

Welcome to the latest edition of the DSCP Newsletter. We hope you find it useful and informative. Please contact us by email if you have any comments or suggestions for future newsletters (DSCPsecure@durham.gov.uk).

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In This Issue

- ◆ Welcome
- ◆ Latest News from the DSCP: [Learning from Practice \(Fathers, Male Carers\)](#)
- ◆ Priorities: [Priority One: Domestic Abuse](#); [Priority Two: Harm Outside The Home](#); [Priority Three: 1001 Days](#); [Priority Four: Mental Health and Wellbeing](#)
- ◆ What's New? [The Organisational Safeguarding Assessment](#)
- ◆ Events: [DBS Spring Conference—Tuesday 30th April 2024](#)
- ◆ Training: [Training Programme 2024-2025](#)
- ◆ Local Resources: [Working With Children Who Are Anxious About School](#)
- ◆ Spotlight On: [Mind Of My Own](#)
- ◆ National Guidance and Useful Resources

Latest News from the DSCP



Learning from Practice (Fathers, Male Carers)

Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership (DSCP) champions good multi-agency working and supports practitioner learning with examples of cases where practice demonstrates positive multi agency practice.

In October 2023 the DSCP completed a number of observations of Child Protection Conferences. The example in this [learning briefing](#) identifies that the professionals demonstrated good practice by involving both parents throughout the process for the child. There were a number of interventions within this family however this briefing is related specifically to father/male carer inclusive practice.

Priorities

Priorities

PRIORITY ONE - DOMESTIC ABUSE

PRIORITY TWO - HARM OUTSIDE THE HOME

PRIORITY THREE - FIRST 1001 DAYS

PRIORITY FOUR - MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Golden Threads - that weave through everything we do....
Child's Voice and Lived Experience
Working Together Across Partners and Boundaries
Whole Family Approach recognising Networks, Father's Roles and Hidden Males
Cultural Competence
Reflective Practice
Signs of Safety

Priority One: Domestic Abuse

Domestic Abuse Practice Checklist

The DSCP have recently added the [Domestic Abuse Checklist](#) to their website. This checklist enables practitioners to gain a better understanding of how to support or risk assess when working with families. Completing the actions highlighted on this checklist will help enhance your practice when working with anyone subject to Domestic Abuse (DA) and those who are causing harm. These actions will help identify risk and promote safety. Depending on your service area you might carry out all, most or some of these actions:

Remember to always check immediate safety. If anyone is at risk of immediate harm call 999.

Remember to always follow your agency's safeguarding procedures.

Domestic Abuse Practice Checklist



Priority Two: Harm Outside The Home

The Contextual Safeguarding Young People's Podcast Series has been developed as part of the Scale Up Project and produced by Tanika Trent-McSherry. Featuring young people from across the London and National Scale Up sites, this is the first time you can hear young people sharing their views on all things related to Contextual Safeguarding. The series comprises of four episodes, each focusing on different contexts: schools, the role of social workers, friendships and peers and neighbourhoods.

Please visit <https://www.contextualsafeguarding.org.uk/blog/the-contextual-safeguarding-young-people-s-podcast-series/>, and access some of these wonderful podcasts.

Priority Three: 1,001 Days

This year's DSCP Development Day will be looking at how we are safeguarding and protecting our most vulnerable children, children who come into the category of the first 1,001 days (conception to 2 years old).

The DSCP are going to offer a day of one hour bitesize workshops around key areas of practice.

The partnership would love to hear what you would like to see, or ideas around themes for the workshops.

Please take 5 minutes to complete this short survey to offer the partnership feedback or your ideas.

<https://forms.office.com/e/f0ws80XghQ>



Priority Four: Mental Health and Wellbeing

THEME - REDISCOVERING YOU Maternal Mental Health Awareness Week 2024

The next Maternal Mental Health Awareness Week will take place from **Monday 29 April to Sunday 5 May 2024**, with World Maternal Mental Health Day 2024 on Wednesday 1 May.

What is Maternal Mental Health Awareness Week?

Maternal Mental Health Awareness Week is a week-long campaign dedicated to talking about mental health problems before, during and after pregnancy.

