



# Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA)

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# Foreword

**HSSCP**  
**Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements**  
**(MASA)**



Welcome to the published multi-agency safeguarding arrangements for the Hartlepool and Stockton-On-Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSSCP).

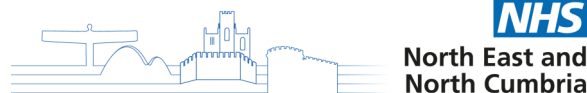
HSSCP was first established in April 2019 and has a history of effective partnership working and a real commitment from agencies to work together to keep children safe.

With the publication of the updated statutory guidance ‘Working Together to Safeguarding Children, 2023’, lead and delegated safeguarding partners for Hartlepool and Stockton, alongside their relevant agencies, undertook a review of existing partnership arrangements. Protecting children from abuse, neglect and exploitation requires multi-agency join up and cooperation at all levels. Partners in these arrangements take their duties very seriously, and the arrangements we are publishing are the result of a focussed period of reflection, review and development.

This document sets out how we are planning to work ever-closer together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; keeping children across Hartlepool and Stockton-On-Tees safe and ensuring they are able to reach their full potential.

## Hartlepool and Stockton-On-Tees Lead Safeguarding Partners

Mark Webster Chief Constable, Cleveland Police	Mike Greene Chief Executive, Stockton Borough Council	Samantha Allen Chief Executive North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board	Denise McGuckin Managing Director, Hartlepool Borough Council



# 1. Our Shared Vision and Values

HSSCP  
Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements  
(MASA)

Hartlepool & Stockton-on-Tees  
**SAFEGUARDING  
CHILDREN**  
PARTNERSHIP



Every child in Hartlepool and Stockton will feel safe, secure and be protected from harm, enabling them to reach their full potential.

Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership's vision is to ensure: **“Every child in Hartlepool and Stockton feels safe, secure and be protected from harm, enabling them to reach their full potential.”**

This vision keeps children and young people at its core and aims to ensure that everyone who works with children across Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees has the protection of vulnerable children and young people at the heart of what they do. It is driven by a way of working which is focused on the child, on the way we work together to develop relationships, share information and ultimately, focus on the right support, at the right time.

Our aim as a partnership is to understand what is working well and what needs further development in our collective safeguarding practice to achieve this vision and to ensure effective and co-ordinated multi agency working across our whole system. This 'Active learning' approach harnesses the importance of working with practitioners to influence front line safeguarding practice in order to learn and improve together.



## The Partnership's Objectives are to:

- achieve the best possible outcomes for children and families and provide the right services that meet need in a co-ordinated way;
- improve safeguarding practice across all partners thus impacting positively on the lives of children;
- improve safeguarding practice, via identification and analysis of issues/threats / barriers to effective multi agency working;
- enable shared learning with front line staff across all partner agencies;
- establish and embed peer challenge as a process for learning and improvement;
- embrace a culture of challenge with organisations and agencies holding one another to account;
- share information effectively to facilitate more accurate and timely decision making for families; and deliver on key elements that inform the basis of effective safeguarding practice
  - ◇ Effective governance
  - ◇ Quality assurance and intelligence
  - ◇ A culture of learning and improvement

## 2. HSSCP Safeguarding Partners

### HSSCP Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA)



The statutory safeguarding partner agencies for Hartlepool and Stockton on Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership, as defined under the Children Act 2004 (amended by the Children and Social Work Act, 2017) and in accordance with Working Together 2023, include the following:

- a) Hartlepool Borough Council
- b) Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
- c) North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board
- d) Chief Officer of Cleveland Police

The **Lead Safeguarding Partners** (LSP's) are:

<b>Mark Webster</b>	Chief Constable, Cleveland Police
<b>Mike Greene</b>	Chief Executive, Stockton Borough Council
<b>Denise McGuckin</b>	Managing Director, Hartlepool Borough Council
<b>Sam Allen</b>	Chief Executive North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board

The four lead safeguarding partners retain an equal and joint responsibility for their local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements (MASAs). They set the strategic direction, vision, and culture of the local safeguarding arrangements, including agreeing and reviewing shared priorities and the resource required to deliver services effectively.

The lead safeguarding partners have identified delegated safeguarding partners (DSPs) who have responsibility for the delivery of multi-agency safeguarding functions and processes.

The **Delegated Safeguarding Partners** are:

<b>Helen Barker</b>	Detective Superintendent, Cleveland Police
<b>Majella McCarthy</b>	Director of Children's Services, Stockton Borough Council
<b>Chris Piercy</b>	Director of Nursing, North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board
<b>Sally Robinson</b>	Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services, Hartlepool Borough Council And <b>Partnership Chair</b>

The Delegated Safeguarding Partners form the HSSCP Executive group, which is made up of the DSP's and lead representatives from relevant agencies, including schools and the VCS. The LSPs have selected the DCS for Hartlepool as the Partnership chair for the first 12 months (August 2024 – August 2025).

The work of HSSCP is funded through a pooled budget which the four Statutory Safeguarding partners contribute to equally.



# 3. Geographical Boundaries

HSSCP  
Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements  
(MASA)

Hartlepool & Stockton-on-Tees  
**SAFEGUARDING  
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The Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership covers the two local authority areas of Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Borough Councils. These neighbouring local authorities are already closely aligned and have a willingness to work together; underpinned by a shared Children's Hub which is the front door to Children's Services across both local authorities.

Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees also share a co-terminus Integrated Care Board and Police force.



Geographical Boundaries

# 3. Relevant Agencies

## HSSCP Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA)

Hartlepool & Stockton-on-Tees  
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Strong, effective multi-agency safeguarding arrangements should be responsive to local circumstances and engage the right people in a collaborative way. Relevant agencies are the local organisations that have been identified by the safeguarding partners, whose involvement is required to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children. The Lead Safeguarding Partners have identified the following local relevant agencies whose involvement is integral to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people across Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees.

The HSSCP relevant agencies have a duty to act in accordance with local safeguarding arrangements (Children’s Act 2004. Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2023). As part of this, HSSCP relevant agencies are expected to:

- have a clear understanding of its responsibilities in relation to safeguarding children locally, and how it will discharge them
- co-operate with safeguarding partners to improve, implement, and monitor effectiveness of the local safeguarding arrangements
- share information and data about safeguarding issues and concerns affecting the children involved in their organisation to contribute to local priorities
- ensure local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements are fully understood, and rigorously applied within their organisation
- attend HSSCP meetings where requested; such as sub-groups, task and finish groups
- take part and contribute to audit and review activity where required
- attend multi-agency training and events delivered by HSSCP
- disseminate and act upon key messages and learning identified by the partnership

This approach requires flexibility from all relevant agencies, to enable joint identification and response to existing and emerging needs, and to agree priorities to improve outcomes for children.

