

# Summer Newsletter

## Welcome to our Summer Newsletter

As lockdown restrictions begin to ease it is great to see people enjoying more social gatherings and whilst a large number of us would like to be planning overseas travel again with the joy of guaranteed sun and sandy beaches, the reality is we will be better off planning a Staycation and looking forward to our second summer on home shores.

As the country begins to move towards 'normality' and the vast majority of the population having had their Covid vaccinations, it would be easy enough to convince ourselves that flip-flop weather means we no longer need to be concerned, but the vaccine is just a small part of the solution and it is too early to expect a summer reprieve.



As we all learn to live with Covid it is even more important for us all within our professional roles to keep our eyes and ears open and act on any worries that may arise, as families begin to emerge from the difficulties of the past year.

Over the coming months, we need to contemplate what life might look like post-pandemic but in the meanwhile, we share with you the latest safeguarding information and updates to ensure we continue to protect and support those who need us.

Once again thank you to you all for your continued dedication, creativity and adaptability in the way you have supported and safeguarded vulnerable children and adults in Darlington.

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***This newsletter is available on the DSP website;***

<https://darlington-safeguarding-partnership.co.uk/>



### ***Darlington's Statutory Safeguarding Partners;***

- Ann Baxter, Independent Chair/Scrutineer
- James Stroyan, Director of Children and Adult Services
- Adrian Green, Detective Chief Superintendent
- Jean Golightly, Director of Nursing

## Liberty Protection Safeguards Factsheets



The Department for Health and Social Care has released 6 helpful Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) factsheets:

1. Criteria for Authorisation;
2. The Appropriate Person and Independent Mental Capacity Advocates;
3. The Approved Mental Capacity Professional Role;
4. Deprivation of Liberty and Authorisation of Steps Necessary for Life-Sustaining Treatment or Vital Acts (section 4b);
5. Authorisations, Renewals and Reviews;
6. The Right to Challenge an Authorisation in Court.

The Liberty Protection Safeguards will provide protection for people aged 16 and above who are or who need to be deprived of their liberty in order to enable their care or treatment and lack the mental capacity to consent to their arrangements. People who might have a Liberty Protection Safeguards authorisation include those with dementia, autism and learning disabilities who lack the relevant capacity.

The Liberty Protection Safeguards were introduced in the Mental Capacity (Amendment) Act 2019 and will replace the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) system. The Liberty Protection Safeguards will deliver improved outcomes for people who are or who need to be deprived of their liberty. The Liberty Protection Safeguards have been designed to put the rights and wishes of those people at the centre of all decision-making on deprivation of liberty. For more information see;

<https://independentsafeguardingservice.org/news/8-iss-news/72-new-liberty-protection-standards-factsheets-released>

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## Emergence of Covid-19 Scams

We have seen an increased rate of scams since the start of the Covid Pandemic—it is important that we all remain vigilant and help protect the most vulnerable.

### **Vaccination Scams**

Increased reports of individuals receiving texts claiming to be from the NHS, offering them the opportunity to sign up for the vaccine. The text asks the recipient to click on a link to take them to an online form where they are prompted to input personal and financial details.

### **WhatsApp Account Compromise**

Criminals are targeting WhatsApp users, taking over accounts and trying to defraud or hack their friends too. The criminals abuse the legitimate process of transferring a WhatsApp account from one phone to another. They use an already compromised account to message the account owner's contacts.

### **Royal Mail Scams**

There has been a rise in Royal Mail scams. Victims are receiving texts or emails claiming to be from Royal Mail claiming a package requires a small payment to be delivered (along with other similar narratives). Clicking on the link and providing your details leads to your money and/or identity being stolen. There are some good examples of (some quite convincing) scam messages on the Royal Mail website: <https://www.royalmail.com/help/scam-examples#>

### **Mobile Phone Upgrade Scams**

Mobile Phone upgrade scams are on the rise. Please look at this [guidance](#) from the police.

### **Where to get help and advice:**

[Action Fraud](#) is the UK's national reporting centre for fraud and cyber crime where you should report fraud if you have been scammed, defrauded or experienced cyber crime.



