

# **Annual Report 2016/2017**



**Working with children, families  
and professionals to make our  
children's lives safer**

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## Foreword by the Chair

The key purpose of this report is to assess the impact of the work the City of York Safeguarding Children Board and its partners have undertaken in 2016/17 to improve safeguarding outcomes for children and young people in York. The work of the Board continues to be driven by its vision:

“For all the children of York to grow up in safety and to always feel safe.”



I am delighted to tell you that during the year the Board was judged Outstanding by Ofsted, one of only three in England to achieve this. This is recognition for the incredible work of all the people in York who work day to day with children and young people to keep them safe.

I am particularly pleased that Ofsted recognised that a key to the success of the board is the explicit focus on understanding the perspectives of children and young people by asking for and listening to their views and, most importantly, acting on them. This reflects well the culture of partnership working in York.

As we move into 2017/18 the Board will consider making changes to the way the partnership works in response to the Children & Social Work Act 2017 and the new statutory guidance due out at the end of the year. Having had the current arrangements endorsed by the Ofsted judgement, the CYSCB will not be making changes simply for change's sake but see this as an opportunity to enhance arrangements which are already working well.

In the meantime, and going forward, the following key strategic aims will be important and will each present a challenge:

- **Maximising capacity and resources**
- **Managing partnership and engagement**
- **Ensuring a focus on vulnerable groups**
- **Embedding learning and improvement**

The board demonstrates respectful, rigorous and tenacious challenge to partners and agencies and we are ambitious to continue to improve.

In 2017/18 we will complete a revision of the thresholds for access to services and monitor the impact of implementation of the Early Help Strategy in partnership with the YorOK Board; work in partnership with Safer York to ensure that the needs of children affected by domestic violence are recognised and responded to; develop further understanding of how to better safeguard disabled children; continue to monitor the implementation of the neglect strategy; monitor action plans arising from the inspections of safeguarding in partner agencies; and continue to seek further assurance about how access to mental health

services for young people is being improved, building on the excellent work done in schools through the Schools Wellbeing Workers which was extended in 2016 to all schools in York.

**Finally, if you have safeguarding concerns about any child or young person please act on them; you might be the only one who notices.**



**Simon Westwood,  
Independent Chair  
City of York Safeguarding Children Board**

## Formal Summary Statement

The City of York Safeguarding Children Board (CYSCB) is one of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB) across the country which was set up by the Children Act 2004. The statutory guidance in *Working Together (2015)*<sup>1</sup> sets out the role and functions of an LSCB. An LSCB monitors and supports safeguarding practice and provides an overview to the coordination of agencies working together. CYSCB is a strong partnership made up of active and enthusiastic members who represent the agencies and organisations across York who are involved in safeguarding children.

The CYSCB website<sup>2</sup> provides information about the work of the Board and our current membership. Advice and guidance, along with links to websites with further information and guidance, can also be found on our website.

It is a priority of our Board that children and young people in York should be heard and that their wishes and feelings should inform the delivery of services. It is a particular strength of our Board that we have found ways to understand how agencies are using the views of children and young people to influence the delivery of services and that all children and young people are treated respectfully.

A joint protocol means that CYSCB works with other strategic Boards including the Health and Wellbeing Board, the YorOK Board, the Safer York Partnership and the Safeguarding Adults Board. This means that these Boards can collaborate and avoid duplication. The protocol provides an agreement on which Board will lead on which issues and how the Boards will support each other.

Working Together 2015 specifies that the Independent Chair of the LSCB must publish a report annually about the work of the Board during the previous year. This report is a summary of what we have done during 2016/17, what impact this has had and continuing priorities for 2017/18.

A review of CYSCB in November/December 2016 by Ofsted found that the Board was 'Outstanding'. Ofsted found that our Board: *'coordinates well the key partnerships to ensure the effectiveness of their safeguarding arrangements, and to focus on the critical priorities to improve and develop services to children further.'*<sup>3</sup>

*'During 2016/17 the Board has continued to provide clear and effective support and challenge to partner agencies. It has been instrumental in shaping services across York and setting out aims and outcomes in a priority led business plan.'*

Also they commented:

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/local-authorities/york>



*'Key to the success of the Board is the explicit focus on understanding the perspectives of children and young people by asking for and listening to their views and, most importantly, acting on them. This ensures that the voice of the child is actively considered across all aspects of the board's work and leads to improvements in the quality of practice.'*

We believe that this conclusion is accurate because we have:

- **ensured** that those working with children and young people have heard what they are saying and responded to their wishes and feelings in shaping services. The 'Voice' of children and young people runs through everything we do; **Chapter 2** has more detail
- heard from children and young people who are in the care of the local authority about what the experience is like for them
- continued to **monitor data** and information from our partners. In Chapter 3 you can see what we have learnt from this including that:
  - the number of re-referrals within a 12-month period to Children's Social Care has more than halved since the beginning of the year
  - the percentage of referrals in which Child Sexual Exploitation is a concern at the point of referral has remained consistent in 2016/17 with the previous year. These percentages remain low in comparison with other factors such as domestic abuse and neglect
  - the number of first time entrants to the Youth Justice system remains low and in line with national trends
  - in line with previous years, the majority of children subject to a child protection plan (54%) are listed under the category of neglect, with emotional abuse (38%) a close second. Physical abuse (6%) and Sexual Abuse (2%) are significantly lower than other categories
  - figures from CAFCASS Care Demand Statistics show that 32 children from York were subject to applications to court for care orders in 2016/17
  - 100% of children missing from education were located
- **reviewed** how we are doing against the priorities that we set ourselves. Details of this are in **Chapter 4**
- as always, **invited** our partners to give accounts of the work they have done within their organisations over 2016/17 to safeguard children. This is in Chapter 5 and echoes the Assurance Reports that partners regularly submit to the Board
- **conducted** a series of formal audits of our safeguarding arrangements, including:
  - the "Section 11" audit process (Children Act 2004) and the annual event held jointly with colleagues from North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children
  - audits of casework including looking at planning and reviewing processes in MARACs (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference regarding domestic

abuse) and Child Protection Core Groups and whether the child is central to the process throughout

- concluded one **Learning Lessons Review**, completed the actions and disseminated the learning resulting from this. (Details of our audit activity are in Chapter 6)
- **overseen** the revision of York's Early Help arrangements as the Local Area Teams became established
- created and published our **multi-agency Neglect Strategy**
- been assured by the Independent **Chair's visit to social workers** in the '*Children's Front Door*' that the Children's Social Care Referral & Assessment process is working well
- completed our **training** needs analysis, commissioned and provided training on Working Together to Safeguard Children, on domestic abuse, on neglect, on online safety, on working with fathers, among others. (Our training programmes are described in **Chapter 7**)
- been reviewed via a **Peer Review** commissioned by ourselves and then formally reviewed by **Ofsted**
- **led** on the creation of a joint protocol between the YorOk Board, the Health & Wellbeing Board, the Safer York Partnership and the Safeguarding Adults Board.
- delivered a public facing campaign on Domestic Abuse during **Safeguarding Week 2016**.

**Chapter 8** provides our assessment of how we are doing as a Board, whilst **Appendices C to E** gives details about our membership, structure and finances.

We have demonstrated not only to our partners but also to Ofsted that our revised Board structure works well and is effective. We continue to learn and improve and we have taken on the challenge posed by the new *Children & Social Work Act*<sup>4</sup> to transform our Board from an extremely effective statutory Local Safeguarding Children Board to a new equally effective Safeguarding Children Partnership.

We have revised and re-written our Business Plan so that we can see how we are achieving against each of our priorities, with the 'voice' of children and young people and the safeguarding of children with disabilities running throughout. Our *Learning & Improvement Framework* has continued to outline the way that our Board 'knows what it knows', how it learns and how that learning is disseminated throughout the workforce.

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<sup>4</sup> <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/childrenandsocialwork.html>

**Chapter 9** sets out our priorities for 2017/18, Early Help, Neglect, Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation, Children Missing from Home, Care and Education and Domestic Abuse and challenges for the year ahead not least of which is the challenge to revise and publish arrangements for safeguarding children as required by the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and new statutory guidance as it is published.

The key messages for children and young people, for communities, for practitioners, for Board partners, for schools and for everyone are, as ever, set out at the end of the report in **Chapter 10**.

Contact details for the Board are provided and the information about what to do if you are concerned about a child or a young person.

A shorter Executive Summary of this report is available on our website<sup>5</sup>.

This report is formally the responsibility of the Independent Chair, Simon Westwood who is tasked by the statutory guidance Working Together 2015 to produce an Annual Report. This Annual Report has been accepted by the CYSCB. In line with statutory guidance, it will be submitted to Chief Executive, the Leader of the Council, the local Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Board.

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/annual-reports-and-business-plan.htm>



## Chapter 1: Some facts and figures

York is a unitary authority with a population of 206,900<sup>6</sup>. The city is predominately urban with some rural areas. Data for 2015 published by Public Health England states that the number of children aged 0-18 (inclusive) in York is 44,300<sup>7</sup>. The local authority uses a figure of 36,331 for children aged 0-17 (inclusive), making up 21.4% of York's population. The apparent anomaly between Public Health England's number of under 19-year-olds and the city's figure for under 18s (a difference of around 8000) appears very large. It is almost certainly due to the large number of undergraduates starting courses at age 18/19. Almost half of these undergraduates are at the University of York with the rest from St John's University, plus a small figure for York College and Askham Bryan College.

Approximately 10,500 children aged 0-4 comprise 5.1% of the city's population. Estimates from Public Health England project the population of 0-18 year olds in York in 2025 will be around 48,300. Further detailed demographic information on York is available online on the York Health and Wellbeing website<sup>8</sup> and in the City of York Council Plan 2015-2019<sup>9</sup>.

There are currently 69 schools in York: 51 primary schools; 9 secondary schools; 6 independent schools; 2 special schools and 1 pupil referral unit (Danesgate). At the time of writing, data released from York Education at the local authority Eight of these schools received academy status during 2016/17. A further 13 schools are converting into academies during 2017/18. York also has 422 early years' providers and over 100 voluntary organisations offering services for children and young people.

In 2015, York Health and Wellbeing Board reported that York has become more culturally and religiously diverse. The Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) population in 2015 was 9.8% compared to 4.9% in 2001<sup>10</sup>. Public Health England state that in 2017, there are 2,125 children of BME origin living in York, making up 10.6% of the school population. The ethnic composition of York changes each year, with York's most ethnically diverse ward being Heslington where 35% of the city's BME population reside<sup>11</sup>. This is due to the high number of international students attending University of York. In the coming year, we will seek further guidance to ensure that as a Board we are fully up-to-date with York's changing population and its possible implication for our safeguarding work.

At the end of 2016/2017 there were 171 children subject to a child protection plan in York. The number of children and young people in the care of the local authority in the city at year end was 204.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157112/report.aspx?town=york#tabrespop>

<sup>7</sup> [https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile-group/child-health/profile/child-health-overview/area-search-results/E12000003?search\\_type=list-child-areas&place\\_name=Yorkshire%20and%20the%20Humber](https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile-group/child-health/profile/child-health-overview/area-search-results/E12000003?search_type=list-child-areas&place_name=Yorkshire%20and%20the%20Humber)

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.healthyyork.org/>

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/file/7880/council\\_plan\\_2015-2019](https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/file/7880/council_plan_2015-2019)

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.healthyyork.org/the-population-of-york.aspx>

<sup>11</sup> [https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/file/86/census\\_2011\\_population\\_by\\_area](https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/file/86/census_2011_population_by_area)

The city is relatively prosperous, with the level of people claiming out of work benefits statistically lower than regional and national averages. In June 2017, 0.7% of those aged 16 to 64 in York were on out of work benefits, which compares favourably with the Yorkshire and Humber regional average of 2.2% and the UK average of 1.9%. Claimants aged 16 and 17 in York made up less than 0.1% of the total number of 16 to 17 year olds in York (in line with regional and national percentages). Also 18 to 24 year olds, at 0.7% of all 18 to 24 year olds, gives a very favourable comparison with regional and national percentages of 3.1% and 2.8% respectively<sup>12</sup>.

The most recent Public Health figures from 2014/15 show that the number of children under 16 living in poverty in York (11.9) is lower than regional and national averages. The rate of family homelessness is also better in York than the national average.

Partnership working in services for children in York is overseen by a Children's Trust Board, known as the YorOK Board<sup>13</sup>, with which CYSCB works closely in a spirit of constructive challenge. The YorOK website contains a wealth of valuable information and documents, including the latest Children and Young People's Plan<sup>14</sup> for 2016-20.

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<sup>12</sup> <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157112/report.aspx#tabwab>

<sup>13</sup> Data sourced from Local Authority database

## Chapter 2: What children and young people have told us

Involving children and young people and hearing their voice is a well established part of how York works to deliver the best possible outcomes for families. CYSCB recognises that we must continue to develop our work in this area if we are to hear and respond to messages from children and young people consistently, in particular so we can support those that need our help. York has a multiplicity of forums and mechanisms through which the voice of the child is heard, and strives wherever possible to translate this voice into meaningful action to improve the lives of children and young people living in York. Voice travels from target groups and organisations to strategic boards and influences policy and strategy, particularly the Children and Young People's Plan.

The Ofsted inspection undertaken in autumn 2016 provided a very helpful external scrutiny of our voice arrangements. The feedback provided by Ofsted was exceptionally positive:

“The voice of children is integral to strategic and operational activity. The promotion of children's views and ways in which these influence service developments are highly effective and embedded in the foundations of the local authority and partnership culture.”

One area of development identified by the Ofsted inspection was the quality and consistency of children and young people's voice within early help assessments. This was an area that had already been identified by the 2015 Review of Voice. The introduction of Local Area Teams in January 2017 provides an excellent platform to take forward work to address this issue.

### Voice Priorities for 2016/2017

At the beginning of 2016/17, the Voice and Involvement Group set the following priorities

- **Voice at different tiers of need** – There are groups of children and young people on the pyramid of need that do not have the same range of opportunities as others. Opportunities at the universal level and for children in the care of the local authority are the most developed. Over 2016/17, work should be undertaken to improve opportunities for children and young people with emerging difficulties, in need of early help, children in need and subject to child protection plans. In some cases, plans are already in place but additional attention should be given to ensuring this priority is addressed.
- **Voice in assessments** – Work has been undertaken in some areas to improve documentation and processes so that the child's voice is more evident within assessments. However, there is still much work to be done, in particular with early help assessments.

- **Pre-Verbal “voice”** – The children and young people’s workforce needs to be equipped with greater skills for understanding children’s “voice” in pre-verbal children and young people.
- **Challenge and develop** – All partners, in particular the City of York Safeguarding Board and YorOK Board, must continue to challenge and develop their work in relation to children and young people’s voice. The children’s safeguarding performance information framework published in January 2015 provides a helpful set of questions to support this challenge and development.

In addition to the questions posed in this framework boards should also ask themselves:

- How do we hear the voices of children and young people?
- How do messages we hear shape our priorities?
- How have we used these messages to make a difference?
- How do we know children and young people feel safe?
- How do we listen to children and young people’s views during restructures and transitions of services?

## Children’s Engagement Strategy:

The joint ***Voice and Involvement Strategy*** has been agreed by the YorOK Board and the City of York Safeguarding Children Board for 2014-2017. This strategy sets out a clear vision for our work in this area:

“Children and young people are at the heart of our strategic arrangements. We are committed to ensuring that children and young people have a voice in decision-making, planning, commissioning, design and delivery of services“

Work will be undertaken in 2017 to update the content and commitment to the Voice and Involvement Strategy. This will be taken forward by the multi-agency Voice and Involvement Subgroup which reports to both the YorOK and CYSCB.

## Children and young people’s feedback

### ***Show Me That I Matter:***

Show Me That I Matter<sup>15</sup> is York’s Children in Care Council (CiCC). It is a monthly forum where care experienced young people (13+ years of age) raise important issues for discussion with elected members and senior managers, with the aim of helping to shape and improve services for children in the care of the local authority in York. Alongside the forum, a separate focus group has been established to provide additional space for discussion. As part of Show Me That I Matter, the group has developed a young person’s interviewing panel which provides an input into recruitment of professionals in the children’s social care

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<sup>15</sup> <http://www.yor-ok.org.uk/workforce2014/Voice/show-me-that-i-matter.htm>

sector<sup>16</sup>. For employed professionals, the group offers bespoke training that helps generate an understanding of what the lives of children and young people are like, the barriers they face and how professionals can improve their practice to include the '*child's voice*'.

### **Some of the other achievements of the SMTIM Group**

- SMTIM wanted to end the terminology 'looked after' or LAC and instead to refer to children and young people 'in the care of the local authority' (or CYPIC). 'Children and young people in the care of the local authority' is therefore the terminology used throughout this report
- SMTIM wanted to be more involved in the training of Foster Carers; SMTIM now work closely with the fostering team and contribute to foster carer training.
- SMTIM wanted to increase the opportunity for young people to experience work; Speak Up are working in partnership with York Cares to deliver a new project – Bright Futures - which will provide work experiences, taster sessions and takeover opportunities for young people in care.
- Young people said they wanted access to more information on leaving care. Information has been made more accessible via Facebook and the SMTIM website and the Independent Reviewing Officers are now routinely asking at reviews once a young person has turned 16 to make sure they have begun the pathway plan and have enough information about their rights and entitlements.
- SMTIM wanted to reduce the stigma for children and young people in care; they now deliver the Speak Up and Hear My Voice training to a variety of agencies and professionals aimed at reducing the stigma and sharing positive messages.
- SMTIM challenged why young people over 18 no longer got a free bus pass (young people in the care of the local authority do up until 18); young people who remain in education, employment or training can now request a free bus pass.
- SMTIM wanted more apprenticeships to be available to young people in care and care leavers; as long as they meet the essential criteria, they are now guaranteed an interview with CYC up to the age of 25.
- SMTIM wanted to raise aspirations and challenge the negative stereotype of children and young people in care and care leavers; the Aspire to More project was set up with Inspired Youth and a blog produced that sets out to aspire young people and care leavers and challenge the negative views.

