

The logo for Darlington Safeguarding Partnership features the text "Darlington Safeguarding Partnership" in a dark red, serif font. Below this text is a blue horizontal bar containing the tagline "Protecting Children and Adults" in white, sans-serif font. The entire text and tagline are enclosed within a light blue, stylized circular graphic that resembles a partial ring or a protective shield.

**Darlington  
Safeguarding  
Partnership**

Protecting Children and Adults

**Darlington Safeguarding Partnership  
Arrangements  
2019 - 2020**

**May 2019**

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# DARLINGTON SAFEGUARDING PARTNERSHIP

## SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS PLAN

### INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

#### National Context

In 2015, the Government commissioned Alan Wood, a former President of the Association of Directors of Children's Services, to lead a review of LSCBs. The Wood review and subsequent government guidance required all Local Authorities to review their safeguarding arrangements. The Children and Social Work Act 2017, the Child Safeguarding Practice Review and Relevant Agency (England) Regulations 2018 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 guidance legislates for changes, which include all local areas to publish new multi-agency safeguarding children arrangements led by three statutory agencies. These are the Local Authority, Clinical Commissioning Groups and Police.

#### Local Context

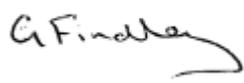
The geographical footprint for Darlington Safeguarding Partnership is the Darlington local authority area. Durham Constabulary covers Darlington and Durham Local Authority areas and the Clinical Commissioning Group is coterminous with Darlington Borough Council.

The safeguarding partners and agencies included in these arrangements will fulfil their statutory and legislative duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of Darlington children, whether they live within or are placed outside of our local authority area. Likewise, partners and agencies included in these arrangements have safeguarding responsibilities for children placed by other Local Authorities in the Darlington area.

#### Introduction

This document outlines the Darlington Statutory Safeguarding Partners response to establishing local safeguarding arrangements. The Statutory Safeguarding Partners have agreed that the new partnership will cover Children and Adult Safeguarding arrangements, as such the new partnership will be known as **Darlington Safeguarding Partnership** (Protecting Children and Adults). The Safeguarding Partnership Arrangements for Darlington will be implemented on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019.

The three lead statutory safeguarding partners are:

Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group: Nominated Officer – Gillian Findley, Director of Nursing	Durham Constabulary: Nominated Officer – Adrian Green, Detective Chief Superintendent.	Darlington Borough Council: Nominated Officer – Suzanne Joyner, Director of Children and Adult Services.
		

## **STATUTORY SAFEGUARDING PARTNERS AND RELEVANT AGENCIES**

### **Leadership**

All three Statutory Safeguarding Partners have equal and joint responsibility for local safeguarding arrangements underpinned by equitable and proportionate funding, including through contributions from relevant agencies.

The lead representatives, are able to:

- a) Speak with authority for the safeguarding partner they represent.
- b) Take decisions on behalf of their organisation or agency and commit them on policy, resourcing and practice matters.
- c) Hold their own organisation or agency to account on how effectively they participate and implement the local arrangements.

### **Relevant Agencies**

The strength of local partnership working is predicated upon statutory safeguarding partners working collaboratively together with relevant agencies, whose involvement the statutory safeguarding partners consider is required to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and/or adults. The Darlington Safeguarding Partnership arrangements will engage local organisations and agencies to collaborate and provide targeted support to children, families and adults. The local approach also enables joint identification of, and response to, existing and emerging needs, and to agreeing priorities to improve outcomes for children and/or adults.

Relevant agencies identified are set out in **Appendix 1**.

## **PARTNERSHIPS AND STRUCTURE**

### **Strategic Partnerships**

A local **protocol** is in place which identifies how the following strategic boards/partnerships will link in with the Darlington Safeguarding Partnership.

- a) Darlington Health and Wellbeing Board.
- b) Darlington Community Safety Partnership Board.
- c) Darlington Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements Strategic Board (MAPPA).

To ensure that leadership and accountability for issues of common interest are clear, each Board has its own governance and priorities. The protocol promotes effective ways of working to deliver the strategic outcomes, reflecting that safeguarding is everyone's business.

