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**DARLINGTON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT –  
2017/2018**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to enable the Children and Young People Scrutiny to receive and comment upon the Annual Report of the Darlington Safeguarding Children Board (DSCB) for the period 2017/18.

**Summary**

2. Local Safeguarding Children Boards are required to produce an Annual Report which should account for the Board's activities over the previous year and make an assessment of the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements within the local area.
3. The Annual Report for 2017/18 is based on the DSCB's 3 Strategic Priorities:
  - **Priority 1** - ensure effective arrangements are in place that enable children, young people and their families to access appropriate Early Help support when first identified and this support is well coordinated
  - **Priority 2** - ensure effective arrangements are in place to protect children from neglect, abuse and child sexual abuse.
  - **Priority 3** - ensure partners work together to protect children from harm and ensure the voice of the child is evident in all multi-agency work.
4. It is recommended that:
  - (a) The Children and Young People Scrutiny note and comment on the DSCB Annual Report for 2017/18 which will be published on the DSCB website.

## **Reasons**

6. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons:
- (a) Children and Young People Scrutiny have an understanding of the Board's work to date.
  - (b) To challenge and scrutinise the work of the DSCB and raise any challenges as appropriate with the Independent Chair.
  - (c) To have assurance that the Safeguarding Children Board is effectively coordinating multi-agency safeguarding practice in Darlington and promoting the welfare of children.
  - (d) The DSCB was a member of the Children's Service's Improvement Board until the time of the re-inspection and has continued to work with all statutory agencies to strengthen safeguarding arrangements in Darlington.

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## **Background Papers**

Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report – 2017/2018

S17 Crime and Disorder	All children at risk of crime and disorder are a priority within this report. DSCB works alongside Youth Offending Services to help reduce crime and first time entrants into the criminal justice system.
Health and Well Being	The health and wellbeing of all children in Darlington are a priority within this report. DCSB works alongside all organisations to promote the health and wellbeing of children and their families.
Carbon Impact	There are no implications arising from this report.
Diversity	DSCB 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
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The work of the Safeguarding Children Board complements the priorities in One Darlington Perfectly placed.
Efficiency	N/A
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has not impacted on Looked After Children or Care Leavers.

## MAIN REPORT

### Information and Analysis

#### 7. Darlington Safeguarding Children Board (DSCB) Annual Report – 2016/2017

- (a) The DSCB is a multi-agency partnership with the statutory objective to coordinate and ensure effectiveness of how agencies work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in need of help and protection in Darlington.
- (b) DSCB meets bi-monthly, which has an Independent Chair and is supported by subgroups to deliver the Board's strategic business plan. The subgroup supporting the work are:
- policy and procedure development
  - quality assurance and performance monitoring
  - serious case reviews
  - child death reviews
  - training and communications
- (c) The Annual Report reflects on the work of DSCB against its four strategic priorities and six Ofsted recommendations.
- (d) The priorities for 2017-18 have been determined based on the learning from the previous year, Ofsted recommendations, the view of the quality of services and areas of interest identified by the Children's Services Improvement Board:
- (i) The effectiveness of Early Help
  - (ii) Access to CAMHS
  - (iii) Continue to develop and consolidate multi-agency work with regard to Child Sexual Exploitation, Children who are missing from home and children missing from education
  - (iv) Multi-agency arrangements on e-safety and actively promoting safer internet use and staying safe online
  - (v) Engagement and communication
  - (vi) Developing an effective multi-agency performance and audit framework
  - (vii) Proposals for new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Audit (formally section 11 Children Act)
  - (viii) Ensuring positive developments in Case Review processes to provide greater sustainability and consolidation of changes in practice
  - (ix) Further strengthening connectivity across the Strategic Partnerships