

Welcome to the sixteenth 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 12<sup>th</sup> February 2019 and the headlines from the meeting are:



#### ***New Safeguarding Partnership arrangements***

Board members held a discussion around the proposed new Safeguarding Partnership arrangements which must be implemented no later than September 2019. The partners are working together to develop the draft arrangements for publication. Updates will be provided at future Board meetings.



#### ***CAFCASS Co-Parenting Hub and Emotional Readiness Tool***

Patrick Lynn, a Service Manager at CAFCASS delivered a presentation on the CAFCASS Co-Parenting Hub and Emotional Readiness tool. A pilot scheme is being undertaken across the region to test a new resource to support parents to make lasting child arrangements. The aim of the co-parenting hub is to provide parents/carers with a free online platform to support them through their child arrangement proceedings and beyond; an online parenting plan is available as a resource. The tool enables parents to tailor the content to help support them reach their goal. In addition there is an emotional readiness tool designed to assess whether users are ready to start making plans.

#### **STOPCSE National Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day - 18th March 2019**

**AWARENESS DAY 18TH MARCH** 18th March 2019 was fifth CSE Awareness Day which focused on new developments in tackling CSE, encompassing criminal exploitation, trafficking modern slavery and other forms of adolescent vulnerability, drawing attention to exploitation in a wider context. For further information see [Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation Day 2019](#).



#### ***National Crime Agency (NCA) - County Lines***

The National Crime Agency (NCA) has published its fourth annual assessment into county lines drug supply, vulnerability and harm in the UK. The county lines offending model involves gangs and criminal networks moving drugs within the UK using dedicated mobile phone lines to take orders. Findings include: there are over 2,000 individual deal line numbers in the UK; children aged 15-17 make up the bulk of referrals related to the National Referral Mechanism about county lines; and grooming techniques are similar to those used in child sexual exploitation and abuse.

**Further information:** [County lines drug supply, vulnerability and harm 2018](#)



### **Draft Domestic Abuse Bill**

The Home Office has published its response to the domestic abuse consultation carried out in March 2018 along with a draft Domestic Abuse Bill for England and Wales. The statutory definition of domestic abuse in the draft Bill includes economic abuse and controlling and coercive behaviour. Key points from the consultation response include: recognition of the impact of being exposed to domestic abuse on children; provision for including teaching about domestic abuse in relationships education in schools and support for children exposed to domestic abuse. The Home Office has published a research report looking at economic and social costs of domestic abuse which includes a literature review on the impacts of witnessing domestic abuse on children in England and Wales. **Source:** Home Office **Date:** 21 January 2019. **For further information see:** [Transforming the response to domestic abuse: consultation response and draft Bill](#) and [The economic and social costs of domestic abuse](#)). **Read more on NSPCC Learning:** [Protecting children from domestic abuse](#)



### **Young Peoples Conference 2018 - Pupil's presentations to Board**

The Young People's Conference took place in July 2018 at Darlington College, where over sixty pupils from seven secondary schools in Darlington attended, the event aimed to engage with young people to 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 to a panel which included the Independent Chair of DSCB and Board members. **Polam Hall School** and **Haughton Academy** were awarded joint first prize for expressing the best learning from the conference. The prize chosen by pupils will be a visit to the schools by Durham Constabulary Police Interceptors. Click [here](#) to see the joint winning presentations. Planning for the 2019 Conference is already underway as part of the Board's annual programme of engagement.



### **Retirements, resignations, appointments and changes to membership**

- **Resignation**-The Independent Chair Simon Hart is leaving DSCB after two and a half years to take up a new post as the Independent Chair of Surrey Safeguarding Children Board. Thank you to Simon for his valuable contribution to the DSCB and we wish him well in his 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](http://www.darlingtonsafeguardingboards.co.uk)