



# DARLINGTON

Safeguarding Children Board



**Annual Report  
2018-19**

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# Introduction from the Independent Chair

I am pleased to present the 2018/19 Annual Report of the Darlington Safeguarding Children Board. The Annual Report looks back at safeguarding issues across Darlington throughout the period 2018/19 and looks forward to the challenges and risks in the year ahead.

This has been a significant year for the Board. Whilst there are some strongly performing services across Darlington, safeguarding arrangements across the partnership can be inconsistent. However, there remains a strong commitment to improvement and undoubted encouragement from the Ofsted re-inspection of children's services.

The format of the report remains the same as last year, presenting the key information as clearly as possible, with details of our demography, Board structures and governance arrangements. This allows the reader to easily access the most important information in the report and outlines the progress which the partnership has made in the past twelve months against our strategic priorities.

From 1st July 2019 new Strategic Safeguarding Partnership Arrangements will be established in Darlington. This brings together an integrated approach to safeguarding adults and children in response to the requirements of the Children and Social Work Act 2018. The aim is to strengthen and develop partnerships and bring together a whole family approach.

Keeping children safe is an unrelenting task often carried out in the most difficult of circumstances. On behalf of the Board I would like to acknowledge the dedication of all practitioners working with and supporting young people and their families in Darlington. By working together, sharing information and practice, providing early help and protection and strengthening the safeguarding network, we aim to make Darlington a safer place for everyone.



**Ann Baxter,**  
Independent Chair,  
Darlington Safeguarding Children Board

# About the Annual Report

The Darlington Safeguarding Children Board (DSCB) Annual Report provides a transparent overview and assessment on the effectiveness of safeguarding and the promotion of child welfare in Darlington. DSCB has a focus on child protection and seeks to ensure all children and young people in Darlington are protected from physical injury, emotional abuse, neglect, sexual abuse or exploitation or harm, caused by witnessing violence or abuse.

## DSCB Mission

'Safeguarding is everyone's business and everyone works together to protect children and young people from harm and promote their welfare which allows them to become confident adults'

**DSCB identified three strategic improvement priorities:**

**Priority 1** - ensure effective arrangements are in place that enable children, young people and their families to access appropriate Early Help support when first identified and this support is well coordinated.

**Priority 2** - ensure effective arrangements are in place to protect children from neglect, abuse and child sexual abuse.

**Priority 3** - ensure partners work together to protect children from harm and ensure the voice of the child is evident in all multi-agency work.

A three year strategic plan was developed in 2017 which describes each year how the DSCB will deliver against these three priorities.

# About Darlington

## Local Data and Geography

The population is an estimated 106,347 individuals, who live in around 45,000 households (ONS mid-2017 population). Darlington's population is largely located in the central urban setting of the town of Darlington.

Children and young people under the age of 25 years make up 28% of the population of Darlington, which is a little lower than the England average at 30%. In terms of ethnicity, the 2011 Census reported 96.2% of Darlington's population as White and 3.8% from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups, which are defined as everyone who is not White British.

In County Durham and Darlington, the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) community form the largest single ethnic minority group in the area. The proportion of Darlington residents who identify themselves as GRT in the 2011 Census is three times higher than the national average, but equates to only 0.3% of the population. A little over 10% of school children are from a minority ethnic group. The population is not evenly spread across Darlington, with concentrations of children of school age being highest in those central and western areas of the borough, with relatively low concentrations in the east and south of the borough.



Number of children and young people **28%** of Darlington

# The Health and Wellbeing of Children and Young People

The health and wellbeing of children and young people is a crucial element of our local safeguarding context, which can be affected by a range of factors from birth to adulthood.

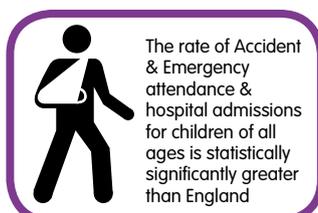
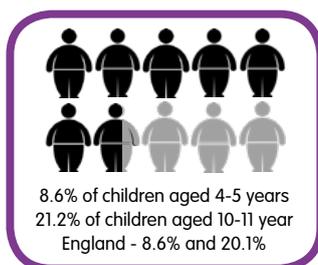
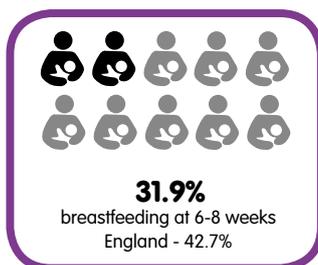
There are specific groups of young people who are more vulnerable to these factors, which can inhibit their life chances and cause inequalities for health and wellbeing. These include children in need, children subject to Child Protection Plans, children at risk of sexual exploitation, those living in poverty or caring for a parent or sibling.

It is important therefore, that the Board is able to maintain an overview of health and wellbeing and the Darlington Children Health Profile provides signals that are helpful to the Board in its assessment of risk.

## Health and Wellbeing

**The health and wellbeing of children in Darlington is generally poorer than the England average. Here are some important statistics:**

- Infant mortality rates are similar to the England average.
- Teenage conception rate in Darlington has historically been higher than England, although has continued to fall over a period of years and is now statistically similar to England at 23.3 per 1,000 conceptions. Deliveries to teenage mothers are not evenly distributed across the borough, with higher concentrations being found in the central urban wards.
- Breastfeeding rates at 6-8 weeks after birth for Darlington at 31.9% are lower than England average of 42.7%.
- Dental health in 2016/17, 73.6% of 5 year olds had no obvious decay experience. 26.4% of 5 year old children in Darlington in 2016/17 had one or more decayed, missing or filled teeth.
- Obesity levels for children at reception age in Darlington are statistically similar to England with 8.6% of children aged 4-5 years identified as obese in 2017/18. 21.2% of children aged 10-11 years in Darlington were identified as obese in 2017/18, in comparison to 20.1% in England. Within Darlington obesity rates for children, both at reception and Year 6, are greater in central and eastern wards in the urban centre of the borough.
- The rate of Accident and Emergency attendance and hospital admissions for children of all ages is statistically significantly greater than England, with the rate of emergency hospital admissions for children under 4 in Darlington being considerably higher than England. This high rate of emergency admissions for under 5s is consistent across most of the borough. In 2017/18, children were admitted for mental health conditions at a similar rate to that in England as a whole. The rate of inpatient admissions during the same period because of self-harm, was statistically higher than the England average.
- Uptake of childhood immunisations in Darlington has historically and consistently been higher than England average. This high rate of uptake of immunisations continues throughout childhood and into school age, with consistently higher rates of uptake across all vaccines in Darlington compared to England.





## Health Behaviours

Teenagers in Darlington have poorer outcomes related to health behaviours, with a significantly higher hospital admission rate due to alcohol specific conditions in those less than 18 years, at 50.2 admissions per 100,000 in 2016/17 to 2017/18 compared to England at 32.9 per 100,000.

However, this rate has shown positive decreases since 2011/12. The rate of admissions due to substance misuse in those aged 15-24 years in Darlington remains higher at 132.0 per 100,000, compared to England at 87.9 per 100,000.



## Vulnerability and Disease

The rates of hospital admissions for children under the age of 19 due to common long term conditions such as asthma, diabetes and epilepsy in Darlington are largely similar to England.

Darlington has a higher proportion of children of school age assessed as having special educational needs (SEN) at 15.1% of all school aged pupils, compared to 14.4% of all school aged pupils in England as a whole. The proportion of children with Autism known to schools in Darlington at 14.8 per 1,000, is similar to England at 13.7 per 1,000.

## Poverty

Darlington is in the 30% most deprived local authority areas in England. It is ranked as the 97th most deprived local authority area out of 326 on the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2015.

A fifth of Darlington children under the age of 16 live in low income families (20%). This compares to an England average of 17%. Child poverty is worse in Darlington than the England average, with 19.4% of dependent children aged under 20 years living in poverty, concentrated in the central urban wards of the town.

Unemployment in Darlington has fallen back to pre-recession levels and is below average for the north east. Homelessness is significantly below the national average.

Detailed analysis of the health of children in Darlington is available via Public Health England's Health Profiles for Darlington, available under the "Strategies and Plans" section of the JSNA on the [Darlington Borough Council website](#).



# Analysis of Effectiveness in Safeguarding Children

## Looked After Children

The numbers of Looked After Children (LAC) by the local authority at the end of March 2019 was 264, which equates to 117 per 10,000 of the relevant population. This represents an increase of 22.7% from the same point in 2018 and is higher than our statistical neighbours (91.6) and regional average (95) per 10,000 population.