### **Vision**

The Darlington Safeguarding Partnership vision for the Children and Adult safeguarding arrangements will ensure:

***'Darlington is a place where children and adults live their lives safely'***

### **Structure**

A structure chart is attached at **Appendix 2**.

The structure chart has been developed to provide an inclusive model. The diagram demonstrates each layer of the Darlington Safeguarding Partnership which will enable all to be fully involved. The Statutory Safeguarding Partners will ensure there is full representation from all relevant agencies on the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Partnership Group, Sub Groups and Working Groups.

Darlington Safeguarding Partnership will ensure the voice of children and adults is heard throughout each layer of the structure.

### **Statutory Safeguarding Partners**

The three Statutory Safeguarding Partners will meet regularly to direct and drive forward the work of the Partnership, ensuring the vision is upheld. The Statutory Safeguarding Partners will monitor and scrutinise delivery of the Annual Plan and agree priority actions against core business. It will commission the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Partnership Group to ensure the priority areas of the plan are delivered. The Statutory Safeguarding Partners will ensure effective scrutiny arrangements are in place across the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Partnership Group.

## **Multi-Agency Safeguarding Partnership Group**

The multi-agency Safeguarding Partnership Group will have a wide membership of other stakeholders and 'relevant agencies', including schools, probation services and health providers. Both the Lead Member for Children's Services, and the Lead Member for Adult Services, will be members of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Partnership Group, to ensure fulfilment of their statutory roles in safeguarding, and to enable further scrutiny on the wider partnership activity. This will support the Statutory Safeguarding Partners in further fulfilling its scrutiny arrangements in an objective way. Lay members will also be included on the Multi-agency Safeguarding Partnership Group to support stronger public engagement between the Darlington Safeguarding Partnership and wider community groups.

The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Partnership Group will meet four times in the first year with a flexible approach for current and identified priorities. Frequency will be reviewed annually. Meetings will be themed around agreed local and national safeguarding priorities and areas identified through data and performance, to provide a learning model based meeting that is focussed on outcomes.

## **Learning and Review Sub Group**

Learning is a clear priority for Darlington Safeguarding Partnership. The Learning and Review Sub Group will identify multi-agency safeguarding learning needs across both children and adult agendas, to ensure all partner agencies develop their workforces and their local practice and procedures.

The group will:

- a) Ensure that the guidance for Serious Child Safeguarding Incidents and Safeguarding Adult Review referrals is followed.
- b) Ensure that a Rapid Review is undertaken that considers whether Serious Child Safeguarding Incidents meet the criteria for local or national child safeguarding practice review.
- c) Consider Safeguarding Adult referrals received, meet the criteria for a review under the guidance identified within the Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) Protocol.
- d) Ensure delivery of high quality multi-agency safeguarding learning and development activities that incorporate relevant research, national good practice and learning from case reviews and safeguarding adult reviews.
- e) Be responsible for planning and organising appropriate multi-agency safeguarding learning and development activities ensuring identified learning needs are addressed.
- f) Evaluate multi-agency learning and development activities to seek assurance that delivery is of high quality and has led to improvements of individual practice.
- g) Provide an Annual Report to the multi-agency Safeguarding Partnership Group on how training will be delivered and monitored for impact, including how learning will be embedded within agencies.
- h) Regularly review procedures to ensure they are updated to reflect changing needs, legislation, changes in practice and learning from reviews and inspections.

- i) Review the Continuum of Need (Threshold Tool), ensuring it is understood and applied consistently by all professionals.

### **Performance and Quality and Assurance Sub Group**

The Darlington Safeguarding Partnership will use data intelligence and audits to ensure the help being provided to children and adults in Darlington is effective. To achieve this, the Performance and Quality Assurance Sub Group, will be responsible for analysing multi-agency safeguarding performance data to inform the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Partnership Group and Statutory Safeguarding Partners of relevant trends and risk to performance. The Sub Group will also conduct a series of multi-agency audits per year.

