



**Darlington
Safeguarding Adults
Partnership Board**

Darlington Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board

Annual Report 2018-19





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Independent Chair's Executive Summary

I am pleased to present the 2018/19 Annual Report of the Darlington Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board. The Annual Report looks back at safeguarding issues across Darlington throughout the period 2018/19 and looks forward to the challenges and risks in the year ahead.

This has been a significant year for the Board. We started with a revised strategic plan setting out our future priorities, informed by the safeguarding health check. This valuable exercise provided the Board with an overview of safeguarding practice and gave assurance on how well partners are working together.

The format of the report remains the same as last year, presenting the key information as clearly as possible, with details of our demography, Board structures and governance arrangements. This allows the reader to easily access the most important information in the report and outlines the progress which the partnership has made in the past twelve months against our strategic priorities.

From 1st July 2019 new Strategic Safeguarding Partnership Arrangements are established in Darlington. This brings together an integrated approach to safeguarding adults and children in response to the requirements of the Children and Social Work Act 2018. The aim is to strengthen and develop partnerships and bring together a whole family approach.

I wish to thank colleagues from all those organisations who work hard every day to protect the most vulnerable people in our communities. By working together, sharing information and practice, providing early help and protection and strengthening the safeguarding network, we aim to make Darlington a safer place for everyone.



Ann Baxter
Independent Chair (August 2019)

Introduction

Darlington Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board (DSAPB) has continued to seek assurance that local safeguarding arrangements are in place across the Darlington locality and that organisations act appropriately to help and protect adults with care and support needs from abuse and neglect.

Our Mission

'DSAPB aims through inter-agency collaboration and co-ordination to protect and promote the welfare of adults with care and support needs who are at risk of abuse, injury or harm.'

The DSAPB has a strategic role and coordinates what is done by each agency represented on the Board. It ensures the effectiveness of safeguarding adults with care and support needs who are at risk of abuse and neglect in Darlington.

Our Vision

'Is to ensure that Darlington is an increasingly safer place for adults at risk of abuse and neglect.'

The DSAPB has adopted the six key principles that support good inter agency Adult Safeguarding, as outlined in the Care Act 2014 as the strategic aims:



A three year strategic plan has been developed which describes each year how it will deliver against these priorities. The plan is reviewed annually, taking into account the progress to date and learning and information received from audits, quality assurance activity, data and case reviews.

Throughout 2018/19 the Board's work focussed on:

- further development of the multi-agency data set and exception reporting which enables Board to have a true understanding of how the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements are working for adults at risk
- reviewing and updating multi agency safeguarding policies and practice guidance to reflect changes in legislation and practice guidance, learning from local and national Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) and Learning Lessons Reviews (LLRS)
- embedding the learning from LLR Adult 2 and SAR Gladys
- revision of the SAR protocol
- capturing learning from local, regional and national case reviews
- developing an audit framework and conducting single and multi-agency audits
- maintaining effective links with other key strategic partnerships for example, the Darlington Safeguarding Children Board, Health and Wellbeing Board and the Community Safety Partnership
- establishing transition arrangements from child to adult services
- the delivery of a high quality inter-agency training programme which supports professionals, volunteers and the independent sector in their work to safeguard and promote the welfare of adults with care and support needs and promotes a 'learning culture'
- preparing for the implementation of the new safeguarding arrangements in July 2019



About Darlington



Darlington is a Unitary Authority which covers an area of approximately

200km



The Office of National Statistics mid-year 2017 population estimates the population

of Darlington to be **106,327...**

...of which the 2011 Census reports

96.2% as white and

3.8% from Black and Minority Ethnic Groups (BME), which is defined as anyone who is not white British.



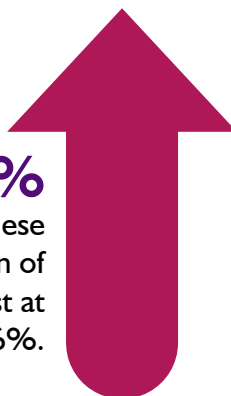
The total population is predicted to **rise** to

106,600 in 2024

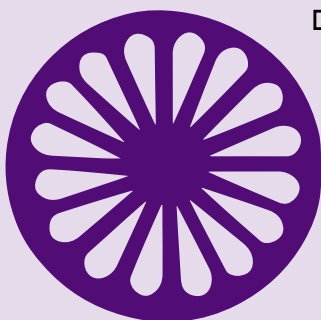
By 2035 the number of people aged over 85 years old in Darlington is estimated to more than double to a total of

5,200 individuals.

This is an **increase** from **2.1%** in the 2001 Census, however these populations remain a lower proportion of the population than the North East at 4.7% and England at 14.6%.



This increase in the number of older people, combined with a trend of decreasing healthy life expectancy for Darlington, is likely to result in an increasing demand on health and social care over the next decades and present new challenges to providing local Health and Social Care service in the borough.

