

MESSAGES BULLETIN

FROM THE DARLINGTON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

ISSUE 11 – February 2018

Welcome to the eleventh 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 **27th February 2018** and the headlines from the meeting are:



Ofsted Inspecting the Local Authority

The Board were advised that Ofsted have arrived to undertake the inspection of Children's Services. The Inspection will take place over the next four weeks and feedback will be provided to Board in due course.



Memorandum of Understanding between North Cumbria and North East and Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group and NHS England

A memorandum of understanding has been agreed between North Cumbria and North East and Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group and NHS England. NHS England is a statutory member of the Board and will delegate its responsibility to the CCG representative. This representative will be the lead conduit to ensure safeguarding issues are addressed effectively.



Winter pressures on NHS Update

Board were provided with an updated on the activities undertaken within the NHS to manage the winter pressures. Demand and capacity planning has been undertaken with new operational policies now in place. All agencies including; DBC, Police, Fire, Pharmacy, Mental Health services report into County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust (CDDFT) A&E Delivery Board which oversees acute and unplanned services. Urgent care is now located in A&E and is available 24/7. Flu campaigns have been delivered to encourage take up by staff within NHS, Social Care and Independent sector. NEAS have been under significant pressures and struggled to meet targets in respect of patient turnaround and timeliness of patients seen. This continues to be a challenge but no serious consequences as a result of this. Call handlers now have clinical support in place triage patients. Staff commitment has been an important factor in keeping services running.



Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP)

- A presentation was provided to Board on the Sustainability and Transformation Plan (now renamed Sustainability and Transformation Partnership) which aims to improve quality and maximise the use of limited resources within the NHS across the North East and Cumbria. Some of the highlights were: demands on services are predictable but difficult to

manage; the NHS 5 year forward view has identified long term conditions are an increasing problem, especially as the population ages and becomes more obese; the focus needs to be on health and wellbeing and sustaining health to reduce the demand on beds; staff shortages is a significant issue; the 3 STP's across the NE and Cumbria covers a population of 3.2m which is significant in terms of resources, 14 work streams have been developed, led by senior clinicians, which includes; increasing the impact of public health interventions and preventative services and treating and improving diagnosis for cancer.



Transformation of Mental Health Services for Children and Young People Update

An update report was provided on the mental health provision for children and young people on the work undertaken to improve services. Investment from Future in Mind has enabled the Crisis service to move to 24/7 provision and investment in Intensive Home Treatment has allowed for children and young people to be supported at home and reduce admissions to hospital. In 2016-17, 100% of patients were seen within the 9 week referral timescale. Work is ongoing in respect of the 35% of referrals for children and young people who do not meet the threshold for intervention from TEWV, including a better understanding of the wider services in Darlington. Some concern was raised in respect of Education settings commissioning their own counsellors as there is no assurance of the quality or ability to provide sufficient support to safeguard children and young people at this time. Board were reassured of the work completed and underway and will continue to monitor.



Early Help Strategy

The final Early Help Strategy was presented to board for approval, the strategy has been consulted on with a wide range of partners and offers streamline proposals and priority actions. A number of comments were made in respect of ensuring the voice of the child is evident. Board endorsed the strategy.



DSCB 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](#). Board also happy to receive the North East Ambulance Service (NEAS) annual report.

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