



- * Welcome
- * In the Spotlight: Child Safeguarding Practice Review Family H
- * Updates
- * Partnership Information
- * Get in touch

Welcome to our March 2024 Newsletter

This month's newsletter is a special edition focussing on the learning from a recent Child Safeguarding Practice Review (Family H) that has been undertaken in Darlington. You will find a summary of the review and also links for the seven briefing papers developed as a result of the findings in the review.

Please check your Me Learning account for upcoming training sessions and e-learning sessions for both adult and child safeguarding. Places available on many sessions for March and April.

<https://app.melearning.co.uk/auth/login>

Wishing all of our colleagues, family and friends across Darlington a very happy Easter break.

In the Spotlight..... Family H Local Child Safeguarding Review

Darlington Safeguarding Partnership undertook its first Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review in 2023. The Review was led by Rachael Upton and Alison Johnson, Designated Nurses for Safeguarding Children, North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board.

The review considered four children under the age of 16 who presented as happy and content, the two eldest children had speech and language development delay. In 2013, parents agreed to abide by a written agreement which stated aunt and her partner should have no unsupervised contact with their children. In April 2022, the children's aunt and her partner were arrested due to suspected sexual offences against children and their devices seized. Examination of the devices found indecent images of children and led police to believe Family H children were also victims of sexual abuse. The purpose of the review was to look at how multi-agency services worked together to safeguard the Family H children.

The review focussed on a number of key episodes over a ten-year period, the episodes did not form a complete history but were key from a practice perspective.

The review found some examples of good practice and looked at how services had worked together to protect the Family H children. The key themes identified included:

- Identification and Assessing the Risk of Sexual Harm
- Unseen Adults
- Recognising Harm for Children with Disabilities
- Assessment of Risk
- Professional Curiosity and Challenge
- Information Sharing and Early Help
- Children's Lived Experiences
- Role of the Non-Abusing Parent

The review concluded there are important lessons to learn and the circumstances are a reminder of the need to equip all professionals with the knowledge, skills and frameworks to identify and respond to sexual harm and the need to identify hidden adults within the family home.

A number of recommendations were identified to reflect the areas deemed as a priority area for improvement for the Safeguarding Partnership.

You can access the full Family H Review Report [here](#).

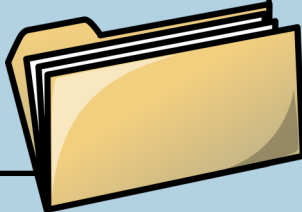
You can access the presentation resource developed for this review [here](#).

The Partnership has published a number of briefing documents and a presentation resource to share the learning on those key themes identified in this review and available to access in this newsletter.

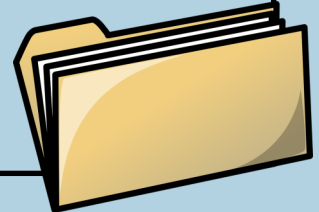
If you would like to learn more about the Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review Process, two briefings have been developed explaining the Serious Incident Notification and Rapid Review Processes, or you can access the Partnership's procedure.

Briefing papers available relating to this review

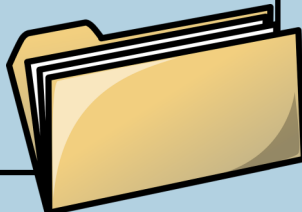
[Family H Practice
Review Briefing
Paper](#)



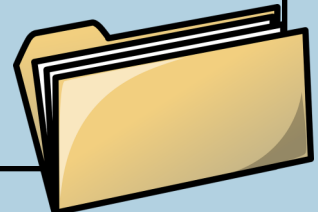
[Information Sharing
Briefing Paper](#)



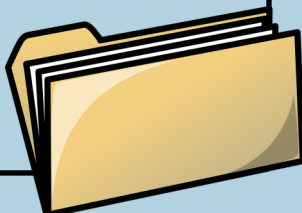
[Professional Curiosity
Briefing Paper](#)



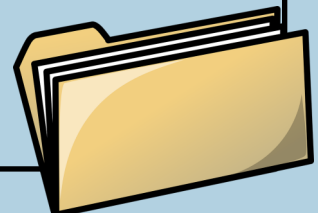
[Safeguarding Children
with SEND Briefing
Paper](#)



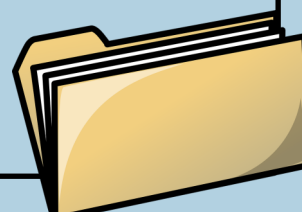
[Unseen Adults and
Safeguarding Children
Briefing Paper](#)



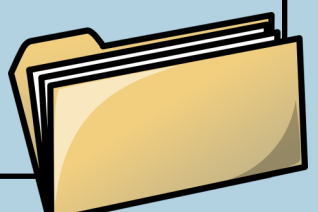
[Sexual Harm Briefing
Paper](#)



[Local Child Safeguarding
Practice Review
Briefing Paper](#)



[Serious Incident Notifications
and Rapid Reviews Briefing
Paper](#)



One of the recommendations from the Family H LCSPR was to launch a challenge pledge (to be read out at the start of multi-agency meetings). The pledge is outlined below and expectation that all agencies share and support the use of the pledge. The partnership will follow up to see how it is being used and what the impact is.

**Darlington
Safeguarding
Partnership**
Protecting Children and Adults

OUR PLEDGE

To be confident in having open and honest conversations with each other as multi-agency partners in order to do the very best we can for children, adults and their families in Darlington.

Multi-agency working is vital to maintain a focus on children and vulnerable adults while also keeping them at the heart of all decisions.

Our Pledge is an opportunity to:

- Seek out professional conversations with each other at the earliest opportunity
- Have a shared understanding of the strengths and risks within a family
- Actively listen to each other and share important information
- Respect each other's expertise
- Be open and empathetic to the professional views of others
- Be professionally curious and evidence what we say
- Use common language that everyone understands



Concerned about a child?

Contact the Children's Initial
Advice Team
Professionals on **01325 406252**
Public on **01325 406222**

**Concerned about an
adult?**

Contact the Adult
Contact Team
on **01325 406111**



Statutory Safeguarding Partners

Ann Baxter, Independent Chair/Scrutineer

James Stroyan, Group Director of People

Dave Ashton, Detective Chief Superintendent

Chris Piercy, Director of Nursing and Quality