

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REVIEW REPORT 2012-2013

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To present the LSCB Annual Review Report for 2012-2013

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The LSCB has a statutory requirement to publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area.
- 2.2 Statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013, states that the annual review report should be a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services
- 2.3 The Association of Independent LSCB Chairs has produced a model for annual reviews which LSCB's are advised to use.
- 2.4 The LSCB Annual Review Report has been written in line with statutory requirements and the model suggested by the Association of Independent LSCB Chairs.
- 2.5 The Annual Review Report outlines the progress made in respect of LSCB statutory functions including:
- Agencies duties in respect of Section 11 of the Children Act 2004
 - The Board's duties as per section 14 of the Children Act 2004 which are to:
 - Develop policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, training of persons working with children, young people and their families, communication and awareness raising about safeguarding, undertaking reviews of cases including serious case reviews and child death reviews.
 - The Annual Review Report also includes progress against LSCB priority areas which are in the LSCB Business Plan 2012-2015:
 - Reduce the harm from exploitation of children and young people
 - Reduce the harm from domestic abuse
 - Promote early help
 - Reduce the harm from emotional abuse and neglect

2.6 Of particular note in the annual review is the recognition North Lincolnshire has received from Ofsted regarding the Cool Kidz Club and the North Lincolnshire Risk Analysis Framework. Both of these things have been identified as areas of good practice by Ofsted and have been published as so on the Ofsted good practice website.

2.7 As an outcome of the reviewing the actions and priority areas within the LSCB Business Plan, it has led to the agreement of 3 priority areas for the LSCB in 2013-2014 and these are;

- 1) Reduce the harm from exploitation
- 2) Provide early help to children and young people
- 3) To support effective parenting capacity

2.8 The Annual Review Report has been agreed by the LSCB and will be published on the Council's website.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 To receive the Annual Review Report 2012-2013

3.2 The Annual Review Report will also be presented to the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Chief Executive of the Council and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 None, for information only

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

5.1 None, for information only

6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

6.1 Not applicable

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

7.1 The annual review report outlines the consultation, participation and cooperation children, young people and their families have had with safeguarding and the Board priorities. Empowerment of children and young people in respect of safeguarding themselves and each other is a strong theme in the report.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 To receive the LSCB Annual Review report 2012-2103

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

LSCB Annual Review Report

Working Together to Safeguard Children - A guide to interagency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children 2013.



Local Safeguarding
Children Board



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North Lincolnshire
Local Safeguarding Children Board

Annual Review

2012 - 2013

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Welcome & introductions



**Edwina Harrison,
Independent Chair**

Once again I am very pleased to present this Annual Report on behalf of all the agencies represented on the North Lincolnshire Local

Safeguarding Children Board. You will find information about these agencies in the report.

Why do we do an Annual Report?

Under Section 13 of the Children Act 2004 each Local Authority is required to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). Statutory guidance Working Together 2013, in accordance with Section 14a of the Children Act 2004, requires each LSCB to publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area. The report should provide an assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services.

What has been happening in North Lincolnshire?

Inspection - North Lincolnshire safeguarding arrangements were inspected in June 2012. Ofsted judged these to be overall "Good" with the Leadership and Management "Outstanding". This was very positive as it was an external evaluation that found that children were safeguarded well in the area and that all partners worked together on this very important responsibility.

North Lincolnshire will be subject to further inspection in line with the new framework which will begin in November 2013. The work of the LSCB will

be included as part of this.

Work with Children - Children and young people have continued to have a significant influence on the work of the board and we extend our thanks to all of those children who have come along to the Board to tell us what makes them feel safe and how best to achieve this. One of the highlights of the year for me was when a group of primary school children persuaded all the board members to hold hands to show us what "Circle time" is like and how they use the time to talk about things which are troubling them.

At the Children & Young People's annual Stay Safe conference in March 2013, I was very impressed by the clarity with which young people spoke about their knowledge of online grooming and the dangers of the internet. The awareness raising, training and development for both children and staff in this area of work is obviously making a difference in the day-to-day lives of children. It also emphasises that young people are much more comfortable sharing their worries with other young people than adults, and this is why we have invested in the training and development for peer mentoring including the very impressive cyber mentors who presented at the Board earlier this year.

Hearing directly from children is one of the ways in which the board finds out what is happening at the "front line" as they talk about what they need from professionals and other people whose role is to work with them to keep them safe and promote their welfare. It is also how we find out whether they and their families are getting "Early help" as we ask them

whether they received the help they needed when they needed it.

What has been happening nationally that is relevant for North Lincolnshire?

[Working Together \(2013\)](#) was published in March. LSCBs are independent of any other body and they continue to be a statutory requirement.

Working Together also describes how the LSCB should review child deaths and undertake serious case reviews, develop a learning framework to continually improve our safeguarding services and avoid tragedies.

Independent Chairs are now accountable to the Local Authority Chief Executive, Simon Driver and the role of Director of Children's Services (DCS), Denise Hyde remains crucial to the overall safeguarding agenda and statutory duties to safeguard children.

In North Lincolnshire there have been regular meetings between the Chief Executive and I.

Working Together 2013 also retains many of the previous requirements for LSCBs including the role of the Lead Member for Children and that of Lay members. Cllr Rob Waltham, Cabinet Member People maintains a keen interest in safeguarding and we meet regularly - you can read his comments on Page 4. The lay members let us know whether we are making sense in the context of local issues and they provide a welcome link with the local community. You can read their contribution on page 4.

What are the priorities for the coming year?

The LSCB Business Plan outlines the priorities which have been identified both at national and local level, and they are monitored throughout the year to make sure that the outcomes are being achieved.

This has been yet another year of profound change in most of the organisations which provide services to children and families. This includes huge changes in the way that the NHS is commissioned with the formation of Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG). Police budgets have transferred from the Police Authority to the new Police and Crime Commissioner, and there will be further fundamental changes to the Probation Trust with the implementation of "Transforming Rehabilitation". These are all changes which have been discussed by the board to establish the implications for services to children and young people.

The relationship between the Health and Well Being board, the Children's Trust, the Chief Officer of Police, the CCG, council and partners continues to be high on everyone's priorities to ensure we work together to safeguard children.

I do understand how busy everyone is these days but I do hope that you will find this report informative and let us know how you think it could be improved next year.

Edwina E Harrison

Edwina Harrison

Independent Chair, North Lincolnshire Local Safeguarding Children Board

Foreword by Simon Driver Chief Executive, North Lincolnshire Council



Safeguarding children and young people and supporting families is enshrined within the council's priorities for 2013-2017. We seek to make our communities safer and stronger, with our

commitment to ensure that we involve our customers in how we deliver services. The provision of services at the right time and in the right place is fundamental to our vision. The involvement of children and young people in achieving this vision is pivotal. The young people of North Lincolnshire elect a Young Mayor and a Member of Youth Parliament whose roles are to ensure that the views and priorities for children and young people are represented within the council.

The work of the LSCB continues to drive forward multi agency commitment and action to safeguard children. As part of my role as outlined in *Working Together (2013)* I regularly meet with the Independent Chair of the LSCB to ensure that the arrangements for the LSCB are effective and that agencies are working together to meet the needs of children and young people in North Lincolnshire and that all of us contribute in building a better future for them.

Foreword by Cllr Rob Waltham, Cabinet member for adults and children at North Lincolnshire Council



We are committed to safeguarding children and young people in North Lincolnshire to ensure that they have the best start in life, families receive help and support at the right time and

children are encouraged and supported to be the best that they can be. My role in the LSCB ensures that the effectiveness of the LSCB is open to scrutiny and if necessary the LSCB can be challenged on the effectiveness of their activities in respect of safeguarding arrangements. The LSCB described as 'outstanding' in the last Ofsted inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children (June 2012) has a strong focus to ensure that the views, voices and experiences of children and young people are informing and shaping its work. In 2013-2014 the ongoing work of the Board will continue to be shaped and influenced by what children and young people tell us and how they think we can continue to keep children and young people safer in North Lincolnshire.

Foreword by Denise Hyde, Director of People



I am very pleased to introduce this annual report of the North Lincolnshire LSCB. Over the last year the council has gone through many changes and we have taken the opportunity in People's Services to transform our

services to continue to deliver the highest standards of services for children and young people and their families in North Lincolnshire. In 2012 we were delighted with Ofsted's findings on services for children and young people in North Lincolnshire, but we recognise that there is still more to do. We are ambitious for our children and young people in North Lincolnshire and believe they deserve the best services and support to help them to be safe and fulfil their potential. The vision that underpins our work is "safe children, supported families, transformed lives" and the Annual Review

demonstrates the commitment there is in North Lincolnshire to work together to achieve that vision. In 2013, we will continue to work hard to build upon the foundations we have set in relation to preventative safeguarding and embedding the Early Help Safeguarding Strategy that sets out these aspiration to intervene early with children and families to support further health, development and opportunities for young people in North Lincolnshire.

Foreword by Paul Sparham, Lay Representative on the LSCB



I saw an advert asking for a lay member to sit on the Local Children's Safeguarding Board, (LSCB), about three years ago. With my background in the Health Service and education I

thought this sounded interesting. An initial interview involving a Police Superintendent and officers of the LSCB set me thinking 'what have I let myself in for?'

After three years I have finally worked out and appreciate the lay representatives' role on the LSCB. Eighteen months ago I was asked to take part in a Section 11 challenge day, which involved audit and scrutiny of the organisations that make up the LSCB. At the challenge event they had to explain their own processes and were compared against each other to see if any gaps were present. At this point I realised the unique importance of a lay representative: they give transparency to the whole process as that person is not accountable to any of the organisation's groups except the LSCB itself. After three years I have found my position "Outside but Within the LSCB". The LSCB tries to improve the health and well being of all North Lincolnshire children; it has strong links with neighbouring authorities and various representatives sitting on other boards to ensure continuity and exchange of good practice.

1.1 National Context in respect of safeguarding children and young people

Safeguarding children continued to be transformed in 2012 by government scrutiny and policy directives. The importance of early, effective support was reinforced through documents such as *Children first: the child protection system in England – Report by the Education Select Committee (Nov 2012)*, *An Action Plan for Adoption: Tackling Delay March 2012* and *The Edlington case: a review by Lord Carlile of Berriew CBE QC*. The need for preventative approaches to safeguarding as well as robust intervention when children require protection and support was reinforced. North Lincolnshire's LSCB has a strong history of strategic intention and action on safeguarding children across universal, targeted and responsive safeguarding, and embedding the culture that the Government advocated for in 2012.

In 2012 the recognition of the harm caused by sexual exploitation was heightened and the vulnerability that some adolescent children can experience was demonstrated through reviews such as: *'I thought I was the only one. The only one in the world'* *The Office of the Children's Commissioner Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups* and *'Multi agency responses to the sexual exploitation of children: Rochdale Safeguarding Children Board'*.

Safeguarding children and young people requires multi agency commitment and action to intervene early with children and families, provide effective,



evidence-based support, and a commitment to empower children and families to develop their resources and skills in keeping themselves and each other safe.

The strategic direction of the LSCB in North Lincolnshire remains consistent with the national priorities above, as these reinforce the local values and principles that underpin the Board and the priorities identified in the LSCB Business Plan.

1.2 Population information; Children and Young People in the community

The population of North Lincolnshire is 167,400. The population of children aged 0-19 years is currently 39,400 (ref: JSNA Evidence Base, 2012-2013). North Lincolnshire has seen a growth in the birth rate since 2001 where there were 8,500 under-fives resident in North Lincolnshire, rising to 10,300 by 2011. 56% and 54% of children under five years and under 10 years live in Scunthorpe and Bottesford; the remainder live across the market towns and villages of North Lincolnshire.

7.1% of the population in North Lincolnshire are from a BME community and it has been estimated that there has been a 53% growth in the local BME population since 2001. A total of 68 different languages are spoken across North Lincolnshire, the most common being Bengali, Urdu, Punjabi, Hindi, Portuguese, Somali, Turkish, Arabic and Polish. The largest BME communities in North Lincolnshire are people of Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi heritage.



More than 80% of the BME community live in the northern part of Scunthorpe.

