

MESSAGES BULLETIN

FROM THE DARLINGTON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

ISSUE 8 – July 2017

Welcome to the eighth 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 **4th July 2017** and the headlines from the meeting are:



Children's services Improvement Board Update

Another Ofsted monitoring visit took place in June where inspectors reviewed the effectiveness of performance management and quality assurance. The initial feedback is that much progress has been made, the performance scorecards are much more detailed and address Ofsted's previous concerns and will need to be consolidated with audits. A DfE 6 month review also took place in June, very positive messages were received from the stakeholders panel including the strength of the multi-agency training.



MAPPA Information Sharing Briefing

Learning from a recent serious case review in Durham identified concerns around professionals understanding of information sharing when professionals were invited to MAPPA (Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements). An information sharing briefing has been developed to support practitioners in their judgement to know when and what to share in this arena. The briefing document is available on the [DSCB website](#).

Awareness raising sessions are being delivered in October and November, further details on dates are available on the [DSCB website](#).



Joint Durham and Darlington Sexual Exploitation task and finish group

A joint group has been established across Durham and Darlington and the terms of reference and membership for this group have been agreed and include representation from both children and adult workforce. Work is underway to consider adapting the child sexual exploitation procedures for use with adult exploitation including the use of the soft intelligence form. The group will also focus on promoting and raising awareness of

modern day slavery and develop local practice guidance to support workforces across Durham and Darlington.



Multi-Agency Workforce Stability

A report was presented to Board providing an overview of the multi-agency position in relation to workforce stability across the key agencies (NHS commissioners and providers, Durham Constabulary and Darlington Borough Council). Examples given were shortages in social workers and medical staff. Members highlighted that workforce pressures are reported into other structures where this is monitored, however it was agreed the Board will need to have a clear understanding of where agencies are managing workforce pressures and how this may have a bearing on safeguarding capacity and ensuring safeguarding is being maintained. Members agreed the report is a good starting point, detailing mitigation currently in place and agencies have identified pro-active plans to recruit staff, including promoting Darlington as a good place to work and live.



Missing and unseen children

A presentation was provided to Board by Detective Superintendent Victoria Fuller, Durham Constabulary on the development and impact of work that has been undertaken to date on children missing from home and education via the DSCB Missing, Exploited and Sexual abuse sub group (MESA). Agencies across Darlington have worked together to improve outcomes for children including ensuring return home interviews are undertaken timely and information from these interviews is being shared with police as part of their intelligence work. Work is ongoing to improve the notification process when children are placed in and out of area. A data wash was completed in January 2017 where 101 children were identified as Elective Home Educated and 57 of these children had not been seen by services in 18 months. Joint visits have been undertaken and the majority of these children have now been seen, joint visits will continue until all children have been seen. Board acknowledged the proactive work undertaken by the MESA group and the pace of the work has been remarkable.

Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Children Board is:

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 or visit our website: www.darlingtonsafeguardingboards.co.uk