

Gateshead Safeguarding and Community Safety Newsletter

Safer Gateshead

Safer People, Safer Communities



Gateshead
Safeguarding Adults
Board



GATESHEAD
safeguarding
children
partnership

This newsletter provides a round-up of the news from the safeguarding and community safety boards and partnerships, along with other relevant pieces of recent local and national information, including training scheduled for 2025.

If you have information on safeguarding (adults and children's) or community safety, including domestic abuse, that you would like to see featured in our newsletter, please email our [Safeguarding Board Business Unit](#).

Learning and development

The 2024/25 multi-agency training offer is now advertised and open for bookings. All information can be found on the [Safeguarding and Community Safety Training page](#).

Safeguarding Adults Week 2024

Safeguarding Week 2024, supported by Ann Craft Trust took place from the 18th – 22nd of November. This year, the SAB and GSCP agreed that the celebrations should cover both adults and children's safeguarding in light of the theme of "Working in Partnership". The week was a great success with over 350 people attending the 18 events which ran during the week.

The Gateshead Millenium Bridge was lit up purple as a powerful reminder that safeguarding is everyone's business. Watch the video here <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/HVvldkSX1fU>

The sessions have all been evaluated and there has been some great feedback.

"Excellent thought-provoking session" - Session from the Children Society around child exploitation and there new 'language matters guide.

Trainer was very knowledgeable, friendly and able to offer questions! great session thanks" - A session around Financial planning and LPAs delivered by Citizens Advice.

"One of the best training sessions I've ever attended. Super engaging role play with people with lived experience" – session delivered by the Lawnmowers covering 'mate crime' and delivered by actors.

"I felt the training with actors gave more depth than normal training. It was much more engaging." - delivered by the Lawnmowers around 'mate crime' and spotting the signs.

Partnership Training

Reminder of the online training programme available to anyone living or working in Gateshead through Me-Learning. Whilst many of the course are focused on children's safeguarding, members of the SAB and partners are encouraged to access the training too. To complete any of the following e-learning courses, click [here](#) to self-register and enroll using the online form.

- Cultural Awareness in Safeguarding
- Hate Crime
- Hidden Harm: Parental Substance Misuse, Parental Mental Ill Health and Domestic Abuse
- Neglect
- Online Safety - Risks to Children
- Online Safety for Parents and Carers
- Safeguarding Children (Level 1)
- Safeguarding Children (Level 2)
- Self-Harm
- Sexual abuse and recognising grooming
- Substance misuse

Prevent Training

Aim: To raise awareness of Prevent and focus on reducing the influence of radicalisers on susceptible audiences to help prevent the risk of people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. This is a new Face to Face training package developed by the Home Office, launching in October 2024 and provides more in-depth training for frontline professionals and people with a Prevent Duty as part of their role.

Dates/times:

21 January 2025	9.30am to 12.30pm
12 February 2025	1.30 to 4.30pm,
4 March 2025	9.30am to 12.30pm

Venue:

G2, Gateshead Council Learning Centre, Market Lane, Dunston, Gateshead NE11 9NX

Links to register:

Learning Hub: [Learn | PREVENT \(kallidus-suite.com\)](#)

Council website link (for external partners): [Prevent Awareness * - Gateshead Council](#)

Gateshead Community Safety Board

Lindsey Ojomo has joined Gateshead Council as Head of Community Safety and Emergency Planning, Prevention and Resilience. Lindsey has worked in local government since 1995, originally starting her career at Gateshead Council as a Business Administration Trainee. Lindsey left to join the Tyne and Wear Emergency Planning Unit and was its Deputy Chief Emergency Planning Officer when the Unit closed in 2011. Since then, she has worked in management roles covering Emergency Planning, Security and CCTV and Community Safety with North Tyneside Council. Lindsey lives in Gateshead and is looking forward to working on her home patch.

Information Sharing Protocol for practitioners working with children and adults with needs for care and support

The SAB and GSCP have updated their [Information Sharing Protocol](#), the updated version of the protocol is available on both the [SAB Policy and Procedure](#) online manual and the [North and South of Tyne Safeguarding Children Partnership Procedures Manual](#).