7% of children in North Lincolnshire have a physical, learning or mental disability or long term illness that limits their day-to-day activities. For 3% of children the disability/illness is so severe that they are eligible for disability living allowance. 400 children have special education needs (SEN). Children with SEN are twice as likely to live in low income families. At least 30% of children with SEN are eligible for free school meals in North Lincolnshire.

The number of children registered in schools across North Lincolnshire is 22,312; there are 13,768 primary school children and 9,544 secondary school children enrolled in schools across North Lincolnshire. Currently 71 children are home-educated.

In North Lincolnshire there are approximately 668 children in need of support from social work services at any one time.

On average there are approximately 80 children who have a child protection plan.

On average there are approximately 165 children in care in North Lincolnshire.

On average 350 children have a child in need/child protection plan and have an allocated social worker.

On average there are approximately 232 children who received support from Children and Family Support Services.

1.3 The Role and Function of the Local Safeguarding Children Board

Section 13 of the Children Act 2004 requires each local authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) for their area.

Section 14 of the Children Act 2004 sets out the objectives of LSCBs, which are:

- (a) to coordinate what is done by each person or body represented in the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area; and
- (b) to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.

Regulation 5 of the Local Safeguarding Board Regulations 2006 sets out the functions of the LSCB as per section 14 of the Children Act 2004 are:

- 1(a) developing policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority, including policies and procedures in relation to:
 - (i) the action to be taken where there are concerns about a child's safety or welfare including thresholds for intervention;
 - (ii) training of persons who work with children or in services affecting the safety and welfare of children;
 - (iii) recruitment and supervision of persons who work with children;
 - (iv) investigation of allegations concerning persons who work with children;

- (v) safety and welfare of children who are privately fostered;
 - (vi) cooperation with neighbouring children's services authorities and their Board partners;
 - (b) communicating to persons and bodies in the area of the authority 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;
 - (c) participating in the planning of services for children in the area of the authority; and
 - (d) undertaking reviews of serious cases and advising the authority and their Board partners on lessons to be learnt.
- (b) putting in place procedures for ensuring that there is a coordinated response by the authority, their Board partners and other relevant persons to an unexpected death.

Regulation 5 of the LSCB Regulations 2006 sets out the requirement for LSCBs to undertake reviews of serious cases in specified circumstances. Regulation 5(1) (e) and (2) sets out the LSCB's function in relation to serious case reviews;

5(1)(e) undertaking reviews of serious cases and advising the authority and their Board partners on lessons to be learned.

(2) For the purposes of paragraph (1) (e) a serious case review is one where:

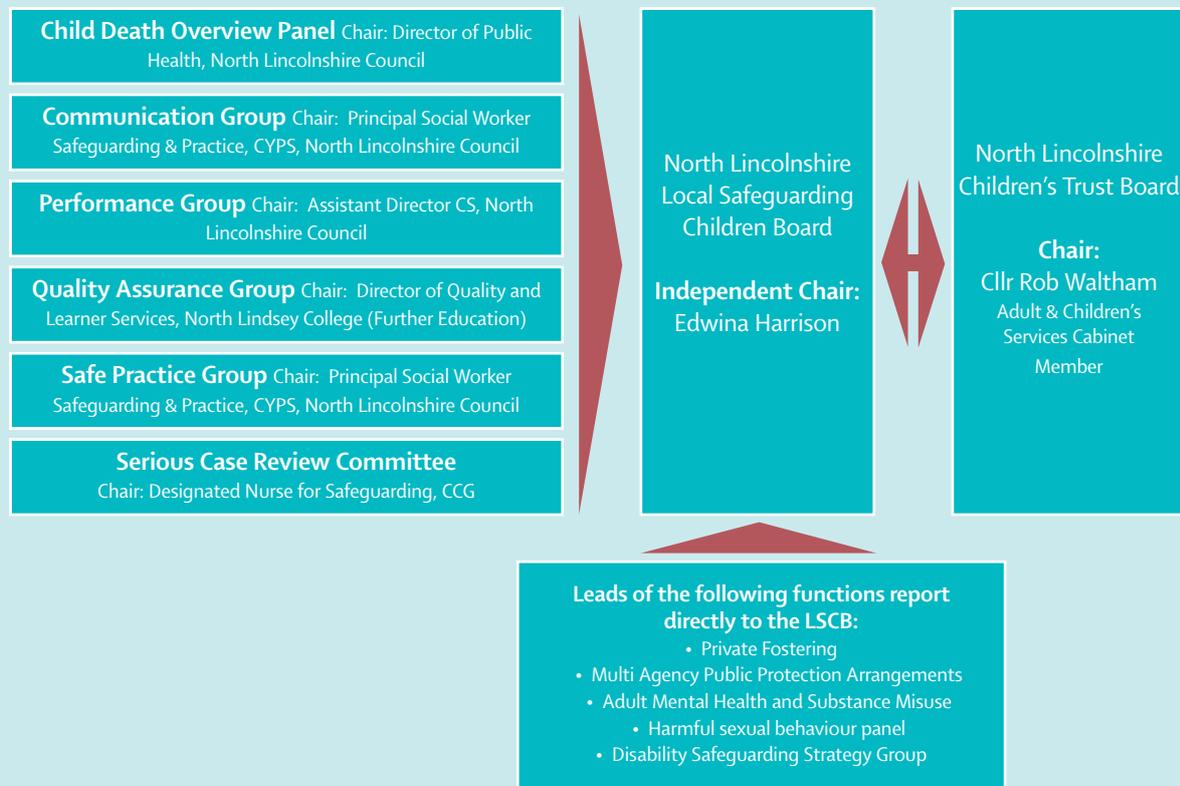
- (a) abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected; and
- (b) either - (i) the child has died; or (ii) the child has been seriously harmed and there is cause for concern as to the way in which the authority, their Board partners or other relevant persons have worked together to safeguard the child.

Regulation 6 of the LSCB Regulations 2006, made under section 14(2) of the Children Act 2004. The LSCB is responsible for:

- (a) collecting and analysing information about each death with a view to identifying:
 - (i) any case giving rise to the need for a review mentioned in regulation 5(1)(e)
 - (ii) any matters of concern affecting the safety and welfare of children in the area of the authority
 - (iii) any wider public health or safety concerns arising from a particular death or from a pattern of deaths in that area; and

1.4 Partnership arrangements of the LSCB - How the Core Functions are managed

The LSCB Business Plan 2012-15 sets out the Core Functions and groups of the board. These core function groups are chaired by board members and



draw together professionals from across the agencies to ensure everyone is working together to ensure that children are safeguarded. There is close partnership working between the LSCB and other statutory boards that commission work with children, young people, their families and communities.

1.5 LSCB Performance: Statutory arrangements and functions 2012-2013

1.51 Board arrangements

The board's membership is laid down by *Working Together 2013*. The board meets quarterly to undertake formal business. In addition to this board members chair the core function groups (as above), take responsibility for ensuring their own agency has effective arrangements and meets regularly to look at how the board can develop further to continually improve children's safety. Lay members and the regular attendance of children bring added value, additional challenge and scrutiny.

The Independent Chair is part of the national LSCB Chairs network and has a regular interface with government ministers.

1.52 Challenge and scrutiny

The LSCB developed Section 11 Challenge events, whereby local agencies complete a self assessment of the effectiveness of their arrangements against Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 duties and attend a challenge event where they are questioned on their results. The challenge event is chaired by the LSCB Independent Chair and is also made up of the Cabinet Member for People, the LSCB Lay representatives, a young persons representative and non executive directors .

We have a 100% return rate of the section 11 self

assessments undertaken by agencies represented on the Board and attendance at the event. An outcome of the challenge session is that agencies have an action plan for board members to follow up on and report back progress on at least six months later. The results of the challenge event are covered in part 2.1.

The Inspection of safeguarding and looked after children (June 2012) highlighted the North Lincolnshire LSCB challenge events as excellent practice and also that the inclusion of the Chair of Scrutiny in the events demonstrated the local authority's commitment and interest in children's issues. In addition the Association of Independent LSCB Chairs, has identified this model as best practice.

The LSCB has a Quality Assurance Group in place that undertakes audits of multi agency frontline practice. The Group uses a locally developed audit tool to test the following aspects of multi agency working:

- The timeliness and effectiveness of planning and decision-making within assessments.
- The risk analysis undertaken and how this contributes to planning and decision-making
- The effectiveness of planning for children and young people.
- The effectiveness of working together between services for children and services for adults, such as mental health, learning disability, drug and alcohol services.
- The effectiveness of information sharing and multi agency working.
- The effectiveness of support services provided for children and parents, including their contribution to the assessment.
- To identify learning from good practice,
- Draw together themes and make recommendations.
- Provide overall judgements on the quality of the work.

The group commits to auditing two cases bi-monthly and it reports the themes to the LSCB on a quarterly basis. The themes of the audits under taken in 2012 were:

- Safeguarding disabled children;
- MAPPA arrangements and interface with safeguarding children;

- Parental Mental Health and interface with safeguarding children;
- Child Sexual Exploitation;
- Domestic abuse.

The audits demonstrated the following in respect of frontline practice and multi agency working:

- Practice compliant with statutory requirements in respect of timescales and assessments;
- Good, consistent standard of case recording;
- Evidence of supervision;
- Good understanding of the threshold for referral to children's social work services and appropriate information sharing;
- Multi agency working in place and also evident with adult services;
- Multi agency plans in place;
- Joint decision making in place and risk analysis undertaken;
- Protocols in place between children and adult services.

The learning from the audits identified practice developments such as the importance of e-safety awareness for parents, the importance of engagement of older teenagers in plans and ascertaining and building their goals into the plan, the importance of aligning family and agency goals and the value of schools participating in the audits.

The outcome of the audits has been:

- Practice and learning from the audits has been shared at LSCB information sessions;
- The development and implementation of advocacy training, to enhance the engagement skills of practitioners working with adolescents;
- The reinforcement of e-safety information on the LSCB website, local media, Safe Internet Day and in schools;
- Schools involvement in the LSCB case audits and where relevant, schools participate and attend the audit sessions.

1.53 Serious Case Review Sub Committee

The LSCB is required to undertake a Serious Case Review when a child dies and abuse or neglect is known or suspected. It should consider undertaking a

Serious Case Review when a child has been seriously harmed and the case gives rise to concerns about the way in which local professionals and services worked together to safeguard the welfare of the child.

In 2012-2013 we had no cases that met the criteria for a Serious Case Review. The last Serious Case Review was undertaken in 2009. We have a robust and transparent decision making process in place and the LSCB Independent Chair makes the ultimate decision about whether a Serious Case Review or lower level review should be undertaken.

Locally we have developed a model for undertaking lower level reviews which is built around the Systems methodology advocated by Professor Munro and the Social Care Institute of Excellence. This model seeks to understand the decisions and practice of professionals in the organisational context within which they operate. The Chair of the Sub Committee has delivered training and presentations at LSCB information sessions, outlining the local model we have developed.

Despite there being no Serious Case Reviews the Serious Case Review Sub Committee continued to meet quarterly. The Sub Committee has considered the learning from national issues and reviews undertaken by other LSCBs and any local implications. This ensures that we are learning from other serious case reviews and driving forward changes. For example in 2012 we considered the learning from the Rochdale Serious Case Review into child sexual exploitation. The learning from this case informed a communication campaign aimed at professionals to demystify the issue of consent, and raise awareness about the impact of coercion on an individual's ability to consent.

1.54 Child Death Overview Panel

The Child Death Overview Panel has met quarterly. In North Lincolnshire childhood death rates remain low. However, each child death is a tragedy and we respectfully acknowledge this.

The LSCB has a rapid response process in place whereby an urgent meeting is held when a child has died unexpectedly. This is in line with statutory requirements. The LSCB procedure stipulates that a rapid response meeting must be held within three working days and we have ensured 100% compliance in meeting this timescale.

From 1 April 2012- 31 March 2013 there were 13 child deaths.

Eight child deaths were expected.

Five child deaths were unexpected.

The CDOP continues to review the majority of cases within a six month period, unless there are exceptional circumstances such as a Coroner's Inquest or a criminal investigation.

North Lincolnshire was involved in establishing the North Trent Neonatal Network, within which a regional expert group in neonatology review deaths of neonates, that have died at the regional centre. This model allows for a specialist review of these children and may help to build up shared understanding of themes across LSCBs.

