

Annual Partnership Review Form

Year ended 31 March 2025

Partnership name:

Darlington Safeguarding Partnership

Partnership function:

Darlington Safeguarding Partnership is the key statutory mechanism for safeguarding responsibilities which are placed on Police, Health and Local Authorities to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults with needs for care and support. The three organisations have equal responsibility for setting out the safeguarding arrangements and to ensure the effectiveness of safeguarding practice across Darlington.

Objectives for the year

Darlington Safeguarding Partnership has a strong collective oversight of safeguarding arrangements to ensure all agencies are fulfilling their statutory obligations, it will do this by:

- Ensuring there are effective safeguarding arrangements in place to protect and promote the welfare of children and adults with needs for care and support who are at risk of abuse, neglect, injury or harm.
- Ensuring there are effective scrutiny and assurance arrangements in place across the partnership.
- Having detailed governance and structure arrangements in place to ensure the appropriate processes and systems are robust.
- Exploring how the Partnership can develop a more integrated approach to strengthening and develop safeguarding partnership arrangements.
- Setting out the structure and how the groups will support and develop the work of the partnership.
- Ensuring the voice of children and vulnerable adults is evident across multi-agency work.

Performance against objectives

Darlington Safeguarding Partnership will:

- Ensure all partner agencies work effectively and collaboratively to protect and safeguard children and adults with needs for care and support from abuse and neglect.
- Ensure partners challenge and hold one another to account effectively.
- Ensure its governance arrangements are effective.
- Ensure early identification and analysis of new safeguarding issues and emerging threats.
- Ensure information is shared effectively to facilitate more accurate and timely decision making for children, families and adults with need for care and support.
- Ensure learning and improvement processes including Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Safeguarding Adult Reviews are undertaken.
- Ensure learning is promoted and embedded across the partnership.
- Monitor performance through Performance Management Frameworks and quality assurance processes.
- Continues to work closely with other key relevant agencies and Partnership Boards to ensure safeguarding of children, young people and adults with care and support needs are threaded throughout.

Budget administered

	Revenue for 2023/2024
Darlington Borough Council	100,109
Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group	41,310
Durham Constabulary	34,404
County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust	16,973
National Probation Service	1,845
Darlington College	1,600
Schools Forum	10,000
Total	206,241

DBC resources contributed

e.g. finance, employees, accommodation, other assets

Staffing- The DSP (Statutory Partners and relevant agency partner contributions) funds a joint Business Unit:

- 1.0 Business Manager
- 1.0 Training and Development Officer
- 1.0 Policy & Development Officer/LADO
- 1.0 Business Support Officer
- 1.0 Information Officer (P/T)

Governance arrangements outstanding actions, if any, from partnership toolkit questionnaire

None

Issues of concern, if any e.g. Finance, staffing etc

Continual review of any funding pressures such as being able to adequately resource all statutory safeguarding partnership arrangements. A review of funding will take place during 2025-26 financial year.

Action plan to address issues of concern (including responsible officer and timescales)

Statutory Safeguarding Partners meet regularly to oversee arrangements and manage areas of concern. Sub-Groups oversee working arrangements and escalate concerns or issues to Statutory Safeguarding Partners.

Is the partnership to continue?

Yes

Objectives for next year

Implement the new multi-agency Safeguarding Partnership arrangements with the requirements outlined in Working Together to Safeguard Children Statutory Guidance 2023. The guidance introduced substantive changes to strengthen safeguarding arrangements including the introduction of a partnership chair, emphasise the role of education, strengthening accountability and

expectations for information sharing, independent scrutiny, funding and reporting. The changes will be effective from 1 April 2025.

DSP will continue to provide an annual report to summarise the work of the partnership.

It will continue to:

- Apply learning from local and national Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Safeguarding Adult Reviews into practice
- Ensure partners work collaboratively to strengthen existing practice with a focus on a 'whole family approach'
- Strengthening quality assurance processes and further develop performance frameworks to provide the assurance partners need in relation to multi-agency safeguarding arrangements
- Continue to review ways of working to ensuring there is a strong collective oversight of safeguarding arrangements and to seek assurance that everyone is working closely together.
- Continue to evidence impact of work of the partnership and explore how to obtain the lived experiences of children and vulnerable adults

Completed By Lead Officer:

Name

Amanda Hugill

Post

Partnership Business Manager

Date

09/04/2025

Reviewed By Assistant Director:

Name

James Stroyan

Post

Executive Director of People

Date

09/04/25