

**HEALTH AND WELL BEING BOARD  
14 MARCH 2024**

ITEM NO.

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

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To enable the Health and Wellbeing Board to receive and comment upon the Annual Report of the Darlington Safeguarding Partnership (DSP) for the period 2023/24.

**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 2023/24 period.

**Recommendation**

3. It is recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board note and comment on the DSP Annual Report for 2023/24 which has been published on DSP website.

**Reasons**

4. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons :-
  - (a) Health and Wellbeing Board have an understanding of the Partnerships work to date.
  - (b) 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

**James Stroyan  
Group Director of People**

**Background Papers**

DSP Annual Report 2023/24

Amanda Hugill  
 Business Manager  
 Darlington Safeguarding Partnership

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

1. 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.
2. The Strategic Plan sets out the Partnerships shared vision and actions that will help keep children, young people and adults with care and support needs safe and protected from abuse and neglect.
3. 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 partners 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.

4. Adult Self-Neglect continues to be highlighted as a significant theme and which is reflected as a regional and national issue and a consistent theme in many Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs). The partnership has recognised self-neglect is a complex and challenging area and is not always easily identified. A key priority for the Partnership is to ensure practitioners have the skills, tools and resources available to not only help improve awareness and understanding of adult self-neglect and ensure early identification but to support those working with individuals who self-neglect.
5. There has been a great deal of activity over the year to ensure the partnership meets its statutory responsibilities and effective arrangements are in place which are outlined within the report. 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.