



DARLINGTON

Safeguarding Children Board

Annual Report 2015-2016



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Chair's Acknowledgement

I was pleased to take up this role in April 2015, the year has seen a number of significant events and changes all of which have impacted on how partners have worked together to prioritise and focus on joint working arrangements to protect children in Darlington. I would therefore like to thank partners who hold key leadership roles across the wide range of organisations and services that engage with children, young people and their families for their continued commitment to the LSCB partnership. I would also like to thank the staff of the Business Unit and the Chair of the Darlington Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board for providing stability in what has been a challenging year, as the partnership responds to the need to improve the difference it seeks to make.

This report provides in some detail how the DSCB partnership undertook to “make a difference” and also seeks to summarise the extent to which this was achieved. The DSCB is a publically accountable partnership and it is therefore reasonable to expect this report to achieve a level of transparency that provides partners and the public with a level of confidence that children and young people in Darlington are safe and protected. It also has to offer a clear indication of what has been learnt on the basis of how the partnerships statutory responsibilities were discharged during the year, and as such looks back in order to focus on the future.

Richard Burrows, Independent Chair

Introduction

Working Together, March 2015 states:

‘The Chair must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area. The annual report should be published in relation to the preceding financial year and should fit with local agencies planning, commissioning and budget cycles. The report should be submitted to the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, the local Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chair of the Health and Well-Being Board.

The report should provide a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services. It should identify areas of weakness, the causes of those weaknesses and the action being taken to address them as well as other proposals for action. The report should include lessons from reviews undertaken within the reporting period.

LSCB's should conduct regular assessments on the effectiveness of Board partners' responses to child sexual exploitation and include in the report information on the outcome of these assessments. This should include an analysis of how the LSCB partners have used their data to promote service improvement for vulnerable children and families, including in respect of sexual abuse. The report should also include appropriate data on children missing from care, and how the LSCB is addressing the issue. Where the LSCB has a secure establishment within its area, the report should include a review of the use of restraint within that establishment and the findings of the review should be reported to the Youth Justice Board.

The report should also list the contributions made to the LSCB by partner agencies and details of what the LSCB has spent, including on Child Death Reviews, Serious Case reviews and other specific expenditure such as learning events or training. All LSCB member organisations have an obligation to provide LSCB's with reliable resources (including finance) that enable the LSCB to be strong and effective. Members should share the financial responsibility for the LSCB in such a way that a disproportionate burden does not fall on a small number of partner agencies.

Independent Chair's Executive Summary

The national and local context for working together to protect children and to promote their welfare has continued to be subject to challenges and pressures, as all partners continue to address reduced resources and a changing policy and governance landscape. For many partners and the LSCB partnership itself, the year saw some fundamental questions and challenges raised as how best to ensure effective working together to protect children and young people.

This report will highlight the impact that some of these challenges have had and will have going forward. The report will also provide an account of how the LSCB partnership discharged and developed its statutory responsibilities. To what extent these made a difference and what continues to need to be addressed to further improve the impact of the partnership and how it promotes a “learning culture” that demonstrates transparency and accountability across the partnership.

Inspections remain one of the ways of determining the extent to which partners are judged to be meeting standards, and for all statutory partners the occurrence and impact of an inspection is likely to be significant. Developments across all the major inspectorates have demonstrated an increasing focus on front line joint working to protect children and this alongside the focus on children at risk of or who are Sexually Exploited (CSE) has had a positive impact on how as a partnership we see our role.

During the year as a part of the wider dialogue around the response to children at risk of harm and abuse, the future role of LSCB partnerships has been opened up. A report by the Local Government Association¹ (LGA) highlighted some of the trends and pressures that were a risk of undermining the impact of LSCB partnerships. The inclusion of LSCB's within the scope of the Ofsted Single Inspection Framework² (SIF) has also served to inform the view of what constitutes an “effective” LSCB. In December 2015 the Prime Minister signalled as a part of the wider approach to reform of social work, partnership working across Government and the reform of local government and devolution arrangements a fundamental review of LSCB's their role and function, Serious Case Reviews and the Child Death Overview process. The report completed by Alan Wood³ in March was subsequently included in forthcoming changes to legislation and guidance. How this develops is likely to be an important consideration for the partnership(s) in the coming year.

For the DSCB partnership, the direct impact of the Ofsted SIF inspection has resulted in the Local Authority needing to respond to being placed in “improvement” and the formation of a Children's Services Improvement Board (CSIB). The LSCB was judged as “requiring improvement” and partners have sought to respond to this by building on the strengths of past efforts and introducing changes to address both identified weaknesses and the challenges of a changing landscape and agenda.

The relationship between the DSCB partnership and the Local Authority is an important one, given the statutory role and responsibilities the Local Authority hold for providing services to children. They are also required to lead an effective partnership approach to identifying local needs and priorities, so as to ensure that these are addressed on the basis of clear priorities, plans and commissioning arrangements.

The role and function of the DSCB partnership has therefore needed to continue to address the learning and emerging view of what an effective partnership looks like, especially in the light of revisions to the statutory guidance in 2013 and 2015⁴, as well as the learning from inspection.

These require the DSCB partnership to have a clearly defined position in respect of how it is able to monitor the performance and quality of joint working arrangements, how it sets standards and provides guidance. What are known as “thresholds” set out how services and people who work with children should link together, so that they know what to do and what to expect when there is a concern for the welfare or safety of a child. Making sure that those who work with children have the right skills and knowledge that results in high quality practice and judgements is important as is the formal role of reviewing cases. During the year we have been able to maintain and develop all areas of the partnerships statutory responsibilities.

¹ http://www.local.gov.uk/documents/10180/6869714/RiP_Review+of+current+arrangements+for+the+operation+of+LSCBs__May_2015.pdf/5940af9c-7ae5-4346-84b8-655c30b291c7

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inspecting-local-authority-childrens-services-framework>

³ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/526329/Alan_Wood_review.pdf

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>

Increasingly for all DSCB partnerships developing the capacity to hold partners and the whole system to account on the basis of clear standards and expectations has become more important. This requires partnerships to invest in the means to monitor and scrutinise joint working practice in terms of performance, quality and the impact these have on children, families and front line professionals. This was a particular challenge for the partnership during the year.

This report sets out how partners in September 2015 following the feedback from inspection, carefully assessed what had worked well and not so well, including recognition of the impact of changes in chairing arrangements, changes to the way in which the DSCB is supported and in particular the changes within the Local Authority as a result of the Ofsted judgement. The DSCB partnership sought to set a balance between continuity and change, whilst re setting and rationalising its ambition and focus. This resulted in a new 3 year plan, with the first year focusing on changes to core processes, structure and board membership and development, in order to strengthen the leadership role of Board members.

This also saw the commissioning of work to look at ways of coordinating priorities and overlap with the Darlington Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board (DSAPB) and the Community Safety Partnership (CSP). The year has also seen a renegotiation of the relationship between Darlington Borough Council and the DSCB partnership to reflect the improving ways in which Children's Services evidence performance, progress and quality and the impact this has on joint working arrangements.

Fundamentally the year has required partners to consider and develop the means to be able to have a "clear line of sight" into and across front line joint working practice. This has tested the capacity and capability of all concerned to analyse and scrutinise key parts of the "child's journey" through services intended to offer them early help and protection. It has also highlighted the leadership role of board members in being able to set vision, direction and pace. Improving the coordination and integration of work carried out in the sub groups has been important in supporting this.

The report shows the progress that has been achieved in terms of process and the development of capacity. In respect of the delivery of most of the areas that address the partnerships statutory responsibilities the report and the conclusions that can be drawn from it indicate that the partnership has been able to maintain its position and performance. With hindsight the report suggests that the partnership has underestimated the impact of transition and the inspection outcome in respect of Darlington Borough Council. This is most evident in the area of performance management and quality assurance, which have taken more time to reset and refresh and as with other areas of activity have been subject to changes in representation and leadership.

Partners are able to monitor, scrutinise, and undertake challenge as necessary in order to support assurance and improvement. This is central to the future success of the partnership and the role it will play in respect of Darlington Borough Council's improvement, this has been recognised and has been given additional priority.

The priorities and objectives set out in the DSCB Partnership Business and Improvement plan represent a



comprehensive and integrated response to the recommendations made by Ofsted and satisfactory progress has been made in respect of these recommendations. This progress has been regularly assessed by both the Board and the Improvement Board.

The report indicates a need to be concerned about pace and the bringing together of the different elements of change and development that the DSCB Partnership has set itself. It is however important to remember that the partnership relies on the commitments and priorities that members are able to make and maintain, so expectations need to be realistic. The report also highlights a number of areas where progress has been made and that when seen in the context of the 3 year plan gives cause for cautious optimism on the assumption that progress is maintained and the learning from this report is heeded by the DSCB partnership and partners.

As the Independent Chair I am tasked with supporting partners to come together to focus on joint working arrangements to protect children, so that as a partnership we can evidence and offer assurance that when children need early help and or are at risk, the joint working response is effective, child and family centred, timely and proportionate. This means being able to “hold a mirror up” to reflect on and recognise the potential for improvement and to manage system and practice risks, on the basis of cooperation, collaboration and challenge. During the year I have found all partners to be willing and able in these respects, and this report provides a level of assurance and challenge that I am confident partners will respond to.

This report also has to address a key question and form a judgement as to, “the sufficiency of joint working arrangements to protect children”. This is always a challenging one for the DSCB partnership to address, even more so when inspection has raised concerns. Whilst this report evidences that the partnership have maintained and in some cases made significant progress post inspection, the scale and scope of change has also demonstrated that in certain key areas pace has not matched expectation. The assessment of the other indicators addressed in this report (and taking into account the role of the CSIB) means that it is possible to conclude that partners work well together to protect children. The DSCB arrangements have yet to reach the point where they are sufficiently robust to provide a more complete evidence base for this assessment. This is not however to say that these arrangements are not sufficient or that children are not safe in Darlington, the CSIB has played a key role in terms of scrutiny and development, which in the coming year the partnership will have to fully assume.

The report does therefore demonstrate and raise some significant further challenges for the DSCB partnership and



partners in respect of the following areas;

- The need to consolidate and complete changes to the “way we do things” so that all of the people who give up their time to serve on the sub groups are more focused on being able to identify and demonstrate the difference of what they are doing will and has made to how children are protected and benefit from early help.
- The need for Board members to further develop their “leadership” of and accountability for the “what, the why and what difference have we made” arrangements.
- The need to have a comprehensive, consistent and authoritative evidence based “line of sight” into and across front line joint working practice that is led by a “whole system” analysis of the key indicators that will alert us to signs that may indicate that performance and the quality of how partners are responding to needs and risks requires further enquiry and assurance.
- The need to develop and undertake a more intensive approach to how we look at practice through audits, encouraging partners to share their learning from their own audits and for the partnership to deliver targeted multi-agency audit of cases and practice
- The need to promote and communicate what is expected from and what helps partners, professionals, parents and children to do the “right thing”
- The need to improve our capacity and how we do this, to look at evidence that suggests we have fallen short of the standards we have set ourselves and to be able to evidence and measure how this has been addressed.
- The need to develop a clearer view of what skills, knowledge and support those who work with children and their families need now and in the future that raises standards of practice and outcomes for children.

In formally accepting this report, the DSCB partnership demonstrates and renews its commitment to a pace of change that requires a continued focus on improving the capacity to fulfil its role. To ensure and be assured that joint working arrangements are effectively coordinated and that they are effective, as measured against clear standards.

It also demonstrates the underlying strength of the partnership that is learning from areas where progress in the past year has fallen short of what was hoped for. The DSCB partnership overall has maintained its position, and the report and the learning it identifies provides further challenge to focus on the key things that can make a difference to how children are kept safe, and the role of early help in protecting children in Darlington.



Key Learning and Messages from 2015/2016

- The continued focus for the partnership on how it sets standards has in place effective monitoring, scrutiny and analysis of the key points in the “child’s journey through early help into protection” remains a key priority and development area.
- Board member led scrutiny; assurance and challenge on the basis of a robust and consistent approach to “Performance Management and Quality Assurance (PMQA)” will have to demonstrate that it can support the Local Authority “improvement” journey.
- The Board and partners have continued to meet statutory responsibilities and undertaken significant change at a difficult time of transition, but pace, quality and impact need to improve, so as to better evidence a “whole system” approach and a focus on outcomes for children
- Partners remain committed and supportive, but need to ensure that the work of the sub groups is supported and that the Business Group supports the Board and the Independent Chair.
- The priorities of the Board need to be more influenced by and influence the identification of local needs and the strategic plans and priorities that result from this.
- The agreement of a more strategic approach across the DSAPB and the CSP, as well as the arrangements for domestic abuse will enable the respective partnerships to provide a clear lead on key areas and issues, such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Prevent, Missing Children, Child Sexual Exploitation, Child Sexual Abuse, Sexual exploitation, neglect, domestic abuse and violence, shared policies, procedures and pathways.
- The continued development of thresholds in the light of improved PMQA and the development of early help will be a priority, as will being sure that partners across schools, primary health care settings and other universal services are supported to play their part in making sure that children are protected.
- The partnership will need to make sure that revised and emerging developments for early help and intervention are focused on and reflect joint working arrangements to protect children. This is likely to mean a sharper focus on the points of access, information sharing, and multi-agency coordination of contacts, referrals and assessment of risk/need on the basis of a “journey” rather than “episodes”.
- How we see and understand joint working practice, not just from the point of view of social work led interventions (though these remain important in the context of child protection, child in need and children looked after) but also from the perspectives of other organisations professionals and other communities of interest requires more development.
- This means that how we target awareness raising, communication and sharing learning from practice will need to reflect the different roles and perspectives of both statutory and non-statutory partners. The launch of the new website will spearhead this approach.



- The partnership needs to strategically consider what developments would make the most difference, rather than trying to achieve a too broad focus, and the learning from the year suggests that investment in the following should be considered; the adoption of shared principles for “supervision”, the implementation of “raising a challenge, sharing professionals concerns” and possibly other “whole system developments” that would help with change and improvement.
- The relocation of the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) function provides a challenge and an opportunity, the challenge is that adjustments will be needed to how resources are allocated and the opportunity is to do things differently.
- Continuing progress in developing the case review function is important, so as to ensure that considerations and any review is focused, transparent and effective and meets national quality marks.
- Section 11 and section 175/157 as planned, needs to be developed to the point where partners have clarity and a strategic commitment to the long term development of the move from “audit” to “self-assessment”. The core safeguarding standards provide a “whole system” benchmark and can support the many different types of organisations to focus their own governance and quality assurance arrangements within a supportive and enabling approach.
- The Board needs to become more strategic in its approach to ensuring that the voice of the child is heard across partners and partnerships. It also needs to be sure that its standard setting, scrutiny and assurance activity is focused on identifying and promoting positive outcomes for children.
- The partnership response to children at risk of sexual exploitation and those who have been exploited and who are missing from home, care and education, continues to be robust and developing. The challenge for the DSCB is to take this learning and consider how it can be further applied as well as how it evidences the effectiveness of these arrangements.
- Multi-agency training continues to be one of the important ways in which practitioners and managers across agencies are supported in joint working practice. The approach to this has to become more strategic, both in terms of delivery and in having a clearer view of and vision for what skills and knowledge are required, and how these are met. There also needs to be a clearer and more accountable focus on how the delivery (whatever the source) impacts positively on practice, hence the suggestion of a focus on supervision principles.
- Partnership and joint working is about people, so the partnership and its chair need to continue to engage in activities and outcomes that focus on what matters most, stepping towards a dialogue and a shared understanding that is less reliant on confirmation of process and more engaged with outcomes and impact.



The National Safeguarding context

Ensuring children and young people are protected from harm, abuse and exploitation has continued to be influenced by the national response to child sexual exploitation (CSE) and missing children. At central government level there has been a focus on coordinating approaches across government and in December 2015 the Prime Minister signalled reforms for child protection arrangements and the role of Local Authorities. This has resulted in new draft legislation and a review of LSCB's, serious case reviews (SCRs) and child death overview panels (CDOP), which was published in March 2016.

The year also saw the continued impact of and learning from the Ofsted Single Inspection Framework (SIF) which includes a review of the DSCB. Outcomes from this process continued to be mixed with significant numbers of LSCB's and Local Authorities "requiring improvement". The year also saw the introduction of a multi inspectorate inspection programme, Joint Targeted Area Inspections (JTAI) the first round and theme was CSE and children missing, and these were undertaken by Ofsted, Her Majesties inspectorates for the police and probation (HMIC/HMIP) as well as the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

Inspection of partners and joint working arrangements continued to offer clarity re standards and benchmarks, but also placed additional pressures on the systems especially when outcomes were disappointing.

NHS England during the year further progressed its focus in safeguarding by publishing in 2015 its revised policy and arrangements, (Safeguarding Accountability and Assurance framework⁵) and this was a welcome focus in a sector that continued to be subject to change. Locally Darlington Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) provided the interface between this framework and how services maintained a focus on safeguarding.

