



Safer Newsletter

from Dudley Safeguarding People Partnership | Feb / Mar 2021
<http://safeguarding.dudley.gov.uk> | @DSPPB

2020

in review

Photo by Lee Jordan - originally posted to Flickr as Dudley Castle Manual HDR, CC BY-SA 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=4546176>

In this edition of our Safer Newsletter we have produced an overview of the last 12 months of the work undertaken by the Dudley Safeguarding People Partnership.

The priorities for 2020-2022 were agreed and will be reviewed every 6 months to ensure that they remain key areas of safeguarding.

Neglect
across the
life course

Preventing harm
across the life
course

Exploitation across
the life course

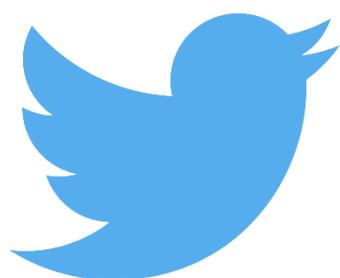
Our website has had over 53,000 hits since April 2020 which works out to being around 4,500 a month!

The most viewed pages on our site were online training courses and the 'Tell Us' section.

We also reviewed the website and wherever possible we have made the site and all its content accessible and updated our accessibility statement too.



Safeguarding Children Safeguarding Adults Learning Zone Partnership Contact Us



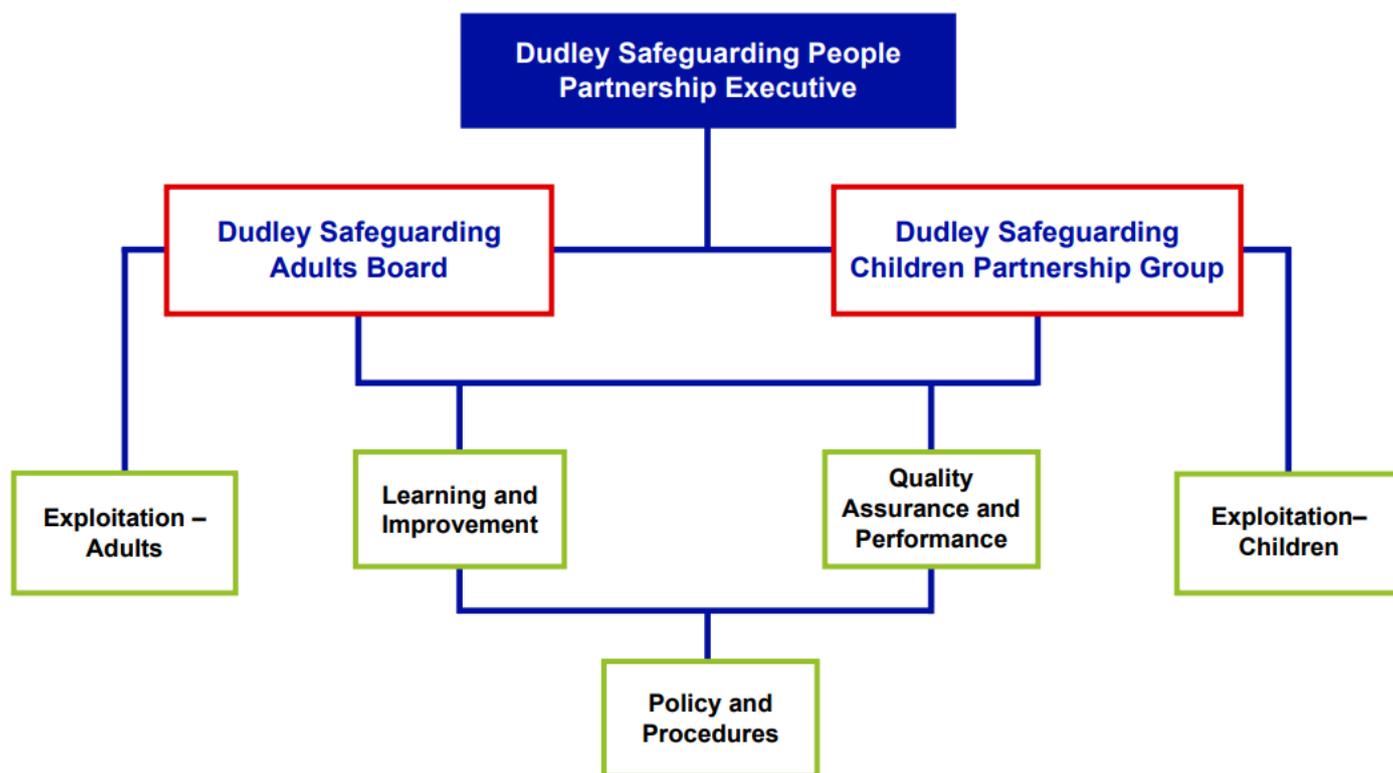
We have been using our twitter to engage with professionals in Dudley and to share best practice around safeguarding.

