



Objective	<i>Why should this be a Priority?</i>	<i>What has been done so far?</i>	<i>What needs to be done?</i>
<p>1. Ensure children are safeguarded from the harm arising from domestic abuse through the development and implementation of processes that raise professional and public awareness and facilitate effective interagency working.</p>	<p>Domestic abuse is known to be harmful to children and has a strong correlation with all forms of child abuse. The CYSCBs study 'Common Cause' made a series of recommendations with the aim of improving the professional response to children experiencing domestic abuse.</p>	<p>Many of the recommendations made in <i>Common Cause</i> are in the process of being implemented. Specifically, the Safer York Partnership have taken the responsibility in coordinating the strategic approach to domestic abuse and have established a task group, chaired by a senior police officer. CYSCB training (awareness raising and targeted) is currently being developed.</p> <p>The CYSCB is planning a conference to be held on the 7th June 2007 focussing on domestic abuse and the lessons arising from <i>Common Cause</i></p>	<p><i>Common Cause</i> made a number of recommendations relating to strategy, single, and multi agency working. Whilst good progress has been made so far many of the recommendations await action. Crucially the establishment of a process for signposting families to appropriate services remains outstanding with the result that many referrals are being inappropriately made to Children's Services</p>
<p>2. Ensure that children are safeguarded from sexual abuse through the development and implementation of processes that raise professional awareness, develop practical intervention skills, and</p>	<p>In 2005 the CYACP raised questions about the low number of children, both nationally and locally on the child protection register under the category of sexual abuse. On further examination it was found that nationally sexual abuse registrations have fallen by over</p>	<p>Practice based, advanced training for targeted practitioners and managers is currently being developed. The training will address issues relating to child victims, non-abusing parents and abusers.</p>	<p>Whilst it is felt there is a need to raise professional awareness it is also important to understand the reason for the decline via a thematic review. Findings of the review will then determine local response.</p>

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facilitate effective interagency working.	20% in 10 years.		
3. Ensure that children with additional vulnerabilities by virtue of disability or impairment are safeguarded from harm through the development and implementation of processes that raise professional awareness, develop practical intervention skills, and facilitate effective interagency working.	Children who have a disability or who are impaired physically or educationally are known to be additionally vulnerable to abuse and neglect. Although the City of York has excellent services for children in this category there is a clear need to ensure that their additional vulnerabilities are addressed.		A detailed development plan is required to identify the specific issues to be addressed, the most effective response and the expertise required.
4. Ensure that children whose parents or carers suffer mental ill health are safeguarded from harm through the development and implementation of processes that raise professional awareness, develop practical intervention skills, and facilitate effective interagency working.	<p>Parental mental illness takes many different forms and its impact upon children varies according to a number of factors including, the severity and duration of the illness and the child's age and resilience, the presence or absence of a 'well' parent/ carer and the extent to which the illness pervades family life.</p> <p>It is acknowledged nationally there is often a separation between adult mental health services and services for children with the risk of adult services not always recognising the</p>		A detailed development plan is required to identify the specific issues to be addressed, the most effective response and the expertise required.

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	needs of the child. The CYSCB challenge is to ensure a dual focus on the individual needs of the adult along with their capacity to keep the child safe from harm.		
5. Ensure that children whose parents or carers misuse substances or alcohol are safeguarded from harm through the development and implementation of processes that raise professional awareness, develop practical intervention skills, and facilitate effective interagency working.	It is estimated that there are between 200,000 to 300,000 children whose parents are problem drug users in England and Wales, a figure that doesn't include the higher figure of alcohol. Parental substance misuse is known to cause harm to children at every age from conception through to adulthood, including all forms of abuse and neglect.	Whilst there remains the need to develop a city wide strategic approach to this issue, CYSCB training is currently being developed in cooperation with key professional partners building on the government's 'Hidden harm' strategy.	A detailed development plan is required to identify the specific issues to be addressed, the most effective response and the expertise required.

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<p>6. Ensure that the Board develops and delivers training that complies with national guidance and effectively promotes the CYSCB objectives to the wider professional community. Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The current training strategy should be reviewed and amended to reflect the changes outlined in Working Together 2006. ▪ Training should aim to target all sections of the professional childcare workforce with training, which is tailored to need and provide training that makes a demonstrable difference to child safeguarding practice. ▪ Existing training packages should be reviewed and amended to reflect 	<p>Working Together 2006 changes the way interagency training is targeted at professional groups. Under the new guidance there is a move away from the existing three levels of training with an emphasis on grouping professionals by need. Additionally there is an emphasis on training managers at all level.</p>	<p>Work is underway revising the training strategy to reflect changes in Working Together 2006.</p> <p>A basic awareness child protection e-learning package is being developed jointly with North Yorkshire SCB and is expected to be in use by the beginning of February 2007. The package will then act as a passport into other CYSCB training.</p> <p>Other training packages that are in development for 2007 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Child protection for managers ▪ Child sexual abuse ▪ Domestic abuse ▪ Sexually active young people ▪ Problematic parental substance misuse <p>For 2008:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Child protection and children with disabilities ▪ Parental mental illness ▪ Emotional resilience 	<p>Completion of the CYSCB training strategy and ongoing development of training designed to meet the needs of the professional childcare community.</p>