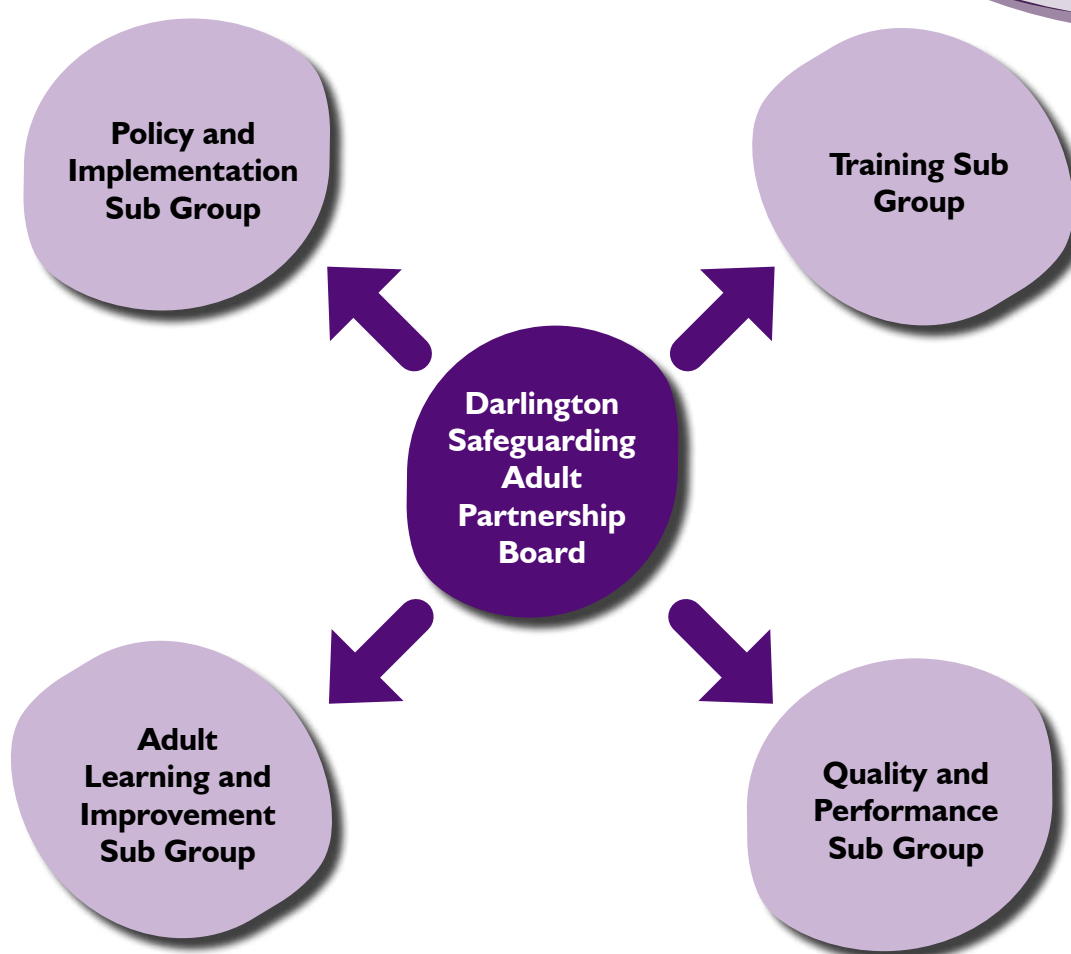


Darlington also has the largest Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) community in the area, as reported in the 2011 Census. This minority group is three times higher than the national average but equates to 0.3% of the population. The Census return shows 350 individuals declaring as Gypsy or Irish Traveller locally. A health needs assessment undertaken in 2010 has estimated the GRT population size to be much higher, based on an audit undertaken for both Durham and Darlington by Durham County Council's Housing Strategy Service, whereby the estimated population is in the range of 1540 to 2060 for Darlington.

Membership and Structure of the Board

The Darlington Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board Terms of Reference sets out the governance arrangements and standards for the Board members. The Board is a two-tier structure (diagram 1) and is supported by the joint Safeguarding Boards' Business Unit.

Diagram 1



The Board is made up of strategic leads (as identified in **Appendix I**) from across the key strategic partners that work with adults at risk and their families in Darlington and have a role in Safeguarding. Board members are of sufficient authority to hold their organisation to account. The Board meets six times a year.

The DSAPB is independently chaired by Ann Baxter who has been Chair since September 2016. The Vice Chair is Karen Agar of Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust.

There are two Lay Members appointed to the Board who represent the community. The role of the Lay Member is to help to develop the links between the Board and the community, support stronger public engagement in local adult safeguarding issues and improve public understanding of adult safeguarding. They also play a part in the oversight and scrutiny of decisions and policies made by the Board to help shape safeguarding policy and practice.

For an outline of the organisations represented at Board see Appendix 1

There are four-sub groups which report to the Board and their purpose is to deliver on the key responsibilities and priority areas which have been agreed by the Board. In addition, the sub-groups may initiate time-limited task and finish groups to focus on specific pieces of work, which is required to enable the Board to successfully meet its strategic objectives.

The sub-groups which report to DSAPB are as follows:

- Policy and Implementation sub-group: with a focus on developing and publicising multi-agency safeguarding policies and procedures across the partner agencies working in Darlington.
- Adult Learning and Improvement sub-group: with a focus to consider any cases referred for a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) and to manage the process where a SAR or alternative review is required. To also consider local and national learning to improve practice.
- Quality and Performance sub-group: with a focus to develop and monitor the multi-agency safeguarding data and to highlight issues to Board. To undertake multi-agency quality assurance activity to enable Board to seek assurances of safeguarding practice in Darlington.
- Training sub-group (joint group with Darlington Safeguarding Children's Board): with a focus to develop a joint Training Strategy to ensure training is updated in a timely manner with local and national learning.

For an outline of the achievements of the four sub-groups in 2018/19 see **Appendix 2**.

Revenue

The Care Act (2014), Care and Support Statutory Guidance states:

'Members of the DSAPB are expected to consider what assistance they can provide in supporting the Board in its work. This might be through payment to the Local Authority or to a joint fund established by the Local Authority to provide, for example, secretariat functions for the Board. Members might also support the work of the DSAPB by providing administrative help, premises for meetings or holding training sessions. It is in all core partners' interests to have an effective SAB that is resourced adequately to carry out its functions.'

The contributions are to ensure the DSAPB can deliver the duties and functions under Schedule 2 of the Care Act 2014 and make a positive impact on safeguarding practice in Darlington.

It is a challenge each financial year for the DSAPB to ensure there are sufficient resources to meet its statutory responsibilities. This is proving more challenging as agencies undertake savings programmes to meet reductions in budgets from central government. The Board is aware that increasing demands and high expectations will continue to be challenging and this remains an important area for Board members to monitor closely and to consider how to work differently to ensure high standards of safeguarding are delivered across Darlington.

For details of the revenue and partner contributions see **Appendix 3**.



How effective has the DSAPB been in the past year and how do we know this?

The DSAPB has adopted the six key principles as outlined in the Care Act 2014 as the strategic aims and in 2018-19 the DSAPB made the following progress against the six key principles:

Outcome 1 – Empowerment

People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and give informed consent.

The Board agreed it would:

Ensure adults at risk are being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions through access to advocacy where relevant and information being provided in such a way it helps inform their decisions and their consent.

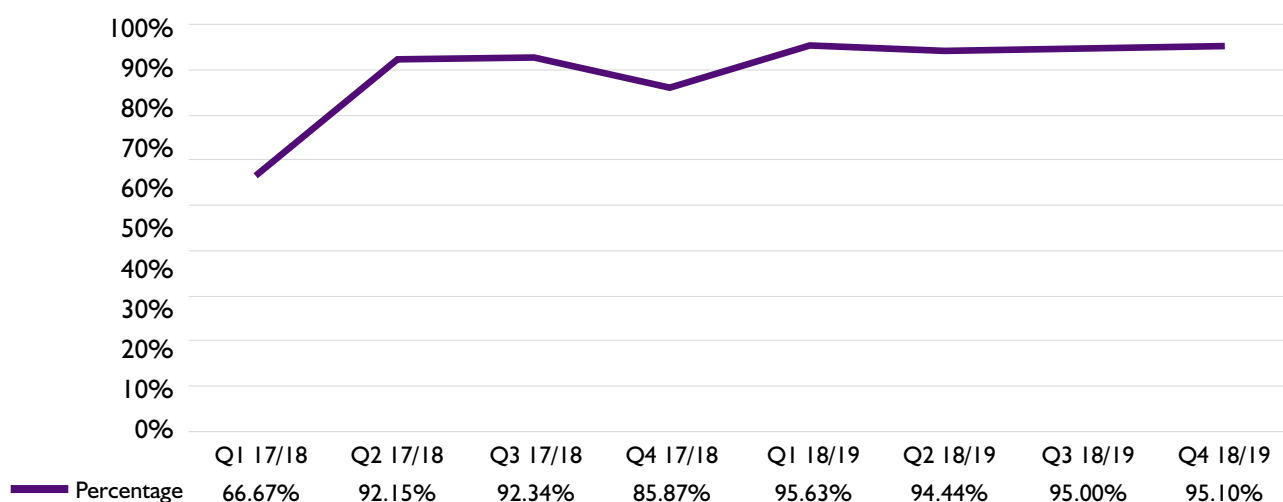
Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP)

Effective safeguarding should always place the adult at the heart of what we do. Developing a safeguarding culture that ensures adults are empowered and supported to make their own decisions is essential. During 2018/19 the Board has continued to seek feedback from adults at risk who have been involved in the safeguarding process to be assured that practice reflects the principles of Making Safeguarding Personal. The principles are now well embedded in concern forms and multi-agency training.