The Ofsted inspection of safeguarding and looked after children, 2012 identified that:

North Lincolnshire has appropriate arrangements in place to review child deaths. The child death overview panel is chaired by the Director of Public Health. The designated doctor is a key member of this panel. Rapid response arrangements are in place including sudden unexpected death of a child paediatricians and nurses. The team approach works well and includes bereavement support for parents. The panel has highlighted and communicated well on common themes identified, such as concerns on co-sleeping and water safety. (Ofsted report on the Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Services In North Lincolnshire, published June 2012)

From the reviews undertaken, the causes of the unexpected child deaths have largely been as a result of an acute illness and the causes of expected child deaths have mainly been as a result of life limiting conditions.

In 2012-2013 the CDOP reviewed seven cases and they could not identify any preventable factors. What this means is that there was nothing additionally identified that agencies could have done that may prevent a future similar death.

As part of the LSCB training programme we deliver training to multi agency staff on the child death overview panel process and purpose. In 2012 we revised the training to include a half-day session on bereavement support in order to assist frontline

practitioners in supporting the families that they are involved with when bereavement has occurred. This resulted from requests by practitioners about how they could enhance the support they offered. The training is highly valued and evaluated: 100% of staff said that they had learnt a lot from the course, that it enabled them to understand what to do if a child dies, and their responsibilities regarding CDOP processes.

1.55 Private Fostering

Children living away from home can be the most vulnerable children within our area. One category of children living away from home is those children who are privately fostered. As defined under the Children Act 1989, children are privately fostered if they are under the age of 16 years (or under 18 if disabled) and they are cared for and accommodated by a person who does not have parental responsibility and who is not a close relative, and they do so for longer than 28 days. (Short breaks, i.e. spending a weekend back with parents, does not break the continuous period). There is a duty on any person who proposes to foster a child privately, any person involved directly or indirectly or a parent, to inform Children's Specialist Services of any child whom they know is, or is going to be, privately fostered. Following this, Children's Specialist Services will undertake an assessment and ensure that the placement is appropriate and monitor the safety of the child. In addition each private fostering arrangement is supported and supervised by a qualified Social Worker from the Fostering Team.

Number of children in private fostering arrangements



The number of children and young people who are in private fostering arrangements increased over 2012-2013 by 50%. The referrals to the Fostering Service about children in private fostering arrangements have come from other professionals working with families, such as schools and parents. A comprehensive awareness-raising strategy is in place, and each month, activity is undertaken to highlight private fostering to

professionals, the public and children and young people themselves, about who needs to know if a child is in a private fostering placement. The awareness raising activity has included information being circulated to all schools, articles in Direct magazine (a local publication sent to every household in North Lincolnshire), leaflets circulated to GPs, Local Links, libraries, leisure centres and information in council staff wage slips. This has resulted in more children being identified in private fostering arrangements, having their needs assessed and receiving additional support.

1.56 LSCB training

The LSCB continues to deliver a comprehensive training programme for multi agency professionals. The model which underpins the programme is the Dryfus and Dryfus Model, taken from *Novice to Expert* (P Benner 1984) and is designed to develop expert frontline practitioners in line with professor Munro's recommendations.

The LSCB runs an extensive safeguarding training programme that ensures training is delivered on all LSCB priority areas, that enhances the core skills of the children's workforce, is based on key methodologies that underpin effective safeguarding and develops and enhances professionals' understanding of key safeguarding issues.

In 2012-2013 we delivered 102 courses and three LSCB information sessions. We trained 2,043 multi agency professionals – 56% more staff than the year before. We continue to have a good representation of multi agency staff at LSCB training with particularly good take-up by education staff, children and young people's services staff and the voluntary and community sector.

Locally 86% of LSCB training is delivered by our local 'experts', that is staff working in local agencies. 48% of that training is delivered by staff from Children's Services. We commission external specialist trainers for enhanced levels of training on areas such as child sexual exploitation and harmful sexual behaviour by children and young people.

The evaluation and feedback from the courses identifies that LSCB training continues to be highly valued, supports the ongoing professional development of staff and is utilised within their practice. Each LSCB course is subject to evaluation and feedback in order to ensure that the courses are

excellent quality, delivered by skilled and knowledgeable trainers and facilitate best practice. Each course is evaluated against its specific learning outcomes so that the impact of the training on individuals can be reviewed. The LSCB Training Coordinator analyses all training evaluation forms and produces a comprehensive report for the Board to assess the quality of courses delivered, and whether they should be re-commissioned or reviewed.

A sample of evaluation responses identify that:

100% of staff attending internally delivered courses such as: Foundation training; awareness training; safer recruitment; MARAC training; neglect; child development and safeguarding vulnerable babies, rate the courses as very good to excellent, and that they have learned a lot. Qualitative comments state that the learning from the course has enhanced their understanding and it will contribute to their performance at work.

100% of staff attending training delivered via commissioned 'specialists', such as child sexual exploitation, rate the courses as very good to excellent and state that it has enhanced their understanding of the particular area and that it will support their performance at work.

The formulation of the LSCB training calendar and strategy is a consultative process. Each year the LSCB holds a consultation session with multi agency managers and supervisors to discuss the priorities for LSCB training for the next year and the development of the training calendar.

North Lincolnshire is part of the LSCB Yorkshire and Humber Regional Training Group. The purpose of the group is to share good practice across LSCBs and work together to develop safeguarding training. In November 2012, the regional training group arranged a regional conference on a key priority for all LSCBs in the region: Child Sexual Exploitation. Each LSCB was allocated 10 places and multi agency staff from North Lincolnshire attended the event. The feedback from the conference was excellent and as a result we have commissioned one of the speakers to deliver a course on understanding the psychological effects of trauma and abuse on children and young people, and understanding the psychology of perpetrators of sexual abuse, as part of the LSCB training calendar.

The Group has also been undertaking work on evaluating training courses and asked North Lincolnshire to share its process for evaluating LSCB courses. The regional group have identified this as a

best practice model which they want to adopt across other areas.

As well as the training and development of frontline staff, the LSCB Board members are committed to their own ongoing training and development and, as such, they commit to two Board development sessions per year in which Board members have the opportunity to have a reflective and constructive space to work together on key strategic issues and challenges. In 2012/13 the LSCB used the opportunity of the development sessions to understand more about the Outcome Based Accountability Model and the use the model to develop further the LSCB priorities and performance. The Board used the subsequent development session to apply the theory of appreciative enquiry to the Board priorities to shape and refine the areas that would be focused on the turn the curve, and improve outcomes for children and young people in North Lincolnshire.

1.57 Multi agency Policy and Procedures

The LSCB multi agency procedures and guidelines are kept up to date. The LSCB has a standing group in place – the Safe Practice Group – to ensure that local documents reflect national changes and are based on research or evidence. In 2013 we hosted a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) roadshow which staff working in North East Lincolnshire were able to attend. The purpose of the event was to update staff, and managers responsible for the recruitment of staff, on the changes to DBS requirements. We subsequently updated the LSCB Safer Recruitment Procedures.

Additional developments regarding procedures and guidance in 2012-13 were:

- The development of a protocol for working with children and young people where there are concerns about sexual exploitation;
- The development of best practice guidance for multi agency staff where they are working with families who are difficult to engage;
- The development of guidance for multi agency practitioners, that compliments individual agency guidance, where staff are not accessing the home.

These have been circulated to all agencies. *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013* has now been published and a priority work stream for the LSCB in 2013 will be to update its multi agency guidelines and procedures in line with this guidance.

2.1 Agencies' progress in respect of Section 11 Duties outlined in the Children Act 2004

Each year, organisations represented on the Board are asked to outline their arrangements for ensuring that they meet their Section 11 duties. Locally we have developed a model for reporting and challenging agencies on how effectively they are complying with their duties. Agencies are asked to undertake an audit using a standard format. Part of this process is that the LSCB conducts a Section 11 Challenge event.

POLICY STANDARD 1

Senior management commitment to the importance of safeguarding children and promoting their welfare

All agencies represented on the LSCB confirm that they have commitment to safeguarding children at all levels and that they have organisational arrangements in place to ensure that safeguarding children is championed throughout the organisation. In addition agencies have confirmed that they have procedures and policies in place which are disseminated to staff and provide clarity on their requirements and responsibilities. There is consistent and appropriate representation on the LSCB and agencies have staff involved in the LSCB Groups:



Humberside Fire and Rescue Service have continued to be an established member of the LSCB and associated structures, and have been proactive in seeking out partner organisations in order to access those most at risk from fire death or injury within our community, as well as mitigating risk from acts of deliberate firesetting and other risky behaviours in our specialised early interventions. We continue to receive excellent support from the LSCB in getting our message across to partner agencies who work with young people and children at risk on a daily basis.

Humberside Fire and Rescue

Agencies have a range of mechanisms in place to monitor the work being done to safeguard children in their organisation. There are excellent examples of comprehensive and systemic management. Oversight processes for monitoring front line practice within agencies are comprehensive and involve observing frontline practice, practice meetings, multi agency forums for case discussion, supervision and audit by managers. For example:



We have comprehensive mechanisms in place to monitor and quality assure the work of frontline staff and staff at all levels within the organisation. These include:

- 1 Quality assurance of cases through senior management case audit meetings held monthly, daily performance information to managers and senior managers, monthly performance meetings by managers with their staff, case management and CFSS moderating panel, routine auditing of case files by managers.
- 1 Quarterly Performance Review - this is a meeting that looks at all aspects of performance across the service
- 1 Consistent contribution to LSCB audits.

- 1 Hosting the multi agency moderating panel - this is a transparent process whereby agencies can bring forward any case for discussion, quality assurance and audit. Case records of social work staff are analysed and open to scrutiny by external agencies.
- 1 A robust supervision framework, (both case work and personal) which includes planned as well as immediate supervision when the need arises. Compliance with this is monitored through audits and the two-weekly Multi agency Moderating Panel. All supervisors are expected to attend supervision training and are targeted for this, and guidance has been issued on reflective supervision.

Children's Services

POLICY STANDARD 2

Policies and procedures are in place in respect of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children

All agencies represented on the LSCB confirm that they have comprehensive policies and procedures in place across their organisation in respect of safeguarding children, that these are compliant with

LSCB procedures and are reviewed appropriately. Procedures are disseminated to staff; for LSCB procedures see section 1.58.

All agencies operate in accordance with the LSCB Managing Allegations Against People who work with Children Procedures and there are nominated senior officers across all agencies

Agencies have internal training programmes in place which are in addition to the overarching LSCB training.

The Trust has a clear Safeguarding Children Policy (reviewed each year and approved by the Trust Board) in place. It is available within the Trust's intranet which provides that detail required by Offender Managers in order for them to discharge their responsibilities in relation to Safeguarding. The Policy is scrutinised each year and following the publication of any amended guidelines/safeguarding expectations (for example the Munro Report) to ensure it remains compliant. Recent additions include links to a 'checklist for Offender Managers' produced by the Ministry of justice Public Protection Unit and 'what to look for during home visits' produced by the Trust.

Humberside Probation Trust

Agencies have arrangements in place to ensure that their staff are equipped to deliver effective practice, which includes ensuring that there is a robust training programme delivered and that professionals have access to supervision and support. Agencies which commission other services also ensure that safeguarding children is a key focus within the services being commissioned.

Throughout 2012/13 we have continued to review, develop and implement the training matrix for safeguarding children. In addition, we have monitored compliance of training at all levels for safeguarding by Business Divisions, demonstrating links to the training needs analysis. Further, the Learning and Development Team now facilitate the delivery and monitoring of appropriate training programme.

Rotherham , Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust

NHSNL as the accountable commissioner had in place local standards for all providers of health services, which had been included in all contracts and service level agreements generated from the beginning of 2011/2012 year. Twelve standards were set, which reflected provider requirements arising from s11 Children Act 2004, and Care Quality Commission Outcome 7. Assurance was sought from each provider to ensure compliance with the standards. These standards cover the areas of organisational and professional leadership, compliance with LSCB and national policy, training requirements, safe recruitment and management of allegations, compliance with local and national safeguarding supervision processes, management of significant safeguarding incidents, serious case reviews and child death process. During the 2012/2013, the standards were amended to include provider compliance with LSCB priorities.

