



DARLINGTON

Borough Council

Adults Scrutiny Committee Agenda

9.30 am, Tuesday, 7 February 2023

Council Chamber, Town Hall, Darlington DL1 5QT

Members of the Public are welcome to attend this Meeting.

1. Introductions/Attendance at Meeting
2. Declarations of Interest
3. To Approve the Minutes of the Meetings of this Scrutiny Committee held on 13 December 2022 and 10 January 2023 (Pages 3 - 6)
4. Reforms to Adult Social Care - Update –
Verbal Update from the Assistant Director – Adult Services
5. Dementia Care Services - Update –
Presentation from Martin Short, Director of Place, NHS North-East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board
6. Substance Misuse Service Update: Support Treatment and Recovery In Darlington through Empowering (STRIDE) – Presentation from Contracts Manager, Redcar and Darlington, and Service Manager, Darlington, We Are With You
7. Performance Indicators Mid Year Report 2022-23 –
Report of the Assistant Director – Adult Services
(Pages 7 - 22)
8. Darlington Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report - 2021/2022 –
Report of the Assistant Director – Adult Services

(Pages 23 - 58)

9. Work Programme –
Report of the Assistant Director – Law and Governance
(Pages 59 - 70)
10. SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM(S) (if any) which in the opinion of the Chair of this Committee are
of an urgent nature and can be discussed at this meeting
11. Questions



Luke Swinhoe
Assistant Director Law and Governance

Monday, 30 January 2023

Town Hall
Darlington.

Membership

Councillors Mrs Culley, Curry, Donoghue, Holroyd, Johnson, B Jones, Layton, M Nicholson,
Mrs H Scott and A J Scott.

If you need this information in a different language or format or you have any other queries on
this agenda please contact Paul Dalton, Elections Officer, Operations Group, during normal
office hours 8.30 a.m. to 4.45 p.m. Mondays to Thursdays and 8.30 a.m. to 4.15 p.m. Fridays

ADULTS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 13 December 2022

PRESENT – Councillors Donoghue (Chair), Mrs Culley, Curry, Holroyd, Johnson, B Jones, Layton, M Nicholson, Mrs H Scott and A J Scott.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillor Tostevin.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Paul Dalton (Elections Officer), Joss Harbron (Assistant Director - Adult Social Care) and Martin Webster (Workforce Development Manager) and Brooke Hodgkiss (Darlington Academy Coordinator.)

AD19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

AD20 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 25 OCTOBER 2022

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of this Committee held on 25 October 2022, be approved as a correct record.

AD21 REFORMS TO ADULT SOCIAL CARE - UPDATE

The Assistant Director, Adult Services, reported that the Charging Reforms had been paused until 2025, and that the Inspection Framework would be implemented next year.

Members requested that a written update, rather than a verbal update, be provided to future meetings, and enquired as to when an update on the Fair Cost of Care would be forthcoming.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

AD22 WORKFORCE RECRUITMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

The Assistant Director, Adult Services, the Darlington Academy Coordinator and the Workforce Development Manager provided a presentation on workforce recruitment and retention in Adult Services.

The presentation provided Members with an overview of the issues in terms of recruitment and retention, the use of the workforce recruitment and retention fund, information in relation to recruitment and retention in Darlington, details of the Council's retention schemes and programmes, details regarding recruitment campaigns and the different approaches adopted in terms of recruitment, and how that fed into the bigger picture.

Members entered into discussion on the success of the differing strands of the recruitment campaign, recruitment of both young people and older people into the sector, the use of relief contracts as opposed to zero hour contracts, the benefits and disadvantages of zero hour contracts within the sector, the need for workers to access services to enable them to

continue to work within the sector, and the reduction in staff turnover in Darlington.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the presentation be noted.

AD23 WORK PROGRAMME

The Assistant Director Law and Governance submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that Members gave consideration to the Work Programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee during 2022/23, and to any additional areas that Members would like to be included.

IT WAS AGREED – That the content of the report be noted.

AD24 CARE HOMES IN SPECIAL MEASURES (EXECUTIVE SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS) TASK AND FINISH REVIEW - FINAL REPORT

The Chair of the Care Homes in Special Measures (Executive Safeguarding Arrangements) Task and Finish Group submitted a report (previously circulated) to provide an update on the work of the Care Homes in Special Measures (Executive Safeguarding Arrangements) Task and Finish Group.

The submitted report advised that at a meeting of this Committee on 21 June 2022, Members requested that a piece of work be undertaken to allow Members to receive information on those Care Homes in 'Special Measures', and to understand the reasons as to why those Care Homes had entered Executive Safeguarding Arrangements. It was reported that the Task and Finish Group met on 8 November 2022, and a note of the meeting, together with the recommendations of the Group, were appended to the submitted report.

It was noted that 'Special Measures' was not the appropriate term to describe this process, and that the correct terminology was 'Executive Safeguarding processes'.

RESOLVED – (a) That this Committee receive a six-monthly report on those Care Home to which executive safeguarding processes currently applied.

(b) That the CQC be approached with a view that representatives attend a future meeting of this Committee, and provide a presentation on the role of the CQC and respond to questions from Members.

ADULTS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 10 January 2023

PRESENT – Councillors Donoghue (Chair), Mrs Culley, Curry, Holroyd, Johnson and Layton.

APOLOGIES – Councillors B Jones, M Nicholson, Mrs H Scott and A J Scott.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillor Tostevin.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Joss Harbron (Assistant Director - Adult Social Care), Brett Nielsen (Assistant Director Resources) and Paul Dalton (Elections Officer).

AD25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

AD26 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2023/24 - 2026/27

The Assistant Director - Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the draft Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2023/24 to 2026/27, which had been agreed by Cabinet at its meeting held on 13 December 2022, as a basis for consultation.

The submitted report referred Members to a briefing held on 14 December 2022, which had been offered to all Members, on the background and the overall proposals contained within the MTFP 2023/24 to 2026/27, and requested that Members of this Scrutiny Committee now consider those services and finances specifically within the remit of this Scrutiny Committee to enable a response to be formulated to Cabinet as part of the consultation exercise.

The Assistant Director - Resources provided an update on the Local Government financial settlement, which had been received on 19 and 20 December 2022, subsequent to the approval of the draft MTFP by Cabinet, and advised on the impact this settlement had on the assumptions made within that approved draft MTFP.

Members welcomed the additional ring-fenced funding for Adults Social Care announced in the Local Government settlement, however noted that, as most of the funding provided covered statutory requirements, there was little scope for robust scrutiny. Discussion ensued on the Fair Funding Review and the concerns that existed around future funding, in particular the potential deficits in the latter two years of the draft MTFP and the assumptions in terms of the interest rate.

Members entered into discussion on more general themes, including the establishment of charitable foundations to assist local authorities in terms of delivering non-statutory services, the collection of donations to assist with costs, and whether these approaches had been considered by this Council.

Clarification was also sought in terms of the current budget position, and how this fed into the draft MTFP, and Members were reassured that the Quarter 3 position for this financial year would be reported to the Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet in

February 2023. It was noted that there was likely to be an overall overspend due to the recent pay settlement, however it was highlighted that the Adult Social Care budget would likely show an underspend.

Discussion centred on the increased ageing population and the work being undertaken to ensure that elderly residents were able to remain in their homes for longer, reducing the burden on the Care Sector, and the efficiencies that could be achieved from 'spend to save' schemes and the use of sustainable energies.

Members felt that it was important that Adult Social Care should not be seen as a drain on local authority resources, but as an investment, which generated wealth and jobs, and should be discussed in business terms. Clarification was sought in terms of the PFI Funding identified within the MTFP, and the period covered by the New Homes Bonus.

RESOLVED - (a) That this Scrutiny Committee accept the proposals contained within the draft MTFP 2023/24 to 2026/27 for the initial year 2023/24, however retain reservations over future years.

(b) That the Chair, in consultation with the Lead Scrutiny Officers supporting this Scrutiny Committee, be given authority to agree the Minutes of this Ordinary Meeting of the Adults Scrutiny Committee, and that these Minutes be submitted to a Special Meeting of the Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee, scheduled to be held on 19 January 2023.

**ADULTS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
7 FEBRUARY 2023**

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS MID YEAR REPORT 2022-23

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Members with performance data against key performance indicators for 2022-23.

Performance Summary

2. This report provides performance information in line with an indicator set and scrutiny committee distribution agreed by Monitoring and Coordination Group on 4 June 2018, and subsequently by scrutiny committee chairs.
3. The indicators included in this report are aligned with key priorities and the majority are used to monitor the Corporate Plan. Other indicators may be referenced when appropriate in narrative provided by the relevant assistant directors, when providing the committee with performance updates.
4. Twelve indicators are reported to the committee, ten on a 6 monthly basis and two annually.
5. Performance of the twelve indicators reported at the end of Quarter 2 of 2022/23:
 - (a) Two indicators are showing performance better than the same period last year:

ASC 003	(ASCOF 2A-1) Adults aged 18 - 64 admitted on a permanent basis in the year to residential or nursing care homes, per 100,000 population.
ASC 019	Percentage of people who have no ongoing care needs following completion of provision of a reablement package.

- (b) Six indicators are showing performance has declined in comparison to the same period last year, however they continue to be monitored and managed.

ASC 002	(ASCOF 2A-2) Older people aged 65+ admitted on a permanent basis in the year to residential or nursing care per 100,000 of the 65+ population
ASC 045	(ASCOF 1G) Proportion of adults with a learning disability who live in their own home or with their family
ASC046	(ASCOF 1E) Proportion of adults with learning disabilities in paid employment
ASC049	(ASCOF 1C (1a)) Proportion of people using social care who receive self-directed support
ASC054	(ASCOF 3D (1)) The proportion of people who use Adult Care services who find it easy to find information about services
ASC055	(ASCOF 3D (2)) The proportion of people who are carers who find it easy to find information about services

(c) One indicator's performance remains the same as this time last year.

ASC 050	(ASCOF 1C (1b)) Proportion of carers using social care who receive self-directed support
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(d) Three indicators are not comparable and are reviewed as a point in time.

ASC 208	Number of Safeguarding concerns (initial enquiries) started - year to date
ASC 209	Number of Safeguarding concerns (initial enquiries) started - per month
ASC 211	Number of strategy meetings undertaken i.e. concerns progressed to strategy per month

6. More information relating to some of the indicators referenced in this report can be found in **Appendix 1**.
7. This Scrutiny Committee performance report is compiled by Sharon Raine. All queries regarding the format of this report should be addressed to Sharon.raine@darlington.gov.uk

Recommendation

8. It is recommended that that performance information provided in this report is reviewed and noted, and relevant queries raised with appropriate assistant directors.

Joss Harbron
Assistant Director - Adult Services

Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

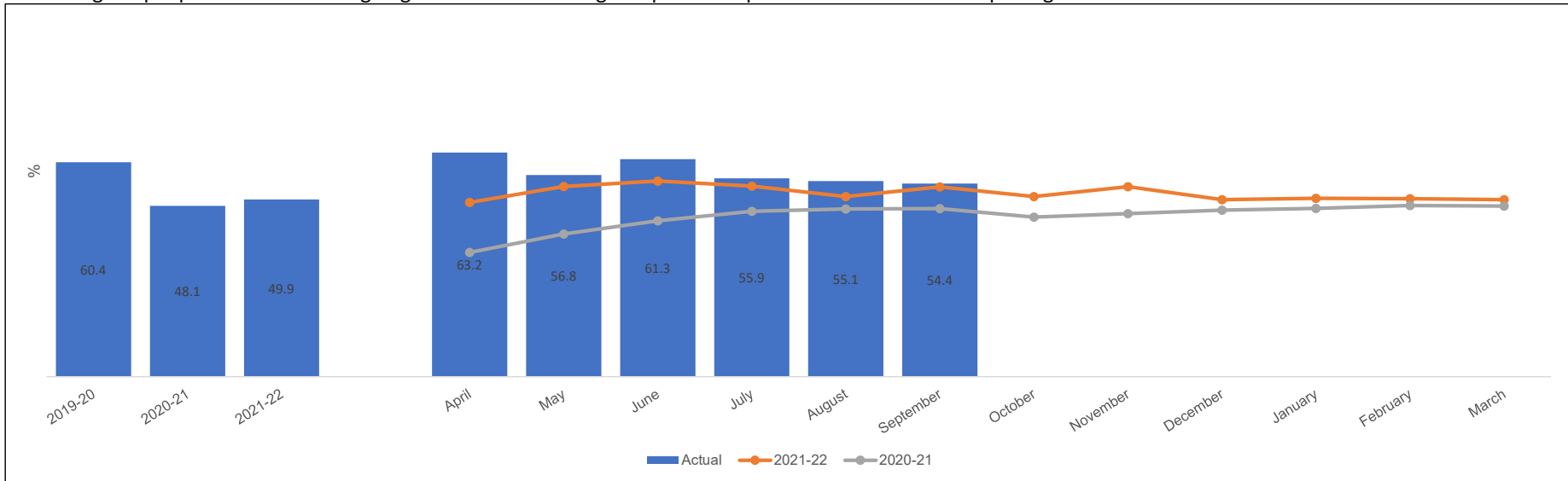
author : Extension

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report supports the Council’s Crime and Disorder responsibilities
Health and Wellbeing	This report supports performance improvement relating to improving the health and wellbeing of residents
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	
Diversity	This report supports the promotion of diversity
Wards Affected	This report supports performance improvement across all Wards
Groups Affected	This report supports performance improvement which benefits all groups
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework
Key Decision	This is not a key decision
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision
Council Plan	
Efficiency	Scrutiny of performance is integral to optimising outcomes
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers

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Self Directed Support

Percentage of people who have no ongoing care needs following completion of provision of a reablement package - ASC 019



When comparing the number of people who have no ongoing care needs following a completion of a reablement package at the same point over the past three years, it is showing an improving landscape. In September 2022 it shows 124 out of 228 clients with no ongoing care needs in comparison to, September 2021 shows 123 out of 230 clients with no ongoing care needs and in September 2020 107 out of 226 clients with no ongoing care needs.

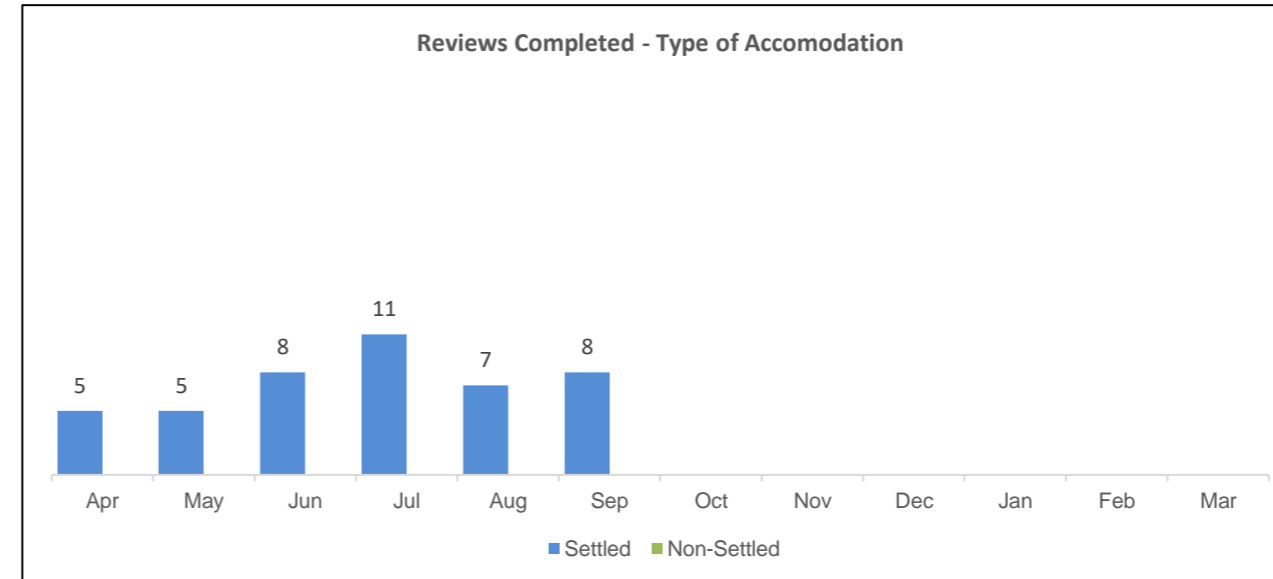
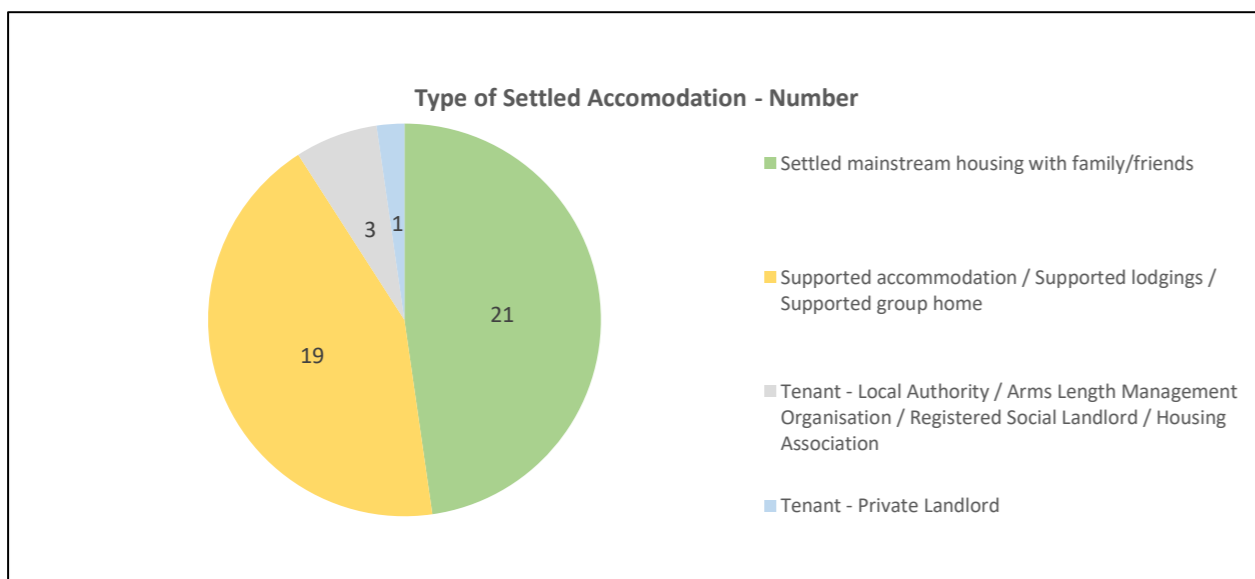
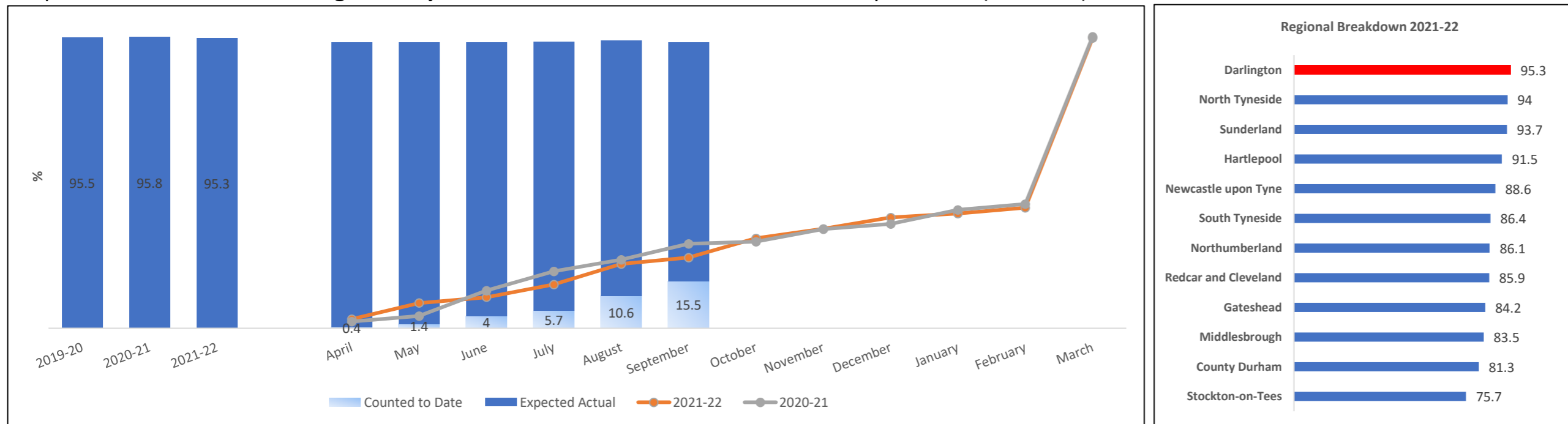
This indicator is showing that this year we are performing better than previous years. Feedback from the service area is suggesting that complexity of cases is increasing. To address this we are going to introduce new reports in the next financial year which will capture the number of clients with multiple carers which will help to support evidence the increase in complexity.

