



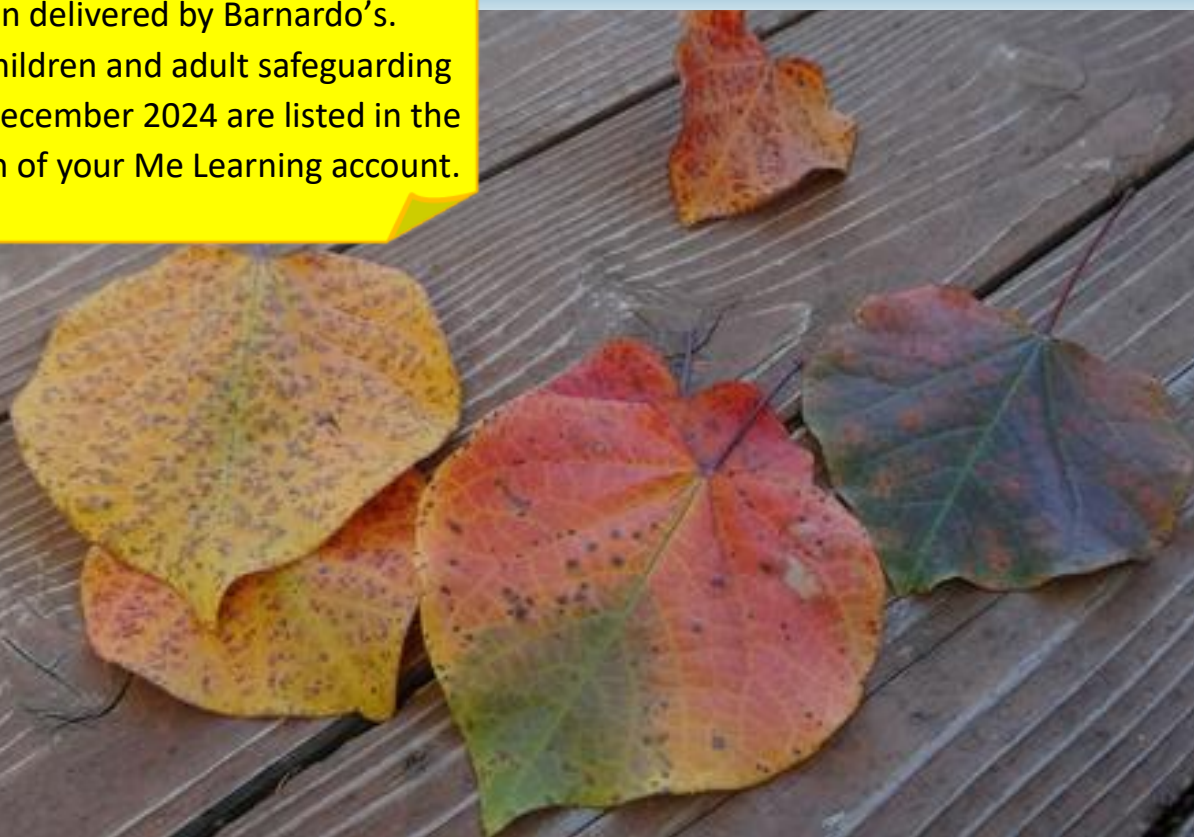
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Welcome to our September 2024 Newsletter

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 about Eyes on the Baby. There is also information about Partnership work, safeguarding updates and new training dates.

Training dates are open for booking on Me Learning, including training on Child Exploitation delivered by Barnardo's.

All dates for children and adult safeguarding training until December 2024 are listed in the courses section of your Me Learning account.



In the Spotlight..... Eyes on the Baby

‘Eyes on the Baby’ – Developing a Multi-Agency Approach to Preventing Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy (SUDI)

Rates of SUDI have fallen sharply in the UK over the last 30 years, largely due to wide-scale infant sleep messaging over recent years, such as the [Lullaby Trust’s ‘Back to Sleep’ campaign](#). As a result, most sudden and unexpected deaths of babies in England now cluster in the most deprived communities – where simple public health messages can be difficult to implement. Most unexpected deaths of babies under 1 year occur in families living in impoverished circumstances with multiple risks or vulnerabilities, and a multi-agency approach is needed to reach the families most at risk of infant death. In 2020 a report from the National Child Safeguarding Practice review panel recommended that tackling SUDI in the UK is too challenging and complex to expect that any further reductions in infant deaths in the UK can be accomplished by health professionals alone.

‘Eyes on the Baby’ is a collaboration between Durham University’s Infancy and Sleep Centre, Durham Integrated Care Board, Durham County Council Public Health Team and partners. This project supports the implementation of a multi-agency approach to tackling Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy (SUDI). The work identified a wide range of staff groups in County Durham whose work brought them into contact with vulnerable families with babies and developed a training programme for those groups of staff, to enable them deliver situationally appropriate ‘safe sleep’ support or advice. The training programme was offered to those groups of staff across County Durham, and its impact was evaluated. The ‘Eyes on the Baby’ multi agency training has been designed to help staff prevent SUDI (Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy) in Darlington and will help practitioners give advice about safer sleep, support shared working between services, and keep Eyes on the Baby to reduce SUDI. Eyes on the Baby training is now available in Darlington on Me Learning as part of our training offer [here](#).

Eyes on the Baby



PHILIP AND LORAINÉ LEARNING LESSONS REVIEW

Darlington Safeguarding Partnership has published a Discretionary Learning Lessons Review for Philip and Loraine.

Philip and Loraine were father and daughter who lived together in a privately owned home. In May 2023, a fire occurred at the property and sadly, both Philip and Loraine died. A joint fire and police investigation found evidence of hoarding and self-neglect. The review looked at how services worked together to support Philip and Loraine over a four year period prior to their deaths and identified a number of key learning points. The following themes were identified.

- Understanding the root cause of self-neglect and hoarding
- Understanding Hoarding Disorder
- Working with individuals who are resistant to access appointments or interventions
- Smoking and Fire Risk
- Mental Capacity Act and Code of Practice Awareness
- Carrying out mental capacity assessments
- Information Sharing solutions to enable agencies to be aware of actions taken for high risk or complex cases
- Practice issues relating to multi-agency meetings

Organisations are encouraged to review the LLR Report and consider and apply the learning to their own practice. The Partnership are finalising how it will be sharing the learning from the review which will include the development of an executive summary and short briefing documents based on the themes identified.

[Click here to view the report](#)



Sextortion

NSPCC Learning has published a Helplines insight briefing on young people's experiences of online sexual extortion, or 'sextortion'. Drawing from contacts to Childline and the NSPCC Helpline in 2023/24, the briefing explores: how sextortion occurs and how it can escalate; the impact on young people's mental wellbeing; how to spot the signs; and how to talk to young people who may be at risk. It also provides guidance for reporting and preventing incidents of sextortion.

Read the report [here](#)

NSPCC
Learning

Young people's
experiences of
online sexual
extortion or
'sextortion'

Helplines insight briefing
September 2024

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