NHS North Lincolnshire (Shadow North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group)

POLICY STANDARD 3

There are clearly established lines of accountability within the organisation for work on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children

Agencies have confirmed that staff, including volunteers within their organisations, are clear about their roles and responsibilities and when they should contact a designated person/manager.

The LSCB has comprehensive mechanisms in place to ensure that children shape and influence the safeguarding agenda. In addition the views of children and young people are reported to the LSCB through its performance management framework, the Children Feel Safe Group and Cool Kidz Club.

Across agencies represented on the LSCB there are excellent arrangements whereby the views and experiences of children and young people are informing and shaping service delivery.

Lines of accountability are clear with overall responsibility lodged with a member of the Senior Management Team, who also attends the LSCB meetings and chairs the Quality Assurance Group. A Safeguarding Officer ensures day to day operations are managed effectively. All staff are clear of their roles and responsibilities and internal referral procedures.

North Lindsey College

The empowerment of children and young people and acknowledgment and respect for their contribution to safeguarding themselves and each other is significant in North Lincolnshire. We have programmes in place to train children and young people as peer mentors and cybermentors. This means that children are trained and equip to help and support each other.

Students have been trained as mentors and actively assist others in the early help stage. Topics such as bullying and healthy relationships are regularly covered in tutorial activities and college-wide events. During 2012/2013 a Staying Safe week was held in college and two very successful student summits covered safeguarding issues. These have helped to inform future plans and developments.

North Lindsey College

We have processes in place for ensuring that children and young people are consulted about the services delivered. There are also mechanisms in place to ensure that we work in partnership and collaborate with them. They are involved and informed about the decisions that affect their lives; they shape and influence what we do and how we do it, and ensure that they are treated with respect, have the opportunity to develop trusting relationships with professionals and have access to advocates when they are not able, for whatever reason, to speak for themselves. We are mindful to treat them as individuals in their own right as well as members of a family.

Across the whole service we have implemented a user views feedback framework. This consists of routinely asking children and young people five questions about whether they understand the reasons we are involved, if they are given a chance to have their say, do they understand what we are doing to make them safer, and do they understand their plan. We always seek their views on how we can improve what we do. The results from the consultation have been extremely positive, with young children reporting that they understand why social workers are involved with them, the reason for involvement and that they feel safe.

Children's Services

POLICY STANDARD 4

The organisation maintains safe recruitment and complaints procedures

The LSCB has reviewed and agreed an updated safer recruitment policy, which all members have signed up to. Agencies represented on the Board all confirmed that they had safer recruitment processes in place.

Agencies are signed up to the Managing Allegations Against People who Work with Children procedures. All agencies have nominated senior officers. The impact of the awareness raising and training that the LSCB has delivered is demonstrated by a reduction in the overall referral rate. This means that cases are referred only when the threshold has been met, and agencies have become much more effective in identifying the cases they can deal with internally and those that require a referral to the LADO.

All agencies have a complaints system in place whereby children, young people and their families can raise concerns. There are formal and informal mechanisms to complain and raise concerns and have them responded to. In addition to statutory mechanisms for complaints, there are excellent examples of agencies having additional processes in place that ensure that there is transparency around standards, expectations and services delivered so that people in receipt of services can raise issues. In addition the LSCB has an escalation procedure in place as well as a whistle blowing policy which are publicised online.

Children are made aware of the complaints procedure. There are systems in place within Children's homes through meetings, grumbles books, visits by independent advocate and the complaints procedures whereby children have the opportunity to routinely raise issues through the Childre in Care Council and via Corporate parenting creative conversations and regular meetings with senior leaders.

Children's Services

POLICY STANDARD 5

There is staff training on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children

The LSCB training is covered in section 1.57

There is a robust and comprehensive workforce development programme in place for staff that supports them in not only ensuring that practice is in line with statutory requirements, but that practice is grounded in evidence-based research and that it develops and matures.

Children's Services

All agencies represented on the Board have internal safeguarding training programmes in place. There are excellent examples of workforce development programmes.

100% of staff have received safeguarding education within the last three years. EMAS has a safeguarding training strategy and programme that considers legislative duties and national guidance, to ensure that staff have the knowledge and skills and understand their roles and responsibilities and to collaborate with other partner agencies to safeguard vulnerable groups.

East Midlands Ambulance Service

The importance of ensuring that staff have training commensurate to their role and responsibilities is reflected in the LSCB Training Strategy as well as individual agencies' strategies. In addition the importance of multi agency working is a key element within agencies' internal training.

The impact of the training is demonstrated through audit and scrutiny where the quality of case work and multi agency working is regularly assessed via the LSCB Quality Assurance Group.

The police at Detective Inspector level attend both the Case Audit Reviews and Moderating Panel. This leads to an active review of numerous pre-selected and randomly picked cases, allowing police records to be compared with those from other agencies in the safeguarding of children. This allows managers to assess the strengths of inter-agency sharing of information and where improvements can be identified.

Humberside Police

POLICY STANDARD 6

The organisation participates in effective interagency working and information sharing in order to ensure the safeguarding of children and the promotion of their welfare

The Children's Trust Information Sharing Protocol is in place and embedded across all agencies. In addition the LSCB multi agency guidelines and procedures outline professionals' responsibilities in respect of information sharing where they have concerns about a child or within the early help arena.

Locally we have co-located police and social work services to ensure that enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act are undertaken in a coordinated, timely and effective manner and that any offences against children can be investigated without delay. This ensures that there is robust and timely decision making between the Police and Social Care, where collective intelligence is utilised to gather and inform decisions and actions.

The Detective Sergeant who is responsible for Child Protection decision making is co-located with Children's Services to decision make and record child safeguarding matters and attend strategy discussions with partner agencies.

Humberside Police

PART 3

LSCB Business Plan for 2012-2015 and progress year 1 (2012-2013)

3.1 Evidence of impact- Inspection feedback Safeguarding

From 23 April 2012 to 4 May 2012, North Lincolnshire underwent an inspection of safeguarding and looked after children by Ofsted. North Lincolnshire was judged to be good overall in respect of safeguarding children, and outstanding in management and leadership and capacity to improve.

Feedback about the LSCB was very positive:

There is an excellent Local Safeguarding Children Board, providing an ambitious vision and highly effective coordination of safeguarding arrangements in North Lincolnshire.

The particular strengths of the LSCB were in the involvement of children and young people in consultative forums on safeguarding issues:

There are particularly impressive arrangements for young people to be involved in the Children's Trust, LSCB and focused children and young people's groups around safeguarding.

In addition the strength of partnership arrangements in safeguarding children was identified.

The Children's Trust and the LSCB are excellent partnerships coordinating highly effective multi-agency services.

Thresholds for making referrals to social care and for access to services for children in need and in need of protection are well established and understood across the partnership.



Front line child protection and children in need partnership work is strong including involvement in assessments, developing plans and carrying out activities to ensure children are protected. Health visitors and school nurses are involved well in child protection review processes and attendance at child protection conferences is monitored. Over 95% of health visitors and school nurses attend and there is full compliance in producing reports to conference.

Local services that safeguard children were also identified as good:

The LSCB provides excellent leadership on the coordination and delivery of services to ensure children are safe in North Lincolnshire.

The quality of provision of safeguarding services for children and young people is good.

The LSCB performance management arrangements and the impact intervention had for children and young people were also identified as good:

The Children's Trust and the LSCB performance management frameworks are comprehensive. Priorities are clearly stated, underpinned by challenging performance targets and measurable outcomes. Performance management is given a high priority across the partnerships and this has included the LSCB's outstanding 'Challenge Days' scrutinizing all of the partner agencies compliance to safeguarding standards.

Multi-agency quarterly performance reports are submitted to the Children's Trust and LSCB which are closely scrutinised and trends identified. Comparators,



complaints, compliments and 'perception levels' are also utilised to drive up performance. The LSCB had been working on how to represent the information on 'the child's journey' and has used well the Adolescent Lifestyle Survey to baseline local data and identify geographical areas in North Lincolnshire where additional support is needed to raise children's life chances.

The vast majority of children and young people report that they feel safe in North Lincolnshire. In a council survey of children, 93% said they feel safe. Of the 4800 respondents to the local Adolescent Lifestyle Survey, 95% also report they feel safe in their communities with 82% saying they feel safe when using their computers. All the children and young people seen by inspectors said they feel safe where they live, in school and at home and they knew where to go if they felt unsafe and who they would contact. Children also reported that where incidents of bullying had occurred at school this had been managed and the bullying stopped

An effective Business Plan is in place which sets out the LSCB's vision and its key priorities. The LSCB sub-committees focus well on delivering the priorities and demonstrate robust challenge. There are good links with the Children's Trust through joint membership of some members and mutual challenge and accountability. For instance performance management information from the LSCB is scrutinised and challenged by the Children's Trust

Overall the inspection provided very positive feedback about the strengths of safeguarding arrangements in North Lincolnshire, the multi agency

commitment and vision in respect of safeguarding children, and the excellent empowerment mechanisms we have developed to enable children and young people to contribute and shape arrangements to keep them safe.

3.2 Evidence of impact - Inspection feedback, Looked After Children

The excellent progress made on the Children in Care Strategy and the quality of the services delivered were recognised in the Ofsted inspection of services for children in care, undertaken in the inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children in 2012, where services to children in care were judged to be Outstanding.

Highlights of the inspection include:

- The proportion of children placed in foster care has increased over the last three years, whilst the number placed in external residential provision has reduced.
- Most children looked after in North Lincolnshire are in foster care placements and the rate is higher than the national average.
- The post-16 team provide an excellent range of services to young people post-16 years and to those who have left care.
- All looked after children are allocated a qualified social worker and most also receive additional assistance through family support workers, and this is excellent.

- Audits and the excellent risk analysis tool used throughout looked after children's services are outstanding, and provide a highly effective base to identify and take forward learning in the organisation.
- Investment in a new 'Children's Campus' for looked after children, demonstrating the significant commitment by the council to improving services for vulnerable children.
- Excellent systems to track, monitor and evaluate cases to ensure that children are appropriately safeguarded in their placements.

Placement Choice and Stability of Placement

The number of North Lincolnshire foster carers has increased substantially, with the number of new carers approved increasing from nine in 2010-11 to 22 during 2011-12. 21 were recruited in 2012 -13; we have set a target of 30 for 2013 -14. This represents 43 new carers in the last two years. There is a robust recruitment campaign in place, focusing on carers for older and harder to place young people. This has helped us reduce the need for expensive external placements. We are developing a fee-based foster carer scheme to further contribute to increasing the number and choice of carers.

We have reduced our mainstream children's home provision by two and have reinvested the savings through this in the development of support to young people, increasing family placements through adoption and fostering and building a new, purpose built, children's home linked to supported accommodation for young people.

The stability of placements for children remains good with 9.7% experiencing three placements in 12 months (a slight improvement on the previous year). Long term stability remains a challenge, has improved by 5% on the previous year and is broadly in line with statistical neighbours' result for 2011/12 (2012/13 not yet published). There is a continuing need to focus on ensuring stability for those in the older age ranges and increase placement choice and stability over a prolonged period. This will require robust support and specialist intervention with some children to maintain them in their current placement.

Services for Older Young People

Support and accommodation to children in care and care leavers is consistent and provides high quality services to meet the young people's needs. This includes Qualified Social Workers within the service, the development of the role of Support Officers and the creation of peripatetic support teams to support young people living independently or within supported accommodation. All young people receiving a service have suitable accommodation provided to meet their needs, with support in place and plans to ensure they have meaningful targets that are aspirational and focus on achieving positive outcomes.

We have developed a range of placement options for young people as they move through the care system, and young people who are assessed as needing on-going support in their accommodation. This includes:

- The children's home;
- Supported lodgings;
- Pasture – six supported flats for young mothers and their children;
- Supported Accommodation with NL Homes;
- Arrangements to provide accommodation with private landlords;
- Supported shared houses.

Permanency through Adoption

We have focused on increasing the number and choice of prospective adopters to meet the needs of children waiting for adoption locally. The council has taken the lead within the regional Adoption Consortium and in the development of a business contract to increase the collaboration between authorities, thereby increasing placement choice and availability. The number of adoptive carers recruited has doubled over the past year and there is a robust recruitment strategy in place to increase further the number of carers recruited during 2013/14.

In order to ensure that children are able to progress to achieve permanency we have reduced the length of time taken to achieve final orders and are in a strong position to achieve the timescales specified within the Norgrove Review of public law proceedings.