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<sup>16</sup> <http://www.cycbuzz.org.uk/March-2016/in-the-spotlight/am-i-just-a-number-amys-story>

### *Aspire to More:*

'Aspire to More' ran throughout 2016 and was a creative project delivered by Inspired Youth in partnership with the Children's Rights and Advocacy Service. Working in close partnership with "Show Me That I Matter" (SMTIM) the project met care leavers that have gone on in their lives to become a success. By discovering what challenges these role models faced and how they overcame them, young people both learnt and shared key messages with the wider community. The aim of the project was to raise the group's aspirations, and by utilising the learning and insight they gained from speaking to successful care leavers they



will be equipped to create a positive campaign that raises aspirations and opens minds to the possibilities of promising and inspiring futures. The website<sup>17</sup> documents the progress of the project and includes interviews with care leavers, poems, artwork and resources developed by young people. The project has received national recognition.

### *Speak Up – Access to advocacy provision:*

In 2016/17 the Children's Rights and Advocacy Service received a total of 66 referrals for advocacy; 47 in relation to children and young people in care, 16 in relation to children subject to child protection plans and 3 to support a young person to make a complaint.

### *Youth Council:*

In 2016 York Youth Council<sup>18</sup> worked in schools across York to support the "Make Your Mark" vote. With a record turnout of 5,570 votes this was quite an achievement. "Make your Mark" gives young people an opportunity to have their say about issues they want the UK Youth Parliament to debate at the annual Youth Parliament House of Commons debate. York identified 'Transport' as its priority, with 'Curriculum for Life' becoming the national campaign.

York Youth Council have also worked closely with local Councillors, Head of Transport and schools to increase awareness of the YoZone card which gives young people 11-18 discount on travel and at other retailers across the city. After successfully piloting a bike library at Canon Lee Secondary School, York Youth Council are now working with Welcome to Yorkshire, Yorkshire Bank and a local cycling group to develop a community bike library. The

<sup>17</sup> <https://aspiretomore.wordpress.com/>

<sup>18</sup> <https://yorkyouthcouncil.com/>



aim of this will be to provide children, young people and families who don't have access to a bike, the opportunity to get involved in cycling for free.

### ***Minding Minds:***

2016 also saw the culmination of a great deal of hard work on the “Minding Minds Award” campaign. The award developed by York Youth Council is now used by schools to support their students to better deal with stress, balance academic study with wellbeing and improve overall mental health. Wellbeing workers from City of York Council work closely with primary and secondary school students from across York to identify what more schools can do to help support pupils. Schools seek to achieve targets set by the children and young people. Pupils are further involved in monitoring progress and issuing awards to schools. This is a fantastic example of children's and young people's voices being listened to.

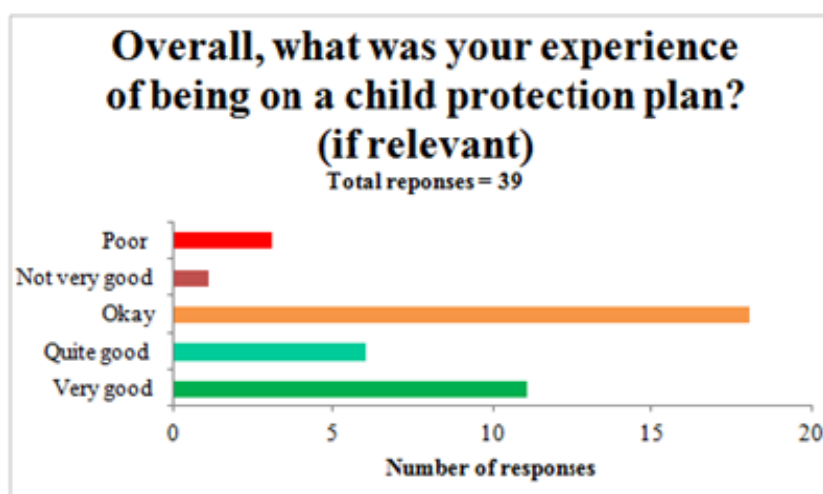
### ***UMatter Survey for children in the care of the Local Authority***

The U Matter Survey is a chance for children and young people in care to feedback to the City of York Council about their experiences of being in care. This survey gives children and young people an opportunity to voice their opinion on what the local authority should change and improve for children and young people in care, as well as highlighting areas of strength. The 2016/17 U Matter Survey was conducted between September and December 2016. CYSCB requested that the following questions are included in this survey:

- A child's/young person's experience of being on a child protection plan.
- A child's/young person's experience of having a social worker.

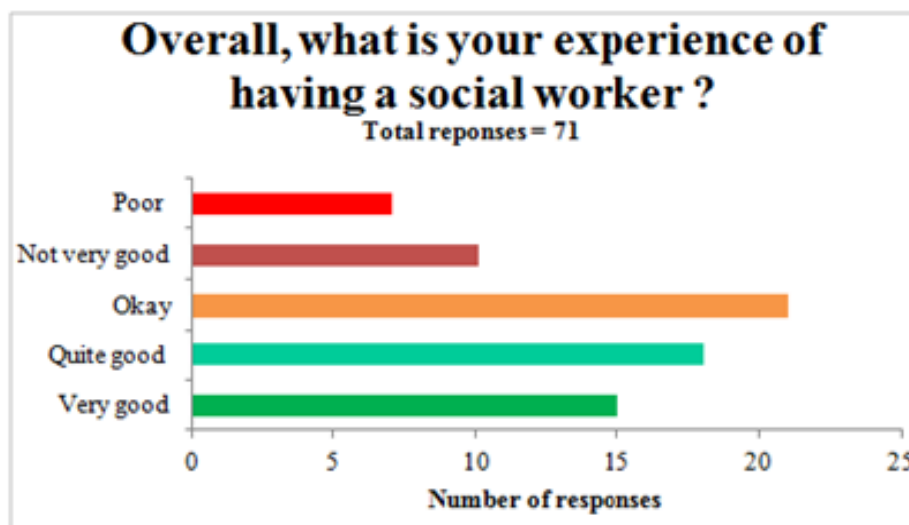
The headlines of the survey are as follows<sup>19</sup>:

**Figure 1 A child's/young person's experience of being on a child protection plan**



<sup>19</sup> The full report is available on request.

Figure 2 A child's/young person's experience of having a social worker.

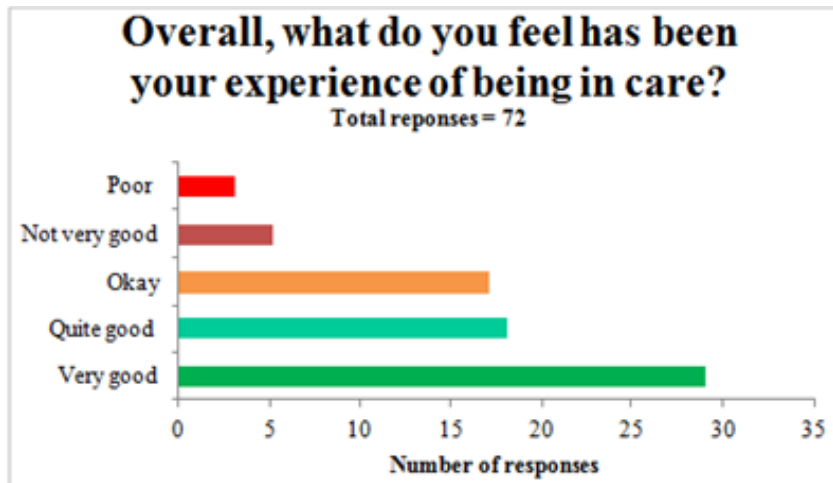


- Almost half (46%) of the young people felt their experience of being on a child protection plan was okay while 44% felt it was either good or very good; 8% felt it had been poor; and 2% (one individual) felt it had not been very good. 46% felt that their experience of having a social worker was either good or very good; 30% felt it was okay; and 25% felt it was either not very good or poor. When asked if they were able to speak to social worker if they were unhappy with their placement, 91% said that they were and 9% said they were not. This is an improvement from 2015 where only 72% said they would be able to talk to a social worker in this situation.
- There were mixed responses regarding young people's views on the reliability of their social worker with 56% reporting them to be reliable, 20% saying they did not think they were reliable and 23% stating they were sometimes. It should be noted that this is a decrease in positive responses from the 2015 survey, when 65% said they thought their social worker was reliable, however this could be attributed to the added option of 'sometimes' to the 2017 version of the survey.
- In terms of how often they saw their social worker, 75% said that they were happy with how often they did while 14% said they were not and 11% said they weren't sure. When asked if they wanted to elaborate, most said that they would like to see them at least once a month. One young person aged 16 commented, "I would like to see my social worker every 4-5 weeks so I can bring any concerns up from your point of view".
- The survey also explored whether, if they had experienced a change of social worker, they were happy with the way in which this change over had taken place, to which a mixed response was reported with 58% saying they were and 42% saying they were not. One young person said "Too many social workers...I want just one social worker who I can bond with." It is worth noting that this survey was rolled out following a

period of significant change and restructure in Children's Social Care and the findings are reflective of this.

- The data shows that a large proportion (65%) of young people stated that their experience of care was quite good or very good. Some young people (24%) simply said their experience was okay. 11% did not feel their experience had been good.

**Figure 3 Experience of care**



## The Children and Young People's Plan 2016-2020

A new Children and Young People's Plan<sup>20</sup> has been written and was published in May 2016. During the consultation process for the plan, safeguarding was highlighted frequently as a key priority by all audiences taking part. Generally young people, parents and carers feel that York is a safe place and a good place to live and grow up. The Children and Young People's Plan continues to focus on the following four priorities between 2017 and 2020: Early Help; Emotional and Mental Health; Narrowing Gaps in Outcomes; and Priority Groups. The plan aims to deliver these priorities through: dynamic partnerships; whole family working; Local Area Teams; a confident and skilled workforce and through commissioning, monitoring and reporting.

## Voice Priorities for 2017/2018

Progress made by partners will be reported back to our Board throughout 2016-17 through highlight and assurance reports. We will continue to constructively challenge each other and develop our approach to hearing the voice of children and young people. The key priorities for 2017/18 are:

- Draft a new Voice and Involvement Strategy for 2017-2020.

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.yor-ok.org.uk/workforce2014/Dream%20again%20and%20YorOK%20Board/dream-again---the-children-and-young-peoples-plan.htm>

- Review the terms of reference and membership of the Voice and Involvement Group.
- Undertake a 2017 “Review of Voice” with a focus on workforce development and voice within SEND arrangements.
- Take forward work through the Voice and Involvement Group and Local Area Teams to improve voice arrangements at an early help level.

## Chapter 3: What the performance data tells us

The performance reporting of CYSCB remains closely aligned to our five priorities:

- Early Help;
- Neglect
- Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation;
- Children Missing from Home, Care and Education;
- Children Affected by Domestic Abuse.

These priorities are the subject of performance updates at each Board meeting. In addition, each sub-group of the Board reviews data relating to their area, highlighting and responding to issues and exceptions.

Our data comes from a variety of sources including: Children's Social Care; North Yorkshire Police; York Teaching Hospital Foundation Trust; NSPCC; Public Health; and IDAS. Together with other information from partners, including regular assurance reports and audit activity, this data helps us to build a picture of what is happening in terms of safeguarding children across York.

At [Appendix A](#) you can see the kind of data that the CYSCB monitors. At [Appendix B](#) you can see the cycle of reports to the Board throughout the year and the activity which goes on in between Board meetings.

### CYSCB priorities

#### *Early Help*

Due to the new early help arrangements in York with the introduction of the Local Area Teams, some data for this priority is not yet fully developed for 2016/17 including the number of early help assessments. However we know that:

- The number of re-referrals within a 12-month period to Children's Social Care has more than halved since the beginning of the year and is below national averages. This suggests that cases are being closed to Children's Social Care when situations have been fully resolved or when a robust package of support can be provided by other services.
- During the year 88% of children aged 0-4 who live in the most deprived 10% of local areas were registered with a Children's Centre. This is an 8% increase from the previous year and means that families in these areas may be feeling more confident to access services for their children and that more of the services they want are being offered.

- The latest available figures for persistent absence and total absence in primary and secondary schools show that York has better attendance at schools than the national average.
- York continues to have lower rates of teenage pregnancies compared to regional and national averages.
- The number of 1-4 year olds attending the hospital Emergency Department has remained stable.
- The latest health data shows that in 2015/16, children in York were admitted for mental health conditions at a higher rate than in England as a whole. The rate of inpatient admissions during the same period because of self-harm was also higher than the England average. This is unlikely to mean that there are more children and young people in York suffering from mental health conditions than elsewhere and is more likely to indicate that services are more aware of these children. However, Public Health is exploring this data.

### **Neglect**

- The percentage of referrals to Children's Social Care with neglect as a factor (i.e. those reaching the threshold for CSC to intervene) has risen slightly during the year to 12.21% at year end and is higher than it was in 2015/16.
- However the percentage of referrals and enquiries with neglect as a factor at the point of referral (inc. alcohol and substance misuse by parent and absent parenting) has decreased during the year (from 18.84% in 2015/16) to 10.59%.
- This may suggest that more cases are now reaching the threshold for social care intervention. The work which the CYSCB has undertaken regarding neglect and the introduction of the Local Area Teams should see a reduction in the number of these neglect cases reaching the level for statutory intervention as practitioners are able to understand the signs of child and adolescent neglect and intervene earlier.
- The number of admissions to hospital for children with deliberate or unintentional injuries has remained stable in 2016/17.
- The most recent health data (2015/16) for hospital admissions for dental caries (tooth decay) shows that York has a higher number than the national average. Our Public Health colleagues are working on why this is the case and what can be done to address it.

### **Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (CSA&E)**

- This year the percentage of referrals to Children's Social Care (CSC) with sexual abuse as a factor at the point of referral has increased from the previous year as have the number of Single Assessments in which Sexual Abuse has been identified as a factor.
- The percentage of referrals in which Child Sexual Exploitation is a concern at the point of referral has remained consistent in 2016/17 with 2015/16.



- These percentages remain low in comparison with other factors such as domestic abuse and neglect.
- The number of reports to police of sexual offences in which victims are under the age of 18 has increased in 2016/17.
- The difference in the number recorded by the police and the number recorded by CSC may be because some of the reports to the police relate to abuse which took place historically. These would not be referred to CSC as they do not currently involve a child, although they are fully investigated by the police
- Child Sexual Exploitation is being recognised more as a possible concern for young people accessing sexual health services.

### ***Missing from Home, Care and Education***

- The number of children recorded as missing from home or care has increased in the numbers recorded in last year by both Children's Social Care and by the Police during this period. None of these children have remained missing.
- 100% of children reported as 'missing from education' have been located or assessed as 'no concern'.

## **Other data:**

### ***Young People and Youth Offending***

- 2016-2017 has seen a reduction in first time entrants to the youth justice system, 385.46 (per 100,000 of 10-17 year old population) compared to 477 the previous year.
- The percentage of reoffending has also reduced significantly to 22% compared to 35.5% the previous year.
- The rate of young people sentenced to custody continues to remain very low.
- It seems that as reported by our colleagues in the Youth Offending Team in Chapter 5 the Youth Outcome Panels are seeing some outcomes from addressing cases through early intervention and out-of-court decisions.

### ***Disabled children***

- 88% of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) were issued within statutory time limits.
- By the end of March 2017, 97.5% of year 12/13 children (aged 16 and 17) who have an EHCP or Statement of Special Needs were in employment, education or training which compares favourably with regional and national percentages (93.2% and 92.7%).

- CYSCB began monitoring the data about safeguarding disabled children in 2016 and found that the number of children subject to a child protection plan who had a disability was relatively low given the known vulnerabilities of these children to safeguarding issues. CYSCB will increase its understanding of the steps taken by all partners to safeguard disabled children using a discrete focus via all sub-groups and partner assurance reports to Board.

