

## Darlington Community Safety Partnership Action Plan 2024 to 2026

	Multi Agency Recommendations	Scope: Local, Regional, National.	Action Taken	Lead Agency	Key Milestones achieved in enacting recommendations	Target Date	Date Finalised
1	The Darlington Community Safety Partnership (CSP) reviews the educational programmes being delivered in colleges and secondary schools regarding healthy relationships and domestic abuse. The CSP should be satisfied that the content of such programmes includes being respectful to partners and being able to describe what a healthy relationship looks like. Young people should be empowered to recognise domestic abuse in all its forms. In particular young people should be confident how to seek help or support if they are being abused or if they believe a friend is suffering abuse.	Local	<p>Discussed and agreed at the DCSP on 26.03.2024.</p> <p>Raised as an item for discussion at the CSP Group 3 Serious Violence Meeting held on mtg held 16.04.2024.</p> <p>1. Angela Turnbull (Education Lead) and current 'Virtual Head' for Darlington to be invited to next CSP 3 meeting.</p> <p>Further discussion held during DCSP on 23.04.2024.</p> <p><b><u>Update from CSP 22.10.2024</u></b></p> <p>The meeting acknowledged the efforts of Sub-Group 3 and the Youth Justice Board in striving to understand the current educational offer.</p> <p>Members felt this work extended beyond the DA content which is believed to be part of the PHSE curriculum statutorily delivered in school.</p> <p>Members sought assurance of the point, following further consultation with colleagues from education before remitting the action to them for future management and assessment.</p> <p><b><u>Further Update (LH, Director of Public Health, 24.10.2024)</u></b></p> <p>The DA theme is comprehensively covered within the statutory current RSHE curriculum. <i>(Note: proposed changes to the statutory requirements were brought forward by the previous government; the outcome is unknown whether national guidelines around age related material for violence against women and girls and safeguarding from sexual abuse will be introduced).</i></p>	DCSP Group 3	<p>Members will seek to assess all forms of engagement with schools in an attempt to co-ordinate activity, in order to provide consistent and complimentary engagement opportunities.</p> <p>Agencies will assess particular input around relationships, domestic violence, and reporting options.</p>	January 2025	<b>Closed</b> <b>17.02.2025</b>

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			<p>In terms of the detail of the existing provisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The statutory guidance covers reception to key stage 4, covering positive qualities and attributes in relationships, recognising healthy and unhealthy relationships and how to manage these. In upper KS2 it begins to identify forms of abuse and where to seek help.</li> <li>Consent is a key theme now being delivered more proactively. This will improve and will be ongoing.</li> <li>The Darlington Healthy Lifestyle Survey looks at what young people think a healthy relationship is and what they think is acceptable in a relationship – this data is then used school by school to adapt the curriculum.</li> <li>The OPCC has funded some work with the Alice Higgins Trust, on stalking.</li> </ul>				
<b>2</b>	<p>Durham Police reviews the training delivered to their middle and senior managers in relation to Domestic Homicide Reviews. The training should include an awareness of the Domestic Homicide Review process and in particular those cases where a person has taken their own life, but concerns have been expressed that the deceased may have been subjected to domestic abuse or coercive control prior to their death.</p> <p>Note: The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 included specific reference to the support required to victims of suspected coercion and control</p>	Local	<p>Discussed and agreed at the DCSP on 26.03.2024.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is felt awareness could be increased across Middle and Senior Managers regarding the DHR processes.</li> <li>Durham Police to assess whether further education, training and awareness is required given recent delivery to staff regarding causes, symptoms, and constitution of domestic violence related behavior. The domestic abuse information will make reference to the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and include specifically the support required to victims of suspected coercion and control.</li> </ol> <p>Further discussion held during DCSP on 23.04.2024.</p>	Durham Police (CS Long)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Input given to relevant staff which improves knowledge and awareness of the DHR process.</li> <li>Once assessment is completed a decision is to be taken in terms of where additional awareness is required in the context of managers and staff receiving regular Continued Professional Development events</li> </ol>	<p>March 2025</p> <p>March 2025</p>	<p><b>Closed</b> <b>05.03.2025</b></p>