Adoption Tees Valley
British Transport Police
CATALYST
Changing Futures
Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS)
<b>Children, young people and families</b>
Cleveland Fire and Rescue Service
Colleges, schools (including independent schools, academies, and free schools), early years and childcare settings, and other educational providers (including alternative provision)
Community / Voluntary Sector Organisations
Faith organisations
Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust
Hartlepool Borough Council 0-19 Service
Hartlepool Borough Council Youth Offending Team
Hartlepool Community Trust
Local Housing providers
NHS England
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust
North East Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust
Probation Service
Residents of Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees
Residential Children’s Homes
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Youth Offending Teams
South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV)
Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB)
The Police & Crime Commissioner

# 5. HSSCP Structure

## HSSCP Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA)



### The Chief Executives Group

The Chief Executives Group is made up of Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSPs) and delegated safeguarding partner (DSPs). They meet quarterly to maintain strategic oversight and governance of the MASAs, to assure themselves that their local arrangements are effective and keep children safe and to undertake their core functions as set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2023 (p27).

### The HSSCP Executive

The HSSCP Executive is made up of the DSPs from the four statutory agencies and selected strategic leaders from HSSCP relevant agencies, including education and the VCS. They meet bi-monthly to ensure delivery and monitoring of multi-agency priorities and procedures.

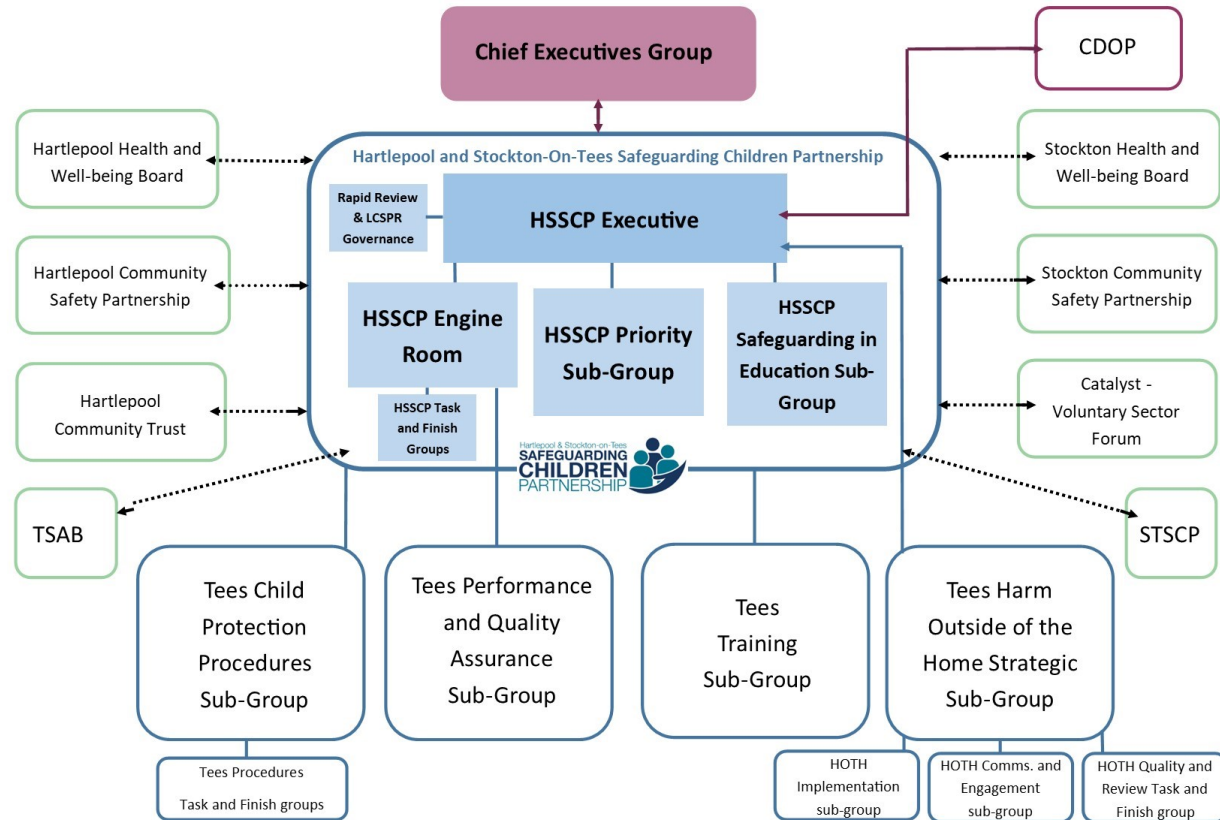
The Executive is accountable to the Chief Executives Group and is responsible for ensuring delivery of the agreed HSSCP business plan, as well as governance of Rapid Reviews and LCSPRs.

### The HSSCP Sub-Groups

There are three core HSSCP sub-groups:

- HSSCP Engine Room
- HSSCP Priority Champions Group
- HSSCP Safeguarding in Education Sub-Group

These sub-groups undertake work to drive forward the partnerships business and priorities and are accountable to the HSSCP Executive.



### Tees-wide Groups

HSSCP share 4 subgroups with their neighbouring Safeguarding Children Partnership, STSCP. These are:

- Tees HOTH Strategic Sub-Group
- Tees Performance & QA Sub-Group
- Tees Procedures Sub-Group
- Tees Training Sub-Group

### Other Partnerships and Boards

HSSCP have close relationships with other local partnerships and boards; with two way communications in place, shared agenda items where relevant and cross partnership representation.





## The Chief Executives Group

The Chief Executives Group is made up of Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSPs) and delegated safeguarding partner (DSPs). It is also attended by the Partnership's Business Manager and its Independent Scrutineer and is chaired by one of the four LSPs on a 12 monthly rota.

The purpose of the Chief Executives group is for each LSP to assure themselves that their local arrangements are effective and keep children safe. LSPs are jointly responsible and meet quarterly to undertake the following core functions:

- Set the strategic direction, vision, and culture of the local safeguarding arrangements, including agreeing and reviewing shared priorities and the resource required to deliver services effectively.
- Lead their organisation's individual contribution to the shared priorities, ensuring strong governance, accountability, and reporting mechanisms to hold their delegates to account for the delivery of agency commitments.
- Review and sign off key partnership documents: published multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, including plans for independent scrutiny, shared annual budget, yearly report, and local threshold document.
- Provide shared oversight of learning from independent scrutiny, serious incidents, local child safeguarding practice reviews, and national reviews, ensuring recommendations are implemented and have a demonstrable impact on practice (as set out in the yearly report).
- Ensure multi-agency arrangements have the necessary level of business support, including intelligence and analytical functions, such as an agreed data set providing oversight and a robust understanding of practice.
- Ensure all relevant agencies, including education settings, are clear on their role and contribution to multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.



## HSSCP Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA)

Hartlepool & Stockton-on-Tees  
**SAFEGUARDING  
CHILDREN  
PARTNERSHIP**



### The HSSCP Executive

The HSSCP Executive Group is made up of the identified DSPs from the four Statutory Safeguarding Partner agencies as well as representatives from HSSCP relevant agencies.

The Executive Group has oversight of the quality and compliance of the delivery of agreed shared priorities. They ensure processes are in place to provide assurance that multi-agency practice is reviewed and operating well. Where this is not evident, they take action to engage, respond and improve operational systems and practice. DSPs escalate risks and issues they cannot resolve between them to the LSPs for resolution.