Darlington is not statistically different across a range of measures of concern and difficulties for Looked After Children compared to England. As at 31st March 2019 the local authority had 48 registered in-house foster carers plus, 35 connected carers. A total of 54 children were placed with 34 in-house foster carers and 46 children were placed with connected carers. A further 85 children were placed with Independent Fostering Agencies and 37 young people were placed in residential provision.

## Children in Need (CiN)

The 2018/19 CiN data will not be available until October 2019. In March 2018 there were 388 children in Darlington identified as CiN, compared to 330.4 England average and 451.6 in the North East. The percentage of children identified as CiN who were eligible for free school meals was 50.3% at the end of March 2018, compared to 49.4% in England. The percentage of children identified as CiN missing school sessions was 11.6 %, which is slightly higher than the England rate of 11%. No CiN were permanently excluded from school during 2017-2018.

## Child Protection Plans (CPP)

At the end of March 2019, 103 children were subject to a child Protection Plan (CPP) in Darlington (a rate of 45.7 per 10,000), which is a slight reduction when compared to the same time the previous year. This is lower than the regional average (65.7%) and is in line with our statistical neighbour (47.4%) and the national average (45.3%).

Children aged under the age of 10 years continue to form the largest group subject to Child Protection Plans. The risk factors associated with Child Protection show 64% were due to Neglect; 23% Emotional Abuse; 11% Physical Abuse and 2% as a result of Sexual Abuse.

## Residential Care

The Council has three residential homes in Darlington, which have all been judged to be 'Good' by Ofsted. In addition to this, the single establishment that provides specialised respite care for disabled children is judged to be 'Good' by Ofsted.

## Young People not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

The latest nationally published data on the percentage of children aged 16 and 17 who are identified as being not in education, employment or training (NEET) or their destination is 'not known', was released in June 2019. The data is an average of December 2018, January 2019 and February 2019.

In Darlington the proportion of NEET (including not known) was 6.7% (140 young people), just above the North-East average of 6.5%, but 1.2% above the England average of 5.5%. This is an increase of 2.3 percentage points from the previous year.

Local data for June 2019 shows this figure had reduced to 4.15% (87 young people).

## Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO)

The Annual IRO report is produced by the Children's Safeguarding Unit (CSU). The service is responsible for Child Protection Conferences, Looked After Children Reviews, Annual Foster Carer Reviews, Adoption Reviews, Disruption Meetings and Reviews of Children Placed in Secure Accommodation.

**Progress has continued to be made in response to the recommendations from the Ofsted Inspection in 2018. The letter from Ofsted following the Focused Visit in February 2019 stated:**

- Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) have become more effective since the last inspection. They appropriately challenge Social Workers and Team Managers to help progress plans and reduce delay for children.

Previously the proportion of Child Protection Plans in relation to the risk of Physical Abuse and Sexual Abuse was low. In 2018/19 the percentage of Child Protection Plans under the category risk of Physical Abuse has increased, whilst those at risk of Sexual Abuse remains low; however, both are broadly in line with the most recent published national data.

For the year to 31st March 2019, 95% of these children were subject to an Initial Child Protection Conference held within the prescribed 15 working days from the strategy meeting. Within this period, 98.4% of Child Protection Review Conferences were held within timescales. Performance in these areas remains higher than regional, national and statistical neighbours.

The rate for children becoming the subject of Child Protection Plans (CPP) for a second or subsequent time (at any time) was 8%, which is better than the England average of 20% and regional average of 20% (when compared to the most recent published national data).

In April 2018, for a short period, 3 children had been subject of a CPP continuously for a period of two years, for the remainder of the year, no children were subject to a CP plan for more than a 2 year period.

Parental involvement in the Child Protection process remains good. For Initial Child Protection Conferences, this was 94%, and for Child Protection Review Conferences 91%, similar positions to the previous year.

The IRO Annual Report 2017-18 is available via the DSCB website.

## Managing Allegations and concerns against staff, carers and volunteers - Designated Officer

Allegation management processes remain embedded in Darlington with a good level of awareness by practitioners and the service appropriately used by partner agencies. The Designated Officer continues to raise awareness of the role of the Designated Officer and has delivered five multi-agency briefing sessions to a range of agencies. In addition, sessions were held with education, voluntary settings and private residential homes over the period.

In 2018/19 there were a total of 186 enquiries to the Designated Officer, of which 31 were determined to meet the threshold for an Initial Evaluation Meeting, which represents 23% of all referrals. The remaining 153 enquiries did not meet the threshold for a referral for a strategy meeting or Initial Evaluation Meeting, however advice, support and guidance were offered.

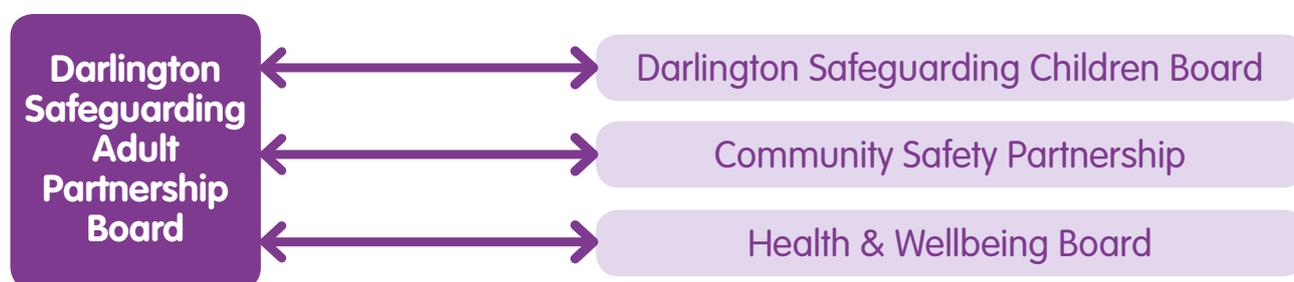
Allegations are resolved in a timely manner with 76% of total cases being resolved in one month, representing an increase of 7% on the previous year. This is still below the accepted resolution of 80% and is due to the complexity of cases involving ongoing criminal investigations and internal investigations, where the employee has declared themselves unfit for work therefore delaying disciplinary action.

Of the total allegations received 13% were substantiated, with action being taken against the staff member.

## Darlington Safeguarding Children Board Governance Arrangements and Strategic Partnership Links

### The Local Strategic Partnership

The DSCB continues to work in partnership with three key Strategic Partnership Boards to ensure strong joint working arrangements across agencies which coordinate the vision, aims and priorities for Darlington and its population, ensuring the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements for children and young people are threaded throughout.



The Darlington Protocol outlines the relationship between the DSCB and other strategic partnerships. It is recognised that each Partnership Board has its own governance and priorities, the protocol promotes effective ways of working to deliver the strategic outcomes, reflecting that **“safeguarding is everyone’s business”**.

In 2018/19 the local partnership has focussed on Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence, with the aim of reducing the prevalence of domestic abuse and identifying a co-ordinated community response on prevention, support and protection services, as well as establishing how perpetrators are dealt with.

In June 2018, the Chairs of the Health and Wellbeing Board, Community Safety Partnership, Adult Safeguarding Board and the Children Safeguarding Board held a shared planning session in recognition that domestic abuse and sexual violence are areas of common concern across all partners. An outcome from the discussion was the addition of a fourth objective for the Domestic Abuse Plan with a focus on education, training and awareness raising. The Plan is structured around four key objectives:

- Prevention through early identification and intervention
- Education training and awareness raising
- More 'invisible' victims are identified and offered support
- Reduce repeat victims and serial perpetrators of domestic abuse

A second key outcome of the planning session was the recognition that Darlington should have a separate plan to address sexual violence. The emphasis of work via the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Abuse Network (DASAN) and the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Group (DASVEG) has been on domestic abuse and while efforts must be maintained to prevent and tackle domestic abuse, it is recognised that the damage at an individual and community level of sexual violence may not be part of a domestic abuse incident or history.

The Community Safety Partnership will take the lead in developing a local plan to tackle sexual violence, which will sit alongside (but separate to) the Domestic Abuse Plan. Both plans will be aligned to Police Crime and Victim Commissioner priorities support to victims. The Responsible Authorities all have a role in developing and delivering local plans to tackle domestic abuse and sexual violence alongside partners from other sectors.

In March 2019, the DASVEG hosted a stakeholder event which brought together a wide range of representatives across County Durham and Darlington to review the purpose and work of DASVEG, with consideration of the draft Domestic Abuse Bill. The next steps from the workshop is to analyse the feedback, take a proposal to DASVEG on Key Performance Questions (KPGs) and set a work streams reporting schedule in Summer 2019.

The Independent Chairs of both Safeguarding Boards will present their annual reports to the Health and Wellbeing Board and will ensure there are relationships with the Community Safety Partnership. The Safeguarding Boards will share their annual plans for the next twelve months to ensure co-ordination and mutual understanding.