The number of clients being referred to RIACT as part of a hospital discharge has continued to increase year on year. The total number of hospital discharges between April - September 2022 was 581, whilst for the same period during 2021-22 the total was 469 and 372 for 2020-21. Although not all of these referrals progress to receive a service it does demonstrate the increase in numbers the service area are currently experiencing.

For Quarter 2 it was reported that 26.3% needs had decreased, 13.2 needs had increased and 5.3% stayed the same. The remaining 55.1% are those who no longer had ongoing care needs.

Self Directed Support

Proportion of adults with a **learning disability** who live in their **own home** or with their family - ASC 045 (ASCOF 1G)



Altogether there have been 81 reviews completed for both 18-64 and 65+ age groups. Since April 44 adults aged between 18-64 have had their accommodation status updated following on from their reviews (15.5%).

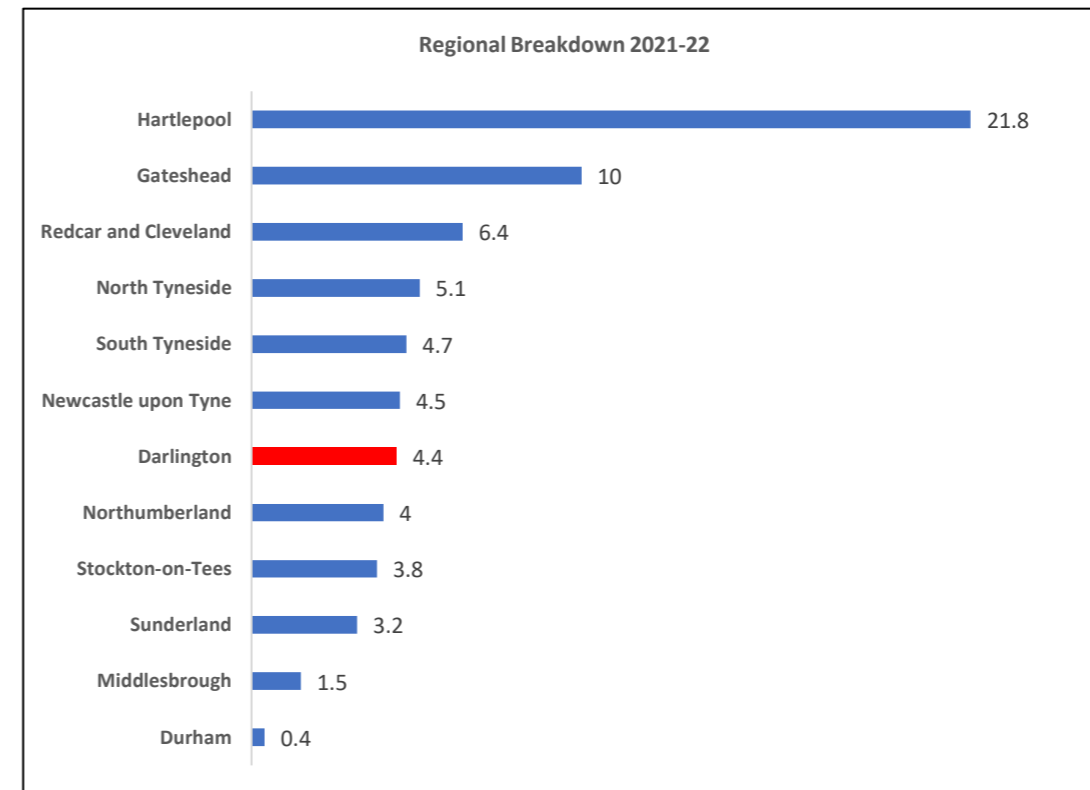
As there has been an unexpected increase in the number of new cases received by the Adult Learning Disability Team this has impacted the ability to complete the planned amount of reviews as the assessments are prioritised and need to be completed before the review which can result in reviews being put on hold.

Positively all of the reviews completed to date so far this year show we haven't had any none settled accommodation types.

Self Directed Support

Proportion of adults with a **learning disability** in **paid employment** - ASC 046 (ASCOF 1E)

Clients checked and in paid employment since April 2022		
Client's ID	Job Title	Employer's Name
194298	Recruitment Support	Dimensions

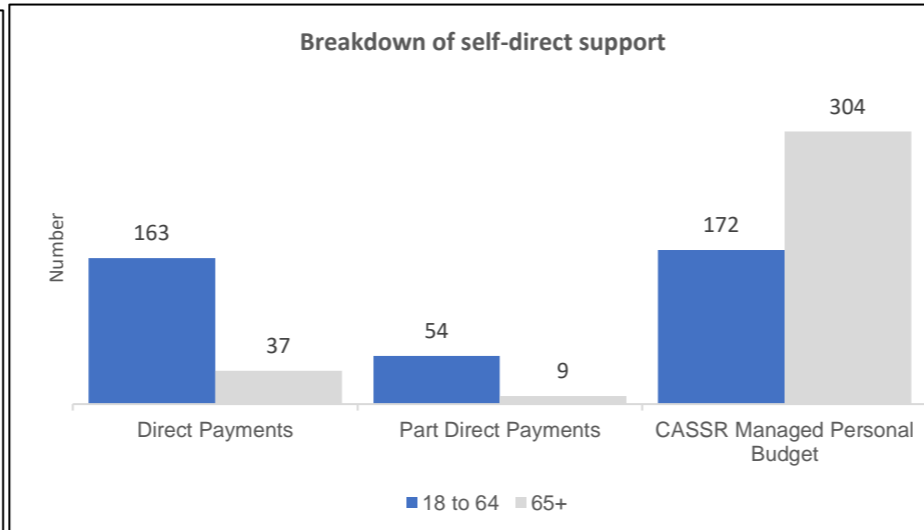
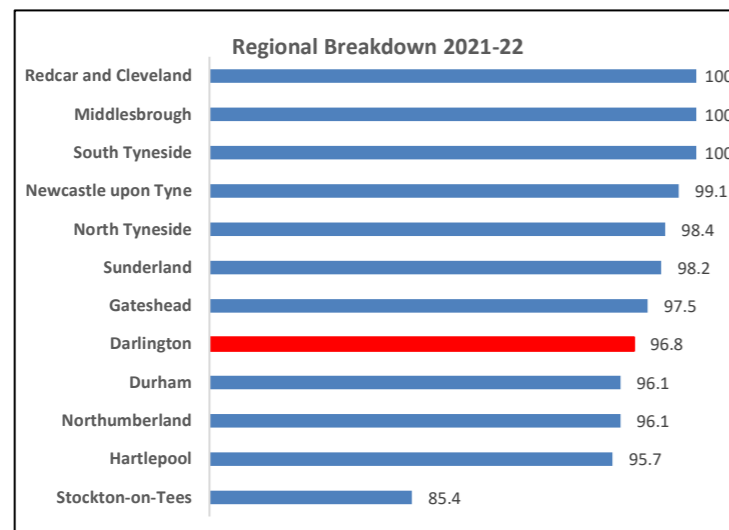
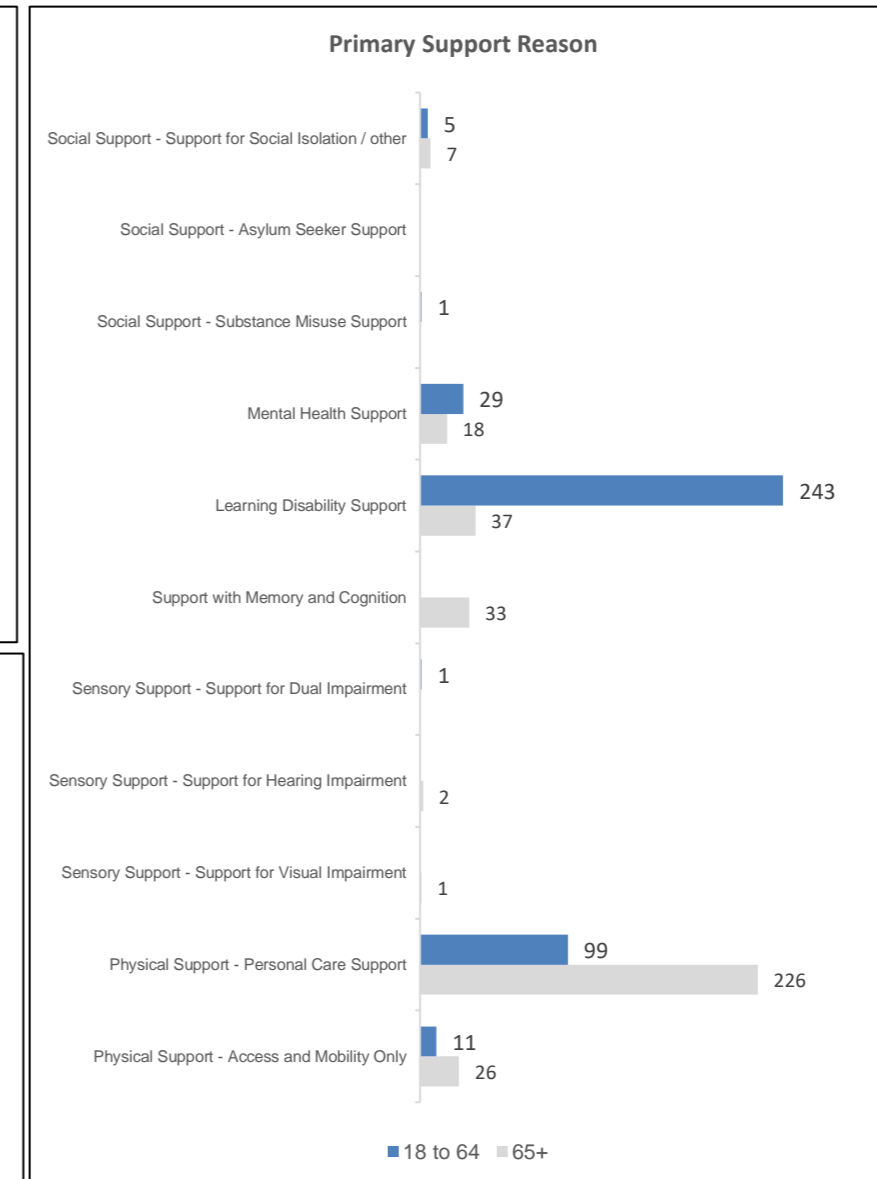
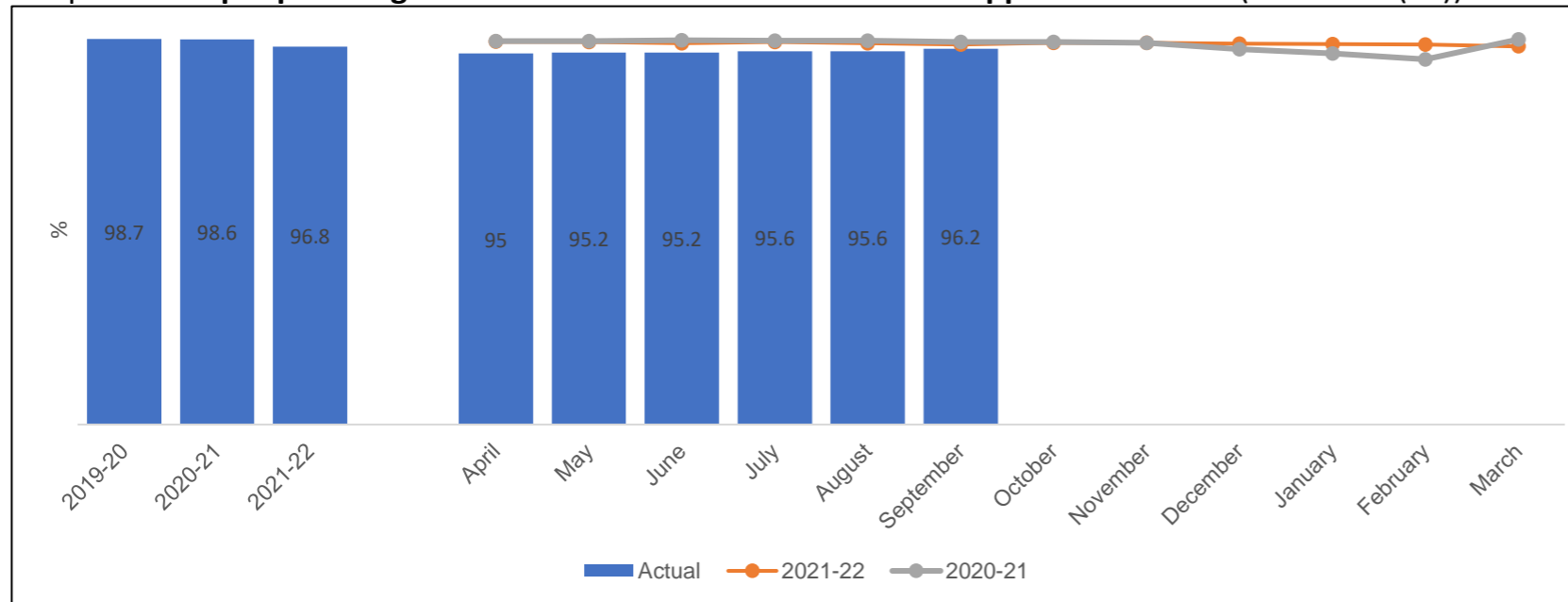


Of the adults with learning disabilities who have had their cases reviewed during this year, the employment of one individual has been confirmed as above.

Currently there is work taking place working across the People Group to explore ways to encourage and support more people with learning and other disabilities as well as long term conditions to access employment.

Self Directed Support

Proportion of people using social care who receive self-directed support - ASC 049 - (ASCOF 1C (1a))

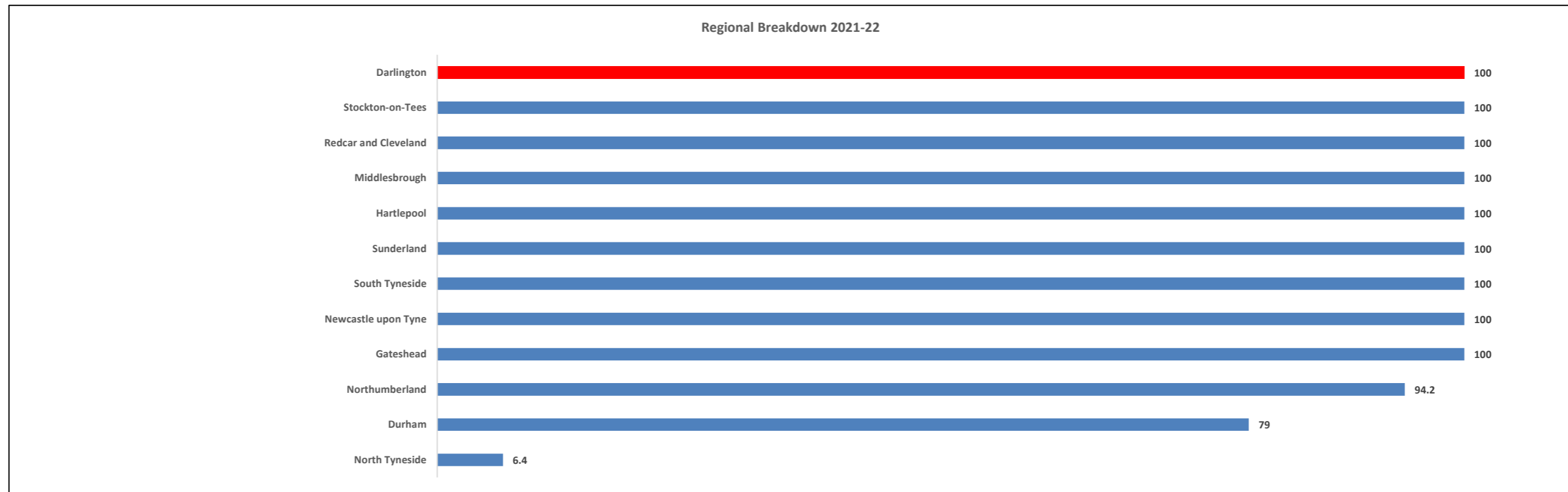
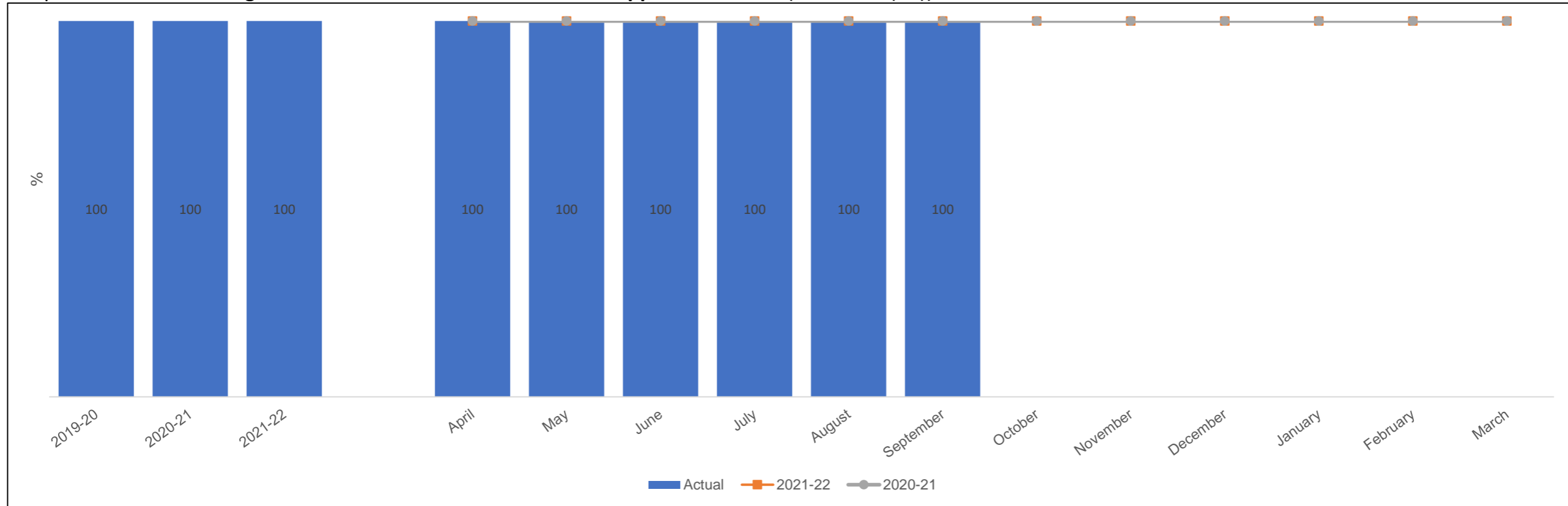


Since April the proportion of clients using social care who receive self directed support is 96.2%. In terms of actual numbers this equates to 726 individuals receiving self directed support.