# Domestic Abuse

## Domestic Abuse Factsheets

The Home Office has developed a number of factsheets to provide more information about each of the provisions of the Domestic Abuse Bill 2020. The factsheets contain details on the measure in the Domestic Abuse Bill and explain why they are needed and what impact they will have. The factsheets are available on [Gov.UK website](#).

## Domestic Abuse Support within safe accommodation; statutory guidance and regulations consultation

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 received royal assent on 29 April 2021. The act includes within Part 4, new duties on local authorities relating to the provision of support for victims and their children residing with relevant safe accommodation.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) is seeking views on the draft statutory guidance relating to domestic abuse support for victims and their children residing within relevant safe accommodation in England. The consultation closes on **27 July 2021**.



Read the consultation documents: [Domestic abuse support within safe accommodation: statutory guidance and regulations consultation](#)

## Lucy Faithfull Foundation Campaign

The **Lucy Faithfull Foundation** is the only UK-wide child protection charity dedicated solely to preventing child sexual abuse. They work closely with frontline workers and professionals to ensure children are as safe as they can be.

The **Stop It Now!** Helpline opened in 2002. Since then, more than 46,000 people have contacted the helpline for support with all aspects of child sexual abuse prevention offline and online, including more than 5,000 people in the last year.

Viewing and sharing indecent images of children online is a major problem in the UK and globally. In 2018, the National Crime Agency estimated that 80,000 people in the UK posed a sexual threat to children online. Police forces around the UK are making around 520 arrests each month relating to illegal online behaviour. Many of these arrested people go on to contact Stop It Now! to start dealing with their offending behaviour.

For more information on the Campaign or Foundation, visit [Lucy Faithfull website](#).

**THE  
LUCY FAITHFULL  
FOUNDATION**

**Working to protect children**

### Stop It Now!

**Stop It Now!** has relaunched its self-help website for people worried about their own online viewing behaviour, or about someone else's. Since 2015, more than 188,000 people in the UK have used the site

## Focus on Self-Neglect

### What is Self-Neglect?

Self-neglect is defined as covering a wide range of behaviours. A person may not be keeping themselves clean, neglecting to care for their own health or their surroundings, may refuse care or treatment for health and care needs, or could be hoarding various types of possessions to the point of being a risk. Self-neglect is a continuum of behaviours ranging from moderate to severe. It may be unintentional, such as not eating due to memory issues. Where self-neglect gets out of control, including an inability to avoid or control self-harm, it can lead to a high risk of death or serious harm to the adult involved and to others.

There is no standard definition of self-neglect, but the Care Act 2014 Statutory Guidance provides the following definition: *“Self-neglect covers a wide range of behaviour and neglecting to care for one’s personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviours such as hoarding”*.

Self-neglect has featured in a significant number of National Safeguarding Adult Reviews, highlighting the fact that self-neglect is a complex area for intervention as issues of capacity, lifestyle and choice are often involved which requires the judgement of individual practitioners about what is an acceptable way of living and the degree of risk lifestyle choices pose to the individual. The decisions often centre on whether the adult at risk has the capacity to make an informed choice about their lifestyle and the risks to which they are exposed.

### Legislation

Self-neglect is included as a category under adult safeguarding in The Care Act (2014) Statutory Guidance. This requires local authorities to make enquiries, or cause others to do so, if it believes an adult is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect. It should be noted that self-neglect may not always prompt a section 42 enquiry, an assessment of risk should be made on a case by case basis. A decision on whether a response is required under safeguarding will depend on the adult’s ability to protect themselves by controlling their own behaviour and there may come a point when they are no longer able to do this without external support.



### Intervention

Intervention should seek to minimise the risk while respecting individual choices. Without intervention, existing health conditions may be made worse, neglect of personal hygiene may mean that the person suffers social difficulties and isolation, physical or mental health breakdown.

Dilapidated property or excess rubbish can become infested and be a fire risk, which is not only a risk to the person but to other family members and neighbours. It is essential to consider mental capacity at this stage of an enquiry.

