

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

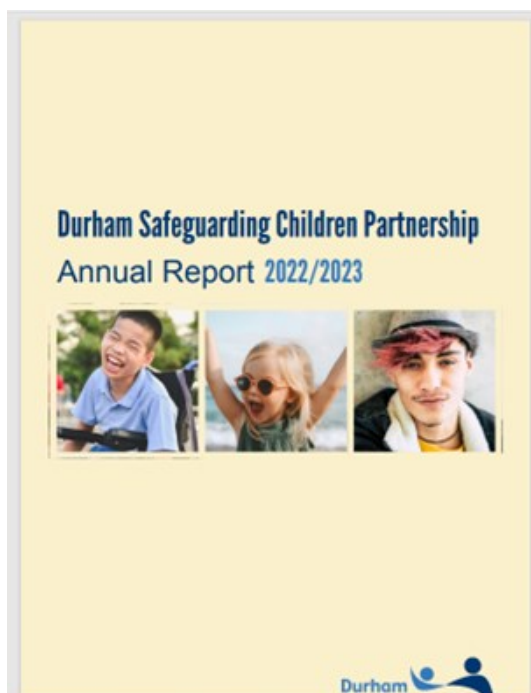


### DSCP Annual Report 2022/2023

The 2022/2023 Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report has been published this month.

The report summarises and reflects on the work of the Partnership over the past year, drawing upon a range of data and information to outline the progress made and to illustrate the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding partnership arrangements across Durham.

Read the full report [here](#).



# Priorities

## Priorities

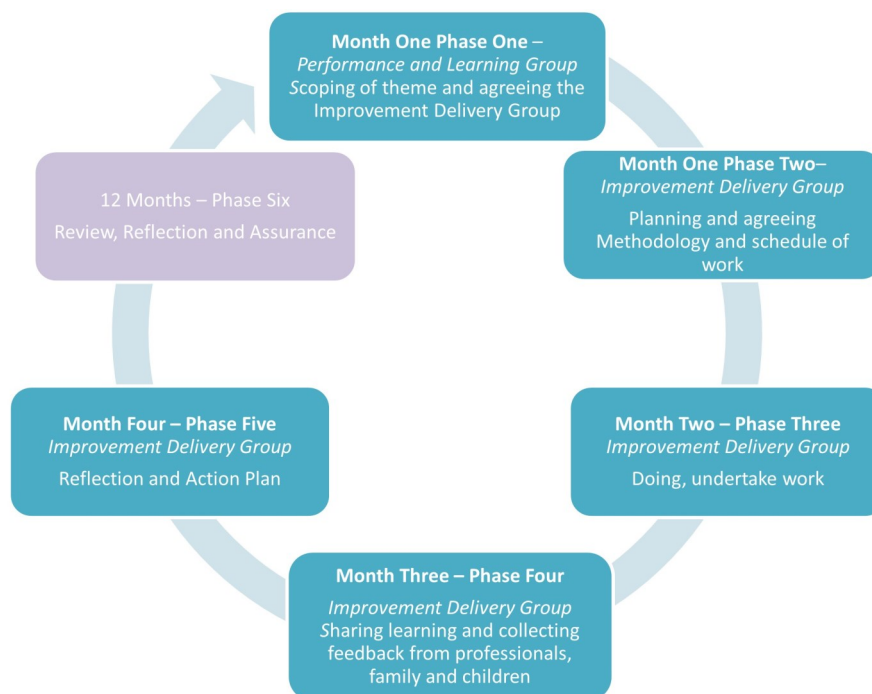
PRIORITY ONE - DOMESTIC ABUSE

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

The Improvement Delivery Group have now completed the first 5 phases of the learning cycle for Priority One.

The Business Unit have created a briefing for practitioners to explain what we have looked at and to give some helpful links to resources and guidance.

The Child and Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse (CAPVA) briefing has been uploaded to the website, it is an A3 document designed to be taken into team meetings, supervisions or to be used by practitioners to help them to understand what CAPVA is and what you can do. Please visit our website to [download](#) the document.

## Priority One Domestic Abuse

"What is working well to reduce or remove the risks of domestic abuse and to improve outcomes for children and families (in context of communities and County Durham)?"

### 1 Overview

This 7-point briefing has been developed following the DSCP completing work under Priority One, Domestic Abuse, of the 2023-2026 DSCP Priority Plan. This briefing aims to support you to understand, identify and respond to children and their families where it is suspected or known that Child and Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse (CAPVA) is present in the home [CAPVA Handbook](#)

This briefing explores the work completed within the Improvement Delivery Group (IDG), looking at what children, their families and practitioners identify as working well and what they want us to learn from their involvement in the program.