During the year 2012/13, proceedings reduced from 56 weeks (Apr-Jun 12) to 41 weeks (Jan-Mar 13). The number completed within 26 weeks has now also increased from 17.6% to 44.4%.

Current measures for adoption performance are through the Adoption Scorecard. We continue to more than achieve the thresholds set by the scorecard.

North Lincolnshire continues to exceed the threshold set for the average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family which was set at 639 days from 2010/11 to 2012/13. The 2008-12 three-year North Lincolnshire average was 612 days. It was below the England average of 636 days and Statistical Neighbour (SN) average of 622 days.

North Lincolnshire achieved 70% of children waiting less than 21 months to be adopted for the 2009-12 three-year average. This performance is better than the England average of 56% and SN average of 55%. North Lincolnshire was ranked 1 out of 15 in the region.

Visits to Children's Homes

Elected members have been trained to undertake corporate parenting visits to our two children's homes and these are in addition to and complement the regulatory visits undertaken by designated officers. The corporate parenting visits offer the children and young people a chance to talk

independently, offering an additional safeguarding check and a check regarding the quality of care.

These visits have been well established for a number of years and provide a real opportunity for young people to talk to elected members and share their views, wishes and concerns.

Children Missing from Care

For the small number of children in care who are reported as missing, North Lincolnshire Council has robust mechanisms for ensuring that action is taken straight away to ascertain their whereabouts and ensure their safety. This was recognised as excellent practice in the Ofsted inspection of Safeguarding and Looked after Children in 2012.

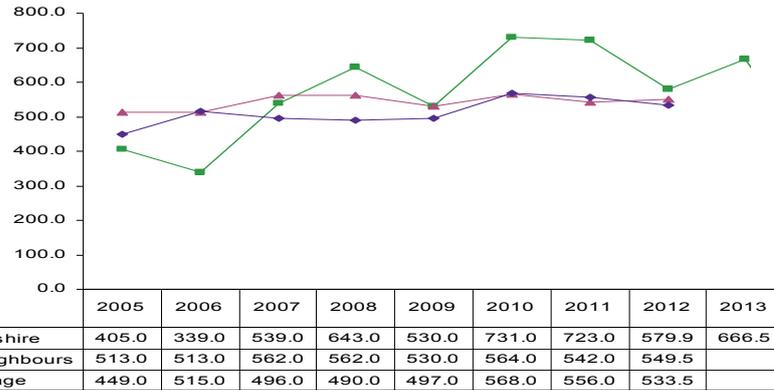
We have developed a multi-agency missing children management group that meets regularly to oversee children reported as missing. The joint protocols agreed with Humberside Police have been reviewed and updated and the group oversees the implementation of these protocols.

The number of children in the council's care who have been reported missing has reduced annually over the last four years and is currently at its lowest level. Of the small number of instances during 2012/13, most (71%) of the children returned within a few hours. In only two cases was the child missing for more than 24 hours; both were with friends and returned safely of their own accord.

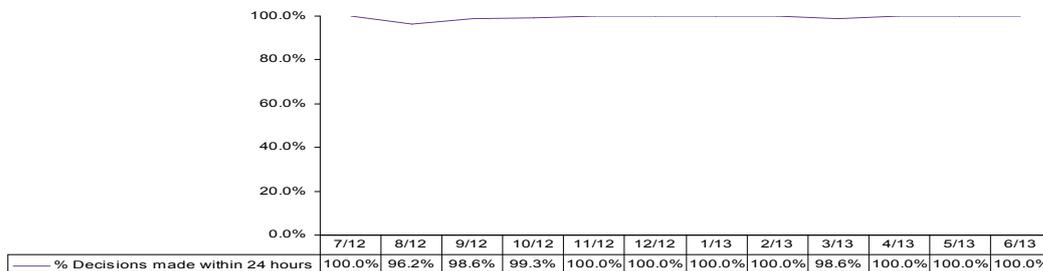
Of children reported as missing for any length of time from children's homes during 2010/11 and 2011/12, 66% of the instances were young people aged over 16. Of these, 83% (20/24) were in voluntary accommodation and therefore free to discharge themselves from care should they wish.

3.3 Evidence of impact - LSCB Performance information :Children within the child protection system

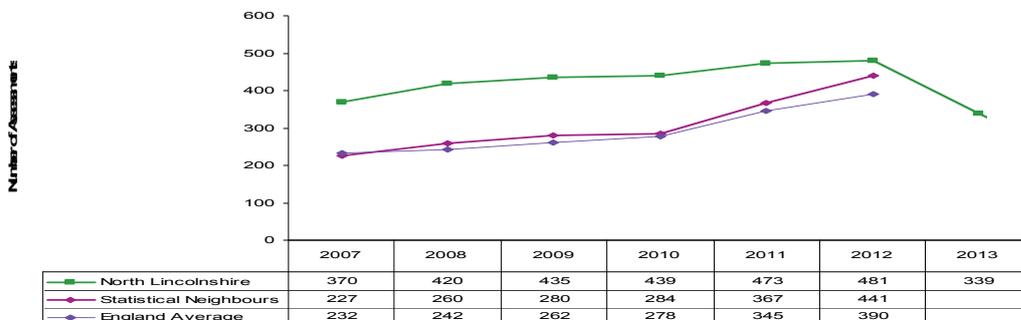
Despite a slight increase in referrals in 2012-2013, the practice regarding decision making remains excellent and consistently procedurally compliant.



Referrals - yearly rate per 10,000

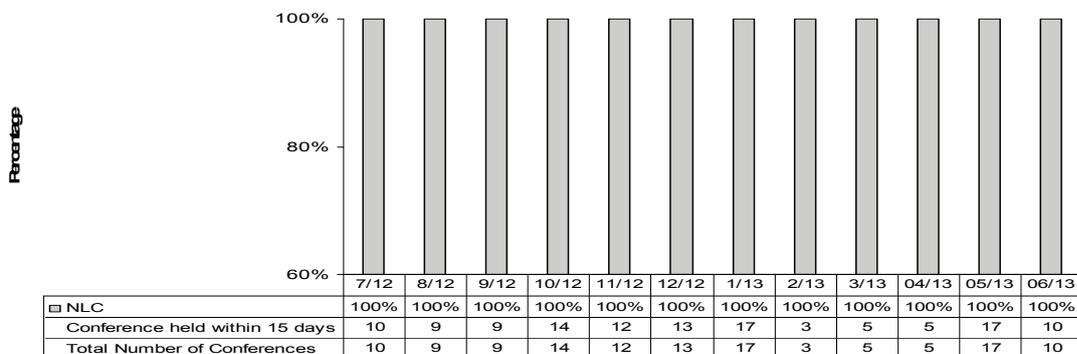


Decisions made within 24 hours



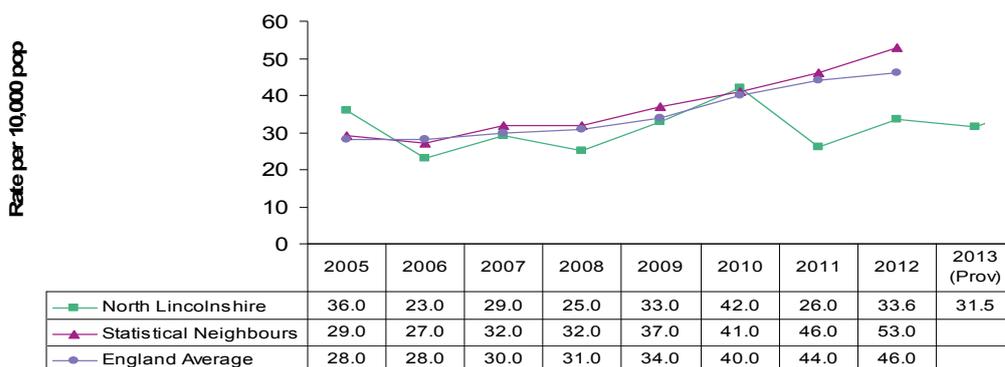
Section 47 Enquiries

The data demonstrate that the conversion rate to section 47 enquiries indicates that referrals regarding significant harm have met the threshold and agencies are referring cases appropriately.



Percentage of initial child protection conferences completed within 15 working days

Practice regarding the management of the child protection system is excellent and cases are consistently procedurally compliant and within timescale.



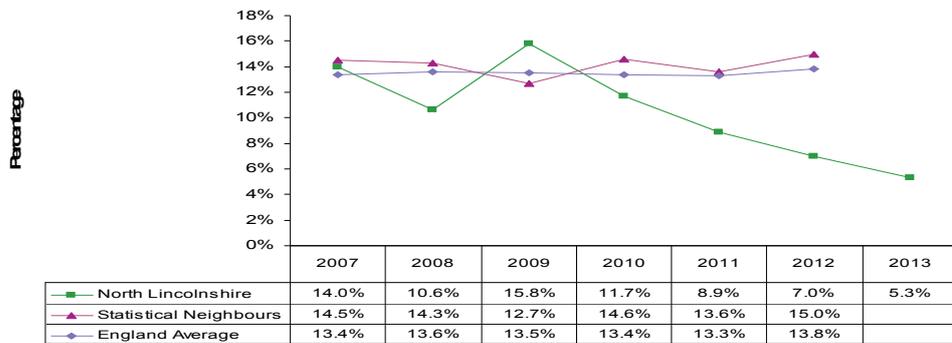
Number of new Child Protection Plans – yearly rate per 10,000

In 2010 we started undertaking the North Lincolnshire Risk Analysis model and since the implementation there has been an overall reduction in the number of CP Plans. This is because the consistent application of a risk management framework has facilitated the management of children within child in need plans.



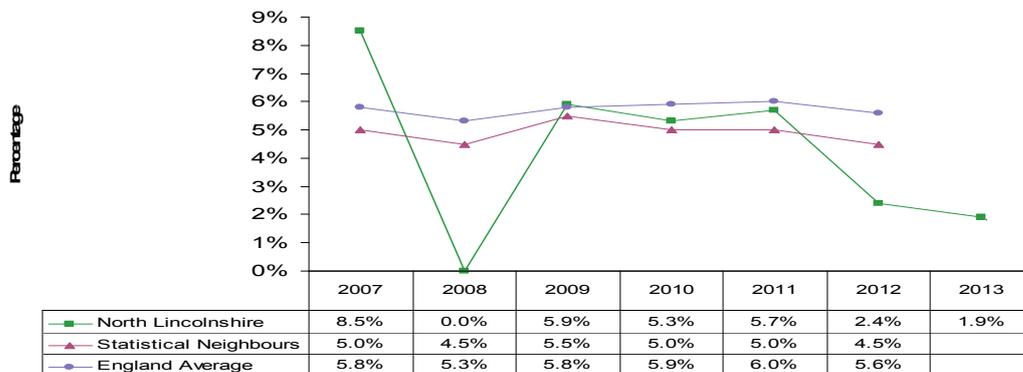
Number of young people with a child protection plan

This graph demonstrates that there has been a slight increase in number of children with Child Protection plans in the past year within the context of maintaining a low number of children in care in comparison to the national average.



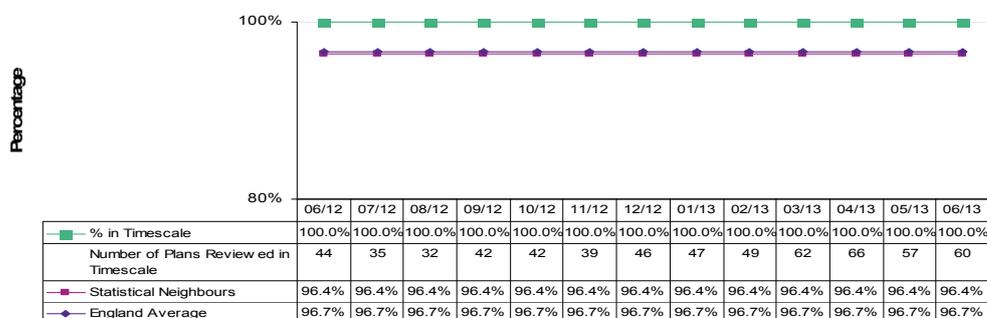
Children becoming the subject of a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time

Over the past four years there has been a year on year decrease in the percentage of children subject to a CP plan for a second or subsequent time. As at 31 March there were four children (three families) in this category which represented 5.3% with their last CP plans having ended at least over four years ago. Child protection planning and the interventions with the families are effective and enable them to sustain the necessary change. In addition where children become no longer subject to a child protection plan we have an effective step down process that facilitates longer term help at a lower level when risks have been addressed and it enhances family strengths using community resources.