In Darlington 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. This is achieved by asking seven questions about their experience of the safeguarding process, allowing their views to be assessed at all stages of the enquiry, making the process easier to evaluate and allowing for more accurate feedback to be obtained, thereby enabling more focussed improvements on the outcomes for the service user. This information is captured quarterly and shared with the Quality and Performance sub-group within the multi-agency data set. The detail is analysed to provide assurance to Board that people are supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and give informed consent to the safeguarding process.

The graph below demonstrates the significant progress which has been made over the past two years in ensuring that the adult at the centre of the enquiry (or their representative or advocate) is fully involved in the discussions about the safeguarding concern with a sustained improvement throughout 2018/19 when 95% of cases consistently involved the individual (or their representative or advocate) in the safeguarding enquiry.

Has the person/carer/family member or advocate been fully involved in discussions for the reported concern





It should be acknowledged that it is unrealistic to achieve a 100% target for 'views obtained' as there may be legitimate reasons for views not being sought due to specific circumstances, for example from the police or ambulance service, where it is often not possible to have the discussion with the adults at risk at the point of contact.

The seven 'outcome questions' have been refined and continue to be asked by the Safeguarding Manager or the Social Worker from the team which is managing the safeguarding enquiry:

- **Did you feel listened to?**
- **Were you kept informed throughout the process?**
- **Were you able to understand the information given?**
- **Were you satisfied with the end result?**
- **Were you satisfied with how people dealt with the concern throughout?**
- **Do you feel safer now?**
- **Did you achieve what you said you wanted to at the beginning?**

The seven outcome questions and the responses from service users are monitored by the Quality and Performance sub-group on a quarterly basis.

Here are some examples of the responses to the seven outcome questions:

"I didn't really understand what safeguarding was about and was a bit worried about what would happen. I am really glad I agreed to proceed with this as my life is much better now"

"I felt the social worker listened to me and provided me with information to help me make my own decisions"

Case Study 1 – Empowerment

A service user was referred to the Safeguarding Team by a GP following a disclosure of domestic abuse. When the social worker visited it was clear that the service user did not have any knowledge regarding domestic abuse or negative relationships. Work was done to explore these issues and the service user soon learned about consent and the difference between positive and negative relationships. The service user agreed to a referral to Harbour to provide further education and emotional support. The service user had previously been alcohol dependent and had started drinking again when the partner provided alcohol. The service user noticed the impact that this was having on mood and motivation and was keen to minimise alcohol intake. The service user had previously worked with alcohol support services and did not wish to return to this and along with the support services for other areas (domestic abuse, benefits, housing support, advocacy, social work and safeguarding), the service user was able to minimise alcohol intake, again quite significantly.

The service user was also able to reduce contact with the partner and felt empowered to say that whilst happy to remain friends, there would be no more physical contact. As a result of these changes, the service user's anxiety reduced and the service user was able to resume previous activities such as going out walking, as the provision of a personal alarm had made the service user feel safer.

The case was closed to safeguarding as the service user felt much better about the situation, had been empowered through the provision of the correct support and advice, enabling the service user to self-protect and call for support if required.

The Quality and Performance sub-group will continue to monitor this outcome and the responses of service users and will escalate any concerns to the Board for discussion.



Outcome 2 - Prevention

It is better to take action before harm occurs.

The Board agreed it would:

Ensure there is a coordinated approach to understand why and how abuse and neglect has occurred, the information will be used to prevent future incidents of abuse or neglect. Ensure adults at risk are provided with sufficient information through direct work and general awareness raising that enables them to understand risks, to help themselves and where appropriate, to keep themselves safe.

This principle focusses on the type of abuse and location.

Safeguarding Activity

During 2018-19 there were 946 reported concerns to Adult Social Care for abuse and neglect, with 228 of these progressing to Section 42 safeguarding enquiries (24.10%).

The graph below demonstrates that throughout 2018/19 neglect or act of omission, physical, emotional/psychological and financial abuse were the most common categories of alleged abuse for cases that progressed to a strategy meeting. These categories remain consistent throughout the year and reflect national trends.

Enquiries/Investigations by category of alleged abuse



Location

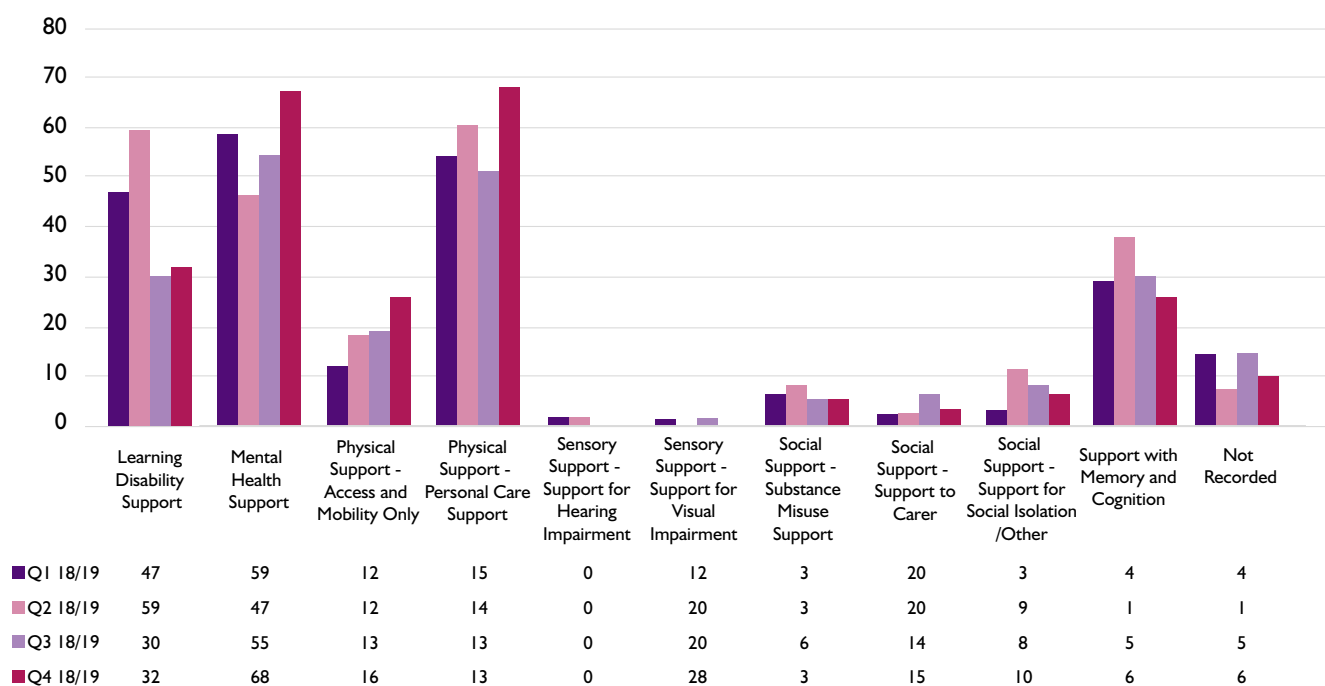
During 2018/19 the majority of allegations of abuse which progressed to a strategy meeting occurred in the adult's own home (48%), followed by residential care homes (24%). Further analysis of the data shows that over half of the safeguarding concerns which occurred in the adult's 'own home' involved self-neglect, self-harm and financial abuse by a family member and the increase in referrals relating to 'own home' as a location is a consequence of increasing awareness of safeguarding and how to report concerns.