**Definition:** CAPVA is a form of family abuse where children/adolescents use a range of harmful behaviours towards parents/care givers this can include but is not limited to physical violence, verbal abuse, behaviours that are emotionally and/or psychologically abusive, and those which damage properties and/or hurt parents financially.

**Why:** Durham launched their CAPVA offer in February 2022. The IDG recognised there had been 101 referrals received between February 2022- April 2023 therefore we could identify a group of young people and their families who had been supported in the program.

**Scope:** When looking at this priority and Key Line of Enquiry we could identify from data that 26% of the cases that had been referred in relation to CAPVA had a history of Domestic Abuse incidents. Therefore, we agreed that this would allow us to look both at the general CAPVA programme and the impact of the Respect Young People's Programme (RYPP) on these children who had historically been victims of Domestic Abuse themselves.

### 2 Training

Since February 2022, 252 practitioners across County Durham have attended the CAPVA awareness training.

4 Partner agencies within the DSCP have been trained to deliver the Respect Young People Program (RYPP):

- Early Help – 93 practitioners
- Youth Justice Service – 26 practitioners
- Supporting Solutions – 9 practitioners
- Harbour – 14 practitioners (Data 2022)

Contact Laura Duncan for training needs and enquiries ([laura.duncan@durham.gov.uk](mailto:laura.duncan@durham.gov.uk))

### 3 Referrals

Since the launch of CAPVA, 101 referrals were made (February 22-April 2023). Referrals have predominantly been received from the North (42) of Durham with almost double the number of referrals than the East (24).

Both One Point and Education had the majority of referrals from the North/East. Parent and Police were predominantly referrers from the South of Durham.

To report a concern or seek support around CAPVA contact First Contact (03000 26 79 79) or [Report a concern about a child - Durham County Council](#)

### 4 Practitioners Voice

**Strengths:** "I have just been in a Team Around Family (TAF) for MR and the feedback from the impact of the RYPP is absolutely brilliant. Mum, Dad, Vicky Murray (One Point) and Sarah Fallows (Police) have all made comments about the 'significant improvement' that she has made since the RYPP. Vicky even said that the home environment feels completely different when she visits compared to when she was allocated the case."

**Learning:** "I didn't understand the threshold for the RYPP."  
[Clarify, Verify and Reflect](#)

### 5 Parents Voices

**Strengths:** "It offered me a greater understanding of the reason for the child's behaviour. Greater understanding about consistency"

"The help was for the child which was the best thing".

"Prior to the RYPP my son struggled to understand what a healthy relationship is, he now recognises good and bad relationships".

**Learning:** "It is important that professionals understand that a child's background impacts them. My son once read a note the teacher had written stating he was 'aggressive', this label stuck with him, and he used this to explain his behaviour. I have learned it is important to not judge children on one thing. Understand that children need support to manage their emotions, respond appropriately to these children, listen, and understand their story".

[CAPVA video](#)

### 6 Children's Voices

**Strengths:**

"I wasn't a fan at first because I didn't like talking, but I found I liked Sharon and so I opened up to her".

"She talked about how it made me feel and helped me to look at how mam felt. It wasn't one sided, it gave us both a voice."

"My family worker understood, we talked about sharing experiences, talked about school it helped. I've been to Harbour before, I don't like telephone appointments, this was better."

**Learning:**

One Point previously helped us, we did rewards and consequences work, the case was then closed but the problems then started again. Mam asked for help. We were then offered RYPP, this helped.

[Language that cares-guide](#)

### What can you do?

- Be aware of your own language, challenge each other when you overhear labels being placed on children. Language can directly contribute to how children are seen.
- Access training and resources to improve your knowledge and skills about CAPVA.
- Understand the importance of early intervention and prevention and be aware of key indicators of CAPVA.
- Use supervision to reflect and challenge assumptions and bias. Use critical thinking skills to inform professional challenge.

Priority  
Work

## Priority Two: Harm Outside The Home

We are now coming to the end of the Priority Two work, The current question is: "Are we confident identification, assessment and intervention is having an impact on safety and wellbeing of children?"

