



DURHAM SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

OUR NEW ARRANGEMENTS APRIL 2019

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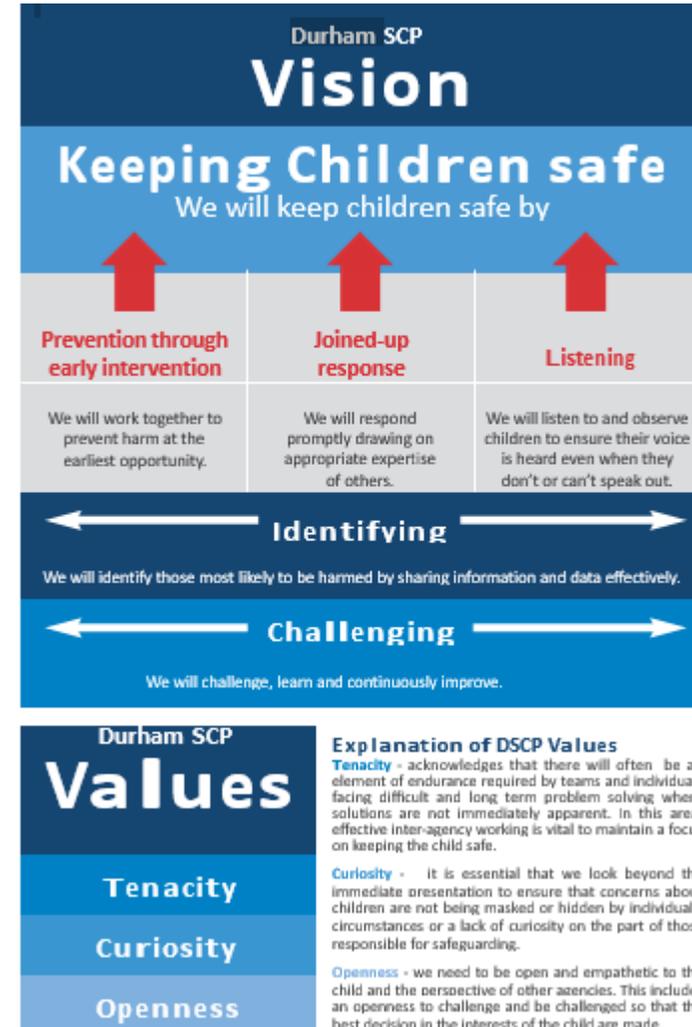
Introduction

The Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership (DSCP) is established in accordance with the Children Act 2004 (as amended by Children and Social Work Act 2017) and Chapter 3 Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018. The DSCP provides the safeguarding arrangements under which the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies work together to coordinate their safeguarding services, identify and respond to the needs of children in County Durham, commission and publish local child safeguarding practice reviews and provide scrutiny to ensure the effectiveness of the arrangements.



Vision and Values

The vision of the DSCP is to 'Keep Children Safe'.



Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership

The 3 Statutory Safeguarding Partners in Durham are:

- County Durham Clinical Commissioning Groups
 - North Durham CCG
 - Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield CCG
- Durham County Council (Children and Young People's Service)
- Durham Constabulary

The Safeguarding Partners share responsibility for ensuring effective local safeguarding arrangements. In situations that require a clear, single point of leadership, all three Safeguarding Partners should decide who would take the lead on issues that arise. These three Safeguarding Partners are charged with supporting and enabling local organisations and agencies to work together in a system where:

- children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted
- partner organisations and agencies collaborate, share and co-own the vision for how to achieve improved outcomes for vulnerable children
- organisations and agencies challenge appropriately and hold one another to account effectively
- there is early identification and analysis of new safeguarding issues and emerging threats
- learning is promoted and embedded in a way that local services for children and families can become more reflective and implement changes to practice
- information is shared effectively to facilitate more accurate and timely decision making for children and families

In order to work together effectively with local organisations and agencies the Safeguarding Partners will develop processes that:

- facilitate and drive action beyond usual institutional and agency constraints and boundaries
- ensure the effective protection of children is founded on practitioners developing lasting and trusting relationships with children and their families.

DSCP supports, oversees, challenges and facilitates these systems at a strategic level. In addition to monitoring safeguarding activity, the Partnership has a role in challenging single agency practice in relevant circumstances.

The business of the Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership is carried out by DSCP Safeguarding Executive Group and the relevant partner agencies.

Geographical area

County Durham stretches from the rural North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the west to the Heritage Coastline in the east and is home to a range of national treasures including Durham Cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



The DSCP arrangements apply to the area defined by the Durham County Council local authority boundary.

However, some partners to these arrangements may have responsibility for services beyond this area either due to their organisational boundaries overlapping other local authority areas or because they have responsibilities for children living in another area.

Durham has its challenges in relation to deprivation and the differing needs of its population. There are 100,540 young people

of which 12,000 children under the age of 16 are living with domestic abuse; 6,000 are receiving early help services; 3,500 are considered to be children in need; 800 are looked after; and 500 are subject to a child protection plan.

The DSCP child protection procedures include appropriate guidance for operational arrangements to address the needs of children and families who move across or live within different areas.



