



Inside this issue

- * [Welcome](#)
- * [In the Spotlight: Adult Procedures](#)
- * [Updates](#)
- * [Partnership Information](#)
- * [Get in touch](#)

Welcome to our March 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 the revised adult safeguarding procedures, 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



In the Spotlight.....

Revised Safeguarding Adult

PUBLICATION OF REVISED MULTI-AGENCY SAFEGUARDING ADULT PROCEDURES

Darlington Safeguarding Partnership has revised its Safeguarding Adult Procedures which involved consulting and working closely with multi-agency partner organisations.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and for services to be effective each individual and organisation should play a part. The procedures aim to protect adults with care and support needs from abuse and neglect and are applicable to all those working in the Darlington locality who have responsibility for adults with care and support needs.

Effective safeguarding practice can only be achieved when organisations work together and ensure that adults with care and support needs are protected, and that the outcome of the safeguarding process is life enhancing. This policy is intended for all agencies and individuals involved in safeguarding adults including managers, professionals, volunteers and staff working in public, voluntary and private sector organisations. They are also relevant to those who commission services to adults with care and support needs.

Darlington Borough Council is the lead agency for adult safeguarding, however all agencies within Darlington Borough Council boundary have safeguarding responsibilities. These procedures reflect the Care Act 2014 and should be used in conjunction with organisational guidelines.

The procedures represent the commitment of organisations to:

- work together to prevent and protect adults at risk from abuse
- empower and support people to make their own choices
- investigate actual or suspected abuse and neglect
- support adults and provide a service to adults at risk who are experiencing abuse, neglect and exploitation achieve the best possible outcome for the person at the centre of the enquiry

The procedures are now live on the DSP website and provide a lot of information and guidance to support practitioners within organisations.

Link to procedures on DSP Website – [Darlington Multi-Agency Safeguarding Adult Procedures](#)

We welcome your comments and suggestions now that the procedures are live, please contact the Partnership business unit by email – DSP@darlington.gov.uk



#LookCloser Programme of Learning

The
Children's
Society

April - September 2025

We're delighted to invite you to join us for our latest #LookCloser programme of learning. We have developed our sessions based on learning from The Children's Society and wider partners to tackle the issues of child exploitation and abuse.

All sessions are free of charge and delivered on Microsoft Teams Live which means:

- Interaction with the presenters and participants will be limited
- There will however, be a Q&A function
- We will use tools such as Menti to provide opportunities for engagement and discussion.

The timetable below has links to each learning event on EventBrite, where you can book on to as few or as many events as you please. All of our sessions have been designed for various professional audiences, so please share these events with anyone you think would benefit from attending.

If you have any questions about our learning events, please contact prevention@childrenssociety.org.uk

Date	Time	Session
Tuesday 15 April	13:00 - 15:00	#LookCloser: Transitions to adulthood Tickets, Tue
Tuesday 20 May	10:00 - 12:00	#LookCloser: Child exploitation and night time econ-
Thursday 19 June	13:00 - 15:00	#LookCloser: Disrupting exploitation Tickets, Thu
Thursday 17 July	10:00 - 12:00	#LookCloser: Financial Exploitation Tickets, Thu, Jul
Wednesday 17 September	10:00 - 12:00	#LookCloser: Building positive relationships with

Learning Session Information: These sessions are aimed at upskilling professionals in the topic area and identifying points of reflection for individuals' own practice and to take back to their wider teams and networks. The audience is expected to be varied and therefore the session has been written to engage professionals at different levels of knowledge and seniority and across a range of setting and sectors.

You may want to read some of our [resources](#) prior to attending our sessions in order to get the most out of these, but this is not a requirement.

Online Safety

Ofcom has published a news story about the latest measures to address online harms and how it is enforcing the Online Safety Act. Providers of services in scope of the Act had until 16 March to carry out an illegal harms risk assessment. From 17 March, the next set of illegal harms duties has come into force; platforms must now start implementing appropriate measures to remove illegal material quickly when they become aware of it, and to reduce the risk of 'priority' criminal content from appearing in the first place. Ofcom will be assessing platforms' compliance with the new illegal harms obligations under the Act and launching targeted enforcement action where there are concerns. The news story also provides details of Ofcom's enforcement programme to tackle child sexual abuse imagery on file sharing services.

Read the report [here](#)



Online Child Sexual Extortion

The Guardian has published a news story reporting on the launch of the National Crime Agency's (NCA) awareness campaign tackling online child sexual extortion or 'sextortion'. Figures shared by the NCA found that within the first five months of 2024, police forces received an average of 117 reports of sexual extortion from under-18s each month. The article shares details of the awareness campaign and reports on an increase in digitally manipulated or AI-generated sextortion attempts.

Read the Guardian news story [here](#)

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

Ann Baxter, Independent Chair/Scrutineer

James Stroyan, Executive Director of People

Nicola Lawrence, Detective Chief Superintendent

Chris Piercy, Director of Nursing and Quality