

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>

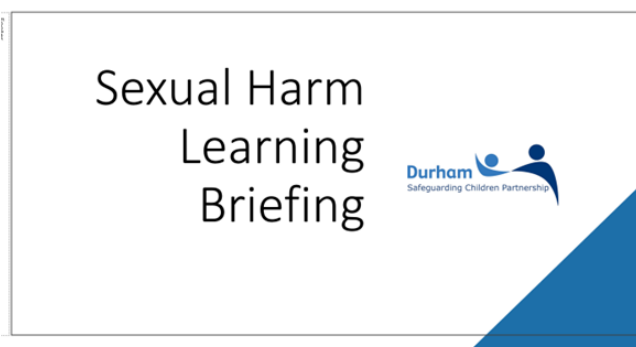
## In This Issue

- ◆ Welcome
- ◆ Latest News from the DSCP: [Sexual Harm Learning Briefing](#)
- ◆ Priorities: [Priority One: Domestic Abuse](#); [Priority Two: Harm Outside The Home](#); [Priority Three: 1001 Days](#); [Priority Four: Mental Health and Wellbeing](#)
- ◆ What's New?
- ◆ Events: [Social Work Practice Celebration](#)
- ◆ Training: [New courses added to the training programme 2024-2025](#)
- ◆ Local Resources: [Stronger Families Training](#)
- ◆ Spotlight On: [NHS MMR Vaccine campaign](#)
- ◆ National Guidance and Useful Resources: [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023](#)

## Latest News from the DSCP



### Sexual Harm Learning Briefing



In 2018 Serious Case Reviews were commissioned in relation to two families. A Serious Case Review in England is held after a child dies or is seriously injured under circumstances where abuse or neglect are thought to have been involved. Its purpose is to learn lessons to help prevent future similar incidents. These reviews are now called Safeguarding Child Practice Review (SCPR)

A briefing has been developed by the partnership to consider learning from both cases, as they had many similarities with sexual abuse being the main worry, but there were also several additional factors with neglect, domestic abuse, poor home conditions and poor mental health present. Whilst these factors were themselves areas of concern, sexual abuse was the pertinent issue, and the additional worries were also risk factors when considering the risk of sexual abuse within the households across the partnership.

In 2020-2021 DSCP held Learning Events to bring together the practitioners who worked in County Durham and across the partnership. These events led to several recommendations regarding how we can improve and develop practice in County Durham.

The cross-cutting theme of 'Sexual Harm' was highlighted in aspects of multi-agency working. Learning was identified around:

- 1) Whole system approach to dealing with sexual abuse in Durham
- 2) Management oversight and supervision
- 3) Voice of the child (VOC)
- 4) Understanding and responding to harmful sexual behaviour in children

In March 2023, a Challenge Event was held, the DSCP asked the partners to look at what has happened since 2018 and to bring examples of how practice has developed. Using the information shared at the event, a briefing has been developed which highlights improvements made around services offered to children and their families, with an embedded appreciative inquiry discussing what support is available to practitioners.

The briefing is available [here](#).

## Priorities

### Priorities

PRIORITY ONE - DOMESTIC ABUSE

PRIORITY TWO - HARM OUTSIDE THE HOME

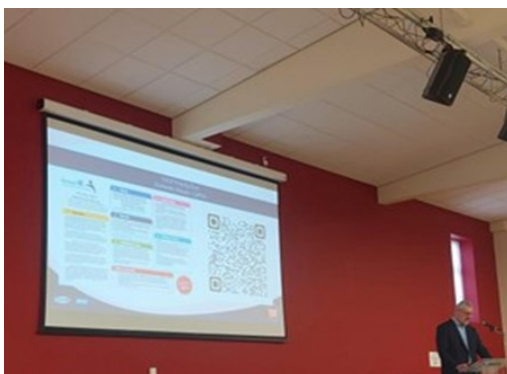
PRIORITY THREE - FIRST 1001 DAYS

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

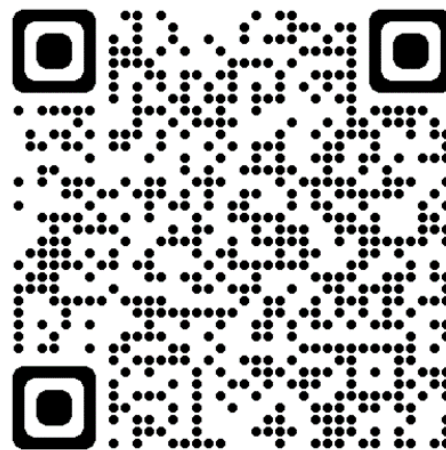
#### Child and Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse (CAPVA) Day



The Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership were thrilled to be invited to attend the Child and Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse (CAPVA) Celebration Day on the 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

It was an inspiring day listening to families and keynote speakers talk about their experiences.

Please visit the DSCP website to access the [Priority One briefing](#) which gives an overview of CAPVA and how you can support children and their families to access the right support at the right time.



## Priority Two: Harm Outside The Home

North East ADCS  
Leading Children's Services

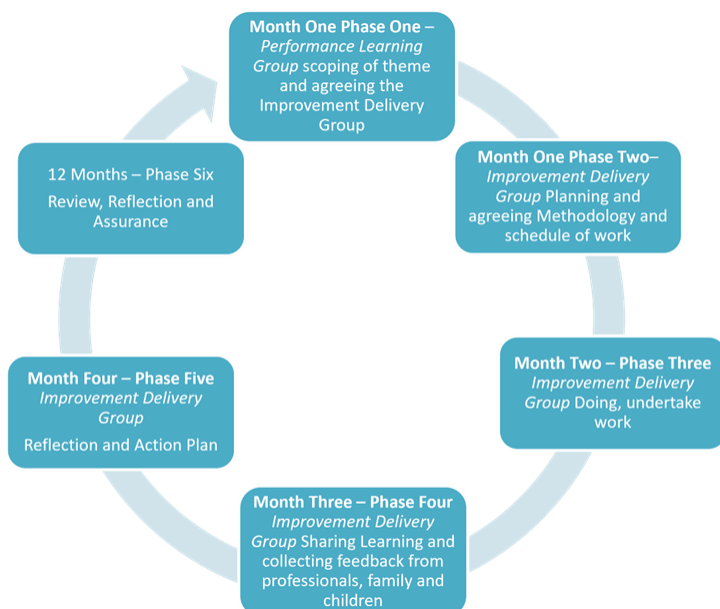
### Regional Contextual Safeguarding Learning & Development Programme

We're kicking off the programme with a range of sessions including initial training, lived experience and in-region LA innovation. Keep an eye out for our regular update emails and diary invites as the programme progresses.

<b>Tues 12th March</b> 1-3pm	<b>Introduction to Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) &amp; County Lines:</b> Sarah Pritchard, Barnardo's <i>Suitable for those new to the subject</i>
<b>Mon 18th March</b> 1-2pm	<b>Uncovering exploitation, a difficult truth:</b> a brave conversation with lived experience and safeguarding consultant Kendra Houseman
<b>Fri 22nd March</b> 1-3pm	<b>Introduction to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) &amp; County Lines:</b> Sarah Pritchard, Barnardo's <i>Suitable for those new to the subject</i>
<b>Thu 4th April</b> 12.30-1.15pm	<b>Middlesbrough's 4-pillar digital safeguarding model</b> Ralph Presgrave, Middlesbrough Council Safeguarding in the context of access to social media and key trends, their digital resilience framework and digital parenting strategies.
<b>Thu 18th April</b> 12.30-1.15pm	<b>SAIL (Sunderland Altogether Improving Lives) project:</b> Dave Jeffries, Sunderland City Council and Dave Catton, Northumbria Police. Delivered from a child involvement perspective, with an insight of why the project was set-up and what the police bring to the project. Learn more here: <a href="https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/article/26230/Ground-breaking-project-will-help-make-Sunderland-City-Centre-a-safer-place-to-visit">https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/article/26230/Ground-breaking-project-will-help-make-Sunderland-City-Centre-a-safer-place-to-visit</a>

Secure your place on these sessions by emailing  
[hannah.cooper@togetherforchildren.org.uk](mailto:hannah.cooper@togetherforchildren.org.uk).

