

Cabinet Response to Overview and Scrutiny Recommendations Completed Action Plan

Cabinet Response to Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Report on *The Effectiveness of Collaborative Working in North Tyneside*

In accordance with Section 122 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, Cabinet are required to provide a response to the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee within 2 months. In providing this response Cabinet are asked to state whether or not it accepts each recommendation and the reasons for this decision. Cabinet must also indicate what action, if any, it proposes to take.

Overview and Scrutiny Recommendation	Officer Commentary	Cabinet Decision (Accept or reject)	Action to be taken (if any) and timescale for completion
<p>1. Cabinet notes that the Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee considers the education role in the MASH vital and recommends continued funding for the seconded post for education in the MASH for future years.</p>	<p>Initial funding was in place to fund a seconded education post within the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) for a twelve month period from September 2018 to pilot and establish the usefulness and contribution of the post to safeguarding decision-making. This pilot was based on the positive first year of partners such as Police and 0-19 Public Health co-locating and providing effective collaborative safeguarding information and decision-making and an identified need for an equivalent post from education. Following a</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>Action already taken.</p>

	review, the post will continue. Costs will be met within existing resources.		
<p>2. Cabinet requests the Head of Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding considers increasing the membership of the MASH to include on a more formal basis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) a mental health and drug and alcohol and /or CAMHS professional/advocate; b) a Learning disabled advocate; and c) the Dynamic MARAC (multi-agency risk assessment conferences) 	<p>The MASH has benefitted from participation of a range of partner agencies through direct co-location of safeguarding practitioners or improved information-sharing arrangements with non co-located partners. Partner information is now systematically shared by Police, Health, Probation, Education, Youth Offending, Housing, Harbour, Early Help and Social Care. This enables more timely and more comprehensive understanding of the needs of a child than ever before.</p> <p>In relation to the use and effectiveness of dynamic MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference) arrangements, these have been explored by the MASH partners and site-visits to where these arrangements have existed have taken place. Work is</p>	Accept	<p>Review of the range of partners participating in the MASH to assist in the identification of new partners to further enhance the quality of safeguarding decision-making.</p> <p>To be completed by 30 June 2019</p> <p>Review and determine the optimum of frequency of MARAC meetings in light of national learning and best practice.</p> <p>To be completed by 30 June 2019</p>

	on-going to determine the most appropriate arrangements, including frequency, for North Tyneside which is proportionate to the known needs of the resident population and capacity of partner agencies.		
3.	<p>Cabinet requests the Head of Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding to consider producing a universal ‘brand’ for use by all partners, including the community safety partnership and businesses in the area, to inform the general public in North Tyneside about what to do if they have concerns about a child or vulnerable adult so that the issue, how to identify it and what to do about it becomes familiar to the general public.</p>	<p>This recommendation was already identified as a priority for Children’s Services. Work is on-going to produce a ‘What to do if you have concerns....’ Poster and Literature. Additionally, work is on-going to improve the website for Children’s Services to ensure it is up-to-date, clear and accessible. Associated costs will be met from within existing resources.</p>	<p>Accept</p> <p>Develop and Produce Posters and Literature for Borough-wide use detailing the contact details for those concerned with the safety and welfare of a child or young person and improve the accessibility of the website for Children’s Services.</p> <p>To be completed by 30 September 2019</p>
4.	<p>Cabinet informs the Head of Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding that the Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee</p>	<p>The North Tyneside Safeguarding Children’s Board (NTSCB) has an established independent Chair. Working Together</p>	<p>Develop and implement a new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangement to replace the North Tyneside Safeguarding Children’s Board in compliance with the statutory requirement to do so.</p>

