

Durham

Safeguarding Children Partnership



Keeping Children Safe



How does Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership keep children safe?

We promote the welfare of all children and young people, safeguarding them from harm and protecting those children who are at significant risk of harm or neglect.

What is Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership?

The Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership is made up of many agencies including Durham County Council Children's Services, Durham Constabulary and health services.

Our vision is '**We will keep children safe in County Durham through listening, intervening early and ensuring the responses we make are joined up**'.

Where can I get more information?

If you would like more information about the Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership visit our website www.durham-scp.org.uk

We will handle your concern with sensitivity. Your information could be an important step in stopping a child being harmed.

What happens next?

Should your concerns be significant need following up, social workers from First Contact will work out what the next steps should be. When making decisions the needs of children and their families are always our main consideration.

Keeping children and young people safe

Most children in County Durham are well cared for and protected by their parents or carers but a small number suffer harm.

This can be as a result of:

- **Neglect, abuse and exploitation**

Child neglect is a failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or emotional needs and is likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development.

Children can be harmed because of physical abuse, emotional abuse and sexual abuse; child sexual exploitation and grooming.

- **Bullying and harassment**

Bullying can happen at any time, anywhere and to any child, although it most commonly happens to children and young people of school age. It can be carried out physically, verbally, emotionally or online (cyber bullying). If your child is being bullied they might be scared to ask for help, because they think it'll make the bullying worse. Let them know they can always talk to you, or another trusted adult such as a teacher or other family member. If they don't want to talk to you, you could suggest they call ChildLine. If your child is being bullied at a school or club, talk to the person in charge.

- **Domestic abuse**

Children have a right to live in a safe environment free from fear and parental domestic abuse. Many children and young people blame themselves for what has happened and this can lead to emotional and behavioural problems.

We all have a duty to protect children

Early help for parents

All parents have difficult times; talking about problems and getting early help before things get worse really does help.

If you are a parent and would like advice on any problem you or your child are facing; or you are struggling to cope please call First Contact.

Missing children

Every year children and young people go missing from home or care for lots of different reasons. Support is available through children's services and the police no matter what the reason is. If your child has gone missing contact the police immediately on 101 or 999. If you would like help after you have informed the police please contact First Contact.

If you are concerned that a child is being harmed or neglected call



If the child or young person is at immediate risk of harm call 999

We will handle your concern with sensitivity. Your information could be an important step in stopping a child being harmed.

Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership
www.durham-scp.org.uk
 **03000 265 770**

You can also contact Childline on
0800 1111

Please ask us if you would like this document summarised in another language or format.



Braille



Audio



Large print

dscpsecure@durham.gov.uk
03000 265 770