

**North East Derbyshire District Council**

**Council**

**13 January 2020**

**The Children and Adults at Risk Safeguarding System**

**Report of Councillor Barry Lewis, Portfolio Holder for Partnerships and Leisure**

This report is public

**Purpose of the Report**

- To inform Council of the Local and countywide system, structures and arrangements in place to safeguard children and adults at risk in both North East Derbyshire and Derbyshire.

**1 Report Details**

- 1.1 Formerly the Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Board (DSCB), now the Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership (DDSCP) and Derbyshire Safeguarding Adults Board (DSAB) are statutory bodies established in accordance with the Children's Act 2004 and the Care Act 2014 respectively. Their roles are to co-ordinate and monitor the effectiveness of the safeguarding work of agencies and bodies represented on the board (see **Appendix 1**).
- 1.2 The statutory functions and work of the boards are underpinned by Sub Groups. Each Sub Group is chaired and represented by a range of agencies, supporting the key themes and priorities of the boards.

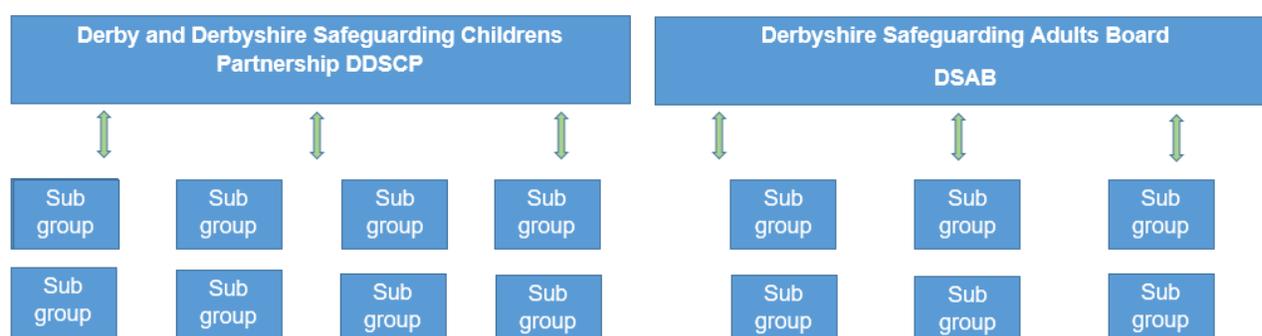
**DDSCP Sub Groups**

- Child Sexual Exploitation and Vulnerable Young People Sub Group
- Serious Case Review Panel Sub Committee
- Joint Workforce Sub Group
- Quality and Performance Sub Group
- Joint Policies and Procedures Sub Group
- Child Death Overview Panel
- Education Sub Group
- Chief Officers Group

## DSAB Sub Groups

- Core Business Sub Group
- Learning and Development Sub Group
- Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (MCA DoLs)
- Operational and Leadership Sub Group
- Safeguarding Adults Review Sub Group
- Performance and Quality Sub Group

- 1.3 Both Derbyshire Boards are vital mechanisms for; providing training, sharing learning, highlighting and guiding best practice and reviewing systems, procedures and policies across the 'whole safeguarding system'.

