

MESSAGES BULLETIN

FROM THE DARLINGTON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

ISSUE 12 – April 2018

Welcome to the twelfth 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 **24th April 2018** and the headlines from the meeting are:



Practitioner Forums with the Independent Chair

Board were updated of the key recurring themes arising from discussions at the Independent Chairs periodic forum with practitioners. Overall the forum meetings appear to be supported with a reasonably good spread of agencies represented.

The forums create an opportunity for practitioners to gain a better understanding of the role and function of the Safeguarding Board and for the Independent Chair to hear perspectives from the front line. Some of the themes identified include: acknowledgment of changes taking place within organisations and the reasons for these; early help model and recognition of how training has provided a greater understanding of the arrangements in place; concerns regarding inconsistent multi-agency attendance at meetings; access to CAMHS services needs to improve; thresholds and support for those young people who fringe on the margin of thresholds; wish to hear of the progress of Operation Encompass; acknowledgement of austerity and the impact this has across organisations and how this can be sustained in the future.



The Local Authority Re-inspection

The Director for Children's and Adult Services provided Board with an update on the recent re-inspection and advised the full report will be published on 21st May 2018.



Darlington Biennial Safeguarding Audit 2017-18

The findings of the biennial safeguarding self-assessment audit were presented to Board members. The audit was an opportunity for organisations in Darlington to carry out a health check on their safeguarding policies and procedures for both children and adults, to recognise their strengths and weaknesses and be supported by the Safeguarding Boards to make changes where necessary. Board members were advised that the responses to the audit were overwhelmingly positive and that the findings of the analysis and the moderation panel reassure the Board that multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in Darlington are clear and effective. Further work will be carried out on themes which were highlighted during the audit process and how the process can be developed for future audits. The safeguarding audit report will be published on the Safeguarding Boards' website later in the year.



Domestic Abuse Update and Consultation

The Board was provided with an update of the multi-agency position on reducing the prevalence of domestic abuse in Darlington including the co-ordinated community response on prevention, support and protection services and also how perpetrators are dealt with. Work has been developed to agree how each of the key strategic partnerships in Darlington i.e. Darlington Safeguarding Children Board (DSCB), Darlington Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board (DSAPB), Community Safety Partnership and Health and Wellbeing Board have oversight and assurance that there was knowledge of and interventions in place to address domestic abuse. A Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence workshop has been organised for all members of the strategic partners to inform of the current programmes and services in place and consider together our contribution to the Darlington and Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Plan and to share information and intelligence.

There is currently a Domestic Abuse Bill consultation ongoing and AVA (Against Violence and Abuse) has published a good practice briefing on the consultation. The briefing details the key proposals and key points. Contributions to the consultation on the Bill are welcome and this closes on **31st May 2018**. Further information: [Good practice briefing: transforming the response to domestic abuse](#) and [Domestic Abuse Bill consultation](#). In addition a Government Domestic Abuse Consultation Event for the North East will be held on Wednesday 16th May 2018 at the Newcastle Discovery Museum. To register an interest contact domesticabuseconsultation2018@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk



Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

The National Crime Agency (NCA) has published a summary of the number of potential victims of modern slavery and human trafficking referred to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) in 2017. Figures show that in 2017 the NRM received 2118 referrals of potential victims who were under the age of 18, an increase of 66% on the previous year, due in part to an increase in county lines gang exploitation referrals included within labour exploitation and unaccompanied asylum seeking children figures. The Board is currently developing jointly with Durham Safeguarding Adults Inter-agency partnership Board a Modern Slavery Practice Guidance document which will be ratified later in the year. For further information see: [Modern slavery and human trafficking: National Referral Mechanism statistics annual report 2017 \(PDF\)](#).



Female Genital Mutilation statistics

NHS Digital has published experimental statistics about female genital mutilation (FGM) in England. Findings from October 2017 to December 2017 include: there were 1,760 individual women and girls who had an attendance where FGM was identified or a procedure related to FGM was undertaken, and 1,030 women and girls appeared for the first time in this dataset. Further information: Female genital mutilation (FGM) enhanced dataset: October 2017 to December 2017, England, experimental statistics (PDF)



Safeguarding amendment to Data Protection Bill 2017-19

Farrer & Co have published a briefing on a safeguarding amendment to the Data Protection Bill adopted by the House of Commons Public Bill Committee on 13th March 2018. The new amendment 85 will ensure that sensitive data can be processed, without consent in certain circumstances, for legitimate safeguarding activities that are in the substantial public interest. For further information see [Farrer & Co](#)



Department for Education

Working together to Safeguard Children: consultation outcome

The Department for Education (DfE) has published a summary of responses received following consultation on changes to the statutory guidance Working together to safeguard children, new child death guidance and new regulations for England. The summary includes the government’s response to the questions asked during the consultation and outlines the next steps. [Changes to statutory guidance Working together to safeguard children; and new regulations: government consultation response \(PDF\)](#)



The Department for Education (DfE) Campaign

The DfE has launched a new phase in the campaign to tackle child abuse and neglect in England. The campaign which aims to improve people’s confidence in spotting the signs of abuse or neglect. See the campaign at

[If you think it, report it](#)



Multi-agency response to children displaying harmful sexual behaviours

The NSPCC has developed a framework to support local work with children and young people who have displayed HSB, and their families. The framework focuses on five key elements including: responses to children and young people who display HSB; prevention, identification and early assessment; effective assessment and referral pathways; interventions; and workforce development. Further information: [NSPCC: Harmful sexual behaviour framework](#)



The Children's Society
making childhood better

The Children’s Society reports on vulnerable 16/17 year old transition to adulthood and adolescent neglect

The Children’s Society has published a report looking at why 16 and 17 year-olds, referred to children’s services and assessed as being a child in need or who become subject to child protection plan, need more support as they move in to adulthood. [Crumbling futures: why vulnerable 16 and 17 year olds need more support as they move into adulthood \(PDF\)](#). **The Children’s Society** has also published a review of research on adolescent neglect. The report, commissioned by Luton Safeguarding Children Board, includes: a definition of adolescent neglect; the impacts of neglect, ways in which adolescent neglect can be identified, assessed and responded to in practice. A briefing for professionals has also been published. [Adolescent neglect: briefing for professionals \(PDF\)](#)



NSPCC publication: Learning from serious case reviews: Infants

The NSPCC has published a briefing summarising the learning from serious case review reports published during 2017 where children aged two or under were the subject of the review. For further information see NSPCC: [infants: learning from case reviews](#)

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