### ***Enquiries and Referrals to Children’s Social Care (CSC)***

- The Children’s Front Door received 4446 enquiries in the whole of 2016/17; 1216 of these met the threshold for CSC intervention. (Referrals).
- The re-referral rate within a 12-month period for 2016/17 was 7.57% which is a drop from previous years (9.43% in 2015/16; 13.79% in 2014/15)

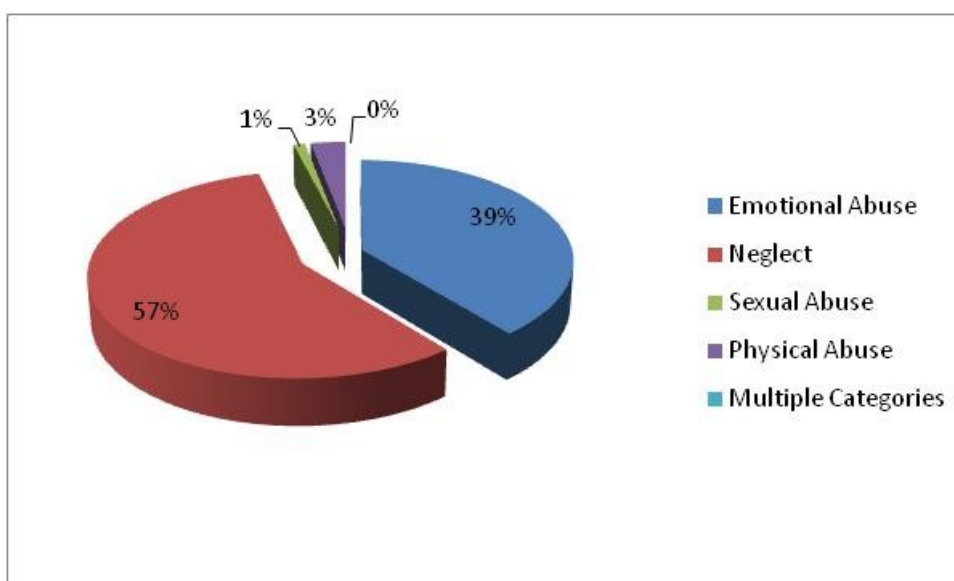
### ***Child in Need***

- Around 200 children received a service from the CSC Child In Need teams (social care teams but not statutory social care intervention) at any one time in 2016/17.
- Around 10% of these children – again at any one time – were known to have been prevented from entering statutory child protection systems or being taken into care.

### ***Child Protection and Court Proceedings***

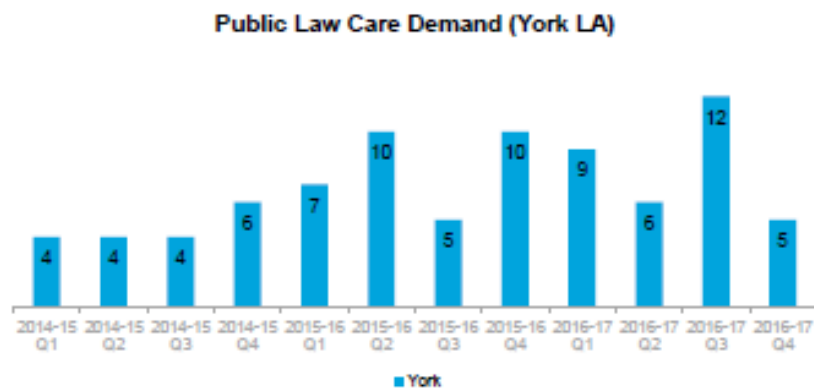
- At the end of March 2017, 171 children were subject to a Child Protection Plan. This represents a 26% increase from 135 at the same time in 2016 and reflects increases nationally.
- In line with previous years, the majority of children subject to a plan (54%) are listed under the category of neglect, with emotional abuse (38%) a close second. Physical abuse (6%) and Sexual Abuse (2%) are significantly lower than other categories.

**Figure 4 Categories of Child Protection Plan**



- CYSCB is focusing work on raising awareness of the signs of neglect, particularly with early help practitioners, so that more of these cases can be addressed before they reach the point where child protection processes are necessary.
- As a local authority, City of York made 32 applications to court in 2016/17 for Care Orders. This represented no change from previous years even though nationally there was a 14% increase in the same period.

**Figure 5 Care Proceedings in York**



### ***Children in the care of the local authority***

- The number of children in the care of the local authority in 2016/17 has remained consistent with last year (204 at year end). This is a rate of 55 per 10,000 children which is lower than the rate for the region and nationally (63; 60)
- 19% of these children had previously been in the care of the local authority.
- 97% of care leavers were in suitable accommodation at the end of the year and 69% in education, employment or training.

### ***Child Deaths***

- There were a total of 14 City of York deaths notified to CDOP in 2016/17. Of these, 8 were unexpected.
- The Panel has reviewed these City of York deaths; 6 expected and 8 'unexpected'. (An unexpected death means that the child became ill very suddenly having previously been relatively, or completely, well, or has suffered a sudden traumatic experience (like a road traffic accident.))

## Chapter 4: How we are doing as a Partnership

### The five priorities we set ourselves last year and the work of the sub-groups

Information about the structure of the Board and the remit of each sub-group can be found at [Appendix D](#).

#### *Priority 1: Early Help*

During 2016/17 work has been ongoing on the re-modelling of early help services. The CYSCB Early Help Sub-group reports to both CYSCB and the YorOk (Children's Trust Board) and via this group and working alongside the YorOk Board, CYSCB has contributed to the establishment of the Local Area Teams or 'LATs'.

The LAT service was eventually launched in January 2017 and is a key part of York's early help response to working with children, young people and families. Each of the three multi-agency teams covers one of three defined geographical areas of York to provide direct intervention or to broker packages of 'team around the family' support to:

- prevent the escalation of needs which, if not addressed early, might require statutory and complex interventions at a later point.
- reduce inequality of outcomes for communities across York.

The outcome of the ongoing audit of early help assessments during 2016/17 indicates that some early help practitioners struggle with robust analysis and that fully capturing the voice of the child in early help assessments is improved but will merit further attention in exploring ways of capturing the voice of pre- and non-verbal children. This will be picked up by the new Local Area Development Partnership (which replaces the Early Help Sub-group) and by the 'Voice & Involvement Sub-group'.

A thorough review and revision of the 'Threshold Guidance Document' will be completed in 2017. This revision will reflect not only the new arrangements for early help but also the changing nature of national and local priorities with increased awareness of Female Genital Mutilation, radicalisation, trafficking etc.

#### *Priority 2: Neglect*

CYSCB's Neglect Sub-group has had a busy year developing a new multi-agency Neglect Strategy.

In July 2016, the CYSCB held a Neglect Event for practitioners from all organisations working with children. The key note speaker for the event was Jan Horwath, Emeritus Professor of Child Welfare at the University of Sheffield. Around 70 practitioners had the opportunity to hear about and discuss neglect from the child's perspective to understand a variety of methods for intervening effectively.

An early draft of the Neglect Strategy was shared at this event and the final version was published in December 2016<sup>21</sup> A full delivery plan will follow in 2017 although much of the work has already begun.

Social Workers and practitioners in the Healthy Child 0-19 Service (Health Visitors and School Nurses) were trained to use the *Graded Care Profile*, a form of assessment specifically designed for situations in which the main issue is neglect. The use of the GCP has gradually been rolled out in 2017 as the 0-19 Healthy Child Service became part of the Local Area Teams. CYSCB looks forward to an evaluation of how the assessment has changed the recognition of neglect.

The sub-group has supported training on 'Voice of the Child' in neglect cases delivered by the NSPCC and has responded to lessons learned from a multi-agency case review by raising the profile of child neglect and signposting practitioners to further training and research.

### ***Priority 3: Sexual Abuse and Exploitation***

In 2016 the *It's Not Ok*<sup>22</sup> campaign – aimed to raise awareness amongst professional and public about child sexual abuse and exploitation - came to an end with a closing event on 5 July attended by Peter Wanless, Chief Executive Officer of the NSPCC. The campaign had a huge reach and elements continue including a YouTube video related to the 'It's Not Ok' play<sup>23</sup> delivered in schools. Ongoing work is embedded in the training delivered in schools; the work with the hospitality industry to recognise and report child sexual exploitation; and ongoing CSA&E training for professionals.

An evaluation from children and young people who had taken part in the schools' workshops was received by the CSA&E Sub-group. Two thousand evaluation forms were completed and the response was overwhelmingly positive with young people describing their raised awareness (83% said they had learnt something new). There were also some disclosures as a result of the campaign.

A presentation on the campaign was extremely well received at the national NSPCC conference and the campaign has also been taken up by other local authority areas.

The Case Review Group referred the issue of therapeutic support for victims of online sexual abuse to the CSA&E Sub group which is provided for those who are victims of contact offences. The discussion in the CSA&E group highlighted a possible gap in provision and a representative of the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner was invited to join the Sub-group to discuss potential gaps in service and for CYSCB to have an awareness of, and input into, some of the commissioning decisions.

The sub-group discussed the issue of online grooming and North Yorkshire Police shared the Leicestershire Police video 'Kayeleigh's Love Story' with the Sub-group. It was agreed that

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<sup>21</sup> <http://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/news.htm>

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.yor-ok.org.uk/young-people/Its%20not%20okay/its-not-ok.htm>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f2NfX6KU5JI>

schools should receive guidance on how to use this video with young people as the outcome which resulted in this young girl's death is quite harrowing. This was picked up by the Schools Safeguarding Advisor.

The sub-group received a presentation from the NSPCC Manager on a recent CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) event outlining research into perpetrators viewing child abuse images; 100,000 people in the UK are apparently accessing these images.

In 2017 the sub-group will continue to consider Sexually Harmful Behaviour by children and young people with a task and finish group set up to progress this work.

#### ***Priority 4: Missing from Home, Care and Education***

The CSA&E Sub-group has a combined remit to consider the issue of children missing from home and care as these two can often be linked.

During 2016/17 work has been reported to the sub-group about discussions between North Yorkshire Police and Children's Social Care to refine timely reporting of children and young people who go missing. Changes to communication methods have resulted in Children's Social Care being able to respond more quickly to these situations and to carry out 'return home interviews'. These interviews can often result in information about where children and young people have been or what they have been doing which brings about action to address vulnerability to child sexual exploitation.

It was noted by the sub-group that young people often go missing to particular addresses. North Yorkshire Police are providing a report to the group on the 'disruption' tactics used to make sure that young people cannot frequent these addresses and that those encouraging them are prevented from doing so.

In September 2016, new Department for Education (DfE) Guidance was introduced for schools on children missing from education (CME). This means that all schools must make a return to their local authority when about to remove any pupil from their register due to a non-standard transition. Schools have been made aware of the changes and their new responsibilities directly by DfE and locally in the Head Teachers newsletter and by direct email contact.

The focus on schools seeking destinations, and the inclusion of independent schools, has led to the increase in contacts from schools to the local authority about CME. 100% of these children have been located.

#### ***Priority 5: Children affected by Domestic Abuse***

In March 2016 CYSCB set up a Domestic Abuse Sub- group as a time limited (12 months) group, in response to an apparent significant increase in the numbers of children recorded by North Yorkshire Police as being present at Domestic Abuse incidents

The terms of reference for the CYSCB Domestic Abuse Sub-group, set by the CYSCB Chair, were to identify:

- The scale of Domestic Abuse in York involving children and young people.



- Whether the services meeting the needs of children and young people experiencing domestic abuse are delivering adequately to meet the need.
- Whether the funding of current services is secure.
- What the impact of Domestic Abuse on children and young people is in York.
- Whether the impact on children and young people of Domestic Abuse is recognised.

During the life of the sub group there has been a significant amount of work undertaken to identify the scale of the issue regarding children and young people and the services currently provided for children and young people experiencing (including perpetrating) domestic abuse; adult perpetrators of domestic abuse; and couples with children where domestic abuse is an issue but who wish to continue their relationship.

The group will report to CYSCB in July 2017 and the report will then go on to the Safer York Partnership (SYP). The Inter Board Protocol (described later in this chapter) cites SYP as the lead partnership for considering the issue Domestic Abuse in York. CYSCB will ask SYP to take forward the recommendations of the Domestic Abuse Sub-group and CYSCB and report back to CYSCB on the actions and outcomes.

The group found that the percentage of incidents at which children were present and an overall increase in the numbers of these children was likely related to better training of police officers attending incidents and their greater awareness of the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people. The same could be said of the high percentage of enquiries and referrals to Children's Social Care in which domestic abuse was a factor.

The group found that there were good services across York for children and young people affected by domestic abuse (both victims and perpetrators) but that the sustainability of these services is crucial and that children and young people would benefit from the availability of more services. Services for young people aged 16 to 18 were a particular focus as nationally the impact of domestic abuse in relationships between young people has only recently been recognised as has the presence of 16 to 18 year-olds as perpetrators.



In October 2016, CYSCB worked with our North Yorkshire equivalent, the Adult Safeguarding Boards and Community Safety Partnerships to deliver **Safeguarding Week**. The focus was on domestic abuse. In York, pop-up stands in the foyer of West Offices included information from IDAS (Independent Domestic Abuse Services), 'Kyra' Women's Project and North Yorkshire Police about domestic abuse and the support services

available for victims and perpetrators. During the month before there was a poster

campaign across the city promoting and signposting to the services plus a media campaign using the local press and social media.

The feedback from National Safeguarding Week in York was very positive. It demonstrated excellent partnership working. Referral rates to IDAS and 'Kyra' rose in the months after the campaign.

### ***Additional Priority: Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)***

In 2015/16, CYSCB added an additional priority of FGM with the intention of ascertaining the prevalence in York and of increasing awareness of the practice across the workforce. This was in recognition that the known local incidence of female genital mutilation is very low and, consequently, the Board felt it was especially important for the workforce to be able to identify and to respond to the practice.

New guidance on FGM is now in regular use and awareness raising is embedded in training included multiagency safeguarding training for practitioners and safeguarding training for all schools (including independent schools) and for midwifery services. Ofsted commented that staff and partners spoken to during the inspection were very knowledgeable about the issue.

## **The School Wellbeing Workers**

The School Wellbeing Workers project was extended in 2016 to all schools in York. The School Wellbeing Workers have provided training, support and advice to pastoral staff, and delivered individual and group work to children and young people.

## **Inter Board Protocol**

In 2014 a draft joint protocol was established between CYSCB, the Health and Wellbeing Board and with the Children's Trust (YorOk) Board. In 2016 the Independent Chair of the CYSCB initiated work to develop this further to include the Safeguarding Adults Board and Safer York Partnership. Following a meeting of the Chairs of these Boards in June, and consultation with all Boards thereafter, the final protocol was signed off at a meeting of the Chairs in September.

The protocol sets out which of the Boards leads on key safeguarding issues, identifies the supporting boards and agrees working arrangements for challenge, oversight and reporting between the Boards. It ensures that strategic Boards work together to achieve the best outcomes and avoid duplication.

The Chairs of these Boards meet regularly and the officers who support the functions of the Boards also meet to ensure that any agreed collaborative work takes place.

## Chapter 5. Individual Agency Assessments

### NHS Partners

#### *Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)*

The CCG continues to make good progress in embedding safeguarding children assurance processes, both within the CCG and between the CCG and health provider organisations. The Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children (DNSC) continues to provide bi monthly reports to the CCG Quality and Patient Experience Committee (QPE). Integral to this report is an update against the Designated Professionals Strategic Plan and details of any specific safeguarding children risks, with the associated action plans.

Key priorities for the strategic plan 2016-17:

- To continue to develop and embed robust assurance processes in relation to safeguarding children arrangements in CCG provider organisations
- To support and continue to develop strong multi-agency partnerships across North Yorkshire and the City of York
- Health services for children in the care of the local authority.
- Supporting Safeguarding Children Practice across the health economy of North Yorkshire and York
- PREVENT
- Ensure all CCG staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities with regard to safeguarding children and have a raised awareness of the role and responsibilities of the Designated Professionals Team
- Continue to develop safeguarding children arrangements in Primary Care

In July 2016 NHS England undertook a safeguarding children assurance visit to the CCG. The subsequent report identified only 5 areas for development-which were deemed to require urgent action. The action plan arising from this report is monitored via the QPE committee. It is of note that the report found *'Excellent evidence of robust safeguarding arrangements'*, together with *'lots of examples of good practice and innovative practice.'*

In December 2016 the Care Quality Commission (CQC) undertook a *Children Looked After and Safeguarding Review* across the health economy in York. The initial verbal feedback identified some areas for development for both the CCG and NHS health providers, as well as recognising that the CCG has good safeguarding children assurance processes in place. Pending receipt of the final report, expected June 2017, the DNSC has led on the development of a provisional action plan for the CCG which covers information sharing, links between CSC and primary care and further embedding the understanding and use of

escalation procedures. The CCG also continues to support NHS provider organisations with the development of their plans.

**Supporting the work of the CYSCB:**

- The Chief Nurse, Designated Nurse, Nurse Consultant for Safeguarding and Designated Doctor continue to play an active role in supporting the work of the Safeguarding Children Board and relevant sub groups.
- The Designated Nurse continues in the role as Chair of the Case Review Group. As Chair, she has led on seeking assurance that outstanding actions from Learning Reviews and Single Agency Reviews have been completed or are in the process of completion. She has also supported the author of a Learning Lessons Review to produce a report and associated action plan, on behalf of the Board.
- The Designated Nurse is a member of the PDSG and has continued to support in embedding the new structure of the Board and sub groups.

**Involving children and young people:**

The designated professionals work closely with colleagues across the health economy to ensure that children's and young people's views are fully considered throughout the commissioning cycle. For example, the designated professionals initiated the development of a short video presentation designed to help inform children entering care about what to expect from their Initial Health Assessment. The project was funded collaboratively by the North Yorkshire and York CCGs, NYCC and CYC, and developed by care-experienced young people from York and North Yorkshire.

