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**MEMBERS TRAINING  
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AND  
ADULTS AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

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**Responsible Cabinet Member - Councillor Bill Dixon, Leader**

**Responsible Director -  
Suzanne Joyner, Director of Children and Adult Services**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To consider additional mandatory training sessions for Members of the Children and Young People and the Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committees.

**Summary**

2. This reports requests Members to approve additional mandatory training for Members of the Children and Young People and the Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committees in addition to the current two mandatory training sessions in place for all Members on Corporate Parenting and Safeguarding Adults.

**Recommendation**

3. It is recommended that, to ensure effective challenges are in place for safeguarding children and adults in Darlington, all Members who serve on the Children and Young People and Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committees be required to undertake mandatory training.

**Reason**

4. The recommendation is supported to ensure effective challenges are in place for safeguarding children and adults in Darlington.

**Suzanne Joyner,  
Director of Children and Adult Services**

**Background Papers**

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report

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| S17 Crime and Disorder           | There are no issues in relation to Crime and Disorder.                       |
| Health and Well Being            | There are no issues in relation to Health and Wellbeing.                     |
| Carbon Impact                    | There are no carbon impact implications in this report                       |
| Diversity                        | There are no issues relating to Diversity which this report needs to address |
| Wards Affected                   | All Wards Equally  |
| Groups Affected                  | Children and Adults.   |
| Budget and Policy Framework      | This report does not recommend any change to the Budget or Policy Framework. |
| Key Decision                     | This is not a key decision   |
| Urgent Decision                  | This is not an urgent decision   |
| One Darlington: Perfectly Placed | This report does not adversely impact on the Strategy                        |
| Efficiency                       | This report does not have any direct impact on efficiency.                   |

## MAIN REPORT

### Information and Analysis

5. Officers are currently considering the Members Training and Development Programme for the current year.
6. As part of the programme, consideration has been given to the importance of the safeguarding of children and adults in the Borough and as to whether there is sufficient knowledge, challenge and understanding in place for those Members currently serving on the Children and Young People and Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committees to give the Council the assurance it needs in relation to safeguarding in these areas.
7. This report therefore requests Members to approve additional mandatory training for all Members of the Children and Young People and the Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committees in addition to the current two mandatory training sessions in place for all Members of the Council on Corporate Parenting and Safeguarding Adults.

### Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

8. The recent Ofsted report has highlighted the need to review, strengthen and deliver training and development for Councillors involved in Children's Services. There are currently a number of different strands of training and mentoring ongoing for lead Councillors involved in Children's services.
9. The Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) has recently launched a new programme aimed at giving Councils assurance that their scrutiny and broader governance functions are fit for purpose in ensuring the safety of the local children's safeguarding system. The programme seeks to support all those members with responsibility and accountability for supporting and challenging any aspect of the local children's safeguarding systems. It is modular based and will be customised to Darlington's requirements following the Ofsted inspection.
10. The outcomes of this development programme are to:
  - (a) Deliver effective local challenge and scrutiny of safeguarding children services to better safeguard and protect local children and young people.
  - (b) Develop the capacity and effectiveness of the local system through a child-centred approach and strong partnership working.
11. Members are asked to consider the above development programme being mandatory for Members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee and attendance at the training is essential for continued membership on the Scrutiny Committee.

## **Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee**

12. All Councillors share a responsibility in relation to safeguarding those adults whose circumstances make them vulnerable. In addition, Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee have a crucial role in ensuring that the system works through holding leaders to account. They have to review the work of safeguarding within the Council and also to consider the annual report of the Safeguarding Board.
13. Councillors need to know what questions to ask to hold to account those responsible for adult safeguarding, to ensure that everyone is following agreed multiagency procedures, and that appropriate links are made between agencies so that people at risk and needing help are not missed.
14. New statutory responsibilities for safeguarding adults came into force last year (Care Act 2015). Safeguarding is now seen as a crucial aspect of local authority work. The Care Act states that the local authority is the organisation with overall responsibility for safeguarding locally. But it also links to many local agendas and partnerships, including police and criminal justice, care quality, disability hate crime, community safety and cohesion, domestic violence, forced marriage, and support for carers.
15. It would therefore also be appropriate to consider mandatory training for Members of the Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee in the current Member Training and Development Programme. Officers will source appropriate training should Council approve this mandatory training.