

Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) Newsletter - September 2008



This is the first newsletter of Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board.

Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board newsletters can be downloaded at:
www.sunderlandchildrenstrust.org.uk/profs-safeguardboard.asp

The newsletter is published bi-monthly by Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board

What is Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board?

Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board is the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how the relevant organisations in Sunderland will co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Sunderland, and for ensuring the effectiveness of what they do.

Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board role

- The work of Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board is part of the wider context of Children's Trust Arrangements that aim to improve the overall wellbeing (i.e. the five *Every Child Matters* outcomes) of all children in Sunderland
- Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board's work contributes to the wider goals of improving the wellbeing of all children, but it has a particular focus on aspects of the 'staying safe' outcome. Whereas Children's Trust has a wider role in planning and delivery of services
- Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board's objectives are about co-ordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of what the member organisations do individually and together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children



Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board Objectives

The core objectives of the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board are set out in s 14(1) of the Children Act 2004 as follows:

- To co-ordinate 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
- To ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for that purpose

Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board has just completed a review to ensure it is fit for purpose. The review looked at the following areas:

- Membership and Partner engagement
- Accountability and Scrutiny
- Structure and Governance Arrangements
- Chairing Arrangements for sub groups and the Board

Sunderland LSCB is currently under review to ensure it is fit for purpose.

Current Position - Nonnie Crawford (Director of Public Health, Sunderland) is the interim chair for a period of 6 – **Future Plans** are in place to recruit a permanent independent chair.

Outcome of the review

- Jan Vanwagtendock has been appointed as the Independent Chair of the SSCB and will take up the post in October 2008
- Mick McCracken (Head of Safeguarding, Children's Services Social Care) and Paula Telford (Children's Services Manager NSPCC) are interim Vice Chairs of the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board
- A Business Planning Group has been established to drive forward the work of the Board
- Four new sub groups namely: Communication, Legal and Procedures, Quality Assurance and Case Review. The four sub groups will encompass all of the workstreams of Sunderland Safeguarding children Board
- 4 Interim Chairs have been appointed to the new subgroups
- Review of Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board budget including income and outgoings and member agency contributions
- Establishment of Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board Safeguarding Business Unit to support the work of the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board

Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board would like to thank all those who were Members of the Sunderland Local Safeguarding Children Board previous sub groups and/or undertake work on behalf of the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board for their commitment and contribution to the work of the Board.

SUNDERLAND SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PROCEDURES UPDATE TO THE PROCEDURES

Launched the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board Safeguarding Children Procedures on Thursday 1st March 2007. The procedures are available on line at: www.sunderlandchildrenstrust.org.uk/profs-safeguardboard

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2006 (a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children) required Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board to produce a set of Safeguarding Children Board Safeguarding Children Procedures. These procedures are multi-agency and have been developed and agreed by partner members of Sunderland's Safeguarding Children Board.

If you have difficulty accessing the procedures or any other part of the LSCB website please contact your own agency representative on Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board.

How do you use the procedures?

The procedures reflect the wider Safeguarding agenda but the core elements of Child Protection activity remain paramount. The Procedures will be updated from 01.04.08 to reflect the following changes in legislation and working arrangements:

- New arrangements for children who are the subject of a Child Protection Plan (Previously known as a child on the Child Protection Register)
- Child Death Review and Overview Process
- Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

For further information regarding the review of Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board please contact:

Action Required by Staff

Staff, volunteers and carers should ensure they are:

- Aware of the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board Safeguarding Children Procedures and how to access them
- Attend briefing sessions of the procedures (see below)