The HSSCP meet bi-monthly to undertake the following joint functions:

- Delivery and monitoring of multi-agency priorities and procedures to protect and safeguard children in the local area, in compliance with published arrangements and thresholds.
- Close partnership working and engagement with education (at strategic and operational level) and other relevant agencies, allowing better identification of and response to harm.
- The implementation of effective information sharing arrangements between agencies, including data sharing that facilitates joint analysis between partner agencies.
- Delivery of high-quality and timely rapid reviews and local child safeguarding practice reviews, with the impact of learning from local and national reviews and independent scrutiny clearly evidenced in yearly reports.
- The provision of appropriate multi-agency safeguarding professional development and training.
- Seeking of, and responding to, feedback from children and families about their experiences of services and co-designing services to ensure children from different communities and groups can access the help and protection they need.

The HSSCP Executive Group is accountable to the Chief Executives Group. It is chaired by one of the four DSPs on a 12 monthly rota. It is also attended by the HSSCP Business Manager and Independent Scrutineer.

## HSSCP Sub- Groups

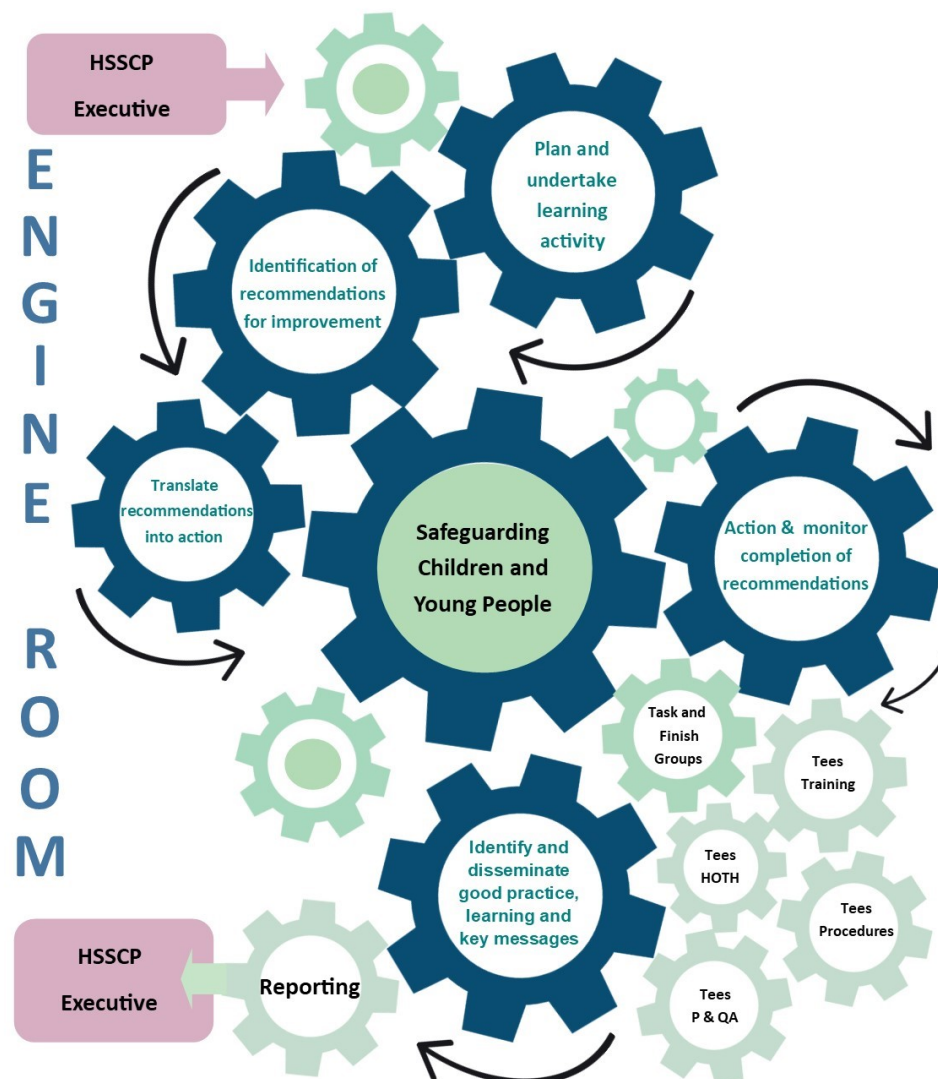
### The HSSCP Engine Room

The HSSCP Engine Room is the hub of partnership activity. The group includes representatives from the four statutory safeguarding partner agencies and selected relevant agencies. The Engine Room is chaired by a Delegated Safeguarding Partner (DSP) on a 12 month rota basis. The DSP acts as a link between the Engine Room and the partnership Executive; to which the Engine Room is accountable. Individual Members of the Engine Room will also engage with other colleagues within their respective organisation on behalf of the group when undertaking or leading on a key function. The remit of the Engine Room is learning and improvement. Key functions are to:

- consider requests for learning, making decisions about next steps
- consider and act upon any Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOE) identified by the Tees Performance and Quality Assurance sub-group
- consider and act upon any KLOE identified by the HSSCP Priority sub-group and Safeguarding in Education sub-group as directed by the HSSCP Executive
- plan, co-ordinate and undertake learning activity, including:
  - Rapid Reviews
  - Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews
  - Learning Reviews
  - Deep Dives
  - Active Learning sets
- Action and monitor completion of recommendations arising from learning activity
- Identify and ensure dissemination of good practice, learning and key messages in order to celebrate, learn and improve practice and outcomes for children and young people.
- Feed into the Tees Performance and Quality sub-group any learning activity completed that requires evaluation
- Feed into the Tees Procedures Sub-group any implications on procedures that have arisen from learning activity
- Identify training needs arising from learning activity; feeding this in to the Tees Joint Training Sub-Group
- Feed into the Tees Harm Outside of the Home Sub-group any implications on the HOTH action plan that have arisen from learning activity
- Report learning and improvement activity to the HSSCP Executive

## HSSCP Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA)

Hartlepool & Stockton-on-Tees  
**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP**



HSSCP Structure

## HSSCP Sub- Groups

### The HSSCP Safeguarding in Education Sub-Group

HSSCP have two Safeguarding in Education local sub-groups; one in Hartlepool and one in Stockton-on-Tees. These are multi-agency sub-groups that are attended by Head teachers / Designated Safeguarding Leads from local education settings as well as representatives from the statutory safeguarding partner agencies and relevant agencies.

The purpose of the HSSCP Safeguarding in Education Sub-Group is to:

- Keep children and young people at the heart of priorities, action and decisions
- Act as two way communication between the partnership's partner agencies and education
- Capture and consider the views of children on key safeguarding themes and priorities; considering any implications for the partnership
- Capture and consider key learning, issues, and good practice; considering any implications for the partnership
- Support effective engagement between education and relevant agencies in the local area; so that agencies understand their own and each others roles and responsibilities
- Strengthen the input from education providers at operational and strategic level decision-making
- Ensure schools have relevant and current local safeguarding updates that will enable schools to exercise their safeguarding duties
- Raising awareness of local multi-agency partners, including VCS and support opportunities for schools and children and young people
- Report to the HSSCP Executive

## HSSCP Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA)

Hartlepool & Stockton-on-Tees  
**SAFEGUARDING  
CHILDREN  
PARTNERSHIP**



### The HSSCP Priority Sub-Group

The purpose of the HSSCP Priority Sub-Group is to support the delivery of HSSCP's priorities across organisations, champion the key messages and drive the priorities forward.