Children de-planned where plan duration is more than two years

The implementation of the risk analysis model in early 2010 took effect at the end of 2012 culminating in 2.4% of child protection plans only that were for more than two years. This was more than a 50% reduction from 2011. There has been a further reduction to 1.9% as at the end of March 2013 which represented two children. This is due to the specific impact of the risk analysis model through the reflective and revisionist enhanced risk analysis meetings held after one year of a child protection plan being in place. The enhanced risk analysis meetings provide a forum for a reflective and objective overview of the progress that a family is making and for the group to consider the impact of interventions and whether the methods being used are working or need to change. Where risks continue and there is little evidence of commitment and change by the family, the public law outline is considered. This means that children’s developmental needs are met within the timescales appropriate to the child and cases do not drift.



Child protection plans reviewed in timescale

We continue to maintain consistent procedural compliance and thorough administrative support to ensure that all plans are reviewed within statutory timescales. Overall we experience better management of referrals/contacts, fewer children needing to be assessed under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989, due to the robust application of Sections 17 and 47 of the Act, whereby we intervene in the least intrusive manner possible while maintaining a clear focus on child protection.

3.4 Evidence of impact - consultation and participation with children and young people

Children, young people and families are significantly involved in strategic and operational planning through participation in partnership boards and meetings, making decisions over their own lives
(Ofsted, June 2012)

A key strength of the LSCB is the engagement and involvement of children and young people in the safeguarding priorities and work. Consultation and partnership with children, young people and their families is a standard that underpins safeguarding in North Lincolnshire. The LSCB routinely liaises with several consultative groups. These attend Board meetings to deliver presentations about the excellent work that they have been doing.

The Cool Kidz Club

The Cool Kidz Club is a group of children and young people who are, or have been, on child protection and children in need plans. They meet half-termly to discuss and share views and experiences to help improve services for other children and young people who are subject to child protection plans.

The group is led by an experienced worker from social work services and a Policy Officer from the Safeguarding and Partnership Team. Social workers are involved in facilitating the group. This group has

received interest from the Office of the Children's Commissioner and Ofsted, as it is unique nationally: other local authorities are trying to replicate it.

The Group is very successful due to the commitment and willingness of children supported by their parents in attending. Parents have welcomed the opportunity for their children to have their say and believe that the Club supports their children to have a better and more effective relationship with their social worker.



The most significant impact of the group has been in relation to the practice around child protection plans. Within the group children had expressed confusion about the role of the social worker and the reasons and aims of their child protection plan. They also expressed dissatisfaction with the format of the plan which was difficult for them to understand. This has led to the group developing a child-friendly plan which is prepared by the social worker and child together in a format that enables the child to gain a clear understanding of the reason for the social worker's involvement with the family and the purpose of the plan. This Plan was presented to the LSCB on 26 September 2012, where members of the

group delivered a presentation about the plan to Board members.

As a result of this work by the Cool Kidz Club, children are reporting that they have a better understanding of their plans and the reasons for social workers to be involved with their families. In addition it is also improving the attendance by children and young people at child protection conferences.

The excellent work of this group was recognised by Ofsted who visited the group and were so impressed by their work that they have written it up as a good practice example

The document can be found [here](#).

The Children and Young People 'Staying Safe' Consultative Group



Twice a term pupils from primary, secondary schools, colleges and Children Homes are invited to a consultative meeting. The meetings are divided into two parts. The first part deals with the consultative aspect and pupils are asked their opinion on safeguarding issues such as:

- Staying Safe
- Cyber Safety
- Anti-bullying
- Staying safe in the community
- Staying Safe conference
- Healthy relationships.

In addition the group also discusses topics such as the role of the school council and local events to be organised by the group.

The impact of the group has resulted in the development and sharing across schools of:

- Staying Safe checklist created by pupils and used by children and young people to check that their school is safe. This has been a huge success.
- 'The Talk To Box,' again another idea that has been adopted by other schools.

For the second part of the meeting the group invite guest speakers to discuss issues they are interested in, such as:

- Road safety
- Keeping mentally healthy
- The dangers of drugs
- The dangers of drink
- Healthy relationships
- Exam stress.

As a result of the group, areas of good practice have been shared across local schools. Examples of the impact of the group include:

- An anti-bullying audit undertaken in 2012-2103 which had a 85% return rate. The responses demonstrated that 100% of schools who contributed to the audit had a 'Staying Safe' agreement in place in their school. 50% of the schools had a 'Staying Safe' group in school.
- The development and distribution of Staying Safe posters and resources – three schools have produced posters for relevant key stages that will be published and then sent to all schools.
- The development of a Cyber Safety Guide. A first draft has been written which covers such areas as: text/video/picture messaging, phone calls, emails, web bullying, chat room/instant messaging, sexting, online games. It is hoped that this will be launched in November 2013 to coincide with Anti-bullying week.
- A 'Cyber Safety' agreement, which will be sent to all schools.

- Anti-bullying guide written by CYP for CYP – this has been created and all schools, colleges and children homes have a copy.
- Healthy relationships training – four secondary schools sent their Peer Mentors for training in March 2013 and they are going to lead on a 'Healthy Relationship' conference planned for November 2013.

The Office for the Children's Commissioner have attended a 'Staying Safe' meeting and were very impressed by the young people and by the active participation and networking between the schools and the council. Local officers were invited to participate in research undertaken by the University of Sussex on safeguarding and young people in secondary schools. The research will be published by the Office of the Children's Commissioner in September 2013. North Lincolnshire is one of four local authorities in the country working with the Children's Commissioner on this research. The Office of the Children's Commissioner commented on how well the council works with schools and promotes active participation in supporting the safeguarding agenda. North Lincolnshire has been held up as a good model and the OCC have asked if they can refer other local authorities to us for consultation and advice.



Staying Safe Conference - Kids Show How

On 19 and 20 March 2013, a Staying Safe Conference was held.

Day one was held at The Baths Hall and was an opportunity for all primary school children to showcase their work and listen to other schools' ideas on how to keep safe. Day two was held at the Learning Development Centre and gave secondary



school students an opportunity to listen to important topics focusing on how young people can stay safe.

The event was opened by the Independent Chair of the Board and invoked a lot of interest from the Office of the Children's Commissioner.

Primary school students gave presentations on the staying safe work they have been doing, such as making posters on stranger danger, fire safety and road safety. In addition some schools had written songs and raps on key issues such as anti bullying, which they performed.

<http://www.everynorthlincschildmatters.org.uk/local-safeguarding-children-s/>

The schools also talked about how they were developing playground buddies and friendship buddies to ensure that children are not bullied and not left out.

The event was also attended by Keaton Robinson and Lawrence Rayner, deputy members of the Youth Council and Youth Parliament for North Lincolnshire who explained what their roles were and talked about their work representing the young people in North Lincolnshire.

The secondary school event covered topics such as





healthy relationships, cyber mentors and healthy lifestyle choices.

The Chair of the LSCB opened the event and explained to the students the purpose of the LSCB and what the LSCB's four priorities are. The Chair asked the young people if they felt these were the right priorities for the LSCB and they agreed they were.

Lynette Smith from Big Talk Education gave advice about exploitation, the definitions of sexual exploitation and the signs to look for if a young person is being sexually exploited. The young people then designed posters with Top Tips on how to keep their friends safe from exploitation.

In 2013 we will be working with the Healthy Relationship mentors to develop a healthy relationships conference for schools.

3.5 Evidence of impact - LSCB Business Plan priorities

The key priorities for the LSCB were to:

- Reduce the harm from child exploitation,
- Reduce the harm from domestic abuse,
- Provide early help for children and families, and
- Reduce the harm from emotional abuse and neglect of children and young people.

LSCB Priority: Reduce the harm from child exploitation

Child sexual exploitation by gangs and groups continues to be a growing area of concern at a national level. Locally we are vigilant to this type of abuse as well as all other forms of sexual exploitation of children and young people. Extensive work has been undertaken to raise the profile of sexual exploitation amongst professionals including multi agency training to enable them to respond swiftly and proactively when they are concerned about a child/ young person suffering sexual exploitation. We have simultaneously adopted a public health/ preventative approach to the problem and we are developing awareness and training around what constitutes a healthy loving relationship so that children and young people are supported to be able to recognise warning signs when relationships feel abusive or exploitative.

North Lincolnshire has undertaken a vast amount of work around anti-bullying, both face-to-face bullying and online bullying.

The LSCB in North Lincolnshire took a preventative approach to implementing the Prevent programme and recognised that radicalisation could be another form of exploitation of vulnerable children and young people. As a result Prevent has been a routine programme that we have promoted in schools, at multi agency events and conferences. In this way it has facilitated people's understanding of the issues and how they can support children and young people who may be at risk of this type of exploitation.

LSCB Priority: Reduce the harm from child exploitation

Action details	Timescale	Progress	RAG rating
Raise professional awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation	March 2013	<p>Over the last year there has been substantial awareness raising activity in respect of child sexual exploitation through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LSCB information sessions to multi agency staff • Extensive specialist training commissioned and delivered to multi agency professionals • Information circulated via the LSCB newsletter to all agencies • A conference for the voluntary and community sector on CSE being delivered • The development of a poster campaign that will be launched in June 2013. 	Green
Raise public awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation	March 2014	<p>The approach the LSCB has taken to raising awareness about child sexual exploitation has been to set the problem within the context of raising awareness about healthy relationships. By adopting this strategy the Board is taking a proactive, preventative and empowering approach whereby we are teaching children and young people about healthy relationships. Work has commenced in this area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 young people who are already cybermentors have been trained to be healthy relationship mentors in schools. • A healthy relationship course is being embedded into the curriculum of one secondary school, whereby the Domestic Abuse Strategy Manager will be delivering a 1 hour session for a 12 week period to students, this is being rolled out across other schools in 2013-2014. • Information has been disseminated to local colleges through staff attending information days and providing students with access to advice and guidance on Prevent, sexual exploitation and domestic abuse. • The issue was covered at a recent Stay Safe event for secondary school students. • We are developing a communication and community engagement strategy and within this we will be working with local businesses and the voluntary sector to create a recognised safe place scheme where a young person in trouble for any reason could go and get help. 	Green

LSCB Priority: Reduce the harm from child exploitation

Action details	Timescale	Progress	RAG rating
Deliver specialist training and shared expertise from other authorities to key staff	March 2013	<p>Practice meetings have been established between the Police, NLC, Health staff and foster carers.</p> <p>The LSCB has revised the CSE protocol which has been disseminated to all agencies</p> <p>A joint Police and Children's Services training event was held led by Lancashire Police on best practice from Operation Engage.</p> <p>LSCB staff Information events have covered CSE & learning from other local authorities.</p> <p>LSCB and partners have delivered training to staff in 1 college on CSE, Prevent, Sex and Relationships Education and Domestic Abuse.</p> <p>The E-safety package delivered by the LSCB training co-ordinator has been updated in relation to exploitation on line.</p> <p>The LSCB is linked into the National Working Group for Sexually Exploited Children & Young People events.</p> <p>LSCB member agencies staff have attended regional training events and the regional LSCB and other conferences.</p> <p>Information on CSE is included in the LSCB quarterly newsletters.</p> <p>The LSCB has circulated to all agencies the OCC's interim report "I thought I was the only one. The only one in the world", Nov. 2012 and also the Warning Signs and Vulnerabilities checklist – Appendix A of this report as a stand-alone document for professionals and supervisors reference in risk assessment/analysis.</p> <p>Practice meetings have been established between the Police and Children's Services, including other agencies where relevant.</p> <p>The LSCB continues to liaise with the Yorkshire & Humber Grid For Learning who have remained involved in training and awareness raising.</p>	Green
Undertake a local assessment of arrangements in relation to CSE using the Bedfordshire University self assessment tool	March 2013	<p>Agencies represented on the Exploitation Group were asked to complete the Bedfordshire University self assessment tool. This is a tool, nationally recognised as a best practice document where agencies can assess the strength of their arrangements locally in addressing CSE.</p> <p>The results from the completed returns identify that CSE is a high priority for the LSCB, that there is an integrated approach to addressing it, we take a proactive approach to it and where children are identified at risk safety plans are put into place. There are multi agency strategic and operational groups in place to manage the issues and we have procedures in place which have been disseminated widely. Intelligence is shared appropriately and there are links to missing children. We have worked hard to avoid some of the problems experienced elsewhere in respect of assumptions made about the behaviour of adolescents and their ability to really consent to situations. The next steps locally are to build upon the awareness raising and include information to parents and carers.</p>	Green

