



Working with children, parents and professionals to make our childrens' lives safer.

Report of the Independent Chair - City of York Safeguarding Children Board

1. Current National Issues

1.1 National Review of LSCB's

Alan Wood has been appointed by Government to lead a national fundamental review of the role and functions of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LCSBs). This includes the child death review process and consideration of how an intended centralisation of serious case reviews will work. This may lead to proposals for legislative change. A copy of the terms of reference is attached at **annex 1** for information. A report is required by Government by the end of March 2016. The Chair of CYSCB has provided input to the review through regional meetings and the National Association of LSCB chairs.

1.2 New Joint Targeted Area Inspections

From February 2016, Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation will carry out Joint Targeted Area Inspections (JTAI) of services for vulnerable children and young people. This will involve jointly assessing how local authorities, the police, health, probation and youth offending services in an area are working together to identify, support and protect vulnerable children. The first set of inspections will focus on child sexual exploitation and those missing from home, school and care. This will also involve the LSCB.

1.3 DfE Nationwide Campaign on Abuse and Neglect –

On the 3rd March 2016, the DfE launched a nation-wide communications campaign to encourage members of the public to report child abuse and neglect. The campaign is part of the [Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation](#)

Action Plan. For further details, please find attached a brief overview of the campaign at **annex 2**.

1.4 All Party Parliamentary Group for Children

Tim Loughton MP and Baroness Howarth, Co-Chairs of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Children, are leading the Group's new inquiry into children's social care.

The inquiry aims to:

- bring together evidence about the current resourcing of children's social care services and changes in the nature and level of demand
- explore the impact (or potential impact) of these changes on the delivery of children's social care services and on children and young people
- build a picture of the key elements of a successful children's services department and the challenge facing areas that are struggling to improve, and share examples of good practice
- assess whether changes are needed to policy and legislation in order to improve the delivery of children's social care services and in turn outcomes for children
- identify any learning that can be shared from Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Further details about the inquiry can be found at www.ncb.org.uk/appgc2016

1.5 National Working Group on Neglect

The Independent Chair of York CYSCB represents the National Association of LSCB Chairs at this group. The group released a research report on Policing and Neglect at the end of 2015 this is below at **annex 3**. It has been presented to the CYSCB and provides useful content for consideration in our local work to address neglect.

2. Regional Issues

- Peer Review – We are committed to the regional arrangements for peer review and the last review was in 2013. Therefore, we will commit to a new review later in 2016.
- Yorkshire and Humberside Chairs met with Alan Wood and DfE official on March 9th to provide input to the National review.

3. Local Update

3.1 Local Priorities

The following sections relate to the progress made in respect of the boards key priorities, identified in our annual report.

3.2 Neglect

This is an area where there is still a need to accelerate work to update plans and ensure this is reflected in the JSNA. Overall, although progress has been made in some important areas, we consider that there remains a pressing need for a coordinated response which builds on the findings of the 2012 thematic review of child neglect.

As a minimum the group need to urgently produce a draft strategy and high level action plan for the Board and this will focus on the following pieces of work.

- What do we know about neglect and what is it like in York for children?
- Prepare a new high level action plan and plan for a multi-agency learning event in the autumn.

This will remain a focus for us in the year ahead. During 2016 there is a proposal to roll out the *Graded Care Profile* across agencies with the intention of improving awareness and recognition of neglect and the quality of referrals to Children's Social Care.

Neglect remains an ongoing challenge both nationally and locally. At the end of 2014-15, 46.4% of the children subject to a Child Protection Plan in York were under the category of "neglect". This percentage has risen during the year and is higher than last year (37%)

The combined factor of 'neglect', 'parental substance misuse' and 'absent parenting' (all of which could be considered as 'neglect') is the most prevalent factor in referrals and enquiries to CSC.

