

MESSAGES BULLETIN

FROM THE DARLINGTON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

ISSUE 15 – December 2018

Welcome to the fifteenth 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 **4th December 2018** and the headlines from the meeting are:



Presentation by Director of Children and Adult Services- New Safeguarding Arrangements: Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018

The Director of Children and Adult Services Suzanne Joyner gave a presentation to Board members on the proposed Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements in accordance with the Working Together to Safeguard Children and Transitional Guidance 2018, providing an update on the progress of the transitional arrangements in Darlington and the work completed to date. Under the new arrangements the three key statutory partners (Darlington Borough Council, Durham Constabulary and NHS Darlington CCG) will have a shared and equal responsibility to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Darlington. In June 2019 the Board will notify the DfE of the new arrangements which will go live in September 2019.



Presentation by Head of Community Safety on PREVENT arrangements in Darlington

Graham Hall, Head of Community Safety, Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services gave a presentation to Board on PREVENT duty arrangements in Darlington, including an overview of the terrorist threat to the UK. Members were advised of CONTEST, the UK strategy for countering terrorism and were updated on the advised approach which was published in June 2018. Members were provided with an overview of the Local Delivery Plan 2018-19. A recent inspection by the HMIC which focussed on the delivery plan, provided good feedback regarding the position in Durham and Darlington.



Position report on safeguarding disabled children and young people in Darlington- Presentation by Jane Kochanowski

Jane Kochanowski Assistant Director of Children's Services presented a position report to Board members on safeguarding disabled children and young people in Darlington. Board were advised, the disabled children and young adult's team is currently working with 131 disabled children and young people. Members were advised of the decision making processes and arrangements to monitor performance. It was confirmed that the performance suggests the children open to the team are being safely managed.



Presentation by Detective Chief Superintendent Paul Furnell British Transport Police

In December 2018 Board members attended a presentation by Detective Chief Superintendent Paul Furnell of the British Transport Police (BTP).

The presentation highlighted concerns in relation to the safety and wellbeing of children on the railways and outlined the BTP safeguarding strategy in respect of children, vulnerable adults and missing persons. The meeting identified a number of opportunities to strengthen interagency working between partners and BTP.



Young Peoples Conference 2018 - Pupil's presentations and the winning schools

The Young People's Conference took place in 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. In December 2018 five schools presented the learning from the conference and the impact within the schools to a panel which included the Independent Chair of DSCB and Board members. The standard of presentations was very high, the panel had a difficult task in choosing the winner. **Polam Hall School** and **Haughton Academy** were awarded joint first prize for expressing the best learning from the conference. The prize chosen by pupils was a visit to the schools by Durham Constabulary Police Interceptors. Well done to all the pupils who participated.



Modern Slavery-UK Annual Report on Modern Slavery 2018

The [UK Annual Report on Modern Slavery 2018](#) provides an overview of Modern Slavery and explains how the UK has responded to the threat of modern slavery and human trafficking over the past twelve months. The most robust estimate to date of the scale of modern slavery in the UK was produced by the Home Office in 2014 which estimated that there were between 10,000 and 13,000 potential victims of modern slavery in the UK in 2013. The National Crime Agency (NCA) assesses that the actual scale of modern slavery in the UK is gradually increasing and will continue to do so over the next three years.

Modern Slavery-National Referral Mechanism Reform (NRM)

In October 2018 the Home Office published a document outlining reforms to the National Referral Mechanism which is the framework by which potential victims of human trafficking and modern slavery are identified and supported. The reforms are focussed around four key objectives which include the improvement of decision making timescales, improving identification of and support for victims and improving support for child victims. For further information see [GOV.UK Guidance- National Referral Mechanism Reform](#).

Criminal Exploitation of children and vulnerable adults

The Home Office has published [County Lines guidance](#) aimed primarily at frontline staff who work with children, young people and potentially vulnerable adults. The guidance has been produced in co-operation with other key agencies. Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults is a widespread harm that is a typical feature of county lines activity. The guidance is intended to explain the nature of this harm to enable practitioners to recognise the signs and to enable them to respond appropriately that potential victims get the support and help they need.



Forced Marriage Mandatory Reporting-Consultation

The Home Office has called for responses to a proposed mandatory reporting duty requiring professionals to report cases of forced marriage. Questions for consideration include: the introduction of a mandatory reporting duty on forced marriage; what types of cases should be reported under a new duty; which age groups should be subject to a mandatory reporting duty; which professionals should the duty apply to and to whom reports should be made. The consultation closes on 23rd January 2019. For further information see: [Forced marriage consultation document \(PDF\)](#)



Newcastle National Conference-Tackling Sexual Exploitation

On 22nd November 2018 Newcastle Safeguarding Children Board and Newcastle Safeguarding Adult Board hosted a national conference entitled Tackling Sexual Exploitation-Learning from the Newcastle Experience. The conference explored themes from the Joint Serious Case Review (Operation Sanctuary and Operation Shelter) and explored the unrecognised abuse of vulnerable adults throughout the UK as well as child sexual exploitation. The conference included presentations from keynote speakers Dame Louise Casey and barrister David Spicer, the author of the [Newcastle Joint Serious Case Review](#) as well as an overview of models of support for victims of sexual exploitation and a video presentation by Zoe Loderick, a sexual trauma specialist. The conference was attended by representatives from Darlington across the partnership.



NSPCC- How safe are our children?

The NSPCC Annual Report 2018 compiles and analyses data from across the UK to show the current child protection landscape. The most recent report found increases in police recorded child sexual offences in the UK, an increase in child cruelty and neglect offences and increased numbers of children on child protection plans and registers over the last decade. For more information visit learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/how-safe-are-our-children



Retirements, resignations, appointments and changes to membership

- **Change to Membership**
Paula Strachan and Julie Davidson are the new board members representing Primary Education sector.
- **Resignation**
Hannah Fay, Business Support Officer has successfully obtained a new position within the Local Authority and will leave the Safeguarding Boards Business Unit on 21st December 2018. Board members wished Hannah all the best 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