## Governance

The Board continues to enjoy strong participation from partners at an appropriate level, and attendance at Board meetings is generally good. The sub-committees also remain focused and have been able to deliver on the Boards current priorities. Commitment from partners on the sub groups has been good, however attendance has not always been consistent, with some agencies not providing deputies. All meetings have been quorate and therefore no meetings have been stood down. Chairing arrangements have been consistent and have provided a balanced multi-agency leadership team, however issues relating to vice chair vacancies has left some groups at risk. Partnership working is effective and has been identified as the strength of Darlington Safeguarding Children Board.

## Revenue

Member organisations of DSCB provide the Board with reliable resources (including financial) that enables the Board to be well organised and effective. Resources include staff time and additional support such as attending and contributing to the work of the Board. However, the revenue operating costs now exceed annual income and the Board has had to rely on its small reserve to maintain current levels of function. Due to the transition to a Safeguarding Partnership as determined in the Children and Social Work Act 2017, contributions from relevant agencies will be reviewed by the Strategic leads from the three statutory agencies: Durham Constabulary; Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group and Darlington Borough Council. For details of the revenue see **Appendix 3**.



## ....so what have we achieved?

Effective safeguarding relies on the collective contribution of all multi-agency partners working in collaboration.

People who live in Darlington have access to a broad range of services, some of which cross boundaries with Durham, Teesside and North Yorkshire. Most services perform well with Tees, Esk and Wear Valley (TEWV) and Harrogate and District Foundation Trusts (HDFT) having 'Good' inspection outcomes and in 2017, County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust was judged by the CQC as Requiring Improvement. Durham Constabulary once again achieved 'Outstanding' in its 'Police Efficiency Including Leadership' (PEEL) inspection in 2018.

In February 2019, Ofsted conducted a focussed visit to Darlington Borough Council to consider the arrangements for children who need help and protection, in accordance with the Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services Framework (ILACS). Specifically, inspectors looked at the Local Authority's arrangement for children in need and those subject to a protection plan, including children receiving help and support from the disabled children service, the Life Stages Team. Since the previous Ofsted inspection in March 2018, when the overall effectiveness of the service was judged to Require Improvement to be Good, Ofsted found that a stable and committed senior leadership team, with strong political support, had been successful in maintaining a stable and motivated workforce. Performance data is comprehensive and quality assurance processes have improved. Social work practice is improving and leaders have a realistic understanding of the strengths and areas for improvement. For further information on the Ofsted findings visit: [files.api.ofsted.gov.uk](https://files.api.ofsted.gov.uk).

In addition, schools in Darlington generally perform well and following inspection by Ofsted, as of July 2019 of the 42 schools in the borough:

**9** schools were judged as **outstanding**

**23** were judged as **good**

**9** require **improvement**

**1** is considered **inadequate**.

The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) identified Darlington as a safe place to live, with falling rates of crime and alcohol related anti-social behaviour. For more information see **One Darlington Perfectly Safe – Darlington's Community Safety Plan 2015-20**.

The following sections of the report outline the Board's achievements and challenges over the year.



# Achievements and Challenges Against the Board's Priorities

## Achievements and Challenges

During 2017-2018, DSCB made the following achievements against the three priority areas as follows:

**Priority 1 - Ensure effective arrangements are in place that enable children, young people and their families to access appropriate Early Help support when first identified and this support is well coordinated.**

### Early Help Data

A total of 4502 contacts were received by the Children's Access Point (CAP) in the year 2018/19. A total of 898 referrals were made to Children's Social Care during 2018/19. A total of 869 Early Help Assessments were completed during 2018/19 throughout the partnership, with 33.1% of these being completed by external agencies, which is evidence of effective partnership working and higher than the target of 30%.

### Early Help Training

It was identified that over 77 practitioners accessed the multi-agency early help training throughout 2017-18, the sessions were facilitated by Darlington Borough Council's early help coordinator.

### Pre-birth Procedures

Following the pre-birth audit undertaken in 2017-18 a number of areas for learning were identified, including a review of the multi-agency pre-birth procedures due to changes in processes. The document was revised to reflect current processes and incorporated additional feedback from the Ofsted re-inspection.

### Domestic Abuse

The Multi-Agency Darlington Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Plan 2017-20 ensures that agencies work together to reduce the prevalence of domestic abuse and to provide a coordinated community response which includes preventative, support and protection

services and deals with perpetrators. The plan outlines the links with other local strategies including the Children and Young People Plan 2017-22, Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-22 and the Neglect Strategy 2017-20. Safeguarding children is a shared responsibility and high priority for all agencies. Throughout 2018/19, work has continued to develop a Darlington data set of multi-agency indicators related to Domestic Abuse. A County Durham and Darlington report is a standing item at the County Durham and Darlington Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Group (DASVEG).

**How Will This Benefit The Organisation?**

- More effective staff
- Staff will feel fully supported and confident in approaching their employer for help.
- This can only improve the work environment for all employees through minimizing stress and absenteeism
- Increase employees commitment to their organisation.

**Other benefits**

- Getting the best people for the job
- An employer with family friendly policies will be attractive to a much wider pool of potential applicants.
- Improved equal opportunities, and an improved public image
- Employees are demonstrating a powerful commitment to the principles of equal opportunities and community investment, and to achieving equal opportunities in the workplace particularly for women.

**Next Steps...**

- Develop and implement a policy/procedures
- Awareness raising and help
- Be alert to the possibility
- An integrated approach
- Training
- Publicity and Promotion

**Useful contacts**

- [www.tuc.org.uk](http://www.tuc.org.uk)  
Domestic Violence - A Guide for the Workplace
- [www.hisco-thecentre.org.uk](http://www.hisco-thecentre.org.uk)  
Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Centre
- [www.darlingtonrefuge.org.uk](http://www.darlingtonrefuge.org.uk)
- [www.sorrynotenough.co.uk](http://www.sorrynotenough.co.uk)
- [www.equalityhumanrights.com](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com)

If you would like help in ensuring your company can provide the best support for any of your employees suffering domestic violence please contact Holly Dodson by email at: [hoecase@durham.pnn.police.uk](mailto:hoecase@durham.pnn.police.uk)

**Helplines**

- The Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Centre  
supportline 01320 342833
- Harlow: providing support for those suffering abuse - 03000 20 20 20 (24 hours)

**Domestic Violence & your workplace**

**Be aware. Take Action**

## Multi-Agency Audit Programme

The multi-agency audit calendar continues to be revised in line with priorities agreed by DSCB. The Board continues to ensure that multi-agency audits are carried out and identify lessons to be learned, as well as making recommendations for future improvements to improve multi-agency training as well as developing policy and procedure. The audit reports provided to DSCB inform them of the quality of work being undertaken and its impact on outcomes for individual children and young people.

In 2018/19, DSCB aligned the audit programme to ensure it will be inspection ready to focus on the planned themed Joint Targeted Area Inspections (JTAs). The JTAs examine how well agencies are working together in the local area to help and protect children. This will allow DSCB to continue to monitor and review practice, but also support and enable the partnership to be inspection ready.

**The outcome of the audits undertaken in this period are outlined below:**

### Child Protection Conference Observation

Members of the Quality Assurance and Performance Management sub group continue to observe Child Protection Conferences to review progress against previous audits to identify if practice has improved as a result and to identify areas of good practice or corrective action that may be required. The learning identified issues relating to policy and practice, however since undertaking the observations, the DSCB Child Protection Procedures have been revised and include more detailed guidance to support practitioners. The group agreed to continue to monitor provision of reports for conference and the observation tool has been revised to capture feedback from children and families involved in conference. Themed reports will be provided on an annual basis.

### Neglect Audit

An audit into cases of child neglect was carried out in 2018 to provide assurance to Board that processes are joined up and that neglect is readily identified and responded to early and effectively.

The audit explored current professional practice in respect of the understanding and recognition of child neglect and intervention, ascertaining whether the principles are applied to children with disability and identifying good practice.

Practice was found to be inconsistent, with some excellent examples of multi-agency intervention and others where agencies had different views on the management of the case and the level of intervention required. A number of recommendations were made in respect of information sharing and assessments and areas of good practice were identified.

### Single Agency Audit Findings

A thematic report was presented to the DSCB in October 2018 which highlighted the key findings from single agency audit activity. Key themes identified included: records, policy and practice, quality of assessments, training and supervision. All agencies were able to demonstrate evidence of learning from gaps in practice, actions they have taken to mitigate and were able to demonstrate the impact on practice.