There are an estimated **100,540 children and young people (0-18)** living in County Durham



Child poverty in County Durham is higher than the England average, with **19.4% of children** under 18 years living in poverty



The County has **12 major centres of population** including Durham City, Chester-le-Street, Newton Aycliffe, Consett and Peterlee



Although levels of deprivation in County Durham have improved we are ranked the **75th most deprived area** out of 326 local authorities in England

Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership Membership

The DSCP membership will consist of an extended DSCP Executive group and of relevant partners (virtual members).

Extended DSCP Executive Group:

- Independent Chair
- The Local Authority Children and Young People's Service
- The Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) - North Durham CCG and Durham Dales, Easington & Sedgefield CCG
- Durham Constabulary
- Chairs of the DSCP Sub-Groups
- Designated Doctor for Safeguarding Children
- DSCP Business Manager (for support)

The relevant agencies required to provide virtual representation or representation at subgroups, development session and agency groups are:

- County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust
- Tees, Esk & Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust
- Harrogate & District NHS Foundation Trust
- North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust
- City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust
- North East Ambulance Service
- Durham Voice (Voluntary Sector)
- Further Education Settings
 - Bishop Auckland College
 - New College Durham
 - East Durham College

- Derwentside College
- Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass)
- Education
- Independent Schools
- Schools
- Public Health
- National Probation Service Durham
- Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company
- County Durham Youth Offending Service
- Housing Services
- NHS England
- The Local Authority Adult & Health Services
- The Local Authority Early Help, inclusion and vulnerable children Services
- The Local Authority Legal Services
- The Prison Service
- County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Service
- British Transport Police
- Faith Groups

Out of the relevant agencies, there will be 4 agency groups that will be expected to meet and provide assurance reports to the Executive Group on an annual basis.

Relevant agencies will not be required to attend every meeting but will nevertheless have a part to play in the business of the Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership.

Other agencies outside of the 4 agency groups are:

- Public Health
- Housing Services
- County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service
- Faith Groups

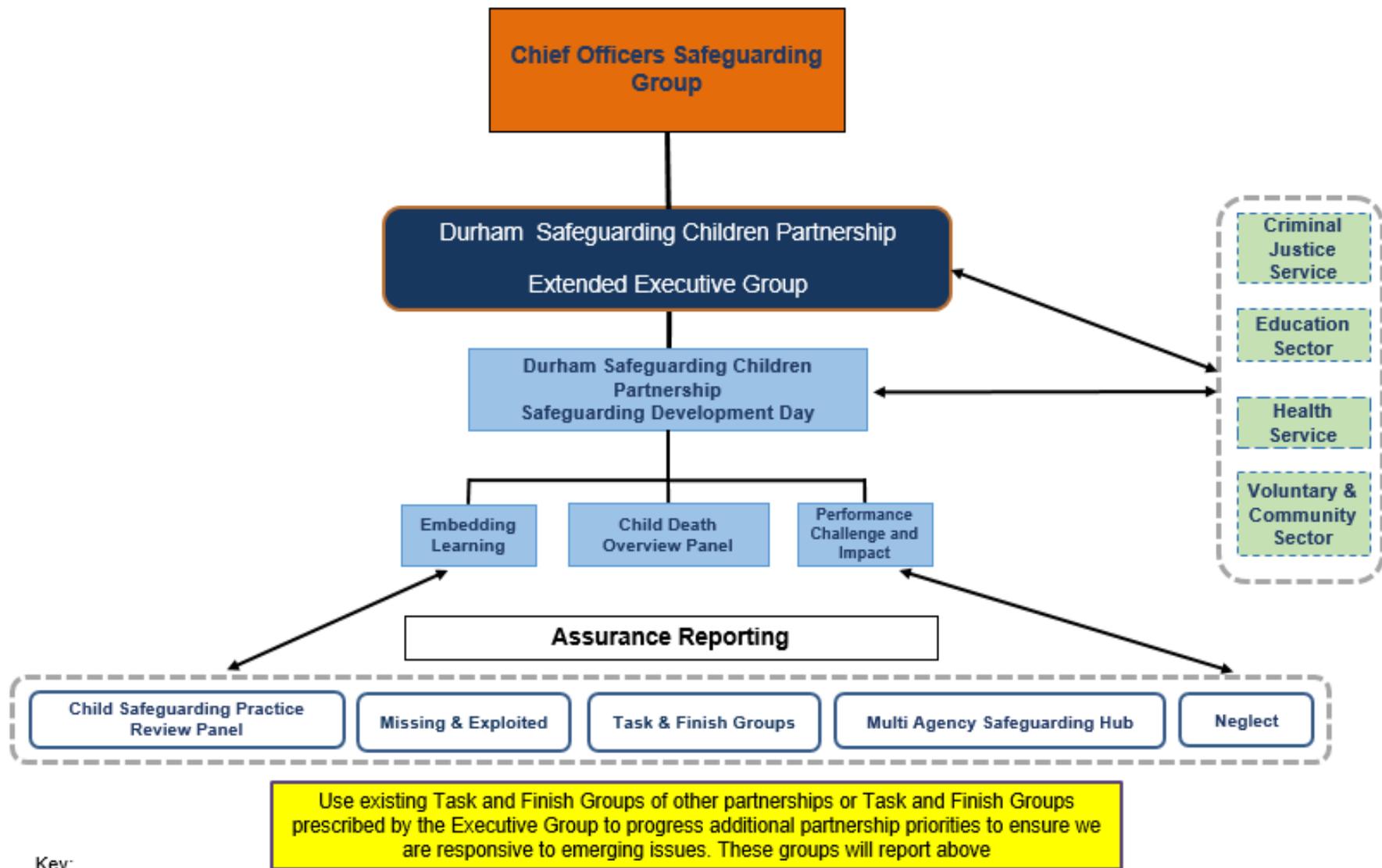
All of these members, along with other officers, will be invited to attend the Extended Safeguarding Executive meetings as appropriate, for example: to provide information and updates on actions, initiatives and inspection; and to provide annual assurance on safeguarding activity and exception reporting if necessary using the DSCP Agency Assurance Report template which will be included in the annual report. All members including Lay members will also be invited to attend DSCP development days to review priorities and identify partnership progress.