The week is all about:

- raising public and professional awareness of [perinatal mental health problems](#)
- advocating for women and families impacted
- changing attitudes
- helping people access the information, care and support they need to recover

[Maternal Mental Health Awareness Week | Maternal Mental Health Alliance](#)

What's New



The Organisational Safeguarding Assessment

As you may be aware, the safeguarding partners (Durham Constabulary, Durham County Council Children and Young Peoples Service and North East & North Cumbria ICB) are responsible for ensuring that agencies are meeting their statutory responsibilities to safeguard children and young people as outlined in The Children's Act 2004.

To achieve this, we are completing a pilot within the South of County Durham, using an Organisational Safeguarding Assessment, asking all safeguarding leads in this area to complete a short assessment of the work completed in their organisation. The assessment has been designed to be quick and shouldn't take longer than 30 minutes. We know everyone will be busy but appreciate colleagues taking the time to complete this.

The Organisational Safeguarding Assessment will be shared with the identified partners on the 15th April 2024. Following evaluation of the pilot, we will communicate the next steps as to how we progress to ensure we are meeting our statutory responsibility.

Events



DBS Spring Conference: Tuesday 30th April 2024

DBS Spring Conference
Tuesday 30 April 2024



The Disclosure and Barring Service is hosting its Spring Conference: [DBS Spring Conference 2024 | LinkedIn](#) on Tuesday 30 April – a free virtual event open to everyone with an interest in safeguarding.

DBS supports employers to make safer recruitment decisions by processing and issuing criminal record checks and by maintaining the Adults' and Children's Barred Lists.

At our Spring Conference 2024, we will be sharing a range of webinars tailored to support individuals and organisations across a variety of sectors. Each webinar will be hosted by specialists in the areas they will discuss. Following each webinar there will be an opportunity (for everyone) to participate in a live Q & A session with DBS experts.

You will be able to join all six webinars throughout the day, or choose any specific ones you are most interested in.

To keep up to date with announcements, and to view details of the webinars, click on the link above, follow the page and turn on the page notifications at the top of the page.

Please note, if you are unable to join us on the day the sessions will be available after the conference via this page on LinkedIn and on a separate landing page for the benefit of non-LinkedIn users.

Please also forward this on to any of your safeguarding peers who would be interested in attending. If you have any queries, please email the team at DBSEngagement@dbs.gov.uk.

Training



Training Programme 2024-2025

Our training programme for 2024-2025 was launched on 1st April 2024. We have an array of topics on offer, some carried forward from last year's programme and some new and exciting courses coming in the next few weeks.

Our eLearning platform continues to grow, and we now have 24 courses available to access, most of which have been developed by and for our practitioners working with children, young people and families in County Durham.

You can check out what is on offer and book by clicking [HERE](#).

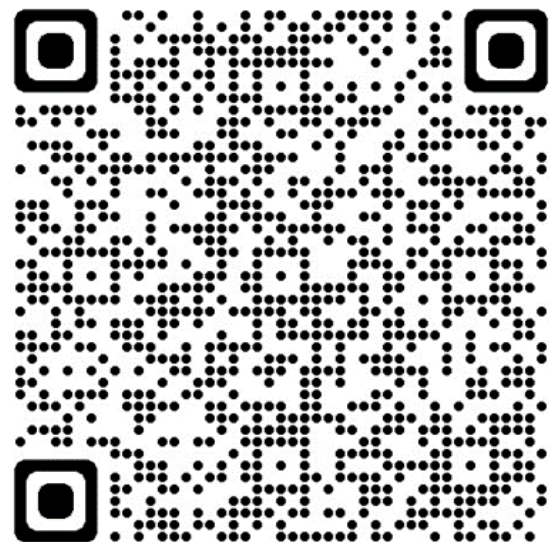
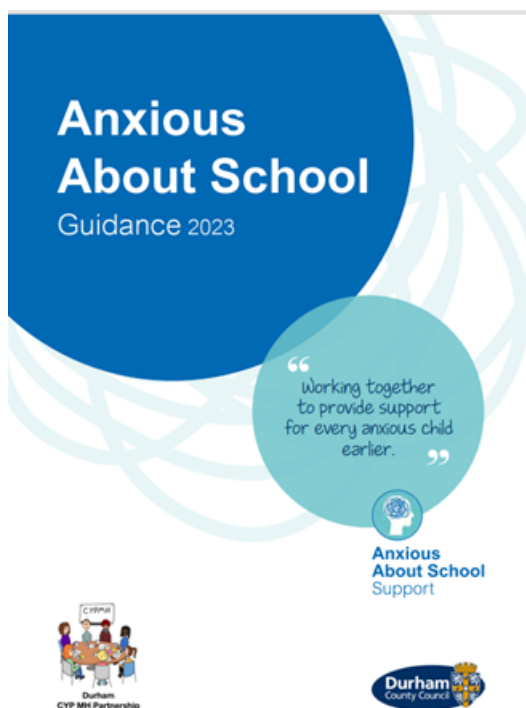
Local Resources



