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Spring Newsletter

Welcome to our Spring 2022 Newsletter

Welcome to the latest edition of the Darlington Safeguarding Partnership’s Newsletter.

In this newsletter, we bring together information which we hope you will find useful and highlights how the Partnership continues to communicate and keep in touch with all our agencies, and provide guidance to support you in your role working with children and adults.

In this edition we say goodbye to one of our Statutory Partners, Detective Chief Superintendent Adrian Green, who has moved roles within Durham Constabulary. Adrian played a significant role in the establishment of the new Safeguarding Partnership and we wish him well in his new role. We welcome Detective Chief Superintendent Dave Ashton as the new Statutory Partner for Durham

Constabulary, Dave is already very familiar with Darlington as many of you may already know.



Ann Baxter, Independent Chair/Scrutineer

James Stroyan, Group Director of People

Dave Ashton, Detective Chief Superintendent

Jean Golightly, Director of Nursing and Quality

This newsletter and previous versions are available on the [DSP website](#).



Violence against Women and Girls



Darlington has secured funding through the Governments Safer Streets Fund to support a number of projects to help women and girls feel safe on Darlington's streets. The funding will be used to increase the safety of public spaces and raise awareness within schools and community groups. Crimes which take place in public places such as sexual harassment disproportionately affect women.

Durham Constabulary undertook a survey with residents of Darlington to find out how safe women and girls feel and identify improvements they wanted to see. Almost 1,300 people responded to the survey, which found that women felt significantly less safe on an evening when out and about in their neighbourhood or town centre. The findings have informed a range of initiatives led by police and the council to help make the town a safer place for everyone.

Education projects include:

- Engagement with local students
- input into Secondary schools directly through lesson structures
- work with other services such as through Young People's Engagement and Justice Service and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme to raise awareness
- commission a Theatre Company to deliver awareness
- commission A level students to develop art work which will be used for posters and on bus advertisements with the development of an art gallery of all finished work
- offer of police officers to join sessions in schools.

Projects to increase Safety of Public Spaces and support the night-time economy include:

- provision of training to door staff in licensed premises to spot vulnerability and potential predatory behaviour and how to take action to prevent it
- introduction of a dedicated police patrol car in the Town Centre on Friday and Saturday nights to respond quickly to concerns
- provision of taxi marshalls and increased CCTV in Town Centre
- implement a Safe Space Hub in the Town Centre
- improvements to street lighting to improve lighting on strategic routes
- provision of e-bikes so police and council wardens can carry out more frequent, high visibility patrols in hard-to-reach places
- delivery of safety and empowerment sessions to community groups
- an improved radio network for the town's Pub Watch members
- increased and broader consultation with the community
- provision of LED armbands for running clubs



Violence against Women and Girls

Home Secretary says 'Enough' to violence against women and girls

The Home Secretary has launched an ambitious new, multi-year national communications campaign which says 'Enough' to violence against women and girls. The campaign includes television adverts, billboards, social media and radio advertising and will highlight different forms of violence against women and girls and the simple acts that anyone can take to challenge perpetrators of abuse. Forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG) represented include street harassment, coercive control, unwanted touching, workplace harassment, revenge-porn and cyber-flashing.

Alongside advertising, a new website provides more information on the steps people can take to safely challenge violence against women and girls, guidance for victims of these crimes and advice for perpetrators who recognise their behaviour needs to change. [Visit Enough Campaign Website](#) and [YouTube Video](#)

The Home Office has also published a [National Statement of Expectations on Violence against Women and Girls](#) which provides guidance on commissioning services to support victims and survivors of violence against women and girls.

Child and Adult Themes

Modern Slavery

The Home Office has published a statistical bulletin providing a summary and breakdown of the number of potential victims of modern slavery referred into the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) or via the Duty to Notify (DtN) process in 2021. Figures show: 12,727 potential victims of modern slavery were referred in 2021 – Read the bulletin: [Modern Slavery National Referral Mechanism and Duty to Notify](#)

Domestic Abuse

The Home Office has produced a policy paper outlining its plan to prevent domestic abuse in England and Wales. The paper sets out a number of aims, including: prioritising prevention, supporting victims and pursuing perpetrators. Strategies that will be used to achieve these aims and safeguard child victims of domestic abuse, include: ensuring that children know about healthy relationships through the relationships, sex and health education (RSHE) curriculum; developing interventional measures to target risk factors associated with abuse; and ensuring that child victims have access to support to help them to manage the impact of abuse on their relationships and wellbeing.