Since April 2020 we have over 250 interactions with people on twitter.

Our tweets have been viewed over 80,000 times and we gained nearly 300 followers too!

If you don't follow us on Social Media, why not check us out by visiting <https://twitter.com/dsppb>.

Over the last 12 months we operated under this model, and it will change during 2021 to meet emerging safeguarding themes and agendas.



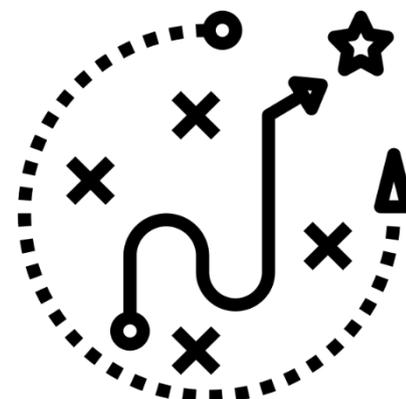
The following policies and procedures have been updated / agreed over the last 12 months:

- Bruising Protocol
- Contextual Safeguarding Screening Tool
- Neglect Strategy
- Roles and Responsibilities Guidance for Childcare providers
- Practice Guidance for dealing with Hostile/Aggressive parents
- Appropriate Adult Policy
- Child Exploitation Strategy
- Transgender Guidance (out for comment with
- Thresholds Framework and Guidance



The Following DSPP strategies have been approved and published over the last 12 months:

- DSPP Comms Strategy
- DSPP Brand Guidance
- Joint Learning and Improvement Framework (LIF)
- Guidance for those refusing to self-isolate in the result of a positive Covid-19 test.
- Covid-19 hints and tips for young people



