

Business Plan 2009/10



May 2009

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is a shared responsibility and a high priority for Newcastle organisations. It is the process of protecting children from abuse or neglect, preventing impairment of their health and development, and ensuring they grow up with safe and effective care enabling them to have optimum life chances and enter adulthood successfully.

Newcastle Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB) 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. It is committed to improving the safety of children and young people; its vision is that all children and young people are safe and protected from harm within their families, communities and the City as a whole.¹

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 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 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 Board statutory partners to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children.

The Board Business Plan sets out its priorities, objectives and actions for the year ahead, which derive from the Newcastle Plan for Children and Young People, internal and external reviews and assessments and research and government guidance and directives.

¹ The Newcastle Plan for Children and Young People 2006-2009

Scope of the role

The scope of Newcastle Safeguarding Children Board's role includes safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in three broad areas of activity:

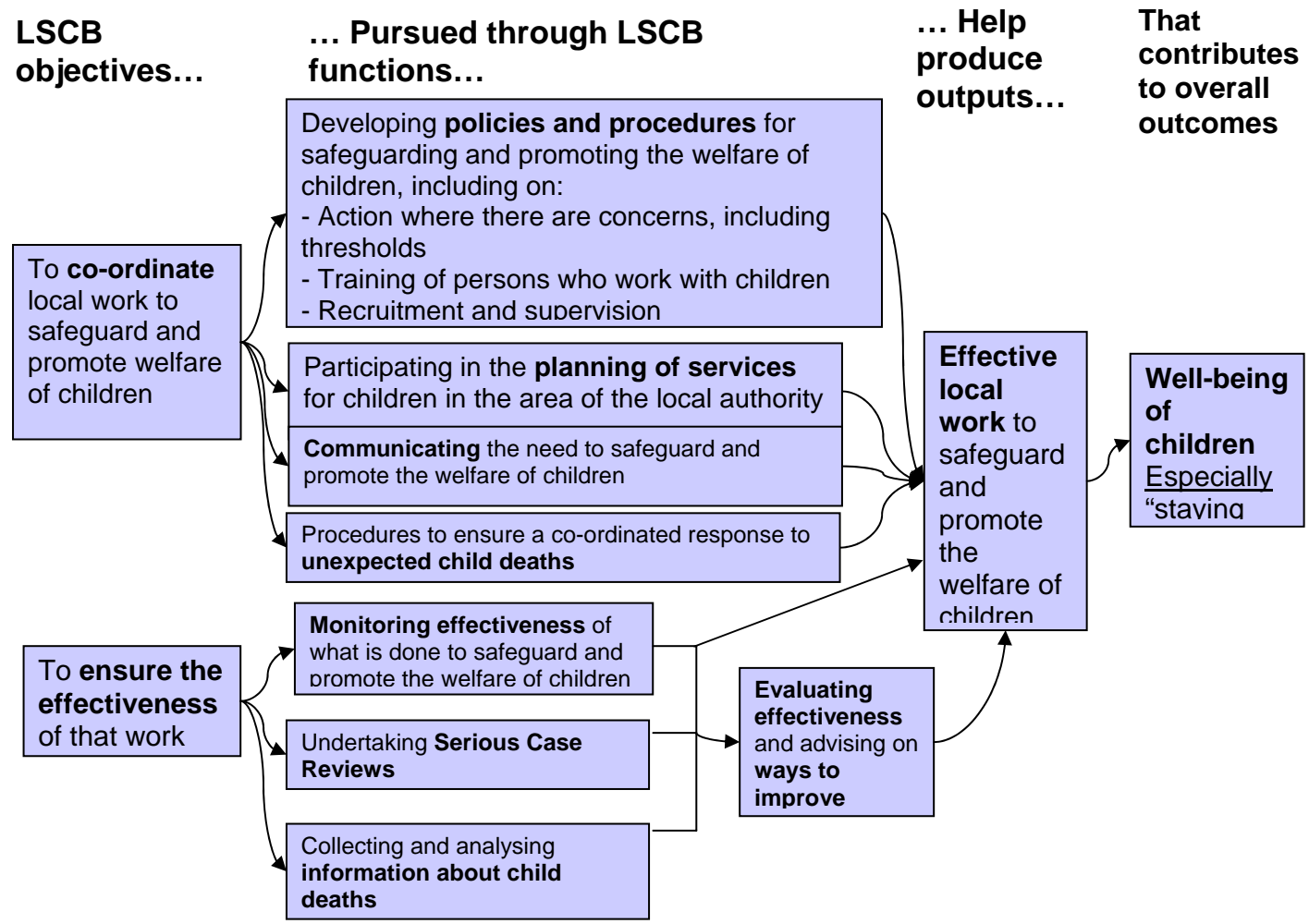
- Universal activity that effects all children and aims to identify and prevent maltreatment, or impairment of health and development, and ensure children are growing up in circumstances with safe and effective care
- Proactive work that aims to target particular groups
- Responsive work to protect children who are suffering, or at risk of suffering harm