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			<p><b><u>Update from CSP 22.10.2024</u></b></p> <p>Durham police have reconsidered their position and have decided to further strengthen awareness by building in DHR processes into the ongoing force-wide training of all operational staff under the auspices of 'Domestic abuse matters' training. Following that all Senior managers will receive input.</p> <p>The training is due to conclude in February 2025.</p>		<p>Durham Constabulary have undertaken significant work to ensure the identification and escalation of those deaths which might be linked to domestic abuse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have amended our force policy to ensure a detective sergeant attends all suicides, this provides increased scrutiny by a PIP2 accredited supervisor who has improved awareness of the potential link between domestic abuse and suicide.</li> <li>• The force has adopted the N300 recording of all unexpected deaths with suicide featuring as a specific category within this. Fundamentally this means every death has a clear investigation plan and allows for greater supervisory oversight and scrutiny.</li> <li>• We have mandated a minimum level of research for all suicides by the real time intelligence team meaning a history of domestic abuse should be identified and communicated to officers on first attendance at incidents.</li> <li>• The force intelligence cells are researching all reported deaths with a particular emphasis on those that might involve domestic abuse with reporting into the daily management meetings.</li> <li>• HM Coroner's WPC reporting portal the medium by which all officers report deaths to HM Coroner now features a specific question relating to domestic abuse.</li> <li>• The force's Safeguarding Scrutiny and Improvement Team now have access to all death records and perform dip sampling particularly targeting suicides.</li> </ul>		

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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CPD has been delivered to staff around deaths by the force lead DCI Simon Turner and DI Hannah Wilson including inputs on domestic related deaths.</li> <li>Force communications have gone out enforcing the above messages.</li> <li>Clear processes exist within the Darlington and Durham areas for reporting and escalation of such incidents.</li> </ul>		
3	Local Authority and the Office of Police & Crime Commissioner (as commissioners of services) ensure Harbour Domestic Abuse Service put systems in place which automatically trigger contact to clients who are on a waiting list for group support work. This is to enable continued support and maintain engagement.	Local	<p>CE OPCC Durham made aware of the recommendation and discussion ensued during DCSP on 26.3.2024.</p> <p>Domestic Abuse Service Specification in Darlington being developed for re-commissioning of Harbour. Discussions to take place about the inclusion of this recommendation. Co-commissioning with Darlington BC (lead commissioner) and OPCC (through Partnership Agreement).</p> <p>Further discussion held during DCSP on 23.04.2024.</p>	OPCC	New protocol implemented	July 2024	<b>Closed 22.10.2024</b>
4	SHOUT, Mental Health Charity updates its training programme to give staff confidence in recognising all forms of domestic abuse and in particular, emotional abuse.	National	<p>Discussed and agreed at the DCSP on 26.3.2024.</p> <p>SHOUT briefed regarding findings w/c 1.4.2024.</p> <p>Safeguarding Manager: Sarah McCubbin is progressing this recommendation with organisations external training provider.</p> <p>Further discussion held during DCSP on 23.04.2024.</p>	SHOUT (Sarah McCubbin)	Training commissioned ( <i>and completed</i> )	October 2024	<b>Closed 22.10.2024</b>

