

City of York Safeguarding Children Board Update to Scrutiny – Sept 2016

Introduction

This paper provides a brief update on the operating context and activities of the City of York Safeguarding Children Board (CYSCB).

Local Governance

Inter board protocol

Having established a protocol in 2014 with the Health and Wellbeing Board and its sub-board YorOK, the Independent Chair of the CYSCB initiated work, with the approval of the Chief Officer Reference and Accountability Group (CORAG), to develop this further to include the Safeguarding Adults Board and Safer York Partnership. The new Inter-board protocol was considered at a meeting of the Chairs of these Boards in June and consultation followed. The final protocol is to be agreed at a meeting of the Chairs on 15th September. The draft protocol sets out the strategic leads for key safeguarding issues, identified the supporting boards and working arrangements for challenge, oversight and reporting between the Boards.

National Context

Proposed Government changes to statutory safeguarding arrangements for children.

These changes are contained within Chapter 2 of the Children and Social Work Bill. The Bill has completed grand committee stage in the House of Lords and will be considered at report stage when Parliament reconvenes. It will then pass to the Commons. There were many objections in the Lords to the process and a long list of amendments raised.

Current proposals relating to safeguarding arrangements as at 13th July 2016:

- To abolish LSCBs in their current form. However, there would still be a statutory framework as set out below:

“(1) The safeguarding partners for a local authority area in England must make arrangements for (a) the safeguarding partners, and (b) any relevant agencies that they consider appropriate, to work together in exercising their functions, so far as the functions are exercised for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area.

(2) The arrangements must include arrangements for the safeguarding partners to work together to identify and respond to the needs of children in the area.”

“safeguarding partner”, in relation to a local authority area in England, means—

- (a) the local authority;
- (b) a clinical commissioning group for an area any part of which falls within the local authority area;
- (c) the chief officer of police for a police area any part of which falls within the local authority area.”

- The arrangements must include **scrutiny by an independent person** of the effectiveness of the arrangements.
- **Annual report** - At least once in every 12-month period, the safeguarding partners must prepare and publish a report on— (a) what the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies for the local authority area have done as a result of the arrangements, and (b) how effective the arrangements have been in practice.”
- **Serious Case Reviews** will be undertaken by a national **Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel** which will be appointed by the Secretary of State. It anticipates undertaking 20-30 reviews a year.
- **Local child safeguarding practice reviews** will continue but the arrangements for decision making are yet to be published. The decision around local reviews will include national consideration.
- Within the bill itself, there is a proposal for the **Secretary of State to have the power to exempt councils from legislation**, but the Secretary of State has to consult with certain bodies before doing that.

- There are proposed statutory **arrangements to allow for devolution of responsibilities between local authorities and CCG's**.
- Transfer arrangements for **Child Death Overview Panel** to the DH are still to be agreed and published.
- Authorities can continue to have joint **CDOP** working arrangements across local authority areas as we currently have in York & North Yorkshire. In the Bill ““child death review partners”, in relation to a local authority area in England, means— (a) the local authority; (b) any clinical commissioning group for an area any part of which falls within the local authority area.”

At CYSCB on 22nd June the CYSCB agreed the recommendations below and mandated the Chair to follow up these on behalf of the Board.

- The Independent Chair, working with CORAG should initiate discussions on any potential changes to local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in York. This promotes continuity and reduces risk.
- Consider how independent scrutiny will be visible in future arrangements.
- Should local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements re-focus their work on local assurance, scrutiny and challenge?
- Consider which multi-agency safeguarding functions or cross cutting issues could benefit from a joint, sub-regional or regional basis.
- Consider an inter-board protocol to reduce duplication, clarify strategic leadership and use partner agency input and business support more effectively.
- Consider how to plan for the proposed changes in respect of CDOP.

These will be discussed at CORAG 21st October 2016

CYSCB is still to be inspected alongside the local authority Children Services under the Ofsted single inspection framework for safeguarding (SIF). This programme runs to the end of Dec 2017. The new round of Multi-Inspectorate Joint Targeted inspections on Children living with domestic abuse begins in September 2016.

Policing & Crime Bill- Key areas relevant to the CYSCB:

- There is a proposed Major shift in statutory arrangements for 17 year olds to prevent detention without sentence. It is suggested this will extend to police custody, military custody, mental health detention. Locally work needs to be done on how many young people may require alternative provision.
- There will be capacity for stronger intervention by the local authority with alcohol licensing and also taxi driver licensing.

The CYSCB has a responsibility to challenge services to reduce the number of children held in custody. We will be seeking detailed data from relevant partners agencies to enable this to be monitored.