The core functions of the Board are set out in regulations² (fig 1) these include:

- Developing policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children
- Communicating to persons and bodies in Newcastle the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children raising their awareness of how this can best be done, and encouraging them to do so
- Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of what is done by the authority and Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, and advising them on ways to improve
- Participating in the planning of services for children in Newcastle
- Undertaking reviews of serious cases and advising the authority and the Board partners on lessons to be learned
- Engage in any other activity that facilitates, or is conducive to, the achievement of its objective
- Putting in place procedures for ensuring that there is a co-ordinated response by the authority, Board partners and other relevant persons to an unexpected death

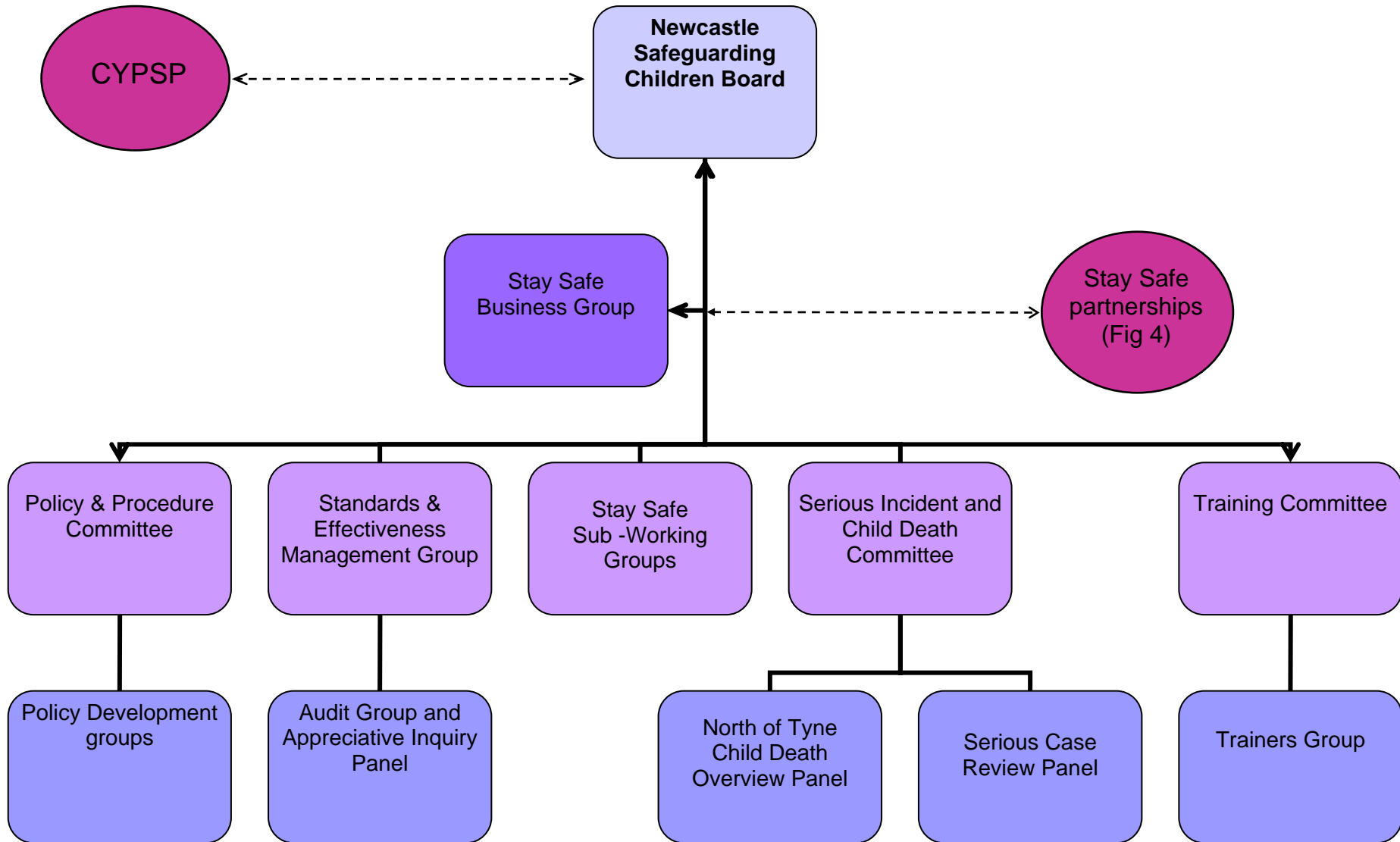
² [The Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006](#)

