



Annual Report 2016/2017 Executive Summary



Working with children, families and professionals to make our children's lives safer



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'Safeguarding is everybody's business'

About this Document

This document is a short summary of the 2016-17 Annual Report for the City of York Safeguarding Children Board. The full report, with additional supporting information as appendices, is available on the Safeguarding Children Board website at: http://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/annual-reports-and-business-plan.htm



Foreword by the chair

ANNEX B

The key purpose of this report is to assess the impact of the work the City of York Safeguarding Children Board and its partners have undertaken in 2016/17 to improve safeguarding outcomes for children and young people in York. The work of the board continues to be driven by its vision:

"For all the children of York to grow up in safety and to always feel safe."

I am delighted to tell you that during the year the Board was judged Outstanding by Ofsted, one of only three in England to achieve this. This is recognition for the incredible work of all the people in York who work day to day with children and young people to keep them safe.

I am particularly pleased that Ofsted recognised that a key to the success of the board is the explicit focus on understanding the perspectives of children and young people by asking for and listening to their views and, most importantly, acting on them. This reflects well the culture of partnership working in York.

As we move into 2017/18 the Board will consider making changes to the way the partnership works in response to the Children & Social Work Act 2017 and the new statutory guidance due out at the end of the year. Having had the current arrangements endorsed by the Ofsted judgement, the CYSCB will not be making changes simply for changes' sake but see this as an opportunity to enhance arrangements which are already working well.

In the meantime, and going forward, the following key strategic aims will be important and will each present a challenge:

- Maximising capacity and resources
- Managing partnership and engagement
- Ensuring a focus on vulnerable groups
- Embedding learning and improvement

The board demonstrates respectful, rigorous and tenacious



challenge to partners and agencies and we are ambitious to continue to improve.

In 2017/18 we will complete a revision of the thresholds for access to services and monitor the impact of implementation of the Early Help Strategy in partnership with the YorOK Board; work in partnership with Safer York to ensure that the needs of children affected by domestic violence are recognised and responded to; develop further understanding of how to better safequard disabled children; continue to monitor the implementation of the neglect strategy; monitor action plans arising from the inspections of safeguarding in partner agencies; and continue to seek further assurance about how access to mental health services for young people is being improved, building on the excellent work done in schools through the Schools Wellbeing Workers which was extended in 2016 to all schools in York.

Finally, if you have safeguarding concerns about any child or young person please act on them; you might be the only one who notices.

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Simon Westwood, Independent Chair City of York Safeguarding Children Board

Formal Summary Statement ANNEX B

The City of York Safeguarding Children Board (CYSCB) is one of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB) across the country which was set up by the Children Act 2004 and Working Together (2015)¹. An LSCB monitors and supports safeguarding practice and provides an overview to the coordination of agencies working together. The CYSCB website provides information about the work of the Board and our current membership. Advice, guidance, along with links to websites where further information and guidance, can also be found on our website **http://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/** This is an Executive Summary of our much longer Annual Report which gives details of our work and achievements during 2016/17. We believe that our Board partners have worked well together in carrying out their work to safeguard children. This has been endorsed by the Ofsted review in 2016 which judged our Board to be 'Outstanding'.



¹ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/ file/419595/Working_Together_to_Safeguard_Children.pdf



Some facts and figures

York has a population of 206,900² with the number of children aged 0-18 recorded as 44,300 in 2015³. York has become more culturally and religiously diverse in the last few years. Further detailed demographic information on York is available online on the York Health and Wellbeing website⁴ and in the City of York Council Plan 2015-2019⁵.

There are 69 schools in York: 51 primary schools; 9 secondary schools; 6 independent schools; 2 special schools and 1 pupil referral unit (Danesgate). Many of these schools are schools are converting into academies during 2017/18. York also has 422 early years' providers and over 100 voluntary organisations offering services for children and young people.

CYSCB monitors information and data provided by the partner organisations who are members of the Board. This ensures us about safeguarding work across York for children and young people. We know, for example that:

- The number of re-referrals within a 12 month period to Children's Social Care has more than halved since the beginning of the year.
- The percentage of referrals in which Child Sexual Exploitation is a concern at the point of referral remains low in comparison with other factors such as domestic abuse and neglect.

