

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](mailto:DSCPsecure@durham.gov.uk)). To follow us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DurhamSCP>

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## Latest News from the DSCP



### Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership Procedures Manual



Have you visited our website and looked at the multi-agency procedures?

This manual is devised to provide you with a set of chapters which comply with Working Together to Safeguard Children. The content has been written in a succinct style which is intended to be accessible to a wide range of users from all the agencies that are partners in the DSCP and the third sector.

The manual has been organised with the Core Procedures in the most prominent place. These chapters explain the actions that must be taken when there are concerns about the welfare of a child.

Chapters which relate to guidance have been written in Safeguarding Practice Guides which capture the most significant points and avoiding a level of detail which put the reader off. Where more detailed guidance is required, this can be included either through a link from a Safeguarding Practice Guide or as a replacement for a Safeguarding Practice Guide.

We recommend that you register with us to automatically receive notification of when this manual is updated, and to receive a monthly newsletter containing articles which may be of interest. Click on the 'Register for Updates' button on the home screen [https://www.proceduresonline.com/durham/scb/register\\_updates.html](https://www.proceduresonline.com/durham/scb/register_updates.html), to complete and send your details to us.

# 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

### DART PROGRAMME

DART is a 10 week programme that:

- Aims to build and develop relationships between parent & child
- builds confidence in parenting
- Helps deal with the past
- Understand the need for healthy relationships

 **harbour**  
helping you safe children



### Domestic Abuse, Recovering Together (DART)

DART is a 10-week programme that helps mothers and children strengthen their relationship following domestic abuse.

#### Who's is for?

DART is for mothers and their children (ages 7-14 years) who experience domestic abuse. Over the programme, they explore their issues within a safe and friendly environment, promoting openness and honesty.

This programme is designed for one mum and one child per family, but if they have more than one child you may invite them to complete the programme with the other child at the later time.

Referrals are made directly to Harbour for DART using their generic form. If referrers could add a comment stating for "consideration for DART" when referring.

## Priority Two: Harm Outside The Home

The Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership have now completed their second learning cycle for the 2023-2026 DSCP priorities. The learning cycle was facilitated by the Improvement Delivery Group, this is a multi-agency space where practitioners come together to consider safeguarding practice, what is working well and when they may be challenged, how can we learn and develop together.

Each learning cycle is tasked with looking at one of the DSCP priorities, the membership that sit within the Improvement Delivery Group and therefore facilitate this learning cycle is different every time, depending on the work completed.

For this second piece of work under the Harm Outside the Home priority we looked at:  
*“Are partners aware of the early warning signs of exploitation and softer indicators to ensure that any concerns are raised as soon as possible so appropriate support and intervention can be offered?”*

### Learning:

- Practitioners survey showed they had a good understanding around what the early warning indicators are. However, there remains a gender bias amongst practitioners.
- Parents survey showed they are aware of what are the early warning indicators and showed awareness of gender bias.
- Children did not to recognise the risks to themselves or their peers, seeing a number of the early warning indicators as not being a warning sign.
- It was identified that practitioners, parents, and children were not clear what to do when they were worried about a young person at risk of exploitation.
- Children identified practitioners (health, support worker, police) parents and their friends as their top people to approach for support. We need to enable all people in County Durham to understand how to support young people who raise concerns with them.



How do we share information with children? How do children share information back with professionals? Do we use the right language when speaking to children?

### Next Steps:

- Actions will be developed, and work completed through the Strategic Child Exploitation Group
- A practitioner briefing is currently being developed by the DSCP and will be shared in March 2024 on the website.

## Priority Three: 1001 Days

**Better Health Start for Life**

**LOAD THEM UP...**

90% of brain growth happens before the age of five. What you do together can make a huge difference.

Search Start for Life for tips and advice.

**NHS**

On 15th January the Department for Education (DfE), in partnership with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), launched the Better Health Start for Life 'Little Moments Together' Campaign. The campaign aims to educate parents and carers about the importance of brain development in the first five years of a child's life, and the crucial role they play as parents and carers, with advice and tips available on the Start for Life website.

By focusing on behaviours that can easily be integrated into their busy daily routines, the Little Moments Together campaign aims to illustrate a 'way of being' to parents and carers, showing them that sharing simple, child-led 'serve and return' moments together throughout the day has a big impact.

A range of downloadable resources are available on the [Campaign Resource Centre](#) including:

- [Partner Activation Pack](#) with campaign overview, key messages, tips and support for partners when delivering interventions and links to supporting tools and resources.
- [Social Media Toolkit](#) with post, copy and content calendar.
- [Posters](#), including ready to use, localisable versions and empty belly for partners to add local service information.
- [Digital screens](#) for use on TV screens and other digital displays in locations such as GP surgeries, Family Hubs, outdoor settings etc.
- [Web banners](#) to use across owned digital channels.

## Priority Four: Mental Health and Wellbeing

[Improving the mental health of babies, children and young people: a framework of modifiable factors;](#)  
Published 8 January 2024

The Department of Health and Social Care has published a set of [documents looking at the mental health](#) of babies, children and young people, how it influences their current and future health, as well as their wider life chances and outcomes. The early part of the life course, from birth to young adulthood (0 to 25 years), provides important opportunities for promoting and protecting mental health.