## Sexual Abuse Audit, Domestic Abuse Audit and Parental Mental Health Audit

Audits in respect of Familial Sexual Abuse, Domestic Abuse and Parental Mental Health are scheduled to be carried out in the 2019-20 audit programme, this will also provide an opportunity to align the audits against the JTAI Evaluation Schedule Number (ESN's).

The biennial multi-agency safeguarding self-assessment audit will commence in September 2019.

In October 2018 a thematic report was presented to Board on the findings of single and multi-agency audits conducted in the reporting year 2017/18. It was acknowledged that the audit programme had been challenging, but partners fully engaged in the multi-agency audits which were undertaken, which provided evidence of assurance of safeguarding practice at a local level.



## Child Protection Procedures

The multi-agency Child Protection Procedures were revised and refreshed in June 2018, to reflect the implementation of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 and the Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR. The revision also incorporated learning from local and national case reviews. The procedures will be updated on a rolling programme or reviewed earlier when changes to practice or statutory guidance are identified. This provides Practitioners in Darlington an up to date web-based solution that is accessible 24 hours a day from a range of electronic devices.

## Policy, Procedure and Practice Guidance

In 2018-19 DSCB reviewed and revised the following policies, procedures and practice guidance to support practitioners working with children:

- Neglect Strategy and Multi-Agency Neglect Practice Guidance document signed off and action plan developed
- Comprehensive revision of the Multi-Agency Child Protection Procedures and practice guidance documents which have been updated to reflect changes in legislation (Working Together 2018 and Data Protection Act 2018/GDPR) and the inclusion of links to national practice guidance
- Policy Schedule has been overhauled
- Unborn procedures complete and uploaded to website
- Modern Slavery Practice Guidance and Memorandum of Understanding (joint with DSAPB) approved and uploaded onto the website
- Domestic Abuse (Safeguarding) Practice Guidance (Joint with DSAPB) approved and uploaded onto the website
- Bruising in non-mobile babies' protocol has been revised jointly with Durham LSCB and signed off and uploaded onto the website
- Professional Challenge Procedure reviewed and found to be fit for purpose
- FGM procedures uploaded to the website
- SUDIC procedures have been ratified
- Private Fostering Guidance included on website
- Animal Neglect and Cruelty and links to safeguarding – practice guidance on website

## Priority 2 – Ensure effective arrangements are in place to protect children from neglect, abuse and child sexual abuse

### Case Reviews

Reviewing and learning from serious incidents is a crucial aspect of good safeguarding practice and requires leadership from senior managers across all organisations involved. The Notification Process and the Learning and Improvement Framework, (now called the Serious Child Safeguarding Incident Process and the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Process), was reviewed and updated in 2018/19, incorporating the changes in legislation and practice guidance, following the implementation of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 and the introduction of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel. The protocol considers the interface between other reviews and parallel processes which may run concurrently with a SCR (such as a Coroner's Inquiry or Domestic Homicide Review) and how the processes can work more efficiently.

The purpose of any review is to identify learning that will bring about improvements in safeguarding practice, so that the likelihood of future harm to children is minimised. Examples of good practice can also be considered to identify learning that can be applied to future cases.

In 2018/19 the DSCB commissioned two Serious Case Reviews (SCRs), one of which was carried out under the Significant Incident Learning Process (SILP) methodology and the other used Root Cause Analysis (RCA) methodology.

A Learning Lessons Review (LLR) was also commissioned, using the Meeting Sphere Methodology.

These reviews are ongoing and Board will report on the findings in 2019/20.

Action Plans were developed in respect of these and three previous reviews. The action plans are monitored by the Case Review and Learning from Practice sub-group (CRLP), using an exception report until they are completed and signed off. Board has agreed an escalation process in respect of actions which are not completed within the required timescales.

A Seven Minute Briefing Document has been developed in respect of the Learning Lessons Review (LLR) Child B (2017) and this will be made available at future learning events. Briefing documents will be developed for all completed reviews going forward.

The Learning and Improvement Framework (now known as the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Procedure) and the Notification Process (now known as the Serious Child Safeguarding Incident Process) were revised to reflect new statutory guidance (Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018) and to ensure that the processes and timescales within the procedures were explicit.



## Communication, Engagement and 'Voice of the Child'

A challenge in 2018/19 for the DSCB was to further develop the communication and engagement strategy, to strengthen links with the other sub-groups and to ensure that policy changes, learning and national good practice are shared throughout the partnership. This has been achieved by establishing links with media teams throughout the partnership, to raise awareness of safeguarding in Darlington.

During this reporting period the Training, Communication and Voice of the User sub-group reviewed its Terms of Reference and became a bespoke Training sub-group. It was agreed by Board that the communications element would sit within each individual sub-group and communications, engagement and 'voice of the user' is now a standing agenda item at each meeting. As a result, communication between the sub-groups and Darlington Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board has improved.

The joint Safeguarding Boards' website is regularly updated and communicates information and key messages to practitioners and to the wider public. There is a page specifically designed for children and young people, further work is required to develop these pages to provide appropriate material and discussions are ongoing with Darlington College to include students in this piece of work.

**DSCB newsletters** - In 2018/19 the DSCB continued to publish a bi-monthly message bulletin which highlights key messages and communicates the work carried out by the Board. This has improved communication with practitioners throughout the partnership and highlights the purpose of the Board and the work that is carried out by the partnership. The bulletin is available on the Safeguarding Boards' website, where it is accessible to the wider community as well as partner agencies and practitioners. The newsletter is also circulated electronically throughout the partnership.

## Young People's Conference 2017

The annual Young People's Conference took place in July 2018 at Darlington College. Over sixty pupils from seven secondary schools in Darlington attended the event which aimed to engage with the young people and improve their understanding of safeguarding issues which may be relevant to them. The workshop themes included digital awareness,

emotional wellbeing, harm and resilience and online gaming and grooming. In December 2018 five schools presented the learning from the conference and the impact within the schools to a panel, which included the

Independent Chair of DSCB and Board members. The standard of presentations was very high, and the panel had a difficult task in choosing the winner. Polam Hall School and Houghton Academy were awarded joint first prize for expressing the best learning from the conference.

The prize chosen by pupils was a visit to the schools by Durham Constabulary Police Interceptors.



## Training

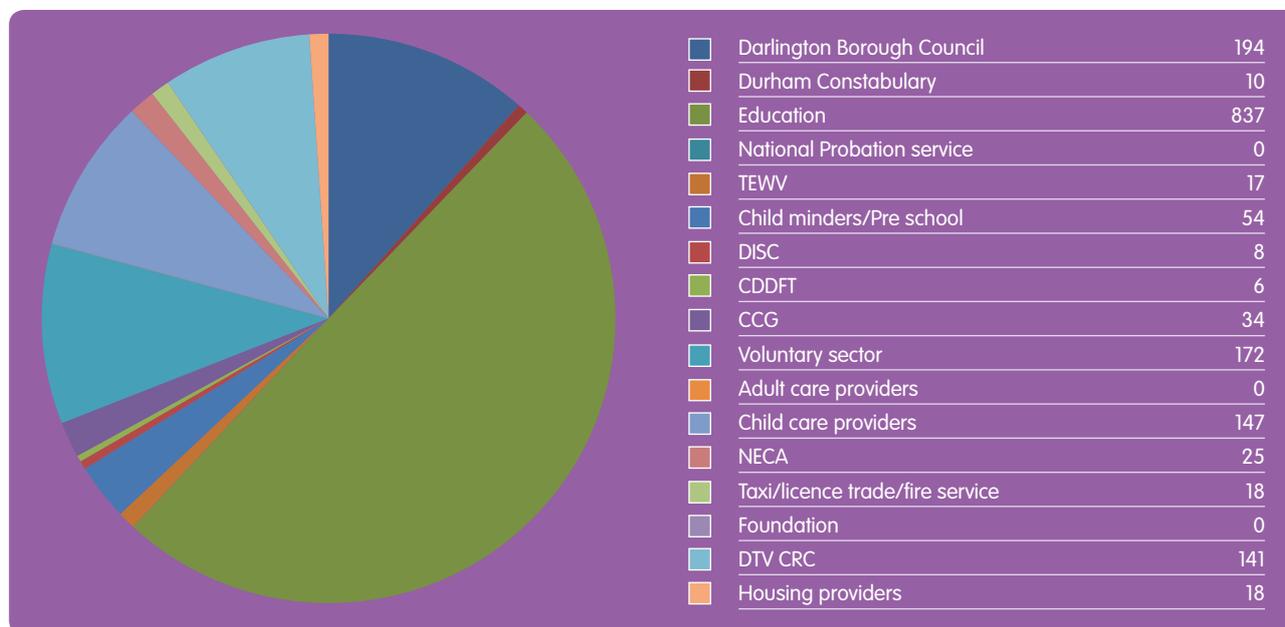
Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children at risk of abuse and neglect is one of the key priorities of the Safeguarding Partnership in Darlington and remains the focus of the learning and development activity for learners whether from the statutory, voluntary or independent sector.

