



THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR CLEVELAND

DECISION RECORD FORM

REQUEST: For PCC Approval

Title: Funding for the Local Children Safeguarding Board (LCSB) - Stockton

Executive Summary:
 Stockton-on-Tees Local Safeguarding Children Board (SLSCB) which was established in April 2006, is a statutory body made up of organisations which work with children and young people and is the key mechanism for agreeing how relevant organisations in the local area will co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and for ensuring the effectiveness of what they do.

- In terms of the priorities of the Board, these will be based on the following two outcome priorities:
- (1) Preventing harm: tackling the root causes of neglect, with a focus on domestic abuse, drugs and alcohol and parental mental health.
 - (2) Protecting vulnerable children: reducing the risks of children and young people who are vulnerable, exploited, missing or trafficked (VEMT) or at risk of being VEMT.

- For each of these priorities the Board's role will be based on one of oversight and assurance, based around its key roles:
- Ensuring coordination: that agencies are working together; sharing intelligence and information; have effective policies and procedures in place.
 - Effective challenge: Assurances that practice is effective; that agencies have safeguarding audits are being undertaken and feedback is being sought from those who are receiving services or who are impacted by the issues.
 - Enabling change: being assured that lessons are being learnt from audits and reviews and that practice and outcomes are improving as a result.

Funding provided by the PCC, facilitates towards the costs of carrying out the activities set out within the SLSCB Business Case (Appendix 1). The PCC will receive regular updates on progress in line with terms and conditions of the grant agreement.

Decision:
 To fund the Stockton Local Safeguarding Children Board (SLSCB), £16,683 per annum, for up to 3 financial years (maximum total of £50,049, subject to annual review) for the period 1st April 2017 – 31st March 2020.

OPCC Lead Officer: Amanda Wilkinson

Contractor Details (if applicable):

Implications:

Has consideration been taken of the following:	Yes	No
Financial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Legal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Equality & Diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Rights	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sustainability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Risk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(If yes please provide further details below)

Decision Required – Supporting Information

Financial Implications: (Must include comments of the PCC's Chief Finance Officer where the decision has financial implications)

The grant agreement will be awarded for a figure of £16,683.00 per annum, for up to 3 financial years (maximum total £50,049.00). The funding for this agreement was included within the Long Term Financial Plan that was approved by the PCC on the 27th February 2017.

Legal Implications: (Must include comments of the Monitoring Officer where the decision has legal implication)

The legal implications of this agreement are laid out within the terms and conditions of the grant agreement.

Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no equality or diversity implications associated within this grant agreement.

Human Rights Implications

There are no Human Rights Implications associated within this grant agreement.

Sustainability Implications

There are no Sustainability implications associated within this grant agreement.


Risk Management Implications

There are no Risk Management implications associated within this grant agreement.

OFFICER APPROVAL

Monitoring Officer

I have been consulted about the decision and confirm that financial, legal, and equalities advice has been taken into account. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Signed 

Date 19/5/17

Police and Crime Commissioner:

The above request HAS my approval.

Signed 

Date 19/5/17



Stockton-on-Tees
Local Safeguarding Children Board

Business Plan 2014 - 2017

Approved by: SLSCB June 2014 Progress Updates Received and Noted: Last updated - May 2016

“Everyone who works with children - including teachers, GPs, nurses, midwives, health visitors, early year’s professionals, youth workers, police, Accident and Emergency staff, paediatricians, voluntary and community workers and social workers - has a responsibility for keeping them safe.

No single professional can have a full picture of the child’s needs and circumstances and, if children and families are to receive help at the right time, everyone who comes into contact with them has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action”.

Working Together to Safeguard Children – 2013

Stockton-on-Tees Local Safeguarding Children Board (SLSCB) – Core Purpose

1. The key roles of SLSCB are:
 - a) To coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in Stockton-on-Tees; and
 - b) To ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes ([Section 14 of the Children Act 2004](#))

The role and responsibilities of Local Safeguarding Children Boards are outlined in full in [Chapter three](#) of the Government guidance document Working Together to Safeguard Children (2013).