During the year the revised arrangements for the National Probation Service (NPS) and Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRC), continued to develop creating opportunities to clarify revised joint working arrangements for safeguarding.

Nationally arrangements for education continued to develop with the continued growth of academies and free schools. In the year the Keeping Children Safe in Education⁶ guidance was rolled out and also subject to further consultation.

The introduction of new legislation around counter terrorism⁷ placed new duties on a number of partners and professionals, and as these bedded in the links between these arrangements and safeguarding have developed.

The response to Female Genital Mutilation has maintained a high profile during the year with the introduction of "mandatory reporting⁸" and the publication of coordinated information about prevalence.

Arrangements for children subject to private law proceedings have been led by CAFCASS who saw a 14% rise in applications over the year. Developments and judgments in the private law arena continued to focus attention on areas of formal joint working arrangements especially when children are placed with family members.

There was continued central government attention given to adoption and residential homes for children. There continued to be a concern that children who would benefit from adoption should do so with minimal delay and during the year there were various developments to support improvement, with proposals in January 2016 for changes in the law. The Secretary of State for Education commissioned Sir Martin Narey to undertake a review of children's residential care in October 2015.

The year also saw the continued fall in the numbers of children and young people held in custody, but it also saw a number of reports and inspections that raised concerns about the capacity of the provision as well as the quality especially in respect of self-harm and violence.

Domestic Violence and Abuse continued to have a high profile, with high levels of reported incidence and an improved understanding of when this should be seen as a child protection issue. There was a wider debate as to the need to re configure arrangements to address more effective early intervention and the recidivism rates.

During the year the needs of children and young people with mental health needs were given prominence with the publication of Future in Mind (Promoting, Protecting and improving children and young people's mental health and wellbeing). This resulted in a number of key developments in the year.

⁵ <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/safeguarding-accountability-assurance-framework.pdf>

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/keeping-children-safe-in-education-proposed-changes>

⁷ Counter-Terrorism and Security Act

⁸ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fgm-mandatory-reporting-in-healthcare>

⁹ Census 2011

Child Poverty and Neglect have continued to be the subject of concern and attention with reports of increasing numbers of children living in poverty. Childhood neglect remained the most common reason for taking child protection action during the year.

Many areas of public services and the voluntary sector continued to experience changes to funding, resulting in some areas, the need to change priorities and re allocate reduced levels of funding.

In England the year also saw significant developments around “devolution” resulting in increased freedoms to configure local government arrangements.

Summary of the National Safeguarding context

Making sure that children and young people are protected and safeguarded has remained a significant challenge in part because of the complex interrelationships between how economic and social policy priorities interface and work through the wide range of national, regional and local arrangements for how services are developed and delivered. The Local Authority, despite the significant changes to the resources they have available has retained the leadership role in respect of how partners (local and national) work together to deliver services that reflect local needs and priorities as well as making sure that the most vulnerable groups are protected.

Darlington is a Unitary Authority and covers an area of approximately 200km². Approximately 22,800 children and young people under the age of 18 years live in Darlington. This is 22% of the total population in the area.

Children and young people from minority ethnic groups account for 6% of all children living in the area, compared with 22% in the country as a whole. The largest minority ethnic groups of children and young people in the area are Asian and mixed. Darlington has higher numbers of Gypsy or Roma travellers than the wider UK with approximately six times the national average – a substantial number are domiciled only during the winter months. The proportion of children and young people with English as an additional language in primary schools is 5% (the national average is 19%), in secondary schools it is 4% (the national average is 14%). Darlington had the 4th fastest growth of child population in North of England⁹.



Safeguarding in Darlington Context and Overview

Education in Darlington

In Darlington there are 42 schools settings, of which 10 are currently maintained schools and the remainder are academies and free schools.

As at 31 Aug 2015, Ofsted summary data shows that 88% of Darlington schools were judged to be 'good' or better, this exceeds the national performance of 84%. However, more recent data from the DFE Performance Tables, which includes inspections up to February 2016, shows that the percentage of primary schools in Darlington graded as 'good' or better is currently 84%, whereas the percentage of secondary schools graded as 'good' currently stands at 63%.

All schools in Darlington are signed up to the Darlington Borough Council and schools@onedarlington strategy for school improvement. This includes a rigorous review of school data annually to inform improvement plans, applications for school, school support and priorities for collaborative work. At present 5 primary schools and 3 secondary schools in Darlington are judged as less than good and each school has an action plan in place to drive improvement.

In line with Working Together, 2015 the LSCB has a statutory duty to scrutinise local arrangements and Section 11 of the children Act 2004 places a duty on a range of organisations and individuals to ensure their functions and services are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Education settings across Darlington have agreed to engage and participate in the process. A toolkit has been designed in line with requirements for Section 175/157 of the Education Act 2002. This will enable the board to assess the position of education settings in relation to key standards in effective joint working arrangements. The findings from this audit will be available from July 2016 and feedback will be provided to the schools in September 2016.



Early Help in Darlington

The Board is required to assess the effectiveness of early help arrangements and how agencies within Darlington work together to provide effective early help to children and their families. The Common Assessment Framework (CAF) is an early help inter-agency assessment, used for early identification of children's additional needs, the sharing of this information between organisations and the coordination of service provision. The CAF assessments should identify what help the child and family require to prevent needs escalating to a point where intervention would be needed via a statutory assessment under the Children Act 1989. In Darlington 606 individual CAFs had been opened which is a 94% (294) increase from the previous year. The main age group an individual CAF had been opened was with the 10 – 16 year old age group (217), under 5s (168) and 5 to 10 year olds (158). The age group with the least number of individual CAFs open was with the over 16 year old age groups (49).

In September the DSCB partnership agreed that there was a need to improve focus on Early Help and Intervention, especially in the light of the Ofsted judgment of Darlington Borough Council. It was also noted that Darlington Borough Council and partners were committed to updating these arrangements, and that this would set the pace for the Board response in terms of improving how it evaluates the effectiveness of early help arrangements. As mentioned elsewhere in the report this was noted as a matter of concern and resulted in the Board revising its arrangements to focus on this area in the coming year. The majority of the CAFs were opened by Darlington Borough Council (341), followed by Education/schools (221) whilst Health and private/voluntary agencies only opened 40 and 2 respectively. A matter that should be of interest to the board is that from December – March, Health professionals only opened 3 CAFs whilst other organisations were more consistent throughout the year.

The DSCB partnerships understanding of the importance of the role of early help and intervention is that it is important that this is well defined and resourced by the partnership arrangements that provide leadership for this part of the “child’s journey”. It is also important that the DSCB produced “thresholds document” provides appropriate description, guidance and support for joint working at this point. In the year the DSCB monitored both the appropriateness of the thresholds and the data that was made available in respect of performance and quality. As a part of the Children’s Services Improvement Plan this area of intervention will continue to be developed and a coordinator has been appointed by the Darlington Borough Council. This will improve focus and the flow and quality of information available to the Board and means that in the coming year we will be able to review and further test the relevance of thresholds, policies and guidance provided. As the early intervention and early help arrangements develop it is likely that the DSCB partnership will need to seek assurance and further test how these arrangements will be managed and coordinated in relation to the current “front door” arrangements and the need to ensure an effective balance between whole family and child centred early engagement and the need to ensure timely interventions when there is a concern for the safety of a child.

Key learning and next steps

The Local Authority and partners are committed to reviewing and updating the arrangements for early help in Darlington as a part of the Improvement Plan, and this is work in progress. As this review and improved clarity and therefore commitment from partners develops, this will require the DSCB through its PMQA function and arrangements to achieve the following:

- The regular review of performance information and analysis from partners relating to contacts and referrals that result in early help interventions, as well as the regular review and scrutiny of key trends and developments in the undertaking of single assessments relating to early help, the outcomes and in particular when needs are met by a return to universal services or a risk and or needs are felt to be sufficient to justify escalation into statutory child protection and or Child in Need.
- The regular auditing from a partner perspective of cases including assessments and plans in order to identify learning and be assured of quality, so as to provide challenge and or assurance to partners.
- The testing out through Section 11 and section 175/157 how early help arrangements and interventions are impacting on how partners meet current standards
- The ongoing review of thresholds and guidance to ensure that these match and support the requirements around early help
- Ongoing consideration of how training needs are identified and met, especially as partners in schools, universal services and others will be expected to respond in different ways as early help develops.

Child protection in Darlington:

- At 31 March 2016, 1285 children had been identified through assessment as being formally in need of a specialist children's service. This was a 36% increase to the previous year.
- At 31 March 2016, 135 children and young people were subject of a child protection plan. This was a 36% increase on the previous year.
- As at March 31 2016, there were 4 children living in a privately arranged fostering placement. This was a 25% increase from the previous year.
- As at March 31 2016, there were no children subject to a child protection plan for 2 years or more.
- As at March 31 2016, there were less than 5 children removed from a child protection plan at their first review.
- As at March 31 2016, 75 conferences were stood down. Of the 75 conferences that were stood down 23% (17) were held outside of the statutory timescales. The main reason for initial child protection conferences being stood down was due to parents being unable to attend and/or requiring further information. Reason review conferences were stood down was because they were not quorate.
- All agencies are asked to submit reports for Child Protection Conferences both initials and reviews, on average 79% were received on time for initial conferences and 59% for review conferences. 52% of all agencies shared or attempted to share their reports (initial and review) with family.

Key Learning and next steps

During the year Children's Services have made available more information and higher levels of analysis for the CSIB and are therefore in an improved position to further manage and improve the effectiveness of interventions. As is the case when a Local Authority is subject to intervention and support, the role of the LSCB PMQA function needs to make adjustments, so for much of the year effort was redirected into a review and updating of these arrangements in order to prepare for picking up this lead when the authority moves out of improvement.

The Board has received regular updates from Darlington Borough Council and the CSIB as to the overall and improving position and plans to test out key aspects of these in the coming year through regular scrutiny of key performance indicators, audits and formal reporting from the Child Protection Chairs and Independent Reviewing Officer function.

Children looked after in Darlington:

- At 31 March 2016, 205 children were being looked after by the local authority (a rate of 90.3 per 10,000 children). This is a 2% increase from the previous year.
- 82 live outside the local authority area (this figure excludes adoptive placements)
- 30 live in residential children's homes, of whom 16 live out of the authority area
- 1 lives in a residential special school that is out of the authority area
- 154 live with foster families, of whom 61 live out of the authority area
- 6 live with parents, of whom none live out of the authority area
- none are unaccompanied asylum-seeking children
- 3 young people received looked after child status due to a period of remand into custody as outlined in the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012^[4]. Any young person who is remanded into custody receives looked after child status for the period of time on remand
- At 31st March 2016, 161 children were placed in Darlington from other authority areas

^[4] <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2012/10/contents/enacted>

¹⁰ A special guardianship order is an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's 'special guardian'. It is a private law order made under the Children Act 1989 and is intended for those children who cannot live with their birth parents and who would benefit from a legally secure placement.

In the last 12 months:

- 10 adoption orders were made, this is a 13% reduction of adoption placements from the previous year. It is understood that there is a national picture of reductions in placement orders being made, which has resulted in less adoptions.
- 9 children became subject of special guardianship orders ¹⁰
- 84 children ceased to be looked after. This is a 15% reduction from the previous year.
- 8 children and young people ceased to be looked after and moved on to independent living. This is a 28% reduction from the previous year.
- There are currently no children or young people ceased to be looked after living in houses of multiple occupation.

Children Looked After (CLA) are amongst the most vulnerable children, and are often looked after as a result of having experienced abuse, significant harm or neglect. The Ofsted inspection of Darlington Borough Council indicated that the needs of children leaving care and children needing adoption, were of a good standard. The majority of care leavers, outcomes are positive and stable, with a high proportion keeping in touch with their personal advisors and in suitable accommodation. A high proportion of care leavers are in education, employment or training, currently well above the national average.

Key learning and next steps

The DSCB has maintained a watching brief for much of this year in respect of CLA other than ongoing scrutiny and challenge in relation to how partners are working together to improve how the health assessment needs of CLA are met in a timely way. A report has been commissioned from Darlington Borough Council to provide the Board with an overview of arrangements for CLA from a partnership and a safeguarding perspective in order to set a baseline for and identify priorities for how the Board can be assured that CLA are protected. This will be ready for the late autumn of 2016. The other way the Board has been able to maintain an overview of CLA has been in respect of the work undertaken around children missing and CSE, which is subject to a section later in the report. The revised PMQA arrangements will need to ensure that there is an ongoing and proportional scrutiny of key indicators and issues as these relate to CLA and children leaving care.



Children and young people's health in Darlington

The Darlington Children Health Profile¹¹ refreshed in March 2016 highlights:

- Children and young people under the age of 20 years make up 23.7% of the population of Darlington. 9.7% of school children are from a minority ethnic group.
- The health and wellbeing of children in Darlington is generally worse than the England average. Infant and child mortality rates are similar to the England average.
- The level of child poverty is worse than the England average with 20.6% of children aged under 16 years living in poverty.
- The rate of family homelessness is better than the England average.
- Children in Darlington have average levels of obesity: 10.3% of children aged 4-5 years and 20.2% of children aged 10-11 years are classified as obese.
- In 2014, 34 children entered the youth justice system for the first time. This gives a similar rate to the England average for young people receiving their first reprimand, warning or conviction. The percentage of young people aged 16 to 18 not in education, employment or training is higher than the England average.
- In comparison with the 2006/07-2008/09 period, the rate of young people under 18 who are admitted to hospital because they have a condition wholly related to alcohol such as alcohol overdose is lower in the 2011/12-2013/14 period. The admission rate in the 2011/12-2013/14 period is higher than the England average¹².
- In comparison with the 2009/10-2011/12 period, the rate of young people aged 10 to 24 years who are admitted to hospital as a result of self-harm is similar in the 2012/13-2014/15 period. The admission rate in the 2012/13-2014/15 period is higher than the England average. Nationally, levels of self-harm are higher among young women than young men¹³.
- In 2013, approximately 28 girls aged under 18 conceived for every 1,000 females aged 15-17 years in this area. This is similar to the regional average. The area has a similar teenage conception rate compared with the England average¹⁴.
- 34.2% of mothers are still breastfeeding at 6 to 8 weeks. 63.2% of mothers in this area initiate breastfeeding when their baby is born. This area has a lower percentage of babies who have ever been breastfed compared with the European average of 89.1%*¹⁵.
- Measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) immunisation by age 2 years, 2014/15. More than 90% (the minimum recommended coverage level) of children have received their first dose of immunisation by the age of two in this area (94.5%). By the age of five, 92.9% of children have received their second dose of MMR immunisation. In the North East, there were 3 laboratory confirmed cases of measles in young people aged 19 and under in the past year¹⁶.

Key learning and next steps

As a partnership we have identified the need to better understand and integrate into what we do to obtain a more complete view of what impacts on the safety, wellbeing and protection of children and young people in Darlington, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable children. As a partnership we would want to support the wider preventative measures but have also to recognise that this contribution is most effective if we are able to be clear as to our core business and focus. We therefore need to better formulate our monitoring and analysis of information relating to self-harm, substance misuse, neglect and children who experience domestic violence, as we know that in each of these areas there is some cause for concern.