The Independent Chair and The Local Authority Children and Young People’s Service representative will engage with the Local Authority Portfolio Holder for Children every 6 months.



Criminal Justice Group	Health Group	Education Group	Voluntary Sector
Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company	Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust	New College Durham	Durham Voice (Voluntary Sector)
National Probation Service	Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust	East Durham College	
County Durham Youth Offending Service	North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust	Derwentside College	
The Prison Service	City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust	Bishop Auckland College	
British Transport Police	North East Ambulance Service	Schools	
Durham Constabulary	County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust	Education	
	NHS England	Independent Schools	
	The Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) - North Durham CCG and Durham Dales, Easington & Sedgefield CCG		

Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership Structure



Key:
 Working Relationship —————
 Reporting Relationship - - - - -

Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership Reporting and Assurance Structure

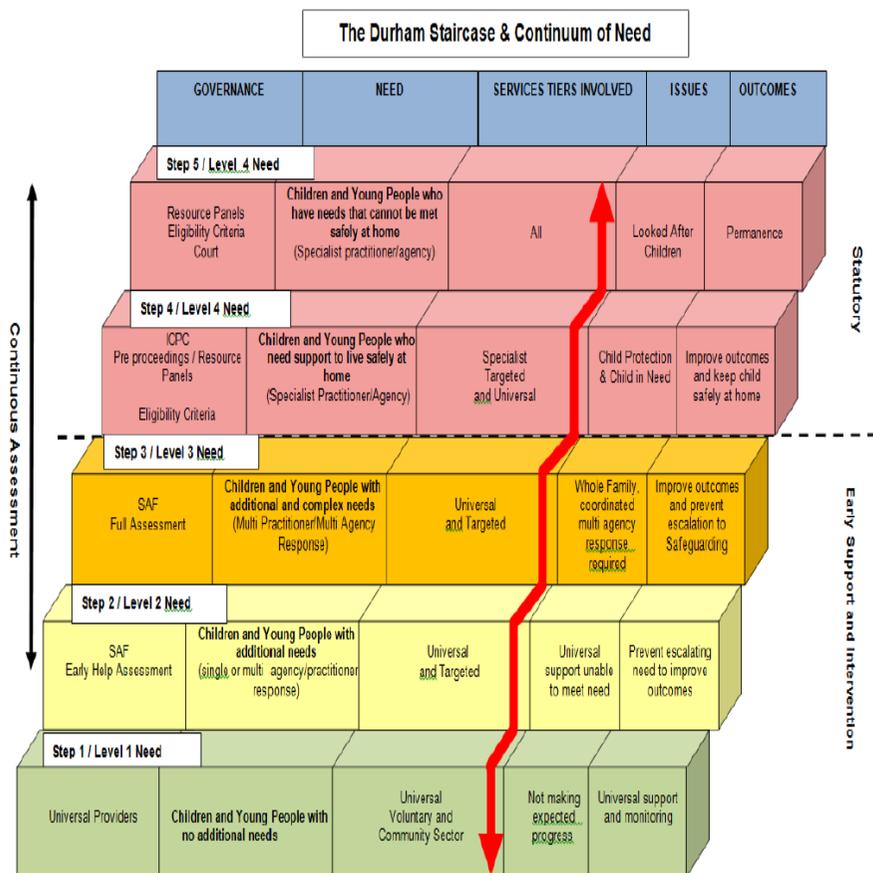


Use existing Task and Finish Groups of other partnerships or Task and Finish Groups prescribed by the Executive Group to progress additional Board priorities to ensure responsive to emerging issues. These groups will report above

Key:
Reporting Relationship - - - - -

Thresholds

The threshold document outlines Durham’s criteria for action when a family requires support. This tool is designed to be transparent, accessible and easily understood by families and professionals alike. The support that is offered to families should increase in line with the level of concern or risk, including referral to children's social care for assessment for statutory services.



