



GATESHEAD  
local safeguarding  
children board

# Gateshead LSCB Business Plan 2017-2018





## Vision

*Our vision is that every child should grow up feeling safe and in a loving, secure environment, free from abuse, neglect and crime, enabling them to enjoy a happy and healthy childhood in which they can fulfil their social and economic potential.*

### Role of the Business Plan

The Gateshead LSCB Business Plan sets the strategic direction for the LSCB. The Business Plan also reinforces the specific role of the LSCB to **lead, challenge** and support **learning**. The plan identifies specific priorities for action and is clear about roles and accountability.

### The Gateshead Approach

Gateshead LSCB agreed a new approach in 2014 and adopted a three year Business Plan to cover the period from 2014-2017. This document provides a focus for 2017-2018 to build on the progress made in the previous three years and to drive forward work to prepare Gateshead for the new safeguarding arrangements which will be established in 2018 in line with new legislation. This document will enable the Board to continue to focus on the specific role and remit of LSCBs in ensuring that the welfare of children is safeguarded and protected, as set out in *Working Together* (2015) and the Children Act 2004.

This Business Plan emphasises the role of Gateshead LSCB in **leading** the safeguarding agenda, in **challenging** the work of partner organisations, and in committing to an approach which **learns** lessons, embeds good practice and which is continually influenced by the views of children and young people.



## Summary of Key Achievements in 2016-2017

A full breakdown of progress in 2016-2017 can be found in the Gateshead LSCB 2016-2017 Annual Report. Highlights are shown in the table below.

Area of work	Progress in 2016-2017
<b>Leadership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Links were strengthened with the local community through work with lay members, the Jewish Community and links to the Diversity Forum through GemArts.</li> <li>• Work was undertaken to improve the LSCB's visibility and influence with other partnerships such as the Health and Wellbeing Board, Safeguarding Adults Board and Community Safety Board.</li> <li>• Work was carried out to explore better ways to engage with young people to be led by them and to be seen to be owning the safeguarding agenda</li> </ul>
<b>Challenge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work was carried out to ensure that the Board understood what audit work partners were already carrying out, what this was telling us and what difference it made.</li> <li>• Work was also carried out to challenge ourselves as a Board to understand how effective we are and what we need to do to become more effective and have more impact.</li> </ul>
<b>Learning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board members continued with work to learn lessons from young people directly and to listen to what they are telling us. Work was also carried out to learn from the national review of LSCBs.</li> <li>• Where appropriate, learning reviews on individual cases were carried out to identify lessons for single agency and joint working and the learning was disseminated and practice changed.</li> <li>• Work was also carried out to understand the impact of our training programme and ensure that we deliver high quality resources that help practitioners learn and improve their practice to improve outcomes for children and young people.</li> </ul>
<b>Preventing harm</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific work was carried out to understand the increase in Permanent Exclusions in our schools recently and areas for development have been identified.</li> <li>• Work was also carried out to consider a locality based risk assessment, however this was not felt to be appropriate at this time.</li> </ul>
<b>Protecting vulnerable children</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific work was carried out to understand the high levels of self-harm in Gateshead and equip professionals with the skills and knowledge to respond to this and support young people more effectively and more confidently</li> </ul>

We also continued to monitor the LSCB Ofsted Improvement Plan which was developed following the inspection in 2015-2016.



# 2017-2018 Action Plan

In 2017-2018 the focus will continue to be on the three strategic business priorities:

- **Leadership**
- **Challenge**
- **Learning**

There will also be a focus on five thematic priority areas:

- **Voice of the child**
- **Improving relationships and the interface with schools**
- **Early Help**
- **Mental health**
- **Safeguarding disabled children**

In addition, we will work to prepare for the implementation of new legislation and guidance around statutory strategic arrangements for safeguarding.

We will do the following to deliver our priorities:

In relation to **Voice of the child** we will ensure that our work plan helps us improve the way that we capture this as a Board so that we can learn from what young people are telling us and our partner agencies.

In relation to **Improving relationships and the interface with schools** we will establish a reference group with Head Teachers to secure a two-way dialogue on issues for the Board and partners that may impact on schools and relevant lessons from frontline practice across the education landscape.

In relation to **Early Help** we will challenge progress on the development and implementation of the new Early Help Strategy for Gateshead and receive assurance about the impact of the strategy on safeguarding children

In relation to **Mental health** we will receive assurances on the implementation on the new model for delivering Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (known as EMIL) and receive assurances that mental health services commissioned for children in Gateshead are adequate in terms of safeguarding and services for adults operate with a “think family” approach.

