



Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership (DSCP)

Keeping Children Safe

dscpsecure@durham.gov.uk
www.durham-scp.org.uk



“Durham LSCB has been a successful partnership and I would like to thank its members, past and present, for all their work to safeguard children. They have also given us a fantastic foundation on which to launch the new Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership.

I would also like to thank all our current partner agencies, our Lay Members and Cllr Gunn, ably supported by our Business Unit, for their diligence and commitment to ensuring that the new DSCP was ready ahead of schedule. This gives us three months until the end of June to embed the new partnership.

Within this special edition newsletter, you will see our Vision and Values; our DSCP structure and our independent scrutiny arrangements. You will see that DSCP has a different way of engaging partner agencies to ensure broader engagement, not only with those who are of the criminal justice; education, health and voluntary and community sectors, but also key partners such as housing, faith groups and sports and social clubs.

Every child should have the opportunity to flourish and achieve their full potential, and this invariably depends on promoting their welfare and ensuring they are safe. Through continuous engagement we will ensure that Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership consistently strives to identify and deliver the right services for our children and their families in County Durham.”

**Michael Banks, Independent Chair,
Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership**



Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) has changed

New arrangements for safeguarding children in County Durham are set to come into place well ahead of a Government deadline.

In April 2019 the Local Safeguarding Children Board will cease to exist and will be replaced with the Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership (DSCP). DSCP will be jointly led by Durham County Council, Durham Constabulary and the Clinical Commissioning Groups that have responsibility for North Durham and Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield.

They will be supported by a wide range of organisations representing the criminal justice service, education sector, health service and the voluntary and other identified relevant agencies.

DSCP will take over full responsibility from the LSCB for ensuring children are safeguarded, their welfare is protected and that partner agencies collaborate and be able to demonstrate impact and improved outcomes for vulnerable children.

The DSCP will enable organisations to hold each other to account and seek to ensure that services learn, reflect and implement changes, sharing information effectively to identify safeguarding issues at an early stage.

Cllr Olwyn Gunn, Durham County Council's Portfolio Holder for children and young people's services, said: “The new arrangements for safeguarding children in County Durham will enable us to continue to build on the good work already taking place with our partner agencies.”

What we require from you?

Note that the LSCB group e-mail address has already changed to dscpsecure@durham.gov.uk and the LSCB website will be changed on the 1 April to www.durham-scp.org.uk

Review all documentation owned by your agency to ensure that the LSCB logo is replaced by the DSCP logo and any references to LSCB updated.

As part of the new arrangements DSCP will be employing a Young People's Commissioner to connect with a range of people within communities.

The role will be to scrutinize that what we do, as a partnership, is keeping children and young people safe.

DSCP will be running a launch event on 3rd May 2019. You can book a place by [clicking here](#)

Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership

Vision

Keeping Children Safe

We will keep children safe by

Prevention through early intervention

We will work together to prevent harm at the earliest opportunity.

Joined Up Response

We will respond promptly drawing on appropriate expertise of others.

Listening

We will listen to and observe children to ensure their voice is heard even when they don't or can't speak out.

IDENTIFYING

We will identify those most likely to be harmed by sharing information and data

CHALLENGING

We will challenge, learn and continuously improve

Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership

Explanation of DSCP Values

Values

Tenacity

Tenacity - acknowledges that there will often be an element of endurance required by teams and individuals facing difficult and long term problem solving where solutions are not immediately apparent. In this area, effective inter-agency working is vital to maintain a focus on keeping the child safe.

Curiosity

Curiosity - it is essential that we look beyond the immediate presentation to ensure that concerns about children are not being masked or hidden by individuals, circumstances or a lack of curiosity on the part of those responsible for safeguarding.

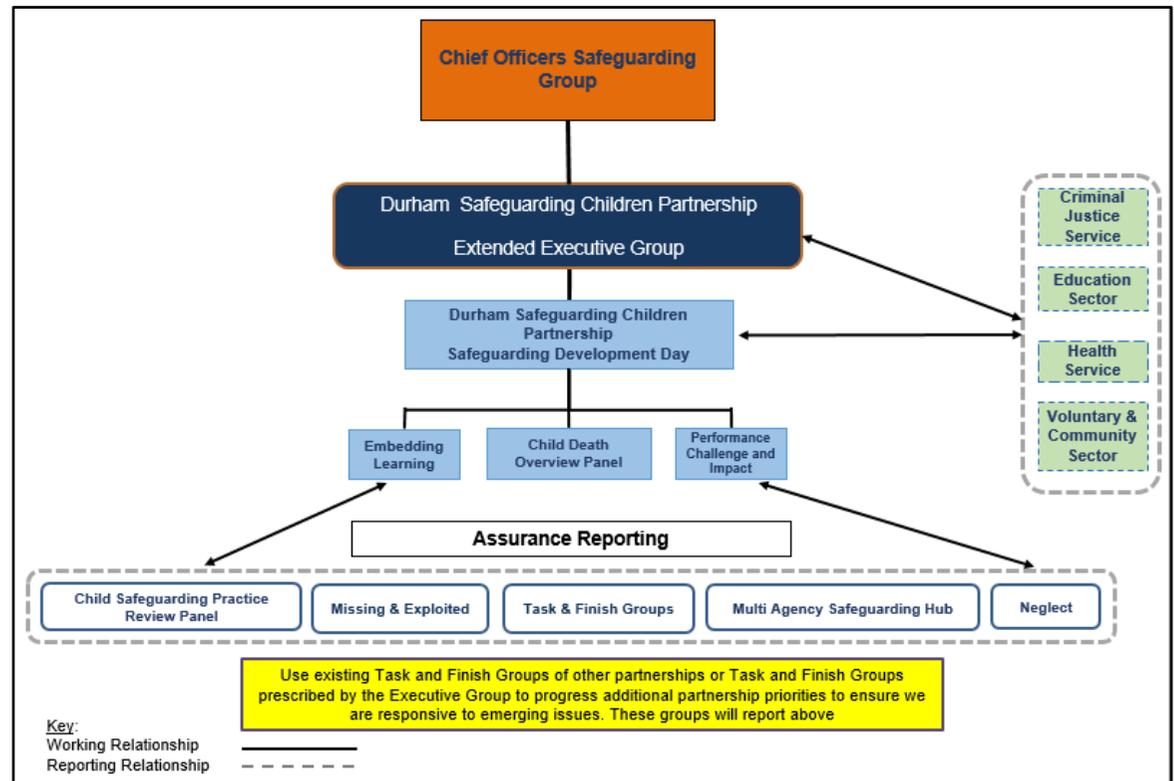
Openness

Openness - we need to be open and empathetic to the child and the perspective of other agencies. This includes an openness to challenge and be challenged so that the best decision in the interests of the child are made.

Independent scrutiny

DSCP will call upon different aspects of scrutiny throughout the year to review arrangements and inform the annual report. The safeguarding partners have agreed that the independent scrutiny will come from:

- Independent Chair
- Commissioned annual review
- Third party assurance and DSCP Support Team
- Internal Scrutiny Panel (Lay members, parents, practitioners young people)
- External regulation



Safeguarding Partnership

Through the new arrangements DSCP membership will consist of an extended DSCP Executive group and Relevant Agency partners. The Relevant Agencies will also be represented by four agency groups that will be expected to meet and provide assurance reports to the DSCP on an annual basis. (see structure)