objectives set within the business plan. Each strategic priority has a lead member of the PLG appointed for delivery of workstreams relating to the priority. The overall business plan is overseen by the DSPs and supported by the NSCP Business Team, with progress and issues affecting progress escalated via reporting by the Chair of the PLG.

Strategic Priorities for 2025 – 2027:

The DSP leads for our statutory safeguarding partners have used feedback from children, young people and families work, together with practitioners from across our partnership leads and through our work with Relevant Agencies to consider known and emerging safeguarding issues affecting young people in Newcastle to help shape and develop a set of strategic priorities and objectives on an annual basis. In agreeing our priorities we also take into account national, regional and local issues that affect children and families in Newcastle (such as changes of legalisation, national learning from practice, new guidance and national events that impact us locally).

The NSCP Strategic Priorities for 2025 – 2027 are:

- Improve recognition and responses to the vulnerability of babies.
- Improve our partnership approach to identification, investigation and intervention relating to children who are at risk of harm by neglect
- Ensure that the Partnership is assured that all children and young people who are not in their education setting regularly (less than 90%) are safe and well.
- Increase targeted interventions to support children most in need and to better understand and address the underlying causes of serious youth violence including fear of and involvement in knife crime

14. Business Resource:

Funding contributions include provision of the NSCP Business Team which is hosted by Newcastle City Council. It is important that the NSCP Business Team supports the three statutory partners equally and is seen to be independent.

The Business Team consists of a team manager, business support and a training, learning and development officer.

The Newcastle Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements for Children and Young People are reviewed annually. Any proposed amendment to the arrangements will be in consultation with the wider partners.

15. Additional Functions of the Multi-agency Safeguarding Arrangements:

Our Multi-Agency Strategies, Policies and Procedures:

The aim of all our multi-agency strategies, policies and procedures is to provide useable framework for frontline practitioners to support the work they undertake on a daily basis with children and their families. Further, we want to ensure that children and families who need to access support have the right information available to access services in a timely way. Our arrangements library of useful documents and information that is available for practitioners, children and families can be accessed by the following link: [Local Resources](#)

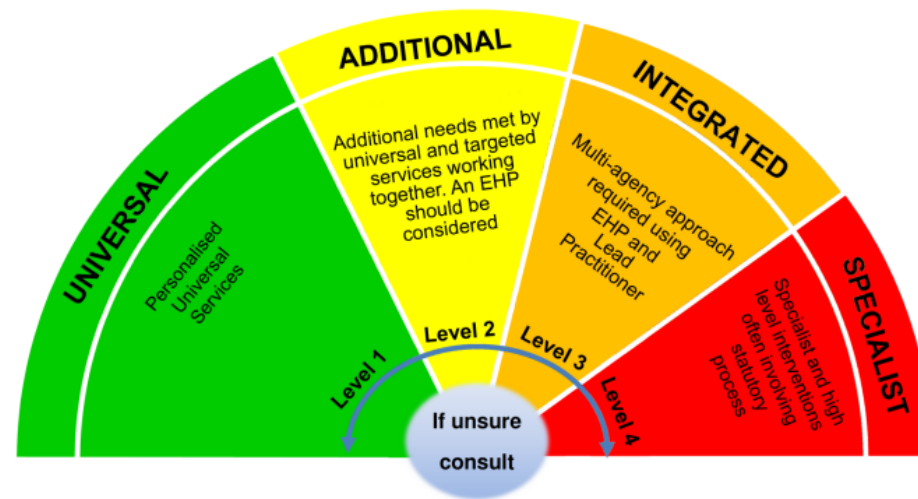
All families can face challenges that make parenting difficult. Often families are able to overcome these challenges themselves or with the help of relatives, friends and services (including schools, youth services, health visiting and mental health services). However, sometimes families have more significant needs that require more intensive help and support.

Our multi-agency partnership in Newcastle have agreed the criteria for different levels of assessment to inform which services are commissioned and delivered in our area to ensure that the right help is given to children and families at the right time. Importantly, this includes services for children who have suffered or are likely to suffer from harm, abuse, neglect and exploitation whether from within or outside the home.

We have published a threshold document which sets out our criteria for action that includes the process for early help assessment and the type and level of early help and targeted early help services (to be provided under Section 10 and 11 of the Children Act 2004).

Our Continuum of Help and Support Framework:

Working Together to Safeguard Children sets out a clear expectation that local agencies will work together and collaborate to identify children with additional needs and provide support as soon as a problem emerges. In Newcastle the partners believe that providing Early Help is important to promoting the welfare of children. The Continuum of Help and Support Framework provides information on the levels of need and gives indicators of when a child or young person may need additional support.



