

# **Business Plan**

**2008/09**



Newcastle Safeguarding Children Board is the statutory partnership for agreeing how organisations will co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and for ensuring the effectiveness of what they do.

The work of the Board fits within the wider context of children's trust arrangements that aim to improve the overall well being for all children. Whilst it contributes to the wider goals it has a particular focus and lead on the Every Child Matters, stay safe outcome.

Newcastle Safeguarding Children Board is proactive in driving forward the duty of all partner organisations in relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and crosses the boundaries between the statutory, voluntary and independent sectors.

The core objectives of the Board are to co-ordinate and ensure the effectiveness of what is done in Newcastle for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in Newcastle.

The Board is accountable to the Executive Director of Children's Services, who is accountable to the Children's Services Authority in ensuring the effectiveness of what is done by the Board partners to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children.

Additional information can be found in Chapter 3 of Working Together to Safeguard Children (2006) and on the Safeguarding Children Board website [www.newcastle.gov.uk/lscb](http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/lscb)

Objective	Action	Action Owner	Timescale	Risk and Risk Control Actions	Action Completed
<sup>1</sup> To assist staff to fully understand and implement the threshold criteria for accessing children's social care services, including DV and PSM <sup>2</sup> (NPCYP <sup>3</sup> priority)	Review and build upon CSC thresholds document, incorporating the risk indicators from the NEIPS	Sue Kirkley	October 2008	CSC continue to receive inappropriate referrals - monitored by CSSU	
Ensure thresholds are embedded in induction, CAF and safeguarding training (APA)	Embed within Children's Workforce Development	Robin Harper-Coulson	Oct 2008	Training does not reflect current local developments - monitored by NSCB Training Committee	
	CAF training to include CSC thresholds	Grainne Fegan	Oct 2008		
To assist all agencies and IRO's (child protection) to implement consistent thresholds for decision making around child protection plans	Safeguarding training to include thresholds	Robin Harper-Coulson	Oct 2008		
	Clear thresholds guidance to all staff, embedded in training and audit processes	Sue Kirkley	November 2008	Children become subject of a CO plan unnecessarily	

<sup>1</sup> CAF - Common Assessment Framework  
NEIPS - Newcastle Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy  
CSSU - Children's safeguarding Standards Unit  
CSC - Children's Social Care  
<sup>2</sup> Domestic violence and parental substance misuse  
<sup>3</sup> Newcastle Plan for Children and Young People

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Action Owner</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Risk and Risk Control Actions</b>	<b>Action Completed</b>
Children, parents and agencies providing services to children understand cyber bullying and wider e-safety issues (NPCYP priority)	Set up a working group to co-ordinate and develop an e-safety strategy to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Newcastle - Work in collaboration with BECTA and regional partners	Sue Kirkley	Sept 2008	The risks to children are not minimised - monitored by Policy & Procedure Committee	
Recruitment processes across children's services are robust and consistent	Set up project board linked to Children's Services Transformation Programme Theme 4 (4.4)	Sue Kirkley	Sept 2008	Staff working with children or accessing sensitive information have not had all the relevant checks	
Needs and gap analysis of services to support children affected by domestic (LGA 2005) <sup>4</sup> (NPCYP priority)	Analysis undertaken in accordance with Newcastle Commissioning Framework and LGA (2005) framework	Sue Kirkley	Jan 2009	Service provision in Newcastle is inadequate to meet the needs of children affected by domestic violence - inform planning and commissioning for 2009	

<sup>4</sup> Vision for services for children and young people affected by domestic violence - Local Government Association (2005)

Objective	Action	Action Owner	Time scale	Risk and Risk Control Actions	Action Completed
Expand roll out of domestic violence awareness within schools	Training programme developed	Melanie Scott	Sept 2008	Funding/resource is unavailable to support the initiative - escalate to CYPSP & LSCB	
	Identify funding stream to support training plan	Sue Kirkley	July 2008		
Preventing unintentional injury to children (NPCYP priority)	Child Accident Prevention Group re-convened - improving outcome plan developed for 2008/09	Sue Kirkley	Sept 2008	Children continue to die and be injured unnecessarily - Public health scrutiny	
The Board fulfils its statutory responsibility for reviewing all child deaths in Newcastle.	Business case to LA finance officer for ABG <sup>5</sup> child death funding allocation	Sue Kirkley	Feb 2008	AGB allocation is not ring fenced funding - if no funding allocated escalate to Board	11.02.08
	Finalise infrastructure and support systems of CDRT <sup>6</sup> and process - for implementation	Sue Kirkley	April 2008	CDR process is not implemented in mandatory timescale	04.04.08

<sup>5</sup> Area Based Grant (2008)

