

# Safeguarding Children’s Partnership - Draft Proposal

October 2018

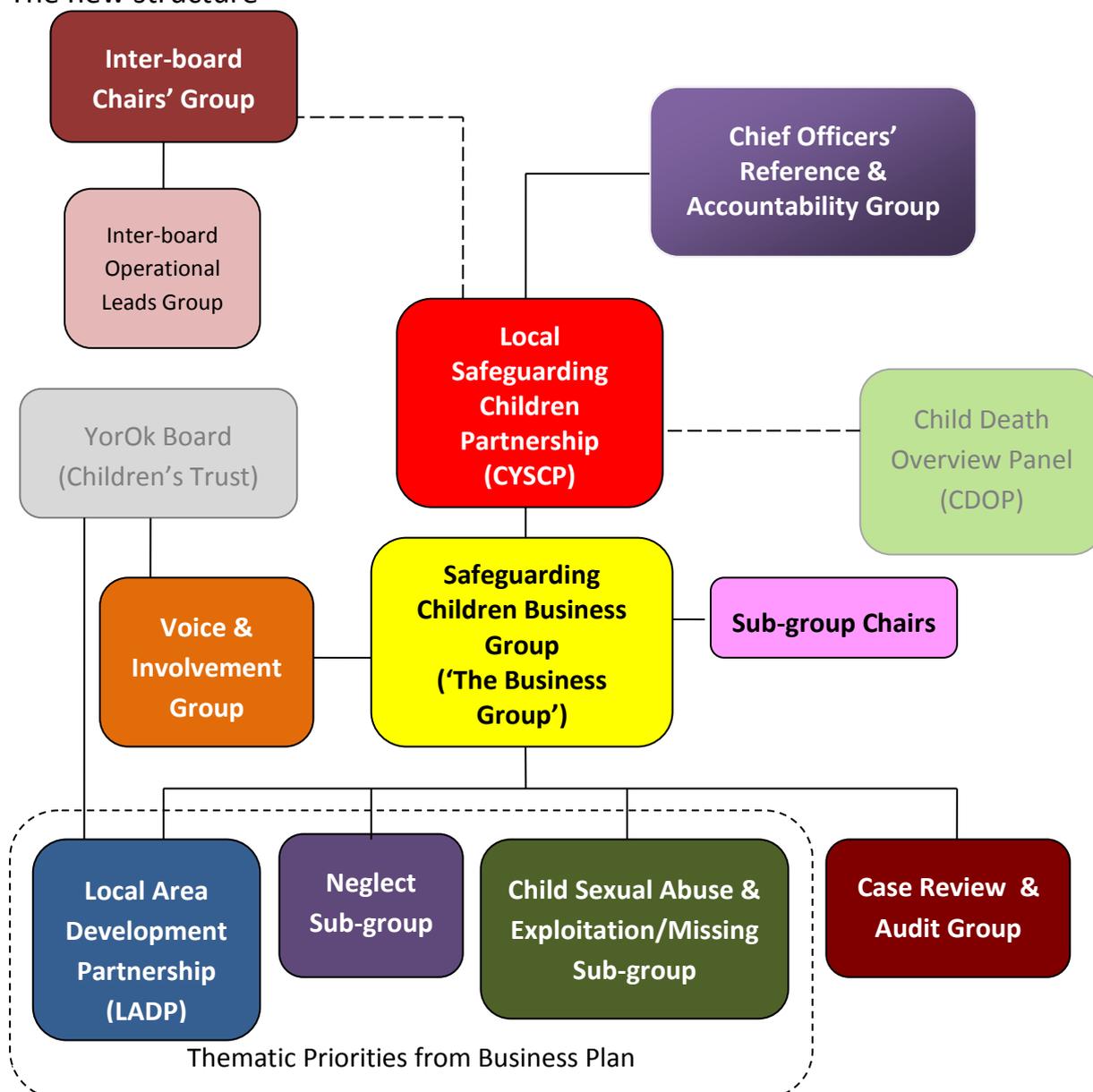
## PART TWO – DETAILS

A summary of this report is available in PART ONE.

### 1. Introduction

The subject of this paper is to give details of the new safeguarding partnership arrangements which will replace City of York Safeguarding Children Board (CYSCB) by January 2019.