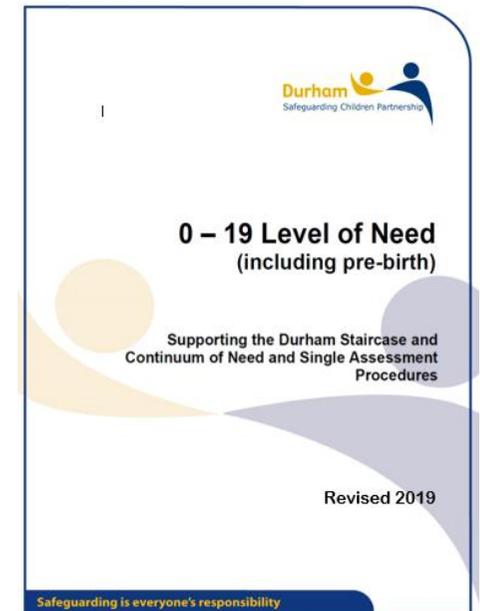
In County Durham, a staircase model has been used to illustrate levels of need since 2012. The lowest need is shown as the bottom step and the highest level of need as the top step.

Regardless of which ‘step’ children, young people and family’s needs are on, they will be supported at the earliest opportunity and continue to be supported by the relevant services as they move up and down the staircase.

The Durham staircase illustrates our integrated services pathway model and is designed to reflect the fact that the needs of children, young people and families exist along a continuum.

The staircase sets out need across 4 levels - 5 steps.

The current document [Threshold of Need](#) will stand until a review is completed in light of developments in practice, Durham’s threshold document will be reviewed and updated during 2019. It will include the strengths based approach being developed across the partnership (Signs of Safety), which seeks to build on families strengths and resilience to resolve problems and reduce risk. It will also integrate indicators about contextual safeguarding guidance in light of growing



concern about exploitation and harm caused to young people outside of their family environment. It is anticipated that the new document will be launched towards the end of 2019.

Extended Safeguarding Executive Group

The purpose of the Extended Safeguarding Executive Group is to ensure that DSCP fulfils the requirements of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018.

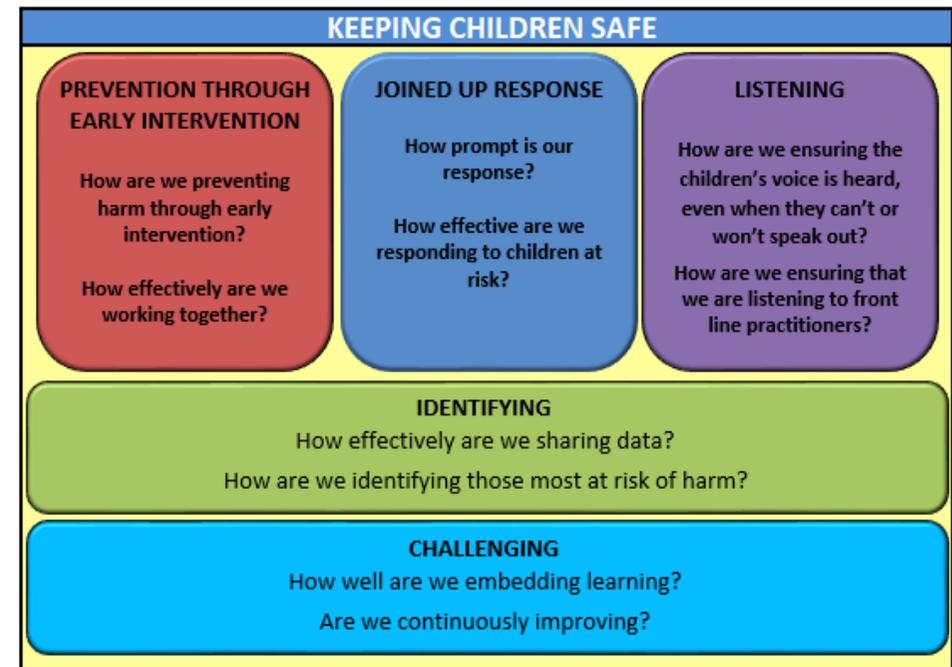
Objectives:

- Set the strategic direction for safeguarding arrangements across the partnership.
- Act as a constructive critical friend and promote reflection to drive continuous improvement.
- Provide independent oversight and scrutiny in judging the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area, including arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases.
- Be informed and assured about the quality of the safeguarding work being undertaken by all partner organisations using the system of regular Agency Assurance Reports to Board in the required format.
- Seek assurance that partnership messages and learning are disseminated.
- Drive the safeguarding children agenda forward.
- Endeavour to ensure that the risk of future harm to children is reduced.

Performance, Challenge and Impact Group

The purpose of the Performance, Challenge and Impact group is to monitor the impact and outcomes of partner activity on behalf of the Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership (DSCP), as required by Chapter 3 of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018.

The group will consider the performance of all agencies involved in safeguarding children using the Vision of the DSCP as a basis from which to assess good practice and concerns, reporting such to the Safeguarding Executive Group, by using data and intelligence.



Objectives:

Performance

- To report the key quality and performance standards that reflect the above Vision and Values.
- Hold agencies to account for their organisational performance reporting concerns to the DSCP.
- Maintain the DSCP performance report card.

Effectiveness

- Ensure robust systems are in place to measure the effectiveness of safeguarding policy and procedures.
- Ensure gaps in understanding and performance are understood, communicated and actioned.

Impact

- Ensure that performance is assessed through the eyes of the child.
- Ensure that performance is assessed with clear line of sight to front line practice.
- Ensure that the limitations of any performance data is recognised and consideration is given to areas where it is not possible or difficult to collate data but remain important in keeping children safe.

