

**ADULTS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
25 FEBRUARY 2025**

DARLINGTON SAFEGUARDING PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT – 2023/2024

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 2023/24, **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 2023/43 period.

Recommendation

3. It is recommended that the Adults Scrutiny note and comment on the DSP Annual Report for 2023/24 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 – 2023/2024

Council Plan	The work of the Darlington Safeguarding Partnership complements the priorities in One Darlington Perfectly placed.
Addressing inequalities	DSP works to ensure that all groups are considered within their safeguarding agenda
Tackling Climate Change	There are no implications arising from this report.
Efficient and effective use of resources	N/A
Health and Wellbeing	The health and wellbeing of all adults in Darlington are a priority within this report.
S17 Crime and Disorder	Adults with care and support needs at risk of crime and disorder are a priority within this report.
Wards Affected	All
Groups Affected	All
Budget and Policy Framework	N/A
Key Decision	N/A
Urgent Decision	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 2023/24, 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 Partnership continues to ensure there are effective arrangements in place to help keep adults with care and support needs safe and protected from abuse and neglect. There has been a great deal of activity over the year to ensure the partnership meets its statutory responsibilities and this is outlined within the report.
7. Self-neglect continues to be a challenge with numbers of reported concerns highlighting a steady increase year on year. A key priority for the Partnership is to ensure all partner agencies improve awareness and understanding of adult self-neglect to ensure early identification can be achieved.
8. The report outlines the strengths and impact of multi-agency working to help keep everyone safe in Darlington with a continued focus on ensuring local multi-agency safeguarding practice remains effective for all our children, young people and adults with care and support needs.

Outcome of Consultation

9. Not applicable.