- In line with previous years, the majority of children subject to a child protection plan (54%) are listed under the category of neglect
- 100% of children missing from education were located
- During the year the percentage of children aged 0-4 who live in the most deprived 10% of local areas were registered with a Children's Centre rose by 8% to 88%.
- The number of children in the care of the local authority in 2016/17 has remained consistent with last year (204 at year end). This is a rate of 55 per 10,00children which is lower than the rate for the region and nationally (63;60)
- By the end of March 2017, 97.5% of year 12/13 children (aged 16 and 17) who have an EHCP or Statement of Special Needs were in employment, education or training which compares favourably with regional and national percentages (93.2% and 92.7%).
- 2016-2017 has seen a reduction in first time entrants to the youth justice system, 385.46 (per 100,000 of 10-17 year old population) compared to 477 the previous year.
- Child Sexual Exploitation is being recognised more as a possible concern for young people accessing sexual health services.

² https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157112/report.aspx?town=york#tabrespop
 ³ https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile-group/child-health/profile/child-health-overview/area-

search-results/E12000003?search_type=list-child-areas&place_name=Yorkshire and the Humber

⁴ http://www.healthyork.org/

⁵ https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/file/7880/council_plan_2015-2019

Ke Annual Report 2016/2017

What children and young peoplex B have told us

It is a priority of our Board that children and young people in York should be heard and that their wishes and feeling should inform the delivery of services. We have found ways to understand how agencies are using the views of children and young people to influence the delivery of services and that all children and young people are treated respectfully. The joint **Voice and Involvement Strategy** had been agreed by the YorOK Board and the City of York Safeguarding Children Board for 2014-2017.

During 2016/17:

- A project called 'Aspire to More' ran for children and young people in care to meet care leavers that have faced challenges and gone on in their lives to become a success. The aim of the project was to raise the group's aspirations, open their minds to the possibilities of promising and inspiring futures.
- The Children's Rights and Advocacy Service received a total of 66 referrals for advocacy; 47 in relation to children and young people in care; 16 in relation to children subject to child protection plans; and 3 to support a young person to make a complaint.

...record turnout of 5,570 votes with public transport as the main focus

- York Youth Council⁶ worked in schools across York to support the "Make Your Mark" vote to give young people an opportunity to have their say about issues they want the UK Youth Parliament to debate at the annual Youth Parliament House of Commons debate. There was a record turnout of 5,570 votes with public transport as the main focus.
- York Youth Council successfully piloted a bike library at Canon Lee Secondary School, are now working with Welcome to Yorkshire, Yorkshire Bank and a local cycling group to develop a wider community bike library.
- The "Minding Minds Award" campaign is now used by schools to support their students to better deal with stress, balance academic study with wellbeing and improve overall mental health.

In 2016/17 CYSCB requested that questions about child protection processes be included, along with questions about being in care, in the U Matter survey for children and young people in care:

- 44% of the young people felt their experience of being on a child protection plan was either good or very good
- A large proportion (65%) of young people stated that their experience of care was quite good or very good.

⁶ https://yorkyouthcouncil.com/

There is still further work to be done to ensure that children and young people have the opportunity to be heard and in 2017/18:

- A new Voice and Involvement Strategy will be drafted.
- The terms of reference of the CYSCB Voice and Involvement Group will be reviewed.
- A "Review of Voice", with a focus on workforce development and 'voice' of disabled children will take place.
- Work will take place to improve 'voice' arrangements at an early help level.

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How we are doing as a partnerse b?

CYSCB set 5 priorities last year for the sub-groups to work on. The Annual Report has looked at progress against these thematic priorities and against other work to safeguard children.

During 2016/17 work has been ongoing on the re-modelling of **Early Help** services. And the Local Area Teams or 'LATs' were established in January 2017. Each of the three multi-agency teams covers one of three defined geographical areas of York to provide direct intervention or to broker packages of 'team around the family' support.