¹¹ PHE Child Health profile June 2015

¹² Data source: Public Health England (PHE)

¹³ Source: Hospital Episode Statistics, Health and Social Care Information Centre

¹⁴ Source: Conceptions in England and Wales, ONS

¹⁵ * European Union 21 average, 2005. Source: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Social Policy Division. Source: Public Health Outcomes Framework

¹⁶ Sources: Public Health Outcomes Framework; Public Health England

Children and Young People's view of their lifestyle

The Healthy Lifestyle Survey led by Darlington Borough Council is carried out annually across the Borough within secondary schools and has been adapted and extended to Primary schools this year. Every pupil in year 7–11, and half of the pupils in year 5-6 complete the survey within their school setting. A total 5548 responses were received this year across both primary and secondary settings. The survey measures the actual behaviour of the young people, how they believe their peers to be behaving or their perceptions and their attitudes and values on certain health issues. Some of the main findings from this year's survey were:

Years 7-11

- 24% of those questioned said they have experienced bullying
- 86% reported that they feel happy in general with their life at the moment
- 76% can identify someone they would talk to if they were worried
- 74% said they can deal with peer pressure and say 'no'
- 43% questioned do 60 active minutes daily on 5 or more days
- 74% have had an energy drink
- 14% are drinking energy drinks weekly and 6% daily
- 79% agree that energy drinks are bad for their health, yet 54% also agreed it is ok for young people to drink them
- 85% access the internet at least once a day
- 44% are never supervised on the internet
- 23% admit to accessing content online their parents or carers would not be happy with
- 32% have friends online that they do not know in person
- 25% have accessed pornography
- 20% of those questioned have been asked to send inappropriate picture messages by phone or social media, 10% of those asked sent them (n444)
- 16% have tried smoking, 5% have smoked in the last 7 days
- 9% have drunk alcohol in the last 7 days
- 8% of years 9 – 11 have taken illegal drugs, 66% of the same year group agree it's not 'OK' to take drugs
- 9% of years 9 – 11 reported that they had, had sex

Year 5-6

- 97% have not tried smoking
- 40% are often near second hand smoke
- 66% overestimated how many children their age have tried smoking
- More than 50% have never had an alcoholic drink
- 92% agreed that it's not 'OK' for people to get drunk under 18
- 67% have had an energy drink
- 20% are drinking energy drinks weekly
- The majority of those questioned agree it's 'OK' for children to have energy drinks, yet 83% agree that these drinks are bad for their health
- 76% of children play online games
- 75% have one or more social network account on the internet
- 36% of children admitted that they have online friends they do not know in person
- 40% of children said that they had been bullied in the last year, mainly verbally
- 96% agreed that children should never be bullied
- 74% of children said that they do 60 minutes of physical activity a day
- 77% said they eat a balanced diet, yet 33% have fizzy drinks daily and 47% have sweets and chocolate daily
- 88% reported being 'generally' happy with their life at the moment

Schools and young people were consulted about the survey and as a result it was redesigned to incorporate question to ensure they collected the most relevant and useful information to help keep children and young people safe. The survey now includes questions on internet safety and emotional health and wellbeing. The survey was adapted to ensure it was age appropriate for years 5 and 6. Once information is gathered each school receives their own data report in order to deliver key messages on the issues identified and help to reduce the perceptions that young people have in these areas. It is anticipated the key messages will be shared in order to support children and young people locally to manage peer pressure and make informed choices which are positive for them.

Over the seven years the survey has been undertaken, we have seen several changes in behaviour and a reduction in risk taking overall, however the vast majority of young people still overestimate how many of their peers are actually smoking, drinking, using drugs and are sexually active.

Key Learning and next steps

Whilst the partnership does not have the resources to undertake surveys of the above scale, it does support and draw on them, and this complements the other activities where we are able to listen to what young people say and how partners do this. As a result we are developing a more explicit approach to this that seeks to draw out the key messages from what partners and other partnerships are learning as a result of consultation and engagement with children, to apply these strategically as to how they inform our priorities and inform our scrutiny and assurance.



Statutory and Legislative Context for LSCBs

The DSCB was established in accordance with Section 13 of the Children Act 2004 because each local authority is required to establish a LSCB for their area and it specifies the organisations and individuals (other than the local authority) that should be represented on LSCBs.

The statutory objectives and functions of LSCBs are set out within Section 14 of the Children Act 2004, which are:

- (a) to coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area; and
- (b) to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.

In addition, Regulation 5 of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006 sets out that the functions of the LSCB, in relation to the above objectives under section 14 of the Children Act 2004, are as follows:

- 1(a) developing policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority, including policies and procedures in relation to:
 - (i) the action to be taken where there are concerns about a child's safety or welfare, including thresholds for intervention;
 - (ii) training of persons who work with children or in services affecting the safety and welfare of children;
 - (iii) recruitment and supervision of persons who work with children;
 - (iv) investigation of allegations concerning persons who work with children;
 - (v) safety and welfare of children who are privately fostered;
 - (vi) cooperation with neighbouring children's services authorities and their

Board partners;

- (b) communicating to persons and bodies in the area of the authority the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, raising their awareness of how this can best be done and encouraging them to do so;
- (c) monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of what is done by the authority and their Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advising them on ways to improve;
- (d) participating in the planning of services for children in the area of the authority; and
- (e) undertaking reviews of serious cases and advising the authority and their Board partners on lessons to be learned.

Whilst the LSCB has a role in co-ordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of local individuals' and organisations' work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, it is not accountable for their operational work. Each Board partner retains their existing lines of accountability for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children within their individual organisations.

LSCB Governance and Accountability Arrangements

There is a three tier structure (see diagram 1) of the Board. The Board members are made up of strategic partners from across the key agencies that work with children, young people and their families in Darlington and have an interest in Safeguarding. Board meetings, are held on a bi-monthly basis, their focus is to be assured that partner agencies are working in a coordinated way to safeguard and promote the welfare of children but to also ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each agency in respect of this. This is achieved by the chairs of the sub groups and through the Business Group, reporting to the Board the progress, risks, issues and challenges against the Board's business and improvement plan. This supports Board members in exercising their leadership role and ensuring that as a partnership we are outcomes focused and effective.

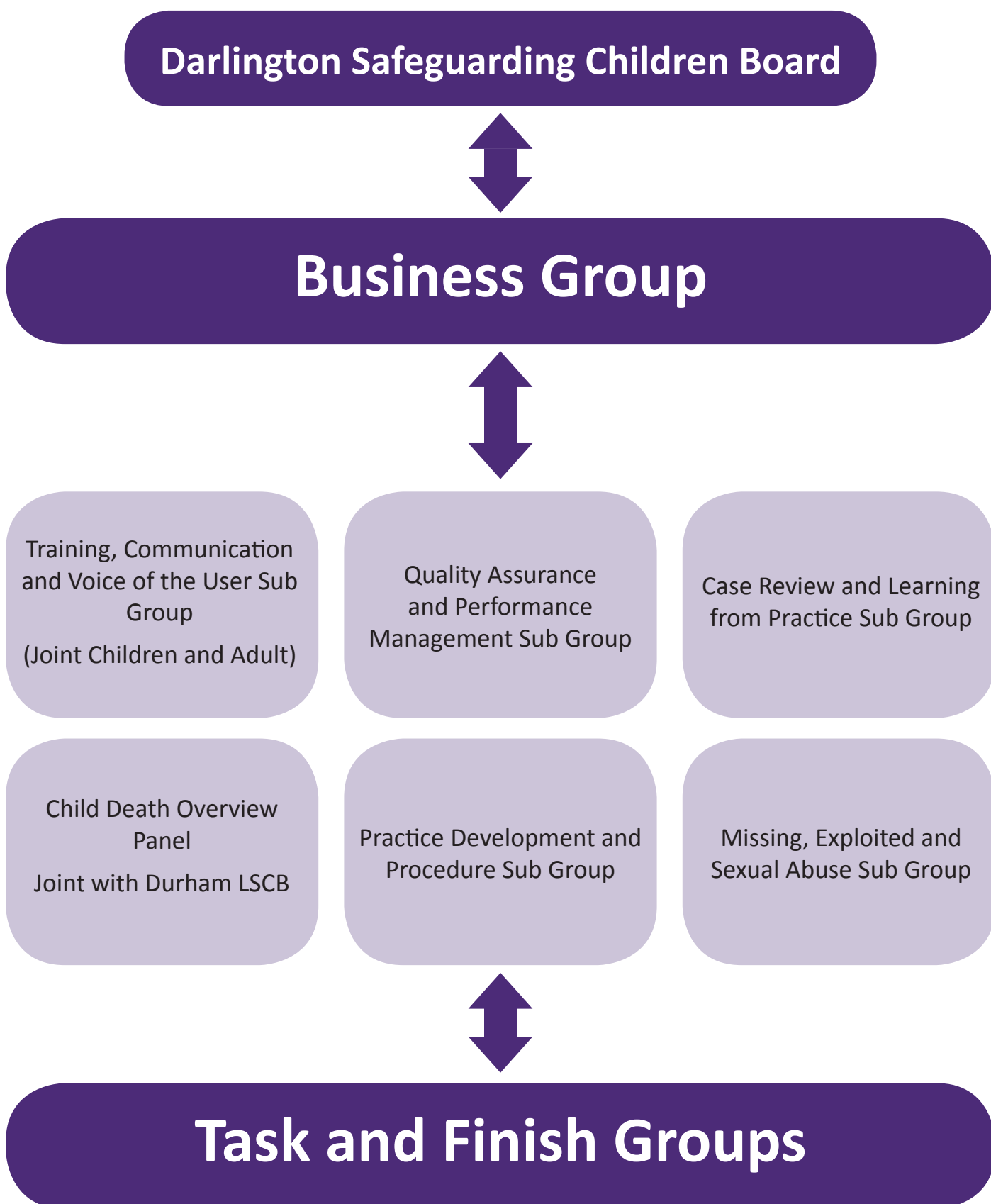
The purpose of the business group which has only recently been formed is to ensure there is join up between the sub groups and acts as an interface with the Board. The sub groups deliver on the key responsibilities and priority areas which have been agreed by the Board which in turn form the Business and Improvement Plan. Agenda setting for the Board is also driven by the key themes identified within each of the sub groups. The Business group and the Board may initiate time-limited task and finish groups to focus on specific pieces of work, for example scoping an emerging issue or addressing a particular challenge.

The Safeguarding Boards' Business Unit provides business support to the DSCB and DSAPB. It also hosts and provides the LADO function and role (LADO) which coordinates and responds to allegations against adults who work with children. The business unit was introduced in April 2014 to support a more 'think family' ¹⁷ approach to safeguarding, as well as addressing the need to effectively deploy limited resources. In addition to shared business support the approach to multi agency training and promotion is taken through a shared sub group across both children and adults.



¹⁷ Think Family is based on evidence-based practice and is closely linked to the early intervention framework set out in the White Paper: Your child, your schools, our future: building a 21st century schools system.

Diagram 1 - Structure to support the delivery of the Business Plan



The Constitution for the Board sets out the governance arrangements and standards for Board members. There is an expectation that members of the Board will attend Board meetings, take forward Board commitments into their own organisations and be accountable to the partnership for the performance and learning from their own organisation. Board members also ensure that the sub groups and the Business Group are provided with chairs and members that reflect the partnership and an appropriate mix of skills and experience.

The Membership

The current Independent Chair, is Richard Burrows who was appointed in April 2015.

Agency	Name	Job title	Commentary and analysis of attendance at Board meetings
	Richard Burrows	Independent Chair	100% of the meetings attended.
Safeguarding Boards'	Briony Richardson	Lay Member	Attended 71% (5) of the 7 scheduled Board meetings
Safeguarding Boards'	Kevin Buckle	Lay Member	100%
Darlington Borough Council	Alison Murphy	Interim Director for Children's Services	Attended 85% (6) of the 7 scheduled meetings.
Darlington Borough Council	Hazel Neasham	Head of Housing	Attended 71% (5) of the 7 scheduled Board meetings
Darlington Borough Council	Joanna Conway	Education Safeguarding Officer	Attended 71% (5) of the 7 scheduled Board meetings
Darlington Borough Council	Jo Benson	Head of Youth Offending Service	Attended 57% (4) of the 7 scheduled Board meetings
Darlington Borough Council	Kevin Kelly	Acting Assistant Director, Adult Social Care	100%
Darlington Borough Council	Nicola White	Principal Lawyer	85% of the meetings, Legal were represented at Board. For one of the meetings there was a deputy in attendance.
Darlington Borough Council	Pixley Clarke	Head of Review and Development	There was attendance of 57% (4). However during this reporting period the post was vacant for three consecutive meetings. It was only during this period when there was no attendance.
Darlington Borough Council	Suzanne Joyner	Director of Children's and Adult Social Care	This is a new post and has attended all Board meetings (2) since December 2015
Darlington Borough Council	Yvonne Coates	Head of First Contact and Locality Services	Attended 85% (6) of the 7 scheduled meetings.
NHS England	Alison Smith	Deputy Director of Nursing	Attended 33% (1) of the 3 scheduled meetings. It was only applicable for this agency to attend Board from November 2015.
Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS)	Alison Wild	Service Manager	57% (4) of the meetings were attended and in one occasion the agency was represented by a deputy.
Education- Darlington College	Carole Todd	Deputy Principal	71% (5) of the meetings were attended. A deputy represented the agency for three of these meetings
Education- Priory Education	Claire Blackett	Head Teacher	Attended 43% (3) of the 7 scheduled meetings.
Education- Education Village	Clare Devine	Principal of Beaumont Hill Academy	57% (4) of the meetings were attended. A deputy represented the agency for one of these meetings.
Education- Darlington School of Mathematics and Science (DSMS)	Emma Hickerson	Senior Assistant Headteacher	It was only applicable for this agency to attend Board from September 2015. There was 50% attendance out of the four meetings scheduled during the applicable period.
Education - Education Village	Gemma Elysee	Assistant Headteacher Beaumont Hill Academy	It was only applicable for this agency to attend Board from September 2015. They attended 100% of the meetings (4) during this reporting period.

Agency	Name	Job title	Commentary and analysis of attendance at Board meetings
Education - Heighington and Bishopston Redmarshall Academy	Neil Parker	Headteacher	71% (5) of the meetings were attended. A deputy represented the agency for one of these meetings
Police	Paul Goundry	Detective Superintendent	100% of the meetings were attended. Two of the meetings the agency was represented by a deputy.
Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)	Diane Murphy	Chief Nurse	There was no attendance at Board during 2015/2016. The agency was represented by the Designated Nurse.
Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)	Heather McFarlane	Designated Nurse	Attended 85% (6) of the 7 scheduled meetings.
County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (CDDFT)	Maureen Grieveson	Associate Director Patient Experience and Safeguarding	85% (6) of the meetings were attended, in one meeting a deputy attended to represent the agency.
Designated Doctor	Stephen Cronin	Designated Doctor	Attended 43% (3) of the 7 scheduled meetings.
Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC)	Hazel Willoughby	Head of Offender Services	57% (4) the meetings were attended and a deputy represented the agency for one of the meetings.
National Probation Service (NPS)	Maureen Gavin	Head of Durham NPS	85% (6) of the meetings were attended, in five of the meetings a deputy attended to represent the agency.
Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV)	Karen Agar	Associate Director of Nursing (Safeguarding)	100% attendance.
Public Health	Miriam Davidson	Director	85% of the meetings, Public Health were represented at Board for two of the meetings there was a deputy in attendance.

NB: One of the 7 LSCB meetings held during 2015/16 was an extraordinary meeting which was held to discuss and formulate a response to the draft Ofsted report.

In addition to the members listed above, the Lead Member for Children and Young People, Councillor Cyndi Hughes is an observer at Board and she has participated in 5 of the 7 scheduled meetings held.

There is also a memorandum of understanding for the North East Ambulance Service (which is exercised through the CCG) and the British Transport Police. This ensures that there are effective links and accountability with the Board.

During the year Board members have committed to develop the constitution and review the membership of the board to ensure optimum representation and that members meet the requirements of Working Together, 2015 re role, status and responsibility within their own organisation.

Key learning and next steps

- The Board is a safeguarding partnership and successful partnerships require commitment and participation from people who are able to speak for their organisations and take forward the work of the partnership. As leaders, partners are also expected to be able to account for and hold each other to account for the performance, quality and effectiveness of joint working to protect children and young people.
- Our partnership continues to draw on the active support and commitment of members and this is evidenced by good levels of attendance and as the minutes show engagement with the key issues and topics. Including participation in and contribution to development sessions and other tasks required between meetings.
- During the year a number of key steps have been taken to strengthen the partnership and to respond to the learning from inspection, these are;
- The development of a formal constitution in order to review, update and strengthen the understanding of the Board and Board member role and to set benchmarks for how this is assessed. This will be completed by the autumn of 2016.
- A review of memberships in order to ensure that the “right people” are around the table. Concern has been expressed at the size of the board and as to whether there is appropriate balance for example as to how many seats the Darlington Borough Council should hold. There is also the need to continue to respond to the changing architecture of the safeguarding landscape for example to changes in the education sector, the number of providers and the need to have in place effective network arrangements where is not possible to apply the model of member/organisation. (This will be completed by autumn 2016 and will strengthen the partnerships capacity to improve in key areas.)
- The combined business unit represents an innovative response to ensuring that Boards are supported within available resources and last year’s annual report signalled the need to learn from these arrangements through review, as well as the need to ensure going forward there was an appropriate match between priorities and available resources. Although this review has not been formally commissioned on the basis of the need to address other priorities, a degree of informal review has been undertaken, and this has taken 2 forms;
- Firstly the Local Authority is considering a review to re locating the LADO function.
- Secondly in setting the budget for 2016/17 it became clear that the present arrangements did not necessarily provide for a sufficiently transparent attribution and therefore accountability in terms of partner contributions to the respective boards. This in turn highlighted the need for there to be a clearer understanding of how partner contributions were used and the extent to which this reflected agreement and supported the statutory obligations of each Board. – Progress has been made in disaggregating and attributing budgets and expenditure against the respective budget (board) centres against income and therefore partner contributions. This has reached the stage where in order to progress the proposed changes to the LADO a new negotiation and understanding of how the Business Unit is funded is required and this is likely to require some changes to current roles and also presents some opportunities for increased efficiency, as well as highlighting the need for the Board to be able to manage and respond to risks.



