

## MESSAGES BULLETIN

### FROM THE DARLINGTON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

ISSUE 10 – November 2017

Welcome to the tenth 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 **28<sup>th</sup> November 2017** and the headlines from the meeting are:



#### **Young Peoples Conference 2017**

A second Young People's Conference was held in July 2017, the conference content was developed with support from young people based on the feedback they provided at the Conference in 2016 and the key issues they felt are affecting young people today and what they want DSCB to focus on.

The conference was aimed at pupils aged 13-15, the conference was attended by all eight secondary schools in Darlington. The focus of the day was; What is Child Sexual Exploitation; You and your Digital Footprint and Emotional Wellbeing and Resilience. The pupils attended all workshops and were asked to develop a display of the important messages they took away from the day and encouraged to think about how they could promote within their schools. Two pupils who had attended the conference in July were invited to the Board meeting to provide their feedback and brought their display board along to showcase to Board. They both were in agreement that the conference was beneficial and targeted at the appropriate age, however felt the digital footprint information should be shared to children at an earlier age. Members questioned how the learning was shared at school. They advised it has been incorporated into PSHE lessons and at a PSHE day held recently the main theme was pornography which incorporated learning from the digital footprint session. Both pupils highlighted to Board that mental health is an important issue and experienced by many young people, they felt this should be acknowledged earlier by services and that young people need to be made aware of support available to them. Board highlighted that there is a gap in provisions between early help and CAMHS.



#### **Children Services Improvement Board Update**

The Board were advised the letter from the fifth Ofsted Monitoring visit is now in the public domain and is available to view [here](#). The local authority is preparing for re-inspection and is in the process of drafting a position statement which will be shared with partners.



### **Children and Social Work Act 2017 - Working Together to Safeguard Children Guidance Consultation**

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 sets out how agencies must work together, by placing new duties on the police, clinical commissioning groups and the local authority to make arrangements to work together and with other partners locally to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in their area. As a result a consultation exercise is being undertaken on the revised guidance of Working Together to Safeguard children which is now open for consultation until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017. The DfE are seeking views on the significant revisions and members were encouraged to engage in the consultation. Members highlighted the possible impacts this may have on safeguarding in Darlington.



### **Early Help Strategy**

A draft strategy was presented to Board for consideration. It was highlighted that timescales are to be included following agreement by the Early Help Strategic Group. Members felt the strategy requires further information on what other organisations deliver in respect of early help as well as identifying what is being delivered to up skill parents. Members also requested that the voice of the young person should be included within section 6, what does effective Early Help feel like? Members advised for the strategy to be updated.



### **Multi-agency approach to Neglect in Darlington**

A report was presented to Board to inform members of the multi-agency approach to neglect in Darlington. Members were advised of the key findings from the self-assessment audit which was led by Darlington Borough Council. It highlighted that all agencies are represented on the Board and contribute to safeguarding in Darlington. The impact of neglect is monitored by agencies with practitioners through supervision. Members were asked to note the report and consider the relevance and necessity of having a sub group of the board to focus on the delivery of the neglect strategy.



### **Children and Young People Plan 2017-2022**

Board were asked to endorse the Children and Young people's Plan which outlines how Darlington Borough Council and its partner organisations will focus on making a difference to the lives of children and young people in Darlington. There are 4 ambitions highlighted in the plan; Ensuring that all children and young people are safe from any perceived harm; Improving the health and wellbeing of all babies, children and young people; Improving achievement and academic attainment for all children and young people and Empowering families to be resilient and to achieve economic wellbeing. In order to achieve the four ambitions, seven key priority actions have been identified:

- Increase breast feeding rates and reduce the incident of smoking at the time of delivery
- Reduce obesity levels
- Reduce the number of self-harm cases recorded at A&E
- Reduce the number of children and young people living in poverty
- Improve school attendance and attainment
- Increase the number of young people in work, education and training
- Strengthen families to reduce the need for statutory intervention.

## PERFORMANCE



- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- AVERAGE
- POOR

### Quality Assurance and Performance Management

A half yearly multi-agency performance data report was presented to Board which provided members with an understanding of the safeguarding profile in Darlington and how the respective agencies are performing to meet those needs. Where possible data is benchmarked with statistical neighbours, North East Councils and the England average. In addition the learning from a multi-agency pre-birth audit was presented to Board, the audit was undertaken to seek assurances that pre-birth assessments are understood and the multi-agency procedures are clear. As a result of the audit the pre-birth procedures will be revised.



### Annual Reports

The DSCB was presented with two annual reports for consideration and both reports were endorsed by the Board; Private Fostering Annual Report and Child Death Overview Panel Annual Report, both reports are available on the [DSCB](#) website.

### Policies & Procedures

### Approved Policies and Procedures to support Practitioners

The following procedures have been approved and are available from the [Safeguarding Boards' Website](#) in the professional's area.

- Female Genital Mutilation Procedure and Practice Guidance
- Dangerous Dogs Practice Guidance

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](http://www.darlingtonsafeguardingboards.co.uk)