

Group: Learning and Children	Service: Children's Commissioning	Section: Safeguarding Children Unit	Lead officer: Joanna D White
Support officers: Louise Gill		Completion date: February 2013	
		Review date: February 2014 or within 3 months of publication of the new Working Together	
General information			
(1) Name of Proposal/policy/function:	Gateshead Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Inter-agency Child Protection Procedures		
Briefly describe the aims, objectives and purpose of the policy	<p>Protecting children and young people at risk represents the commitment of organisations in Gateshead to work together to safeguard children and young people at risk. The procedures aim to make sure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The needs and interests of children and young people at risk are always respected and upheld • The human rights of children and young people at risk are respected and upheld • A proportionate, timely, professional and ethical response is made to any child and young person at risk who may be experiencing abuse • All decisions and action are taken in accordance with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2010. <p>The procedures also aim to make sure that each child and young person at risk is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy • Stays safe • Enjoys and achieves • Makes a positive contribution • Achieves economic well being 		

	<p>The Gateshead LSCB Inter-agency Child Protection Procedures provide an overarching framework for all partner agencies within Gateshead to protect and support children and young people at risk.</p> <p>They represent a commitment of all organisations to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work together to prevent and protect children and young people at risk from abuse • Empower and support children and young people to make their own choices • Investigate actual or suspected abuse and neglect • Support children and young people and provide a service to children and young people at risk who are experiencing abuse, neglect and exploitation
<p>(2) Is this new or existing?</p>	<p>The Gateshead LSCB Inter-agency Child Protection Procedures are existing and have been formally endorsed by all partner agencies within the Gateshead Local Safeguarding Children Board</p>
<p>(3) Who are the main customer groups affected by this policy/function</p>	<p>All residents in Gateshead will be affected by this as individuals need to have confidence that there are procedures in place to protect those children and young people that are most vulnerable. In particular, the Gateshead LSCB Inter-agency Child Protection Procedures is targeted towards those children and young people at risk who meet the criteria outlined in the section on ‘Delivering a Continuum of Integrated Support: Indicators of Need and Service Response’ namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A young/vulnerable child left alone (if the child is known to be alone the police should be contacted immediately at that time). • Sexual activity in children under the age of 13. • Concerns about sexual exploitation or trafficking. <p>The following children are also entitled to an initial assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. • Young carers. • Homeless 16 and 17 year olds. • Disabled children (referrals for disabled children should be made to the Disabled Children’s Team - there is a separate indicators of need framework for disabled children).

Other Useful links

<http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/lscb/OurProcedures.aspx>

<http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/lscb/Missingchildrenandyoungpeople.aspx>

In addition section 3.1 'Referrals of Gateshead LSCB Inter-agency Child Protection Procedures' provides an overview of when the guidance should be followed; Professionals, employees, managers, helpers, carers and volunteers in all agencies must make a referral to Children's Social Care if it is believed or suspected that:

- A child is suffering or is likely to suffer **significant harm**; or
- A child would be likely to benefit from family support services with the agreement of the person who has **parental responsibility**.

When there are concerns about significant harm, then the referral must be made immediately. The greater the level of perceived risk, the more urgent the action should be. The suspicion or allegation may be based on information, which comes from different sources. It may arise in the context of the **Common Assessment Framework**. It may come from a member of the public, the child concerned, another child, a family member or professional staff. It may relate to a single incident or an accumulation of lower level concerns. All referrals from professionals must be in writing, using **Appendix A: Child in Need/Child Protection Referral Form**.

The information may also relate to harm caused by another child, in which case both children, i.e. the suspected perpetrator and victim, must be referred - see also **Abuse by Children and Young People Procedure**.

The suspicion or allegation may relate to a parent, professional, volunteer or anyone caring for or working with the child - if so, see also **Allegations Against Persons who Work with Children Procedure**.

A referral must be made even if it is known that Children's Social Care is already involved with the child/family.

Where consultation is sought and Children's Social Care then conclude that a referral is required; the information provided so far must be regarded and responded to as a referral, and the referrer must be advised accordingly and must confirm their referral in writing (using **Appendix A: Child**

in Need/Child Protection Referral Form).