### Good Practice

Managing the balance between protecting adults at risk from self-neglect against their right to self-determination is a serious challenge for services. There is the need to balance and determine what is someone’s right and choice with what becomes a serious risk to the person and others. It is therefore, essential that agencies work collaboratively to support individuals at risk of self-neglect. Effective and timely sharing of information including previous referrals and non-recent intelligence is essential. In respect of complex cases it may be necessary to hold a multi-disciplinary and multi-agency planning meeting to share information and formulate a safeguarding plan. The impact of an individual who self neglects and hoards may affect others in the household so practitioners may need to take a ‘Family Approach’ when engaging with the person.

### Local details

Reported concerns for cases of self-neglect across Darlington have remained fairly static over the past year with 88 cases being recorded and 35 (40%) of these cases progressing to strategy meeting. Darlington Safeguarding Partnership (DSP) agencies have a vital role in the early recognition and prevention of self-neglect and have a responsibility to recognise and act upon the risk factors associated with self-neglect.

DSP is currently in the process of reviewing its self-neglect guidance to help improve understanding, local pathways and outcomes regarding self-neglect cases to support frontline practitioners. A task and finish group has been established to take this piece of work forward. Details of the current self-neglect guidance and self-neglect and hoarding toolkit are available on the [DSP website](#).

# Wood Review of Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements

This detailed review focussed on the key factors that underpinned the successful implementation of the new safeguarding arrangements. Although only 17 months in since implementation, there is optimism that change is happening and improvements in practice is beginning to embed. It was recognised there is still some way to go to fully embed the reforms.

Sir Alan Wood identified a number of recommendations which should be considered:

- **Central Government**
  - ⇒ cross government reform should be strengthened
  - ⇒ a formal list of local statutory partners be set up to be used as a key interface for intelligence and data sharing and advice and guidance
- **Advice and guidance**
  - ⇒ New and additional guidance to be provided by central government expanding on guidance in WT, including roles and responsibilities, consideration of organisational changes and the impact this may have on safeguarding arrangements, i.e. ICS
- **Funding**
  - ⇒ Guidance in WT to be revised to clearly identify functions that funding should cover
  - ⇒ Advice to partners who fund across a number of areas to allocate appropriate sum for each area
- Children Missing from Education; Additional guidance for children missing education and non-registered schools
- PCC's and elected Mayors; Consider role they may play in safeguarding arrangements
- Government to invest in a suitable platform for dissemination of good practice
- The Safeguarding Child Reform Implementation Board (SCRIB) and national facilitators including The Association of Safeguarding Partners (TASP) to work together to produce best practice guide on the role of independent challenge and scrutiny
- Joint Inspectorates; consider if current models can be utilised to assess and form a judgement on the impact of decision making and planning by statutory partners
- Local Safeguarding Partnerships satisfy themselves they have the level and support analysis and intelligence required and consider the role of the business manager
- Office of Children's Commissioner to consider undertaking a project to identify the impact on outcomes for children of engaging children in the safeguarding arrangements
- Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel to consider how it can most effectively disseminate the variety and ranges of models of LCSPR to share the learning from local reviews
- NHS(E); ensure planning framework for replacement of CCG's by ICS includes clear and explicit advice about the appointment to the lead representative role as the statutory partner and consider when an assessment of the new child death review arrangements might take place

Click [here](#) to view the full report.



## 'Everyone's Invited' - Ofsted Report

Ofsted was asked by the government to carry out a rapid review of sexual abuse in schools and colleges in response to allegations of abuse shared on the Everyone's Invited website. A report was published earlier this month which summarises their findings and recommendations.

Ofsted visited 32 schools and colleges across England, including primaries and spoke to over 900 children and young people, along with leaders, teachers and other stakeholders— including 12 local Safeguarding Partnerships.

This rapid review does not report on individual schools and colleges or cases, all of which remain anonymous. Ofsted made a number of visits to schools named on the Everyone's Invited website, as well as others not named.