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<p>changes in guidance and practice</p>			
<p>7. Ensuring the Board has an understanding of unexpected child deaths in the City of York by providing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ a rapid response by key professionals for the purpose of evaluating each unexpected child death ▪ an overview of all child deaths (under 18 years) in the CYSCB area 	<p>Working Together 2006 introduces a requirement to monitor all child deaths via Child Death Overview Panels. The aim of the panels is to identify patterns of fatalities irrespective of whether death resulted from abuse or neglect.</p>	<p>Positive early discussions have been held with North Yorkshire SCB in respect of having a joint Overview Panel</p>	<p>Agreement needs to be reached between North Yorkshire SCB and CYSCB in respect of the composition and structure of the joint Child Death Overview Panel.</p>

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<p>via the development and implementation of a Child Death Overview Panel, jointly with North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board.</p>			
<p>8. Develop a quality assurance strategy, which seeks to improve child-safeguarding practice by informing the current and future work of the CYSCB. The quality assurance strategy should include quantitative and qualitative measures and should be outcome focussed. Specifically the strategy should include monitoring the effectiveness of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The CYSCB functions and outputs ▪ The CYSCB Unit ▪ Interagency safeguarding practices and arrangements ▪ Agency safeguarding practice ▪ Child protection conferences and reviews 	<p>LSCBs are expected to ensure child-safeguarding practice, both single and interagency, meets national and local guidance and effectively acts to prevent and protect children.</p> <p>Although previous versions of Working Together to Safeguard Children identified the ACPCs quality assurance role, it is regarded that this area did not always receive the required attention.</p> <p>The CYSCB has already developed a more robust approach to quality assurance, however, there is a clear need to develop a framework that not only ensures the quality of inter and single agency working but also assures the quality of the CYSCB itself.</p>	<p>A draft quality assurance framework has been developed providing mechanisms for assuring the quality of individual agencies, process, and specific safeguarding themes arising from individual cases. The framework also deals with assuring the quality of the CYSCB's work.</p>	<p>The draft quality assurance framework to be agreed by the CYSCB and implemented.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="241 288 584 352">▪ Serious Case Review action plans			

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<p>9. Develop a communications strategy that positively promotes the work of the CYSCB and partner agencies to the professional community and the public and which seeks to raise public awareness of child safeguarding within the City of York. Specifically the strategy should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Informing the professional community of relevant national and local child safeguarding developments ▪ Promoting the work of the CYSCB to childcare professionals and the public ▪ Developing conduits to local media ▪ Providing information to parents and children regarding safeguarding and statutory processes 	<p>Whilst professionals safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility the CYSCB has a responsibility to educate and promote the safeguarding message to the widest audience.</p> <p>ACPCs were justifiably criticised for neglecting this area of work with the result that not only was the workings of the Committee unknown to the public there was also found to be ignorance amongst childcare professionals.</p> <p>Ultimately the protection of children is a responsibility of all members of society, however this responsibility can only be truly exercised when the wider community is informed.</p>	<p>Early discussions have been held between the Lead Officer (Communications) and the CYSCB Manager with an early draft of the communications strategy completed.</p> <p>The strategy will aim to adopt a creative and cost effective approach to communicating safeguarding children information to the public, young people, and the professional community. Increased and effective of electronic communication will be employed alongside the fostering of a constructive relationship with the media. A focus will also be placed on improved dissemination of the Boards work to the member agencies and the professional community.</p>	<p>Completion of a comprehensive communications strategy.</p>
<p>10. Ensure that children are safeguarded from sexual exploitation through the development and</p>	<p>The problem of child sexual exploitation is not confined to the large metropolitan authorities. Children drawn into prostitution</p>	<p>The CYSCB is currently working with North Yorkshire SCB and the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) on</p>	<p>There is a need to understand the nature of child sexual exploitation in the City of York. In part this will be achieved by raising professional</p>

