

Executive

16 March 2017

Report of the Independent Chair of the City of York Safeguarding Children Board (Portfolio of the Executive Member for Education, Children & Young People)

2015/16 Annual Report of the Independent Chair - City of York Safeguarding Children Board (CYSCB)

Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to present the CYSCB Annual Report 2015/16.

Recommendations

2. Members are asked to receive the Annual Report of the Independent Chair of the City of York Safeguarding Children Board (CYSCB).

Reason: For members to have the opportunity to reflect on the key messages and priorities when considering plans.

Background

3. The Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Children Board is required by statutory guidance to publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area. The report should be submitted to the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, the local Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
4. The City of York Safeguarding Children Board has the statutory objective set out in Section 14 of the Children Act 2004 *to coordinate* what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area; and *to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes*

5. To provide effective scrutiny, the CYSCB should be independent. It should not be subordinate to, nor subsumed within, other local structures.
6. This annual report of the City of York Safeguarding Children Board (CYSCB) covers the year ending 31 March 2016.
7. The work of the Board is driven by its vision:
“For all the children of York to grow up in safety and to always feel safe”
8. The last two years have been characterised by continuous improvement and steady forward progress, coupled with growing partnership involvement, purpose, and respect. Consequently, the Board is able confidently to set its priorities for action in 2016 and beyond.
9. Within this Annual Report we have set out the achievements made during 2015/16 but also identified the improvements that we must continue to address.

Current National Issues

Proposed Government changes to safeguarding arrangements in the Children and Social Work Act 2016

10. These changes are contained within Chapter 2 of the Children and Social Work Bill.
11. The primary change is a proposal to abolish LSCBs (Local Safeguarding Children’s Boards) in their current form; however, there will still be a statutory framework for local safeguarding arrangements as set out below:
12. While the Board is confident that safeguarding arrangements in York are robust, they can always be further strengthened. The challenge will be to maintain the progress of the last three years, at a time of unprecedented pressures on public finances, and through a period of national policy changes (including to the focus and remit of safeguarding boards) without losing sight of what matters most: the safety and wellbeing of children in York.

Consultation

13. In the process of compiling the CYSCB Annual Report all CYSCB partners were consulted and key partners contributed to the content of the report. The 'voices', wishes and feelings of children and young people in York were also included in the content.

Options

14. n/a

Analysis

15. n/a

Council Plan

16. The CYSCB Annual Report most closely relates to these sections of the Council Plan 2015-19:
- A Prosperous City for All:
A city where:
 - everyone is supported to achieve their full potential
 - A Focus on Frontline Services:
A city where:
 - all York's residents live and thrive in a city which allows them to contribute fully to their communities and neighbourhoods
 - delivering frontline services for residents is the priority
 - all children and adults are listened to, and their opinions considered
 - everyone has access to opportunities regardless of their background
 - support services are available to those who need them
 - every child has the opportunity to get the best possible start in life
 - residents are encouraged and supported to live healthily
 - residents are protected from harm, with a low risk of crime

Implications

Financial

17. An agreement is in place for the budget for 2017/18. Costs for any serious case reviews undertaken are not factored into the core budget and will therefore be allocated to funders on the same proportion as core funding.

Other Implications

18. There are no Human Resources, Equalities, Legal, Crime & Disorder, Information, or Property implications arising from this report.

Risk Management

19. Any national proposals emerging from the national review of Local Safeguarding Children Boards and consequent changes made in the Children & Social Work Bill 2016 may impact on Board partner commitment and require further review of the structure, priorities and work of the Board during the 2017.

Contact Details

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	Report approved	✓	Date 01.03.17
Specialist Implications Officer(s)			
Wards Affected:	All	✓	
For further information please contact the author of the report			

Background Papers:

None

Annexes

Annex 1: CYSCB Annual Report 2015/16 Executive Summary

Annex 2: CYSCB Full Annual Report 2015/16 (available online)