The group will:

- Deliver the HSSCP business plan
- Drive forward the key priorities collectively and across each respective partners organisation
- Act as champions for the priorities; promoting and disseminating key messages internally and externally
- Take a lead in communication and engagement work on behalf of the partnership; implementing the communications strategy and plan
- Report to the HSSCP Executive



## Tees-wide Groups

### Tees Procedures Sub-Group

HSSCP shares the Tees Procedures Sub-Group with its neighbouring South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership (STSCP). The Tees Procedures Group is therefore a sub-group of both the Safeguarding Children Partnership's for Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees (HSSCP) and for Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland (STSCP). The purpose of the group is to:

- Coordinate the development and review of local procedures, protocols and guidance for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children on behalf of the Tees Safeguarding Children Partnerships covering, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees.
- Undertake focussed pieces of work via dedicated task and finish groups, co-opting additional professionals as required.
- Establish safeguarding processes and procedures that will promote consistency by all partner member organisations in their response to, and management of, safeguarding children issues, ensuring the child is the central focus.
- Develop and recommend to Safeguarding Partners, procedures and guidance that avoid confusion, duplication and ensure staff across local partners can readily understand their responsibilities.
- Ensure that the procedures clearly set out the action to be taken where there are concerns about a child's safety or welfare.
- Maintain and update the electronic Tees Wide Procedures.
- Link in with HSSCP & STSCP sub-groups to promote communication and dissemination of procedural changes
- Link in with the Tees joint training subgroup to deliver briefings / training on procedural changes

## HSSCP Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA)

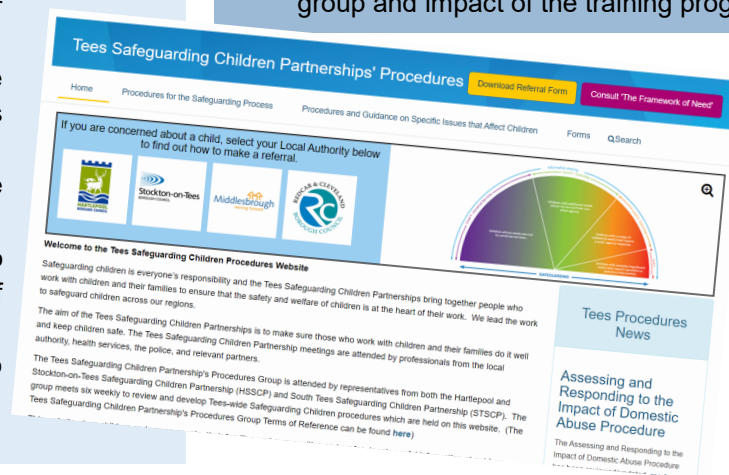
Hartlepool & Stockton-on-Tees  
**SAFEGUARDING  
CHILDREN  
PARTNERSHIP**



### The Tees Training Sub-Group

The purpose of the Tees Training Sub-Group is to implement, monitor and evaluate a Tees training programme based on both partnerships learning and development findings and agreed priorities; reporting back to the two Safeguarding Partnerships the impact of the training programme on the multi-agency workforce. The group's functions are to:

- Monitor the delivery of the agreed Tees Training programmes across both partnerships', including training budget monitoring.
- Undertake quality assurance of the agreed courses within the training programmes via direct observations.
- Monitor and review E-learning usage and feedback.
- Monitor and review training take-up
- Monitor and review feedback on training via evaluations / evaluation reporting and undertaking analysis (impact testing).
- Receive and consider any new course requests from the two respective Safeguarding Children Partnership's, undertake scoping and ensuring the commissioning of any additional courses required (making decisions on courses to be added / removed).
- Problem-solve any issues arising from the training programme delivery
- Plan joint events and conferences
- Report back to both Safeguarding Partnerships' on the work of the sub-group and impact of the training programme



## Tees-wide Groups

### Tees Performance and Quality Assurance Sub-Group

The purpose of the Tees Performance and Quality Sub-Group is to bring together the sources of data, intelligence and information into a coherent narrative regarding performance and the effectiveness of local arrangements on behalf of the two Tees Safeguarding Children Partnerships.

This requires both data analysis and multi-agency safeguarding expertise to examine what the sources of information are reporting; about where local arrangements are strong and where there is a need to have a deeper understanding or scrutiny of practice to make recommendations for improvement. The focus of this group will questions:

- What does the information tell us about the effectiveness of the local arrangements?
- What are the strengths and what needs to be improved?
- Are all agencies working together to safeguard children? If not, why not?
- Are children receiving the right level of support at the right time from the right organisation?
- What is the impact of the local area arrangements in safeguarding children and improving their outcomes?

The Performance Analysis group will function as a hub of intelligence and quality assurance; providing assurance reporting to the Partnership's Executive and suggesting any Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOE) for consideration / exploration. This will provide both scrutiny and assurance to the partnership of both quantitative and qualitative measures, evidencing the effectiveness of the partnerships, areas of learning, strong practice and improved outcomes for children and young people across HSSCP.

The functions of the group include:

- Deliver the Tees Performance and Quality Assurance Framework
- Oversee and be responsible for the timely collection of data and information

## HSSCP Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA)

Hartlepool & Stockton-on-Tees  
**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP**



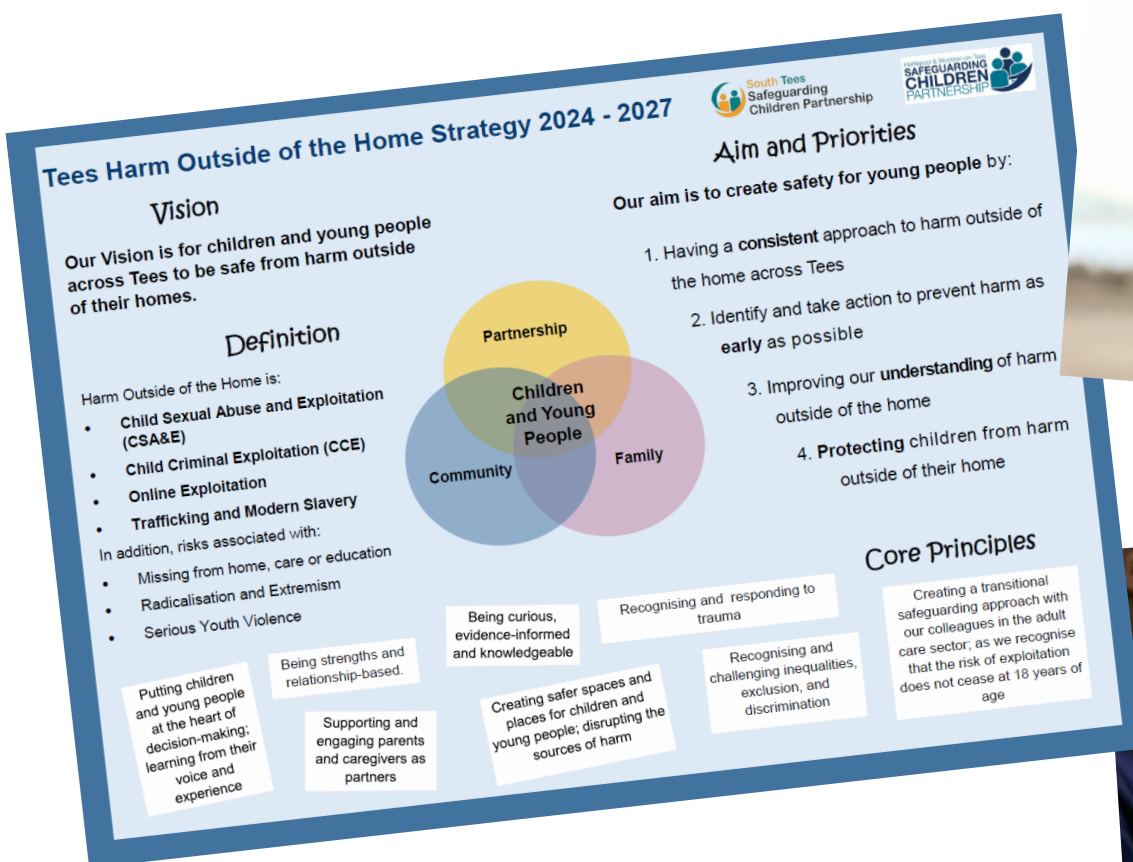
- Analyse data, information and research to identify, scrutinise and determine action required to address any emerging themes
- Use learning from local practice, audit and review activity, national research, voice of the child and key performance indicators to prompt reflection and analysis; providing assurance of the effectiveness of local partnership arrangements and suggesting improvements needed
- Identifying potential Key Lines Of Enquiry (KLOE) for deep dive analysis
- Build an accurate local picture of how effectively services are being delivered
- Advise the DSPs and LSPs of the key challenges and emerging priorities
- Evaluate and review change for improvement work, linking in with the HSSCP Engine Room; to carry out impact testing and measure impact