Graph 3 shows that, while the total number of individuals under 65 receiving self-directed support is very close to the number of 65+ (389 vs 350), there many more 18-64 managing their own budget via direct payments.

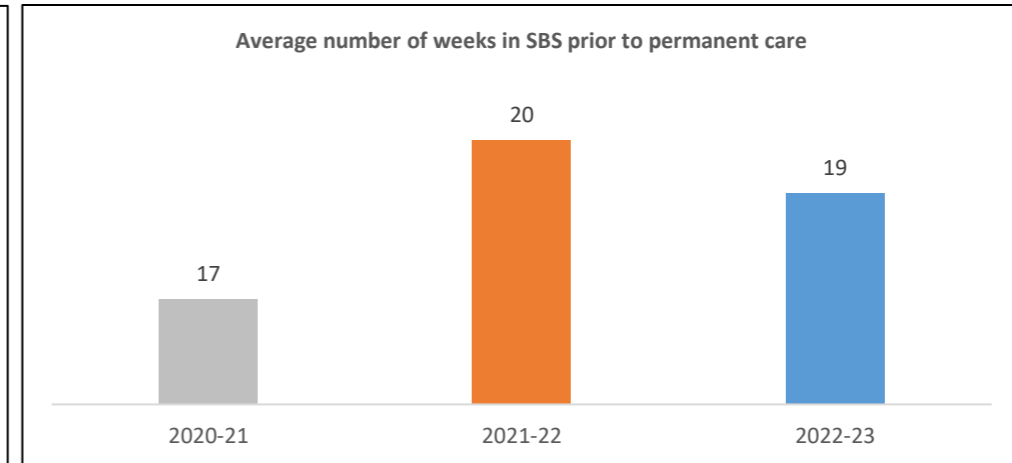
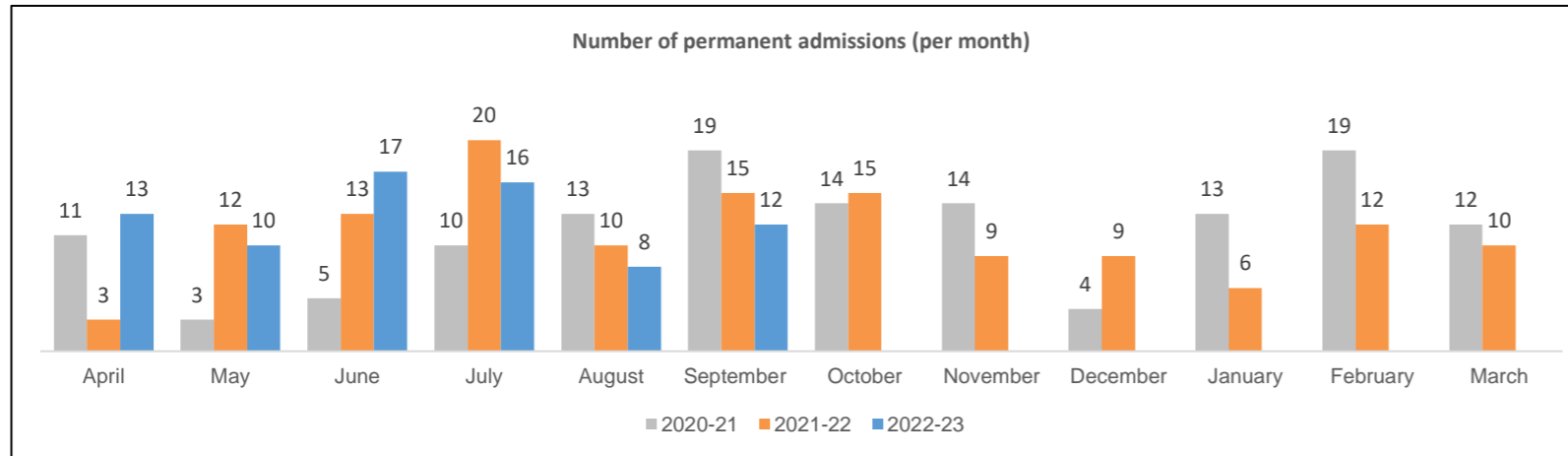
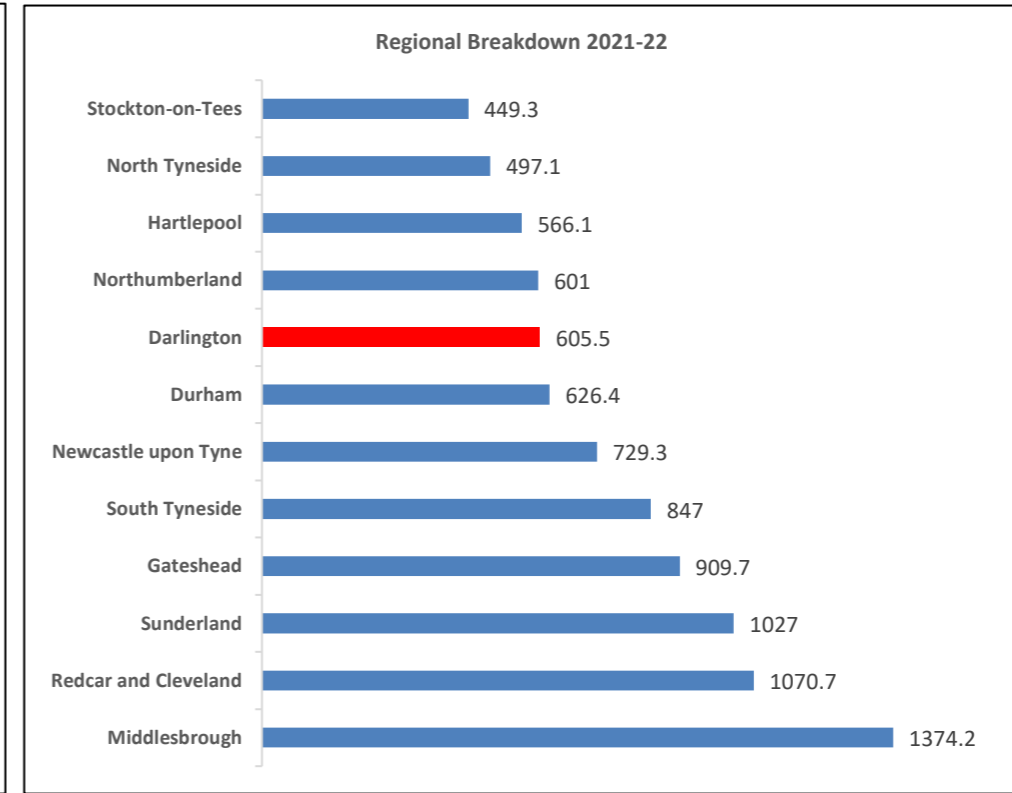
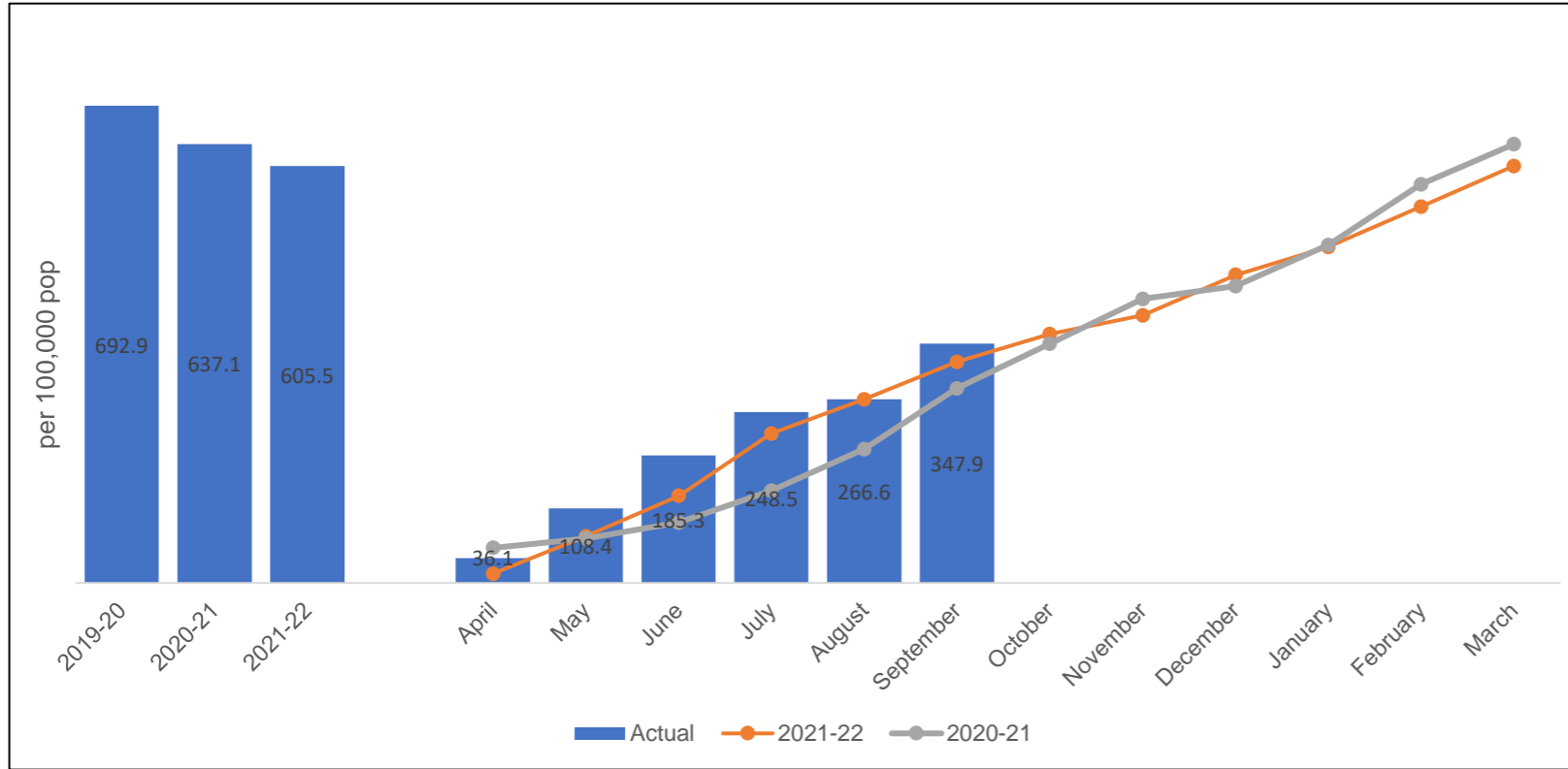
Self Directed Support

Proportion of **carers** using social care who receive **self-directed support** - ASC050 - (ASCOF 1C (1b))



Self Directed Support

Older people aged 65+ admitted on a permanent basis in the year to residential or nursing care per 100,000 of the 65+ population - ASC 002 - (ASCOF 2A-2)



The number of individuals who move to permanent care is now higher than the previous 2 years.

During Q2, 92% (76) of individuals who moved to permanent care came straight from a Short break stay, this is an increase from the same period last year where the figure was 79% (73).

Of those individuals who did move to permanent care from a Short break stay, the average length of stay in a short break stay setting was 130 days (19 weeks), this is compared to 139 days (20 weeks) during the same period last year.

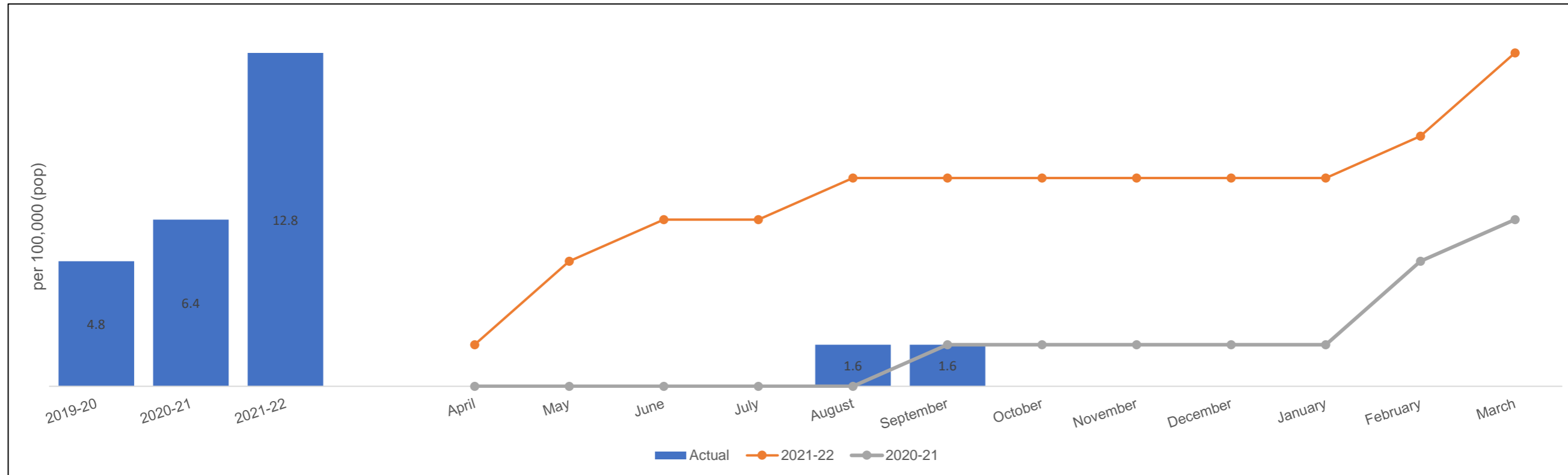
Data taken from North East Landscape shows that average age on admission for residential care is 78.3 whilst for nursing it is 72.9.

Currently the average cost per person in permanent care is £750 per week.

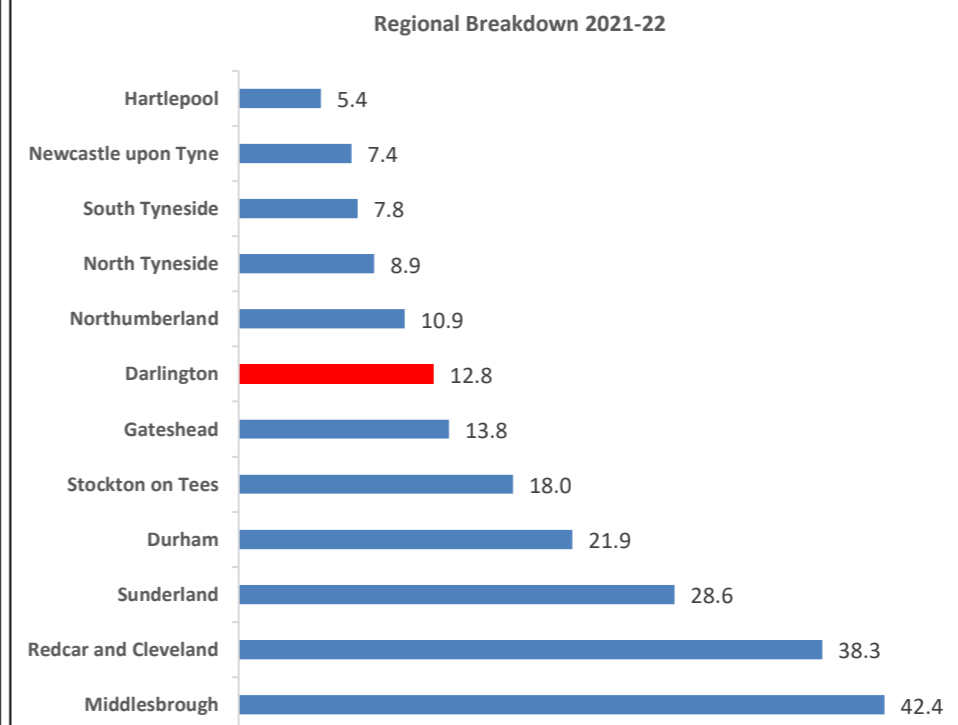
The average length of stay currently is 36 months, this is an increase from 34 months during the previous quarter and 33 months pre-Covid.

Self Directed Support

Adults aged 18-64 admitted on a permanent basis in the year to residential or nursing care per 100,000 of the 65+ population - ASC 003 - (ASCOF 2A-1)

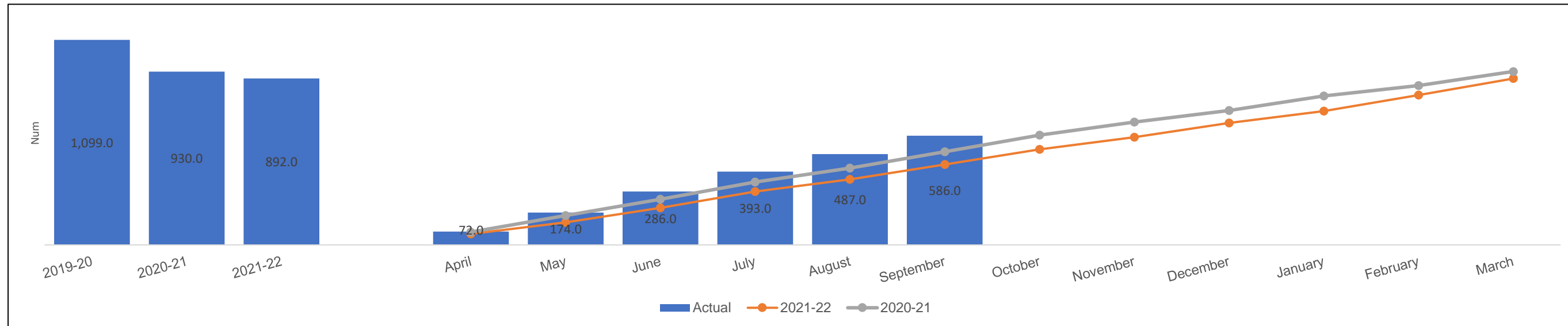


Since April 2 individuals have moved to permanent care aged 18-64. A robust assurance by Team Managers and Validation continues to ensure that clients only enter permanent care when necessary.

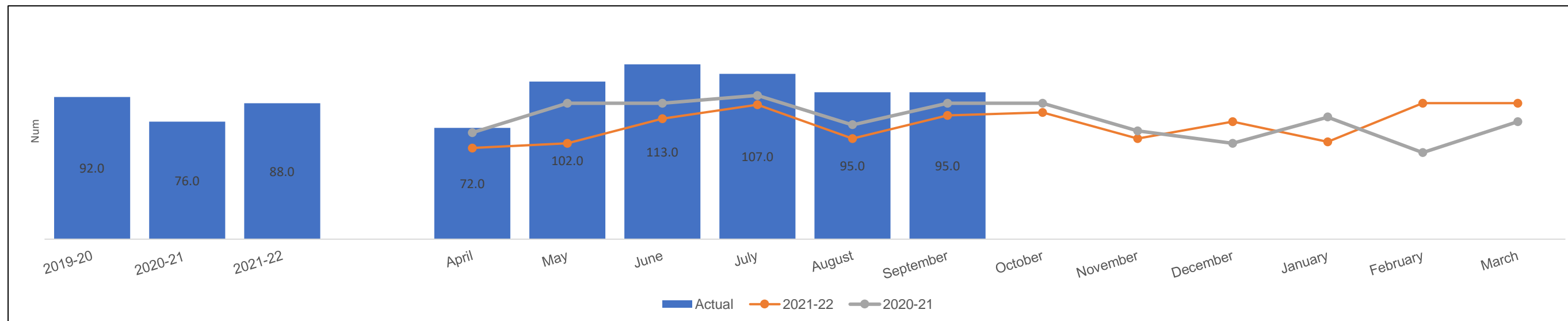


Safeguarding

Number of safeguarding concerns (initial enquiries started) YTD - ASC 208



Number of safeguarding concerns (initial enquiries started) per month - ASC 209



There have been 586 safeguarding initial enquiries started since April. This is higher than the same period during the past 2 years.

