

North Somerset Safeguarding Children Board

Our Vision: “Children and young people of North Somerset will be seen, listened to and valued to ensure they are safe, thriving and reaching their full potential.”

NSSCB BUSINESS PLAN 2016-19



The NSSCB is responsible for:

- co-ordinating what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority by which it is established;
- ensuring the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for that purpose.
- promoting greater understanding of the need to safeguard children and promote their welfare.

This Business plan is produced in consultation with all NSSCB partners and describes our priorities as a Board over the next year. Business priorities are taken from: the NSSCB workshop, performance questions arising from data and additional priorities arising from key national and local issues.

Our Strategic intent:

- Strategies and action plans for the priority areas developed and implemented;
- prevalence of priority area abuse known and understood;
- priority areas audited as part of planned audit schedule and quality of partners engagement and interventions analysed to evidence impact and outcomes for children and young people;
- preventative interventions are promoted through targeted awareness raising sessions and communications on the priority areas, including to the wider community.

Our key priorities:

Key themes for 2016 to 2019:

Early Intervention	Challenge and holding each other to account
Neglect	Voice/participation of children and young people
Sexual Exploitation/Missing	Better joined up working between sub-groups
Domestic Abuse	Multi-agency involvement in Early Help
	Identifying and promoting a learning culture
	Learning from audits

Priority: Early Help, Pathways, Thresholds

A significant focus on prevention

Understand the Early Intervention arrangement, structure and process.

Outcome for children: Emerging problems and potential unmet needs are identified so that children and families receive the right support at the right time.

Objective	By When	Lead	Outcome	Actions
NSSCB to understand the effectiveness of Early Intervention	December '18	Early Help Sub-group Independent Chair	NSSCB receive analysis and data in relation to the Quality Assurance Framework for the Early Help Service. This will enable the Board to evaluate effectiveness and operation in practice.	Early Help Quality Assurance framework to be drawn up. Regular EH audits are carried out. E.g. Children's centres and use of the outcomes star being promoted.
NSSCB to ensure children and families views and experiences of early help intervention and support influences service delivery.	March '19	Early Help Sub-group	NSSCB seeks the views of children and families about their experiences of services. This will contribute to measuring the impact and	Various agencies record service user feedback although there is no collective overview. EH will promote Signs of Safety construct to secure service user feedback.

Objective	By When	Lead	Outcome	Actions
			effectiveness of early intervention and support.	
NSSCB to make sure thresholds & referrals across the safeguarding continuum from early help to child protection work are appropriate, understood and are operating effectively to meet a range of needs in different communities.	March '19	Early Help Sub-group P&P Sub-group	Increase number of families offered Early Help in North Somerset and reduce number of NFA Referral and Assessment Team. NSSCB to capitalise on high level of engagement of Early Help within 0-5 services and grow Early Help using Transitions into primary and secondary education. NSSCB challenges across the Partnership and gains assurance that policies and procedures concerning thresholds are reviewed and maintained, to ensure children receive the right service at the right time.	Routine training is delivered to practitioners to ensure North Somerset threshold continuum is understood. EH cases on EH module suggests correct application of the above. Carry over to the new safeguarding children arrangements.

Priority: Neglect

We are focusing on Neglect because it is one of the highest categories for children and young people in North Somerset on a Child Protection Plan.

Outcome for children: Children in households where neglect is a feature are helped and, when necessary, protected.

Objective	By when	Lead	Outcome	Actions
NSSCB to embed the multi-agency Neglect Strategy & Action Plan.	March '19	Quality and Performance Sub-group and Comms sub-group L&D Sub-Group	The use of the multi-agency Neglect Strategy and Tool Kit is a key consideration in driving daily business and assessing outcomes.	Carry over to the new safeguarding children arrangements a themed audit/questionnaire regarding awareness of the Neglect Strategy. Update L&D: Schools are aware of this and are referencing their use of this in the annual 175 audit. Available on the schools' page on the NSSCB website

Objective	By when	Lead	Outcome	Actions
	September '18	P&P Sub-group Comms Sub-group		Themed audit/questionnaire to be carried forward into the new arrangements regarding understanding of ACEs.
Further develop and implement systems and practices which improve the early identification and the effectiveness of the professional response to Neglect.	March '19	Early Help Sub-group		Neglect tool kit has been launched and is uploaded on to the North Somerset Safeguarding website.

Priority: Sexual Exploitation/Missing

Identify the extent of sexual exploitation towards children and tackle it across all agencies to protect children.

Pay particular attention to work with those who go missing from care, home and education.