### The Tees Harm Outside of the Home (HOTH) Sub-Group

The purpose of the Tees Harm Outside of the Home (HOTH) Sub Group is to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate a Tees Harm Outside of the Home Strategy and Action Plan on behalf of, and reporting back to, both Tees Safeguarding Children Partnerships. The group's functions are to:

- Implement and monitor the delivery of the agreed strategy and action plan
- Establish and govern dedicated task and finish groups
- Report back to both Safeguarding Partnerships' on the work of the sub-group



**Tees Harm Outside of the Home Strategy 2024 - 2027**

**Vision**  
Our Vision is for children and young people across Tees to be safe from harm outside of their homes.

**Definition**  
Harm Outside of the Home is:

- Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (CSA&E)
- Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)
- Online Exploitation
- Trafficking and Modern Slavery

In addition, risks associated with:

- Missing from home, care or education
- Radicalisation and Extremism
- Serious Youth Violence

**Aim and Priorities**  
Our aim is to create safety for young people by:

1. Having a consistent approach to harm outside of the home across Tees
2. Identify and take action to prevent harm as early as possible
3. Improving our understanding of harm outside of the home
4. Protecting children from harm outside of their home

**Core Principles**

- Putting children and young people at the heart of decision-making; learning from their voice and experience
- Being strengths and relationship-based.
- Supporting and engaging parents and caregivers as partners
- Being curious, evidence-informed and knowledgeable
- Recognising and responding to trauma
- Recognising and challenging inequalities, exclusion, and discrimination
- Creating a transitional safeguarding approach with our colleagues in the adult care sector, as we recognise that the risk of exploitation does not cease at 18 years of age
- Creating safer spaces and places for children and young people; disrupting the sources of harm

**Diagram:** A Venn diagram with three overlapping circles labeled 'Partnership' (yellow), 'Community' (blue), and 'Family' (purple). The central intersection of all three circles is labeled 'Children and Young People'.



# 6. Identifying & Responding to Need

HSSCP  
Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements  
(MASA)



The Tees-wide Framework of Need is the agreed 'threshold' that is followed by all partner agencies across Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees. This can be accessed from the Tees Procedures website at <https://www.teescpp.org.uk>

The Tees Procedures website also hosts the agreed procedures which set out the arrangements for how safeguarding partners work together to identify and respond to the needs of children in the area.

Safeguarding Partners across the North East have in place an overarching Regional Multi-Agency Information Sharing Agreement (Tier 1) which sets out how they share information lawfully, appropriately, and in compliance with best practice to establish consistent principles and practices between Partner Agencies. The corresponding Tees-wide Information Sharing Agreement (Tier 2) sets out how information sharing will be data protection compliant, specific to the statutory functions of the Safeguarding Partners.

In order for safeguarding partners to perform their statutory functions to safeguard and promote the welfare of children across Teesside, they are required to co-ordinate their services, implement Local and National learning and drive action (Working Together to Safeguard Children). In order to fulfil these functions information will be shared for the purposes of:

- Undertaking multi-agency audits, Rapid Reviews, Learning Reviews, Deep-Dive thematic Reviews and Local Child Safeguarding practice Reviews
- Protecting and supporting children and young people
- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes
- Co-ordinate, commission and contract services

**Framework of Need**  
Providing the right support to Meet a Child's Needs

**Purpose of the Framework**  
The Framework of need is for everyone who works with children and their families across Hartlepool, Redcar and Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees and has been developed to provide clear thresholds that should be applied consistently to ensure the right help is given at the right time. We have adopted a model in which there are **four levels of need** and this document outlines the services that will be most appropriate at each level.

The vast majority of children will have their needs met through universal services such as those provided by early years, education and health. However, some children will need extra help to be healthy and safe and to achieve their potential.

When agencies and services working with children and families identify that a child has additional needs and vulnerabilities, we want to offer help and support that is proportionate and timely; provided at the earliest opportunity and in a voluntary way with parents, carers and children. Effective early intervention can help to prevent a child's needs escalating to the point where specialist or statutory services are needed and we recognise that the most effective support is tailored to the family's needs and provided at the lowest level necessary to ensure desirable outcomes are achieved, with as little disruption to family life as possible.

**Levels of Need and Vulnerability**  
The four levels of need model has been designed to support services to identify where an individual child's needs lie and the level of response that should be provided. The four levels of need are:

- Level 1** – Children whose needs are met by universal services.
- Level 2** – Children with additional needs which can be met from one other agency.
- Level 3** – Children with a range of additional needs that require a multi-agency response.
- Level 4** – Children with complex/significant intervention.

**Level 1 – Children whose needs are met by universal services**  
Most children will have their needs met by their families, universal services and informal support networks. Children who fall within this level are making good overall progress in all areas of their development.

Universal services are available to all children and families with the most easily identifiable being primary health and education. They are services that anyone can access and there are no pre-requisites. Universal services and settings are often the places where emerging difficulties can first be spotted, or where a child or parent can first ask for help. They are also often the most appropriate setting to source and deliver any extra help that may be needed but this will generally be time limited and lead to continued positive outcomes.

Professionals working within universal services support families to identify their own solutions to problems and reduce the likelihood of children developing additional needs. They promote achievement, resilience and healthy lifestyles, maximise life chances and minimise risk.