Context to the Business Plan

2. The Board has an ambitious programme of work for 2014/17. Delivery of the plan is taking place at a challenging time for partners of the Board -
 - There are increasing expectations of services to children, and high levels of demand on social care services.
 - Structural changes have been taking place at local and national level affecting many organisations, particularly health partners.
 - The challenging national economic climate continues to bring requirements for greater efficiencies, service review and transformation.
 - There are high levels of accountability and scrutiny, with new inspection frameworks.
3. Working within this context, the Board remains focused on delivering its statutory functions, and committed to improving the lives of children and young people in the Borough who may be vulnerable or at risk of harm.

Drivers for change and improvement

4. In line with the principles and activities set out in its Learning & Improvement Framework, the Board has developed this plan following consideration of feedback from a range of sources:
 - Learning from national reviews and best practice
 - Feedback from scrutiny and challenge of partners' safeguarding practice and quality assurance arrangements.
 - Results of local management reviews.
 - Monitoring of performance data.
 - Staff briefing and engagement sessions.
 - Observations of practice.
 - Feedback from a Reference Group of children and young people.
 - Local Peer Reviews
 - Inspection outcomes both locally and nationally.

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Development of the Business Plan

5. Through Board meetings, and dedicated development sessions, the Board has reviewed a broad range of improvement proposals and priorities, and has challenged these rigorously in order to agree a focus on the following six key objectives which it is considered will have the greater level of impact on outcomes for children and assurance for the Board:
- Ensure effective implementation of the revised Early Help Strategy
 - Improve the response to children at risk of harm as a result of domestic abuse
 - Ensure proactive responses to children identified as being at risk of child sexual exploitation
 - Improve early identification of, and response to, neglect
 - Improve the engagement of children and young people so that their voice is heard more routinely in the review and development of safeguarding practice
 - Strengthen the Quality Assurance and Performance Management framework

Monitoring of the Plan

6. The Board has agreed that its Business Plan will cover a three year period, but objectives and key actions will be reviewed annually to take account of new and emerging requirements through the cycle of continuous learning and improvement.
7. Monitoring of progress in delivering the actions in this plan will take place through reports to the Board. Outcomes of this monitoring will be included in the SLSCB Annual Report, as part of the Board's statutory requirement (under [section 14A of the Children Act 2004](#)) to prepare and publish each year a report about safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the Stockton-on-Tees area. Both the Business Plan and Annual Report are made available on the [SLSCB web pages](#) of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council website.
8. The following RAG rating will be used to demonstrate the progress made against the plan:


Green	All actions completed.
Bright Green	Progress on track for the action to be completed within timescale.
Amber	Some slippage but this is not a significant concern, and work is in progress to complete the action.
Red	Significant delays or concerns in progressing the action.

Priority Areas (Objectives)

Objective 1: Ensure effective implementation of the revised Early Help Strategy			
Success criteria	Timescale	Lead	Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective coordination and targeting of early help services. • Full engagement of agencies in the CAF process. • Increase in the completion of CAFs, in line with agreed targets / expectations of agencies. • Reduction in the rate of children in need, including those with a child protection plan and children becoming looked after. 			
Key actions	Timescale	Lead	Progress
a) Complete the review and updating of the Early Help Strategy.	September 2014	Chair of Children and young people and Young People's Health & Wellbeing Commissioning Group (or appropriate future Partnership)	Complete
b) Enhance capacity in the CAF Team to support and coordinate CAF activity.	September 2014	CECSC (Head of CYP Services)	Complete.
c) Review and relaunch the Continuum of Need document, and provide related training, to ensure multi-agency knowledge of its existence and the agreed thresholds.	Review by October 2014	CECSC (Head of CYP Services)	Review completed. Agreed at SLSCB 20.11.14
	Relaunch Dec 2014	SLSCB Chair	Complete Evidence included in SLSCB Email briefing Number 18 and January Board Meeting
	Training from Dec 2014	Chair of Children and young people 's Workforce Training Sub Group	Complete As recorded in Communications Strategy at January Board Meeting.