**Primary Care**

The developments in safeguarding practice across primary care continue to be led by the Nurse Consultant for Primary Care with the support of the Named GP for Safeguarding. Key achievements include:

- Ongoing offer of the highly successful safeguarding 'hot topics' training
- Development of a Safeguarding Training Strategy for Primary Care
- Well attended safeguarding leads meetings, across North Yorkshire and York
- Development of a primary care 'Was not brought' policy, which aims to support primary care colleagues to identify and respond to concerns regarding the possible neglect of children's medical needs.
- Feedback from the CQC Children Looked After and Safeguarding (CLAS) Review identified developments in safeguarding electronic coding in primary care as 'exemplary'

**York Teaching Hospital and NHS Foundation Trust (YTHFT)**

The Trust has continued to recognise safeguarding children as a high priority area.

During 2016/17 the trust has continued to develop and embed robust processes to support effective safeguarding practice.

**Key areas to highlight:**

Following its launch in November 2015, we have seen the continued success of the Child Sexual Assault and Assessment Centre (CSAAC). This service is jointly commissioned by the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner and NHS England and predominantly serves 0-16 year olds. The aim for the CSAAC team is to provide expert opinion through medical examination, advice and guidance, to support the child at the time of examination and to provide onward referral and appropriate support. Although a key role for the team is to perform forensic examinations they also complete examinations following a disclosure of non recent sexual abuse. The ethos of the team is to provide a service which is child centred and feedback is sought from the children, families and professionals so that we can reflect on the experience and hear the voice of the child. The success of this service was recognised by the organisation when the CSAAC team won the "Partnership Matters" award at the annual Celebration of Achievement for YTHFT.

**Further progress against recent priorities has been:**

- Working in partnership with CYSCB including participation at Board and sub group levels.
- Working in partnership with Children's Social Care, Education and The Healthy Child Service to develop and deliver training based on the outcomes of a local Learning Lessons Review.
- Implementation and embedding of the ACHILD assessment tool to facilitate early identification of safeguarding concerns when children attend the Emergency Department.
- A review of the Did Not Attend Policy to better reflect the potential neglect of children's/unborn health needs when they are not brought for appointments.
- Introduction of updated Level 3 training modules, including a module that highlights the need for robust referrals and further modules on Neglect, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Abuse/Child Sexual Exploitation. We are also exploring whether alternative methods of achieving training compliance can have a positive impact on compliance levels.
- The development of a safeguarding newsletter to raise awareness amongst staff of recent changes to guidelines and promote the ethos that "Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility"
- The development of an interim Action Plan following a Care Quality Commission (CQC) Children Looked After and Safeguarding (CLAS) Inspection in December 2016.

As an organisation we were also involved in the CQC CLAS inspection across North Yorkshire in February 2017. These inspections have encouraged us to reflect on our strengths and our areas for development but they have also reinforced our commitment to achieving the highest standards in safeguarding practice. It is reassuring that although we had areas of weakness highlighted by CQC, these were predominantly areas of which we were aware.

**Ongoing priorities are:**

- Revising, implementing and evaluating our action plan
- Working towards the Safeguarding Local Quality Requirements including improving and auditing safeguarding practice in the emergency department
- Jointly developing an information sharing protocol between York Teaching Hospital and the local authority Healthy Child Service
- Exploring current methods of communication between our midwifery and primary care colleagues, in order to highlight any gaps and identify best practice
- Developing robust recording and information sharing processes between our midwifery colleagues and primary care
- Continued close working with the Designated Nurses, our primary care and multi-agency partners

***Tees & Esk Wear Valley Foundation Trust***

Tees & Esk Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV) provides mental health services in York.

The Trust continues to be committed to safeguarding children both receiving services and those living in a family with a service user.

Members of the Trust safeguarding team are now based in York to ensure that safeguarding is promoted across all areas.

The team provides safeguarding training in line with the Intercollegiate Document (2014) Safeguarding Children and Young People: roles and competencies for health care staff. Training compliance is closely monitored by both the Trust and Commissioners.

The team provides specialist safeguarding supervision to staff which is mandatory for staff working with a child on a child protection plan or staff working with a parent/carer who cares for a child on a child protection plan. It is also available for all staff working with complex cases.

The team operates a duty system to ensure all calls requiring advice and support are responded to as soon as possible.

The Trust is a member of the Safeguarding Children Board and sub-groups. This has ensured that the Board priorities are incorporated into the work plan of the Safeguarding Children Team.



The Safeguarding Children Team and Safeguarding Adult Team have been merged into the 'Safeguarding and Public Protection Team'. This is to ensure a 'think family' approach and also to recognise those issues which impact upon the whole family, such as domestic abuse and Prevent. Think family is essential when considering the impact of parental mental health upon children and the family. Staff use the PAMIC tool (Assessing the Impact of Parental Mental Health on Children) to help with their assessment about the impact of parental mental health and actions required.

York health services had a CQC Child Safeguarding and Looked After Children Inspection of which TEWV services were a part. This identified areas for improvement which are already being addressed, including improving recording communications with CSC, and improving understanding of escalation pathways between the services.

The PAMIC tool was considered to be a positive for staff working with those who are parents/carers. This is incorporated into the electronic case record for staff to use.

The Safeguarding Children Team and CAMHS from across the Trust used the CQC publication (2016) Not Seen Not Heard to review the recommendations from this report and consider the local implications. An action plan was developed by respective areas to ensure the voice of the child is evident within the care given.

CAMHS supports the work of the Board by working with partner agencies on the CAMHS Strategy and the delivery of the 'Future in Mind' Transformation Plan.

A number of CAMHS developments are underway as part of the Transformation Plan.

The service now operates a single point of access for all referrals to come into. This ensures referrals are dealt with efficiently and prioritised and families are offered more timely initial assessments. This has been promoted with all partner agencies.

The service is currently setting up a CAMHS Crisis and Home Treatment team to work with young people in crisis and young people who are at risk of admission to an In-patient service. From July we aim to have the service running from 9am to 9pm seven days a week.

The service is working with TEWV North Yorkshire CAMHS to develop an enhanced Eating Disorders Team. This service will increase the current offer to young people and families who are experiencing severe eating disorders and potentially reduce the rates of admission to in-patient services.

### ***NHS England***

The general function of NHS England is to promote a comprehensive health service to improve the health outcomes for people in England.

NHS England's overall roles in terms of safeguarding are direct commissioning, assurance and system leadership as set out in the revised Safeguarding Vulnerable People Accountability and Assurance Framework published by NHS England in July 2015<sup>24</sup>.

Yorkshire and the Humber has an established Safeguarding Network that promotes an expert, collaborative safeguarding system, which strengthens accountability and assurance within NHS commissioning and adds value to existing NHS safeguarding work across Yorkshire and the Humber. Representatives from this network attend each of the national sub groups, which include Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Prevent. NHS England Yorkshire and the Humber works in collaboration with colleagues across the north region on the safeguarding agenda and during 2016/17 a Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) peer review assurance process was undertaken. Themes from this process have influenced the commissioning of leadership training for safeguarding professionals and there are future plans for a national assurance tool for CCGs.

### **Sharing learning from safeguarding reviews:**

In order to continuously improve local health services, NHS England has responsibility for sharing pertinent learning from safeguarding serious incidents across Yorkshire and the Humber. This is done via the Safeguarding Network and via quarterly safeguarding newsletters for GPs. A safeguarding newsletter for pharmacists, optometrists and dental practices has been introduced.

### **Safeguarding Serious Incidents**

All safeguarding serious incidents and domestic homicides requiring a review are reported onto the national serious incident management system. During 2016/17 a review of current systems for recording safeguarding incidents and case reviews across the North Region was undertaken to support the identification of themes, trends and shared learning. NHS England works in collaboration with CCG designated professionals to ensure recommendations and actions from any of these reviews are implemented.

### **Training & Development**

NHS England North hosted a safeguarding conference on 10 December 2016 which included presentations on forced marriage, honour based abuse, FGM and domestic abuse. The conference aimed to provide level 4 training for healthcare safeguarding adults and children professionals and leads in the North region. A conference was held on 11 November in York for named safeguarding GPs in Yorkshire and the Humber and also attended by Bradford named GPs. It was well evaluated and plans for a north region named GP conference are in place for 2017/18.

### **Assurance of safeguarding practice**

NHS England North developed a Safeguarding Assurance Tool for use with CCGs across the North Region, which was implemented in 2016. NHS England North Regional Designated Nurses undertook the review which was intended to be supportive. They reviewed all action

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<sup>24</sup> <https://www.england.nhs.uk/?s=safeguarding+assurance>

plans to identify key themes and trends across the North Region with a view to identifying common areas requiring support.

NHS England North received national safeguarding development monies to support improvements in the implementation of NHS responsibilities regarding the health of children in the care of the local authority. This funding was used to second two designated Looked After Children (LAC) nurses within Yorkshire and Humber to develop a benchmarking tool based on standards in national guidance and documents such as *Promoting the Health and Well-Being of Looked After Children*. The two designated LAC nurses have facilitated the roll out of this peer review benchmarking process across the North which helped identify good practice and any improvement required. The intention is for the tool to be adapted and used nationally.

### **Learning Disabilities Mortality Review (LeDeR) Programme**

Over the last 2 years a focus on improving the lives of people with learning disabilities and/or autism (Transforming Care) has been led jointly by NHS England, the Association of Adult Social Services, the Care Quality Commission, Local Government Association, Health Education England and the Department of Health. In November 2016 the national LeDeR Programme has been established following the Confidential Inquiry into the Premature Deaths of People with Learning Disabilities (CIPOLD). All NHS regions have established the LeDeR process which involves reviewing the deaths of all people with learning disabilities aged 4 years and over.

### **Prevent**

Across NHS England North there are a number of priority areas which are designated by the Home Office, who fund two Regional Prevent Coordinator posts. The coordinators ensure that Health embeds the requirements of the Contest strategy and specifically Prevent into normal safeguarding processes. A number of projects have been funded in 2016/17 including supporting partnership working with the North East Counter Terrorism Unit,, delivering a conference in October on 'Exploitation, grooming and radicalisation', a North Regional Prevent conference and an 'Audit of Referrals to Prevent/Channel' where Mental Health concerns are understood to be a contributing factor. A research project to scope the current, attitudes, awareness and practice amongst GP colleagues has also been commissioned in the Region.

## **Local Authority**

### ***Children's Social Care***

Work continues to deliver the ambitious Vision for Children's Social Care (CSC) set out four years ago. This delivery has been supported by a major restructure of CSC in September 2016.

Three major developments within that restructure were the creation of:

- An 'Immediate Response and Edge of Care Team' to ensure that children (and their families) receive services whilst CSC complete an assessment of need.
- A dedicated team to support 'Children in Permanent Placements' which will ensure that children and young people in the care of the local authority receive a high level of support.
- A Quality Assurance Team to provide scrutiny across CSC. We continue to robustly scrutinise whether staff are receiving regular supervision and have manageable caseloads by way of monthly 'Scorecards'.

The commitment to strong professional support is as strong as ever and over the past year staff have continued to access a wide range of excellent learning and development opportunities to support them in their ongoing professional development. Of particular note is the training of CSC practitioners (61 to date) in the assessment of **neglect** (a priority area for the CYSCB) using the Graded Care Profile (GCP). This training is part of a joint initiative with the 0-19 service (health) and the NSPCC. Briefing sessions on the use of the GCP have been given to the Independent Reviewing Officers and to the Neglect Sub-group of the Safeguarding Board.

The dedicated Advanced Social Work Practitioner for Child Sexual Abuse/ Exploitation and Children Missing from Home and Care (a priority area for the CYSCB) worked closely with other members of the CYSCB and the NSPCC on the '*It's not OK*' campaign which came to a close in July 2016. This campaign was highly successful in raising awareness of this type of abuse across the City. This post holder continues to ensure that we keep a sharp focus on those children and young people who are most at risk by closely working with a range of other agencies (particularly the police).

The presence of the police within the CSC Referral and Assessment (R&A) service continues to support improved safeguarding practice across the two agencies. Of particular note is the improved joint working between police and CSC in response to Domestic Abuse concerns.

Finally, in November 2016 CSC was inspected by Ofsted under the Single Inspection Framework (SIF). This was a rigorous inspection which, over a period of 4 weeks, looked at over 25% of all cases open to CSC. The overall judgement was GOOD, placing Children's Services in the top quartile of local authorities. The areas for improvement included the timeliness and quality of single assessments and health assessments for children in care. These are priority areas for 2017/2018.

### ***Youth Offending Team (YOT)***

2016-2017 has seen a reduction in first time entrants to the youth justice system, 385.46 (per 100,000 of 10-17 year old population) compared to 477 the previous year. The percentage of reoffending has also reduced significantly to 22% compared to 35.5% the previous year.

In response to the Home Office Draft Concordat On Children In Custody published in 2016, York Youth Offending Team has developed clear pathways and processes for accessing PACE beds with foster carers, hostel accommodation and also secure remand where necessary.

The YOT has secured improved multi agency cooperation with regards to fostering and secure remands, including direct meetings and contact with foster carers, embedding and including their perspective in safeguarding these young people. This is monitored by the Youth Justice Board and the CYSCB will scrutinise this.

The newly developed Youth Outcome Panels are ensuring that early intervention cases are addressed in a consistent manner, with out of court decisions being made at the panel. This has identified young people with complex needs, prior to directly entering the youth justice arena and allowed for earlier referrals to the Local Area Teams and Children's Social Care. Increasing awareness of the availability of local services to young people has been a crucial component in securing better outcomes. This has improved the efficiency of referrals and signposting to other agencies to provide ongoing support after the YOT's intervention has ceased.

The YOT has continued to improve assessment and intervention services for young people displaying sexually harmful behaviour. A joint working protocol with Children's Social Care has been identified, whereby a YOT manager will be present at strategy meetings including young people as a perpetrator or victim of sexually harmful behaviour. Young people are offered voluntary bail support for Children's Social Care cases that are not yet charged with serious violent sexual offences. Training needs within the team have been identified and a strategy has been implemented to improve the skills of staff dealing with sexually harmful behaviour.

The introduction of Asset Plus, an assessment tool, has ensured that management oversight of assessments is timely in relation to safeguarding and vulnerability factors. This has led to an improvement in information sharing between the YOT and the custodial estate with more significant improvement with secure children's homes and secure training centres where the level of need is greatest. A more robust method of Quality Assurance on assessments has been introduced and allows for a greater level of management oversight. This has also improved the quality and accuracy of information being shared with the secure estate.

### ***Healthy Child 0-19 Service***

During 2016/17 the York Healthy Child Service (YHCS) has seen significant change. The service TUPE transferred to CYC to be provided through the CEC Directorate (commissioned through Public Health) on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016. The two elements of this service, health visiting (0-5 years) and school nursing (5-19 years) were brought together into the one 0-19 service, with the aim of delivering a fully inclusive service offer with no transition points. There has subsequently been a review of the whole service, and the need for modernisation and change was identified. This change will see the whole service working within the LAT bases with the goal of full integration with the LAT services.

The YHCS now has its own safeguarding provision through the creation of the Lead Nurse for Safeguarding. This post is integrated into the Referral & Assessment team in CYC (Children's Front Door) with dedicated administrative support. This enables more immediate access to

information where children are at risk. The Lead Nurse acts as the main point of contact for the YHCS, and supports the service in decision making through supervision and support.

The Lead Nurse has delivered training on the Graded Care Profile in collaboration with Children's Social Care to both YHCS staff and Social Care staff. This has proven to be a successful working model, and has attracted national approval through the NSPCC.

Safeguarding supervision arrangements are being strengthened through NSPCC commissioned training. This will enable a peer model of one-to-one supervision to commence on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017. All active cases will then be discussed in depth within defined timescales. This training will be undertaken with Social Care colleagues, again to enhance working relationships, integration and breaking down barriers to practice and information sharing through common language and goals. This request for joint health and social care training delivery with the NSPCC is seen as an exciting development, and offers great opportunities.

The new safeguarding service is very much in its infancy and much change is needed. Excellent progress has been made to date and the YHCS staff welcome the dedicated service.

To date improvements have been made in:

- Information sharing
- Court statement/report writing
- Quality improvement for all reports (ongoing)
- Copies of all referrals are now available to the Lead Nurse for Q & A
- Training and information/legislation updates
- Staff updates
- Processes
- Accessibility to advice and support

We recognise change is constant, and ongoing assessment and audit will further develop the service. Any learning from the CQC review of health services for children in the care of the local authority and safeguarding will be included in the service development in 2017/18.

### ***Adult Social Care***

Adult social care has continued to work to strengthen its links and joint working with Children's Services during this period and there are several examples of good joint working, particularly around safeguarding issues.

A joint workshop was held with staff and managers from both Children's and Adults' services to consider the findings of a serious case review from another area. Discussion was both wide-ranging and useful and it is intended that the Adults and Children's Principal Social Workers will organise more of these meetings in the future to encourage joint learning and working together.

Adult social care participated along with many other agencies during Safeguarding Week to highlight the theme of domestic abuse in October 2016, and is now involved in the joint planning of 2017's Safeguarding Week.

An adult safeguarding peer review took place in January 2017, the outcomes of which were very positive; the review highlighted excellent partnership working and engagement, and very person-centred responses from Adult Social Care. It did however note the need for good communication to ensure that in particular, there was no duplication around preventative services.

