

**MESSAGES BULLETIN**

**FROM THE DARLINGTON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD**

ISSUE 13 – August 2018

Welcome to the thirteenth 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 **7<sup>th</sup> August 2018** and the headlines from the meeting are:



Department  
for Education

***New practice guidance: Working together to Safeguard Children 2018***

Following the implementation of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 the Department for Education (DfE) has published statutory guidance setting out what organisations and agencies that have functions relating to children must and should do to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children and young people in England under the age of eighteen. The guidance comes into effect on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018 and the changes must be implemented by September 2019 and the Board has developed an action plan to facilitate the transition to the new procedures. The guidance covers the legislative requirements placed on individual services, a framework for the three local safeguarding partners and a framework for the two child death review partners. Guidance is provided on assessing need and providing help including early help, organisational responsibilities, multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, local and national child safeguarding practice reviews and child death reviews. The DfE has also published statutory guidance to support Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs), local authorities, safeguarding partners, child death review partners and the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel in the transition. **For further information see:** [Working together to safeguard children: a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children](#) and [Working together: transitional guidance](#). **For a quick guide to the changes see** [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018-changes to statutory guidance](#)



***Young People's Conference 2018***

The DSCB Young People's Conference 2018 took place on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2018 at Darlington College. Over sixty pupils from seven secondary schools in Darlington attended the event which aimed to engage with the young people and improve their understanding of safeguarding issues which may be relevant to them. The workshop themes included digital awareness, emotional wellbeing, harm and resilience and online gaming and grooming. For further information about the conference and the workshops see [Darlington Safeguarding Children Board Young People's Conference 2018](#). The feedback from the young people was overwhelmingly positive and the day was enjoyed by all participants. Each school will present the learning from the conference to Board in the autumn and the school which expresses the best learning will be awarded a prize.



### **DSCB Multi-Agency Neglect Strategy**

Neglect is the most common reason for child protection plans in the United Kingdom and the Board has developed and ratified the Multi-Agency Neglect Strategy (2017-20) which sets out the strategic aims and objectives to our approach to tackling child neglect in Darlington. A practice guidance document has been developed to support multi agency practitioners in their understanding, identification, assessments and interventions in childhood neglect. It is intended to facilitate good inter-agency work so that all involved can play an effective role to improve outcomes for children. Further information about the launch of the strategy and practice guidance will follow in due course.



### **Together we can tackle child abuse: Department for Education (DfE) campaign**

Together we can tackle child abuse is a government campaign led by the Department for Education. It encourages members of the public to help protect children and young people by reporting any concerns of abuse or neglect to the Local Authority, NSPCC or the police. The campaign tackles the barriers that stop people reporting abuse by informing people about the four categories of child abuse, educating people about how to spot the signs of abuse and how to report concerns. For further information visit [www.dfecildprotection-munroforster.com](http://www.dfecildprotection-munroforster.com) or contact [tacklechildabuse@education.gov.uk](mailto:tacklechildabuse@education.gov.uk)



### **Information sharing advice for safeguarding practitioners**

The Department for Education (DfE) has published advice to support practitioners in the decisions they take to share information, which reduces the risk of harm to children and young people and promotes their well-being. This advice has been updated to reflect the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018, and it supersedes the Information sharing: advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services (2015). **Further information:** [Information sharing: advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers](#)



### **Lay Member Recruitment**

The Board recently invited applications for the role of lay member on the Darlington Safeguarding Adult Partnership Board and following an interview and selection process we are delighted to welcome new lay member Glenis Harrison to the Board. Glenis is the Chief Officer of Firth Moor Community Centre and has a wealth of experience in child care and as a designated safeguarding lead for children and adults.



### **Healthy child programme: evidence update**

The Early Intervention Foundation (EIF) has published a report looking at the evidence for approaches to early intervention for mothers and infants. The report refreshes the 2009 evidence by consolidating key messages from two recently completed evidence reviews and with a systematic review of evidence published since 2014. Findings include: good evidence showing that mental health screening is beneficial to mothers diagnosed with mental health problems when combined with evidence-based treatments; home visiting in highly vulnerable families has the best evidence of reducing child maltreatment during infancy. **Further information:** [What works to enhance the effectiveness of the healthy child programme: an evidence update](#) [Children & Young People Now](#)

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)