Safeguarding Adults Board

Advocacy

Under sections 67 and 68 of the Care Act 2014 the Local Authority has a duty to provide independent advocacy to an individual who would experience substantial difficulty in being involved in a safeguarding enquiry or a Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR).

In order to support adults to make informed choices from the information they are given during safeguarding processes they may need support such as the help of a friend or family member, an independent advocate or Independent Mental Capacity Advocate, or support with other communication needs such as an interpreter. To support practitioners Your Voice Counts have produced a [7 minute guide](#) to Statutory Advocacy which is available to download from the SAB Website.

Interface between Safeguarding Adult Reviews and Coronial Process

The Interface between SARs and the Coronial process guidance which developed by SAB Business Managers, led by the Nottingham City SAB has now been finalised and is available on the [SAB Website](#). The document includes sections on what are SARs, the current legal guidance, best practice guidance, and is a useful tool for anyone who is involved in the SAR process.

Find us

Website: www.gatesheadsafeguarding.org.uk

X: @Gatesheadsafesafe

Safeguarding Children Partnership

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA)

The [MASA has now been published](#) which sets out how the Safeguarding Children Partnership will work together and with other agencies who have a duty to co-operate with the new arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in Gateshead.

Annual Report

The latest Annual Report for the Children's Safeguarding Partnership, covering the period April 2023 – March 2024, is available for all to read here [gscp-annual-report-2023-2024.pdf](#) (trixonline.co.uk).

Please share this with colleagues and other interested parties.



Case Review pathway and process

A new learning pathway has been developed for use by both Gateshead and Newcastle. This clearly details the process to make a referral if a serious incident involving a child has taken place. Supporting documents, including a recording of the briefing session delivered to partners on the changes can be found here [Newcastle and Gateshead Joint Procedure: - Newcastle Safeguarding](#) and the new pathway and referral documents can be accessed on [Tri.x nscp-and-gscp-learning-and-improvement-pathway.june24.docx \(live.com\)](#).

Escalation and Dissent Policies

The partnership's escalation and dissent policies have now been updated, taking on feedback from partners, and are live on Tri.x. The main changes are a clearer escalation policy outlined in [escalation-policy.docx \(live.com\)](#) with specific timescales. If the escalation does reach stage 3, the dissent policy now also includes tighter timescales as outlined here [cpc-dissent-policy.docx](#)

One Punch

Gateshead Youth Justice Service has produced a Digital Me video showing the true story of a young person who punched a man in Newcastle City centre causing him life changing injuries. The animation is their story, it was scripted and animated by the people involved it explores the impact of the offence and how restorative justice can have a significant impact on everyone involved.

Gateshead Youth Justice service co-produced this piece of work to help other young people avoid offending behaviours and allow everyone to understand the impact of restorative justice.

This video is being used as a training tool and as a resource for working with young people at risk of offending. Please share widely to help promote the positive impact restorative justice can have. Watch online at <https://vimeo.com/922998988/153df0177d>

Domestic Abuse

Are you working with victims of domestic abuse?

Gateshead Domestic Abuse Team can offer advice, safety planning, guidance and specialist interventions of domestic abuse support. The Domestic Abuse Team supports medium and high risk clients of any gender and any sexual orientation. Interventions delivered by the team include:

- Practical and emotional one – one support for adult victims of domestic abuse.
- Groupwork.
- Bespoke direct work with child victims of domestic abuse (children who have experienced domestic abuse in their home environment).
- Bespoke direct work with young people who are in (or at risk of) abusive relationships themselves.
- Behaviour change programme working directly with abusive partners to reduce the harm caused to child and adult victims of domestic abuse.

Our children have helped us learn from their experience and working in partnership with Digital Voice for Communities, have produced a Digital Me film sharing their experiences of domestic abuse. The film can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/TCo2VuHequ0>

Working with abusive partners

Gateshead Domestic Abuse Team also delivers a Behaviour Change Programme which works with abusive partners. The programme is available to those who wish to address their behaviour and develops an individual's understanding of accountability, coercion, and the impact of abuse on partners and children, before developing their understanding of warning signs and sore points and how to de-escalate these.

The programme has been independently evaluated by Newcastle University and was recently RESPECT Accredited.