## Priority Three: 1,001 Days



1,001 Days is the third priority for the DSCP, this priority is now in Phase 2 of the learning cycle where the Improvement Delivery Group will be planning and agreeing the methodology and schedule of work.

The question that has been agreed within the Performance and Learning Group is:

*What do we know about children who are taken into police protection within the 1001 days, and they are not known to safeguarding services ahead of this intervention?*

Key Line Of Enquiry: What do we know about those that have been taken into police protection in crisis or there is a serious incident when they have not been open to Children and Young People Services

## Priority Four: Mental Health and Wellbeing

Please visit the Mental Health & Emotional Support for Children, Young People and Families in County Durham webpages to access further information

[Mental health & emotional support for children, young people & families in County Durham](#)



This is a **great starting point** to help you **access support**



**One Point | 03000 261 111 | [www.durham.gov.uk/OnePoint](http://www.durham.gov.uk/OnePoint)**  
Advice and practical support across all aspects of family life

**Education & SEND Support | [www.countydurhamfamilies.info](http://www.countydurhamfamilies.info)**  
Support for children with special educational needs or disabilities

**Humankind | 01325 731 160 | [www.humankindcharity.org.uk](http://www.humankindcharity.org.uk)**  
Health and wellbeing support for LGBT young people (15-24 years)

**Investing in Children | [www.investinginchildren.net](http://www.investinginchildren.net)**  
A children's rights organisation, creating spaces to be heard

**Rollercoaster Parent Support | 07377 213 952**  
Helping parents to support children (0 – 25 years) with emotional or mental health issues  
[www.rollercoasterfamilysupport.co.uk](http://www.rollercoasterfamilysupport.co.uk)

**DurhamWorks | 03000 262 930 | [www.durhamworks.info](http://www.durhamworks.info)**  
Supporting 16-24 year olds not in education, employment or training

**Recovery College Online | [www.recoverycollegeonline.co.uk](http://www.recoverycollegeonline.co.uk)**  
Educational resources for people experiencing mental issues

**County Durham Together Hub | 03000 260 260**  
Support when self-isolating, directory of help and how to volunteer  
[www.durham.gov.uk/covid19help](http://www.durham.gov.uk/covid19help)

**Children's Social Care First Contact | 03000 267 979**  
Report a concern about a child's welfare  
[www.durham.gov.uk/FirstContact](http://www.durham.gov.uk/FirstContact)

**CAMHS - Single Point of Access | 03001 239 296**  
Community mental health teams for children (0 – 18 years)  
[www.tewv.nhs.uk](http://www.tewv.nhs.uk)

**TEWV Crisis line | 0800 0516 171 | [www.tewv.nhs.uk](http://www.tewv.nhs.uk)**

24 hour service for young people experiencing a mental health crisis

**Durham SEND Information Advice and Support | 0191 587 3541**

Provides information and advice to parents/carers of children with SEND  
[www.durhamsendiaas.info](http://www.durhamsendiaas.info)

**Emotional Health & Resilience Team | 03000 263 532**

Emotional health, advice and guidance for 5 – 19 years

**County Durham Cree Network | Website Coming Soon!**

Support and promote health & wellbeing as part of voluntary sector

**Hub of Hope | [www.hubofhope.co.uk](http://www.hubofhope.co.uk)**

UK mental health support database (with local options)



## National Support

**KOOTH | [www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com)**

Free, safe and anonymous support around mental wellbeing for 11 years +

**Anna Freud Centre for Children and Families**

Empowering young people to make informed choices about their mental wellbeing  
[www.annafreud.org/on-my-mind](http://www.annafreud.org/on-my-mind)

**Charlie Waller Memorial Trust | [www.cwmt.org.uk](http://www.cwmt.org.uk)**

Education resources for young people (16+), families and schools on mental wellbeing

**Headspace | [www.headspace.com](http://www.headspace.com)**

Free tools around mindfulness, meditation, routine and sleep

**NHS Every Mind Matters | [www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters](http://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters)**

Resources to support children and young people's mental health

**MindEd | [www.mindedforfamilies.org.uk](http://www.mindedforfamilies.org.uk)**

Safe and reliable advice about young people's mental health

**Young Minds | 0808 802 5544 | [www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)**

Helping young people around isolation and gaining support around mental health

## What's New



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.

