

MESSAGES BULLETIN

FROM THE DARLINGTON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

ISSUE 14 – October 2018

Welcome to the fourteenth 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 **2nd October 2018** and the headlines from the meeting are:



British Transport Police: Safeguarding Children

Detective Chief Superintendent Paul Furnell of the British Transport Police (BTP) delivered a presentation to Board to promote awareness of safeguarding and the risk to children on the railway network. Safeguarding in the BTP has recently been reviewed to incorporate thirteen strands of vulnerability which include Child Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking. A significant campaign has been undertaken to highlight the risks to children and young people and to change the perception of young people who come to the attention of BTP staff on the railways. All police forces report missing children to the BTP and this equates to approximately 30,000 per year. It has been identified that 65% of trespassers on the railways are vulnerable people and a significant number of these are children. Darlington was raised as an exception in the BTP National Trespass Profile 2017 and is in the top ten trespass hot-spots in the UK. Further discussions are planned with BTP to address the issues highlighted which include; suicide prevention, County Lines, work with schools, children who are missing and outcomes of return interviews, mental health and situations when incidents within stations spill out into local communities, clearly areas of common concern.



Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) Annual Report 2017/18

The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) Annual Report 2017/18 was presented and endorsed by Board. For further information on the report see: [DSCB Child Death Overview Process](#). Board members were advised that the child death review policy is transferring from the Department for Education (DfE) to the Department of Health and Social Care. A CDOP development session has been arranged in October to review the new governance arrangements as identified in the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and a discussion of the themes identified in the annual report will also be addressed.



Independent Reviewing Officer Annual Report and Children on a Child Protection Plan

Board were provided with highlights from the Independent Reviewing Officer Annual Report which provides an overview of the work by the IRO Service in relation to Looked After Children and an update of children on a Child Protection Plan. It was highlighted that environmental factors have influenced the number of children subject to Child Protection Plans and Board were assured measures were in place to stop this in future and that conversion rates are

closely monitored. Board were pleased to see the continued development of the IRO arrangements in Darlington and endorsed the Annual Report.



Thematic Report on Multi and Single agency audits and update on Joint Targeted Area Inspections (JTAI)

A report was presented to Board on the key findings from single and multi-agency audits carried out during 2017-18. Although a number of multi-agency audits had been undertaken during the period it was recognised that the audit programme was a little too ambitious and Board members felt they had a better understanding in respect of achievements and reasons for audits not undertaken. Themes from single agency audits were identified and collated and organisations were able to demonstrate evidence of learning from gaps in practice, actions to mitigate and impact on practice. The 2018-19 audit programme has been aligned to focus on the introduction of the planned themed Joint Targeted Area Inspections. A presentation was provided to Board on the current position for JTAI highlighting the common strengths and weaknesses found in inspections. In terms of Darlington preparation, self-assessments have been completed by partner agencies against the generic evaluation schedule numbers (ESN's). The strengths and areas for improvement in Darlington were highlighted and Board were informed that the current theme is Child Sexual Abuse in the Family Environment.



Department
for Education

Keeping Children Safe in Education (2018)-Statutory Guidance

In September 2018 the Department for Education (DfE) published [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018](#) which provides updated statutory guidance for schools and colleges in England and replaces the 2016 guidance. The guidance has been drafted in line with the revised [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018](#) to reflect these new arrangements. Additional guidance is also available in [Keeping Children Safe in Education: for school and college staff \(part 1\)](#). The NSPCC has published a summary of the [Key Updates to Statutory Guidance for Schools in England](#).

Policies and Procedures

Policies &
Procedures

Safeguarding the Unborn procedure and practice guidance

In line with current practice and following the completion of a pre-birth audit, the DSCB had revised the Safeguarding the Unborn multi-agency procedure and practice guidance. The document provides advice and guidance to practitioners and sets out how to respond to concerns for an unborn baby and provides a framework for responding to safeguarding concerns and safe planning by practitioners working together, with families, to safeguard the unborn through to birth. The guidance is available here: [Safeguarding the Unborn Procedure and Practice Guidance](#).

Professional Challenge Procedure and Practice Guidance

Practitioners are reminded of the Darlington Safeguarding Children's Board Professional Challenge Procedure and Practice Guidance. When working in the arena of safeguarding it is inevitable that on occasion there will be disagreements between practitioners and it is vital that these differences do not affect the outcomes for children and young people. This procedure provides a process for resolving practitioner disagreements and ensures that there is effective challenge in the system. It also provides practitioners with advice and support to enable them to escalate concerns where disagreements are not resolved at practitioner level. You can read the guidance here: [DSCB Professional Challenge Procedure and Practice Guidance](#)



Department
for Education

DfE: Disqualification by Association: Statutory Guidance 2018

The Department for Education (DfE) has published revised statutory guidance which came into force on 31 August 2018 for schools and local authorities in England, relating to disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006. **Further information:** [Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006: statutory](#)

[guidance](#) and [Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006: statutory guidance for local authorities and schools: tables and annexes \(PDF\)](#)



New Appointment

Amanda Hugill has been appointed to the permanent position of Safeguarding Boards Business Manager and the Independent Chair and Board members welcomed her in her new role.

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