

Quality Assurance Framework

2017-2018



This is an approved North Somerset Safeguarding Children Board

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North Somerset Safeguarding Children Board (NSSCB) provides the statutory mechanism for agreeing how partner agencies cooperate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people, ensuring that there are common practices and policies in place across the agencies and that all agencies are effective in their safeguarding responsibilities.

(Children Act 2014, and the subsequent Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2015)

In order to fulfil its statutory functions NSSCB should use data to:

- assess the effectiveness of the help being provided to children, young people and families, including Early Help;
- assess whether NSSCB partners are fulfilling their statutory obligations
- quality assure practice:
 - through joint audits of case files
 - involving practitioners and;
 - identifying lessons to be learned

NSSCB has delegated responsibility for the strategic oversight & delivery of the Quality Assurance Framework to the NSSCB Quality Assurance and Evaluation Sub-group including:

- monitoring performance
- escalating areas of concern
- building a good understanding of how safe children are in North Somerset and where we need to improve
- using data effectively to inform our approaches, strategies and plans to improve performance and outcomes for children and their families

- providing evidence of the quality and impact of our work on the outcomes of children, young people and their families in North Somerset
- Reflecting on practice; listening, learning and leading on improvements.

Performance data includes qualitative, quantitative, single agency, and NSSCB generated multi-agency information.

Single agency: the focus is on agencies to:

- Identify which data the Board should have sight of, and provide appropriate analysis

Multi-agency: the focus is on agencies working together to identify and deliver:

- Evidence to sit alongside NSSCB strategies and action plans
- Reports against NSSCB priorities
- Analysis of findings of audits and audit action plans
- Reports against audit action plan priorities

The current NSSCB Quality Assurance process focuses on:

- Section 11 audit, including challenge, scrutiny and support meetings with the Independent Chair.
- Receipt of single agency audits
- Completion of multi-agency audits by the Quality Assurance Sub-group
- Board priority challenge, scrutiny and support meetings with the Independent Chair
- Single agency performance data
- Multi-agency performance data
- Review of annual report
- Link with learning from reviews carried out by the Serious Case Review Panel

SECTION 11 AUDIT

ENHANCING CHALLENGE & SCRUTINY OF KEY STATUTORY PROCESSES and BUSINESS PLAN PRIORITIES

Section 11 audits are completed every two years with statutory partners and non-statutory partners.

Section 11 Audits, Scrutiny Panel and Challenge Events

- Completed Section 11 Audits will be subject to additional scrutiny. For the audit in 2016 four LSCB's that comprise the Avon and Somerset undertook a joint audit. The purpose of the group is to assess the performance of the LSSCB partner agencies against the Section 11 audit and identify areas that require improvement and would benefit from LSSCB support. Each Board Manager is to provide a report to their respective LSCB on strategic themes and areas for actions.

- The Section 11 scrutiny group is accountable to their respective LSCB through their Quality Assurance and Evaluation Sub-groups. Findings will be reported to NSSCB and the Quality Assurance and Evaluation Group will follow up any actions and recommendations.

NSSCB BUSINESS PLAN PRIORITIES

NSSCB aims to provide the leadership and support required to enable children to feel safe and protected within their communities. In addition to the delivery of its core business NSSCB agrees additional areas of improvement which require greater scrutiny. These areas form the business priorities for the Board.

Summary of the NSSCB key areas of scrutiny 2017 – 2018
The effectiveness of Early Help for children, young people and families who do not meet the thresholds for statutory intervention and support by Children’s Services
The effectiveness of the current Child Protection processes in protecting those children identified as in need of protection and who are Looked After. To include consideration of ‘neglect’
The effectiveness of the response and impact of partners work to protect children and young people at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).
The effectiveness and impact of the North Somerset Services in reducing the incidences of Domestic Abuse and protecting children and young people from harm

NSSCB will focus on.....

Strengthening accountability across partners	Scrutinising how well partner agencies’ safeguarding arrangements demonstrate improved processes and cultural change	Ensuring that the NSSCB’s responsibility for strategic oversight of child protection arrangements is shared and understood by local agencies, across local partnerships and within North Somerset’s communities	
Training with impact and testing if learning is embedded	Reviewing safeguarding training to ensure that it is well co-	Testing how well learning is embedded in front line practice	Testing how well learning from case reviews is embedded in to

	ordinated across the partnership and has an impact on practitioners in the safeguarding system	across North Somerset	practice across North Somerset
Auditing, scrutinising and challenging	Maximising the use of performance data	Reviewing NSSCB Quality Assurance processes to ensure that it is well co-ordinated across the partnership and has an impact on practitioners	Testing how well learning from audit is embedded in frontline practice in North Somerset
Listening to children, young people and families	Ensuring that children and young people's views are reflected within the partnership		
Engaging with local communities	Supporting the development of a co-ordinated and multi-agency response to: CSE Early Help Neglect Domestic Abuse	Ensure that local communities are better engaged in the work of the Board and within the partnership	

Business plan priority audits, scrutiny and challenge

Business plan priority areas will be subject to appropriate scrutiny through the NSSCB QA and Evaluation Sub-group as above.

Bi annual priority area scrutiny panels, chaired by the Independent Chair, will meet to assess the performance of NSSCB partner agencies against the business plan, performance data and audit. Challenge and scrutiny meetings will identify areas that require improvement and would benefit from NSSCB support. The scrutiny panel will provide a report to the NSSCB on strategic themes and areas for actions.

The Section 11 scrutiny group will report findings to their respective Board. The NSSCB Quality Assurance and Evaluation Sub-group will follow up any actions and recommendations.

The NSSCB Quality Assurance process is a key part of the NSSCB Learning and Improvement Framework.

The NSSCB Learning and Improvement Framework will be reviewed annually by the NSSCB Policy & Procedures Sub-group. The next review date is April 2018.

The Learning and Improvement Framework published by the NSSCB contains more detailed information of how partners' improvement activities inform future priorities and is a statutory responsibility in Working Together 2015.