Audit of early help assessments during 2016/17 indicated that some early help practitioners struggle with robust analysis. Capturing the 'voice of the child' in early help assessments is improved but 'more ways of capturing the 'voice' of pre- and non- verbal children is being explored. This is being picked up by the CYSCB 'Voice & Involvement Sub-group'.

The **Neglect** Sub-group organised a Neglect Event which was held in July 2016 for practitioners from all organisations working with children. An early draft of the Neglect Strategy was shared at this event. CYSCB published the new multi-agency Neglect Strategy in December 2016.

CYSCB published the new multi-agency Neglect Strategy in December 2016 Social Workers and practitioners in the Healthy Child 0-19 Service (Health Visitors and School Nurses) were trained to use the Graded Care Profile, a form of assessment specifically designed for situations in which the main issue is neglect. CYSCB looks forward to an evaluation of how the assessment has changed the recognition of neglect.

...an evaluation from children and young people who had taken part in the 'It's Not Ok' campaign' was overwhelmingly positive.

In 2016 the It's Not Ok campaign – aimed to raise awareness amongst professional and public about Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation - came to an end with a closing event on 5 July attended by Peter Wanless, Chief Executive Officer of the NSPCC. The campaign had a huge reach and an evaluation from children and young people who had taken part in the 'It's Not Ok' campaign' was overwhelmingly positive. Young people described their raised awareness of child sexual abuse and exploitation A presentation on the campaign was extremely well received at the national NSPCC conference and the campaign has also been taken up by other local authority areas.

In 2017 the Sub-group will continue to consider Sexually Harmful Behaviour by children and young people with a task and finish group set up to progress this work.



Changes to communication methods with North Yorkshire Police have resulted in Children's Social Care being able to respond much more quickly to situations of **Children and Young People Missing from Home or Care**.

In September 2016, new Department for Education (DfE) Guidance was introduced for schools on **Children Missing from Education** (CME). This means that all schools must make a return to their local authority when about to remove any pupil from their register due to a non-standard transition. The focus on schools seeking destinations, and the inclusion of independent schools, has led to the increase in contacts from schools to the local authority about CME. 100% of children reported as missing from education during 2016/17 were located.

In March 2016 CYSCB set up a Domestic Abuse sub- group to consider **Children affected by Domestic Abuse** in response to an apparent significant increase in the numbers of children recorded by North Yorkshire Police as being present at Domestic Abuse incidents.

The sub group carried out a significant amount of work to identify the scale of the issue regarding children and young people and the services currently provided for children and young people experiencing (including perpetrating) domestic abuse. The group will report to CYSCB in July 2016 and the report will then go on to the Safer York Partnership (SYP).



The group found that the in the percentage of incidents at which children were present and an overall increase in the numbers of these children was likely related to better training of police officers attending and greater awareness of the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people. The same could be said of the high percentage of enquiries and referrals to Children's Social Care in which domestic abuse was a factor.

In October 2016, CYSCB worked with our North Yorkshire equivalents and the Adult Safeguarding Boards and Community Safety Partnerships to deliver Safeguarding Week. The focus was on domestic abuse. During the month before there was a poster campaign across the city promoting and signposting to the services plus a media campaign using the local press and social media. The feedback from National Safeguarding Week in York was very positive. It demonstrated excellent partnership working. In 2015/16, CYSCB had added an additional priority of **Female Genital Mutilation** to understand the prevalence in York. New guidance on FGM is now in regular use and awareness-raising is embedded in training included multi-agency safeguarding training for practitioners and safeguarding training for all schools (including independent schools) and for midwifery services.

Significant work went into the creation of a **City of York Inter-Board Protocol** in 2016. In 2016 the Independent Chair of the CYSCB initiated work to develop the draft joint protocol between CYSCB, the Health and Wellbeing Board and with the Children's Trust (YorOk) Board to include the Safeguarding Adults Board and Safer York Partnership. The protocol was signed off in September 2016. The City of York Inter-Board Protocol ensures that strategic Boards work together to achieve the best outcomes and avoid duplication.

