



Title: CYSCP Update to Scrutiny

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Confidential Yes/No: No

Introduction

1. Over the past 6 months, the City of York Safeguarding Children Partnership (CYSCP) has continued to operate under the new model of governance implemented following the publication of new Statutory Guidance, *Working Together 2018*.
2. This brief update highlights some significant pieces of work, as well as providing an update on Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) and the rise in reporting of child sex offences.

A review of the partnership

3. It is now over a year since we adopted our new ways of working to become a Safeguarding Partnership as outlined in *Working Together 2018*. Whilst there has been lots of continuity to what we do, there have also been some changes to our processes over this time.
4. In the autumn, two members of the support unit, which administers the partnership, retired. Temporary staffing arrangements have been in place since.
5. The three statutory safeguarding partners, City of York Council, Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group and North Yorkshire Police, decided that it would be a sensible time to consider, as we regularly should, whether our arrangements are delivering

everything which was anticipated and if, as a partnership, we are successfully making our safeguarding systems better.

6. In December, the three statutory safeguarding partners met to discuss views on where we've got to and where we want to head next as a partnership. The primary focus for all partners was around how we can be sure that the learning from the work we do has an impact on improving front line practice.
7. It was agreed that, in order to assess the impact the board is having, we should seek some independent review of our arrangements. Maggie Atkinson, former Children's Commissioner for England and current Independent Chair and advisor to North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership, has been commissioned to review arrangements and advise on potential next steps to further enhance the impact of the board.
8. Maggie is currently having conversations and gathering feedback from a full range of stakeholders. She will report back to the next partnership meeting on 8 April.
9. Alongside this, Simon Westwood's tenure as board chair will also come to an end in March, following 6 years overseeing the board/partnership. The partnership is extremely grateful to Simon for his commitment and impact over the past 5 years. It is worth reflecting that during this time, we have completely revised our governance arrangements twice, had nationally acclaimed programmes of work and been judged Outstanding by Ofsted.
10. Decisions on the chairing and independent advice to the board will be made following the review, to lead us through the next stage in the Partnership's development. During this time, the senior representatives of the three statutory partners will chair any partnership meetings and act as chair for the purposes of our processes.
11. The future support arrangements will also be determined following the review to ensure they align with future ways of working.
12. The latest CYSCP newsletter is attached as Annex A to give a wider perspective of activities underway.

Other key updates

13. This committee has requested an update on Harmful Sexual Behaviour and the rise in reporting of child sex offences.

Harmful Sexual Behaviour

14. Following a lessons learned review in 2018, the partnership has been focusing on different aspects of harmful sexual behaviour, including the challenges of recognising it for young people with SEND. To assess and build upon the knowledge of professionals around this area, the partnership has been working with NSPCC to carry out a Harmful Sexual Behaviour audit. This takes a multi-agency approach to determine the strengths and weaknesses in response to Harmful Sexual Behaviour.
15. The HSB audit feedback session is scheduled for 6 April, following which the partnership will need to develop a strategy in order to respond to the findings.
16. York Youth Justice Service have created a Harmful Sexual Behaviour service their team. They have seen an increase in reports, but this is thought to be as a result of them now working with young people that are not yet convicted. They attend Children's Social Care strategy meetings for young people with reported concerning behaviour and can conduct an AIM 3 assessment. Previously they could not conduct an assessment unless the young person had a conviction.

Child Sex Offences

17. During the last 12 months there were about 370 sexual offences recorded in the City of York, which includes adult and children victims.
18. From discussions with the Police, this is largely thought to relate to improved recording of offences. This has been driven by improved crime recording by the Police as they have developed Crime Data Integrity, the development of which was recognised in a recent inspection when the force was graded as "Good" by the HMICFRS.
19. The manner in which all professionals attend and support victims results in public confidence and consequently more disclosures and reporting. Development of multi-agency meetings such as

MACEM (Multi-Agency Child Exploitation Meeting) further shines a light on this issue, which should drive further awareness and confidence.

20. A rise of reporting does not always mean an increase of offending (which would be the case in offences such as burglary etc.) Due to the nature of sexual offending and Domestic Abuse, a rise in child sex offences reported is not necessarily a negative indicator, as it means that more children are being supported and perpetrators identified. It can be we are identifying levels which have previously been unidentified due to under reporting.

Annex A: The latest CYSCP newsletter

Abbreviations:

AIM – Assessment, Intervention, Moving on

CYSCP - City of York Safeguarding Children Partnership

HMICFRS - Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services

HSB - Harmful Sexual Behaviour

MACEM - Multi-Agency Child Exploitation Meeting

SEND – Special Educational needs and disability