During 2021-22 there was an average of 74 initial enquiries started each month, the average of initial enquiries started since April is 98, which is higher than last year's average.

Darlington have some specific pressure with some providers, particularly private hospitals who have their own policies and procedures which they apply when making referrals. We have implemented proactive engagement with some providers where meetings are taking place regularly to discuss the threshold.

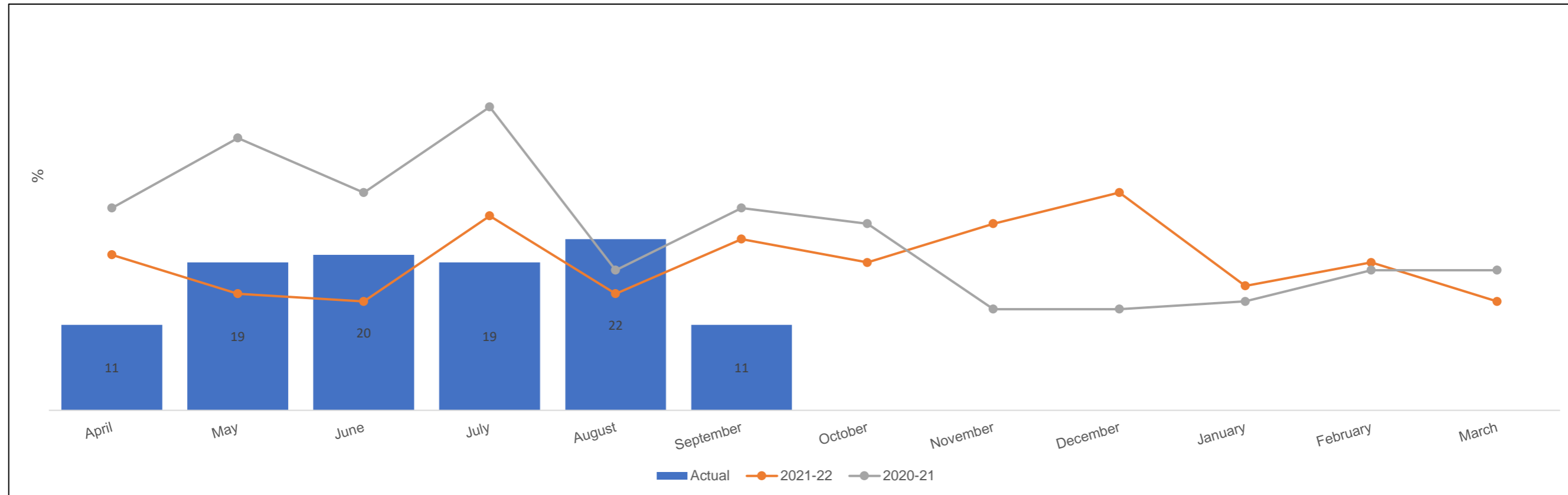
The amalgamation of both Adult's and Children's safeguarding under the Darlington Safeguarding Partnership umbrella was designed to strengthen partnership working across both areas, ensuring everyone in Darlington can live their lives safely. Work is ongoing to make the website more user-friendly and to include further resources and information over the coming weeks. Alongside this, the internal review of safeguarding practices will further strengthen the processes carried out when safeguarding concerns are initially reported, to ensure these are managed appropriately.

The Safeguarding Project has highlighted the immediate need for additional resources to offer more training in relation to triaging referrals. Three temporary experienced workers have been obtained to offer this support, along with additional external bespoke training which will be completed by the end of March 2023.

The Safeguarding Team are also reviewing how referrals are taken and feel moving to a telephone referral system would be a more efficient way of taking and screening referrals and this would also mirror the system operated by Children Services.

Safeguarding

Number of strategy meetings undertaken i.e. concerns progressed to strategy per month - ASC 211



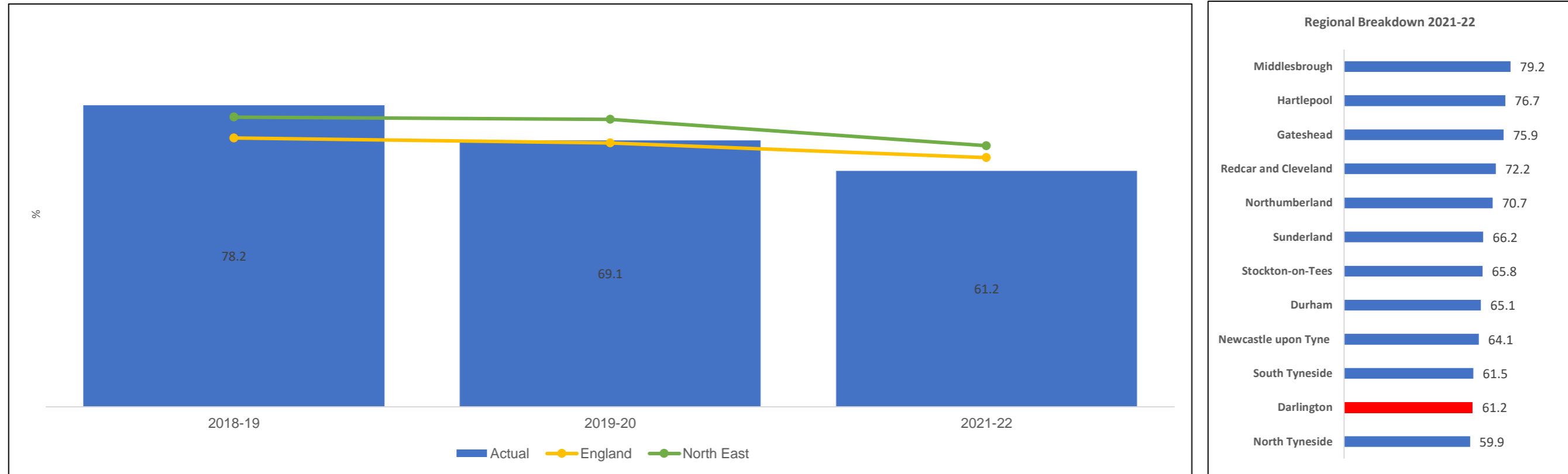
102 of the 586 safeguarding initial enquiries started during the first 6 months of 2022/23 have progressed to strategy. That is a 17.4% conversion rate.

The safeguarding project have undertaken reviews on approximately 80 cases and highlighted a number of cases which did not progress to strategy which needed to. As a result of this there are currently additional resources in the Safeguarding Team offering more management oversight until all staff have completed a 4-day high intense training which will be completed by the end of March 2023.

Work is also ongoing to improve the quality of professional safeguarding practice in order to embed 'Making Safeguarding Personal' further, and to make sure that the voice of the person and that safeguarding processes ensures that a person feels safe, is listened to and at the heart of decision-making.

Satisfaction

Proportion of people who use services who find it easy to find information about services - ASC 054 (ASCOF 3D1)



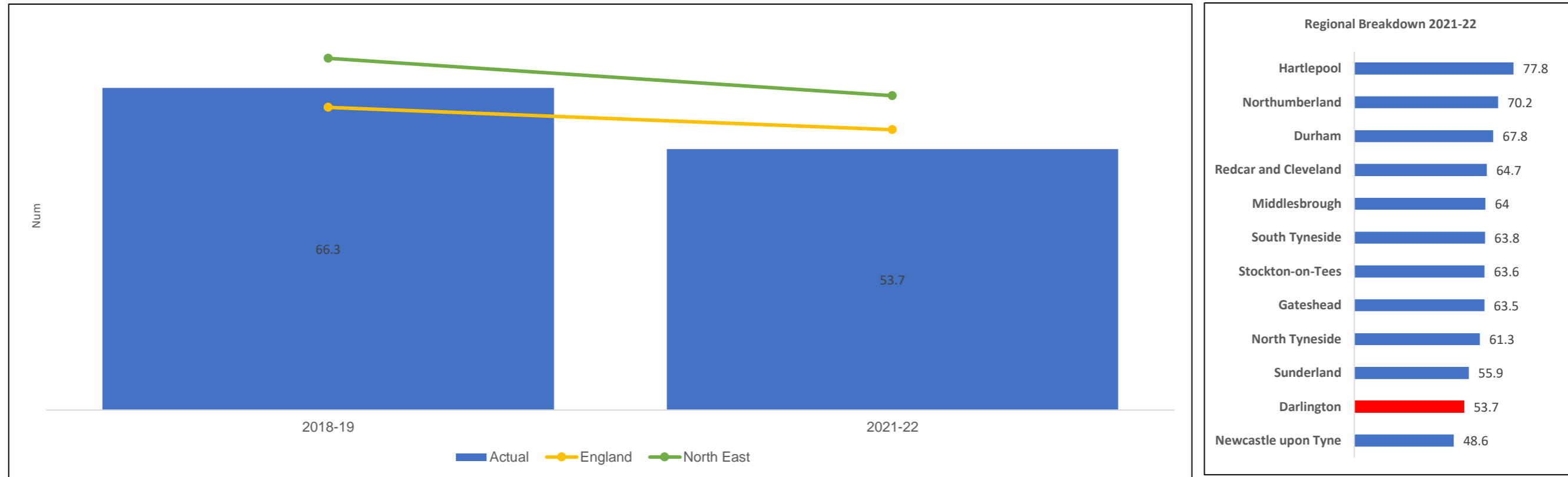
The proportion of people who use services and find it easy to find information has steadily fallen since 2018-19. The reduction in performance is in line with both the regional and national averages.

Satisfaction levels in the ease of finding information has fallen 17% since 2018-19 for Darlington, compared to 7% for North East and 5.1% for England during the same period.

Although satisfaction has fallen since 2018-19 work is currently taking place to improve the awareness of adult social care via the One magazine and social media, the review of webpages and refresh of layout and engagement with user groups. An online assessment for care and support as well as financial support has been implemented and is now available on the website.

Satisfaction

Proportion of carers who use services who find it easy to find information about services - ASC 055 (ASCOF 3D2)



The proportion of carers who use services and find it easy to find information has steadily fallen since 2018-19. This information is collected bi annually. The reduction in performance is in line with both the regional and national averages.

Satisfaction levels in the ease of finding information has fallen 12.6% since 2018-19 for Darlington, compared to 7.7% for North East and 4.6% for England during the same period.

Although satisfaction has fallen since 2018-19 work is currently taking place to improve the awareness of adult social care via the One magazine and social media, the review of webpages and refresh of layout, and the establishment of listening groups for carers. An online assessment for care and support as well as financial support has been implemented and is now available on the website.

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**ADULTS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
7 FEBRUARY 2023**

DARLINGTON SAFEGUARDING PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT – 2021/2022

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to enable Adults Scrutiny Committee to receive and comment upon the Annual Report of the Darlington Safeguarding Partnership (DSP) for the period 2021/22, **see Appendix A.**

Summary

2. Local Safeguarding Partnerships are required to produce an Annual Report to account for the Partnerships achievements over the previous year and make an assessment of the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements within the local area. The report summarises and reflects on the work of the Partnership over the 2021/22 period.

Recommendation

3. It is recommended that the Adults Scrutiny note and comment on the DSP Annual Report for 2021/22 which has been published on the DSP website.

Reasons

4. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons:
 - (a) Adults Scrutiny have an understanding of the Partnership's work to date.
 - (b) To challenge and scrutinise the work of the DSP and raise any challenges as appropriate with the Independent Chair.
 - (c) To have assurance that the Safeguarding Partnership is effectively coordinating multi-agency safeguarding practice in Darlington and promoting the welfare of children and adults with needs for care and support.

**Joss Harbron
Assistant Director - Adult Social Care**

Background Papers

Darlington Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report – 2021/2022

Amanda Hugill : Extension 6450

S17 Crime and Disorder	Adults with care and support needs at risk of crime and disorder are a priority within this report.
Health and Wellbeing	The health and wellbeing of all adults in Darlington are a priority within this report.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	There are no implications arising from this report.
Diversity	DSP works to ensure that all groups are considered within their safeguarding agenda
Wards Affected	All
Groups Affected	All
Budget and Policy Framework	N/A
Key Decision	N/A
Urgent Decision	N/A
Council Plan	The work of the Darlington Safeguarding Partnership complements the priorities in One Darlington Perfectly placed.
Efficiency	N/A
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

5. The Annual Report summarises and reflects on the work of the Partnership over the period 2021/22, drawing upon a range of data and information, to outline the progress made and to illustrate the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding partnership arrangements across Darlington.
6. The Covid-19 Pandemic continued to pose a significant challenge throughout the year ensuring children, young people and vulnerable adults were safeguarded and the fact that anyone can be at risk of harm as it was recognised abuse and neglect can be increased by a whole range of factors such as mental health, poverty, domestic abuse as well as loneliness and isolation.

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**Darlington
Safeguarding
Partnership**

Protecting Children and Adults

Annual Report

2021-2022



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1. Introduction

Foreword by Statutory Safeguarding Partners

Welcome to our third annual report of the Darlington Safeguarding Partnership which covers the period 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022. The report summarises and reflects on the work of the Partnership throughout the year, illustrating the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding children and adult arrangements across Darlington.

Whilst the last two years have undoubtedly been dominated by Covid-19 and the challenges the Pandemic continued to pose, the wellbeing of children, young people and vulnerable adults has remained at the forefront of our collective approach. This year spanned the mid-point of the Pandemic and we recognised how agencies flexed and demonstrated professionalism despite having a much higher demand for services. Many services stepped up and yet were still able to address issues with a ‘business as usual’ attitude.

In common with many organisations, our meetings continued to be held exclusively on Teams which has allowed a greater number of colleagues to join when previously would not have been able to do so. This has enabled us to continue to have that collective oversight of safeguarding arrangements to help understand the challenges and pressures faced by organisations. Whilst these plans are likely to change in the coming months and years as organisations move to a hybrid model, it is anticipated Microsoft Teams will continue to have a place for many years to come.

The vision of Darlington Safeguarding Partnership is to ensure ‘Darlington is a place where children and adults can live their lives safely’. We recognise there will continue to be many challenges as we move forward including the threat to the emotional health and well-being of people in Darlington as a result of the profound changes in wider society and the adverse consequences of the Covid-19 Pandemic and now the cost-of-living crisis. We also recognise the staffing pressures with so many agencies struggling to recruit and retain staff, such as the care home sector, social care and health organisations.

Working together across organisations will always be a challenge and we recognise there is always room for improvement and we strive to ensure that agencies continue to work together to keep children, young people and vulnerable adults safe in Darlington. Safeguarding is never ‘done’ and it is up to us all, to make a difference and to add value to a big issue no single agency can deal with on its own.

We would like to thank those dedicated professionals across all agencies who have continued to work so positively, keeping our children and adults safe and protected in Darlington, through yet another very challenging year. Working together has been a real strength of the partnership. The commitment to joint working and the incredible efforts made every day to keep services – and people – afloat, has been outstanding.

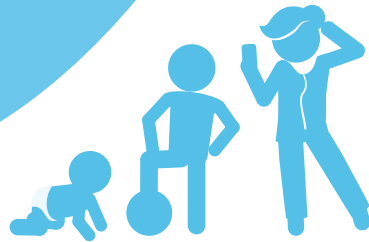
<p>Ann Baxter Independent Scrutineer</p>	<p>James Stroyan Group Director for People Darlington Borough Council</p>	<p>Adrian Green/ Dave Ashton Detective Chief Superintendent Durham Constabulary</p>	<p>David Gallagher/Jean Golightly Executive Director of Place Based Delivery/ Director of Nursing and Quality North East & North Cumbria Integrated Care Board</p>
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2. Local Picture

Darlington Borough Council is a Unitary Authority in the North East of England which covers 76.3 square miles. Darlington is part of the Tees Valley city region.

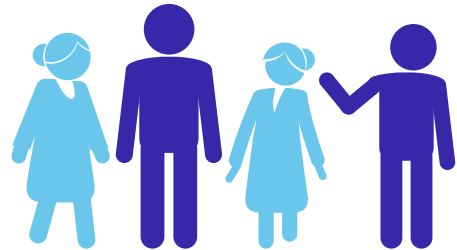
As of 2020 Darlington has a population in excess of **108,000** individuals who live in around **45,000** households.



Children and young people under the age of 25 years make up **28%** of the population, with 22% aged 0-18.

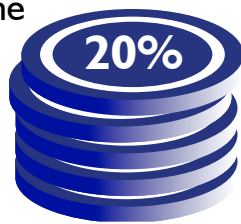


The number of people aged over 65 years old in Darlington is estimated at **21,700**



In terms of ethnicity, the 2011 Census reported 96.2% of Darlington's population as White and **3.8%** from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups.

The Health of People in Darlington is varied compared with the England average and **20%** of children live in low income families.



In County Durham and Darlington the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) community form the largest single ethnic minority group, the proportion of Darlington residents who identify themselves as GRT (2011 census) is **0.3%** which is three times higher than the national average.

Overall, comparing local indicators with England averages, life expectancy for both men and women is lower. The health of people in Darlington is varied, about 20% of children live in low income families.

3. How we have worked this year?

As is to be expected, the Covid-19 pandemic continued to pose a significant challenge throughout the year, ensuring children, young people and vulnerable adults were safeguarded. The Pandemic has tested us all and forced us to do things differently and adapt services to working remotely which has strengthened connectivity. It emphasised the fact that anyone can be at risk of harm and reminded us that abuse and neglect can be increased by a whole range of factors such as mental health, poverty, domestic abuse as well as loneliness and isolation—and it is not always easy to tell who might be at risk. Whilst measures were in place to oversee the most vulnerable with the Critical Safeguarding Partnership Groups having that ‘line of sight’ on the most vulnerable, work continued with partner agencies in understanding the impact and the numerous challenges they faced in safeguarding those people who were not being seen by any professional.

The year continued to be dominated by Covid-19 and its impact felt nationally and locally meaning the need to have a collective oversight on safeguarding was increasing. The Statutory Safeguarding Partners and Independent Scrutineer committed to meeting monthly to have that oversight on safeguarding arrangements and invited key leads from partner agencies to meetings to obtain an understanding of their current issues and challenges. They also facilitated a development session to reflect on the multi-agency partnership arrangements and experiences throughout the Pandemic.

What was evident was the need to have separate child and adult operational groups to have oversight on the most vulnerable and ensuring those mechanisms were in place on that line of sight but also having oversight of operational practice issues. This provided an opportunity to review and streamline the initial governance arrangements implemented when the Partnership was established back in July 2019.

The Critical Groups established at the start of the Pandemic evolved and developed into separate Child and Adult Operational Groups having a focus on practice issues and challenges relating to operational management. The Learning and Development and Quality Assurance and Performance Groups have a strategic and coordinated view to identify opportunities for learning, improve and embed the quality of multi-agency frontline practice and implement quality assurance processes, to help understand the strengths and weaknesses of safeguarding arrangements and having the ability to oversee a joined-up and think family approach to improve outcomes for children and adults.