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The Board receives and discusses partners' work with children and young people:

 The number of re-referrals within a 12-month period to Children's Social Care has more than halved since the beginning of the year and is below national averages.

- 2016-2017 has seen a reduction in first time entrants to the youth justice system
- The Children's Referral and Assessment Team have recorded 4,446 enquiries to Children's Social Care in of 2015-16.
- At the end of March 2017, 171 there were children subject to a Child Protection Plan. Most were listed under the category of neglect.
- The number of children in the care of the local authority in 2016/17 has remained consistent with last year at 204 at year end which is lower than the rate for the region and nationally.
- By the end of March 2017, 97.5% of year 12/13 children (aged 16 and 17) who had special needs were in employment, education or training which compares favourably with regional and national percentages.

Individual Board partners have submitted regular assurance reports to Board on what their organisation has done to safeguard children. This, along with audit work, enables CYSCB to discuss, support and challenge action, performance and outcomes. Partners have also contributed with full reports on their safeguarding activities throughout 2016/17 and these are included in our full annual report. A wide range of developments and innovations have taken place all of which play a part in keeping children and young people in York safe.



Formal audits and reviews

CYSCB carries out audits and reviews to ascertain whether there are lessons to be learned. This in turn informs the kind of training that CYSCB needs to commission and feeds into each sub-group so that the sub-groups and the Board know where to focus attention.

- A 'Section 11 audit' is an exercise define by the Children Act 1989 to ask our partners a series of questions each year what arrangements they are making to safeguard children. This cover subjects like: safer recruitment; policies and procedures; roles and responsibilities; and training and development. There were no glaring concerns found in the responses of partners to the audit which was reassuring for both Boards. Because arrangements for Local Safeguarding Children Boards will be changing over the next two years in response to the Children & Social Work Act 2017. CYSCB and our colleagues in the North Yorkshire Board decided that the Section 11 Audit will not necessarily take place every year from now on. A small task group will work how the audit will be conducted going forward.
- Our Partnership. Practice, Scrutiny and Review Group brings together a multi-agency group of professionals to carry out case audits in relation to agreed themes. A comprehensive forward plan of audits is agreed in line with Board and in response to issues highlighted nationally.

During the year the themes for audit were:

- Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) (Domestic Abuse Conferences)
- Recording of safeguarding enquiries between agencies
- Core Groups (Child Protection front line meetings)

Findings from these audits were shared via CYSCB's communication channels, shared with CYSCB partners, (who were asked to disseminate the findings throughout their organisations and give assurance that findings were noted and actions taken.) Findings also inform multi-agency training.

An outcome of these audits was that actions were taken that include:

- The tightening of recording processes for all partners including police and health colleagues.
- Assurance that actions from multiagency meetings were shared with the relevant agencies and acted upon.
- Themes in regarding recording of safeguarding enquiries and actions have been used in multi-agency training workshops.

There have been no Serious Case Reviews (SCR) undertaken in 2016/17 although one case was considered for SCR by the Case Review Group. It was the decision of the CRG that this case did not meet the criteria for either a SCR or a Learning Lessons Review (LLR). This decision was endorsed by CYSCB's Independent Chair and upheld by the National Panel of Independent Experts. A review of this case will be carried out by an alternative means although CYSCB will be involved.

One **Learning Lessons Review** was completed. The findings were shared with the neglect Sub-group and actions resulting from this included a programme of workshops for practitioners.

Among others, actions resulting from reviews from previous years include:

- guidance developed on the assessment of injuries to non-mobile children along with an information guide for parents and carers;
- York Teaching Hospital Foundation Trust's new policy requiring practitioners to record children as 'Was Not Brought' rather than as 'Did Not Attend' when they hadn't attended medical appointments. The policy reminds health professionals that children do not 'take themselves' to appointments.

The Case Review Group also reviews SCRs from other local authorities and uses some of the recommendations from these to check local practice and to inform multi-agency training.