There is growing recognition of issues within the Transitions Team, of concerns around young people and their vulnerability when using the internet and a need for training, perhaps for both young people and staff around how they can protect themselves online. This might be something for both the Children's and Adults' Boards to consider joint work on over the next 12 months.

## Local Area Teams (LAT)

A new approach to early help was launched in January 2017 with the introduction of Local Area Teams. Local Area Teams (LAT) are a key part of York's early help response to working with children, young people and families from pregnancy through to adulthood (the 0-19yrs (25yrs for disability) agenda). A Local Area Team (LAT) is a multi-agency team covering one of three defined geographical areas of York. The purpose of a Local Area Team is:

- To prevent the escalation of needs which may require, if not addressed, statutory, complex and costly interventions at a later point.
- To reduce inequality of outcomes for our communities across York.

The Early Help Strategy sets out how we will achieve this by:

- Helping us to understand the differing needs of children, young people and families across our city.
- Ensuring that children, young people, families and communities have a voice in helping us understand need and how best to respond.
- Identifying which children need extra help so that no child will slip through the net.
- Making sure that early help is proportionate, timely and secures long term outcomes.
- Letting us know that we are making a difference.

Local Area Teams are not just Local Authority services. They are multi-agency and bring together all partners in a local area that exist in the lives of children, young people and families. This way Local Area Teams can bring together the full power of our communities to address need and build resilience. Over the course of 2017 multi-agency partners will work together to develop and extend the model. Key partners that will align/co-locate with Local Area Teams include:



- Well-being workers
- Health Visitors / School Nursing service
- North Yorkshire Police / PCSOs
- Health providers
- Department for Work and Pensions
- Housing
- Community Links
- Local Area Coordinators

The landscape of early help is much broader and diverse than purely the co-located multi-agency services outlined above. Local Area Teams are very much all about early help but early help is not just about Local Area Teams. This strategy clearly sets out the need for all agencies and communities to work together in response to need in order to secure sustained and positive outcomes. This means that this strategy sets a common vision and purpose around early help for any organisation working with children, young people and families including the voluntary and community sectors, schools, childcare providers, colleges, universities, communities and families themselves

## **North Yorkshire Police**

Protecting the public from harm is the purpose of policing. A clear priority for North Yorkshire Police in the police and crime plan is to have ‘an in-depth understanding of how we can best protect the most vulnerable people in our society and will invest in services, skills and partner relationships to deliver the best possible outcomes’.

North Yorkshire Police seek to continuously improve how they safeguard and respond to children and young people. In 2016 this has included the introduction of Operation Encompass. Operation Encompasses is a simple but effective way in which the police share domestic abuse information with schools. Too often children are the silent victims of domestic abuse and are expected to turn up to school the next day and carry on as if nothing at all has happened. By providing information about domestic incidents that a child may have witnessed or have been involved with it is hoped that support for the child can be afforded by the school. The initiative is not to circumvent or replace existing safeguarding processes and schools will assume that safeguarding protocol has been followed prior to a notification being made.

For the past 12 months a Detective Sergeant from North Yorkshire Police’s Vulnerability Assessment Team has jointly assessed police referrals with a social care manager. The purpose of this is to share information, understand risk and determine the most appropriate safeguarding and investigative response. The Vulnerability Assessment team also now has the capability to conduct immediate joint visits with social care. The purpose of this is to immediately check out concerns in referrals and help determine the most appropriate outcome for the child.

North Yorkshire Police has a dedicated missing from home co-coordinator for the City of York. The purpose of the role is to review each missing from home episode from a safeguarding perspective, ensure that information is appropriately shared with the local authority and to seek to problem solve high risk cases with other agencies in order to prevent further missing episodes.

To ensure that officers are equipped to respond to safeguarding concerns involving children North Yorkshire Police have continued to invest in the training of officers. New student officers and PCSOs receive safeguarding inputs. This includes child protection and domestic abuse training and awareness. PCSOs complete local community attachments normally in the locality they will be working in. These are often in settings in which they will work with vulnerable people. Frontline officers have received shift based training days on domestic abuse, stalking harassment and Female Genital Mutilation. Further training is planned which will focus on child neglect and missing from home.

A new Community Safety Support Team has been created in York. The team of PCSOs work under the leadership of community. The team will carry out all Domestic Abuse follow up visits and safety planning (low and medium risk), missing from home re-visits, school inputs regarding vulnerability (internet safety etc.), attending Local Area Team meetings and discussing any concerns in respect of vulnerable children. The team will also work with vulnerable children on a longer term basis, trying to make sure that they get the support from partners in order to reduce vulnerability.

North Yorkshire Police are currently undertaking analysis of 'Child Neglect' across the City and North Yorkshire to understand the demand this creates and conversely the capacity and capability to deal with such abuse – the profile is not as yet finished but will be shared with partners when complete.

## **Probation Services**

During 2016-2017 the National Probation Service York and North Yorkshire Area (NPS Y&NY) have continued to implement the changes arising from the new probation provider arrangements, as part of the Ministry of Justice Transforming Rehabilitation Programme. This has seen a new operating model implemented under E3 (Efficiency, Effectiveness and Excellence) Programme, which introduces a nationally consistent approach to roles and responsibilities, resources, policy and practice. The core priority business of NPS continues to be protecting the public, reducing reoffending and supporting victims, which all have direct links to our responsibilities in relation to safeguarding children. We achieve this in a number of ways including through our responsibility for all court work/reports and risk assessments to inform case allocations; managing all high risk of serious harm offenders and those eligible under Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA); our statutory victim work; and directly delivering Sex Offender Treatment Programmes. A constant through a significant period of change during 2016-17, has been NPS's continued priority commitment to safeguarding children.

Some of the ways this has been illustrated during 2016-17 include:

- New NPS Safeguarding & Promoting the Welfare of Children Policy 2017 launched
- **Revised National Probation Instruction on Pre-Sentence Reports** to clarify the position in relation to domestic abuse and safeguarding checks. NPS has worked with CSC and Police colleagues to improve the process and timeliness of safeguarding and domestic abuse.
- **Domestic Abuse** – During 2016-17 NPS contributed to a ‘desk top’ review relating to children living with domestic abuse. A training programme has also been rolled out to all grades of staff to further improve understanding, awareness, and practice outcomes.
- **Child Sexual abuse and exploitation** - through its work with adult offenders NPS has continued to identify children at increased risk of exposure to victimisation, including child sexual exploitation, radicalisation, serious organised crime (SOC) and serious group offending. This has included awareness raising in relation to human trafficking and slavery of which CSE can be an element.
- **MAPPA E learning** – NPS and NY Police have developed and rolled out to all MAPPA Duty to Co-operate Agencies an e-learning package to inform and promote understanding of roles and responsibilities under MAPPA, contributing to the protection of children. This e-learning package was highlighted by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) as an example of good practice, and neighbouring MAPPA Strategic Management Boards in West Yorkshire and Cleveland have recently adopted this North Yorkshire training tool.
- **Training & Development** –NPS has committed to ensuring all staff have appropriate role specific training and a national safeguarding training package has been rolled out as mandatory for all grades of staff.

### **Outcomes and learning points from audit and inspection.**

During May and June 2016, YNY NPS and Community Rehabilitation Company were the subject of an HMIP Quality and Impact Inspection. The report highlighted strong practice by the NPS in relation to Public Protection and identified the following relating to Safeguarding:

- Staff had a good level of knowledge of safeguarding...NPS in good position to recognise and respond to risk issues.
- Effective joint working via MAPPA, local departments of CSC services and PCC.
- All NPS case records inspected evidenced that there had been a sufficient assessment of risk of harm to children and young people.
- All NPS case records inspected evidenced there was sufficient planning to manage and minimise the risk of harm to children and young people.

Many good practice examples were included in the report relevant to

- Domestic abuse and safeguarding.

- Effective NPS work with women offenders
- NPS staff had good working relationships with partner agencies and specialist workers.... drawing on support to manage the most difficult and complex cases.
- Line management provided to NPS staff was good – opportunities to reflect on Practice.
- NPS well represented on public protection forums.
- Services to victims delivered sensitively.
- Risk levels correctly classified in all cases.
- Effective use of MAPPA and good joint working across partnerships to manage risk of harm.
- Work of the NPS was having a stabilising effect on offending behaviour, demonstrating the impact of the work undertaken.

The Inspection report made two recommendations for improvement relevant to the work of Probation providers and Children’s Social Care to support communications and information exchange across the agencies and working with partners. Actions have been taken in the latter part of the year to address these and improvements have been achieved, and will continue to be monitored.

## **Community Rehabilitation Company**

### **Introduction**

The National Probation Service (NPS) and Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs) came into existence on 1st June 2014, as part of the Ministry of Justice Transforming Rehabilitation Programme. HLN (Humbly Grove, Lincolnshire and North Yorkshire) CRC has responsibility for medium and low risk of harm offenders and responsibilities for safeguarding children cut across both CRCs and the NPS.

### **CRC Board Representation.**

Regular representation at the CYSCB was a priority area for 2016/17 and the appointment of Vikki O’Brien as Community Director for York and North Yorkshire has achieved consistency of attendance.

### **2016/17 Priorities update**

The priorities set by the CRC in last year’s annual report were:

- Continue to work closely and co-operatively with our NPS colleagues to ensure that interface arrangements work to protect children and minimise risk of harm
- Increase the understanding within the CYSCB of the role and responsibilities of the CRC

- Improve our partnership working . Our service delivery model and IT infrastructure will change significantly in the next 12 months and we plan to be less office based. We are exploring opportunities to work more closely with Prevention and Early Intervention Services within the community.
- Continue to improve our child safeguarding practice and knowledge through our local Safeguarding Quality Improvement Plans
- To provide consistent representation to the CYSCB

The priorities have been achieved with continued close working relationships across the NPS and CRC interface in York. The CRC has contributed to the Board with Section 11 (of Children Act 1989) audits and Assurance Reports which have assisted partner agencies to understand the changed structures of probation providers. CRC has continued to undertake quality assurance activity internally and safeguarding remains a priority area within Quality Improvement Plans. Roll out of mobile ICT infrastructure was completed by the end of 2016 and staff are now able to work remotely and are contactable directly through work mobile phones. Staff are more community based and increased use of home visits will be a priority for the year to come.

### **Developments and Activities**

- Safeguarding policies remain subject to ongoing review and practice briefings provide feedback from assurance activity, inspection reports and Serious Further Offence reviews
- In the HMIP report in 2016, Dame Glenys Stacey commented 'it is a pleasure to present this report....NPS staff and those from the CRC should be commended for working well together and providing a high quality service over a period of change... there was a real sense of innovation evident across both organisations and staff showed persistence and initiative.....'
- HMIP commended the CRC for working well with individual service users to assess offending related needs and established good working relationships from which offending behaviour work progressed. The key recommendations with regard to safeguarding were shared recommendations and are included in our HMIP Action Plan
- The York CRC teams have relocated to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor in West Offices and locating in the same building as CSC and YOT colleagues will be beneficial to information exchange and building relationships
- Staff have recently received 'people safe' devices to support safe lone working and an increase in home visits where there are safeguarding and domestic abuse concerns will be a priority for the coming year
- The CRC has rolled out a new Supervision and Appraisal policy and safeguarding practice is included as a practice objective for practitioners

CRC staff continue to work closely with our Integrated Offender Management police colleagues, sharing intelligence and expertise.

Staff continue to manage adult offenders to reduce the risks of harm they pose to children by means of skilled assessment, planning review, multi-agency working and targeted interventions.

As a lead provider of domestic abuse services, we continue to deliver Building Better Relationships (BBR) programmes as ordered by the Criminal and Civil Court. We have commenced delivery of an early intervention voluntary domestic abuse perpetrators programme across City of York and North Yorkshire and are developing a modular intervention to be delivered on a one to one basis.

Local delivery takes account of emerging issues such as CSE, Serious and Organised Crime, Prevent etc.

We have representatives on the MARAC core groups in York and Selby and support the attendance of case managers.

Whilst the National Probation Service second staff to YOTs, the CRC York office has continued to support a specialist Transition to Adult Officer to improve the management of the transfer of young people between the two agencies

#### **Priorities for 2017/18**

- Deliver against safeguarding recommendations from HMIP Action Plan.
- Demonstrate an improvement in local safeguarding outcomes as measured through quality assurance audit activity.
- Continued regular representation to the CYSCB.

## **Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS)**

Cafcass (the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service) is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Ministry of Justice. The role of Cafcass within the family courts is: to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; provide advice to the court; make provision for children to be represented; and provide information and support to children and their families. It employs over 1,500 frontline staff.

The demand upon Cafcass services grew substantially in 2015/16 with a 13% increase in care applications and an 11% increase in private law applications. The grant-in-aid provided by the Ministry of Justice was smaller than the previous year. Notwithstanding this, Cafcass has met all of its Key Performance Indicators.

The following are examples of work undertaken by Cafcass to promote the continuous improvement of our work and support reform of the Family Justice:

- Revision of both the **Quality Assurance and Impact Framework** and **Supervision Policy** which together set out the organisation's commitment to delivering outstanding services, and the ways in which staff are supported to achieve this and

how the quality of work is to be monitored. The Framework integrates the impact of the work on the child into the grade descriptors so that evidence of positive impact is to be present, alongside compliance with the expectations of Cafcass and the Court, for an outstanding grade to be achieved

- Implementation of the **Equality and Diversity Strategy**. This entails: a network of Diversity Ambassadors who support the development of staff understanding and skill; the holding of workshops; a themed audit on the impact of diversity training on practice
- Extending the **Child Exploitation Strategy** introduced in 2014/15 to include trafficking and radicalisation as well as sexual exploitation. Key elements of the strategy include: Ambassadors (at a service area level) and Champions at a team level to have a ‘finger on the pulse’ of local issues and to support learning; training and research (including a study of 54 cases known to Cafcass in which radicalisation was identified as a feature)
- Working with a **range of partners** across family justice, children’s services and the voluntary sector. Examples include Local Family Justice Boards (Cafcass chairs 12 of the 46 of these), the judiciary, the Adoption Leadership Board and the Association for Directors of Children’s Services with whom Cafcass has developed the social work evidence template for use in care cases, and with whom we are developing good practice guidance for children who are accommodated by the local authority
- The development of **innovations** that are aimed at improving our practice and supporting family justice reform. These include: piloting the provision to our Family Court Advisers of consultations with a clinical psychologist; the extension of Family Drug and Alcohol Courts; *the supporting separated parents in dispute* helpline (a pilot across five service areas aimed at promoting out-of-court settlements of disputes where safe to do so)
- Contributing to the government **review of Special Guardianship Orders**, including a small piece of research that was included in the government’s response to the consultation
- A **Service User Feedback Survey**, which looked at the interim outcomes of children six to nine months after private law proceedings concluded. Specifically the survey looked into whether arrangements ordered by the court had sustained; how effective communication was between parents before and after court proceedings; and whether participants believed that the court order was in their child’s best interests

We have published our third Cafcass Quality Account, setting out how we have driven up the quality of our casework and shared best practice with the sector during 2015-16. We are proud that significant improvements have been achieved while meeting rising in case demand across both Public and Private Law and delivering efficiency savings in line with reduced spending targets.



You can read the full report for further details, but in summary it shows how, through innovative practice, we have:

- continued to improve the quality of our practice, building on the ‘Good with Outstanding Leadership’ rating of our 2014 Ofsted inspection; for example increasing the quantum of Good and Outstanding casework
- learnt more about the impact of our work for children by assessing the quality of our case practice against four child-focused outcomes (the extent to which the child is safe, heard, better represented and enabled) introduced through our refreshed Quality Assurance and Impact Framework, and used this insight to drive improvements
- equipped practitioners with the tools and knowledge to strengthen practice and improve analytical reporting - most notably, we embedded our Evidence Informed Practice Tools and disseminated learning driven by focused strategies for areas such as child exploitation and equality and diversity, and which cater to what our practitioners tell us they need
- supported our practitioners to enhance their expertise and improve the quality of recommendations and management of risk through pilots, such the Clinical Psychologist pilot which provided access to one-to-one consultations with accredited clinical psychologists - this is now an embedded service.

We have also helped to drive up quality in the sector by sharing Best Practice - our work includes:

- continuing to support improved services in the wider family justice sector and help shape future sector reform through close working with the Ministry of Justice, Department for Education, sector agencies, our membership of formal boards such as the Family Justice Board and contribution to government consultations leading on practice improvement and helping to raise standards by sharing our insight and learning with others in the sector; for example, by launching updated Local Authority Social Work templates and practice guidance with Association of Directors of Children’s Services (ADCS) which set out best practice, the provision of analytical report writing workshops, and sharing our approach to contracting services to help manage demand
- helping manage demand by piloting pre-Court advice in Private Law, and looking at the new ways of working in care cases.

Cafcass is committed to building on this progress and over the coming year we will continue to:

- draw on findings around the contribution we make to outcomes for children, in order to identify and inform learning points that will drive future improvements to our work which will make a real difference to children and young people

- embed the new outcomes-focused Quality Assurance Impact Framework to support practitioners and their managers in identifying clear plans of how they can develop their own practice to deliver an outstanding service to children and families
- build on our knowledge base and identify where practice can be improved by generating high impact and timely research which responds to the important issues affecting children and families today.