The Child Exploitation Group and Child Death Overview Panel which are joint groups with representatives from Durham Safeguarding Children’s Partnership, continue to feed into the Partnership. Details of the revised partnership governance and structure is set out in section 4 of this report.

As we began to see agencies looking to the future and their road to recovery, we saw many adapting a blended way of working using a ‘hybrid’ model that mixed remote working and face to face, which will continue to develop over the coming months and year.

It was recognised there are real benefits in Darlington being so small and evidence of excellent working relationships, which is a real strength and partners are assured that organisations are working closely and effectively to ensure the most vulnerable are supported and safeguarded. However, it is recognised there is much more to do including the development of its scrutiny arrangements and will continue to explore how this can be taken forward.



Priorities for 2021-22

The key priority and main focus throughout 2021-22 was to further develop the Partnership arrangements to ensure all agencies worked together in an effective manner to protect children, young people and adults from abuse and neglect.

What we did:

- Invited safeguarding key leads from agencies into the Statutory Safeguarding Partners meetings to provide assurance that safeguarding activity continued to be effective but to also obtain an understanding of the current issues, challenges and pressures they faced.
- Facilitated a development session to reflect on the multi-agency partnership arrangements and experiences throughout the Pandemic.
- Revised the Partnerships Governance arrangements which were formally signed off in February 2022.
- Improved engagement with education sectors - Independent Scrutineer attending Education Forums to talk about what is working well and what needs to change relating to current safeguarding arrangements/issues
- Provision of easily accessible information, training, advice and practice guidance to support frontline practitioners, shared through a number of mediums



Key highlights from sub group activity:

The Children's MASH Operational Group continued to have oversight on front door practice and a number key themes that were being seen through contacts included: impact parental mental health was having on children, domestic violence, harm outside the family home and harmful sexual behaviour. The group continues to discuss specific multi-agency practice issues raised by agencies to determine how they can be addressed collectively as well as addressing the key learning points from national reviews such as the myth of invisible men: safeguarding children under 1 year old from non-accidental injury.

The Adult Operational Group was formally established in February 2022. The group is split into two parts, part 1 to address practice issues and review and monitor adult safeguarding performance data to obtain an understanding of the changing landscape and oversight of safeguarding practice and service delivery. Part 2 to focus on significant provider concerns to share intelligence, discuss concerns and agree actions on providers where there were significant concerns. The group is in its infancy and will need time to embed.

The Learning and Development Group continued to receive referrals for learning requests for child and adult cases and developed a reflective tool for agencies to explore what they could have done differently. Key themes include; harm away from home, parental mental health impact on children; safeguarding complex young people at crisis point and adult self-neglect. Details of these learning requests are outlined in section 7 of this report. The group continued to develop and launch key policy, procedure and guidance and these are outlined in section 6 of this report along with the development of core training modules based on the learning.

Quality Assurance and Performance Management Group was instrumental in developing the revised governance arrangements for the Partnership which were approved in April 2022. It continued to have oversight of quarterly performance data ensuring exception reporting on highs and lows into the Statutory Safeguarding Partner meetings. It has recognised there is further work required to develop the performance framework and quality assurance processes.

The Child Exploitation Group continued to raise awareness of online harm, child exploitation, risks to missing children, county lines and modern slavery to support frontline practitioners. Exception reporting provided an overview of the local picture of exploitation using the Child Exploitation Vulnerability Tracker to gain an understanding of changing trends, needs and risk factors. Work continues in developing an understanding of the contextualised safeguarding model.

Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) oversees all deaths of children under 18, there have been 9 in the reporting period and all of these are subject to a Child Death Review. CDOP works closely with the Partnership to highlight any emerging themes and issues and learning from child death reviews that require further consideration. CDOP completes its own [Annual report](#) which provides a summary of activity carried over that period.

Sub Group Chairs work together in aligning key pieces of work to ensure effective learning and change across all groups and continue to review how they can align more closely to ensure the learning is embedded into practice.

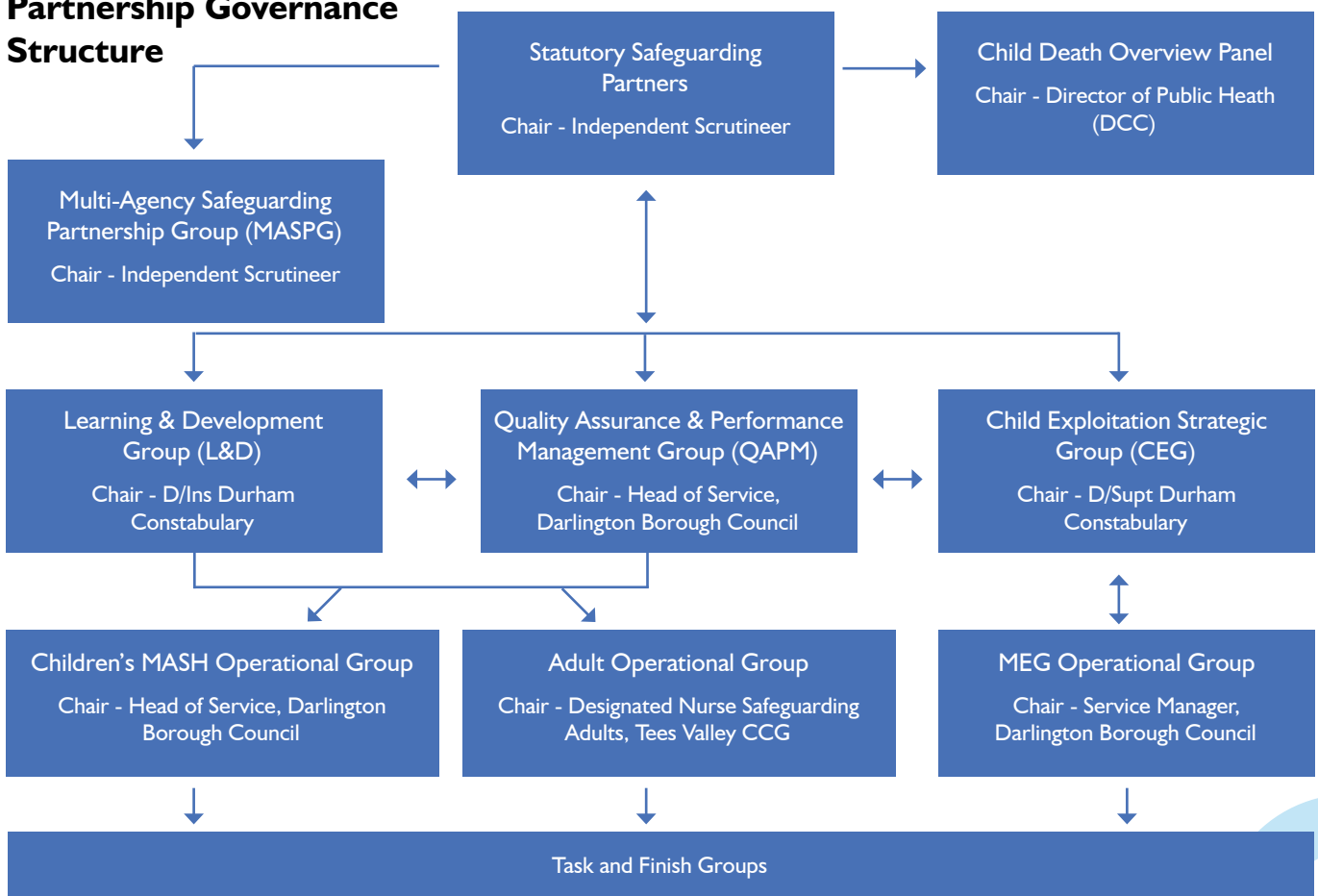
4. Partnership Governance and Structure

The Partnership revised its governance arrangements 2021/22 with new terms of reference and lines of accountability established. A wide range of organisations and are represented on the Partnership groups, including senior representatives and they are outlined in Appendix 2.

<p>Statutory Safeguarding Partners Group – Chaired by Independent Scrutineer</p>	<p>The Statutory Safeguarding Partners and Independent Scrutineer have a strong collective oversight of all safeguarding arrangements to ensure fulfilment of statutory obligations.</p>
<p>Multi-Agency Safeguarding Partnership Group – Chaired by Independent Scrutineer</p>	<p>Partners are looking to re-establish this group as it has not met since before the start of the Pandemic. It was recognised there are benefits in meeting as a wider partnership group having that open dialogue with all agencies involved in safeguarding matters. This will be progressed in the next reporting period.</p>
<p>Quality Assurance and Performance Group (QAPM) – Chaired by Head of Service, Darlington Borough Council</p>	<p>To scrutinise, monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of safeguarding work across partner agencies and commissioned organisations. Quarterly Performance reports provide information by exception on highs and lows and highlight the changing landscape. It will determine the steps required to implement quality assurance processes to help understand how learning has been embedded and to further understand what the Partnership needs to take forward.</p>
<p>Learning and Development Group (L&D) – Chaired by Detective Inspector, Durham Constabulary</p>	<p>To identify opportunities for learning and improve and embed the quality of multi-agency frontline practice, for those practitioners working in child and adult safeguarding arenas to improve outcomes for children and adults. Responsibility for ensuring the learning from case reviews is communicated across partner agencies. It also ensures the effective development and review of multi-agency policy, procedure and practice guidance and learning opportunities to meet the needs of emerging issues and changes in practice.</p>
<p>Child Exploitation Group (CEG) – Chaired by Detective Chief Superintendent, Durham Constabulary</p>	<p>To oversee, monitor, evaluate and improve responses to tackling children missing from home, care and education and act as the strategic lead group for the reduction of Child Exploitation across Durham and Darlington. An operational group oversees individual cases of children at risk of exploitation in Darlington with a purpose to prevent, disrupt and deter them from being criminally or sexually exploited.</p>

<p>Adult Operational Group – Chaired by Designated Nurse for Safeguarding, Local Commissioning Group (Interim basis)</p>	<p>The group was formerly established in February 2022 to identify key themes or practice challenges and develop appropriate actions to respond to them along with the sharing of good practice. Ensuring agencies are able to fully contribute and fulfil their operational safeguarding roles and responsibilities and ensuring there is a line of sight on the most vulnerable. Responsibility for issues relating to provider concerns and those settings who are in the Executive Strategy Process and monitor responsiveness to any identified issues and actions.</p>
<p>Children’s MASH Operational Group – Chaired by Head of Service, Darlington Borough Council</p>	<p>To share good practice, identify any multi-agency practice challenges that may relevant to the operational management and functioning of the children’s front door. Promote effective communication between all partner agencies who contribute to decision making at the earliest opportunity and ensure all agencies are able to fully contribute and fulfil their Operational safeguarding roles and responsibilities.</p>
<p>Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) – Chaired by Director of Public Health</p>	<p>Child Death Overview Panel arrangements are undertaken cross border with Durham Safeguarding Partnership. The Panel continues to review all deaths of children as required in Working Together to Safeguard Children Statutory Guidance (2018) with an aim to identify learning to prevent future deaths.</p> <p>The National Child Mortality Database (NCMD) gathers information on all children who die in England and shares the learning so that improvements can be made to save children’s lives in the future.</p>

Partnership Governance Structure



5. Partnership Activities and Interventions

The Covid-19 Pandemic and the challenges it posed to ensure children, young people and vulnerable adults were safeguarded was again a focus throughout the year and the Partnership has continued to monitor the impact on safeguarding arrangements through quarterly performance dashboards which continued to highlight the changing landscape.

Patterns of concern were very localised and fell significantly during the initial weeks of lockdown. Safeguarding issues within the community continued to unfold as lockdown measures were eased, resulting in significant peaks which appears to be a regional and national trend. Partner agencies adapted to the rapidly changing landscape, identifying alternative ways of safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk, and responding to the emerging risks and demands. Partners were assured there were no real exceptions or problems being highlighted and the key message throughout has been that safeguarding duties continued to apply and agencies continued to work together effectively to prevent and reduce the risk of harm.

It is recognised there is still work to do in developing the performance framework and quality assurance processes to help understand those continuing or emerging trends and to provide Statutory Partners with an overview of the whole safeguarding system. The development of the performance scorecards and data will be a key priority for both the Operational and Quality Assurance and Performance Management Groups over the next reporting period.

Safeguarding Adults

Whilst there was a slight reduction in the total number of safeguarding adult concerns on the previous year, the partnership saw a rise in the complexity of safeguarding concerns. The most likely causes of abuse remained consistent with neglect and acts of omission, physical abuse, emotional and psychological being the main categories.

Both local and national data indicate cases of self-neglect have increased, Darlington saw a 25% increase in reported concerns for self neglect on the previous 12 month period, it was noted that those already vulnerable to self-neglect were likely to be at more acute risk with less professional contact from services as they were less likely to seek help and support. Whilst the reported concerns suggest there is an increased awareness of self-neglect it is not clear whether practitioners recognise when concerns meet the criteria for safeguarding intervention. It was highlighted there was a gap in provision of guidance to support practitioners who support adults who have care and support needs and are at risk of harm as a result of self-neglect and as a result developed new practice guidance and a self neglect briefing. This was reinforced as there were two learning request referrals into the Learning and Development group where self-neglect was a feature.

The location of abuse for adults changed markedly since the start of the Pandemic, with fewer enquires in care/nursing homes (most likely because of lack of access by family members and professionals) and increases in the community, including individual's own homes.

In relation to prevention, home care workers continue to be the highest to have caused harm and this continues to be monitored. There were three care settings in Executive Strategy Process, two care homes and a private hospital, the process is applied to address concerns and issues relating to unusual, organised or large scale abuse or neglect and holds providers to account. A significant Provider Forum has multi-agency oversight on the Care Home Sector and those settings in Executive Strategy Process and continues to monitor those settings as well as escalating emerging concerns/themes.

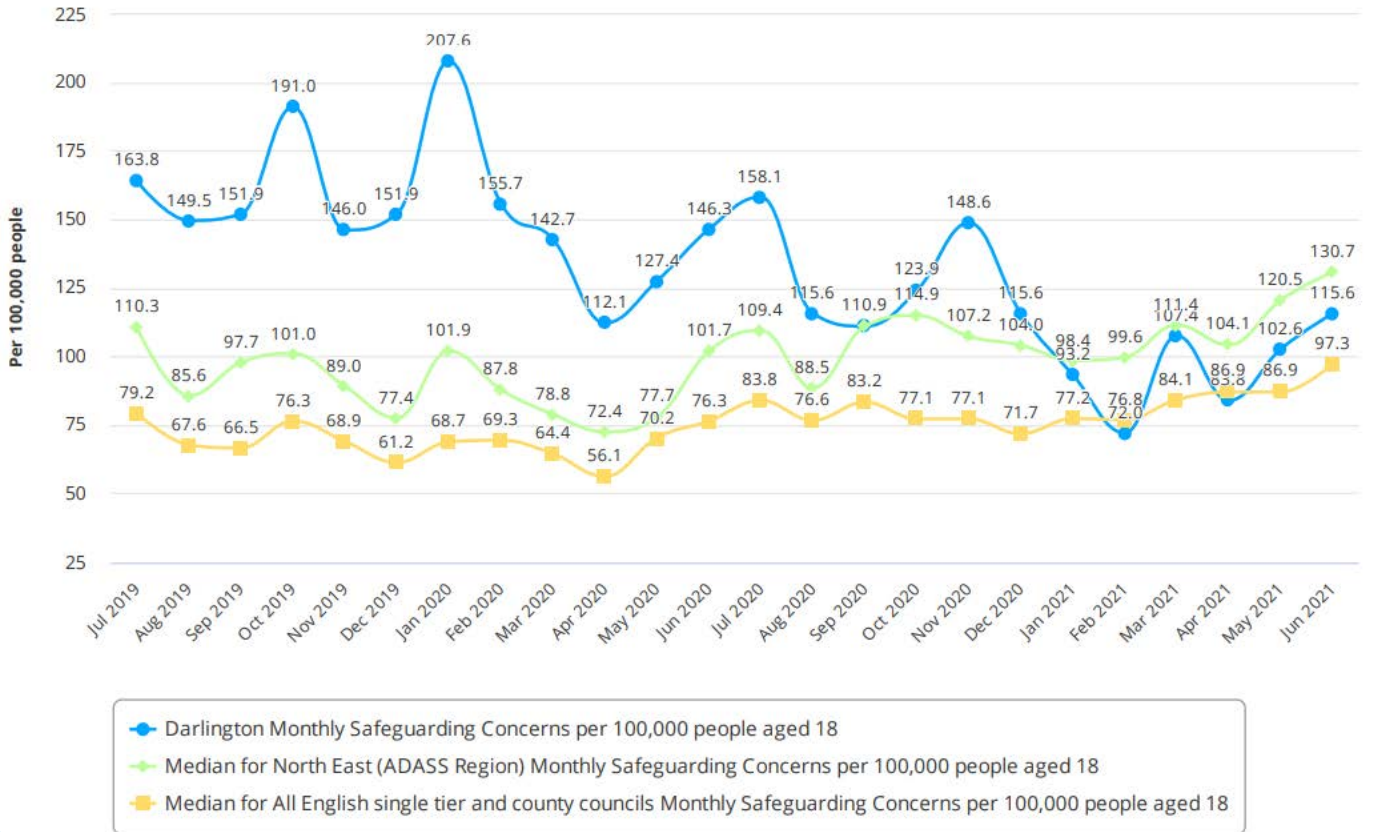


Covid-19 Adult Safeguarding Insight Project

Darlington continued to provide data to support the COVID-19 Safeguarding Insight project which was developed to create a national picture regarding safeguarding adult activity during the Pandemic. The project required the collection of monthly data on safeguarding activity alongside a series of questions to elicit further insight and intelligence on local trends and changes. The data was analysed looking at the differences between activity from March 2019 up to June 2021 to provide a picture of how safeguarding adults activity was affected over this period.

Patterns of concern were very localised and fell significantly during the initial weeks of lockdown. There were significant peaks when lockdown was eased which appears to be a regional and national trend and demand fluctuated throughout this period. The trends and changes are demonstrated in the graph below:

Monthly Safeguarding Concerns per 100,000 people, aged 18+



Safeguarding Children

In relation to children, the local authority saw a 27% increase in contacts in this year compared to the previous period, partly linked to the Pandemic but also was to be expected due to the implementation of the new children's front door process which encourages practitioners to telephone the Children's Initial Advice Team.

There continued to be a reduction in referrals with a 447.4 rate per 10,000 population, although this is an increase on the previous year, it is still below statistical neighbour and regional and national rates and again expected due to the new front door processes. The weekly review meetings continue to provide a high level of management oversight and challenge to decision making at the front door. Key themes are brought to the Children's MASH operational Group who have taken a number of areas forward as focused sessions which are outlined at the bottom of page 12.

Children missing from home and contextual safeguarding/harm away from home became a key area of focus throughout the year. There have been more children missing from home who are not known to services than before the Pandemic and unclear whether this is a result of the Pandemic. The total number of missing episodes in 2021/22 was 582 involving 174 children. This is an increase when comparing with previous years, both in regarding to the number of children and episodes. The increase has been a result of a small number of children in care and out of area children, placed in Darlington with regular missing episodes during this year, work continues to help them understand the balance between independence with acceptable curfew times and ensuring they are safe. Contextual Safeguarding/Harm away from home has become an area of focus throughout the year and will continue into the next reporting period.

Significant injuries audit (children aged 3 and under)

As a result of Darlington Children's Services seeing an increase (also being seen nationally) in the number of very young children who needed to be safeguarded as a result of either themselves or a sibling they resided with, having a significant non-accidental injury or injuries. It was agreed an audit should be undertaken to determine if there are any particular patterns, themes or learning areas to be taken forward.