<p>advocates the appointment of an Independent Chairperson for the new local safeguarding arrangements and the inclusion of schools, lay people and the ambulance service in the new arrangements and puts this forward to the North and South of Tyne Strategic Safeguarding Forum.</p>	<p>2018 requires the Board's replacement with new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA). A Task and Finish Group has been established with statutory partners. The Group will consider how to ensure robust and effective governance arrangements, including the value of an independent Chair and the composition of the arrangements.</p>		<p>To be completed by 30 September 2019</p>
<p>5. Cabinet reassures itself that the steps taken to "resource sufficient capacity within their own organisation, enabling senior managers and practitioners to work with host authorities to help them improve" for the Tyneside Alliance have left the Authority with sufficient experience and capacity to retain its own high level of performance.</p>	<p>A key consideration in relation to the successful application by North Tyneside to the Department for Education for Partner in Practice status was the capacity of the Authority to deliver continued improvement and high quality services to residents whilst sharing expertise to the benefit of the sector. Officers are confident that there is the capacity and that the service has strength in depth enabling it to 'flex' to meet the occasional demands of sector led improvement.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>No action required.</p>

<p>6. Cabinet requests the Head of Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding to ensure that Corporate Parenting Committee receives information on a quarterly basis on the percentage of the initial healthcare assessment which are being completed within the statutory period of 20 working days.</p>	<p>Cabinet regularly and directly consider performance and financial information about the service. This will be included.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>Monitoring, scrutiny and challenge by the Multi-Agency Looked After Partnership (MALAP) around the performance of the Authority – as Corporate Parent – in ensuring that Initial Health Assessments for children and young people in care are completed within 20 days of becoming Looked After.</p> <p>Quarterly reports of the MALAP to the Corporate Parenting Committee on performance by the Authority in relation to Initial Health Assessments for children and young people becoming Looked After.</p> <p>To be commenced by 30 June 2019 and then on-going</p>
<p>7. Cabinet requests the Head of Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding to:</p> <p>a) ensure that when social workers are referring children for Initial Assessments, they always give the detail (in the referral form) of why the child has become looked after and do not leave it vague e.g. 'family breakdown'. This will</p>	<p>All the recommended actions will be taken forward to ensure effective and efficient processes to facilitate the promotion of health of Looked After Children.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>When Social Workers are referring children for Initial Health Assessments, they always give details of why the child has become looked after to assist the doctor who undertakes the Initial Health Assessment to have a full picture of the circumstances and improve planning for the child</p> <p>To be commenced from 01 June 2019 and then on-going</p> <p>Development of a robust process for the request of an Initial Health Assessment</p>

<p>assist the doctor who undertakes the Initial Health Assessment, to have a full picture of the circumstances and improve planning for the child;</p> <p>b) develop a robust process that ensures the health staff based in the RHELAC team receive a request for an Initial Health Assessment for a child who has become Looked After including the consent form, within the set time-scales so that the child can receive the assessment within the statutory time-scale of 20 working days; and</p> <p>c) develop a robust system to ensure that GPs are always notified in a timely manner of when a child ceases to be 'Looked After'.</p>			<p>for a child who has become Looked After, including consent, so that the child can receive the assessment within the statutory time-scale of 20 working days</p> <p>To be completed by 30 September 2019</p> <p>Develop a process to ensure that GPs are always notified in a timely manner of when a child ceases to be Looked After</p> <p>To be completed by 30 September 2019</p>
<p>8. Cabinet requests the Head of Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding to review the</p>	<p>Officers notes that Children's Services benefits from a dedicated</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>The Principal Social Worker to review the forums and communication methods in place for the dissemination of information</p>

<p>process of dissemination of information to front line staff regarding changes at the Strategic Level to ensure it is efficient and effective.</p>	<p>Principal Social Worker post with specific responsibility for ensuring a robust and effective link between safeguarding practitioners and Senior Leaders. This post fulfilled the recommendation of the national Munro Report into Child Protection in 2011 that such a post would help ensure that practitioners were aware of and able to feed into of strategic decisions. Officers also note that in the Focused Visit by Ofsted in May 2018 Inspectors found morale amongst staff to be very high and that Senior Leaders were visible and accessible. Officers are not complacent and accept that it is essential that dissemination of information to front-line staff is efficient and effective.</p>		<p>relating to the strategic planning of the Authority in relation to children and young people, proposing changes where appropriate to ensure dissemination is efficient and effective.</p> <p>To be completed by 31 August 2019</p>
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