### Key findings include:

- How prevalent sexual harassment and online sexual abuse are for children and young people.
- Girls told Ofsted that sexual harassment and online sexual abuse, such as being sent unsolicited explicit sexual material and being pressured to send nude pictures ('nudes'), are much more prevalent than adults realise.
- Nearly 90% of girls, and nearly 50% of boys, said being sent explicit pictures or videos of things they did not want to see happens a lot or sometimes to them or their peers.
- Children and young people told us that sexual harassment occurs so frequently that it has become 'commonplace'. For example, 92% of girls, and 74% of boys, said sexist name-calling happens a lot or sometimes to them or their peers.
- The frequency of these harmful sexual behaviours means that some children and young people consider them normal.

### As a result of the findings a number of recommendations were identified for:

- School and college leaders – create a culture where sexual harassment and online sexual abuse is not tolerated
- Multi-Agency Partners – work to improve engagement with schools
- Central Government when developing the Online Safety Bill
- Action for Inspectorates – sharpen practice and focus on this important area of their work and to produce and deliver training on inspecting safeguarding in education, including looking at issues of peer on peer sexual abuse.

Read the full report [here](#).

As a result of the publication of this Ofsted review, the Department for Education (DfE) has announced a series of measures into sexual abuse in schools and colleges in England which include provision of more support for schools and colleges to tackle sexual abuse. View details [here](#).



# NCMD Second Annual Report

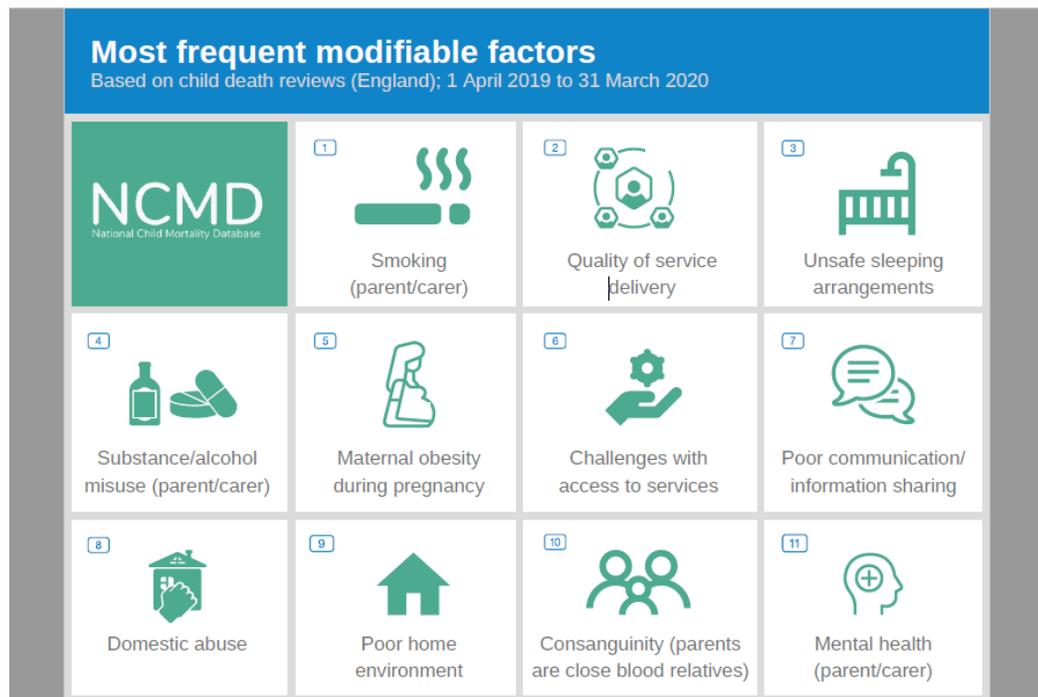
The second National Child Mortality Database Annual Report has been published. The report is based on data for children who died from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 in England. The report offers insights based on the characteristics of the deaths analysed in order to improve outcomes for children in the future. Key findings include:

- 2% of children who died were from a White ethnic group, while 19% were from an Asian or Asian British background, 9% were from a Black or Black British background, and 7% were from a mixed ethnic background.
- There were approximately three times as many deaths of children who were resident in the most deprived neighbourhoods, compared to those from the least deprived neighbourhoods.
- 78% of child deaths occurred within a hospital setting, while 22% occurred elsewhere.