CYSCB works with the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board to review the **deaths of children** in York and North Yorkshire to learn any lessons that may help other children and families in the future. The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) reviewed the 14 child deaths in 2016-17; 6 were 'expected' and 8 'unexpected'. (An unexpected death means that the child became ill very suddenly having previously been relatively, or completely, well, or has suffered a sudden traumatic experience (like a road traffic accident.)) Very few of these were found to have any potentially modifiable factors.

A full CDOP Annual Report for 2016/17 is available on our website⁷.

Investigations regarding **allegations about professionals** working with children or young people are coordinated by the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) For the majority of 2016/2017 the LADO function was managed on behalf of City of York Council by North Yorkshire County Council as a transition while a new LADO post was established in York following restructure. The permanent City of York LADO was appointed in February 2017 and the full service returned to York. There were:

- 89 contacts to the LADO service in 2016/17.
- 58 of these were referrals for further action.

Most of these enquiries were about allegations of physical or sexual abuse.

There were more LADO consultations and referrals than in previous years but this is in line with trends across the region and nationally. This is believed to be linked to greater awareness of the role of the LADO by employers, professionals and members of the public.

⁷ www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/annual-reports.htm





Learning and development

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During 2016/17, CYSCB introduced a new model and approach to **multi-agency training and learning** as a result of the restructure of the Board with a dedicated Workforce Development Advisor to undertake learning needs analysis work and then commission and evaluate multiagency training on behalf of the board. In October 2016 the Board published a new Training, Learning and Development Strategy 2016-2019 ensuring that people who work with children and their families are appropriately knowledgeable, skilled and competent.

During 2016/17 a range of courses have been delivered on the following topics, which are linked to the Board's priorities:

- An Introduction to MARAC and MAPPA
- Domestic Abuse Managing Risk & Supporting Families
- Online Safety
- Safeguarding Disabled Children
- Voice of Fathers and Partners in Assessment
- Working Together to Safeguard Children
- Working Together for Education Designated Leads

A range of e-learning packages is also available via the CYSCB's website, In total, there were 627 attendances at 25 courses in the year. At the end of each course, participants are asked to complete an evaluation form. The average evaluation scores on how well the courses met the learning objectives, the quality of learning resources, the presentation style and subject knowledge of the presenters are generally good to excellent.

Attendees are asked about how likely they are to change the way they do things as a result of the training. Average scores indicate that attendees are likely, or very likely, to change things as a result of training commissioned by the Board. Practitioners have also been asked how their practice has changed 3 to 6 months after the training and again the examples given were very positive.

The School Safeguarding Advisor

delivered 26 training sessions during 2016-17; this included whole school training, both to maintained and to independent schools in the city. Updates were delivered to Education Designated Safeguarding Leads every 6 months. These were well attended and the feedback from the sessions was very positive. Safeguarding training was also provide for taxi drivers and for school governors and staff on safer recruitment.

...the quality of learning resources, the presentation style and subject knowledge of the presenters are generally good to excellent.

Priorities and challenges for next year

In 2016 CYSCB was judged to be 'Outstanding 'by Ofsted. The Board's first challenge therefore is not to be complacent t but to continue to learn and develop. There will be changes over the next two years to the way the partnership works in response to the **Children & Social Work Act 2017** and the new statutory guidance about what safeguarding arrangements should include. This is due out at the end of 2017.

CYSCB has a strong commitment from partners to the Board and to all its subgroups and will want to maintain this, whatever changes are made to the structure of the partnership to maximise capacity and resources.

Managing partnership and engagement

CYSCB intends to manage partnership and engagement to maintain the commitment from a wide variety of partners to ensure that safeguarding children in York remains the business of all of those who are working with children, young people, their parents and carers, their wider families and also in the forefront of the thinking of the general public. This includes working with our colleagues in adult services and to have 'cross-Board' collaboration via the Inter-Board Protocol.

Whatever form the Board takes in the future, there is commitment to ensuring that the 'voice' of children and young people in York is fundamental to the work of the partnership. The key priorities of the Board remain as important as ever in the focus of the Board on vulnerable children and young people.