**Examples of needs and circumstances at Level 1:**

- ▶ A new born baby is provided with post-natal care through midwifery services
- ▶ A mother having problems with her child's sleep patterns and feeding difficulties seeks support and guidance from health visiting services

For some children, universal provision will not be sufficient to meet their needs and additional services will be required. When this is the case, the extent of the child's needs determine whether they fall within Level 2, 3 or 4.

**Tees Safeguarding Children Partnerships' Procedures**

Home / Procedures for the Safeguarding Process

1. Accessing Help and Services
2. Early Help
3. Children in Need
4. Making a Response to a Referral
5. Assessment of a Child Under the Children Act 1989
6. Strategy Discussion
7. Initiating Section 47 Enquiries
8. Outcome of Section 47 Enquiries
9. Initial Child Protection Conference
10. Child Protection Plan & Core Group
11. Child Protection Review Conference
12. Discontinuing the Child Protection Plan
13. Children Living at Home Subject of Interim or Final Supervision Orders
14. Transfer in / Out (Child Protection)
15. Regional Protocol for Protecting Children Who Move Across Local Authority Borders
16. Tees Multi-agency Information Sharing Protocol
17. Professional Challenge and Resolution of Professional Disagreement
18. Managing Allegations Against Those who Work or Volunteer with Children

Identifying & Responding to Need

# 7. Engagement

## Engagement with Partners and Relevant Agencies

Bi-annual open-engagement learning events, regular briefings and a dedicated training and development programme supports engagement of all partners. Both the Active Learning, audits, reviews, briefings, training and events will have representation from relevant agencies including the Health, Education and Community / Voluntary Sectors.

## Engagement with Schools, colleges and Early Years settings

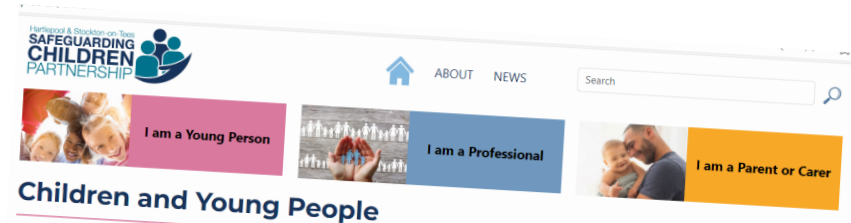
Schools, colleges and Early Years settings are an important part of our safeguarding system in Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees. They have responsibility to identify concerns early, provide help for children and prevent concerns from escalating.

All our schools and colleges have designated safeguarding leads who meet as part of the HSSCP Safeguarding in Education sub-group. This group acts as a two way communication between the partnership's partner agencies and education. The group considers the views of children and young people which are sought on key safeguarding themes and priorities and captured via school council meetings and surveys; considering any implications for the partnership.

## Voice of Children, Young People and Families

The Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership seeks to include the voice and influence of children and young people in a multitude of ways. There are established safeguarding focus groups operating in both Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees where children and young people are consulted on partnership priorities, the development of the HSSCP website's Children and Young People's page, the writing of child-friendly versions of HSSCP policies and the development of training materials for professional conferences.

In addition to these established groups, school safeguarding councils aim to give young people another platform to influence the safeguarding policies that directly affect them within their schools and local authority co-ordinated by the Safeguarding in Education sub-group.



### What is Safeguarding?

The Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership work together with the Police, NHS, Council, Schools and voluntary organisations to help keep young people safe.

Watch our video made by young people at Cornerhouse Youth Project in Stockton-on-Tees for more information on what safeguarding is.

On this page, you will find information, help and support on many different issues that may affect children and young people in Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees. All of this content has been created by local young people, for local young people. We are working hard to make sure we have the best, most up to date content for you, so please keep checking back for more information as it is created.



### Important Topics





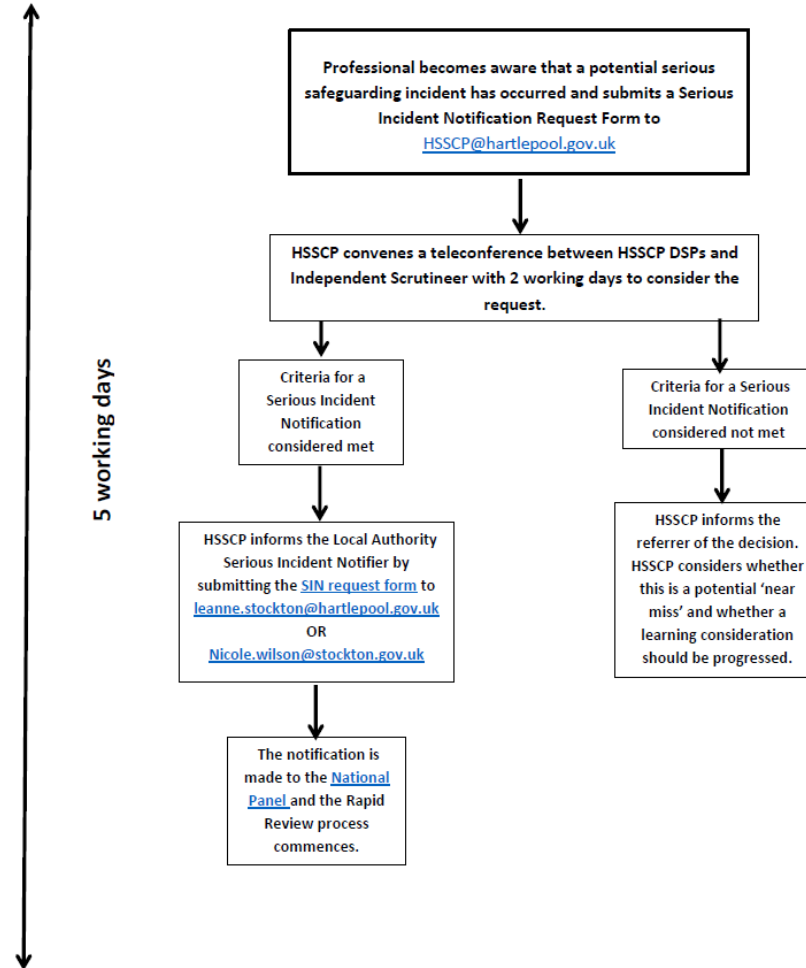
# 8. Identifying and Acting Upon Learning

## Serious Child Safeguarding Incidents

The local authority, on behalf of the safeguarding partners, has a duty to notify the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel about all serious incidents that meet the criteria via the Child Safeguarding Online Notification System. It should do so within five working days of becoming aware it has occurred. Though the responsibility to notify rests on the local authority, it is for all three safeguarding partners to agree which incidents should be notified in their local area.

When a professional becomes aware of a case that they believe meets the criteria of a 'Serious Child Safeguarding case' as outlined above, they should complete a '**Serious Incident Notification Request Form**' and submit this to the Safeguarding Children Partnership for consideration. This should be sent to: [HSSCP@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:HSSCP@hartlepool.gov.uk)

Within two working days of the Serious Incident Notification Request Form being received, HSSCP will convene a teleconference in which the HSSCP Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSPs) will consider the circumstances of the case and make a collective decision over whether or not the notification will be made to the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel. Where the decision is reached that a notification will be made, HSSCP will forward the Serious Incident Notification Request Form to the Local Authority Serious Incident Notifier. Where the decision is reached that a notification will not be made, HSSCP will reply to the referrer on behalf of the DSPs, outlining the rationale for this decision. Where there is disagreement, the safeguarding partners should follow their local 'Professional Challenge, Escalation and Dispute Resolution' procedure.