## What's New



### Fun & Food Holiday Activities

Durham County Council's 'Fun and Food' Programme provides FREE holiday activities with healthy food and meals for children and young people in County Durham. Activities are provided by schools, voluntary and community sector groups, sport and leisure services, our Family Centres and other partners. [Holiday Activities](#)



# Events



## Programme of Learning February - March 2024

### #LookCloser programme of learning

A number of sessions have been developed from The Children's Society and wider partners to tackle the issues of child exploitation and abuse. All sessions are free of charge and delivered on Microsoft Teams Live which means: Interaction with the presenters and participants will be limited. All of the sessions have been designed for various professional audiences, so please share these events with anyone you think would benefit from attending.

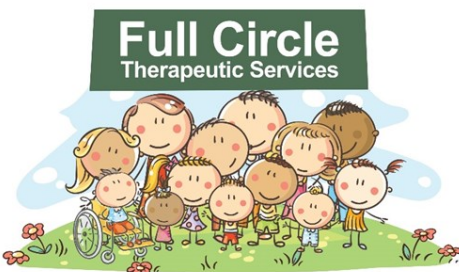
Learning sessions for April 2024 will be confirmed soon, so please check The Children's Society for the most up to date information. If you have any questions about our learning events, please contact [prevention@childrensociety.org.uk](mailto:prevention@childrensociety.org.uk)

Date	Session	Time
Thursday 15th February 2024	Preventing and Disrupting Child Exploitation within the Night Time Economy	10:00—11:30
Thursday 28th March 2024	Safeguarding Transgender Young People from Exploitation*	TBC

# Training



## Trauma Informed Approaches Training



**This is a full-day course looking at the impact of trauma on children, families and professionals, how to support healing and how to practice in a trauma informed way.**

### Who is it for?

All DSCP training endorses that safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. As such, this course is relevant for practitioners and managers across

the range of Adult and Children's services and is for all professionals who work with parents, carers, children and young people.

### Who is delivering the training?

The training is delivered by therapeutically trained and experienced workers from Full Circle Therapeutic Services.

Full Circle is a specialist therapeutic service for children and young people with complex backgrounds who have been abused or neglected, and the impact of the abuse or neglect is affecting their day-to-day functioning and emotional wellbeing.

Ofsted said about children, young people and families, “They receive tailored and highly effective support with their emotional needs from the specialist therapeutic Full Circle team. Foster carers and adopters are well supported by social workers and Full Circle in the transition and continuing care of children placed with them.” (May 2022)

For more information about the Full Circle Therapeutic Service and what they can offer, visit <https://www.durham.gov.uk/fullcircle>

## Learning Outcomes

**By the end of the session, participants will:**

- Have an understanding of the importance of attachment relationships.
- Have an understanding around trauma, it’s impact and how to support healing from trauma.
- Consider the impact on ourselves when working with those that have experienced trauma.
- Understand how to work in a trauma informed way

# Local Resources



## Rollercoaster—Parent Support Group in County Durham and Darlington

**Rollercoaster parent support group in County Durham and Darlington**

If you care for a child or young person (0-25yrs) with emotional or mental health difficulties, join our parent led support groups.

Professionally supported by our friendly mental health staff, the groups listen, support and offer advice and guidance based on lived experiences. The help and understanding from everyone can feel like magic.

Grab a cuppa and join our groups that are specially themed to help and bring a smile! There's no need to book.

**Locations and dates:**

Acley Centre, Carers Way, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 4PE 6pm - 8pm		Lanchester Road Hospital, Durham, DH1 5RD 10am - 12noon	
17 January	17 July	3 January	3 July
21 February	21 August	7 February	7 August
20 March	18 September	6 March	4 September
17 April	16 October	3 April	2 October
15 May	20 November	1 May	6 November
19 June	18 December	5 June	4 December

Rollercoaster in County Durham and Darlington offers parent-led, parent and carer support groups for those who care for a child or young person (0-25yrs) with emotional or mental health difficulties.

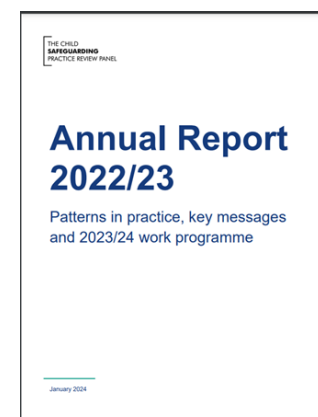
Supported by our professionals, friendly, mental health staff, the groups listen, support, and offer advice and guidance based on lived experiences.

Website:

<https://www.facebook.com/rollercoasterparentsupport/>

# Spotlight On

## Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel: Annual Report 2022/23



This is the fourth annual report from the independent Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-safeguarding-practice-review-panel-annual-report-2022-to-2023>

It looks at the child safeguarding system, based on serious child safeguarding incidents occurring between January 2022 and March 2023.

It sets out patterns in practice for national government and local safeguarding partners to better protect vulnerable children.

# National Guidance & Resources



- [Insights into wraparound childcare | Local Government Association](#) January 2024
- [How local authorities and children's homes can achieve stability and permanence for children with complex needs](#). Ofsted January 2024
- [Returning children home from care: improving support for family reunification: Action for Children NSPCC](#) January 2024
- [Mental health lead resource hub : Mentally Healthy Schools](#): DFE: January 2024
- [Preparing for adulthood: Young people with a learning disability and autistic young people | Local Government Association](#): November 2023
- [Unlocking education for all](#) – Curriculum Framework for Children and Young People with Vision Impairment in England
- [Curriculum Framework for Children and Young People with Vision Impairment](#)

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