Fig 1 NSCB functions



Newcastle Safeguarding Children Board has a number of committees and sub working groups that carry out the various functions and actions on its behalf. These ensure that it delivers on its statutory and business objectives (Fig 2).

Fig 2 Structure



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Member organisations

Executive Director of Children's Services

Head of Children's Social Care (CS)³

Designated Nurse for Safeguarding

North East Strategic Health Authority

Children's Safeguarding Standards Manager (CS)

Chief Superintendent Northumbria Police

CAFCASS

Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Northumbria Probation Service

Head of Inclusion (CS)

Newcastle City Council Legal Services

Northumberland, Tyne and Wear Trust

Newcastle Primary Care Trust

NSPCC

Head of Children and Young People in the Community (CS)

Director of Public Health

YOT Manager (CS)

Designated Doctor

Vulnerable Adults Co-ordinator

³ CS - Children's Services Directorate (Newcastle City Council)

Key national and local strategic drivers for safeguarding children and young people and the Stay Safe outcome

National drivers

Every Child Matters

The Every Child Matters framework identified [five outcomes](#) that were the most important to children and young people. The five outcomes are universal ambitions for every child and young person whatever their background or circumstances.

Staying safe is a fundamental part of a child's life. Children cannot enjoy their childhoods or achieve their full potential unless they are safe. The Stay Safe outcome covers a wide range of issues, which includes maltreatment, neglect, violence, sexual exploitation, bullying, accidental injury, crime and anti-social behaviour and security and stability. In Newcastle these are supported by a number of partnerships and sub working groups (fig 3).

Public Service Agreement 13 Improve children and young people's safety (2007)

In October 2007 the government announced a new Public Service Agreement (PSA 13) to improve children and young people's safety, which will ensure that our local assessment and delivery of plans and services are effective, measuring outcomes at national and local level (fig 4)

Stay Safe Action (2008)

The action plan sets out the Government's commitment in response to consultation with children, young people and parents on issues relating to staying safe. The document is a cross government strategy and builds on a robust framework of existing legislation and guidance and is a shared commitment to improve children's safety. It is more than just preventing accidents or stopping bullying, it covers the full span of Every Child Matters Stay Safe outcome - keeping children safe from neglect and abuse, bullying, crime and anti-social behaviour and providing a safe and stable home environment.

Safeguarding Children - The third joint chief inspectors' report on arrangements to safeguard children (2008)

Adopting the wider definition of safeguarding the report looks at arrangements for safeguarding children and young people in four key areas and highlights what has changed over the last three years and assesses to what extent the considerable activity at national and local levels has affected outcomes for children:

- The effectiveness of the overall safeguarding systems and frameworks that are in place
- The wider safeguarding role of public services
- The targeted activity carried out to safeguard vulnerable groups of children
- The identification of and response to child protection concerns by relevant organisations

[Analysing child deaths and serious injury through abuse and neglect: what can we learn? \(2008\)](#)

At least every two years an overview analysis of serious case reviews in England is commissioned to draw out themes and trends so that lessons learnt from these cases as a whole can inform both policy and practice. This is the third such overview analysis. The 161 reviews studied were notified during period April 2003-March 2005

[Safer Children in a Digital World - The Report of the Byron Review \(2008\)](#)

With the growth of technology in daily life comes a wealth of new opportunities. Children and young people are learning new skills, increasing their knowledge and making new friends. However, with these opportunities come some potential risks, which are very real and parents, are concerned about the risks to their children may have been exposed to. In her report, Dr Tanya Byron has set out a challenging agenda for Government, its partners, industry and the third sector to work together to make children safer when using the internet and video games.