# 8. Identifying and Acting Upon Learning

## Rapid Review

Once the Safeguarding Partnership are aware that a Serious Incident Notification has been made, they will commence the Rapid Review process. Safeguarding Partners have 15 working days from the date of notification to inform the National Panel of the Rapid Review decision.

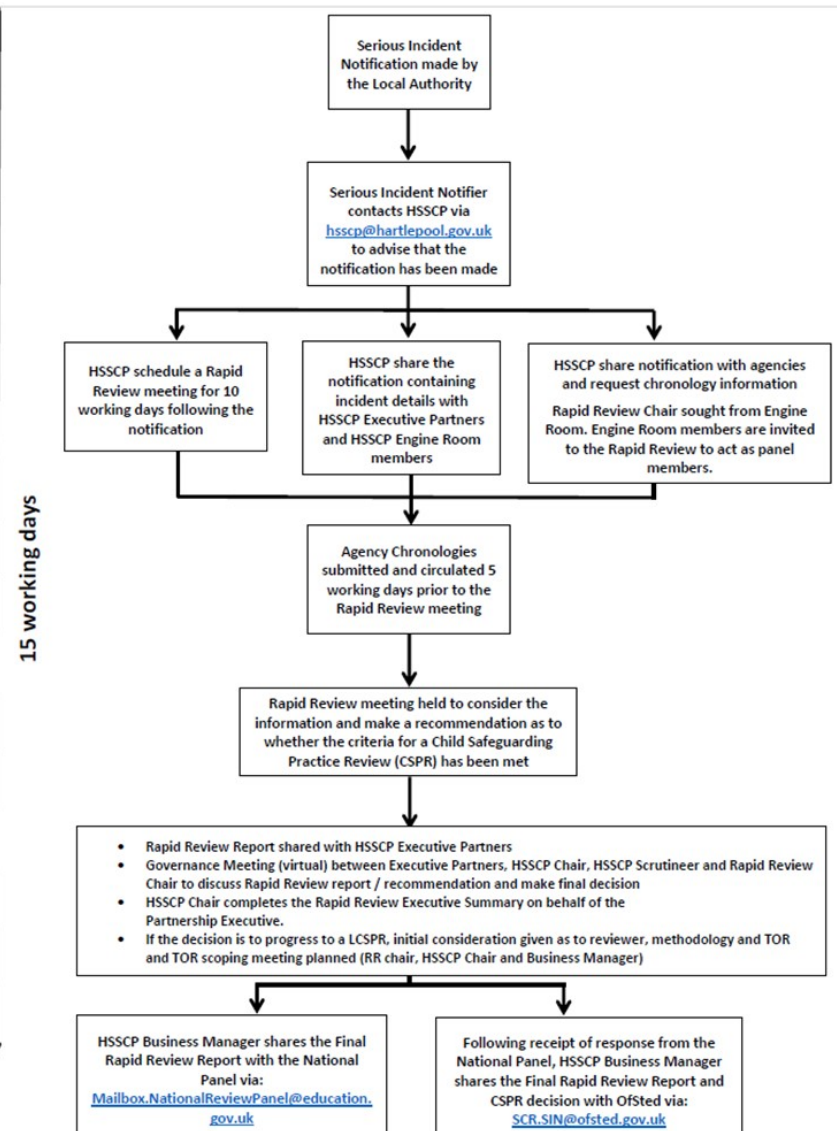
The details of the incident / case will be shared with the key Safeguarding Partnership representatives (Engine Room members); who will become the Rapid Review panel members. One of the Engine Room representatives will take on the role of Rapid Review chair. The details will also be shared with all involved agencies and chronologies / summary of involvement will be requested.

Attendance at the Rapid Review meeting will be made up of the Rapid Review panel (Safeguarding Partnership representatives – Engine Room members) and representatives from all involved agencies. These will usually be the professionals who have completed the chronology or summary of involvement for their agency. Front line practitioners, who have had direct involvement with the child and / or family, may also be requested to attend.

Following the Rapid Review, a Rapid Review report will be shared with HSSCP Executive members and a review governance meeting will be held. The Rapid Review chair will be invited to attend to share the findings of the review and report with Executive members. The Executive members will consider the recommendation(s) of the Rapid Review panel and report and make the final decision over whether or not the criteria for a local Child Safeguarding Practice Review has been met and will be commissioned. It is for safeguarding partners to determine whether a review is appropriate, given that the purpose of a review is to identify improvements to practice. Meeting the criteria does not mean that safeguarding partners must automatically carry out a local child safeguarding practice review.

The partnership chair will add the final decision to the Rapid Review report and this will be submitted to the National Panel, informing them of the outcome. This is submitted to the National Panel within 15 working days of the serious incident notification.

The Rapid Review recommendations and actions feed into and are progressed by the HSSCP Engine Room.



## 8. Identifying and Acting Upon Learning

HSSCP  
Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements  
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PARTNERSHIP



### Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR)

Following the governance meeting, if the decision has been made to progress the case to a LCSPR, a TOR planning meeting will be held. This will include the HSSCP Business Manager, Rapid Review Chair and Partnership Chair. Additional partnership representatives may also be included as necessary. The scope of the review will be drafted as a Terms of Reference and circulated to wider Executive members for comment and approval. A reviewer will then be commissioned. (HSSCP have signed up to the North East 12 commissioning agreement via NEPO . This agreement is in place for all Domestic Homicide Reviews, Safeguarding Adults Reviews and local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews commissioned across the 12 North East Local Authorities).

Once HSSCP Executive members have agreed upon the reviewer, the national panel, Ofsted and DfE should be informed of the name of the reviewer undertaking the review.

HSSCP Executive members form the governance for the review and dedicated stand-alone governance meetings are included in the TOR for the review as 'checkpoints'.

Reviews are about promoting and sharing information about improvements, both within the area and potentially beyond, so HSSCP must publish the report, unless the Executive members consider it inappropriate to do so. As part of the final governance meeting, Executive members will be asked to consider whether they envisage any issues in publication. In such a circumstance, they must publish any information about the improvements that should be made following the review they consider appropriate to publish. They should consider carefully how best to manage the impact of the publication on children, family members, practitioners and others closely affected by the case and ensure that reports are written in such a way so that what is published avoids harming the welfare of any children or vulnerable adults involved in the case. The name of the reviewers should be included. Reports should be published 6 months following the decision to initiate the review and reports or information must be publicly available for at least one year.

A copy of the full report is shared with the national panel and to the Secretary of State no later than seven working days *before* the date of publication. Where it has been decided only to publish information relating to the improvements to be made following the review, a copy of that information will also be shared with the panel and the Secretary of State within the same timescale. The report, or information about improvements, is sent to Ofsted within the same timescale.

