



## Darlington Protocol

**Darlington Safeguarding Children's Board  
Darlington Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board  
Darlington Community Safety Partnership Board and  
Darlington Health and Wellbeing Board Relationship Guidance  
Note: addition of Darlington MAPPA Strategic Board (October 2017)**

### Introduction

1. This protocol states the key role of :
  - (a) Darlington Safeguarding Children's Board
  - (b) Darlington Safeguarding Adults Board
  - (c) Darlington Community Safeguarding Partnership Board
  - (d) Darlington Health and Wellbeing Board
  - (e) Darlington Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements Strategic Board (MAPPA)

How they link with each other and the means by which they will ensure that leadership and accountability for issues of common interest are clear.

2. It is recognised that each Board has its own governance and priorities. This protocol promotes effective ways of working to deliver the strategic outcomes, reflecting that 'safeguarding is everyone's business'.

### Leadership and Accountability

3. The Darlington Safeguarding Children's Board is a statutory body which acts as a mechanism for agreeing how relevant organisations in Darlington co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people as set out within the Children Act 2004.
4. The Darlington Adults Partnership Board is the statutory lead partnership for ensuring the welfare and safety of adults with care and support needs as set out within the Care Act 2016.
5. The Darlington Health and Wellbeing Board is a statutory committee of Council as set out within the Health and Social Care Act 2012. Although Health and Wellbeing Boards were established as committees of local authorities it is recognised that they are different to Section 2012 committees in having officers, Clinical Commissioning Groups and local Healthwatch sit on them. The Health and Wellbeing Board is responsible for encouraging integrated working, developing Joint Strategic Needs Assessments and strategies contributing towards tackling

health inequalities.

6. The Darlington Community Safety Partnership is a statutory lead partnership for promoting safer and stronger communities and crime and disorder reduction. It is the Borough's response to the Crime and Disorder Act Regulations 2007.
7. MAPPA are a set of arrangements to manage the risk posed by certain sexual and violent offenders. They bring together the Police, Probation and Prison services into the MAPPA Responsible Authority. Other partners have a Duty to Co-operate, including NHS Trusts, Children's and Adult Services, Housing and Youth Offending Teams.
8. Safeguarding is a responsibility that runs through all Boards but it is the responsibility of the two Safeguarding Boards to call the other partnerships to account. There are issues that are of common interest to all Boards.

### **Areas of Common Interest**

9. The Boards cover a wide range of issues. However, there are a number of areas of common interest where the named Boards need to ensure that leadership and accountability for issues is clear and that information is effectively shared. The areas of common interest include :-
  - (a) child sexual exploitation
  - (b) human trafficking and modern day slavery
  - (c) female genital mutilation
  - (d) radicalisation and PREVENT strategy
  - (e) domestic abuse
  - (f) hate crime
  - (g) forced marriage and 'honour' based violence
  - (h) mental health

### **Communication**

10. The Board chairs meet together twice a year to discuss specific issues and concerns. The discussion covers work plans and scopes potential new areas of common interest.
11. Where appropriate the Boards support joint sub-groups to efficiently carry out tasks and business on behalf of a number of partnership Boards.
12. Both Safeguarding Boards expect that they are informed and alerted when issues relating to areas of common interest are identified. The Safeguarding Boards will make sure that the other Boards are also kept informed through consultation on strategies, annual reports, inspection reports, business plans, shared membership and through the chairs meeting together.

## Joint Working Arrangements

13. The Independent Chairs of both Safeguarding Boards will present their annual reports to the Health and Wellbeing Board and will ensure there are relationships with the Community Safety Partnership.
14. At the appropriate time the Safeguarding Boards will share their annual plans for the next twelve months to ensure co-ordination and mutual understanding.
15. Where possible the Boards will work together on specific projects e.g. training, media and communication messages, policies, conduct of reviews and sharing learning from the outcomes to inform practice.