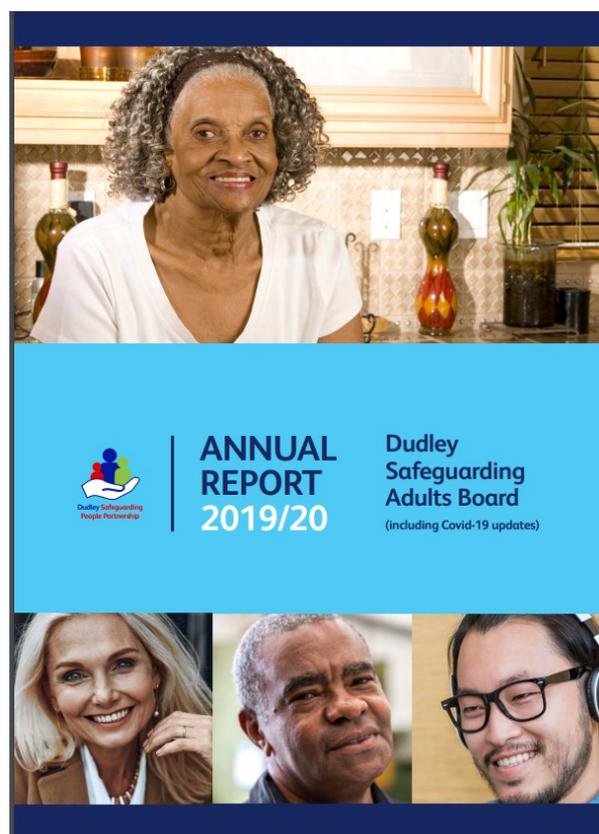
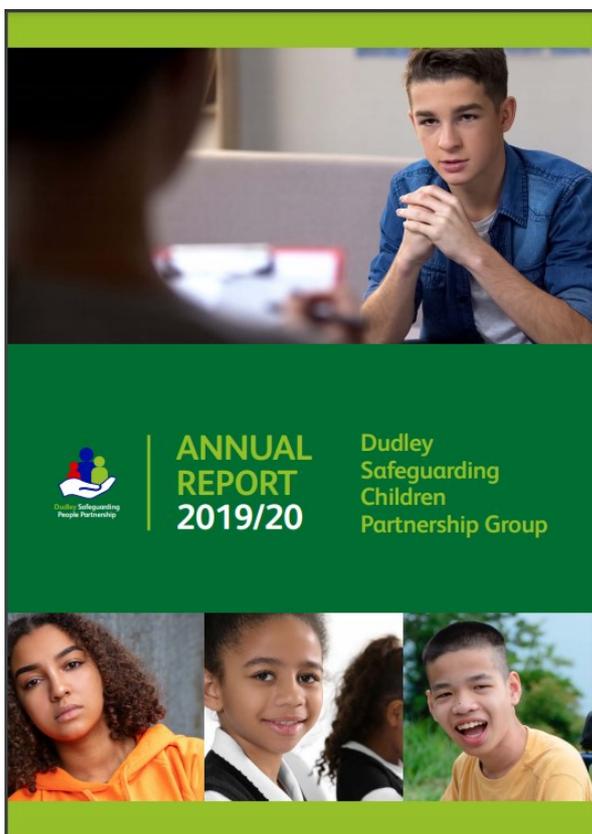
Learning and Development

During 2020 we purchased Phew for our own eLearning platform which has been well received by all partners. An overview of A separate briefing has been completed in respect of training, but an overview is provided below:



- 1500 bookings on eLearning platform, with over 2000 hours of learning complete since the platform went live in May 2020.
- 300 bookings for virtual and face to face training, with over 900 hours of learning in the last 12 months.
- Global learning gain for courses is an average of 1.23. Competency and understanding of course subjects pre course is 2.98, post course is 4.21.
- Average relevance of the course content to attendees for virtual, face to face and eLearning is 4.9 out of 5 and 4.4 out of 5 for design and accessibility of course.
- 36 eLearning courses have been developed in house saving 1000s of pounds in commissioning and development time.

We have also published our annual reports which you can access below



Click on the images above to download our latest Annual reports.

In other news



Department for Education

The Department for Education (DfE) has announced a new [helpline to support potential victims of sexual harassment and abuse in education settings](#). The helpline, run by the NSPCC, provides children and adults who are victims of sexual abuse in schools with support and advice.

The government has also asked Ofsted to undertake an immediate [review of safeguarding policies](#) in state and independent schools in England. The terms of reference for the review have been published by Ofsted. The review will conclude by the end of May 2021

Positions of Trust Law to be extended

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) has announced the Positions of Trust law, which currently applies in England and Wales to roles like teachers and social workers, will be extended as part of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill to protect teenagers from abuse by making it illegal for sports coaches and religious leaders to engage in sexual activity with 16 and 17-year-olds in their care.



Ministry of Justice

The new legislation follows the long standing '[Close the Loophole](#)' campaign by the NSPCC. Separately, the Home Office has published a series of factsheets giving details of the measures contained in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill 2021 including a factsheet on the extension of the positions of trust provisions to include individuals who lead activities in sporting and religious settings.

