

---

**Health and Wellbeing Board**

16 July 2014

Joint Report of the Independent Chair of The City of York Safeguarding Children Board and the Director of Children's Services

**Strengthening Safeguarding Arrangements – Joint Working between Boards**

**Summary**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek final agreement to the protocol, previously presented to the Board at the April meeting. The protocol is designed to strengthen and clarify the alignment of accountabilities between the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB), its sub group, the Children Trust YorOk Board (YorOK) and The City of York Safeguarding Children Board (CYSCB).

**Background**

2. The Health and Wellbeing strategy includes the key objective of Enabling all children and young people to have the best start in life. Delivery of this will significantly strengthen safeguarding arrangements for the children of York.

The Role of the City of York Safeguarding Children Board

3. 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.**
4. Member organisations of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the YorOk Board are represented on the Safeguarding Board. It is essential that there are transparent agreements for these Boards to have reciprocal arrangements to share needs information, plan

jointly and influence priorities and report progress against relevant strategies and plans in relation to safeguarding.

5. In order to provide effective scrutiny, the CYSCB should be independent. It should not be subordinate to, nor subsumed within, other local structures.
6. Members of the CYSCB should be people with a strategic role in relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children within their organisation. They should be able to:
  - speak for their organisation with authority
  - commit their organisation on policy and practice matters and
  - hold their own organisation to account and hold others to account
7. Individual Compact agreements have been developed for key statutory partners to formalise this expectation.

#### Main/Key Issues to be Considered

8. It is critical that the Boards work closely together to drive forward improvements in prevention, early help and ensuring local safeguarding arrangements are effective. This requires each Board to be clear about its specific leadership roles in relation to the broader safeguarding children agenda. It is also important that there are mechanisms for reciprocal challenge and support which can ensure the best possible arrangements to protect children through prevention, early help, prevention and child protection are in place.

#### **Consultation**

9. The Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Children Board has discussed joint working and the development of a joint protocol with the following people; the former Chair of Health and Wellbeing Board, the Chair of YorOk Board, the Director of Children's Services, The Director of Adult Services and Public Health.

#### **Options**

10. Option 1. The Health and Wellbeing Board agrees the protocol with the Safeguarding Children Board that sets out the key responsibilities of each board, reporting arrangements and

accountabilities and how each board will provide assurances to the other of the effectiveness of the help being provided to children and families, including early help.

## **Analysis**

11. The advantage of this will be to provide greater transparency and a robust structured framework for understanding of roles and accountabilities between the Health and Wellbeing Board, YorOK Board and the Safeguarding Children Board.

### Strategic/Operational Plans

12. The Health and Wellbeing strategy and The YorOk Board plan “Dream Again” 2013-16 includes the key objective of “Ensuring children and young people always feel safe” and states that Safeguarding lies at the heart of all our work, as does ensuring that there are “arenas of safety” at home, at school and in the community.
13. YorOK Board has detailed how it will deliver the principles and actions for this priority in “Dream Again”, York’s Strategic Plan for Children, Young People and their Families, 2013-2016.
  - Helping children and young people to always feel safe;
  - Supporting those who need extra help at the earliest opportunity

## **Implications**

### **Financial**

14. Statutory Guidance; Working Together 2013 states, “All Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB member organisations have an obligation to provide LSCBs with reliable resources (including finance) that enable the LSCB to be strong and effective. Members should share the financial responsibility for the LSCB in such a way that a disproportionate burden does not fall on a small number of partner agencies.

### **Other**

15. There are no HR, Equalities, Legal, Crime & Disorder, IT or Property implications arising from this report.

## Risk Management

16. The key risk in not accepting the recommendation is that governance arrangements and leadership accountabilities may be unclear and this could negatively affect implementation of key strategies. Also this could have an impact on any external scrutiny or inspection.

## Recommendations

17. The Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to consider approving the protocol for immediate implementation.

Reason: This will strengthen and clarify governance arrangements between the Boards.

## Contact Details

### Author:

Simon Westwood  
Independent Chair  
City of York Safeguarding  
Children Board

### Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Jon Stonehouse  
Director of Children's Services,  
Education and Skills  
City of York Council

Report  Date 30 June  
Approved  2014

### Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

## Background Papers

- Working Together 2013 - <http://www.workingtogetheronline.co.uk/documents/Working%20TogetherFINAL.pdf>
- "Dream Again" – York Children's Plan
- York Health and Wellbeing Strategy

## Annex

Annex A - 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