



Safeguarding Children and Young People In County Durham

Annual Update for Young People
2019/2020

Keeping Children Safe

Annual Update for Young People

Safeguarding overview



What is Safeguarding?

Safeguarding is about keeping children and young people **safe** and **protecting** them from **harm**, while making sure they grow up in a safe environment.



What does the DSCP do?

We promote the **welfare** of children and young people, **safeguarding** them from harm and **protecting** those children who are at significant risk of **harm** or **neglect**.



What does it mean for me?

Agencies including the Councils' Children and Young People's Services, the Police, Schools and Colleges and Health Services such as GPs, Hospitals and Health Visitors are **all here to help**.

Our Vision: Keeping Children Safe



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Update:

<http://www.durham-scp.org.uk/>

Young People's Commissioner

In September 2019 the Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership (DSCP), appointed a Young People's Commissioner Apprentice, Amy Waites. This was a creative move from the partnership, with Amy perhaps being the first nationally to take up such a position. Over the past year Amy has worked closely with the DSCP to help support and influence their priorities. Amy has connected directly with a range of young people and partners across the county, to review whether what the partnership does keeps young people safe.

Amy was sponsored by DSCP to carry out an engagement project which involved targeted engagement with young people, to help the Partnership better understand best practice as well as areas of improvement in relation to **Mental Health, Domestic Abuse and Poverty**. The objectives that Amy wanted to better understand were how young people engage and feel involved with services that feed into the DSCP exploring; Involvement, Good practice and improvement.

[What Amy discovered from the engagement project:](#)



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Engagement project findings:

Initial activity in relation to this project has focused on the theme of mental health. Findings to date are detailed as follows:

Survey Responses:

- 11 Survey responses received following engagement at Waddington Street and The Bridge Young Carers.
- 9 commented that they did feel involved in the service they were in touch while 2 respondents did not feel involved.
- Where respondents did feel involved and a part of what was going on this was because they; **Felt listened to, their situation was understood and learned about how they felt and hope to cope.**
- Where respondents didn't feel involved this was because they; **Didn't feel they had a say on key decisions.**
- Areas of improvement were; **Allowing young people to receive help from services for longer and better listening and understanding.**

Face to Face Engagement:

Young people spoken to at the Waddington Street session informed Amy of the following key points:

- Lack of **awareness** and **reassurance** from professionals in relation to this **anxiety** around transition of support to adult services.
- concerns which increased as they got older due to **anxiety** about turning 18 and not being able to access the same support.
- Direct frustrations with **CAMHS** and feelings of a **lack of involvement** in this service.



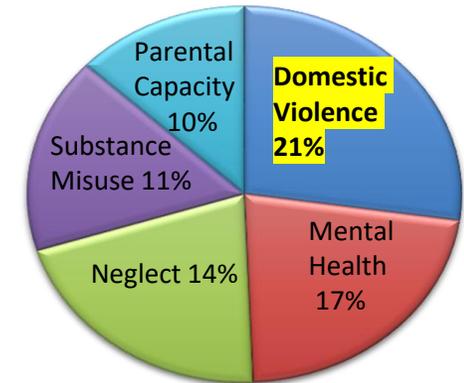
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Local Safeguarding facts and statistics:

<http://www.durham-scp.org.uk/>

Child Protection

- Between 2019-2020, **444 children** were subject to a child protection plan.
- **Neglect** continues to be the most frequent reason for children being placed on a Child Protection Plan in 2019/20.
- **77.5%** of children under 5, were put on a child Protection Plan due to Neglect.
- **Domestic Abuse (21%)** continues to be the main parental risk factor leading to children becoming subject of a Child Protection Plan, followed by other categories detailed in the pie chart.



Child Sexual Exploitation

- There were **115 Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)** referrals between 2019-2020.
- The most common model of CSE is **Online Grooming**



Serious Case Reviews

- **7 Serious Case Reviews Completed, 5 ongoing, none published.**

Looked After System

- **917 Children** are in the Looked After system.
- **17 children** were in Private Fostering arrangements during this period.