Objective 2: improve the response to children and young people at risk or harm as a result of domestic abuse			
Success criteria	Timescale	Lead	Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be a more effective early response to the needs of children affected by domestic abuse. 			
Key actions	Timescale	Lead	Progress
a) Ensure provision from the recently commissioned domestic violence service is commissioned so that resources are more effectively targeted to need.		Director of Public Health (as part of revised HWB Partnership arrangements)	Complete Revised arrangements in place for monitoring commissioned provision. DA Strategy developed to five more robust framework for monitoring quality and outcomes of provision.
b) Review arrangements for risk assessment of domestic incidents.	September-2014 July 2015	Det Superintendent Crime & Justice Command Cleveland Police	Progressing but timescale slipped. Domestic Abuse was subject of HMIC inspection. Action Plan being monitored by Strategic Public Protection and Chaired / overseen by Asst. Chief Police Officer. External review of risk assessment

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Objective 2: improve the response to children and young people at risk of harm as a result of domestic abuse			
			identified and made recommendations re process and duplication which have been implemented to resolve issues. Operation Encompass rolled out. Process being taken through Tees Procedures Group. Conclusion of work delayed until March 2016 and will take into account Operation Encompass.
c) Raise awareness across all stakeholders regarding the impact of, and appropriate responses to, domestic abuse.	December 2014	To be determined (as part of revised HWB Partnership arrangements)	Complete.  Domestic Abuse - Communications Plan.
d) Evaluate models for multi-agency response to contact and referrals (e.g. MASH).	September 2014	Corporate Director, CESC	Complete Multi-agency Steering Group established to take forward North of Tees MASH with view to implementing in 2015 / 2016. Referred to as MACH as it will only relate to safeguarding children and not adults as well.

Objective 3: ensure proactive responses to children and young people identified as being at risk of child sexual exploitation			
Success criteria	Key actions		
	Timescale	Lead	Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SLSCB will be assured that VEMT strategies are being implemented effectively across all agencies. 			
a) Put in place sustainable arrangements for local VEMT groups, with appropriate representation.	September 2014	Chair of VEMT Sub Group	Complete.
b) Ensure implementation of a Risk Assessment tool, and Response Plans.		Chair of VEMT Strategic Group	Complete.
c) Agree and implement a referral pathway for children and young people who do not meet the threshold for children and young people's social care	June 2014	Chair of VEMT Strategic Group	Complete

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Objective 4: Improve early identification of, and response to, neglect

Success criteria

- A more structured framework for the management of neglect cases will be in place.

Key actions	Timescale	Lead	Progress
a) Develop a more outcomes focused approach to care planning (CAF, CIN and CP)	March- October 2015	Multi Agency Task Group	The Signs of Safety model is now being used in all new ICPC cases and it is intended that once this is embedded in the CP process –we will review the learning and then roll out in all cases including Early Help /CIN/CP The learning from the piloting of the graded care profile will also be included in the review of any roll out
b) Evaluate structured models of intervention for management of neglect cases (e.g. Graded Care Profile, Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire, Bolton Model).	January 2015	Multi-Agency Task Group	Complete Recommendations agreed at SLSCB 19.02.15 to use Graded Care Profile as preferred model.
c) Ensure that the recently revised CP plan template is embedded, and monitor its impact on outcomes for the child.	March September 2015	Chair of Performance Sub Group	Continuing review and tracking of cases. Some evidence of improving practice. Work yet to be completed o CP plan format being replicated in clearer format within RAISE Reports presented to SLSCB January & February 2016. Improvements made and introduction of Signs of Safety in the CP process should make further improvements.
d) Agree and implement the approach to adopting Signs of Safety as the risk assessment model and framework for all LSCB partners.	October-2014 August 2015	Chair of SLSCB	Complete Signs of Safety being used in Child Protection Conferences

Objective 5: Improve the engagement of children and young people and young people so that their voice is heard more routinely in the review and development of safeguarding practice

Success criteria

- Strategic developments in safeguarding practice will better reflect the needs of children and young people.
- There will be a clearer framework in place for the Board to hear the voice of the child.