[Young Runaways Action Plan \(2008\)](#)

There is need for a clear approach to address the problem of children and young people running away from home or care, from situations of exploitation, or following their trafficking from over seas or internally across the United Kingdom. The action plan sets out what the Government are going to do to make change happen to safeguard children and young people who go missing.

[The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report \(Lord Laming March 2009\)](#)

In November 2008, as a response to the tragic death of baby P, the Children's Minister requested Lord Laming to prepare an urgent report of progress being made across the country to implement effective arrangements for safeguarding children. The report addresses three key questions:

- What has been successfully achieved in safeguarding children since the publication of the Victoria Climbié Inquiry Report in 2003, particularly in relation to:
 - The effective implementation of safeguarding systems and procedures; interagency working; the development and deployment of professional workforce capacity; effective systems of public accountability
- What are the key barriers, including in the legal process, that may impede efficient and effective work with children and families and that may be preventing good safeguarding practice from becoming standard practice everywhere
- What specific actions should be taken by Government and national and local agencies to overcome these barriers and accelerate systematic improvements in safeguarding practice across the country

The report makes 58 recommendations, all of which have been accepted by Government who will produce a detailed action plan by the end of April 2009.

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Independent Safeguarding Authority

The new Vetting and Barring Scheme, involving the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA), will have a major impact on the recruitment and monitoring practices of people working or volunteering with children.

Created under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, the new Vetting and Barring Scheme will replace the current List 99, PoCA, PoVA and Disqualification Orders regimes. The ISA will decide who is unsuitable to work or volunteer with vulnerable groups. It will base its decisions on pulling together information held by various agencies, government departments and the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB).

Once the scheme is fully rolled out, it will be illegal to hire someone in regulated activity that is not registered, and has therefore not been checked by, the ISA. The new scheme will cover employees and volunteers in the education, care and health industries, affecting some 11.3 million people.

ISA decision making on new referrals from England and Wales under the current barring schemes started on 20th January 2009. This is in advance of the Vetting and Barring Scheme go-live (planned for October 2009), when the ISA will start to bar people from a wider range of paid work, volunteering or work placements with children or vulnerable adults, than is covered by current barring schemes.

Local drivers

[Newcastle Plan for Children and Young People 2006/09](#)

The Newcastle Plan for Children and Young People is our strategy to achieve significant change in the outcomes for children and young people in Newcastle. The Plan guides the delivery of integrated children's services in line with the Every Child Matters agenda, as well as our local desire to ensure the development of multi-agency working more closely together, ensuring that all agencies are able to offer children and young people the support they need to get the best possible start in life.

Key to the Stay Safe agenda is the views of children and young people themselves. Children and young people in Newcastle have told us that they are concerned about bullying both in school and out in the community, racial harassment and other forms of discrimination and hate crimes and crime and disorder.

[Local Area Agreement 2007/10](#)

The Local Area Agreement (LAA) is the delivery plan for the Sustainable Community Strategy, a long term plan for the future of the city and partners across the public, private and community and voluntary sectors. The LAA supports the joining up of services more strategically across sectors and locally.

Annual performance Assessment (APA) (2008)

Ofsted is required by Section 138 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to undertake an annual review of the children's services provided by each council and to award a performance rating for them. The APA discharges these duties. The rating awarded is also used as the rating for the children and young people's block in the Audit Commission's comprehensive performance assessment (CPA) of local authority services.

The APA is an integral element of the improvement cycle for Newcastle City Council and its strategic partners and gives a position statement in relation to the council's children's services that is considered in annual priorities meetings with the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and children's services advisers in Government Office North East, thus helping to focus ongoing support and challenge.