917



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Vision and 2019-2020 priorities:

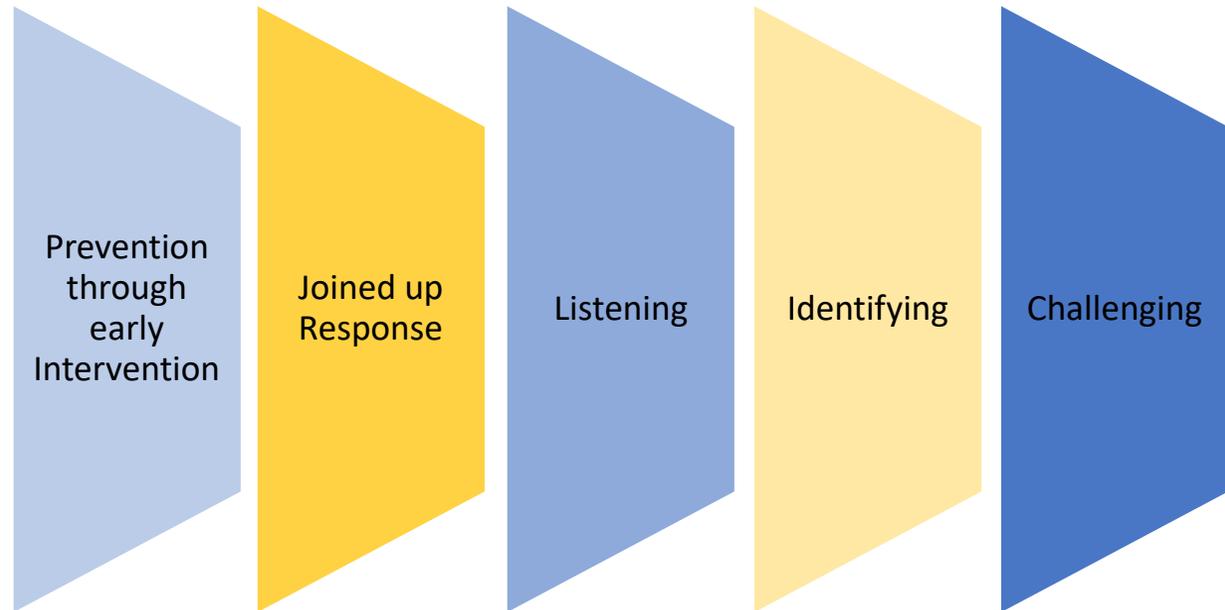
Vision & Areas for Focus:

The DSCP remains committed to our Vision and Values. In terms of added focus for the coming year 2020/21, a significant amount of work has been carried out through the analysis of Serious Case Reviews, inspections and audit and has identified 4 targeted areas, being;

- Risk Assessment
- Decision Making by professionals
- Domestic Abuse and its effect on children
- Challenge and Escalation

Vision & Action:

Click on the tabs below for more information



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<http://www.durham-scp.org.uk/>

Focus: Prevention

The two focus areas in our work to prevent and intervene early, remains child exploitation in all its forms and child neglect. Multi-agency work around child exploitation is coordinated through the joint Durham and Darlington Child Exploitation Group (CEG.)

It's aim is to monitor partner activity and improve the services and responses to reported missing and absent children and the multi-agency response to Child Sexual Exploitation, which remains the key focus.

For 2020/21, the Neglect Group from the partnership have developed a new Strategic Plan on a Page and associated Action Plan which focuses on the following areas:

- Understand Neglect
- Early Identification
- Effective Interventions

The NSPCC logo is displayed in a large, bold, green font.



For more information on Neglect and Child Exploitation, use the tabs above.

Neglect continues to be a key challenge across County Durham. It is the greatest single cause of children needing protection and care in County Durham. **As of March 2020, 75.7% (336 of 444) of children subject to Child Protection Plans were due to neglect.**



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<http://www.durham-scp.org.uk/>

Focus: Joined Up Response

A cross agency Child Exploitation Vulnerability Tracker was launched in November 2019, which focuses on children that go missing and their risk to exploitation. It is an innovative piece of work in Durham, as it originally was designed to only track County Lines (as used in most areas), but here it includes a multi-agency screening process and the development of more effective responses to all forms of child exploitation.