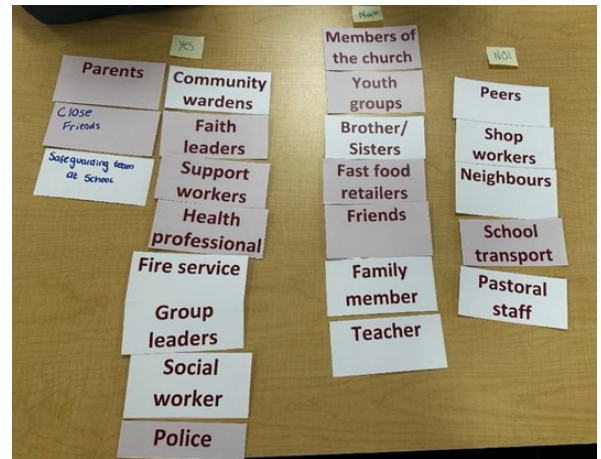
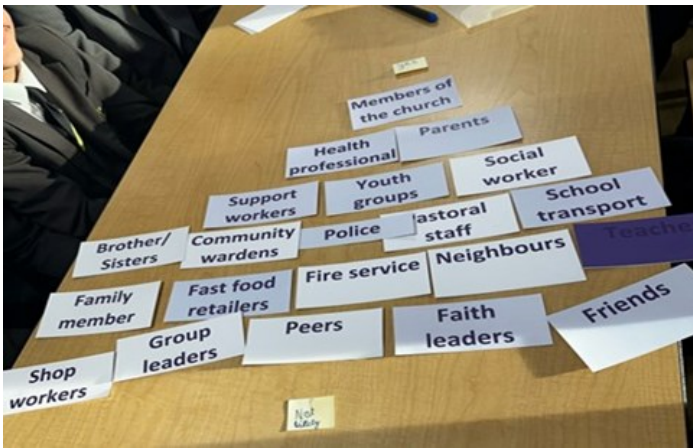
### Key Line of Enquiry:

"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".

To gather information about this the IDG have created and shared a survey with our Eyes and Ear's Partners (e.g., football coaches, taxi drivers, volunteer drivers etc) to gain a better understand of their knowledge and understanding of early warning signs. The DSCP have also shared a survey with children and young people and their parents in order to gather information about what our families understand and identify as harm outside the home.

The surveys were returned by:

- 306 Children
- 175 Practitioners
- 84 Parents/Carers

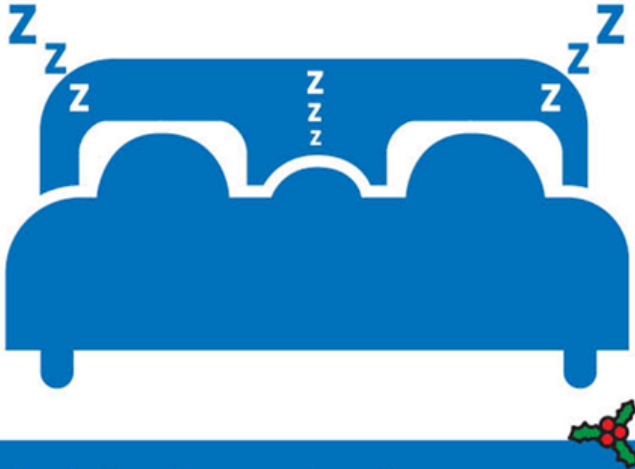


Further work will be completed across the partnership in response to the survey and focus group information.

### Priority Three: 1001 Days

The link to Baby Safe Sleeping is now live <https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/here-to-help> and contains a Toolkit to support practitioners to speak to parents and carers. The campaign toolkit is available for communication leads in health, social care, local authority and voluntary organisations to use.

**Around 50% of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) deaths occur when baby is co-sleeping with a parent or carer**



**Reduce the risk by following our top tips...**

By following the Lullaby Trust's top tips, you and baby can have a fun and safe.

For further information, visit the Lullaby Trust website at [www.lullabytrust.org.uk](http://www.lullabytrust.org.uk)

## Priority Four: Mental Health and Wellbeing



### Children's Mental Health Week: 5th-11th February 2024

Help give a voice to children and young people across the UK in Children's Mental Health Week, from 5th-11th February 2024.

Children's Mental Health Week is a mental health awareness week that empowers, equips and gives a voice to all children and young people in the UK.

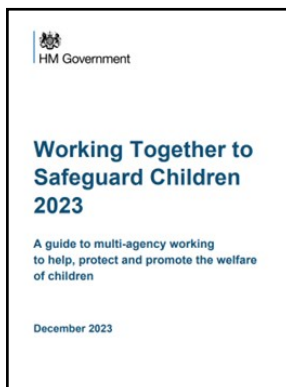
### ***What is Children's Mental Health Week?***

Children's Mental Health Awareness Week will take place from 5th to 11th February 2024, with the theme of My Voice Matters. It was set up by children's mental health charity Place2Be and shines a spotlight on the importance of children and young people's mental health.