Concerns by primary support reasons

The graph below demonstrates that in 2018/19 the main primary support reason for concerns is mental health support, followed by physical support/personal care support and learning disability support. This reflects the trends of the previous year and it also reflects regional and national trends.



Concerns by primary support reasons



Learning Lessons from Local and National Reviews

Reviewing and learning from serious safeguarding incidents is a crucial aspect of good safeguarding practice. The DSAPB has not conducted a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) or Learning Lessons Review (LLR) in 2018/19 as there were no reported incidents which reached the threshold for a review. However, the Adult Learning and Improvement sub-group (ALIG) has been proactive in identifying lessons learned from national reviews and ensuring that the learning is embedded in practice guidance and multi-agency and single agency training.

The SAR protocol has been reviewed and updated in 2018/19 and now incorporates timescales and good practice identified through the implementation of the Children and Social Work Act 2017. The protocol considers the interface between other reviews and parallel processes, which may run concurrently with a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) (such as a Coroner's Inquiry or Domestic Homicide Review) and how the processes can work more efficiently.

It remains a challenge in 2019/20 to establish a method to evidence the embedding of 'lessons learned' from case reviews and analyse the resulting impact on practice.



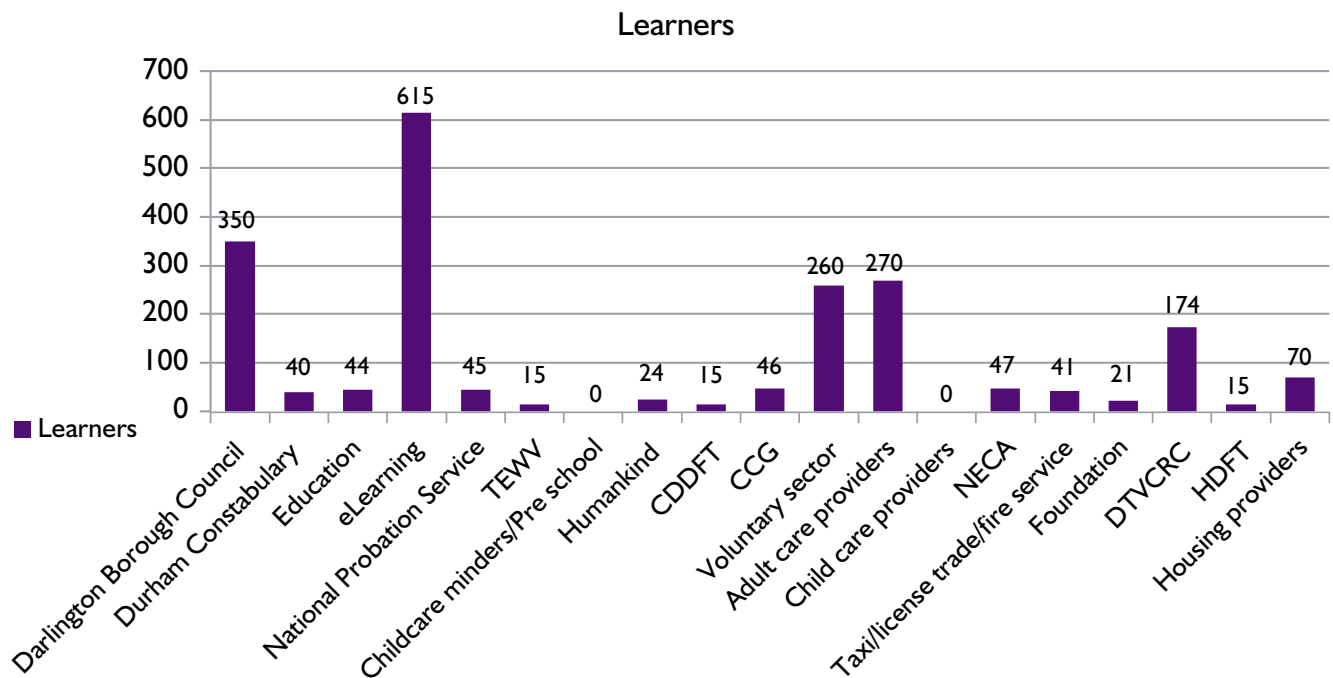
Training

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of adults at risk of abuse is one of the key priorities of the Board and remains the focus of any DSAPB learning and development activity across the partnership whether statutory, voluntary or independent sector.

The Board is committed to delivering a high quality inter-agency training programme. This programme aims to support professionals, volunteers and the independent sector in their work to safeguard and promote the welfare of adults with care and support needs and promotes a 'learning culture', which is outlined in the Safeguarding Boards' joint Training Strategy and is informed through the training needs analysis and feedback from training delivered. The Boards currently fund a multi-agency Trainer who delivers safeguarding training. Total attendance for 2018-2019 was 3,210. This is an increase of 3.9% on the previous year (3,101).

In addition to face to face training, a number of e-learning packages or workbooks were completed during the year. A total of 235 learners completed the Level 1 safeguarding adult workbook and 380 learners accessed the PREVENT online course. A number of other additional free e-learning courses are available on the Safeguarding Boards website which include Forced Marriage, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Mental Capacity Act (MCA) for 16 and 17 year old service users.

The chart below outlines the attendance for adult only training accessed by partner agencies during the period April 2018 to March 2019.



Further information and a breakdown of the training figures can be found in the Training Strategy 2017-20 and the Training Annual Report 2018/19, both of which are available on the Safeguarding Boards' website.

Communication and Engagement

A challenge in 2018/19 for the DSAPB was to further develop the communication and engagement strategy, to strengthen links with the other sub-groups to ensure that policy changes, learning and national good practice are shared throughout the partnership and to establish links with media teams throughout the partnership, to raise awareness of safeguarding in Darlington.

During this reporting period the Training, Communication and Voice of the User sub-group reviewed its Terms of Reference and became a bespoke Training sub-group. It was agreed by Board that the communications element would sit within each individual sub-group and communications, engagement and 'Voice of the User' is now a standing agenda item at each meeting.

We have also improved communication between the four sub-groups.

Safeguarding Poster - The Board has designed a poster to communicate throughout the partnership and the wider community the referral route for safeguarding concerns, providing information and highlighting telephone numbers. This complements the safeguarding leaflet which was published last year and provides information to service users and the wider public.