The partnership is committed to promoting a 'learning culture'. This is outlined in the Joint Training Strategy and is informed through the training needs analysis and feedback from training delivered. The partnership Multi-Agency Trainer has full access to performance data, information from lessons learnt reviews and audits, to ensure the training programmes are regularly updated to meet the needs of practitioners and managers. The training strategy underpins the priority to further strengthen practitioner's knowledge, skills and expertise in safeguarding children and promoting their welfare. The Board receives an Annual Training Report which for 2018/19 confirmed:

- All delegates who attended the face to face training described the overall rating for the course as outstanding
- 99% of delegates who completed the post course evaluation, three months after the course stated that their confidence and skills were now very good/outstanding
- Income from multi-agency training provision was £12,030
- A total of 221 delegates have completed the newly introduced programme of training, to implement the Neglect Graded Care Profile Support Tool

The total attendance for 2018-2019 was 3,210. This is an increase of 3.9% increase on the previous year (3,101).

The chart below outlines the attendance for face to face children training accessed by partner agencies during the period April 2018 to March 2019.



Further information and a breakdown of the training figures can be found in the Training Annual Report 2018/19 available on the Safeguarding Boards website.



## Philomena Protocol

In January 2019 Durham Constabulary launched the Philomena Protocol throughout the partnership. This is a Durham Constabulary initiative which involves a joint investigation to help locate and safely return a young person who is missing from a residential home as quickly as possible when they are reported missing. The basis of the scheme requires that vital information about the young person, including previous occurrences of being missing, is recorded on a form which can be used to help locate them quickly. The next phase will see the scheme being rolled out to foster carers in Darlington and Durham. In 2019/20 the protocol will be adopted by police forces nationally and Durham Constabulary has secured agreement that neighbouring forces will retain the name Philomena Protocol so that the protocol is easily recognised by practitioners throughout the region.



## Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Missing Children

In 2018/19 a joint Missing Exploited and Sexual Abuse sub-group (MESA) was established with Durham LSCB. The sub-group has continued to be proactive in its work to identify and tackle Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and other forms of exploitation. Work has been completed to raise awareness of 'County Lines' and the criminal exploitation of children within the local context following Operation Helium, a criminal investigation undertaken by Durham Constabulary. This work will continue into 2019/20, to identify and track the children at greatest risk of criminal exploitation and implement appropriate safeguarding measures.

## Elective Home Education/Children Missing in Education

**Elective Home Education (EHE):** DSCB is required to ensure that effective safeguarding mechanisms are in place for children who are home educated and who going missing in education.

Darlington has a multi-agency EHE monitoring group who meet termly to consider all children on the EHE database and to share information to ensure suitable education is in place and escalated when appropriate where there are safeguarding concerns.

The monitoring group has good multi-agency attendance which includes; local authority, police, health, traveller education and input from social care. The local authority has also commissioned a dedicated nurse to work specifically with EHE children.

In 2018/19 there were 193 children registered as EHE on the local authority data base. A total of 34 of these children either returned to education or left the area. The new local authority was informed of the move and added to their EHE data base.

Darlington has a dedicated EHE Officer who offers home visits to check suitable education is in place. The EHE Officer will offer support to families and will support safeguarding process by attending appropriate meetings. The EHE Officer has completed 85 home visits during 2018/19. If the EHE Officer is unable to ascertain suitable education or has safeguarding concerns, this is escalated to the EHE Multi-Agency Monitoring Group for appropriate action.

**Children Missing in Education:** Darlington has a CME Officer to monitor and track children who go missing in education. The CME Officer has good multi-agency support in locating children from partners such as Housing, Health, Police and CME officers from other local authorities. During 2018/19 74 referrals were received. All children were located and either had returned to school in Darlington, located in a new local authority, confirmed as moved out of the county or were confirmed as travelling due to the family being part of the GRT community.

## Performance Management and Quality Assurance

DSCB continues to monitor and develop the quality, timeliness and effectiveness of multi-agency practice through the Performance Management Framework. The multi-agency dataset was revised during 2018-19 to capture the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements and outcomes for children. The data items explore the child's journey through services such as Early Help and Child Protection.

**Contacts** - A total of 5,963 contacts resulting in a referral to Early Help or Children's Social Care were received in 2018/19, which is a 15.7% increase of contacts received within the 2017/18 period. The contacts related to 10,046 individual children which is a 14.2% increase on the previous year. The ratio between the numbers of contacts against the number of children is the same at 3:5 when comparing 2017/18 and 2018/19.

**Early Help Assessments** - A total of 869 Early Help Assessments commenced in the year 2018/19, with 288 (33.1%) of these being done by external agencies, which is above our target of 30%. The number of Early Help Assessments have seen a small drop of 0.9% when compared to the same point in 2017/18.

**Child Protection Plans** - A total of 103 children were subject to a Child Protection Plan (CPP) as at the end of March 2019. This is a small reduction when compared to March 2018 (115). Darlington currently has a 45.7% rate per 10,000 for children subject to a CPP which is lower than the Regional average (65.7%) and in line with our statistical neighbour (47.4%), and the national average (45.3%).

**Looked After Children** - As of the end of March 2019, 264 children were 'looked after', which represents an increase of 22.7% from the same point in 2018 (215 children). The rate of Looked After Children per 10,000 population is currently at 117.2, which is higher than our statistical neighbours (91.6) and regional average (95).

**Neglect** - The proportion of children for which a contact has been received with neglect recorded increased in 2018/19 resulting in an end of year percentage of 7.5% compared to 5.5% at the end of the year 2017/18.

**Child Sexual Exploitation** - In 2018/19 25 new cases were recorded, which is similar to that in 2017/18 which saw 26 new cases. The number of cases downgraded or referred to other services has decreased in 2018/19, with 20 cases compared to the 26 cases in 2017/18. The numbers at high risk has decreased slightly from 6 to 5.

In 2019/20 the partnership will further develop the Performance Framework with a 'dashboard' to highlight the key performance indicators and will analyse data and intelligence to provide assurance on how effectively the partnership works together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and will provide outcome-based accountability processes. It is proposed to develop a key set of performance questions for child data which will determine the indicators.



### Priority 3 – Ensure partners work together to protect children from harm and ensure the voice of the child is evident in all multi-agency work

#### Children and Young People's view of their lifestyle

A healthy lifestyle survey is conducted annually in participating schools across Darlington, the survey uses a mechanism for looking at prevalence of an activity and addressing the misperceptions, known as 'social norms'. Findings in the 2018 survey include:

The internet continues to be a large part of pupil's lives, especially the use of social media, with many accessing the internet on multiple devices and platforms whilst unsupervised. Primary school pupils are accessing on average five social media sites each, this increased to seven sites for secondary school pupils. YouTube, Instagram and Snap Chat being amongst the most popular sites. 26% of primary pupils have indicated they play games rated 16 or 18, just over a third of pupils do not know their online friends in person and 6% have shared an inappropriate photo or message. A third of primary pupils reported they have seen something upsetting or offensive online, this increases to 49% of secondary pupils.

Most of this age group reported negative attitudes towards smoking, alcohol consumption and taking illegal drugs. Half of primary pupils and a quarter of secondary pupils have never tried an alcoholic drink. Pupils indicated they were more likely to try a vape than a cigarette, and most only tried it once.

98% of pupils agreed that relationships should be based on respect and affection and the majority could identify unacceptable behaviours in relationships. It has been established that 7 in 10 pupils aged 13 to 16 knew where to access sexual health advice, support and treatment.

Most young people have positive emotional attitudes, stating they feel happy in their lives and have strong social networks with family and friends. Just over three quarters of primary aged pupils feel stress, this increases to 82.5% of secondary pupils, with body image a cause of stress for 4 in 10 secondary pupils. Homework is the most common reason for school-based stress, with siblings and bullying the most common forms of outside-school stress.

The full findings of the results can be accessed via [Darlington Borough Council's website](#)

## Darlington Youth Offending Service (YOS)

Darlington Youth Offending Service (YOS) is a multi-agency service tasked with working with young people to prevent offending and reoffending, whilst safeguarding them from future harm. Some of the young people involved in YOS are the most vulnerable children in society and are at greatest risk of social exclusion. Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 highlights the need for Youth Offending Services to work jointly with other agencies and professionals to ensure that young people are protected from harm and to support them to achieve more.

