Hartlepool & Stockton-On-Tees and South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnerships'
Performance and Quality Framework

Contents

Introduction

Context

As set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023), Statutory Safeguarding Partners have a duty to make arrangements to work together, and with other partners locally, to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in their area.

The purpose of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements is to ensure that organisations and agencies are clear about how they will work together to safeguard children and promote their welfare. This means:
- There is a clear, shared vision for how to improve outcomes for children locally across all levels of need and all types of harm;
- When a child is identified as suffering or likely to suffer significant harm there is a prompt, appropriate and effective response to ensure the protection and support of the child;
- Organisations and agencies are challenged appropriately, effectively holding one another to account;
- The voice of children and families combined with the knowledge of experienced practitioners and insights from data, provides a greater understanding of the areas of strength and/or improvement within arrangements and practice
- Information is sought, analysed, shared, and broken down by protected characteristics to facilitate more accurate and timely decision-making for children and families, and to understand outcomes for different communities of children;
- Effective collection, sharing and analysis of data, enables early identification of new safeguarding risks, issues, emerging threats, and joined-up responses across relevant agencies;
- Senior leaders promote and embed a learning culture which supports local services to become more reflective and implement changes to practice;
- Senior leaders have a good knowledge and understanding about the quality of local practice and its impact on children and families.

In order to fulfil these responsibilities, it is essential that the Children's Safeguarding Partnerships have access to a breadth of both quantitative and qualitative performance data, intelligence and information to assure themselves of the effectiveness of local arrangements.

This Performance and Quality Framework has been developed jointly between the two Tees Safeguarding Children Partnerships, namely, Hartlepool and Stockton-On-Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSSCP) and South Tees Safeguarding Children partnership (STSCP). Whilst HSSCP and STSCP are separate bodies, they share two statutory Safeguarding Partners; in their Integrated Care Board and Police Force. With wider shared relevant agencies and existing joint Tees-wide subgroups in place, there is an opportunity to collaborate and work in partnership to understand the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements and services across the wider Tees footprint.

Purpose

The **HSSCP and STSCP Performance and Quality Framework** 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 will enable HSSCP and STSCP 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.

In accordance with Working Together 2023, the **HSSCP and STSCP Performance and Quality Framework** becomes the vehicle through which the following activities and assurance would be delivered:
- oversee and be responsible for the analysis, intelligence, and timely collection of data to support functions, such as:
  - getting an accurate local picture of how effectively services are being delivered through regular communication across relevant agencies
  - advising the statutory safeguarding partners of the key challenges and emerging priorities
  - coordinating the joint multi-agency strategic plan, ensuring that statutory safeguarding partners and their delegates feed into and own the plan in the local area
  - overseeing the quality of practice and local outcomes for children and families
- review and promote consistent understanding and application of referral and intervention thresholds across agencies so that the right children receive the right support at the right time
- use learning from local practice and serious incident notifications to prompt reflection and analysis of where improvements need to be secured and action taken
- strengthen system conditions for effective multi-agency child protection work

Scrutiny should be based on sharing and analysis of local and national data, intelligence and information. This could include the development of multi-agency audits, reviews and mapping of what is already being scrutinised by statutory safeguarding partners and relevant agencies, identifying the gaps and aligning with agreed priorities.

The Performance Analysis Model

The **HSSCP and STSCP 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 in Teesside. 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 and STSCP.

The below diagram outlines the sources of information, data, intelligence and reports that will inform the performance and quality framework of HSSCP and STSCP.
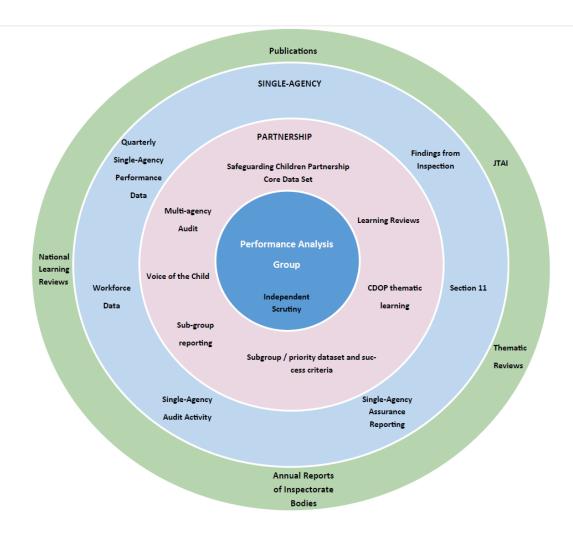
Diagram 1: Performance Analysis Model (See also Appendix 1)

The wealth of information gathered and analysed from across partner agencies will provide a comprehensive picture of local safeguarding arrangements from both partnerships. Software will be used to mine the data and provide coherent and interactive insights into local safeguarding arrangements. A Performance Analysis group will receive, analyse and scrutinise the data and report to the safeguarding partnerships.