The group will:

- a) Include membership from early help teams and the analysis of early help data, as well as data from safeguarding and specialist services.
- b) Undertake multi-agency audits, informed by data intelligence, JTAI themes, Self-Assessments, Statutory Safeguarding Partner priorities and findings from case reviews, child deaths and inspections.
- c) Develop and monitor action plans resulting from multi-agency audits or identified performance risks, and ensure that actions are completed in a timely manner.
- d) Confirm where practice has changed as a result of completed audits and action plans, through performance data review and re-audit where necessary.
- e) Ensure that all relevant safeguarding partners are included in multi-agency performance data analysis and audits.
- f) Consider audit overview reports undertaken by individual agencies to identify any significant issues that need to be monitored and/or raised through the Partnership.

### **Child Exploitation Group**

This is a joint group with members of Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership which was set up initially to monitor and improve strategic responses to tackle children missing from home, care and education and act as the strategic group for the reduction of Child Sexual Exploitation. The remit of this group has been widened to provide a joined up approach to tackling and raising awareness Child Criminal Exploitation.

### **Working Groups**

Working groups will be established dependent on focus of priorities and/or to address specific issues to support key pieces of work. These will consist of smaller groups incorporating key practitioners from within the relevant partner agencies.

## **Forums**

There will also be opportunities to establish safeguarding links with forums from wider groups such as universal services, practitioners, education, health, police and crime, early years and the voluntary sector.

### **Child Death Overview Panel**

In County Durham and Darlington the child death review process will be considered jointly for the purpose of undertaking child death reviews and learning lessons across the agencies that deliver services in both County Durham and Darlington.

The purpose of the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) is set out in HM Government Child Death Review: Statutory and Operational Guidance (England). The terms of reference for the County Durham and Darlington CDOP are therefore based on that guidance.

These joint arrangements are set out in **Appendix 3**.

### **Governance Arrangements**

The Statutory Safeguarding Partners will meet regularly and the meeting will be chaired by one of the key partners. The meeting will also include an Independent Scrutineer.

The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Partnership Group will meet a minimum of four times in the first year and will be chaired by the Independent Scrutineer/Chair.

Two sub groups will be established to support the Statutory Safeguarding Partners in scrutinising and ensuring delivery of the Annual Plan. These will meet as a minimum, four times a year. The Child Death Overview Panel will meet bi-monthly.

Working Groups will be held as and when deemed pertinent, or as directed by the Statutory Safeguarding Partners, the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Partnership Group and the Sub Groups.

## LOCAL SAFEGUARDING PRACTICE REVIEWS

### New Arrangements

The responsibility for how the system learns lessons from serious child safeguarding incidents, lies at a national level with the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and at a local level with the Statutory Safeguarding Partners. Serious child safeguarding cases are those in which:

- a) abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected and;
- b) the child has died or been seriously injured.

The three Statutory Safeguarding Partners must make arrangements to:

- a) identify serious child safeguarding cases which raise issues of importance in relation to the area.
- b) commission and oversee the review of those cases, where they consider it appropriate for a review to be undertaken.

The local process for identifying and making decisions on reviews, are outlined in Darlington Safeguarding Partnership **Serious Child Safeguarding Review Procedure and Practice Guidance**.

### Publication of Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

The Statutory Safeguarding Partners must send a copy of the full report to the Panel and to the Secretary of State, no later than seven working days before the date of the publication. Where the Statutory Safeguarding Partners decide only to publish information relating to the improvements to be made following the review, they must also provide a copy of that information to the Panel and the Secretary of State within the same timescale. They should also provide the report, or information about improvements, to Ofsted within the same timescale.

Depending on the nature and complexity of the case, the report should be completed and published as soon as possible and no later than six months from the date of the decision to initiate a review. Where other proceedings may have an impact on or delay publication, for example, an ongoing criminal investigation, inquest or future prosecution, the safeguarding partners should inform the Panel and the Secretary of State of the reasons for the delay. The Statutory Safeguarding Partners should set out for the Panel and the Secretary of State the justification for any decision not to publish either the full report or information relating to the improvements. The Statutory Safeguarding Partners should have regard to any comments that the Panel or the Secretary of State may have in respect of the publication.