LSCB Priority: Reduce the harm from child exploitation

Action details	Timescale	Progress	RAG rating
Establish a multi agency risk mapping exercise of older young people	March 2013	The LSCB received a request by the Office of the Children's Commissioner to participate in the Formal Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups . A dataset was completed and returned to the OCC on 29 March 2013. The risk mapping exercise reported that there were nine young people believed to be at risk from individual perpetrators and 19 young people believed to be experiencing CSE from individual perpetrators. All children have appropriate plans in place.	Green
Commission a specialist service to work with children and young people who have been sexually exploited	March 2013	We have a specialist service in place that will deliver post abuse therapy, in addition police and social workers have been trained in using the Bewise materials and have delivered direct work to young people to help them understand and recognise some of the situations they could be in. We also have a local service called Big Talk Education that can be commissioned to provide 1:1 work or training packages to schools.	Green
Review the cases of the children involved in sexual offences as reported within the LSCB performance data to identify themes	August 2012	This work was completed and the outcome reported to the Board. The outcome was that all children were safe and supported.	Green
The LSCB to endorse the Missing Charter	March 2013	The Board endorsed the Charter in March 2013. The Safe Practice Group are liaising with the Missing Group to ensure that the group operate in line with the Charter. We are developing a Stay Safe Scheme to roll out in 2013-2014 that will fulfil one of the recommendations in the charter in respect of community safety nets for children and young people who may need help and support when they have run away.	Green
Increase further the number of mini mentors and cyber mentors across schools in North Lincolnshire	From April 2012 onwards	There continues to be a rolling programme of training for cybermentors and peer mentors in North Lincolnshire. We now have 119 cybermentors trained across North lincs and North Lincs have been recognised by Beat Bullying as one of the most proactive local authorities they have worked with . We know from research that children and young people will talk to other children and young people on issues and worries, when they may not talk to an adult. The approach of training and supporting children to be mentors means that we are supporting young people in having a framework of peer support in place. This approach can enhance the empathy and emotional intelligence of children and young people, increase their problem solving skills and empowers them as leaders.	Green

Action details	Timescale	Progress	RAG rating
Establish an Anti bullying committee chaired and run by children and young people	April 2012	<p>This is in place. Schools are invited to send pupil representatives to meet with the 'Behaviour and Emotional Wellbeing Advisory Officer' at the end of each term to plan actions for the following term. The 'Behaviour and Emotional Health Advisory Officer' has an onus and responsibility to ensure that the actions are fulfilled. The CYP Anti-bullying Board then reviews those action when the next meet. This is a prime example of young people being part of the policy making of the council.</p> <p>An recent anti bullying audit has been undertaken across schools and the results show that of the 54 schools audited:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 96% of schools have updated their anti bullying policy this year 65% of schools have an anti bullying action plan in place 74% of schools have an anti bullying governor 100% of schools have a staff member responsible for anti bullying 100% of schools report bullying incidents 100% of schools have endorsed the anti bullying agreement 50% of schools have a pupils stay safe focus group <p>Since November 2012, 15 schools have undergone Ofsted inspections and in relation to the behaviour and safety of pupils in the school the following results have been seen:</p> <p>Three primary and one secondary school received outstanding. Six primary schools, one secondary and one special school received good, three primary schools received required improvement, none deemed inadequate.</p>	Green
Deliver LSCB around the four priority areas through the LSCB Training plan	April 2012 onwards	See section on LSCB training.	Green
As part of 'Safe Internet Day' promote e-safety messages through schools	February 2013	All schools were sent information from CEOP on Safe internet day and the resources available.	Green
Deliver training to multi agencies on Prevent to raise awareness of it	April 2012 onwards	Prevent training continues to be part of the LSCB training calendar and locally over 300 multi agency staff have been trained. The result has been an increase in understanding of prevent and since April 2012 there have been 12 Channel referrals, two were adopted and 10 were no further action.	Green

LSCB Priority: Reduce the harm from domestic abuse

Domestic abuse continues to be priority in North Lincolnshire. In 2013 the definition that applied to domestic abuse changed and included young people from 16 years. Approximately 25% of all referrals to social work services have the primary issues cited as

domestic abuse, in addition the repeat referral rate for MARAC is around 30%. These figures have remained static for some time. In 2012 the LSCB and Safer Neighbourhoods Board established a Domestic Abuse Strategy Group and this group is responsible for leading the strategic and operational change required to turn the curve in relation to domestic abuse.

Action details	Timescale	Progress	RAG rating
Develop and implement a multi agency strategy for reducing domestic abuse	May 2013	A joint strategy between the LSCB, the Safeguarding Adult Board and Safer Neighbourhoods Board has been drafted, it is currently being consulted upon and it is anticipated it will go to all relevant Boards in September 2013. The aspiration is to launch the strategy at the opening of the Women's Centre that is being established locally.	Green
Review MARAC and Child Protection procedures to ensure that they are clear and robust for managing young people aged 16 plus who may be at high risk of Domestic Abuse.	March 2013	These procedures have been reviewed and the draft procedures will go to the Safe Practice Group in July 2013. Guidance will be issued to staff in the interim informing them of the requirement to ensure that any young person 16-18 years must be considered within child protection procedures and if required an emergency MARAC can be held prior to a case conference. We have used this opportunity to also revised the local MARAC procedures and update the LSCB procedures in respect of Working Together 2013. The LSCB procedures will be launched in September 2013. In the meantime the revised Working Together document has been issued to multi agency staff.	Green
Develop mechanisms within the MARAC process to ensure that the voice of the child and the victim informs plans and underpins the review arrangements and that they feel that it has improved things for them	May 2013	We are working with the MARAC coordinator to dovetail the consultation process we have in place as part of the child protection system into the MARAC process where there are children in the family. As part of evidencing the impact of the MARAC process we would like to ask children and their families whether things have been made better through the support offered.	Green
Implement across the MARAC process a consistent method of identifying risk to children and the victim and ensure that it informs and directs action plans	May 2013	All children whose parents are subject to a MARAC are considered as to whether they are at risk of significant harm and if so a referral to children's social care is made. In addition to this children's social work service receive the MARAC agenda each month and cross reference it to their records. Where cases are open to children social work services a risk assessment will be undertaken using the enhanced risk assessment tool we have locally. In addition in May/June 2013 all social workers will undergo DASH risk assessment training.	Green

LSCB Priority: Reduce the harm from domestic abuse

Action details	Timescale	Progress	RAG rating
Review PHSE material to ensure that it covers healthy relationships to be delivered to secondary school students	September 2013	'Day' training which is a healthy relationships programme for young people has been incorporated into the curriculum of one local secondary school, the Domestic Abuse Strategy Manager will be attending the Secondary Heads Forum to promote the programme across the other schools. In addition the young persons freedom programme is being delivered in one secondary school and is available to the other schools. We are working with PHSE leads to look at materials and resources to enhance healthy relationship training. In November 2013 we are running a healthy relationships conference and a nationally renowned speaker, Jim Wild will be the guest speaker. We are also using this opportunity to explore what training and education can be given additionally to children and young people on the impact of pornography on the internet and their understanding about gender constructions and relationships.	Green
Evaluate the success and impact of the Freedom Programme	July 2013, report to be presented to LSCB September 2013	The Freedom Programme has been running now since November 2011. Over the year there have been 292 women who attended. The feedback from participants has been very positive and demonstrates that the programme helps people understand how to keep themselves safe, identify the warning signs of domestic abuse, the impact on their child and that they would recommend the programme to someone else. In 2013 we will be working with the local Women's Centre to develop Freedom volunteers, these are individuals who have completed the programme and can support others wishing to attend it.	Green
Implement and evaluate an action plan based upon the inspection of safeguarding and the recommendations in respect of police and social care management of referrals in relation to domestic abuse	May 2012	This has been completed and the protocol between children's social work services and the police updated	Green
Evaluate the 360° programme and local implications and developments	April 2013	North Lincolnshire were very pleased to be involved in a national research project commissioned by the DfE and undertaken by Huddersfield university examining Multi agency working in Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding Children. In March 2013 we were invited to the launch day of the results of the research. We will be using the research within the strategy that has been drafted to shape and develop training, multi agency working and awareness raising in respect of domestic abuse.	Green

LSCB Priority: Reduce the harm from domestic abuse

Action details	Timescale	Progress	RAG rating
Implement and evaluate child friendly child protection plans in relation to cases where the primary issue is domestic abuse	September 2012	Completed. Please see section on Cool Kidz Club	Green
Develop and roll out a communication campaign highlighting the rights of children to live in safe, loving environments, free from fear, oppression and harm to increase awareness around how domestic abuse impacts on their fundamental rights	June 2013	The LSCB Manager attended the CYP Stay Safe Consultation Group in February to talk to them and ask for their views on whether this was a worthwhile initiative and also how it could be progressed. The group agreed that it may be worthy exploring developing a children's rights charter based on the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child, and they agreed to shape and develop this further. At the next meeting in June 2013 this is being worked on.	Green
Support the implementation of a non convicted perpetrator programme and evaluate the impact of this locally	March 2015	Key personnel have undertaken visits to the Strength to Change programme in Hull and Calderdale women's centre. In addition the Safe Practice Group have considered the research undertaken on the Hull programme. A costing exercise has been undertaken and the implementation of a local programme is a key strand of the Domestic Abuse Strategy, reports are being prepared for relevant Boards to seek financial commitment by 2015.	Green

LSCB Priority: Early Help

Early help is a priority in North Lincolnshire, research identifies the importance of early support to children who may be in need in order to promote their longer term development and life chances.

In North Lincolnshire, early help is focused around offering routine help and support to parents to assist them in their parental role as well as offering additional support when individuals are experiencing some challenges and they want more help. Early help is built upon partnership working with families and helping them to identify and draw on their resources, strengths and solutions, as well as offering advice and intervention by professionals when required. An early help assessment and plan of support are fundamental

processes in engaging with families and determining what they want to change and how it can be done.

A further area of development within Children and Young People's Services is the single point of contact sited at Church Square. Using the existing number for duty, agencies can call the single point of contact to either speak to a social worker regarding a case, request a service or make a referral due to concerns about significant harm. The ethos around this is to promote assessment-based interventions with families and reduce catapult interventions that occur following a trigger event.

These two developments will form a significant feature of the performance report on the LSCB priority of early intervention.