A recommendation from the report calls for all professionals involved in planning or providing services to children who die, to use the data in the report to implement changes to address the issues highlighted.

To read the full report use the link [here](#).

For the first time, modifiable factors have been analysed on a national scale which has helped to identify key areas for improvement. Across all categories of death, the most frequent modifiable factor identified was smoking by a parent or carer, followed by gaps in service provision. The attached infographic provides a summary of the 11 most frequent modifiable factors identified as part of the child death review process.



## NCMD Child Mortality and Social Deprivation Report

The NCMD has also published a thematic report based on data from April 2019 to March 2020 which finds a clear association between the risk of child death and their level of deprivation (for all categories of death except cancer). The report states that over a fifth of all child deaths might be avoided if children living in the most deprived areas had the same mortality risk as those living in the least deprived. Click [here](#) to view the full report.

## Mental Health and Wellbeing in Schools

The Department for Education (DfE) has updated guidance for schools and colleges in England around mental health and wellbeing.

The Mental Health and Wellbeing support in schools and colleges guidance now includes a list of mental health and wellbeing resources for teachers, school staff and school leaders—and the teaching about mental wellbeing guidance includes new guidance to support relationships, sex and health education curriculum planning, as part of education recovery.

**Read the guidance:**

[Mental health and wellbeing support in schools and colleges](#)

[Teaching about mental wellbeing](#)



## Coronavirus: Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Ofsted has published a report about the experiences of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their families during the coronavirus pandemic, in the context of the SEND reforms over the last 10 years.

Findings from visits by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission in 2020/21 to 10 local areas representing 84,000 children and young people with special educational needs (SEND) support show: the cumulative effects of the disruption caused by the pandemic on the health, learning and development of children with SEND; missed and narrowed education; the absence of essential services such as physiotherapy or speech and language support; and long waiting times for assessment and treatment.



**Read the news story:** [Her Majesty's Chief Inspector commentary: putting children and young people with SEND at the heart of our recovery plans](#)

**Read the report:** [SEND: old issues, new issues, next steps](#)

# County Lines

The University of Nottingham has published a research briefing looking at vulnerability and safeguarding of criminally exploited children.

Findings from interviews with hospital accident and emergency (A&E) professionals indicate that: restrictions introduced in response to the pandemic have hindered the ability of youth workers to safeguard vulnerable young people and increased difficulties in identifying and responding to victims of County Lines; a rise in the incidence of violence, including shifts in the types of injuries and their severity; the mental health of already vulnerable children and young people has deteriorated, with indications that substance misuse and self-harm are on the rise.

Read the news story and briefing: [Rise in violence and sexual exploitation against children and young people 'linked to county lines'](#)



## Recent Results in Durham/Darlington

County Lines intelligence is actively reviewed and risk assessed by Durham Constabulary as well as discussed with other Regional Forces on a daily, weekly and monthly basis. This joined up approach works well and coincides with the work undertaken by the ERASE team. Cases are rag rated according to risk with those cases where a safeguarding risk has been highlighted, being prioritised to ensure children have an appropriate wraparound plan and care.

Following a recent County Lines intensification week in May 2021 by Durham Police, a number of activities were captured in the national returns, including house searches, arrests, as well as seizure of drugs, money, vehicles and recovery of phones/lines.



## Safeguarding Training

One of the key priorities of the Safeguarding Partnership is to ensure that safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults at risk of abuse remains the focus of any learning and development activity. This includes all agencies of the partnership, the voluntary and independent sectors.

The Safeguarding Partnership is the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how all organisations in Darlington will cooperate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults at risk in the locality, and for ensuring the effectiveness of that work.