Policy Paper: [Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan](#)



The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has released revised guidance in relation to people who have experienced domestic abuse in England and Wales. The guidance has been updated to reflect changes brought in by the Domestic Abuse Act (2021) which states that children who witness domestic abuse are recognised as victims of domestic abuse. The CPS has opened a consultation requesting feedback on the content of their guidance. **The consultation will be open from 04 April 2022 - 26 June 2022.**

Take part in the consultation: [Consultation on Domestic Abuse legal guidance](#)

Sanctuary Scheme

The sanctuary scheme has been introduced and aims to support victims/survivors of domestic abuse and their children to remain in their own homes where it is safe to do so by installing safety equipment into the home. The scheme is available to anyone in Darlington at risk of domestic abuse by a perpetrator that does not reside within the home. For further details see information on the [Darlington Borough Council website](#).

Children's Themes

Government launches new campaign and website to help parents and carers spot the signs of sexual abuse and keep children safe.

The UK Government has launched a new campaign to help parents and carers spot the signs of sexual abuse and help keep children safe entitled [Stopabusetogether](#). The new campaign is to help parents, those who work with children and children themselves identify instances of abuse and find the support they need, as cases of online abuse surge during a time of increased internet usage.

Child Sexual Exploitation – IICSA

The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) has published a report looking at child sexual exploitation in organised networks. Findings from an investigation into six areas in England and Wales include: looked after children were sometimes placed in inappropriate or out-of-area settings, escalating their risk of harm; going missing from home or school was part of the lives of most of the children who were exploited; and police forces often lacked key information about the local situation.

View the report – [IICSA Child Sexual Exploitation by Organised Networks](#) (Feb 2022)



Online Safety Bill

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport has announced that the Online Safety Bill has been introduced in Parliament, the first step in its passage to become law in the UK. The Bill will include the new offence of cyberflashing and introduce a legal requirement for UK companies to report child sexual abuse content on their platforms to the National Crime Agency. Read the Bill and follow its progress: [Online Safety Bill](#)

Online Sexual Abuse

The [Internet Watch Foundation](#) (IWF), has published an article summarising findings from the reports it received in 2021 of suspected online child abuse images. IWF found that there has been a staggering 'three-fold' increase in online child sexual abuse over the past two years and more child sexual abuse material online than ever before. The number of self-generated sexual images of children aged 7-10 years increased from 8,000 in 2020 to 27,000 in 2021.

YouTube Podcast – Understanding denial in children displaying harmful sexual behaviour

NSPCC Learning has released a podcast focussing on shame and denial when working with children and young people who have displayed harmful sexual behaviour (HSB). The podcast discusses: what denial looks like and the ways it can present itself. Listen to the podcast on YouTube: [Understanding denial in children displaying harmful sexual behaviour](#)

Childline mental health campaign

The NSPCC has launched a new Childline campaign 'We All Feel It', which supports young people, particularly males, struggling to reach out for mental health support. The campaign encourages young people to access Childline resources online to find new ways to cope with thoughts and feelings, and to contact Childline to talk about what they're going through. Visit the Childline website – [We all feel it](#)



“ We hope you find there are some useful information and resources for keeping children, young people and adults with needs for care and support safe.”

Children's Themes

Safeguarding in Schools

The Department for Education (DfE) has published a white paper setting out new measures and standards to help children reach their full potential in schools in England. Further information: [Schools White Paper](#)

Keeping Children Safe In Education

The Department for Education (DfE) is making changes to Keeping children safe in education, its statutory guidance for schools and colleges in England. The DfE has consulted with practitioners to obtain their views on the proposed revisions which closed earlier this month. The updated guidance is due to be published in September 2022. Proposed revisions review the [Draft Guidance Document for consultation](#)

SEND review

The Department for Education (DfE) has published a green paper outlining its proposed plans to provide better support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in England. The paper highlights the challenges of the current SEND system.

SEND Review Report: [Right Support, Right Place, Right Time](#)

Home Education

The House of Commons Library has published a research briefing on home education in England. The report outlines the current position on home-schooling and provides an overview of home education statistics, issues, reports and proposals for reform.

To view the Report – [Home education in England](#) [pdf]

Missing School

The Children's Commissioner for England has published an interim report looking at how much local authorities know about children missing education in their area. The report highlights a lack of timely, real-time data on the number of children in each local authority, how many are enrolled in formal education and the number of children educated at home. Children's Commissioners Report – [Where are England's Children?](#)

Mental Health and Wellbeing

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has opened a consultation on mental health and wellbeing in England. This is being conducted to facilitate the development of a ten-year plan on mental health. Views will be gathered on areas such as improving wellbeing in children and young people. The Department is looking to gain various views from those who work with people who may be affected by mental ill-health such as children and young people. **The deadline to complete the survey is 05 July 2022.**

Take part in the consultation:

[Mental Health and wellbeing plan: discussion paper and call for evidence](#)



Adult Themes

Liberty Protection Safeguards: What they are

The Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) will provide protection for people aged 16 and above who are or who need to be deprived of their liberty in order to enable their care or treatment and lack the mental capacity to consent to their arrangements.