By undertaking single and multi-agency assessments and offering services across the Continuum, professionals can be flexible and respond to differing levels of need which will change overtime using [Multi-Agency Thresholds Guidance & Continuum of Help and Support Framework](#).

Further information regarding threshold and referral and child protection procedures can be accessed here: [Children's Safeguarding Thresholds - Newcastle Safeguarding](#)

16. Our Early Help Offer:

The majority of [Early Help in Newcastle](#) is delivered by universal services coming together as part of a multi-agency Team Around the Family using the Early Help Assessment. The Early Help Assessment is an assessment tool to enable practitioners and families to form a shared understanding about a child and their family's needs and how best to meet them.

An Early Help Assessment:

- Provides children, young people and families with a Child and Family Assessment, a single plan and a single point of contact. There is no overlap between services and families will only have to 'tell their story' once.
- Creates a record for the child and family and of the actions being undertaken to support them. This avoids duplication, repetition and confusion.
- Ensures that needs are considered holistically from a broad range of perspectives rather than from the focus of any one agency or need.
- Facilitates a more complete picture of the child/young person and their family through shared information which makes it easier for practitioners to agree which services are required, co-ordinate delivery with other services and monitor progress.
- Ensure that progress is continually monitored, and plans adjusted to meet changing needs through regular reviews.

Using Multi-Agency Thresholds Guidance & Continuum of Help and Support Framework promotes early help for families before they reach crisis point and ensures families are supported to help themselves. The Lead Safeguarding Partners have overall responsibility for the threshold guidance document and endorsement of any changes to it.

17. Our Management of Risk Outside the Home

In Newcastle partners work together to reduce risk for children and young people vulnerable to [risk outside the home](#) (ROTH). Partners have adapted the child protection system so that it is able to provide a responsive approach to all children, no matter what the source of risk. This new model supports staff and agencies to address contextual safeguarding risk for individuals and groups of children who may be at risk or in response to known hotspots where exploitation may be organised and controlled.

The model replicates the statutory child protection system but changes the focus so that it addresses risk outside the home. In this approach agencies work with parents as safeguarding partners, recognising that they may be doing everything possible to safeguard their child.

The model encourages the involvement of community-based services with a proven track record of engaging with children and importantly, who have a thorough understanding of what is happening in the local area. It also requires a different input from the police, to that in standard child protection work. Recognising that there is often an element of organised crime behind the exploitation of children, it is necessary for police to play an active part in establishing plans to achieve safety. All agencies, including Children's

Social Care, are required to adapt their approach based on the nature and cause of risk and what it is we need to change to achieve safety

In addition to the new model for addressing risk outside the home Northumbria Police lead on our newly launched (October 2024) multi-agency “PREM” meetings. These meetings focus on outcomes to make sure actions by partners help support young people identified as at risk of being reported missing and reduce the vulnerability of those young people identified as being at highest risk of exploitation. Part of the [“PREM”](#) approach is to ensure an ongoing focus on improving how we identify and understand the behaviours of exploiters, increasing our awareness of problem locations, and strengthening our teamwork to tackle issues of exploitation and missing persons., and strengthening our teamwork to tackle issues of exploitation and missing persons.

How any youth custody and residential homes for children will be included in the safeguarding arrangements:

There are no youth offending institutes within the Newcastle area, it is however important to recognise the duty and ensure the duty is applied in respect of Newcastle children who may be placed in custody in other local authority areas. The Lead Assistant Director of Children’s Social Care and Early Help in Newcastle City Council has responsibility for Youth Justice ensuring that this important area of work is considered throughout the NSCP’s sub-groups. As outlined earlier in the document, we work closely with the Youth Justice Board in relation to cross cutting aspects of responsibility.

18. Residential Children’s Homes

The private providers of registered children’s homes are relevant agencies. The multi-agency safeguarding arrangements maintain alignment with the provision of residential homes through participation of the Director of Children and Families as a delegated safeguarding partner and the Assistant Director as partnership lead contributing to the development of working together in Newcastle. These roles also have responsibility for the management and oversight of the registered managers and corporate parenting manager and provide related information to the lead safeguarding partners.