New blog from Ministry of Housing, Government and Local Government about 'Talk to Me' tool



Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

The Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government has published a blog discussing [Talk to Me](#), the interactive learning tool developed by Attensi (specialists in gamified simulation training) in collaboration with the NSPCC.

The free tool allows adults working or volunteering with children to access simulated scenarios and interact with fictional child characters to learn how to respond to children and build their trust to help them talk about their experiences.

Fresh Guidance from DfE on remote education

The Department for Education (DfE) has updated the [guidance on safeguarding and remote education](#) in England during the coronavirus pandemic with additional information on keeping children and young people safe online, and advice on live streaming lessons.



Department for Education

The DfE has also updated [guidance on remote education](#) in England to include a new section on safeguarding and online safety.

New report on Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation launched

The Centre for Social Justice has published a [report on child sexual abuse and exploitation](#) in England.

The report looks at the scale and severity of the problem and considers:



- the education response including relationships and sex education and supporting disclosure
- the online regulation response
- the legislative and criminal justice response
- the children's social care response
- the policing response
- the response of frontline services and the health and therapeutic support response.

Findings from an independent review into allegations of sexual abuse in football published



The Football Association (FA) has [published findings from an independent review](#) by Clive Sheldon QC into allegations of sexual abuse in football in England during the period 1970 to 2005.

The report finds that between October 1995 and May 2000 the FA acted too slowly to introduce appropriate child protection measures, and to ensure that safeguarding was taken sufficiently seriously.

The review makes 13 safeguarding recommendations, including: the FA should make arrangements for all parents and carers, players and young people to receive safeguarding training; one member of the FA's Board should be assigned the role of Children's Safeguarding Champion; and the FA should develop a five-year strategy with specific intervention to support the voices of children

Figures published on outcomes for children in need

The Department for Education (DfE) has published [figures on outcomes for children in need](#) including children looked after by local authorities in England.

The findings, which cover the year ending 31 March 2020, include:

48.3% of children in need also had special educational needs (SEN), compared to 15% for all pupils; 50.2% of children in need were eligible for free school meals, compared to 17% for all pupils; and one in 10 pupils had been a child in need within the previous six years.



Department
for Education

Guidance for Children's Rights in Digital Environments Launched



The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has issued [guidance protecting children's rights in the digital environment](#).

The guidance note, called General Comment 25, makes clear that children's rights as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) apply in the digital world. The general comment follows a survey of over 700 children and young people in 27 countries on digital technology, their rights and how they want to be protected.

Early Years guidance around data security

The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) has published [guidance for practitioners](#) working in early years education and childcare settings on how to protect sensitive information about their setting and the children in their care from accidental damage and online criminals. The guidance covers: backing up important information; using passwords to control access to your computers and information; protecting your devices from viruses and malware; and dealing with suspicious messages.



National Cyber
Security Centre
a part of GCHQ



Sutton LSCP has created a bespoke course, **Learning from Serious Case Reviews**, with the aim of supporting professionals with the knowledge and understanding they need, when confronted with child neglect and abuse, or young people being exploited and going missing.

Realising the importance of offering this support and raising awareness of the 10 key principles that are critical to keeping children safe, the LSCP made the decision to make the course **completely free of charge for all to access**.

Making it as accessible as possible for all your learners to benefit.

To register for the free course please click [here](#) – the course is currently only available their website where learners are required to register individually for the course.

Call for secondary staff to support Mind inquiry

Mind, the registered charity dedicated to promoting and supporting better mental health, want to hear from staff working in secondary schools in England as part of Educating Mental Health: Mind's inquiry into mental health in schools.

The survey, which focuses on mental health in secondary schools, is open for staff to share their experience of working with children and young people from year 7 to 11, plus sixth form.



Covid-19 & the impact on autistic children



A survey conducted by the charity Ambitious about Autism has revealed that the mental health and emotional wellbeing of autistic children has worsened amid the current Covid-19 pandemic.

