
Darlington Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board Annual Report – 2016/2017

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 2016/2017.

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.
 - (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 Adult Services

Background Papers

Safeguarding Adult Partnership Board Annual Report – 2016/2017

Author: Emma Chawner, Safeguarding Boards' Business Manager
01325 406459

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.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

5. Darlington Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board (DSAPB) Annual Report – 2016/2017

- (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 deliver on the Boards business plan. The subgroups are: policy and implementation, quality and performance, training, communications and voice of the user, and adult learning and improvement group.
- (c) The Board has six priority outcomes of: Empowerment, Prevention, Proportionality, Protection, Partnership and Accountability. Below is a summary of the progress made towards these six priority areas:
- (i) **Empowerment:** The Board continues to monitor if adults at risk are involved in their safeguarding process and what their experience has been. Out of 814 safeguarding concerns raised in 2016/2017 65% (531) of adults at risk were fully involved in the process, and 70% of adults at risk were satisfied that they had been listened too. The Board have also continued to improve practice with a focus on Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) and Mental Capacity Act (MCA) by undertaking thematic audits. The learning from these audits was used to inform a practitioner event titled 'Promoting Best Practice in Safeguarding'. The event was well attended by 140 multi-agency practitioners. In addition, the Board have further developed multi-agency policies, procedures and toolkits to support their practice.
- (ii) **Prevention:** DSAPB ensures that practitioners effectively identify and appropriately respond to signs of abuse, neglect and suspected criminal offences and thereby make communities safer. The Board does this through [training](#) and in 2016/2017 there was an 11% (3580) increase from the previous year (3175), with 99% of learners rating their knowledge either good or outstanding. 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. DSAPB also reviewed and updated its Communications and Engagement Strategy and developed a new [website](#) to further promote safeguarding messages. The Board also supported the implementation of the [Herbert Protocol](#), to protect vulnerable adults that are at high risk of going missing such as those with Dementia. In addition, the Board approved multi-agency guidance on: [Managing allegations against 'people in a position of trust'](#); [PREVENT](#); [Information sharing protocol](#); and [Safeguarding Adult Reviews](#). DSAPB has developed its relationship with County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service to share its data with the Board, from their 'Safe and

Wellbeing' assessments to inform the prevention agenda. The Board have also developed a template to identify learning from strategy meetings and national safeguarding reviews. This information is used to inform and develop local practice.

- (iii) **Proportionality:** DSAPB seeks assurance from the partnership that safeguarding responses are proportionate to the risks of significant harm; that safeguarding arrangements support the use of professional judgement; and the management of risk, to ensure that the least intrusive response appropriate to risk is delivered. This has been done through thematic audits, safeguarding adult reviews and discretionary reviews. In 2016/2017 DSAPB has completed a safeguarding adult review and this is available from the Boards' [website](#).
- (iv) **Protection:** DSAPB monitors local safeguarding arrangements for reporting abuse and neglect through performance data. This data is routinely analysed by one of the subgroups: to seek emergent themes, patterns or trends that Board need to be aware of to challenge practice and understand the issues as appropriate. The number of concerns received in 2016/2017 is lower than in the previous two years and the percentage of concerns that progressed to a safeguarding strategy meeting has also decreased significantly in comparison to the previous four years and is down by 7% on 2015/2016. The downward trend is thought to have been in part due to pro-active work that the Safeguarding Adults Team has carried out to ensure concerns submitted are appropriate and require a safeguarding response. The reduction of concerns which progress to a strategy meeting is thought to be due to the introduction of the five day timescales to complete initial enquiries and indicates that the response to safeguarding referrals is proportionate. DSAPB has also developed Executive Strategy Meeting Guidance for organisation or institutional abuse; Multi-agency Safeguarding Policies and Procedures and a safeguarding audit to seek assurances from statutory, voluntary and non-statutory agencies that they are appropriately discharging their safeguarding responsibilities.
- (v) **Partnership:** Partnership working underpins all aspects of safeguarding and the Board must be assured that effective multi-agency partnership arrangements are in place and the agencies foster a 'one team' approach that places the welfare of individuals above organisational boundaries. The Board has approved multi-agency procedures and a joint information sharing protocol with Darlington Safeguarding Children Board. The Board has positive relationships with other strategic partnerships such as: the Health and Wellbeing Board in Darlington and the Community Safety Partnership. The Board has contributed to the refresh of the Joint Area Strategic Needs Assessment to ensure safeguarding has a golden thread throughout; the Independent Chairs across the partnerships meet to discuss and collaborate on common agenda's such as understanding the strategic support offered to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.
- (vi) **Accountability:** DSAPB seeks assurance that the role of all agencies are clear, together with lines of accountability, including ensuring practitioners understand what is expected of them and others, and that agencies recognise their responsibilities to each other and accept collective responsibility for safeguarding arrangements, and the need to challenge each other where necessary. The Board has done this through reviewing their [Terms of Reference and Governance](#)

[Arrangements](#); approved the [Professional Challenge Procedure](#); and the [Appeals Process](#). The Board also undertook a Safeguarding Adult Review and all agencies fully contributed to this review, which enabled the Board to recognise learning that has been communicated to improve safeguarding practice in Darlington.