Lighthouse Programme

Gateshead Domestic Abuse Team has developed a group programme for those who have experienced domestic abuse which aims to raise awareness around what domestic abuse involves, the tactics employed by perpetrators, coercive control, how domestic abuse impacts individuals and families, how agencies respond, and next steps for recovery. The programme is delivered in a group setting over a six week period or can be delivered on a one to one basis if required.

For more information on domestic abuse services or to make a referral, please contact Mark Cheetham on 0191 433 2345, markcheetham@gateshead.gov.uk or Janette Graham on 0191 433 3538 or janettegraham@gateshead.gov.uk

Joint Targeted Area Inspections – Domestic Abuse

A joint targeted area inspection (JTAI) is an inspection framework for evaluating the services for vulnerable children and young people on a particular theme. It is conducted jointly between Ofsted, Care Quality Commission (CQC), His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Service (HMIC&FRS) and His Majesty's Inspectorate Probation (HMIP).

Each JTAI has a specific focus on a theme. The latest theme to be announced is looking at how police, children's social care, probation and relevant health services work together to identify and respond to children who are victims of domestic abuse. See briefing note for more information on this and how Gateshead partners are preparing for any potential inspection – [JTAI 7MB \(trixonline.co.uk\)](#) and [JTAI Guidance \(trixonline.co.uk\)](#)

PREM Launch

PREM - PARTNERSHIP REDUCTION EXPLOITATION MISSING

In recent months multi-agency partners from across the Northumbria Police force footprint have reviewed the MSET (Missing Sexually Exploited Trafficked) process to develop one better fit for purpose. The intention was to streamline and standardise the process to help reduce the risk of significant harm (by exploitation and vulnerability associated with missing episodes) through a collaborative partnership working.

PREM seeks to address the risk of exploitation and high-risk missing episodes by focusing on;

- Reducing risk factors by safeguarding
- Understanding perpetrator behaviours
- Identifying hotspot locations and emerging themes.

With a vision of working more effectively together to reduce the risk of harm towards our most vulnerable individuals by using a multi-agency problem solving approach. This new "outcome focussed" approach should ensure that targeted interventions reduce demand for all partnership organisations and robustly disrupt perpetrators.

PREM went live at the start of October 2024 with Gateshead being the first local authority to hold the PREM

Movers and shakers at Gateshead Council



Steph Downey
- has started her new post as Strategic Director for Integrated Adults and Social Care Services (DASS).



Karen Wright
- has started her new post as Head of Function for Working Age, Protection and Quality Standards.



Vicky Haig
- started her new role as the head of children in our protection.



Lindsey Ojomo
- started her new role as the Head of Community Safety & Emergency Planning, Prevention & Resilience.

Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Sector Safeguarding Training

The SAB and GSCP have been working with Gateshead Locality Co-ordinators and Connectors to develop a bespoke training course for the VCSE sector which supports them to understand how as voluntary organisations they have specific roles and responsibilities in relation to safeguarding. Five sessions have been arranged over the coming 12 months, if you represent or work with VCSE organisations further information on the sessions and how to can be found on the SAB/ GSCP Website.

Connected Voice

Connected voice has a hate Crime Advocacy Service for any people who are in vulnerable circumstances and experience hate, the service can help individuals with reporting and recovery. For more information see this link. [Hate Crime Advocacy | Connected Voice](#)

Support for Carers

From 1 September 2024, commissioned support for Young, Young Adult Carers and Adult Caregivers is provided by Carers Federation. The service is called Caregivers Connected. Carers Federation will provide support to:

- Young Carers
- Young Adult Carers
- Adult Caregivers

For further information on the services provided and how to make referrals please click on [this link](#).

WeMatter Service - Domestic Abuse Programme for Children

We matter leaflet March 2024

It's an online programme delivered by Victim Support. [WeMatter - Victim Support](#)

Referrals are accepted for children who are:

- Age 8 – 17
- Not high risk
- Not residing with the alleged perpetrator (however, this can be discussed on an individual basis).

The programme has been piloted Devon & Cornwall, Warwickshire and Brent and is now being rolled out nationally free of charge until March 2025. Elijah and Vanessa are more than happy speak to partners if you would like more information – contact details below.

Vanessa Rowland - Vanessa.Rowland@victimsupport.org.uk

Keep up to date with us online at

Website: www.Gatesheadsafeguarding.org.uk

X: @Gatesheadsafeguarding