In relation to **Safeguarding disabled children** we will receive assurances from the relevant agencies and services that the learning from the recent SEND inspection has been embedded and relevant actions from the 2017 report from National Working Group on Safeguarding Disabled Children have been taken forward.

## Action Plan

Action	Lead Officer	Target Date
<b>Voice of the child</b>		
Receive reports throughout the year regarding partner engagement with young people including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MoMO</li> </ul>	LSCB Business Manager to coordinate work plan, all Board members to contribute	March 2018
Refresh our engagement strategy to ensure that the Voice of the Child is captured at Board level and not just by partner agencies	LSCB Business Manager to coordinate work plan, all Board members to contribute	March 2018
Host an engagement event with Board members and young people with the agenda set by young people themselves	LSCB Business Manager to coordinate work plan, all Board members to contribute	March 2018
Ensure that consideration is given to capturing the Voice of the Child when establishing the new arrangements in Gateshead	Independent Chair and LSCB Business Manager	January 2018
<b>Improving relationships and the interface with schools</b>		
Establish a Reference Group with schools to ensure a two-way dialogue between Education and other Board partners	Service Director Children & Families and Service Director Education & Schools	October 2017
Support schools in relation to Permanent Exclusions by undertaking deep dive work as part of the Early Help re-model	Service Director Early Years and Service Director Education & Schools	March 2018
<b>Early Help</b>		
Receive a progress report on the development and implementation of the new Early Help Strategy for Gateshead and participate in the consultation process	Service Director Children and Families	July 2017
Monitor the impact of the new Early Help Strategy and re-model of services and receive assurances on the impact on safeguarding children	Service Director Early Help	March 2018

*Continued overleaf*

Action	Lead Officer	Target Date
<b>Mental health</b>		
Challenge the development and implementation of a new model for CAMHS (the EMIL model) and ensure that the learning from the task & finish work on self-harm in 2016-2017 is incorporated	Executive Director, Patient Safety and Designated Nurse, CCG	July 2017
Receive assurances that mental health services commissioned for children in Gateshead are adequate in terms of safeguarding	Executive Director, Patient Safety and Designated Nurse, CCG	January 2018
Receive assurances that mental health services for adults operate with a "think family" approach and maintain a focus on safeguarding children	NTW representative	March 2018
<b>Safeguarding disabled children</b>		
Receive assurances that learning from the recent SEND inspection has been embedded	Service Director Early Years (for Gateshead Council actions) and Designated Nurse (for health actions)	October 2017
Receive assurances that relevant actions from the 2017 report from National Working Group on Safeguarding Disabled Children have been taken forward	LSCB Business Manager to coordinate work plan with relevant partner agencies	January 2018

In addition, we will do the following to maintain a focus on our strategic priorities linked to our specific role to **lead, challenge and learn**:

In relation to **leadership** we will work to ensure that our future arrangements are fit for purpose and enable the new body which will be established to oversee strategic safeguarding arrangements in Gateshead to build on the work of the LSCB and strengthen the position in Gateshead further.

In relation to **challenge** we will continue to build on our links with other partnerships (e.g. the Safeguarding Adults Board, Health and Wellbeing Board and Community Safety Board) and influence their agenda via our own work plan and membership.

In relation to **learning** we will continue to review cases where there are lessons to be learned through the Learning and Improvement Sub Group (and Serious Case Review Panel when necessary). We will also implement and embed the findings of any relevant inspections of the Board and partner agencies and cascade the learning across partner agencies

Action	Lead Officer	Target Date
<b>Leadership</b>		
Work to ensure that future arrangements are fit for purpose and enable the Gateshead Safeguarding Children Board to build on the work of the LSCB and strengthen the position further.	LSCB Independent Chair and Business Manager	March 2018
<b>Challenge</b>		
Build on links with other partnerships (e.g. the SAB, HWB and CSB)	LSCB Independent Chair and Business Manager	March 2018
<b>Learning</b>		
Review cases where there are lessons to be learned and ensure lessons are disseminated and actioned as appropriate	Chair of Learning & Improvement Sub Group (currently Detective Chief Inspector, Safeguarding) and LSCB Business Manager	Ongoing, as and when required
Implement and embed the findings of any Board or partner agency inspections and cascade the learning as appropriate	Relevant LSCB Executive members and LSCB Business Manager	Ongoing, as and when required



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Produced by Gateshead local safeguarding children board.