Working Together in Darlington (Partnerships, governance and accountability)

The DSCB works in partnership with other strategic partnerships with the aim to have strong joint working arrangements across agencies, which coordinates the vision, aims and priorities for Darlington and its population. The strategic partnerships are:

- Darlington Safeguarding Adult's Partnership Board: Both DSCB and DSAPB recognise that safeguarding the most vulnerable within the community is a shared responsibility and there must be a 'whole family' approach and share a common business unit and responsibility for multi-agency training.
- Community Safety Partnership: brings together five responsible authorities: Darlington Borough Council, the Durham Constabulary, NHS Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group, National Probation Service/Community Rehabilitation Company, Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service which have a legal duty to work together to tackle crime, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse, environmental crime and issues around re-offending. In addition to the responsible authorities the CSP also brings together a range of partners from the public, private and voluntary sectors who are all engaged in activities which contribute towards making Darlington a safe place in which to live and work. The responsible authorities must also ensure that the CSP has a Community Safety Plan 2015/2020.
- Darlington Partnership have developed the Sustainable Community Strategy 'One Darlington: Perfectly Placed' which aims to improve quality of life for all, promote the economic prosperity of the Borough and reduce inequality. The Darlington Partnership provides the strategic lead and also links into the wider devolution agenda as this develops
- Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB): The Health and Social Care Act 2012 established health and wellbeing boards as a forum where key leaders from the health and care system work together to improve the health and wellbeing of their local population and reduce health inequalities.
- Darlington Children and Young People's Collective (this is the equivalent of the Children's Trust) and oversees the Darlington Children and Young People's plan 2014 -17.
- Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC): is an elected official charged with securing efficient and effective policing in the area. The PCC has refreshed the two year plan 2015-2017.
- Local Family Justice Board: Darlington Borough Council Legal and CAFCASS representatives, represent the DSCB perspective on the Local Family Justice Board.
- Vulnerability Group which is a sub group of the community safety partnership oversees the arrangements for domestic abuse in Darlington.

During the year the Ofsted SIF inspection of Darlington Borough Council and review of DSCB raised some potential learning in respect of how the strategic partnership landscape and context in Darlington was developed and **how**



this evidenced impact on improved outcomes for children and young people. As a result both the Children's Services Improvement Plan and the DSCB Business and Improvement Plan identified the need to look at arrangements with a view to further developing purpose-fit outcomes.

From the DSCB perspective there have been negotiations with the DSAPB and the CSP and the Board agreed in March 2015 a protocol to progress and identify how the partnerships could improve the lead they provide for each other in respect of key areas such as FGM, Prevent, CSE and missing children, domestic abuse and other thematic areas. This also opened the door to sharing resources, reducing potential duplication and strengthening the role and impact of each partnership. This is being progressed with an agreed action plan expected following a stakeholder event in the summer of 2016. This will improve the positioning of each partnership and present a more joined up strategic approach.

The wider strategic context is subject to review not least because of wider developments relating to devolution and the pressures on public services. As this work progresses overseen through the Children's Services Improvement Board this will provide the opportunity for the DSCB and other partnerships to contribute to and draw on an updated Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA) and review and reset priorities to reflect a more current and detailed understanding of local needs and the strategic priorities attached to these.

This will further support the DSCB development of thresholds and associated guidance which remains a key responsibility for the partnership.



Key Learning and next steps

- The feedback and learning from the Ofsted inspection indicated there was an opportunity to further develop the strategic partnership context and therefore re set the benchmarks for how the LSCB can be seen to be influencing these and is influenced by these priorities and arrangements. Progress has been made in some but not all aspects of this during the year as in the terms of the wider strategic partnership context the timetable for this work rests elsewhere and is not yet due for completion. It will however be important that the DSCB is fully consulted about these developments and any changes, so as to allow the consideration of how the DSCB can more effectively contribute to and be informed by these arrangements in the future.
- The progress made in respect of the proposed strategic partnership and in the medium term the sharing of other areas and resources with the CSP and the DSAPB is making positive progress. It is therefore important that these negotiations are concluded and result in increased accountability across the partnerships in respect of lead areas, and that each partnership is able to measure and evidence the impact of this development.
- In January 2016, both the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Children's Collective received the 2014/2015 DSCB annual report. However, the DSCB was not asked to attend or present at either of these meetings regarding related matters. Neither has there been the opportunity to be held to account through the Councils scrutiny arrangements. The Children's Services Improvement Board has received regular reports from the DSCB and the chairs have met on a regular basis. It is therefore a matter of priority that interim or permanent opportunities for the DSCB to be available and to be held to account by other strategic partnerships are taken forward in the coming year.



Budget Arrangements for the Safeguarding Partnership

Section 15 of the Children Act sets out that statutory partners may:

- Make payments towards expenditure incurred by, or for the purposes connected with a LSCB, either directly, or by contributing to a fund of which payments may be made
- Provide staff, goods, services accommodation or other resources for purposes connected with a LSCB.

A challenge for the Board each year is to ensure the Board has sufficient means and resources to meet its statutory responsibilities. It is outlined within Working Together, 2015 'All LSCB member organisations have an obligation to provide LSCBs with reliable resources (including finance) that enable the LSCB to be strong and effective. Members should share the financial responsibility for the LSCB in such a way that a disproportionate burden does not fall on a small number of partner agencies'.

As indicated elsewhere the LSCB had adopted a proactive approach to the issue of contributions, income and matching resources to statutory and priority areas of responsibility. Board members have regularly scrutinised information about income and expenditure, and have demonstrated the capacity for challenge. This has also informed the partnership view of and response to risks for things that may not be able to be resourced or achieved to the desired level of quality.

This has also highlighted as mentioned in the earlier section to work through and identify how best to fund shared resources across the 2 partnerships and on what basis.

Detailed below table one evidences how members have met the above requirement in the year and how these resources were used. The table summarises the direct monetary contributions from partners, it does not take into account partners' time or the use of rooms (provided free of charge). It is important to recognise the many other ways members and their staff contribute to the Board e.g. attendance at sub groups, participating in audit and quality assurance work, access to additional resources and designated roles. It should be noted that the cost to safeguard children is significant and the DSCB is therefore grateful to all of the partners who have recognised their commitment to fund the partnership.

The information below shows the core budget for 2015/16 and the projected base budget for 2016/17, where partners have agreed their contributions. Board partners were asked to consider a 1% increase in their contribution to the work of DSCB.

DSCB Commitments 2015/16	Projected Expenditure in 2015/2016	Actual Expenditure in 2015/2016	Commentary of how Board funding has been spent in 2015/2016
Independent Chair	£15,000	£20,038	These costs were increased due to the Independent Chairs role during the Ofsted inspection in June/ July 2015 and their contribution to the Children's Services Improvement Board.
Employee Costs	£123,007	£108,987	These costs are less than projected as the Business Manager post was vacant for three months.
Training costs	£12,000	£5,473	Training costs are less due to efforts to use free venues that are offered by partner agencies.
Professional fees (case reviews)	£12,000	£3,476	There has not been a commissioned case review during 2015/2016. These fees relate to a complaint that was investigated independently and the commissioning of external facilitators.
Info/comms e.g. printing, publicity and website	£5,000	£2,311	The costs are less than projected and were solely for printing e.g. Board Papers.
Supplies and services	£5,000	£2,004	These fees are not in relation to child death reviews but are relating to software and subscription purchases.
	£156,200	£142,288	

Partner Contributions	2015/16	2016/2017	Commentary of contribution made by partner agencies
Darlington Borough Council (Children's Social Care)	£92,071.00	£91,071.00	It is expected that during 2016/2017 there will be a reduction in this contribution of £15,580 as this is Darlington Borough Council's contribution in respect of the LADO element which is within the role of the Safeguarding Boards' Development Officer/LADO. Staff will be consulted on this change and Board partners during 2016/2017.
Durham Constabulary	£15,320.00	£15,473.20	Agreed to contribute a 1% increase.
Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group	£20,805.00	£21,013.05	To be confirmed
County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust	£2,500.00	£2,525.00	Agreed to contribute a 1% increase.
NHS England (Local Team one off contribution)	£15,000.00	£0.00	NHS England has committed a one off, non-recurring contribution with a specific focus for the funds to be spent on development work in respects of the DSCB Quality Assurance and Performance Management Framework.
National Probation Service	£2,330.00	£770.32	The National Probation Service has recalculated their contribution to all LSCBs in the country and Darlington for 2016/2017 will receive 33% of what it received in 2015/2016.
Education Providers	£14,000.00	£15,040.00	The education providers are the schools forum, local college and sixth form colleges.
CAFCASS	£550.00	£550.00	Confirmed without the 1% increase
Youth Offending Service	£2,500.00	£2,500.00	To be confirmed
Early Years Providers	£4,000.00	£0.00	This funding will not continue in 2016/2017
Training Income	£6,000.00	£2,000.00	The Business Unit provides safeguarding training to agencies who do not contribute to the Board or who require bespoke training.
	£175,576.00	£150,942.57	

Key Learning and next steps

- As a result of increased scrutiny, oversight and revised arrangements for financial planning and management of partner contributions by the Board a number of underlying trends were acknowledged, which give further cause for concern going forwards, these were;
- Partner contributions have not kept pace with inflation or increased employment costs and liabilities.
- The historic carry forward has therefore been eroded as a result to the point that the Board finds itself with little or no contingency arrangements.
- Some partners, particularly those with a national remit have reviewed and reduced their level of financial contribution and in the case of the disaggregation of probation services central government failed to take the impact of this into account, leaving the board with a potential further reduction in income.
- Likewise NHSE although a statutory partner have as yet to reach the position whereby they can confirm a direct financial contribution.
- This means that the Board will need to continue to match activity to available resources, board members will need to be prepared to potentially consider whether some of the statutory responsibilities may need to be met to a lesser extent or in different ways. In the past there may have been an expectation that given Darlington Borough Council's role it might have been expected to make up any shortfall, in present times given their financial situation this seems unreasonable and unlikely.

How the Board has worked in practice during 2015/2016 to ensure that children are safeguarded in Darlington

This part of the report provides a more detailed account of the progress and impact achieved by the partnership in the year as set against the priorities and statutory responsibilities.

During 2015/2016 there have been a number of significant changes, a new Independent Chair appointed in April 2015 and the Business Manager who had been in post since its conception in 2008 left in June 2015. A new Business Manager was appointed and started in September, 2015. In addition during June/July 2015 Ofsted reviewed the effectiveness of DSCB as part of the Darlington Borough Council's Children Services inspection of 'services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers'. The judgements that ensued had a significant impact on all partners. As a corollary there were significant personnel changes within the Darlington Borough Council and across some partners, a number of interim arrangements and some resulting gaps in organisational history and knowledge. When the Board met for its planned annual review event in September 2015 the scope and nature of change and risk was considered from the points of view of developing leadership, capacity, structure and process. With hindsight the impact of loss of knowledge and a reliance on informal arrangements has been underestimated, particularly given the significance of and length of time it has taken Darlington Borough Council to stabilise its leadership arrangements.

DSCB was judged to be 'requires improvement' by Ofsted and they made six recommendations.

The recommendations were:

- 114 - Ensure that the work programme of the board is underpinned by detailed action plans that are specific and measurable, with actions and timescales clearly set out.
- 115 - Ensure that, on a regular basis, the board satisfies itself that statutory obligations are fulfilled across all agencies in accordance with section 11 of the Children Act 2004.
- 116 - Ensure that performance monitoring systems consider the safeguarding work of all partner agencies, and that data supplied by children's services includes all stages of the child's journey from early help to being looked after. To include consideration of how lessons learnt from audits and case reviews are understood and disseminated across agencies.
- 117 - Introduce a single system for recording all challenge, which is inclusive of concerns raised on individual cases, and indicates what has happened to resolve any challenge.
- 118 - Ensure that the wider community is better aware of the risks of sexual exploitation faced by children and young people in Darlington, including what to do if they have concerns.
- 119 - Ensure that monitoring of the effectiveness of early help provision meets the requirements of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015.

Board members placed an emphasis on the need to recognise the positives contained within the Ofsted report, and noted that the Board was meeting its statutory responsibilities and that the new chair was experienced. The Board therefore during the year sought to address previous priorities whilst transitioning into and incorporating the Ofsted recommendations and other changes agreed by the Board.

Previous Priorities

- Is safeguarding really everybody's responsibility
- Self-harm and suicide prevention
- E-Safety
- Improved multi-agency working arrangements for families

The updated priorities were reviewed and signed off at the January 2016 Board meeting after consulting with partners from the initial development day, which was held September, 2015 and the draft business and improvement plan was circulated in November 2015 for comment. The agreed priorities from January 2016 are:

Agreed priorities from January 2016:

- Providing leadership for a whole system child focused approach to safeguarding (Ofsted recommendations 114, 115 & 116)
- Setting standards for joint working and being able to judge that these are effective and improving (115, 116 & 117)
- Learning from reviews and being assured that the children's workforce have the right knowledge and skills (116, 117 & 118)
- Making sure we know who the vulnerable children are in Darlington and that there is a proportionate multi-agency response (116, 118 & 119)

The purpose of a 3 year plan was to provide detailed sub objectives and the evidence base/measure it provides for progress as judged by positive impact on joint working practice with children and their families – this is a key learning point from the year before about us becoming more focused and able to measure progress. It also ties into how we are using the business plan as a key point of reference and measure of the specific recommendations of Ofsted and the other drivers we have agreed, and therefore how we demonstrate to the CSIB that we are in a position to take on aspects of their role at the appropriate time, As a result of having two sets of priorities within the same year, this annual report will express how effective it has been based on the priorities it has been working towards, including how the board have responded to the recommendation by Ofsted and how it is supporting Darlington Borough Council Children's Services with their DfE Improvement Notice¹⁸.



¹⁸ Improvement notices and directions are issued to councils due to 'poor' or 'inadequate' performance. (DfE)

How effective are the DSCB sub groups and what impact did they achieve?

Quality Assurance and Performance Management Sub group (formally Performance Management Sub group)

The Sub group has had a change in Chair during 2015/2016. During April to August 2015 the chair was the Designated Nurse from the CCG. This person moved post and the new Business Manager took over as Interim Chair (September 2015 until March 2016). The sub group is to be chaired by the Head of Review and Development (DBC) from April 2016.

The average attendance of all the board members was 58% and there were no scheduled meetings cancelled in 2015/2016.

In addition to the scheduled meetings there was a task and finish group held in February 2016 to develop the multi-agency data set from the child's journey perspective through services, which would also give board members an understanding of how the system is working across all agencies responsible for providing services to children and young people in Darlington. The agencies that attended were: Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group and Darlington Borough Council. Apologies were received from Durham Constabulary, County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust, DSCB Lay Member and Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust.

This group has to develop, manage and apply the tools for ensuring that the DSCB partnership has in place the necessary arrangements to monitor and assess joint working arrangements to protect children and provide early help in Darlington. This has a quantitative and qualitative element and is a considerable task. In addition it is now expected that the DSCB arrangements for what is termed PMQA will also include the capacity to read the wider safeguarding horizon as well as providing a focus on specific points in the "child's journey" through services.

During the year the sub group was adversely impacted upon by change and transition of personnel, as well as the fact that in terms of findings the inspection raised questions about the adequacy of data and how it was used. Prior to this the view was that sufficient progress was being made with the data set, analysis and challenge. It was agreed that the development and application was not yet comprehensive or consistent enough, particularly in respect of its capacity to reflect on and challenge multi-agency data/analysis in relation to the performance of Darlington Borough Council led multi-agency interventions.

The pace and time it has taken to progress has been slower than hoped for as a result impact has only been partial and this means there is significant catch up required. The Independent Chair has worked with the Director of Children and Adult's Services and the Chair of the CSIB to understand and address the factors and circumstances contributing to the slower than planned for progress. As a result priorities were re set, a new chair appointed, an interim revised data set and indicators agreed and an increase in the frequency of meetings. At the same time there were significant steps made by Darlington Borough Council to improve the performance information and analysis it was able to share. This is intended to get the DSCB back on course by October 2016.

What have we learnt, what will we do next and why?

- We have recognised that developing an effective approach to PMQA is a priority and will underpin further progress as a DSCB partnership.
- We have recognised that transition and wider system/partner changes have not served to support pace and progress, but have identified remedial and corrective measures.
- We recognise as a result that our capacity as a partnership to form a direct and comprehensive line of sight is not where we need it to be, but that we have been able to maintain a limited range of indicators and areas where as a partnership we have been able to exercise scrutiny and challenge, and that where we have done so this has met with positive partner engagement and where necessary follow up. We recognise that as a partnership we have not been clear enough as to why this is important or how we resource this going forward and have taken some actions but need to follow this through.
- We have also renewed our commitment to the annual Section 11 and section 175/157 self-audit and recognise that this will increasingly become more important in terms of how we benchmark and measure achievement in terms of quality and performance.

