

Partner Newsletter

EDITORS

Melanie Brown Tel: (01325) 388219 e-mail: melanie.brown@darlington.gov.uk

Odette Sanderson Tel: (01325) 388940 e-mail: odette.sanderson@darlington.gov.uk

Darlington Safeguarding Children Board & Darlington Children's Trust Partner Newsletter

Welcome to the first partner newsletter from Darlington Safeguarding Children Board & Darlington Children's Trust Board. We have agreed to work together to ensure Children and Young People are safer in Darlington.



DSCB/DCT Protocol

Darlington Safeguarding Children Board & Darlington Children's Trust Board have signed up to a protocol which outlines where both boards will work together to ensure Children and Young People are safer in Darlington. The protocol also explains the responsibilities of both boards.

The protocol is published on both DSCB and Darlington Children's Trust websites and can be accessed below:
<http://www.darlington.gov.uk/Children/childrenstrust/Darlington+Safeguarding+Children+Board.htm>

If you require any further information about the joint protocol please contact either **Odette Sanderson**, DSCB Business Manager, odette.sanderson@darlington.gov.uk or **Melanie Brown**, Children's Trust Partnership Manager, melanie.brown@darlington.gov.uk.

Serious Case Review

The first independent review looking into serious injuries suffered by a young child in Darlington, has reinforced the need for all professionals to consistently recognise the importance of early and thorough assessment and staying focussed on the child. This includes the importance of understanding the signs of abuse, and understanding the factors which increase vulnerability. The review followed the case of a young child taken to Darlington Memorial Hospital in December 2009, who was found to have several separate injuries. A police investigation has now been completed with no charges being made.

The Serious Case Review report was submitted to Ofsted for scrutiny, who have determined that the overall manner in which this case has been reviewed as 'good'. This is an achievement for the Local Safeguarding Children Board's first Serious Case Review and demonstrates the commitment of partner agencies. A multi-agency action plan to deliver the recommendations of the report has been put in place by the agencies involved- which include Darlington Borough Council (Children's Services and Housing), the Probation Service, Durham Constabulary, County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, County Durham and Darlington Community Health Services, NHS County Durham and NHS Darlington.

The report recommends that staff in all agencies access child protection and domestic abuse training and that all agencies improve in keeping accurate, high quality records

when dealing with children, taking into account culture, race and relevant historical information.

In line with national requirements the Local Safeguarding Children Board commissioned an experienced Independent Chair, Barbara Williams, to oversee the Serious Case Review Panel and an experienced Independent Author, Edwina Harrison, to write the Overview Report and Executive Summary.

The Executive Summary of the Serious Case Review has now been published. Edwina Harrison, the Independent Author states:

"In this instance it is clear that even without anyone being identified as being responsible for the injuries there were a number of key points, at which different decisions could have made a difference to the outcome of the child."

Colin Morris, Independent Chair of Darlington Safeguarding Children Board added, "It is crucial that professionals operating in this hugely challenging environment use every opportunity to learn and improve processes and services for children and young people who are in extremely vulnerable and exposed circumstances."

For more information about the Serious Case review contact DSCB Business Manager, Odette Sanderson at odette.sanderson@darlington.gov.uk. The executive summary is published on the DSCB website and can be accessed at: <http://www.darlington.gov.uk/Children/LSCB/SeriousCaseReview.htm>

DSCB Training Programme

Training from Darlington Safeguarding Children Board (DSCB) will involve sharing knowledge about how to recognise issues, develop confidence in sharing information with other agencies, and awareness of some of the challenges presented by multi-agency working as well as the real benefits for children.

The training programme aims to provide a balanced mix of participants on the courses and workshops, and fully promotes multi-agency working. The programme provides valuable opportunities for practitioners to come together in a stimulating and safe environment, to share knowledge and experience, and to build those relationships that promote the well being and safety of children and young people across Darlington.