Where other proceedings may have an impact on or delay publication, (for example, an ongoing criminal investigation, inquest or future prosecution), the safeguarding partners should inform the panel and the Secretary of State of the reasons for the delay. Safeguarding partners should also set out for the panel and the Secretary of State the justification for any decision not to publish either the full report or information relating to improvements. Safeguarding partners should have regard to any comments that the panel or the Secretary of State may make in respect of publication.

HSSCP will take account of the findings from their own local reviews and from all national reviews, with a view to considering how identified improvements should be implemented locally, including the way in which organisations and agencies work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The HSSCP Engine Room will highlight findings from reviews with relevant parties locally and should regularly audit progress on the implementation of recommended improvements. Improvement should be sustained through regular monitoring and follow up of actions so that the findings from these reviews make a real impact on improving outcomes for children.

## 9. Training and Workforce Development

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Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements  
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Hartlepool & Stockton-on-Tees  
**SAFEGUARDING  
CHILDREN  
PARTNERSHIP**



The safeguarding partners are responsible for considering what training is needed locally and for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of any training they commission. The HSSCP Engine Room will analyse and identify training and development needs arising from Active Learning and recommendations from Rapid Reviews and LCSPRs. This feeds into the Tees Joint Training Sub-group. (See page 12).

The HSSCP Learning Co-ordinator will explore delivery opportunities, facilitate the commissioning of trainers and training and monitor and evaluate the HSSCP training programme, reporting back to the Engine Room any updates to the training requests the group have progressed on behalf of them. The training programme is reviewed annually. The Joint Training Sub Group reports to the two Safeguarding Partnerships the impact of the training programme on the multi-agency workforce.



# 10. Performance and Quality Assurance

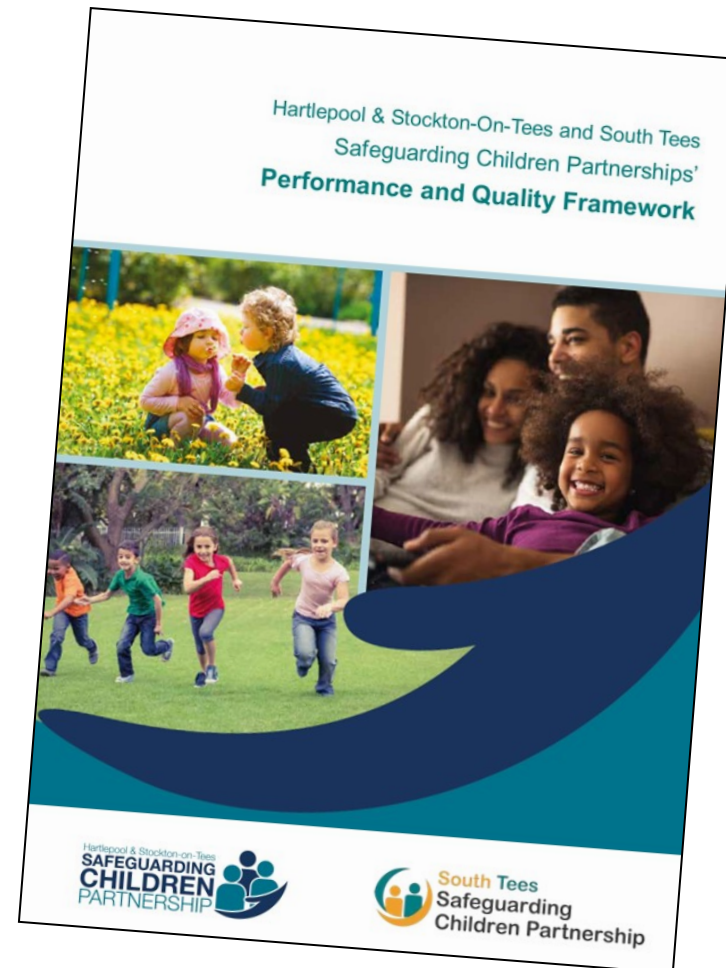
HSSCP  
Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements  
(MASA)



The HSSCP have developed a [Performance and Quality Framework](#) which outlines the approach to the robust analysis of performance information and quality assurance across the children's safeguarding system both on a single and multi-agency basis bringing together in one place a wealth of quantitative and qualitative information on the local arrangements for safeguarding children. This enables to be effective in understanding the areas of strength and areas for improvement at both an operational and strategic level, to understand the impact of the local arrangements for safeguarding children and to identify new risks and emerging threats in order to respond early to prevent harm.

The HSSCP Performance and Quality Framework outlines a model that maximises existing sources of data, intelligence, information and quality assurance arrangements alongside a dedicated Safeguarding Children Partnership dataset and quality assurance activity; providing an accurate and comprehensive picture of the arrangements for safeguarding children. The breadth and wealth of the information collated and analysed will provide assurance regarding the effectiveness of local arrangements and inform the priorities of HSSCP.

HSSCP have a dedicated Performance and Quality Sub Group within its structure whose responsibility it is to bring together the sources of data, intelligence and information into a coherent narrative regarding performance and the effectiveness of local arrangements on behalf of the partnership's Executive.



# 11. Independent Scrutiny

The independent scrutiny function provides the critical challenge and appraisal of HSSCP’s multi-agency safeguarding partnership arrangements. This function is carried out by the HSSCP Independent Scrutineer, who:

- Provides safeguarding partners and relevant agencies with independent, rigorous, and effective support and challenge at both a strategic and operational level.
- Provides assurance to the whole system in judging the effectiveness of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements through a range of scrutiny methods.
- Ensures that statutory duties are being fulfilled, quality assurance mechanisms are in place, and that local child safeguarding practice reviews and national reviews are analysed, with key learning areas identified and effectively implemented across the safeguarding system.
- Ensures that the voice of children and families is considered as part of scrutiny and that this is at the heart of arrangements through direct feedback, informing policy and practice.
- Is regarded as a ‘critical friend’ and provide opportunities for two-way discussion and reflection between frontline practitioners and leaders. This will encourage and enable strong, clear, strategic leadership.
- Provides independent advice when there are disagreements between agencies and safeguarding partners and facilitate escalation procedures.
- Evaluates and contribute to multi-agency safeguarding published arrangements and the annual report, alongside feeding into the wider accountability systems such as inspections.

HSSCP’s system of independent scrutiny is undertaken via the Independent Scrutineer:

- attending the Chief Executive Group and the Executive Group to provide scrutiny and challenge
- undertaking deep dive audit work on identified KLOE / themes which results in both assurance and identification of areas for development
- considering the voice and experience of children and their families and how these are acted upon
- scrutinising assurance reports from all partnership subgroups
- undertaking a yearly independent scrutiny review



## Review of the Arrangements

HSSCP aim to undertake reviews of the HSSCP arrangements every 2 years. This will be overseen by the Independent Scrutineer to ensure sufficient scrutiny and challenge. It will include analysis and evaluation of the effectiveness of the arrangements. The review will consider the appropriateness of membership to key groups such as the Engine Room, the effectiveness of structures and processes including communication and engagement, the appropriate identification of themes and learning; leading to change for Improvement and the impact of the above upon front line practice, most importantly on the children and young people of Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees.

HSSCP will work closely with the South of Tees Partnership both in relation to the continuation of the Tees Arrangements already in place and also with a view to determining whether the two partnerships should consider becoming a Tees Partnership in the future.

