



Working with children, parents and professionals to make our childrens' lives safer.

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

Report Details

1. Safeguarding – Progress on 2014/16 priorities and review of Priorities for 2015/16

The priorities for 2014/15 - neglect, domestic abuse, child sexual abuse, children who go missing and early help will continue to be addressed until they are refreshed for 2015 onward in the annual report due for publication in September 2015.

2. Summary progress on priorities 1st quarter of 2015/16

The CYSCB Key priorities in 2014/15 were:

2.1 Neglect:

CYSCB is currently in the process of applying for a pilot in relation to training for all practitioners in the Graded Care Profile. Rolling out training in this method of assessment for neglect may have an impact on the volume, nature and quality of enquiries to Children's Social Care. The CYSCB Neglect Sub-group will monitor this.

On the Board's recommendation Health Visitors and School Nurses have agreed to continue using dental audit forms for children newly subject to a child protection plan. The data in regard to the dental health of children who become subject to a child protection plan is a good indicator of neglect but the process also ensures that these children receive dental treatment if they need it.

Paediatric Dentistry are also looking at possible solutions with health colleagues which will make it possible to record and address the dental health of these children.

2.2 Domestic abuse:

The CYSCB Domestic Abuse Group has a specific focus on children affected by domestic abuse affecting children. The percentage of children present at incidents of domestic abuse has remained roughly the same over the year but the numbers for 2014/15 are now greater than those in 2013/14. (This is in the context of the total number of reported incidents) The figures merit further investigation as no positive or negative conclusions can be drawn from them as they stand.

Quarter 4 shows an increase in the percentage of Domestic Abuse prosecutions which result in convictions at 80.9% this brings the rate to the highest for the year and puts the year's total average at similar to last year.

In Quarter 4 83 children received one-to-one support from IDAS (a charity that provides support services to those experiencing or affected by domestic abuse and sexual violence. The services include refuge accommodation, outreach support and access to a free, confidential helpline)

11 of these children were living at a refuge at the time. The others were supported through outreach contact. At the Board meeting in April, a brief report was given on the positive outcomes of the Early Intervention Pilot funded through Safer York. This pilot ends in November 2015 and funding has not been secured to continue this. The CYSCB are concerned that this may lead to a reduction of overall capacity to support children affected by domestic abuse.

2.3 Child sexual abuse:

www.Itsnotokay-York.org.uk is a multiagency campaign, jointly funded by the NSPCC and CYSCB, was launched on 11 May 2015 and received local press coverage. The Trust Board are asked to promote the key messages through their organisations and to use the signature link to the campaign web pages.

Lampard Review - At the June Board meeting the CYSCB received an update report on monitoring the implementation of recommendations from this review in local health services.

Following publication of the Lampard reports, the York Designated Health Professionals sought additional assurance from local NHS provider organisations that the Lampard recommendations were being addressed. Monitor, the national health watchdog also required all NHS Trusts to submit evidence around their response to the report as part of national assurance processes. Responses received by the Designated Professionals indicate that NHS Trusts have responded positively to the recommendations and are either fully or partially compliant. Where compliance is partial, relevant action plans are in place. The CYSCB will receive a further update report later in the year on those action plans.

As I have previously, reported a range of national reports have all highlighted the bleak prognosis for victims. It is essential that all partners work together ensure services are put in place to support children into adulthood.

This remains an area of concern for the Board. As Chair I have written to the Police and Crime Commissioner asking for information about future commissioning plans in relation to this area. This is an area I would recommend for further consideration in the development of the next Children's Plan, Health and Wellbeing Strategy refresh and also in future commissioning plans for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. There are positive services provided in York in partnership with the NSPCC but the HWBB, CYSCB and YorOK need to be assured of the sufficiency and timely access to services.

To strengthen accountability the Government have introduced an expectation that all Local Safeguarding Children Boards will conduct regular local assessments on the effectiveness of local responses to child sexual exploitation and publish the outcome of those assessments through their annual reports. They should set out in this analysis how the local partners have used their data to drive their response to vulnerable children and families. The Independent Chair of CYSCB intends to include this in the Chair's Annual report for 2014/15 to be published in the autumn.

2.4 Children who go missing:

The CYSCB sub group work supports the operational work between Children Social Care and North Yorkshire Police to enable data matching missing children with those flagged as at risk of CSE. The Government issued updated Safeguarding in Education guidance for schools and colleges in March 2015.

This guidance recognises the inter-relationship between children missing and the risk of exploitation. *“A child going missing from education is a potential indicator of abuse or neglect. School and college staff members should follow the school’s or college’s procedures for dealing with children who go missing from education, particularly on repeat occasions, to help identify the risk of abuse and neglect including sexual abuse or exploitation and to help prevent the risks of their going missing in future. “*

In the summer term the Itsnotokay-York campaign is sending out letters to parents in year 6 book bags to raise awareness about how they can help protect their child, signs to look out for and where to go for help.

