
**DARLINGTON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT –
2015/2016**

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to enable the Children and Young People Scrutiny to receive and comment upon the Annual Report of the Darlington Safeguarding Children Board (DSCB) for the period 2015/16.

Summary

2. All Local Safeguarding Children Boards are required to produce an Annual Report which should account for the Board's activities over the previous year and make an assessment of the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements within the local area.
3. The Annual Report for 2015/16 is based on the Boards 4 strategic priorities which were:
 - (a) Multi-agency safeguarding leadership
 - (b) Standards for multi-agency working
 - (c) Case review, learning and development
 - (d) Maintaining an overview of the safeguarding needs of children and young people
4. Following the Ofsted Inspection of Children's Care Services in Darlington in July 2015 and the report published on 1 September 2015, it was necessary for the Board to make some revisions to its Business Plan and strategic priorities and this is reflected in the report.

Recommendation

5. It is recommended that:
 - (a) The Children and Young People Scrutiny note and comment on the DSCB Annual Report for 2015/16 which will be published on the Boards website.

Reasons

6. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons:

- (a) Children and Young People Scrutiny 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 Children Board is effectively coordinating multi-agency safeguarding practice in Darlington and promoting the welfare of children.
- (d) The DSCB is a member of the Children's Services Improvement Board and working with all statutory agencies to strengthen safeguarding arrangements in Darlington.

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Background Papers

Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report – 2015/2016

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 Children Boards work.
Efficiency	To be aware of the Safeguarding Children Boards agenda and to review where the Scrutiny can support the work.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

7. Darlington Safeguarding Children Board (DSCB) Annual Report – 2015/2016

- (a) The DSCB is a multi-agency partnership with the statutory objective to coordinate how agencies work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in and ensure the effectiveness of how agencies work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Darlington.
- (b) The Board is independently Chaired by Simon Hart as from September, 2016. The Board meets bi-monthly and is supported by subgroups to deliver the Board's strategic business plan. These include; policy and procedure development, quality assurance and performance monitoring, serious case reviews, child death reviews, training and communications about Board's work.
- (c) The Annual Report has been developed and framed by reflecting on the Board's work against its four strategic priorities and six Ofsted recommendations through its subgroup groups and the Boards work.
- (d) The Board priorities for 2016-17 and beyond will be reviewed based on the learning from the previous year, Ofsted recommendations, Boards view of the quality of services and based on areas of interest identified by the Children's Services Improvement Board. Examples identified for 2016/2017 are to strengthen:
 - (i) the multi-agency communication and engagement strategy
 - (ii) the performance management and quality assurance arrangements and
 - (iii) the serious case review and notifiable incidents process