<sup>6</sup> Child Death Review Team

Objective	Action	Action Owner	Timescale	Risk and Risk Control Actions	Action Completed
Serious Case Review Committee aligns with child death review process	Review of current Committee structure in conjunction with local CDRT & sub regional CDROP terms of reference	Jayne Forsdike	August 2008	NSCB structure does not support its statutory functions and responsibilities - Revised structure to LSCB meeting 09.04.08	
The Committee SCR <sup>7</sup> Protocol & Handbook incorporates lessons from recent SCR, DCSF <sup>8</sup> studies and SCR development day discussions	Small working group to review and update the SCR protocol	Jayne Forsdike	September 2008	SCR processes are no longer robust - work plan will be monitored by NSCB on a quarterly basis	
SCR documentation and information is shared safely and securely with partners.	Access portal for electronic information sharing to be developed and set up	Graham Welch	September 2008	Confidential information is lost or misplaced - professional and public confidence is lost - work plan will be monitored by NSCB on a quarterly basis	

<sup>7</sup> Serious Case Review

<sup>8</sup> Department for Children Schools and Families

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Robust management and monitoring of safeguarding arrangements in Newcastle	NSCB Quality and Performance Committee to be disbanded and replaced by the Standards, Effectiveness and Management Group - clear terms of reference to be agreed	Jayne Forsdike	July 2008	NSCB core objective for ensuring effectiveness is not fulfilled	
Consistency in standards across all partner agencies	Implementation of Core Safeguarding Standards produced through the CSSU	Jayne Forsdike	July 2008	Standards not implemented across all agencies. Control measure – escalation to NSCB	
Consistency in compliance of safeguarding across all partner agencies	Implementation of the performance and audit cycle as defined through the CSSU. To include clarification of the role and responsibilities of the Unit in relation to the Children's Services Performance Management Framework	Jon Gaines	July 2008	Commitment not secured from partner agencies. Control measure – escalation to NSCB.	

Objective	Action	Action Owner	Timescale	Risk and Risk Control Actions	Action Completed
Assessment of LSCB progress and framework for measuring impact <sup>9</sup>	Undertake assessment using benchmarking toolkit	Andrew Graham	Oct 2008	NSCB partnership is not functioning effectively - monitored by APA process - government surveys	
	Define framework for measuring effectiveness	Jon Gaines	Oct 2008		
Good practice shared across partner agencies. Evidence of improved outcomes.	Implementation of the Appreciative Inquiry Panel and the monitoring of its work.	Paula Askell	April 2008	Unable to secure commitment from partner agencies. Control measure – escalation to NSCB.	March 2008
Staff know how to respond to allegations of abuse against employees and volunteers	Interagency procedures in place	Ian Clennell	Sept 2008	Unsuitable people are able to work with children and young people - monitored by DCSF and allegations project board - escalate red risks to NSCB	
	Multi-agency staff briefings delivered	Robin Harper Coulson	Sept 2008		

<sup>9</sup> Local Safeguarding Children Boards: A Review of Progress (2007)

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NSCB manages and monitors the quality and effectiveness of arrangements	Effective recording and data monitoring systems set up	Peter Cobb	August 2008	As above	
	Evaluation of Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) role	Sue Kirkley	July 2008		
Ensure lessons learned from Serious Case Reviews are disseminated across children's workforce and embedded into practice.	Chair of training committee and SCR committee meet to agree learning points.	Paula Askell	May 2008	The specific lessons to be learned following each review are not learned because training materials are not appropriate	April 2008
	Training committee to provide multi agency briefings	Robin Harper Coulson	September 2008		
	Training courses modified to take account of recommendations of SCR	Robin Harper-Coulson	April 2008	Training materials reviewed by the chairs of training and SCR committee	
Measure effectiveness and impact of attendance at training sessions	Implement training strategy group policy	Paula Askell	Review bi monthly	Effectiveness of training is not measured - annual report to Board	April 2008 (timetable of meetings)

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Implementation of web based safeguarding procedures	Agree package with IT company Reconstruct	Sue Kirkley	October 2008	<p>Staff not following up to date procedures - launch of web based procedures</p> <p>Staff having no or limited access to a computer - NSCB to provide access points if necessary</p> <p>NSCB Policy and Procedure Committee to monitor</p>	
Review of Vulnerable Young People Guidance (RR SCR recommendation April 2008)	<p>Review group to be set up</p> <p>Risk assessment (tool) to be a key feature and incorporated into the VYP guidance</p>	Sue Searles	<p>April 2008</p> <p>Sept 2008</p>	Young people's needs are not responded to appropriately - monitoring of review by NSCB Policy and Procedure Committee	May 2008

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Review joint police & social care protocol for children missing from care	Small group set up to review document	Alison Steele	Oct 2008	Process will not target the most vulnerable c&yp who runaway	
Professionals understand and report private fostering arrangements to children's social care	Multi-agency guidance for the notification of arrangements	Jenny Left	July 2008	Children are living in	
	Communications plan to raise staff and public awareness across the city	Jenny Left	July 2008	Private Fostering arrangements not being identified by partner agencies - FAO NSCB	
Private fostering arrangements are accurately recorded and monitored	Develop robust reviewing, performance and quality assurance systems	Jon Gaines	September 2008	Inaccurate data - monitoring by CSSU	
Strengthening of NSCB role as responsible authority for the protection of children from harm <sup>10</sup>	Robust system for recording and monitoring license applications	Sue Kirkley	November 2008	The LA does not meaningfully fulfil its legal responsibility	

<sup>10</sup> Licensing Act 2003