Embedded Learning Group

The purpose of the Embedding Learning Group is to improve the quality of multi-agency safeguarding frontline practice through the implementation of a joint, co-ordinated approach which will ensure good outcomes for children which will be evidenced through multi-agency audit; peer review and inspection.

The work will respond to the recommendations and actions from inspection; audit; child safeguarding practice reviews; local learning lessons reviews; complaints; performance information; and feedback from children and families. This is to ensure multi-agency safeguarding practice is high quality; makes a difference to children; and enhances learning about what works for children and families.

Objectives

- Understand and communicate key areas for multi-agency practice improvement following inspection activity, multi-agency audits and/or lessons from local and national child safeguarding practice reviews across their own agencies;
- Understand DSCP multi-agency performance information and what this means for practice improvement as well as areas of good practice;
- Work together to identify and address aspects of frontline practice that require improvement;
- Contribute to the development and delivery of identified actions and plans which will ensure practice improvements keep children safe;

- Contribute and co-ordinate to multi-agency audit processes and ensure all areas for improvement are actively addressed through individual and joint agency action;
- Monitor and challenge progress against identified improvements so that all partners are held to account;
- Develop required systems to ensure effective partnership working across all statutory and inspection requirements;
- Have clear links to workforce development and training to ensure lessons learned are effectively disseminated;
- Identify and celebrate good practice and encourage the partnership to do more of it.
- Complete the Learning & Workforce Development Strategy which sets out the partnership approach to learning and development.
- Identifying training needs, setting the Safeguarding Children Competency Framework/Training levels, and multi-agency training.

Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

The purpose of the County Durham & Darlington Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) is set out in HM Government Child Death Review Statutory & Operational Guidance (England). These terms of reference for the CDOP are therefore based on that guidance.

Working Together 2018 specifies that:

When a child dies, in any circumstances, it is important for parents and families to understand what has happened and whether there are any lessons to be learned.

In County Durham and Darlington the child death review will be considered jointly for the purpose of undertaking child death reviews and learning lessons across the agencies that delivery services in both County Durham and Darlington.

The responsibility for ensuring child death reviews are carried out is held by 'child death review partners,' who are defined in County Durham and Darlington as Durham and Darlington Local Authorities, North Durham Clinical Commissioning Group, Durham Dales & Easington Clinical Commissioning Group and Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group.

Child death review partners must make arrangements to review all deaths of children normally resident in the local area and, if they consider it appropriate, for any non-resident child who has died in their area.

In order to fulfil the requirements of the child death review process, County Durham and Darlington will request information agencies who have had involvement for the purposes of enabling or assisting the review. Agencies must comply with the request, and if they do not, the child death review partners may take necessary action to seek compliance.

The purpose of a review and/or analysis is to identify any matters relating to the death, or deaths, that are relevant to the welfare of children in the area or to public health and safety, and to consider whether action should be taken in relation to any matters identified. If child death review partners find action should be taken by a person or organisation, they must inform them.

In addition, County Durham & Darlington CDOP will publish an annual report of the analysis of the Child Death Reviews undertaken and what they have done as a result.

Objectives

- To collect and collate information about each child death, seeking relevant information from professionals and, where appropriate, family members;
- To analyse the information obtained, including the report from the Child Death Review Meeting(s), in order to confirm or clarify the cause of death, to determine any contributory factors, and to identify learning arising from the child death review process that may prevent future deaths.
- To make recommendations to all relevant organisations where actions have been identified which may prevent future child deaths or promote the health, safety and wellbeing of children.
- To notify the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and local Safeguarding Partners when it suspects that a child may have been abused or neglected
- To notify the Medical Examiner (once introduced) and the doctor who certified the cause of death, if it identifies any errors or deficiencies in an individual child's registered cause of death. Any correction to the child's cause of death would only be made following an application for a formal correction;
- To provide specified data to NHS Digital and then, once established, to the National Child Mortality Database;

- To produce an annual report for Child Death Review partners on local patterns and trends in child deaths, any lessons learnt and actions taken, and the effectiveness of the wider child death review process.
- Exception reports to be presented to the Safeguarding Executive group as and when required.
- To contribute to local, regional and national initiatives to consider learning from child death reviews, including, where appropriate, approved research carried out within the requirements of data protection.
- To engage with regional partners to ensure learning is shared and implemented.

Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership will identify serious child safeguarding cases which raise issues of importance in relation to the area and commission and oversee a review of those cases where they consider it appropriate to do so. The identification of serious child safeguarding cases will primarily be through the notification requirements¹ placed on Durham County Council which require certain incidents to be notified to the national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel. In Durham this responsibility will lie with a multiagency single point of contact (SPOC) group to determine if the criteria is met for a notifiable incident. Any organisation within statutory or official duties in relation to children (including all members of the partnership) should inform the Durham Safeguarding Children

¹ s16C(1) of the Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017)

Partnership Business Unit of any incident which they think should be considered as a notifiable incident and should be considered for a child safeguarding practice review².

The definition of a serious child safeguarding case are those in which:

- abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected; *and*
- the child has died or has been seriously harmed.