The new structure



**The new structure comprises of the following groups:**

**i. Chief Officers Reference and Accountability Group (CORAG ):**

CORAG remains as is. CORAG comprises of the Chief Officer from the three key partners (LA; NYP; CCG) along with the Chairs of the Safeguarding Children’s Partnership; the Safeguarding Adults Board; and the Safer York Partnership. This will ensure the required level of seniority meets to provide:

- A systems wide view of safeguarding
- A means of ensuring an accountability pathway for the partnerships and the chairs of the partnerships.
- Decisions on funding for each partnership
- Support at organisational level for additional initiatives or campaigns (e.g. ‘It’s Not Ok’ campaign)
- **Frequency:** To meet bi- annually
- **Membership:** to remain as it is.

**ii. City of York Safeguarding Children Partnership (CYSCP).**

CYSCP will replace the CYSCB.

CYSCP will:

- Drive the safeguarding children agenda forward.
- Set the strategic direction for safeguarding arrangements across the partnership.
- Provide oversight and scrutiny of safeguarding children arrangements.
- Monitor and challenge including challenging single agency practice.
- Receive reports *by exception*.

**Membership:** The Partnership’s membership will be refined to specific organisations at senior strategic level.

(Terms of reference are in accordance with the Working Together 2018 Guidance.)

Along with partners who meet face-to face, the Partnership includes a 'virtual membership' of key partners who are included on the distribution list; who receive all papers; who are invited to participate with comment and feedback; but who do not necessarily attend every face-to face meeting. These partner representatives, along with other officers, will be invited to attend as and when appropriate and helpful, for example to provide information and updates on actions, initiatives and inspection; and to provide Agency Assurance Reports on safeguarding activity.

It is anticipated that some of the business of the Partnership might usefully be undertaken between meetings via email and telecons.

**Frequency:** To meet face-to face quarterly.

### **iii. Safeguarding Children Business Group (the 'Business Group')**

The Business Group replaces and replicates the Priority Delivery and Scrutiny Group (PDSG):

The Business Group will:

- Co-ordinate the business of the CYSCP
- Monitor the business of the sub-groups
- Scrutinise the multi-agency performance dataset and report to the Partnership on exceptions
- Scrutinise and sign off new guidance, policies and protocols.
- Oversee developments in the CYSCP Learning & Development needs analysis and the Learning & Development offer.
- Discuss and scrutinise partners' preparation for multi-agency focused inspections.
- Set the agenda for the CYSCP meetings

**Membership:** of the Business Group is based on the current membership – currently Sub-group Chairs and partner agency representatives - but expanded to include key partners relevant to the safeguarding children agenda with others invited as necessary and helpful.

**Frequency:** During 2018 the PDSG is due to meet quarterly. Given the level of business, the *Business Group* will continue to meet quarterly but this will be reviewed if more frequent meetings appear to be required given the level of business. Again, it is anticipated that some of the business of the Partnership can usefully be undertaken between meetings via email and telecons.

#### **iv. Case Review & Audit Group**

The Case Review Group (CRG) and Partnership Practice Scrutiny and Review Group (PPSRG) are combined to become one Case Review & Audit Group. Terms of reference for this group are in accordance with the new guidance and regulations on Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews in Working Together 2018.

A combined Case Review & Audit Group will:

- Consider and disseminate learning from reviews, audits and inspections (local, other local authorities and national.)
- Consider local cases for Safeguarding Practice Review and liaise with the National Panel in regard to these\*.
- Consider examples of good practice and disseminate learning from these.
- Carry out local audits and learning reviews, based around agreed themes, where indicated and appropriate.
- Oversee reviews and action plans and the outcomes of these.

\*Referrals for Safeguarding Practice Reviews will require additional extraordinary meetings in order to consider the details of the case.

**Frequency:** Quarterly but with additional extraordinary meetings to consider specific referrals for Safeguarding Children Practice Reviews.

**Membership:** The CRAG membership to include, as a minimum, representatives at senior management/head of service level of named organisations. (See Terms of Reference)

#### **v. Inter-Board Chairs and Operational Leads Group**

There are no changes proposed to the Inter Board Chairs' Group and the supporting Operational Leads Group. These take place bi-annually and quarterly respectively and have proved very successful in maintaining and refreshing the Inter-Board Protocol; reducing duplication; and increasing collaboration between the strategic boards.