DSAPB Newsletters

In 2018/19 the DSAPB continued to publish a bi-monthly messages bulletin, which highlights key messages and communicates the work carried out by the Board. This has improved communication with practitioners throughout the partnership and highlights the purpose of the Board and the work that is carried out by the partnership. The bulletin is available on the Safeguarding Board's website where it is accessible to the wider community as well as partner agencies and practitioners. The bulletin is also circulated electronically throughout the partnership and is shared with the Safeguarding Adults Managers at monthly meetings.

Policy Development

Managing Allegations Policy and Practice Guidance - The Care Act 2014 required the DSAPB to establish a framework for dealing with allegations against people who work with adults who have care and support needs, alongside a process for the notification of such allegations or concerns. Effective management of allegations together with effective safer recruitment policies ensures that unsuitable people do not obtain employment where they may pose a risk to vulnerable people. The policy document, which was updated in 2018/19 to reflect the implementation of the Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), is available on the Safeguarding Boards' website and there is a web page dedicated to the issue of managing allegations and the referral pathways.

Details of these allegations are recorded and dealt with by the Safeguarding Adults Managers and will be monitored by the Local Authority. Details will be provided to the Quality and Performance sub-group to provide assurance to Board that this policy has been embedded across the partnership and where any concerns are highlighted, appropriate action is taken to ensure unsuitable people do not obtain employment where they may pose a risk.

Outcome 3 - Proportionality

The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.

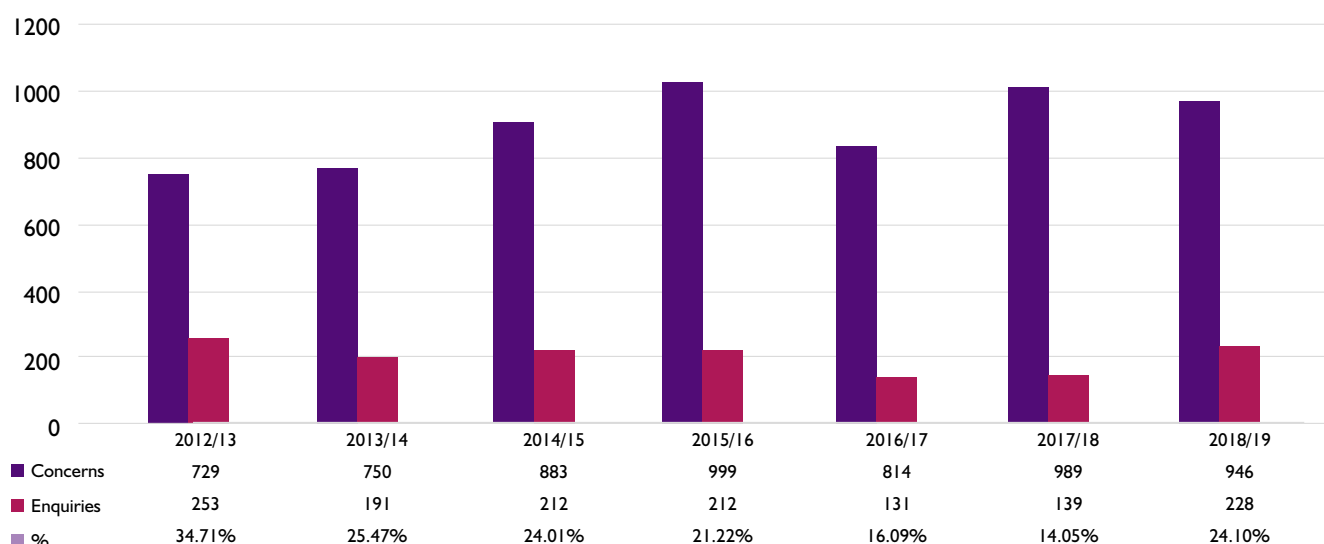
The Board agreed it would:

Ensure through coordinated and joined up multi-agency practice, audits and lesson learnt reviews that safeguarding processes are proportionate with the best possible outcome for the adult at risk, including identifying the learning that will inform safeguarding practice across the adult workforces.

The Board seeks assurance from partner organisations that safeguarding responses are proportionate to the risk of significant harm. Data indicates there has been a slight reduction in relation to the number of reported concerns, but the number of cases which progressed to a safeguarding enquiry (the conversion rate) has increased by 24%.

The graph below shows the number of concerns reported in 2018/19 which has decreased by 4% in comparison with the previous year.

Comparison of concern and enquiries year on year



In contrast, the percentage of cases which have progressed to a strategy meeting (conversion rate) has increased by 10% in comparison to the previous year. Analysis of the trend suggests that the increase in cases progressing to an enquiry is a result of the work that has been undertaken, to ensure that cases are progressed to strategy in a timely manner rather than the initial inquiry being kept open longer than is reasonable, as was the case in the previous year following the implementation of the Liquid Logic casework system.

Outcome 4 - Protection

Support and representation for those in greatest need.

The Board agreed it would:

Continue to ensure there is good multi-agency coordination of support and representation for adults at risk throughout the safeguarding process which appreciates and recognises their individual needs.

The Board will continue to monitor local safeguarding arrangements for reporting abuse and neglect through the performance data. The data for the period 2018-19 has remained relatively constant and reflects regional and national trends. It seems there are more robust processes in place within organisations as staff are now seeking advice from safeguarding leads before referring directly to adult safeguarding.

Multi-Agency Data Set

The Board continues to monitor local safeguarding arrangements for reporting abuse and neglect through the performance data. One of the challenges highlighted for the DSAPB during 2017/18 was to identify the data criteria which will inform Board and identify aspects of single and multi-agency safeguarding practice which need to improve and inform the strategic priorities.

In 2018/19 the Quality and Performance sub-group made significant progress in refining the multi-agency data set, developing a performance scorecard and an exception report which provides an overview of 14 primary indicators and agreed tolerance levels for the remaining 14 indicators. This has provided a safeguarding profile of Darlington, in order to establish how effectively organisations are working in partnership and fulfilling statutory duties in accordance with the Care Act 2014. This work has exemplified the excellent partnership engagement in Darlington, which has been widely acknowledged to be very effective.

The sub-group has recently collaborated with the Regional Safeguarding Adults Network in the development of a draft regional performance data set. Further development of the regional data set will continue into 2019/20.

Audits

In 2018/19 the Quality and Performance sub-group developed a multi-agency audit programme.

In April 2018 the sub-group conducted a multi-agency audit in respect of self-neglect. This is a relatively new category of abuse, which has featured in a number of national Safeguarding Adult Reviews and one local review, highlighting the fact that self-neglect is a complex area for intervention. The audit highlighted some evidence of effective collaborative multi-agency working and some gaps in the recording of information in some cases, especially in respect of Mental Capacity Act assessments.

Board recommended that the Training sub-group review the content of single and multi-agency training in respect of self-neglect and that all organisations should review supervisory oversight of recording and case management.

The Quality and Performance sub-group has devised a template to capture single agency audits to allow the Board to understand audit activity throughout the partnership. The learning from the audits will be included in a thematic report which will be presented to Board in 2019/20.

In 2019/20 the sub-group will conduct a multi-agency audit into cases of Hoarding.