8 children were the focus of the audit, 5 of the 8 children in this cohort suffered a non-accidental injury or injuries directly with the remaining 3 children being siblings.

Findings were there was no particular pattern or theme identified, agencies had worked well together and all agencies were assured that had been no missed opportunities and all children had been safeguarded in a timely fashion. A small number of single and multi-agency actions were identified as a result of the findings.

Children's MASH multi-agency focussed sessions/audit activity

The Children's MASH Operational Group focussed on a number of key themes being seen through the children's front door tackling a number of key issues including parental mental health impact on children and young people, domestic abuse and harmful sexual behaviour. Multi-agency focussed sessions/audits were held to help understand if there were any key learning points to take forward. Key findings highlighted a number of missed opportunities relating to information sharing; step up and down to social care processes and use of language; consider those wider agencies who may be providing support and include in multi-agency meetings. Development of new multi-agency Harmful Sexual Behaviour Practice Guidance and protocol to provide professionals with the information necessary to approach and respond to this area of safeguarding confidently.



6. Snapshot of effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements in Darlington

Child Safeguarding

The multi-agency Child Protection Procedures and guidance provide a framework for all organisations to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in Darlington.

A summary of how agencies worked together along with safeguarding concerns and the outcomes achieved is provided below;

Early Help – Building Stronger Families

Darlington Borough Council rebranded the Early Help Service to Building Stronger Families (BSF) during this period to offer coordinated help for children and families with a range of needs through an early help assessment or targeted programs. During 2021-22 there were 839 Early Help Assessments (EHA) started, which is an increase on the 623 completed in 2020/21. The percentage of EHAs completed by external agencies has seen a decline from 20.4% to 19.2% which is below the 30% target, the majority being undertaken by Education.

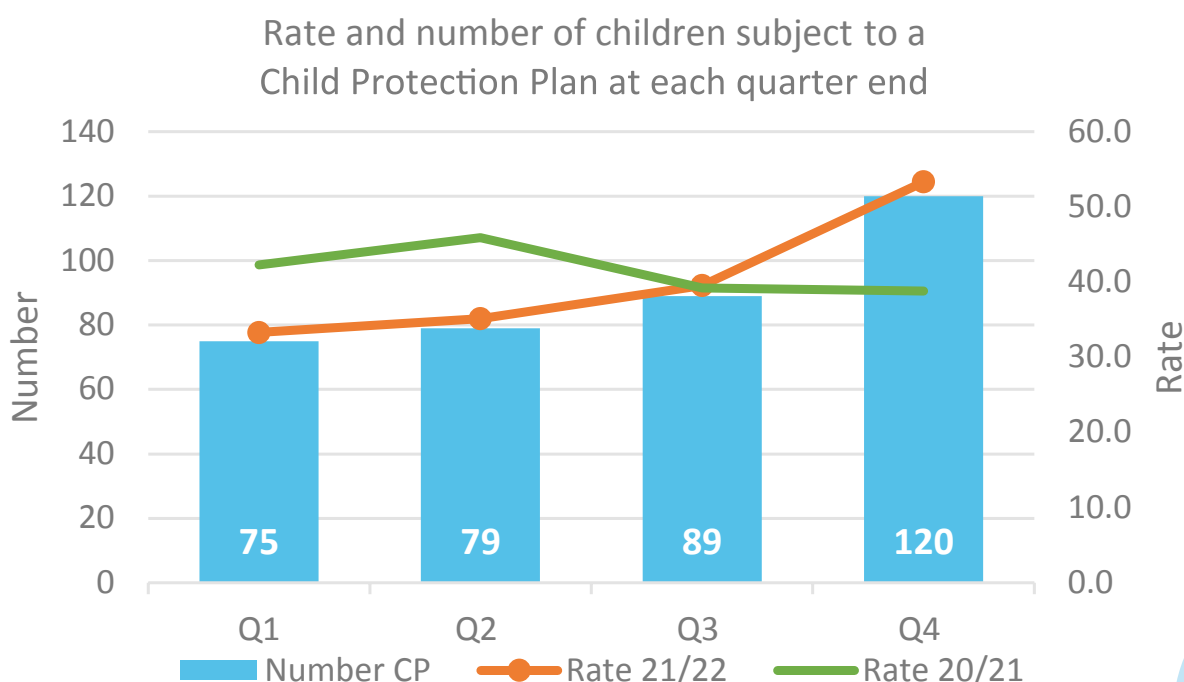
Children in Need (CiN)

March 2021 328 children identified as CiN

March 2022 326 children identified as CiN

Child Protection Plans (CPP)

At the end of March 2022, 120 children were subject to a Child Protection Plan in Darlington (a rate of 53.3 per 10,000). This is an increase of 38% compared with March 2021. Whilst Darlington's rate per 10,000 population has increased, this is still lower than: regional average (67.2); statistical neighbour (55.8) and the national average (42.8) benchmarks. This is potentially a knock-on effect from the increase in referrals, it is steady but managed.



Risk Factors associated with Child Protection were due to:			
Neglect	Emotional Abuse	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse
50%	24%	17%	9%

Edge of Care Model

The Edge of Care Model supports young people to remain with their family as well as a reunification programme for children in care who have the potential, with multi-agency support, to be returned to the care of their family.

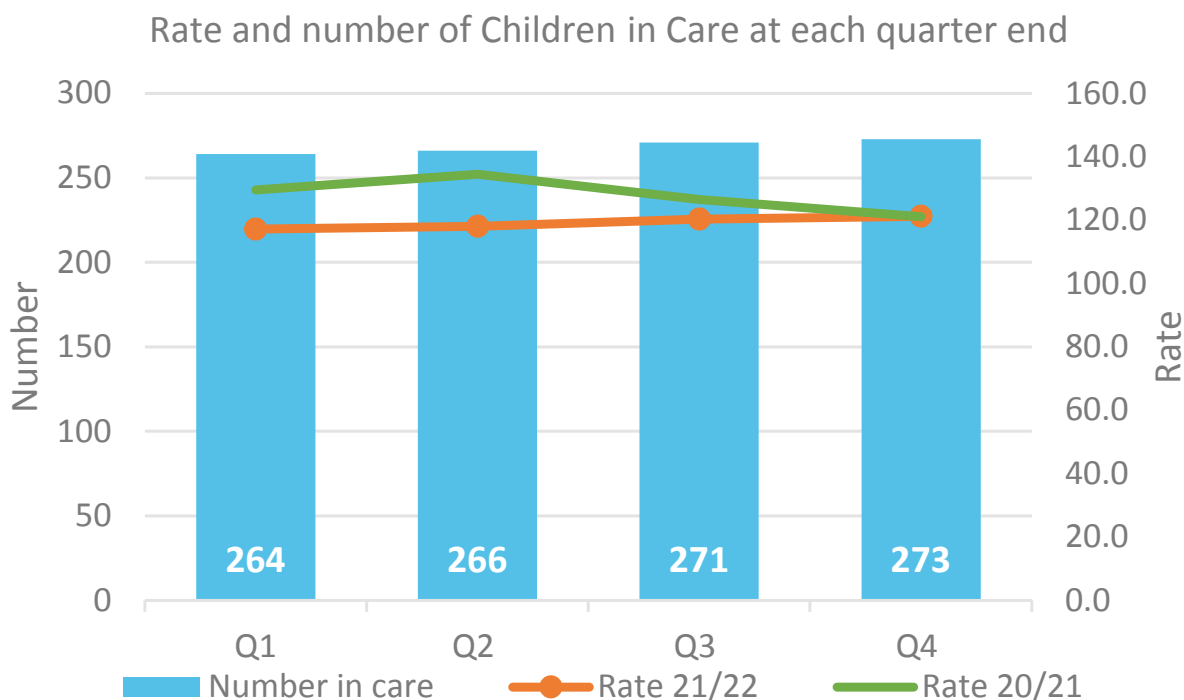
Keeping Families Together

At the end of March 2022, there were 8 families open to the Keeping Families Together (KFT) team involving 16 individual children. This is a reduction compared to the 11 families with 20 children open to KFT at the end of March 2021, although when looking at the number of episodes started in the year this has increased from 44 families (75 children) in 2020/21 to 52 families (97 children) in 2021/22.

57 families with 102 children were closed to the Keeping Families Together team (KFT) in 2021/22, equating to 2,535 days of support. Of these, 70.2% (40 / 57) of the families had completed all their identified work with the team, 12 families (21.1%) withdrew their consent, 3 family closed due to coming into care (5.3%) and 2 families (3.5%) closed due to other personal reasons.

Children Looked After

Children looked after and care leavers are recognised nationally as one of the most vulnerable groups. The number of Looked After Children (LAC) by the local authority at the end of March 2022 was 273 (121.1 per 10,000), 3 of these were unaccompanied asylum seekers. The rate per 10,000 population is similar to that of previous year and is higher than our statistical neighbours (105.4), regional (108.0) and national average (67.0).



These placements were made up of:							
In house Fostering	Connected Carers	Private Fostering	Residential Care	Placed for adoption	Independent Living	Placed with parent	Other
62	44	84	27	12	7	36	1

Care Leavers

The Local Authority has a 'Staying Put' policy and there are currently 11 young people accommodated under this arrangement.

98% care leavers in Darlington were in suitable accommodation by the end of 2021-22 and the percentage of care leavers (aged 19-21) who were not in education, employment or training (NEET) was 20%, which is below the target of 30%, these were either due to disability or illness, pregnancy or parenting or other circumstances.

Young People Engagement and Justice Service (formerly Youth Offending Service) (YPEJS)

The number of young people identified as First Time Entrants (FTE) being referred to the YPEJS continues to be low. FTE's showing 19 young people (14 Males and 5 Females) at March 2022, which is just slightly higher than the same period last year which was 17.

The YPEJS had 39 young people (28 Males and 11 Females) referred to the service for diversionary disposals: Pre-Caution Disposals (37) and Restorative Disposals (2). There has been a 97% success rate in terms of young people not reoffending, 1 young person received a Youth Caution for Criminal Damage offences.

Transition to Adulthood

When a young person reaches the age of 18 they are legally an adult under SEND and Leaving Care statutory guidance, however children's services continue to retain responsibility to ensure the right package of care is provided through transition. There is a difference between the thresholds for support and models of care between adults and children's services and therefore a child and young person who has qualified for care and support under the SEND agenda for Children's legislation will be reassessed as to their eligibility to receive and support from Adult Social Care.

Education attendance

Following the pandemic, it was business as usual across all education sectors and schools were able to request legal intervention around poor school attendance however, the release of the DfE's white paper means schools should only be considering legal intervention as a last resort with families being offered support where possible to address poor school attendance. Spring data indicated there was a 7.2% overall absence across all education settings, compared with 7.3% nationally.

There is a lot of work ongoing and advice being offered to schools to ensure that they offer support in a relational way for those young people who are suffering with anxiety, have been a victim of bullying, have special educational needs or have other complicating factors which affect their attendance.



Elective Home Education (EHE)

There are effective measures in place for the monitoring children who are Elective Home Education in Darlington with a EHE procedure and process in place, in line with DfE guidance. There is a full time EHE Advisor who is responsible for maintaining the EHE database, supporting parents and ensuring evidence of suitable education is being provided. All cases are RAG rated against the statutory guidance

The number of children EHE remains fluid. The EHE advisor works closely with schools when children don't return to school at the start of the new academic term and meets with parents who are considering EHE to ensure that parents fully understand the guidance and expectations before making decision to EHE their child.

Home visits continue to take place and since the beginning of April 2021 (up to end of March 2022) 156 unannounced visits were conducted. Those children who are identified as not receiving appropriate education receive a visit every 3 months to ensure appropriate education is in place. Darlington Borough Council implements the school attendance order process when there is no suitable education in place or evidence provided.

As at 31 March 2022 there were 194 children registered on the EHE database, of these 194, 88 were from GRT community, Darlington has a higher than average GRT population, the EHE advisor works closely with the GRT Education Service.

There continues to be a focus on the safety and wellbeing of children who are EHE and partners continue to receive assurance reports throughout the year which provided assurance of the measures in place.

Children Missing from Home, Care and Education

The total number of children who went missing from home or care during 2021-22 was 246 with 90.7% of these children being offered a return home interview (RHI), 51.2% of children engaged in their RHI. Of these young people who went missing Children in Care (CiC) continue to dominate the number of missing episodes, 21.9% were CiC. Return Home interviews suggests children were not returning home at the time they should have due to pressures and strain of the lockdown and feeling isolated with added pressure in family home.

The total number of children missing from education (CME) for 2021/22 were 71 and all children referred had been traced.

Exploitation of children and young people

Multi-agency work around child exploitation continues to be coordinated through the Strategic Child Exploitation Group (CEG). The partnership continues to obtain an understanding of the risks posed to young people as they grow and become influenced by a whole range of environments and people outside the family home such as school/college, their community, peer groups or online.

A multi-agency Child Exploitation Vulnerability Tracker (CEVT) was launched in November 2019 and continues to be used across Darlington and County Durham to identify those children at risk of exploitation. Children are scored based on the level of risk and continues to be monitored by the CEG. The average score was 72.9%, with a range of 44 to 109, across Durham and Darlington. Of those children on the tracker in May 2022, (numbers are fluid), 21 children were a victim of Child Sexual Exploitation and 4 Child Criminal Exploitation.



Adult Safeguarding

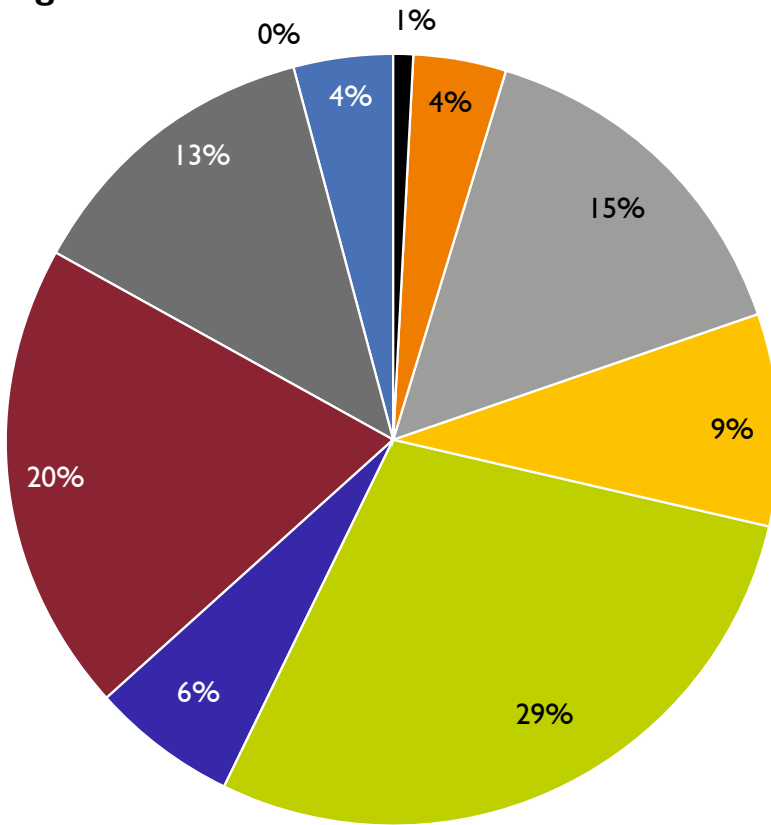
The multi-agency safeguarding adult procedures and guidance provide a framework for all organisations to work together and with the person at risk, to support them to be safe from abuse, neglect or self-neglect and this is underpinned by six Care Act Principles.

A summary of safeguarding concerns and the outcomes achieved is provided below:

The number of reported concerns for abuse and neglect received by the Adult Contact Team in 2021/22 was 888 with 40% progressing to S42 safeguarding enquiry. Safeguarding enquiries can take different forms and of the concluded S42 enquiries, in 95% of cases the outcome was that the risk was either reduced or removed, it is recognised that sometimes people may choose to live with risk and remain with strategies in place, and so it is necessary to look at individual cases to understand why a risk may remain.

The most common category of abuse in Darlington continues to be Neglect and Acts of Omission which represented 27.5%, followed by Physical Abuse (22%).

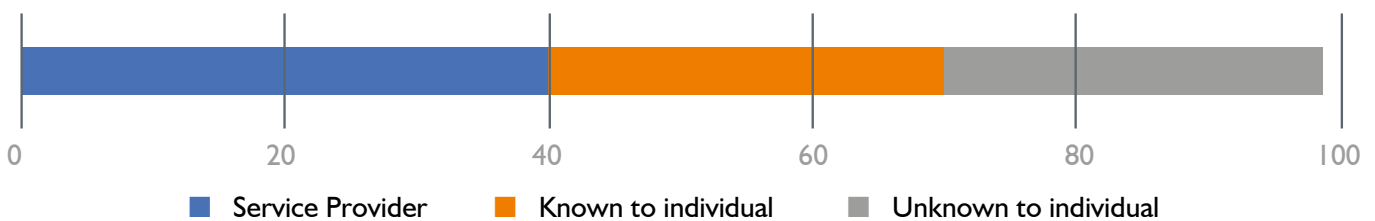
Categories of abuse:



Discriminatory	1%
Domestic Abuse	4%
Emotional Psychological	15%
Financial & Material	9%
Modern Slavery	0%
Neglect & Acts of Omission	29%
Organisational	6%
Physical	20%
Self Neglect	13%
Sexual Exploitation	0%
Sexual	4%

Location of abuse:								
Own home	In the Community	Supported accommodation	Care Home Nursing	Care Home residential	Hospital Acute	Hospital Mental Health	Hospital Community	Public Place
32.4%	0.8%	2.5%	4.09%	32%	7%	11.1%	0.82%	1.6%

Person or organisation alleged to have caused harm



Adults Voice

In 86% of reported concerns the individual/family representative or advocate had been involved in discussions, with 56% being individuals providing their own view. Work is ongoing to capture in more detail views on their experiences and use to consider improvements.

Executive Strategy Process

Executive Strategy processes are held to address all concerns and issues relating to suspected organised or institutional abuse or neglect of adults. In 2021-22 period, there were three settings in the Executive Strategy Process, two of these settings were removed from executive strategy process during this period as assurance was provided that they had made improvements and had safe practices in place and all regulatory action had been completed. The other setting remains in Executive Strategy Process and continues to be monitored by the Significant Provider Forum.