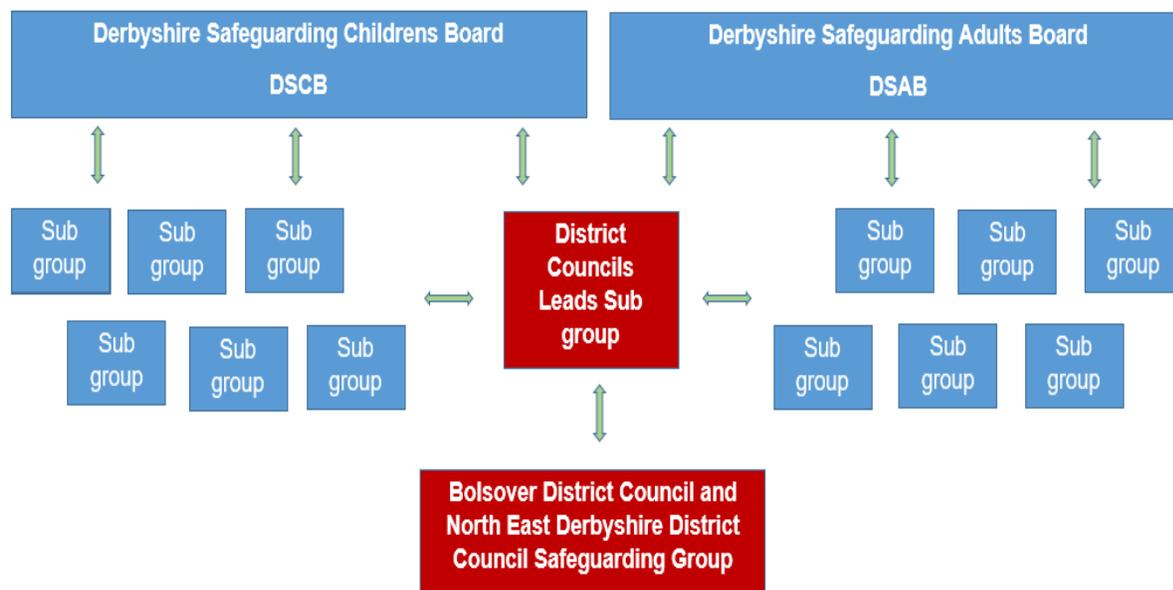


- 1.4 The nature of safeguarding at board level is complex involving many organisations and differing service areas, engaging with the board and ensuring that District Council responsibilities were being effectively fulfilled was largely dealt with individually by each District and Borough Council.
- 1.5 Although District and Borough Councils have robust safeguarding arrangements in place, previously representation from District Council's was relatively low on both Boards meetings, with the links to and from the Districts and Boards requiring improvement. It was acknowledged however, that although not lead agencies, District and Borough Council's play a large role in the 'whole system' approach to safeguarding.
- 1.6 When considering the key areas and 'reach' of the District Council's business, services and workforce such as; housing and housing repairs, benefits, environmental health, licensing, community safety, leisure services and so on, it is imperative that District and Borough Councils are well connected to the wider safeguarding arrangements countywide.
- 1.7 The volume and scale of the District and Borough 'transactional touch points' or contacts with our communities and public exceeds 20 million per year across the county, this lends itself well to the network of 'eyes and ears' required for an effective safeguarding system to operate.

- 1.8 Understanding this, NEDDC led on the creation and development of a collective, collaborative safeguarding group made up of all District and Borough Councils across Derbyshire. This group was established in September 2017 and now acts as a sub group to both boards – the group is; **Derbyshire Districts Safeguarding Leads Sub Group** (DDSLSG).
- 1.9 This group acts as a forum for the District Safeguarding Leads to share ideas, best practice and generate economies of scale. Perhaps most importantly, the group plays a considerable role in developing the safeguarding network whilst providing an effective conduit both to the Boards and back to District level Safeguarding teams/groups. The group provides a forum for 'like' organisations experiencing similar challenges and providing similar services to develop together consistently and collectively.
- 1.10 The group is chaired by NEDDC/BDC Joint Strategic Director – People, the Council's safeguarding lead. The group meets quarterly and the chair produces reports and delivers presentations to both Boards at least annually detailing the group's work plan and progress against the priorities set by the Boards. Key areas of focus for the group are;
- **Training** – For example; sharing each Council's internal arrangements and resources, best practice identified and adopted, exploration of e-learning products, Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) arrangements and mechanisms, training needs analysis for District Leads and Safeguarding Link Officers.
  - **Review arrangements** – For example; sharing each Council's consultations, policies, information retention arrangements, audits.
  - **Serious Case Reviews** – These are held after a child or adult at risk dies or is seriously injured under circumstances where abuse or neglect are thought to have been involved. The group review each Serious Case Review as they arise and share learning where appropriate.
  - **S11 audit** – This audit is designed to allow the Boards to assure themselves that agencies placed under a duty to co-operate by legislation, are fulfilling their responsibilities to safeguard. This is an annual audit which includes a S11 having to be completed by all District and Borough Councils. This group review current approaches, hold workshops to ensure consistency of approach and co-ordinate the S11 audit from all District and Borough Councils.
  - **Attendance and representation on both Boards** – The group ensure consistent attendance at the Boards by District and Borough Councils and act as a conduit for information to the boards and back to the District and Borough network.
  - **Insight** – For example; the group have held and delivered a number of information sessions for the sub group including; DSAB and DDSCP themes; County Lines – inter county drug trafficking; Was not Brought – a system established to identify possible neglect through the GP and prescription services;

Children and Social Care Act; Homelessness; Domestic Abuse; Multi Agency arrangements; Child Sexual Exploitation; and Controlling Coercive Behaviour.