Action details	Timescale	Progress	RAG rating
The LSCB endorses a model of best practice regarding a recognised early help assessment that all agencies demonstrate a commitment to work towards	May 2013	<p>Work has been undertaken in North Lincolnshire by the LSCB Safe Practice Group to develop a model for an early help assessment. The model is fully supported by multi agencies and the Best Start meeting and parents and volunteers and a local conference were consulted on it. The model developed is in line with solution focused intervention and research regarding effective engagement with families. In addition the core elements of the framework for the assessment of children in need and their families are reflected.</p> <p>A critical element of the assessment is the plan that may result from it and this will be an early help offer where agencies who can offer assistance and support to a family meet with the family.</p> <p>Children and Young People's services will record all assessments they receive that accompany requests for a service or a referral to duty. A percentage of these will be quality assured so that the LSCB can be informed of the quality and effectiveness of the assessments. However individual agencies will have the responsibility to record the assessments their practitioners are undertaking and have a quality assurance process in place.</p> <p>The early help assessment will be implemented from July 2013 and formally launched at an event in September 2013.</p>	Green
Publicise a strategy of early help to families	May 2013	<p>The leaflets have been developed for NLC Children's Services. This work now needs to be extended to include the wider partnership offer.</p>	

LSCB Priority: Early Help

Action details	Timescale	Progress	RAG rating
Publicise a strategy for the offer of early help for professionals	May 2013	The Early Help Assessment which has been developed in partnership through the Safe Practice group and has consulted with the Best Start Group is presented to the LSCB June 2013. The implementation of use will commence in August 2013. The formal launch to the wider workforce will be September 2013. The strategy will be part of the refreshed Children and Young People's Plan due to be presented to Children's Trust Board in September 2013.	Green
Pilot new ways of working with children and families for the most vulnerable children under the age of two years which is underpinned by the public health ideology	March 2014	Staff across social work services and health visiting have been trained in motivational interviewing This will be included in the implementation of the HWBS and the Expression of Interest to be a Pioneer	Green
Develop outcome-based planning for individual children and families	September 2013	Training has been commissioned and rolled out across Children and Young People's Services to look at how outcome-based planning can be developed. This is an area of ongoing development currently and will need rolling out to ensure that this approach is adopted through the CWAN process. Work commenced on remodelling the child protection conference process. Research has been undertaken on the Signs of Safety methodology, the use of the North Lincs Risk Analysis Tool, solution focused brief therapy and family strengths methodology, to develop a local model which will be piloted in April 2013.	Green
Develop a community engagement strategy that supports the empowerment and self efficacy of individuals in how they can make their and their children's lives better and safer where necessary	June 2013	A specific task and finish group has been established, a scoping exercise has been undertaken of relevant community groups the LSCB can link into. This information will be used to inform the strategy and action plan. Links will be established to other groups through the Lay representatives on the Board. In addition we are developing a safe place in the community scheme, based on the neighbourhood watch model, whereby any young person who needs help can go to an area designated as safe and receive support.	Amber
Develop an integrated service delivery for pre-birth to children aged two years	July 2014	Under the auspices of the (draft) Health and Well being Strategy (Strategy (HWBS)) a priority has been identified to promote the best start from conception to two years. The HWBB members are supportive of an expression of Interest to be submitted to be a pioneer of integrated health and social care. The development of an integrated service delivery for 0-2 years will be identified as a priority for work locally	Green

Priority: Reduce the harm from emotional abuse and neglect

National research continues to identify the problematic and long lasting impact of neglect and emotional abuse on children and young people. Recognition that children and young people can suffer this type of harm also continues to grow nationally and locally. Locally we have invested in training and developing practitioners to identify neglect and emotional harm and intervene early or refer when it reaches a threshold of significant harm. Further work is under way locally to help agencies to intervene with families where lower level concerns have arisen, providing effective and remedial assistance to improve the lives of children and young people.

The LSCB's main measure of emotional harm and neglect is the number of children who are subject to a child protection plan as a result of this type of harm. Since September 2012 there has been a steady increase in the number of children and young people with a child protection plan. This is in line with the national

picture. Neglect continues to be the largest cohort of cases registered and accounts for 45% of all registrations. The number of cases involving the 3-5 year age group has increased, suggesting that we are identifying and intervening with this age group. However, research continues to demonstrate the importance of intervening early with children from conception to three years in order to negate the longer term impact of abuse and neglect on children's development.

The data demonstrate that the vast majority of cases (56%) are subject to a child protection plan for less than six months. In addition no cases have been de-planned and become re-planned within a two year period, indicating the efficiency and effectiveness of intervention and support facilitated through a child protection planning framework.

Perception surveys are undertaken on all children, age appropriate who are subject to a plan and they are asked whether they feel safer as a result of the support around them. The data demonstrate that 100% of children asked said that they felt safer.

Action details	Timescale	Progress	RAG rating
Agree a model for Early Help Assessment and implement it universally in North Lincolnshire	May 2013	Please see section on early help	Green
Undertake local research into neglect and emotional harm particularly where there are intergenerational issues and unpick the learning and themes	December 2013	Huddersfield University has been commissioned to undertake local research into neglect and emotional harm. Initial meetings have been held with multi agency staff to ascertain their views on what would be valuable to explore, and a research proposal is being drafted.	Green

Priority: Reduce the harm from emotional abuse and neglect

Action details	Timescale	Progress	RAG rating
Implementing multiagency co-located services to pilot new ways of working with pre-birth children aged 0-2 years	April 2014	Family Nurse Partnership has been implemented locally. Two full time nurses in post with caseload of 25 each (full capacity). 10% of clients are under 16 years of age and in total and 85% are 18 years or under. The impact of the programme will be reported in 2014, as it is too early in the programme to evidence outcomes.	Green
Develop a defined menu of interventions for working with families where emotional abuse and /or neglect is a factor	April 2014	The menu of interventions has been identified for the People Directorate. Training programme is being reviewed and updated . The Children's Trust Workforce Strategy is being updated in consultation with Partners to reflect this action	Green
Develop the workforce development strategy as to expectations of standard practice against North Lincolnshire	May 2013	The workforce strategy has been developed to focus on enhancing practitioners' skills in effectively engaging with families, delivering interventions that are appropriate to the families' needs, and which evidence shows to be effective. Training will be ongoing in the area. The LSCB training plan includes courses for multi agency staff on how to engage and work with families effectively. The training plan has been constructed around the LSCB priorities, to respond to national research and best practice and to identified practitioners' needs.	Green

3.6 Evidence of impact - what difference have we made to multi agency professional practice

LSCB Information Sessions

In 2012-2013 the LSCB delivered three information sessions on LSCB priorities. These are open forums available to all staff across statutory agencies, as well as the voluntary and community sector. The purpose of the events is to provide staff updates on key issues in domestic abuse, neglect and emotional harm, child exploitation and early help. In addition lessons from local learning reviews are shared as well as learning from national serious case reviews, in the absence of such cases locally. Ninety multi agency staff have attended the events which have been evaluated as 'very good', with staff valuing the opportunity to have updates on issues.

LSCB Newsletters

Each quarter the LSCB distributes a newsletter to all agencies represented on the Board. It is all circulated to the voluntary and community sector, child minders, all schools, and groups of staff such as Health Visitors, School Nurses, Social Workers, Police officers. The newsletter provides updates on national issues in respect of safeguarding and key government drivers. In addition current research in respect of the LSCB priorities is shared and the initiatives and local programmes we have in place.

Multi Agency Moderating Panel

The multi agency moderating panel continues to meet every two weeks and fulfils a quality assurance function. Sixty six cases have been reviewed this year. The panel has been featured in the SCIE best practice guide; this included SCIE filming the panel and interviewing individual members. This is now on a DVD. The panel continues to quality-assure and review outcomes on selected cases which we have quality assured through officers providing progress reports.

Health and social care meetings

Quarterly practice forums are held with health visiting, school nursing staff and social workers following a request by social workers to have the opportunity to discuss practice and interface issues with health staff. Cases are brought forward by the professionals and

discussed. Health visitors and school nurses report that they value the opportunity to discuss a range of interface issues including joint working thresholds and effective interventions. The Health and Social Care meetings have also been used to promote shared supervision on cases and have promoted joint work on initial assessments. They are also developing innovative work on delivering Child Protection conferences drawing on such models as the signs of safety, family strengths, risk and protective factor models.

Social work practice forums

Locally we continue to deliver practice forums to frontline social workers and their supervisors. Over the last year forums have been held on Child Sexual Exploitation, models of intervention, and neglect. In addition individual cases brought by practitioners, where there are elements of feeling stuck or service user engagement is problematic, have been discussed using this group supervision model. Working with resistant and un-motivated families and assessing children pre birth have been key areas of focus in cases brought to the practice forum in 2013-2014. This has resulted in commissioning specialist training on these particular topics. Martin Calder, a prolific social work writer and commentator, has delivered training to social workers assessing families pre-birth. The practice forums continue to be held to best suit practitioners. It is an open forum with a key focus on social work skills and practice. Feedback from social workers identifies that it enhances their development; they value having a forum where routine case work and practice is analysed and having access to expertise and practice wisdom through the chief social worker. In addition social workers also report that they value the opportunity to have a group approach to sharing and problem solving case work issues and exploring alternative methods of working.

The Harmful Sexual Behaviour Panel

In 2011, a multi-agency group of senior managers and service leads began the process of designing a multi-agency provision or virtual team to manage cases where harmful sexual behaviour was an identified concern.

In North Lincolnshire there is in place a Harmful Sexual Behaviour Panel made up of senior managers, service leads, police and health providers, and a Harmful Sexual

Behaviour Practitioner Group made up of social work, YOS, CAMHS, Educational Psychology and Therapy staff who assess and offer interventions to young people who have displayed harmful sexual behaviour.

Each practitioner on these groups has received specific training run by G-MAP to ensure quality and evidenced based assessment and interventions can be offered.

Within the first year of the project, 18 young people have been referred to the Panel. Each has been provided with specialist assessments (co-worked by two HSB Practitioners from different agencies) and reports detailing assessed risk and need. Interventions, that would not have been delivered prior to the Panel and Practitioner Group development, have been offered by the Practitioner Group in context of a wider plan around the child e.g. Child Protection Plan. All have had an overview from the Panel who have advised on planning and safeguarding and ensured risk is managed to the best possible standards. A formal report from the group will be presented to the LSCB in October 2013.

Risk Analysis Framework (RAF)

Within North Lincolnshire there is a well-embedded Risk Analysis Framework (RAF) which is utilised when working with older young people and provides a consistent model for the assessment, analysis and management of risk. The Risk Analysis Framework is integral to, and sits alongside, statutory and individual plans for young people.

The analysis of risk also takes place within the three domains of the National Assessment Framework: Child's developmental needs, parental capacity to meet those needs, and family and environmental factors that support or hinder. It focuses on two key aspects – what factors in the child's life present a risk to their well-being (risk factors), and what factors guard against risk (protective factors).

Having determined what risk and protective factors exist, the process is then to judge the balance of those factors, particularly whether there are sufficient protective factors in place to balance out the risk factors. The next stage is to judge what meaning the level of risk that exists has for the child. This will be on

a continuum from no significant risk to severe risk.

Finally, the worker must determine what needs to change in order to reduce risk to acceptable levels, and devise a plan to deliver that change. The risk analysis is repeated at milestones such as reviews, and at times when significant change occurs in the child's circumstances.

The use of the RAF was identified as excellent practice in the Ofsted inspection 2012. Ofsted inspectors subsequently met with a group of staff from North Lincolnshire to look at how the assessment was used and published this on the Ofsted Best Practice website.

3.7 Co-operation with other LSCBs

Humberside Child Witness Service

The LSCB continues to commission the Child Witness Service which Hull hosts.

In 2012-2013 there were 85 referrals to the service, 55 children and young people were victims and 30 were witnesses. 35 young witnesses were allocated a support worker. All cases that proceeded to Court were allocated a worker and received support.

3.8 Financial Contributions to the LSCB

For 2012-2013 the following agencies made a financial contribution to the LSCB:

Agency	Budget contribution
Humberside Police B division	£10,000
North Lincolnshire Council	£84,389
NHS North Lincolnshire	£37,862
John Leggott College	£770
North Lindsey College	£770
CAFCASS	£550
Humberside Fire and Rescue	Nil
Probation	Nil
Schools	£26,955
Total	£161,296

3.9 Ongoing Work for 2013-2014

The other priorities for the LSCB will be subsumed under the three key areas below.

The areas of work identified for 2013-2015 under the priorities are:

Reduce the harm from exploitation of children and young people

- 1) To develop and implement training and education for young people on healthy relationships, which includes domestic abuse, exploitation and addressing the aspect of access young people have to pornography on the internet and the gender stereotypes it promotes.
- 2) To finalise and implement the Domestic Abuse Strategy increasing the education and support to children, young people and adults affected by domestic abuse.
- 3) Through the development and implementation of a communication and community participation strategy, increase public awareness of child sexual exploitation and how the public can contribute to safeguarding children and young people.

Provide Early Help to children and young people

- 1) To embed the early help strategy and framework and increase the number of children and young people supported through early help to improve their longer term outcomes.
- 2) To further develop the research base which underpins the assessment and intervention of early help, through research commissioned by Huddersfield University. Also by the further development of local models of intervention using a strength based, solution focused approach, underpinned by the North Lincolnshire Risk Analysis Framework.

To support effective parenting capacity

- 1) To develop a local approach to developing effective parenting capacity, based on a public health approach. The local approach will enhance the preparatory support to individuals before they become parents and support to individuals when they are parents.