

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
3 MARCH 2025**

---

**DARLINGTON SAFEGUARDING PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT – 2023/2024**

---

**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to enable Children and Young People’s 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 Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee note and comment on the DSP Annual Report for 2023/24 which is published on the DSP website.

**Chris Bell**  
**Assistant Director - Children’s Services**

**Background Papers**

Darlington Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report – 2023/2024

Amanda Hugill: Extension 6450

Council Plan	The work of the Darlington Safeguarding Partnership complements the priorities in the Council Plan.
Addressing inequalities	Darlington Safeguarding Partnership 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 children and young people in Darlington is a priority within this report.
S17 Crime and Disorder	Children and Young People 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

4. 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.
5. The Partnership continues to ensure there are effective arrangements in place to help keep children and young people 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 are outlined within the report. The year saw the publication of new Working Together Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the Partnership will be working to implement the requirements through the next reporting period.
6. A key statutory responsibility of the partnership is to undertake reviews of cases where a child or adult has died or been seriously harmed as a result of abuse and neglect and there is reasonable cause for concern in how safeguarding partner worked together to safeguard that adult or child. In this reporting period, Darlington Safeguarding Partnership published its first Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review in respect of Family H. A summary of learning from this case is outlined in the report.
7. The report outlines the strengths and impact of multi-agency working to help keep everyone in Darlington safe, with a continued focus on ensuring local multi-agency safeguarding practice remains effective for all our children and young people and adults with needs for care and support.

## **Outcome of Consultation**

8. Not applicable.