Activity of the Board

Activity Monitor

Fig.1 overleaf sets out the workflow activity for the period between April and June 2016 for the safeguarding board. This chart illustrates where activity has taken place as expected or where there are issues to flag. Red flags are intended to draw the Board's attention to issues where progress is not as expected, which will include legitimate changes to planned activity.

Updates from Sub Groups

1. Case Review Group [Chair: Karen Hedgley – CCG]

This group met on 12th July. Current activity includes:

a) Good Practice / Good Outcomes

Officers have worked to identify some cases which demonstrate good practice and which have resulted in good outcomes for the child(ren) involved.

The CRG agreed that it would be useful to share some of these cases at the LSCB Board meeting. The proposal is to identify cases where there are a

number of agencies involved and to invite practitioners from those agencies to share the anonymised background to the case, highlight what worked well, challenges and the outcome for the children involved.

The Group felt this would serve several purposes:

- Provide a level of assurance regarding the strength and impact of interagency working
- Increase visibility of the Board for front line practitioners
- Increase visibility of the impact of strategic work and how we, as a Board, can further support developments in front line practice

It was agreed that the Chair of the CRG would explore this suggestion with the Independent Chair.

Activity Monitoring Overview

Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)
(Chair – Simon Westwood)

Voice and Involvement Group
Jenny Noble
07/06/16

Child Death Overview Panel
Katie Needham

Priority Delivery and Scrutiny Group (PDSG)
(Chair – Eoin Rush)
meeting date/s:
19th July 2016

Early help
Chair – Alan Hodgson

Neglect
Chair/s – Sharon Stoltz Jon Stonehouse

Domestic abuse
Chair – Sue Roughton
Vice Chair- Sarah Hill

Child sexual abuse and exploitation / Children who go missing
Chair – Dot Evans

Partnership, practice, scrutiny and review
Chair – Margaret Harvey

Case Review Group
Chair – Karen Hedgley

Meeting in review period
Date/s:
planned
15/07/16

Meeting in review period
Date/s:
No

Meeting in review period
Date/s:
13/07/16

Meeting in review period
Date/s:
04/07/16

Meetings in review period:
Date/s:
07/07/2016

Meeting in review period
Date/s:
12/07/16

Highlight Report
Yes 15/07/16

Highlight Report
Yes 14/07/16

Highlight Report
Yes 19/5/16

Highlight Report
Yes 14/07/16

Highlight Report
Yes 13/07/2016

Highlight Report
Yes 14/07/16

Issues for PDSG highlight report
No

Issues for PDSG highlight report
Yes

b) The Wood Review:

The Group discussed the recently published Wood review and the particular implications for Serious Case Reviews, going forward. It was acknowledged that until revised Statutory Guidance is published it will be essential for this group to continue to function under its agreed Terms of Reference.

c) Serious Case Review Quality Markers:

The group considered the outcome from the recently published '*Serious Case Reviews Quality Markers*'¹ guidance. The group agreed this was an extremely useful document however it was also acknowledged that given the outcome of the Wood Review and the proposal to commission Reviews centrally it remains to be seen how these quality markers can best be used. However, the group did agree that reflecting on these quality markers when undertaking Learning Reviews would be helpful.

¹<http://www.scie.org.uk/children/safeguarding/case-reviews/quality-markers/files/quality-markers-full.pdf>

d) The group is currently considering a number of Learning Lessons Reviews and Single Agency Reviews which will result in recommendations for development or improvement of practice. They also review Serious Case Reviews from elsewhere to identify any learning.

2. Partnership, Practice, Scrutiny and Review [Chair: Margaret Harvey – CAFCASS]

This group met on 7th July 2016. The last two meetings have focused on audits of cases which have been considered at MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk and Assessment Conference for domestic abuse)

Themes identified included:

- The purpose of MARACs: agencies representatives taking away actions for their own actions from a high level MARAC action plan.
- Information sharing processes particularly between different organisations within health.

Lisa Winward, Assistant Chief Constable, will take over as chair of PPSRG from Margaret Harvey and will follow up the information recording and sharing issue through the sub-group.

3. *Child Neglect* [Chair: Sharon Stoltz DPH / Jon Stonehouse DCS]

Current activity includes:

a) Child Neglect Event

A child neglect event took place on 20th July. There was very good attendance from across the system. The outputs from the child neglect event will be used to inform the final multi-agency child neglect strategy and action plan.

b) Graded Care Profile

Work is ongoing to implement the revised Graded Care Profile assessment tool in partnership with the NSPCC. The first tranche of training has been delivered.

