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**Children, Education & Communities Policy & Scrutiny** 28 March 2018  
**Committee**

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

## **York Safeguarding Board Bi-annual Update**

### **Summary**

1. This report provides an update on the progress of City of York Safeguarding Children Board (CYSCB), highlighting the consultation on the draft Working Together 2018 and the new arrangements resulting from the Children & Social Work Act 2017.

### **Working Together 2018**

2. At the December CYSCB meeting Board members agreed on a full response to the Department for Education (DfE) Draft Working Together 2018 Guidance consultation. The response was submitted after this meeting.
3. This guidance sees the setting up of new safeguarding arrangements in each Local Authority to replace the Local Safeguarding Children Boards which were abolished by the Children and Social Work Act 2017. The details in the guidance relate to:
  - changes to the way serious cases are considered with new Safeguarding Practice Reviews at national and local level to replace local Serious Case Reviews;
  - changes to the process of reviewing child deaths. (City of York has arrangements jointly with North Yorkshire.);
  - new local safeguarding partnership arrangements, including scrutiny and challenge, led by the three key partners described in the Act: the local authority, the police and the Clinical Commissioning Group.
4. The DfE has now published their response to the consultation here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/working-together-to-safeguard-children-revisions-to-statutory-guidance> and the final guidance will be published in May 2018. The local authorities then have 12 months

from then to publish the new arrangements which will take the place of the LSCBs; these arrangements are to be in place within 3 months after this i.e. by September 2019.

5. In York, lead officers from the key statutory partners met in February to begin discussions and Board members will have the opportunity to discuss an outline plan at the Board meeting in April.
6. In the meantime, CYSCB has considered how the changes might provide an opportunity to review its own arrangements. Board members have already met to discuss the opportunity for reviewing and amending the functioning of the Board. A proposal will be put to chief officers via the Chief Officers Reference and Accountability Group (CORAG) for a new safeguarding partnership with the strong caveat that, having been judged as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted, there will be no changes made simply for changes' sake.

### **Young People's version of the Annual Report**

7. Young people from the Youth Council and the 'Show Me That I Matter' group (for children in the care of the local authority) have worked together to produce a young people's version of the CYSCB Annual Report 2016/17. This report is available on the CYSCB website <http://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/annual-reports-and-business-plan.htm> and will mean that in future there will be a 'template' for future versions of the Annual Report for young people.
8. In February the York Youth Council, the Children in Care Council and Young Carers met to review the *Children & Young People* section of the CYSCB website. The website already contains a wealth of information and links to services but the feedback the young people have given will inform the future development of this site so that it is more accessible for young people.

### **Voluntary Sector Safeguarding Survey**

9. During March and April a 'Survey Monkey' questionnaire will be available, for organisations across York and North Yorkshire in the voluntary sector, asking key questions about safeguarding policies and procedures. The survey is brief and need only take a few minutes. CYSCB intends that it will be helpful for those organisations completing it, in providing them with a self-check on their safeguarding practice; something which funders may ask about. We have been fortunate in having the support of the Chief Executive of CVS to advise us. A report

(anonymised) will be made available to all participants analysing the responses and sharing good practice.

10. The link to the survey is: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/YNYSafeguarding-children> and we would ask that voluntary sector colleagues are encouraged to take part.

### **CYSCB multi-agency Neglect Strategy**

11. Neglect is the most used category for child protection plans and is often found alongside multiple adverse factors in children's lives. An understanding of adolescent neglect is also now increasing. The CYSCB Sub-group has been working on the action plan for the York Multi-agency Neglect Strategy. An element of that action plan is to remind colleagues in a variety of forums of the existence of the Strategy, of the One Minute Guide to Neglect and of the Basic Awareness Neglect training course. These documents, and further information, are all available on the CYSCB website: <http://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/>

### **Council Plan**

12. The information included in this report is linked to the Council Plan priorities of "A focus on frontline services to ensure all residents, particularly the least advantaged, can access reliable services and community facilities" and "A council that listens to residents to ensure it delivers the services they want and works in partnership with local communities."

### **Implications**

13. There are no other direct implications arising from this report.

### **Recommendations**

14. The next update from York's Safeguarding Board is due to be presented to this Committee in September 2018. Members are recommended to invite representatives of the three statutory partners and the Independent Chair of CYSCB to the September meeting in order to hear about the planned safeguarding partnership arrangements for 2019.

Reason: To update the committee on the progress of the City of York Safeguarding Children Board over the past 6 months and the new arrangements for the partnership.

## Contact Details

### Authors:

Will Boardman  
Strategy & Policy Group  
Manager  
Tel: 01904 553412  
e: [will.boardman@york.gov.uk](mailto:will.boardman@york.gov.uk)

### Chief Officers Responsible for the report:

Jon Stonehouse  
Corporate Director of Children's Services,  
Education and Communities

Report Approved



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Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

**Background Papers:** None

**Annexes:** None