



## Education Strategy Group

### Darlington Alternative Education Framework

### Quality Assurance

## 9. Safeguarding Protocol

It is strongly recommended that all providers go through the process of developing their own safeguarding policy, which will be specific to their organisation; the people it employs and the services it offers. It is crucial that members of the organisation are involved in forming the policy, are aware of it and have ownership of it.

It is crucial that organisations consider how they will implement and raise awareness of this policy.

Any safeguarding children policies developed in Darlington should refer to the Darlington Safeguarding Partnership procedures:

[www.darlingtonsafeguardingpartnership.co.uk](http://www.darlingtonsafeguardingpartnership.co.uk)

In addition, providers must comply with the latest statutory guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children>

Providers should ensure that:

- **All safeguarding concerns are reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead at the home school immediately and the school and provider will then agree who will make the referral if necessary**
- **If, at any point, there is a risk of immediate serious harm to a child a referral should be made to children's social care immediately or the Police if a crime has been committed.**
- They have a safeguarding children policy in place that is in accordance with locally agreed Darlington Safeguarding Partnership procedures
- They operate safer recruitment procedures and make sure that all appropriate checks are carried out on staff and volunteers who work with children
- They have procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse against members of staff and volunteers that comply with Darlington Safeguarding Partnership procedures and make reference to the Designated Officer at the Local Authority (LADO)



- A senior member of staff is designated to take lead responsibility for dealing with safeguarding children issues, providing advice and support to other staff, liaising with the local authority, and working with other agencies. The designated person must have the appropriate status and authority within the management structure
- In addition to basic child protection training the designated lead undertakes training on an inter-agency basis. If appropriate, this training can be accessed via the Darlington Safeguarding Partnership

<https://www.darlington-safeguarding-partnership.co.uk/>

- All other staff who work with children, undertake appropriate training to equip them to carry out their responsibilities for child protection effectively. Within this it is important that staff keep updated and refreshed in relation to safeguarding children
- Insurance is in place to cover students
- Health and Safety risk assessments for the provider's premises and specific tasks are undertaken
- Health and Safety risk assessments are undertaken specific to the needs of vulnerable students (as identified by the school), taking into account health, social and personal characteristics as well as age and experience

For further information on types of abuse and neglect and signposting to expert guidance on specific safeguarding issues see: Keeping children safe in education:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education>

(This protocol is one within a series of protocols and should not be considered in isolation. Protocols may be reviewed and are subject to change)