Neglect has been found to be a risk factor for a range of longer-term impacts in adolescence and adulthood. Neglect may be one reason why young people go missing from home. Currently, missing children are the focus of concerns around CSE but once a child has been found, all reasons – including neglect – should be considered

The range of indicators, and the evidence about the long-term impacts of neglect, emphasise the importance of early identification to prevent significant deterioration of emotional and physical health and development in children. All professionals have a responsibility to act when they suspect neglect

3.3 Multi Agency Safeguarding Audit (S.11 Audit)

Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places a specific duty on named agencies to comply with standards set out in the S11 Guidance. A key element of the Learning and Improvement Framework is the Section 11 audit, a tool which assists the CYSCB in ensuring that S11 agencies comply with the statutory requirements, and that other Board agencies have adequate safeguarding arrangements in place. The audit tool is a review process based on self-evaluation by partner agencies helping to identify areas of good practice and areas that need to be improved. The CYSCB has undertaken the most recent Section 11 audit jointly with North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board. A Section 11 challenge event was held on 29th Feb jointly with NYSCB.

Most agencies reported full compliance with the standards and are committed to produce action plans to address areas for improvement. There were no serious concerns identified.

3.4. Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

This is run jointly with North Yorkshire SCB.

Actions in progress

- Death Abroad: No specific process for notifications to CDOP. Routes are through GPs and coroners. The development of a 'Tell It Once' system is suggested as all deaths are registered.
- Suicide prevention update: Report due on Suicide Prevention Officer's audit. To come back to CDOP when finalised. York has arrangements led through the CAMHS Executive.
- Progress re SUDI box: To be launched formally 22/01/2016 in York but already being used.
- CDOP training is planned for May.
- Discussion of cross border deaths and who leads on investigation. Letters are to be sent to every CDOP setting out York and North Yorkshire CDOP's expectations re this.

- Summary of notifications to date: Still some backlog of meetings owing to post mortems taking up to 6 months.

3.5 Early Help

The Early Help sub group is informed and steered by the Children's Trust Board however, in accordance with the latest publication of Working Together 2015 this sub group reports to the LSCB on issues of quality, effectiveness and outcomes.

Actions in progress

- Terms of reference to be revised once the new Multi-Agency Community Hub [MACH] model is finalised.
- Ongoing review of take up of early help training. Despite providing a training offer based around identified need, take up continues to be poor. This is disappointing, particularly as evidence shows a link between attending training and assessment quality. The Children's Advice team will continue to offer a publicised menu of training and support and will further embed this within developing cluster / locality arrangements.
- New operating model for early help: This has been discussed and feedback given. Links between this work and the neglect priority outcomes have been identified.
- New Children and Young People's Plan: Early Help chapter has been reviewed by this sub group.
- Early Help action plan and scorecard have been updated
- YorOK Threshold Guidance: This is being updated by the Children's Advice Team. This is a significant piece of work and will incorporate several additional areas of risk / vulnerability (FGM, CSE, Prevent etc.)
- Transfer of 0 to 19 health services to the local authority. It is important that the CYSCB are provided with assurance that safeguarding responsibilities are clear and staff continue to have access to specialist training and advice.

3.6 Domestic Abuse

At the first meeting on 15 February 2016 the group agreed the key children's priorities to inform the groups work plan including:

- The child/young person's experiences of agency responses to domestic abuse

- Professional awareness of the impact of Domestic Abuse for children / young people
- The ability of the wider children's workforce to identify and respond to children and young people who experience domestic abuse
- The availability and access to specialist interventions for children/young people who experience domestic abuse.

The CYSCB are also pleased to see Operation Encompass (This is a scheme to inform schools of domestic abuse incidents) being considered to evaluate whether it would be viable in York. This is being led by N York Police.

3.7 Child sexual abuse including CSE

Prior to the Board meeting in February, Board members attended a performance of the 'It's Not OK' play which has been delivered to over 2000 school children on the Board's behalf as part of the 'It's Not OK' CSA&E campaign.