19. Our Learning and Development Framework (including Training):

The NSCP has a shared [learning and improvement framework](#) with Gateshead SCP which provides a structured approach for partners and individuals to reflect on partnership working and safeguarding practice. The framework is intended to support partners

to recognise and build on good practice and provide guidance and methodologies involving all stakeholders, including service users, in the process of learning and improvement. In accordance with Working Together 2023, the NSCP ensures the provision of appropriate multi-agency safeguarding professional development and training. This training offer can be accessed here: [Training - Newcastle Safeguarding](#)

The Newcastle Safeguarding Children Partnership promote national, regional and local learning material and have produced guidance which is designed to assist partners in identifying training needs and offers a variety of multi-agency in-person and e-learning advertised through the NSCP website. National, regional and local good practice and learning from reviews are also shared via our briefings on our website. These can be accessed here: [Local Learning - Newcastle Safeguarding](#)

20. How we use performance information to shape our work:

Effective data collection, sharing and analysis (both local and national) enables early identification of new safeguarding risks, and emerging threats, themes and trends.

The NSCP compiles a comprehensive multi-agency data set which is available to the subgroups and DSP Group to gain an informed understanding of the effectiveness of safeguarding and to identify emerging issues, patterns or trends. The report is always available to partners online and includes two types of dashboards: focused datasets with a few key performance indicators to help the Executive set strategic priorities, and broader datasets with operational or performance data from various agencies. This approach allows the inclusion of more data without adding complexity, making it easier to understand. These dashboards help to ensure that partnership information is reviewed consistently and decisions about strategic priorities are informed with the latest partnership data. Using a PowerBI application, partners and decision-makers can interact with the performance information anytime, not just during meetings. They can apply their own filters to focus on specific time periods and areas of interest, making it easier to understand the data.

21. Our Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) Pathway:

The purpose of a serious child safeguarding case review, at local and national level, is to identify improvements that can be made to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Learning is relevant locally but has wider importance for all practitioners working with children and families and for the government and policymakers. Understanding whether there are systemic issues, and whether and how policy and practice need to change, is critical to the system being dynamic and self-improving.

A review is undertaken to seek to prevent or reduce the risk of reoccurrence of similar incidents. They are not conducted to hold individuals, organisations, or agencies to account as there are other processes for that purpose, including employment law and disciplinary procedures, professional regulation and in exceptional circumstances, criminal proceedings.

During 2024 Newcastle Safeguarding Children Partnership worked with our colleagues in Gateshead Safeguarding Children Partnership area and collaborated and produced a joint NSCP and GSCP Learning and Improvement Reviewing Pathway. The learning review activity is overseen by a Joint Case Review Group (JCRG) which is accountable to Newcastle and Gateshead DSP Groups. In addition to overseeing the learning review activity the group is also responsible for tracking action plans and delivery of learning communication to wider partners and where relevant publication on respective websites. Further information can be accessed here: [Newcastle and Gateshead Joint Procedure: - Newcastle Safeguarding](#)

Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP):

The death of a child is a devastating loss which profoundly affects all those involved. Since April 2008, all deaths of children up to the age of 18 years, excluding stillbirths and planned terminations, are reviewed by CDOP to comply with the statutory requirement set out in Working Together 2023. In the event of a birth which is not attended by a healthcare professional, child death partners may carry out initial enquiries to determine whether the baby was born alive. If the baby was born alive then the death must be reviewed.

The Children Act 2004 requires Child Death Review (CDR) Partners (which in our CDOP footprint includes 6 Local Authorities of which Newcastle is one, plus the Northeast and North Cumbria ICB) to ensure arrangements are in place to carry out child death reviews, including the establishment of a CDOP. The reviews are conducted in accordance with Working Together 2023 alongside the Statutory and Operational Guidance (England) 2018.

The North and South of Tyne CDOP panel is multi-agency, and the process is carried out for all children resident in the 6 local authority areas listed (including Newcastle). Legislation allows for CDR partners to arrange for a review of a death of a child not normally resident there. This process is pragmatic with consideration given to where the most learning can take place.

In April 2019 the National Child Mortality Database (NCMD) became operational and is populated directly with the relevant data from eCDOP, a cloud-based information management system commissioned by the CDR partners for use across our footprint.

The purpose of the panel is to:

- Ascertain why a child has died by a thorough but proportionate review of the facts and circumstances surrounding the death
- Determine the contributory and modifiable factors
- Make recommendations to all relevant organisations where actions have been identified which may prevent further deaths or promote the health, safety and wellbeing of children
- Provide detailed data to NCMD which is analysed nationally and regularly reports are produced, for example, on the impact of deprivation on child deaths
- Produce an annual report highlighting local trends and patterns and any actions taken by the panel
- Contribute to the wider learning locally, regionally and nationally

Whilst the CDOP work is undertaken on a wider regional footprint (that includes the Newcastle area), our NSCP arrangements include reporting mechanisms and information sharing between the CDOP Panel and our DSP and Subgroups. The CDOP Annual Report can be accessed here: [CDOP annual report](#) 2023-24.