Outcome for children: Children and young people in North Somerset are protected from sexual exploitation.

Objective	By when	Lead	Outcome	Actions
Continue to establish an understanding of the known prevalence and nature of child exploitation in North Somerset to know the numbers of children who are victims of Exploitation and the effectiveness of the strategy to reduce it.	March '19	Exploitation and Missing Sub-group Police Sub-groups Safer & Stronger Communities	NSSCB dataset includes relevant data; numbers of children at all levels of the continuum who are victims of exploitation & vulnerable groups. Partner agencies contribute to the NSSCB Annual Report and provide a narrative on activity undertaken by their agency to tackle Exploitation. The NSSCB will be provided with data from key partners on the effectiveness of disruption activity to safeguard the child.	Data provided by Business Intelligence and police on CSE and Missing Children on a quarterly basis. Multi-agency sub-groups report through the annual report.

Priority: Domestic Abuse

Outcome for children: Children in North Somerset who live in households where domestic abuse is a factor will be helped and protected

Objective	By when	Lead	Outcome	Actions
Review the current service offer to help children who either witness, are victims or are perpetrators of domestic abuse to ensure appropriate help is available – any identified unmet need to be fed into the Board to influence future commissioning decisions	December '18	Domestic Abuse Coordinator Safer & Stronger Communities	Children who live in households where domestic abuse is a factor will be well supported and protected through appropriate service provision	NSSCB partners are represented in the multi-agency Domestic Abuse Strategy Group (DASG) which is accountable to the NS People and Communities Board and reports to the NSSCB regularly. The DASG carries out regular needs assessments for domestic abuse, with data being updated annually. A fully revised needs assessment, with NSSCB partners involvement, was completed in August 2019. This assessment will inform the future multi-agency Domestic Abuse Strategy and the Board will be invited to input into this strategy in October. If any agency would like a copy of the needs assessment or would like to get involved in developing the domestic abuse strategy can they please contact louise.branch@n-somerset.gov.uk or howard.pothecary@n-somerset.gov.uk .
NSSCB will receive information and provide challenge in relation to the Strategy.	September '18	Domestic Abuse Coordinator	Evidence of impact in relation to improving outcomes for children and parents living with domestic abuse.	As above.

Priority: Governance and LSCB Scrutiny

We must challenge each other and seek evidence of the effectiveness of all that we do to keep children and young people safe in North Somerset

Outcome for children: Board business is coordinated and ensures the effectiveness of what is done by partner agencies.

Objective	By when	Accountability	Outcome	Actions
Setting up a MASH/One Front Door/MARAC	September '18	1FD Strategic Group	An established process and timeline for implementation with effective governance and quality assurance demonstrating improved outcomes for children.	Pilot in progress.
NSSCB will build on its culture and confidence of self-challenge.	March '19	Independent Chair Board	NSSCB can demonstrate through its 'Challenge Log' cross agency challenge. Appropriate strategic representation and decision making ability. Recruitment and Induction package for all Board members.	The Board holds a challenge log. This will be of significant focus in the new safeguarding arrangements. To be reviewed within the new safeguarding arrangements.
Board Manager	December '17	Independent Chair	The three core partners have agreed a financial plan that facilitates the function of a Board manager.	This is a recommendation of the Ofsted Action Plan and due to lack of funding strategic partners felt unable to fund this post. This has been added to the LSCB Risk Register.
Wood Report Recommendations/Working Together 2018	September '19	The three core partners: Health LA Police	By April '19 there will be an agreed plan which will be presented to DfE. The agreed plan will be fully implemented by September '19	North Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership has published their arrangements.
Learning from local and national SCRs and Learning Reviews	March '19	All sub-groups	Reduction in repeat themes from SCRs. Learning is embedded and translated into daily practice and workforce development	Multi-agency sub-groups report through the annual report. L&D: Embedded into all training packages and all schools were asked in the 175 audit to record that they had

Objective	By when	Accountability	Outcome	Actions
			<p>Ensure the voice of the child is always listened to, understood and acted upon.</p> <p>Services will be informed and improved by the voice of the child at risk, other service users and carers</p>	<p>embedded this in to practice and disseminated to staff.</p> <p>New action to be formulated in the new safeguarding arrangements.</p>

Version Control	Date	Amended By
V1 Refresh	2 nd July 2018	Independent Chair and Strategic leads
V2	30 th July 2019	Independent Chair request for updates
	6 th August 2019	Responses received: CSC L&D Early Help
	27 th August 2019	Domestic Abuse coordinator
V3	3 rd September 2019	Finalised for sign-off at Board