In early 2020, after a successful pilot programme, Durham's Children's Services introduced a 'Place Based Approach' to Early Help work. This in effect is a geographical area where local organisations work more closely to improve outcomes for children and families in that area. Within a place-based location, practitioners who work with children, young people and those working with adults who are parents or carers work more closely together so they all have a better knowledge of local needs, to help and support families to be more self-reliant and resilient, and is supported by a process called Early Help Conversations.



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Focus: Listening

In September 2019, The DSCP appointed a 'Young People's Commissioner' to ensure that the partnership was listening to the voice and views of young people.

The DSCP continues to engage with the National Youth Advocacy Service who work across different agencies in providing advocacy service for children and young people and have reported that Durham is using their services relatively well.

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A Social Care commissioned user satisfaction survey showed that 90% of parents/carers were happy with the service and 85% felt more positive about their future.

- All young people agreed a lot when asked if their worker listened to them, 88% of children said their worker kept their promises and listened to them and 90% of parents/carers agreed a lot that their worker always put their child(ren) first and that the worker spent enough time with the family.



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Focus: Identifying

Identifying

Our work with children and young people continues to be recognised by 'Investing in Children' as good practice.

To increase young people's awareness of safeguarding issues a safeguarding engagement module for C&YP was co-produced between local authority officers, partner agencies and teachers and children in schools.

We continue to increase the visibility and voice of the child and this year we have continued to focus further on improving the influence of children in the Child Protection processes, and to challenge services to develop through a clearer role in our assessment and scrutiny of the partnership against its identified priorities.



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Focus: Challenging

Challenging

Professional challenge and critical reflection within safeguarding is a professional responsibility. It is a sign of good professional practice, a healthy organisation and effective multi-agency working.

In April 2019 the DSCP introduced the Professional Challenge Pledge to which all statutory partners and a significant number of the Relevant agencies signed up to.

Challenging decisions, practice or actions when concerns arise may alter the professional response when ensuring the safety or well-being of a child or young person or their family.



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Durham 
Safeguarding Children Partnership
<http://www.durham-scp.org.uk/>

Reporting concerns and support:



shout
for support in a crisis
CRISIS TEXT LINE |



harbour
working for safer communities



Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys **NHS**
NHS Foundation Trust
Durham & Darlington
CAMHS Crisis & Liaison Team
making a difference together

If you are concerned that a child is being harmed or neglected call



First Contact **24 hours a day**
03000 26 79 79

If the child or young person is at immediate risk of harm ☎ 999



kooth student
Free, safe and anonymous online support for students

For more Information, click on the images to go to various websites and contacts.



IF U CARE
SHARE
FOUNDATION



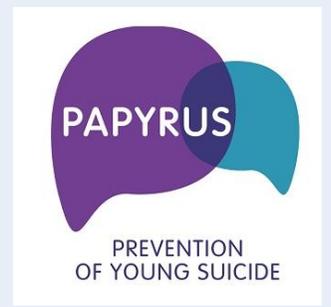
County Durham
Families Information Service



County Durham
drug and alcohol
recovery
services



one point



PAPYRUS
PREVENTION
OF YOUNG SUICIDE



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<http://www.durham-scp.org.uk/>

Contact Details:

Contact Details

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|--|---------------|---|---------------|
| DSCP | 03000 265 770 | Harrogate & District NHS Foundation Trust | 01423 885 959 |
| Durham County Council | 03000 260 000 | City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust | 0191 565 6256 |
| Durham Constabulary | 101 | NHS England North | 0113 825 1609 |
| County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust | 0191 333 2333 | Cafcass (County Durham) | 0300 456 4000 |
| North Durham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) | 0191 389 8600 | Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company | 0808 168 4848 |
| Durham Dales, Easington & Sedgefield CCG | 0191 371 3222 | National Probation Service North East Division | 01325 246 260 |
| Tees, Esk & Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust | 01325 552 000 | National Offender Management Service | 0300 047 6325 |
| North Tees & Hartlepool Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | 01642 617 617 | Schools and Colleges | web link only |
| | | Voluntary and Community Sector | web link only |