In 2014/2015 it was identified that there were concerns around initial health assessments (IHA) for looked after children (LAC). However it was not understood at that time why there was a delay. This is now better understood and work is continuing which seeks to improve the administration process. Improving the timeliness of looked after children to receive their IHA was an area of concern identified through the inspection of children's services (Darlington Borough Council) and it has remained a priority on the Boards agenda. Performance in this area is still not stable enough even though there have been peaks of improvement. IHA's will continue to be a standing agenda item for 2016/2017 and both Darlington Borough Council and the Darlington CCG are jointly reporting the progress to Board.

The data set during 2015/2016 has primarily focussed on data from children's social care and included data from CDDFT on IHA and the Police in respect of children missing from home or care. Since the inspection, the sub group have worked hard to develop a better understanding of the data alongside children's social care by including statistical comparators (national/regional and statistical neighbours) that enable Darlington to compare and benchmark themselves. In February, 2016 the interim chair held a multi-agency task and finish group to evolve the data set which focussed on the children's journey through services so it will give board members a view of how the 'system' is actually working for children and young people in Darlington. In March 2016, Board agreed to the core 27 data items which were designed to specifically look at the child's journey from 'Early Help' to 'Looked After Children'. The current data set will be maintained including further discussions with agencies to co-produce a 'robust' and 'comprehensive' data set that will enable the board members to have sufficient knowledge and understanding of how the systems are working in Darlington to Safeguarding Children.



The headlines identified in the year end data are:

- The rate of contacts and referrals to Children's Social Care in Darlington remains marginally higher than its statistical neighbours.
- 92% of referrals in the course of the year translated into assessments. Of these 64% progressed to a strategy discussion.
- The number of children subject to a child protection plan has increased significantly, particularly in the last quarter of 2015/16. Compared to other north east local authorities, Darlington has more children subject to a Child Protection plan.
- The % of child protection reviews held on time has dropped slightly during 2015/16. Although it remains, above performance for 2013/14 and 2014/15, DSCB will look for improvement in 2016/17 based on partners being able to evidence their understanding of variations.
- The number of children looked after has varied through the year with an average of around 190, being marginally lower than in 2014/15 where there were 200 and 2013/14 there were 190. The DSCB plans to receive a comprehensive report from the Darlington Borough Council including its "Sufficiency" plans, which will set the indicators and areas of scrutiny for the partnership going forward.
- Although Darlington Borough Council has improved their performance, they are to make more improvement in terms of Looked After Children reviews to be held within timescale, as performance varied throughout the year ending slightly better than in 2014/15 with performance for the year being 93.05% compared to 92.3% for 2014/15.
- The main reasons children become subject of a child protection plan are due to domestic violence, mental health and abuse, however the Partnership has recognised that the categories applied need to be tested alongside a wider review of information available around neglect, domestic abuse and mental health.
- Initial Health assessments for Looked After Children have been subject to ongoing partnership scrutiny and performance has improved but as yet not to a high enough standard, lead partners have been challenged to resolve this.
- Significant improvements have been made in the completion of dental checks for CLA, which although slightly behind target and its statistical neighbours, it is significantly better than the England average.
- The percentage of return interviews completed for missing children has reached 100%, though improvements are needed in terms of timescales and how this feedback is used to improve practice and inform strategy.
- All cases identified as medium or high risk of CSE are discussed at the monthly Missing, Exploited Operational Group meeting and are not stepped down unless agreement reached from all group members and a rationale identified. There have been 41 cases identified and opened as medium or high risk during 2015-2016.

The sub group have also undertaken the following multi-agency audits during 2015/16:

- Domestic Abuse
- Child Protection Conference Observations
- Section 11 audit with statutory agencies

The following multi-agency audits have been scheduled for 2016/2017 which will enable the Board to understand the effectiveness of multi-agency working including any areas of development and strengths.

- Pre-birth assessments
- Removals from a child protection plan
- Cases where no plan was made after a child protection conference
- Children de-listed and relisted on a child protection plan
- Child Protection Conference Observations
- Child Sexual Exploitation

The learning from the multi-agency audits undertaken in 2015/16:

Domestic abuse: This multi-agency audit was commissioned as a result of the need to be assured that the interface between practitioners working with children and with adults was adequately reflected in recording and outcomes. Although the audit of the cases was narrow it achieved a representative look at parts of the journey through services for the child, victim and perpetrator. The audit concluded that the recording information needed to be improved, especially if the adult is at risk there was evidence on one case there was an adult at risk but no referral made. A need to better understand and signpost appropriately to services which are aimed at children and to better differentiate between the focus on and needs of victims and perpetrators. To ensure plans were SMART and outcome focussed for the child/ren. To ensure where it is known the victim is working with domestic abuse services, they are invited to any child protection meetings as appropriate. Although the sample was small the weaknesses it identified were balanced by the strengths i.e. in more cases the above learning was in place.

What has been done as a result of the domestic abuse audit?

The audit confirms the view that improved strategic positioning and integration in respect of the development of domestic abuse provision would better support improved integration at a services and operational level, especially in respect of joint working arrangements to protect vulnerable children and adults. The respective strategic partnerships and services have been made aware of the learning from the audit to encourage improved coordination and sharing of information. Multi-agency training is scheduled which reinforces the importance of recording information and ensuring the plans are SMART and outcome focussed. The training is aimed at both children and adult's workforces to reinforce the 'think family' concept and get agencies to recognise both child and/or adult may be at risk and refer to services as appropriate. The arrangements for Child Protection meetings was changed to ensure any known domestic abuse services working with the family are invited to the child protection meetings as appropriate.

Child Protection Conference Observations: This exercise had 2 objectives, firstly to explore direct observation as a means of audit and secondly to inform and develop the levels of assurance required by the partnership in respect of this key part of the child protection system. Learning included: conferences observed generally start on time, however the sharing of reports in advance of conference on time did not happen in all instances, the audit highlighted a concern around non-attendance at conference by some agencies. Clarity was felt to be needed if the 'My Conference Packs' are being completed and it was noted that chronologies were not always shared at Initial Child Protection Conferences observed. The strengths identified in the audit: Parents/Carers are given the opportunity to be involved in the discussions and the process and Conference Chairs adequately summed up the risks and deputies for Core Groups.

What has been done as a result of the Child Protection Conference Observations?

Clarification that the 'My Conference Packs' are completed with the child/young person (these are completed with a professional who knows the child best e.g. teacher, social worker or early years practitioner). It was also suggested that the service collect and use data regarding this to monitor performance and impact. The process of sharing reports in advance has been reviewed and a more efficient process is to be implemented in July 2016 which will allow more time for reports to be read in advance of the conference. The Independent Reviewing Officers (who chair these meetings) maintain a challenge log which includes monitoring agencies attendance at conferences, this information is shared with the relevant agencies and is reported to the sub group on a half yearly basis.

Section 11 audit/self-assessment with statutory agencies: Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places duties on a range of organisations and individuals to ensure their functions, and any services that they contract out to others, are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The s.11 audit for 2014/2015 was undertaken during Spring 2015 through to June 2015. Performance clinics were held which were to challenge and scrutinise how agencies discharged their functions. The audit was a joint audit with the DSAPB to include the 'think family' concept. The audit was analysed including the feedback from the performance clinics and reported to board in January 2016. (The delay was due to changes in personnel and the impact of inspection).

During the year (at the development session and at board meetings) partners were asked to consider the role, fit and approach to Section 11, especially in the light of the Ofsted recommendations. The outcome of this was as follows;

- The Section 11 requirement and process was an important and integral part of the approach to assurance through the PMQA framework and resulted in learning that fed into the Learning and Improvement Framework.
- That the learning to date largely because of circumstances had not been fully captured but the indicative evidence indicated a number of clear positives in terms of supporting partners to evidence how they meet and work to improve a standards led approach to safeguarding.

The Independent Chair has provided partners with challenge to re set and re position the Section 11 and Section 175/157 (for schools) into a longer term strategy that seeks to build capacity for self-assessment and assurance against standards, that supports organisations in their focus on and management of safeguarding. This would mean that partners would have to consider timescale, resources and how they manage the process and its outcomes, especially as it needs to reach a large number of organisations across many settings, and needs to demonstrate "value". It has been agreed to draw up a 3 year strategy by the end of 2016 drawing on the learning from previous and current self-assessments.

The learning has provided board with assurances that agencies were discharging their responsibilities appropriately within the standards framework. There was also learning about how the process is managed, communicated and drawn together, the clinics which were a new development also provided positive feedback and some challenges in terms of achieving a more consistent approach. As a baseline and in general terms the take up and continued development of Section 11 has successfully established a firm foundation for and established the means for the Board to require all partners to evidence the ways in which they are meeting a common set of standards that reflect not only the statutory base line but also reflect our aspirations for children and young people.

The clinics were well received by partners, and provided robust challenge and promoted the sharing of experience, they also helped partners to identify the sorts of evidence that can be useful to support and guide the self-assessment process and regular updating. There was also an opportunity to look at how the self-assessment can complement and inform/be informed by other means of monitoring practice and safeguarding such as those that relate to inspection. This highlighted the need for the standards and the self-assessment to be sufficiently flexible to allow different partners in different settings to relate the questions, ratings and evidence to their own context.

What has been done as a result of the Section 11 audit?

The methodology approach has been revised and updated and will take advantage of available technology. The self-assessment audit for the current year has been re launched to include and engage schools. Assurances have been given re reduction in drift and delay. The Board has committed to the development of a long term strategy as a key component of its approach to assurance and PMQA. The Board also formerly agreed a Memorandum of Understanding with the British Transport Police.

¹⁹ Section 20 of the Children Act 1989 (Accommodation) - children and young people can be accommodated with the consent of those with parental responsibility.

The following agencies during 2015/2016 carried out single agency audits and the learning from these audits has been considered by the partnership:

Title of audit: Section 20 ¹⁹

By: Darlington Borough Council Children's Services

Learning from the audit: As a result of the section 20 audit the LA has identified a number of key areas for improvement including;

- Improve compliance re legality of placements, particularly with family and friends
- Ensuring consistency of the use of standards letters to cover parental agreement and other arrangements
- Reducing drift and delay in achieving permanency for children voluntarily accommodated on Section 20 including taking legal action more quickly

Title of audit: Clinical safeguarding audit on referrals made to social care.

By: Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust

Learning from the audit: Overall, green compliance was achieved for this clinical audit with significant improvement in practice standards achieved when benchmarked with the 2014 audit findings. To further enhance practice, relevant action is identified within the agreed action plan: Senior Nurse Safeguarding Children will produce a brief for e-bulletin highlighting the improvement and good practice by staff. This will also include a reminder for staff to attach the CAF assessments to the Safer referral form and ask for parental consent. This will also continue to be included in all levels of Safeguarding children training.

Title of audit: Clinical audit of safeguarding case files and supervision

By: Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust

Learning from the audit: The audit focussed on adherence to commissioning standards for safeguarding and supervision. Key messages from the audit included:

In respect of compliance with safeguarding case files, there was significant evidence that practice standards were being broadly achieved. Improvements required primarily relate to record keeping and documentary evidence of the Child Protection Plan. Whilst it is noted that a target standard of 100% should be achieved, there are circumstances evident where this could not be achieved. This audit therefore achieved an amber compliance rating.

A review of way safeguarding activity/supervision is documented on Paris record system will be completed.

Title of audit: Clinical audit of safeguarding children's policy

By: Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust

Learning from the audit: Overall the audit demonstrated that Trust staff are aware of how to access the Safeguarding Children's Policy (99%, 163/165) and know how to make a referral to children's social care (96%, 158/165). A green compliance rating was therefore assigned. To improve practice further in the future there is a need to facilitate staff awareness of how to access the criteria for making a Child in Need/Section 17 referrals.

An update will be placed on the Trust's e-bulletin to remind staff how to access the child in need/section 17 referral tools on the LSCB websites.

The Senior Nurses for Safeguarding children will continue to distribute Trust named professional leaflets at training events and an updated list of Safeguarding Children's staff will be placed on the Trust's e-bulletin.

Title of audit: Clinical Audit of Redcar Serious Case Review Action Plan Implementation. Impact of Parental Mental Health (Pre-CAF audit) AMBER

By: Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust

Learning from the audit: Overall good clinical practice was evident in relation to the assessment and management of identified safeguarding cases. It is evident that improvements required primarily relate to recording instructions when using the PARIS system. Any individual issues identified were addressed at the point of audit being undertaken by Team Managers and the action plan will further enhance Trust recording systems to support improved accessibility of information.

Title of audit: Use of Cafcass tools to improve assessments

By: CAF/CASS

Learning from the audit: The audit confirmed when the tool was used the assessments were more robust and detailed.

Title of audit: Liaison between IRO and Cafcass

By: CAF/CASS

Learning from the audit: The audit confirmed that liaison between the IRO and Cafcass was more effective when initiated at the very outset rather than part way through a case, unless this was all the case required.

The group have challenged agencies whereby they have carried out further investigation to understand the issues identified within the performance data and reported back to the group. The groups work has informed the Boards training and the multi-agency procedures.

The group also gain assurances from statutory agencies by presenting evidence at performance clinics; sharing inspection reports for external scrutiny e.g. CQC, HMIC, sharing single agency audits and annual reports. However, the group does recognise the membership of the performance group does need to be reviewed in 2015 – 2016 to improve agency engagement and to undertake further work around the s.11/audits and other appropriate audits which are informed by the multi-agency critical data set.

Summary and further learning re PMQA

The development of capacity and competence remains a priority for the partnership and this was confirmed by the Ofsted inspection:

'There is as yet no coherent multi-agency performance framework in place that would enable the board to evaluate safeguarding practice across all partner agencies. In addition, gaps in performance information lead to deficits in the knowledge of board members. Children's social care data is limited and does not facilitate an understanding of the quality of help provided at all stages of the child's journey. During this inspection, inspectors reviewing assessments identified widespread delay, variable quality and children being left at risk of further significant harm, and board members were insufficiently aware of these circumstances.'

It is appropriate that this report formally addresses the above at this point in time and it is fair to note the following;

- The DSCB Multi-agency Performance Framework is not yet fully coherent, but significant steps have been evidenced to give cause to believe that the impact of transitional delay has been addressed and that increased priority and balance has been applied to ensuring that what information we have from partners, is subject to systematic and regular analysis. Achieving a balance between the development of the framework and the actual scrutiny and analysis of data and information has been an important learning point and there is no doubt that the sub group that leads on this and the board must ensure that the evidence of and outcomes are regularly reported to the Board. There also needs to be further recognition that Board members have a direct role to play in scrutiny, analysis and challenge, ensuring that pre-determined points in the child's journey are considered on a regular basis and a clear view is formed.
- Similarly the development of a more coherent approach to multi-agency audit and delivery of a planned programme of case audits alongside the capacity to receive from partners and subject to scrutiny learning from single agency audit will complement the above.
- It also has to be noted that Darlington Borough Council are now able to demonstrate and share the results of their improved capacity and capability in terms of performance information and audit, and this presents the partnership with the further challenge of drawing on this and using it to ensure a coherent line of sight across the child's journey. This is likely to serve as a positive driver and support for the sub group.
- At present and to some extent it is appropriate that the Children's Services Improvement Board seek assurance as to the effectiveness of practice as it involves and impacts on all partners. However this is an interim position as the priority for the DSCB partnership will be to demonstrate capacity and application as a part of the planned review of the improvement notice.

Policy and Procedures Sub group

The sub group's average attendance was 70% during 2015/2016 and it cancelled one meeting in August 2015 due to the meeting not being quorate. The chair of this sub group changed during 2015/2016 due to the previous chair leaving her post and the interim chair during June 2015 and March 2016 was the Safeguarding Boards' Development Officer/LADO. The sub group is to be Chaired by the Associate Director of Nursing (Safeguarding), TEWV from April 2016.

The aim of the sub group is to develop and review effective multi-agency policies, procedures, protocols, pathways, guidance and tools for joint working and to ensure they are current, comprehensive, accessible and accurate. With the exception of minor amendments or corrections the DSCB is expected to endorse and formally agree this important form of support for joint working and effective practice.

During 2015/2016 the sub group has:

- Reviewed and updated procedures in the light of revisions to Working Together, 2015
- The following policies, procedures etc. were reviewed and updated; Core Groups , Looked After Children Reviews, Unborn Procedures, Model safeguarding policy, Anti-bullying Policy, Information Sharing, Forced Marriage Practice Guidance, Honour Based Violence Practice Guidance
- Developed a Professional Challenge procedure;
- Updating of Serious Incident notification requirements
- Ensured the coordination of policies etc. relevant to Durham and Darlington LSCB
- Policy Schedule established with programme of review for each policy, procedure and practice guidance

Copies of the policies, procedures and practice guidance can be viewed on the LSCB website

Additional activity and issues

Early in the year the Board learned that its online provider had been acquired by a competitor and as a result the increased cost was felt to be beyond the reach of the Board. The Board therefore formally agreed to an interim position with the Business Unit creating an alternative to the online service, whilst other options were explored. These included; the possibility of a joint group with Durham LSCB, however they decided to disband their sub group and accommodate the function elsewhere; look to other shared arrangements in the region; identify if there were any other cost effective commercial or in house solutions. A further opportunity arose as a result of Durham LSCB buying into a commercial online arrangement, although there were clear advantages to such an arrangement, the cost was felt to be an obstacle. It was also felt that there would need to be a negotiated and agreed consortium type approach.