Working with Children Who Are Anxious About School

This guidance document has been created through County Durham's Children and Young People's Mental Health Partnership which includes members of: The SEND and Inclusion Service, Attendance Team, Investing in Children, One Point Services, Health and Durham's Children and Young People (CYP). The partnership ensures that wherever possible there is a coordinated approach to meeting the mental health needs of children and young people in Durham.

This document is intended to support school staff in identifying and effectively responding to the needs of children and young people who are anxious about school. This group of young people are at increased risk of disengagement, poor attendance, isolation, low mood, anxiety disorders and depression. Therefore, identifying and understanding the risk factors and underlying needs of these young people at the earliest opportunity is a priority for all of us in Durham.



Spotlight On

Mind Of My Own



'[Mind of My Own](#)' is an app that enables children and young people to have their voice heard and responded to without having to speak to a professional and at a time of their choosing. It's an app for those involved or receiving support from Children's Social Care are being encouraged to use. Their workers promote the tool and show children how to use it for themselves. The app consists of different scenarios which children and young people select and allows the child/young person to interact with the questions to convey their views, wishes and feelings. They can then send their responses through to a practitioner of their choice who then has a timeframe to respond to the child/young person. The app is particularly beneficial for the child to get their voice heard at meetings or conferences. The app is a key way in which Children's Social Care ensure they keep listening and responding to our children, their wishes and their feelings.

We have listened to children's voices approaching 3,000 times. That is 3,000 children and young people's statements received through Mind of My Own. 1,500 of these statements have been received in the last 9 months alone. As a service, Children's Social Care are proud of this and want to raise awareness and ask for support to go further with using the app and what we would ask from colleagues across the partnership is to be aware of the app and to encourage children to use the app as a communication tool.



National Guidance & Resources



- [Teaching Children about Vaping - drugscience.org.uk](https://www.drugscience.org.uk)
- [CO-CREATING PRACTICE WITH YOUNG FATHERS: A Future Leaders Fellowship Study Report No. 6 THE SPECIALIST AND INNOVATIVE SUPPORT OF THE NORTH EAST YOUNG DADS AND LADS](#)
- [Barriers for professionals to reporting abuse and neglect: Helplines insight briefing | NSPCC Learning](#)
- [Embedding children's services practitioners in primary schools | NSPCC Learning](#)
- [Recommendations for Change: an NSPCC Learning Podcast series about IICSA | NSPCC Learning](#)
- [Challenges young people are facing around sexuality and gender identity: Helplines insight briefing | NSPCC Learning](#)
- [Anti-racist systems leadership to address systemic racism: Strategic Briefing \(2024\) | Research in Practice](#)
- [Supporting neurodiversity in our organisations | Research in Practice](#)
- [Understanding when someone is deprived of their liberty | The Law Society](#)
- [Huge regional variation in support from children's social services for some of England's most vulnerable children](#)
- [Parent-infant relationships: starting conversations \(practitioner guide\)](#)
- [The Big Ambition: ambitions, findings and solutions](#)
- [Supporting families - a foundation for family help: annual report of the Supporting Families programme 2023-2024](#)

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