The survey involving over 2,000 autistic children and their parents showed that three quarters of participants feel more anxious since the health crisis began.

Over half (56%) of survey participants reported feeling stressed, 54% said they felt overwhelmed during the pandemic and 75% felt they will need ongoing support for their mental health and wellbeing.

Helpline to help teachers support children affected by domestic abuse

The Operation Encompass Teachers helpline (0204 513 9990) has extended its operating hours to Mon-Fri from 8am to 1pm throughout term time.



The helpline, funded by the Home Office and the Department for Education, is available for staff in all educational settings to speak in confidence with an educational psychologist and gain advice in how best to support children experiencing domestic abuse. All clinicians providing advice have received specialist training in supporting children that have experienced trauma and working with the adults around them to facilitate support across education, family and community systems.

Further resources are available from the [Operation Encompass website](#), which includes further information about the helpline further information about the Helpline and a [handbook for schools](#).

Rise in online grooming



The UK's child abuse image database has 17m unique images on it, increasing by 500,000 images every two months. Currently, the [National Crime Agency \(NCA\)](#) carries out vital work to prevent children being re-victimised by paedophiles who repeatedly share such images.

By using photo hashes, digital files that match known images of child abuse are used to scan sites such as Facebook, Google or the game platform Roblox. However, there are fears that Facebook's plans to encrypt its Messenger service, to bring it in line with WhatsApp and Instagram which it also owns, will negatively affect this key area of safeguarding. Facebook have confirmed that such encryption will mean the scanning technologies currently used will not be able to identify such child abuse material.

Almost half of British police officers have reported a rise in online grooming of children during the coronavirus pandemic. Between April and September last year, 4,700 people, nearly all men, were arrested for online child abuse offences and more than 6,000 children were safeguarded.

A [toolkit](#) of lessons for primary school children on sharing pictures, gaming and livestreaming are available to download via Thinkuknow, the national online safety education programme from the NCA. A [video](#) for secondary age children exploring reporting online grooming and sexual abuse is also available.

County lines, grooming & knife crime: a story of choices & consequences

A new educational resource is now available for children, young people, teachers & parents on the topics of county lines, grooming and knife crime.

The new resource has been produced by the Office for Humberside Police & Crime Commissioner and award-winning author Christi Gabbitas. The resource focuses on preventing young people getting involved in violent lifestyles.



For more details visit <http://www.nomoreknifecrime.com/>

Rise in children killed or seriously injured during lockdown 1



Serious incident notifications reported by Local Authorities to Ofsted show that the number of children killed or seriously injured during the first six months of the coronavirus pandemic increased by more than a quarter on the previous year.

Serious incident notifications involve death or serious harm to a child where abuse or neglect is known or suspected, and also deaths of children in care and children in regulated settings.

Ofsted received 285 serious incident notifications for the period April to September 2020, a 27% increase on the same period for the previous year. Statistics also show that:

- 119 related to child deaths, an increase from 89 in the same period of 2019/20;
- more than a third, 35.8%, of incidents relate to a child under one compared with 30.4% in the previous quarter;
- almost two thirds of serious incident notifications in the first half of 2020/21 related to white children;
- of those children involved in serious incidents, 8.4% were subject to a child protection plan, compared with 7.6 % over the same period in the previous year;
- the majority of serious incidents happened while a child was living at home, 188, compared with 163 during the same period in 2019;
- when incidents took place, eighteen children were living with relatives, eight were in semi-independent accommodation, twelve were in short-term foster care, eight in long-term foster care, fifteen in residential care and twelve in hospital. (In four cases it was 'not known' where a child was living at the time and twenty were classed as 'other').



If you have Safeguarding news or updates of your own that you would like to be considered for inclusion in the next Safer, then please email: **Mark Wilson**, DSPP Learning and Development Coordinator via mark.wilson@dudley.gov.uk