Tellus 3 survey

The Tellus Survey is an annual survey of children and young people across England, asking their views, covering the five Every Child Matters outcomes. It asks about their experiences and views of their life, their school and their local area.

NSCB Challenge and improvement tool (Dec 2008)

The tool, developed by the Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) for local use, focuses on effective governance as a starting point to establish effective partner relationships, clear accountability and transparency of operation and purpose. It reflects six key principles of good governance:

- Purpose and intended outcomes;
- Strategic and operational performance including clear functions, roles and relationships with other partnerships;
- Values and Behaviour
- Capacity and capability
- Engaging stakeholders and ensuring accountability

Children's Services Workforce Strategy

The Newcastle Children's Services Workforce Strategy sets out the national and local situation, and explains how the strategy was developed and the main priorities. It also describes the process for putting the strategy into practice, including the role and membership of different groups.

Youth Crime Action Plan 2009/10

Newcastle is committed to the Youth Crime Action Plan triple track approach of prevention, non-negotiable support and tough enforcement to tackling and preventing youth crime. Newcastle's delivery of the 7 elements will support the following aims:

- Young people and families receive support and challenge early to stay or get back on track;
- Young people who break the law are held to account for what they have done in such a way that prevents re-offending; and
- The public is protected from the harm caused by crime

Domestic Violence and Abuse Delivery Plan 2008/11

The Domestic Violence and Abuse Delivery Plan supports the ongoing work from the Domestic Violence and Abuse Reduction Strategy 2006/2008 and sets out key priorities for children and young people's services.

[Newcastle upon Tyne Joint Strategic needs assessment - Unintentional Injury \(2009\)](#)

Unintentional (sometimes referred to as accidental) injury is used to describe an injury occurring as a result of an unplanned or unexpected event, which occurs at a specific time. The assessment focuses on unintentional injury to children between the ages 0-16 years and sets out what is working locally and areas for local development.

Accountability and reporting on the Business Plan & Action Plan

NSCB meets no less than quarterly to monitor progress of its annual Business Plan and Action Plan. The Action Plan sets out the broad key actions to support the key priorities in the Business Plan. Detailed actions and lead officers are contained within supporting NSCB Committee work plans, improving outcome plans and other supporting documents, including self assessment tools.