Therefore the Partnership continues to service and support the current and interim arrangements, a position shared by 2 other boards in the region who find them in a similar position. Whilst there is no direct evidence that the quality or pace of review/renewal has suffered, the current access arrangements (via the DSCB website), may not facilitate optimum access. This is a situation that remains under review and is a managed risk.

The Board agreed in principle during the year that it would benefit from a stand-alone website, shared with the DSAPB. This would help promote identity and access and produce more scope for longer term developments around for example social media. DBC have agreed to support the development of a micro site that would meet the requirements of both partnerships. This is due for completion by December 2016.

The sub group has also committed to producing "bite size guides" to be used as a quick reference point for practitioners. A trial version was presented to the Board and further development work will be completed by the summer of 2016.

Key learning and next steps

- Provision of policies for joint working are a statutory responsibility, and provided they are accurate, current, accessible and useable they set clear baselines to support effective joint working. Therefore this remains a priority for the partnership.
- Despite changes in leadership and transitions the work programme has been maintained and now a new permanent chair is in place any catch up can be addressed.
- Policies need to be owned by Board members as their role in addition to agreeing them is also to make sure that they are promoted and followed.

Providing all people and professionals who work with children and young people with access to policies, procedures, protocols, pathways and guidance that helps them to meet standards and work together effectively has rightly remained a priority for the DSCB partnership and during the year we have been able to evidence updated materials, improved promotion and the development of new guidance.

The DSCB partnership has also had to risk manage and mitigate the fact that its previous arrangements for outsourcing some of this work, were terminated at short notice as a result of this supplier being merged with another provider. The cost of and the perceived additional value of the new potential supplier was outside of the reach of the Board. As a result in the early part of the year the Board formally agreed an interim arrangement which placed more work on the sub group and business unit staff, whilst a number of enquiries were made as to alternatives. A number of alternatives across the region have been explored but as yet none of these have demonstrated or met any affordability criteria. The implication of this is the need to ensure that the sub group is able to continue to provide an in house solution. There is also an additional need to consider alongside how the Board develops a more strategic approach generally, that it has the capacity to ensure that policies and procedures are not only up to date, but also used and usable.

Therefore in the coming year the group and the Board will evidence improved impact and influence in the following as a result of learning:

- Planned programme of review and development of policies and procedures
- Improved access and promotion as part of new website and improved communications strategy
- Re visit risk assessment and alternatives for outsourcing and or shared arrangements
- Development of “Bite Size” guides
- Further testing of policy and procedure impact and effectiveness within PMQA arrangements
- Focus on Threshold and pathway review and development

Board members agreed at the development day in March 2014 that they would continue to place a priority and an emphasis on ensuring that all those who work with children and young people in Darlington have access to policies, procedures and guidance. To do this the membership and attendance of the sub group will be reviewed in 2016 – 2017 to ensure there is the right compliment of agencies participating in policy and procedure development work, the group will continue to regularly review, update and maintain the current policies and procedures and seek opportunities to work collaboratively with other LSCB's where practical.

The group have identified challenges with developing multi-agency chronologies and more work is to be undertaken with agencies to understand how they complete chronologies to improve how as a Board we can produce good quality multi-agency chronologies when considering a serious case review.

Training, Communication and Voice of the user sub group (formerly Training and Communication's Sub group)

The average attendance of its members for 2015/2016 is 47% and there were no meetings cancelled in 2015/2016. The sub group has had a change in Chair during April to June 2015, the group was chaired by the Safeguarding Boards' Business Manager and during July to March 2016 the interim Chair was the Business Unit Multi-Agency Trainer and Safeguarding Boards Development Officer/LADO until December 2015 when the Designated Nurse, Adult Safeguarding (CCG) started to chair the meetings with the Vice Chair being the Education Safeguarding Officer for Children.

This is a joint group with the DSAPB: Its brief is to assess multi-agency safeguarding training needs and is responsible for the planning, evaluation and oversight of such multi-agency training and development activity the Partnership agrees should be delivered. This programme ties directly into the review and development of policies, learning from case reviews and emerging issues or themes such as new legislation. In addition the group also has the lead to communicate and raise awareness of safeguarding, and ensuring opportunities are sought to include the voice of children, young people, adults at risk and their families.

Safeguarding Training and workforce development

This is provided across the "children's workforce" and is co-ordinated and facilitated by the Safeguarding Boards' Multi-agency Trainer and some sessions are supported by members of the multi-agency training pool (this includes representatives from DBC, Police, County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, Barnardo's, Northern Grid, the National Probation Service and Darlington CCG). The sub group also monitors the standard of the training delivered across both children and adults workforces.

The approach follows those adopted elsewhere to ensure that at all levels (see below) of practice and across all settings where adults have significant contact with children they are equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to recognise, understand and act on the different forms of abuse, harm and neglect can take. This aligns with the DSCB Thresholds and guidance which also supports intervention and escalation on the basis of the level of concern and assessed needs and risks.

The reason we align the awareness raising function and the focus on the "voice of the child/service user" with this group is because of the centrality of the threshold arrangements and the need to ensure that people not only recognise when action is needed but know how this works, who to contact, what to expect and how to work together. The purpose of the training is to facilitate the Continued Professional Development (CPD) of practitioners in order to achieve better outcomes for children, young people and adults at risk of abuse and is linked to both boards' priorities. CPD is the means by which you can maintain and improve skills, knowledge and understanding which should have a positive impact upon practice Gravells (2012). The training programme is underpinned by an ethos which values working together collaboratively across agencies, respects diversity, promotes equality, is child and adult centred and promotes the participation of children, young people, adults and their families.

DSCB Specific	DSAPB Specific	Joint across both Children and Adults Workforces
Level 1 Safeguarding Children awareness	Level 1 Safeguarding Adults awareness	Level 3 Domestic Abuse Awareness
Level 2 Safeguarding Children awareness	Level 2 Safeguarding Adults – Managing the concern	Level 3 MAPPA (Multi agency Public Protection Arrangements)
Level 3 Child Neglect	Level 3 Safeguarding Adults Formal Enquiries/Investigation training	Level 3 MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference)
Designated Safeguarding Lead Role in Education	Safeguarding Adults Workplace Trainer programme	Child Sexual Exploitation briefings
Level 3 E Learning	Dementia awareness	Level 3 Mental Capacity Act/DoLS training (relevant for 16 years plus)
Darlington Borough Council	Joanna Conway	Education Safeguarding Officer
Level 3 Core Groups and Child Protection Conferences		
Safeguarding Children and young people from Sexual Exploitation Human Trafficking		

Headlines of the training provided during 2015/2016

- A total of 1511 delegates attended children safeguarding training which is a 10% increase from the previous year.
- 190 licensed taxi drivers attended awareness raising training specifically on child sexual exploitation. This is a rolling programme with the aim to capture all licensed taxi drivers including those licences due to renewal and new licence holders.
- 296 learners have completed the PREVENT²⁰ eLearning module (this figure includes both adults and children workforces)
- 97% of learners have rated the training provided as good or outstanding.
- 98% of the learners rated their knowledge and skill level post training as very good or outstanding.
- There has been a 46% increase in the number of referrals received by the Children's Access Point (CAP). A contributory factor of the increased referrals maybe due to the increased number of delegates attending safeguarding training.
- As a direct result of the licenced Taxi Driver training a taxi driver rescued a distressed child that had been abducted (from elsewhere in the country), sexually assaulted and abandoned in Darlington.

On an annual basis the sub group undertakes a training needs analysis across partners and sectors within Darlington. This is used to review and inform the training programme, and our approach to workforce development. This process was undertaken during January 2016 and March 2016 and was extended due to a poor response. The issue was discussed at Board on 18th May 2016 and partners were requested to ensure it is circulated within their agency.

The management, administration and delivery of the training programme, is by a full-time Multi-Agency Trainer employed by the partnerships. The agencies that have approved Board trained trainers are: Darlington Borough Council, Police, County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (CDDFT), Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and Barnardo's)

Of the training sessions offered there were 96% places taken up (this is across both children and adult workforces). There were 4 courses cancelled which was a 71% improvement from the previous year where 14 courses were cancelled. The reason for the courses being cancelled was mainly due to low booking numbers and one course was cancelled due to the availability of a trainer. Attendance by organisations remains consistent compared to previous year's data. There has been an increase in Durham Constabulary's attendance, up from 23 (2014/2015) to 286. This is as a result of a number of bespoke, on site, sessions delivered to police officers and staff at the request of the organisation to address specific areas of learning such as dementia awareness, child sexual exploitation and safeguarding awareness for children and adults at risk, for police neighbourhood teams and their communications staff. Police officers and staff are still encouraged to attend the Multi-agency training where possible.

It is noted that the attendance of Tees Esk and Wear Valley (TEWV) on multi-agency training remains low but it is recognised that the organisation provides safeguarding training within the organisation.

²⁰ Section 29 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 states that all frontline staff who engage with the public should understand what radicalisation means and why people may be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism as a consequence of it with the consent of those with parental responsibility.

At the end of each training session an evaluation form is completed by delegates and their feedback has been very positive with 97% stating the training is either good or outstanding. Delegates have said:

I've had 6 courses on Safeguarding and this was by far the best course I've had

This was the best training I have attended- clear messages, very knowledgeable trainer – passionate

Keep it as it is – brilliant

A post-evaluation survey is sent out three months after attending the course. The purpose of sending an additional survey out is to inform the sub group and Board if the training has had an impact on practice. 97% of learners rated their knowledge and skill following the course as very good or outstanding. Examples of feedback received on the surveys was:

I have definitely used the learning from this course in my practice since I attended ... gives a different perspective which is very powerful as it is very visual. Great day - I've recommended it to others & have 2 members of my team attending future dates.

Training has been vital in regards to my working role I have been able to challenge professional judgement knowing the legal framework that applies to child related matters.

Essential to do my role the training was excellent and as a result of attending the training DWP staff have received safeguarding training and now I receive referrals from them. I now feel more confident when referrals are made.

I have gained the insight into using the risk threshold tool and cross referenced this when incidents arise, which are less serious in nature. This allows me to make decisions on my next course of action. This helps me to be more confident and work independently at this stage and can discuss with manager at a later date/time, such as supervision. This saves everyone's time and I know if I did have any queries, I can contact the MASH team with questions, which I have done since this training has been delivered.

Key Learning and next steps

- Delivery of multi-agency training that supports “thresholds” and the “child’s journey” within a recognised approach that sets out clear requirements for partners and professionals as a minimum standard for effective joint working continues to be an important and valued activity.
- As a partnership we have challenged ourselves to improve our strategic approach and understanding of this on the basis of the need to improve our analysis of information, to develop our understanding of how taking part changes what people do, assessing the future role of eLearning, developing improved ways of assessing single agency/partner provision and to better manage the risks and to be able to have a clearer and longer term strategic view of how partners can be assured that all those who work with children and their families have the skills and knowledge they need.
- The joined up arrangement with the DSAPB has demonstrated some benefits (focus on the whole family approach through “think family”) but it may also have contributed to the learning needs identified above, we will therefore need to think carefully about how we exercise our leadership role as a partnership to ensure that these arrangements are able to evidence and deliver on the more specific and strategic targets that will be required of us.
- It is also important to recognise the wider learning that the provision of training provides and being assured that the workforce have the skills and knowledge required.
- Training is led by the strategies, standards, thresholds and view of priorities that the safeguarding and other partnerships set.

The training annual report is available from the website

Key learning and next steps

- Multi-agency training continues to be a valued activity, and it needs to continue to ensure that alongside the training each partner provides to result in a workforce that is equipped with sufficient knowledge and skills to recognise the different forms abuse, harm and neglect take. In order that these are responded to on the basis of joint working which ensures a timely, proportionate and high quality response.
- The training needs analysis, Section 11 and section 175/157 returns and other information shared by partners needs to ensure that there is a full picture of the training gaps and needs, so as to ensure that partners are challenged, advised and supported to provide a strategic approach to meeting these needs, and in order to target multi-agency training provided through the partnership.
- Feedback from training is positive and there has been some work done to establish how this changes practice, the pace and reach of this needs to improve in the coming year.
- Involving partners in the provision of the multi-agency training is a positive and is a good way of ensuring a wide range of training opportunities and needs to continue.
- The analysis of the information we have appears to be limited in the way that this is used to inform delivery, development, evaluation and planning and this needs to improve especially in being able to evidence the focus on the children's workforce and to show that all parts of this workforce across the partnership are able to take part
- The provision of training through the Partnerships resources is meeting a need, however in terms of limited resources, the responsibilities of partners and the need to ensure the balance of the programme needs to be reviewed and carefully managed.



Communication and Voice of the Child/Adult at risk

The sub group is also responsible for ensuring the Boards' have a communication strategy and that key messages from Board are communicated including learning. This is an area that is being prioritised for 2016/2017 as this area has not made as much progress as hoped for.

In addition the sub group is also responsible for ensuring the voice of the user is captured in the work across both children and adults safeguarding Boards. Work has been undertaken via the Missing, Exploited and Sexual Abuse Sub group to establish what mechanisms are in place to consult, co-produce and increase participation of children and young people as this is a key element of ensuring an effective strategic and operational response to CSE. This work offers a template and direction for the sub group to look at the ways in which the partnership can have more impact on a whole system basis.

Other areas of the Board's activity such as PMQA already reflect and are improving how they capture and look at practice and joint working performance from the child's perspective.

A challenge has emerged from the work to date for the wider partnerships in Darlington, to improve how children's needs and views are understood as this relates to strategic planning. Therefore the partnership is looking at how information is captured from children and young people in Darlington, the main sources of information is from the Healthy Lifestyles Survey which is undertaken by Darlington Borough Council with children and young people and the 'Destination Survey' which is a survey aimed at young people. This will help the partnership to shift its approach forward and ensure it has more of a strategic starting point.

At a DSAPB meeting in April, 2016 Healthwatch Darlington gave a presentation that has described work undertaken with children and young people, this will be used to inform the partnerships approach and plans.

The other area of practice reviewed was to what extent and how do partners approach this? The sub group has begun to audit and review these, for example looking at the established approach used by Darlington College. This is a powerful example of how learning from the experiences of young people can directly impact on the way people work to raise awareness, support them and help prevent harm and abuse. (Ashleigh's Rules which were created as a result of the death of a student of the college who died from tragic circumstances after meeting up with a male she met online).

These principles and approach have also been successfully applied by the joint work undertaken by the Partnership and the Durham Police led ERASE initiative.

Key Learning and next steps – communication and voice of the child/adult at risk

- The partnership has maintained regular briefings available for the children's workforce through the year, these have provided news, resources and other information to support joint working, there is further scope to develop this and extend the reach and impact.
- The development of a communication strategy has been recognised as an area to work on and this has started in the year but is not yet complete, (the wider lessons re drift and delay are noted elsewhere in this report)
- Existing ways in which other partnerships and partners reach out to capture the views of children have been partially reviewed so as to ensure that in the coming year these reflect the "safeguarding and protecting children" agenda and improve the Partnerships capacity to influence and be influenced by how the wider needs and priorities for children, families and the community are formed.
- Providing a fuller picture will achieve 2 things, firstly it will provide a resource and support for the different ways in which people put children first. Secondly it will allow the partnership to further develop how it ensures safeguarding is prioritised on the basis of children's views and how it ensures that joint working practice reflects this.

Prevention from Harm Task and Finish Group

The Board agreed in January 2016 to disband the Prevention from Harm Sub group. This was a difficult decision as the group had had a positive impact in making sure that as a partnership we were focused on the wider preventative agenda. The reasons for this decision were as follows; the need to reflect the pressures partners face and better target the time and resources they make available. In revising the partnerships' plans and priorities it was also noted that closer working with other strategic partnerships would or should provide the opportunity to focus on prevention and this should include the safeguarding perspective. This would for example allow some areas of work covered by the sub group such as the scoping of issues or the development of pathways to be covered by other sub groups or the business group.

The group were in the final stages of the pathway self-harm and suicide prevention across Darlington and Durham. There have been some challenges in getting the joint pathways finalised due to mainly the separate commissioning arrangements by each Local Authority and the offer of services for individuals varying across the two areas. Although it has not been completed, it has been agreed to have the common aspects of the pathways but to reflect the different services for each LSCB area. This work is due to be completed by the summer of 2016.