During 2017-18 the YOS has seen a number of significant achievements, including a reduction in first time entrants to the Youth Justice System which has fallen by 40% and 29% when compared to 2015/16 and 2016/17 respectively, and the implementation of new intervention, diversion and preventative programmes. A health and wellbeing support service, including a child psychology service has been introduced in 2017/18. All practitioners have received specialist training in recognising and responding to young people displaying sexually harmful behaviour and dealing with conflict.

For further information on the achievements of the Darlington Youth Offending Service see Darlington Youth Justice Plan 2018/19.

Darlington YOS continues to be one of the most successful services in the country, evidenced by the outstanding diversion programmes in partnership with the local authority Anti-Social Behaviour Team and a continued reduction in young people entering the criminal justice system. Working in collaboration with partners continues to be a key strength of the YOS in providing high quality victim contact and Restorative Justice (RJ) services.

## Operation Encompass

Operation Encompass was launched in Darlington in January 2017 to address shortcomings in the early sharing of information with schools, to enable them to provide proactive support to children and young people who are affected by domestic abuse within the family home. Notifications are now being forwarded to all schools in Darlington in relation to any medium and high-risk domestic abuse incidents attended by the Police.

During the period April 2018 to March 2019, there were 267 incidents which involved 456 children that were notified to schools (the number includes children involved in repeat incidents).

Board can be assured that any medium and high-risk incident involving domestic abuse reported to Durham Constabulary will involve specialist staff who will identify the school the child attends, to make contact to communicate relevant and necessary information to enable the school to support the child/young person appropriately.



## Operation MAKESAFE

Operation Makesafe is an approach to raise awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation amongst key stakeholders within the local area. This has included providing 'train the trainer' session with local bus companies (Go North East and Arriva), to enable them to deliver to all their staff not only in the Darlington area but throughout the country, which will reach more than 3,000 staff. Taxi drivers have been trained as part of existing licenses and regular sessions for all new applications. Fast food outlets and restaurants have received joint police and company training in CSE. Hotels in the area have received training following concerns and intelligence around CSE in their locations. Further awareness is raised through social media, posters displayed in key public areas and throughout the community via local radio interviews.

## Operation VISTA

The learning from Operation Vista was presented to Board in October 2018.

Operation Vista was launched by Durham Constabulary in July 2017, in response to non-recent allegations concerning Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) involving potential victims in Darlington. The learning highlighted that whilst a lot of information was held on both victims and perpetrators, the links were not made and that all agencies missed opportunities for intelligence sharing. As a result, information and intelligence sharing were added to the Secondary Behaviour and Attendance Panel (SBAP) agenda and a dedicated CSE link was created by Durham Constabulary. All schools now have the ERASE intelligence form and staff in GP practices have received training in respect of the ERASE forms. The Notifiable Incident Process has been reviewed and ERASE forms have been reissued to all agencies.



## Operation HELIUM

In 2018/19 Durham Constabulary initiated Operation Helium in response to concerns about 'County Lines' and criminal exploitation in Darlington. County Lines refers to urban based criminal gangs supplying illicit drugs to smaller towns or rural areas, usually involving the exploitation of children and vulnerable adults. In this case, two males from Birmingham were identified as bringing small amounts of drugs into Darlington on a regular basis. Working with British Transport Police and other local safeguarding partners, it was established that they were using the home address of a local drug user and widely advertising the sale of drugs using text messages. In March 2019 a police operation was launched, culminating in the arrest of the two males and over 20 more drug users and suppliers in the local area. A closure notice order was used in relation to premises from which they were dealing drugs and a telephone communication order was granted by a Judge to terminate the telephone lines used.

 DARLINGTON  
Safeguarding Children Board

 Durham  
Safeguarding Children Board

The Child Death Review Process for  
County Durham and Darlington  
Annual Report  
2017/18



## Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

CDOP is a joint Panel with County Durham Safeguarding Children Board and Darlington Safeguarding Children Board and is a sub-committee of both Boards. CDOP is responsible for reviewing the available information on all child deaths and is accountable to the Independent Chair. During 2017/2018 there were a total of seven child deaths, the number remained the same as previous year's data. Due to the low numbers reported, it is not possible to go into specific details to avoid any of the data being identifiable.

# Professional Challenge and Impact of the Boards' work

Since September 2016 the Board has used a high level strategic challenge log to manage challenges posed to agencies through the Independent Chair and the Board network. In the year 2018/19 challenges have included:

- Seeking clarification from Local Authority on the process relating to managed moves between schools and how this is monitored and evaluated
- Seeking clarity from the Health and Wellbeing Board regards concerns that the minutes did not illustrate the involvement of the Independent Chairs of the Safeguarding Boards and did not provide evidence of their contribution at the meeting
- Seeking clarity from NHS England on the findings from Durham and Darlington CDOP thematic review regards maternity services and how there has been little evidence of a change as an outcome of the review
- Further challenge regards the safeguarding arrangements for children and young people living in Gypsy, Roma and Travelling communities.

## .....and what do we plan to do next?

In July 2019 the DSCB will cease to exist. The new safeguarding arrangements, as required by the implementation of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, will be implemented in Darlington, introducing the new Darlington Safeguarding Partnership (Protecting Children and Adults). Within the new arrangements the Statutory Safeguarding Partners, which are the Local Authority, Durham Constabulary and the Clinical Commissioning Group, have joint and equal responsibility for ensuring the effectiveness of safeguarding in Darlington.

Under the new arrangements the Statutory Safeguarding Partners have decided to amalgamate Child and Adult Safeguarding arrangements in Darlington. It has been possible to do this as the Care Act 2014 allows local areas to be flexible in their adult safeguarding arrangements. A joined-up approach will allow the best use of resources and will enable the partnership to deliver consistent standards.

The new partnership arrangements will ensure that Darlington is a place where children and adults live safely and will seek assurance that services are coordinated and effective.

The Board has introduced a forward plan outlining the governance of the Darlington Safeguarding Partnership and a pragmatic approach to the deployment of its resources and time.

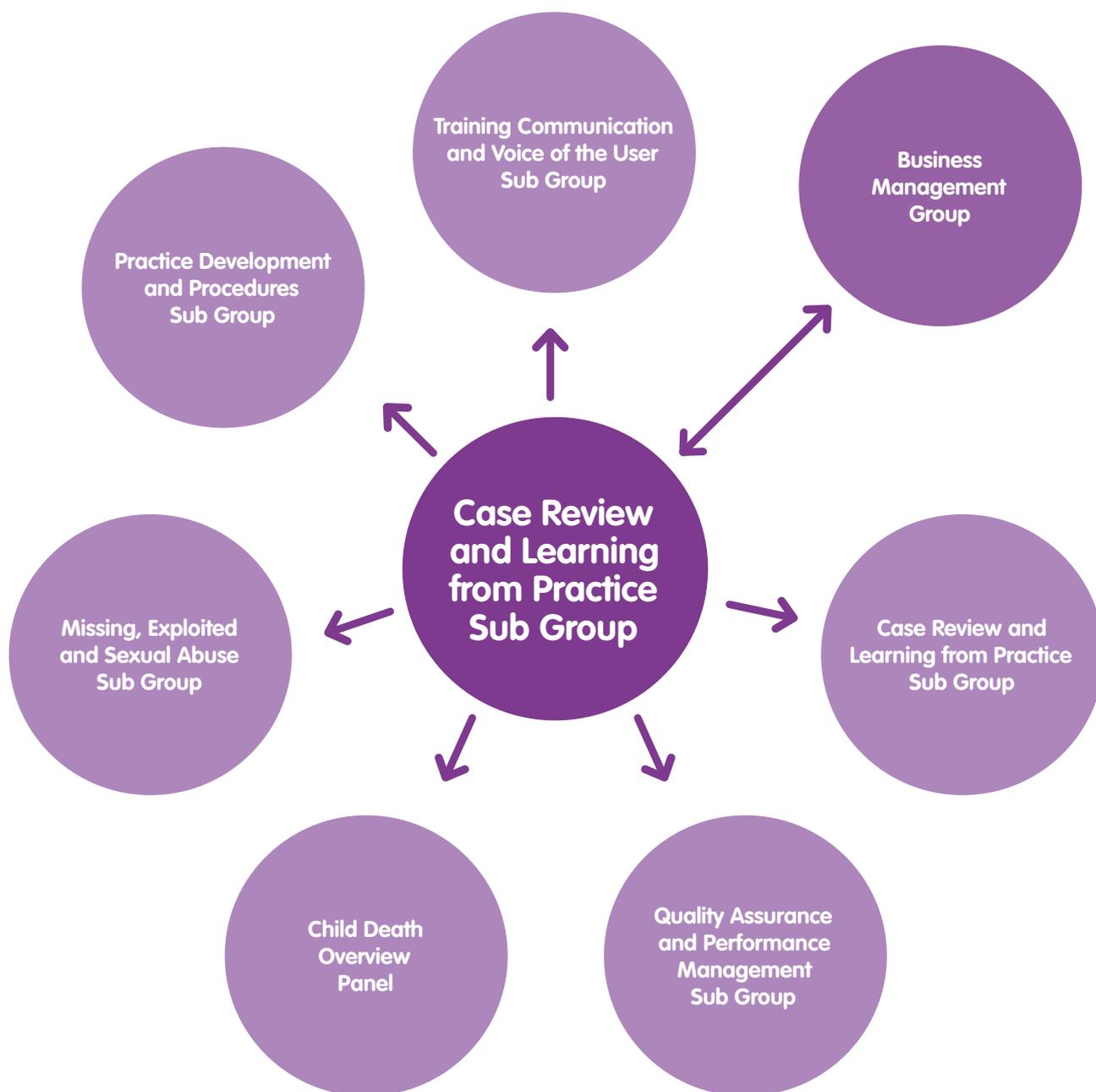
The vision of the DSCB has been to ensure that Darlington is an increasingly safer place for children, young people and families and much has been achieved during the past three years. The Board will ensure that this vision, along with established good practice, is carried forward into the new arrangements, which will strengthen existing partnership working and further develop effective strategies to provide integrated and coordinated services to children, young people, families and adults with needs for care and support in Darlington.



