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**DARLINGTON SAFEGUARDING ADULTS PARTNERSHIP BOARD ANNUAL  
REPORT – 2015/2016**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform the Adult and Housing Scrutiny Committee of the effectiveness of the Darlington Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board during 2015/2016.

**Summary**

2. The Darlington Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board has gone through a lengthy process to review, evaluate and scrutinise how it coordinates and to measure its effectiveness in relation to how the Board is safeguarding adults at risk in Darlington through:
  - (a) Multi-agency policies and procedures
  - (b) Multi-agency training across adult workforces
  - (c) Performance monitoring and quality assurance activity
  - (d) Case reviews including Safeguarding Adult Reviews and other appropriate reviews to extract learning to improve the practice

**Recommendation**

3. It is recommended that:-
  - (a) The Adult and Housing Scrutiny Committee note the report.
  - (b) To provide feedback comments to the Independent Chair, Ann Baxter via the Safeguarding Boards' Business Manager, Emma Chawner.

**Reasons**

4. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons:

- (a) Adult and Housing Scrutiny Committee have an understanding of the Boards work to date.
- (b) To challenge and scrutinise the work to date and raise any challenges as appropriate with the Independent Chair.
- (c) To have assurance that the Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board is effectively coordinating multi-agency safeguarding practice in Darlington.

**Suzanne Joyner**  
**Director of Children and Adults Services**

**Background Papers**

Safeguarding Adult Partnership Board Annual Report – 2015/2016

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S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no implications arising from this report.
Health and Well Being	To keep the Health and Wellbeing Board informed of multi-agency safeguarding work in Darlington.
Carbon Impact	There are no implications arising from this report.
Diversity	There are no implications arising from this report.
Wards Affected	All
Groups Affected	All
Budget and Policy Framework	N/A
Key Decision	N/A
Urgent Decision	N/A
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The reports should also be shared with One Darlington: Perfectly Placed as to also keep them informed of the work of the Safeguarding Adults Partnership Boards work.
Efficiency	To be aware of the Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board agenda and to review where the Adult and Housing Scrutiny Committee can support the work.

## MAIN REPORT

### Information and Analysis

#### 5. Darlington Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board (DSAPB) Annual Report – 2015/2016

- (a) The DSAPB's purpose is to help safeguard adults with care and support needs through effective safeguarding practice that is person centred and outcome focussed, to work collaboratively to prevent abuse and neglect where possible, to ensure adults at risk receive timely and proportionate interventions where abuse or neglect has occurred and to ensure safeguarding practice is continuously improving and enhancing the quality of adults life in Darlington.
- (b) To coordinate the multi-agency approach to safeguarding practice in Darlington, there is a multi-agency Board that has an independent Chair (Ann Baxter). The Board meets bi-monthly and there are four subgroups that delivers on the Boards business plan. The subgroups are: policy and implementation, quality and performance, training and communications and a learning and improvement group.
- (c) The Board has six priority outcomes of: Empowerment, Prevention, Proportionality, Protection, Partnership and Accountability the progress and future recommendations identified in the annual report is:
- (i) **Empowerment:** The Board have driven change in respect of policy and practice and developed multi-agency policies and procedures (including toolkits) that are compliant with the Care Act (2014) and have placed the principles of Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) at the centre of practice. The procedures are designed to assist practitioners to capture the views of the individual at all stages of the investigation with a focus on outcomes. In 2016/2017 the Board will evaluate the policies and procedures and to ensure that the Board captures 'the voice of the user' by seeking their views on their Safeguarding experience and analysing the responses to inform future practice.
- (ii) **Prevention:** Is a very important aspect of the Boards safeguarding agenda. The Board does this in the main through [training](#) such as it training courses of Adult Safeguarding Level 1, 2 and specialist subjects of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Exploitation. The training is regularly updated to reflect legislative changes within the care Act 2014. There is a high satisfaction rate of 97% of the training and 97% of attendees rated their knowledge and skill level following the course attendance as very good or outstanding. In 2016/2017 the Board will review the Communications and Engagement Strategy and develop a programme of active marketing including launching a new website will be launched.
- (iii) **Proportionality:** In April 2015 the Safeguarding Adult procedures were reconfigured to ensure the process is led by the Adult at Risk. MSP is the approach to ensure a proportionate response to safeguarding concerns. This is because the adult at risk is seen as the expert in their own life and they work with services in making decisions about their

safeguarding experience. The safeguarding referrals have increased year on year but the referrals to a safeguarding enquiry has remained constant despite the increased referrals. This is an indication that the responses to safeguarding referrals are proportionate. In 2016/2017 the Board will evaluate the MSP question set and analyse the information obtained to ensure that the principles of MSP are embedded throughout all partner agencies.

- (iv) **Protection:** The Board have undertaken a joint s.11 self-assessment with the Darlington Safeguarding Children Board to seek assurances that statutory agencies are discharging their responsibilities appropriately, in addition the Board monitors data to ensure safeguarding arrangements are effective in Darlington and the Board undertakes quality assurance activity which to date has given the Board its assurances. In 2016/2017 the Board will agree a forward plan audit schedule based on the themes identified in its quality assurance work.
- (v) **Partnership:** The work of the Board is underpinned by effective partnership working. The Board is a multi-agency partnership and partners demonstrate the commitment to the partnership through their engagement and contribution towards the Boards work. In 2016/2017 the Board will consider existing financial contributions and develop a strategy to seek additional funding to support the work of the Board.
- (vi) **Accountability:** The Board and its statutory agencies undertake quality assurance activity and monitors safeguarding data to ensure it has an understanding of the safeguarding arrangements in Darlington. In 2016/2017 the Board will strengthen its data set to ensure it has data from all its statutory agencies and ensure single agencies report their internal safeguarding quality assurance activity to compliment the wider understand of Safeguarding in Darlington.