Serious harm includes (but is not limited to) serious and/or long-term impairment of a child's mental health or intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development. It should also cover impairment of physical health. This is not an exhaustive list. When making decisions, judgment should be exercised in cases where impairment is likely to be long-term, even if this is not immediately certain. Even if a child recovers, including from a one-off incident, serious harm may still have occurred.

Notification of incidents

When a Safeguarding Partner knows or suspects that a child has been abused or neglected and the definition of a serious child safeguarding case applies, a referral will be made to the Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership Business Unit to hold a multiagency notification consideration meeting to determine if the criteria is met for a notifiable incident within 5 working days of becoming aware of the incident.

² Child perpetrators may also be the subject of a review, if the definition of 'serious child safeguarding case' is met.

A meeting of single points of contact members will be arranged and a decision made as to whether the criteria for a notifiable incident is met.

If the criteria is met for a notifiable incident Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership will notify the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel on behalf of Durham County Council of any incident that meets the notification criteria within 5 working days of becoming aware using the approved online notification process.

Rapid Review

The Business Unit will arrange for a Rapid Review to be undertaken and completed for:

- All cases agreed to be a notifiable incident.

The aim of a Rapid Review is to enable safeguarding partners to:

- Gather the facts about the case, as far as they can be readily established at the time.
- Discuss whether there is any immediate action needed to ensure children's safety and share any learning appropriately.
- Consider the potential for identifying improvements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- Decide what steps they should take next, including whether or not to undertake a child safeguarding practice review.

As soon as the Rapid Review is complete, the safeguarding Business Unit should send a copy to the National Panel. They should also share with the National Panel their decision about whether a local child safeguarding practice review is appropriate, or whether they think the case may raise issues which are complex or of national importance such that a national review may be appropriate.

The Rapid Review will be undertaken and completed within 15 working days of notification and will be coordinated by the DSCP Business Manager. A detailed process for Rapid Reviews has been agreed across Durham. (See Appendix A)

When considering whether to commission a child safeguarding practice review the safeguarding partners will have regard to the definition of a serious child safeguarding case (see earlier) and the following criteria:

Whether the case:

- highlights or may highlight improvements needed to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, including where those improvements have been previously identified.
- highlights or may highlight recurrent themes in the safeguarding and promotion of the welfare of children.
- highlights or may highlight concerns regarding two or more organisations or agencies working together effectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- is one which the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel have considered and concluded a local review may be more appropriate.

Where there are differences of opinion in whether the criteria for a review have been met, a majority decision will be accepted (i.e. 2 of the 3 partners in agreement). The Safeguarding Partners may consider that a child safeguarding practice review is appropriate for cases that do not meet the definition of a 'serious child safeguarding case' but nevertheless might reveal learning related to good practice, poor practice or near misses.

The response of the National Panel to the Rapid Review will be reported back to the Safeguarding Partners. Should the National Panel disagree with the decision made by the Safeguarding Partners the DSCP Business Manager will circulate the details of the response and convene a meeting/telephone conference of the DSCP Executive Group to consider the information provided and review the initial decision. The Safeguarding Partners, with advice from the Independent Chair, may decide to adhere to their initial decision or conclude that a Child Safeguarding Practice Review should be commissioned, in either case the justification should be clearly recorded and provided to the National Panel.

The outcome and rationale for the Safeguarding Partners' decision on whether or not to conduct a review will be communicated in writing to the child/family concerned. Where possible this should be provided in person through the practitioner currently working with the family (social worker/police officer) to allow an opportunity for any questions to be raised and responded to.

The Independent Chair will complete a 6 monthly audit of the Rapid Reviews undertaken during the previous period to provide assurance to the Extended Safeguarding Executive Group that the process is

working effectively and that appropriate decisions are being made with a clear rationale.

Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews will be undertaken in line with the local procedures. The process will be managed by the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel. Once completed the Review Report will be presented to the Extended Safeguarding Executive Group for sign off.

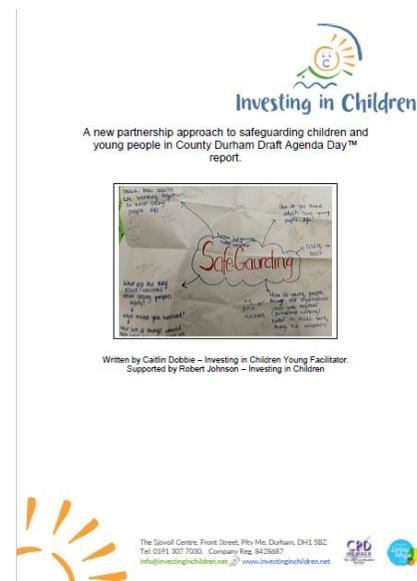
Reviews will be completed and published within six months unless there are extenuating circumstances such as an ongoing criminal or coronial proceedings. Any delay to the completion or publication of a review will be approved by the Extended Safeguarding Executive Group and the reasons notified to the National Panel and Secretary of State. In some circumstances the Extended Safeguarding Executive Group may consider it not to be appropriate to publish a review report in which case arrangements will be made to publish information about the improvements that should be made following the review. The Safeguarding Executive Group will set out for the National Panel and the Secretary of State the justification for any decision not to publish either the full report or information relating to improvements³.