# Appendix 1

## Membership and Structure

The DSCB Constitution sets out the governance arrangements and standards for Board members. The Board is a two tier structure (diagram 1 below) and is supported by the joint Safeguarding Board's Business Unit.



The Board is made up of key strategic leads from across the key partner agencies that work with children, young people and their families in Darlington and have a role in Safeguarding. Board members are of sufficient authority to hold their organisations to account.

There are two Lay Members appointed to the Board. The role of the Lay Member is to help to forge the links between the Board and the local community, support stronger public engagement in children safeguarding issues and improve public understanding of Safeguarding Children. They also play an active part in the oversight and scrutiny of decisions and policies made by the Board to help shape safeguarding policy and practice.

The Board met on five occasions during 2017-18, details are provided in the table below. (The attendance of each Board member is indicated in brackets within the table)

Current Membership	Representative
<b>Safeguarding Boards'</b>	Independent Chair (4)
	Lay Member (4)
<b>Darlington Borough Council</b>	Director of Children and Adults Services (4)
	Assistant Director for Children's Services (4)
	Assistant Director Commissioning, Performance and Transformation (3)
	Head of First Contact and Locality Services (4)
	Lead Member Children and Young People (4)
	Chief Executive (1)
	Principal Lawyer (4)
	Public Health Director (5)
<b>CAFCASS</b>	Service Manager (2)
<b>Education (Further Education) - Darlington College</b>	Deputy Principal (4)
<b>Education (Further Education)- Darlington College</b>	Student Liaison Manager (4)
<b>Education (Independent) - Priory Education</b>	Head Teacher (0)
<b>Education - (Academy) Longfield</b>	Senior Assistant Head teacher (2)*
<b>Education - (Academy) BR and H Academy</b>	Head teacher (2)*
<b>Education - (Academy) Hummersknott</b>	Vice Principal (0)**
<b>Education (non-maintained special School)- Education Village</b>	Principal Beaumont Hill Academy (1)
<b>Lingfield Education Trust</b>	Chief Executive (1)**
<b>Durham Constabulary</b>	Detective Superintendent (5)
<b>Durham and Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)</b>	Director of Nursing and Quality (5)
	Designated Nurse (3)
	Designated Doctor (2)
<b>County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (CDDFT)</b>	Associate Director of Nursing for Patient Experience and Safeguarding (5)
<b>Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust (HDFT)</b>	Head of Safeguarding Children (5)
<b>Community Rehabilitation Company</b>	Director of Operations (3)
<b>National Probation Service</b>	Head of Durham NPS (3)
<b>Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV)</b>	Associate Director of Nursing (4)
<b>NHS England</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>North East Ambulance Service</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>British Transport Police</b>	Memorandum of Understanding

Six sub-groups and a business group report to the Board. Their purpose is to deliver on the key responsibilities and priority areas agreed by the Board. Each sub-group has developed detailed work plans that are SMART and provide highlight reports to Board on the progress against their work plans, including any risks and issues identified. In addition, the sub-groups may initiate time-limited task and finish groups on specific pieces of work, to enable the Board to successfully meet its strategic objectives.

The focus of each of the sub groups are as follows:

**Quality Assurance and Performance Management Sub Group:**

developing a clear understanding of the Safeguarding 'profile' of Darlington and how the respective agencies are performing to meet those needs. This group is responsible for reviewing data, trends, key performance indicators and the results of audits that have been carried out. The group will quality assure practice through analysis of single agency and joint agency audit of case files and will identify good practice, as well as areas where improvement is required.

**Case Review and Learning from Practice Sub Group:** consider cases identified for a statutory or a discretionary Serious Case Review (SCR), manage and oversee process, consider the learning from audits, multi-agency reviews, single agency reviews and national reviews to influence and inform multi-agency practice in Darlington.

**Practice Development and Procedure Sub Group:** responsibility for the continued review of national legislation and government guidelines/recommendations and ensure that these are embedded in Darlington's policies, procedures and practice guidance, to support practitioners working with children.

**Missing, Exploited and Sexual Abuse Sub Group and Missing and Exploited Operational Group:** oversight of missing children, child sexual exploitation (CSE) and sexual abuse in Darlington to meet the needs of children and young people who go missing from home, care and education and those at risk of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. The operational group discusses cases where identified children and young people may be at risk of CSE or missing episodes and recommend actions where necessary.

**Training, Communication and Voice of the User sub-group (joint group with Darlington Safeguarding Adult Partnership Board):** develop training and development opportunities for the local workforce with the aim of developing practitioner skills and knowledge in order to achieve better outcomes for children.

**Child Death Overview Panel (Joint with Durham LSCB):** undertaking a comprehensive and multi-disciplinary review of child deaths in order to better understand how and why children in County Durham and Darlington die and use the findings to take action to prevent other deaths.

**Business group:** with a focus of being the interface between the DSCB and the sub-groups and supports the strategic work of the Board and has a key role in terms of quality assurance and quality control and will discuss routine business such as budgets and risk registers. The achievements of the sub groups in 2017-18 are set out in - **Appendix 2**

## Appendix 2

### DSCB sub-group achievements 2018-19 Case Review and Learning from Practice sub-group

- Learning and Improvement Framework and Serious Child Safeguarding Incident process revised to reflect Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 and learning from each case review being applied to the next one
- Learning Research Digest developed
- Learning from local and national reviews incorporated into practice guidance
- Exception report developed to capture and monitor learning actions from reviews
- Escalation policy developed for SCRs/LLRs to support the exception report
- Review Child C completed
- Learning Lessons Review Child D
- Review Child F commenced
- Review Child G commenced
- Review Child E finalised
- Learning Document Child B developed
- Professional Challenge protocol is now included in all learning briefings
- Learning from Operation Vista reviewed

### Missing, Exploited and Sexual Abuse sub-group

- Young People's Conference 2018
- Joint Group with Durham established in November 2018
- County Lines presentation raising awareness of the local perspective after a County Lines investigation was completed in Durham
- Operation Makesafe – including training taxi drivers in respect of CSE as part of licences, posters distributed, hotel staff trained, school governors in Darlington trained in respect of CSE
- Annual Children's Homes Conference held
- Scrutiny of return home interviews for children accommodated by out of area local authorities
- Philomena Protocol launched- aimed to protect children who go missing from care homes by promoting a joint investigation



## Practice Development and Procedures sub-group

- Darlington Neglect Strategy and Multi-Agency Practice Guidance document was approved and an action plan developed
- Comprehensive revision of the multi-agency child protection procedures and practice guidance documents, to reflect changes in legislation and to incorporate learning from local and national reviews
- Safeguarding the Unborn procedures approved
- Modern Slavery Practice Guidance and a 'brief guide' leaflet (joint with DSAPB) approved
- Domestic Abuse (Safeguarding) Practice Guidance (joint with DSAPB) including CAPVA and referral flowcharts approved
- Bruising in non-mobile babies' protocol revised
- FGM procedures uploaded onto the website
- SUDIC procedures ratified
- Professional Challenge Procedure reviewed and found to be fit for purpose
- Private Fostering Guidance included on the website
- Animal neglect and cruelty - links to national guidance updated on the website
- Policy Schedule revised