Professionals may seek advice about the appropriateness of a referral from the designated/named professional for child protection within their own agency or **Children's Social Care Referral and Assessment Team**. If it is concluded that a referral is required, both Children's Social Care and the referrer must regard the information provided and responded to as a referral.

When concerns are identified in relation to a child/children, the referrer should telephone the Child Protection Plan Administrator on 0191 433 8031 to check if the child is subject to a **Child Protection Plan**.

If a referral is being made to Adult Social Care, the referrer should check to see if the adult has parental responsibility for a child/ren under the age of 18, and if so whether there are any issues in regard to meeting the needs of the child/ren. If so, a referral should be made to Children's Social Care as outlined in **Section 7, Making a Referral**.

WHEN IN DOUBT, CONCERNS MUST BE SHARED.

(4) Groups affected by Proposal/Policy/Function:		(5) Geographical areas affected by the Proposal/Policy/Function:			
Age - <i>(Children 0-16, Young people 16-24, 25-59 year olds, 60+ Year olds)</i>	Y	Central Bridges	Y	South Birtley	Y
Disability - <i>(Physical/mobility, sensory impairment, learning difficulties, mental health, other)</i>	Y	Deckham	Y	Chowdene	Y
Gender and gender identity - <i>(Men/women/transgender people)</i>	Y	Saltwell	Y	High Fell	Y
Lesbians, Gay men, Bisexuals <i>(LGB)</i>	Y	Lobley Hill & Bensham	Y	Lamesley	Y
Race – <i>(BME groups, gypsies and travellers, asylum seekers and refugees, new and emerging communities)</i>	Y	East Felling	Y	Low Fell	Y
Religion or belief groups – <i>(Including those of no religion or belief)</i>	Y	Pelaw & Heworth	Y	West Blaydon	Y
Socio-economic groups	Y	Wardley and Leam Lane	Y	Chopwell & Rowlands Gill	Y
Geographic communities – <i>(Urban, rural, neighbouring areas)</i>	Y	Windy Nook and Whitehills	Y	Crawcrook & Greenside	Y
Visitors or those working in the Borough	Y	Inner West Dunston Hill & Whickham East	Y	Ryton, Crookhill and Stella	Y
Elected Members	Y	Dunston & Teams	Y	Winlaton and High Spenn	Y
Council Employees	Y	Whickham North	Y		
Everyone in Gateshead	Y	Whickham South and Sunniside	Y		
				All Wards	Y
				No Wards	N

(6) Who has been consulted in the development of the proposal/policy/function, and what has changed as a result?

Members of the Gateshead LSCB have been consulted on the draft Gateshead LSCB Inter-agency Child Protection Procedures. A multi agency task and finish group was convened to review and update the Gateshead LSCB Inter-agency Child Protection Procedures.

Awareness raising sessions have also been provided to partner organisations.

Clearer guidance has been developed about strategy meetings and the complaints procedure. Following a serious case review additional information has been provided for GPs which includes the NICE guidance.

(7) Data analysed during development of the proposal/policy/function and key issues

(Service Data – e.g. *Comments and complaints, user surveys, database statistics, etc.* Local –*Strategic Needs Assessment, JSNA, Household Survey, viewpoint, etc.* National – e.g. *Census, Labour Force Survey, etc.*)

Complaints

The LSCB takes all complaints raised very seriously and deals with them in line with the LSCB Complaints Process. This process is in conjunction to The Children Act 1989 Representations Procedure (England) Regulations 2006. All complaints are recorded and responded to consistently with the complainant receiving the findings in a format appropriate to them. This ensures that any communication difficulties are considered when a response is prepared.

Between 1 April 2011 and 31 January 2013, three complaints have been dealt with through the LSCB procedure. One complaint was regarding children being made the subject of child protection plans. Two complaints were regarding the attitude of the child protection conference chair. After investigation, two complaints were not upheld and one complaint was fully upheld and resulted in additional training being offered to ensure compliance with the Council's Customer Care Standards.

Referrals

There have been 2018 referrals, of which 1781 have led to an initial assessment taking place (88.3%).

At the same time last year, there had been 1702 referrals, of which 1476 resulted in completed initial assessments (86.7%).

There has been an 18.6% increase in referrals compared to last year.

