
Health and Wellbeing Board

15th July 2015

Report of the Independent Chair of The City of York Safeguarding Children Board

Safeguarding Children- Update June 2015

Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to update the Board on key safeguarding activity as agreed in the protocol between the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB), its sub group, the Children Trust YorOk Board (YorOK) and The City of York Safeguarding Children Board (CYSCB).
2. The report of the Independent Chair of York Safeguarding Children Board to the York Health and Wellbeing Board – July 2015 is attached at Appendix 1

Background

3. The Health and Wellbeing strategy includes the key objective of Enabling all children and young people to have the best start in life. Delivery of this will significantly strengthen safeguarding arrangements for the children of York. The CYSCB have provided suggestions for inclusion in the refreshed strategy (See Appendix 2).
4. The City of York Safeguarding Children Board has the statutory objective set out in Section 14 of the Children Act 2004 **to coordinate** what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area; and **to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes**.
5. Member organisations of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the YorOk Board are represented on the Safeguarding Board.

6. In order to provide effective scrutiny, the CYSCB should be independent. It should not be subordinate to, nor subsumed within, other local structures.

Main/Key Issue to be considered

7. It is critical that the Boards work closely together to drive forward improvements in prevention, early help and ensuring local safeguarding arrangements are effective.
8. To ensure arrangements for safeguarding children are effective, local leaders and strategic priorities must be agreed and shared, governance and leadership clear and a culture of continuous improvement in place.

Strategic/Operational Plans

9. The Independent Chair of CYSCB must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area. The annual report should be published in relation to the preceding financial year and should fit with local agencies' planning, commissioning and budget cycles. The report will be submitted to the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, the local police and crime commissioner and the Chair of the health and well-being board in September 2015.
10. The Health and Wellbeing strategy and The YorOk Board plan "Dream Again" 2013-16 include the key objective of "Ensuring children and young people always feel safe" and states that Safeguarding lies at the heart of all our work, as does ensuring that there are "arenas of safety" at home, at school and in the community.
11. This Children's Plan is being revised and the CYSCB will make recommendations in its statutory annual report for inclusion in the refreshed Children's Plan from 2016 onwards.
12. Joint Strategic Needs Assessment - Working Together 2015 states; The Director of Public Health should ensure that the needs of vulnerable children are a key part of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment that is developed by the health and well-being board. The LSCB should use this assessment to help them understand the prevalence of abuse and neglect in their area, which in turn will help shape services."

Options

13. This report is for consideration and noting; there are no specific options for the Board to consider.

Implications

Financial

14. In previous years the cost of the infrastructure to support the CYSCB has fallen disproportionately on the local authority. After negotiations during the year a three year strategy to rebalance the contribution was agreed by the key funding agencies. The CYSCB budget has been agreed for 2015/16.

Statutory Guidance; Working Together 2015 states, “ *All LSCB member organisations have an obligation to provide LSCBs with reliable resources (including finance) that enable the LSCB to be strong and effective. Members should share the financial responsibility for the LSCB in such a way that a disproportionate burden does not fall on a small number of partner agencies.*”

Other

15. There are no HR, Equalities, Legal, Crime & Disorder, IT or Property implications arising from this report.

Risk Management

16. The safeguarding arrangements for the City of York are subject to external inspection by Ofsted. Evidence from those areas judged to be good included effective working with the Health and Wellbeing Board and evidence of reciprocal influence and joint priorities.

Recommendations

17. The Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to:
 - Consider the update report of the Independent Chair of the CYSCB and make suggestions for further detailed scrutiny
 - Provide their views on how the HWBB will contribute to the safeguarding priorities for 2015/16 and beyond

- Ensure, through the YorOK Board, that information sharing arrangements for early help services are clear and understood by partners
- Support the CYSCB by including ongoing therapeutic support services for victims of child abuse as a priority in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy refresh and in future commissioning plans for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
- Note that the Early Intervention pilot in relation to domestic abuse funded through Safer York ends in November 2015 and consider whether this will impact on early help services for children.

Reason: This will ensure that strategic leadership for safeguarding children is strengthened and key priorities shared and understood

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Approved 2015

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers

- More detailed information can be found on the Safer York Website <http://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk>
- Working Together 2015
- “Dream Again” – York Children’s Plan
- York Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Protocol between the City of York Health & Wellbeing Board, YorOK Board and City of York Safeguarding Children Board.

Annexes

Appendix 1 - Report of the Independent Chair of York Safeguarding Children Board to the York Health and Wellbeing Board – July 2015

Appendix 2 - Comments and suggested additions for the HWBB Strategy Refresh

Glossary