Case Study 2: Self-Neglect

Adult Social Care received concerns about an adult at risk of self-neglect. The service user was a home owner and was isolated, spending most of the time indoors. The property was unkempt and there were concerns about nutritional and personal care needs. The service user complained of constant pain and alleging that the GP was not providing adequate medication.

The Safeguarding Team was involved to address the risks of self-neglect, self-medication, deteriorating mental health, poor nutrition, social isolation and poor home environment. The service user was already working with the 700 Club and had previously paid privately for a large house clean however, the property had deteriorated after this had been completed. The service user was previously alcohol dependent, however now appears to have stopped drinking and abstained for some time.

Research suggests that when working with people where self-neglect is a concern, it is vital that time is taken to build a positive relationship with them in order to build trust and understand the complexities of their behaviours and mental health. The Safeguarding Team was able to engage the service user in mental health support from the local hospital and medication which was prescribed helped relaxation and improved sleep and the service user felt more positive. This took some time to implement and a safeguarding social worker and a mental health social worker were required to accompany the service user to appointments to encourage engagement.

Practice guidance stresses the importance of information sharing and multi-agency meetings in addressing self-neglect. Strategy meetings were imperative for effective information sharing with different professionals, as the service user provided conflicting information. An emergency care plan was drafted and shared with emergency services as there were also concerns that the service user was accessing these services inappropriately.

Whilst work is still on-going with the service user via Mental Health Services, it was agreed that the safeguarding referral could be closed as the service user was engaging in support and eager to get the help needed to reduce the risk. The safeguarding was successful in building a therapeutic relationship and trust in order to encourage the adult to engage with the appropriate services. The service user will likely require long-term intervention because of the complexities of the situation, however, there has certainly been significant progress as a result of the safeguarding intervention.



Operation HELIUM

In 2018/19 Durham Constabulary initiated Operation Helium in response to concerns about County Lines and criminal exploitation in Darlington. County Lines refers to urban based criminal gangs supplying illicit drugs to smaller towns or rural areas, usually involving the exploitation of children and vulnerable adults. In this case, two males from Birmingham were identified as bringing small amounts of drugs into Darlington on a regular basis. Working with British Transport Police and other local safeguarding partners, it was established that they were using the home address of a local drug user and widely advertising the sale of drugs using text messages. In March 2019 a police operation was launched, culminating in the arrest of the two males and over 20 more drug users and suppliers in the local area. A closure notice order was used in relation to premises from which they were dealing drugs and a telephone communication order was granted by a Judge to terminate the telephone lines used.

Multi-Agency Practice Guidance - Modern Slavery

In November 2018 the Policy and Implementation sub-group ratified the multi-agency procedure and practice guidance in respect of Modern Slavery. This guidance outlines the procedures for supporting adults with care and support needs who are vulnerable to exploitation as a result of Modern Slavery. Effective multi-agency partnership working and collaboration can help inform the bigger picture and facilitate earlier and more effective interventions and recognition of the signs that someone may be at risk. In collaboration with Durham Adult Safeguarding Partnership, the sub-group developed a 'quick guide' leaflet for practitioners and the wider public. The guidance and the leaflet are available on the professional's page of the Darlington Safeguarding Partnership website at:

www.darlingtonsafeguardingpartnership.co.uk

Sexual Exploitation Referral Pathways

The Policy and Implementation sub-group (jointly with Durham Safeguarding Adult Partnership Board) produced a leaflet outlining the referral pathways for adults who are at risk of Sexual Exploitation.

The leaflet is available on the Professional's page of the Darlington Safeguarding Partnership website at: **www.darlingtonsafeguardingpartnership.co.uk**

Multi-Agency Guidance – Domestic Abuse

In November 2018 the Policy and Implementation sub-group ratified the Domestic Abuse Practice Guidance document. Domestic abuse, as an issue for people with needs for care and support, is under recognised and under reported. The practice guidance advises practitioners of the additional barriers which make it harder for vulnerable adults to seek support and covers Child/Adolescent to Parent Violence and includes referral pathways.

The guidance and leaflet are available on the Professional's page of the Darlington Safeguarding Partnership website at: **www.darlingtonsafeguardingpartnership.co.uk**

Skin Damage Protocol

In 2018 the Policy and Implementation sub-group (jointly with Durham Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board/ County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust and the Clinical Commissioning Group) developed a skin damage protocol providing guidance to Health and Social Care practitioners.

The guidance and leaflet are available on the Professional's page of the Darlington Safeguarding Partnership website at: **www.darlingtonsafeguardingpartnership.co.uk**

Executive Strategy Meetings

The Executive Strategy Meeting Guidance clarifies the roles and responsibilities of agencies involved in the investigation of suspected organised or institutional abuse or neglect, ensuring effective communication and collaboration between partner agencies at a strategic level.

In 2018/2019 there were no Executive Strategy meetings in respect of organisations contracted by Darlington Borough Council.



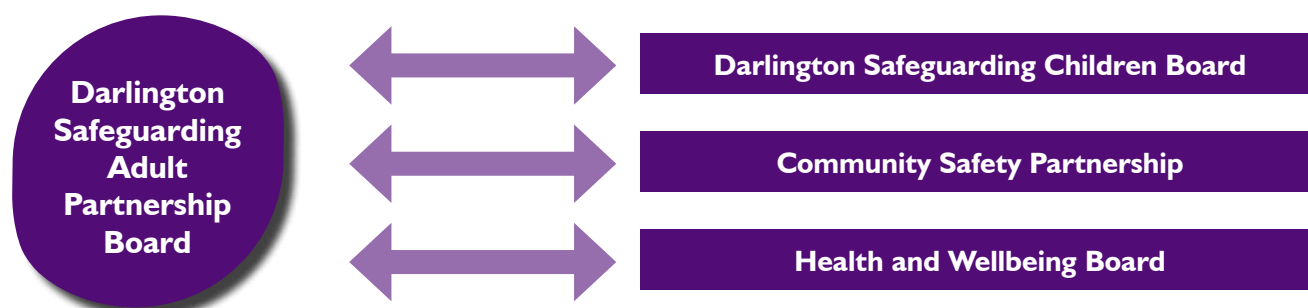
Outcome 5 - Partnership

Local solutions through services working with their communities to prevent and report neglect and abuse.

The Board agreed it would:

Ensure multi-agency safeguarding policies and procedures are embedded and there are clear information sharing arrangements in place to inform the overall safeguarding strategy through sharing of data, soft intelligence and learning through safeguarding enquiries and other audits and reviews.

Strategic Partnerships



The DSAPB works in partnership with three key strategic partnership boards to ensure strong joint working arrangements across agencies which coordinate the vision, aims and priorities for Darlington and its population.

The Darlington Protocol outlines the relationship between the DSAPB and other strategic partnerships. It is recognised that each Board has its own governance and priorities and the protocol promotes effective ways of working to deliver the strategic outcomes, reflecting that **‘safeguarding is everyone’s business’**.

Safeguarding is a responsibility that runs through all Boards, but it is the responsibility of the two Safeguarding Boards to call the other partnerships to account. There are a number of areas of common interest where the named Strategic Boards need to ensure that leadership and accountability for these issues is clear and that information is effectively shared. The DSAPB works with these strategic partnerships to develop strong joint working arrangements to coordinate the vision, aims and priorities for Darlington.