There have been 523 re-referrals (referrals made within 12 months of a previous referral) which represent 129.8 referrals per 10,000. At the end of last year, this stood at 134.7 per 10,000.

34.4% of referrals came from the Police/Probation/Courts, 18.4% came from health (hospitals/GPs/health visitors etc) 12.2% came from Schools, 11.7% came from other sources (outside agencies, housing providers, other local authorities), 11.3% came from relatives/friends or family, 8.2% came from within Gateshead council, 2.1% were self referrals and the remaining 1.8% were anonymous.

Assessments (Initials, Cores, S47s and Initial Conferences)

There have been 1781 initial assessments, of which 76% were completed within 10 working days. There has been a 20.7% increase in initial assessments compared to last year.

There have been 1,054 core assessments, of which 81.3% were completed within 35 working days. There has been a 40% increase in core assessments compared to last year.

There have been 394 Section 47s, and 197 proceeded to an Initial Child Protection Conference. All 197 were held within 15 working days of the Section 47s.

82.7% of initial conferences resulted in a child being placed on a child protection plan (163).

Children on Child Protection Plans

Currently there are 191 children subject to a Child Protection Plan which equates to 47.4 per 10,000 children. This is higher than at the end of last year when Gateshead reported a Child Protection rate of 44.9 per 10,000.

67.5% of Child Protection cases are due to neglect, 21.5% of Child Protection cases are due to emotional abuse, 6.8% of Child Protection cases are due to physical abuse and 4.3% of Child Protection cases are due to sexual abuse.

There are no Child Protection cases which have lasted over 2 years, although 27 cases have been open for more than 12 months.

Currently 5.7% of current Child Protection cases have been registered for a subsequent or second time. This is slightly lower than the same time last year when 5.5% of current Child Protection had been registered for a subsequent or second time.

• Relations between groups	+1	By safeguarding our most vulnerable children and young people we aim to ensure they are able to take an active role within their communities.	Not applicable
• Access to services/facilities/information	+2	By safeguarding our most vulnerable children and young people we aim to ensure they are able to take an active role within their communities and achieve their full potential.	Not applicable

(9) Environment	Impact	Description of Impact	Mitigation
	+2, +1, 0, -1, -2		
What impact will this proposal/policy/function have on;			
• Energy and carbon emissions	0	These policies and procedures will not have a discernable impact	Not applicable
• Built environment	0	These policies and procedures will not have a discernable impact	Not applicable
• Transportation	0	These policies and procedures will not have a discernable impact	Not applicable
• Natural environment	0	These policies and procedures will not have a discernable impact	Not applicable
• Waste management	0	These policies and procedures will not have a discernable impact	Not applicable

(10) Health and Wellbeing	Impact	Description of Impact	Mitigation
	+2, +1, 0, -1, -2		
<p>What impact will this proposal/policy/function have on;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The physical and mental health of residents • The health related behaviours of residents • Social elements of health • Economic well-being and its role in promoting good health • Physical environment and it's role in promoting good health • Capacity of health and social care systems 	<p>+2</p> <p>+1</p> <p>+1</p> <p>0</p> <p>0</p> <p>+1</p>	<p>By safeguarding the wellbeing of children and young people there will be a positive impact upon residents and their families mental health</p> <p>By safeguarding the wellbeing of children and young people there will be a positive impact upon residents and their families mental health</p> <p>By safeguarding our most vulnerable children and young people we aim to ensure they are able to take an active role within their communities.</p> <p>These policies and procedures will not have a discernable impact</p> <p>These policies and procedures will not have a discernable impact</p> <p>By clarifying the roles and responsibilities of all agencies there will be a positive impact upon all partner agencies to deliver this agenda in an efficient, effective and joined up way</p>	<p>Not applicable</p> <p>Not applicable</p> <p>Not applicable</p> <p>Not applicable</p> <p>Not applicable</p> <p>Not applicable</p>

