

MESSAGES BULLETIN

FROM THE DARLINGTON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

ISSUE 4 – November 2016

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

The Board met on **23rd November 2016** and the headlines from the meeting are:



New Safeguarding Boards' website – Tool for practitioners and the general public

The Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board and the Safeguarding Children Boards have switched on their new website. The website is a very useful resource and practitioner tool which gives you more information about the Safeguarding Boards, better access to information such as safeguarding procedures and practice guidance, access to the training programme. The website includes general information and advice on how to access services aimed at children, young people, parents and carers. Visit the site today at www.darlington safeguardingboards.co.uk.



Updated Multi-agency Information Sharing Protocol approved!

Board signed off and approved the multi-agency Information Sharing Protocol. Information sharing is vital to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. This protocol provides the framework for collaborative working and requires a positive approach from services and agencies to work together to protect children among partner organisations. The protocol is available from the Safeguarding Boards' website within the professionals area.



Presentation from the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS)

CAFCASS provided an informative presentation on the difference their work has made to the children and families in Darlington. CAFCASS is the first national organisation to work with the Royal Literacy Fund and the first to have a writer in residence to improve the writing skills of CAFCASS' staff. Their quality account report is accessible from CAFCASS website.



Darlington Borough Council is making positive progress since the Ofsted inspection.

Suzanne Joyner, Director of Children and Adults Services updated the Board on its progress to date since the Ofsted inspection, the recent [Ofsted monitoring visit](#) which looked at the experiences and progress of children looked after in Darlington and the preparation work in readiness for a visit from the Department for Education (DfE) on 30th November 2016. Ofsted noted good progress and it was recognised further work is still required, which the Board reaffirmed its support to Suzanne and her team.



Learning from child deaths

Dr Mike Lavender, Consultant in Public Health Medicine presented a report to Board on a recent review of all child deaths notified where modifiable factors were identified. Modifiable factors are *'where, if actions could be taken through national or local interventions, the risk of future child deaths could be reduced¹.'* The Board endorsed the recommendations to share the learning related to paediatrics and obstetrics with the Health and Wellbeing Board in Darlington, to consult with other Boards to better coordinate the learning locally, regionally and nationally and for Board to seek assurance regarding the work and ongoing monitoring for neonatal services in Darlington.



Charges for non-attendance on multi-agency safeguarding training

The Safeguarding Boards have restated the commitment to fully implement the multi-agency safeguarding training and charging policy. Any individual who books on training and does not cancel their place will be charged for non-attendance. All staff, volunteers and their managers are asked to ensure they refer to the charging policy prior to booking on any multi-agency training.

Non- attendance impacts on the Safeguarding Boards' resources in terms of the Trainer's time, room hire, refreshments, preparation and most importantly it takes up a place which could be accessed by someone else. The policy is available from the Boards' [website](#).



New Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Risk Assessment Tool

Board approved the new CSE risk assessment tool, which has been piloted for a number of months and consulted on across the partnership. The new risk assessment tool will enable practitioners to better assess the risk to a young person through analysing the risks based on the shared multi-agency intelligence.

There will be training and a launch of the updated procedure and practice guidance to assist staff when they are working with children and young people at risk of CSE. Updates will be provided in the New Year.

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.

¹ Working Together, 2015

For further information you can contact a member of the team on: 01325 406452 or visit our website: www.darlingtonsafeguardingboards.co.uk