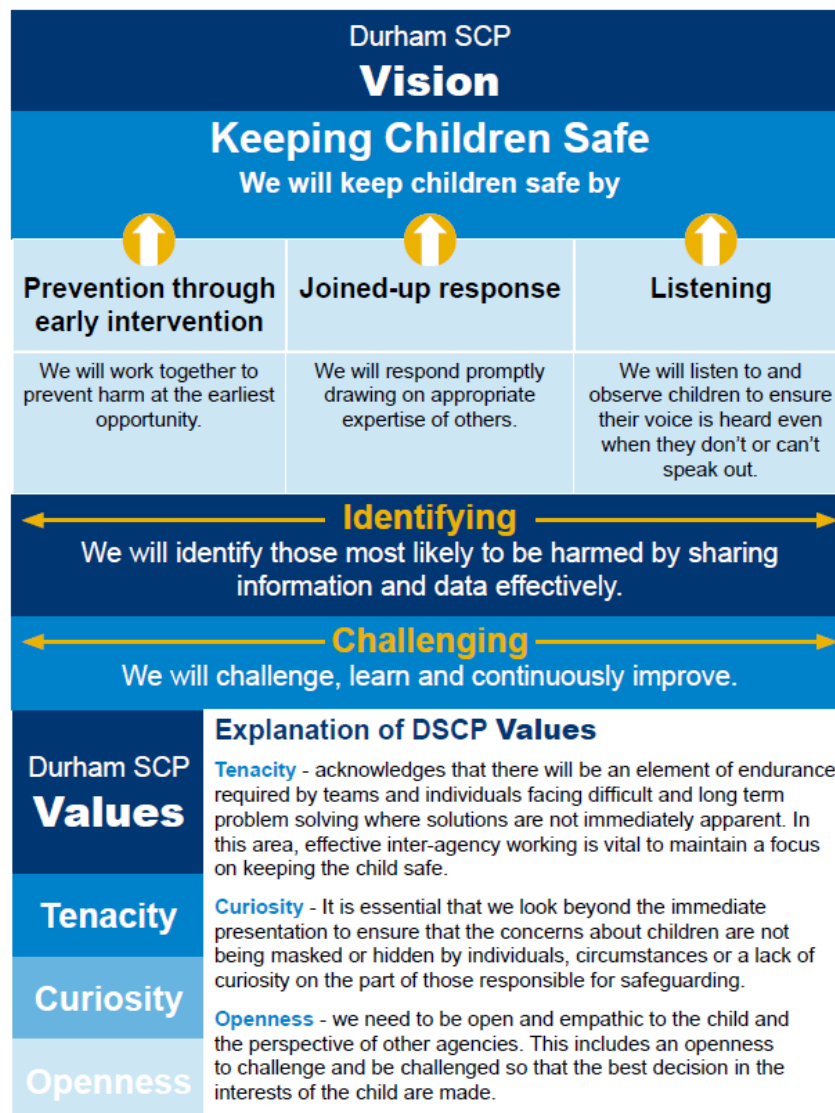# Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership

Audit Framework

2019

Audit Framework

DSCP Vision (2019

Audit Sources

The Executive Group will utilise the following sources of information to determine the effectiveness of the Partnership's 'Vision and Values':

- Practitioner Surveys
- Section 11 safeguarding self-assessments. (Agencies which provide services to children and young people self-assess the extent to which they meet the safeguarding requirements set out in Section 11 of the Children Act 2004).
- Bi-monthly multi-agency audits
- Single agency audits
- Report templates from Task and Finish groups and other relevant partnership groups reporting into the DSCP Executive Group

Keeping children safe

Improvement Cycle
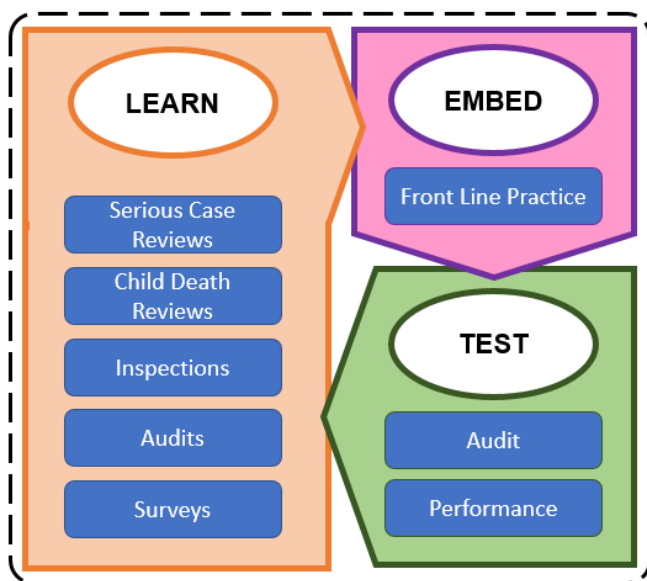
The Partnership will seek to challenge and learn to continuously improve safeguarding for children and young people in County Durham. The Embedding Learning Sub Group is responsible for co-ordinating multi-agency auditing, ensuring all areas for improvement are addressed effectively and that learning is embedded in practice across the partnership.

DSCP Multi-Agency Audit Schedule

Audits will be scheduled throughout the year and the DSCP will aim to complete 6 multi agency audits within the annual reporting period. The subject or focus of audits will be determined through discussion between the DSCP Business Manager and the chairs of the two main sub groups, Embedding Learning and Performance, Challenge and Impact, utilizing learning from both groups. A flexible approach will be taken to scheduling the subject matters to ensure the process remains responsive to areas identified for improvement, with proposals for auditing submitted the DSCP Executive on a quarterly basis for agreement.