(11) Economy	Impact	Description of Impact	Mitigation
	+2, +1, 0, -1, -2		
<p>What impact will this proposal/policy/function have on;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deprivation and disadvantage • Child and family poverty • Financial inclusion 	<p>+1</p> <p>+1</p> <p>+1</p>	<p>The Gateshead LSCB Inter-agency Child Protection Procedures incorporates mechanisms for partner agencies to address the wider issues which impact on children young people and their families</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aspirations and enhancing life chances 	<p>+1</p>	<p>The Gateshead LSCB Inter-agency Child Protection Procedures will help to safeguard our children and young people and enable them to live their life and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be healthy • Stay safe • Enjoy and achieve • Make a positive contribution • Achieve economic well being 	<p>Not applicable</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting people into employment 	<p>0</p>	<p>These policies and procedures will not have a discernable impact</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic performance and growth – supporting business start-up development and survival, including social enterprises 	<p>0</p>	<p>These policies and procedures will not have a discernable impact</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment and development 	<p>0</p>	<p>These policies and procedures will not have a discernable impact</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>

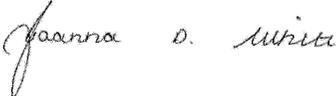
(12) Community Safety	Impact	Description of Impact	Mitigation
	+2, +1, 0, -1, -2		
<p>What impact will this proposal/policy/function have on the Council's statutory duty to address;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime and disorder • Anti-social behaviour • Substance misuse • Behaviour adversely affecting the local environment • Reducing re-offending 	<p>+1</p> <p>+1</p> <p>+1</p> <p>+1</p> <p>+1</p>	<p>The Gateshead LSCB Inter-agency Child Protection Procedures ensure that there are greater linkages with community safety partners and the Youth Offending Team</p> <p>The Gateshead LSCB Inter-agency Child Protection Procedures ensure that there are greater linkages with community safety partners</p> <p>The Gateshead LSCB Inter-agency Child Protection Procedures ensure that there are greater linkages with community safety partners and Substance Misuse Teams</p> <p>The Gateshead LSCB Inter-agency Child Protection Procedures ensure that there are greater linkages with community safety partners, Housing Company, and Families Gateshead project</p> <p>The Gateshead LSCB Inter-agency Child Protection Procedures ensure that there are greater linkages with community safety partners, Probation, Youth Offending Team and Police</p>	<p>Not applicable</p> <p>Not applicable</p> <p>Not applicable</p> <p>Not applicable</p> <p>Not applicable</p>

(13) Community Cohesion	Impact	Description of Impact	Mitigation
	+2, +1, 0, -1, -2		
What impact will this proposal/policy/function have on; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local integration and cohesion • The visibility of social justice and equality between groups • Understanding across different groups • Engagement with residents / community leaders / young people 	+1	By safeguarding and working with our most vulnerable children and young people we aim to ensure they are able to take an active role within their communities.	Not applicable
	+1	By safeguarding our most vulnerable children and young people irrespective of their background we aim to ensure social justice is visible across all communities.	Not applicable
	+1	By safeguarding our most vulnerable children and young people we aim to work across cultures and provide universal services which meet the needs of all community groups.	Not applicable
	+1	The Gateshead LSCB Inter-agency Child Protection Procedures ensure that the child or young person is fully engaged and involved in the Section 47 Enquiry and their voice is heard in discussion with their social worker and any other agency or professional who is involved. In addition children and young people's views are collated via the youth assembly, user surveys, multi agency audits and the views of children young people and their families in child protection conferences.	Not applicable

(14) Workforce and Assets	Impact	Description of Impact	Mitigation
	+2, +1, 0, -1, -2		
What impact will this proposal/policy/function have on; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council workforce (<i>changes to; numbers of employees; working practices; IT systems; training needs</i>) 	+1	By clarifying the roles and responsibilities of all agencies there will be a positive impact upon all employees to deliver this agenda in an efficient and effective way which will ensure the welfare of all children and young people is promoted.	Not applicable

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the proposal have a greater adverse impact on any group of employees sharing a protected characteristic 	0	These policies and procedures will not have a discernable impact	Not applicable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council assets 	0	These policies and procedures will not have a discernable impact	Not applicable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which group of employees will be affected? 		All employees who come into contact with children and young people at risk of significant harm	

SIGNED:



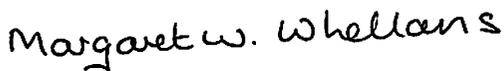
Completing Officer Joanna D White

SIGNED:



Service Director Martin Gray

SIGNED:



Group Director Margaret Whellans