The HSSCP and STSCP performance analysis model provides assurance that multi agency practice is operating well, through robust oversight and a detailed understanding of practice.

Sources of Data, Intelligence and Information

The **HSSCP and STSCP Performance and Quality Framework** pulls data, intelligence and information from a range of sources, many of which pre-exist, rather than creating additional datasets. This is represented in the Performance Analysis Model (Diagram 1). The Performance Analysis Model sets out the tiers of information to be drawn out; at a single-agency, national and partnership level. The extent of the available sources of information taken together is extensive and will support HSSCP and STSCP to assure themselves of the effectiveness of local arrangements for safeguarding children.

Software solutions will mine and collate the range of available information and produce reports that can be reported to both the partnerships as well as used to support further scrutiny and analysis to inform priority setting.

National

At a national level there are a range of reports, intelligence and information that can support the local area to analyse the effectiveness of its arrangements to safeguard children and to benchmark local performance against national reviews and recommendations. The sources of national information that will inform the local area continuous improvement cycle are as follows:
- Publications
- Findings and recommendations from Joint Targeted Area Inspections
- National Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews
- Thematic Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews
- Annual and relevant themed reports from Inspectorate bodies

This information will be reviewed and scrutinised by the Performance Analysis group to understand the emerging learning and to review local practice against this to identify any areas for learning and development. Where these are identified, the work plan will be updated with relevant SMART actions and progress reported regularly to the Partnerships.

Single Agency

All organisations that contribute to the work of HSSCP and STSCP will collate and report on performance information within their organisations to assure the organisation that they are fulfilling their responsibilities to safeguard children. These reports should outline what the organisation is doing, how much they are doing and how well they are doing it. This single agency information, where relevant to the local arrangements for safeguarding children, is already collected and can be shared with HSSCP and STSCP to contribute to the multi-agency performance and quality framework. Sources of information will be individual to each organisation and vary in amount based on the extent the core business of the organisation delivers child safeguarding arrangements. Sources of information should be both quantitative and qualitative as follows:
- Agency performance data;
- Findings from inspections;
- Single agency assurance reporting;
- Audit activity; and
- Workforce data and information

In addition, each agency is also required bi-annually to complete a Section 11 self-assessment. Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places duties on a range of organisations and individuals to ensure their functions, and any services that they contract out to others, are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. This self-assessment information will be scrutinised by the Safeguarding Children Partnerships and will feed into the Performance Analysis group for triangulation.

Partnership

At a partnership level, having all of the information from both national and single agency sources, there is a bespoke dataset which reports on performance measures not otherwise readily available or reported. The **HSSCP/STSCP dataset** is attached at Appendix 2 to this report and can be seen in diagram 2 below.

This dataset sets out a range of performance indicators that assures the partnerships of the local arrangements for safeguarding children and promoting their welfare. The performance analysis model is underpinned by a multi-agency dataset that support four key aims and two enablers:

Aim 1 – Children's needs are identified and supported
Aim 2 – Children are protected from risk of harm
Aim 3 – Children are effectively safeguarded and their welfare promoted
Aim 4 – Multi agency partners work together and hold each other to account

Enabler 1 – Multi agency workforce is stable and appropriately equipped
Enabler 2 – Learning is promoted and embedded to implement changes to practice

Aim 1	Aim 2	Aim 3	Aim 4
Children's needs are identified and supported	Children are protected from risk of harm	Children are effectively safeguarded and their welfare promoted	Multi-agency partners work together and hold each other to account
Objective 1.1 Children receive timely help and support	**Objective 2.1** Children are protected from Neglect	**Objective 3.1** Referrals	**Objective 4.1** Information is shared effectively
Objective 1.2 Children are seen	**Objective 2.2** Children are protected from Domestic Abuse	**Objective 3.2** Strategy / S47	**Objective 4.2** Partners raise appropriate professional Challenge
	Objective 2.3 Children are protected from Harm Outside of the Home	**Objective 3.3** Child Protection	**Objective 4.3** Partners work together
Objective 1.3 Mental Health and Wellbeing is promoted	**Objective 2.4** Children are protected from Substance Misuse	**Objective 3.4** Children in our Care	