Key Learning and next steps

- Prevention is a key part of addressing abuse, harm and neglect and the partnership needs to ensure that all strategies, strategic responses and plans reflect a real and an effective commitment to prevention. For this to be effective this needs to be reflected in how the wider strategic partnership arrangements work, and therefore the partnership needs to ensure and be assured that in the coming year this is progressed.
- The partnership has had to in light of recent learning re focus and prioritise on key parts of the child's journey around early help and protection and further prioritise its attention of scrutiny of performance and quality whilst ensuring that standards and thresholds are set, support is provided and that the "feedback loop" is focused on practice and improving positive outcomes for children.



Missing, Exploited and Sexual Abuse (MESA) Sub group (formerly Missing and Exploited Group)

The sub group's average attendance for 2015/2016 is 45% and there were no scheduled meetings cancelled and the sub group is chaired by Detective Superintendent, Durham Constabulary.

There are two groups linked to the Missing, Exploited and Sexual Abuse sub group, the 'strategic group' which looks at patterns and trends of children's missing behaviour, child sexual exploitation referrals including sexual abuse. The 'operational' group meets and agencies share information about children and young people that are either at medium or high risk of sexual exploitation and/or frequently missing from home or school. The operational group reviews and updates the level of risk to each of the children and young people discussed to formulate appropriate multi-agency strategies to support the young person and to reduce the risks they are presenting such as through prevention and disruption planning.

As part of this group they have oversight of awareness raising activity including informing the CSE training programme. This group works with the Training, Communications and Voice of the User sub group. During 2015/2016 a licensing representative from Darlington Borough Council has been invited onto the MESA Sub group, to assist with facilitating training licensed taxi drivers in CSE. Work has also been scheduled to start in 2016/2017 to train the night-time economy e.g. door staff/pub staff/restaurant and fast-food staff in CSE.

The sub group has developed a multi-agency CSE and Missing data set to monitor the trends and patterns. This information is also shared with the Quality Assurance and Performance Management sub group and reported to the Board. The data at the end of March 2016 is:

- 41 children were identified as being at medium or high risk of CSE during 2015/2016
- Of the 41 children identified as being at medium or high risk, there are 19 receiving support at the end of March 2016
- 58 children and young people were known to have gone missing from home during 2015/2016
- 38 children were reported as missing or absent from care
- 8 children were reported as missing or absent from school during Sept 2015 to July 2016. All these children were located and reasons for missing were they had moved to another local authority, started at a new school or became elected home educated.
- At the end of March 2016 there were 30 return interviews completed for children missing from home or care. Out of the 30 completed, 18 were completed within the 72 hour timescale.

Work that has been undertaken during 2015/2016 and the impact this has had is:

- The Partnership supported and hosted the Chelsea's Choice theatre production, this is an innovative and proven way to raise awareness of CSE across school settings. Practitioners and education staff were asked to consider it as an approach to raise awareness of CSE within their settings. The learning from this for partners was to consider whether or not their response to and take up of this opportunity was sufficient. There was important partner discussion about how there was a need to join up awareness raising across CSE with other key issues such as neglect. The wider learning for the partnership in respect of CSE was the need to be clearer about whole system outcomes and provide more challenge to partners to establish better take up and support for such activities.
- This and the learning from the Ofsted inspection has led to a baseline assessment of what awareness raising activity is undertaken from multi-agency and single agency perspective and has been used to develop a leaflet that will be aimed at children and young people and their parents/carers to enable them to get access to advice/guidance and support.
- The Board are part of the Force wide initiative ERASE which stands for: to Educate and Raise Awareness of Sexual Exploitation. This includes promoting safety and increasing awareness to end abuse. The ERASE initiative is led by Durham Constabulary and includes joint working arrangements with the ERASE team. From June 2016 the Detective Sergeant from the ERASE team will not only be chairing the County Durham LSCB missing and exploited operational group, but will also be chairing Darlington's missing and exploited operational group to ensure intelligence and disruption strategies are joined up. The team also work closely with the CSE and Missing Lead and will undertake missing from home interviews if required.
- The board have also contributed to two CSE profiles which aim to inform nationally and locally the multi-agency picture using a range of data supplied to help improve agencies understanding of the behaviours and strategies used by the perpetrators through the victim, perpetrator and experiences shared by professionals working with the individuals.
- Across both County Durham and Darlington LSCBs it has been recognised that the current CSE Matrix could be further improved to better determine the risks posed to children and young people. A pilot is taking place between March and July 2016 alongside the current risk matrix to determine if the revised tool assists with better identification of risk to children and young people today.
- Police received a peer review from the College of Policing on CSE which found the partnership work and training provided by the LSCBs across Darlington and Durham were a strength.
- The group have reviewed how practical it will be for a young person still presenting as being at either medium or high risk of CSE to receive continuous support from adult services including adult safeguarding. It has been agreed at Board for Durham Constabulary to lead on a County Durham and Darlington Task and Finish Group to explore the issues and make recommendations to both Safeguarding Children and the DSAPB during 2016/2017.

Development work for 2016/2017

With the updated problem profiles using multi-agency data and the potential of adopting a new county wide CSE risk matrix the CSE strategy, procedures and practice guidance will all need to be reviewed and updated to reflect the new data and tools.

The sub group will review its strengths and weaknesses based on the thematic joint inspections which are scheduled to be undertaken during February and August 2016 to learn from others and improve Darlington's approach to CSE.

During 2016/2017 all education providers (including early years settings) will be asked to complete a section 11/ section 175/157 audit which will seek assurances of how they safeguarding and promote the welfare of children on a range of issues as prescribed within keeping children safe in education, 2015 which includes a focus on raising awareness of CSE and informing children how to keep themselves safe.

In 2016/2017 the sub group are arranging a young person's conference which will look at raising awareness of the risk of CSE including other issues such as consent and building self-esteem. The conference will be funded by Durham Constabulary and will be aimed at Looked After Children and young people who are school councillors.

Key Learning and next steps

- The lead provided by Durham Police, Children's Social Care and other partners has ensured that the "strategic and operational" group model to drive forward a plan linked directly to and focused on front door and front line practice has ensured an effective response, and there is some evidence that this continues to develop and improve.
- Partner awareness is high and has benefited from Police led initiatives in terms of focus on victims and awareness arrangements, Darlington Children's Social Care have further strengthened their response, the monitoring of their performance and focus on outcomes for children at risk of or subject to CSE and children who go missing, especially children who are Looked After.
- The sub group has also been able to look in some detail at how the risk assessment and risk management of children who are missing and or at risk of/subject to CSE, and the learning from this with a view to recommending changes is scheduled to come forward in the year.
- The scrutiny of the performance and quality of operational arrangements is looked at by the respective partners, but the year has indicated that scrutiny from the partnership perspective needs to be enhanced and it therefore seems sensible to incorporate this into the Performance sub group (the wider PMQA approach). This would also provide the opportunity to target audit activity.
- The need to produce a local "problem profile" has been recognised and will be supported by the wider problem profile exercises completed in the year. This will provide the opportunity for the Partnership with other partnerships to promote and draw on what we know and understand re the prevalence of CSE and risk indicators (people and places) and how this requires a community wide response.
- The development of a clearer plan and narrative on "this is how in Darlington" we protect children who go missing and children at risk or who are sexually exploited, will be a key role for the Board as it will support the high level of response but also challenge those who thus far have not felt able to evidence how they are doing their bit.
- As with other areas of the Partnerships scrutiny and assurance activity, there has little substantive presentation and analysis of information that has allowed the Partnership to better understand the overall impact and effectiveness of this work. The learning from efforts to promote awareness from a strategic and system wide perspective against measurable outcomes (as highlighted by Ofsted) has yet to be reported against a comprehensive "this is what we said we would do and why, and this is what was achieved and as a result we now need to do the following". This is an area the partnership must improve on in the coming year. The evidence needs to be collated and reviewed from a more strategic perspective.

Case Review and Learning from Practice Sub group (Formerly Learning and Improvement Group)

The sub group's average attendance is 52% during 2015/2016 and no meetings were cancelled. The Chair of this sub group changed during the year as it was originally chaired by the Chief Executive of a local voluntary organisation that closed and the Associate Director of Nursing, CDDFT took over the role from September 2015. From April 2016, the sub group will be chaired by Designated Nurse, CCG. This analysis highlights a number of issues, which are particularly relevant for this sub group given its primary function. These are; membership needs to reflect experience and position as the matters that come before this sub group are often complex and can have significant implications. In addition when a case meets the threshold for formal review a panel will need to be formed to ensure involved agencies are able to take part and provide information. During the year there has been an increased focus on the leadership, governance and operation of this sub group.

The partnership is required to have in place a Learning and Improvement Framework, and this includes the arrangements for case review and child death reviews as well as how the partnership responds to notifications of child deaths, significant incidents or other areas of joint working practice that may benefit from "review". During the year the partnership has had to work through the implications of changes made to statutory guidance in March 2015 and emerging learning from the National Panel of Experts and government sponsored innovation project around case reviews.

The Case Review and Learning from Practice (CRLP) Sub group and improvement group meets on a bi-monthly basis to consider any cases that may meet the threshold for a SCR as outlined within regulation 5 of LSCB 2006 regulations, consider learning from multi-agency practice that is working well and where it may not be working very well.

In addition the CRLP sub group is the oversight and feed in point for the CDOP (described in para). The CDOP panel can review a case into the CRLP sub group if they feel lessons could be learnt. The CRLP can also request additional information, single agency audits or reviews to be undertaken in order to be assured that lessons and learning are identified and to seek assurances that the system is working to safeguarding and promote the welfare of children in Darlington.

During the inspection in 2015 Ofsted noted:

LSCB learning and improvement, auditing and performance management frameworks are in place but have not been joined up to deliver a suitably thorough and detailed knowledge of gaps in the quality of services provided to the most vulnerable children in Darlington.

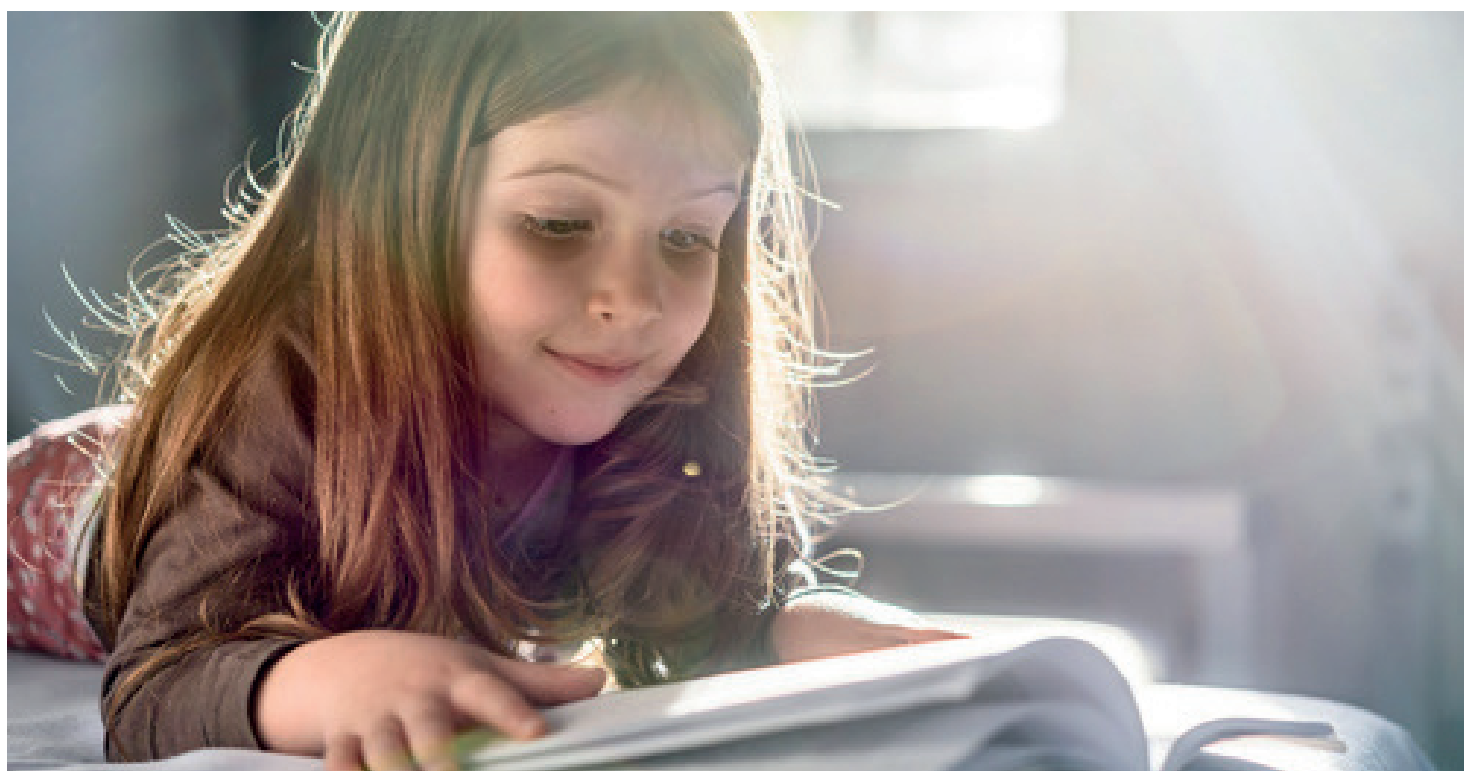
Dissemination of learning from processes such as case reviews has been limited across the children's workforce and the wider community and there are no specific and measurable plans in place to address any identified deficits.

Headlines

- There have been no serious case reviews commissioned during 2015/2016
- There was 1 serious incident notification in January 2016 which is subject of consideration for Serious Case Review
- 2 cases have been considered for a lessons learnt review, which is a discretionary review where the Board feel there is learning from the case to improve practice.
- 2 facilitated discussions took place based with practitioners to understand how they worked together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, again like a lessons learnt review this is a discretionary review that will provide learning to improve multi-agency practice.
- Darlington Children's Social Care undertook a Single Agency Management review that resulted in further quality assurance exercise review of the quality of child protection plans in respect of one complex case, and this was shared with the sub group.
- Darlington Children's Social Care undertook an audit of section 20 cases 'provision of accommodation by the Local Authority' for children in need' (Children Act 1989), in response to a judgement by Lord Justice. This informed efforts to improve the quality of assessments, case management and decision making and this was shared with the sub group.
- The group has developed a half yearly digest to communicate learning from local and national serious case reviews and other lessons learnt reviews.

Key learning and next steps

- As a result of the cases reviewed it was decided that the capacity of professionals to challenge each other when they may have a concern would benefit from further guidance and support. As a result multi-agency guidance is being drafted for agreement and implementation by partners in the coming year. This will increase confidence and capacity of professionals to be able to “challenge” each other when they are concerned that working together arrangements are not being followed or they do not understand the basis for another professionals or agencies decision.
- The other cases considered have indicated that more attention needs to be paid to some of the key stages in the assessment, decision making and review of decisions/plans when a child is in the child protection system. This is being incorporated into the multi-agency training and respective partners have been asked to further examine how they support, manage and develop practice in this area. (These parts of the child’s journey are subject to PMQA scrutiny and further case file audits may be commissioned).
- The cases looked at also demonstrated strengths around professional resilience, focus on the child and positive support from managers.
- One case provided learning re the effectiveness of current pathways when a child self-harms and this was fed into the work being carried out elsewhere in the partnership
- The consideration of the audit of Section 20 orders, was a part of the agreed response by the partnership in order to offer further scrutiny and assurance. This indicated evidence of improvements in the quality and timeliness of assessments. This has been incorporated as an indicator in the partnerships PMQA arrangements and will ensure that the partnership is in a position to monitor and support this aspect of the LA improvement plan.
- In response to the Ofsted learning and recommendation to better integrate the review and scrutiny function, a Business Group has been formed, the PMQA function has been reviewed and given further priority. This means that developments and learning opportunities will be coordinated more effectively.
- In addition the Independent Chair has provided advice and challenge in order to ensure that the case review process is in line with national standards and changes to Working Together guidance. This has meant the introduction of a more robust and transparent review and recommendation process, improved links with the National of Experts (who review all decisions to undertake or not undertake Serious Case Reviews) and the updating of the “notification” process. These changes will be reflected in the planned review of the Learning and Improvement Framework.



Child Death Overview Sub group

The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) is a joint panel with County Durham LSCB and it is a sub-committee of both County Durham and Darlington LSCB's. CDOP is responsible for reviewing the available information on all child deaths and is accountable to both Boards. The CDOP must consider if there are modifiable factors as per the definition 'where, if actions could be taken through national or local interventions, the risk of future child deaths could be reduced'²¹.