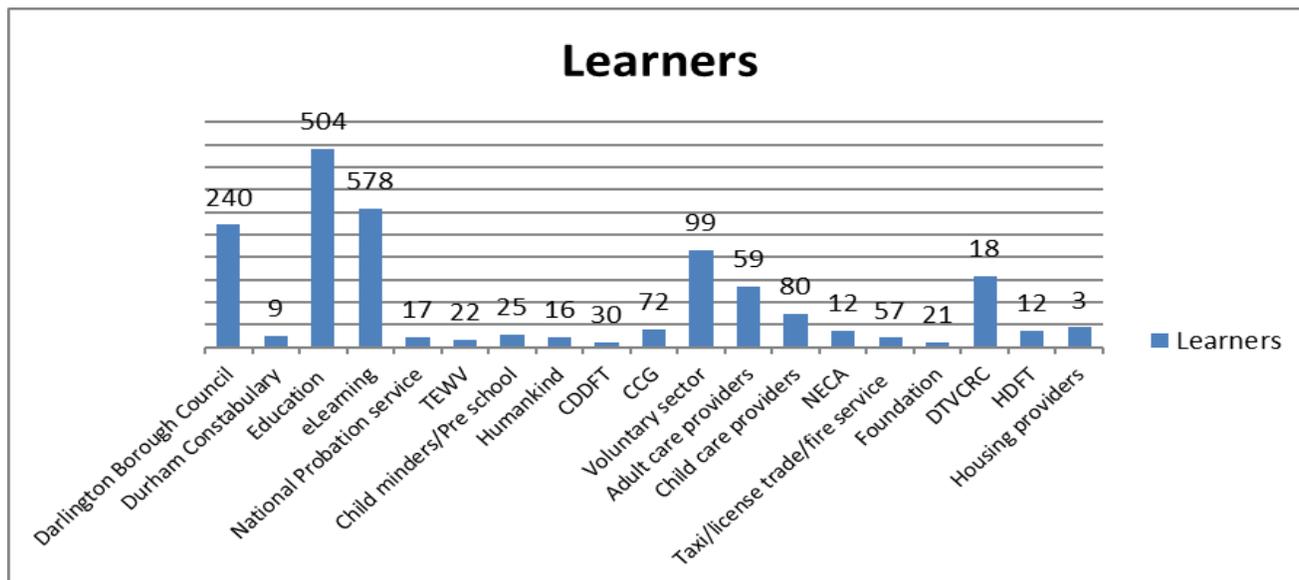
### Annual Report—What Did We Achieve?

Despite the pandemic the Partnership continued to provide an extensive multi-agency programme of virtual courses delivered via Microsoft Teams including:

- ⇒ Core courses for Safeguarding Adults and Children at Levels 1 and 2, which are in line with the Care Act 2014 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018.
- ⇒ Level 3 specialist courses to reflect national and local priorities.
- ⇒ A variety of eLearning and workbook options to compliment the virtual training offer.
- 104 Virtual courses were delivered via Microsoft Teams.
- There was an even split between Adult and Children’s Safeguarding training.
- There were 1,166 attendances recorded for the virtual training.
- 578 people completed e-learning workbooks and there was no cost to the Partnership for provision of the resources.
- Income from multi-agency training provision was greatly reduced due to the pandemic but the income was almost £2K
- New courses have been introduced to focus on Professional Challenge, Cumulative Harm and Safeguarding Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

### Engagement by Agencies on Multi-Agency Training

The graph below outlines the combined attendance for both child and adult training for the agencies during the period of April 2020 to March 2021. The attendance for all agencies has decreased from previous years, which can be attributed to reduced training opportunities provided by the Partnership and the impact of the pandemic. There has been a significant increase (252%) in learners completing the Safeguarding Partnership eLearning workbooks.





The Statutory Safeguarding Partners continue to meet monthly to have oversight on safeguarding arrangements and regularly invite key leads from wider partners agencies on a rotational basis to obtain an understanding of current issues about safeguarding challenges they may be facing.