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5	<p>The Integrated Care Board will reiterate to primary care providers the importance of ensuring that they have domestic abuse policies in place to support and guide staff in decision making when supporting individuals who have been subjected, or suspected to have been subjected, to domestic abuse.</p> <p>That the issue of domestic abuse is comprehensively covered within the safeguarding policies, including the support required to victims of suspected coercion and control.</p>	Regional	<p>Initial discussion ensued during DCSP on 26.03.2024.</p> <p>Members were unaware of the roles and responsibilities of partners in the context of the oversight and monitoring of their service delivery by the ICB and the Board's ability to respond with sanctions were non-compliance to directions given were evident.</p> <p>Further discussion held during DCSP on 23.04.2024.</p> <p><b><u>Update from CSP 22.10.2024</u></b></p> <p>Work on-going. MS sought assurance of the 'sign-off' process once completed. Members felt providing the internal 'quality assurance' processes were met internally then the CSP would accept the action was completed with meaning and vigour.</p> <p>*Note: Members felt that this action, <b>linked to Action 6</b>, could be considered together in the sense that they both engage the general service conditions of the NHS Commissioned process and after internal sign-off both would be remitted to DASVEG for final assurance.</p> <p><b><u>Update 21.03.2025</u></b></p> <p>The ICB will deliver an engagement session to GPs across Tees valley 03.04.2025; the learning from this DHR will be shared. There will also be a discussion around the importance of including domestic abuse within their safeguarding policy or having a standalone domestic abuse policy that includes coercion and control. The session will be recorded and power point shared for those professionals that are not able to attend, this will be shared directly to practice email addresses and the information uploaded onto GP net.</p>	ICB (Martin Short)	<p>The quality assessment of the domestic abuse policies and/or safeguarding procedures which seek to highlight to staff the impact of domestic violence upon those they support including the perhaps existence of the more nuanced 'coercion and control' as a feature of the perpetrators behaviour.</p> <p>GP engagement session to be delivered on the 03.04.2025</p>	January 2025	Closed 21.03.2025

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			The importance of routine enquiry (relating to action 6) will also be highlighted at this session.				
6	The Community Safety Partnership receives reassurances from health agencies operating in and around Darlington that 'routine enquiry' (still at a pilot stage in many localities) is being considered within those agencies' domestic abuse policies and procedures.	Local	<p>Initial discussion ensued during DCSP on 26.3.2024.</p> <p>Further discussion held during DCSP on 23.4.2024.</p> <p><b><u>Update from CSP 22.10.2024</u></b></p> <p>Members were unsure of the validity of the tactic and were keen to establish learnt lessons from what is considered a national initiative. CI Lee Blakelock is to contact DSAVEG to ascertain current thinking.</p> <p>*Note: Members felt that this action, <b>linked to Action 5</b>, could be considered together in the sense that they both engage the general service conditions of the NHS Commissioned process and after internal sign-off both would be remitted to DASVEG for final assurance.</p>	DCSP Chair	<p>1. To establish an understanding of all agencies within Darlington to offer a health service.</p> <p>2. To gain majority agreement that 'routine enquiry' initiative should be universally adopted by those service deliverers.</p> <p>3. To understand whether that direction, if agreed, should form the basis of advice, guidance, or direction?</p> <p>Notification received suggesting full compliance to the initiative or explanation as to why the standard is unable to be attained.</p> <p><b><u>Update 21.03.2025</u></b></p> <p>NHS standard contract 32.3.9 specifically details compliance with the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and associated guidance. All contracts refer to compliance with safeguarding policies.</p> <p>All GP practices submit an annual eDEC (GP annual electronic self declaration) this includes information around practise procedures and governance.</p>	<p>Jan 2025</p> <p>Jan 2025</p> <p>Jan 2025</p> <p>Jan 2025</p>	<b>Closed 21.03.2025</b>