## NSPCC

NSPCC services in York are closely aligned with two of CYSCB key strategic priorities namely Child Sexual Abuse and Early Help. The team delivers:

- Letting the Future In – a therapeutic service for children, and their safe carer(s), aged 4 to 17 years who have been sexually abused. The aim of the service is to help children to overcome the impact of the sexual abuse they have experienced and to offer advice and support to parents. In the year ahead the service will be expanded to encompass work with children with a mild/moderate learning disability
- Women as Protectors - a group work service for women who are or have been in a relationship with a man who poses a risk of sexual harm to a child. It provides education, emotional support and guidance to female carers – aimed at enhancing their ability to understand child sexual abuse and to protect their children from sexual harm. Protective behaviour work is offered to all children in the family as well as joint work with the children and the female carer. Written reports and recommendations can be given to the referring agency outlining the risks, strengths and protective factors that have been assessed during the programme. At the end of the group women can receive individual support from a trained and supervised volunteer. This programme is being delivered and evaluated in York and across the country to try and find the very best methods for preventing child sexual abuse and for supporting and protecting children whose lives have been affected by it.
- Minding the Baby (MTB) – is a home visiting parenting programme that begins during the third trimester of pregnancy and aims to help first time mothers (14-25 yrs.) to care for their babies and cope with the challenges of becoming a parent up to the child's second birthday. It is delivered by a multi-disciplinary team of social workers, therapists and nurse practitioners. MTB aims to promote positive attachments and to ensure the mental health and well-being of mothers and their babies. The current programme recruited mothers via a randomised control trial (RCT). The study is being conducted by Prof. Pasco Fearon one of the world's leading experts on infant mental health. The research findings will be published in 2018/19 and shared with CYSCB.
- NSPCC Schools Service – delivered 19 Speak Out and Stay Safe workshops to 3,927 children in York. The CYSCB has been proactive in its support and promotion of the NSPCC Schools Service and this has undoubtedly led to a positive uptake of the service with 95% of all schools in York participating. The workshops aim to educate children in an age appropriate way about all forms of abuse and bullying and crucially how to

seek help if they are worried or need help. In the year ahead the Schools Service will deliver workshops for parents with NSPCC partners O2 to enable them to understand how to ensure their children stay safe online and deliver a new SEND resource for the Speak Out and Stay Safe workshops.

NSPCC is committed to the work of the CYSCB with Service Manager representation on the Board, the PDSG and three sub-groups. NSPCC staff have had regular CYSCB briefings on lessons from themed audits/learning lesson reviews and attended training provided by CYSCB. NSPCC has worked in partnership with CYSCB colleagues to bring national NSPCC services/resources/research and campaigns to the CYSCB with the aim of bringing 'added value' from a national children's organisation where there is synergy with the business of the Board for example sharing the Spotlight research programme that has been published over the past year. Perhaps the best example of this was the CYSCB and NSPCC Sexual Abuse Campaign that concluded in July 2016 and was commended later in the year by Ofsted as an example of effective partnership working to tackle child sexual abuse and exploitation.

## **CVS (Priory Street Nursery)**

**Training** – The nursery managers have attended various training events including the NSPCC 'It's Not Ok' conferences on CSE, Harmful Behaviour etc. This has supported working with a wider network of agencies and improved the manager's knowledge of agency working.

CVS have also attended courses on Working Together - Multiagency Training, Child Neglect, Early Help, Prevent Duty and the 'No Wrong Door' Conference.

**Policy and Procedures** – CVS have enhanced the nursery policies/procedures on the use of social media and digital technologies, and we have included FGM and the Prevent duty in the safeguarding and child protection policy.

**Staff Knowledge** – CVS have reinforced and embedded staff knowledge by including safeguarding as a standard agenda item in staff meetings. Staff knowledge and suitability is checked regularly as part of the supervision process.

**Partnerships** – CVS have strengthened links between the nursery, our families and outside agencies. We have shared information with families so they know their responsibility in safeguarding children. We are more confident in using Early Help strategies (e.g. FEHA) more effectively and are working with the Front Door team to do this.

## **Chapter 6: Formal audits of our safeguarding arrangements**

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## The "Section 11" Audit

Every year the CYSCB undertakes an audit under Section 11 of the Children Act 1989 of what arrangements our partners are making to safeguard children and young people. CYSCB works with our colleagues in the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board to do this since some of our partners work across the county border.

Partners were asked to complete an audit form covering subjects such as, among others: safer recruitment; policies and procedures; roles and responsibilities; and training and development. In addition, an event took place at which partners were asked to report back on the actions they had agreed to take in 2015/16. They were also able to discuss their responses to the 2016/17 audit and to develop actions to address gaps either single or multi-agency.

There were no glaring concerns found in the responses of partners to the audit which was reassuring for both Boards.

There was agreement going forward that:

- NYSCB and CYSCB should continue to develop the interface between the Boards on cross border issues. A York and North Yorkshire Inter-Board Network and Systems Leadership Group exists to progress this
- NYSCB and CYSCB should consider full audit bi-annually rather than every year. Partners felt that this would be more useful than an annual audit when little changes
- However, agencies should provide an update report to each Board regarding any relevant changes to their safeguarding arrangements and any actions they have taken from the Section 11 audit; CYSCB does this by asking partners to provide regular Assurance Reports to the Board giving details of their safeguarding activity

In 2018 NYSCB and CYSCB will establish a task group to review the Section 11 process and agree an appropriate strategy for reviewing partner's in the future.

## Multi-agency Case File Audits

In 2016/17 the **Partnership Practice Scrutiny and Review Group (PPSRG) – the CYSCB's audit group** - has undertaken a wide and varied range of audit activity. This mixed professional group has a remit to meet on a regular basis to look at the quality of multi-agency working and adherence to safeguarding policy and procedures. It draws on a variety of written material from various agencies from a random selection of cases. The PPSRG also receives updates on single agency inspections and audits to ensure that audit work is not duplicated.

The group met on 6 occasions during 2016-17 and in addition worked on new forward schedule and developed a new, increasingly child focused audit tool. During the year the **themes for audit** were:

- Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) (Domestic Abuse Conferences)
- Recording of safeguarding enquiries between agencies

- Core Groups (Child Protection front line meetings)

Findings from these audits were shared with CYSCB, and partners were asked to disseminate the findings throughout their organisations. Findings were also shared via CYSCB's communication channels.

Relevant agencies were asked for assurance that findings were noted and actions taken.

An outcome of these audits was that actions were taken that include:

- The tightening of recording processes for all partners including police and health colleagues.
- Assurance that actions from multiagency meetings were shared with the relevant agencies and acted upon.
- Themes regarding recording of safeguarding enquiries and actions have been used in multi-agency training workshops.

The PPSRG has produced a comprehensive forward plan centred upon the Board's priorities, inspection activity and responsive to issues highlighted nationally.

CYSCB would like to extend thanks to Margaret Harvey, Service Manager CAF/CASS who chaired PPSRG until she moved to a new area. In August 2016 Lisa Winward, Deputy Chief Constable, North Yorkshire Police took over the role of Chair.

## Reviewing Serious Cases

The Case Review Group (CRG) has met every 2 months throughout 2016/17 in addition to extraordinary meetings to consider whether cases met the criteria for a Serious Case Review (SCR) as set out in Working Together 2015<sup>25</sup>.

There were no cases which merited SCR during 2016-17. One case was considered for an SCR; however it was the recommendation of the CRG that this case did not meet the criteria for either a SCR or a Learning Lessons Review (LLR). This decision was endorsed by CYSCB's Independent Chair and upheld by the National Panel of Independent Experts. This case is now being progressed through an alternative review process to which CYSCB is a party.

During 2016/17, one LLR was completed in regard to a neglect case. The action plan from this LLR has made substantial progress during 2016/17 and is monitored by the CRG. Given the nature of this review, the lessons learned have also been shared with the CYSCB Neglect sub-group. A programme of workshops was delivered in response to the findings of this LLR and findings disseminated via Board members and CYSCB communication channels.

The Case Review Group has also reviewed the action plans of earlier Learning Lessons Reviews from previous years. Among others, actions resulting from reviews during the 2016/17 and previous years include:

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<sup>25</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>

- guidance developed on the assessment of injuries to non-mobile children along with an information guide for parents and carers;
- the development and embedding of the ACHILD mnemonic across York Teaching Hospital;
- over 80% of City of York Housing staff has completing safeguarding children training;
- York Teaching Hospital Foundation Trust's new policy requiring practitioners to record children as '*Was Not Brought*' rather than as '*Did Not Attend*' when they hadn't attended medical appointments. The policy reminds health professionals that children do not 'take themselves' to appointments - they have to be taken by parents or carers - whilst supporting the early identification of non-engagement with services where there may be safeguarding concerns;
- a 'One Minute Guide' on Child Neglect has been developed by the CYSCB Neglect Sub-group giving practitioner basic information about recognising neglect plus links to research;
- and sections of the multi-agency neglect strategy and delivery plan published in 2016 have been informed by learning and recommendations from recent LLRs.

The Case Review Group has also reviewed SCRs from other local authorities and used some of the recommendations from these to check local practice and to inform multi-agency training.

## Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

CYSCB shares the ***Child Death Overview Panel*** (CDOP) with North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board in order to review the death of every child (up to the age of 18 years) in the York and North Yorkshire area to learn any lessons that may help other children and families in the future. The North Yorkshire LSCB administers the CDOP on CYSCB's behalf.

Information on the number of child deaths in York is in Chapter 3 above. Of the deaths reviewed, a small number of cases were found to have modifiable factors. There were more female deaths again this year. The CDOP Coordinator reports that according to Public Health Intelligence, deprivation is a contributing factor in North Yorkshire and York towards child deaths.

During 2016/17:

- Work continued on further developing the CDOP performance framework
- A series of One Minute Guides for professionals were developed regarding the Rapid Response Process and what to expect at an inquest
- renewed regional CDOP Managers Meetings, to ensure regional learning and sharing of best practice is disseminated in North Yorkshire and York
- Arrangements and processes were developed and are being agreed with neighbouring authorities in regard to out of county deaths

- The sudden unexpected infant death (SUDI) boxes were rolled out for use by doctors in hospitals across York and North Yorkshire

**Priorities for 2017/18 are:**

- To continue to champion the effective sharing of information for reviewing child deaths to ensure that learning can be shared.

A full CDOP Annual Report for 2016/17 is available on our website<sup>26</sup>.

As a result of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 the CDOP process transfers the responsibility from the DfE to the Department of Health. It is not yet clear how the York and North Yorkshire process may change. This will be considered towards the end of 2017/18.

## **Dealing with allegations against professionals**

Investigations regarding allegations about professionals working with children or young people are coordinated by the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO). For the majority of 2016/2017 the LADO function was managed on behalf of City of York Council by North Yorkshire County Council as a transition while a new LADO post was established in York following restructure. The permanent City of York LADO was appointed in February 2017 and the full service returned to York. In 2016/17 the LADO reports that the combined databases for North Yorkshire and York recorded the following data for City of York:

- 89 contacts to the service.
- 31 consultations
- 58 referrals for further action.

### ***Category of concern:***

Those contacts which were considered to be allegations were categorised according to the nature of the concern as follows:

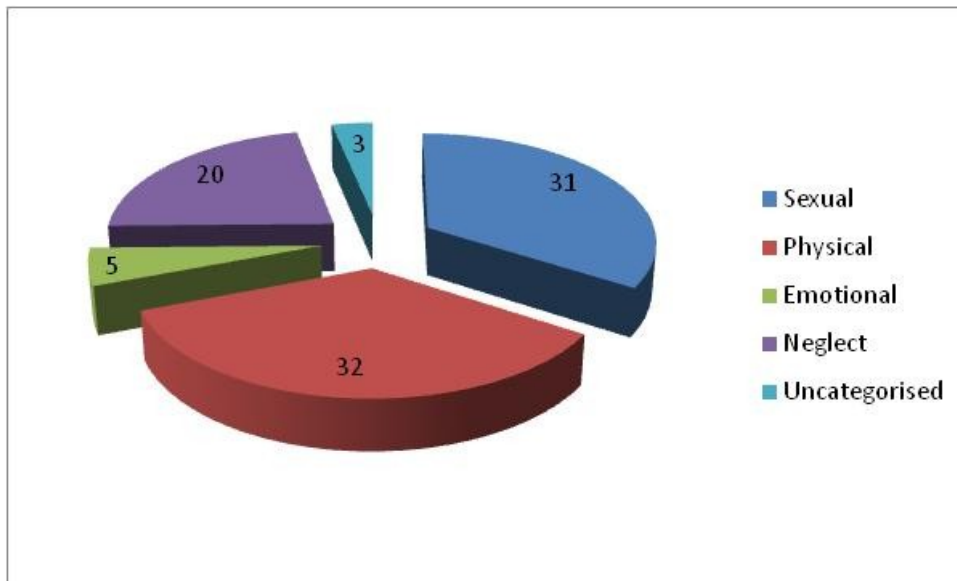
- 32 - physical abuse
- 31 – sexual abuse
- 20 – neglect
- 5 – emotional abuse
- 3 – not categorised.

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<sup>26</sup> <http://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/annual-reports.htm>



Figure 6 Categories of allegations



The allegations spanned several different professions.

***Other relevant information:***

2016/17 showed a substantial rise in LADO consultations and referrals and this reflects a regional trend across Local Authorities in the Yorkshire region. This is believed to be linked to greater awareness of the role of the LADO by employers, professionals and members of the public.

## Chapter 7: Learning and Development

### Multi-Agency Training, Learning and Development arrangements

During 2016/17, CYSCB introduced a new model and approach to multi-agency training and learning as a result of the restructure of the Board.

A dedicated half time Workforce Development Advisor post was created to undertake learning needs analysis work and then commission and evaluate multi-agency training on behalf of the Board. The Workforce Development Advisor sits within the Council's Workforce Development Unit (WDU) and works closely with the Board Unit in delivering the objectives set out in the Service Level Agreement between WDU and CYSCB. Under this new commissioning model, the majority of multi-agency training is commissioned from external training providers, with CYSCB partners delivering some specialist courses.

In October 2016 the Board adopted its Training, Learning and Development Strategy 2016-2019. This strategy provides a framework for safeguarding children learning and development in York, ensuring that people who work with children and their families are appropriately knowledgeable, skilled and competent. It sets out the roles and responsibilities of the Board and the arrangements for training, learning and development including a recommended set of standards for single agency and multi-agency training.

A Learning Needs Analysis for 2016/17 was conducted shortly after the Workforce Development Advisor was in post and new courses commissioned to run alongside existing provision.

#### Delivery of multi-agency training and learning courses

During 2016/17 a range of courses has been delivered on the following topics, which are linked to the Board's priorities:

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An Introduction to MARAC and MAPPA

Domestic Abuse Managing Risk & Supporting Families

Online Safety

Safeguarding Disabled Children

Voice of Fathers and Partners in Assessment

Working Together 1 Day Multi - Agency Safeguarding Children Course

Safeguarding Neglect Event

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## It's Not Ok (NSPCC) Campaign Seminars

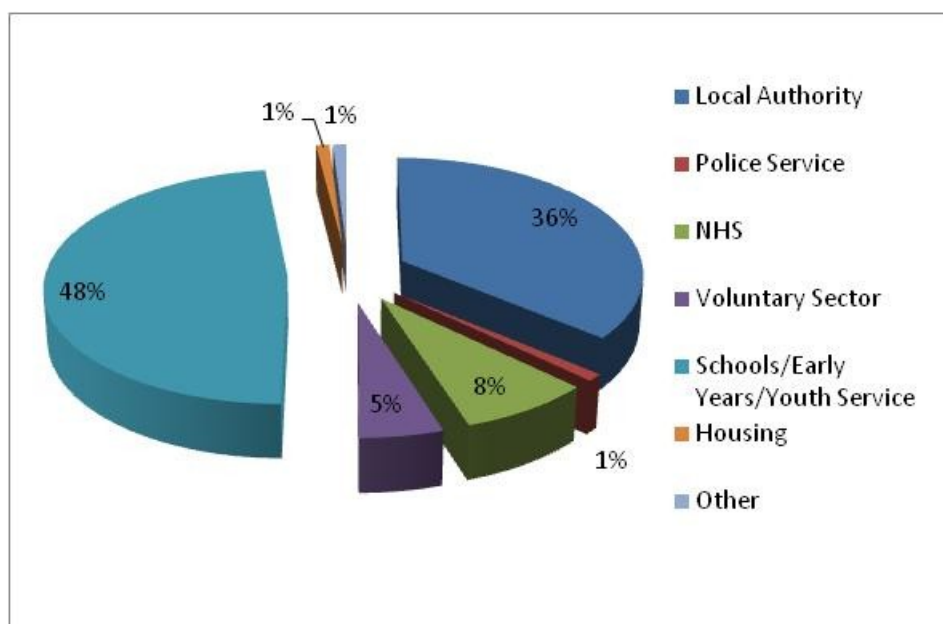
## Working Together ½ day update for Education Designated Leads

In total, there were 627 attendances at 25 courses in the year. All courses commissioned by CYSCB are free of charge to attend. (CYSCB agreed, as part of its Training, Learning and Development Strategy that there would not be a charge for those organisations who cancelled places late or did not show.) Generally training is well attended with on average 75% take up of available places. In 2016/17 there were 129 cancellations and 52 “no shows”. The Board will continue to monitor this information carefully to ensure that training is being attended and valued and that valuable resources are not wasted through non-attendance of participants. No courses were cancelled during the year.

