

Introduction

DSPP thematic learning dissemination provides an opportunity for staff and partner organisations in Dudley to be made aware of the key learning from our quality assurance activity and case reviews along with offering information in relation to this learning.

To support this, we would like to take this opportunity to promote our DSPP 2024-26 Priorities.



Setting our Priorities

In February 2024, the DSPP held a collaborative development session to decide on the priorities for 2024 – 2026. This included for the first time, representation from education settings. We also welcomed input from our voluntary and community sector colleagues alongside the statutory partners.

The DSPP recognise that there are many priorities within the safeguarding arena however we asked what were the top three priorities to our partners and these were considered alongside data and themes from our Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs). The three priorities chosen are as follows.

Priority 1: Mental Health of Children, Young People and Adults with care and support needs, including the impact of parental mental health

There is a significant amount of work already taking place across various organisations around mental health in Dudley. For children and young people, the implementation of the [THRIVE Framework](#) is being undertaken collaboratively across Dudley between public sector organisations and the community and voluntary sector. In Adults work is progressing on the Black Country implementation framework for [Right Care Right Person](#) (RCRP) with Police, health and social care.

The mental health of our workforce is equally as important; vicarious trauma, compassion fatigue and staff burnout are all challenges many organisations face.

For the Partnership the proposal is that mental health become a golden thread throughout Partnership work with:

- The Partnership receiving quarterly updates on progress and implementation of both the THRIVE Framework and Right Care Right Person.
- Mental Health is added as a standing agenda item on all sub groups with a different partnership organisation invited to deliver a short spotlight session in each meeting to allow opportunity for partnership collaboration, as well as sharing information and resources.
- Development of a DSPP webpage to provide links to relevant resources and information to support sharing the work and initiatives taking place across Dudley with the wider workforce.
- Development of a DSPP De-Briefing Template, for managers and practitioners to use following safeguarding or traumatic incidents.

Priority 2: Transitional Safeguarding

Transition is the process of changing from one state to another and it is experienced differently for each individual. In social care, particularly safeguarding, transition can represent a definitive change at the age of 18. On their eighteenth birthday, children legally become adults, leading to shifts in assumptions about their capacity and eligibility for support. The complexities of safeguarding both children and adults have increased, with issues like violent crime, gang culture, domestic abuse, modern slavery, trafficking, and sexual exploitation. These issues highlight the difficulties we face in safeguarding children transitioning to adulthood. Adversity in childhood can make some adolescents particularly vulnerable to harm, with effects that persist into adulthood. Consequently, some adolescents may need immediate support from Adults' Services or may require it later. Research indicates that unresolved trauma can increase risks in adulthood, leading to more challenging lives and potentially higher costs for support later.

(adapted from Research in Practice, 2018)

What will we do?

1. Recognise that the needs of young people do not change or stop when they reach 18.
2. Promote an approach to safeguarding that moves through developmental stages, rather than just focusing on chronological age, building on best practice and learning from both adult and children's reviews.
3. Lead on the development and implementation of strategies for effective transitional safeguarding across a multi-agency partnership that is underpinned by 5 key principles: Personalisation, Preparation, Transparency, Independence and Partnership.
4. Align services for child and adults to enable them to work together to identify young people who are likely to need support from adult social care once they turn 18 years old. Transition planning usually begins in Year 9 (the school year in which the child has their 14th birthday).
5. Have an overarching partnership response which aligns our approach to transitional safeguarding, including exploitation, substance misuse and mental health.
6. Ensure support is provided for young adults who may experience safeguarding concerns post 18 who may not otherwise be eligible for a safeguarding response unless they have a formal mental health diagnosis or diagnosed learning disability

Priority 3: Exploitation across the life course

This was a priority for the DSPP during 2022-24 and it was agreed that it should remain a priority for 2024-2026. This will cover changes to exploitation including Online Harm/Safety.

