

## Health and Wellbeing Board

2 April 2014

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

## Strengthening Safeguarding Arrangements – Joint Working between Boards

### Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to propose a protocol is agreed to strengthen and clarify the alignment of accountabilities between the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB), its sub group, the Children's Trust YorOk Board (YorOK) and The City of York Safeguarding Children Board (CYSCB).

### Background

2. 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 Role of the City of York Safeguarding Children Board

3. 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.**
4. Member organisations of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the YorOk Board are represented on the Safeguarding Board. It is essential that there are transparent agreements for these Boards to have reciprocal arrangements to share needs information, plan jointly and influence priorities and report progress against relevant strategies and plans in relation to safeguarding.

5. In order to provide effective scrutiny, the CYSCB should be independent. It should not be subordinate to, nor subsumed within, other local structures.
6. Members of the CYSCB should be people with a strategic role in relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children within their organisation. They should be able to:
  - speak for their organisation with authority;
  - commit their organisation on policy and practice matters; and
  - hold their own organisation to account and hold others to account.
7. The new Independent Chair of CYSCB is currently reviewing the Board structures, membership and constitution to ensure effective engagement of all agencies and also joint working with the Adult Safeguarding Board.
8. The Independent Chair must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area. There is a joint Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) hosted by North Yorkshire which should prepare an annual report of relevant information which will inform the CYSCB annual report.
9. 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 should be submitted to the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, the local Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
10. The report should provide a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services. It should identify areas of weakness, the causes of those weaknesses and the action being taken to address them as well as other proposals for action.
11. The report for 2013-14 will be scheduled into the forward plan in the new municipal year for formal consideration by this Board.
12. In order to fulfil its statutory function the CYSCB should assess the effectiveness of the help being provided to children and families, including early help; in order to do this the CYSCB will seek a

report from the YorOK Board on behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Board to inform the annual report.

13. The Director of Public Health ensures that the needs of vulnerable children are a key part of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) that is developed by the Health and Wellbeing Board. The CYSCB will work with the Health and Wellbeing Board, informing and drawing on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

### **Main/Key Issues to be Considered**

14. It is critical that the Boards work closely together to drive forward improvements in prevention, early help and ensuring local safeguarding arrangements are effective. This requires each Board to be clear about its specific leadership roles in relation to the broader safeguarding children agenda. This will also provide an opportunity to reduce duplication of reporting for agencies who service all Boards.
15. It is also important that there are mechanisms for reciprocal challenge and support which can ensure the best possible arrangements to protect children through prevention, early help, prevention and child protection are in place.

### **Consultation**

16. The Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Children Board has discussed joint working and the development of a joint protocol with the following people; the Chair of Health and Wellbeing Board, the Chair of YorOk Board, the Director of Children's Services, The Director of Adult Services and Public Health and the Chair of the Adult Safeguarding of Vulnerable Adults Board.

### **Options**

17. Option 1. The Health and Wellbeing Board agree a written protocol as soon as possible with the Safeguarding Children Board that sets out the key responsibilities of each board, reporting arrangements and accountabilities and how each board will provide assurances to the other of the effectiveness of the help being provided to children and families, including early help.

## Analysis

18. The advantage of this will be to provide greater transparency and a robust structured framework for understanding of roles and accountabilities between the Health and Wellbeing Board, YorOK Board and the Safeguarding Children Board. Work on a protocol with Adult Safeguarding is in development and therefore this protocol should also set out joint reporting arrangements and joint working with the Adult Safeguarding Board on overlapping areas of work.

## Strategic/Operational Plans

19. The Health and Wellbeing strategy and The YorOk Board plan “Dream Again” 2013-16 includes 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.
20. YorOK Board has detailed how it will deliver the principles and actions for this priority in ‘Dream Again’, York’s Strategic Plan for Children, Young People and their Families, 2013-2016.
  - Helping children and young people to always feel safe;
  - Supporting those who need extra help at the earliest
21. Without Walls Strategy 2011-2015 states “An essential factor affecting people’s quality of life is that they feel safe and secure in their home and local area.” Although this was written in the context of crime reduction it should also apply to safeguarding children.

## Implications

22. **Financial** - Statutory Guidance; Working Together 2013 states, “All Local Safeguarding Children Boards (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.
23. **Human Resources (HR)** - There are no HR implications
24. **Equalities** - There are no specific implication in this report

25. **Legal** - In order to provide effective scrutiny, the CYSCB should be independent. It should not be subordinate to, nor subsumed within, other local structures.
26. **Crime and Disorder** - There are no specific implications
27. **Information Technology (IT)** - There are no IT implications
28. **Property** - There are no property implications
29. **Other** - None

### **Risk Management**

30. The key risk in not accepting the recommendation is that governance arrangements and leadership accountabilities may be unclear and this could negatively affect implementation of key strategies. Also this could have an impact on any external scrutiny or inspection.

### **Recommendations**

The Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to consider:

- i. Nominating a lead board member to negotiate and agree a written protocol based on the draft attached at Annex A, as soon as possible, with the Safeguarding Children Board.

Reason: This will provide greater transparency and a robust structured framework for understanding of roles and accountability between the Health and Wellbeing Board, YorOK Board and the Safeguarding Children Board.

- ii. The protocol is formally considered for approval at the next meeting of the Board. The Health and Wellbeing Board agree to commission a report from the YorOK Board on the effectiveness of the help being provided to children and families, including early help to inform the CYSCB annual report 2013/14.

Reason: This will enable planned scheduling of reporting for the forthcoming municipal year.

## Contact Details

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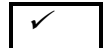
Report  
Approved



Date 24 March  
2014

Wards Affected:

All



**For further information please contact the author of the report  
Background Papers:**

Working Together 2013

<http://www.workingtogetheronline.co.uk/documents/Working%20TogetherFINAL.pdf>

“Dream Again” – York Children’s Plan  
York Health and Wellbeing Strategy

### Annexes

Annex A - Draft Protocol between the City of York Health & Wellbeing Board, YorOK Board and City of York Safeguarding Children Board.

### Glossary

CDOP	Child Death Overview Panel
CYSCB	City of York Safeguarding Children Board
HWBB	Health and Wellbeing Board
JSNA	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
LSCB	Local Safeguarding Children Board
YorOK	York Children’s Trust