People who might have a Liberty Protection Safeguards authorisation include those with dementia, autism and learning disabilities who lack the relevant capacity.

The Liberty Protection Safeguards were introduced in the Mental Capacity (Amendment) Act 2019 and will replace the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) system, introduced in 2009. The Liberty Protection Safeguards will deliver improved outcomes for people who are or who need to be deprived of their liberty. The Liberty Protection Safeguards have been designed to put the rights and wishes of those people at the centre of all decision-making on deprivation of liberty.

Key changes introduced by LPS include:

- Three assessments will form the basis of authorisation of LPS; a capacity assessment; a 'medical assessment' to determine if the person has a mental disorder; and a 'necessary and proportionate' assessment to determine if the arrangements are necessary to prevent harm to the person and proportionate to the likelihood and seriousness of that harm
- Greater involvement for families
- Targeted approach
- Extending the scheme to 16 & 17 year olds
- Extending the scheme to domestic settings
- Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's), NHS trusts and local health boards as responsible bodies



The Liberty Protection Safeguards were planned to come into force in April 2022, however are likely to be delayed, the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) has written to the LPS Steering group to inform them of the delay. [Click here to view the letter.](#)

Further information on the changes are available on the [SCIE website](#) or [GOV.UK website](#).

Revisiting Safeguarding Practice

In January 2022 the Department of Health and Social Care published an independent briefing Revisiting Safeguarding Practice to support increased consistency in a person-centred response. The briefing sets out the important practice principles integral to safeguarding adults. This is to ensure statutory responses are informed by a consistent person centred approach. [Revisiting safeguarding practice—GOV.UK](#)

National Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR's) Library

The National Network for Chairs of Adult Safeguarding Boards have developed a National Library to house all published Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SAR's) from 1 April 2019.

To access the library visit national.network.org.uk

Training

Are you aware of all of the safeguarding training on offer by Darlington Safeguarding Partnership?

The Partnership has a wide range of safeguarding training available, designed to improve your safeguarding knowledge and understanding and ultimately improve your practice in keeping both children and adults safe.

All training offered is set out on the DSP website, which has recently been improved to enable easier access and availability of courses. Sessions are available up until the end of June 2022 and in line with current guidance will continue to be delivered virtually.

Additional sessions added include Loan Shark Awareness Training provided by the Illegal Money Lending Team and Disclosure and Barring Service Workshops delivered by the DBS Regional Outreach Advisor.

In February the Local Authority facilitate a Darlington wide 'Harm away from Home/Contextualised Safeguarding' Conference. The Conference has been developed into short YouTube Chapters. [Click here to view.](#)

A number of video podcasts have been added to share key messages learnt from case reviews. To view all our training on offer, including details of how to book, visit the [DSP website](#).

Book Your Session

If you haven't already done so, why not book yourself onto a Training Session? View the training programme on the [DSP website](#).

Upcoming sessions include:

- Child Exploitation
- Multi-Agency Working to Safeguard Disabled Children
- Loan Shark Awareness
- Disclosure and Barring Service Workshops

To book a session, email;

DSP.Training@darlington.gov.uk with your preferred date and session. You will be sent a confirmation and a Virtual Teams Invite. Course overviews are sent approx. 1 week before the training session.

Partnership Working Behind the Scenes

The sub groups continue to meet to drive forward the work of the partnership. The MASH Operational Group continues to meet monthly and oversees key themes and trends coming through the children's front door. It has tackled a number of issues through its bi-monthly focus sessions which have included mental health, domestic abuse and Harmful Sexual Behaviour. As a result, the group is finalising new practice guidance on Harmful Sexual Behaviour, developed with an aim to provide professionals with the information necessary to approach and respond to this area of safeguarding confidently and in partnership wherever possible. It's next focus will be on harm outside the family home/exploitation.

The Adult Operational Group has met twice and as it is early days will need time to embed, it currently meets six weekly. It is hoped in time, the group will be able to adopt a similar model to that for children in that key themes and areas of concern being highlighted through referrals will be discussed on a partnership level. The group is split into two parts, the first focussing on safeguarding arrangements across all partner agencies which will hopefully provide a greater understanding of where the group needs to focus and part 2 focussing on monitoring issues and concerns in provider settings.

The two Strategic Groups Learning and Development and Quality Assurance Groups meet quarterly and have oversight of the Operational Groups. The Learning and Development Group is focussing on a number of child and adult reviews referred into the group, whilst they have not met the threshold for either a Child Safeguarding Practice Review or Safeguarding Adult Review, they have identified a number of areas of learning to be explored. Once completed, the learning will be shared via briefing documents. The Quality Assurance and Performance Group met for the first time in April and has identified a number of areas of priority focus.