Deaths of Care Leavers:

Working Together 2023 states, “the local authority should notify the Secretary of State for Education and Ofsted of the death of a care leaver up to and including the age of 24. This should be notified via the Child Safeguarding Online Notification System”.

Should any of our young care leavers sadly die, our [NSCP and GSCP Learning and Improvement Reviewing Pathway](#) is the agreed process to support the identification and relevant management of the deaths of these young people.

Information on the Child Death and Care Leaver review procedures is available here: [Notification of the Death of a Care Leaver](#)

22. Work with Wider Partnerships and Boards:

As a Newcastle Safeguarding Children Partnership we work collaboratively and alongside other partnerships and boards involved in aspects of safeguarding at both local and regional level, in relation to cross cutting work and aspects of child safeguarding.

Tyne, Wear and Northumberland Safeguarding Partnership (TWNSP) – is a regional forum for Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSP) across Health, Police and Local Authorities. They seek to ensure consistency of approach and implement best practice

to improve safeguarding practice across the Tyne, Wear and Northumberland area and consider national reports to determine appropriate regional responses.

Corporate Parenting Board - The Newcastle Corporate Parenting Board oversees the welfare and development of children and young people in the care of Newcastle City Council. It ensures that the council fulfils its responsibilities as a "corporate parent," advocating for and supporting children in care and care leavers to achieve their full potential.

Health and Wellbeing Board (formerly known as City Futures Board) - This is a partnership arrangement with membership drawn from a range of organisations including Newcastle City Council, the NHS in Newcastle, Health watch Newcastle, the Voluntary and Community Sector and our two local universities. The Board works to improve the wellbeing and health of everyone in the city, with a particular focus on reducing health inequalities.

Newcastle Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership – the Newcastle Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership reports to the City's Health and Wellbeing Board, and in turn oversees the work of other groups in the City that work with babies, children and young people. It includes partners from the statutory and voluntary sectors

Newcastle Promise Board - Newcastle Promise Board is a citywide partnership led by Head Teachers to shape sector-led improvement. The Board is a formal partnership to enable schools to have a unified voice and to support a sector led school system. Agreement on representation for the board was proposed by school leaders and is based on geographical school groups, taking account of pupil numbers.

Whilst not established as a specific legal entity or legal partnership, the Board shares a long-term vision for the delivery of excellence in the education of children and young people in Newcastle and includes the following subgroups:

- [Inclusion subgroup](#)
- [School Effectiveness subgroup](#)
- [School Transition subgroup](#)
- [SEND subgroup](#)

Safe Newcastle (Community Safety Partnership) – Safe Newcastle is a partnership of statutory, voluntary, community and business sectors, led by the five main authorities:

- Newcastle City Council
- Northumbria Police
- Tyne & Wear Fire and Rescue Service
- NHS Northeast and North Cumbria Integrated Care
- HM Prison & Probation Service working together to help make Newcastle a safe city to live, work and visit.

They are the city's statutory Community Safety Partnership under the Crime and Disorder Act (1998). Safe Newcastle is led by the Safe Newcastle Board, with a number of thematic delivery groups, working to create a safe Newcastle by tackling crime & anti-social behaviour. The partnership produces a [community safety plan](#), outlining their objectives and the work going on to achieve them.

Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board – The Newcastle Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board is a statutory board, which is in place to oversee the local authority meeting its duty through the production of the required domestic abuse needs assessment and strategy and the commissioning of accommodation based support for victims/ survivors. The board has membership from across the statutory services as well as community and voluntary sector providers.

Youth Justice Board – makes sure suitable governance arrangements are in place for the YJS. It is responsible for ensuring the delivery of the local Youth Justice Plan, it agrees the draft Youth Justice Plan and receives progress updates as to implementation. It also monitors quarterly updates from the YJS Head of Service on performance against key targets and initiatives

[Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board \(NSAB\)](#) - This board brings together representatives from various agencies and organisations to work in partnership to protect adults in Newcastle. By sharing best practice and expertise the board works to ensure that adults have access to the right support and services they need. Further Information on the Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board can be found here: [Safeguarding Adults Board](#)

[Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference \(MARAC\)](#) – is a partnership arrangement that meets fortnightly, chaired by the Police and attended by a range of partner agencies including adult and children's social care; probation; health services; and community and voluntary sector organisations. MARACs deal with the highest risk domestic violence cases, where the victim is identified as being at serious risk of harm.

[Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements \(MAPPA\)](#) - is the process through which the police, probation and prison services work together with other agencies to assess and manage violent and sexual offenders in order to protect the public from harm.