Key actions	Timescale	Lead	Progress
a) Develop a work programme for the Reference Group of children and young people who are, or have recently been, the subject of a child protection plan.	September 2014	Chair of Performance Sub Group	Complete Work plan of Performance Sub Group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey of young people attending conference. • Evaluation of impact of new child consultation documentation. • Capturing views of children and families within the multi-agency case file audit process.

Objective 5: Improve the engagement of children and young people and young people so that their voice is heard more routinely in the review and development of safeguarding practice


b) Monitor and evaluate the impact of the recently introduced documentation for children young people involved in child protection processes.	January 2015	Chair of Performance Sub Group	Complete Children and young people's Rights & Participation Officer presented report to Board
c) Explore how to capture the views of children and families within the multi-agency case file audit process.	November-2014 February 2015	Chair of LIP Sub Group	Complete New MACFA tool introduced which looks for evidence of children and family views being recorded in case files. When cases are discussed regarding impact checks to see that there is recorded to evidence that children have been consulted, listened to and involved in their case. Any issues of this not being evident is reviewed and raised as an issue for remedial action and included in the Action Plan.

Objective 6: Strengthen the QA and Performance Management framework

Success criteria	Timescale	Lead	Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There will be a better understanding of the impact of practice on children and families. There will be a greater level of assurance for Board regarding the quality of practice across agencies. 			
Key actions			
a) Further develop the quality assurance role of the Reviewing Service so that it provides a more robust independent check and balance function that informs both individual case management and wider service development.	January- September 2015	CECSC (Head of Performance & Business Support)	Date revised <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IRO Training completed Full scope to be determined following feedback from training provider Action Plan to be developed
b) Review and develop arrangements across agencies for analysing the impact of service provision on children and young people / families where there has been a CP Plan in place	January June 2015	Chair of Performance Sub Group	Date revised. Changes to exit survey proposed.
c) Enhance the current arrangements for SLSCB members observing practice, to include an audit on the conduct of ICPCs and RCPCs.	December 2015	Chair of Performance Sub Group	Proforma for observations has been revised and Issued Alternative observations undertaken including some by external consultations.
d) Ensure that the new multi-agency case file audit programme is evaluated to assess impact on practice.	February 2015	Chair of LIP SG	Complete Report presented and key themes identified for future work

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Objective 6: Strengthen the QA and Performance Management framework

<p>e) Clarify future arrangements for the Board's annual challenge of partner agencies' quality assurance processes.</p>	<p>September 2014</p>	<p>SLSCB Chair</p>	<p>Complete S11 returns submitted and discussed at March 2015 Board meeting.</p>  <p>02 SLSCB Section 11 Audits 2014 2015 Ref</p>
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Review of Priority Areas for 2015 / 2017

In addition to continuation and further development of the priorities included in the 2014 / 2017 Business Plan new thematic areas have been identified which have been included as priority areas for 2015 / 2017. They are:

- Voice of the child / consultation with child
- Professional challenge
- Managing parents / carers challenging behaviours / culture of optimism
- Did Not Attend / Missed appointments
- Neglect: awareness, identification & response
- Conference decision making, quality of plans and involvement of all adults living in the household
- Information Sharing

This is not to say work is not already taking place with regard to them however Board Members identified that they kept reoccurring during scrutiny discussions, reviews and audits during 2014 / 2015 as recurring themes were improvements could be made during. Board Members have been identified to lead on the 2015 / 2017 thematic improvement areas and scoping documents are being developed.

SLSCB Business Unit

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