## Quality Assurance and Performance Management sub-group

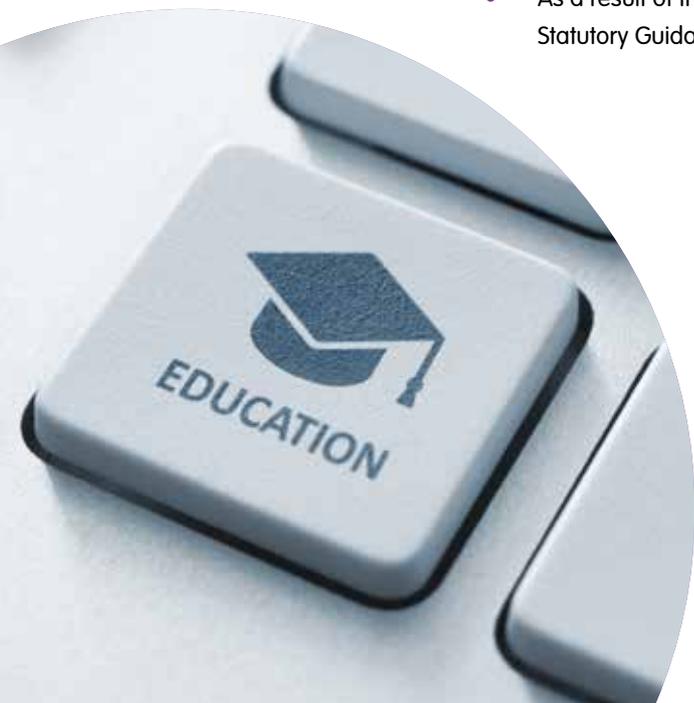
- Revision of the audit programme which has been aligned to JTAI themes to support partners in preparing for inspection
- Audit process identified including standard Terms of Reference
- Compilation of a thematic report on findings from single agency and multi-agency audits
- Group members continue to observe Child Protection Conferences to identify areas of good practice or challenge and identify where corrective action is required
- Multi-agency audit on neglect completed and an action plan developed to monitor learning
- Review and monitoring of multi-agency performance data including domestic abuse data via the DASVEG to establish the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements and outcomes for children

## Training, Communication and Voice of the User sub-group (joint with DSAPB)

- During this reporting period, the sub-group reviewed its Terms of Reference and became a bespoke training sub-group. It was agreed that the communications, engagement and 'voice of the user' element would sit within each individual sub-group
- Approval by both Boards following an option paper on training delivery models to continue to provide face to face safeguarding training
- The provision of e-learning modules to complement the multi-agency face to face training programme, such as PREVENT training which is available on the website.
- Training Charging Policy revised and approved
- Annual Training Needs Analysis 2018/19 undertaken
- The Young People's Conference 2018
- Mental Capacity Act training e-wlearning module developed to provide an understanding of the Mental Capacity Act in respect of 16-17 year olds
  - Varied multi-agency programme of face to face courses delivered including:
  - Core courses for Safeguarding Adults and Children at Levels 1 and 2 which are in line with the Care Act 2014 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018
  - Level 3 specialist courses to reflect national and local priorities
  - Newly introduced programme of training to implement the Neglect Graded Care Profile Support Tool

## Child Death Overview Panel

- During 2018/2019 there were a total of 4 child deaths
- A safeguarding referral was raised in respect of one child death
- As a result of the new safeguarding arrangements and new Child Death Review Statutory Guidance, a review of the CDOP Terms of Reference was undertaken



## Appendix 3

2017/2018 Revenue		2017/2018 Expenditure	
Darlington Borough Council	<b>£92,384</b>	Salaries Inc. on costs	<b>£116,105</b>
Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group	<b>£20,805</b>	Officer Mileage and Travel	<b>£556</b>
Durham Constabulary	<b>£15,473</b>	Employee Insurance	<b>£1,038</b>
Schools Forum	<b>£10,000</b>	Hospitality and Room Hire	<b>£3,860</b>
Darlington College	<b>£2,525</b>	Membership and Subscription	<b>£35</b>
County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust	<b>£2,525</b>	Professional Fees	<b>£18,882</b>
Darlington Youth Offending Service	<b>£2,500</b>	Stationery	<b>£121</b>
Queen Elizabeth 6th Form College	<b>£1,515</b>	Printing Charges	<b>£1,169</b>
Community Rehabilitation Company	<b>£1,000</b>	Consultancy Fees	<b>£16,887</b>
National Probation Service	<b>£770</b>	Mobile phone costs	<b>£673</b>
CAFCASS	<b>£550</b>	Employee Training	<b>£150</b>
Course and Training Fees	<b>£7,730</b>	Misc	<b>£8</b>
Refund	<b>£1,500</b>	-	-
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>£159,277</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£ 159,484</b>

# Appendix 4

## Glossary of Terms

<b>DBC</b>	Darlington Borough Council
<b>DfE</b>	Department for Education
<b>DO</b>	Designated Officer
<b>CAC</b>	Child Advocacy Centre
<b>CAFCASS</b>	Children and Family Court and Advisory and Support Service CAMHS Child Adolescent Mental Health Service
<b>CAP</b>	Children's Access Point
<b>CCG</b>	Clinical Commissioning Group
<b>CDDFT</b>	County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust
<b>CDOP</b>	Child Death Overview Panel
<b>CME</b>	Children Missing from Education
<b>CSP</b>	Community Safety Partnership
<b>CSE</b>	Child Sexual Exploitation
<b>CYPP</b>	Children and Young People's Plan
<b>CQC</b>	Care Quality Commission
<b>DASAN</b>	Domestic Abuse and Sexual Abuse Network
<b>DASVEG</b>	Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Group
<b>DfE</b>	Department for Education
<b>DSAPB</b>	Safeguarding Adult's Partnership Board
<b>DSCB</b>	Darlington Safeguarding Children Board
<b>EHE</b>	Elective Home Education
<b>ERASE</b>	Educate and Raise Awareness of Sexual Exploitation
<b>FGM</b>	Female Genital Mutilation
<b>HMIC</b>	Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies
<b>HR</b>	Human Resources
<b>HWB</b>	Health and Wellbeing Board
<b>IHA</b>	Initial Health Assessment
<b>IRO</b>	Independent Reviewing Officer
<b>JSNA</b>	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
<b>JTAI</b>	Joint Thematic Area Inspection
<b>KPQ</b>	Key Performance Questions
<b>LA</b>	Local Authority
<b>LAC</b>	Looked After Child
<b>LADO</b>	Local Authority Designated Officer
<b>LGA</b>	Local Government Association
<b>LLR</b>	Learning Lessons Review
<b>LSCB</b>	Local Safeguarding Children Board
<b>MASH</b>	Multi-agency safeguarding hub
<b>MEG</b>	Missing and Exploited Group
<b>MESA</b>	Missing, Exploited and Sexual Abuse
<b>NECA</b>	North East Council for Alcoholism
<b>NHS</b>	National Health Service
<b>NHSE</b>	National Health Service England
<b>NICE</b>	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
<b>NWG</b>	National Working Group
<b>NPS</b>	National Probation Service
<b>Ofsted</b>	Office for Standards in Education
<b>PCVC</b>	Police Crime and Victim Commissioner
<b>PMQA</b>	Performance Management and Quality Assurance
<b>QA</b>	Quality Assurance
<b>SCR</b>	Serious Case Review
<b>SILP</b>	Significant Incident Learning Process
<b>SMART</b>	Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-bound
<b>TEWV</b>	Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust



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E-mail: [safeguardingboards@darlington.co.uk](mailto:safeguardingboards@darlington.co.uk)

Or send to:

Darlington Safeguarding Children Board  
Room 101, Town Hall,  
Darlington,  
DL1 5QT.

We have incorporated hyperlinks where possible to take you to additional information and/or further details, if you are not able to access this then please contact us to arrange for the information to be made available.

We would welcome feedback and this can be made to either the DSCB Independent Chair or by contacting the Board's Business Unit on 01325 406450, address and e-mail as above. If you require this report in an alternative format, please contact the Board's Business unit on contacts above.

This report is formally sent to:

- The Chief Executive of the Local Authority
- The Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board
- The Police and Crime Commissioner Durham
- The Chief Executives of all organisations who sit on the Board
- Board member are required to promote and share the report within their own organisations

The report is published on the DSCB website.



**The Safeguarding Boards'** Business Unit staff  
are based at Town Hall, Feethams, Darlington, DL1 5QT

**Amanda Hugill** - Business Manager

**Chris Ashford** - Multi Agency Trainer

**Marian Garland** - Development Officer

**Carol Glasper** - LADO (01325 406459)

**Hannah Fay** - Business Support Officer

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