A range of e-learning packages continue to be available via the CYSCB’s website, including the Online Basic Awareness package which CYSCB jointly developed with North Yorkshire LSCB.

In 2016/17 take-up by sector for the last three quarters of the year has been analysed.

**Figure 7 Take-up of CYSCB training by sector**



## Evaluation of training, learning and development

At the end of each course, participants are asked to complete an evaluation form. These results are collated and reviewed by WDU on a regular basis, to ensure continuous improvement of the training delivered.

The average evaluation scores on the following measures are generally good to excellent. Attendees gave average scores of good to excellent on how well courses met the learning

objectives; the quality of learning resources, the presentation style and subject knowledge of presenters. Attendees are asked about how likely they are to change the way they do things as a result of the training. Average scores indicate that attendees are likely, or very likely, to change things as a result of training commissioned by the Board. This information helps to confirm that the Board commissions quality training provision that can make a difference to delegates.

## **Impact of training, learning and development**

Training, learning and development for professionals and practitioners is aimed at improving their skills and ultimately improving outcomes for children and young people. The impact of training on working practices is a key measure of the effectiveness of training and an important aspect to measure as part of the Board's responsibilities under Working Together.

In 2016/17, a short survey has been used to capture examples from course attendees about the impact of training on their working practices 3-6 months after training has taken place. Response rates to the two surveys have been reasonable (16% and 23% respectively) and helpful examples are given. Even where respondents said there had been no impact on their working practices, they often provided reasons that opportunities had not arisen yet or that procedures were already in place. This valuable information will be used to improve future training, learning and development.

Some examples are given below:

- 'More confident in my knowledge'
- 'Luckily the systems were in place already but it was still extremely useful to go on the course. It made me more vigilant and less trusting.'
- 'It has made me much more aware of the long-term impact on young children as a result of neglect. I use this knowledge when talking to other professionals and parents, especially in CPP reviews and core group meetings and as part of my family work with vulnerable parents.'
- 'It has refreshed knowledge and ensured our practice is correct but we have not changed anything. It has, however, made staff more aware of just how many people can be involved in a child's life and our part in that.'
- 'Changed procedure for recruiting and inducting volunteers – better safeguarding checks'
- 'The training helped ensure all statutory documentation was up to date and in place. It also provided a wealth of websites where further information could be accessed'
- 'The procedures I have in place are still correct. The training was extremely valuable in confirming that my procedures are correct and that I need to continue to "tick all the boxes" and haggle people for information when needed, and not to give up.'

- 'I was following all the recommended procedures already it was just a refresher for me.'

### ***Learning Needs Analysis work for 2017/18***

During 2016/17, a Learning Needs Analysis (LNA) for 2017/18 was carried out. As with the LNA carried out for 2016/17, the process involved gathering information from the Board's sub group chairs, meeting with key partners, Section 11 audit returns, Partner Assurance reports, recent research reports, a recent Learning Lesson Review and discussions at both PDSG and Board meetings. This information was assimilated into a costed training plan which was then discussed and approved by the Board. Detailed course specifications were developed for each line on the training plan and then training commissioned either externally or from partners where they could provide specialist expertise and knowledge.

The Board would like to thank partners who contribute to the provision of its successful training programme through staff, venues and resources.

## **Learning and Development in schools**

The School Safeguarding Advisor delivered 26 training sessions during 2016-17. This included whole school training, both to maintained and independent schools in the city.

Updates were delivered to Education Designated Safeguarding Leads every 6 months. These were well attended and the feedback from the sessions was very positive.

The School Safeguarding Advisor also provided safeguarding training for taxi drivers and passenger assistants involved in the children's transport contract, and to other specialist teams who work with schools.

Two Safer Recruitment Training Courses were also run for school governors and staff.

The School Safeguarding Advisor continues to work closely with schools in the city to support them with their safeguarding arrangements and is delivering an ongoing programme of safeguarding reviews.

## Chapter 8: How are we doing as a Board?

### ‘Outstanding’ Ofsted judgement

In November/December 2016 Ofsted undertook a Review on the Effectiveness of the Local Safeguarding Children Board in York (alongside the *Inspection of Services for Children in Need of Help and Protection, Children Looked After and Care Leavers.*) CYSCB was very proud and pleased to be judged as ‘Outstanding’ – only the second Board in the country to receive this judgement.

Just a few of the comments within the Ofsted report<sup>27</sup> were:

- *Membership of the Board is robust, with partners who have sufficient seniority to hold their agencies to account.*
- *The CYSCB is instrumental in shaping service development through its thematic priorities, linking to the work of the sub-groups. The thematic areas for priority are clearly set out in the comprehensive business plan.*
- *The CYSCB has a strong focus on the quality of frontline practice to safeguard children.*
- *Children’s voice is prominent in every aspect of the CYSCB’s work, and scrutiny of the local authority and partnerships.*

While it is gratifying to have been recognised as outstanding, in no way does this mean that CYSCB is complacent or that there is not still work to be done. Ofsted also commented that ‘*The CYSCB has a strong culture of learning*’ and the Board and its partners will continue to promote this.

### Attendance

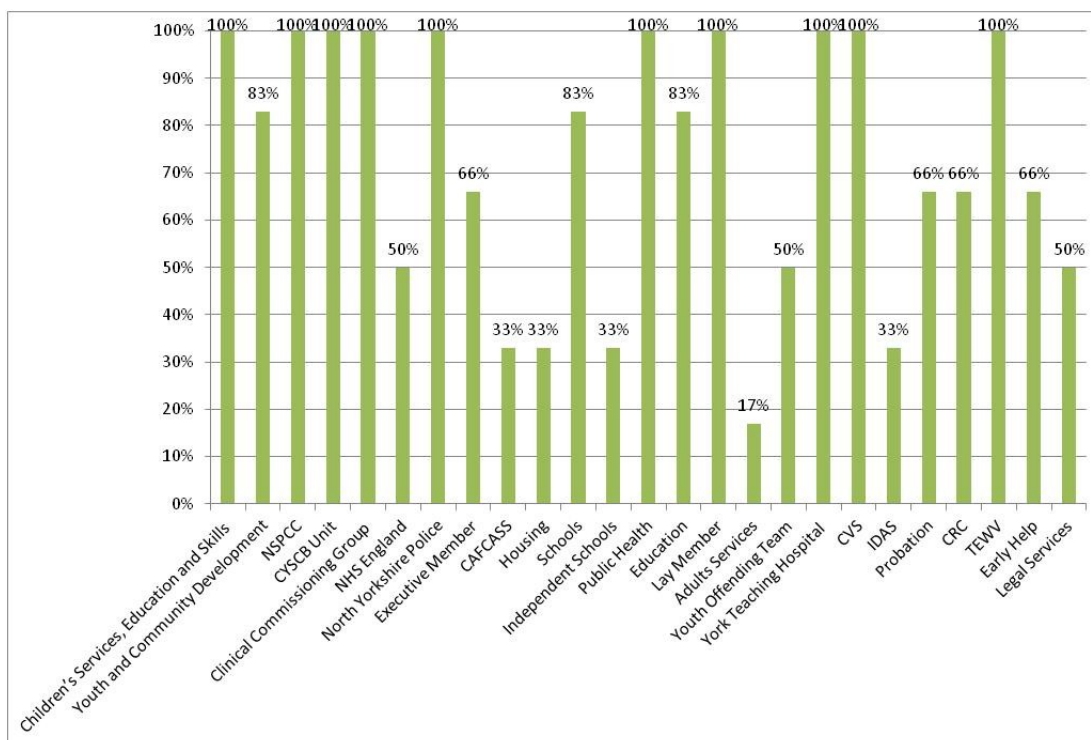
The Ofsted inspection found that: ‘*Attendance is good, membership is stable and there is a very strong commitment from members, including positive involvement of the lay member with close, highly effective working relationships, which ensure that progress is sustained.*’

Throughout 2016/17 the attendance at and commitment to Board meetings has been consistently high. Many partners record 100% attendance and where (in the graph below) some appear to have attended relatively few Board meetings, those partners have received and contributed to the papers and been party to discussions outside Board meetings at sub-groups or via other communications.

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<sup>27</sup> <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/local-authorities/york>

## Attendance at CYSCB meetings 2017/18



## Business Plan

CYSCB works to an agreed *Business Plan* which covers all the priorities and through which runs a focus on 'voice of the child' and safeguarding disabled children.

The strategic aims of the CYSCB Business Plan are to ensure that effective systems in place which:

- Protect children from maltreatment;
- Prevent impairment of children's health or development;
- Ensure that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care;
- And to take action to enable all children to have the best outcomes. (Working Together 2015)

The Business Plan is reviewed at regular intervals and outcomes against each priority and action updated. This is done using information reported by each sub-group to the Priority Delivery Scrutiny and Review Group and to the Board plus other information, for example, from the inter-board protocol arrangements.

The CYSCB *Learning & Improvement Framework*<sup>28</sup> outlines the variety of means by which the Board is able to understand the impact of the work undertaken by partners and whether children in York are safe.

<sup>28</sup> <http://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/cyscb-ways-of-working.htm>



By the end of March 2017, CYSCB had made good progress against all of its priorities as evidenced in this report.

## **Children & Social Work Act 2017**

At the beginning of March 2017, a Board Development Day was held so that Board members had an opportunity to discuss the changes to be brought about by the ***Children & Social Work Act 2017***<sup>29</sup> (The Act received final royal assent in April 2017)

The Children & Social Work Act makes fundamental changes to statutory safeguarding arrangements for children. Part of this the Act abolishes LSCBs in their current form but will replace this with a new statutory framework for local arrangements.

In March 2017 CYSCB had a Development Day at which all Board members had the chance to discuss what was going well and what they would want to take the opportunity, afforded by the new Act, to change. This discussion will continue at Board meetings in 2017 and a full proposal for the shape of a new partnership will be put to Chief Officers for a decision in early 2018 prior to publication of the new arrangements in March 2018.

## **Communications**

CYSCB has taken advantage of the increasing use of social media to reach more people, public and practitioners. Methods of communication now include email, website, electronic newsletter and a new Twitter account.

## **Membership, Finances, Structure etc.**

Details of membership, finances and the structure of the Board can all be found at Appendices [C](#), [D](#) and [E](#)

# **Chapter 9: What we have learnt: the priorities and challenges for next year**

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<sup>29</sup> <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/childrenandsocialwork.html>

As we move into 2017/18 CYSCB will consider making changes to the way the partnership works in response to the Children & Social Work Act and the new statutory guidance due out at the end of 2017. In the meantime, and going forward, the following areas will be important and will each present challenges:

## Maximising capacity and resources

In order to maximise resources and capacity any new arrangements will need to make full use of **partner contributions 'in kind'** to the work of the Board. CYSCB has a strong commitment from partners to the Board and its sub-groups and will want to maintain this, whatever changes are made to the structure of the partnership.

The Inter-Board Protocol will be reviewed, refreshed and developed to ensure full collaboration across partnerships. It may well be that more partnerships are brought into this agreement. This will avoid duplication and maximise the capacity of each partnership to focus on specific priorities whilst working together on cross cutting issues.

In order to maintain the business of the Board (or any new partnership), CYSCB will continue to need a **business unit** which has the capacity to progress the business of the Board and ensure that the partnership functions effectively.

All of the above will require resourcing in terms of a sustainable budget. Current arrangements mean that funding decisions and agreements are made at the Chief Officers Reference and Accountability Group (CORAG). CYSCB, or any new partnership, will continue to need agreements on funding.

## Managing partnership and engagement

CYSCB has already begun to work on what the implications of the Children & Social Work Act are for the partnership. Whilst the Act specifies 3 key partners, namely police, the local authority and 'health' – specifically the Clinical Commissioning Group – CYSCB already been judged 'outstanding' because of the strength of its partnerships. CYSCB intends to maintain the commitment from a wide variety of partners to ensure that safeguarding children in York remains the business of all of those who are working with children, young people, their parents and carers, their wider families and also in the forefront of the thinking of the general public.

Work with our colleagues in services for adults continues to be of importance as children and young people are affected by what happens to the adults in their lives. We will continue to do this via 'cross- Board' collaboration and by understanding what children's and adults' services are doing to work together on issues such as adult mental health, human trafficking, modern slavery, radicalisation among others.

Running through everything that the Board does is how we best listen to children and young people and hear what they want to say about the services they receive, the impact of these services and how they feel about their lives. Whatever form the Board takes in the future, there is commitment to ensuring that the 'voice' of children and young people in York is fundamental to the work of the partnership. CYSCB will encourage partners to look for new

ways to engage *with* children and young people and to engage children and young people *in* service revision and development across the city.

## **Ensuring a focus on vulnerable groups**

The key priorities of the Board remain as important as ever in the focus of the Board on vulnerable children and young people. These priorities have remained as:

- Early Help
- Neglect
- Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation
- Children Missing from Home, Care and Education
- Children Affected by Domestic Abuse

but within each of these the Board has considered a wide variety of issues and learnt about new and upcoming issues as they emerge.

The impact of neglect, for example, has recently been recognised not just as an issue which affects very young children but also one which affects adolescents. The signs and symptoms of adolescent neglect are different from those with which practitioners are traditionally familiar. CYSCB has ensured that practitioners are made aware of these via the Neglect Strategy, the One Minute Guide and in multi-agency training.

Social media and its use and misuse has become increasingly evident during 2016/17. Young people's lives are now affected in different ways in terms not only of the potential of online grooming, but by bullying online or by simply having their lives opened up to the scrutiny of others. CYSCB has included information on this in training and media outputs and continues to learn from national research and guidance.

During 2016 the Board began to seek information about the safeguarding of disabled children as a discrete issue. This is, as research shows, a group who are particularly vulnerable to abuse and neglect and CYSCB is keen to understand what partners' arrangements are for safeguarding this group of children and young people.

CYSCB will continue to keep pace with emerging vulnerabilities such as human trafficking and modern slavery, and to agree with our partners and other strategic boards (including cross border arrangements with other local authorities), how CYSCB can support those taking the lead on these issues. The CYSCB will have a focus on the particular impact on children and young people.

## **Embedding learning and improvement.**

The training delivered in 2016/17 was planned and commissioned in response to a full learning needs analysis carried out with Board partners including sub-group chairs and members. A further learning needs analysis has taken place to plan and commission training

for 2017/18. In addition to training in the priority areas, training in 2017/18 will include issues such as modern slavery and human trafficking, jointly with adult services. Safeguarding disabled children and the 'voice of the child' will run throughout all of the training delivered by CYSCB.

Whilst no Serious Case Reviews were commissioned in 2016/17, CYSCB has learnt from a local Learning Lessons Review and disseminated that learning to practitioners across the spectrum. Via the Case Review Group and PPSRG, CYSCB will continue to learn from local reviews – multi- and single-agency – and to review the recommendations from national SCRs against local practice.

The themed audit work undertaken by PPSRG is planned against CYSCB priorities but the schedule will remain flexible and responsive to emerging themes and issues.

## **Children & Social Work Act 2017**

The most significant challenge for 2017/18 and the following year will be the changes brought about by the Children and Social Work Act 2017. CYSCB awaits the new 'Working Together' guidance to be published later in 2017 for an indication of what local safeguarding arrangements will look like. In the meantime, however, Board members are already reviewing current arrangements and discussing how the new partnership might look. There will be inevitable changes to the case review arrangements and to CDOP. Having had the current arrangements endorsed by the Ofsted judgement, CYSCB will not be making changes simply for changes' sake but sees this as an opportunity to enhance arrangements which are already working well. A proposal on new arrangements will be prepared for Chief Officers and Board members to consider with a view to being ready to publish and to move to new arrangements when the Department for Education requires it.

## Chapter 10: Key messages for readers

### *For children and young people*

- Your ‘voice’ – your wishes and feelings – are important to us. We are encouraging our partners to find new ways of listening to you.
- We ask our partners not just to listen to you but to include your ‘voice’ in developing and improving their services
- We want York to be a safe and happy place for you to grow up in.

### *For the community*

- You may be best placed to know what is happening in your community.
- If you have a concern about a child or a young person, contact the Children’s Front Door (contact details below) with as many details as you can.
- If your concern is about someone being at immediate risk of harm, contact the police.

### *For City of York Safeguarding Children Board partners and organisations*

- Please ensure that the voices of children and young people are informing your service development and improvements.
- Be aware also of ways of listening to children who are pre- or non-verbal and have other ways of communicating.
- Be aware of the statutory functions of a Local Safeguarding Children Board and of the potential changes to arrangements in response to the Children & Social Work Act 2017.
- The Board welcomes your assurance through a variety of means – assurance reports, audits, updates to sub-groups – that your agency is aware of the importance of safeguarding children and young people.
- As a representative on CYSCB you are also representing the frontline practitioners in your organisation. The Board is keen to hear what they have to say.
- Ensure your workforce is able to attend training courses and learning events and to take opportunities to give views and feedback on training development (either single or multi-agency).
- As a representative of your organisation, make sure that you share the responsibility for delivery of the work of the Board.

### *For schools:*

- Be aware of guidance for schools on safeguarding children and alert to any changes or updates.

- Take advantage of the safeguarding training which is on offer to your designated leads and to others.
- Be aware of, and compliant with, safer recruitment processes.