During 2015/2016 there had been a total of:

- 10 child deaths (this is a 100% increase from the previous four years data of Darlington child death notifications)
 - Of the 10, 5 were expected child deaths and
 - 5 were unexpected child deaths
- Of the 10, 5 children were less than one year of age. The majority of the child deaths were within the first 27 days of life. The first 27 days of life is when a child is most at risk of death²²
- 5 of the 10 were between the age of 6 years and 17 years of age
- Of the child deaths reviewed²³ by the joint panel there were less than 5 for Darlington
- Modifiable factors were identified for 1 of the Darlington Child Deaths reviewed
- None of the cases reviewed were referred to the Board for a lessons learnt or serious case review during this reporting period.

The CDOP maintains an action log and learning from child death reviews into an action plan which is reviewed and updated at each meeting and reported into the Board regularly.

Key learning and next steps

- The joint CDOP panel supports a number of partners whose boundaries are co-terminus with the 2 local authorities and helps ensure that there is a viable basis for statistical analysis.
- The majority of the child deaths are those in the highest risk category of within the first 27 days of life. There has been a thematic review and a number of recommendations have been made to improve maternity care across CDDFT.
- Other learning has enabled an education setting to offer bespoke counselling and to invite the family into school to fund raise and contribute to providing a legacy in memory of a child that died from the setting/school.
- The dedicated rapid response service and nursing team which covers across both Darlington and County Durham provides effective support to families where there is an unexpected death. The Rapid Response Senior Nurse also acts as the link between the Coroner, Pathologist, Police, and Designated Doctor for Child Deaths, the Family and LSCBs which ensures a coordinated approach to every child death.
- The partnership feel that the CDOP process is effective on the basis of their regular scrutiny of reports. This was confirmed during Darlington's inspection and that of County Durham's inspection (which was in February 2016).
- Further improvement is to be undertaken to ensure the CDOP process is linked into the Case Review and Learning from Practice sub group and for the learning from child deaths including modifiable factors to be widely communicated to all agencies and children, young people and their families within Darlington.

Further information about CDOP is outlined in the joint CDOP annual report, which is available on the [DSCB website](#).

²¹ Working Together, 2015

²² Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, May, 2014

²³ These deaths may not have occurred during 2015/2016

Allegations Management and Safer Recruitment

The LADO function is located within the Safeguarding Boards' Joint Business Unit. This is an unusual arrangement and during the year Darlington Borough Council indicated that it intended to re locate this function and this is likely to be supported by the partnership. As a result scrutiny of the function is largely an internal arrangement, with an annual report being taken to the DSCB.

All partners have an obligation to undertake safer recruitment practice²⁴ and to ensure that any allegations made against staff who work with children are reported to the LADO. The LADO then triggers a recognised process of information sharing, review and investigation that triangulates any child protection/criminal offence concerns with HR and organisational responsibilities to ensure that the child is safe and the appropriate action is taken.

In 2015/16 a total of 64 referrals were received, this is an increase of 12% on the previous year, and 47% on 2012/2013. (This was in line with regional trends). Awareness raising has been maintained in the year through e-bulletins, DSCB training, other communication and the workforce procedures. Educational settings accounted for the highest proportion of referrals to the LADO of 33% during 2015 - 2016, other referrals were from police, religious/faith settings, health and local authority staff across a range of disciplines. In addition, referrals were also received from individuals that were self-employed.

The managing allegations annual report will be made available via the DSCB website and within the report it compares four years data. This report will be subject to partnership scrutiny at a future Board meeting.

Key learning and next steps

- Awareness, reporting and response appears to be robust, and this means that the partnership can be assured that as far as it possible children are being protected as a result of safe recruitment and an effective response to concerns.
- This however needs continued attention and development, especially as there is a need to reach and maintain awareness and response across a large number of organisations and settings in Darlington.
- There has been an increase in the number of allegations made by children and young people following the use of a restraint in particular the use of Team Teach restraint technique 'Front Ground Recovery' in a number of education and residential establishments within Darlington. This is being escalated to the partnership to consider whether further inquiry and assurance is required, as partners noted during the year that there was a need to be assured about use of restraint across settings.
- The partnership as a result of its consideration of the last LADO annual report, set new standards for analysis in line with best practice and regional templates, this will improve both the capacity of the LADO function and the quality of scrutiny and learning.
- Given the likely relocation of the function in the current year the partnership will need to recognise the opportunities and any risks re changed arrangements and support these.

²⁴ The 2014/2015 Section 11 audits demonstrated agencies prioritise safer recruitment as a priority as well adopting the revised version of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education

Private fostering

The partnership took a formal report from Darlington Borough Council and as a result it was agreed that a supplementary report would be submitted in response to challenges made by Partners. This is a good example of the strong and constructive relationships and demonstrated the desire of all partners to be sure that when a child is subject to private fostering in Darlington this recognised and there is a timely and appropriate response. Numbers of notifications tend to be low, and public awareness is also low, partners in health have made significant steps in the past years by ensuring that primary care providers are more aware and schools continue to be aware. Leaflets have been developed and distributed by the private fostering team and the partnership has raised awareness across partner agencies through e-bulletins and multi-agency training.

Key Learning and next steps

- The Local Authority has a development plan in place with clear outcome measure and will report this to the partnership on regular and formal basis.
- Partners continue to be committed to improving awareness and ensuring that their front line arrangements are able to recognise situations that might mean a child is “privately fostered”.
- It remains a challenge to know what constitutes the right number, but it is important to be assured that even if there is only one child that they get a timely and high quality response.



Glossary of Terms

DBC	Darlington Borough Council
DfE	Department for Education
CAF	Common Assessment Framework
CAFCASS	Children and Family Court and Advisory and Support Service
CAMHS	Child Adolescent Mental Health Service
CAP	Children's Access Point
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
CDDFT	County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust
CDOP	Child Death Overview Panel
CHiMat	Child and Maternal Health Intelligence Network
CLA	Children Looked After
CPD	Continuous Professional Development
CRC	Community Rehabilitation Company
CRLP	Case Review and Learning from Practice
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
CSIB	Children's Service Improvement Board
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
CYPP	Children and Young People's Plan
CQC	Care Quality Commission
DfE	Department for Education
DSAPB	Safeguarding Adult's Partnership Board
DSCB	Darlington Safeguarding Children Board
ERASE	Educate and Raise Awareness of Sexual Exploitation
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
HMIC	Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies
HR	Human Resources
HWB	Health and Wellbeing Board

IHA	Initial Health Assessment
IRO	Independent Reviewing Officer
JSNA	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
JTAI	Joint Thematic Area Inspection
LA	Local Authority
LAC	Looked After Child
LADO	Local Authority Designated Officer
LGA	Local Government Association
LIG	Learning and Improvement Group
LSCB	Local Safeguarding Children Board
MASH	Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub
MEG	Missing and Exploited Group
MMR	Measles, Mumps and Rubella
MESA	Missing, Exploited and Sexual Abuse
NECA	North East Council for Alcoholism
NHS	National Health Service
NHSE	National Health Service England
NICE	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
NWG	National Working Group
NPS	National Probation Service
Ofsted	Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills
Ofsted SIF	Single Inspection Framework
PCC	Police and Crime Commissioner
PfH	Prevention from Harm
PMQA	Performance Management and Quality Assurance
QA	Quality Assurance
SCR	Serious Case Review
SMART	Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-bound
TEWV	Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust

Quality Assurance and Performance Management Sub group (formally Performance Management Sub group)			
Agency	Job title	% of attendance	Commentary and analysis
Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)	Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children	60%	The post holder works part-time and has given their apologies for two meetings as the meetings have not been on the persons working days
Darlington Borough Council	Head of Review and Development	60%	The post was vacant when two of the meetings were held
	DAAT Performance Analyst	40%	The post holder was on maternity leave for two of the meetings and had given their apologies for one meeting. They attended 2 out of the possible 5 meetings
	Children's Services Information Officer	0%	
	Children's Residential Services and Placements Manager (replaced by LAC Team Manager)	60%	Apologies were received two out of the five meetings held
	Duty Team Manager	60%	Apologies were received two out of the five meetings held
	Youth Offending Services Information Officer	80%	Apologies were received for one of the meetings.
	Head of First Contact, MASH and Localities	60%	Apologies were received two out of the five meetings held
	Education Safeguarding Officer	60%	Apologies were received two out of the five meetings held
	MASH Manager	40%	It was classified as not applicable for the post to attend the meetings between September 2015 and January 2016. The post attend all of the meetings it was applicable (2)
Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS)	Service Manager	60%	Apologies were received for two out of the five meetings held and a deputy attended for one of the meetings
County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust	Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children	100%	
	Senior LAC Nurse	60%	Apologies were received two out of the five meetings held
Durham Constabulary	Detective Inspector	60%	There was attendance at three meeting out of the five held. A deputy attended for two of the three meetings
North East Council on Alcoholism (NECA)	Treatment Service Coordinator	40%	There was attendance at three meetings, a deputy attended one of the meetings and it was not applicable for them to attend the meeting in September due to the post being vacant.
Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust	Named Nurse for Safeguarding	80%	Apologies were received one out of the five meetings held and a deputy attended one of the meetings
Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)	Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children	80%	The post holder works part-time and has given their apologies for one meetings as the meetings have not been on the persons working days

Quality Assurance and Performance Management Sub group (formally Performance Management Sub group)			
Agency	Job title	% of attendance	Commentary and analysis
Darlington Borough Council	Head of Review and Development	40%	The post was vacant when one of the meetings were held and three of the meetings it was not applicable for the post holder to attend. There were two meetings the post holder attended.
	DAAT Recovery and Reintegration Manager	60%	Apologies were received two out of the five meetings held
	Principal Lawyer	40%	Apologies were received three out of the five meetings held
	Head of Looked After, Youth Offending and Specialist Support Services	100%	
	Head of First Contact, MASH and Localities	80%	Apologies were received for one out of the five meetings held
	Education Safeguarding Officer	100%	
County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust	Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children	60%	Apologies were received two out of the five meetings held
Durham Constabulary	Detective Inspector	40%	Apologies were received three out of the five meetings held
Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust	Senior Nurse for Safeguarding Children	100%	A deputy attended for one of the five meetings held
Darlington Borough Council	Head of Service – Learning Disability and Mental Health (SAPB)	16%	Attended 1 out of the 6 scheduled meetings.
	Operations Manager (SAPB)	16%	Attended 1 out of the 6 scheduled meetings.
	Principal Social Worker (SAPB)	0%	No meetings were attended in the year. It was not applicable for this post to attend after May 2015.
	Work Force Development Commissioner	100%	
	Joint Information Coordinator	0%	
	Youth Offending Services Operations Manager	0%	
	Practice Supervisor (DSCB)	0%	
	Education Safeguarding Officer	100%	
	Safeguarding Practice Officer (SAPB)	83%	Attended 5 out of the 6 meetings scheduled

Quality Assurance and Performance Management Sub group (formally Performance Management Sub group)			
Agency	Job title	% of attendance	Commentary and analysis
Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust	Senior Nurse Safeguarding Lead (SAPB)	100%	A deputy attended for 1 of the 6 meetings scheduled.
	Safeguarding Children's First Contact Advisor and Trainer (LSCB)	67%	Attended 4 of the 6 meetings and a deputy attended one of these meetings
Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group	Designated Nurse, Safeguarding Adults (SAPB) (Chair)	67%	Attended 4 of the 6 meetings and a deputy attended two of these meetings
	Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children (LSCB)	17%	Attended 1 of the 6 scheduled meetings. The post holder works part-time and these meetings are on their non-working days.
County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust	Safeguarding Lead (SAPB)	67%	Attended 4 of the 6 meetings
	Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children (LSCB)	50%	Attended 3 of the 6 meetings
Darlington College	Safeguarding Officer (LSCB)	67%	Attended 4 of the 6 meetings
Healthwatch	Participation Lead (SAPB)	0%	No meetings were attended
Durham Constabulary	Strategic Coordinator (LSCB)	67%	Attended 4 of the 6 meetings and a deputy attended one of these meetings
Safeguarding Board	Business Manager	50%	3 of the 6 meetings were attended. It was not applicable for the attendance for two of the meetings due to the post being vacant. Apologies were received for one meeting.
	Multi-agency Trainer	100%	
	Development Officer/ LADO	50%	3 of the 6 meetings were attended. It was not applicable for the attendance for two of the meetings due to the post being vacant. Apologies were received for one meeting.
	Lay Member	17%	1 of the 6 meetings were attended. It was not applicable for the Lay Member to attend the meetings from September 2015.
Durham Constabulary	Detective Superintendent (Chair)	83%	5 out of the 6 meetings held were attended
	Strategic Coordinator for Sexual Violence	67%	4 of the 6 meetings were attended
	DAAT Recovery and Reintegration Manager	67%	4 of the 6 meetings were attended

Quality Assurance and Performance Management Sub group (formally Performance Management Sub group)			
Agency	Job title	% of attendance	Commentary and analysis
Darlington Borough Council	LAC Education Coordinator	0%	Apologies were received for all meetings between April 2015 – August 2015. It was not applicable for this post to attend any further meetings
	Specialist Family Support Service Manager	83%	5 out of the 6 meetings held were attended
	Senior Youth Offending Officer	0%	No meetings were attended
	LAC Team Manager	33%	2 out of the 6 meetings were attended
	SWITCH Manager	67%	4 of the 6 meetings were attended
	Children's Care Home Manager	33%	2 out of the 6 meetings were attended
	Children's Residential Services and Placements Manager	33%	2 out of the 6 meetings were attended. It was not applicable for the post to attend meetings from October 2015
	Anti-Social Behaviour Manager	67%	4 of the 6 meetings were attended
	Head of Review and Development	17%	1 of the 6 meetings were attended. It was not applicable for this post to attend meetings from August 2015.
	Youth Worker	50%	3 of 6 meetings were attended
	Sex, Education and Relationship Officer	33%	2 out of the 6 meetings were attended
	Licensing Manager	33%	2 out of the 6 meetings were attended. This post was invited to be a member in December 2015. A deputy has attended the two meetings which were held during this time
	SECOS Team Manager	67%	4 of the 6 meetings were attended
Barnardos	Senior LAC Nurse	17%	1 of the 6 meetings were attended.
County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust	Named Nurse Safeguarding Children	100%	All meetings were attended and for one of the meetings a deputy represented the agency
	Acting Head of Sexual Health	67%	4 of the 6 meetings were attended
	Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children	17%	1 of the 6 meetings were attended.
Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group	Names Nurse Safeguarding Children	17%	1 of the 6 meetings were attended. It was not applicable for this post to be in attendance at April 2015 meeting
LSCB	Business Manager	50%	The post was vacant for two of the six meetings. The post gave their apologies for two of the meetings
	Development Officer/ LADO	100%	

Quality Assurance and Performance Management Sub group (formally Performance Management Sub group)			
Agency	Job title	% of attendance	Commentary and analysis
Darlington Borough Council	Head of Looked After, Youth Offending and Specialist Support Services	50%	The post gave there apologies for 3 out of the 6 meetings held
	Head of First Contact, MASH and Localities	84%	Apologies were received for 1 out of the 6 meetings held
	Head of Housing	50%	Apologies were received for 3 out of the 6 meetings held
	Principal Lawyer	50%	Apologies were received for 3 out of the 6 meetings held
	Education Safeguarding Officer	77%	Apologies were received for 2 out of the 6 meeting held
	Principal Social Worker	40%	It was not applicable for the post to attend the first meeting in April. Apologies were received for 2 out of the 5 meetings where they were invited to attend the meeting
CCG	Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children	50%	Apologies were received for 3 out of the 6 meetings held (post holder currently works part-time)
	Designated Doctor	16%	Post attended 1 of the 6 meetings held
CDDFT	Associate Director of Nursing (Chair)	84%	Apologies were received for 1 out of the 6 meetings held
	Head of children and Families Services	16%	Post attended 1 of the 6 meetings held
	Named Nurse Safeguarding Children	33%	Apologies were received for 4 out of the 6 meetings held
Durham Constabulary	Detective Inspector	50%	The post attended 3 of the 6 meetings and a deputy attended for one of the meetings.
Community Rehabilitation Company	Head of Offender Services	0%	
TEWV	Associate Director of Nursing	77%	Attended 4 out of the 6 meetings held

Notes

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We have incorporated hyperlinks where possible to take you to additional information and/or

further details, if you are not able to access this then please contact us to arrange for the

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We would welcome feedback and this can be made to either the DSCB Independent Chair or by contacting the Board's Business Unit on 01325 406450, address as above or by e-mail. If you require this report in an alternative format, please contact the Board's Business unit on contacts above.

This report is formally sent to:

- The Chief Executive of the Local Authority
- The Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board
- The Police and Crime Commissioner Durham
- The Chief Executives of all organisations who sit on the Board
- Board members are required to promote and share the report within their own organisations

The report is published on the DSCB website.