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Welcome to our October 2025 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 National Care Leavers' Month, updates and also information about Partnership work, important safeguarding updates and new training dates.

Me Learning

Don't forget to log in to your Me Learning account and see our new e-learning courses on a range of safeguarding topics

HELLO
OCTOBER



In the Spotlight: National Care Leavers' Month

National Care Leavers' Month (formerly National Care Leavers' Week) exists for the public, professionals, carers, decision-makers and the media to come together, celebrate care leavers and raise awareness of the issues in the care system.

The theme for this year is: **Rising as Me: Overcoming challenges, transforming, and finding your identity.**

Care experienced individuals have decided that a week is not enough time to celebrate their fantastic achievements and to highlight all the key issues that people need to be aware of, so... November will now be National Care Leavers Month from now on #NCLM.

The Alliance for Looked After Children & Care Leavers and care-experienced young people from across the country are working together to share ideas, collaborate, and coordinate some planned activities for this year's National Care Leavers Month. They have created an information booklet with the theme, call to action and a summary of events, campaigns and activities taking place across the country.

See the information, booklets and programme of events taking place [here](#).





Annual Report 2024-2025

Darlington Safeguarding Partnership has published its annual report for the period April 2024 to March 2025. The report summarises and reflects on the work of the Partnership over the past year, outlining the work that has taken place to ensure local safeguarding systems are responsive to children's needs and adults with care and support needs. The report outlines the key changes made to partnership arrangements along with the progress made against the Partnership's priorities and through learning from case reviews and the impact of these activities.

Read the Report [here](#).

White Ribbon Day

Tuesday 25th November is White Ribbon day which launches 16 days of activism against gender based violence. This year's theme is '**We speak up**'.

More information can be found here: [White Ribbon Day 2025](#)
— [White Ribbon UK](#)



WHITE
RIBBON
DAY

25th November

Warm Home Discount scam awareness



There has been an increase in fraudulent activity targeting individuals about the Warm Home Discount scheme. We would welcome support in raising public awareness about potential scams related to its extension.

There is no need for individuals in England and Wales to apply for the scheme, and the UK Government will not contact individuals via text message regarding the Warm Home Discount.

Scam awareness:

- There is no need for individuals to apply for the Warm Home Discount scheme in England & Wales.
- Individuals in Scotland and in receipt of Pension Credit Guarantee Credit do not need to apply for the Warm Home Discount.
- Individuals in Scotland on all other qualifying means tested benefits or otherwise meeting criteria set by their energy supplier do still need to apply to their energy supplier for the Warm Home Discount
- Individuals will not be contacted by the UK Government or Ofgem asking for bank details
- Individuals should not look out for texts
- If individuals are eligible, individuals should look out for a physical letter by post between October and December 2025 confirming they will get £150 off your electricity bill. Physical letters will be sent by Warm Home Discount Scheme, PO Box 970, PRESTON, PR2 0FX
- Individuals are advised not to click on links provided in suspicious texts or emails.

Your support in raising awareness with your audiences would be greatly appreciated.

[More information about the Warm Home Discount](#)



OUR PLEDGE

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

For many families across Darlington, multi-agency working is vital to maintain a focus on children and 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**



PARTNER SHIPS

Statutory Safeguarding Partners

James Stroyan, Executive Director of People

Nicola Lawrence, Detective Chief Superintendent

Hilary Lloyd, Chief Nurse