Membership of the Board coincides with the Darlington Partnership and the Local Family Justice Board, which greatly assists the awareness and coordination of safeguarding.

In 2018/19 the local partnership focussed on Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence, with the aim of reducing the prevalence of domestic abuse and identifying a co-ordinated community response on prevention, support and protection services, as well as establishing how perpetrators are dealt with.

In June 2018, the Chairs of the Health and Wellbeing Board, Community Safety Partnership, Darlington Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board and Darlington Safeguarding Children Board held a shared planning session in recognition that domestic abuse and sexual violence are areas of common concern across all partners.

An outcome from the discussion was the addition of a fourth objective for the Domestic Abuse Plan with a focus on education, training and awareness raising. The Plan is structured around four key objectives:

- prevention through early identification and intervention
- education training and awareness raising
- more ‘invisible’ victims are identified and offered support
- reduce repeat victims and serial perpetrators of domestic abuse

A second key outcome of the planning session was the recognition that Darlington should have a separate plan to address sexual violence. The emphasis of work via the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Abuse Network (DASAN) and the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Group (DASVEG) has been on domestic abuse and while efforts must be maintained to prevent and tackle domestic abuse, it is recognised that the damage at an individual and community level of sexual violence may not be part of a domestic abuse incident or history.

The Community Safety Partnership will take the lead in developing a local plan to tackle sexual violence which will sit alongside but separate to the Domestic Abuse Plan. Both plans will be aligned to the Police Crime and Victims Commissioner (PCVC) priorities support to victims. The Responsible Authorities all have a role in developing and delivering local plans to tackle domestic abuse and sexual violence alongside partners from other sectors.

In March 2019 the DASVEG hosted a stakeholder event, which brought together a wide range of representatives across County Durham and Darlington to review the purpose and work of DASVEG, particularly considering the draft Domestic Abuse Bill. The next steps from the workshop is to analyse the feedback, take a proposal to DASVEG on Key Performance Questions (KQs) and set a work stream reporting schedule in Summer 2019.

The Independent Chair of both Safeguarding Boards will present their annual reports to the Health and Wellbeing Board and will ensure there are relationships with the Community Safety Partnership. Where possible, the Boards work together on specific projects for example training, media and communication messages, policies, conduct of reviews and sharing learning from the outcomes to inform practice.

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Policy and Procedures

In 2018/19 the Policy and Implementation sub-group reviewed and comprehensively revised the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, which are available on the Darlington Safeguarding Partnership website. The policy has been updated to reflect recent changes in legislation including the Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR, practice guidance and learning from local and national case reviews. The procedures are designed to assist members of the public to recognise and report abuse and neglect and guide professionals who work with adults who have care and support needs. The procedures are available on the Professional's page of the Darlington Safeguarding Partnership website at: www.darlingtonsafeguardingpartnership.co.uk

Practitioner Forums

The DSAPB has continued to hold Practitioner Forums throughout 2018/19. The purpose of the Chair's forum is to allow practitioners to share with the Independent Chair their views and experience of safeguarding practice in Darlington, what is working well and what needs to change. This enables the Board to have a better understanding of the challenges facing frontline practice and help practitioners understand and inform the work of the Board. The forums have identified that practitioners believe that overall, there are effective working relationships between partner agencies in Darlington.



Outcome 6 - Accountability

Accountability and transparency in safeguarding practice.

The Board agreed it would:

Review the Terms of Reference which sets out how agencies will work together to cooperate to deliver on its statutory responsibilities. It will ensure it published Safeguarding Adult Reviews which meet the criteria as outlined in the Care Act and to provide a bi-monthly message bulletin to communicate the work of the Board publicly to ensure it is being accountable and transparent in delivering safeguarding.

Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference (ToR) outline the governance arrangements for the Board and are available on the Safeguarding Boards' website. The Independent Chair of the DSAPB or appropriate representative attends Council Scrutiny Committees as required to discuss the work of the Board and adult safeguarding issues. As a minimum the DSAPB Annual Report is presented to the Adults Housing Scrutiny Committee. In addition, the Chief Executive and Chief Officers across the partnership receive regular updates of the DSAPB strategic plan and any challenges. The DSAPB Annual Report is also shared with the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB).

Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs)

The Board has a duty to conduct Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs), which are reviews that examine the way agencies and individuals that have been involved with an adult at risk have acted in cases where an adult with care and support needs has suffered significant harm, as a result of abuse or neglect. The purpose of a SAR is to identify learning that will bring about improvements so that the likelihood of future harm to adults at risk is minimised. The Board may also arrange a review of any other case involving an adult in its area with needs for care and support, with a view to identify lessons to be learned from the adult's case and to apply the learning to future cases. In addition, cases where there is good practice can also be considered to identify learning that can be applied to future cases.

In 2018/19 DSAPB examined one case where an adult with needs for care and support died as a result of choking on food in a residential care home in February 2018. It was agreed that the case did not reach the threshold for a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) or a Learning Lessons Review (LLR). A number of single agency actions for the residential home setting were identified and have been implemented.

The Adult Learning and Improvement sub-group (ALIG) considered the review of the Domestic Homicide Review 'Sarah' (a national review) and the 7 minute briefing which was produced by NHS England.



Conclusion

In July 2019 the new safeguarding arrangements will be implemented in Darlington, introducing the new Darlington Safeguarding Partnership (Protecting Children and Adults). The new joint partnership arrangements will ensure that Darlington is a place where children and adults live safely and will seek assurance that services are coordinated and effective.

Under the new arrangements the Statutory Safeguarding Partners have decided to amalgamate Child and Adult Safeguarding arrangements in Darlington. It has been possible to do this as the Care Act 2014 allows local areas to be flexible in their adult safeguarding arrangements. An integrated approach will allow the best use of resources and will enable the partnership to deliver consistent standards.

The vision of Darlington Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board has been to ensure that Darlington is an increasingly safer place for adults at risk of abuse and neglect and much has been achieved during the past three years. The Board will ensure that this vision, along with established good practice, is carried forward into the new arrangements, which will strengthen existing partnership working and further develop effective strategies to provide integrated and coordinated services to children, young people, families and adults with needs for care and support in Darlington.



SEE IT, HEAR IT, REPORT IT!

If you are being abused or if you think someone you know is being abused:

- In an emergency contact Durham Constabulary on 999
- If a crime has been committed contact Durham Constabulary on 101
- You can report the abuse of an adult with care and support needs to Adult Social Care using the First Point of Contact on 01325 406111
- If you need urgent help outside office hours or at the weekend or on Bank Holidays contact the Emergency Duty Team on 01642 524552

Appendix 1

Organisations represented on the Board.

The attendance of each Board member (2018/19) at the bi-monthly meetings is indicated in brackets within the table (includes where deputy attended).

