

MIDDLESBROUGH

Safeguarding Children Board

www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/MSCB/Safeguarding



1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform the Middlesbrough Corporate Parenting Board of Safeguarding in Middlesbrough and the work of the MSCB (Middlesbrough Safeguarding Children Board).

2. BACKGROUND

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children requires effective co-ordination. The Children Act 2004 required each local authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) by 1 April 2006.

Middlesbrough formed the MSCB in April 2010 after dissolving of the South Tees arrangements. The MSCB appointed Mark Braithwaite as independent chair in October 2010. The MSCB is working to the guidance contained in Working Together 2010 and the latest recommendations as they become available from the coalition Government.

The MSCB is the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how partner organisations in Middlesbrough will work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children/young people and to ensure the effectiveness of that work.

3. MSCB functions and scope.

The functions of the MSCB are set out in primary legislation and regulations namely;

- to co-ordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the MSCB for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority; and
- to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for that purpose.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children includes protecting children from harm. Ensuring that work to protect children is properly co-ordinated and effective remains a primary goal of the MSCB.

The scope of the MSCB covers three broad areas of activity.

1. Activity that affects all children and aims to identify and prevent maltreatment, or impairment of health or development and to ensure that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with safe and effective care.
2. Proactive work that aims to target particular groups.
3. Reactive work to protect children who are suffering, or are likely to suffer significant harm.

4. Requirements of the MSCB.

- Develop policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority.
- Communicate to persons and bodies in Middlesbrough 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
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of what is done in Middlesbrough across MSCB partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advise on ways to improve
- Produce and publish an annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding in Middlesbrough.
- Participate in the planning and commissioning of children's services in Middlesbrough to ensure that they take safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children into account.
- Collect and analyse information about child deaths in Middlesbrough and put in place procedures to ensure any lessons are learned following any unexpected death of a child.
- Commission reviews of cases where abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected, where a child has died or a child has been seriously harmed and where there is cause for concern as to the way in which the authority, MSCB partners or other relevant persons have worked together to safeguard the child.

5. Progress so far:

- Implementation of independent chairing arrangements.
- Establishment of new governance structures for the MSCB.
- Agreement to MSCB constitution.
- Introduction of branding to establish the MSCB local identity.
- Implementation of learning from Serious Case Reviews through training programme.
- Review of procedures in line with revised Working Together (2010).
- Review of child deaths (across Tees) through the CDOP.
- Delivery of an interagency training programme via the South Tees training arrangements.
- Provision of support to the E-safety Tees-wide strategy.
- Strengthening of the interface with the Middlesbrough Children & Young Peoples Trust.
- Draft Annual Report/Business Plan
- 4 successful MSCB meetings
- Established the following groups:
 - SCR Sub Committee
 - Policy & Procedure Group
 - Monitoring Evaluation Group
- Successfully completed 1 SCR
- Monitoring progress on past SCR's

6. Still To Do

- Ensure the implementation of Recommendations from the recent SCR
- Report on Safeguarding In Middlesbrough
- Appointment of lay people onto MSCB.
- Develop and agree longer term CDOP provision.
- Revise data collection requirements both locally and pan-Tees to ensure effective performance monitoring and evaluation.
- Ensure effective reporting and challenge between MSCB and C&YPT.