

## MESSAGES BULLETIN

### FROM THE DARLINGTON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

ISSUE 1 – MAY 2016

Welcome to the first bulletin from the Darlington Safeguarding Children Board. The Board is made up of leaders from a range of organisations such as police, public health, Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), providers of health care, social care, housing, voluntary services and the Probation Service all of whom have an interest in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. On a bi-monthly basis the board meet to ensure safeguarding practice is well coordinated and meeting the safeguarding needs of children in Darlington.

The Board met on 18 May 2016 and the headlines from the meeting are:



#### **Multi-agency training**

The Board received the annual report of the safeguarding training provided during 2015/2016. The Board offers a range of safeguarding training to volunteers and employed staff in Darlington working with children. The training directory is currently being refreshed, this is being informed by the training needs expressed by the agencies working with children. You can view the available training today via the [website](#) and you can contact the safeguarding boards' business unit on 01325 406452 to book a place or email [LSCB.Training@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:LSCB.Training@darlington.gov.uk).



#### **0-19 Universal Healthy Child Programme**

Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust are the new provider of the 0-19 Universal Healthy Child Programme (Health Visiting and School Nurse Service) which were commissioned by Darlington Borough Council's Public Health Team. The Board welcomed their attendance at the meeting and the Trust provided their assurances that they operate a robust and established governance structure that provides internal and external assurance that safeguarding practice is evidence based, safe, current, and the child is central to practice. The Board has formally invited them to be a Board member and they will also contribute to the board's assurance activity and contribute to the work of the subgroups too.



#### **Darlington Safeguarding Children Board Budget**

The Board received a year end budget report which highlighted that a number of agencies are considering their contribution to the LSCB. Possible reductions in funding has been highlighted and it will place a significant pressure on the current budget. Board have requested the budget is monitored at each meeting to consider the mitigating factors

## PERFORMANCE

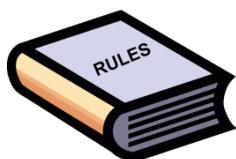


- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- AVERAGE
- POOR

### **Quality Assurance and Performance**

The Board is required to develop, manage and apply arrangements for ensuring the partnership has the necessary arrangements in place to monitor and assess joint working arrangements to protect children in Darlington. The Board agreed an approach to develop a more multi-agency data set that provided board with oversight of the child's journey through services from Early Help, Child Protection and Looked After Children.

The Board are also eagerly anticipating the findings from the schools section 11/s.175 audit which is an assurance check on a number of areas on how schools safeguard and promote the welfare of their children in education. Findings are expected in July 2016 and communicated over the summer period.



### **Policies and Procedures**

The Board is responsible for developing and approving multi-agency policies and procedures. As there are a large number of policies, procedures and/or practice guidance for professionals working with children a schedule for review was developed, this allows the Board time to review those policies that require updates in line with legislation and /or changes to practice. The Board will also be devising 'One minute Guides' for each of its policies and procedures which are a simplified version to assist practitioners day to day. The multi-agency child protection procedures are available via our [website](#).



### **Sexual Exploitation and Missing from Home**

It has been identified that more work needs to be undertaken between children and adults safeguarding to ensure when a child becomes an adult they have relevant and appropriate support to help them to maintain their safety and to reduce the risks to themselves. Work is ongoing in the adult arena to understand the gaps and barriers.

The Board received assurances from Darlington Borough Council of the new processes that have been introduced since the Ofsted inspection which identified children missing from home should have a return interview. This has now improved and all missing children from home are offered return interviews and these are undertaken by a social worker and/or NYAS (National Youth Advocacy Service) for Looked After Children out of authority area. A part-time missing from home co-ordinator is also being employed to ensure all return interviews are undertaken ontime, missing data is robustly collected and analysed and will also work closely with Barnardo's CSE workers to explore the link between child sexual exploitation and missing episodes.

If you have any questions or any matters which you would like to discuss please contact the Safeguarding Boards Business Unit Development Officer, Amanda Hugill on 01325 406450.

Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Children Board is:

*Mr Richard Burrows*

The Safeguarding Children Board is supported by a joint business unit which also supports the Darlington Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board.

For further information you can contact a member of the team on: 01325 406452.