Every effort should also be made, both before the review and while it is in progress, to:

- (a) capture points from the case about improvements needed, and
- (b) take corrective action and disseminate learning.

## **SCRUTINY AND ASSURANCE**

### **Partnership Assurance**

We intend to develop Darlington Safeguarding Partnership to allow for an environment which allows for constructive challenge and scrutiny.

In Darlington, a culture of challenge and holding partners to account already exists. These are embedded within the Professional Challenge Procedure. The Section 11 Audit Process has allowed us to ensure a level of scrutiny and assurance across a wide range of partner agencies.

Through the sub group structure, the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Partnership Group (in addition to the role of the Independent Scrutineer) will:

- a) seek assurance of whether all agencies are fulfilling their responsibilities to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults.
- b) have assurance of whether all agencies are joined up and working together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults.
- c) test the interconnectedness between performance, practice and the voice of the child, young person and family and/or Making Safeguarding Personal in respect of adults with care and support needs.

Any areas of concern will be escalated to the Statutory Safeguarding Partners.

### **The role of the Independent Scrutineer/Chair**

The Independent Scrutineer/Chair has been appointed by the Statutory Safeguarding Partners, and will report into them.

The Independent Scrutineer/Chair must be of sufficient standing to provide robust scrutiny and challenge and must have no other significant engagement with local agencies. The Independent Scrutineer/Chair will ensure that the safeguarding arrangements at this point in time are fit-for-purpose, consistent with current Working Together to Safeguard Children Guidance and the Care Act 2014 and that learning, evidence, research and community engagement inform policy and practice.

The Independent Scrutineer/Chair will be paid an agreed daily fee and undertake the role for a period of up to three years, subject to an Annual Review by the Statutory Safeguarding Partners.

The Independent Scrutineer/Chair will be independent from the Statutory Safeguarding Partners, and will have expertise in child and/or adult safeguarding and an understanding of local need and effective partnerships.

Their role will:

- a) Consider and challenge how well the Statutory Safeguarding Partners are providing strong and effective leadership and agree with them how this will be reported.
- b) Report to the Statutory Safeguarding Partners.

- c) Chair the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Partnership Group.
- d) Contribute to the Safeguarding Partnership's annual report.
- e) Review audits and performance data, including Section 11 audit activity.
- f) Determine the effectiveness of arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases and Safeguarding Adult Reviews.
- g) Be involved in the escalation and conflict resolution process.
- h) Have a direct line of sight to frontline practice through practitioner forums.
- i) Support culture change throughout the Partnership to embed scrutiny as a positive process with learning as its outcome.
- j) Listen to the experiences of children, young people, adults with care and support needs and their families, to ascertain how effectively local arrangements are working for them.

### **The Role of Designated Doctor – Clinical Scrutiny**

The Designated Doctor for safeguarding children is a statutory function funded by Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group and hosted by County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust. The post provides independent clinical safeguarding advice to all partners and supports the partnership in providing scrutiny and challenge of health and other services. There are also Designated Doctors for Looked After Children and for Child Death as well as Designated Nurses for Safeguarding and Looked After Children who provide advice and support for staff in all agencies.

## **FUNDING AND BUSINESS SUPPORT**

### **Funding**

The Statutory Safeguarding Partners agreed the process to determine the budget for 2019/2020 and have provided additional funding for the first year.

Contributions are made up from those provided by the Statutory Safeguarding Partners as well as wider partners who currently sit on the Local Safeguarding Children and Safeguarding Adult Partnership Boards. Funding requirements will be reviewed annually.

The cost of new local child safeguarding practice reviews post April 2019, will be met as they arise by the statutory partners.

### **Business Support**

The Statutory Safeguarding Partners agreed the current business support arrangements should remain and will be reviewed during year one of the new arrangements.