Current Membership	Representative
Darlington Borough Council	Director of Children and Adult Services (6) Assistant Director Adult Social Care (6) Assistant Director Commissioning, Performance and Transformation (5) Director of Public Health (6) Lead Member for Adult Safeguarding (3) Assistant Director Housing and Building Services (5) Principal Lawyer (2) Head of Service Adult Social Care (3)
Durham Constabulary	Detective Chief Inspector (6)
Durham and Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)	Director of Nursing and Quality (4) Designated Nurse Safeguarding Adults (3) Safeguarding Adult Lead (as Chair of ALIG) (2)
County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (CDDFT)	Associate Director of Nursing for Patient Experience and Safeguarding (3) Safeguarding Lead Nurse (4)
Community Rehabilitation Company	Deputy Director of Operations (3)
County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (CDDFRS)	Group Manager (4)
National Probation Service	Head of County Durham National Probation Service (3)
Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV)	Associate Director of Nursing (6)
Healthwatch	Development Manager (3)
Care Quality Commission (CQC)	Inspection Manager (5)
North East Ambulance Service (NEAS)	Memorandum of Understanding
NHS England	Memorandum of Understanding

Appendix 2

The following table outlines the achievements of the four sub-groups in 2018/19:

Policy and Implementation sub-group
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review and comprehensive revision of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practice Guidance and other practice guidance documents with updates in respect of new legislation including the Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 and learning from local and national SARS and LLRs• The development of Multi-Agency Modern Slavery practice guidance and a brief guide to Modern Slavery (jointly with Durham)• Development of Sexual Exploitation Referral pathway guidance (jointly with Durham)• Development of Domestic Violence practice guidance including CAPVA and referral pathways• Revision of the Skin Damage Protocol (jointly with Durham)• Safeguarding Adults Poster developed• Transition arrangements from Children's to Adult Services established.
Adult Learning and Improvement sub-group
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Action plans for SAR Gladys and LLR Adult 2 were completed and signed off• The development of briefing documents and briefing sessions in respect of the completed SAR and LLR• Revision of the SAR protocol following the completion of the local SAR and LLR• Escalation procedures agreed and included in the revised SAR protocol• Continued liaison with the multi-agency training group to ensure that lessons learned from SARs/LLRs is incorporated in multi-agency and single agency training• Continued liaison with the Policy and Implementation sub-group to ensure that learning from SARs and LLRs is incorporated in multi-agency policy and practice guidance• Development of a template for collating themes and lessons learned from national and regional SARs and LLRs• Discussions regarding collaborative commissioning exercise for the purchase of SARS/LLRs• Consideration in August 2018 of one SAR referral which was found not to meet the criteria• Review of Domestic Homicide Review 'Sarah' and a 7-minute briefing document produced by NHSE• Development of a research digest outlining the common themes from SARS which are relevant to Darlington
Quality and Performance sub-group
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development of a revised multi-agency data set and performance scorecard• Development of an exception report for Board providing an overview of 14 primary indicators and agreed tolerance levels for the remaining 7 indicators• Performance data identified from other sources to consider within the reporting framework including domestic abuse data from DASVEG and CQC data• Multi-agency self-neglect audit undertaken• Revised audit programme developed• Capturing the outcomes of single agency safeguarding audits• Development of a draft regional data set through collaboration with the Regional Safeguarding Adults Network

Training and Communication and Voice of the User sub-group (joint with DSCB)

- During this reporting period the sub-group reviewed its Terms of Reference and became a bespoke training sub-group. It was agreed that the communications element would sit within each individual sub-group
- Approval by both Boards following an option paper on training delivery models to continue to provide face to face safeguarding training
- The provision of E Learning modules to complement the multi-agency face to face training programme, such as PREVENT training which is available on the website
- Annual Training Needs Analysis 2018/19 undertaken
- Training Charging Policy revised and approved
- Mental Capacity Act training e-learning module developed to provide an understanding of the Mental Capacity Act in respect of 16-17 year olds
- Varied multi-agency programme of face to face courses delivered including:
 - ≈ Core courses for Safeguarding Adults and Children at Levels 1 and 2 which are in line with the Care Act 2014 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018
 - ≈ Level 3 specialist courses to reflect national and local priorities
 - ≈ Newly introduced programme of training to implement the Neglect Graded Care Profile Support Tool
- The Young People's Conference 2018



Appendix 3

Partner Contributions in 2018/2019

	2018/2019
Darlington Borough Council	£14,663.00
Durham Constabulary	£12,731.05
Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group	£14,305.00
County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust	£14,448.00
Training income	£6,500.00
Total Revenue received in 2018/2019	£62,647.05

The table above evidences how partners have met the budgetary requirements in 2018-2019. The table summarises the direct monetary contributions from partners but does not take into account members time or the use of rooms (provided free of charge). It is important to recognise the many other ways members and their staff contribute to the Board, for example attendance at sub-groups, participating in audit and quality assurance work, access to additional resources and designated roles. It should be noted that the cost of safeguarding adults at risk is significant and the DSAPB is therefore grateful to all of the partners who have fulfilled their commitment to fund and contribute to the work of the partnership.

Glossary of Terms

ALIG	Adult Learning and Improvement Group
BTP	British Transport Police
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
CDDFRS	County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service
CDDFT	County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust
CQC	Care Quality Commission
CRC	Community Rehabilitation Company
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
DASAN	Domestic Abuse and Sexual Abuse Network
DASVEG	Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Group
DBC	Darlington Borough Council
DBS	Disclosure and Barring Service
DSAPB	Darlington Safeguarding Adult Partnership Board
DSCB	Darlington Safeguarding Children Board
DSP	Darlington Safeguarding Partnership
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GRT	Gypsy Roma and Travelling Community
HMICFRS	Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services
HWB	Health and Wellbeing Board
HWD	Healthwatch Darlington
KPQ	Key Performance Questions
LA	Local Authority
LLR	Learning Lessons Review
LSCB	Local Safeguarding Children Board

MARAC	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
MCA	Mental Capacity Act
MSP	Making Safeguarding Personal
NEAS	North East Ambulance Service
NECA	Darlington Recovery and Wellbeing Service
NHSE	National Health Service England
NICE	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
NPS	National Probation Service
PCVC	Police Crime and Victim Commissioner
RCA	Root Cause Analysis
SAB	Safeguarding Adults Board
SAR	Safeguarding Adults Review
SCR	Serious Case Review
TOR	Terms of Reference
TEWV	Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust





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We have incorporated hyperlinks where possible to take you to additional information and/or further details. If you are not able to access this then please contact us to arrange for the information to be made available. In addition, if you require this report in an alternative format, please contact the Darlington Safeguarding Partnership Business Unit as above.

We would welcome feedback and this can be made to either the Independent Chair or by contacting the Safeguarding Partnership Business Unit on 01325 406450 address as above or by e-mail DSP@darlington.gov.uk

This Annual Report will be shared with the following partner agencies:

- The Managing Director and Leader of the Local Authority
- Police, Crime and Victims Commissioner (PCVC) and the Chief Constable of Durham Constabulary
- Healthwatch Darlington
- The Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board
- County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust (CDDFT)
- Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- Tees Esk and Wear Valley Foundation Trust (TEWV)

The 2018/19 Annual Report will be presented to the Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee to give an opportunity for wider engagement and scrutiny by Councillors.

Partner agencies are encouraged to have a link to this annual report via their websites to improve accessibility.

The report is published on the Darlington Safeguarding Partnership website:
darlingtonsafeguardingpartnership.co.uk