Social media and its use and misuse has become increasingly evident during 2016/17. Young people's lives are now affected in different ways in terms not only of the potential of online grooming, but bullying online or simply having their lives opened up to the scrutiny of others. During 2016/17 the Board has begun to seek information about the safeguarding of disabled children as a discrete issue. CYSCB will continue to keep pace with emerging vulnerabilities such as human trafficking and modern slavery, and to agree with our partners and other strategic boards (including cross border arrangements with other local authorities), how CYSCB can support those taking the lead on these issues. The CYSCB will have a focus on the particular impact on children and young people.

Embedding learning and improvement

The training delivered in 2016/17 was planned and commissioned in response to full learning needs analysis carried out with Board partners including sub-group chairs and members. Training courses have been commissioned in order to embed learning and improvement in the everyday lives of practitioners.

Via the Case Review Group and PPSRG, CYSCB will continue to learn from local reviews – multi- and single- agency – and to review the recommendations from national SCRs.

Key messages for readers

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For children and young people

- Your 'voice' your wishes and feelings – are important to us. We are encouraging our partners to find new ways of listening to you.
- We ask our partners not just to listen to you but to include your 'voice' in developing and improving their services
- We want York to be a safe and happy place for you to grow up in.

For the community

- You may be best placed to know what is happening in your community.
- If you have a concern about a child or a young person, contact the Children's Front Door (contact details below) with as many details as you can.
- If your concern is about someone being at immediate risk of harm, contact the police.



For City of York Safeguarding Children Board partners and organisations

- Please ensure that the voices of children and young people are informing your service development and improvements.
- Be aware also of ways of listening to children who are pre- or nonverbal and have other ways of communicating.
- Be aware of the statutory functions of a Local Safeguarding Children Board and of the potential changes to arrangements in response to the Children & Social Work Act 2017.
- The Board welcomes your assurance through a variety of means – assurance reports, audits, updates to sub-groups

 that your agency is aware of the importance of safeguarding children and young people.
- As a representative on CYSCB you are also representing the frontline practitioners in your organisation. The Board is keen to hear what they have to say.
- Ensure your workforce is able to attend training courses and learning events and to take opportunities to give views and feedback on training development (either single or multi-agency).
- As a representative of your organisation, make sure that you share the responsibility for delivery of the work of the Board.

City of York Safeguarding Children Board



For schools

- Be aware of guidance for schools on safeguarding children and alert to any changes or updates.
- Take advantage of the safeguarding training which is on offer to your designated leads and to others.
- Be aware of, and compliant, with safer recruitment processes.

For practitioners

- Be aware of what your LSCB can do for you: newsletters, website (news, guidance, policy, procedures), regular Twitter feed, training online and faceto face.)
- Your views are important to CYSCB. Find out who your organisation's representative is on the Board or give feedback via 'contact us' on the CYSCB website.
- Listen to the voices of children and young people in your assessments and be aware that some of the most vulnerable children – very young, disabled etc. – can be at higher risk of abuse than others but may find it more difficult to communicate.

- Understand that while some issues such as CSE, Modern Slavery, Human Trafficking and FGM seem more prevalent in other areas, they do happen in York.
- However, remember that the 'usual suspects' of domestic abuse, neglect, inter-familial sexual abuse and emotional abuse are still happening.
- Take advantage of the multi-agency safeguarding training which is offered by CYSCB here:

www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/ learning-and-development.htm

For everyone

Remember that:

'Safeguarding is everybody's business'

If you have safeguarding concerns about any child or young person please act on them; you might be the only one who notices.





www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/ Twitter: @YorkLSCB

CYSCB Chair: Simon Westwood CYSCB Manager: Juliet Burton

CYSCB, City of York Council, West Office, Station Rise, York, YO1 6GA

www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/contact-us.htm

How to report concerns about a child or young person

If you have a concern that a child is vulnerable or at risk of significant harm please contact the Children's Front Door: Phone for advice: **01904 551900** or, using a referral form: Email: **childrensfrontdoor@york.gov.uk**

Post: The Children's Front Door, West Offices, Station Rise, York, YO1 6GA

More information and a referral form are available at: www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/concerned-about-a-child-or-young-person.htm