Exploitation is a form of abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child, young person, or adult (including those with care and support needs) into any activity that results in financial or other advantage for the perpetrator or facilitator. Activity includes arranging or facilitating the involvement or travel (trafficking) of a child, young person, or adult (including those with care and support needs)

Specific types of exploitation include:

- Modern Slavery (including human trafficking)
- Sexual Exploitation
- Criminal Exploitation
- Financial Exploitation (including scams, doorstep crime and rogue traders)

- Radicalisation to commit acts of terrorism
- Any other Exploitation that enables services or benefits of any kind, including:
 - Removal of organs
 - Forced marriage
 - Illegal adoption

The victim may still be exploited even if the activities that they are engaging in appear consensual. Exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology, and this encompasses Online Safety. Multiple types of exploitation can occur alongside one another or as part of other forms of abuse.

What will we do?

1. The DSPP will provide scrutiny and challenge to partners to evaluate the effectiveness of pathways that are in place.
2. Understand the level of impact of childhood trauma on the lives of young people / adult at risk of exploitation
3. Understand the effectiveness of transition from exploited child to exploited adult.
4. Identify whether current pathways are understood and effective.
5. Use Experts by Experience – user feedback to inform continuous improvement and development.
6. Continue our work on an all-age screening tool and pathway.

The DSPP also recognise that there will be cross cutting themes that underpin all of the priority work. We will continue to have a focus on:

- Neglect and Self-Neglect
- Think Family
- The voice of children, young people, and adults with care and support needs

These areas will be considered throughout the work of the DSPP and the priorities. As we move forward into 2025, there will also be a focus on collaboration and continuing to embed the learning from reviews.

The Strategic Business Plan can be accessed [here](#)

Resources

[Safer 7 – Exploitation in Dudley](#)

[Safer 7 – Online risks and harms](#)

[Safer – Transitional Safeguarding](#)

[Safer7 – Trauma Informed Practice](#)

[Safer7 – Vicarious Trauma](#)

[Safer7 – Professional Curiosity](#)

[Safer7 – Making Safeguarding Personal](#)

[Safer7 – Mental Capacity Act \(MCA\)](#)

[Safer7 – Adulthood](#)

[DSPP Appropriate use of language Guidance](#)

[DSPP Making Safeguarding Personal Guidance](#)

[DSPP Transitional Safeguarding Webpage](#)

[DSPP Professional Curiosity Webpage](#)

[DSPP Trauma Informed Practice Webpage](#)

Upcoming DSPP Training

[Early help pathway information sessions - Tuesday 24 September 2024 \(13:00 - 15:00\)](#)

Venue: Online Course

[Understanding the Management of Allegations in Dudley - Wednesday 25 September 2024 \(13:30 - 16:00\)](#)

Venue: Black Country & Marches Institute of Technology - Zoological Dr, Dudley

[Early help pathway information sessions- Friday 27 September 2024 \(10:00 - 12:00\)](#)

Venue: Online Course

[Exploitation - Harm outside the home- Monday 30 September 2024 \(09:30 - 16:00\)](#)

Venue: Phase Trust - Owen House Little Cornbow Halesowen West Midlands B63 3AJ

[Graded Care Profile 2 \(GCP2\)- Thursday 3 October 2024 \(09:30 - 16:30\)](#)

Venue: Black Country & Marches Institute of Technology - Zoological Dr, Dudley

[Child Protection Conferences - Tuesday 5 November 2024 \(9:30 - 12:00\)](#)

Venue: Stourbridge Family Centre - 5 Forge Rd, Stourbridge DY8 1XF

[Exploitation - Serious Youth Violence - Monday 18 November 2024 \(09:30 - 16:00\)](#)

Venue: Phase Trust - Owen House Little Cornbow Halesowen West Midlands B63 3AJ

[“PEAK” - Peers, Exploitation, Adulthood, Knives- Thursday 5 December 2024 \(09:30 - 13:00\)](#)

Venue: Black Country & Marches Institute of Technology - Zoological Dr, Dudley

Further Information.....

Further information can always be accessed on our website at: <https://dudleysafeguarding.org.uk/>

Please access all of our learning from reviews [here](#)