In determining the subject or focus for the multi-agency audit schedule, priority should be given to themes or concerns emerging from:

- Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Serious Case Reviews
- Learning from Child Death Overview Panel
- Joint Targeted Area Inspection findings – local and national
- Learning from recent audit and performance work

Methodology for DSCP Multi-Agency Audit
(see Appendix 1 for suggestions following consultation for Audit methodology).

The DSCP methodology for multi-agency audit is:

- The Embedding Learning sub group, attended by the DSCP Business Manager, is the partner forum that will identify the Single Points of Contact (SPOCs) that will be the multi-agency audit team. While it is recommended that the membership of the audit team does not change to facilitate the success of the audit programme, the team will also include an Audit Lead, and this Lead role will alternate between the 'statutory partner' organisations. The Audit Lead will coordinate the audit process liaising with the SPOCs to

facilitate information sharing, communication and ensure the audit is completed within their 'home' agency.

- The multi-agency audit team, led by the Audit Lead (Police, CCG or LA), will meet to agree the audit question set, and identify relevant cases for the audit. In recognition that cases could come from multiple sources the owners of the agreed case reference information will send it to the DSCP Business Manager to be compiled and circulated to the Audit Team 4 weeks prior to the audit review meeting.

- 4 weeks from receipt of the case reference information the multi-agency audit team will attend an Audit Review Meeting to share their audit findings and agree the final audited assessment. The agency SPOCs will research their agency's involvement with the selected cases and, using the agreed audit question set, will be able to contribute contextual knowledge of their agency's activity and any agency specific or typical professional practices relating to that case.

- The findings of each Audit will be summarised and reported into the Embedded Learning; Performance, Challenge and Impact and Executive Groups.

- The Embedded Learning Group will take responsibility to ensure that learning from the Audit is translated, wherever practicable, into front-line practice.

- The DSCP Business Team will maintain responsibility for the general administration of the audit process, including room booking and note taking at relevant meetings, and the dissemination of findings for multi-agency use following review by the DSCP Executive.

Single Agency Audit

Individuals who have responsibility for audit within their respective in safeguarding partner agencies, will return a simple 'single agency audit update' proforma on a quarterly schedule to the DSCP Business Team.

				YOUR AGENCY NAME		
Type of Audit	Audit Ref	Title & Purpose of Audit	Period	Findings	Status	Actions/ Update
Service Evaluation	5592	On-going audit of assessment and planning quality for young people supervised by CDYOS	Q2/3 18/19	Negatives Some cumulative risk but not in the majority of cases Poor documentation of any handovers between the 0-19 practitioners Low levels of challenge Positives Excellent management oversight Excellent documentation when the child was last seen	Completed	Increase deep dive audits to 8 cases per month when new staff are in post. Supervision of Locality managers and Peer Supervisors increased to every 6 weeks. Observation of LA restorative supervision to then commence multi-agency supervision.
Clinical Audit	5650	Clinical Re-audit of Safeguarding Casefiles CYPS.	Q2/3 18/19	Due to start in August 2018 and complete in March 2019. Data to be collected in October - February 2019 • Data has been received/ analysed. • Report has been drafted. Action plan now developed.	Ongoing	The report is current undergoing quality checks and compliance rating.
Clinical Audit	5484	Clinical Audit of Documentation for Safeguarding Case Files (ADHOC).	Q2/3 18/19	No Updates.	To Start	No Updates.

These returns will be compiled and recorded on a summary table before being disseminated to the Embedded Learning; Performance, Challenge and Impact and Executive groups.

Any significant findings by an agency adversely affecting safeguarding should be sent directly to the DSCP Business Manager at the earliest opportunity to ensure the Partnership is aware and can act as necessary.

Appendix 1: Audit Methodology from Partner Agencies

HARROGATE AND DISTRICT NHS FOUNDATION TRUST AUDIT METHODOLOGY

Below is part of the audit framework utilised (the other audit framework which has also been identified used about 20 questions with each question having approx. 4 sub-headings. This was proved to be less effective).

Audit to include:

- Depth of analysis
- Evidence of Risk Assessment
- Evidence of Escalation
- Voice of the Child
- Evidence of handover between practitioners
- Evidence of "Think Family"
- Decision Making

Themes and outcomes will be an agenda item for Safeguarding governance.

DURHAM CONSTABULARY ACCURACY & IMPROVEMENT AUDIT METHODOLOGY

Safeguarding Scrutiny Panel - Terms of Reference

The purpose of the panel would be to independently review a selection of cases to assess the process and actions taken to identify any appropriate learning to assist with continuous improvement and information sharing.

Methodology

Methodology should mirror that of JTAI inspections so that improvements can be measured over time.

A decision would need to be made regarding the selection of cases and the numbers each agency brings to the panel. A deep dive review of a lower number of cases rather than looking at high numbers would be preferable.

In reviewing a case, the Panel would discuss and could grade each case as per the HMICFRS grades: Outstanding/ good/ requires improvement /inadequate.

The panel could give feedback at an organisational level or, where fitting to be conveyed to individuals of each agency involved in a particular case.

The aim of providing feedback is to promote best practice and identify potential policy development or training needs for consideration by the force or other agencies.