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<p>implementation of processes that raise professional awareness, develop practical intervention skills, and facilitate effective interagency working. Specifically developments should address issues relating to the vulnerability of children via the Internet in addition to the vulnerability of children from commercial sexual exploitation.</p>	<p>come from many backgrounds and whilst there is no single pattern, the common factors are vulnerability and low self esteem.</p> <p>Although the CYSCB has not identified a specific sexual exploitation issue for children in York, we cannot be confident that this is not due to a lack of awareness or understanding of the issue.</p>	<p>rolling out safe online messages to all children and young people in the city.</p>	<p>awareness of this complex issue in order to identify children involved with or at risk of exploitation.</p> <p>Lessons should also be learned from authorities within the region with experience of identifying and dealing with the issue of child sexual exploitation.</p>
<p>11. Ensure that children are safeguarded from abuse perpetrated by childcare professionals, foster carers and volunteers through the development and implementation of processes that ensure safe working environments and effective interventions and which facilitate interagency working.</p>	<p>Whilst there have been significant improvements in protecting children from, albeit rare, harm posed by childcare professionals, changes in legislation and guidance have provided further necessary safeguards to children. Consequently, existing policies and procedures have to be updated to ensure all organisations provide safe environments for children and are clear about how to respond when a concern arises</p>	<p>Whilst a draft procedure has been developed jointly with North Yorkshire SCB the changes outlined in Working Together 2006 have already been implemented in the City of York. A Designated Officer has been identified to coordinate all allegations made against childcare professionals, along with senior officers within the key agencies to ensure compliance with the new arrangements.</p>	<p>Once the procedure has been completed, the new process requires dissemination to all agencies along with training for Named Officers.</p>

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<p>12. Review and where necessary amend interagency guidance and procedures to reflect changes contained within national guidance and legislation. Specifically the review should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lead to a clear separation between procedure and guidance ▪ Seek to work in cooperation with North Yorkshire SCB to ensure cross boundary consistency ▪ Develop quality assurance standards to facilitate the measurement of compliance 	<p>Working Together to Safeguard Children (2006) represents statutory guidance. Although much of the guidance remains the same as previous versions there are some significant differences and therefore existing procedures need to be reviewed to ensure compliance.</p> <p>The CYSCB view the review process as a useful opportunity to work with colleagues in North Yorkshire to develop common procedures in recognition of the fact that a number of key agencies work in both areas.</p> <p>It is also recognised that procedures, have over the years, become overly complex due to the inclusion of guidance. The common aim of the two Boards is to separate guidance from procedures with the aim of making processes clearer and improving compliance.</p>	<p>The CYSCB is currently working with North Yorkshire SCB to develop joint procedures, reflecting the nature of the cross boundary responsibilities for many of the Board agencies.</p> <p>Procedures dealing with allegations against childcare professionals are to be finalised by February 2007. Procedures dealing with sexually active young people, domestic abuse and the ore child protection processes are also being developed.</p>	<p>The joint review of procedures with North Yorkshire SCB requires completion to ensure compliance with changes contained within Working Together 2006</p>
<p>13. Review and agree the CYSCB financing arrangements to reflect the additional requirements and</p>	<p>The CYACP set 3-year budget in 2003 to last 3 years. Although the CYSCB has adopted the same approach to contributions as the</p>	<p>A paper was presented to and agreed by the November 2006 CYSCB identifying a process for reviewing the Board's finances.</p>	<p>New financial arrangements need to be agreed by the funding agencies to ensure the secure future of the work of the CYSCB and the</p>

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responsibilities of the Board and to provide continuity of resourcing.	ACPC there is a need to consider any additional demands placed on Safeguarding Board and recognise the changes in membership of the new Board.		CYSCB Unit.
<p>14. Ensure consistency and independence of decision-making in the child protection conference process. Specifically to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Audit the current application of intervention thresholds in child protection conference, analysis and decision making ▪ Develop strong and clear lines of accountability between conference chairs and the CYSCB ▪ Ensure the quality assurance function of conference chairs ▪ Develop standards and criteria to measure quality and facilitate good practice at child protection conferences 	<p>Child Protection Conferences and Reviews (CPC) represent a key process in the safeguarding children system. Although CPCs have served children well over the past 30 years their evolution has sometimes meant a system that has become overly complex.</p> <p>Although administered by Children's Services, CPCs are conducted under CYSCB procedures and represent an important quality assurance process for the Board. Therefore there is a need to ensure consistency in CPCs and develop clearly links with the Board than has previously existed.</p>	<p>A draft policy has been prepared in respect of the role of child protection conference chairs. The policy proposes increased authority for chairs with and greater accountability to the CYSCB. It is also proposed that conference chairs have a means of influencing and feeding back to the CYSCB via a conference-monitoring group.</p> <p>As with other of the CYSCB activities, clear standards will be developed in respect of child protection conferences ensuring the monitoring of quality.</p> <p>The introduction of the Integrated Children's System (ICS) has determined improvements in child protection planning and facilitated changes in the conference process to give a greater focus on assessment and planning.</p>	<p>The draft policy needs finalising and agreeing by the Board along with the implementing of standards and criteria designed to assure the quality of child protection conferences.</p> <p>Changes to the child protection conference process brought about by ICS need to be disseminated to all agencies and the impact of the changes reviewed by the CYSCB to assess their effectiveness.</p>