



City of York
Safeguarding Children Board



Executive Summary of Annual Report 2017/18

About this Document

This document is a short summary of the 2017-18 Annual Report for the City of York Safeguarding Children Board. The full report, with additional supporting information as appendices, is available on the Safeguarding Children Board website at:
<http://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/annual-reports-and-business-plan.htm>

Foreword by the Chair

This is the final year that we will publish an Annual Report as the City of York Safeguarding Children Board (CYSCB). Next year, in accordance with the new Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, there will be a report as the new City of York Safeguarding Children Partnership. I am proud to have been the Independent Chair since 2013 and that the CYSCB was judged outstanding by Ofsted during that time. This year we have continued to sustain improvements in safeguarding children through effective partnership working and I want to commend all members of the Board for their continued support in prioritising safeguarding children in the work of their agencies.



A key purpose of the report is to assess the impact of the work undertaken in 2017-18 on safeguarding outcomes for children and young people in York. Some highlights are:

- Every child reported to Children's Social Care as missing was found
- An increasing number of cases were signposted for early help. This is a positive move towards ensuring that no child slips through the net
- Children's Social Care report that social workers have an average of 15.3 cases which is lower than the England average of 17.8
- The number of children subject to child protection plans and looked after is relatively stable
- Workshops on neglect have been delivered across agencies to reflect the lessons learned from a case review in 2017
- The vulnerability of disabled children to abuse has been well recognised and in multi-agency training on this, we have ensured that awareness of the vulnerabilities of this group of children is explicit.

We can never eliminate risk entirely. We need to be as confident as we can be that every child is supported to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. The Board is assured that, whilst there are areas for improvement, agencies are working well together to safeguard children in York.

A handwritten signature in purple ink, which appears to read 'S Westwood', written over a white oval background.

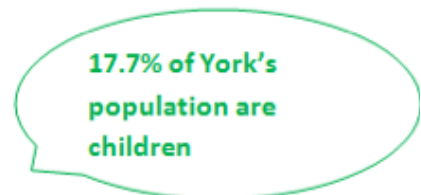
**Simon Westwood, Independent Chair,
City of York Safeguarding Children Board**

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



Some facts and figures

The City of York continues to be a relatively prosperous city with a changing population which is recorded as 208,367² of which 36,705 are children and young people.



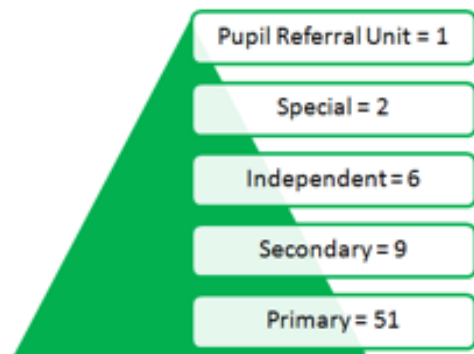
What children and young people have told us

The Schools' 'Voice' Events

During 2017 Primary and Secondary School 'Voice' events took place. The children and young people made some very pertinent points such what could be done about mental health issues, litter, road safety and increased positive interactions with older people.

Make your Mark

York Youth Council had another busy year. 'Make Your Mark' proved successful with winning campaigns in York featuring Curriculum for life, Mental health and Transport.



² <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/>



Performance Data

The Children's Front Door (CSC) received 5468 enquiries during the year. Of these 1095 (20%) met the threshold for a Children's Social Care assessment and intervention. An increasing number were signposted for early help this year. This is positive move towards ensuring that no child slips through the net. Neglect is still the most prevalent category for child protection plans followed by Emotional Abuse, Sexual Abuse and Physical Abuse.

How we are doing as a Partnership

Neglect: A 'One Minute Guide' to Child and Adolescent Neglect was published including information and links to research. Following on from this a new Neglect Screening Tool for use by all practitioners will be published in June 2018.

Domestic Abuse: Feedback from Operation Encompass indicates that both children and parents who experience domestic abuse in the home are able to seek support through contact with school staff as a result of the notification process that is in place.

Partnership: CYSCB has continued to work closely with other strategic Boards, the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB), the Children's Trust (YorOk) Board, the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) and the Safer York Partnership (SYP) under the auspices of the City of York Inter-Board Protocol.

Formal audits and Reviews

Voluntary Sector Audit

The key messages from the 2018 Voluntary Sector Audit were:

- Ensuring that the voice of children and young people and adults at risk is heard throughout the organisation.
- Having key contact information e.g. designated person and where to report concerns on display (or easily accessible) to all workers, volunteers, trustees, management committee members and directors.

Case Review Outcomes for York

- Findings from the local Learning Lessons Review have been embedded in multi-agency 'Neglect' training.
- The use of the Graded Care Profile (assessment of neglect) has been extended to include early help practitioners in the Local Area Teams.
- The 'Was Not Brought' policy ('Was Not Brought' recorded for children who have not attended medical appointments rather than as 'Did Not Attend' as children do not take themselves to appointments) has been rolled out from York Hospital staff to include the Healthy Child Service and GP records too.