Publication of Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews or information about the improvements that should be made will be via the DSCP website. The reports/information will remain on the website for a one year period and thereafter will be available on request. The NSPCC maintains a national case review repository where case reviews remain available electronically for five years.

³ Safeguarding partners should have regard to any comments that the Panel or the Secretary of State may make in respect of publication.

The learning from the reviews will be fed into the Embedded Learning Group to assure that learning is disseminated and embedded by practitioners.

Voice of Children and Families



We will create a Young Commissioner Apprenticeship which will be supported by Investing in Children (a community interest company).

The Young Commissioner will engage with young people and coordinate a young people's annual report from feedback from agenda days below and the internal scrutiny panel.

Our Young Commissioner and the internal scrutiny panel will meet 6 monthly and will include young people, families, Lay Members and practitioners. The panel will review and scrutinise the previous 6 months' work of the partnership and influence the priorities and forward plan.

Investing in Children will facilitate 2 agenda days with young people annually to review the previous years' work and influence the next year.

We will continue to ask our relevant agencies and other partners how they ensure they have captured the voices of children, young people and families in their work as well as identifying other innovative ways to gather this feedback through the partnership.

We have engaged with young people in the development of this plan.

Independent scrutiny

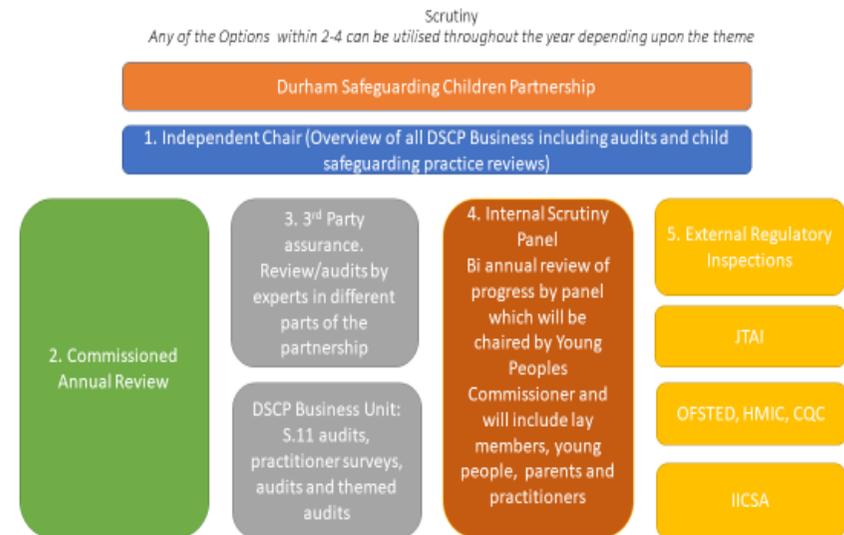
As described in Chapter 3 of Working Together the three Safeguarding Partners are responsible for determining local arrangements including involving other relevant agencies. The Safeguarding Partners have agreed that the independent scrutiny will come from 5 areas.

- Independent Chair
- Commissioned annual review
- 3rd party assurance and DSCP Support Team
- Internal Scrutiny Panel (to include Lay members, parents, practitioners and young people)
- External regulatory functions

The Safeguarding Partnership will call upon different aspects of scrutiny throughout the year in order to respond to findings in a timely manner review and inform the annual report.

The scrutiny functions will form part of these arrangements and will achieve the following:

- Provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of services to protect children.
- Assist if there is disagreement between the leaders responsible for protecting children in the agencies involved in the Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership.
- Support a culture and environment conducive to robust scrutiny and constructive challenge.
- The Independent Chair will work independently of the three Safeguarding Partners and in liaison with the DSCP Business Unit.



The key questions in terms of the scrutiny function:

- How effective are the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in getting a clear line of sight on single agency and multi-agency practice?
- Do the arrangements enable space for reflection and learning from practice?
- Do the partnership arrangements have a positive impact on multi-agency working and/or front-line practice?

The role of the scrutiny functions is to:

- Assess how well organisations come together to cooperate with one another to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to hold each other to account for effective safeguarding.
- Contribute to the content of the partnership's annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements, their performance and the effectiveness of local services. Assess the effectiveness of the help being provided to children and families including early help.
- Assess whether the three Safeguarding Partners are fulfilling their statutory obligations.

Partnership Yearly Report & Review of Arrangements

It is the intention of the DSCP to publish a report at least once annually. Partners will ensure the report is widely available.

The DSCP Annual Report will:

- set out what has been done and outline the effectiveness of the partnership in practice.
- outline actions relating to local child safeguarding practice reviews and what the Safeguarding Partnership has done as a result.
- present evidence of the impact of the work of the Safeguarding Partners and relevant agencies on outcomes for children and families.
- include a record of actions taken by the Safeguarding Partnership during the reporting period (or planned to be taken) to implement the recommendations of any reviews.
- highlight ways in which the Safeguarding Partnership have sought and utilised feedback from children, young people and families to inform their work and influence service provision.
- include the evidence collated through independent scrutiny.
- provide evidence from the assurance reporting from the relevant agencies and the structure supporting the partnership.



Schools, Educational Establishments and Early Years Settings

The Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership will include a 'virtual membership' of relevant partners.

