



Strategic Plan 2023- 2026

June 2023 Final

Who we are?

Darlington Safeguarding Partnership (DSP) is a multi-agency partnership which has statutory functions under the Children Act 1989, the Children Act 2004, the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and statutory guidance Working Together (2018) and the Care Act 2014.

The main focus of the DSP is to ensure safeguarding arrangements in the Darlington locality work effectively so that all children and young people are protected from abuse and their welfare promoted and Adults with needs for care and support are able to live their lives free from abuse or neglect.

The Partnership has been operating under its new model for safeguarding since July 2019. This model has allowed the partnership to develop a 'whole family' approach to working. A new governance structure was implemented in February 2022, which has helped to ensure there is both operational oversight of practice issues as well as a strategic and coordinated view of the strengths and weaknesses of safeguarding arrangements and provides the ability to oversee a joined-up and think family approach to improve outcomes for children and adults.

Our Vision

Our vision is to ensure 'Darlington is a place where children and adults live their lives safely'

Our Safeguarding Principles

The Partnership seeks assurance that organisations work together in partnership to deliver joined-up services to safeguard children and adults from abuse and neglect. This Strategic Plan sets out the shared vision and actions that will support the partnership in achieving to help keep children, young people and adults with needs for care and support safe and protected from abuse and neglect and ensure:

- Partners work collaboratively to ensure effective arrangements are in place
- Partners achieve the best possible outcomes for children, young people and adults with needs for care and support
- Partners work collaboratively to strengthen existing practice with a focus on a 'whole family approach'
- Partners challenge and hold one another to account effectively
- Partners improve safeguarding practice
- Learning is promoted and embedded across the partnership
- Information is shared effectively to ensure timely decision making
- Early identification of 'new' safeguarding issues and emerging threats

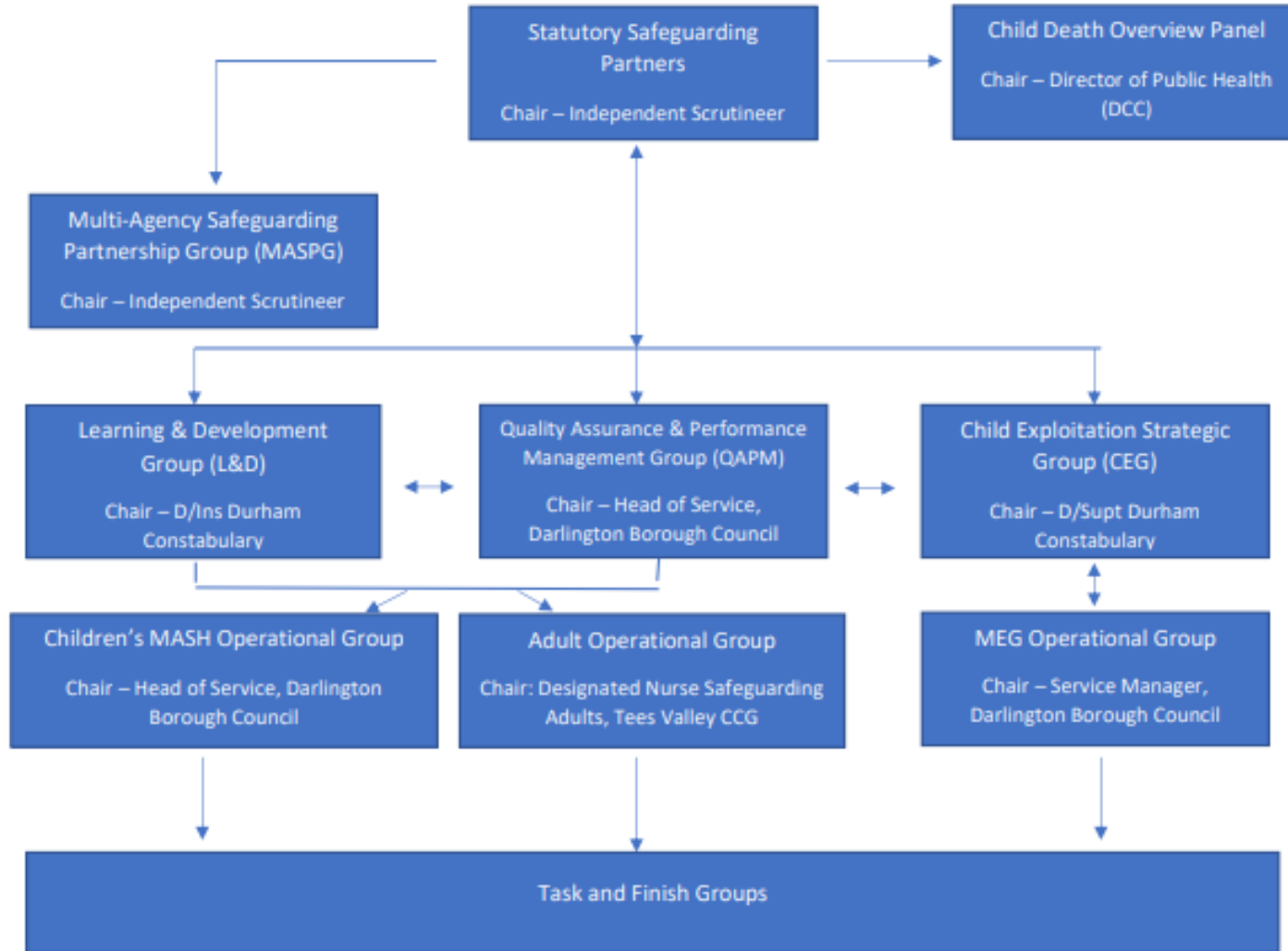
Our Structure

The Statutory Safeguarding Partners of Darlington Safeguarding Partnership have responsibility to coordinate effective safeguarding services, to act as the strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging others in the work of safeguarding adults, promoting their welfare, obtaining assurance and implementing local and national learning.

Who are the Statutory Safeguarding Partners?

- Darlington Borough Council - Group Director for People
- North East & North Cumbria Integrated Care Board, Tees Valley - Director of Nursing
- Durham Constabulary - Detective Chief Superintendent

Sub Group Governance and Lines of Accountability (Oct 2022)



What are our Priorities?

The production of a Strategic Plan is a statutory requirement. The Strategic Plan sets out our shared vision and actions that will help keep children, young people and adults at risk safe and protected from abuse and neglect.

This Strategic Plan sets out our strategic priority areas of focus for 2023-2026 and will be reviewed annually.

Our Priorities are:

- Communication and involvement – Making safeguarding everybody’s business and improving awareness of safeguarding across all communities and partner organisations
- Prevention and Early Intervention – enabling partners to work together to act early to protect those at risk of abuse or neglect
- Joint Working – ensure effective arrangements are in place to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults from abuse and neglect
- Exploitation – ensuring effective multi-agency response and intervention to protect those at risk of exploitation, in all its forms
- Adult Self-Neglect - ensure all partner agencies improve awareness and understanding of adult self-neglect to ensure early identification can be achieved

A more detailed plan setting out how the partnership is going to achieve these priorities will be developed across all the sub groups, further details can be obtained by emailing DSP@darlington.gov.uk

Our Learning Journey...

We will use information gathered through reviews and assurance activities to:

- Celebrate and share good safeguarding practices
- Inform changes in Policy, Procedures and Practice Guidance
- Drive continuous improvement in safeguarding practice
- Promote learning from reviews
- Create multi-agency training and development opportunities

For more information about the work of the partnership visit:

www.darlington-safeguarding-partnership.co.uk