



MESSAGES BULLETIN

FROM THE DARLINGTON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

ISSUE 17 – April 2019

Welcome to the seventeenth 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 2<sup>nd</sup> April 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 draft plan of the structure of the Safeguarding Partnership was shared with Board members who were invited to submit comments to the Business Unit by the end of the week. Further updates will follow later in the year.



***Examples of good safeguarding practice to carry forward into the new arrangements***

Partner organisations were invited to update the Board on progress made within their respective agencies and give examples of good multi agency practice. Board members highlighted strong partnership working and effective relationships, excellent multi-agency safeguarding training opportunities, continual use of the professional challenge procedure and prevention as positives which we must maintain when we move to the new arrangements. We must also remain flexible in our response to emerging themes with an emphasis on early intervention and open and honest relationships.



Department  
for Education

***Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel: First National Review***

Edward Timpson, Chair of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, in a letter to the Secretary of State for Education has announced that the first national child safeguarding practice review will commence in March 2019. The review will focus on adolescents in need of state protection from criminal exploitation. Further information: [Announcement of the child safeguarding practice review panel's first national review \(PDF\)](#)



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

### **Troubled Families Programme**

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has published a series of reports outlining findings from the evaluation of the Troubled Families Programme 2015 to 2020. Reports include: a summary of key findings from the different strands of the evaluation; an overview of data about the families worked with and the programme's impact; qualitative findings from interviews with families and staff; and findings from surveys with the programme's coordinators, keyworkers, employment advisers and participants. Findings include: the programme appears to have reduced the proportion of looked after children and the proportion of adults and children receiving custodial sentences; evidence suggests families at risk are being identified more proactively and that multi-agency working has strengthened. **Further information:** [National evaluation of the Troubled Families Programme 2015-2020: evaluation overview policy report \(PDF\)](#)



### **Multi-Agency Safeguarding Reform Event**

In March 2019 the Business Manager attended a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Reform event which was organised through the DfE, Home Office and Department of Health and Social Care. A presentation from National Children's Bureau included updates on the early adopter programme and presentations from Northumbria and York outlined the progress to date. There was also a presentation from the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, which advises practice guidance on reviews will be published shortly. The Panel has received 250 notifications since it was established in July 2018 and as a result has identified a number of themes it wishes to focus on. As highlighted earlier, the first National Review is due to commence shortly and will focus on adolescents in need of protection from criminal exploitation.



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

- **Appointment** - Ann Baxter has been appointed as the new Independent Scrutineer/Chair for the new joint safeguarding arrangements following a recent selection process. Board members congratulated Ann and welcomed her to her new role.
- **Appointment** - The Business Unit welcomes Joyce Bowler who has been appointed as Business Support Officer following the recent recruitment process.
- **Change to Membership** – Kay Kelly, Secondary head resigned in February, and Nick Lindsay has been appointed as the new board member representing the Secondary Education sector.

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)