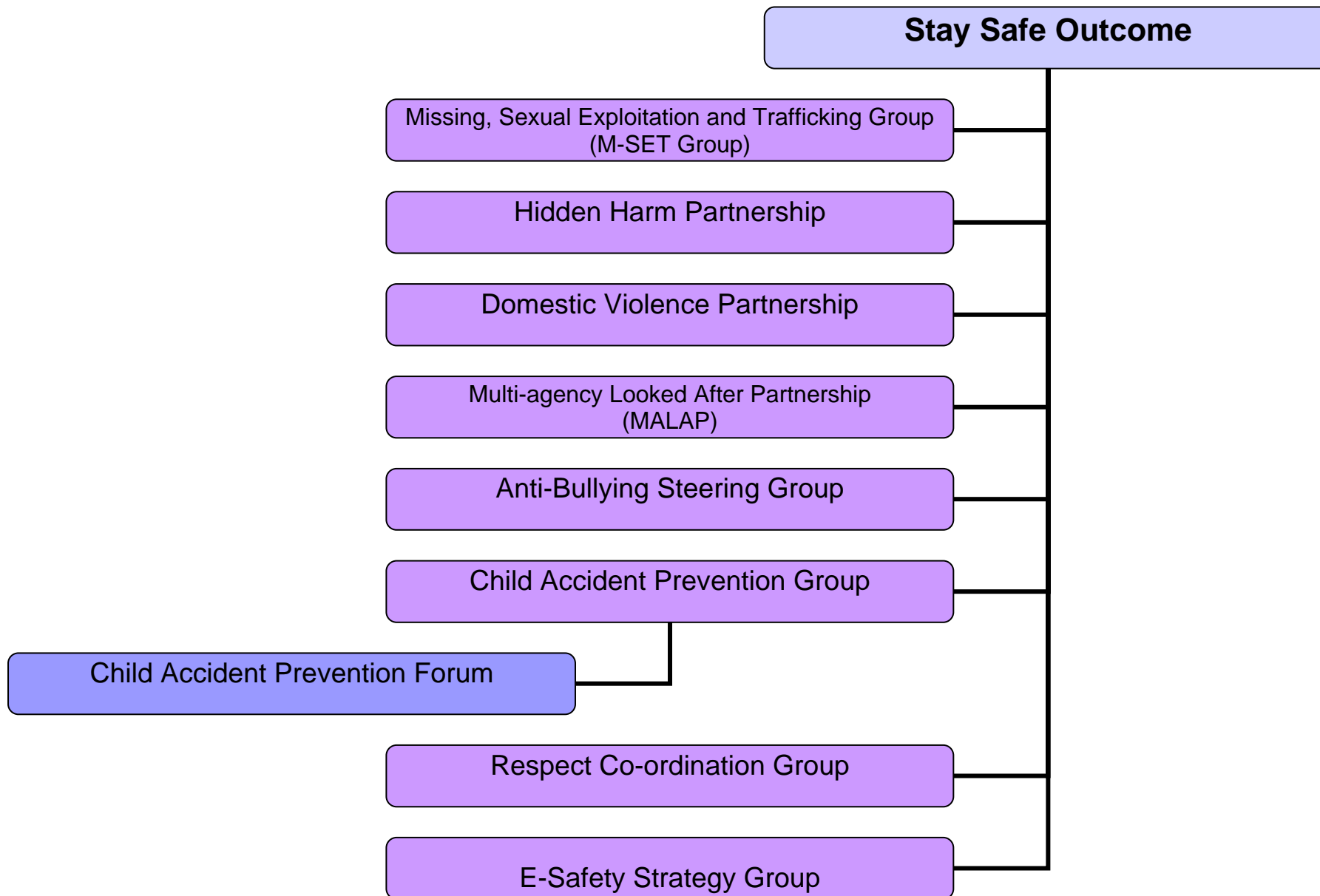
Lead officers have responsibility for ensuring that work identified within the various supporting plans are progressed, monitored and reported on a quarterly basis to the Stay Safe Business Group.

Work under the Every Child Matters Stay Safe outcome for improving the safety of children and young people in Newcastle is co-ordinated and monitored by NSCB Stay Safe Business Group.