2.5 Early help:

As requested in a previous report, The YorOk Board presented an assurance report to the CYSCB on the effectiveness of early help and revised threshold arrangements. The Integrated Working Implementation Group have been refocused as the Early Help sub group support the CYSCB and YorOk. Following their recommendation the Safeguarding Board will nominate a Board representative/s to join the group. The report produced by the Children’s Trust Unit of the Council gave a picture of Early Help from agencies across the Board partnership. The Performance scorecard captured some multi-agency data on Early Help but stronger links are needed.

3. Other Key Activity

3.1 Multi-agency contributions to Single Assessments (WT15)

The national requirement to implement a single assessment process is in place. Working with key agencies, a template has been produced to help improve the quality of partner contributions to Single Assessments.

The analysis within the Single Assessment will be the responsibility of the social worker. The Board endorsed the template launched 1 June 2015 for use by Health Visitors, School nurses and midwives and is planned to be extended for use with other partner agencies by 1 October 2015.

3.2. Safeguarding Board Membership, Compacts and Budget

A review of the structure, membership and governance of the Safeguarding Board has been undertaken and formal consultation on future working arrangement completed. Final proposals were agreed and are now being implemented. The budget for 2015/16 has now been agreed and proposal for a three year budget plan are agreed in principle and will inform agencies budget planning in the autumn. Individual compacts have been developed that formally confirm expectations and commitments required of Board members. The compact between the HWBB, YorOK and the CYSCB is due for review. The CYSCB suggests that the review should consider including the Adult Safeguarding Board and the Safer York Partnership within the compact agreement. Quarterly meeting have now been established between the Independent Chairs of the Children and Adult Safeguarding Boards.

3.3 Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

This is a statutory sub group of the CYSCB run jointly with North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board. The annual report for 2014/ 15 was received by the Board in June. Positively this reports that there has been a year on year decline in child death between the end of 2011 and 2015 which is consistent with the national picture.

Within that period the number of unexpected death has also fallen. The riskiest age group for child death are under 1 and between 15 and 17. A key area of learning was a review of child suicides which identified that although small in number the high risk group were males aged between 15 and 17.

The report from this work has been passed to the Suicide Prevention Task group and also through the Independent Chair of CYSCB links have been made with similar work done in Greater Manchester. There is a national Child Suicide Research being carried out by Manchester University which the CDOP will monitor.

3.4. City of York and North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board Awards

The joint safeguarding boards are holding an awards evening to recognise the contribution to safeguarding of individuals and teams nominated by Board partners. Each nominee will receive a Certificate of Appreciation for contribution, dedication, professionalism and partnership work relating to the safeguarding of children across North Yorkshire and the City of York. The Board wishes to thank North Yorkshire Police who have resourced this and are hosting the Ceremony which will be held on Thursday 2 July 2015 at North Yorkshire Police Headquarters, Newby Wiske, Northallerton.

3.5. National Updates

Child Protection Taskforce

On 24 June 2015 Prime Minister David Cameron announced a new Child Protection Taskforce to drive forward fundamental reforms to protect the most vulnerable children in our society and give them the opportunity to succeed.

Chaired by Education Secretary Nicky Morgan, the taskforce will be responsible for leading improvements across police, social services and other agencies – focusing on transforming social work and children’s services and improving inspection. The Prime Minister said “Through this work we will accelerate our current reforms to children’s social work, and will overhaul the way that police, social services and other agencies work together locally.”

Information Sharing

The importance of ensuring Information Sharing guidance and arrangement were in place was set out in a joint ministerial letter on the 3 March 2015 sent to the Chief Executives of local authorities, Directors of Children’s Services, Police and Crime Commissioners, Local Safeguarding Children’s Boards, Health and Wellbeing Boards and GPs. This emphasised that ***“The golden thread throughout all of this is that the duty to safeguard children must be paramount.”***

This is an area that the CYSCB will seek renewed assurance on from all partners.

It is recommended that the HWBB support this, in particular, in assisting in ensuring arrangements are in place for sharing information and intelligence at an early stage as part of early help services

Multi-inspectorate Inspections

Multi- inspectorate inspections of child protection services were due to begin in April 2015. However following pilot inspections it has been concluded that the integrated methodology did not add enough inspection value to enable a proper multi-agency evaluation of services for vulnerable families, children and young people living in that local authority area.

There remains a commitment to find ways of the inspectorates working together and they intend to complete six targeted inspections in a locality area before March 2016. These targeted inspections will evaluate how local agencies work together to protect children, focused on specific areas of concern such as the sexual exploitation of children and young people.