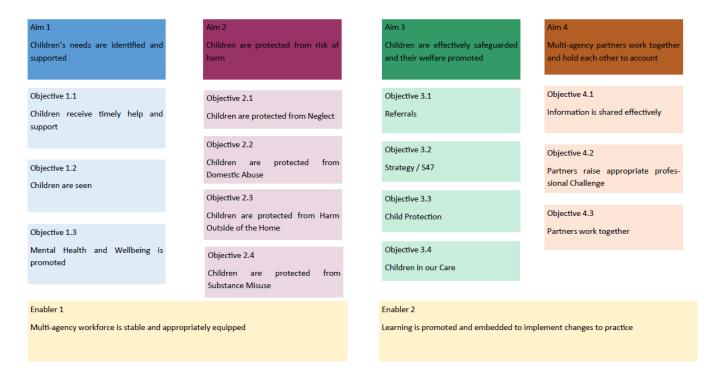| Enabler 1	Enabler 2
Multi-agency workforce is stable and appropriately equipped	Learning is promoted and embedded to implement changes to practice

Diagram 2: Multi-Agency Dataset (See also Appendix 2)

This data set collates key additional information and data about the local multi agency children's safeguarding system to enable HSSCP and STSCP to analyse performance of partners to effectively safeguard children and promote their welfare. It draws on data from a number of different agencies and, taken collectively, provides a rich picture of children's lives in the Tees area ensuring partners are accountable and local arrangements operate effectively. This dataset will be produced quarterly for consideration by the Performance Analysis group, alongside other sources of partnership performance and quality assurance information as follows:

Multi-Agency Audits
Each partnership has their own programme of multi-agency audit activity which takes place at regular intervals throughout the year. Each partnership will retain responsibility for learning and improvement work emerging from their audit activity, however, good practice and learning arising from multi-agency audit will feed into the Performance Analysis group for triangulation against other information sources.

All partners in both safeguarding partnerships should make a commitment on behalf of their organisation to be represented at and participate in multi-agency audits facilitated by HSSCP and STSCP even where

their organisation may not have had involvement with the child. This ensures that all partners contribute to learning from audits and the breadth and depth of individual professional disciplines are engaged in reviewing the quality of practice to safeguard children.

Both HSSCP and STSCP should work to complete a minimum of 12 multi-agency audits per year linked to the partnerships' priorities. The learning from multi agency audits can be shared across the partnerships to increase opportunities for learning from multi agency audit activity.

Voice of Child
Each partnership has their own mechanisms for capturing the voices and views of children and young people. Key messages arising from these mechanisms of communication will input into the Performance Analysis group.

Sub-group Reports
The two Safeguarding Partnerships share a number of sub-groups, as well as having separate sub-groups of their own. Each sub-group will report quarterly to the partnerships. Sub-group reports will also be received by the Performance Analysis group in order to triangulate information against other sources.

CDOP Thematic Learning

The two Safeguarding Partnerships have close links with the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP). CDOP have responsibility for identifying thematic learning in relation to local child deaths. This learning will feed into the Performance Analysis group for triangulation.

Learning Reviews
The Safeguarding Children Partnerships have a duty to undertake Rapid Reviews of serious safeguarding incidents where a child has died or been seriously harmed and abuse or neglect is known or suspected. Some of these cases go on to be reviewed further as a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR). Each partnership has responsibility for acting upon the learning identified as part of any review undertaken, however, the Performance Analysis group will triangulate learning themes across the wider partnerships' footprint and against other sources of data and information.