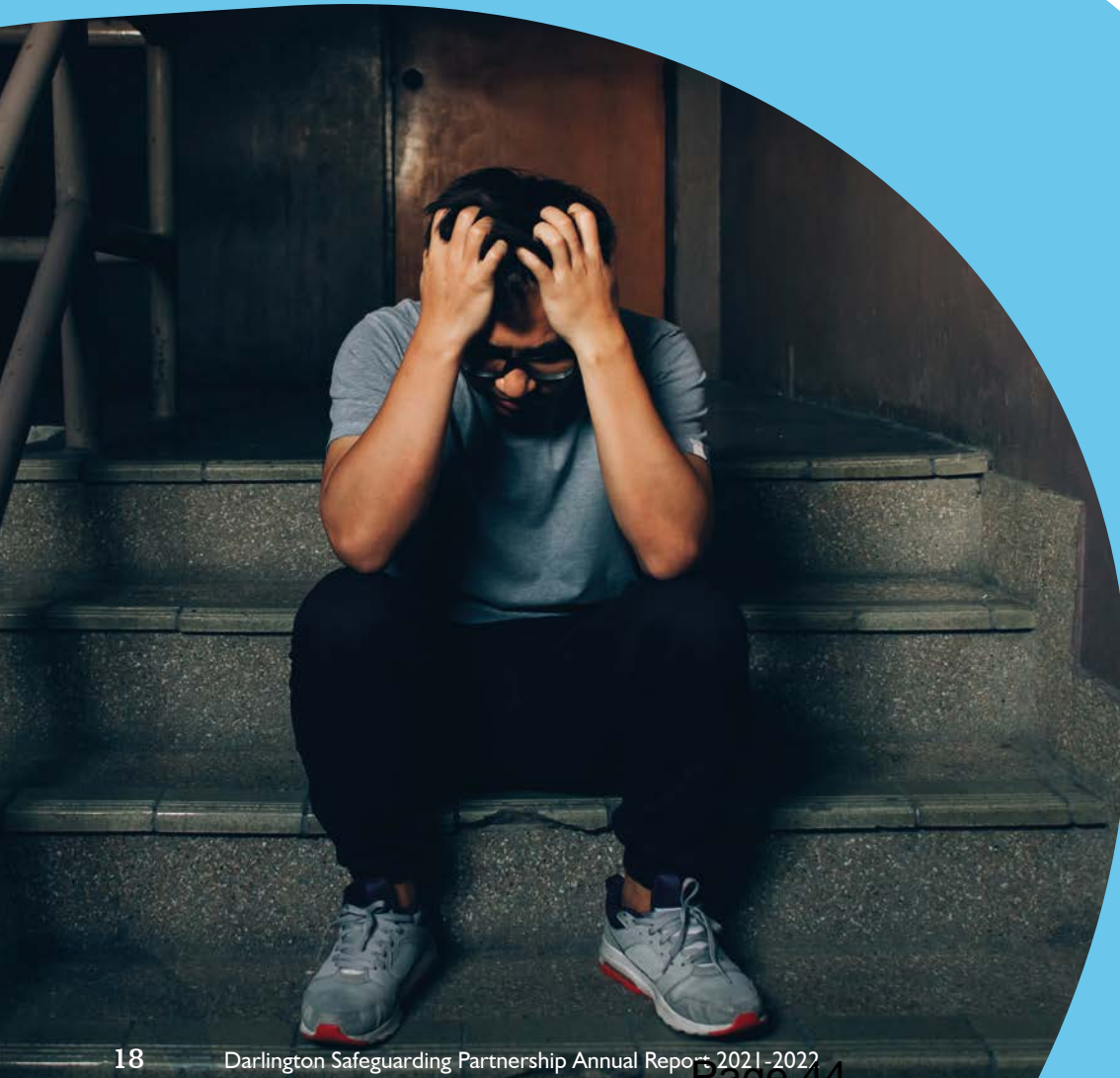
Domestic Abuse

Whilst it is the vision of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) for all agencies to work together to reduce the prevalence of domestic abuse, the safeguarding partnership is committed to supporting this. Domestic abuse remains a key training module to raise awareness and to ensure frontline practitioners are aware of the impact domestic abuse can have on victims, children and vulnerable adults. It also includes an emphasis on coercion and control. The Partnership developed a domestic abuse briefing and You Tube video aimed at frontline practitioners setting out the new protections under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

The Partnership has oversight of Operation Encompass Protocol which addresses shortcomings in the early sharing of information with schools to enable them to provide proactive support to children and young people who are affected by domestic abuse within the family home. During the period April 2021 to March 2022 there were 436 incidents which involved 493 children, all notified to schools.

The partnership also has oversight of the 4Kids project, launched in response to a concerning rise in numbers of children becoming looked after and research into those cases indicating that the main causal factor was a background of parental domestic abuse. Since commencement in January 2021, there have been over 424 alerts through safeguarding reports, which have been reviewed by the 4KIDs and Front Door teams culminating in 357 reports being further investigated.

90 families have been worked with directly by the team, with 204 children involved, these families would not ordinarily be picked up as they fall outside the usual thresholds and criteria of statutory involvement and often have refused other voluntary offers of support.





Violence Against Women and Girls

The Partnership is very aware of the measures in place to address violence against women and girls agenda. Darlington was successful in obtaining funding to support this agenda to make public spaces safer for all through projects to help women and girls feel safer on the streets in Darlington. Work continues to increase the safety of public spaces and projects in local communities and schools to help raise awareness. Partners were assured there is an impressive menu of investment and every risk faced by women and girls has been considered and Darlington should see a significant impact in months to come.

Housing and Homelessness

2021/22 continued to be a challenging and busy year for Darlington Borough Council housing teams and partner agencies. The local authority now has a duty to house people and as a consequence there continues to be an increase in the numbers of people in emergency accommodation compared to pre Covid-19 levels. The council continued to carry out the monthly and annual rough sleeper counts with colleagues across the region to ascertain how many individuals were sleeping rough through the North East on a specific night. In 2021-22 there were 37 rough sleepers and there were 64 reported clients 'sofa surfing'.

In 2021/22 there were 1745 individuals who contacted Housing Options for advice regarding homelessness, a 23% increase from the previous year, which was as a result of services opening up after the lockdown.

There has been an increase in victims of domestic abuse and people with mental health needs requesting housing along with people who have multiple complex needs and dual diagnosis, but who are nevertheless deemed to have capacity and as a consequence two new practitioners have been appointed within the housing options team.



Continuous improvement and raising awareness of safeguarding across all communities and partner organisations through:

Communication and Engagement

The voice of children, young people and adults with needs for care and support and their families is at the heart of all partnership activity. The Partnership structure includes the provision for actively seeking the voice of children and adults ensuring their voices are threaded throughout the structure. This is a constant challenge and we recognise more can be achieved. Where possible the partnership will involve families in learning reviews and information from such engagement will be used to inform and develop practice.

The Communication and Engagement strategy sets out the different ways that the DSP will raise awareness and promote key messages about how to safeguard children and adults as well as how to recognise the signs of abuse and neglect and what to do if you suspect or know abuse or harm has occurred.

Healthy Lifestyle Surveys

A healthy Lifestyle survey is conducted annually in participating schools. A summary of the results of the 2021-22 surveys from both [Primary](#) and [Secondary](#) outline children and young people reporting an understanding of what positive relationships and friendships should look like and the effects of negative behaviours on others such as bullying. The influence of social media is significant and children are largely reporting unrestricted and unsupervised access to the internet, social media and gaming platforms.

Regional Adult Safeguarding Radio Campaign

The North East Association of Directors of Adult Social Services launched a safeguarding radio campaign for the region which went live at the end of March 2021, the purpose was to reinforce awareness of safeguarding issues amongst the general public and to empower them to feel confident in reporting a concern and to reassure vulnerable adults, their relatives and carers that social services continue to concentrate on reported concerns for abuse.



Making Safeguarding Personal

Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) is applicable to all agencies and aims to develop a person centred and outcomes focus to adult safeguarding. In Darlington MSP and the involvement of service users or their representative in safeguarding enquiries is measured from the outset and is evaluated as part of the safeguarding process. In 2021/2022, 86% of cases consistently involved the individual (or their representative or advocate) in the safeguarding enquiry. The partnership continues to seek assurances that the principles of MSP are embedded within partner agencies and continues to develop customer engagement processes to help inform the Partnerships work.

Children's front door arrangements

Darlington Borough Council implemented its new strengthening families programme in March 2020. A critical part of the implementation was to encourage practitioners from all partner agencies to telephone the Children's Initial Advice Team and discuss their safeguarding concerns directly with a social worker. The Statutory Partners were provided an overview of the evaluation of the 52-week review by Professor Thorpe and colleagues from Lancaster University. Partners were assured to see practice is changing, data demonstrates agencies have taken the new processes on board which demonstrates there is a cultural shift in Darlington which can only improve outcomes for children and families.

Independent Chair Engagement

During the year the Independent Chair held multi-agency meetings with relevant agencies of the Partnership and attended other forums such as primary and secondary education forums and child and adult scrutiny committees to talk about current issues, what is working well and what needs to change relating to current safeguarding arrangements. Feedback has been positive, Head Teachers specifically reporting good support and felt current safeguarding arrangements are working well.

Are you concerned about a child?

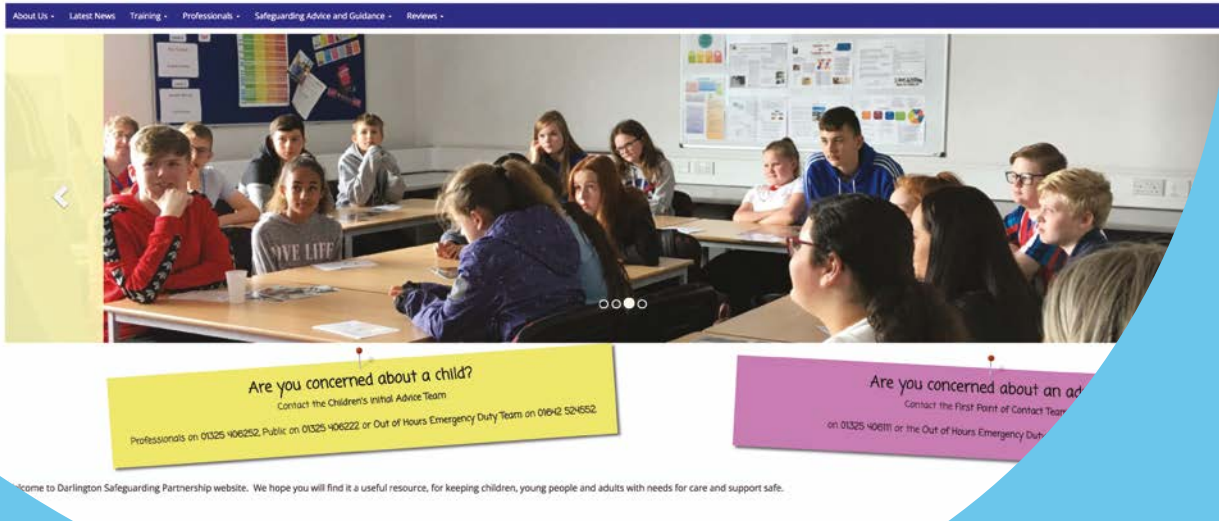
Contact the
Children's Initial Advice Team

Professionals on
01325 406252

Public on
01325 406222

Out of Hours Emergency Duty Team
01642 524552





Information for partners
 Safeguarding Training
 Virtual Teams Training sessions are currently available for more information.
 Safeguarding and K...



DSP website, briefings and newsletters

The DSP continues to use a variety of communication methods to share information to a wide range of different audiences.

The Partnership website continues to be a key forum to provide key safeguarding messages to practitioners and to the wider public as well as useful information and resources to support those working with children and adults.

Link to Partnership website - www.darlington-safeguarding-partnership.co.uk

The partnerships quarterly newsletter continues to communicate and raise awareness of safeguarding and to keep in touch with all our agencies to provide information, signposting and guidance to those working across child and adult services.

Social Media

Whilst the Partnership does not have its own social media platforms it regularly requests partner agencies promote key safeguarding campaigns throughout the year on their own social media platforms.

Awareness of key safeguarding campaigns

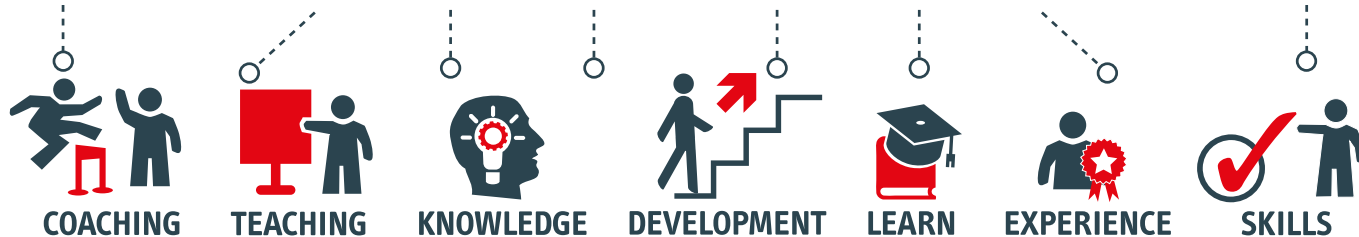
The partnership continues to raise awareness of safeguarding issues by sharing details of key national safeguarding campaigns including, Safeguarding Adult Week in November, Safer Internet Day in February and National Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day in March and asking all organisation to raise awareness of the important issues.

National Safeguarding Adults Week 2021

15 - 21 November 2021

#SafeguardingAdultsWeek

TRAINING



Learning and Development

Whilst the COVID-19 Pandemic continues to impact the ability to provide face to face training, the Partnership continues to provide multi-agency safeguarding training and has developed a variety of E-Learning and workbook options to compliment the virtual training offer. The sessions have been restricted to ensure group sizes remained small enough for questions and discussion to take place.

The Learning and development group continues to monitor and ensure there is quality and consistency of single and multi-agency training through initiatives such as training needs analysis (TNA), peer evaluation, quality assurance and the pre and post course evaluation process. The programme is updated to ensure the lessons from learning reviews are reflected as well as identifying the local needs of the multi-agency workforce.

Examples of development during 2021-2022 include:

- The local authority is licensed to use the NSPCC Graded Care Profile support tool for child neglect. The multi-agency trainer delivers the training, and the course is now embedded into the multi-agency training programme. The training has been converted to a virtual course and continues to be delivered.
- Development and delivery to support the updates Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021
- Development of a training module in response to the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
- Podcasts developed to focus on the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, Professional Challenge, and information sharing.

What did we achieve?

- Core courses for Safeguarding Adults and Children at Levels 1 (awareness) and 2 (Managing concerns) which are in line with the Care Act 2014, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 and Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021.
- Level 3 specialist courses to reflect national and local priorities
- 106 Virtual courses were delivered.
- 84% increase in attendance on previous year
- 2,054 attendances for training.
- 466 people completed E-Learning workbooks



Evaluation and Assessment

It is recognised that assessment of learning is necessary to measure both the quality of training and to evidence the impact on practice and how the training is contributing to improving the knowledge and skills of the workforce. The trainer continues to request delegate feedback on the quality of training. Feedback has been positive although a few delegates have highlighted that virtual training is not as effective as face to face training.

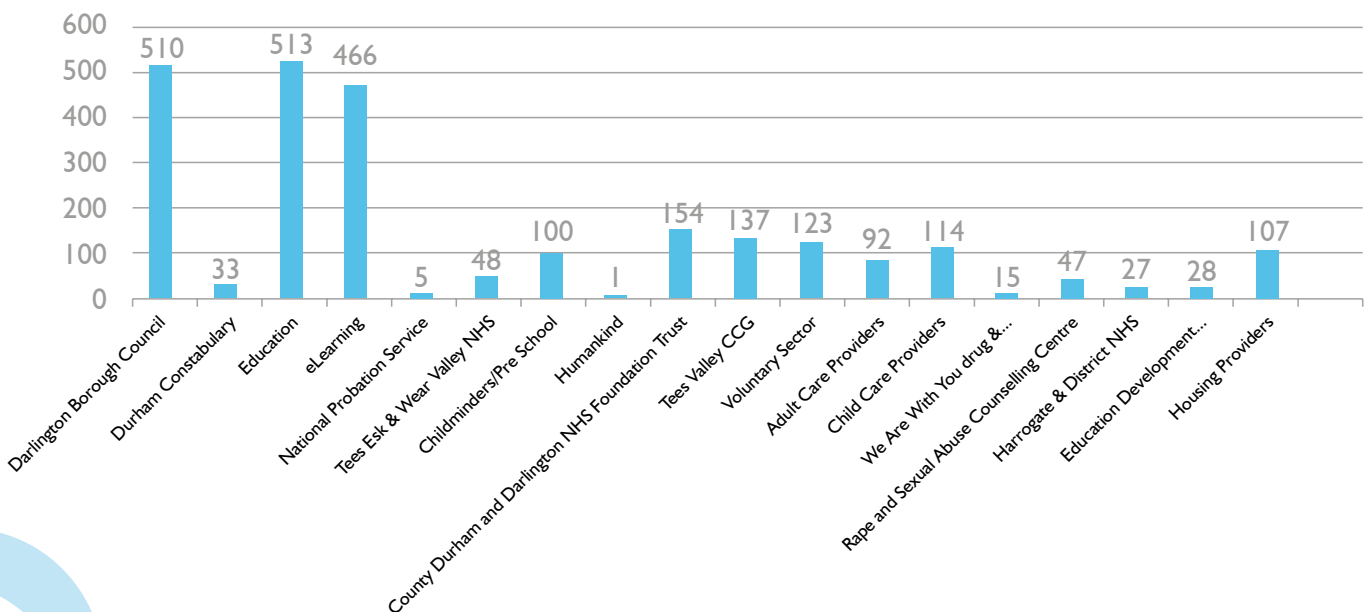
I just wanted to thank you for your time for both training sessions for the team here at PHD. It was really useful and has highlighted a few things we need to consider. I can now put a process in place for the team to follow. (Primary Healthcare Darlington)

Thank you so much Joanna and Chris.....no matter how many times I do this stuff it NEVER gets old or boring and is always comprehensive!!! (Education)

I would just like to thank you again. One of the best training sessions I have attended in a long while. I thought discussion was good and I certainly took a load from it! (Children’s Home)

The chart below outlines the attendance by partner agencies during the period April 2021 – March 2022.

Learners by agency



Development of Policy and Procedure

Enabling continual improvement and learning for partners and practitioners is important to the Partnership. The ongoing review of policies, procedures and guidance documents is important to support front line practitioners with both prevention, early intervention and awareness raising. There is a clear timeline for the revision of policy and procedure which is monitored through a policy revision schedule.

The Learning and Development Group continues to provide a co-ordinated multi-agency approach to safeguarding practice through the development, review and updating of policies and procedures for use by professionals across the partnership. All revisions are undertaken in consultation with partner agencies and partners agencies are expected to disseminate and implement within their own agency. All documents are published on the DSP website.

During 2021/22 the following were developed, reviewed and revised by the Partnership:

- Revision to Child Safeguarding Practice Review and Serious Child Safeguarding Incident Procedures
- Revision to Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Practice Guidance and Referral Pathways
- Safeguarding the Unborn – Procedure and Practice Guidance
- Self Neglect and Hoarding Practice Guidance
- Childhood Obesity Policy and Practice Guidance
- Domestic Abuse Briefing and video podcast
- Revision to Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) Referral Form and Protocol



7. Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Safeguarding Adult Reviews

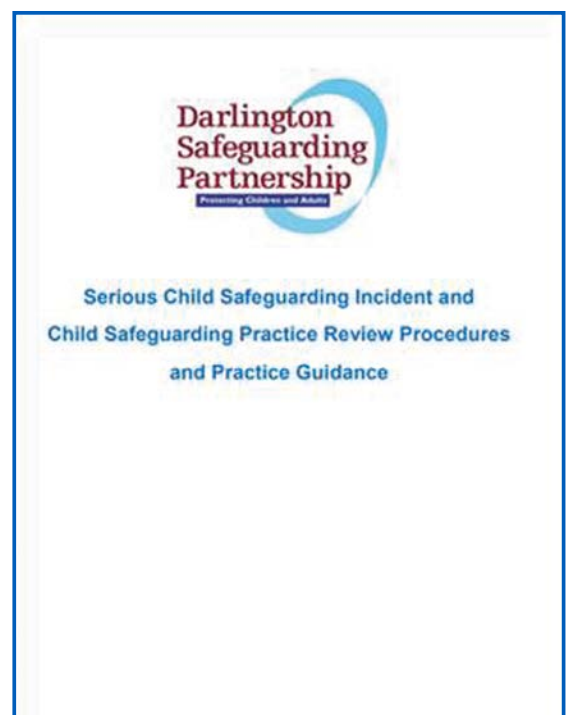
During 2021/22 period, the Partnership did not undertake any Formal Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs) or Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs). Whilst it has been acknowledged the number of Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews or Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) in Darlington remain low, it was recognised there was a need to improve processes and guidance to clearly set out organisational responsibilities for dealing and responding to serious incidents. As a consequence, both the CSPR and SAR Procedures were revised to enable agencies to not only submit a referral if the criteria for a CSPR or SAR were met but also to refer Learning Requests, when they felt there was specific learning to be explored in how agencies had worked together but did not meet the criteria for CSPR/SAR.