### *For practitioners:*

- Be aware of what your LSCB can do for you: newsletters, website (news, guidance, policy, procedures), regular Twitter feed, training online and face to face.
- Your views are important to CYSCB. Find out who your organisation's representative is on the Board or give feedback via 'contact us' on the CYSCB website. (Membership details at [Appendix C](#) or contact details below.)
- Listen to the voices of children and young people in your assessments and be aware that some of the most vulnerable children – very young, disabled etc. – can be at higher risk of abuse than others but may find it more difficult to communicate.
- Understand that while some issues such as CSE, Modern Slavery, Human Trafficking and FGM seem more prevalent in other areas, they do happen in York.
- However, remember that the 'usual suspects' of domestic abuse, neglect, inter-familial sexual abuse and emotional abuse are still happening.
- Take advantage of the multi-agency safeguarding training which is offered by CYSCB here: <http://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/learning-and-development.htm>

### *For everyone:*

Remember that

***'Safeguarding is everybody's business'***

**If you have safeguarding concerns about any child or young person please act on them; you might be the only one who notices.**

## Contact details for the Board

CYSCB website

<http://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/>

Twitter: @YorkLSCB

CYSCB Chair: Simon Westwood      CYSCB Manager: Juliet Burton

CYSCB, City of York Council,  
West Office, Station Rise,  
York,  
YO1 6GA

<http://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/contact-us.htm>

## How to report concerns about a child or young person

If you have a concern that a child is vulnerable or at risk of significant harm please contact the Children's Front Door:

Phone for advice: **01904 551900**

or, using a referral form:

Email: [childrensfrontdoor@york.gov.uk](mailto:childrensfrontdoor@york.gov.uk)

Post: The Children's Front Door, West Offices, Station Rise, York, YO1 6GA

Out of hours please contact the Emergency Duty team on: 01609 780780

More information and a referral form are available at:

<http://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/concerned-about-a-child-or-young-person.htm>

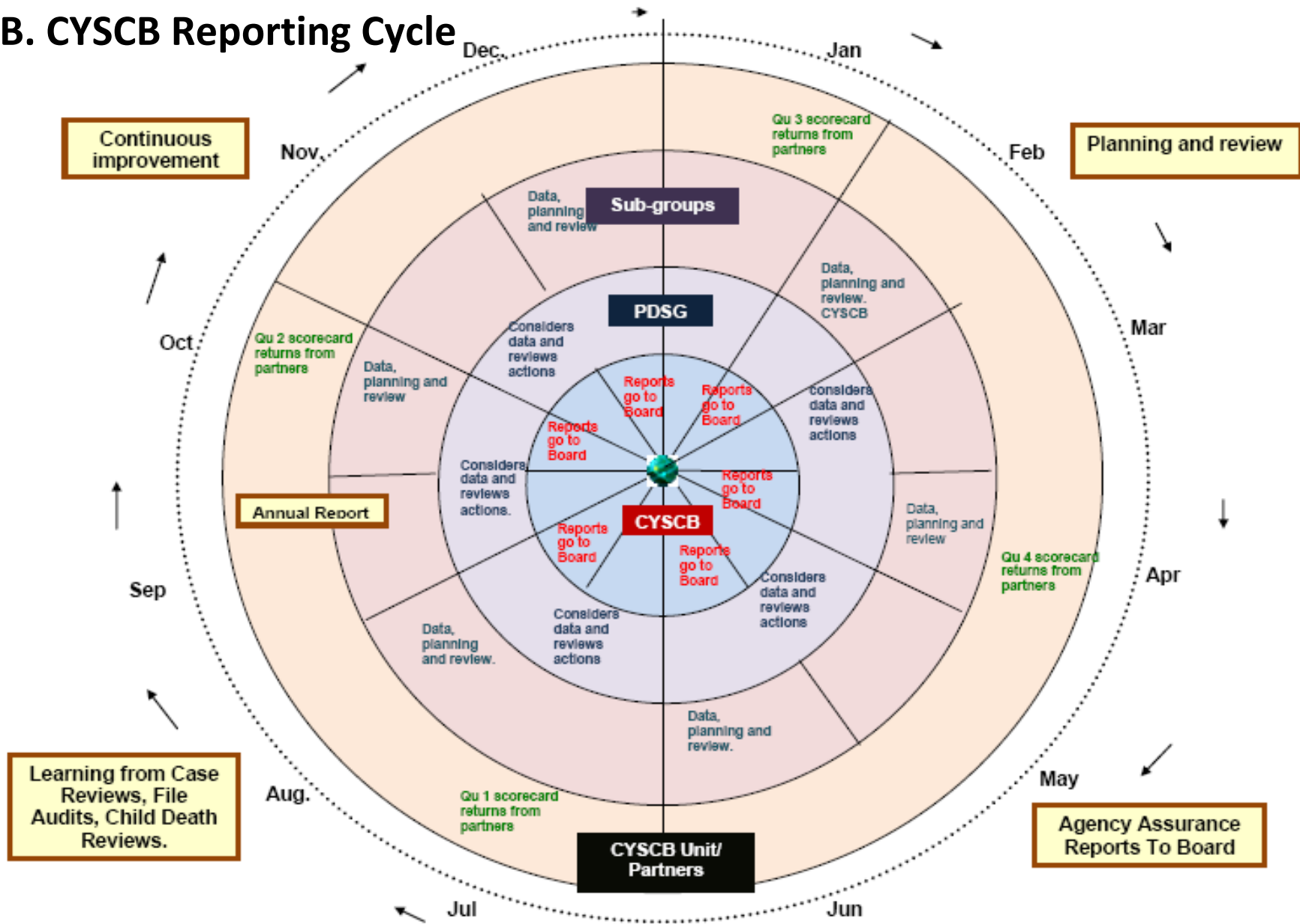


## Appendix A. Illustrative Scorecard

CYSCB has a scorecard for each priority sub-group. This is just an example of some of the data from these and from the overall Board scorecard. (CYSCB only ever has the numbers and percentages; it never has the individual names.)

CYSCB Priority	Example of Performance Indicator
Early Help	Percentage of cases not meeting CSC threshold, signposted for early help (with consent)
Neglect	Percentage of Children's Social Care Single Assessments in which neglect identified as a factor
	Rate (per 10,000 population) of hospital inpatient admissions caused by unintentional or deliberate injuries to children 0-19 (inclusive)
Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation	Percentage of all Child Protection listings which are under category of sexual abuse
	Number of young people from York identified by North Yorkshire Police as at risk of CSE
Missing from Home, Care or Education	Number of episodes of Missing from Home or Care recorded by Children's Social Care
	Number of children reported as Children Missing Education (CME)
Domestic Abuse	Percentage of incidents of Domestic Abuse recorded by the police in which children were present.
	Number of children provided with one-to-one support by the Independent Domestic Abuse Service.
Safeguarding Children with Disabilities	Percentage of referrals to children's social care going on to assessment where the child has a disability
	Number of children with a disability subject to a Child Protection Plan

Appendix B. CYSCB Reporting Cycle



## Appendix C. Members of City of York Safeguarding Children Board (31 March 2017)

### Independent Chair

Name	Title	Organisation
Simon Westwood	Independent Chair City of York Safeguarding Children Board	City of York Safeguarding Children Board

### Health

Name	Title	Organisation
John Pattinson	Deputy Director of Nursing	NHS England, North Yorkshire and Humber Area Team
Michelle Carrington	Chief Nurse	NHS Vale of York CCG
Bev Geary	Chief Nurse – represented by Sue Roughton	York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Karen Hedgley	Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children	North Yorkshire & York CCG
Sue Roughton	Head of Safeguarding (Children & Adults) <i>representing Chief Nurse Bev Geary</i>	York Teaching Hospitals Foundation Trust
Simon Berriman (not attending – information only)	Liaison officer	North Yorkshire Local Medical Committee
Sarah Snowden	Designated Doctor for Safeguarding Children	North Yorkshire & York CCG
Karen Agar	Directorate of Nursing and Governance, Tees Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust	TEWV

### LA Public Health

Name	Title	Organisation
Jayne Andrews	Nurse Consultant in Public Health	City of York Council Public Health

## Education

Name	Title	Organisation
Lorna Savage	Secondary School Head Teacher	Secondary Schools
Zoe Lightfoot	Primary School Head Teacher	Primary Schools
Tricia Head	Pupil Referral Unit Head Teacher	Danesgate School
Matthew Grant	Designated Safeguarding Lead	St Peter's School

## LA Children and Young People Services

Name	Title	Organisation
Jon Stonehouse	Director of Children's Services, Education and Skills	City of York Council, Children's Social Care
Eoin Rush	Assistant Director Children's Services, Education and Skills	City of York Council, Children's Social Care
Dot Evans	Head of Service (Operations)	City of York Council Children's Social Care
Alan Hodgson	Early Help Group Chair	City of York Council, Youth Services and CTU
Niall McVicar	Head of Early Help	CYC

## LA Housing Services

Name	Title	Organisation
Tom Brittain	Head of Housing Services	City of York Council, Housing Services

## LA Adults Services

Name	Title	Organisation
Kyra Ayre	Head of Safeguarding Adult Social Care	City of York Council
Martin Farran	Director of Adult Social Care	CYC

## Safeguarding Adults' Board

Name	Title	Organisation
Kevin McAleese	Independent Chair	Adults Safeguarding Board

## National Probation Service & Community Rehabilitation Service

Name	Title	Organisation
Louise Johnson	Area Manager (Public Protection)	York & North Yorkshire Probation Trust
Vikki O'Brien	LDU Director	Humberstone, Lincolnshire and North Yorkshire CRC Ltd

## North Yorkshire Police

Name	Title	Organisation
Lisa Winward	Assistant Chief Constable	North Yorkshire Police
Nigel Costello	Detective Chief Superintendent	North Yorkshire Police

## Prison Services

Name	Title	Organisation
Paul Simpson	Head of Offender Management, Safer Prisons and Quality	HMP Askham Grange

## Cafcass

Name	Title	Organisation
Kim McDonnell	Service Manager	CAFCASS

## Lay Member

Name	Title	Organisation
Barry Thomas	Lay person	

## Voluntary Sector

Name	Title	Organisation
Sarah Armstrong	Chief Executive	York CVS
Debra Radford	Children's Service Manager	NSPCC
Sarah Hill	Director, IDAS	Independent Domestic Abuse Service

## Yorkshire Ambulance Services

Name	Title	Organisation
No designated individual (represented by Karen Hedgley)		Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS

## Local Authority Legal Services

Name	Title	Organisation
Melanie Perara	Deputy Head of Legal Services	City of York Council

## Local Authority Communications

Name	Title	Organisation
Megan Rule	Communications Officer	City or York Council

## CYSCB Officers

Name	Title	Organisation
Juliet Burton	CYSCB Business and Performance Manager	CYSCB
Caroline Williamson	Safeguarding Advisor Education	CYSCB

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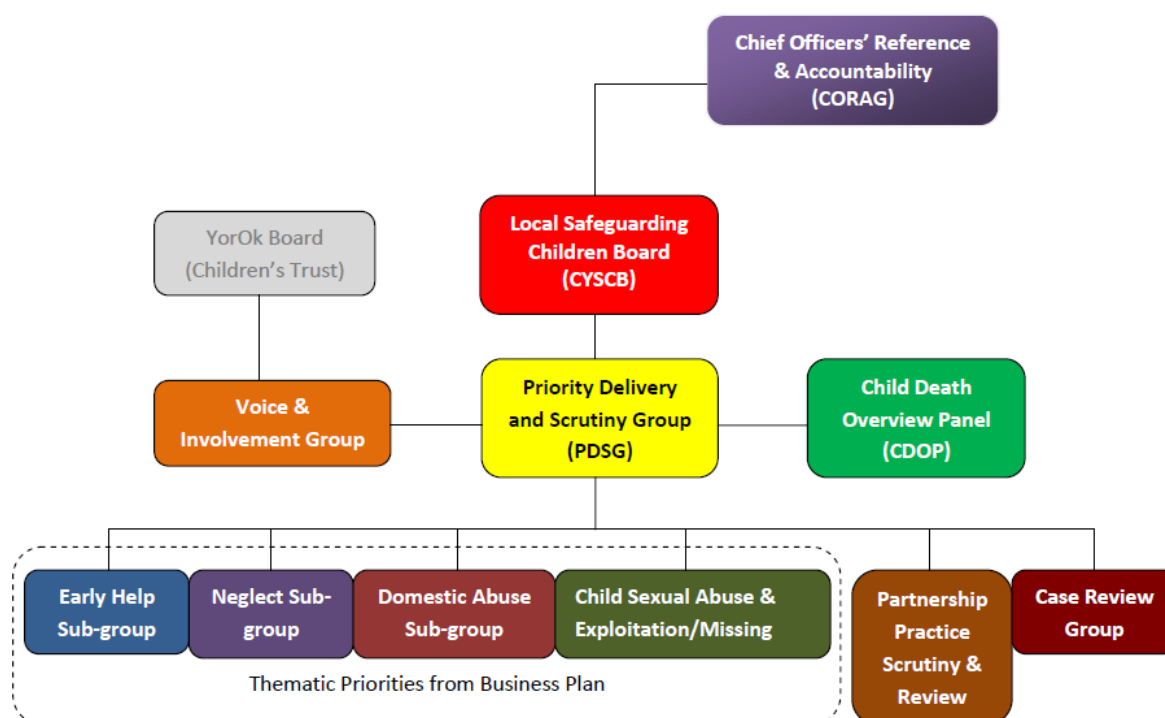
Anna Wynne	Performance & Governance Officer	CYSCB
Laura Davis	Workforce Development Advisor (Safeguarding)	CYSCB
Marie Pearson	Business Support Officer	CYSCB

**Elected Member Participant Observer**

Name	Title	Organisation
CLlr Stuart Rawlings	Cabinet Member, Education, Children & Young People	City of York Council



## Appendix D. The Board and sub-group structure



### CORAG

Chief Officers from all agencies in York take their responsibilities equally seriously and following a request from the Independent Chair they established a unique mechanism – the Chief Officers' Reference and Advisory Group (CORAG) - to maintain focus and progress. CORAG meets regularly, and includes the senior officers from the Council, the Police, Health partners, and the Independent Safeguarding Board Chairs. Its purpose is not in any way to replace the statutory functions of the LSCB; rather, CORAG serves to ensure that the LSCB can at all times maintain a clear focus on keeping children safe, by swiftly removing any blockages to progress. Its existence offers a powerful demonstration to all staff across all agencies in York that there is no higher priority for any of the agencies than safeguarding children.

### Sub-groups

The change of the board structure in April 2015 to one more driven by priorities means performance reporting is more closely aligned to the priorities set by the Board and relayed in the Annual Report. Currently these priorities are:

- Early help
- Neglect

- Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation
- Children Missing from Home, Care and Education
- Domestic Abuse

Four sub-groups focus specifically on those 5 priorities:

- **Early Help group** – reports to both the CYSCB and YorOk (Children’s Trust) Board.
- **Neglect Sub-group**
- **Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation/Missing from Home and Care sub group** (one Sub-group looking at both priorities in terms of vulnerability and exploitation.)
- **Domestic Abuse Sub-group**

These sub-groups may be task focused and time limited depending on the scale of the need and the level of challenge required.

Four of the sub-groups are ongoing and carry out the business of the Board:

- **Voice and Involvement** – looks at the voice of children and young people throughout the whole spectrum of intervention and across all agencies. It seeks to hear and to enhance the input of children and young people into service delivery and planning. The Sub-group reports both to CYSCB and to the YorOk (Children’s Trust) Board
- **Partnership Practice Scrutiny and Review** – carries out the auditing of case file material on the Board’s behalf. Auditing is based around themes identified by the group itself or in response to other case reviews or local and national priorities.
- **Case Review Group** – considers cases referred for review – Serious Case Review or other form of review – and refers decisions and recommendations to the Independent Chair and the National Panel of Experts. This group also reviews and challenges action plans in response to case reviews – either single- or multi-agency.
- **Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)** – co-ordinated on CYSCB’s behalf by North Yorkshire LSCB. Cross border scrutiny and analysis of all child deaths and reports and data are also disaggregated and analysed for York.

The final sub-group, the **Priority Delivery Scrutiny and Review Group** serves as the co-ordinating body for the Board. This Sub-group monitors and analyses the performance and quality of interagency safeguarding practice, of learning activities and progress against priorities.

## Appendix E. The Board's Finances

### Budget

Expenditure (£)	2016-17	Income (£)	2016-17
		Balance B/fwd	-£53,118
Staffing	£143,086	CYC Children's Services	£66,738
Training Budget	£15,000	Vale of York CCG	£69,436
Information/Miscellaneous	£6,781	Police: North Yorkshire Police	£25,680
Recharges	£18,840	CYC Education and Skills	£2,000
Child Death Review Grant	£12,000	NPS North Yorkshire and CRC	£2,250
Serious Case Reviews	0	Schools	£50,000
Independent Chair	£21,109	CAFCASS	£550
		Others	0
		Child Death Review Grant	£12,000
		Serious Case Review	0
	£201,816		£225,954
Balance C/fwd		C/fwd	-28,980
	£201,816		

The year-end budget shows a small in-year surplus of £24,138, significantly reducing the overall deficit to £28,980 (from £53,118 the previous year.)

The CORAG group has discussed current and future funding arrangements, and will agree the future budgets each year. It has previously been agreed that any funding required for Serious Case Reviews will be met via contributing agencies as the need arises, most probably through contingency funds.