

## MESSAGES BULLETIN

### FROM THE DARLINGTON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

ISSUE 3 – September 2016

Welcome to the third 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 **21<sup>st</sup> September 2016** and the headlines from the meeting are:



#### ***Welcome to the new Interim Independent Chair***

Simon Hart was welcomed by the Board as the Interim Independent Chair. Simon is a very experienced Independent Chair and has had a long career working in children's services. Simon was the Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Children and Adult Boards in Essex for a number of years and has also been Director of Children's Services for Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council.

#### **Vice Chair of the DSCB**



The Board agreed to Diane Murphy, Chief Nurse for Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group to be the Vice Chair of the Board. Diane will stand in for the Chair, support the Chair and will help with difficult decisions between Board meetings.



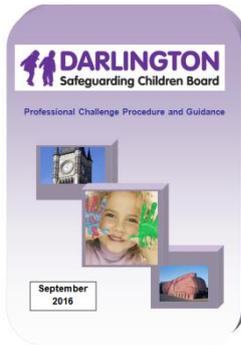
#### ***Darlington Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report***

Board members signed off the 2015 - 16 Annual Report. The Annual Report outlines the effectiveness of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in Darlington. This can be viewed from our [DSCB website](#).



#### **The Constitution for the Darlington Safeguarding Children Board**

The Board agreed the Constitution and Pledge following full consultation with Board members. The Constitution sets out the statutory governance arrangements for agreeing how relevant agencies will cooperate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Darlington and for ensuring the effectiveness of agencies' safeguarding activity. This information is accessible from our [DSCB website](#).



### **Professional Challenge Procedure and Practice Guidance**

The Board is responsible for developing and approving multi-agency policies and procedures. The Board signed off the Professional Challenge Procedure and Practice Guidance which has been implemented to provide a process for resolving practitioner disagreements and ensuring there is effective challenge in the safeguarding system. It also provides practitioners with advice and support to enable them to escalate concerns where disagreements are not resolved at a practitioner level. All practitioners are asked to read this document to ensure they know how to raise a professional challenge. You can view this document on the [DSCB website](#).



### **Learning from thematic case review**

The Board agreed the recommendations identified in a recent thematic case review and requested a SMART action plan is developed and monitored. The learning identified within the case review included: ensuring all plans are child focussed and SMART; police to attend Child In Need Meetings; agencies to ensure workers are consistent; provision of relevant training for practitioners working with complex teenagers. Board discussed how the messages should be cascaded and to consider developing a 'cascade policy' which will identify how the learning can be communicated. Board members were requested to share the learning from the report within their own organisations. Speak to your Board member for information for further information.



### **Training Needs Analysis**

The Board undertakes a Training Needs Analysis (TNA) on an annual basis to understand the training needs of the workforce, working directly with children. The Board received the TNA report for 2015 - 16 and requested clarity to be sought on the impact of sexual abuse training and how DSCB can better engage with the voluntary sector. Board were encouraged to hear that all multi-agency safeguarding training is effective and having a positive impact on professionals practice. The TNA did identify a gap to better understand the impact of safeguarding training across all the individual agencies. This will be considered in the TNA for 2016 – 2017.



### **Young People Conference on Child Sexual Exploitation**

In July 2016 the DSCB hosted a Young People Conference funded by Durham Constabulary which focused on Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). There were a number of workshops throughout the day which discussed the topics of: understanding CSE; grooming; appropriate relationships and internet safety. 56 pupils attended the event from 6 secondary schools across Darlington. The young people who attended shared their views on the day and suggested how we can improve it going forward. A number of young people have volunteered to inform the planning of the next conference in 2017.

Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Children Board is:

*Mr Simon Hart*

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.