The Statutory Safeguarding Partners met with Mark Gurrey, Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel member in June as the Panel had established a number of variances in application of thresholds that trigger Serious Incident Notifications (SiN's) across the Country, Darlington being highlighted as an outlier with no CSPR's being submitted in recent years and wanted to explore reasons why. Partners assured the Panel that current processes and systems ensure SiNs are embedded within safeguarding policy and procedure and there are robust process in place to determine if criteria for notification is met. Partners also highlighted the additional academic oversight throughout the year with the work undertaken by Professor Thorpe and Lancaster University Colleagues on the children's front door safeguarding processes and weekly review processes which did not highlight any specific cases.

Child Safeguarding Practice Review and Serious Child Safeguarding Incident Procedure and Safeguarding Adult Review Protocol

Whilst there were no specific CSPRs or SAR's undertaken in this reporting period, there were a number of cases (child and adult) which were referred into the Partnership, which were deemed did not meet the criteria for a CSPR or SAR, however the Learning and Development Group, agreed there was multi-agency learning to explore and were taken forward as multi-agency learning events. Themes include parental mental health impact on children, criminal exploitation and adult cases where self-neglect was a factor.

Key learning points were identified and a number of single and multi-agency actions and recommendations for learning were identified and will be addressed by the Learning and Development Group. Learning from good practice has also been embedded in the review process.



What did we learn:

Child exploitation/harm away from home

Continue to raise awareness to understand how young people get involved in exploitation

Look outside the traditional core group of partners to strengthen partnership working

Involve parents in discussions at earliest opportunity

Implement regular check in meetings to respond to current issues/concerns

Voice of child – acknowledge children may also be victims as well as alleged perpetrators and should be assessed to understand any impact on their safety and welfare

Self Neglect

Professional curiosity – when consistent non engagement – obtain a better understanding of person's journey

Ensure multi-disciplinary meetings are held at earliest opportunity

Capacity – despite a number of assessments is person making a capacitated choice to live a particular way- should be further explored and challenged

Self neglect understanding – do agencies consider safeguarding concerns when evidence of self-neglect

Parental Mental Health impact on children

Recognition of impact parental mental health has on child – encourage professional curiosity

Ensure whole family approach is applied

Information sharing and communication is key between child and adult services

Voice of the child – what is life like for this young person living with a parent with mental health

As a result of the learning the following guidance and tools were developed:

- Revision of Child Safeguarding Practice Review and Serious Incident Notification procedure to strengthen process and ensuring effective governance has taken place before submission
- Revision of the SAR referral form to support Statutory Safeguarding Partners and the Learning and Development Group to make informed decision on type of review to be taken forward
- Inclusion of the SAR escalation protocol within the SAR Protocol for issues which may require a national response
- Information sharing video podcast
- Child Criminal Exploitation/Contextual Safeguarding briefing
- Harm away from Home/contextualised safeguarding conference
- Self Neglect guidance and briefing

The Learning and Development and Quality Assurance group will continue to work closely to ensure effective learning and change is embedded into frontline practice.

8. Looking Ahead

The Covid-19 pandemic continued to impact and influence the services provided by partners agencies throughout the year and recovery continued to be a priority for all agencies, this will continue into the next reporting period.

Learning through the Pandemic has identified a number of key areas of focus which will be taken forward in 2022-23:

- Applying learning from local and national Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Safeguarding Adult Reviews to practice
- Strengthening quality assurance processes and develop performance frameworks
- Further develop scrutiny arrangements
- Focus on key priorities identified in this period - child exploitation/harm away from home and adult self-neglect
- Transitional safeguarding from childhood to adulthood
- Further explore how to obtain the lived experience of children and vulnerable adults



Appendix 1

Staffing and Budget

Darlington Safeguarding Partnership is supported by the following staff within the Business Unit:

- Business Manager
- Development Officer/Designated Officer
- Multi-Agency Trainer
- Business Support Officer
- Part-time Analyst (seconded from Durham Constabulary)
- Part-time Information Officer

Contributions from Partner Agencies for 2021-22 period	
Darlington Borough Council	£108,002
Tees Valley Clinical Commissioning Group	£41,310
Durham Constabulary	£34,404
Schools Forum	£10,000
Darlington College	£1,600
County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust	£16,973
Queen Elizabeth 6th Form College	£1,515
Probation Service North East	£770
Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust	£2,000
Training Income	£5,750
Total Revenue	£222,324

Appendix 2

Relevant agencies over and above Statutory Safeguarding Partner Organisations

- Darlington Local Authority - Housing, Public Health, Young Peoples' Engagement and Justice Service
- Health agencies – County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (CDDFT), Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV), Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust (HDFT), North East Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (NEAS)
- Children and Families Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS)
- Care Quality Commission (CQC)
- Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (DDFRS)
- Early Years Settings
- Education (Primary, Secondary, Further Education, SEND)
- Support organisations for issues such as Substance Misuse / Domestic Abuse / Sexual Exploitation / Sexual Abuse (SARC)
- Family Justice Board (FJB)
- Probation Service North East
- Voluntary and third sector organisations (including Healthwatch)
- Darlington Primary Care General Practices
- Tees Valley Clinical Commissioning Group
- NHS England (pharmacy, dentist and optometrists)
- Independent providers including private hospitals, children's homes, nursing and care homes, domiciliary providers
- Youth groups – e.g. sport, scouts, brownies
- Faith settings
- Minority Communities
- British Transport Police (BTP)
- Chairs of other key local boards
- Representatives of other National Partners
- Darlington Partnership – which includes business and community organisations
- Coroner

This list is not exhaustive



DARLINGTON
Borough Council





**ADULTS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
13 DECEMBER 2022**

WORK PROGRAMME

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the work programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee during the 2022/23 Municipal Year and to consider any additional areas which Members would like to suggest should be included.

Summary

2. Members are requested to consider the attached draft work programme (**Appendix 1**) for the remainder of the Municipal Year, which has been prepared based on Officers recommendations and recommendations previously agreed by this Scrutiny Committee in the last Municipal Year.
3. Once the work programme has been approved by this Scrutiny Committee, any additional areas of work which Members wish to add to the agreed work programme will require the completion of a quad of aims in accordance with the previously approved procedure (**Appendix 2**).

Recommendations

4. It is recommended that Members note the current status of the Work Programme and consider any additional areas of work they would like to include.
5. Members' views are requested.

**Luke Swinhoe
Assistant Director Law and Governance**

Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Author: Paul Dalton

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for Crime and Disorder
Health and Well Being	This report has no direct implications to the Health and Well Being of residents of Darlington.
Carbon Impact	There are no issues which this report needs to address.
Diversity	There are no issues relating to diversity which this report needs to address
Wards Affected	The impact of the report on any individual Ward is considered to be minimal.
Groups Affected	The impact of the report on any individual Group is considered to be minimal.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision
Council Plan	The report contributes to the Council Plan in a number of ways through the involvement of Members in contributing to the delivery of the Plan.
Efficiency	The Work Programmes are integral to scrutinising and monitoring services efficiently (and effectively), however this report does not identify specific efficiency savings.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

6. The format of the proposed work programme has been reviewed to enable Members of this Scrutiny Committee to provide a rigorous and informed challenge to the areas for discussion.
7. The Council Plan sets the vision and strategic direction for the Council through to May 2023, with its overarching focus being 'Delivering success for Darlington'.
8. In approving the Council Plan, Members have agreed to a vision for Darlington which is a place where people want to live and businesses want to locate, where the economy continues to grow, where people are happy and proud of the borough and where everyone has the opportunity to maximise their potential.
9. The vision for the Adults Portfolio is 'a Borough where vulnerable adults can be helped and supported to maximise their independence and enjoy life to the full, and where care services are available to those in need'.

Forward Plan and Additional Items

10. Once the Work Programme has been agreed by this Scrutiny Committee, any Member seeking to add a new item to the work programme will need to complete a Quad of Aims.
11. A copy of the index of the Forward Plan has been attached at **Appendix 3** for information.

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ADULTS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23

Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer	Link to PMF (metrics)	Scrutiny's Role / Notes
Reforms to Adult Social Care - Update	7 February 2023	Joss Harbron		To receive an update on progress in relation to the reforms to Adult Social Care.
Performance Indicators Quarter 2 2022/2023	7 February 2023	Sharon Raine / Joss Harbron	ASC 002 ASC 003 ASC 019 ASC 045 ASC 046 ASC 049 ASC 050 ASC 208 ASC 209 ASC 211	To monitor Key Performance Indicators. To receive six-monthly monitoring reports and undertake any further detailed work into particular outcomes if necessary.
Darlington Safeguarding Partnership - Annual Report	7 February 2023	Ann Baxter / Amanda Hugill	ASC 028 ASC 029 ASC 059 ASC 061 ASC 062 ASC 199 ASC 200 ASC 201 ASC 202 ASC 203 ASC 204 ASC 205 ASC 206 ASC 207 ASC 209 ASC 210 ASC 213 ASC 214	To consider the Annual Report on the work of the Board and to receive reassurance that adult safeguarding is being addressed and an effective approach is in place. To be advised of the key issues for the Board and funding.

Dementia Care Services - Update (include Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee)	7 February 2023	Martin Short, Director of Place, ICB		
Substance Misuse Service Update: Support Treatment and Recovery In Darlington through Empowering (STRIDE) (include Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee)	7 February 2023	Gary Besterfield / Sarah Allen		
Reforms to Adult Social Care - Update	20 June 2023	Joss Harbron		To receive an update on progress in relation to the reforms to Adult Social Care.
Presentation from a Nursing Care Home Manager	20 June 2023			
Autism Update	20 June 2023			
Care Homes in Executive Strategy Measures / Arrangements	20 June 2023 9 January 2024			Recommendation from the 'Nursing Care Homes in Special Measures Task and Finish Group' – six monthly report to this Committee.
Presentation on the Care Quality Commission Regulatory Framework (as it applies to Older Persons Residential and Domiciliary Care)	20 June 2023			Recommendation from the 'Nursing Care Homes in Special Measures Task and Finish Group'.
Performance Indicators End of Year Report 2022-23	22 August 2023	Joss Harbron		
Performance Indicators Quarter 2 2023/2024	20 February 2024	Joss Harbron		

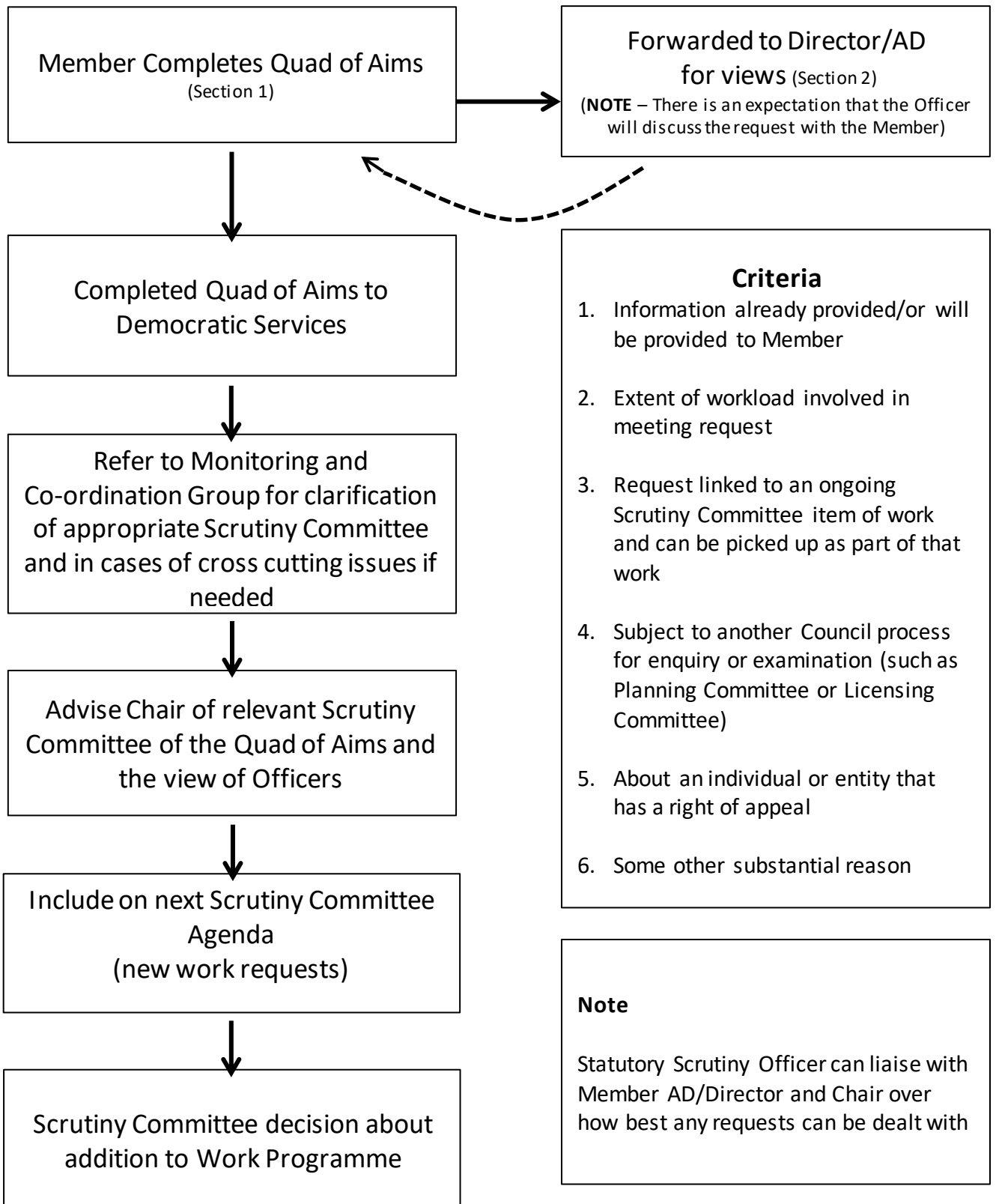
<p>Darlington Safeguarding Partnership - Annual Report</p>	<p>20 February 2024</p>	<p>Ann Baxter / Amanda Hugill</p>	<p>ASC 028 ASC 029 ASC 059 ASC 061 ASC 062 ASC 199 ASC 200 ASC 201 ASC 202 ASC 203 ASC 204 ASC 205 ASC 206 ASC 207 ASC 209 ASC 210 ASC 213 ASC 214</p>	<p>To consider the Annual Report on the work of the Board and to receive reassurance that adult safeguarding is being addressed and an effective approach is in place.</p> <p>To be advised of the key issues for the Board and funding.</p>
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Task and Finish Review Group(s)

- **‘Loneliness and Connected Communities’ Task and Finish Review Group** – commenced Tuesday, 28th January 2020;
- **‘Review of Adult Care Services during Covid Task and Finish Group’** – commenced Friday, 21st May 2021.
- **‘Nursing Care Homes in Special Measures Task and Finish Group’** (with an invite extended to the Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee) – Commenced 8 November 2022. Completed 13 December 2022.

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PROCESS FOR ADDING AN ITEM TO SCRUTINY COMMITTEE'S PREVIOUSLY APPROVED WORK PROGRAMME



QUAD OF AIMS (MEMBERS' REQUEST FOR ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED BY SCRUTINY)

SECTION 1 TO BE COMPLETED BY MEMBERS

NOTE – This document should only be completed if there is a clearly defined and significant outcome from any potential further work. This document should **not** be completed as a request for or understanding of information.

REASON FOR REQUEST?	RESOURCE (WHAT OFFICER SUPPORT WOULD YOU REQUIRE?)
PROCESS (HOW CAN SCRUTINY ACHIEVE THE ANTICIPATED OUTCOME?)	HOW WILL THE OUTCOME MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Signed Councillor

Date

**SECTION 2 TO BE COMPLETED BY DIRECTORS/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS
(NOTE – There is an expectation that Officers will discuss the request with the Member)**

Page 69

1. (a) Is the information available elsewhere? Yes No	Criteria
If yes, please indicate where the information can be found (attach if possible and return with this document to Democratic Services)	1. Information already provided/or will be provided to Member
(b) Have you already provided the information to the Member or will you shortly be doing so?	2. Extent of workload involved in meeting request
2. If the request is included in the Scrutiny Committee work programme what are the likely workload implications for you/your staff?	3. Request linked to an ongoing Scrutiny Committee item of work and can be picked up as part of that work
3. Can the request be included in an ongoing Scrutiny Committee item of work and picked up as part of that?	4. Subject to another Council process for enquiry or examination (such as Planning Committee or Licensing Committee)
4. Is there another Council process for enquiry or examination about the matter currently underway?	5. About an individual or entity that has a right of appeal
5. Has the individual or entity some other right of appeal?	6. Some other substantial reason
6. Is there any substantial reason (other than the above) why you feel it should not be included on the work programme?	

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Signed **Position** **Date**

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

APPENDIX 3



DARLINGTON

Borough Council

**FORWARD PLAN
FOR THE PERIOD: 4 JANUARY 2023 - 31 MAY 2023**

Title	Decision Maker and Date
Climate Change Progress	Council 26 Jan 2023 Cabinet 10 Jan 2023
Council Plan 2020/23 Performance Report - Quarter 2	Cabinet 10 Jan 2023
Disabled Facilities Grant Policy and Regulatory Reform Order Policy	Cabinet 10 Jan 2023
East Street Office Development	Cabinet 10 Jan 2023
Future Development of Indoor Market	Cabinet 10 Jan 2023
Maintained Schools Capital Programme - Summer 2023	Cabinet 10 Jan 2023
Schedule of Transactions - January 2023	Cabinet 10 Jan 2023
Town Centre Parking Offer	Cabinet 10 Jan 2023
Calendar of Council and Committee Meetings 2023/24	Cabinet 7 Feb 2023
Darlington Capital Strategy including Capital Programme	Council 16 Feb 2023 Cabinet 7 Feb 2023
Housing Revenue Account - Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/24 to 2026/27	Council 16 Feb 2023 Cabinet 7 Feb 2023
Land at Blackwell – Proposed Development and Parkland Restoration	Cabinet 7 Feb 2023
Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/24 to 2026/27	Council 16 Feb 2023 Cabinet 7 Feb 2023
Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring - Quarter 3	Cabinet 7 Feb 2023
Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management Strategy Report 2023/24	Council 16 Feb 2023 Cabinet 7 Feb 2023
Revenue Budget Monitoring - Quarter 3	Cabinet 7 Feb 2023
Schools Admissions 2024/25	Cabinet 7 Feb 2023
Housing Services Allocations Policy	Cabinet 7 Mar 2023
Housing Services Damp and Mould Policy	Cabinet 7 Mar 2023
Housing Services Low Cost Home Ownership Policy	Cabinet 7 Mar 2023
Local Transport Plan	Cabinet 7 Mar 2023
Regulatory Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA)	Cabinet 7 Mar 2023
Annual Procurement Plan	Cabinet 25 Apr 2023
Proposed Construction and Skills Hub on Council Land at Faverdale	Cabinet
Supplementary Polling Policy (SPD) Design Code – Skerningham Garden Village	Cabinet 7 February 2023

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