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7	<p>All services, agencies, and partners in Darlington to commit to reducing the number of lives lost to suicide, through engagement with the local implementation of the cross-government suicide prevention strategy which seeks to achieve a reduction in suicides in England over the next five years.</p> <p><b><u>Strategic Update 21.10.2024:</u></b></p> <p><i>New 3-year aggregated suicide data for the period of 2021 – 2023 was published on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024, which shows:</i></p> <p><i>Small increases in the overall rate of suicide in the North East (13.8 per 100,000 population) and England (10.7 per 100,000 population)</i></p> <p><i>An increase in the suicide rate for Darlington, from 15.9 per 100,000 population in 2020-2022 to 19.6 per 100,000 population in 2021-2023</i></p> <p><b><i>The suicide rate of 19.6 is the highest in the North East and the third highest in England, and represents 56 suicides over the 3 year period</i></b></p> <p><i>The increase in the suicide rate has been driven by an increase in suicides amongst men, with the rate increasing from 21.0 in 2020-2022 to 28.6 per 100,000 population in 2021-2023.</i></p> <p><i>The suicide rate for women increased in 2019 - 2021 and has remained static since then.</i></p>	National	<p>Initial discussion ensued during DCSP on 26.3.2024.</p> <p>Further discussion held during DCSP on 23.4.2024.</p> <p><b><u>Update 21.10.2024:</u></b></p> <p>Public Health have recently employed a member of staff and have recruited to a permanent post, to begin in Feb 2025.</p> <p>Suicide prevention has been identified as a priority for the new health and wellbeing strategy, and we would very much be seeking support of some of the CSP partners with the suicide prevention agenda.</p> <p><b><u>Update 22.10.2024:</u></b></p> <p>Following on from the above, a Suicide Prevention Policy is to be adopted including elements such as self-harming in young people.</p> <p>A review of the 56 cases mentioned earlier will be conducted aimed at recognising pre-cursors, symptoms and signs.</p> <p>We would look to identify through the analysis the context of suicide in young people.</p>	DBC Public Health	<p>A presentation to the DCSP by Public Health which sets out current performance against regional and national statistics.</p> <p>Partners to seek an understanding of appropriate actions, best practice which would enable singular and joint pieces of work designed to reduce suicide across the Borough.</p> <p>Implementation of those agreed strategies with reference to the local, regional, and national figures published</p>	<p>Mar 2025</p> <p>Mar 2025</p> <p>Mar 2025</p>	Closed 21.03.25

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8	The Community Safety Partnership should encourage all relevant organisations to widen their use of alternative communication methods, in particular those that are most frequently used by young adults. This review has highlighted the preferred mediums for communication for young people are via a variety of social media and other platforms. Agencies should consider adapting ways of engaging to encompass modern means of communication (subject to statutory requirements) as traditional telephone calls and letters may not always be the most appropriate method.	Local	Initial discussion ensued during DCSP on 26.03.2024.  Further discussion held during DCSP on 23.04.2024.  Letter sent to DCSP members (July 2025).	Chair DCSP	Chair of DCSP to write to all partnership agencies, using the DHR as a point of learning, to emphasise the importance of organisational communication strategies and operating protocols to reflect preferred modern working practices across inter-generational groups.	Oct 2024	<b>Closed 22.07.2025</b>
9	The Community Safety Partnership encourages local organisations to consider implementing the 'Ask Me' scheme. This is an initiative to develop an appreciation of domestic abuse in all its forms, within the wider community and helps survivors of domestic abuse, or their friendship network, to access help.	Local	Initial discussion ensued during DCSP on 26.03.2024.  Further discussion held during DCSP on 23.04.2024.  <b><u>Update 22.10.2024:</u></b>  On completion of this action plan, the document will be submitted to DASVEG for expert sign-off. CSP members felt the adoption of a scheme of this nature would be better decided upon by experts in that field.	Chair DCSP	DASVEG (Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence Executive Group) to scrutinise process and brief DCSP on findings with recommendations on future response/implementation.  Presentation made to DASVEG of the report, findings and recommendations on 13 August 2024.  Presentation made to DASVEG on 29 <sup>th</sup> July 2025 where the "ASK ME" scheme was discussed. Across Darlington training on the "MOVING FORWARD PROJECT" has been delivered which is similar.  DASVEG are to explore the "ASK ME" scheme and consider implementation and will update the CSP of their decision.	March 2025	<b>Closed 29.07.2025</b>