

- \* **Welcome**
- \* **In the Spotlight: Harmful Sexual Behaviour**
- \* **Updates**
- \* **Partnership Information**
- \* **Get in touch**

# November

## Welcome to our November 2023 Newsletter

In this newsletter, we bring together information which we hope you will find useful and we highlight how the Partnership continues to communicate and keep in touch with all our agencies and provide guidance to support you in your role working with children and adults. In this edition, we bring you information in the spotlight about Harmful Sexual Behaviour and also information about Partnership work, important safeguarding updates and new training dates.

**Anti-Bullying Week—find out more inside!**



**Safeguarding Week 2023!**

Our programme of events for Safeguarding Week in November is now live and sessions are available for booking. See what is on [here](#)

## **In the Spotlight..... Harmful Sexual Behaviour**

The Lucy Faithfull Foundation has published a report evaluating the first year of its project to tackle harmful sexual behaviour (HSB) in schools in the UK. Key points from the Foundation's work with ten schools include: emotional dysregulation and experiences of abuse in the home were identified by staff and students as some potential causes of HSB; schools highlighted concerns around image-sharing, understanding consent and the impact of pornography; and perceptions and experiences of safety among students varied widely. The report recommends training staff in the protective behaviours process and delivering bystander education directly to students. Read the full report [here](#)

In Darlington, a recent deep dive was carried out looking at cases of Harmful Sexual Behaviour in children. Following a discussion on the findings, the Children's MASH Operational Group suggested a revision is made to the Harmful Sexual Behaviour Protocol to reflect the findings that appropriate support is provided to those who have been harmed and strategy meetings held on those who may be harmed but who may also harm as they may also pose a risk. For children already in the Youth Justice arena, a support programme is in place that can be referred into. The revised HSB guidance can be found on the DSP website.

# Anti-Bullying Week 2023: Make A Noise About Bullying

Anti-Bullying Week 2023 is coordinated in England, Wales and Northern Ireland by the Anti-Bullying Alliance. This year it has the theme 'Make A Noise About Bullying' and will take place from **Monday 13th to Friday 17th November**. The week will be kicked off with Odd Socks Day on Monday 13th November, where adults and children wear odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique. Following the success of the campaign in 2022 – when 80% of schools marked the week, reaching over 7.5 million children and young people – Anti-Bullying Week will remind everyone whether it's in school, at home, in the community or online, we can bring an end to bullying.

Watch the official video [here](#)

There will soon be changes to the way that training is accessed in the Darlington Safeguarding Partnership. We are moving to a Learning Management System with Me Learning where we will host our own, and a range of e-learning module training on one platform. Professionals and volunteers will be able to register themselves on the platform and manage their own professional development by booking onto courses, completing evaluations and downloading their certificates in one place. This will improve the way we offer sessions and will broaden our offer to include new sessions. More information about accessing this platform will be shared soon.

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**



PARTNER SHiPS

## Statutory Safeguarding Partners

Ann Baxter, Independent Chair/Scrutineer

James Stroyan, Group Director of People

Dave Ashton, Detective Chief Superintendent

Jean Golightly, Director of Nursing and Quality