Outcomes from Case Audits in 2017/18

- The CYSCB/NSPCC "It's Not Ok" CSA and CSE campaign which took place in 2016-17 has been fundamental with children now being able to spot the signs and seek help.
- Checks are made to ensure that information is on police systems for children flagged on child protection plans.
- Training and awareness for adult safeguarding and mental health service workers on the effects of parental mental ill health on children have been highlighted and disseminated through our colleagues in the Safeguarding Adults Board.
- The York Hospital Safeguarding Team now receives information on every child who attends the Emergency Department for whom there is a safeguarding concern.

Learning and Development

In September 2017, CYSCB re-launched its Online Basic Safeguarding Awareness course updating the content to be York specific. This opportunity provided the Board with detailed data on volumes of users and their sectors.

In total, there were 745 attendances at 36 face to face courses in the year including Safeguarding Disabled Children, Understanding Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation, and Awareness of Neglect in Children and Young People.





Impact of training

Practitioners who took safeguarding courses reported that as a result:

- More positive outcomes were secured for children, by working closely with another organisation and sharing information.
- A referral to Children’s Social Care was more likely to reach the intervention threshold, which the practitioner felt was due to training which improved their ability to articulate the information in the referral form.

The School Safeguarding Advisor has delivered 25 training inputs to schools during 2017-18, ranging from full day sessions to twilight sessions in individual schools. She has also provided training for the drivers and staff of the taxi and bus companies holding contracts for school transport.

Priorities and challenges for next year

The new City of York Safeguarding Children Partnership (CYSCP)

CYSCB is well ahead with planning for the transition and the proposal for the new arrangements as a result of new government guidance Working Together 2018³. The new model makes some changes to the overall structure of the Board but in principle recognises the strength of the

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>

current functioning of the Board which was endorsed by Ofsted, via inspection, as 'Outstanding'. As we enter 2018-19, CYSCB has learnt that it has been successful in a bid to become 'early adopters' of the new safeguarding partnership model. As one of the 17 areas in the country which were awarded the funding, the safeguarding partnership in York will focus on enhancing an already strong relationship with schools and colleges producing clear learning which can be shared across other areas.

Attendance at Board meetings remains consistently high along with the commitment of all Board members.

Focus on vulnerable groups

The last year has highlighted some of the issues regarding the impact of parental mental ill health on children and young people. This is something which CYSCB will be following up with our colleagues in adults' services and via the Inter-Board Protocol.

The vulnerability of disabled children to abuse has been well recognised and in addition to specific training on this, CYSCB has ensured that awareness of the vulnerabilities of this group of children is explicit throughout all multi-agency safeguarding training.

CYSCB will continue to work with the Safer York Partnership and the York & North Yorkshire Joint Commissioning Group to ensure that the needs of, and services for, children impacted by domestic abuse form part of every strategy and action plan.

Nationally there is increasing awareness of modern slavery, trafficking and 'County Lines' issues (gangs criminally exploiting children and vulnerable people to move drugs and money). CYSCB is working with partners across the city and county to raise awareness of these issues.





Key messages for readers

For children and young people

- We constantly look for new ways to keep your views (your 'voice') at the centre of what we do.
- Your safety and happiness is our focus.

For the community

- We believe that you are 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 a child or young person at immediate risk of harm, contact the police.

For City of York Safeguarding Children Board partners and organisations

- The 'voice' of children and young people should inform your service development and improvements.
- Keep looking for new ways of listening to children and young people, including pre- or non-verbal children, and consider other ways of communicating.
- Make sure you keep up-to-date with the changes in guidance and arrangements for child safeguarding set out in the Children & Social Work Act 2017.
- Continue to provide assurance to the Board of your organisation's commitment to safeguarding children and young people.

- CYSCB is always eager to know the views of your front line practitioners.
- Multi-agency training is a vital part of the Board's remit and is consistently well-attended by partners. Please continue to ensure your staff take an active part in training and feed back their views.
- The work of the Board in safeguarding the children and young people of York is the responsibility of all partners and should be shared equally among them.

For schools

- Look out for new schools guidance on safeguarding children and young people, in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018⁴, including safer recruitment processes, and make sure you are implementing them.
- There is a comprehensive range of training commissioned by the Board please make sure to take advantage of this.

For practitioners

- The voices of children and young people should be paramount in your assessments and be aware that some of the most vulnerable children eg very young, disabled etc can be at higher risk of abuse but may find it more difficult to communicate.
- Keep in mind the range of support and information that your LSCB provides eg newsletters, website including news, guidance, policy, procedures, regular Twitter feed, training online and face-to-face.
- Remember that your views are important to the Board. Find out who your organisation's representative is on the Board or give feedback via 'Contact Us' on the CYSCB website.



⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>

- Understand that while some issues such as CSE, Modern Slavery, Human Trafficking and FGM can seem more prevalent in other areas, they do happen in York.
- However, it is clear that the 'usual suspects' of domestic abuse, neglect, inter-familial sexual abuse and emotional abuse are still happening.
- Be sure to 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 has noticed.

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 Offices, 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

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>