

The South Tees Safeguarding Children's Partnership is committed to keeping children and young people safe and working together to achieve the best possible outcomes for children, young people and their families

Dear Colleagues

Welcome to July edition of the STSCP newsletter, which aims to provide safeguarding professionals across Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland with details in respect of the information, support and guidance that is available. Work is ongoing to develop the new STSCP website but further details in respect of the partnership can be found on the current STSCP website at:

<https://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/children-families-and-safeguarding/south-tees-safeguarding-children-partnership>

COVID 19

In these extraordinary and very challenging times, the South Tees Safeguarding Children's Partnership would like to acknowledge the continued dedication to partnership working, as well as the innovative ways in which partners are responding to the crisis and have adapted their working practices to ensure that children and their families across Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland remain safe and supported.

STSCP Training & ME Learning

Although the STSCP have had to stand down all face-to-face training for the time being, we would like to take this opportunity to remind professionals of the wide range of virtual safeguarding training courses we have available. As of April 2020 and working in collaboration with TSAB and the HSSCP, we have commissioned a new e-learning provider, Me Learning who have provided a suite of courses. ME Learning noted that:

The Adults and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships in the Tees area have selected Me Learning to provide digital safeguarding training for their adult and children's social care workforce and partner agencies. The training, some of which is mandatory and some specialist, will be aligned with nationally recognised competencies relating to both Adult and Children's Services. Learners will follow different pathways depending on the requirements for their role and whether they specialise in Adult or Children's Social Care. Individual modules cover a broad range of topics relating to the identification and management of different types of abuse including the correct procedures and good practice guidance to follow. All training content will be developed by Me Learning with input from subject-matter experts.

There are thirty one courses available in total and given that this is a shared resource, some are tailored to Adult Safeguarding; some tailored to Safeguarding Children with other courses applicable to both Adults and Children. Further information in respect of the courses and how to register can be found on the STSCP E-Learning webpage using the following link

<https://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/children-families-and-safeguarding/south-tees-safeguarding-children-partnership/stscp-elearning>

South Tees Multi Agency Children's Hub & LADO Services

In June 2020, a letter was sent to all partner agencies on behalf of Linda Bulmer, Assistant Director of Children & Families, Redcar & Cleveland Children's Services and Catherine Parry, Director of Children's Care, Middlesbrough Council. The letter noted that due to a number of factors, a decision has been taken to disband the current South Tees Multi Agency Children's Hub and revert to two separate services from the 1st July 2020.

Middlesbrough Council will manage its own front door and LADO Services from its offices in Middlesbrough alongside relevant partners, whilst Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council will provide their front door and LADO Services with partners from the current location of Daisy Lane, Ormesby.

This means that from the 1st July 2020, professionals / agencies will need to contact the relevant front door service based on the address of the child/ren pertinent to the referral in the same way you did prior to the MACH commencing in June 2019. The SAFER Referral form will not change and the only differences are the telephone and email addresses that you will need to use, which are noted below:

- For information / advice on referrals for Middlesbrough residents, you need to phone 01642 726004 or email MiddlesbroughMACH@middlesbrough.gov.uk
- For information / advice on referrals for Redcar & Cleveland Residents, you will need to phone 01642 130700 or email RedcarMACH@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk

Contact details for LADO referrals will also change from the 1st July 2020. Based on the business address of the professional, you will need to refer either to Middlesbrough or Redcar & Cleveland as follows:

- For addresses that fall within the boundary of Middlesbrough Council, you will need to phone 01642 726004 or email MiddlesbroughLADO@middlesbrough.gov.uk
- For addresses that fall within the boundary of Redcar & Cleveland, you will need to phone 01642 130700 or email RedcarLADO@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk

Please be assured that our multi agency strategic partners remain committed to the principles of working together across the South Tees to deliver a joined up approach for children and families to enable them to access consistent advice, support and services across the region. If you require any further information please contact:

- For Middlesbrough – Amanda Richardson at Amanda_Richardson@Middlesbrough.gov.uk
- For Redcar & Cleveland – Debbie Harrison at Deborah-ann.harrison@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk

Middlesbrough Interim Threshold Document

Following on from an email circulated on behalf of Sue Butcher, Director of Children's Services, Middlesbrough Council, it was identified that following the Ofsted Inspection in November 2019 there was clearly noted to be a concern about Middlesbrough Children Services application of thresholds in the Multi Agency Children's Hub. The challenge was accepted and colleagues in Middlesbrough Children's Services have worked to produce an interim thresholds document. They have been applying this thinking to children and young people's contacts and referrals received since February 2020 and can see through weekly auditing, improvements in threshold application, which is resulting in a 25% increase of more children and young people coming into the Children's Care system and requiring a social work intervention to date.

The document is available on the STSCP website and should be read in conjunction with the Tees Procedures which still remain relevant and they are signed up to them still. It is important to note that the interim document is being shared, as current collaborative work is ongoing to refresh the thresholds across the Tees. Unfortunately this has been delayed as a result of COVID19 and all the pressures that this has put on everyone. Middlesbrough Children's Services are looking forward to building on the partnerships as they work through their improvement journey and wish to thank all professionals / agencies for their continuing hard work for the children and young people of Middlesbrough.