PERFORMANCE AND ANALYSIS GROUP

It will be the responsibility of the Performance Analysis Group to work collaboratively to bring together the sources of data, intelligence and information into a coherent narrative regarding performance and the effectiveness of local arrangements. 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 be to use the wealth of information collated to answer the following 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 report back to the partnerships any Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOE) for consideration / exploration and also any areas of strength. This will provide both scrutiny and assurance to the partnerships 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 the HSSCP and STSCP areas.
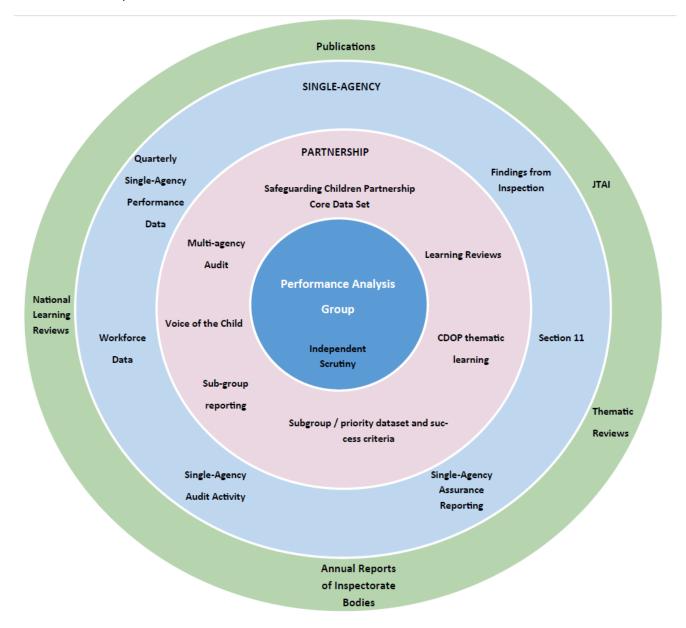
Independent Scrutiny

Both HSSCP and STSCP have appointed an independent scrutineer; individuals with experience, expertise and credibility to hold the partnerships to account and challenge the local area on the effectiveness of their arrangements. Where opportunity arises, the independent scrutineers of the two safeguarding children partnerships work collaboratively and across a whole place (coterminous police force area) to analyse performance and practice, drive continuous improvement and provide assurance that arrangements are working effectively for children, families and practitioners.

The functions of the independent scrutiny role are to:
- Provide safeguarding partners and relevant agencies with independent, rigorous, and effective support and challenge at both a strategic and operational level.
- Provide assurance to the whole system in judging the effectiveness of the multiagency safeguarding arrangements through a range of scrutiny methods.
- Ensure 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.
- Ensure 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.
- Be 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.
- Provide independent advice when there are disagreements between agencies and safeguarding partners and facilitate escalation procedures.
- Evaluate and contribute to multi-agency safeguarding published arrangements and the annual report, alongside feeding into the wider accountability systems such as inspections
(Working Together 2023)

The Independent Scrutineers will be wrapped around the Performance Analysis group's activity to provide scrutiny and challenge and to enable them to undertake the above named functions.

Performance Analysis Model

Publications

SINGLE-AGENCY

PARTNERSHIP

Quarterly Single-Agency Performance Data

Findings from Inspection

JTAI

Safeguarding Children Partnership Core Data Set

Multi-agency Audit

Learning Reviews

National Learning Reviews

Performance Analysis Group

Voice of the Child

Independent Scrutiny

Workforce Data

CDOP thematic learning

Section 11

Sub-group reporting

Subgroup / priority dataset and success criteria

Thematic Reviews

Single-Agency Audit Activity

Single-Agency Assurance Reporting

Annual Reports of Inspectorate Bodies

Appendix 2

Multi-Agency Dataset

Aim 1 Children's needs are identified and supported	**Aim 2** Children are protected from risk of harm	**Aim 3** Children are effectively safeguarded and their welfare promoted	**Aim 4** Multi-agency partners work together and hold each other to account
Objective 1.1 Children receive timely help and support	**Objective 2.1** Children are protected from Neglect	**Objective 3.1** Referrals	**Objective 4.1** Information is shared effectively
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Objective 1.3 Mental Health and Wellbeing is promoted	**Objective 2.3** Children are protected from Harm Outside of the Home	**Objective 3.3** Child Protection	**Objective 4.3** Partners work together
	Objective 2.4 Children are protected from Substance Misuse	**Objective 3.4** Children in our Care	