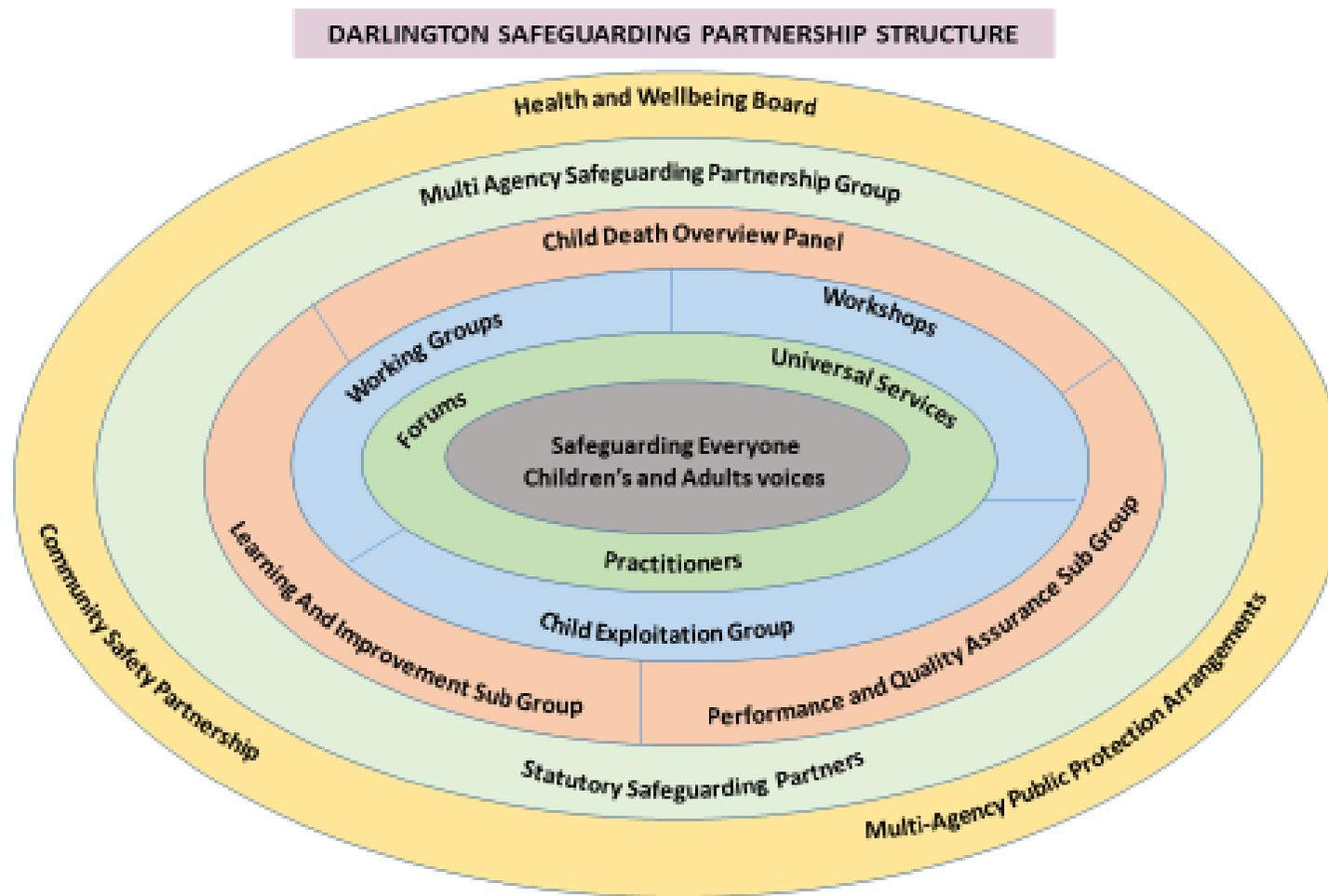
## Appendix 1

### Relevant Agencies

Darlington Local Authority - Housing, Public Health, Youth Offending
Health agencies – County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (CDDFT), Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV), Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust (HDFT), North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust
Children and Families Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS)
Care Quality Commission (CQC)
Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (DDFRS)
Early Years Settings
Education (Primary, Secondary, Further Education, SEN)
Support organisations for issues such as Substance Misuse / Domestic Abuse / Sexual Exploitation / Sexual Abuse (SARC)
Family Justice Board (FJB)
National Probation Service (NPS)
Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC)
Voluntary and third sector organisations (including Healthwatch)
Primary Care
North East Ambulance Service (NEAS)
NHS England (pharmacy, dentist and optometrists)
Independent providers including private hospitals, children’s homes, nursing and care homes, domiciliary providers
Youth groups – e.g. sport, scouts, brownies
Faith settings
Minority Communities
British Transport Police (BTP)
Chairs of other key local boards
Representatives of other National Partners
Darlington Partnership – which includes business and community organisations
Coroner

This list is not exhaustive.

## Appendix 2



## **Appendix 3**

### **Child Death Overview Panel**

The purpose of the County Durham and Darlington Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) is set out in HM Government Child Death Review: Statutory and Operational Guidance (England). These terms of reference for the County Durham and Darlington CDOP are therefore based on that guidance.

Working Together 2018 specifies that:

When a child dies, in any circumstances, it is important for parents and families to understand what has happened and whether there are any lessons to be learned.

In County Durham and Darlington the child death review will be considered jointly for the purpose of undertaking child death reviews and learning lessons across the agencies that deliver services in both County Durham and Darlington.

The responsibility for ensuring child death reviews are carried out is held by 'child death review partners,' who are defined in County Durham and Darlington as Durham and Darlington Local Authorities, North Durham Clinical Commissioning Group, Durham Dales & Easington Clinical Commissioning Group and Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group.

Child death review partners must make arrangements to review all deaths of children normally resident in the local area and, if they consider it appropriate, for any non-resident child who has died in their area.