The Statutory Partners recently facilitated a development session with sub group members to reflect on the multi-agency partnership arrangements and experiences through the Pandemic. Partners were shared details of proposed governance arrangements pulled together by the chairs of the sub groups. What has been learned through the Pandemic is the need to have separate child and adult Operational Groups to have oversight on the most vulnerable and to ensure mechanisms are in place to provide assurance on who has line of sight. These groups will have a focus on practice issues and challenges relating to operational management and will feed up to the Learning and Development and Quality Assurance and Performance Groups, who will take a strategic and coordinated view to scrutinise, monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of partner agencies and identifying opportunities for learning to improve the quality of multi-agency front line practice. Membership of the groups is also being reviewed to ensure the right people and agencies sit on the right groups.

The standing sub groups continue to meet and the MASH Operational Group for child has oversight on front door practice and multi-agency audits have taken place on key themes which have included, cumulative harm/neglect, domestic abuse and mental health. The Critical Safeguarding Partnership Group for Adults has oversight on performance data as well as having an overview of safeguarding practice. The Learning and Development Sub Group has developed and revised a number of key policy and guidance documents which are included in this newsletter. The Quality Assurance and Performance Management Sub Group continues to gather and monitor quarterly performance data and is taking steps to implement quality assurance processes to understand the strengths and weaknesses of safeguarding arrangements and to understand how learning has been embedded within organisations. The Child Exploitation Group continues to monitor and evaluate the strategic response in tackling children missing from home, care and education and the reduction of child exploitation across Durham and Darlington.

Safeguarding training continues to be delivered on a virtual basis and the full training programme is on offer. Details of training is included on page 10 of this newsletter.

The DSP website continues to provide information and updates on key safeguarding guidance;  
<https://www.darlington-safeguarding-partnership.co.uk/>

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## Policy, Procedure & Practice Guidance

The following Policy, Procedure and Practice Guidance documents have recently been revised;

- [Child Safeguarding Practice Review](#) and [Serious Child Safeguarding Incident Procedures](#)
- [Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking](#) Practice Guidance and Referral Pathway

The Partnership has recently developed [Fire Setting Guidance](#) to support those working with children and young people. This was developed as a result of key learning from a case review.

# Current Awareness for Policy, Practice & Research

## Safeguarding and Radicalisation

The Department for Education (DfE) has published a report looking at how radicalisation is being addressed in children's social care in England.

**Read the report:** [Safeguarding and radicalisation: children's social care learning](#)

## The Independent Review of Children's Social Care

NSPCC Learning has published a CASPAR briefing summarising key findings from the Independent review of children's social care in England's initial report. The briefing focuses on key findings from The case for change report organised under the following themes: helping families; the child protection system; the care system; and addressing issues in the system.

**Read the CASPAR briefing:** [The independent review of children's social care](#)

**Give feedback:** [Case for change: feedback form](#)

## Coronavirus: Child Protection System

The Department for Education (DfE) has published the latest data on the impact of the pandemic on children's social care in England.

**Read the report:** [Vulnerable children and young people survey](#)

**Download the latest survey:** [Vulnerable children and young people survey: summary of returns waves 1 to 24 \(PDF\)](#)

## Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA)

The independent inquiry into child sexual abuse (IICSA) has published a report looking at present-day experiences of children who have experienced sexual abuse in England and Wales.

**Read the news story:** [Police accuse young sexual abuse survivors of lying, report finds](#)

**Download the report:** [Engagement with children and young people report - 24 June 2021](#)

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## Key Safeguarding Campaigns

To view a full list of all Key Safeguarding Campaigns, [click here](#);

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## How to contact the Safeguarding Partnership

We would love to hear your suggestions on communications and engagement with our partners. If you wish to share any articles, good news stories or have any comments for the next publication, please drop the Business Unit an email;

[DSP@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:DSP@darlington.gov.uk)

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Are you concerned about a child?

Contact the Children's Initial Advice Team

Professionals on 01325 406252, Public on 01325 406222 or Out of Hours Emergency Duty Team on 01642 524552.



Are you concerned about an adult?

Contact the First Point of Contact Team

on 01325 406111 or the Out of Hours Emergency Duty Team on 01642 524552.