DSCB's training programmes are available to a wide range of statutory, voluntary and independent organisations within the children and young people's workforce, plus those who offer services/ support to adults in such areas as substance misuse, mental health services, domestic abuse and housing.

Please access the link below for more information about the DSCB Training programme:

<http://www.darlington.gov.uk/Children/LSCB/Training/TrainingProgramme.htm>

Darlington's Safeguarding Children Board's Business Plan 2011-2012

DSCB Business Plan 2011-2012 is produced in compliance with Working Together to Safeguard Children: a guide to interagency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and in accordance with Darlington's Safeguarding Children Board constitution.

The Business Plan will report on Child Protection activity in Darlington and achievements of the Darlington's Safeguarding Children Board and will set out its objectives and work plan for the forthcoming year. The Business Plan is provided for Members of the Council and professionals from all agencies who have responsibility for Child Protection work. It is approved by the Darlington's Safeguarding Children Board. The Business Plan is an indicator of the positive working relationships between all agencies in Darlington and the high level of commitment from all to the protection of children from Neglect and Abuse.

The DSCB Business plan is available to access at: <http://www.darlington.gov.uk/Children/LSCB/BusinessPlans.htm>

For further information about the DSCB business plan please contact DSCB Business Manager, Odette Sanderson at odette.sanderson@darlington.gov.uk

Darlington Children's Trust Children and Young People Plan Priorities 2011-2014

Over the last six months work has been underway to consult with children, young people, parents and key stakeholders such as DSCB to agree the priorities for Darlington Children's Trust for the new Children and Young People Plan which will be published in July 2011.

The priorities that have been agreed by Darlington Children's Trust are available to access at:
www.darlington.gov.uk/Children/childrenstrust/CYPP/Children+and+Young+Peoples+Plan+2011-2014.htm

During the consultation process over 300 children and young people participated in workshops to consider the draft CYPP priorities and they have asked Darlington Children's Trust to do the following:

- Develop a facebook page so that children and young people can find out more about the Children and Young People Plan 2011-2014
- Develop a Children and Young People version of the CYPP 2011-2014
- Continue to raise awareness about Darlington Children's Trust with Children and Young People in Darlington

A group of young people are now working on the actions outlined above and it is hoped to have these actions completed by July 2011.

For more information about the Children and Young People's Plan 2011-2014 please contact Melanie Brown, Children's Trust Partnership Manager at melanie.brown@darlington.gov.uk



Children's Trust Induction

Induction is the foundation for successful development of our workforce developing a common sense of vision, purpose, identity and values. The Induction is made up of modules which include:

- **Children's Trust Induction**
- **Level 1 Safeguarding**
- **Common Assessment Framework**
- **Communicating and engaging with Children, Young People and Families**
- **Understanding Child Development.**

The Induction is aimed at anyone who works in the Children's Workforce in Darlington. We have been piloting the Children's Trust Induction Module. So far we've had people from a range of the Children's Trust Partners including, the Local Authority, Health, Youth Offending, the Voluntary Sector.



The feedback we have received has been very positive e.g.

"Good session – I particularly enjoyed the interactive activities which helped to break up the training but also helped to cement some of the important issues"

The session gives participants an understanding of Darlington's Trust, it's vision and priorities. We develop the participant's knowledge and understanding about the importance of the 'common core of skills and knowledge' this enables people who work with children and families to have a core set of skills and knowledge. The common core of skills and knowledge is a single framework to underpin multi-agency and integrated working, professional standards, training and qualifications across the children and young people's workforce. We raise people's awareness of the importance of safeguarding, equality and diversity and 'working together processes'

We will be rolling out a full programme of all of the modules in the next year. Dates for the Children's Trust Induction sessions are:

Wednesday 18 May 2011 from 6.00-9.00pm

Monday 20 June 2011 from 9.30-12.30pm

Tuesday 13 September 2011 from 1.00-4.00pm