These members, along with other officers, will be invited to attend as appropriate, for example: to provide information and updates on actions, initiatives and inspection; and to provide assurance on safeguarding activity using the DSCP Agency Assurance Report template which will be included in the annual report.

DSCP have identified schools (including multi-academy trusts), colleges and other educational providers, in the local area to be fully engaged, involved and included in the new safeguarding arrangements. A representative, or representatives, for educational providers will also, therefore be virtual members of the Safeguarding Partnership. The reporting relationship between the Education Sector and DSCP Executive is shown in the DSCP structure chart.

Children Living Away From Home

The Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership will ensure that those responsible for looking after children in settings away from home, including residential homes for children, foster carers, mental health and custodial settings are engaged with the safeguarding arrangements through the Safeguarding Partner responsible for commissioning those services or by direct contact with those organisations.

Secure Children's Home

There is one secure children's home in County Durham. The Performance, Challenge and Impact Sub-group will receive the Annual Ofsted Report and the notes of regulatory visits and a representative from the secure children's home is a member of this Sub-Group. The Performance, Challenge and Impact group, will have an overview of the restraints that have taken place on a quarterly basis and the findings will be included in the DSCP annual report.

Funding

The funding arrangements for the Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership have been agreed for 2019/20 and will comprise of:

- Contributions by partner organisations at the same level as previously provided to the Local Safeguarding Children Board 2018/19.
- Accommodation and communications services provided by Durham County Council and hosting of the Business Unit with the ability to seek legal advice from the Council's Legal services when required.
- The contributions from Health Partners will be collated and provided by the Clinical Commissioning Group.

The existing LSCB reserve will be transferred to the new safeguarding arrangements.

A review of the funding arrangements will be undertaken during 2019 to enable the Safeguarding Partners to consider the future resourcing requirements; agree the level of funding provided by each Safeguarding Partner; and any contributions from relevant agencies. The review will consider how the reserve should be used and the appropriate level of reserve moving forward and will also take account of the statutory guidance which requires the Safeguarding Partners' funding of the arrangements to be 'equitable and proportionate'.

Safeguarding Offer

The Safeguarding Partnership has undertaken a review of the safeguarding offer to ensure that the provisions meet the requirements of Working Together 2018. This review will support the new arrangements including funding.

Audit

The DSCP Audit Framework describes the Safeguarding Partnership approach to multi-agency and inter-agency audit. An annual audit programme will be agreed and overseen by the Embedded Learning Group and the aim will be to undertake a minimum of six multi-agency audits annually. Single agency audits will also be undertaken and reported to the Embedded Learning Group on a quarterly basis.

The programme will reflect the priorities for safeguarding children in Durham and will be informed by:

- Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.
- Performance indicators.

- The findings and themes from previous audits.
- The outcome of inspections by regulatory bodies.
- Section 11 Audits.
- Practitioner Survey.

Inter-agency training

The Embedded Learning Group is responsible for the Learning & Workforce Development Strategy which sets out the Safeguarding Partnership approach to learning and development. This includes identifying training needs, setting the Safeguarding Children Competency Framework/Training levels and multi-agency training.

The Training Strategy is designed to provide the approach to support commissioners and practitioners to embed good practice in relation to the safeguarding of children and young people in County Durham. It aims to ensure that all staff working with children and/or adults are aware of the need to safeguard and promote the safety and welfare of children and are skilled and competent in carrying out their responsibilities when concerns arise. This includes the use of early help services.

Every partner organisation of Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership is required to produce a service specific training plan that outlines how safeguarding training will be delivered.

All DSCP training will be based on relevant legislation and statutory guidance. The standards will be monitored on behalf of the DSCP through the Embedded Learning Group.

All aspects of training will seek to achieve better outcomes for children and young people by fostering:

- a shared understanding of the tasks, processes, principles, roles and responsibilities outlined in national guidance and local arrangements for safeguarding children and promoting their welfare;
- more effective and integrated services at both a strategic and operational case level;
- improved communication and information sharing between professionals, including a common understanding of key terms, definitions and levels of need;
- effective working relationships, including an ability to work in multidisciplinary groups or teams;
- sound child-focused assessments and decision-making;
- learning from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs) and child death reviews.

Working with other Strategic Partnership Boards

The DSCP will have a working and reporting relationship with a number of other Partnership Boards including the Local Safeguarding Adults Board, Safe Durham Partnership and Health & Wellbeing Board. This relationship will ensure the DSCP is cognisant of, and has the opportunities to challenge arrangements in relation to the safety and welfare of children and young people, for example:

- Domestic abuse
- Think Family
- Modern slavery

- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Prevent and Channel
- Exploitation
- Health and wellbeing of Looked After Children.

This challenge will take place through regular updates from the relevant Partnership Boards.

Evaluating our Partnership Arrangements

The Safeguarding Partners and Relevant Agencies in County Durham are committed to the ongoing development of Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership. We will ensure that services are targeted to support children and families in need in order to achieve the best possible outcomes.

Through self-assessment, continuous audit and scrutiny (external and internal):

- We will have line of sight of frontline delivery of services;
- We will have an awareness of the outcomes for children and families in County Durham;
- We hear the voice of children and young people; parents and carers and practitioners.

Signatories

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