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## Welcome to our January 2025 Newsletter

In this newsletter, the first one for 2025, we bring together information which we hope you will find useful and we highlight how the Partnership continues to communicate and keep in touch with all our agencies and provide guidance to support you in your role working with children and adults. In this edition, we bring you information in the spotlight about the Child Safeguarding Practice Review report, updates and also information about Partnership work, important safeguarding updates and new training dates.

**Happy New Year!**

**Wishing everybody  
across Darlington, and  
beyond, a very happy  
and healthy 2025!**



# In the Spotlight..... Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel Annual Report

The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel is calling on the government to ensure that children at risk of being harmed, both inside and outside their families, are at the heart of its strategies to break down barriers to opportunity. This comes as the Panel's latest annual report reveals that 485 children were affected by serious child safeguarding incidents between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024. This is when a child dies or is seriously harmed, and abuse or neglect is known or suspected.

The recently announced reforms in the government's paper 'Keeping children safe, helping families thrive' are an important step in the right direction, with plans to implement the Panel's recommendation for multi-agency child protection teams in every local authority. As the proposal for local multi-agency child protection teams shows, safeguarding children involves many different agencies from across policing, healthcare, education and others. Therefore, it is imperative that the mission-led approach now being promoted across government is carefully connected so different departments work together at a national level.

The Annual Report 2023/24 highlighted 3 specific themes, which reinforce the importance of join-up between different government departments.

- Safeguarding children with mental health needs
- Safeguarding pre-school children with parents with mental health needs
- Safeguarding children from risks outside the family home

['Mission-led' government must centre vulnerable children](#)



## **Darlington Local Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements December 2024**

**Darlington Safeguarding Partnership has undertaken a review of its safeguarding arrangements in accordance with the 2023 revision of Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023) Statutory Guidance. The review was conducted in accordance with government direction and a discussion and consultation process across the partnership, and published in December 2024 and implemented commencing 1 January 2025.**

**The key points in the new arrangements are:**

- Darlington will continue to work as an integrated partnership and the safeguarding arrangements cover adult services (as set out in the Care Act 2014) emphasising the importance of a strong multi-agency partnership working within a whole family culture.**
- The Statutory Safeguarding Partners (SSP) remain the Local Authority, North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board and the Chief Officer of police. They will now be known as the Lead safeguarding Partners (LSP).**
- Each LSP will appoint a Delegated Safeguarding Partner (DSP) who will be sufficiently senior to make decisions on behalf of the LSP and hold their sectors to account.**
- Education representatives from primary, secondary, tertiary and SEND provision will be appointed as Delegated Safeguarding Partners.**
  - A new decision making group, the Management Group has been introduced to strengthen the delivery and reporting framework of the partnership.**
  - The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Partnership Group (MASPG) will continue.**
- The Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSP) will appoint an independent Scrutineer to provide appropriate rigour and challenge and to work alongside the partnership to develop assurance process.**
- Under the new arrangements the responsibility for child deaths is to be jointly held between the Local Authorities and North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board.**

We have launched four brand new e-learning courses available on our training site that are free for all registered users. The following four courses are now live and can be found in the 'browse courses' section of your account:

### **Criminal Exploitation and County Lines**

This course will help you to become more aware of criminal exploitation and its different forms, and to understand what signs to look out for and how to respond

### **Child Sexual Exploitation - Level 1 & Level 2**

The course has been designed to help anyone who works with children and young people safeguard them from Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).

In this course you will learn what CSE is and learn about CSE from the perspective of the offenders and the victims. You will also learn about key role mobile and internet technology plays in CSE and about the differences between gang and group CSE

### **Sexual Abuse and Recognising Grooming**

Child sexual abuse is incredibly common but can be hard for adults to spot. In this course we dive into what child sexual abuse is, what it's long-lasting effects can be and how to spot the signs of it occurring so we can work together as a society to prevent child sexual abuse in the world.

### **Online Safety - Risks to Children**

Knowing the potential risks and being able to encourage responsible and safe use of the internet is vital to help safeguard children online

**Additional course added this week!**



Due to the unforeseen cancellation of one of our Child Exploitation courses delivered by Barnardo's this month, we have now added an additional session that will take place on **18th February 2025 from 9am-12pm**. There are places available on this session so please book via your Me Learning account.

<https://app.melearning.co.uk/my-learning/dashboard/courses>



## Illegal Children's Care Homes

Every night across England hundreds of children are going to sleep in illegal homes where they are often isolated and left without appropriate care. Most of these are run by private organisations which have the least amount of oversight and scrutiny, leaving children at an increased risk of harm.

There is no process for checking the quality of the care they receive or the suitability of those adults providing the care – because, by law, these homes should not exist.

Read the full report [here](#)

## ☆ NEW PODCAST EPISODE ☆

Olivia, Joanne, Andrea & Amanda discuss the importance of the 'Eyes on the Baby' training project to raise awareness on SUDI Prevention.

Please share with colleagues/partners.

Available via the website or Spotify – [click here](#)

The 'Eyes on the Baby' training can be completed here - [click here](#)

Concerned about a child?

Contact the Children's Initial  
Advice Team  
Professionals on **01325 406252**

Concerned about an  
adult?

Contact the Adult  
Contact Team  
on **01325 406111**



PARTNER SHIPS

## Statutory Safeguarding Partners

Ann Baxter, Independent Chair/Scrutineer

James Stroyan, Group Director of People

Nicola Lawrence, Detective Chief Superintendent

Chris Piercy, Director of Nursing and Quality