4. *Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (incl. Missing)* [Dot Evans – Children's Social Care]

This sub group met on 4th July. Current activity includes:

a) Ongoing piece of work in Police and CSE to improve timely missing persons reporting and responses. Latest analysis of the last month's missing episodes shows a significant improvement.

b) "It's not OK" end of year campaign event was held at West Offices. A presentation on the campaign was given to the national NSPCC conference – this was extremely well received.

- c) Work continues to improve the 'real time' information sharing about missing children and young people between North Yorkshire Police and Children's Social Care [CSC] so that CSC can fulfil their statutory duty to carry out a return interview (if wanted within 72 hours.)
- d) The case review group referred to the CSA&E sub group the issue of victims of online sexual abuse not receiving the therapeutic support which is provided for those who are victims of contact offences.
- e) The group also had a first look at some data / trends that it will focus on over the coming year to inform a view about the risks and efficacy of the strategy.

5. Child Death Overview Panel [Katie Needham – PH NYCC]

No update since the last meeting.

6. Early Help [EHSG] [Chair: Alan Hodgson CTU York]

Note: The Early Help sup group is informed and steered by the Children's Trust Board however, in accordance with the latest publication of Working Together 2014 this sub group reports to the LSCB on issues of quality, effectiveness and outcomes.

This group met on 15th July. Current activity includes:

- a) Work is continuing on revising & updating the LSCB Threshold Guidance.
- b) Embedding MOSAIC. The new CSES client management system is now fully up and running and can now support work at early help level. Historical data has now been migrated from eTrak and the only remaining significant piece of work is to engage with the project leads in creating suite of early help reporting tools.
- c) A QA review on completed FEHAs for the full performance year April 15 – Mar 15. This has thrown up a number of areas for further consideration which will be considered by the board.

7. Domestic Abuse [Chair: Sue Roughton / Vice Chair: Sarah Hill]

This group met on 13th July. Current activity includes:

- a) The storyboard and action plan was discussed and the group felt that it would be useful to dedicate the meeting in September to a workshop focusing on this.
- b) The group agreed that once the storyboard and action plan is finalised, the group can agree on a bespoke data set for domestic abuse and discuss what data would be useful to monitor.

Subsequent discussion by PDSG included:

The remit of the children's DA Sub-group should include:

- Considers data and information about children and Domestic Abuse in York.
- Hears the voice of children and young people who are victims of domestic abuse.
- Understands the nature and provision of services to address the impact.

The group acknowledged some nervousness around possible duplication with other strategic groups (e.g. the JCG and the Safer York Partnership) but agreed that the DA Sub-group works to and complements the other strategies and that its specific task was to:

- Highlight to the York and North Yorks JCG and to the Safer York Partnership the impact DA has on children and young people in York and ensures their inclusion in every related strategy and action plan.

8. Voice and Involvement Group [Chair: Jenny Noble]

This group met on 7th June. Current activity includes:

- a) Speak up and Hear my Voice Training- 17 Board members and elected members have attended the training. Very positive feedback has been received so far.
- b) Children's Crime Commissioner- Anne Longfield was able to meet representatives from The Young Inspectors, The Youth Council and Show Me that I Matter. Young people were able to showcase their work and explore opportunities to work in partnership.
- c) Young people's EU referendum- The Youth Council enabled most secondary schools to hold a vote on the EU question. Results are currently being collated and participation has been high.
- d) Bike Library- Cannon Lee school will be the first to pilot a new Bike Library after securing Ward funding to buy 20 bikes.
- e) The Young Inspectors- have just completed their inspection of Door 84 and are writing up their report.
- f) Aspire to More event- Board Members are invited to this important event on the 13th September at West Offices.

Information and feedback from young people will be incorporated into the LSCB Annual Report. There will be a young person's version of the Annual Report.

9. Other Key Issues Considered by the PDSG Meeting in November

- a) Local Assessment Protocol:

Working Together requires each local authority with their partners to develop and publish a local protocol around assessment. Tony Holmes Principal Children & Families Social Worker is completing this guidance. There will be contributions from:

- Key health partners
- Police & YOT
- Young people and their parents / carers

b) Learning and Development Update:

Immediate tasks are to:

- Look at the training needs analysis for this financial year.
- To meet with each Subgroup Chair
- To come back to PDSG in September with what we can offer for this year and then a further report on next year's programme.
- Work with partner agencies, to find out what training is delivered in partner organisations.

The group also acknowledged that there needs to be joint training between Social Care & the Police and a discussion as to how we progress that. This, as not strictly 'multi'-agency, will be picked up by CSC and NYP but may be extended to include health professionals working within the 'Front Door'.