Please visit the DSCP website to download the [briefing](#).

# Events



## Social Care Practice Celebration



# Training



## Training Programme 2024-2025

Neglect Basics and Toolkit Training (Level 2)	23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2024	13:30 – 15:30
Gypsy, Roma, Traveller Awareness Session (Level 2)	9 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	09:30 – 12:15
Safeguarding for Managers and Designated Leads	15 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	13:00—16:30
Impact of Parental/Carer Mental Ill Health on Children (PAMIC)	16 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	09:30 – 11:00
Safer Recruitment and DBS	18 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	09:30—12:00
Neglect Basics and Toolkit Training (Level 2)	12 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	09:30 – 11:30
Safeguarding for Managers and Designated Leads	17 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	09:30—13:00
Gypsy, Roma, Traveller Awareness Session (Level 2)	24 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	09:30 – 12:15
Safer Recruitment and DBS	15 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	09:30—12:00
Safeguarding Children from Sexual Abuse	22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2024	09:30 – 12:30
Neglect Basics and Toolkit Training (Level 2)	23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2024	09:30 – 11:30
Impact of Parental/Carer Mental Ill Health on Children (PAMIC)	6 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	09:30 – 11:00
Safeguarding and Protecting Disabled Children	3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2024	09:30 – 12:30
Safeguarding for Managers and Designated Leads	12 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	13:00—16:30
Neglect Basics and Toolkit Training (Level 2)	23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2025	09:30 – 11:30
Safer Recruitment and DBS	28 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	09:30—12:00
Safeguarding Children from Sexual Abuse	4 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	13:00 – 16:00
Gypsy, Roma, Traveller Awareness Session (Level 2)	13 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	09:30 – 12:15
Safeguarding and Protecting Disabled Children	12 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	09:30 – 12:30
Safeguarding for Managers and Designated Leads	18 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	09:30—13:00

For further details and to book onto our courses please visit our [website](#).

## The Amber Project



### ***'The Amber Project': Enhancing the Response to Abuse Linked to Witchcraft and Spirit Possession Accusations***

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024: 15:30 – 17:00 (MS Teams)

Designated Safeguarding Leads working in Education settings are particularly welcome as there will be an emphasis within this webinar on supporting schools.

## What is The Amber Project?

The Amber Project is a multi-agency partnership that seeks to enhance the response to child abuse linked to faith and belief (specifically 'Abuse Linked to Witchcraft and Spirit Possession Accusations'). Delivery partners include specialists in ALWSPA from the Metropolitan Police Service, University of Chester and Barnardo's National FGM Centre.

A two hour free training webinar has been developed that clearly explains:

- 1) What is Abuse Linked to Witchcraft and Spirit Possession Accusations – including what are the factors and indicators?
- 2) How do we make better referrals relating to ALWSPA? There is an explicit focus on those within the education sector within this webinar but those working within policing, social care and health are also welcome to attend. It is also of benefit to those who are from faith communities and communities working with families and children.

To register for this free event please use this link which you may need to paste into Google Chrome or Microsoft Edge <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/813858070397?aff=oddtcreator>

## Local Resources



### Stronger Families Training

Stronger Families Training which is free to our Partner Services in County Durham. An example of some of the training available:

- ◆ **An Introduction to the Durham Way** (2 x 2.5 hr virtual sessions via Microsoft TEAMS). The Durham Way Event introduces the vision and principles of 'Thinking Family'. The event aims to build positive relationships between services and promote integrated working practices.
- ◆ **Working with Dads & Male Carers** (1 x 3hr virtual session via Microsoft Teams). To provide front line staff and managers with the confidence, knowledge and skills to engage with and work effectively with Dads and Male Carers.
- ◆ **Reducing Parental Conflict Training** (1 day training delivered either face-to-face or virtually via Microsoft Teams). This training will provide practitioners with an increased ability to recognise parental conflict, to understand the causes of conflict and provide practical tools and resources to enable practitioners to support families they are working with.
- ◆ **Hidden Sentence Awareness Training** (1 x 2.5hr virtual session via Zoom). This training gives practitioners an insight into the specific issues experienced by children and families of prisoners and the resources available to you to help support families. Delivered by NEPACS.
- ◆ **Parental Rights Awareness Training** (1 x 2.5hr virtual session via Zoom). To provide practitioners with knowledge of the legalities of parental rights and the challenges and barriers prisoners or estranged parents face in exercising their parental rights and remaining an active parent. Delivered by NEPACS.
- ◆ **Loss and Bereavement Training** (1 x 3hr delivered face to face). This Training provides Practitioners with an Increased knowledge of the different stages of grief and how they can affect a person.

Stronger Families training is advertised through the Family Information Service, see below link to access further course information, available dates and detail of how to book:

Click [here](#) to view the Stronger Families training calendar and to book onto courses.



# Spotlight On



## NHS MMR Vaccine Campaign

The UK is currently experiencing an increase in the number of measles cases being reported. There are also a number of clusters around the country amongst unvaccinated children. In County Durham, vaccination uptake is higher than the national average, 96.2% for the first dose of the MMR vaccine and 94.0% for the second MMR dose. Locally, work continues to maximise vaccination uptake, raising awareness that people can help to protect themselves, their families and those around them by ensuring they have 2 doses of the MMR vaccine, which is free on the NHS whatever the person's age.

This is a communication toolkit that has been developed and will be rolled out across the region. Below are examples of the messaging and graphics that will be used.



## Sources of information

UKHSA Guidance – Measles

[www.gov.uk/government/collections/measles-guidance-data-and-analysis](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/measles-guidance-data-and-analysis)

MMR for all leaflet – routine programme

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/mmr-for-all-general-leaflet](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mmr-for-all-general-leaflet)

Measles: Protect yourself, protect others' leaflet: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/689712/Measles\\_adults\\_DL\\_Leaflet\\_03\\_.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/689712/Measles_adults_DL_Leaflet_03_.pdf)

Measles outbreaks poster and leaflets

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/measles-outbreak](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/measles-outbreak)

Guidance to help local authorities to respond to outbreaks of measles in their areas, and support greater uptake of the MMR vaccine

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/measles-resources-for-local-government](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/measles-resources-for-local-government)

Measles outbreak could spread warns UKHSA Chief Executive

[www.gov.uk/government/news/measles-outbreak-could-spread-warns-ukhsa-chief-executive](http://www.gov.uk/government/news/measles-outbreak-could-spread-warns-ukhsa-chief-executive)

ADPH Statement – Why measles outbreak is not surprising

[www.adph.org.uk/2024/01/why-measles-outbreak-is-not-surprising](http://www.adph.org.uk/2024/01/why-measles-outbreak-is-not-surprising)

# National Guidance & Resources



## Working Together to Safeguard Children: 2023

On 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023 the government published 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023. Statutory guidance on multi-agency working to help, protect and promote the welfare of children'. This statutory guidance 'sets out what organisations and agencies who have functions relating to children must and should do to help, protect and promote the welfare of all children and young people under the age of 18 in England. The 2023 edition replaces Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018.

his new edition of Working together is central to delivering on the strategy set out in [Stable homes, built on love \(2023\)](#) which outlines the **Government's** commitment to support every child to grow up in a safe, stable and loving home.

The DSCP have created a document to summarise the changes needed which can be found on our [website](#).

## Contact Us

Room 3/79-82, County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UJ

Tel: 03000 265770

Email: [DSCPSecure@durham.gov.uk](mailto:DSCPSecure@durham.gov.uk)

Website: [www.durham-scp.org.uk](http://www.durham-scp.org.uk)

Twitter: [@DurhamSCP](https://twitter.com/DurhamSCP)

## Subscriptions

If you would like to subscribe to our newsletter please complete our [Subscription Form](#).

To unsubscribe please contact us by email.

Email: [DSCPSecure@durham.gov.uk](mailto:DSCPSecure@durham.gov.uk)