The CYSCB Chair wishes to thank all concerned for the excellent work and partners for providing funding and in kind support. Schools have requested a continuation of the programme for new year groups and the Chair agreed to explore opportunities via school reps and the DCS.

- It's not OK campaign is going very well, with the planned programme of seminars continuing. These are well attended and well received. Training has been rolled out to taxi drivers and primary schools amongst others.
- The group are due to meet with the new chair of the Youth Homelessness Strategy group to consider issues facing vulnerable young people as they make the transition to adulthood.
- An extraordinary half day workshop is to be arranged for April to consider further the links between CSA & E and Missing from home.
- The group reviewed the outcome of some recent mapping by North Yorkshire Police and NYCC. A separate discussion paper is being prepared by the chair of the CSA&E (incl. Missing) for the Board.
- NYP have conducted internal audit re identifying, tackling and recording CSE. Also requested a peer review from College of Policing on CSE.
- They have also delivered CSE awareness training to frontline responders and senior managers
- The Chief Constable and the PCC have pledged £3m resource redirection into tackling areas of vulnerability which include
 - a. Team to investigate online CSE offences

- b. Team to investigate child abuse offences in line with the Goddard enquiry
- c. An increase of 20 investigators into the serious crime teams
- d. The amalgamation of MAPPA and IOM to form an Offender Management Unit to tackle those who pose the most serious risk of harm
- There is still some work to be done on consistency of recording of missing children

There is still a need to ensure adequate, timely, therapeutic support available over a significant time period for adults who were child victims of abuse.

3.8 Primary Care safeguarding arrangements

The Board received a report detailing the current safeguarding arrangements in Primary Care.

Highlighted progress:

- New safeguarding arrangements have been developed across CCGs and the NHS.
- Dedicated support for GP's is being provided.
- Development of a GP forum with an action plan in place for needs and concerns. All GP practices should now have a safeguarding lead, the forum was well attended and received.
- Training of GP's - a new training strategy for GPs is being prepared aimed at delivering hot topics training around issues and concerns particular to practices when GPs are available to attend.
- Assurance – Action has begun to map current processes in Primary Care with revised requirements and will highlight and address any risks identified. The new NHS England Safeguarding audit tool has been disseminated to all GP practices. If any areas for development are identified within practices, support will be offered to ensure effective safeguarding arrangements are in place.
- A robust support network is being developed which includes practices receiving relevant safeguarding publications and alerts in a meaningful way.
- Overall the model being implemented increases resilience in the area and improves the capability, capacity & quality of Primary Care in relation to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.

4. Key Implications

4.1 Resources

An agreement has been reached for the budget for 2016/17. 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.

4.2 Risks

The key risk is that the pace of development is slowed by lack of partner engagement or inadequate support to ensure the Board and sub groups keep momentum between meetings.

Any National proposals emerging from the National review may impact on Board partner commitment and require further review of the structure, priorities and work of the Board during the year.

We are still awaiting our Ofsted inspection with the programme further delayed; to be completed by the end of 2016 and the programme of targeted inspections of CSE and Missing Children have begun. Any action from the outcome of these will be integrated into the overall work of the Board.

Annexes

Annex 1 – LSCB Review ToR Summary

Annex 2 – DFE Reporting Child Abuse Campaign

Annex 3 – Neglect & Policing Briefing

Background Papers

- More detailed information can be found on the Safer York Website <http://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk>
- Working Together 2015
- York Children's Plan
- York Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Protocol between the City of York Health & Wellbeing Board, YorOK Board and City of York Safeguarding Children Board.

Glossary

CDOP	Child Death Overview Panel
CYSCB	City of York Safeguarding Children Board
HWBB	Health and Wellbeing Board
JSNA	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
LSCB	Local Safeguarding Children Board
YorOK	York Children's Trust
TOR	Terms of Reference
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
MACH	Multi Agency Community Hub
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
JTAI	Joint Targeted Area Inspectors
DFE	Department for Education
SUDI	Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
NHS	National Health Service