1.11 How the Derbyshire Districts Safeguarding Leads Sub Group fits in;



1.12 Below the DDSLSG sub group, along with the other District and Borough Councils, sits the Council's own Local Safeguarding Group (BDC / NEDDC) which includes Member Portfolio Holder and officer representation from across both organisations including most internal departments and Rykneld Homes.

1.13 The purpose of this local group is to provide a framework to deliver our own safeguarding policies and ensure the following measures are in place so that the Council meets its safeguarding obligations;

- Identification of a senior safeguarding lead (Joint Strategic Director – People)
- Establish senior management commitment to safeguarding
- Establish clear lines of accountability for safeguarding arrangements
- Embed a safeguarding culture throughout the Council
- Develop and consistently review the Council's safeguarding policies, procedures and arrangements
- Ensure safeguarding is embedded in the Council's recruitment process including the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks prior to employment
- Ensure safeguarding responsibilities are included within contracts of employment and all job descriptions
- Embed safeguarding responsibilities for contractors in all contracting arrangements
- Establish a programme of effective training for staff and elected Members
- Train and appoint Designated Safeguarding Link Officers to act as first point of contact for staff and elected Members who may have safeguarding concerns

- Continuously promote the Council's safeguarding arrangements

1.14 Key to the success of the Council's safeguarding arrangements is an effective programme of training for staff and elected Members. The Council delivers a range of training both in-house by our internal safeguarding trainers which is mandatory for all staff and through external providers for more advanced levels of training required for particular roles. All mandatory training includes the following as a minimum;

- Definition of a child
- Definition of an adult at risk
- Definition of the various types of abuse
- Indicators of abuse and what to look for
- Case studies and examples of abuse
- How to respond to suspected abuse
- How to report suspected abuse

1.15 Another key component of our local safeguarding arrangements is the effective and continuous promotion of the above throughout the Council. This includes;

- A dedicated area of the intranet including online reporting facility and safeguarding policies
- Intranet bulletins
- Feedback from the safeguarding group to team meetings
- Safeguarding posters in every service area, department and communal areas across all Council facilities – these include Designated Safeguarding Link Officers contact details
- Issuing all staff with a quick reference guide – these also include Designated Safeguarding Link Officers contact details

1.16 The over-arching and fundamental message throughout the Council's extensive safeguarding arrangements is that it is our responsibility to act on any concerns and to protect children and adults at risk by sharing our concerns so that the appropriate agencies can make enquiries and take necessary action to protect those at risk.

We must all **'be curious'** and not leave it to someone else – safeguarding is **'everybody's business'**.

## **2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendations**

2.1 North East Derbyshire District Council employees, Councillors, contractors and partners have a key role to play in safeguarding children and adults at risk from abuse. Each individual is the eyes and ears of the Council and, therefore, has an important role to play in the event of help being required to safeguard children and adults at risk.

### **3 Consultation and Equality Impact**

- 3.1 There are various forms of consultation that have and will continue to take place with a number of groups and organisations in relation to the safeguarding arrangements and system detailed within this report including but not limited to the following; North East Derbyshire District Council; NEDDC Cabinet; Derbyshire County Council; DDSCP and DSAB.
- 3.2 There are no negative equality impact implications from this report. The safeguarding arrangements and system detailed within this report has significant and positive benefits for children and adults at risk – those in our communities who are the most vulnerable.

### **4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

- 4.1 All Local Authorities have a duty to safeguard children and adults at risk and where they do not have a statutory lead for child or adult care services, they must work in partnership with their upper tier authority to ensure children and adults are safeguarded against abuse. There is not an option to not comply.

### **5 Implications**

#### **5.1 Finance and Risk Implications**

- 5.1.1 With the exception of the Designated Safeguarding Lead who has specific safeguarding responsibilities set out within their Job Description (Joint Strategic Director – People), safeguarding is incorporated generically within every contract of employment of all staff within the Council. There are no specific safeguarding posts, therefore safeguarding duties are funded through existing staffing budgets.
- 5.1.2 Most of the safeguarding training is delivered in house by the Council's own safeguarding trainers who deliver this training through a number of sessions per year as part of their substantive posts. Therefore mandatory safeguarding training is funded through existing staffing budgets with only 'lost opportunity' costs associated with attendance at that training by staff.
- 5.1.3 To meet enhanced safeguarding training needs that may be required for some specific posts within the Council, there is an identified centrally held annual Learning and Development safeguarding budget of approximately £2000 to fund externally provided training. Additionally some staff will attend Derbyshire County Council multi-agency training which is free of charge.
- 5.1.4 The safeguarding system and arrangements seeks to reduce the risk of abuse and neglect of those who are most vulnerable within our communities – children and adults at risk. To not have such a system and arrangements in place would increase the risk of abuse and neglect to those vulnerable groups.

