

Simon Westwood – Independent Chair - York Safeguarding Children Board

Comments and suggested additions for the HWBB Strategy Refresh

1. Foreword needs updating to make specific reference to safeguarding as a key element of health and wellbeing and to reflect and acknowledge Early Help (this is mentioned as a bullet on p 5 but should be in foreword as well) and new statutory guidance Working Together 2013.
2. Diagram on p5 should include a circle to represent national safeguarding guidance
3. JSNA needs updating to include statistical estimates of prevalence of neglect and those at risk of sexual exploitation (that could also include vulnerable adults)
4. The body of the report should reference the priorities of the safeguarding board as set out in the annual report.
Below are suggestions for this

Neglect could be added to reducing health inequalities section – e.g. Identify a range of indicators to identify the prevalence of neglect in York and to measure progress in tackling this.

Domestic Abuse could be added as a cross cutting theme for action: e.g.

To further develop services within the city to effect cultural change in relation to domestic abuse and create a centre of excellence. Develop an implementation plan to deliver the strategic aims and objectives contained within the York and North Yorkshire Domestic Abuse Strategy. Develop a commissioning process underpinned by a strategic needs assessment for the commissioning of domestic abuse services in the city. There should also be reference to working with the Police and Crime commissioner (PCC) in commissioning for victim support services.

Section 4 should make specific reference to the CYSCB e.g.
“Annually consider and update plans to respond to challenges set out in the Annual report of the Safeguarding Children Board”

Early Help wording could be amended to reflect annual report e.g.
“making sure problems are identified early and that families are provided with the right help at the right time”

Missing Children could be added to section 4 e.g. “Children who go missing are vulnerable to abuse and being exploited. Continue to educate children about the dangers of going missing. Develop across all sectors a coordinated, interagency approach and strategy to tackle this.

Child Sexual Abuse this could be added to section 4 – e.g. HWBB will contribute to work to establish a better understanding of the known prevalence and nature of child sexual abuse and exploitation and support effective interventions to tackle this

5. P6 finance needs to give an updated position on the CCG and council financial position and forecast for future
6. P 7 Should explicitly reference engagement with children and young people as part of long term citizen engagement
7. P8 Priority 4 should be amended to end with “ and keep them safe”
8. In the section “Delivering and Monitoring the Strategy” reference should be made to the CYSCB and its role in seeking assurance from the HWBB via YorOK on progress in Early Help and refer to the joint protocol.
9. P9 Principles should also include: “ Do all we can to create a safe environment for all the children of York to grow up in safety and to always feel safe”
10. Action P 11 should have an action linked to the joint protocol e.g. “the HWBB, Safeguarding Children Board and YorOk Board will promote joint working and co-operation between partners to

improve the wellbeing of children and young people in the City of York”

11. P 30 third bullet should make specific reference to reduction of self-harm as a priority
12. P 33 Integrated commissioning should also refer to services for children with specific reference to changes in school nursing and health visiting
13. Lastly the reference list should include the Annual Report of the Safeguarding Children Board.