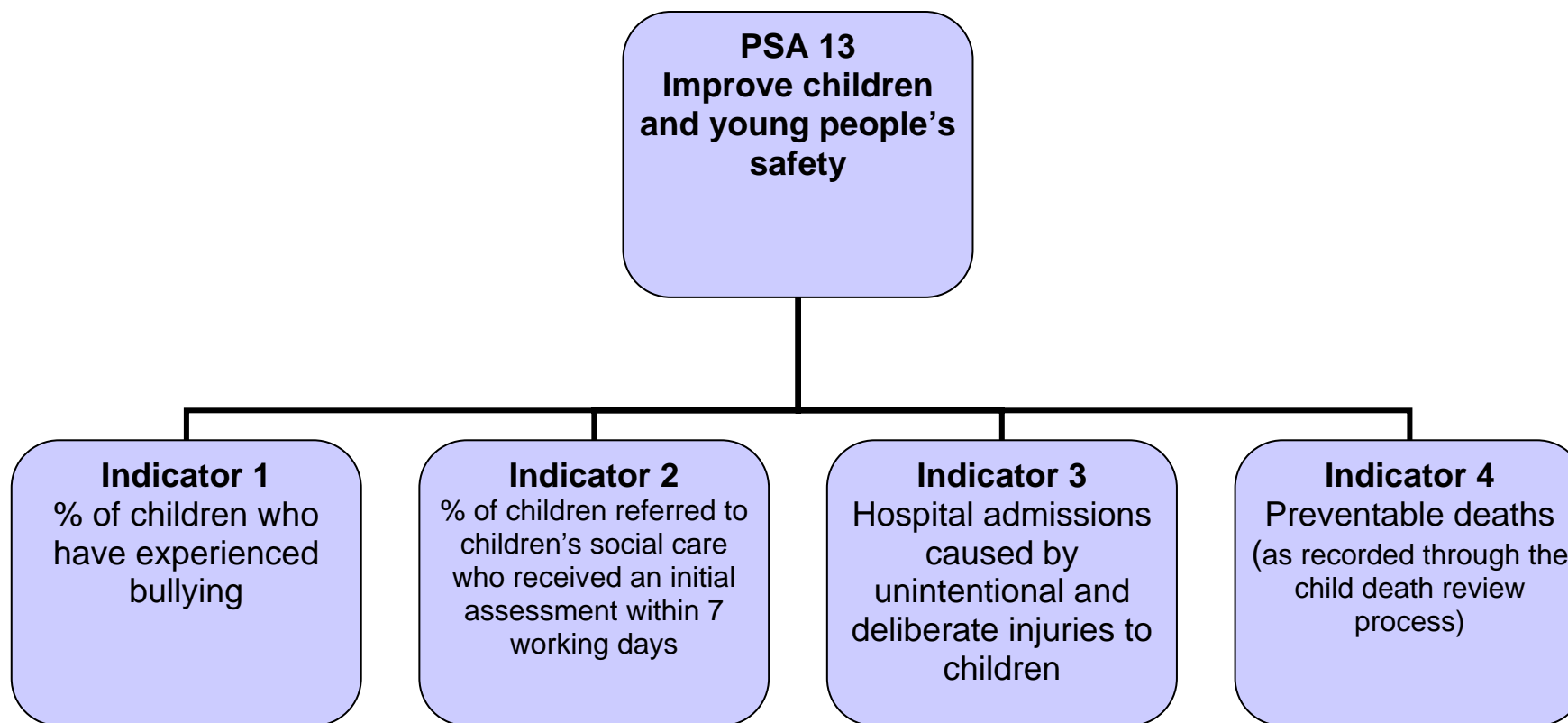
Stay Safe partnerships contribute to the Stay Safe outcome; Stay Safe sub-working groups report on progress to the Stay Safe Business Group on a quarterly basis.

NSCB Stay Safe Business Group reports on overall progress to NSCB on a quarterly basis, and reports progress on safeguarding activity and the Stay Safe outcome to the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership on a bi-annual basis.

(Fig 3) Stay Safe partnerships & sub working Groups



(Fig 4) Stay Safe PSA 13 indicators



Newcastle Safeguarding Children Board priorities for 2009

- Analysing the effectiveness of NSCB through good governance, leadership and quality assurance processes
- Responding to The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report (Lord Laming March 2009)
- Ensuring the effectiveness of work to safeguard and protect children
- Effectively embedding lessons learned and safeguarding procedures
- Managing individuals who pose a risk of harm to children e.g. ISA⁴
- Stay Safe outcome APA⁵ priorities
 - Timeliness and quality of assessments for children's social care
 - Supporting families in times of difficulty; preventing children becoming subject to child protection or care proceedings
 - Reducing the incidents of bullying
 - Further develop early intervention and prevention, including embedding CAF

⁴ Independent Safeguarding Authority

⁵ Annual Performance Assessment

Work continued from 2008

- Managing allegations against of abuse against staff who work with children and young people
- Reducing unintentional injury
- Children and young people missing from home or care
- Safeguarding children in a digital world (cyber bullying and cyber safety)
- Development of the child death review process
- Delivering services to children affected by domestic violence, including forced marriage and honour based violence
- Safe recruitment
- Safeguarding children and young people from BME communities
- Safeguarding children from substance misusing families
- Operation Stay Safe⁶

⁶ Youth Crime Action Plan 2009/10

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Areas for development

- Safeguarding children of parents who have a mental health difficulty
- Safeguarding children with a disability
- Participation and involvement of children and young people in the work of the Board

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BUDGET 2009

INCOME

Agency contributions

Children's Service	£41,000.00
Area Base Grant (Child Death Reviews)	£ 42,000.00
Primary Care Trust	£ 41,000.00
Police	£ 5,000.00
Probation	£ 500.00
CAFCASS	£ 500.00
TOTAL	£130,000.00

EXPENDITURE

NSCB management & ongoing annual costs	£107,500.00
Business Plan 2009	£ 22,500.00
TOTAL	£ 130,000.00
BALANCE	£ 000,000.00