## **5.2 Legal Implications including Data Protection**

5.2.1 The purpose of the Safeguarding System is to make explicit the responsibilities of all professionals, volunteers and agencies working together to protect those children and adults at risk from harm and abuse. All Local Authorities have a duty to safeguard children and adults at risk and where they do not have a statutory lead for child or adult care services, they must work in partnership with their upper tier authority to ensure children and adults are safeguarded against abuse.

5.2.2 Nationally there is a wide range of legislation and regulatory framework relating to safeguarding children and adults at risk. These relate primarily to upper tier councils such as Derbyshire County Council, who have the statutory lead on child and adult care services. These include, but are not exhaustive:

- Children's Act 2004
- The Care Act 2014 and its statutory guidance (this replaces the 'No Secrets' Guidance 2000)
- Children and Social Care Act 2017
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Mental Capacity Act 2005 made it an offence to neglect or deliberately ill-treat a person who lacks capacity. It put arrangements in place for advocacy support and best interest decision making.
- SCIE Safeguarding Adults of Risk of Harm:- a Legal Framework for Practitioners

## **5.3 Human Resources Implications**

5.3.1 There are no significant direct additional HR implications arising from the safeguarding system and arrangements for NEDDC.

## **6 Recommendations**

6.1 That Council recognises the revised arrangements and the important role of districts and endorses the approach and the training undertaken.

## 7 Decision Information

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| <p><b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b></p> <p>A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:</p> <p><i>BDC: Revenue - £75,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Capital - £150,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>NEDDC: Revenue - £100,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Capital - £250,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i></p> | No  |
| <p><b>Is the decision subject to Call-In?</b></p> <p>(Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</p>  | No  |
| <p><b>Has the relevant Portfolio Holder been informed</b></p>   | Yes |
| <p><b>District Wards Affected</b></p>   | All |
| <p><b>Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework</b></p>  | All |

## 8 Document Information

| Appendix No   | Title                                |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1   | Representation on the DDSCP and DSAB |
| <p><b>Background Papers</b> (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)</p> |                                      |
| None  |                                      |
| Report Author   | Contact Number                       |
| Lee Hickin<br>Joint Strategic Director  | 7218                                 |

# Appendix 1

## **Representation on the DDSCP and DSAB**

There are five statutory member organisations and joint controllers of the **Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Childrens Partnership (DDSCP)**, which are:

- Derby City Council
- Derbyshire County Council
- Derbyshire Constabulary
- Derby and Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Groups
- Tameside and Glossop Clinical Commissioning Group

In addition, the DSAB has representation from the following organisations:

- Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire
- Derbyshire Healthcare Foundation Trust
- Derbyshire Community Health Service Foundation Trust
- Chesterfield Royal Hospital Foundation Trust
- University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust
- Derbyshire Health United
- East Midlands Ambulance Service
- GP's
- Derbyshire Leicester Nottingham and Rutland Community Rehabilitation Company
- National Probation Service Education
- Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (CAFCASS)
- Independent lay members
- Voluntary sector
- Community Safety Housing providers
- Chesterfield Borough Council
- Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service
- Districts and Borough Council representation (DDSLSG)

There are three statutory member organisations of the **Derbyshire Safeguarding Adults Board (DSAB)**, which are:

- Derbyshire County Council Adult Social Care and Health
- Derby and Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group
- Derbyshire Constabulary

In addition, the DSAB has representation from the following organisations:

- Age UK Derby and Derbyshire
- Board Manager
- Chesterfield Royal Hospital Foundation Trust

- Derby Diocese
- Derbyshire Community Health Services Foundation Trust
- Derbyshire County Council Community Safety
- Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service
- Derbyshire Healthcare Foundation Trust
- Derbyshire Mind
- Derbyshire Voluntary Action
- Derbyshire, Leicester, Nottingham and Rutland Community Rehabilitation
- DHU Healthcare CIC
- East Midlands Ambulance Service
- Healthwatch Derbyshire
- HMP Foston Hall
- HMP Sudbury
- Housing/Environmental Health (District Councils)
- Independent Chair
- National Probation Service Derbyshire
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust
- Districts and Borough Council representation (DDSLSG)