Visit the Place2Be's website for more ideas around how to get involved

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>

## What's New



### **Working Together to Safeguard Children (DfE)**

The Department for Education (DfE) has published updated 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' statutory guidance on multi-agency working to help keep children safe in England. The guidance applies to all organisations and agencies with functions relating to children and all education providers and childcare settings.

This 2023 edition replaces Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, which underwent a limited factual update in 2020. The guidance outlines what organisations and agencies must and should do to help, protect and promote the welfare of all children and young people under the age of 18 in England. This briefing outlines the main changes in the 2023 edition, including updates around:

- multi-agency expectations for all practitioners
- working with parents and families
- clarifying the roles and responsibilities of safeguarding partners
- the role of education and childcare providers
- multi-agency practice standards
- support for disabled children
- tackling harm that occurs outside the home

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>

We will be completing a compliance check during 2024 to make sure our safeguarding partnership arrangements are in line with the requirements of Working Together 2023.

# Events



The DSCP continuously strives to ensure and embed a learning culture at the heart of what we do and will, where appropriate, take all opportunities to review circumstances in order to identify and learn from good practice and areas where practice could be strengthened. This includes the practice of the Business Unit and any independent reviewer who facilitated events and/or complete reports or briefings.

The DSCP have recently sent out a short survey to practitioners who have attended one or more of our learning events in 2022/2023. These learning events have been held following a recommendation for a Safeguarding Child Practice Review or following a request for the partnership to consider learning from practice. If you have attended any of these events we would appreciate practitioners to take time to offer us feedback, we want to hear from practitioners about how these events were structured/ organised and any support that we can offer moving forward.

The surveys are anonymous but if you would like to contact the unit to offer further feedback please contact [DSCPSecure@durham.gov.uk](mailto:DSCPSecure@durham.gov.uk) or [Laura.Bywater@durham.gov.uk](mailto:Laura.Bywater@durham.gov.uk)

# Training



## Philomena Protocol

The DSCP have recently added some training to our Me Learning platform about Philomena Protocol.

Please visit your Me Learning account to watch the training.

If you have any comments or queries about our training please email: [DSCPTraining@durham.gov.uk](mailto:DSCPTraining@durham.gov.uk)

# Local Resources



Durham Fostering Services are currently looking to recruit new independent panel members for their Fostering Panel.

The Fostering Panel is an integral and essential part of our service and comprises of a group of people who contribute to all fostering panel functions including independent oversight and making recommendations on the suitability of applicants and connected carers to foster. The panel considers fostering applications, foster carer reviews and terminations of approval and therefore panel members must be able to demonstrate a thorough and robust approach to assessing written information.

They are particularly interested in hearing from people with direct personal experience of the care system, either as a care leaver, as a foster carer, or as a birth child of a foster carer or social workers, professionals from a medical or educational background.

To express an interest in the role of fostering panel member or for more information please contact the Krissie Alpcakmak, Fostering Panel Advisor, for an informal chat ([krissie.alpcakmak@durham.gov.uk](mailto:krissie.alpcakmak@durham.gov.uk))

# Spotlight On



Child Safeguarding  
Practice Review Panel

## National review into child sexual abuse within the family environment

A Child Safeguarding Practice national review has been announced into child sexual abuse within the family environment. The review will explore the challenges in identifying, assessing, and responding to this type of abuse, while making recommendations on how children can be better protected from it.

Click [here](#) to see the letter to the Secretary of State for Education from Annie Hudson, Chair of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review, which details:

- why the panel has announced a national review
- when it started
- who is carrying it out
- what it aims to achieve



## National Guidance & Resources



- [A joint thematic inspection of work with children subject to remand in youth detention](#) : HM Inspectorate of Prisons, December 2023
- [Working together to safeguard children](#): DfE, December 2023
- [Children's social care: national framework](#): DfE, December 2023
- [Championing kinship care: national kinship care strategy](#): DfE, December 2023
- [School safeguarding shorts: monthly webinars for the education sector](#) : NSPCC Learning, November 2023
- [Why language matters: why we shouldn't talk about the 'risky behaviour' of young people experiencing abuse](#): NSPCC Learning, November 2023
- [A manifesto for babies, children and young people's mental health](#)
- Children's and Young People's Mental Health Coalition, November 2023
- [Following the children of depressed parents from childhood to adult life: a focus on mood and anxiety disorders](#) : ACAMH, December 2023
- [Parents with substance use problems: learning from case reviews](#): NSPCC Learning, December 2023

### Contact Us

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