The safeguarding partnership recognises the strong links between issues for children and adults and has the intention through a number of the above-named strategic partnerships to work in a more integrated 'whole family' all-age approach. The partnership recognises the key themes that crosscut the different partnerships, boards and strategic groups and that all seek to ensure there is coordinated approach particularly in relation to transitional safeguarding, domestic abuse and modern Slavery.

WT2023 is not prescriptive about specific meetings and attendees. However, the safeguarding partnership has a structure of meetings and forums that seek to engage all relevant agencies in ways that best meet the aim of engaging them in multi-agency safeguarding arrangements for children and young people. In order to allow the Lead Safeguarding Partners to engage with a much wider pool of relevant agencies including those in the voluntary and community sector, the partnership also includes Safeguarding Children Partnership Events within annual plans.

APPENDIX ONE

RELEVANT AGENCIES

Statutory Relevant Partner List	MASA Relevant Partner List	Category
The governing body of a maintained school	All maintained schools	Education and childcare
The governing body of a pupil referral unit		Education and childcare
(a) to which Chapter 3 of Part 8 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006(13), and (b) in respect of which funding is provided by, or under arrangements made by, the Secretary of State	Any provider of education or training as <i>*Foundation Schools</i>	Education and childcare
	All non-maintained schools	Education and childcare
The proprietor of an Academy school	<i>*Academies</i>	Education and childcare
The proprietor of a 16-19 Academy		Education and childcare
The proprietor of an alternative provision Academy		Education and childcare
The proprietor of a school approved under section 342 of the Education Act 1996(9)	<i>*Non-maintained special school</i>	Education and childcare
The proprietor of an independent educational institution registered under section 95(1) of the Education and Skills Act 2008(8)	All independent schools	Education and childcare
The proprietor of a Special post-16 institution	Newcastle College	Education and childcare
The governing body of an institution within the further education sector within the meaning given by section 91(3) of the Further and Higher Education Act 1992(11)		Education and childcare
The governing body of a maintained nursery school	All maintained nursery schools	Education and childcare
A person registered under Chapter 2, 2A, 3 or 3A of Part 3 of the Childcare Act 2006(14) <i>*Early Years Childcare Providers</i>	Registered Early Years Childcare Providers	Education and childcare
The governing body of an English higher education provider within the meaning of section 83 of the Higher Education and Research Act 2017(12)	Newcastle University	Education and childcare
The provider of a children's centre	Community Family Hub	Education and childcare
NHS Integrated Care Partnership	Northeast and Cumbria Integrated Care Partnership	Health and Social Care
An NHS foundation trust/An NHS trust	The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Health and Social Care

	Cumbria Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust	Health and Social Care
	The Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust	Health and Social Care
The registered provider of an adoption support agency	Private providers	Health and Social Care
The registered provider of a registered adoption society		Health and Social Care
A registered provider of a fostering agency		Health and Social Care
A registered provider of a children's home		Health and Social Care
A registered provider of residential family centre		Health and Social Care
The registered provider of a residential holiday schemes for disabled children		Health and Social Care
	Newcastle Public Health Service	Health and Social Care
	The Northeast Ambulance Service	Health and Social Care
	Primary Care	Health and Social Care
	NHS England	Health and Social Care
The Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass)	Cafcass	Criminal Justice
Providers of probation services	Probation Service (Northeast Region)	Criminal Justice
Youth offending teams	Newcastle Youth Justice Service	Criminal Justice
The British Transport Police	The British Transport Police	Police and Immigration
Any person or body for whom the Secretary of State must make arrangements for ensuring the discharge of functions under section 55 of the Borders Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009(32)	HMRC (Newcastle Fraud Investigation Service I&B Northeast)	Police and Immigration
Charities within the meaning given by section 1 of the Charities Act 2011(33)	NSPCC	Miscellaneous
	The Angelou Centre	Miscellaneous
	Humankind	Miscellaneous
	Action For Children	Miscellaneous
	Harbour	Miscellaneous
	The Children's Society	Miscellaneous
	Streetwise	Miscellaneous
	Changing Lives	Miscellaneous
	Connected Voice	Miscellaneous
Religious Organisations as set out in regulation 34 of, and Schedule 3 to, the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012(34)	Diocese of Newcastle	Miscellaneous

Any person or body involved in the provision, supervision or oversight of sport or leisure	Newcastle United Football Club	Miscellaneous
	NCC Operations, Neighbourhoods, and Regulatory Services	Miscellaneous
	Sport Newcastle	Miscellaneous
	Northumberland FA	Miscellaneous