Enabler 1
Multi-agency workforce is stable and appropriately equipped

Enabler 2
Learning is promoted and embedded to implement changes to practice

Multi-Agency Dataset with Indicators

Aim 1

Children's needs are identified and supported

Objective 1.1

Children receive timely help and support

1.1.1 Children 0-5 by level of service support by 10,000 population (Health Visiting - Child Health Programme provider)

1.1.2 Disadvantaged 2 year old child care take up rate (by LA)

1.1.3 Number of children not achieving 2 year old development check (Health Visiting - Child Health Programme provider)

1.1.4 Number of children in Police Custody

Objective 1.2

Children are seen

1.2.1 Rates of severe absence from school (per 10,000 population—LA)

1.2.2 Rates of permanent Exclusion (per 1000 population—LA)

1.2.3 Number of children in alternative provision (per 10,000 population - LA / School)

1.2.4 Number of children not in full time education not on a school roll (per 10,000 pop LA)

1.2.5 Number of Electively Home Educated (EHE) children (per 10,000 population LA)

1.2.6 Number of children Missing from Education (CME) (per 10,000 population LA)

Objective 1.3

Health and Wellbeing is promoted

1.3.1 Number of children waiting specialist health assessments (TEWV / NTHFT / STHFT)

1.3.2 Number of children waiting for specialist services (No's and average waiting times) (TEWV / NTHFT / STHFT)

1.3.3 No of cases on Dynamic Support Register (TEWV)

Aim 2

Children are protected from risk of harm

Objective 2.1

Children are protected from Neglect

2.1.1 Children active to Social Care or on universal pathway plus accessing Family Hubs

2.1.2 Local Authority Assessment Factors (Neglect)

2.1.3 Children subject to repeat plans under the category of neglect

2.1.4 Children subject to a Child Protection plan longer than 12 months under the category of neglect

Objective 2.2

Children are protected from Domestic Abuse

2.2.1 Local Authority Assessment Factors (Domestic Abuse)

2.2.2 Children subject to repeat plans where Domestic Abuse is a factor

2.2.3 Children subject to a Child Protection plan longer than 12 months where Domestic Abuse is a factor

2.2.4 Number of children referred to Domestic Abuse support services

2.2.5 Number of children supported Domestic Abuse support services

Objective 2.3

Children are protected from Substance Misuse

2.3.1 Local Authority Assessment Factors (Substance Misuse)

2.3.2 Children subject to repeat plans where Substance Misuse is a factor

2.3.3 Children subject to a Child Protection plan longer than 12 months where Substance Misuse is a factor

2.3.4 Number of parents referred to Substance Misuse support services

2.3.5 Number of parents supported Substance Misuse support services

2.3.6 Number of children referred /receiving substance misuse support services

Objective 2.4

Children are protected from Harm Outside of the Home

2.4.1 Local Authority Assessment Factors (Extra-familial Harm)

2.4.2 CYP in MACE/VEMT not in full time education / severely absent

2.4.2 Children subject to a Child Protection plan for Extra-familial harm

2.4.3 Local area crime data (knife crime, county lines, drug offences, child sexual and criminal exploitation, gangs)

Aim 3

Children are effectively safeguarded and their welfare promoted

Objective 3.1

Referrals

3.1.1 No. referrals receiving dashboard/ multi-agency triage

Objective 3.2

Strategy / S47

3.2.1 Number of Startegies within 1 working day of referral

3.2.2 Agency attendance at strategy meetings

3.2.3 Strategy meeting by outcome

3.2.4 Police/LA joint S47 (% of S47)

Objective 3.3

Child Protection

3.3.1 Advocacy at ICPC / RCPC

3.3.2 Agency attendance

3.3.3 Family attendance

3.3.4 CYP attendance and how were they supported to contribute to / at meetings

Objective 3.4

Children in our Care

3.4.1 Number of children in PLO and care proceedings

3.4.2 Unregulated placements by type

3.4.3 Number of CiOC with DOLs

3.4.4 CYP input into CioC reviews

3.4.5 Children placed at a distance from LA

3.4.6 S25 Secure orders

Enabler 1

Multi-agency workforce is stable and appropriately equipped

E1.1 Staff turnover rates

E1.2 Staff vacancy rates

E1.3 Agency staffing rates

E1.4n Vacany rates

Aim 4

Multi-agency partners work together and hold each other to account

Objective 4.1

Information is shared effectively

4.1.1 LADO referrals by source

4.1.2 No of Pitstop cases

4.1.3 No of referrals for serious incident / learning review and outcome

4.1.4 Case by case notification of outcome of criminal investigations (Police)

Objective 4.2

Partners raise appropriate professional challenge

4.2.1 No of serious incident notifications overall and by referring organisation

4.2.2 No of professional challenges by making and receiving organisation

4.2.3 Outcome of professional challenge

4.2.4 Resolution of professional challenge at each stage

Objective 4.3

Partners work together

4.3.1 Partner attendance at Executive

4.3.2 Partner attendance at sub-groups

4.3.3 Agency attendance at MACE / VEMT mapping meetings and engagement in decision making

Enabler 2

Learning is promoted and embedded to implement changes to practice

E2.1 Training data and evaluations

E2.2 Audit findings

E2.3 Closing loop audit on LCSPR