In order to fulfil the requirements of the child death review process, County Durham and Darlington will request information from agencies who have had involvement for the purposes of enabling or assisting the review. Agencies must comply with the request, and if they do not, the child death review partners may take necessary action to seek compliance.

The purpose of a review and/or analysis is to identify any matters relating to the death, or deaths, that are relevant to the welfare of children in the area or to public health and safety, and to consider whether action should be taken in relation to any matters identified. If child death review partners find action should be taken by a person or organisation, they must inform them.

In addition, County Durham and Darlington CDOP will publish an annual report of the analysis of the Child Death Reviews undertaken and what they have done as a result.

### **Objectives**

- To collect and collate information about each child death, seeking relevant information from professionals and, where appropriate, family members.
- To analyse the information obtained, including the report from the Child Death Review Meeting(s), in order to confirm or clarify the cause of death, to determine any contributory factors and to identify learning arising from the child death review process that may prevent future deaths.
- To make recommendations to all relevant organisations where actions have been identified, which may prevent future child deaths or promote the health, safety and wellbeing of children.
- To notify the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and local Safeguarding Partners when it suspects that a child may have been abused or neglected.

- To notify the Medical Examiner (once introduced) and the doctor who certified the cause of death, if it identifies any errors or deficiencies in an individual child's registered cause of death. Any correction to the child's cause of death would only be made following an application for a formal correction.
- To provide specified data to NHS Digital and then, once established, to the National Child Mortality Database.
- To produce an annual report for Child Death Review partners on local patterns and trends in child deaths, any lessons learnt and actions taken, and the effectiveness of the wider child death review process.
- Exception reports to be presented to the Statutory Safeguarding Partners, as and when required.
- To contribute to local, regional and national initiatives to consider learning from child death reviews, including, where appropriate, approved research carried out within the requirements of data protection.
- To engage with regional partners to ensure learning is shared and implemented.

## CONTACT DETAILS

During the transition to the new arrangements, The Darlington Safeguarding Partnership will be hosted by the Darlington Safeguarding Boards.

All detail contained within this plan is correct at Date of Publication.

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