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Welcome to our December 2025 Newsletter

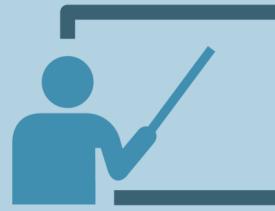
In this newsletter, we bring together information which we hope you will find useful and we highlight how the Partnership continues to communicate and keep in touch with all our agencies and provide guidance to support you in your role working with children and adults. In this edition, we bring you information in the spotlight about the DSP training offer, updates and also information about Partnership work, important safeguarding updates and new training dates.

Me Learning

Don't forget to log in to your Me Learning account and see our new e-learning courses



In the Spotlight: DSP Training Offer Information



The training offer provided by Darlington Safeguarding Partnership has a wide range of courses and modules covering different aspects of safeguarding for both children and adult practitioners. We offer online sessions on Teams delivered by our training officer and also a range of e-learning digital courses. All of our courses are certified and free for professionals and volunteers across Darlington. We encourage participation from all practitioners across all courses and all of our courses are appropriate for both children and adult colleagues as the key learning is relevant to all. You can find all of our courses and information about what they cover on your Me learning account under the 'browse courses' section. Here is some information about a couple of our newest e-learning courses.

Sexual Abuse and Recognised Grooming

This course is divided into two sections, what sexual abuse is and then recognising grooming. It covers how to spot the signs of sexual abuse occurring and what the impact is for children. Grooming can be difficult to identify and this course covers ways of spotting signs and what different types of grooming may look like.

Child Exploitation Levels 1 and 2

This course explores what child criminal and sexual exploitation is and the different ways in which it can occur. It looks at grooming and ways to identify signs of exploitation for colleagues in a range of agencies. It also explores the role of social media and technology in exploitation and what the impact is.

Adult Self-Neglect

Recognising self-neglect can be complex and difficult so this course aims to equip colleagues with the necessary knowledge and skills to identify signs and symptoms of self-neglect. It covers how to use different tools to assess and address this issue and ways of supporting adults.

Mental Capacity Act

This course is divided into four modules as it covers such a lot of information and learning. It covers the core principles of the MCA, how to assess capacity and make decisions in the best interest of others, legislation around this issue and what deprivation of liberty is and how it works. This course is relevant for both adult and children's safeguarding colleagues to gain understanding of how this supports adults.

#LookCloser Programme of Learning

The
Children's
Society

January 2026- March 2026

We're delighted to invite you to join us for our latest #LookCloser programme of learning. These sessions draw from The Children's Society's expertise working around child exploitation and abuse and the rich insights gained from consulting with strategic partners and young people across England and Wales.

All sessions are free of charge and delivered on Microsoft Teams Live which means:

- Interaction with the presenters and participants will be limited
- There will however, be a Q&A function
- We will use tools such as Menti to provide opportunities for engagement and discussion.

The timetable below has links to each learning event on EventBrite, where you can book on to as few or as many events as you please. All of our sessions have been designed for various professional audiences, so please share these events with anyone you think would benefit from attending.

If you have any questions about our learning events, please contact prevention@childrenssociety.org.uk

Date	Time	Session
Tuesday 13 January	10:00 - 12:00	Financial Exploitation
Tuesday 10 February	10:00 - 12:00	Digital Lives of Children and Young People
Thursday 5 March	13:00 - 15:00	Overcoming Gender Assumptions

Learning Session Information: These sessions are aimed at upskilling professionals in the topic area and identifying points of reflection for individuals' own practice and to take back to their wider teams and networks. The audience is expected to be varied and therefore the session has been written to engage professionals at different levels of knowledge and seniority and across a range of setting and sectors.

You may want to read some of our [resources](#) prior to attending our sessions in order to get the most out of these, but this is not a requirement.

Child Death Data Release 2025



The National Child Mortality Database (NCMD) was launched on 1 April 2019 and collates data collected by Child Death Overview Panels (CDOPs) in England, from reviews of all children who die at any time after birth and before their 18th birthday. There is a statutory requirement for CDOPs to collect these data and to provide them to NCMD, as outlined in the Child Death Review statutory and operational guidance.

The guidance requires all Child Death Review (CDR) Partners to gather information from every agency that has had contact with the child, during their life and after their death, including health and social care services, law enforcement, and education services. This is done using a set of statutory CDR forms and the information is then submitted to NCMD.

Every child who dies is a precious individual and their deaths represent a devastating loss for parents, siblings, grandparents, carers, guardians, extended family and friends.

With all child deaths there is a strong need to understand what happened, and why.

We must ensure that anything that can be learned to prevent future deaths from happening is identified and acted upon.

The data in this report summarise information about child deaths in England up to 31 March 2025 and the findings of reviews carried out by a CDOP on or before 31 March 2025.

It should be read in conjunction with the data tables, where more detail is available

[Child death data release 2025 | National Child Mortality Database](#)

Independent Scrutineer

Welcome!

We are pleased to announce that we have welcomed our new Independent Scrutineer Adrian Green to the Partnership. Adrian brings a wealth of experience as a former Durham Police Commander for both Safeguarding and Neighbourhood Policing and, also, in various regional, national and partnership roles. We look forward to working with Adrian and hope you will get the opportunity to meet with him soon.

OUR PLEDGE

To have open, honest, bold conversations with each other as multi-agency partners in order to do the very best we can for adults and children in Darlington.

For many families across Darlington, multi-agency working is vital to maintain a focus on children and adults while also keeping them at the heart of all decisions.

Our Pledge is an opportunity to:

- Seek out professional conversations with each other at the earliest opportunity
- Have a shared understanding of the strengths and risks within a family
- Actively listen to each other and share important information
- Respect each other's expertise
- Be open and empathetic to the professional views of others
- Be professionally curious and evidence what we say
- Use common language that everyone understands



Concerned about a child?

Contact the Children's Initial
Advice Team
Professionals on **01325 406252**
Public on **01325 406222**

Concerned about an
adult?

Contact the Adult
Contact Team
on **01325 406111**



Statutory Safeguarding Partners

James Stroyan, Executive Director of People

Nicola Lawrence, Detective Chief Superintendent

Hilary Lloyd, Chief Nurse