The Inter-Board protocol was refreshed in June 2018 and will be finalised once the details now that the arrangements for the new Partnership are completed.

#### **vi. Sub-group Chairs**

Sub-group Chairs meet bi-annually with the Independent Chair. These meetings will continue but may be incorporated into the start of meetings of the Business Group.

## **2. Other CYSCP sub-groups**

All of the CYSCB Sub-groups have been reviewed in the context of this proposal and no significant changes are envisioned at this stage. Terms of reference for each of these groups are attached. The Sub-groups will report directly to the Business Group:

### **vii. Neglect Sub-group**

No change. The sub-group will meet quarterly with 'task and finish' groups in between sub-group meetings when additional work is required.

### **viii. Child Sexual Abuse & Exploitation/Missing from Home and Care Sub-group (CSA&E/MfH)**

No change. The sub-group will meet quarterly with 'task and finish' groups in between sub-group meetings when additional work is required.

The two sub-groups reporting jointly to PDSG/the Business Group and to the YorOk Board are:

### **ix. Local Area Development Partnership (formerly Early Help Sub-group)**

### **x. Voice & Involvement Group (VOIG)**

**Frequency:** The sub-groups meet quarterly but on the understanding that work takes place between meetings possibly via the use of 'task and finish' groups and almost certainly using electronic communication.

**Membership:** there are no proposed changes to membership of these groups.

The remit, membership and terms of reference for each sub-group will be reviewed on an annual basis and more often if necessary.

New sub-groups or task and finish groups may require development as the priorities of the Safeguarding Partnership emerge and evolve.

## **3. Communications:**

In order to maximise the efficiency of the business of the new partnership and its sub-groups, electronic communication e.g. email, is used between Partnership and Sub-group meetings. Partnership and Sub-group members will, therefore, on occasions be able to make use of this form of

communication in order to give feedback on, or sign off, proposals, procedures and guidance which were initially introduced and/or discussed at face to face meetings.

Partnership members and sub-group members will, as ever, represent their agency and organisation and will therefore use their own communication systems to disseminate Partnership information to, or seek feedback from, relevant officers within their own service.

#### **4. Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)**

Changes to the governance of the Child Death Overview Panel and the Child Death processes will be made in accordance with the statutory guidance in Working Together 2018 and the new CDOP guidance which was published on 15 October.

With the abolition of the LSCBs, the remit for the governance for CDOP moves to the Local Authority and the CCG. The new Safeguarding Partnership will need to maintain a strong link with CDOP if safeguarding issues are to be identified and addressed.

Discussions on the process of transfer of the responsibility for governance have begun with colleagues in the local authority and the CCG. The DfE has recommended as large a footprint as possible for CDOPs in order for the Panel to review enough cases from which to disseminate learning. The local CDOP already operates across York and North Yorkshire it is unlikely that the footprint will be any smaller than this and this would contravene national guidance. However, there are strong links to CDOPs across the region (and nationally).

#### **5. Early Adopter Status and School Engagement**

CYSCB has been successful in a bid to be an 'Early Adopter' of the new arrangements. The focus of the bid is to enhance the, already robust, relationship with schools and colleges and to engage them fully in the Safeguarding Partnership. Working with the National Children's Bureau, CYSCB will implement new local safeguarding arrangements before they are established across the rest of the country. Project Lead and Project Support Officers have been identified and the work is already underway.

#### **6. Business and reporting processes**

There are no changes to the reporting processes of the partnership.

- Highlight reports from Sub-groups to the Business Group
- The Business Group reports to CYSCP
- Agency Assurance Reports are delivered by key partners to CYSCP.
- CYSCP will continue to be monitored (along with the Safeguarding Adults Board) by the Chief Officers Reference & Accountability Group (CORAG)
- The publication of a CYSCP Annual Report is still required in the new statutory guidance.

Support to the Board will be provided by the CYSCB/CYSCP Business Support Unit.

## 7. Timeline

The Department for Education requires that local authorities publish their safeguarding arrangements by May 2019 with full implementation by September 2019.



As an ‘Early Adopter’ of the new arrangements the York time line is now as follows:

- October 2018 – report on final details for new arrangements to CYSCB and CORAG
- By January 2019 – arrangements published and full implementation.

